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A VICTORIOUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR COMRADES-IN-ARMS

It has been a momentous year—this 1944.

The year 1944 saw the Red Army score decisive victories over the Nazi war machine. It saw the Germans compelled to fight a two-front war as a result of the brilliant landing of the Allied Armies and their subsequent operations in the west. It saw the Wehrmacht flung back to German territory and the approaches to it in the east and west, there to make a desperate but hopeless last-ditch stand.

It saw the tangible results of mutual aid among the great Allied powers make themselves felt with particular force, and the United Nations well advanced on the high road to a final victory. All this made it a momentous year indeed.

Nineteen-forty-four has been a big year for the Soviet people. In this year they have reaped the fruits of previous years of effort. These were the years when fighting single-handed the Red Army mauled the Wehrmacht in an exhausting defensive action deep in Soviet territory, and then went over to the offensive, thereby turning the tide of the war, and hurling the ascendancy of the Hitlerite war machine into its decline.

This year the Red Army has no longer been fighting the Germans single-handed. Moreover, the Soviet Union is winding up the year with all her territory cleared of the enemy. The Red Army, led by its Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal Stalin, is now far beyond the borders of our country, carrying freedom to the peoples of Nazi-enslaved Europe and hammering at Festung Deutschland itself.

If 1944 has been marked by signal victories on the fronts and the entry of the war into its final stage, it has also been a momentous year in the rear. It produced irrefutable proof of the epic victory of the Soviet Union over the Hitlerite slave em-

pire, which began the war against the USSR with the industrial, material and manpower resources of practically all of Continental Europe.

In a word, the heroic Red Army was able to drive the Germans out of our country because of the mighty war effort of the entire Soviet people. Having increased the production of arms from year to year, despite the temporary occupation of some of the leading industrial areas of the country, the personnel of Soviet industry can proudly enter on their balance sheet the tremendous fact that this year the production of tanks, aircraft, guns, mortars and ammunition has been several times higher than during the opening phase of the war.

Also among the most significant entries on the balance sheet of 1944, is the performance of the Soviet countryside. The Soviet farmer, armed with the advantages of large-scale collective farming, has seen to it that the Red Army's mag-

nificent drive westward has not been hampered by a shortage of food.

Soviet transport, doomed by the type-writer generals at the beginning of the war, has not conformed to their prognostications. On the contrary, it is coping with the tremendous additional load imposed upon it by the extension of the Red Army's communication lines as far as Budapest.

There are many other entries of epoch-making significance, including rehabilitation work in the liberated areas while the war is still going on, and the revival of industry and agriculture temporarily put out of action by the invaders. If the Soviet Union was able to stem the Wehrmacht and turn the tide of war without these resources, it is easy to see the increasing effect of their gradual regeneration on the further growth of its economic and military might.

All in all, 1944 has been a year of victories, one more significant than the



Radiofoto

SOVIET FORCES IN HUNGARY—Men of Guards Captain Babich's battery in a moment of rest

other, all of them in their cumulative effect making up a decisive share in the great victory to come. Once more the strength of the planned economy of the Soviet State has been irrefutably proved.

The past year has been one of victory for the ideology of the equality of all nations and races over the Hitlerite ideology of bestial nationalism and racial hatred. In this respect, too, the balance sheet reveals a smashing defeat for Hitlerism. On one side you have the fascist policy of the extermination of entire nations to establish the world dominion of the German imperialists, and its results: military defeat, collapse of the Hitlerite bloc, and the rising of the nations who were once Hitler's allies against their former master.

On the other side is the Soviet policy of friendship among peoples, that keystone in the edifice of Soviet patriotism, and its results: victory on the fronts, a further strengthening of the indestructible union of the Soviet peoples, impelled toward a single goal by common interests; and the consolidation and extension of the anti-German coalition as a whole.

Nineteen-forty-five will be a still better year than this. It cannot but be the year when the Hitlerite armies and the Hitlerite slave state, home and birthplace of this war, will be utterly destroyed.

Mankind also looks forward eagerly to 1945 because it must become the first year of the peace so many millions have given

their lives to win. Nineteen-forty-five must justify the hopes and aspirations that gave these millions the courage to die, and it must save the lives of more millions whom the Hitlerites seek to destroy before their own annihilation.

We must win the war in the briefest possible time, and that means an all-out effort at the front and in the rear for all peoples of the anti-German coalition. We must also win the peace, and this requires the resolution to uproot everything that might jeopardize it.

The short memories of many made the sacrifices of the First World War in vain. This time we must not forget. We must act, not merely to bring to book those who plunged the world into the agony of war, but to prevent its repetition. The smallest hotbed of fascist ideology and fascist practice will be sufficient to incubate another monster, a quarter of a century, or perhaps less, from this time. If peace and good will are to reign supreme for a long time to come, there can be no tolerance of those who undermine either the one or the other.

Let us look forward to 1945 as a year of consummation of the military defeat of Hitlerism, and a year that will be hewn into the cornerstone of the stable and durable peace to come. Let it be a year of still greater effort to root out Hitlerism and to prevent it from surviving its military defeat. Let it be a year of growing understanding among the nations who



Soviet Army General A. Antonov was recently decorated by the French Government with the Commander's Cross of the Legion of Honor

must stand as guardians of the harmony and security of the world, and of resolute rejection of those who want to sow distrust and enmity in the soil in which war is bred.

We owe this to those who will never return, and to those who have given unstintingly of their strength to win the war, and to those coming after us whom we want to bequeath peace and prosperity.

Volunteer Aid For Families of Red Army Men

In the Ukraine, private families and guardians have adopted 30,000 war orphans. To aid families of servicemen, volunteers have cultivated and harvested 70,000 acres of land set aside for that purpose, and 16,000 new houses and 50,000 flats have been built for them in less than one year.

Seven hundred and fifty thousand members of these families have been trained in special courses and schools and are now working in industry, agriculture and cultural institutions.



A Red Army man guards locomotives abandoned by the enemy in Hungary during a hasty retreat

SMASHING OF NAZIS IN HUNGARY CROWNS YEAR OF SOVIET VICTORIES

By Colonel A. Karpov

During the last weeks of 1944, events on the southern sectors of the Soviet-German front have grown in significance far beyond the bounds of the Budapest operation. The struggle that is now going on is not only for possession of the Hungarian capital, but for the rest of Hungary.

Only a small portion of western Hungary remains in German hands, and the advancing forces of the Red Army are within 100 kilometers of the Austrian frontier. The Hitlerites have likewise been forced to get out of the southern districts of Czechoslovakia under the hammering of the Red Army. Soviet troops are continuing to push forward despite the fact that large German and Hungarian forces trapped on the Danube have now been left in their rear.

The latest battles have again been marked by signal successes for the Soviet forces, who have taken a number of inhabited points in southwest, west and northwest Budapest. This means that the line of the front has been shifted farther west, and the strip of Soviet-held terrain between the trapped enemy forces and the fascist troops fighting a defensive action in western Hungary has grown considerably wider.

The development of the Budapest operation, an integral part of the general plan for the defeat of the enemy on the Soviet-German front which is being carried out by the Soviet Command, already affords grounds for appraising it as an operation aimed at producing decisive results. Its scale, character and speed show that its role is a great one in the struggle against fascist Germany as a whole. The Germans have already lost positions that covered the entire southern and southeastern flank of the German defenses on the Soviet-German front.

During the last two weeks the Red Army has taken territory from the Germans roughly equal to that of Belgium, smashing the unquestionably strong enemy forces dug in well in the mountainous and wooded areas in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The Germans themselves recently boasted repeatedly that they had

enough forces here to stem the Soviet drive in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The Hitlerite command mobilized first and foremost all of Hungary's reserves and sent them into action. Several divisions were shifted here from Italy and the Western Front. On the way these divisions were brought up to strength.

All this enabled the enemy to build up several large groupings which held defense positions on lines affording natural advantages for defense. Such lines were the Danube mountainous and wooded areas in northeastern and northern Hungary and the mountain districts of Czechoslovakia. Nevertheless, all this strength was overcome and in a considerable measure smashed by the Red Army.

This year can well be regarded as the apex of the brilliant successes scored by the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union.

First and foremost, this year has been a year of incessant Red Army offensives. Ever since January, Soviet troops have been conducting active offensive operations without a let-up. During the past 12 months, the Soviet-German front has not had even the periods of lull that are taken for granted in any war. The pauses that took place on some sectors of the front were in the nature of brief intervals essential for regrouping the advancing forces. Pauses like that cannot be regarded as lulls, all the more so because active

operations, resulting as a rule in major successes for the Red Army, were conducted on other sectors of the front while there was a pause on one or another sector.

In the carrying out of its strategic plan, the Soviet Command has consistently, and step by step, fulfilled the tasks confronting the Red Army. At the beginning of 1944, the Germans were in the Crimea and held a considerable portion of the Dnieper. Almost all of Byelorussia and the Baltic Soviet Republics were in their hands. The German army was blockading Leningrad and occupied part of the Karelian-Finnish Republic and the Far North.

These were lines thousands of kilometers away from Germany proper. They accorded her both economic advantages and, what was even more important for her, many strategic advantages. The main thing for the Nazis was that Germany herself was far behind the war fronts, but connected with them by hundreds of rail, highway and water communication lines.

Now Germany has lost all of those advantages. She is no longer far in the rear. The front has now shifted to her own territory.

The Germans have been driven out of the Soviet Union. In twelve months the victorious Red Army has advanced from



A Red Army machine-gun crew on the Hungarian front moves up to a new position

1,000 to 2,500 kilometers, depriving Germany of her Finnish, Rumanian and Bulgarian allies, and now finishing off Hungary.

All this is a result of the incessant offensive of the Red Army, a fundamental feature of which has been consecutive blows driven all along the front. Only future historians will be able to fully appreciate the fact that the offensive operations of the Red Army gripped the entire front, extending for thousands of kilometers, from the Far North almost to the Aegean Sea.

It goes without saying that superiority in strength alone was insufficient to solve these major strategic tasks. Other prerequisites were also needed, and one of them was the increased skill of the Red Army in battle. In this connection it must be pointed out that not once in 1944, just as in the period preceding, was the German army able to go over to a counter-offensive on any operational direction of the Soviet-German front. More than once Hitler tried to prepare for a decisive counter-offensive, but he did not succeed on a single occasion.

This does not mean that the Germans lacked strength, or that their defenses were weak. On the contrary, the Germans themselves, dozens of times, proclaimed that their defenses in the East were impregnable and capable of withstanding any pressure. They were not far from right. For instance, in a comparatively small area, the Minsk-Vitebsk-Bobruisk triangle in Byelorussia, the Germans had over 900,000 troops when the Soviet offensive was launched. In Byelorussia they had three large armies with a high con-



ON THE BUDAPEST SECTOR—Major Arkadin, tank unit commander, explains a new operation to his officers Radiophoto

centration of fire-power, anti-tank artillery and armored forces. In the south, in Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary, they had in the summer of 1944 over 50 divisions. For a sector of the front comparatively as limited as this southern front, this was tremendous strength indeed. The advancing Red Army, however, smashed it.

One of the largest enemy army groups was the northern German army group in the Baltic area. Its fortifications were notable for their strength, but they could not save Hitler's northern army. It was smashed and its remnants trapped in western Latvia.

A simple enumeration of these facts reveals how great were the victories of the Red Army during the past 12 months.

Returning to the factors that have

insured the Red Army's successes, I want to point to its increased operational and tactical skill. The most characteristic feature in this respect is the tactic of encirclement. Even if we list only the major traps sprung on the enemy, there were no fewer than 12 of them during the past year. Such encirclements as those at Minsk, Vitebsk, Bobruisk, Brody, Lvov and the Jassy-Kishinev area were major operations in themselves. The Soviet traps have cost the German army several million men and officers.

The Budapest trap is the latest achievement of the Red Army. It is still difficult to say how many Hitlerites are bottled up on the Danube. What is clear, however, is that the main forces of the German-Hungarian army, and Hungary, likewise, have been smashed. The German defeat here is so great that in order to set up new defense lines, the enemy has been forced to ship large fresh forces into western Hungary.

The Budapest operation is new evidence that the encirclement of the enemy has become a basic form of the Red Army's offensive operations. It is significant that almost all Soviet operations in 1944 either began or ended with the trapping of large enemy forces. This, first of all, explains why the losses of the German army on the Soviet-German front have been so great and so painful for Hitlerite Germany.

VOROSHILOV HORSEMEN

On the eve of the war there were five sports organizations in Moscow which had their own riding schools. Only three are now functioning—the Pishchevik and Spartak schools, and the Voroshilov Horsemen's Club, oldest of its kind, founded by the Osoaviakhim (Society for Chemical and Air Defense).

The Voroshilov Club had well-equipped quarters in Vorovsky street in the center of Moscow. It had splendid athletic traditions and many of its riders won All-Union titles. When war broke out most

of the riders volunteered for front-line service. They were organized into a strong cavalry unit and saw action on many fronts.

The club quarters were destroyed by German air bombs in 1941, but are now being rebuilt in the Sokolniki Park of Culture and Rest. A Voroshilov horseman must know how to feed and saddle horses and care for their health, and how to render first aid—in addition to hurdle jumping, acrobatics on horseback and vaulting.

THE DANGER OF AGGRESSION IN THE LIGHT OF THE HISTORY OF WAR

By Major General M. Galaktionov

From PRAVDA, December 28:

The Second World War, already in its sixth year, is now drawing to an end. One of the greatest cataclysms in history, it is characterized by the gigantic sweep of events, by the profundity of its influence on all countries of the world, by the abrupt turns in the tide, and by contradictory manifestations.

This does not mean that science cannot and should not take this complexity and variety under its purview, difficult though the task is, especially in the course of the war itself. Tasks of this magnitude are within the scope only of giants of thought and action like Lenin and Stalin, who employed the method of materialist dialectics to explain the complex phenomena of modern times and to guide the great struggle of our people.

Compelling Power of Stalin's Word

Every Soviet soldier, worker, collective farmer and intellectual is familiar with Stalin's book, *The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union*. It draws theoretical generalizations from the vast sum of knowledge and facts, but it is easily understandable by every literate person. The compelling power of Stalin's book lies in the fact that it sets lofty and noble aims before the millions. Stalin's word leads us to victory.

In his speech on the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, Stalin said: "... since history shows that aggressive nations, as the nations that attack, are usually better prepared for a new war than peace-loving nations which, having no interest in a new war, are usually behind with their preparations for it."

Stalin's views are of immense value for a scientific history of war beginning from the earliest times. In the final count the issue of war is decided by the relative strength of the contending sides. Stalin's doctrine of the permanently operating factors of war inspired our people with confidence in their strength and in ultimate victory. These factors are: the stability of the rear, the morale of the army, the quantity and quality of divisions,

the equipment of the army, and the organizing ability of the commanding personnel. These factors are of immense importance.

At the same time, Stalin warned us against interpreting relative strength formally and superficially. One may sustain a defeat even when one enjoys general superiority over the enemy. This does not contradict the principle of relative strength, but on the contrary confirms it; for the opponent may achieve either superiority of forces on some given sector, or a temporary advantage at some given stage. We know from history that armies sometimes suffer defeat at the hands of numerically smaller armies.

Victory may be achieved thanks to superior military skill. One of the fundamental maxims of the art of generalship is that if you want to forestall your adversary, resort to maneuver and exploit the element of surprise, and thus attain superiority of forces on the sector of the main blow.

But there is another way of forestalling an opponent, one which does not depend upon military skill or valor—namely, preparing for aggression a long time ahead. The victims of such aggression may be peaceful countries with large populations, a higher culture, and even, strange though it may seem, a more highly developed art of war. Such countries are vanquished by the brute force of the aggressor only because they did not maintain large armies or had no time to deploy them when the war began.

Ancient Rome conquered the whole world in its time, including countries with such highly developed cultures as Carthage and Greece. Curiously enough, the art of war was at a higher level in these countries than among the Romans, as the names of Alexander the Great and Hannibal eloquently testify. The Roman Empire was created by brute force and military organization of the state, which insured permanent preparedness for war.

A striking example in more modern times was 18th-Century Prussia. Although weaker than her neighbors, she was able to conquer large territories, thanks to the

brute force of aggression.

In 1812 Napoleon attacked Russia with the largest army of his day. Napoleon enjoyed the advantages of the aggressor; he was incomparably better prepared for war than Russia, which, not being interested in that war, delayed in preparing for it. The danger to our country was great, but it served to arouse all the forces of the Russian people. Kutuzov excelled Napoleon in knowledge of the secrets of military art. The fires of Moscow heralded the dawn of the liberation of Europe from Napoleonic domination.

In the latter half of the 19th Century aggression assumed a new form, and one much more dangerous to peaceful nations. Militarist Germany mustered all her forces for the purposes of aggression, on an ever-increasing scale, taking advantage of the potentialities offered by the development of railways. It now became possible to draw up plans of war many years ahead and to build a large regular army, and furthermore, to muster in a short time an armed force many millions strong and hurl it against a less prepared opponent. It was in this way that France was defeated in the war of 1870-71.

Germany's Aggressive Schemes

But aggressive Germany was hatching far more dangerous and bloody schemes. For several decades she prepared for war with colossal intensity, in furtherance of her imperialist plans of world domination. From year to year her regular army grew, she assigned enormous sums for war preparations, developed her war industries with feverish haste, and re-equipped her army.

Did the neighboring countries against whom German imperialist aggression was directed perceive these frantic preparations for war? Of course. But here again the historical law came into play: "... aggressive nations interested in a new war, being nations that prepare for war over a long time and accumulate forces for it, are usually—and are bound to be—better prepared for war than peace-loving nations which have no interest in a new war. This is natural and understandable.

If you like, this is a law of history which it would be dangerous to ignore." (*Stalin*).

Although measures were taken by the neighboring countries to strengthen their armed forces, they lagged behind Germany in scale, and, what is more important, in speed of preparations.

Germany's plan of war, known as the Schlieffen plan, banked upon the power of aggression. When in the summer of 1914 proposals were made for a peaceful regulation of the conflict, the German General Staff interfered and insisted that hostilities should be begun immediately: the generals feared to lose their chief advantage—the advantage the aggressor has over the not fully prepared adversary. In 1914 the vast might of the German army was hurled first against Belgium, in violation of the treaty of neutrality, and against France. The German military doctrine was to crush the adversary with a single blow of a mighty army which had been prepared for years, and to allow him no time to prepare himself to parry the blow.

As we know, notwithstanding her adversaries' unpreparedness for war, Germany's war plan of 1914 failed. This was due to the fact that three great powers—Russia, Great Britain and France—without a moment's hesitation hurled into action all the forces they had at their disposal in those early weeks of war, in order to stem the German attack. The Russian invasion of East Prussia forced the German command to transfer part of its forces from the West to the East. And once more we observe the seemingly paradoxical fact that an army which claimed seniority of place in military art in the deep sense of the term, steadily deteriorated. With the sudden change of the situation on the Marne, the German generals, finding themselves up against difficulties, proved utterly bankrupt and lost the battle. When the initial advantages enjoyed by the aggressor began to fail, the German General Staff found itself in a hopeless situation.

After the First World War, it was clear that only firm unity among the peaceful nations and their grim determination jointly to resort to arms to bridle the aggressor were capable of averting the horrors of a new world war. But both unity and determination

were lacking, in the face of Nazi Germany, which was openly arming and brazenly preparing for new aggression. Yet aggression was now far more dangerous to the peace-loving nations than on the eve of the First World War. Military technics were developing very rapidly. An aggressor country could mobilize its industry and manufacture armaments in gigantic quantities. Furthermore, the very character of military technique had changed: it combined increased power with high mobility. This made it possible to develop, with great speed and decisive results, operations against an adversary not fully prepared for defense. This was obviously to the advantage of the aggressor—who gambles upon forestalling his opponent in preparation for war—and tended to increase the effectiveness of his blow many times over.

Blitzkrieg—War of Adventurers

Blitzkrieg is therefore not a fortuitous thing. Blitzkrieg is the war of an aggressor against peaceful nations. It is the war of adventurers. Yet it would be folly not to see that blitzkrieg in the hands of aggressive adventurers is a most dangerous weapon.

The Nazis mobilized all the forces of the fascist state in the service of aggression, and built an army adapted for blitzkrieg. It was an army of aggression—an army of invasion, an army of vast numerical strength, equipped on a gigantic scale and specially adapted for mobility and maneuverability. The Nazis reckoned that with such an army they could finish their blitz campaigns before their opponents succeeded in mobilizing their war potential.

To this army may be contrasted the type of army which France had before the war. It was considered one of the most powerful armies in the world, but it was designed for defense. It held a place in the plans of the Allies in the West as a covering army until Great Britain, which had only a small regular army, could deploy her armed forces.

Before the war there was considerable discussion in foreign military periodicals of the terms "army of invasion" and "covering army." Stalin in his speech gives a very precise definition of these two terms and reveals their connection with

the question of aggressor and peaceful nations. He says:

"It is a fact that in the present war the aggressive nations had an invasion army all ready even before the war broke out; while the peace-loving nations did not have even a fully adequate army to cover the mobilization.

"One cannot regard as an accident such distasteful facts as the Pearl Harbor 'incident,' the loss of the Philippines and other Pacific islands, the loss of Hongkong and Singapore, when Japan as the aggressive nation proved to be better prepared for war than Great Britain and the United States of America, which pursued a policy of peace. Nor can one regard as an accident such a distasteful fact as the loss of the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Baltics in the very first year of the war, when Germany as the aggressive nation proved better prepared for war than the peace-loving Soviet Union.

"It would be naive to explain these facts by the personal qualities of the Japanese and the Germans, their superiority over the British, the Americans and the Russians, their foresight and so on."

The fact is that the historical laws defined by Stalin are operative in this war, too.

Germany's Time Advantage

The time advantage which Germany gained by her aggression was sufficient to enable her to achieve decisive results in the campaigns in the West. The time advantage was also considerable when Hitler Germany treacherously attacked our country. This advantage was due not to any chance circumstances, but to the fundamental fact that Germany is an aggressor country and the Soviet Union a peaceful country. In June, 1941, Hitler Germany set in motion a huge, fully mobilized army of invasion, armed to the teeth, while our armed forces and industry had not been mobilized and our frontiers were protected only by a covering army.

Of course there was a way, both before the outbreak and at the beginning of the Second World War, to nip Hitler aggression in the bud—namely, by forming a fighting alliance of peace-loving nations. This way, the only correct way, was proposed by the Soviet Government before the war, but its proposals were rejected.

Nevertheless, our Soviet country firmly

and unswervingly pursued a policy of peace, and rejected and condemned aggression. The past few years have shown that the Soviet Union thereby gained invaluable permanent advantages over Hitler Germany, whose own advantages as aggressor proved to be temporary and fleeting. Soon after Germany's perfidious attack upon the USSR, the powerful anti-Hitler coalition was formed, whose armies have now taken up positions on the eastern and western frontiers of Germany and are rendering her defeat inevitable.

But in 1941 the Red Army fought the trying struggle single-handed, against heavy odds, against a Hitler Germany which had the resources of the whole of Western Europe behind her. From this stern ordeal the Red Army emerged triumphant. In the course of the gigantic contest it eliminated the advantages of the aggressor, and, passing to the offensive, scored decisive victories.

Our covering army performed its mission in the early months of the war by giving us time in which to mobilize our armed forces and industry. Deep in the heart of the country new armies were formed which, when brought into action, made it possible to defeat the enemy at Moscow, Rostov and Tikhvin, and to radically change the situation at the front.

Long before the war, Stalin foresaw and warned us against the mortal danger of aggression to which our country might be subjected. By his wise leadership he prepared our country in every way for the forthcoming historical test. Our country entered the war morally and politically united; our industry proved completely able to satisfy the colossal demands of war; our armed forces were properly organized, swiftly learned the lessons of war and received splendid armaments in ever-increasing quantities.

In 1941 the German army was better prepared in the sense that it was mobilized and had already had considerable experience. But the course of events showed that in a deeper sense—in the sense of waging a prolonged war when all the wealth of modern armaments had been brought into action—our Army was better prepared than the German army.

In the long run the Soviet Union proved to be stronger than Germany and the Red Army stronger than the Wehr-

macht. "The history of war teaches that only those states have stood this test which proved to be stronger than their adversary in the development and organization of their economy, in experience, in the proficiency and fighting spirit of their troops, and in the fortitude and unity of their people throughout the whole course of the war." (*Stalin*).

All these advantages proved in this war to be on the side of the Soviet Union. And this was possible thanks to the gigantic effort made by our people in the 10 or 15 years preceding the war.

However, the transition from the period when Germany, as an aggressor, still enjoyed temporary advantages, to the period when the Soviet Union's permanent advantages began to make themselves increasingly felt, was not an easy one, nor one that occurred automatically.

Red Army Faced Problems of Immense Difficulty in 1941

In 1941 our country was threatened by mortal danger. The advantage in time possessed by the enemy proved to be a formidable factor. Sometimes hours, not to mention days, decided the issue of titanic engagements. Under Stalin's brilliant guidance of the operations of the Red Army, problems of immense difficulty were solved, such as had never been faced by any leader of armies before.

The aggressor's advantage was so great that even with the country's powerful reserves and resources, defensive methods were not enough. Stalin's genius realized the situation, and while playing for time, did not permit our main strategical reserves, upon which the issue depended, to be thrown into action prematurely.

But when the decisive hour came, Stalin threw the whole weight of our armies into the scales. The great battle of Moscow was fought, and, like every great decision, it was the only correct one. Our country was saved.

The aggressor's advantages had not yet been completely eliminated, but they were steadily on the wane. In 1942, at Stalingrad, a radical change took place; while in 1943, at Kursk, the last attempt of that bankrupt adventurer, Hitler, to recover his lost advantages, was foiled.

It is a highly noteworthy fact that

having lost the advantages derived from aggression, the German generals proved utterly bankrupt. They had nothing constructive with which to counter the growing perfection of Soviet strategy. The Red Army gained the advantage over the enemy in combat, but this advantage was the result of genuine military efficiency and generalship as expressed in originality of thought, effective use of the element of surprise, and skilful maneuvering.

The Red Army's heroic fight gave our Allies time in which to fully deploy their war potential. The Nazis' plans of exploiting the advantages enjoyed by aggressor nations over peaceful nations, owing to their earlier preparation for war, completely collapsed.

But one must not forget the lessons of this war, in which unbridled aggression trampled upon the liberty of peaceful nations. That is why the freedom-loving nations have lent an attentive ear to Stalin's wise words on the subjection of aggression:

"It is not to be denied accordingly that in days to come the peace-loving nations may once more find themselves caught off their guard by aggression, unless of course they work out special measures right now which can avert it."

Three Families

Three families of Soviet patriots are fighting in one regiment on the Eastern Front. They are a father and daughter—Sergei and Anna Baikov, Russians; a father and son—Jakov and Vasili Maslyuk, Ukrainians; and a father and son—Andrei and Ivan Kozhayev, Byelorussians. All have been decorated for valor.

Ivan Kozhayev was wounded and taken prisoner by the fascists early in the war, but escaped and joined the guerrillas, where he met his father. When Byelorussia was liberated they joined the Red Army. Anna Baikova, a music student, volunteered to fight at Stalingrad. Later she met her father on another battle sector and joined his regiment.

Maslyuk senior and junior are gunners. They have killed 500 fascists and destroyed 19 German tanks.

Triumph of the National Arts

By A. Solodovnikov

Vice Chairman, Arts Committee, Council of
People's Commissars of USSR

Before 1917 the national culture of the non-Russian peoples was stifled; it flourished only on the steppe, in the tents of nomads, or by the campfires of the shepherds who watched their flocks on the vast plains of Central Asia.

Under the Soviet regime, every nationality in the Soviet Union has been given an opportunity to develop its own national culture. The doors have swung wide to reveal a marvelous wealth of native talent. The stage scintillates with gifted people whose unstudied art has a quality all its own.

At the Baku Dramatic Theater there are certain old actors who have witnessed this astonishing change. They saw the founding of a national theater in Azerbaijan before the Revolution—but in those days female roles were played by men, for women were not permitted to appear on the stage. This is reminiscent of the Middle Ages; yet it happened within the memory of those who now direct this theater.

Under Tsarism, few of our brother Republics had a professional theater. Islam, the prevailing religion in Central Asia, forbade the representation of man, and this of course nipped the theatrical art in the bud. But the musical tradition was rich. Kazakhs, Uzbeks and Turkmenians will sit for hours listening to minstrels intoning folk songs and epic

narratives. They hold their bards in high honor, as interpreters not only of the people's poetry, but also of the people's wisdom.

These folk artists have preserved an inexhaustible store of popular music and poetry, and it is upon this basis that the professional arts have developed in these Republics during the Soviet period.

Today, if you visit Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan; Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan; Ashkhabad, capital of Turkmenia; Stalinabad, capital of Tajikistan; Erevan, capital of Armenia, or any of the cities of Soviet Central Asia, you will find beautiful opera houses and theaters. Alma-Ata and Baku have conservatories of music, Tbilisi has an Academy of Arts, Tashkent and Erevan have Dramatic Colleges.

Soviet actors, musicians, singers and dancers do not allow the footlights of the city theaters to divide them from the daily life of their people. Whenever a big canal is being built in Uzbekistan, the artists are on the job along with engineers and diggers, to inspire the workers and lighten the labor.

The Kazakh Academic Theater made its reputation with a splendid production of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, which in the opinion of critics was one of the best ever seen in the USSR. The Uzbek Theater of Music and Drama does

a version of *Romeo and Juliet*—*Tahir and Zuhbra*—based on folk tales and acted to the accompaniment of old melodies.

The Tajik Theater in Stalinabad has won distinction for its ballet. The Kirghiz Opera House, in Frunze, has produced—in addition to a number of national Kirghizian operas—Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*. Kirghizia has also given the Soviet people a number of really outstanding opera singers, such as Saira Kiizbayeva and Abdulas Madybayev.

Ashkhabad has an opera house with a large repertoire of operas and ballets. The culture of Georgia is ancient and highly developed; in the last two decades we have had the joy of seeing it flower anew. Shakespeare, contemporary Georgian plays and Russian classics are impressively produced at the Rustaveli Theater in Tbilisi.

Prior to the war the Ukraine had over 100 professional theaters. About 50 were evacuated to the East and were thus able to preserve their structure intact. They have now returned to their homes, and 90 of the original 100 are functioning again. The art of the Ukraine and Byelorussia suffered most from the German invasion, but in both Republics the enthusiasm of the people for the theater and for art in all its forms guarantees an early revival.

NEW FILMS ON THEATER AND BALLET

By Oleg Leonidov

A new film, "Masters of the Stage," has been produced by Vladimir Yurenev for the "Popular Science" series. The picture will explain the system of stagecraft developed by Konstantin Stanislavsky and Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko. Leading actors of the Moscow Art Theater will be shown in their most successful roles.

The film will be in two parts, the first illustrating productions before 1917, and the second the post-Revolutionary development of the theater. Among some 60 actors and actresses featured will be Olga

Knipper-Chekhova, Vasili Kachalov, Ivan Moskvina, Mikhail Tarkhanov, Nikolai Khmelev and Alla Tarasova.

Other forthcoming productions in this series are "Masters of the Classic Ballet" and "Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov." The former will feature outstanding Soviet dancers, including Galina Ulanova, Marina Semyonova, Olga Lepeshinskaya and Alexei Yermolayev in scenes from ballets staged by the Bolshoi Theater.

The film will also show the methods of choreographic education at the Moscow and Leningrad ballet schools.

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THE FIGHTING INSIDE BUDAPEST

By Ivan Le

Special Correspondent for IZVESTIA

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Radiophoto

Soviet infantry attacking with tank support

Following the rejection by the German command of the ultimatum presented by Marshals Tolbukhin and Malinovsky, and the villainous murder of the Soviet envoys, Red Army troops have continued their decisive battles for the destruction of enemy troops trapped in Budapest.

Guns roar night and day, showering the German resistance centers with lead. As the distance between Soviet units operating in the eastern and western sections of the Hungarian capital gradually shrinks, the noose around the German garrison tightens.

The streets of Budapest now cleared of the enemy present a ghastly spectacle of German destruction. Furniture and household utensils thrown out of windows by the Hitlerites are scattered on the pavement. Broken pianos are piled up on Rudolf Avenue, where there is a five-story warehouse of musical instruments. The Germans converted the building into a powerful support point. They had no time to remove the pianos to the street and preferred to throw them out of the windows.

The business section is concentrated in the eastern part of Pest, where the sumptuous Exchange Building towers next to the Parliament Building. Banks and department stores are in adjoining streets. The stores were emptied by the Germans long ago and their merchandise shipped to Germany. The mirrored showcases are smashed. Clouds of smoke hover over the luxurious and quite tasteless buildings of commercial concerns.

The retreating Germans destroy ruthlessly. Any objection, to say nothing of resistance, on the part of the local inhabitants means death. The Germans are murdering their allies with the same ease as they murdered Ukrainian collective farmers and Byelorussian children. Hitlerites

are putting anti-Hitlerite posters out of the windows of fire-nests to mislead Red Army men into thinking the buildings have been cleared of Germans. Should anyone appear before such a building, he would be met by a hail of bullets. The Red Army men rapidly exposed this Hitlerite provocation.

The center of the city overlooking the Danube is wrapped in fog, which merges with the smoke and dust of the severe street fighting. From time to time the cupolas of churches can be discerned through this screen. From the hills of Buda one can see what is left of the one-time beautiful bridges across the Danube. Before my eyes the Hitlerites sent one of the finest railway bridges in Europe flying through the air.

"What should this cold-blooded destruction of the population and cultural treasures of Budapest be called?" I asked Lieutenant Karl Schwabe of the SS, a prisoner.

He merely shrugged his shoulders and answered brazenly, "It is not for us to regret it; we did not build all this."

The beautiful building of Budapest University was converted into a strong pillbox by the Germans. From there they

kept the adjoining district under fire. Red Army men have thrown a solid ring around the district and the Hitlerites entrenched there are doomed to destruction.

At the time of the Salaszi coup, the Germans brought two tank divisions into Budapest to "maintain order." These divisions are now offering furious resistance to the Soviet units. Numerous counter-attacks are being delivered by the enemy on various sectors. These counter-attacks are usually delivered with forces ranging from a company to a battalion in strength, with the support of tanks and self-propelled guns.

What is the aim pursued by the Germans? They hope to find a weak link in the ring of encirclement, to break through to the west. Absurd hopes! None of the German attempts to break through have brought them success. They have been invariably rolled back, leaving behind the corpses of their soldiers and officers and their crippled machines.

The Germans heavily mined entire blocks of the city. Soviet sappers face heavy odds, but they have already rendered harmless tens of thousands of death traps planted in basements and street cor-

ners, under sidewalks and at the approaches to bridges. As street after street passes into the hands of the Red Army, civilians tell of the horrors and suffering to which the Germans have doomed the population.

Where individual strongpoints with numerous fire-nests present stubborn obstacles to the advancing infantry, the Soviet Air Force often aids the ground troops. Despite the complexity of fighting in a city, small groups of IL-2 Stormoviks, Yakovlev fighters and Lavochkins rain bombs, shells and machine-gun bullets on the enemy support points, destroying his men and equipment.

Infantry observers signaling from the roofs of tall buildings help the fliers to locate their targets. As a result of blows delivered by ILs in one day, nine support points, five tanks and 65 trucks were destroyed in the city and ten cars burned at the railway station. Soviet airmen noted 53 fires and two heavy explosions caused by direct hits on munition dumps. Following the air assault, Soviet ground units captured a number of support points and made a considerable advance.

Recently the Germans attempted to use Junkers-52 transport planes to deliver munitions and reinforcements to Budapest. The Germans and Hungarians were urgently preparing landing fields at the hippodromes and sports stadiums. The Soviet Air Force is blockading them. Patrolling above the city, our fighters keep constant vigil and frustrate the enemy plans. Air battles rage constantly in this area. Even the escorted Junkers-52s have not succeeded in breaking through to the blockaded area in daylight.

But the enemy has not given up; he is attempting to bring up ammunition and reinforcements to the encircled troops during the night. For two days several dozen Junkers-52s tried to take advantage of the adverse weather to break through to Budapest at night, but even under these conditions, the Soviet airmen stopped them. All night long our light night bombers of the Polikarpov-2 type hovered over the enemy landing grounds, and bombs dropped by them put the fields out of commission.

The Polikarpov-2 planes render similar assistance to the infantry. During the night, when street fighting dies down, the night bombers pound away at the

enemy's artillery concentrations, troops and equipment, and destroy his support points. Soviet airmen are actively supporting the advancing units.

Enemy Counter-Attacks Repulsed

The German command strives to retain its hold on the Hungarian capital at any cost. On January 3, the enemy sent even larger tank and infantry forces into his last counter-attacks southeast of Komarno than on the preceding day. The spearhead of the thrust was aimed at one of the Soviet artillery formations. The Russian gunners stopped the first wave of German tanks after which the enemy threw an even larger tank force into action and drove in a wedge.

The Soviet Command withdrew the artillery to another line, and here the German spearheads were checked by powerful fire.

Another big enemy tank group supported by aircraft launched an attack in a neighboring sector. The Germans captured several points on the southern bank of the Danube. Soviet self-propelled guns and special anti-tank units then joined the action. A series of violent clashes ensued, but the enemy was checked in this direction also.

In Budapest, Soviet assault companies have reached the central city district. Soviet troops are widely employing Stalin-grad tactics: precise coordination between infantry, artillery and tanks. Sappers creep up to the steel hedgehogs and throw cables over them, after which tanks drag the obstacles away—opening the road to the assaulting infantry.

The Russian gunners fight splendidly. Besides the assault guns which move within the infantry ranks, they are effectively supported by batteries stationed on the heights on the western outskirts of the city. They maintain constant radio contact with the assault parties, and with exceptional precision destroy the key-points of the enemy's resistance.

Soviet bombers strike concentrated blows at the enemy troops, stores and fortifications. The German fighters are unable to wrest air supremacy from the Soviet pilots. Late at night German transport planes appear in the moonlight to



Radiophoto

Marshal of Aviation F. Falaleyev, awarded the Commander's Cross of the Legion of Honor by the French Government

parachute supplies to the besieged garrison. In the past 24 hours the ring of encirclement has narrowed further, and the last German airborne supplies fell far behind the Soviet vanguard lines.

The Hitlerites have resolved to reduce Budapest to a desert and a heap of ruins. Whatever they failed to carry away before the ring of Marshals Tolbukhin's and Malinovsky's troops closed in on them, they have wrecked and demolished. They confiscated all food stocks from residents, and what they could not carry away they destroyed.

Old people, women and children have come out of concealment in the liberated Budapest suburbs, where they have been hiding from the compulsory evacuation. Budapest is still blanketed by an enormous pall of battle smoke.

The ring of encirclement continues to narrow. The attempt of the German command to relieve its doomed garrison by a thrust from the north will inevitably fail, as the Germans lack sufficient reserves to achieve this, and it will only increase their enormous losses in men and materiel.

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 organisations, State enterprises and institutions of the USSR

On Crimes Committed in the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic

From the very outset of their occupation of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic the Germans and their accomplices abolished the State independence of the Estonian people and proceeded to introduce a "new order," to eradicate culture, art and science, to exterminate or deport the civilian population to Germany for slave labor, to devastate and plunder towns, villages and farms.

A Special Commission composed of KAROTAMM, the President of the Council of People's Commissars of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic (Weimer); Professor KRUUS, the Procurator of the Estonian Republic (Paas); IGER, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Republic; Lieutenant General KHOLOSTOV; GOTZEV, representing the Extraordinary State Committee, with the participation of the experts, Major General of Justice PETROVSKY and State Councillor of Justice UDRAS, has investigated crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders.

The Commission examined the destruction brought about by the Hitlerites, and studied documents of the occupation authorities and of the German Army Command, found in Tallinn and other towns. On the basis of the investigation carried out by the Special Commission, the findings of the medico-legal experts, as well as of experts in industry, agriculture and municipal economy, historical and artistic treasures, the Extraordinary State Committee has ascertained the following:

Germans Tried to Turn Estonia Into Their Colony

After they occupied Estonia the Germans totally abolished her independence and deprived the Estonian people of all political and economic rights. On July 17, 1941, Hitler issued a decree turning over legislative authority on the territory of

Estonia to Reichsminister Rosenberg who later, in his turn, delegated legislative authority to German district commissars. Arbitrary rule was introduced in Estonia, and the peaceful population fell victim to brutal terrorism. Reichsminister Rosenberg, Lose, Reichskommissar of the Baltic area, and Litzmann, General Commissioner of Estonia, deprived the Estonian population of every political right.

On the basis of Hitler's decree of July 17, 1941, Reichsminister Rosenberg on February 17, 1942, promulgated a law applying solely to persons of non-German nationality and providing for capital punishment of such persons for slightest opposition to Germanization and for any violent action against Germans.

Corporal Punishment For Office Workers

The invaders introduced corporal punishment for Estonian workers and office employees. On February 20, 1942, Walk, an official of the railway administration in Riga, sent the following telegram to the railway administration of Estonia:

"Henceforth every violation of service discipline by an employee belonging to the local nationality, in particular failure to report for work, coming late to work, coming to work in a drunken state, failure to comply with a service order, must be punished in all strictness:—

"A—First time by 15 strokes with a cane on the naked body.

"B—In the case of repetition, by 20 strokes with a cane on the naked body."

On January 12, 1942, Reichsminister Rosenberg set up "Extraordinary Courts" which consisted of a presiding judge—a police officer—and two policemen subordinate to him. Legal proceedings were established according to the courts' own discretion. These "courts" always passed death sentences and confiscated property.

They never passed any other sentence. Appeals against verdicts were not allowed. Besides the "courts" set up by Rosenberg, death sentences were passed by German political police, who carried them into effect the same day. To try civil and criminal cases the General Commissioner, Litzmann, set up local courts. Judges, prosecutors, examining magistrates, jailers, notaries and lawyers, all without exception were appointed by Litzmann himself.

By a decree of Reichskommissar Lose of August, 1942, the German language was proclaimed the State language of Estonia.

With a view to exploiting and enslaving the Estonian people as effectively as possible, the invaders set up a so-called "Estonian self-government" headed by Mae, a traitor to the motherland. On December 22, 1942, General Commissioner Litzmann authorized the chief director of "Estonian self-government" Mae to issue decrees and instructions on their application. But this was mere subterfuge, to which the fascists had to have recourse to deceive the people; in reality all the decrees emanated from the German authorities in Berlin, Riga and Tallinn. Even the least important decrees of the chief director of the so-called "Estonian self-government," Mae, had to be approved by the German organs concerned. This "self-government" was in actual fact a sub-division of the German General Commissariat, and the "directors" of the "self-government" were actually German officials.

The secret annual report of the German political police and SD in Estonia for the period July, 1941, to June 13, 1942, describes in detail how the "Estonian self-government" was subordinate to the German General Commissariat of Estonia in administrative and economic respects and in matters relating to per-

sonnel. The section of this confidential report entitled "Deprivation of Political Rights" makes the following observations on relations between the German General Commissioner in Estonia, Litzmann, and the director of the "Estonian self-government," Mae:

"Relations between Litzmann and Mae are characterized by the unconditional outward and inner authority of Litzmann, of his opinions and decisions, and by Mae's unconditional outward and inner subordination."

Pretense of 'Independence'

In another section of the report, entitled "Problems of Principle in the Policy in the East," Mae's personal subordination to General Commissioner Litzmann is explained by the necessity to enslave the Estonian people. It says that in the Baltic States the Germans should try to win the sympathies of the peoples. Therefore it should be pretended that the Germans are only giving guidance, and that the Estonians are administering the country through "local self-government." "The Estonians do not wish to be exploited by the Germans, but they are ready to exploit themselves under their own regime." The fascist General Commissioner Litzmann was creating the pretense of the independence of the Estonian people and of its State, but, in fact, said openly in his speeches that an "independent Estonian State" would never again exist.

After the occupation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the German government tried to enslave the peoples of the Soviet Socialist Republics and assert its domination of the Baltic Sea. In an order dated August 15, 1944, the Commander of the 2nd German Army Corps, Lieutenant General Hasse, wrote: "The Baltic place d'armes, situated directly at the gate of our Fatherland, constitutes a connecting link with Finland and forms the foundation on which rests the defense of Europe's northern flank. It is the guarantee of German domination in the Baltic Sea."

Destruction of Culture And Historical Monuments

Having converted Estonia into Germany's colony, the fascist enslavers could not permit the Estonian people to have its own culture. First the invaders pro-

ceeded to purge the libraries. A secret circular of the "Director of Education," dated December 9, 1941, ordered the following books to be withdrawn from libraries: all Soviet books published between 1917 and 1941, Estonian literature published in 1940 and 1941, and all the literary works, without exception, of the following poets and writers: Alle, Antson, Barbarus, Kiir, Hint, Jacobson, Jurna, Kippel, Karner, Raud, Semper and Tammlaan.

Bonfires blazed in the squares of Estonian towns, reducing to ashes the treasures of Estonian national genius and the finest literary works of the European peoples. Writers and poets who found themselves in fascist bondage were not allowed to print their works. Many of them—Tammlaan, Sirge, Sutiste, Paulson, Antson, Baar, Kanro-Pool, Adams, Rummo and Tiitus—were confined by the fascists in concentration camps. The talented short story writer Johan Ruven and young writer Otto Kidali were brutally tortured to death in prison.

The same fate befell talented artists who refused to work for the Germans. Gori Kummits and Nymmik were jailed; Juhani, Liimand and Laigo were murdered by fascist executioners. Practically no paintings or sculptures by national artists and sculptors remained in Estonia.

The Germans carried away to Germany more than 10,000 works of art. They burned down the Estonian National Museum on the Raadi Estate near Tartu. At the Estonia Theater, the Germans allowed performances of operas and operettas in the German language only. They confined to concentration camps and prisons the actors Murk, Bank, Reining, E. Turk and M. Turk, Hell and others. Trillarv, Sallik, Savi, the conductor and composer Kull, and the stage director Sepp could not stand the privations and died. The "Aumere and Paris" couple were murdered; the actor Murjak and the playwright Zakk committed suicide. Before their retreat the Germans set fire to the Vanemuine Theater in Tartu, the Byitleia Theater in Narva, the Ugalla Theater in Viliandi, and the Andla Theater in Piarnu.

They demolished Estonia's historical monuments of architecture—the central part of the town of Narva with houses built in the 17th Century, a most beau-

tiful group of historic buildings and two churches in the Town Hall Square, and the Narva house of Peter the Great. The Germans blew up two historic Narva fortresses—the Swedish Fortress and the "Ivangorod"; in Tartu they demolished the Saint Johann Tower built in the 14th Century; in Piarnu they destroyed the Saint Nicolas Church, an outstanding historic monument of the 14th Century.

The Hitlerites ransacked and partly demolished Tartu University, which has a glorious history of more than 300 years and is one of the oldest institutions of higher education. They shot the finest representatives of the faculty, including Professors Kliman and Rubel.

Destruction of Industrial Enterprises

In the last prewar year, industry was developing by leaps and bounds in Estonia. The shale industry was of tremendous importance for the national economy. According to plan, in 1941 shale output was to reach several million tons. The shale industry formed the basis for Estonia's growing chemical industry. The German barbarians almost completely destroyed its enterprises. Thus they removed all the equipment of the distilling plant in Sillamae and demolished the larger part of the building. Plants in Kohtla and Kivieli were wholly demolished.

The Hitlerites demolished enterprises of the metal industry: the machine-building and metal works in Tartu, the Narva foundry, the Esti Motor motor-building plant in Piarnu. At the large Ilmarinen machine-building works in Tallinn the Hitlerites demolished the steel foundry.

In Tartu they ransacked the equipment of the telephone factory and demolished its building.

Of the large enterprises of the building materials industry the Hitlerites seriously damaged the Punane Klunga cement mill. At the Punane Kivi brick kilns in Viruma District they completely destroyed the equipment and the greater part of the buildings; they also demolished the Ceti Diatomit factory which produced high-grade thermic insulation materials. At the plywood and furniture factory in Tallinn the Hitlerites completely demolished the plywood, drying, plank-cutting, carpentry and dyeing departments and the sawmill.

and burned down the stocks of raw materials, semi-finished and finished goods. They completely destroyed the paper mill in the town of Turi.

The fascists reduced to ruins the Krengholm Manufactory cotton mill in Narva. This was a gigantic textile mill which even before the First World War had some half million spindles. The Germans completely demolished other textile enterprises in Narva: the linen, cloth and silk weaving mills. Of the food industry enterprises the fascists completely destroyed in Tallinn the huge Pyhia Veski grain treatment mill and the Kvalitet confectionary factory.

The German-fascist invaders burned down or demolished 9,200 buildings in the towns of Estonia. Especially great destruction was wrought in Narva, on the orders of Lieutenant General Wagner, commander of the 4th Tank Grenadier Brigade (the "Niederland"). Of 3,500 buildings in Narva, only 114 remained standing, and even these required extensive repairs. In Tartu 2,432 buildings were destroyed out of 5,083. In Tallinn the Germans demolished 1,885 buildings.

The German invaders intended to convert the capital of Estonia into a heap of ruins. After the liberation of Tallinn 75 mined areas were discovered and over 100 tons of explosives and fougasses extracted. Mine tunnels were found under Vyshgorod; one of them contained 12 tons of explosives.

The Hitlerites caused great damage to communal services and public utilities in the towns. They demolished 60 out of 120 hotels and inns. For instance, in Tartu only two hotels remained out of eleven.

Of the former aggregate capacity of the power stations, which amounted to 71,000 kilowatts, only some 11,000 kilowatts remained. When fleeing from Estonia the Hitlerites intended to demolish all the power stations. However, they failed to do so. At the approach of the Red Army the workers of some power stations arose, arms in hand, to defend public property. Four times German demolition squads came to the Tallinn power station, but retired on encountering the armed guard. Then the Hitlerites shelled the power station from warships lying in the port. Armed workers also

saved the Tallinn waterworks and gasworks.

Destruction of Medical Institutions

Flourishing Estonia was converted by the Hitlerites into a horde of contagious diseases. Typhus, dysentery, diphtheria and other diseases spread among the population on an unprecedented scale. According to official German data, within six months in 1943 and 1944 there were registered 3,476 typhus cases and 7,950 diphtheria cases. Under German occupation scabies and lice-infestation also spread among the population on an unparalleled scale.

The occupation authorities did not place contagious cases in hospitals, nor did they provide any medical aid for the population. They abolished all measures to safeguard the sources of the towns' water supply and violated the most elementary precautions necessary to insure the purity of the water. They set up stables and open field-type latrines for labor battalions on the bank of Lake Julemiste, from which Tallinn gets its water.

The German-fascist invaders adapted buildings of medical and prophylactic institutions for storehouses and army barracks, or else burned them down or demolished them. In Tallinn they demolished the children's hospital, the children's clinic, the apothecary storehouses, three pharmacies, three shops selling sanitary and hygienic requisites, and three welfare centers for infants and mothers. They demolished six blocks of the Central City Hospital and one wing of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The Hitlerites stole the equipment, instruments and medicaments of all the medical and prophylactic centers in Tallinn. In Tartu they destroyed the first and second city hospitals, six pharmacies, a hydrotherapy institute and an infants' polyclinic. In Piirnu they destroyed a polyclinic, a dispensary for tuberculosis patients and a maternity hospital. In Narva they demolished every medical and prophylactic establishment, including eight pharmacies, a polyclinic and a sanitary-epidemiology station.

Plunder of Rural Population

The German invaders shamelessly plundered the rural population of Estonia. Pillage of the peasants took the form of

requisitioning of all kinds, and compulsory deliveries of agricultural produce. The peasants had to supply the Germans with enormous quantities of produce.

Pierre Rebane, a peasant of the Hariuma District, Hagari Region, said that during 1942-43 he supplied 900 kilograms of meat. The Germans took away his cows because he had not delivered the full amount of meat demanded. Peasants who did not deliver produce promptly were heavily fined or arrested.

The Germans took from the poor peasants the land they had been given by Soviet power in 1940, totaling 404,000 hectares. They compelled the peasants to pay not only former debts for land, but also to pay off loans granted by the Soviet Government.

The Germans' rapacious, unbridled exploitation of the Estonian peasants caused the agriculture of Estonia to deteriorate steadily. The area under corn fell 35 per cent by 1944 in comparison with 1941. The area under potatoes was in the same period reduced by 31 per cent, that under flax by 64 per cent.

The reduction of sown areas and decline in harvest yields affected all grain, industrial and fodder crops. The total reduction in sown area in 1943 as compared with 1939 amounted to 170,234 hectares.

During the years of German occupation 35,000 hectares of forest land were destroyed. This is equivalent to some 3,500,000 cubic meters of timber.

The Germans confiscated from the peasants and carried away to Germany 107,000 horses, 31,000 cows, 214,000 pigs and 790,000 head of poultry. They plundered about 50,000 bee-hives. Twenty-five machine and tractor stations with 350 caterpillar tractors had been established in Estonia under the Soviet regime. They were destroyed and ransacked by the Germans, who carried off to Germany 236 tractors, 151 five-share plows, 22 other types of plows, 30 implements for uprooting tree stumps and over 500 other agricultural machines. The Hitlerites inflicted great damage on the agricultural machinery leasing stations. They drove away from these stations 1,700 horses and destroyed or stole 2,474 various agricultural machines.

The Hitlerites confiscated 1,000 thresh-

ing machines, 600 threshing machine engines, 700 locomobiles, 350 tractors and 24,781 other agricultural machines, the private property of peasants. The gravest damage was caused to the agriculture of the Viruma District, where the fascists burned down 2,566 dwelling houses and farm buildings. They completely ruined the agriculture of the Narva, Piri, Raa, Alutagu, Vaivara and Vasknarva areas.

Extermination of Soviet Civilians and War Prisoners

The German-fascist invaders covered occupied Estonian territory with concentration camps, prisons and Gestapo torture chambers. They mercilessly exterminated civilians and prisoners of war. According to the monthly reports of the chief doctor of camps, SS Obersturmfuehrer von Bodmann, on February 1, 1944, there were over 20 camps in Estonia. In February, 1944, over 6,000 prisoners were kept in four camps only, namely the Areda-Asundus, the Kivieli, the Vaivara and Klooga. Soviet citizens confined in the camps were given numbers and deprived of their names. They were beaten with whips and iron rods and forced to do unbearably hard work for the Todt organization.

The working day lasted 16 to 18 hours. For failure to execute their quota, prisoners were left without food, brutally beaten, or shot. However, to conceal traces of their crimes the Germans burned the bodies of murdered people on bonfires, ground unburned bones to powder and, together with the ashes, scattered them over the fields. Retreating before the Red Army's onslaught, the Germans hastily liquidated the concentration camps and shot the majority of the inmates.

Injected with Poison

In September, 1943, the German invaders set up a labor concentration camp of the Todt organization in the small summer resort of Klooga-Sedlin, 44 kilometers southwest of Tallinn. A penal labor regime was instituted for the camp inmates, irrespective of sex or age. Every prisoner was given a number. In order to prevent escapes, the heads of the women were shaved clean, while on the men's heads tonsures were made from the forehead down to the nape of the neck. The prisoners, including children, were

forced to work 12 to 15 hours a day. Every day a public flogging took place in the camp on a bench specially constructed for this purpose. In addition, for the slightest offense prisoners were left without food for two days, and were tied to posts for two or three hours in bitter frosts. Not only the SS guards, but also the camp administration and the German doctors committed outrages against the prisoners.

The German doctor Bothmann personally beat up two prisoners, namely Dr. Zalkindson and Dr. Getzov. Bothmann systematically poisoned sick inmates by injections of poison (evipan). The camp stretcher-bearer, Unterscharfuehrer Gent, killed 23 aged prisoners with an axe.

One witness, Ratner, stated: "In February, 1944, two babies were born in the Klooga camp. Both were thrown into the boiler-room furnace and burned alive. I personally saw how they burned children. In May, 1944, a third baby was born in the camp, and Unterscharfuehrer Bar strangled it at once."

On September 19, 1944, the Germans began the liquidation of the Klooga camp. Camp Unterscharfuehrer Schwarze, the chief of the camp office, Haupt, and Scharfuehrer Max Delmann picked out 300 people from among the prisoners and forced them to carry firewood to a forest glade. Another 700 men were forced to build pyres. When the pyres were ready the German hangmen started to shoot prisoners in large batches. Those who had fetched firewood and built the pyres were shot first, and then came the turn of the rest. The shootings were conducted in the following manner: at pistol point Germans of SD police squads forced prisoners to lie face-down on the prepared pyres, and then shot them from tommy guns or pistols. The shot people were burned on the pyres. On September 19, 1944, some 4,000 people were killed in the Klooga camp.

In August, 1944, in the area of the Tallinn forest cemetery the Germans shot civilians whom they had brought in trucks in groups of 25 to 30. The bodies of these people were also burned on pyres. The local population was strictly forbidden to approach this place, the pretext

being that experiments "with new military equipment" were being conducted there. From August 8, 1944, to September 19, 1944, over a thousand persons were shot and burned at the Tallinn forest cemetery.

As one of the sites for mass extermination of people, the Germans selected a hollow between the hills at Kalevi-Liiva, five kilometers from the village of Kaberneeme in the Kusalu area of the Hariuma District. In 1942 they announced to the local population that fortifications were being built in the area of these hills, and civilians were strictly forbidden to appear there. In 1942 the Hitlerites brought 3,000 people on two railway trains to Raaiku station, then carried them in buses to the Kalevi-Liiva hills and shot them there. Subsequently in 1943 and 1944 the Hitlerites brought more groups of civilians to these hills and shot them there. Investigation has revealed that in the area of the Kalevi-Liiva hills the fascists exterminated some 5,000 people. In order to cover up the traces of their crimes, in 1944 the Germans started to exhume the bodies of the shot people, and burned them. Unburned bones were ground to powder and buried or scattered over the fields together with the ashes.

Near the shale workings, at the workers' settlement of Kivieli, Viruma District, the Germans set up three concentration camps where they kept up to 9,000 civilians, all employed in shale mining. For failure to execute quotas prisoners were beaten with rubber tubing, left without food for five or six days, or thrown into water-logged mine shafts. Camp inmates were shot for the slightest offense.

A witness, Vikhula, stated: "My husband Yugan Vikhula worked in the Kivieli shale mines for 15 years. As soon as the Germans came he was arrested, and on August 27, 1941, he was shot with 70 other miners, including Salused, Klampe, Koose, Koppel, Normak, Alferov and Magi."

In the town of Narva the German-fascist invaders set up seven camps for civilians and war prisoners. The Germans adapted an Estonian elementary school, the buildings of a linen mill, the Russian Club and "Red Storehouses" for camps.

These camps were always tenanted by tens of thousands of people. Fifteen to twenty thousand persons were kept in one camp for Soviet war prisoners in the "Red Storehouses." The Hitlerites systematically shot prisoners. They burned the bodies of people tortured to death, and sometimes even living people, in the boiler-room furnaces of the linen mill or buried them in the forest beyond the village of Popovka or in trenches beyond the "Red Storehouses."

The Special Commission has established that in three years the Hitlerites murdered about 30,000 civilians and Soviet war prisoners in Narva. Eight thousand people were exterminated in the camps in the Viruma District. At Kuremae, Vivikonna, Auvere, Iyhvi, Kohtla-Jarve, Kuruso, Perm, Golfids, Areda-Asundus, Sonda, Azeri and Kunda.

The former prisoner Gordon, from one of the Areda-Asundus camps, stated: "In April, 1944, 150 persons including myself were in the Areda camp. The German Schniebel was chief of the camps at that time. This camp was divided into two parts, one for healthy people and the other for the sick. The number of

deaths in the camp ran as high as 20 to 30 a day. The sick were given no medical aid. The German stretcher-bearer Glinger used to beat sick people to death."

Corporal of SS Troops Scharfeter, a German, displayed special cruelty. A former prisoner from Iyhvi camp, Gamburg, stated: "When Corporal Scharfeter arrived in our camp in December, 1943, he declared that there would be no sick people in his camp, and the very first day he shot two patients and burned their bodies in the sawmill furnace. Later he shot two more people who were down with typhus."

The Hangmen Shall Be Called to Account

For all the crimes, the plundering and destruction of cultural and material values, the Extraordinary State Committee holds responsible the Hitlerite government, the German Military Command and also the direct organizers and executors of the crimes:

Field Marshal General Von Leeb; Field Marshal General Von Kuechler; Colonel General Model; Colonel General Lindemann; Infantry

General Frissner; Colonel General Scherner; the German General Commissioner Obergruppenfuehrer Karl Litzmann; Commander of the "Narva" Army Group Infantry General Grasser; Commander of the Third German SS Tank Corps Infantry General Steiner; Commander of the 4th Tank Grenadier "Niederland" Brigade Lieutenant General Wagner; Commander of the 11th Tank Grenadier "Niederland" Division Major General Ziegler; Gruppenfuehrer Aster; Standartenfuehrer Mentzel; Standartenfuehrer Prince Von Hohenlohe; Chief of the German SD Security Police Obersturmbannfuehrer Dr. Sandberger; his assistant Sturmbannfuehrer Heissler; Standartenfuehrer Boeking; Standartenfuehrer Lothar Bombe; Commissioner of the Tartu District Von Menen; director of all work in the Estonian camps, Hauptsturmbannfuehrer Scharze; Chief Doctor of the Camps Dr. Bodmann; Chief of the Klooga Camp Werlee, and the other persons mentioned in this statement.

December, 1944

THE SPIRIT OF KIEV

By O. Savich

In Hitler's opinion, the work of his torch bearers—the sappers and incendiaries—on Kiev's main street, the broad Kreschatik, was unquestionably successful. They did more than simply destroy all the buildings—that would have been banal, like converting a small village into a wasteland. Mere destruction did not satisfy the Hitlerites. They attempted to destroy the street in a way that would make reconstruction impossible.

Soviet guns were still firing on the outskirts of Kiev, German long-range batteries were still aiming their shells at the city, when seven people made their appearance on the deserted and awful Kreschatik that looked as though an earthquake had struck it. No one asked their names. Pale, gaunt and in rags, they proceeded to clear up the wreckage in the smoke-filled streets. No one, of course, had asked them to do this. They simply wanted to prove to themselves, to

the city and to the enemy, that Kiev lived and that the Kreschatik would live.

Since that time the people of Kiev have voluntarily put in a total of 300,000 working days on the Kreschatik.

Who are these people? Here is a brigade of concrete workers supervised by a tall, clean-shaven man. Like the others, he is an actor of the Lesia Ukrainka Theater. In the evening, he impersonates a marquis in a Moliere play. On the mornings he is not rehearsing, he becomes a concrete worker.

Competing with the actors are workers of the film industry. They are also pouring concrete. Teachers have armed themselves with spades and brooms. The workers of the Commissariat of Education of the Ukraine have each contributed 35 working days.

In 300,000 working days, the new Herculeans have laid 3,000 meters of street

car lines and 3,800 meters of rail for the narrow-gauge road over which the debris is carried away. They widened and asphalted the street. They planted new trees to replace twisted and scorched stumps. The plan calls for a Kreschatik that will be wider, grander and more beautiful than before.

Two years ago, when the Germans were planning to reach the Caucasus and cross the Volga, the Hitlerites led along the damaged and silent but still existing Kreschatik some Dnieper sailors who had been taken prisoner. The sailors were covered with blood; when their bullets had given out, they had used stones and fists. They were being led through the city to their death. As they marched along the beautiful, saddened street, they sang.

The sailors who died with a song on their lips are no more. The Kreschatik was destroyed. But the song is immortal. And the Kreschatik will live again.

Notes from Front and Rear

Guards Lieutenant Alexander Kalachev's tank crew, which made 110 attacks on its road from Stalingrad through the Ukraine, Moldavia, Rumania and Yugoslavia, is now in the heart of Hungary. In this last action the crew has destroyed 15 enemy tanks, 80 guns, over 200 motor vehicles and about 300 Hitlerites.

★

Postal service in the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic has been completely restored, with 535 post offices again functioning.

★

Kazakhstan now has its first steel works, launched in the Karaganda steppe. The new plant marks an important step in the industrialization of Kazakhstan. Hundreds of young Kazakhs from remote villages began their training as steel workers the day the cornerstone of the new plant was laid. By the time it was completed they had mastered the complicated art of metal production, as their first day's work proved. Larger works will be gradually added to the initial base.

★

Seven hundred actors have been decorated during the past year for their work in front-line theaters. In this period 95,000 concerts and plays were staged before Army and Navy units, with 15,000 artists participating.

★

Soviet designing bureaus and experimental shops are constantly creating new tractor models. A new type of giant tractor with a Diesel engine is now being tested. Run on heavier fuel, the tractor will effect a fuel economy of almost one-third, compared with kerosene-driven models.

★

The Tbilisi Botanical Gardens planted 37,500 acres to sweet potatoes last year and obtained an abundant yield. The experiment has shown that this tuber can be raised in the USSR on a wide scale.

Two hundred children of Soviet fliers killed in battle are being cared for in Odessa in a home maintained by airmen of the Civil Air Fleet.

★

January 15, the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian writer A. S. Griboyedov, will be marked in the Soviet Union by a new edition of *Wit Works Woe*, one of the most popular works in Russian literature. A one-volume collection of Griboyedev's works, a monograph and brochure of his life and writings, and dramatic selections for young people, will also be issued. Moscow University is preparing an anthology of documents and material on the writer's stay in the University. A volume of his works is being published in Georgia, and in the Ukraine the well-known poet Maxim Rylsky is engaged on a new translation of *Wit Works Woe*.

Scientific groups will hold special sessions and exhibits on the occasion. A number of Moscow theaters are reviving *Wit Works Woe*, which has appeared in their repertoires for over 100 years.

★

Moscow is now witnessing the first ice-hockey cup tournament since the war, with 32 men's and 16 women's teams competing.

★

During the fighting in Budapest one enemy garrison held out in a large corner building at the intersection of two avenues. Medium shells failed to pierce the thick walls, and a frontal assault was senseless in the face of the fire of 30 German machine gunners and tommy gunners. A Soviet assault group of six men headed by Corporal Drugov undertook to clean out the building. One machine gunner and two tommy gunners entered a house across the street, and by rushing from window to window convinced the Germans they were facing a large unit. When the enemy had concentrated his fire on this house, the three other Red Army men crawled up to the building, planted explosives and blew it up. Not a single German survived.

Ten thousand hours, or 14 months under water, is the record of 40-year-old Andrei Vlandis, veteran diver of the Black Sea Fleet, who made his first descent 15 years ago. Vlandis invariably participates in all major salvaging operations in the Black Sea. He once remained submerged in oil for two hours, to plug holes in the bottom of a huge oil reservoir. During the war the veteran diver became an expert in rendering harmless parachute mines dropped by the Germans into Soviet waters. He was among the first to learn the secrets of the German magnetic mine and other new types. Ten thousand hours under water has in no way affected the health of Vlandis, an athletic Latvian.

★

The first glassworks has begun operation in Magadan, in the remote Siberian taiga on the shores of the Okhotsk Sea. The event marks an important stage in the development of this rich but as yet little explored area.

★

A new documentary film, *In the Far North*, now being shown in the USSR, depicts the difficulties of the fighting in this terrain, the victories of Red Army troops, their entry into the soil of Norway, and the warm welcome they received from the Norwegian people.

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Liberated Railroads Open to Traffic

By Engineer S. Semenov

This has been an extraordinary year for the railway workers of our country. The entire Soviet railway system has been liberated from the Germans and opened to traffic. Hundreds of thousands of railwaymen have been freed from German slavery and have returned to the Soviet family, to free, creative labor. Thousands of kilometers of Soviet railways have been regained from the enemy.

In their attempt to check the Red Army offensive the Germans converted the occupied regions into a desert zone. They wrecked the railways, destroying not only the main railway installations, but dwellings, club houses and medical service institutions.

The scope of the damage may be estimated from the following figure: On that part of the October Railway liberated last year, the enemy destroyed 96 main-line stations, 15 locomotive depots, 14 car depots and repair workshops, 197 ware-

houses, 900 railwaymen's clubs and similar institutions, and 1,500 dwelling houses. All the permanent way, including station sidings, bridges and water towers, was blown up. A preliminary estimate reveals that damage amounting to over 1,000,000,000 rubles was done on this railway alone.

About two dozen main-line railways have been liberated from the enemy, all of which we had to rebuild in the shortest possible time, to meet the needs of the front and the reviving economy in the liberated districts. A tremendous concentration of forces was necessary, as any halt in the repairing of communications might hold up the Red Army offensive. The railway builders are working tirelessly, overcoming all obstacles.

During the period of the 1944 summer offensive of the Red Army alone, railwaymen working together with railway troops rebuilt over 13,000 kilometers

of main lines, hundreds of stations, bridges, culverts, water towers and coal-yards, and a large number of locomotive and car depots.

The speed with which many of the lines have been rebuilt is without parallel in railway history. Bridges over kilometer-wide rivers have been repaired in 13 to 15 days. Even during the flood period, a railway line of 152 kilometers was rebuilt in two weeks. Some necessary building material was brought to the construction sites by air.

The speed of railway rebuilding was increased in 1944. During the first year of the war, railway reconstruction units rebuilt eight kilometers of line per day. The same units working in the Crimea in 1944 rebuilt and handed over, ready for exploitation, 25 kilometers daily. Bridge repairing now proceeds two and one-half times faster than it did in 1943 and the expenditure of material is 40 per cent less.

Simultaneously with the rebuilding of permanent ways and coalyards, water towers and bridges, work is begun on the construction of station buildings, dwelling houses, medical and cultural institutions. During the past year about 400 stations have been rebuilt, including the large Leningrad station. Despite the tremendous destruction wrought by the fascists, dwelling houses with a total floor space of one-half million square meters were rebuilt and occupied during 10 months of the past year. Thousands of railwaymen and their families who formerly lived in dugouts have been able to move into soundly-built dwellings.

Soviet railwaymen understand that rebuilding of railways calls for enormous expenditures of material and technical supplies, and they are doing their utmost to decrease this expenditure by mobilizing



Radio photo

A consignment of flour sent by the Soviet Government to the Polish people is unloaded in Praga, liberated suburb of Warsaw

all available resources. In nine months, for example, railwaymen themselves cut about 11,000,000 ties, enough for 6,000 kilometers of track. Many railways are now using chairs, fishplates, bolts, spikes and dozens of other items which they produced by their own labor for the work of rebuilding.

The difficult work of the railwaymen has been crowned with success. All Soviet railways are open for traffic, although much additional time and material will be required before the wounds have been completely healed. Vain indeed were the hopes of the Germans that their barbarous destruction would keep the Soviet railways out of use for a long period, that Red Army communications would be disrupted and the victorious offensive would fizzle out.

Now that the Germans have been driven out of the USSR, the work of Soviet railwaymen has become much more complicated. The development of the war industry and the economy of the liberated regions make tremendous demands on transport. In addition, the distances to be covered have increased.

In the words of Marshal Stalin, the Soviet railways have stood up under a strain that the railways of any other country could hardly have withstood. They are now coping successfully with their new tasks. The liberated railways have a supply of locomotives and other rolling stock and are maintaining regular supply services for the Red Army.

In the rear areas, the railways are also increasing their volume of work. In October of last year, carloadings increased by 25 per cent and unloadings by 26 per cent, as compared with the same period in 1943. In November, 1944, the railways were asked to carry twice as much iron and steel and three times as much iron ore as in the previous year. Compared with 1943, the railways in the Donets Basin increased their loading of coal by 26 per cent. Although the Donets Basin was liberated from the enemy a relatively short time ago, it is delivering 50,000 tons of coal daily for the national economy. There has been a 54 per cent increase in the amount of coke carried, and grain loads have been more than doubled.

In 1944 the locomotive depots provided the railways with 40 per cent more engines daily than in a similar period in 1943. This fact is evidence of the successes of Soviet railwaymen in keeping their locomotives under steam and improving methods of repair and exploitation.

The methods introduced by the famous Siberian locomotive engineer, Nikolai Lunin, Hero of Socialist Labor and Stalin Prize Winner, have played an important part in this work. Lunin's engine crew has greatly increased the number of running repairs which they carry out themselves instead of sending their engine into the roundhouse.

Lunin is an accomplished mechanic and an expert at maintaining and repairing his engine. The effectiveness of Lunin's methods is evident from the fact that on the Tomsk Railway alone, the economy in locomotive repairs has amounted to some 30,000,000 rubles since the outbreak of war, to which must be added the hundreds of skilled mechanics liberated for other work.

A worthy follower of Lunin is Vasil Bolonin of Vologda, also Hero of Socialist Labor, who uses a wood-burning locomotive.

A special page in the history of war must be written on the locomotive columns serving the railways in zones near the front. Under combat conditions where there are no repair depots and quite frequently no water, where all station and depot buildings have been destroyed, the locomotive engineers have shown great ingenuity and skill in keeping the engines running and intensifying their exploitation in order to maintain regular service to the forward positions.

Soviet railwaymen, responding to the tribute of Marshal Stalin in his November speech, are competing with renewed strength and enthusiasm to improve their assistance to the front. Proud that their splendid work aids the Red Army, they are ready to make even greater sacrifices to accomplish the tremendous tasks facing them in the final decisive stage of the war.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE MAYOR OF SZEGED

By War Correspondent Konstantinov

The new Mayor of Szeged, Hungary, which was captured by the Red Army, is Dr. Valentin Agaston, leader of the local Social Democrats and a well-known public figure. He took office as soon as the Red Army entered the city. The former mayor had fled, and Agaston expressed to me his anger against the many fascist administrators who deserted their posts and left the Germans to loot the city.

"It was only thanks to the rapid advance of the Red Army that our city did not suffer much damage," Dr. Agaston stated. "But the Germans shipped off all food supplies, took all the money, seized every automobile, including the

fire engines, and the private property of our citizens.

"The first few days after your Soviet soldiers came were enough to prove what liars the Germans are. Today you won't find anybody who believes the German stories about the Russians intending to send Hungarians to Siberia, etc. Even those who were very much against the Soviet Union are now convinced that they were simply fooled."

Mayor Agaston talked of measures taken to restore normal life in Szeged. "The Red Army Command has been of great help in getting the public utilities working in record time," he said. "Today

shops are open, streetcars running, and all industrial enterprises have resumed work, including the large tobacco and match factories and brick works. Cinemas and theaters are open."

The Mayor showed me an appeal he was preparing for distribution in Hungarian towns and villages still held by the Germans. In the name of the 110,000 citizens of Szeged, this appeal will tell the truth about the Red Army.

The people of Szeged are filled with deep satisfaction; they realize there is no barrier that can stop the Red Army, and that soon all Hungary will be rid of the Germans.

AN ENGINEER OF SOVIET RAILWAYS

By V. Zvonkov and V. Kliucharev

Academician Vladimir Nikolaievich Obratzov, General Director of Transport, who celebrated his 70th birthday recently, is one of the leading Soviet railway engineers, an excellent teacher and a popular public figure.

Obratzov's scientific career began in 1901 when he was a lecturer at the Moscow Engineering Institute. Even then he published numerous papers in which he proposed many reforms for modernizing and developing the country's railway system.

These articles were followed by *Station Design and Calculation*, a volume that soon became an essential handbook for every construction engineer. Later he wrote *Theoretical Investigations Into the Question of Car Turnover, Swiss Mountain Railways and The Brussels Nord Station and Its Work*, all published after a visit to France, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium before the Revolution.

In 1907 Obratzov and a group of engineers founded the Moscow Technical High School, one of the first to include applied construction work in its curriculum. The prestige of the school grew. After the October Revolution it became the Moscow Technicum and later the Kuibyshev Building Institute. Obratzov still holds a professorship there.

Following these extensive studies on the railroad systems of other countries, Obratzov became a specialist in designing railroad stations. When the Moscow subway was under construction, he was called in as a consultant. At about the same time, he was asked to reorganize and coordinate all transport research institutes so that no phase of research in any scientific problem was overlooked.

Obratzov's chief field of endeavor, however, was still designing railway stations. For a man of his broad vision and scholarship, this was too limited a field and he began to branch out. He found that many of the stations were inadequate for the needs of modern railway transportation. Most of them had been built when water transport was still backward, before the advent of the automobile and before urban streetcar and bus services had



Academician V. N. Obratzov

reached their present widespread use. The stations were also not equipped to handle the rapidly expanding volume of freight.

Obratzov set out to determine the merits of various forms of transportation in relation to large-scale city planning. After intensive study, he wrote several books on the subject: *Railways in Cities* (1932), *Transportation and City Planning* (1934) and *Planning of Transport in Residential Districts* (1936).

The task he set himself was enormous and he needed help. He therefore founded the Complete Transport School in which young research workers were able to solve some of these problems under his guidance and in which they could develop and continue his methods. In 1935, the first volume of *Stations and Junctions* appeared and was immediately hailed as an important contribution; the second and final volume was published in 1938.

Throughout these years, he applied many of his methods in actual practice. He served as a special consultant in planning the transportation systems of Stalingrad, Magnitogorsk, Baku, Sverdlovsk and the Black Sea coast regions. He also concerned himself with developing special forms of transport within factories. This particular problem was brought sharply into focus with the rapid development of industry during the Stalin Five-Year Plans.

Obratzov's solution of the problem has been incorporated into a book, published since the outbreak of the war, on methods of unifying the work of a factory transport system with that of the adjacent railway stations.

This theme of linking the work of all forms of transportation has been dominant in Obratzov's recent work and his papers on the subject demonstrate how the Soviet transport system as a whole can develop in the future.

In 1938 Obratzov was elected to membership in the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, where he established a section for the study of transportation problems.

Academician Obratzov is not only a scientist and an engineer. He is equally well-known as a teacher. He is professor at several institutes and often lectures for Red Army units at the front and over the radio. For his services to the country he has received two decorations and two Stalin Prizes. In addition to his other activities he finds time to serve as a Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and also as Deputy to the Moscow City Soviet.

Cinema Record of War

Some ten million feet of newsreels of action at the front and the war effort of civilians have been collected in Moscow. A special fund marked "Cinema Annals of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union" includes 600,000 feet of released and unused newsreel film.

In the "Gold Fund" are the recorded speeches of Marshal Stalin, films on the battles of Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, Sevastopol, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Baltic Republics, as well as a record of guerrilla warfare in the German rear.

Cameramen moving with Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia and Hungary have also filmed many interesting episodes.

Soviet cinema annals will serve as a rich source for future films on the annihilation of the Hitlerites in Europe.

FROM TENTS TO CITIES

By A. Dyakov

The history of the Buryat-Mongolian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic in Eastern Siberia, southeast of Lake Baikal, is an eloquent commentary on Soviet national policy.

The Buryat people are related to the Mongolians in language and origin. In 1923 all of them were nomads, or at least partly nomadic.

Until the October Revolution they were a dying people. Between 1897 and 1917 their numbers diminished by 12 per cent, the result of the harrowing economic conditions of the Buryat cattle-breeders. They were devastated by tuberculosis. Their cultural level was very low. Only 14 per cent were literate.

After the formation of the Buryat-Mongolian Autonomous Republic, its Soviet government devoted itself to raising the living standard of the working people. In this it received extensive aid from the government of the Russian SFSR, whose subsidies made up for the enormous annual deficits in the budget of the Buryat-Mongolian Republic during these early years.

In little more than two decades, the Buryat-Mongolian Republic has been completely transformed. Its population has increased by 50 per cent. The population of the cities has quadrupled. In 1923 only eight per cent of the people lived in towns. On the eve of the present war 38 per cent were city dwellers. Buryat-Mongolia, formerly a backward agrarian land, now has highly developed industries and farms. Its industrial output is 60 times what it was 20 years ago.

The growth of Ulan-Ude, the capital, is of particular interest. Before the Revolution Ulan-Ude (Verkhne-Udinsk) was a small district center. In 1923 its population numbered 22,000 and in 1926, 28,900. By 1939 the figure had increased to 129,000. Ulan-Ude had become a large industrial and cultural center and one of the most important railway junctions in Eastern Siberia. It has one of the largest locomotive and car building works in the USSR, and an enormous meat-packing plant. The natural resources of the country are being tapped.

The principal branch of agriculture is livestock farming. Since 1923 the number of cattle farms has increased by four-fifths. On the eve of the present war Buryat livestock farmers possessed 382,700 head of cattle, 120,000 horses, 424,000 sheep and goats and 70,000 pigs. Measures to improve the breeds greatly increased productivity.

The sown area, 96,750 acres, is treble what it was 20 years ago. The grain harvests have increased by 50 per cent. These successes were achieved because 96 per cent of the farmers merged their holdings into collective farms, which received extensive aid from the government, and are served by eight machine and tractor stations possessing more than 1,200 tractors.

Nearly all the people have become

settled dwellers. They no longer live in tents, but in clean, warm wooden houses. The incidence of tuberculosis has dropped by 90 per cent.

The number of schools has increased more than tenfold since 1917—from 48 to 519. Of these, 406 are elementary schools, 81 junior secondary and 32 secondary schools; 93 per cent of the population are literate. The Republic also has two higher education institutes, nine technical schools and several scientific research centers.

The number of medical institutions has increased fourfold. In 1913 there were only seven hospitals, seven medical stations and 43 first aid stations on the territory of the Republic. In 1937 there were 30 hospitals, 69 medical stations and 70 first aid stations.



The women of Buryat-Mongolia have mastered many trades and professions. Above is a skilled telegraph operator

BREAK-THROUGH TO THE SEA

By Mikhail Bragin, *Pravda* War Correspondent

Early in October, 1944, the Soviet First Baltic Army, assisted by the Third Baltic Army, broke through the German defenses and cleared the way for a dash to the Baltic Sea. This was one of the most brilliant operations of the Red Army in this war.

In the campaign of the preceding summer the First Baltic Army had recovered the towns of Siauliai and Mitau, approached Riga from the south and southeast, and cut the strategically important Riga-Siauliai-Tilsit railroad connecting the Baltic countries with East Prussia. At the same time the Germans were driven out of Finland, and the Baltic lands were cleared all the way up to the northern and northeastern approaches to Riga, while the Byelorussian armies were nearing the frontiers of East Prussia.

After defeats of such magnitude it would seem that the wisest course for the Germans, and in fact the only one, was to withdraw from the Baltic lands where they were threatened with being cut off from East Prussia and driven into the sea. But the German command decided to stay. Its idea was to protect Germany's northern strategic flank, which had been exposed by the defeats of the summer. The Germans clung to the ports of Riga, Windau, Libau and Memel, which are only a few hours by sea from the northern ports of Germany.

The left flank of the northern group of German armies rested on Riga. These armies protected East Prussia from the north, and at the same time offered a threat to the right flank of our armies concentrated against East Prussia.

The Germans, furthermore, clung to their last foothold in the Baltic countries as a matter of prestige and to support their demagogic propaganda cry that Germany was still fighting outside her frontiers. The German command did not confine itself to mere defense. It was preparing a counter-blow to lend color to the Nazi propaganda maxim of "offensive defense."

There were over 40 German divisions in the Baltic area, and they held sufficient territory to enable them to wage large-

scale operations. Forests, marshes and lakes, which formed easily defendable barriers, rivers flowing parallel to the front, and numerous villages and hamlets, all facilitated the creation of a formidable and widely ramified system of fortifications. Three powerful and deeply-echeloned defense zones seemingly offered the Germans ample opportunity to retain their foothold between Riga and Tilsit.

To compensate for the railroad from Riga to Tilsit which had been cut by our troops at Siauliai, the Germans hastily began to erect spur lines to connect Riga with other ports in Latvia, Lithuania and East Prussia. A number of highroads still remained in the German hands, enabling them to carry out tactical maneuvers and maintain connections between their northern and central army groups. The ports of Riga and Memel, with their extensive wharf frontages, made it possible to reinforce and supply the forces in Latvia and Lithuania.

The troops of the German northern armies were ordered, under pain of death and reprisals against their families, to hold on until new reinforcements, then in process of formation, arrived from Germany. Hitler appointed General Scherner, one of his fanatical supporters, to replace General Lindemann, who had mysteriously disappeared, as commander of the northern group. Armored divisions were transferred from East Prussia to reinforce those which had retreated from Leningrad and Finland. Furthermore, a whole panzer corps was brought into the Baltic area from Rumania. General von Knopelsdorf, commander of this corps, issued categorical orders not only to maintain a firm defense, but also to "hurl the Bolsheviks back from the frontiers of Germany."

The Germans massed a powerful force of 800 to 1,000 tanks and self-propelled guns, and launched a counter-offensive with the object of recovering Siauliai and restoring the communications between Riga and Tilsit—as well as other blows from three different directions aiming at cutting off the Soviet First Baltic Army which was moving on Riga. This was

one of the Germans' biggest tank operations on the Soviet-German front since their attempt to halt the inexorable march of events.

In the fierce tank battles fought in the Siauliai area, the Germans were able to score only minor advances in a few sectors, losing hundreds of armored machines in the process. The operation was a complete failure.

Strategical Concept

Having lost out in this battle, the Germans devoted still greater attention to fortifying the Riga area. Here their main forces were concentrated. Their deeply-echeloned defense zone was saturated with troops.

The Germans were convinced that the Soviet Command would attempt to cut the operational knot in the Riga area. The disposition of our Baltic Armies, which were closing in on Riga in a semi-circle, offered us an opportunity of striking from the southeast through Tukums to the Bay and cutting off the German forces around Riga. The attacks which our troops undertook in this sector confirmed the Germans in their conviction, and they accordingly concentrated their armored divisions in this area. The panzers were to either parry the Soviet blow, or enable the Germans to slip out of Riga through the corridor between Tukums and the Bay, as a fish slips out of a net closing in on it.

But the Red Army Command had a different scheme in mind. The main blow of the First Baltic Army was struck not at Riga, but at Memel. Orders were given to smash through the German front at Siauliai, reach the sea and cut the enemy's communications between the Baltic countries and East Prussia.

This bold and profoundly conceived move necessitated the regrouping of our Baltic Armies. A vast mass of troops was set in motion. Instead of moving northward, they turned southward, and then westward to strike at Memel.

General Bagramyan, Commander of the First Baltic Army, was faced with the colossal task of building up a new front at lightning speed, involving a flank

march-maneuver of 150 kilometers, and an advance of an equal distance through the enemy's defenses to the Baltic Sea.

The problem was a double one: First, to transfer forces unperceived by the enemy from the Riga (Tukums) area to the Siauliai-Memel area; and secondly, to strengthen in the enemy the conviction that the shock force of the First Baltic Army was still at Riga and was preparing to strike through Tukums to the Bay.

The movement of vast masses of troops had to be concealed from the German ground and air reconnaissance. This was in itself a task of extreme difficulty; but in addition the Germans had to be so fooled, that even if they did happen to notice any movement they would never guess its purpose.

On the eve of the regrouping, the staff of the German armored corps summed up its observation as follows: "As long as the situation remains as it is, there are no grounds for expecting any enemy offensive with far-reaching aims on the front of the corps. Local attacks by the enemy with the object of containing our forces or of improving his position are not unlikely." The German staffs were completely deceived as to the area in which the main blow was to be struck.

Very few know how many days of tense and unremitting effort the generals and officers of the First Baltic Army put into the working out and directing of this brilliant march-maneuver.

"March Schedule" is a dry term, but in this case it was a schedule of victory. It governed the movement of scores of divisions and corps, of tens of thousands of carts and trucks and thousands of tanks and guns. If this mass of men, vehicles and armament were arranged in a marching column with its head at Memel, its tail would stretch far beyond Moscow.

The troops marched only at night, tens of columns traveling by different roads, but in such a way that their routes nowhere crossed, that their speed was adequate to allow for both dry roads and mud, and that the available camouflage material would be sufficient to conceal them during daytime halts. A stringent system of discipline was worked out to govern the night marches and a strict "daytime limit" set on the movement of vehicles.

Thorough control was maintained all along the roads. The control from the air was even stricter. No enemy scout planes searched for our marching columns as zealously as did our officers. If the slightest departure from camouflage rules was observed, orders were dropped to take immediate measures to correct the fault. With the first glimmer of dawn the columns vanished from the roads without a trace, only to noiselessly break camp and resume march the following night.

The very boldness and originality of the move guaranteed the factor of surprise. By skilful ruses and a series of feint attacks, the Germans were made to believe that the Soviet Command was still seeking a solution to the Baltic strategical problem at Riga. Our observers reported that of 30 enemy reconnaissance flights, 26 were confined to the Riga area. Our scouts penetrated as far as the sea and confirmed that the enemy had not detected our maneuver and that the Germans still had no reserves in the area of the contemplated main blow.

The element of operational surprise was completely achieved and a powerful striking force concentrated on the left flank of the First Baltic Army, facing the most vulnerable sector in the German defenses.

The Plan

Now that the strategical idea had been defined, the direction of the main drive determined and the forces concentrated, it was up to the commander at the front to work out the operational plan for operations. The first move was to break through the enemy's front.

It was decided to make the breakthrough on a sector which formed a wedge in the German defenses west of Siauliai. Thousands of guns were massed here, their fire to be supported by air regiments and divisions. Three powerful infantry formations were concentrated. Their attacks were to converge on a definite line, after which they were to fan out—towards Libau in the northwest; Memel, due west; and Tilsit in the southwest, respectively.

This eccentric movement was to serve as a lever to pry open the breach in the German defenses and to cut off the Baltic area from East Prussia. But there was a

conflict between the desire to widen the breach and at the same time to penetrate in depth where the Germans had other lines of defenses. The solution was found in echeloning the battle formations. Behind the infantry formations was concentrated a powerful armored force whose task was to sweep into the breach and to dash due west towards the sea.

General Bagramyan considered and weighed everything that the Germans were likely to bring forward to counter the offensive—the number and strength of their divisions, their available tanks and aircraft, and the fire-power of their guns, mortars, machine guns and tommy guns. He discovered where the German defenses were the thinnest and sparsest, and calculated how he could best exploit the terrain and any mistakes the enemy might make, and how and with what forces he could destroy him.

The General possessed all the means and resources for the purpose. They had been supplied by the country and by the Red Army Command. He had the forces with which to compel the enemy, strongly entrenched and fortified though he was, to flinch and yield; the forces to drive him crazy and annihilate him. But only provided they were properly disposed and skilfully directed.

The forces were so disposed as to insure constant superiority over the enemy at all stages of the operation. General Bagramyan's next concern was to plan the course of the offensive. The speeds of the advance were calculated, and the tasks of artillery, tanks and aircraft defined. At no time would the infantry be left to their own resources; at any needed moment the full weight of our armament could be brought to bear upon the enemy.

But that was not all. The situation might take an unexpected turn. The General's desire was that the entire battle formation deployed for the offensive might at any moment be regrouped on the battlefield, on orders from the command posts. He strove for maximum flexibility in direction of the troops.

The attackers would be up against a strong and crafty enemy. The German Baltic armies were commanded by General Scherner. General Bagramyan studied the reports of our reconnaissance officers and strove to divine the probable moves

of the German commander. It was clear that Scherner's first reaction would be to attempt to plug the breach and that he would bring reinforcements into action for that purpose. It was therefore essential to pry open the breach as wide as possible before reinforcements could arrive on the scene, and at the same time to bar their advance. General Vasiliev's and General Butakov's tank formations were assigned to this latter task.

The enemy would further endeavor to halt the attackers by striking at their flanks. It was therefore necessary that our infantry formations deploy on their flanks so as to put up a solid front against counter-attacks.

General Bagramyan clearly realized that Scherner would rush up reserves to hold the second line of defense. If he succeeded, the whole thing would have to be begun over again. Fierce fighting would develop within the enemy's defense zone under conditions most unfavorable for the attackers. General Volsky's tank formation was therefore ordered to make a dash for the second defense line and reach it before the German tanks. The success of the operation would depend upon its speed, and if all went well, the German units fleeing from the front to the second defense line, in the hope of finding salvation, would meet their doom there. Having occupied this line, our troops were to deploy toward the northeast and greet the retreating Germans with devastating fire from their own fortifications.

Lastly, the Germans would endeavor to protect the coastal road and to reserve for themselves a line of retreat into East Prussia. Here, too, General Volsky's tanks were to forestall the enemy.

Such, in rough outline, were the predictions which formed the basis of General Bagramyan's plan. It was minutely worked out in time and space, and provision was made to maintain uninterrupted direction of troops and constant coordination between the various units of the vast mass of men and materiel engaged.

The Execution

As the shades of night rolled away, giving place to the faint glimmer of a cheerless autumn dawn, the battle broke along the whole front. Our artillery and aircraft launched their fire, sweeping the

entire tactical depth of the enemy's defense zone. They pinned the Germans to the ground. Simultaneously the forward infantry battalions went into attack, supported by tanks. General Bagramyan watched the course of the battle from his observation post. The fine action of the forward battalions and the complete surprise of the assault compelled the Germans to retire from the forefield with more than usual haste, making it possible and imperative to sweep into the main defense area on the enemy's heels.

At the General's orders, the forward battalions deployed their main forces and at once launched the offensive. They pierced the enemy's front where it was the most drawn out and thinnest. Our radio operators intercepted a despairing wail from the commander of a German regiment reporting that the Russians were advancing on a broad front and that he could not stand up under such an onslaught.

At this crucial moment of the operation, the suddenness and power of the assault of masses of troops had already made their effect felt. With his ear cocked for the pulse of battle, General Bagramyan sensed that, notwithstanding their resistance, the Germans' strength was steadily ebbing. He ordered General Volsky's tank formation to enter the breach, complete the demolition of the German defenses and penetrate into their depth.

Under cover of the advanced units deployed for action, the main forces of the formation swept irresistibly forward in dense columns. An iron flood of tanks, self-propelled guns and armored carriers surged across the countryside—now lost to sight in the woods, now converging at the river crossings in a solid avalanche, only to diverge again and continue their thunderous sweep across the open fields.

The left column of tanks swiftly and confidently traversed the tactical zone of the enemy's defenses and broke into the open. The right column encountered frantic German resistance at the Venta River and deployed for action. Soon they had knocked out 20 German panzers, but the engagement threatened to slow down the speed of the offensive. General Bagramyan ordered Volsky to leave the Germans for the infantry to deal with, to withdraw from the battle, swerve from his appointed route and follow in the wake of

the left column of tanks. This was a complicated maneuver to execute in the course of a battle, and might end in chaos if not skilfully and flexibly directed. This doubling of movement along routes already saturated with troops might act like a congestion of the veins and paralyze the whole advance. However, the maneuver was carried out with precision and success.

Reports of the break-through must have reached the headquarters of the northern group of German armies. Fierce fighting developed on the flanks—especially the northern flank. But General Vasiliev's tanks were successfully advancing to the northwest. General Butakov's tanks and General Chanchibadze's Infantry Guards were speeding toward the Niemen. The battle had spread like a steppe fire over an immense territory.

Schermer had a powerful operational group of panzer divisions at his disposal. But our assault compelled him to expend these forces piecemeal, and to hurl them into battle from the march. The Greater Germany Panzer Division was ordered to attack near Triskiai and to hold the Russians in check until fresh forces could arrive from the north.

The stiffening of German resistance, the minefields and blown-up bridges, threatened to slow up the movement of our troops. It became more and more difficult to direct them as they penetrated deeper into the enemy's defenses, especially at night in the wild and roadless terrain of Lithuania.

General Bagramyan gave orders that two-thirds of the regiments were to carry on the fight in daytime, while the other third was to exploit their success at night. General Beloborodov spurred on his infantry. Skorniyakov's tanks kept pressing westward. While some tanks engaged the enemy, others by-passed enemy centers of resistance, penetrated deep into their rear and paralyzed the administration and supply of the German defenses. The infantry gathered speed and followed hard on the heels of the tanks, battling their way forward at a rate of 25 kilometers a day.

The result was a repetition, at the enemy's second line of defense, of what had occurred at the first. He reeled under the shock of the surprise. His reserves were late and had not even had time to

take up positions for defense. German resistance at this line was swiftly broken. All along the front our soldiers saw the barriers, trenches, wire, minefields and anti-tank ditches. But they were saved the necessity of "gnawing through" these fortifications, thanks to the impetuosity of the tanks in their break-through and their maneuvering in the enemy rear.

That night the radio broadcast an Order of the Day by the Supreme Command of the Red Army, announcing that the First Baltic Army, supported by the Third Byelorussian Army, had broken through the German defenses on a front of 280 kilometers to a depth of 100 kilometers.

Reports reached Headquarters that Scherner was still attempting to plug up the breach at the first defense line. This only confirmed that the Germans had lost control of their armies and were ignorant of the true dimensions of the danger. A breach of 280 kilometers could not be patched up even with strategic reserves.

Remnants of the shattered German divisions reeled back to the sea. The Greater Germany Panzer Division made off in the same direction, hoping to stem the Russians at the last defense line.

This last fortified line on the road to the sea lay along the Minai River. The Germans had turned the town of Kretingen into a formidable center of resistance. The roads from Riga and Windau to Memel converged at this point. The only road along the coast connecting the Baltic countries with East Prussia was protected by fortifications at the coastal town of Palanga.

Great as was the success of our break-through, it had not yet been consummated. If the enemy could detain us at this line, the German forces holding the Minai River could escape along the roads into East Prussia still remaining to them.

General Volsky's tank formation was assigned to the honorable task of straddling the enemy's last communications, breaking through to the sea and completely cutting off the German northern group of armies from the central group. Reports poured into the headquarters of the tank formation that the Germans were strengthening the fortifications at Kretingen, that reinforcements were coming

up from Memel, that the Germans were counter-attacking in the south, that a strong body of enemy tanks was moving down from the north on the formation's right flank, that the Germans had landed forces from the sea near Palanga.

A dense fog prevented our aircraft from reconnoitering so that the reports were contradictory and the position vague. This is the usual predicament of tank formations that penetrate far ahead into enemy territory; they are always threatened with flank attacks and with the enemy appearing in their rear. General Volsky decided to strike with the whole weight of the formation and to break through to the sea; the German flank attacks, although dangerous, would then be powerless to militate against the success of the operation. It was a bold risk, but a legitimate one under the circumstances, and it might contribute to a swift victory.

The tanks forced the Minai at night. In the morning, as though to order, the fog dispersed and our aircraft could take off. They encountered Fokkers and a moving wall of flak from shore batteries and ships' guns. Fighting raged in the air. On the ground our tanks launched an attack upon Kretingen.

Everything the Germans still had was concentrated north of Memel at the approaches to the sea. Our tanks ran into ambushes of Panthers, self-propelled guns and armored trains. They were met by the fire of the heavy coastal batteries and ships' guns.

The Soviet tanks broke into Kretingen, and this last communications hub, which had enabled the Germans to maneuver from the north to the south, was carried by assault. It now remained to straddle the coastal road. The tanks burst into Palanga. From here they could see the gleaming, asphalted surface of the last road out of Lithuania into Germany.

With the help of counter-blows by German infantry and tanks from the north, from Libau to Memel, and by the Greater Germany Panzer Division from the south, from Tilsit to Memel, the enemy still tried to open a corridor into East Prussia. But these frantic attempts were quickly foiled. Now the German armies in the Baltic countries, and in East Prus-

sia likewise, were separated by the vast territory occupied by the First Baltic Army. Scherner's throat was gripped in a grasp of iron.

At this period the enemy was attacked by the Second and Third Baltic Armies. The Germans were dislodged from Riga and hurled back to Tukums. Now Scherner no longer threatened the flanks of our troops aiming at East Prussia. On the contrary, the First Baltic Army now covered the flank of the Third Byelorussian Army, which had passed to the offensive had reached the Niemen and was threatening East Prussia. The German Baltic group was gripped in the jaws of a vise formed by our First Baltic Army and the troops advancing from Riga.

Our troops marched through the quiet streets of the seaside town of Palanga, past trench-girdled villas and sanatoria. Before them unfolded a picture of the panic flight of the German colonizers from Lithuania.

Under the sycamores in a park on the seafont, the Red Army men buried their comrades who had fallen in the fighting for the liberation of the Soviet Baltic. As the guns fired a last salute, tankmen filled a flask with seawater and addressed it "To Comrade Stalin, Kremlin, Moscow." Like a sacred relic this water was escorted in an armored car from the sea frontiers where, on the last patch of our country's soil, the last nails are being hammered into the coffin of the 30 surrounded German divisions.

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SOVIET NAVAL HEROES OF 1944

By Nikolai Lanin

Shortly before the old year ended, Junior Lieutenant Astukevich, an airman of the Baltic Torpedo-Carrier Force, sank a German transport. On the same day two enemy vessels were sunk in the Baltic Sea by Soviet warships, which are now due to return to their bases. Not until the logs and other records of these vessels are verified, and the hours and minutes of the attacks checked, will it be possible to determine who struck the last blow at the Hitlerite navy in 1944.

Many new names have appeared on the honor roll of the Soviet Navy in the past 12 months. One of the first heroes of the year was a submarine signalman, K. Volkov. His boat was cruising on the surface in the Arctic Ocean, not far from the enemy coast, when Volkov discerned a tiny speck slightly darker than the surrounding gloom. The speck turned out to be a German transport. The submarine fired a torpedo at exactly 20 seconds before midnight, December 31, 1943. It hit the target in the first moment of the New Year. When the submarine returned to base, the signalman was presented with a prize in the shape of a New Year's cake, which the cook had baked by order of the Command.

Another of last year's heroes was Lieutenant Frantsev, a naval flier who accounted for the first German submarine sunk in January, 1944. Fresh from aviation school, Frantsev had been given command of a torpedo-carrier. In his first engagement he lost his head and fired his torpedo wide of the mark. Several weeks later he made good by sinking a German submarine. Before many months passed, Frantsev and his navigator, Pavel Galkin, had been named Heroes of the Soviet Union. Between them they accounted for nine German transports and warships, in-

cluding two submarines, all in 1944.

The last German submarine to fall afoul of the Soviet Navy last year was sunk in December by a destroyer commanded by Captain of the Third Rank Ryabchenko. The destroyer rammed the submarine and split it in two, ten seconds after the sub had discharged a torpedo. This was the 27th ship the Germans lost in the past December, according to incomplete data.

These figures are all the more interesting in view of the fact that while the bulk of German vessels accounted for in January, 1944, were motor barges destroyed in the Black Sea by launches and aircraft, the 27 in December were mainly large transports sunk in the Baltic.

There were days last year when the Germans lost a record number of boats. On August 19, for instance, motor torpedo boats of the Northern Fleet staged a mass attack, and literally within the space of a few minutes sank two transports, two destroyers, six patrol boats, three minesweepers and a patrol launch. The operation was directed by Captain of the Third Rank Korshunovich, the 154th Red Navy man to earn the title of Hero of the Soviet Union in 1944.

Another 1944 hero was Captain of the Third Rank Pavel Derzhavin, who began the year in the Kerch Strait in command of a group of motor launches, and ended it on the Danube in Hungary with a large naval unit under his command.

The path traversed by Captain Derzhavin from Kerch to Budapest is symbolic of the progress made by the Soviet Navy as a whole. In 1944 it not only recaptured all Soviet ports taken by the Germans, with the exception of Liepaja and Ventpils, but also helped to take many enemy naval bases besides.



Admiral Ivan Isaakov



The battleship Sevastopol, of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet, has covered nearly 8,000 miles during the war, supporting the flanks of the advancing Red Army and firing over 3,000 shells.

FIERCE BATTLES FOR BUDAPEST CONTINUE

A Soviet war correspondent reported on January 8:

In Budapest the doomed Germans are resorting to new base tricks in an effort to postpone their inevitable annihilation.

On numerous occasions Germans have camouflaged themselves as civilians. When a house is blocked by Soviet troops and its fire-points silenced, women holding crying children suddenly emerge. At first the Russian soldiers let the women pass. It soon transpired, however, that this was another German trick. Civilians—women, children and old people—are hiding in the basements of many houses. At critical moments, German soldiers rush to the basements, strip the women of their clothing, tear the children from their arms and escape in this disguise.

In the area of a textile mill, three women with children dashed out of a house. Soviet soldiers ceased firing, but detained the fleeing persons, who proved

to be disguised Germans. They were taken prisoner and the children returned to their parents.

The city is stuffed with booby traps. Armchairs blow up in occupied houses; if anyone tries to move a table blocking access to a window, it also explodes. There is no water in the city and the men's throats are parched. A bottle of beer stands on a table—but just touch it and you are as good as dead.

The Germans do not stop at the destruction of Budapest—one of the most beautiful of European cities. In an effort to stem the Soviet advance they make road blocks, blowing up apartment houses and public buildings for this purpose. Nevertheless, Soviet troops relentlessly forge ahead; yesterday they cleared another 116 blocks and captured a street in the central part of the city. The Germans launched 12 counter-attacks in an

effort to restore the situation, but were repelled.

The following testifies to the morale of the Hungarian troops surrounded with the Germans in Budapest—two Soviet scouts, Sapozhnikov and Lezhnev, penetrated the enemy's dispositions and met a group of Hungarian soldiers. The scouts offered surrender terms, and 84 Hungarians went over to the Red Army.

* * *

Northwest and west of Budapest Soviet troops continue to grind down the manpower and equipment of the enemy, who strives to break through to the relief of the Budapest garrison at any cost. On January 6 and 7 alone, 137 German tanks were knocked out in this area. In addition, in incessant attacks the Germans lost 1,400 killed, and 320 German officers and men surrendered. At the price of these bloody losses the Germans were able to capture the town of Estergom, within 27 miles of Budapest. Their further advance has been checked, however, despite the fact that they incessantly rush up reserves and throw them into action straight from the march.

Picked SS tank divisions—the Death's Head and Viking—equipped with Tigers and Panthers, are participating in the battles in this area. The tanks prowling in the gulleys and copses, trying to find a loophole for a forward thrust, but everywhere run up against the steel wall of the Russian defense.

Russian land troops are effectively supported by low-flying aircraft which dominate the skies. Squadrons and entire regiments of Stormoviks take part in these attacks, with the German tanks their main targets in the past few days. The Stormoviks are quite busy these days and their engines literally have no time to cool, although the weather is wintry. Yesterday Soviet pilots knocked out over 20 German tanks north of Budapest.

Repelling attacks in these sectors, the Soviet Command simultaneously launched an important offensive north of Estergom. In this area Soviet troops forced the Hron River and advanced 14 miles, capturing several inhabited localities on Czechoslovak territory, including Kebelkut, a road center on the Budapest-Vienna trunkline.



ON THE SECOND UKRAINIAN FRONT—A column of Soviet tanks advancing on Budapest



Soviet heavy tanks in action on the approaches to Budapest

Radiophotos

MARSHAL RODION Y. MALINOVSKY

Rodion Yakovlevich Malinovsky was born in Odessa in 1898. His mother took him to live in the country where he attended elementary school. At 12 years of age he went to work as a farm laborer. Later he returned to Odessa, and for two and one-half years was employed in a shop as a messenger boy.

Meanwhile the First World War broke out: the imagination of the boy, not yet 16, was enthralled, and he stowed away on a train leaving Odessa with troops for the front. The soldiers took him under their wing, and thus began the military career of the future leader of armies.

At the front he served with the machine guns, relaying ammunition. Several officers, troubled by his youth, wanted to send him to Staff Headquarters to serve as a messenger. But the youngest soldier in the regiment told them he had not volunteered for the front in order to become a messenger boy again. He remained at his post, became second man on the gun, and later was put in charge of it.

Fought in France in Last War

After 15 months' continuous service at the front he was wounded, promoted to corporal and awarded the St. George Cross. While recovering in a hospital, he applied for permission to return to the front. At this time divisions were being formed in Russia for dispatch to France. Malinovsky joined them. The brigade in which he served replaced a French unit in the advanced line at Rheims.

In April, 1917, the Russian Brigade took part in General Nivelle's offensive and captured an important enemy stronghold, the Fort of Brimon. This Russian victory was acclaimed by the French press.

Meanwhile the October Revolution had begun in Russia. Strenuous but unsuccessful efforts were made to conceal the true facts from the Russian troops in France. Soldiers' committees were set up. Malinovsky was elected chairman of a Regimental Committee. Soon afterward he was arrested and sent to prison.

The Germans invaded the Ukraine. This news sifted through to the military prisons. In France a "Russian Legion" was formed from adherents of the old



Marshal of the Soviet Union
R. Y. Malinovsky

regime. Their way was not Malinovsky's. But he hated the Germans. The idea that they were running riot in his native Ukraine gave him no peace. He asked to be sent to the front, and in February, 1918, was attached to the Foreign Legion. In March he took part in the battle of Picardy, and continued fighting until the Armistice. He succeeded in leaving France only in August, 1919.

He returned home via Vladivostok and Siberia, at that time in the hands of the counter-revolutionary Admiral Kolchak. Malinovsky, narrowly escaping mobilization into the White Army, finally succeeded in getting across the front line to his own people. On November 10, 1919, he joined the 27th Division of the Red Army as a machine-gun instructor. Later he became platoon commander, then commander of a machine-gun unit, and finally battalion commander, a post he held for five years.

During this period Malinovsky did his utmost to fill the gaps in his education by wide reading and study. His great practical experience helped him to acquire military theory.

In 1930 he completed a course at the Frunze Military Academy and was appointed chief of staff, then commander, of a cavalry regiment. Later he was attached for four years to the Operations Department of the Red Army General Staff. Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union

found him a corps commander in Bessarabia. This corps defended a front of 150 miles. Against it were arrayed the 30th German Corps and the entire Rumanian army. After a two-month retreat toward Kherson, Malinovsky's Corps was surrounded at Nikolayev. The 16th German Tank Division was in its rear. Malinovsky broke out of the encirclement and got his Corps across the Dnieper at its widest point without losing his equipment.

For a month at Dnepropetrovsk the Soviet forces under Malinovsky held up Kleist's formations. For this operation Malinovsky was awarded the Order of Lenin. In the spring of 1942 he commanded an army of Siberian troops defending Stalingrad. In December this army met Mannstein's forces, which were attempting to link up with Paulus. They were halted at Abganerovo. Two days later, on New Year's Eve, Malinovsky's men took Kotelnikovo. The fate of Paulus was decided. Malinovsky's army had not allowed Mannstein's army to pass.

There followed a series of brilliant victories achieved by the armies of the Southwestern Front, and later of the Third Ukrainian Front, under Malinovsky's command. His men traversed the entire Donbas, and freed his native Odessa. Thus the 30th anniversary of his war service, which he began as a private, found Malinovsky an Army General and commander of an entire front. On September 10, 1944, he was given the rank of Marshal of the Soviet Union.

Malinovsky considers the first eight years of his service as a private to have been the finest possible school. "It is the rank-and-file soldier who wins battles," he says. "The first thing a commander should know is what the soldier is thinking and how he is reacting. In giving an order, it is necessary to know exactly how the soldier will react. You can ask the soldier to make any sacrifice, but he will be ready to accept only if it is clear to him that it will bring results, and that it is necessary."

Marshal Malinovsky married in 1925. He has two sons, aged 15 and 10, who, he says smilingly, are interested mainly in photography, music and keeping rabbits.

ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ESTABLISHED

By Professor S. A. Sarkisov

Representative of the All-Union Red Cross and Red Crescent Society of the USSR in Great Britain

Medicine holds an important place in the development of science in the Soviet Union. The successes of our health services in the past quarter of a century are due to the fundamental social-economic and prophylactic measures taken by the Soviet Government for the protection of the health of our huge population, as well as to a series of scientific achievements, primarily in the field of struggle against infectious and epidemic diseases.

Pursuing the best traditions of Russian medicine, Soviet medicine continues to develop and to enrich the teachings of the world-famous representatives of Russian medical thought such as Pavlov, Sechenov, Metchnikov, Ostroumov, Pirogov, Sklifasovsky and others.

Recent achievements of Soviet doctors in the sphere of blood transfusion problems, in the study of tropical and parasitical illnesses and in the study of virus diseases are particularly noteworthy. For instance, the work of our scientists in ascertaining the nature, origin, clinical symptoms and treatment of the various

forms of the so-called epidemic encephalitis has proved of the greatest importance.

In the sphere of theoretical science, of essential importance is the work of the Soviet physiological laboratories in experimental and comparative physiology. This can be said particularly of the work of the laboratories of Pavlov and his many followers studying the physiology of the higher nervous activity.

The basic methodological feature of Soviet research is the complex study of the processes of the human organism, the discovery of the mechanisms of activity of the organs and tissues, proceeding from the interrelated and many-sided processes of the organism as a whole, the establishing of the regularity of such processes in the normal as well as pathological state.

No More Epidemics

As a result of the successes of our health services and medical science, the position with regard to epidemic diseases, as compared with pre-revolutionary Russia, has undergone a profound trans-

formation. General and infant mortality have considerably decreased, the birth rate has gone up, and infectious diseases, particularly those of children, show a sharp decline; infantile smallpox, for instance, has disappeared owing to prophylactic measures and to compulsory vaccination.

The results of these successes have been clearly revealed during the Patriotic War. At no time has the research work in clinics, institutes and laboratories been interrupted. Even during the siege of Leningrad, scientific research work was carried on in the laboratories of the Pavlov Academy. In spite of cold and hunger, under constant artillery fire and bombing by the fascist barbarians, scientific conferences were called, the results of scientific research were discussed and utilized in practice by doctors at the front and in the rear, and the work of these scientific conferences published.

In war as well as in peace, the numerous scientific research institutes as well as the chairs in medical schools carry out their research work under the guidance of the medical science councils of the People's Commissariats of Health of the Union Republics.

The supreme organ for planning and directing the work of the scientific and research institutions is the Medical Science Council of the People's Commissariat of Health of the USSR.

It should be pointed out that even before the war the great expansion of medical institutions and the increased demands on medicine gave rise to the idea, in representative Soviet medical circles, of founding a higher medical institution which would rally the best forces among medical scientists, scientific research institutes and laboratories.

These views received Government approval, and in the summer of last year the Council of People's Commissars decided to establish an Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, under the People's Commissariat of Health.

This will consist of three departments: a department of medico-biological sciences; a department of hygiene, microbiology and epidemiology; and a depart-



Presidium of the Constituent Session of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Moscow—left to right, Academician N. L. Grashchenkov; Vice President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, L. A. Orbeli; Academician A. I. Abrikossov, Academician V. V. Parin, and Academician N. N. Burdenko, Hero of Socialist Labor

Radiophoto

ment of clinical medicine. This indicates that the fundamental problems of clinical medicine will be viewed in close association and contact with all contemporary biological, hygienic and epidemiological and other kindred branches of science.

60 Foundation Members

Among the numerous scientific research institutes existing in the USSR, the 25 most important and specialized ones working in the above mentioned basic branches will for the time being constitute the Academy. The spiritual leadership of the Academy will, of course, also extend over the network of medical research institutions which remain outside the Academy system.

The foundation membership of the Academy consists of 60 outstanding representatives of our medical science. Among them are the famous scientists A. I. Abrikossov, J. S. Beritashvili, A. A. Bogomolets, N. N. Burdenko, Y. Y. Djanelidse, A. A. Zavarzin, B. N. Zbarsky, L. A. Orbeli, A. V. Palladin, V. O. Parnass, O. N. Podvisotskaya, I. P. Razenkov, A. G. Savin, N. A. Semashko, A. D. Speransky, N. D. Strazhesko, V. M. Tonkov, V. P. Filatov, L. S. Stettin, S. S. Yudin and others.

In accordance with the Academy regulations, candidates for full membership and corresponding membership of the Academy are nominated by medical research institutes, universities and scientific societies of the Soviet Union.

The largest department is that of clinical medicine, which will have a membership of 30 headed by the well-known Soviet neuro-surgeon and Hero of Socialist Labor, Academician N. N. Burdenko.

The department of hygiene, micro-biology and epidemiology has a membership of 20 headed by the well-known specialist in prophylactic medicine, Professor N. A. Semashko.

New Vistas

The department of medico-biological sciences of the Academy will have 25 members, including outstanding specialists such as the leading physiologist who is continuing the work of the great scientist Pavlov—Academicians A. A. Bogomolets, A. D. Speransky and A. I. Abrikossov—the last named one of the most distinguished representatives of Soviet



Radiophoto

In the hall, at the Constituent Session of the Academy of Medical Science in Moscow—left to right, Professor T. P. Krasnobayev, Merited Worker in Science; Academician M. M. Tsekhnovitser, and Academician and Lieutenant General of the Medical Service V. N. Shevkunenko

pathological anatomy, and others.

There is no doubt that the founding of the Academy, rallying the leading medical scientists of the country, opens up new possibilities for the widest future development of medical research and practice in the USSR.

One may also express the assurance that the organization of the Academy of

Medical Sciences will contribute even more to the establishment of a close contact and to the exchange of scientific achievements with the representatives of medical science in the countries allied to the USSR and primarily with the medical scientists of Great Britain and the United States.

Schoolgirl's Album Records People's Anti-Fascist Sayings

When Tanya Krasitskaya was 13, her father presented her with an album and suggested that she jot down folk sayings and proverbs. Tanya began her album with 80 proverbs from her 100-year-old grandfather. During summer vacations she went on hikes along the left bank of the Dnieper, from Dnepropetrovsk to Zaporozhye, visiting many villages and entering folk sayings, proverbs and songs in her album.

When the Germans invaded her homeland, Tanya remained in the occupied territory. She opened a new chapter in her book, headed "The People Hate the Germans." Under this head she wrote down the anti-fascist sayings and proverbs which she heard in the villages of the Stalino and Dnepropetrovsk Regions. During the enemy occupation she made over 3,000 entries.

Tanya, who has resumed her studies

and is in the eighth year in secondary school, recently made a report on her album at a conference on folklore held in Kiev. The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences learned of her work, and the album is now to be published. Tanya has been awarded a prize and will receive a stipend until her graduation from school.

Silk-Producing Regions Extended

The USSR is now the fourth largest natural silk producer. New highly fertile and cold-resisting varieties of the mulberry tree have been developed, and much has been done to extend silkworm culture from the subtropical zone to the north. Soviet scientists are successfully breeding the ailanthus silkworm in Leningrad, Gorky, Chernigov and many other regions.

OUR BROTHER—THE RED ARMY

By the Reverend Ioann Kopolovic

Reverend Kopolovic was a member of the delegation of clergy from the Carpathian Ukraine, who recently visited Moscow.

We in the Carpathian Ukraine are poor in everything, rich in impoverishment alone! I dearly love my country and my people, and find it hard to write calmly of the German-Magyar occupation.

Our country was occupied by the Hitlerites without a single shot being fired, without a single voice allowed to be raised in protest. The Magyars descended upon us on March 15, 1939, and my country was handed over to them by their German masters, to pillage at their pleasure. And like robbers who, having broken into another man's house, try to grab as much as they can because they know they can never really be masters there, but will be caught and punished sooner or later, so the Magyar fascists plundered the country at top speed.

They chopped down our beautiful woods day and night and took the timber away to Hungary. They even dismantled our only match factory and stole the equipment. They ruined our peasants systematically day by day. People began to starve. Many of the young folk fled abroad to the Soviet Union. They ran away because the Magyars were making

it their business to destroy the Slavs, no less. Slavs were dismissed from employment and replaced by Magyars. The teaching in the schools was in the Magyar tongue. The fees charged at the night schools were raised until they were beyond our peasants' means. Any evidence of national feeling was looked upon as "resistance to authority."

Some people fled to the woods to escape mobilization, others were driven into Hungary to work, others were shut up in concentration camps such as were set up at Nieredhasa and Kishvard. There was shooting in our streets.

In Hust, on February 27, 1944, troops surrounded the home of the Logoid family and opened machine-gun fire on it. Six people were killed. This served as an excuse for a big, sensational trial at which 240 men and women were accused of connection with the partisan movement. Some were executed.

When the approach of the Red Army made itself felt, the Magyar terror grew worse. Total mobilization was announced of all citizens between the ages of 15 and 60. Those who could neither hide nor run away were taken to Hungary or Germany. When the Germans occupied Hungary we were given orders to draw up a list of all suspects and hand it to the

Gestapo. Everyone who did not want to cooperate with the occupation troops was suspect. Every sign of national feeling was regarded as suspicious.

We priests were included among the suspects for two reasons: first because we were Slavs, and secondly because we were of the Orthodox Church. If the Red Army had not come in time to deliver us, we would have been exterminated. We waited day and night for the Red Army. We believed it would come to free us. And we welcomed it as our deliverer. We are particularly grateful to the Soviet Command. Its attitude to us was that of a brother.

Our people, robbed of their last by the retreating German army, were starving. They did not have a crust of bread among them. The Red Army gave us 4,000 tons of grain.

All our roads and bridges had been ruined by the Germans. The Red Army helped us to repair them, to restore communication between town and village. It is only thanks to the Red Army that social life awoke again in our dear land.

It will take long, long years for us to forget the Magyar slavery. Villages are deserted and laid waste. The fields have remained practically uncultivated. In short, in my country, as in every place where the fascists have been, they left sorrow, poverty and hunger.



A delegation of clergy from the Orthodox Church of the Carpathian Ukraine recently visited Moscow. Members of the delegation are shown here with their hosts at a reception given by the Moscow Patriarchy. Left to right, Archpriest Dmitri Belyakov, Metropolitan Nikolai Krutitsky, Archimandrite Alexii Kobolyuk, Professor P. Lintur, Patriarchal Locum Tenens, Metropolitan Alexius of Leningrad and Novgorod, Bishop's Assistant and Administrator of the Orthodox Mukachevo-Pryashevo Diocese, Abbot Theophanes Sabov, the Exarch of the Ukraine, Metropolitan Ioann of Kiev and Galich, Priest Ioann Kopolovic, and Archbishop Alexius of Yaroslavl.

Arctic Health Resort

The first health resort in the Soviet Arctic region will shortly be opened in the village of Goryachie Klyuchi, Siberia. Built with the funds of the central committee of the Trade Union of Workers of the Northern Sea Route, the numerous buildings, rest homes and auxiliary services are situated near healing sulphur springs, surrounded by wild flowers and vegetation.

Workers of Soviet Arctic stations and villages, and sailors of the Northern Sea Route, will be served by the resort.

GERMANY AND VERSAILLES

By A. Polevov

The terms of the Compiègne Armistice of November 11, 1918, contained the seeds of the future German peril. At Compiègne the German imperialists scored what they themselves called the "last victory of the war," for they had saved their army from utter destruction. They concluded a truce when their armies were still on foreign territories. They were allowed to withdraw with their colors and infantry arms, and to return to Germany, "vanquished but victorious," as certain German publicists put it.

Lack of unity among the European Allies and, above all, the attempts to organize the world without the Soviet Union and even against it, created a situation which made possible the rapid revival of German imperialism.

The Paris Conference of 1919, which settled the terms of peace with Germany, formally limited her armed forces (Versailles Treaty, Chapter V, Articles 159-230), but nothing effective was undertaken to prevent Germany from preparing for a new war.

The League of Nations organization set up for the protection of the peace, torn as it was by internal dissensions and built on the exclusion of Russia from the circle of politically equal countries, possessed neither the authority nor the armed force required for the prevention of aggression. All these factors were exploited by Weimar Germany in its own interests.

The Germans vowed and professed their "democracy." They demagogically insisted on summoning the International Labor Conference in Paris to discuss the peace terms. While Brodoff-Rantzau was dilating on the Germans' peaceful intentions and holding up the bogey of the "Bolshevization" of Europe to impress certain leading members of the Conference who were inclined to look with favor upon Germany as a "bastion against the peril from the East," the German General Staff was paving the way for subtly conceived sabotage of reparations and disarmament, into which a considerable portion of the German population was drawn.

Under the guise of "combatting Bol-

shevism," the General Staff busily set about forming "volunteer detachments" and terrorist bands. The officers, Junkers, non-commissioned officers and "picked" privates of Wilhelm's army, who made up these detachments, assassinated democratically-minded persons not only in Germany but also in the Baltic countries, Poland and Finland. From these "volunteer" and terrorist detachments were later to spring the Stormtroopers, SS men and Gestapo thugs.

According to the peace treaty, the disarmament of Germany was to be completed within six months of its ratification. Actually, even the purely formal disarmament dragged out for five years. Time and again the Germans proposed to the Entente Powers to use their army against Russia. This was a maneuver designed to divert the attention of the Allies from the new German army which was being built up under their noses.

While playing upon dissensions and antagonisms, particularly between the British and French, the General Staff, one of the chief instruments of German imperialism, did not terminate its existence even for a single hour, and carried on its activities under the guise of information bureaus, joint stock companies, and the like.

No sooner was the Armistice signed than the General Staff began to draw up plans for a future war. When the Allies attempted to insist on disarmament and surrender of war criminals, as stipulated by the peace treaty, the General Staff staged a demonstration of "popular unrest," with which the authorities were ostensibly unable to cope, against the Versailles Treaty. This was the true explanation of the Lüttwitz-Kapp putsch of 1920, when Erhardt's ruffian brigade occupied Berlin. When the Germans considered they had done enough to render the Entente more accommodating, a "cease action" signal was given. Gratitude was expressed to the Erhardt brigade in an order of the day of the commander of the Berlin military area.

"And then one fine morning," one of the former officers of the brigade relates,

"the staff sergeant appeared and slipped each of us 50 marks."

"What's this for?" he was asked, to which the staff sergeant replied with an air of embarrassment, "For the overthrow of the government."

Just as the General Staff was not liquidated and the war criminals were not surrendered for trial, so, all through the "disarmament," Germany's armed forces greatly exceeded the 100,000 soldiers and officers to which the Reichswehr was to be limited under the Versailles Treaty. Actually, the armed forces of Weimar Germany were secretly maintained at the same strength as the army of Wilhelm II on the eve of the war.

The election of Field Marshal von Hindenburg, that symbol of war personified, to the post of President of the German Republic, illuminated the international situation like a flash of lightning. His election coincided with the appending of Germany's signature to the Locarno Treaty, which was designed to guarantee the security of the Western powers. After Locarno, Germany boldly demanded her acceptance into the League of Nations; Briand cried, "Down with guns! Down with machine guns!" while Stresemann shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Chamberlain, Briand and Dawes.

Germany set about feverishly modernizing her army and navy. Hitler's storm detachments grew into the brown army. It was at this moment, in 1927, that the Entente abolished the control over German disarmament. On May 17, 1930, Tardieu gave orders for the final evacuation of the Rhine zone of occupation.

The time had come when the German imperialists could dispense with the services of the Social-Democrats. "The Moor had done his work; the Moor could depart."

In October, 1933, Hitler announced Germany's resignation from the League of Nations. In March, 1935, he declared the military clauses of the Versailles Treaty null and void, and officially introduced universal military service. The democratic countries confined themselves to notes of protest. Three months later, the British Cabinet concluded a naval

agreement with Germany under which the latter could maintain a fleet equal in tonnage to 35 per cent of the British surface fleet and 100 per cent of her submarine fleet.

After the reorganization of the German army in 1935, its strength amounted to 1,500,000 men and officers, not counting storm detachments and SS troops—almost double that of the Kaiser's army in 1914. Nothing remained of the military clauses of the Versailles Treaty except the demilitarization of the Rhine zone. In March, 1936, it was occupied by the German army.

The vicious circle begun at Compiegne

and Versailles was now complete. In a historically brief space of time German imperialism recovered from its defeat and restored its might. Fascist Germany was ready to "re-play" the First World War. The forces capable of nipping aggression in the bud stubbornly held aloof from the organization and maintenance of peace. Munich crowned this dangerous game. The Germans decided that the time had now come to act: they seized Prague and invaded Poland. The Second World War had begun.

History does not lavish its lessons without a price. The nations were compelled

to pay a heavy toll of blood for their past mistakes.

The hour of the final victory of the United Nations is now not far off. The way to prevent a repetition of German aggression is, besides complete and effective disarmament of Germany, the creation by the peaceful nations of an organization for the defense of peace and the insurance of general security. The leading Allied powers will place at the disposal of this organization the necessary armed forces to be employed to prevent or to suppress aggression and punish its instigators.

'Different Ideas'

By Viktor Belikov

In every Soviet village, old farmers have waived for the duration of the war their right to rest and relaxation guaranteed them by the Soviet Constitution, and are working as hard as their strength will permit. These old people, who have a lifetime of experience, are imparting their knowledge to the younger generation. They teach the boys and girls to plow, to sow and raise good crops.

I want to tell you about one old man I met recently, an exceptionally tall old chap with a flowing beard, white teeth and alert eyes. When I first saw him he was pottering about a harvester combine, while a girl of about 20 and a young boy with oil-smeared clothing stood watching.

"Helping out?" I asked.

The old man gave me a look of displeasure and did not reply. He told the youth to crank up the machine. He and the girl climbed to the bridge of the harvester and moved off.

The old man cut an imposing figure at the steering wheel. I went along to the office of the machine and tractor station and asked the director about him.

His name is Ivan Luzhkov, and the village called him "Grandpa." Sixty of his 73 years had been spent tilling the soil. He was 13 when his father first initiated him into the use of the wooden plow. That's a long path—from wooden plow to harvester combine.

"As far as we know, he is the oldest

harvester-combine operator in the USSR," said the director with pride. Helping out, indeed!

If there had been no war, the old man would probably have retired or got a light job as watchman of the collective farm property. But when his three sons and later his three sons-in-law, all of them tractor drivers and combine operators, left for the front, he began to wonder who would do their work on the farm.

Their places were taken by women, adolescents and old folk. Ivan Luzhkov became an assistant combine operator, and proceeded to master the work thoroughly. The astonishing thing is that he did it through sheer perseverance, without instruction.

There were two combines working on the fields of Goristy collective farm, and in 1942 Luzhkov harvested about 800 acres as compared with 450 by the operator of the other machine. The following year the old man again came out on top, with a score of 800 to 520. This year the machine and tractor station has awarded him its Red Banner. One evening I talked to Grandpa Luzhkov, and asked him whether the work was not too hard for him.

"Some people," he replied, "when they get a little tired are ready to let their arms drop to their sides. I have different ideas. I keep a firm grip on myself, and I don't let ailments and laziness get the

better of me. I, brother, know what it means to struggle and to work."

Someone added that Grandpa Luzhkov was the pride of the whole Khabarovsk Region. My own thought was that he is the pride of our entire people.

Uzbekistan Delivers Cotton

One hundred collective farms in Uzbekistan reaped crops of two and one-half to three tons of cotton per hectare in 1944. The Stalin collective farm in the Ferghana region made State deliveries of two and one-half tons per hectare instead of the 1.6 tons called for by the plan.

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Red Army Tank-Destroyers

By Major Konstantin Pollonik

When the Germans started the Second World War they put all their faith in their panzer divisions. The German General Staff believed there was no force in Europe which could check the advance of the thousands of Nazi tanks. "Tanks will bring Germany victory, and with it world conquest," declared Nazi General Guderian.

The tank columns did bring victory to Germany in Western Europe: France, Yugoslavia and Greece were defeated in a short time. Intoxicated with the easy victories in the West, Hitler hurled his armies against the Soviet Union.

The tank group headed by Guderian was assigned the task of capturing Moscow. But Guderian learned that declarations were one thing and achievement another. It appeared that there was a power in Europe able to force the German tanks

to turn tail. This force was the Red Army soldier.

Guderian failed to take Moscow. His tanks were scattered in the Russian snows and he returned to Germany with nothing. His theory of defeating the enemy with armor collapsed.

"The Russian heart is stouter than German steel," said Sergeant Yakov Kadikov, wearer of three Soviet orders. Kadikov destroyed six German tanks and three armored transports. How did he do it?

When he first encountered German tanks in 1943, Kadikov was loader of a 45-mm. gun. Two tanks were making straight for the gun. Grigori Sudak, gunlayer, accounted for one, but was himself critically wounded. Kadikov remained alone with the gun. He was as yet a young soldier with no fighting experience.

The tanks came on steadily until they were only 200 meters away. The wounded gunner called out to him to fire, then lost consciousness. This brought the novice out of his fright—he set the sights and fired shell after shell. He tasted the joy of victory. The first shell twisted the turret, the second hit a tread and the third set a machine on fire.

Later Kadikov commanded a battery during the grandiose battles in Byelorussia in the summer of 1944.

All the men of the Soviet gun crews are trained to replace one another. If the need arises, the loader can take the place of the gunlayer and vice versa, and the same with other members of the crew. Thus Soviet guns continue to fire even when only one man remains.

A certain division recently convened a conference of tank-destroyers. Seventy of the most skilled gunners, anti-tank riflemen and infantrymen—men who were real masters of the art—gathered to compare their experiences. The knowledge they gave in combatting enemy tanks is passed on to the young recruits.

Junior Sergeant Vasili Yermachkov, who accounted for three enemy tanks in a single battle, told how he instructed his young gunlayer, Kuritsin. "We had established ourselves in a position when the Tigers came. They rolled straight toward us. I set the sights and with the first shell stopped the leading Tiger. With the second I had some trouble, and only got it after planting five shells in it. The most dangerous was the third Tiger—but with two shells I busted the treads and with a third battered the turret, finishing off by sending shrapnel shells after the fleeing crew.

"Then I told Kuritsin to fire while I watched. He was a good pupil—he knocked out the last two tanks and today is an efficient tank-destroyer."



Radiophoto

THE SECOND UKRAINIAN FRONT—Soviet artillerymen in the Budapest sector fire at the enemy over open sights

MARSHAL FEDOR I. TOLBUKHIN

Marshal Fedor Ivanovich Tolbukhin celebrated two anniversaries last year—his 50th birthday, and the completion of 30 years in the Army.

He is a son of the common people of Russia. In the parish records at the village church of Davydovo is the following entry dated June 16, 1894: "Born to the retired private Ivan Tolbukhin, peasant of the Yaroslav Gubernia, a son, Fedor." The future Marshal spent his childhood in his native village. In winter he went to the elementary school; in summer he worked in the fields. The hard peasant life steeled his spirit.

While still in his teens, the longing for knowledge drew him to Petrograd, where he hoped to continue his education. In those days young Tolbukhin had no idea of becoming a soldier. He began to prepare himself for civilian work.

When the war broke out in 1914 he volunteered for service with the Petrograd Automobile Unit and went to the front as a motorcyclist. He was wounded in the Grodno battle, and after convalescing was sent to an officers' school.

He graduated with distinction in July, 1915, and returned to the front in command of a rifle company. He showed himself an able officer, and after four months' service was awarded two decorations and promoted to the rank of second lieutenant. His company was one of the best in the regiment. His personal courage in action won him a third award. He became a lieutenant, and then a battalion commander. Six months later he received the rank of staff captain and a fourth decoration. The battalion he commanded fought on the decisive sectors during Brusilov's famous offensive, distinguishing itself particularly in the capture of Galich.

Civil War Service

From the very day of the establishment of Soviet power in Russia, Tolbukhin devoted his military talents to the service of his people and his motherland. In 1919 he was on the Petrograd Front as assistant chief of staff of a division, and took part in the defense of Petrograd; 1920 found him on the western front as chief of staff of a division.



Marshal of the Soviet Union
Tolbukhin

When the battles ended on the many fronts of the Civil War and the young Soviet Republic turned to peaceful construction, Tolbukhin remained with the Red Army, perfecting his own military knowledge and teaching those under his command. He passed through the operational faculty of the Frunze Military Academy, and rose to Chief of Staff of a military district, a post he held when Hitler attacked the USSR. Later he became Chief of Staff on the Crimean Front.

He commanded an army during the defense of Stalingrad. Those who fought beside him then speak of his unwavering calm and his certainty of victory. Blue-eyed, fair-haired, of powerful build, he is the typical Russian soldier, a stranger to fear and exhaustion, combining simplicity with authority.

The army under his command held the place d'armes where in November, 1942, were concentrated the mighty forces intended for the decisive blow against the Germans' Stalingrad grouping. On November 19, Tolbukhin's army with other Soviet formations went over to the offensive. Striking in the main direction, he smashed through the enemy lines and opened a gateway for the tanks and mechanized units which had been placed at his disposal. In three days his men covered 47 miles, broke through to Kalach and linked up with the forces of the Don

front, completing the encirclement of Paulus' Sixth German Army.

This break-through and the offensive were conducted by Tolbukhin with dazzling speed and skill. Hitler's command, in an attempt to save the picked divisions locked up at Stalingrad, threw Mannstein's powerful group into action from the Kotelnikovo district. Paulus strove to break away from Stalingrad and link up with Mannstein. Tolbukhin's army had to defend itself from two sides. In these battles Tolbukhin displayed supreme skill in the rapid change-over from swift offensive to stonewall defense.

Mannstein's group was heavily defeated halfway between Kotelnikovo and Stalingrad. Having lost his main tank forces, Mannstein rolled back to the south before the avalanche of the Soviet offensive. Tolbukhin's men struck at Paulus' army, and played no small part in its liquidation. They took enormous booty and captured 42,000 Germans, including seven generals. Tolbukhin was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and received the Order of Suvorov, First Class.

After the Stalingrad battle he commanded an army during the battles for Spas Demyansk. In the spring of 1943, now a Colonel General, he was appointed commander of the Southern Front. August saw his brilliant break-through of the Mius front.

The Tactician

The characteristic features of General Tolbukhin's tactics are not difficult to formulate: profound study of the enemy; minute and carefully concealed preparations for every operation; concentration of the main striking force in the decisive direction; quick, resolute action and high maneuverability.

In the Mius operation, the blow was struck to the north of Matveyev Kurgan. Into the enormous breach were thrown the cavalry and tank formations which completed the encirclement of the German group at Taganrog. Having crushed the major part of the enemy divisions and by-passed the Mius defenses, Tolbukhin's men drove for the Donbas and advanced more than 200 miles in six days.

Colonel General Tolbukhin was promoted to the rank of Army General.

Crimean Triumphs

The Germans had even more powerful defenses on the Molochnaya River, where they hoped to hold the approaches to the Crimea. In October, after a short pause, Tolbukhin's forces broke through the fortified belt, clammed shut the exit from the Crimea and mopped up the whole southern stretch of the left bank of the Dnieper. In those days the rifle divisions of the armies of the Southern Front covered be-

tween 20 and 25 miles a day, fighting all the way.

All the operations conducted under Tolbukhin's command are remarkable for their impetuosity and elasticity of maneuver, as well as for the insight with which he selects the most vulnerable spot in the enemy's defense for his main blow. Rapidity and suddenness of attack decided the main issue in the forcing of the Sivash and the break-through at Perekop. The victories won by his men in the Crimea are still fresh in memory. The Germans took about nine months to storm Sevasto-

pol. Tolbukhin's men retook the fortress in five days. The rout of the enemy in the Crimea was one more victory for the former volunteer private, now Marshal Tolbukhin.

Later his forces mopped up all the invaders in the vast expanses of south Russia, inflicting heavy defeats on the enemy along the lower reaches of the Dniester. Shortly afterward they entered Rumania and Bulgaria.

Tolbukhin received the title of Marshal of the Soviet Union on September 12, 1944.

THE SOVIET UNION AND DEMOCRATIC POLAND

From an editorial in PRAVDA, January 7:

It is with a sense of deep gratification that Soviet public opinion received the report of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to recognize the Provisional National Government of the Polish Republic and to exchange ambassadors with it. In adopting this decision the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR followed its unswerving policy of maintaining and strengthening friendly relations with democratic Poland.

It is a natural and logical step. The Provisional Government of the Polish Republic, formed on December 31, 1944, in accordance with the democratic Constitution of 1921, has been called to life by the will of the people. As we know, the demand for the reorganization of the Polish Committee of National Liberation into a Provisional Government, was put forward by the masses of the people themselves. The Peasant Conventions were the first to raise this question. They were warmly supported by the trade unions and other public organizations in the liberated territory of Poland.

The Polish Committee of National Liberation, which was set up in July, 1944, and which shouldered the burden of directing the fight of the Polish people for their country's liberation, won authority among the people and strengthened its positions in foreign affairs by a correct and sensible policy. The new democratic Poland established friendly relations with the Soviet Union. *Krajowa Rada Narodowa* (National Council of Poland) and the Committee of National Liberation

sought to cement the Polish people, and tirelessly worked to unite all democratic forces in Poland in the fight against the common enemy of the United Nations—Hitler Germany. The Polish *Wojsko* and Polish partisan detachments, as we know, are actively fighting by the side of the Red Army against the Germans.

While directing the people's fight for the liberation of the country from the German invaders, the Polish Committee of National Liberation at the same time laid the groundwork of the reconstitution of the Polish State on democratic foundations. The Polish Committee of National Liberation managed to organize order in the country and to cope with the extremely difficult task of rehabilitating normal life in the territory liberated from the rule of the Hitlerite invaders.

In the brief period of its existence, the Polish Committee of National Liberation succeeded in accomplishing a great historic work: it has given the land of the landowners to the landless peasants and peasants with little land. The agrarian reform carried out by the Committee has satisfied the age-old desires of the Polish people, and at the same time has dealt a telling blow to the reactionary Polish feudal gentry.

In view of the great changes that have occurred in Poland as a result of the agrarian reform, it is futile for the former masters of Poland to try to bolster those forces, even if outside Poland, who would put a yoke on the Polish people again, install the pro-Hitler gang in power

and reestablish the rotten regime of the feudal landowners and corrupt politicians.

The reorganization of the Polish Committee of National Liberation into the Provisional Polish Government is another heavy blow to Hitler Germany and its accessories—among them, in the first place, to the emigre clique of Polish reactionaries claiming the role of the Polish government. The political adventurers who in the eyes of the Polish people and world public opinion are responsible for Poland's misfortunes, have tried in vain to divert the Polish people from the correct path. While the Polish people were shedding their blood and making supreme sacrifices to win their country's freedom, the gentry who have ensconced themselves in London wove a net of dirty political intrigues with the aim of thwarting the struggle of the Polish patriots against the German oppressors.

While the Polish people exerted their efforts to contribute their share to the common cause of the United Nations, the Polish government-in-exile directed all its efforts to criminal political intrigues, to undermine the unity of the anti-Hitler coalition. It refused to see that the vital national interests of Poland demand friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union. It repudiated the policy of rapprochement with the USSR which is dictated by the primary interests of the Polish people. It shrunk from no slander, no provocations and no crime in its efforts to nip the democratic Polish State in the bud, to disrupt the growing friendship between the Soviet Union, on the one

hand, and the United States of America and Great Britain on the other.

But all these intrigues failed ignominiously. By its criminal policy the Polish government-in-exile utterly discredited itself and isolated itself from the Polish people in Poland. Even in circles obviously still sympathetic to the Polish reactionaries, it is now admitted that the Polish emigre cabinet "hangs by a thread."

The formation of the Provisional Government of Poland concludes an important stage of the long road which resurgent liberated Poland has traversed in the past year. The Provisional Government, as stated in its programmatical declaration, considers it its first task to bring about the complete liberation of Poland from the German invaders. This declaration says, "We shall do everything to cover Polish arms with new glory by fighting shoulder to shoulder with the powerful Red Army against fascism. . . . We shall strive to establish, as speedily as possible, peace and order in the territories cleared of the enemy, in the lands from the Vistula to the Oder. . . . We shall immediately set up a democratic government, relying on *Rada Narodowa*, which has been created by the people and relies on the people. We shall immediately inaugurate great social reforms, and in the first place we shall carry out, as we have already done in the territory this side of the Vistula, the age-old desires of the Polish peasantry, and shall without delay enforce agrarian reform in accordance with the law."

By following the principles which it has proclaimed, the Provisional Government will lay a firm foundation for the resurgence of Poland as an independent, strong and democratic state.

In democratic circles abroad, the formation by the will of the Polish people of a Provisional Government in the territory liberated from the German invaders—a Government based on the democratic Constitution of 1921 and representing the broadest democratic sections—is justly regarded as an event of paramount political significance, as a valuable contribution to the common cause of the Allies in their fight to smash Hitler Germany, the cause of all freedom-loving nations. There is no doubt that this Government has every right to expect recognition from all democratic countries on

whose side the Polish people is fighting under its leadership, against the common enemy.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Poland and the exchange of ambassadors, will still further strengthen the friendly

ties between the two States. Soviet-Polish friendship, sealed by the efforts of the Soviet and Polish peoples in the fight against the common hated enemy, will further develop to the benefit of both countries and to the benefit of all peace-loving nations.

RELATIONSHIP OF RED ARMY OFFICERS AND MEN

By Major Pavel Golubev

In the Red Army there is no impassable barrier between officers and privates. They are not divided by social distinctions. There is no officer caste. The commanders have the closest ties with their men; they both come from the same social milieu, from the ranks of the people, since there are no social classes in the Soviet Union.

Men are promoted from the ranks to commanding posts, and officers rise in rank solely on the basis of their ability and services to the country. No other motive or consideration is operative. Every private may rise to the highest commanding post.

The saying, "Every soldier has a marshal's baton in his knapsack," is true of the Red Army as of no other army in the world. During this war tens of thousands of privates have risen to medium and senior officer rank, and many senior officers to the rank of general and marshal.

The Red Army officer is strict and exacting, but at the same time fair and just, a superior who always has the wel-

fare of his men at heart. The Red Army man looks upon his officer as a senior comrade to whom he can always turn for advice and assistance. When off duty, officers mingle freely with the men on an equal footing. But on duty the officer exacts strict discipline, and the men obey his orders unreservedly.

Concern for the welfare of his men is an essential characteristic of the Soviet officer. I recently visited a rifle regiment which forms part of the First Byelorussian Army. Its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Nikolai Andreyev, carefully studies the individual characteristics of his soldiers and subordinate officers.

One night I went with him to visit one of the battalions. In the dark we were challenged by an invisible sentry.

"*Zdravstvuite*, Paromono," said Andreyev as he turned his torch on himself.

"*Zdravstvuite*, Comrade Lieutenant Colonel," replied the sentry.

"You must have good eyesight to see so well in the dark," I remarked to Andreyev.

"Not at all. I know the men by their voices."

The solicitude of officers is repaid in kind by the men of the Red Army. It is an unwritten law for Red Army men to protect the lives of their commanders. Grigori Mozhukhin unhesitatingly covered his officer with his body when he saw him threatened by a German Tommy gunner. Innumerable similar cases might be cited.

This relationship between officers and men is essentially based on the realization by each of his duty to his country. It cements the morale of the Red Army and at the same time enhances its fighting efficiency.



Flier Alexei Khlobystov, Hero of the Soviet Union

SLAV FRIENDSHIP

By Konstantin Simonov

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, December 16:

The night we four Russians were dropped by parachute among the Yugoslav partisans, we had to answer so many questions about Moscow that it was almost dawn before we finally decided to get some sleep.

The Colonel, who was the oldest of us, gave the signal by dropping down in the hay which served as our common couch and pulling off his tunic. As he did this he involuntarily turned the garment inside out and I noticed with surprise that on the inner side of the breast pocket was fastened the medal of the Order of Lenin. There was a large round hole through the middle—obviously made by a bullet.

"It isn't mine," he said, catching my glance. "I'm holding it in safekeeping and I fastened it inside my tunic so as not to lose it." He raised himself on the hay, covered with freight parachutes, leaned more comfortably against the sacks of unscutched flax that served us as pillows, and lighting a cigarette, told me the first of many stories I heard during my stay in those parts. I did not jot it down at the time, but it impressed me deeply and I think I can convey it more or less faithfully.

Pilot Vladimir Sergeyevich Erikhonov, a veteran of the Civil Air Fleet, had his transport plane set on fire by a German night fighter not far from Zagreb, while on his 73rd mission to the partisans. The plane fell to pieces in the air. Erikhonov was at least able to bail out. As he landed he broke his leg. Two days later when he was picked up by the partisans—the only one of the crew to be found—he could not take a single step without help.

Strictly speaking, he was not found by the partisans, but by one partisan, Mirko Nikolich, a 13-year-old Croatian lad who had two advantages over other boys of his age: first, he wore on his breast a badge with the figure 1941, indicating that he had already been a partisan for three years; and second, a German Tommy gun which he had long ago learned to fire with accuracy and skill was suspended from his neck by a rope.

When Erikhonov saw this lad with the star on his cap, he laid his revolver on the ground with a sigh, and for the first time since the accident, relieved his feelings with a torrent of oaths: he cursed the loss of his plane, his broken leg, and the mortal fear of being captured which he had labored under for two days and nights.

Mirko Nikolich understood that the man before him was an airman from the helmet he wore, that he was a Russian from his uniform, and that he was a casualty from the unnatural way his leg was bent under him.

It took Mirko only a moment to make clear to the flier that he was going for aid. Erikhonov nodded to show that he understood. There was no time to lose, and the lad should have been making off at top speed for a horse and cart. But Mirko was still a child; he dropped to his knee by Erikhonov's side, gazing with awe at an object which had fascinated him.

On the airman's breast was a portrait of Lenin. Yes, there was no doubt that it was Lenin. Mirko recognized it at once, although it was so small and round and made of gold and silver.

"Lenin?" he asked.

"Lenin."

Erikhonov tried to sit up more comfortably and a cry of pain escaped from him. This reminded Mirko of his duty. He leaped to his feet, laid his Tommy gun beside Erikhonov, and scampered off.

* * *

An hour later the partisans arrived with a horse and cart and took Erikhonov away with them. It must be said that the flier's accident had come at a most inconvenient time for them. For over two weeks the Germans had been conducting an offensive in these parts and the partisans were forced to retire deeper and deeper into the mountains, changing their location every night. A battalion which had originally acted as rearguard had long been cut off and

the main body could rely only on its own resources.

On the third day, after brief battle, the partisans withdrew into a mountain labyrinth. The cart in which Erikhonov traveled had to be abandoned. They put him on a horse, after tying a sloping board from the saddle, on which he could rest his immobile leg, broken at the knee. With this aid, he could keep himself in the saddle with more or less effort.

Mirko continued to accompany him, not following behind, as previously, but walking beside the damaged leg, to protect it. He pushed overhanging branches out of the way, and from time to time led the horse by the bridle.

The honor of tending Erikhonov was tacitly assigned to Mirko. He gave the airman water from his German flask. When he succeeded in shooting a bird, he plucked and roasted it for him. And when there was nothing at all to eat, the boy would suddenly vanish, leaving Erikhonov in the care of another partisan. He would return later, carrying in his cap a few crusts of stale bread, some tiny morsels of dry cheese and a pod or two of paprika. These the partisans had dug up from the bottoms of their pockets and knapsacks—their last crumbs which they had treasured for the black day when there would be nothing else between them and starvation.

Mirko would sidle up to Erikhonov, tendering his cap, and would suddenly become unusually loquacious. He had noted the suspicion in the airman's glance and tried his best to prevent him from asking where the food came from. He would ask Erikhonov endless questions in rapid succession—about Moscow, about the Russian Army, about his flights—and Erikhonov, who still understood the Croatian language with difficulty, would be carried away in spite of himself, as he strove to find words which the boy could understand. On the third or perhaps the fourth time this occurred, Erikhonov took the cap from Mirko, crushed it in his free hand and requested Mirko to take his horse by the bridle and lead him to Nikola Petrich, com-

mander of the battalion.

Petrich was a tall, saturnine metal worker from Belgrade. Taciturn by nature, these last few days he had not uttered a single word except to issue the most essential orders.

"Where does this food come from?" demanded Erikhonov as he rode up to him. "I don't want to be eating when all the rest are starving."

Petrich glanced at the contents of the cap, then at Erikhonov, and realized that lying would be useless.

"But you, too, when you dropped guns and rifles and ammunition for us who were in need . . . was it because you had plenty to spare in Russia?" he said quickly.

They gazed into one another's eyes. Then Petrich gripped Erikhonov's hand and said, "We are brothers."

"But listen, Petrich . . ." cried Erikhonov after the commander's retreating figure.

Petrich, like the majority of his companions, only rarely and unwillingly expressed his feelings for the Russians. At the bottom of his heart there glowed a deep and silent affection and gratitude. To him and others, this was so natural and self-understood that there was really nothing to talk about.

The next day Mirko shot a large bird which sufficed Erikhonov and himself for two whole days.

And on the third day the remnants of the battalion were driven by the Germans into a deep gorge with practically no exit. Their only hope was to scale the almost insurmountable peaks—and on the other side perhaps, if luck was with them, they might be able to rejoin their fellows. But there was not even a track across the mountains, and no place where a horse could find a foothold. True, there was another path which did lead out of the gorge, but it skirted the mountain face and led down into a plain where the Germans were.

Petrich summoned Mirko and two Tommy gunners.

"You'll go with the Russian," he said. "Follow the path which skirts the mountain." He explained how the path wound. They would have to bear left until the trail divided and then they must take the right fork.

"You'll accompany him to the nearest

village and hide him there until he is well enough to move."

"But we are sure to run into Germans on the trail," said one of the Tommy gunners, shaking his head.

"I don't know . . . I think not. The Germans know we would never go that way. At any rate, as soon as you are gone we shall give battle. That will draw all the Germans in the vicinity against us."

"You must save the airman," he added. He's Russian and an airman. Yes, an airman," he repeated, as he turned and led Mirko aside.

"You found the airman and you must save him." There was not a trace of condescension in his voice as he addressed the boy. "Well, you may go." He clapped Mirko on the shoulder and walked away.

Ten minutes later the two Tommy gunners and Mirko and Erikhonov were moving along the scarcely perceptible trail that wound around the mountain.

When Mirko had informed Erikhonov of the journey they were about to make—saying nothing, however, about the fact that Petrich would meanwhile engage the Germans, Erikhonov merely nodded and said, "Right you are, Nikolich," as he drew his revolver from its holster and slipped it into his bosom.

• • •

Mirko always addressed Erikhonov as the partisans did one another, in the second person singular, calling him by his first name, Volodya. But Erikhonov called Mirko by his second name, Nikolich, as he was accustomed to call his comrades in the flying unit. Mirko had long grown used to it, but now these words, "Right you are, Nikolich," seemed filled with gloomy foreboding—as if they were taking farewell of each other—and with a shudder he thought of the coming danger.

Half an hour later, when dusk had already fallen, they heard shooting behind them. At first it was a few Tommy-gun bursts; then came the sound of mortars, which grew more and more frequent as if a big battle were in progress.

Erikhonov stopped his horse and listened. Through the dusk Mirko glimpsed a look of surprise on his sad face.

"Volodya, let us go," the boy urged.

"Wait," Erikhonov replied. He listened again intently, then turned his horse back.

It was all clear to him now. Mirko ran forward and seized the horse by the bridle.

"Volodya," he implored, gazing into Erikhonov's eyes and seeing that he understood everything. The two Tommy gunners also barred Erikhonov's way.

"Boys, I must go back. . . . I can't stay out of this fight," Erikhonov cried almost hysterically, jerking the reins. But Mirko and the two partisans stood fast.

The sound of firing grew fiercer, and Erikhonov realized that there was nothing to be done now; that nothing could be more terrible and meaningless, to those men who were fighting to save his life, than for him to return. But this realization did not make it easier for him.

"Oh, you won't let a man die with his friends," he groaned, gazing at Mirko bitterly; and suddenly, to his own surprise, he burst into tears.

He was indifferent to everything now. Mirko turned the horse and led it by the bridle. Erikhonov rode in silence, his head bowed gloomily, and all that night he did not utter another word.

During the night they turned twice as Petrich had instructed them. The second time Mirko stood long in doubt. It seemed to him that the trail leading off to the left was not a trail at all, but a dry stream bed. After consultation, however, they decided that it was the fork and path after all, and turned to the right.

At dawn they climbed a steep slope, and as they left the large rock behind them and emerged into an almost open space, they ran into Germans. Petrich must have been right in suspecting that the Germans would be drawn towards the scene of the fighting. But they had left a patrol of four men behind to guard the path.

They were four against four. But because Erikhonov was on horseback, the Germans observed them first and were first to open fire. One of the Tommy gunners collapsed at once, without a sound. The other, who had protested to Petrich that they might meet Germans, dropped behind a heap of stones and before he opened fire cried hoarsely to Mirko to get the airman away. Mirko struck the horse with his crop with all his might. It turned and broke into a gallop. But Erikhonov tugged on the rein and pulled the horse up behind a huge

rock near the path. He swung his sound leg over the saddle and tried clumsily to dismount.

"Volodya!" cried Mirko, almost weeping with vexation.

But Erikhonov had no ears for him. He pulled the revolver from his bosom and swore loudly as he tried to free his other leg. Mirko seized the bridle in desperation, dragging the horse downhill with its rider. A tommy-gun burst spat-tered against the rocks, and Mirko sensed, rather than saw, Erikhonov slump helplessly onto the horse's neck.

"Get the airman away," the tommy gun-ner cried hoarsely again, between two bursts of fire.

Mirko leaped onto the horse, seized the rein with one hand and grabbed Erikhonov with the other, with a strength beyond his years, and urged the horse back onto the trail along which they had come.

The path led downhill. The horse clambered and stumbled from rock to rock, going faster and faster, slipping on the loose shingles. Finally, breaking into a gallop with the bit between its teeth, it dashed down the narrow course of the dry stream, while the branches which formed a tunnel overhead snapped and tore at them. Then the horse lurched and collapsed, and Mirko had barely time to slip from its back, supporting the helpless body of Erikhonov.

The airman lay motionless. Mirko un-

fastened his belt and pulled up his tunic. The sight was terrible; the left breast was drenched with blood and Mirko decided the airman was dead. If he had been a little older and a little calmer, he would have listened for the heart beat and would have known that Erikhonov was still alive. The wound which looked so terrible was caused by two glancing bullets which had only lacerated the breast and had not even penetrated to the bone. But Erikhonov was in a dead faint, and Mirko did not know that in such cases a man's breathing is scarcely perceptible.

"Volodya!" he cried, in wild despair, and dropped to his knees by the airman's side, frozen with horror.

He muttered incoherently, no doubt oblivious to what he was saying. He recalled in despair what Petrich had told him at the parting, and decided they must have missed the right trail during the night.

From behind came the crack of rifle fire. Mirko shuddered and leaped to his feet, feeling for his tommy gun, which he had completely forgotten in his perturbation. A sudden calmness fell upon him and he became clearly aware of what he must do.

He again dropped to his knees, groped for the Order of Lenin on Erikhonov's blood-drenched tunic and began unfastening it. He did not touch two other orders—only this one, which Erikhonov

had told him was the most important. He found a sharp-pointed twig and with it made a hole in his shirt to which he fastened the order over the breast where Erikhonov had worn it.

A quarter of an hour later he was back at the spot where they had met the Germans. He emerged some 30 paces above the trail. From above he could see the sprawling bodies of two dead Germans. Two others were alive. One was leaning against a tree, the other crouching on his haunches.

Mirko advanced another few paces and as he did so, sent pebbles rolling out from under his feet. The German leaning against the tree reached for his tommy gun, but Mirko's finger was already pressing the trigger. As he shook to the long burst of the gun pressed against his stomach, he saw the German throw out his arms, lurch sideways and slowly collapse.

When the second German fired, Mirko again pressed the trigger of his gun. There was no answering rattle, and he realized that he had expended all his bullets in the one long burst.

Unconscious of what he was doing, he leaped down, making straight for the German without relinquishing the now useless tommy gun. The German fired again. Mirko dropped his gun, swerved and fell to the ground, grimacing with pain. He had been hit in the breast.

So he died, with the Order of Lenin fastened to his shirt.

"And that's the whole story," said the Colonel. Later the partisans found the body and turned the Order of Lenin over to us Russians, although to tell the truth, if I had been there I would have had the boy buried with the Order on his breast."

"And what about Erikhonov?" I asked.

"Oh, he's all right. He's flying again. He's got the true Russian tenacity of life. He came to his senses and crawled on his hands and knees for five days, until he was found. Then they cut him up and sewed him up and put him to rights."

And after a moment's silence he added, "He's been flying again for about a month now. But not to this territory; mostly to Slovenia and Montenegro. I've let him know about the Order. He promises to look me up when he comes this way."

(To be concluded in next issue)



Nurse Semeryukova, of a Cossack Guards Division, gives first aid to a Red Army man wounded while pursuing routed Germans

Notes from Front and Rear

A *Krasnaya Zvezda* correspondent with Marshal Tolbukhin's forces on the Third Ukrainian Front describes a duel between a battalion of Soviet self-propelled guns shelling an important enemy communication line, and a German armored train. Major Iremashvili, battalion commander, had divided his guns, sending one group to the rear of the train to destroy the track. The train steamed toward a rail station where other Soviet guns lay in ambush. Their first shells wrecked the locomotive, but the train continued to fire. One of the self-propelled guns dashed out of ambush and began firing point-blank at the train's gun and machine-gun turrets. A shell from the train tore a caterpillar off the gun, and a duel began between the stalled gun and stalled train. Soviet shells pierced the train's armor, and after losing half their men in killed or wounded, the German crew dashed out and attempted to escape. The remaining Soviet self-propelled guns rushed in pursuit, mowing them down with shrapnel and tommy-gun fire.

★

In the Dniepropetrovsk Region in the Ukraine, devastated by the German occupation, about 100 buildings are daily made available for habitation. Over 25,000 dwelling houses have already been restored.

★

A fifty-two-year-old dog-team driver, Grigori Kuznetsov, has arrived in Archangelsk after 30 years in the Arctic. Leaving for Novaya Zemlya in 1914, he traveled the Arctic expanses from Murmansk to the Laptev Sea by dog-team, and was a member of many Arctic expeditions. Kuznetsov was the first settler in Shokalsky Island, Minin Fjords and Komso-molsky Island, and frequently visited the Sterligov Cape.

★

The legends, songs and other patriotic creations of the Soviet people during the Patriotic War are being assembled for publication in a single large volume. Fifteen hundred such items have already been collected in the villages of the Kalinin Region.

December marked the 25th Anniversary of the Central Michurin Genetic Laboratories, which have carried on important work in developing Michurin seed varieties on collective and State farms. The Michurin nursery has become an important agricultural base and one of the largest scientific research laboratories in the USSR. Five million seedlings of Michurin varieties have been sent to various parts of the country, and some 12,000 inquiries concerning fruit growing are answered yearly.

★

A new coal basin has been discovered near Tula, cradle of the Russian ordnance industry and center of the Moscow coal basin. Geologists estimate the new deposits at tens of millions of tons. The coal veins lie at a depth of not more than 125 feet, with the quality of coal above average.

★

Twenty-five million liters of milk for the Red Army—this is the slogan of a new movement of Soviet collective farmers for aid to the Army. The objective has already been attained, with one-tenth of the amount contributed by farmers of the Moscow Region, five million liters by the Ukrainian farmers, two million from the Omsk Region in Siberia, etc. The farmers of Yaroslavl Region have now initiated a new campaign, urging every farm family to donate at least 20 liters of milk to the Red Army Fund.

★

The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences has begun work on a 400-acre Botanical Garden in a picturesque site on the steep banks of the Dnieper. Seventeen thousand species, representing the flora of the Ukraine, North America, Western Europe and Asia, will be planted in the garden.

★

In the period since Kiev was liberated, its population has been supplied with two million square feet of living floor space.

The annual competition of leading sportsmen of the Red Army, held in the Central Red Army Club, in Moscow, ended recently. Boxing, wrestling, bayonet fighting, saber fighting, weight-lifting, group hand-to-hand fighting, and gymnastics were featured.

★

Three thousand children whom the Germans forcibly deported to Polish territory have been returned to Soviet Byelorussia. When the fascists were being driven from Byelorussia, they staged a hunt for children, surrounding the villages, breaking into houses and seizing children in the streets. They sent them by trainloads to "donor camps," where German doctors drained their blood for wounded Hitlerites. Thousands of Byelorussian children perished from excessive loss of blood, and the survivors were scattered throughout Polish towns and villages. Representatives of the Byelorussian Government are now trying to locate and repatriate these children. They find them extremely exhausted, barefoot and ragged. Special departments have been opened in hospitals in Brest, Baranovichi and Stolbtsy for treating the children, and measures are taken to locate their parents or to place them in good homes.

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Developments in Hungary

From a PRAVDA editorial, January 12:

In Hungary the Red Army has won one of its most brilliant victories. As a result of this victory, Hitler Germany has lost her last ally in Europe. Four-fifths of Hungarian territory has been freed of the Germans by the Red Army. The Hitler forces encircled in Budapest are doomed and are being done away with by the Red Army.

For many years Hungary trailed in Germany's wake. To please Hitler she participated in the criminal aggressive war against the Soviet Union and other freedom-loving nations; and as a result of the defeats she sustained, Hungary has reached the verge of national disaster.

Dissensions arose in Hungary's ruling camp. The German command lost no time in occupying Hungary's territory. The Gestapo terror resulted in the physical destruction of scores of thousands of representatives of the progressive democratic sections of the nation.

Prerequisites for Democratic Movement

The occupation by the Red Army of a considerable part of Hungary's territory has created the prerequisites for the unfolding of a democratic movement in the country. Hungarian reaction has retreated along with the routed German divisions.

A Hungarian Provisional National Assembly founded on a broad democratic basis met in Debreczen on December 21 of last year. The National Assembly's decisions met with the complete approval and support of Hungarian public opinion, both inside the country and in the Hungarian democratic emigration. The majority of Hungary's diplomatic corps abroad have placed themselves at the disposal of the Hungarian Provisional National Government.

The latter in its first sitting declared war on Hitler Germany and requested the Soviet Government, and through it the United States and Great Britain, to receive a Hungarian delegation for the discussion of armistice terms.

One more citadel of German fascism has been smashed in the center of Europe. One more country has been given the chance to wash off the disgrace of participation in the crimes of the Hitlerites.



Vain Efforts

—Cartoon by Boris Efimov

From *Trud*, newspaper of All-Union Council of Soviet Trade Unions, January 1

The Hungarian people can now start on a new road toward the creation of an independent, democratic Hungary. These possibilities are open to the Hungarian people because of the generosity of the Soviet Union. Hungary has to admit that she is the defeated party. But the Government of the Soviet Union, in accord with the Governments of the United

States and Great Britain, has displayed the utmost generosity and provided conditions which insure to the Hungarian people the possibility of a rapid restoration and revival of its state, its political and economic independence.

The Hungarian events serve as one more proof that Soviet policy is aimed at defeating and annihilating fascism and granting liberty to nations. Hungary, less than any other country, was entitled to claim the understanding and aid of the United Nations: she was the most obstinate of Hitler's satellites. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union affords Hungary a chance to redeem her crimes.

Hungary Must 'Earn Return Passage'

It can be expected that the Hungarian nation will be able to make use of these possibilities and thus, as the English say, "earn her return passage" . . . right the wrongs she has wrought, compensate the damage caused by her, bear material responsibility for the destruction and losses which are the result of her participation in Hitler's gangster crusade against the Soviet Union, return her loot, and liberate the Czechoslovakian and Rumanian territories which Hungary seized.

Those are the indispensable conditions dictated by justice. At the same time, Hungary is afforded the possibility to restore her state.

The restoration and maintenance of order and economic life, the suppression of fascist propaganda, the arrest and trial of war criminals—all these are indispensable conditions for laying the foundations of a healthy democratic state.

Hungary will win a place among the liberty-loving nations corresponding to her present contribution to the war effort of the United Nations.

CHIEF MARSHAL OF ARTILLERY, NIKOLAI N. VORONOV

Nikolai Nikolaievich Voronov is a Leningrad man. He was born in 1899, and his father, now 66 years of age, is still living in Leningrad, where he is employed as a teacher in a secondary school. The elder Voronov stayed at his post all through the blockade and wears the medal awarded by the Soviet Government to those who distinguished themselves in the great defense of the city.

As a boy, Nikolai Voronov went to a secondary school and then did his military service. Later he completed the courses in the Leningrad Red Banner Artillery School, the Artillery High School and the Frunze Military Academy.

He fought in the Civil War, first as a platoon commander, later in charge of a battery. From 1924 to 1927 he commanded a training unit. After a period in command of an artillery regiment, he found himself at the head of the very artillery school where he had trained as a youth.

He married in 1920. His only son, Vladimir, now 20 years of age, is a lieutenant of artillery who wears the Order of the Patriotic War, won on the Leningrad Front.

Mastered his Art on the Battlefield

The Chief Marshal of Artillery learned his art not only in the classroom and on the training ground. He fought in the war against the White Finns in 1939-40, and has been a familiar figure on every front in the present war. He was a member of the Supreme Command during the rout of the Germans and Rumanians before Stalingrad.

The great Orel-Bryansk break-through in the summer of 1943, and the Yelnya-Smolensk sweep which engulfed Hitler's so-called "eastern wall" and cost the enemy enormous territory, were accomplished under his direct command.

People often ask Marshal Voronov what lies behind the prodigious feats of his gunners. He tells them that Soviet artillery is what it is because of the high standard of training of both officers and men, and their unbounded devotion to their country; because of the achievements



Chief Marshal of Artillery Voronov

of Soviet industry; because of the correct organizational structure, expressing itself in the organic embodiment of the artillery in the formations of the Red Army; because of correct operational and tactical deployment at decisive points, particularly during the break-through; and finally, because of the coordination, calculated with the minutest exactitude, of the artillery with all other arms, particularly the infantry and tanks.

For his services in the defense of his country, Voronov has received 12 orders and medals, including two Orders of Lenin and the Order of Suvorov, First Class.

The Chief Marshal of Artillery is a giant of a man. He is simple and accessible. Every month he gets thousands of personal letters from soldiers, industrial workers, collective farmers, professors, etc., and he makes a point of reading every one of them. Some are concerned with Army matters. Some ask for advice in personal affairs. Others have ideas which they think would help to make the artillery a still better weapon.

Scholarship and Wit

A conversation with Voronov is a pleasant thing to remember. His quiet, calm voice and unpretentious manner put his callers completely at ease. The business in hand receives his meticulous attention, whether it is of greater or lesser moment. He has a reputation for scholarship and wit.

His memory is remarkable. He keeps in his head an amazing mass of detail relating to the artillery, when and where every action took place, who took part in it, what mistakes were made and what successes achieved by this or that officer or general. He knows to a nicety the characteristics, capabilities and records of all the artillery generals and very many senior officers.

For seven years now Marshal Voronov has been chief of the Soviet artillery, most powerful of all the weapons of the Red Army.



Guards Sergeant Gladkikh, range-finder of an anti-aircraft unit

A New Stage in the Life of The Polish Nation

By J. Kowalski

From PRAVDA, January 5:

December 31, 1944, will go down as a momentous historic date in the life of the Polish nation. On that day the National Council of Poland at its Plenary Session decided to form the Provisional Government of the Polish Republic in place of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, thus satisfying the demands of the broadest sections of the Polish people and all democratic Polish organizations at home and abroad.

As a result of the Hitler aggression, the Polish nation was enslaved and deprived of its statehood in September, 1939. The policy of the Polish rulers of the camp of the so-called *Sanacja* led Poland to disaster. The Polish people embarked upon a long and hard struggle for freedom and independence, for the recovery of its existence as a state.

The course of events has confirmed again and again that the Polish State can be revived only on democratic foundations, and only in close cooperation with the Soviet Union, Great Britain, the United States and other democratic countries. The emigre "government" set up by Polish reaction outside the country has proved that it has nothing in common with the true national interests of Poland.

This "government," which officially belongs to the camp of the United Nations, has pursued a policy of enmity with regard to Poland's closest neighbor and powerful ally, the Soviet Union. Sacrificing the interests of the Polish nation to the selfishness of the landowners of the border provinces, it has become the expression of the imperialistic policy of Polish reactionaries and has sought to set the Poles at odds with their Slavic brothers, the Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Russians.

The emigre "government" has done everything in its power to prevent the creation of the anti-Hitler front of the Polish people and to thwart its fight against the German invaders. Lastly, the emigre clique persistently sought to disrupt unity in the camp of the Allied powers. This anti-national and anti-demo-

cratic policy of the emigre clique has set it completely apart from the Polish nation.

The emigre "government" represents no real force. But it is trying in every way to create an impression of "strength," taking advantage of the fact that it is recognized by some governments.

Poland has refused to take the road that would suit the Hitlerite invaders, onto which the successors to the criminal policy of Beck and Rydz-Smigly tried to push it. The Polish democrats chose another road. It found expression in the formation on July 22, 1944, of the Polish Committee of National Liberation. It is the road of progress and democracy, the road of joint struggle, together with all the United Nations, against the Hitlerite invaders, for complete victory over fascist Germany, for the creation of a strong, independent and democratic Polish State. President Boleslaw Bierut in his address to the National Council of Poland on December 31, 1944, had every ground for stating that July 22, 1944, had ushered in the period of regeneration of the Polish State.

In the five months of its activity, the Polish Committee of National Liberation proved in practice and convinced public opinion in Poland that it was the sole true representative of the Polish nation, restoring the Polish State. The policy of friendship and close cooperation with the Soviet Union pursued by the Polish Committee of National Liberation proved to be most fruitful. Thanks to the aid and heroic action of the Allied Red Army, a considerable part of Polish territory is already free, and in the not distant future the entire Polish land will be cleared of the Hitlerite beasts. "By her own efforts, without the help of the USSR," said President Bierut in his address, "Poland would never be able to free herself from the Hitlerite bondage."

The Polish Committee of National Liberation has to its credit considerable successes in the matter of organizing the Polish armed forces.

Today two Polish armies are ac-



Guards anti-aircraft gunners on the First Byelorussian Front—A buddy dresses the wound of Senior Sergeant Chashchin



Radiophoton

Anti-aircraft gunloader Kosyakov, Guardsman, has received the Order of the Red Star and two medals

tively fighting against the Hitlerite invaders.

Around the Polish Committee of National Liberation, based on a coalition of the four democratic parties—*Stronnictwo Ludowe*, the Polish Workers Party, the Polish Socialist Party and *Stronnictwo Demokratyczne*—rallied a broad section of the Polish nation. It was this that enabled the Polish Committee of National Liberation to successfully cope with the complicated tasks involved in building up democratic government machinery and in the rehabilitation of the country's economic and cultural life.

The territory of Poland liberated from the invaders, in which live one-third of the Polish people, is covered with a network of Peoples' Councils, representing all sections of the population.

Stupendous efforts were required to revive industry, which had been utterly wrecked by the Hitlerite invaders. But much has been achieved in this sphere, too, particularly thanks to the self-sacrificing toil of the Polish workers. Already four large district electric power plants have been restored and put in operation, and three more are being restored. About 85 kilometers of high-tension lines have been built and four district power networks have been connected. Work to insure the industries of Praga a proper supply of electricity and to increase the supply of power to the industries of Bialystok is nearing completion.

As a result of the strenuous and energetic activity of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, the output of the oil industry has already reached 75 per cent of the prewar level. The sole iron and steel plant existing in the liberated territory has been restored. Other metal-working enterprises supplying the needs of the Army, agriculture and industry have resumed production.

The textile industry, which was practically completely destroyed by the Germans, is coming back into its own. Considerable success has been achieved in the food industries. Among the enterprises put into operation are five sugar refineries, 100 distilleries and 18 breweries. A notable revival is to be observed in the activity of the building, chemical, leather and other industries.

In their retreat under the blows of the

Red Army the Hitlerite invaders completely wrecked railroad lines and bridges. In five months the tracks and bridges were restored, thanks to the self-sacrificing labor of the Polish railroad workers and the brotherly help of allied Soviet bodies. In addition to the enormous amount of work accomplished by the Polish railroad workers in meeting the requirements of the front, the railroads have carried in five months about two million civilian passengers, and their freight traffic for the needs of the civilian population mounted to 35,000,000 ton-kilometers.

The Polish Committee of National Liberation boldly and consistently attacked the agrarian problem, which was the most vexing question of Polish social and economic life. The enforcement of the historic decree on agrarian reform represents a turning point in the life of the Polish peasantry and the entire nation, and lays a firm foundation for Poland's democratization. In accordance with the decree on agrarian reform, the Polish Committee of National Liberation took over 1,700 landed estates with a total area of 320,000 hectares.

As a result of the agrarian reform, over 100,000 families of peasants and agricultural laborers received land. The land which belonged to approximately 1,000 landowners will now feed about half a million people. The Polish countryside has made a big stride along the road of progress. The formation of the "Peasant Mutual Aid" organization opens before the Polish peasantry wide prospects for a life of culture and prosperity.

In the liberated territory there are already functioning 4,500 elementary schools and 130 high schools, with a total attendance of 730,000 children. Over 12,000 teachers are engaged in these schools. In addition, there exist over 100 industrial and business schools and courses, and over 100 agricultural schools and training courses accommodating 14,000 students.

The Curie-Sklodowski State University in Lublin and the Medical College of Warsaw University in Praga have been opened. Colleges of veterinary surgery, pharmaceuticals and polytechnical sciences are in process of organization.

Real democracy reigns throughout the liberated Polish territory. All Polish organizations, with the exception of reactionary

and fascist organizations, are freely carrying on their activity. Workers and office employees are organizing in trade unions. The population of the liberated regions and the Poles still under the yoke of the Hitlerite invaders highly appreciate these achievements of the Polish Committee of National Liberation. They have become convinced through their own experience that the policy of the Polish Committee of National Liberation is the only correct policy and that it leads to the creation of a strong, independent, democratic Poland in which will be united all Polish lands.

The population of all the liberated territory unanimously demanded that the Polish Committee of National Liberation should become the Provisional Government of the Polish State. In line with this demand of the people, the National Council of Poland, by an act passed on December 31, 1944, set up the Provisional Government of the Polish Republic.

The Provisional Government of the Polish Republic represents a coalition of the same four democratic parties which made up the Polish Committee of National Liberation. The Government consists of statesmen known to the Polish people and whose loyalty to the cause of Poland and the cause of the Allies has been tested in practice.

The Polish people will undoubtedly have to overcome considerable difficulties on the way to the complete liberation of its country from the German-fascist invaders, and to the complete reconstruction of the Polish State. But the fruitful activity of the Polish Committee of National Liberation has already laid a firm foundation for this creative process, and this activity has met with the approval of not only the Polish people, but also of the peoples of the Soviet Union, as well as the progressive elements in Great Britain, the United States, France, Czechoslovakia and other democratic countries.

The formation of the Provisional Government of the Polish Republic will undoubtedly still further accelerate the rallying of the entire Polish nation to the fight against the Hitlerite invaders, and will serve as a guarantee for the further strengthening of the ties between Poland and the Soviet Union, and also with other democratic powers.

ON THE SAME SUBJECT

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, January 10:

The other day I saw a play. It tells of a man who returns from the front after victory and finds an extraordinarily scrupulous and conscientious apartment house manager, and even more scrupulous and conscientious women. Maybe it will be so, maybe not quite: I know all sorts of apartment house managers, all sorts of women.

I mention this because war—grim, brutal war—is still on. Of course, during quiet moments a man at the front does think of what his homecoming will be like, but "outpost skirmishes and fighting of a local character" soon bring him back to realities. Then he begins to think, not of returning to Barnaul or Poltava, but of getting to Berlin. Before finding out the truth about apartment house managers and women, the men at the front are firmly determined to pay a visit to Berlin, and about that visit they feel passionately and jealously.

When they read some of the news and messages from abroad, they ask themselves with justified alarm, "Are the miscreants going to get the punishment they deserve, or not?"

If certain light-minded people in the rear sometimes forget that the war is still far from over, the men at the front know the truth. Nobody expected the thief would put his neck in the noose of his own accord. The Germans are putting up a desperate defense. They are trying

with the help of their paltry successes in the West to rejuvenate themselves, to throw off old age, to palm off their bruises as medals.

Hitler could think of nothing better than to found a new decoration for his beaten army, "the gold oak leaf with swords and gems." Well, let him—let him for every fallen city hand out jeweled oak leaves to his field marshals and generals. After all, this is the season of falling leaves for Germany.

As to Goebbels, oak leaves are not enough for him; all his talk is about laurels. This mongrel pigmy writes, "We don't intend to rest on our laurels." What laurels does he mean? Surely not the shifting of the battle area from the streets of Stalingrad to the streets of Budapest? Or to the beer saloons of Duren instead of the sands of Egypt?

The German witch has never rested on her laurels. But she has rested far too long on mattresses stuffed with hair of women victims of Maidanek and Tremblyanka. But the witch has lost her sleep nowadays: she is equally terrified by the thunderstorm over Hungary and by the silence in Prussia.

Goebbels writes, "The enemy has started an attack on our souls." That is a lie. We are not visionaries. We know the Germans have no souls. We have no intention of taking Germany with the help of arguments or exhortations. We rely on guns, mortars and grenades.

We are not attacking the witch's imaginary soul, we are attacking her very real flesh, her forts, pillboxes and cities. No difficulties can stop us, because it is easier to take Berlin than to tolerate Maidanek. It is easier to batter down pillboxes than to live through another autumn like that of 1941.

A little while ago I was telling some Americans about the feat of a Russian sergeant who, although wounded, knocked out two German tanks. "Where did he get the strength?" I was asked. I might have replied, "This sergeant is a Byelorussian from Urechye, and the Germans burned his wife alive."

I open a newspaper and read of concerts by an Army jazz band, of a conference of Army sportsmen, of a horticultural show arranged by frontier troops. Can it be that our wrath has subsided amid the humdrum of war?

No, it has never been so tense. It has grown beyond all words to express. It has entered our blood; whatever we may be doing, whatever we may be saying, one thought is eating at our vitals—the thought that the witch is still reclining on couches stuffed with women's hair, that the miscreants who threw children into wells are still walking the earth, and that maybe a gem-studded order is gleaming on the breast of one of the furnace-stokers of Maidanek.

How can we think of anything else? It would be a sin to minimize the grief, a sin to forget the graves of our dear ones. Talk to a soldier about Paradise and bliss, about Kursk nightingales and Turgenev maidens. He will sacrifice Paradise and nightingales and maidens for one thing—to get to Berlin.

A certain foreign statesman recently said, "We are not the Germans' judges; only God may judge human actions." These are terrible words. The Red Army will not make over to anyone its right to judge the miscreants. We have earned that right by suffering. Hardened soldiers, who had been through everything, wept like little children at the sight of the mutilated bodies of Byelorussian girls.

"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things



Radiophoto

Tanks of the Second Ukrainian Front smash enemy defenses on the right bank of the Danube

that are God's," says the ancient book. But we would add, "And unto man the things which are man's." Never will you rob us of the right to judge the contemptible assassins who maltreated our women, our old folks and children.

This indulgent statesman further added, "The Germans are our brothers." Take care! Don't trifle with grand words. We know what brotherhood means. For 25 years our people were hounded because of this word, this sentiment. They wanted to destroy us, to drive us into isolation, to ostracize us, because we talked of the brotherhood of nations.

We talk about it now, too, and the earth will grow cold before we renounce brotherhood. But precisely for that reason we do not and will not forgive the Germans. You will not find a Russian who divides blood into sorts, or says that the blood of a Serb, Frenchman or Greek is less precious than the blood of a Russian.

We have not visited the ashes of Lidice or Oradour. We have not seen the torture chambers of Alsace or Belgium; we did not bury the children of Piraeus who died of starvation. But we buried the children of Leningrad. We have seen the ashes of Smolensk. We are familiar with Ponyri and Trostyanets. We want to try the Germans, not only for the woe of Byelorussia or Novgorod, but for the woe of all nations.

The laws of brotherhood are sacred to us. It is a sacrilege to our ears to say that child-slayers may be accepted into the family of brothers. Can you hear the mellifluous words, "Brother stoker of Maidanek, would you not like to embrace your sister?" Or, "Brother chauffeur of Krasnodar, would you not take some little children for a ride in your murder wagon?"

A Red Army man by the name of Chizhik is now lying in a hospital. A German bullet pierced his helmet, and surgeons saved his life. He does not read foreign newspapers. He knows nothing about the expressed opinions of diverse statesmen, but he has just read Lady Gibb's letter and he writes me from the hospital:

"I had two younger brothers; they were both killed in the war. I had a wife, a two-year-old son, an old father and moth-

er. Here in the hospital I received a letter from a comrade. He writes, 'Dear Chizhik: It is with a breaking heart, with a flood of tears, that I have to inform you that your parents, like my own, were killed by the Germans; that the vipers murdered your wife and child in August, 1942.'

"What am I to do now? I shall soon be discharged as a cripple. Go home? But I have no home. Perhaps I should go to Maidanek and look for the shoes of my little son at the boot warehouse there, and run through the streets with them, crying, 'Brother Germans, you forgot to take these shoes with you!'"

So writes a soldier who has a lump of iron lodged in his skull and a stone in his heart. He has a presentiment that there will be people who will call the murderer of his son "Brother." He is uneasy, indignant, appealing to conscience.

Conscience, our conscience, the conscience of the world, will not betray him. On this point, the people in the rear of whom I speak, the honest and faithful, are at one with the front. And the whole world—again I speak of the honest and faithful—are at one with Russia.

What is a mother to think of who has lost her sons; what is a woman to think of who has lost the husband she loved; what are the inhabitants of the mutilated cities, and the children with mutilated hearts, to think of, if not of justice? The trial of the miscreants is yearned for by the mothers of the American soldiers who were recently done to death by the Germans, and by the mothers of Coventry and the widows of French hostages.

We shall understand one another without words. There is one password: *Berlin!* I don't know whether it is a pass to happiness. We must pay homage to our dead before again filling our homes with porcelain knickknacks. But I do know that it is a pass to life, for we cannot live if the miscreants go unpunished. We cannot sleep if Comrade Chizhik, with the shoes of his two-year-old son, is to haunt the street beneath our windows.

The foreign press is unanimous in saying the Germans are assiduously preparing for a third World War—they obviously don't want to rest on the laurels of their inevitable defeat. They are al-

ready thinking of new campaigns. How can we help thinking of Berlin? We want to be there in 1945. If we don't get there then in 1965 the Germans will again march on Moscow, on Paris and on London. That is as plain as that twice two is four.

Yet there are people who want to forgive the Germans, to allow them a breathing space so that they can take their old games again.

To Berlin! In those words lie our hope—our hope of peace and the safety of our children. *To Berlin!* Not to attack the witch's soul, but to hack off her long arms.

In quiet moments the heart beats loudly, beats with unfailing wrath. *To Berlin!* are marching not only divisions and armies, but also the frozen-hearted mothers, the inconsolable widows and gray-haired children. *To Berlin!* are marching all the gullies and ravines and waste places. *To Berlin!* are marching the cabbages of Maidanek, and the trees of Vitebsk on which the Germans hanged unfortunates. *To Berlin!* are marching the boots, sandals and slippers of the suffocated, and the shoes of a two-year-old boy.

The dead are hammering on the doors of Joachimstallerstrasse, of Koenigsallee, of Unter den Linden and all the accursed streets of an accursed city. The children whom the Germans buried alive have risen from the pits and anti-tank ditches; they are already at the border and are straining towards Berlin, to the homes where the spouses of *Oberscharfuehrer* and *Geheimrats* are emptying the last bottles of champagne, are giving a last slap to Gapa or Oxana or Masha, are saying, "The east wind is blowing. A terrible wind. Put on the fur coat your husband brought from Kiev, or you'll catch cold."

... It isn't the wind. It is the children who have come. The children murdered in Babi Yar ravine by the husbands of these women. The children won't go away. They are our conscience. They are leading our tanks, our infantry.

We will get to Berlin. We say this not boastfully, not cheerfully, but with clenched teeth, with pain in our hearts, with the determination of the Red Army man who wrote, "With tears of blood we will get there."

SLAV FRIENDSHIP—Part II

By Konstantin Simonov

In Southern Serbia

This was my first day among the partisans of Southern Serbia. The anxiety and excitement of the previous night's flight across the German lines—the signal lights below, the landing on a partisan flying field in a forest—were all a thing of the past. We were on terra firma, and the oblique rays of the morning sun broke cheerfully through the window of the hut. I had risen early, while my comrades, tired after the long night's work, were still asleep.

Outside it was already quite light. Far to the north towered the massive Velika Planina Radan, the celebrated partisan mountains through whose labyrinthine gorges and inextricable thickets the partisans had time and again withdrawn from the clutches of the Germans. To the west and northwest the mountains also rose, graduating in the south and east into long, low hills, dappled with autumn-tinted forests.

The sky was blue and filmed here and there with a light haze. From the white walls of the cottages hung bunches of paprika, looking for all the world like scarlet holiday flags. The roofs of the houses were covered with rose-tinted semi-circular tiles. Outside the door stood two saddle horses.

"*Zdravo druzhe*," I called to a partisan seated on the porch, expending in that simple greeting practically my entire stock of Serbian words.

But the partisan, rising and saluting, replied to my astonishment in pure Russian, "*Zdravstvuite*, Comrade Lieutenant Colonel. You are up betimes."

But my astonishment was out of place. The partisan I addressed proved to be a Russian, Ivan by name, who had driven a truck on the Southern Front and had been taken prisoner by the Germans towards the end of 1942. He did not remain in prison long. Sent with a party of war prisoners to do road work in eastern Serbia, he took advantage of an opportunity to escape and made his way through the forests and across the mountains to the partisans.

We mounted and set off together. Be-

yond the village, hemmed in by mountains, lay broad fields covered with the stubble of already garnered corn and wheat. A small herd of cows, their muzzles lowered to the ground, moved slowly to the tinkling of bells across the still green meadow, followed by a little lad with a long whip. A large hat, which evidently belonged to his father, fell low over his eyes.

This peaceful scene breathed all the charm of a true Russian landscape, and only the ring of surrounding hills and mountains reminded me that I was in a distant, though Slav, land.

Ivan rode unhurriedly. Slowly and with a touch of sadness in his voice, as though recounting things remote but unforgettable, he told the story of how he and a merry, high-spirited schoolmaster named Viktor had escaped from the Germans. Viktor became a partisan and was killed in action. A powerful giant of a man, he led an attack, striding forward with a light machine gun balanced in his hands. He was killed only 50 paces from the Germans by a bullet that passed straight through his heart. But the attack succeeded. The partisans buried him outside the village they captured and raised a stone cross over his grave, which the girls adorned with wreaths.

"Then," Ivan continued, "the Germans and the Chetniks returned to the village. They opened the grave and stripped Viktor of the new uniform he was buried in. Then they sprinkled a thin layer of stones over the body. But in the night, the peasants came and opened the grave and buried Viktor in another spot."

"Now that the village is in our hands again," Ivan added, "he will be buried in the place in which he was first put."

"How do you know that?" I asked. "Again," Ivan added, "he will be buried him won't get to that village again?"

"It makes no difference. The peasants will put him back in his grave all the same."

"Are you sure of that?"

"Absolutely."

And his words breathed a deep, confident faith in the brotherhood of the people he had learned to love.

We made a circuit of the village and returned. During the day we again mounted our horses and rode some five kilometers to a village where the Serbian headquarters were located. There was no turnpike to bar the road, it is true, but to all appearances the approaches to the village were well guarded—for three times on the way, men armed with tommy guns appeared out of the roadside bushes and challenged us.

The staff headquarters was scattered all over the village. The room in which General Kocha Popovich, the commander, was quartered had an air of soldierly simplicity. The cot was covered with a dark, coarse blanket; a large peasant dining table served as a work desk. On the walls hung portraits of Tito, Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill against a background of their national flags.

Kocha Popovich was about to make a tour of inspection of his units stationed outside Nish, and agreed to take me with him.

Prokuple, which we reached after several hours of riding, had been taken by the partisans long ago, but at the railway yards the evidences of German defeat were still visible in the burned-out armored cars and tanks, and the wrecked and charred trains. On the scorched armor of the tanks someone had painted in bold, red letters—presumably in the first flush of victory and jubilation—"Zhiveo Tito, Zhiveo Red Army, Zhiveo Soviet Union!"

In the central square of the little town stood a monument to the war of 1914, a bronze Serbian soldier on a granite pedestal. I involuntarily recalled Negotin, the first free Yugoslav city I had seen on this trip. There, too, in the central square, stood a monument to the war of 1914, a large spread eagle on a gray granite pyramid. Nearby stood another monument erected in one day out of gray, hastily hewn granite blocks—to two Russian tankists, Captain Sedelnikov and Sergeant Shor, who had fallen in battle for the liberation of this city. The two monuments stood side by side, and the bronze eagle seemed to take the grave of the two Russians under its protective wing.

The path we followed after leaving

Prokuple could hardly be called a road. We picked our way across hills, slopes, dams and streams. All the way we fell in with partisan units, either bivouacking or on the move.

"We are gathering for a big *pokret* (campaign)," Kocha explained to me.

A mere glance at the partisan column on the march made clear how these men could travel dozens of kilometers a day through the mountains. There was nothing heavy or cumbersome to impede their movement. There were no baggage trains or anything resembling a supply service. The men carried the machine guns and light mortars themselves. Medium mortars, mountain guns and the cauldrons in which food was cooked were likewise strapped to the horses, who from afar looked like small camels.

By midday we reached the headquarters of the 11th Partisan Brigade and found the usual picture: a cottage, a table and maps.

From the brigade headquarters we proceeded to the headquarters of a partisan division which, in expectation of an offensive, was now stationed in Brast, a small village quite close to Nish. From the outskirts of Brast could be seen a section of the road to Nish, receding into the distance and half hidden by the hills, and lying in a hollow, Nish itself, the Germans' chief citadel in southeastern Serbia.

Milya Chulovich, Divisional Commander, at once began reporting to the general on the preparations he was making for the forthcoming offensive.

Meanwhile, having learned that for several months two Russian volunteers, Sinodov, a surgeon, and Liza Kiryanova, a nurse, had been sharing the hardships and dangers of the partisan division, I asked one of the men to go and bring them to us. About a quarter of an hour later they both appeared. Sinodov looked the typical Russian surgeon; Liza was a pretty red-cheeked girl. They at once showered me with questions about Moscow and it was some time before I could get Sinodov to talk about his work.

"Everything is going fine, except for the fact that there are no motor vehicles here. The front is long and scattered. Severely wounded men often travel two or three days in carts before they can get

medical attention. Sometimes they have to be carried for days across the mountains on hand stretchers. The result is that a wound which might easily be healed may become fatal."

After a moment's silence, Sinodov added, "All the same, we save most of our patients' lives. We do everything in our power for them. And you see the type of men they are. The other day we made our first blood transfusion." These last words he uttered with professional pride.

"Well, and was it successful?" I inquired.

"It was. The patient was a young lad from a neighboring village. He had had his leg blown away by a bomb."

"I presume, then, that you already have a staff of donors?"

Nurse Liza made a hurried sign of dissent in the direction of the surgeon, but the latter only smiled and said:

"Oh, yes, here they all are standing before you, the staff of blood donors. It was Liza who gave the first blood for the boy."

We left the village and mounted the incline. Before turning the car, Kocha cast a last glance back to the hollow where Nish lay.

We returned through Prokuple. While making a brief halt in the local commandant's office, a short, heavy-set girl entered the room. Kocha rose and shook her hand long and vigorously, with evident delight.

"Still in the First Proletarian?" he asked her.

"Yes, still here. I have come with some papers."

"Fine," said Kocha and continued to beam at her. "Still alive?"

"Alive and kicking, as you see."

They sat side by side for about five minutes, and as far as I could make out in the swift exchange of questions and answers, they were recalling old comrades some of whom were dead and others alive, and some wounded while others had been transferred to other divisions. Then the girl rose, and shaking the general warmly by the hand took her leave.

"Real sterling stuff," Kocha said, turning to me.

"Nurse, I suppose?"

"Just now, yes. But the first year, when

I commanded the Proletarian Division, she was fighting in the ranks."

"What is her name?"

"Her name?" Kocha hesitated, and then after a long pause—"to tell the truth, I don't remember. I know who she is, I know where she fought and how she fought, but I just cannot remember her name. But, for that matter," he added with a smile, "I had a different name myself then. I was known simply as PPA, my underground name. In those days, when she and I fought together, I used to wear peasant's clothes and had a pair of whiskers like this."

And he made a gesture with his hands to show what enormous whiskers he had. Then he fingered a small, almost imperceptible badge with the year 1941, fastened to his left breast.

"One day this little thing will be more precious to us than any medals or orders. Only those who began fighting from the very first, in 1941, wear these badges. It's the same for all of us, from the commanding general down to the man in the ranks. That girl has one, too."

Our road from Prokuple wound through a deep gorge. Suddenly the black sky behind us was lit up by the flicker of artillery fire. The flickers came in swift succession and accompanied us nearly all the way back to headquarters.

"That's way back, on the other side of Nish," said Kocha. "—over yonder where your troops and the Bulgarians are. Mark my words, you and I will soon be in Nish."

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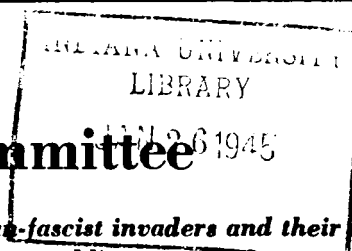
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Statement of Extraordinary State Committee



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 Crimes Committed by the German-fascist Invaders on the Territory of Lvov Region, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

When on June 30, 1941, they broke into the city of Lvov, the German invaders proclaimed that the Lvov Region would henceforth be known as the "District of Galicia," and instituted in it their so-called "new order" of unrestrained plunder, violence, torture, mass shootings and murders of the civilian population.

The murders of Soviet citizens were committed not by isolated bandit groups of German officers and men, but by German military formations, police and SS troops working deliberately, in an organized manner, to plans elaborated by the German government. Special machinery was set up for the mass extermination of Soviet citizens, and a network of camps was organized for their destruction.

Chief inspirer and organizer of this system of extermination of the people was the German Reichsminister Himmler, who repeatedly visited Lvov to inspect and check up on the activities of the "death factories" instituted on his orders.

To investigate the crimes perpetrated by the German-fascist invaders, the Extraordinary State Committee appointed a Special Commission composed of Major General GRUSHETSKY; KOZYREV and SADOVOI, Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; Doctor TREGUB-GRUSHKO; BOIKO, President of the Executive Committee of Lvov City Soviet; TURCHENKO, VISHNEVSKY and KUZMIN, representing the Extraordinary

State Committee. The chief medico-legal expert of the Red Army, Doctor of Medical Science AVDEYEV, the assistant chief medico-legal expert of the Red Army, PUKHNAREVICH, the medico-legal expert GOLAYEV; GERASSIMOV, expert criminologist; KORNETOV, Procurator of Lvov Region, and PRIZHANOWSKY, chief of the Investigation Department of the Lvov Regional Procurator's Office, participated in the work of the Commission.

On the basis of the investigations of the Special Commission, the findings of the medico-legal experts and the testimony of numerous witnesses—both Soviet citizens and citizens of foreign States—the Extraordinary State Committee has established that in Lvov, Rava Russka, Zolochiv, Sokal, Yavorov, Zolkwa, Gorodok, Brody, Podkamen, Novo-Rychevsk, Vano Franko and other districts of the Lvov Region, the German invaders exterminated about 700,000 Soviet citizens—men, women and children—as well as nationals of Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Holland, Great Britain and the United States of America who had been brought to Lvov from concentration camps in Germany.

Massacre of Prominent Intellectuals

Even before the seizure of Lvov, the Gestapo detachments were in possession of lists, drawn up on the instructions of the German government, of the most prominent intellectuals, who were to be

destroyed. Mass arrests and shootings began directly Lvov was captured.

The Gestapo arrested Professor Tadeusz Boj-Zelenski, a member of the Union of Soviet Writers, and author of numerous literary works; Professor Roman Recki of the Medical Institute; Vladimir Seradski, Dean of the University and Professor of Forensic Medicine; Roman Longchamp Deberrier, Doctor of Law, together with his three sons; Professor Tadeusz Ostrowski, Professor Jan Grek, Professor Henryk Gilarowicz, the surgeon; Professor Anton Tesziaski, the stomatologist; Witold Nowicki, Professor of Pathological Anatomy; Vladimir Stozhek and Anton Lomnicki, Doctors of Physico-Mathematical Sciences; Academician Solovii; Kazimir Bartel, an honorary member of many academies of sciences; Stanislaw Pilat, Doctor of Chemical Science; Kaspar Vaisel, Roman Witkiewicz and Vladimir Rukowskin, Doctors of Technical Science; Professor Stanislaw Progulski, Professor Mendzewski, Adam Fiszer, the ethnographer; Kazimir Vetulyani, Doctor of Technical Science; the prominent lawyer Professor Mauricius Arerhand, a member of Poland's Codification Committee; the Lvov authoress Galina Glyska, the critic Ostap Ortvin; the university lecturers Auerbach and Piasiecki; Vander, the physicist; Simon Blumental, the engineer; Ruff, the surgeon; Czortrover, a university lecturer, and other professors

and teachers employed in local educational establishments.

Professor Groer, of Lvov Medical Institute, who escaped death by chance, informed the Special Commission: "At midnight on July 3, 1941, I was arrested and put in a truck. In it I found Professors Grek, Boj-Zelenski and others. We were taken to the Bursa Abragamovichev House. While leading us through a corridor the Gestapo men humiliated us, pushed us with rifle-butts, pulled our hair and knocked our heads . . . Later on I saw the Germans escort five professors from the Bursa Abragamovichev House; four of them were carrying the blood-stained body of the son of Ruff, the famous surgeon. The Germans had killed him during examination. Ruff, junior, was also a specialist. This entire group of professors proceeded under escort in the direction of Kadetskaya Mountain. Fifteen or 20 minutes later I heard a rifle volley from the direction in which the professors had been taken."

The better to insult the human dignity of the arrested scientists the Germans resorted to the most refined torture, and then shot them. Goltzman, a resident of Lvov, informed the Special Commission that in July, 1941, he himself saw 20 persons, including four professors, lawyers and doctors, brought into the yard of 8 Arciszewski street. "One of them I knew by name—he was Kreps, a Doctor of Law. There were five or six women in this group. The SS forced them to wash staircases with their tongues and lips in seven sections of the four-storeyed house. When all these staircases had been washed they forced the same people to gather garbage in the courtyard with their lips. All this garbage was to be carried to one place in the courtyard . . . the janitor at 8 Arciszewski street saw all this with me. When the work had been completed the Gestapo men selected five persons from this group, took them out of the town and shot them."

Bodies Exhumed and Burned

The fascist invaders carefully concealed their extermination of intellectuals. The Germans waved away the repeated inquiries made by relatives and friends who wanted to know the fate of the scientists. They pretended that they "had no information." On the order of Ger-

man Reichsminister Himmler, Gestapo men in autumn, 1943, burned the bodies of the professors they had shot. Mandel and Korn, who were formerly imprisoned in the Yanovska Camp, and who conducted the exhuming of the bodies, testified before the Commission:

"On the night of October 5, 1943, between Kadetskaya and Uletskaya streets, by order of one of the Gestapo men we opened by searchlight a hole from which we exhumed 36 bodies. We burned all these bodies. While taking the bodies from the hole we discovered documents belonging to Professor Ostrovski, Stozhek, Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, and Professor Kazimir Bartel of the Polytechnical Institute."

It was ascertained as a result of investigations that during the early months of their occupation of Lvov the Germans arrested and killed more than 70 of the most prominent representatives of science, technology and art.

Mass Extermination

Dr. Waechter, the German Governor of "the Galicia District," of which the Lvov Region was a part, and SS Major General Katzmann set up a so-called "forced labor camp" in Yanov street, Lvov, in November, 1941. It was surrounded by a brick wall and barbed wire. Into this camp the Germans herded civilians and war prisoners, who were starved and forced to do work beyond human strength. They were brutally beaten with clubs and infected with typhoid and dysentery. Their daily food ration consisted of two glasses of black "coffee" made of sawdust, 100 grams of bread with an admixture of the same sawdust, and a plateful of soup made of potato peelings. This ration was not even enough to sustain life. Thousands of the prisoners died from hunger, typhus or dysentery, or were shot.

SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Gebauer instituted at the Yanovska Camp a savage system of extermination. After his appointment to another post this system was "perfected" by camp commandants SS Obersturmfuehrer Gustav Wilhaus and SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Franz Warzok. "With my own eyes," a former inmate of the camp told the Commission, "I saw SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Fritz Gebauer strangle women and children. I saw them place

men to freeze in barrels of water, in the depth of winter. The barrels were filled with water, and then the victims were tied hand and foot and put into the water. The doomed people remained in the barrels until they froze to death."

German Command Encouraged 'Initiative'

From the testimony of many Soviet war prisoners, as well as of French national liberation fighters held in the German camps, it has been ascertained that the German bandits "invented" most refined methods for the extermination of human beings. This initiative they regarded as a matter of special merit: it was encouraged by the Supreme Military Command and the German government.

SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Franz Warzok, for example, liked to hang war prisoners to poles by the feet, and leave them in this position until they died. Obersturmbannfuehrer Rokita personally ripped open war prisoners' stomachs. The chief of the Investigation Department of the Yanovska Camp, Heine, used to perforate the bodies of war prisoners with a stick or iron rod; he used to pull out the fingernails of women prisoners with pliers, then undress his victims, hang them by the hair and set them swinging. Then he would shoot at the "moving target."

The Commandant of the Yanovska Camp, Obersturmfuehrer Wilhaus, partly for sport, and partly to amuse his wife and daughter, used regularly to fire from a tommy gun from the balcony of the camp office at war prisoners occupied in the workshops. Then he would pass his tommy gun to his wife, who also shot at them. On one occasion, to please his nine-year-old daughter, Wilhaus made someone toss two four-year-old children into the air, while he fired at them. His daughter applauded and cried: "Papa, do again; papa, do it again!" He did so.

Child Hacked in Two

In this camp war prisoners were exterminated without any pretext, often for a bet. The witness Kirschner informed the Investigation Commission that Wepke, a Gestapo Kommissar, boasted to other camp executioners that he would cut a boy into two parts with one blow of a hatchet. They did not believe him, so he caught a ten-year-old boy in the street

ted him to his knees, made him put palms together and hide his face in m, made a trial stroke, adjusted the 's head and with a single blow of the chet slashed him in two. The Hitlerites igratulated Wepke warmly and shook a by the hand.

In 1943, on Hitler's fifty-fourth birth- the Commandant of Yanovska Camp, ersturmfuehrer Wilhaus, picked out 54 r prisoners and shot them with his own ds. In the camp there was a so-called spital for prisoners. The German hang- n Brambauer and Birmann examined e patients on the 1st and 15th of every onth, and if they found among them y patients who had been in a hospital er a fortnight they shot them on the or. Six or seven people were killed dur- g every such examination.

The Germans conducted their tortures, atings and shootings to the accompani- of music. For this purpose they or- nized a special orchestra of prisoners. hey forced Professor Stricks and the ell-known conductor Mund to lead this rchestra. They told composers to write a ecial tune, which they called "The eath Tango." Not long before the camp as liquidated the Germans shot all the embers of the orchestra.

The Valley of Death

The fascists shot more than 200,000 eaceful Soviet people in the Yanovska Camp. Mantel, formerly a prisoner there, estified:

"During my two months' stay in the amp the Germans killed about 60,000 prisoners, including 8,000 children. The main site for the mass shootings was a ditch which the prisoners called 'the val- ley of death,' about a quarter of a mile from the camp."

On the territory of the camp, the Com- mission discovered these pits full of bodies of Soviet citizens shot during the second half of July, 1944. According to the testimony of witnesses and relatives of the murdered people, the Germans used this place as an execution ground for Soviet people brought from various Gestapo prisons. Contrary to their usual procedure, the Hitlerites did not search the clothes of the murdered people. The Commission found identification papers in the pockets of the clothes of those tor- tured to death. From these papers it was

ascertained that among those murdered and tortured to death were Vasili Rybi (born 1910), Vasili Panasyuk, Mikhail Okun, Yegor Soroka (born 1921, a na- tive of Lvov), Rudolf Rybakovsky (born 1913, a native of Lvov), Leon Govalevich, Lakhraikh (born 1913, a native of the village of Sedliska, in the Lvov Region), Varfolomei Tsigannik (born 1904, a na- tive of the village of Komarno, where he lived at 66 Sadovaya street), Mikhail Vonsovich (born 1905), Vasili Tayak, Mikhail Gavrilov (born 1904), Czeslav Bely (born 1914, who lived in Lvov), Alexander Sinerukhin (born 1916) and Vasili Tabino (born 1919).

The Findings

The Commission of medico-legal ex- perts, having investigated the "valley of death" in the Yanovska Camp and ex- amined the testimony of the witnesses, ascertained that:

1. Mass murders of peaceful civilians were carried out in the Yanovska Camp.

2. The murders were effected mainly by the standard German technique—a shot through the small of the head. Some were murdered by a shot through the roof of the skull.

3. On the territory adjoining the Yanovska Camp the Germans carried out mass burying and subsequently burning of bodies. The burnings were spread over a long period, and the sites were scattered over the territory of the camp, but mostly they took place in a gully.

4. The earth in this gully proved to be saturated to a considerable depth with corpse fluids and fats, with the smell of decay and burning.

5. The nature of the ashes discovered, consisting of small bits of bone, and the brittleness of the larger bone fragments, testify that the burning of the bodies was carried out at a high temperature. The ashes remaining after the bodies were burned were buried in various places on the territory of the camp at a depth of three to six feet: in all, 59 such sites were found. Moreover, ashes and bones were found on the surface of the soil over nearly all the camp territory examined by the Commission. Considering that the total area of burials and scattering of ashes and bones occupies nearly two square kilometers, the Commission of ex- perts considers that over 200,000 Soviet

citizens were exterminated in the Yanov- ska Camp.

In July, 1941, the German Military Command set up a concentration camp for prisoners of war in the center of Lvov, on the territory of the fortress called the Citadel. The Germans forced the prison- ers to work from morning till late at night, under threat of shooting. The prison premises were not heated, and the prisoners died in tens of thousands from starvation, beating, sickness or shooting.

On the basis of witnesses' testimony it was ascertained that more than 280,000 prisoners of war had been kept in the Citadel Camp, of whom more than 140,- 000 died by starvation, sickness, torture or shooting.

One of the witnesses, Nikifor Golyuk, who had been held in this camp from July 8, 1941, to April, 1942, told the Commission: "I was a medical worker in this camp, and I knew that in the four months from August to November, 1941, about 3,000 prisoners of war died from dysentery alone. The German command took no measures to combat disease. On the contrary, the Germans deliberately brought to this camp from Camp No. 385 in Rava Russka people who were sick with typhus, and placed them in groups of ten in barracks among healthy prison- ers of war. After this, typhus epidemics inevitably broke out, causing the death of about 5,000 prisoners of war between November, 1941, and March, 1942."

When they inspected the Citadel Camp the Commission found in the cells in- scriptions made by tortured war prison- ers: "Here Russian war prisoners perished by the thousand from hunger.—January 22, 1944." "Gallant Russian Army, not only the peoples await you impatiently, but also war prisoners who are doomed to die of hunger. How hard it is to die."

The Germans also shot civilians and war prisoners in large groups in the Lisinski Forest on the outskirts of Lvov, in the Tarnopol direction. To that forest the Germans daily escorted, either on foot or in trucks, large groups of Soviet war prisoners from the Citadel Camp, prison- ers from the Yanovska Camp and the Lvov prisons, also civilians arrested in the squares and streets of Lvov during the numerous round-ups.

The Commission of medico-legal ex-

perts, which examined the sites where Soviet war prisoners were shot, found on the surface and in various pits ashes and human bones, false teeth, personal articles, human hairs. "Remnants of brain matter, hair, personal articles and the pungent smell of corpses in the pits testify that the bodies first lay there for a long time, and then were exhumed and burned."

Investigation revealed that the Germans shot over 200,000 persons in Lisincki Forest.

A Frenchwoman's Evidence

In September, 1941, on the orders of Major General Katzmann of the SS police, a ghetto which the Germans called the "Judenlager" (Jewish Camp) was set up on the outskirts of Lvov. No one was allowed to leave the ghetto, which was surrounded by barbed wire. Jews were led to and from work under armed escort; 136,000 persons were confined in this camp. The population of the ghetto was plundered. Living conditions were appalling. People slept on the bare floor and under the open sky. The Jews were treated worse than cattle.

The Germans carried out mass round-ups of Jews in the city. They spared neither men, women or children. The adults they simply murdered, while the children were given away to Hitler-Jugend squads as shooting targets.

A French subject, Ida Vasseau, directress of a home for aged and invalid French people which existed in Lvov for a long time before the war, made the following written statement on this matter:

"... After the coming of the German authorities we were constantly expecting murders. And indeed hardly two or three days passed without our hearing Tommy-gun fire, which convinced us they were shooting Jews—these unfortunate people. I had an opportunity to visit the ghetto. Hygienic conditions were appalling: 15 to 20 people lived in each room, without water or electricity. Prices were terribly high, and as always, the power of money played its part. The unfortunates went hungry. Once a week they were visited by the Gestapo, which took some to Bielziec (Poland) while others were sent to a sand ditch to be shot.

"The doomed people were taken away clad only in their shirts. The German robbers had the impudence to take away

their clothes and send the loot to Germany by the truckload. The little children were martyrs. They were given away to the Hitler-Jugend, which used them as live targets for shooting practice . . .

'Let Us Remember'

"No pity for others, everything for themselves—that was the Germans' motto. The whole world must know about their methods. We who were helpless witnesses of these abominable scenes must tell about these horrors so that everyone should know about them, and—what is most important—not forget them . . . To forget would be treason against humanity. The sufferings of Soviet, French, British and American prisoners must be avenged. Let us remember until the end of our days. Ida Vasseau."

The ghetto existed from September 7, 1941, to June 6, 1943. In this time the Germans exterminated over 133,000 people, some of whom were shot in the ghetto and some in the Yanovska Camp, while the remainder were sent for extermination to the German death camp in Bielziec (Poland).

The Germans carried out mass murders of Soviet people in other towns of the Region besides the city of Lvov. In Rava Russka they set up a war prisoners' camp. From June, 1941, to April, 1942, more than 18,000 Soviet war prisoners were held in this camp. By the end of that period all had been exterminated. War prisoners brought to this camp were stripped of their clothes by the Germans, left in their underwear and driven to work undressed and without footwear. When they dropped from exhaustion, the Germans would finish them off with bayonets or Tommy guns.

Vasili Kochak, of the village of Yanyche, in the Magerovo district, made the following statement to the Investigation Commission:

"I worked in the Soviet war prisoners' camp from December, 1941, to April, 1942. During that period, by hunger, cold and shooting, the Germans killed about 15,000 war prisoners. The bodies of the dead and shot people were carried away on tractor trailers to Volkovitsky Forest.

"When the hungry, exhausted war prisoners were being escorted through the grounds of the camp they would often

rush to the heaps of rotten and frozen potatoes, but the guards would shoot them on the spot. I saw war prisoners taken out quite naked in the depths of winter, roped to a wall or a post, and kept there until they froze to death."

Everywhere throughout the region, and especially in the towns of Zolochiv, Sokal, Yavorov, Zolkwa, Gorodok and Brody, the Germans engaged in the mass extermination of Soviet people.

Germans Exterminated Thousands Of Nationals of Foreign Countries

The Extraordinary State Committee has ascertained that the German government systematically transferred war prisoners and civilians of foreign countries from concentration camps situated in Germany to camps in the Lvov Region, and tortured and murdered them there.

A Lvov resident, Bich, told the Commission: "When I was imprisoned in the Yanovska Camp, besides Ukrainians, Poles and Jews there were subjects of France, Czechoslovakia, Italy and other countries there."

The Germans forced the war prisoners of these nationalities to do work beyond human endurance, beat them up, starved and deliberately exterminated them. All this is confirmed by the testimony of numerous Soviet citizens and of French war prisoners liberated by the Red Army from imprisonment in the German Citadel and Yanovska Camps, Lvov.

French Prisoners Humiliated

Emile Leger, a native of the town of Angouleme, Charente Department of France, captured by the Germans on June 13, 1940, in Champagne, France, stated: "From the very first moment of my captivity I experienced the brutal methods used by the Germans. . . . We were forced to work without rest, without adequate food, under threat of death. We were worn out and louse-ridden. We had no footwear. Our clothes were in tatters. When we complained about it we were told: 'What you're getting is too good for you French swine.'

"All this time we had no news from our families. When we asked permission to write to them, the Germans told us: 'What for? Your relatives are certain to have been killed, and your wives will be living with German soldiers by now.'

"In 1941 I saw the first group of Russian war prisoners arrive at the Neu-Brandenburg Stalag. It was terrible. The Russians were simply skeletons, barely alive. Many of them had bayonet wounds on the buttocks and backs.

"The Germans murdered some of them. Others dropped dead from exhaustion at the least exertion. The dead were stripped of their clothes, loaded on a cart and taken to a common grave near the Stalag. The cart used to bring a load of bread and vegetables for the kitchen on its return journey to the Stalag. There were bloodstains on it. This abominable thing made us understand what refined cruelty the Germans are capable of.

"Every morning German officers and non-coms would go along to the Russian war prisoners' camp. They used to say openly: 'We are going to the shooting range to practice on live targets.' About 200 Russian soldiers died every day; they were murdered, or died from diseases or hunger.

"Many of these murders took place before my eyes. I saw the horrible method by which German soldiers killed Russian war prisoners. They bashed in their heads with clubs or with their boots. They said: 'Russian dogs are not worth a bullet.' The boches in this camp displayed the supreme refinement of barbarity and cruelty.

"In January, 1943, I was sent to Disciplinary Camp No. 325 in Galicia (Rava Russka—Tarnopol—Lvov). Here the regime was even more brutal. Many Frenchmen were murdered in this Stalag. That was terror. Everyone had one hope, one thought—to die.

"During my imprisonment in Lvov I was put to work paving streets. This enabled me to witness the murdering of tens of thousands of people by the Germans. At night the streets were blocked with heaps of bodies of murdered people, men, women and children."

Another witness, Kleman, told the Investigation Commission about the horrors of German camps he had experienced as a prisoner:

"I was doing military service in Saint Avoide, near Metz, in the 18th Cavalry Regiment. I was captured by the Germans on June 4, 1940, in Saint Cloud, Seine Department. . . . I arrived at the

Rava Russka war prisoners' camp on September 3, 1942. The British gave this camp the name of 'Slow Death.'

"In that camp there was only one water tap for 12,000 men. We were allowed to use it only for four or five hours a day. . . . The German guards terrorized us. We were threatened with death for the smallest offense. We were not allowed to drink water. We starved. In the morning, during roll call, we were hardly able to stand on our feet. We were given 200 grams of bread per day. In the morning we received hot water with pine needles in it, and half a liter of soup in the afternoon. Often the soup was plain water. We slept on the ground. There were fleas and lice everywhere.

On the Way to Work . . .

"The Russian war prisoners in the camp died by the thousand from hunger and typhus. . . . At night Jewish women and men were murdered in Rava Russka. The machine gun worked all night. In the morning, on the way to work, I myself saw large numbers of bodies. The Germans . . . had not even taken the trouble to remove them."

Former French war prisoner No. 18,057/12/D, Marcel Rivette, made the following statement on the German atrocities:

" . . . I served in Saarlouis (Mosel) in the 59th Infantry Regiment. During the general mobilization I was sent to the 60th Army Motorized Regiment. On June 24, 1940, I was captured by the Germans in the Vosges. . . . In Trier I met Russian prisoners for the first time. They were treated very badly. There were also Poles among the war prisoners. The Russians lived separately in their cells and were given potato peelings for food.

"In Stalag 12 A, in Limburg, war prisoners were treated even more brutally. At six in the morning we were driven out of the barracks with clubs. . . . At noon we were given soup—which the Russians had to eat standing. If any of them sat down a rifle cracked or a machine gun rattled at once. A French comrade would pick up the fallen man and carry him to the hospital, where he stayed until the doctor came to certify his death. Fifteen to 20 Russians died every day. The

deaths were caused by hunger, disease or murder.

Ate Grass and Earthworms

"A French doctor who performed post-mortem examinations used to find grass and earthworms, which the starving war prisoners had eaten, in their intestines. . . . The chief of Stalag 12 A, Baron von Bock, decided the men were taking too long to assemble in the barracks (there were 1,200 men in barracks Nos. 7 and 8). An order followed saying that everyone must be ready in four minutes, and permission was given to prick those who were late with bayonets. Non-com Schreiner got a lot of pleasure out of doing this. . . .

"We were transferred to Rava Russka. There we were deeply distressed by the bad state of the Russian prisoners. It was January 10, the thermometer showed 10 to 15 degrees below zero, and many of them were only in their shirts and underwear, barefoot and without caps, and all were terribly thin—almost skeletons. All of them had bayonet wounds on the backs and buttocks.

"We managed to talk to the Russians, and learned that they were war prisoners and were working right on the front line. When we asked them why they were undressed, they told us that the Germans had stolen their clothes for their own use. . . .

"After two days of checking and summoning we were placed in a dark basement. We were given no food. It was 20 degrees below zero. There were among us soldiers from North Africa who suffered terribly from the cold.

"On June 1, 1943, there was a blood bath in which 10,000 people were murdered. Some were taken to other places. Next day, on our way to work in the morning, we saw many bodies of women, children and men lying in pools of blood.

"The Germans murdered all Jews indiscriminately, wherever they met them. It defied the imagination.

"The murders lasted about one month. The Soviet Army entered Lvov. And since then we have been free, and are awaiting an early return to France. I hope the Germans will pay in full for the blood they have shed and be punished for everything they have done. Marcel Rivette, war prisoner No. 18,057/12/D."

Living Buried with Typhus Victims

George Lafoule told the Commission: "After five trying days we arrived in Rava Russka at night. They dragged us along, as most of the war prisoners were absolutely exhausted. A German non-com shouted to us: 'Here you are in the sunny land.' But what terror this camp was! . . . A German aide-de-camp told us that over 3,000 Russian war prisoners had died of typhus in Rava Russka camp. 'We bury them right on the premises. Sometimes live men get mixed up among the corpses. They are just thrown into the pits and covered with lime, which suffocates them.'

"Every week 1,000 Frenchmen who had run away from Germany were brought to the camp. These were men who did not want to work for Germany's victory. . . ."

Near Rava Russka, within 200 yards of the town hospital, and within 50 yards of the highway on the forest edge, the Commission discovered 22 grave-mounds. Some were still marked by crosses with French inscriptions. The Commission of medico-legal experts opened two mounds.

In one of them was found the body of a man in French army uniform with the figure 24 on his collar. No papers were found on the body. In another grave the Commission found the bodies of two men, unclad, and with traces of burning all over the surface.

The inscriptions on the crosses over the grave-mounds indicated that here were buried the following Frenchmen: Roger Bone (born 1911), Pierre Gody (born 1915), Pierre Dastu, Joseph Leplay (aged 30), Armand Samier, Roger Blondy (aged 29), Paul Posset (aged 34), Andre Guyon (aged 30), Charles Reynaud (aged 29), Eugene Vitto (aged 34), Camille Sirgue, Alfonse Bonnoit, Roger Cottier and others. Investigation showed that they had been tortured to death.

The German invaders, devoid of all morals, exterminated everyone they did not like, Russians, Ukrainians, Jews, Poles, French, Czechs, and even Italians, their companions-in-arms of yesterday.

Italians Shot

Nina Petruszkowna, a Polish woman who worked during the German occupa-

tion as interpreter in the Etruvo Italiano squad, stated:

"After Mussolini's fall the fascists demanded that the Italian soldiers stationed in Lvov should take an oath of allegiance to Hitlerite Germany. Many of them refused to take the oath. All who refused were arrested by the fascists. Two thousand Italians were arrested in this way, and all of them were shot by the Germans.

"Among those shot there were five generals and 45 officers of the Italian army whom I knew. Among those shot there were the following generals and officers of the Italian army: Major Generals Enrico Mangianini, Alfredo Fornarolli and Giuseppe Gianotti; Colonels Luigi Mangianini, Acenzo and Carlo Stefanini, the officers Gino Carusso, Luigi Fuzzarolli, Tomaso Serafini, Enrico Fornarolli, Nino Manto, Eduardo Mongianini, Alfredo Lombardi, Livno Corsini, Giovanni Giaconini, Luigi Stefanini, Oleno Persini, Ricardo Castellani, Tulio Persianini, Marino Delnieri, Alfredo Morossi, Giorgio Castori, Alfredo Bastianini, Eduardo Storelli, Giovanni Binami, Gino Valentini, Luigi Savo, Ricardo Sabo, Emanuelo Vintenti, Lorenzo Veranini, Alfonso Toscano, Massino Rodocanacci, Marcello Liberi, Roberto Christianini, Giuseppe Citrini, Emilio Paolini, Donato Bisceze, Luigi Giantini, Tulio Giatoni, Pulio Giacotto, Evald Torosse, Sergio Crestianini, Lorenzo Cedrianini, Alfredo Valentino, Picardo Causuro, Benito Rusini, Tulio Tiorsini, Marino Cristallinini, Antonio Farino, Marino Calnieri, Luigi Massoni and Marino Calzari."

Ida Vasseau, a citizen of the French Republic, also confirmed the shooting of Italian generals, officers and men by the Germans: "After Mussolini's retirement," she says, "the Germans arrested all Italians who refused to join the Fascist Party and killed them. Their bodies disappeared. No doubt they were burned or covered with quicklime."

Special Measures Taken by the German Invaders to Cover Up Their Crimes

As a result of the successful offensive of the Red Army and the panicky retreat of the German-fascist troops, the Hitlerite government and Military Command proceeded to cover up their monstrous crimes

in exterminating civilians. Soviet war prisoners and nationals of France, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, Holland, Belgium, the United States of America and Great Britain, who had been kept in German concentration camps in the Lvov Region.

On the instructions of Reichsminister of Germany Himmler and Major General of SS Police Katzmann, in June, 1943, special measures were taken to exhume and burn the bodies of civilians, Soviet war prisoners and nationals of foreign States who had been tortured to death or shot. In Lvov the Germans formed a special Sonderkommando, No. 1,005, consisting of 126 men. Chief of this squad was Hauptsturmbannfuehrer Scherlak; his assistant was Hauptsturmbannfuehrer Rauch.

The duties of the Sonderkommando included exhuming and burning the bodies of civilians and war prisoners murdered by the Germans. SD Scharfuehrer Rauch and SD Oberwachmeister Kepick were in charge. The bodies extracted from the pits were laid on special platforms in stacks containing 1,200 to 1,600 bodies each. Tar and petrol were poured on the bodies, which were then burned. The ashes and remnants of bones were sifted in order to collect gold articles—gold fillings, teeth, rings, watches.

Eyewitnesses — Velichker, Hamaides and others—testify that during five months of their work in the "death team" 110 kilograms of gold were sifted out of the ashes of bodies they had burned, and dispatched to Germany. The ashes were scattered on the fields or buried; large bones were collected separately and crushed in a bone-crusher which was specially designed to speed up the "work."

The Germans failed to destroy the bone-crusher, and it remained on the territory of the former Yanovska Camp as material evidence of the bloody crimes of the Hitlerite executioners. The German SD Scharfuehrer Elitko was in charge of the crushing of bones of people tortured to death.

A former inmate of Yanovska Camp, Velichker, whom the Germans forced to work in the team engaged in exhuming and burning bodies, testified:

"I worked from June 6, 1943, to November 20, 1943, in the 'death team' em-

ployed in burning bodies. During this time the team burned more than 310,000 bodies, including about 170,000 on the sandstone of Yanovska Camp, and over 140,000 in Lisincki Forest. This number includes bodies which were exhumed by the team, as well as those which were not buried, and burned directly after shooting.

"On November 20, 1943, our whole team escaped. Only a few remained alive—most were killed while trying to escape. The German hangmen formed another team of prisoners, who continued with the work of burning bodies. I do not know how many bodies were burned after my escape, but I know that burning of bodies in Lisincki Forest continued until January, 1944."

The witness Manussevich, who also worked in the "death team," testified:

"After burning bodies in the gully, near the Yanovska Camp, we were taken at night on trucks to Lisincki Forest, where we opened 45 pits full of bodies of people who had been shot. From the uniforms, marks of distinction, buttons, medals and orders we identified among the bodies Red Army men, French, Belgian and Italian war prisoners. There were also bodies of civilians among them."

Graves Camouflaged as at Katyn

The Medico-Legal Experts Commission, headed by Professor Avdeyev, chief expert of the Red Army, examined the places where the bodies had been buried and burned in Lisincki, and established:

"The symmetrical positions of the young trees in the grounds in which pits full of ashes were found—some of which trees have withered or are developing poorly—indicate that the trees were planted on these grounds artificially, in order to camouflage the grounds. For the same purpose tree-stumps were planted on the surface of these grounds.

"These facts show that the German-fascist authorities strove persistently to cover up the traces of their crimes. The place chosen for the peculiar 'death factories,' in the center of a gully, was concealed almost on all sides from curious eyes by hills and trees, and this fact too helped the Germans to act with secrecy. The natural conditions of the terrain, the camouflage they used and the strong guard enabled the executioners to do their horrible job in deep secrecy."

On the territory of the Lvov Region, therefore, the Hitlerite murderers pursued the same method of concealing their crimes which they used earlier when they killed Polish officers in the wood near Katyn. The Commission of experts has established that the method of camouflaging the graves in the Lisincki area was completely identical with the methods used in camouflaging the graves of the Polish officers killed by the Germans in Katyn.

A 'Training School'

To spread their experience in methods of exterminating people, burning bodies and covering up crimes, the Germans created in the Yanovska Camp, Lvov, a special school for training "skilled cadres." To this school came camp commandants from Lublin, Warsaw, Cracow and other towns. Right on the spot the Chief of Sonderkommando No. 1,005, Scherlak, taught commandants how to exhume bodies from the earth, how to stack them up, burn them, sift the ashes, crush the bones, fill the pits and camouflage them by planting trees and shrubbery.

The German Executioners Shall Be Called to Strict Account

For the savage mass extermination of Soviet civilians, war prisoners and foreign nationals in the city of Lvov and the Lvov Region, the Extraordinary State Committee holds responsible the Hitlerite government, especially Reichsminister of Germany Himmler, who repeatedly came to Lvov to inspect the German murderers and executioners. Along with the principal inspirers and organizers of massacres of absolutely innocent people, the following persons are also guilty:

The head of the Governor-Generalship Doctor Franck; the Governor-General of the "District of Galicia," SS Brigadenführer and Major General of Police Dr. Lasch; the Governor of the "District of Galicia," Dr. Waechter; the Chief of Police, SS Major General Katzmann; the Chief of Stalag 12 in Germany, Baron von Bock; non-com Schreiner of the same camp; the organizer of Yanovska Camp, Hauptsturmführer Gebauer; the Commandants of Yanovska Camp, SS Hauptsturmführer Franz Warzok and SS Obersturmführer Gustav Wilhaus;

Assistant Commandants of Yanovska Camp: SS Leutnant Scheinbach, SS Oberleutnant Siller, SS Sturmführer Reis, Sturmführer Willi Wescka, SS Obersturmführer Rokita, SS Obersturmführer Schultz, SS Oberleutnant Wenecke, Chief of Yanovska Camp Obersturmführer Manwinger, SS Scharführer Kolanko, Chief of Investigation De-

partment SS Scharführer Heine, SS Obersturmführer Urman;

Chiefs of the ghetto: Untersturmbannführer Heinisch, Scharführer Mansfeld, Hauptsturmbannführer Gjimik, Chief of SD Sonderkommando No. 1,005 Hauptsturmbannführer Scherlak, his assistant Hauptsturmbannführer Rauch, Chief of the group for crushing bones SD Scharführer Elitko, chief of the group for exhumation of bodies SD Scharführer Preiss, chief of the "death brigade" Hauptscharführer Eidel, SD Scharführer Reis and Mamier, chief of the group for burning bodies SD Oberwachmeister Kepick, Oberwachmeister Wolf, Obersturmbannführer Sawicki;

Commandants of the Citadel Camp: Captain Blut, Major Sidoren, Major Roch, Sergeant Major of the 328th Regiment Fritz Miller, Sergeant Major Per; Kommissars for Jewish Affairs: Engle, Seyss-Inquart and Leonard;

Directors of plants in Yanovska Camp Balines, Kaufmann, SS Scharführer Rerich, Chekala, Hahn, Blum, Wuret, Bittermann, Melchior, Boer, Koller, Birmann, Bittner, Ulmann, Brambauer; rank and file of SS squad Fochs, Heiner, Rauser, Polapis, Gan, Leidkaman, Krop; SS Obersturmbannführer Hischwentner, Assistant Commandant of the ghetto Ziller, Gestapo Kommissar Wepke, Town Commandant of Sokal Miller;

Gestapo-men Zeiman, Riman, Hartmann, Pisagow, Lecker, Kramer, Susches, Krommer, Belz, Schaur, Bener; Assistant of Camp Commandant in the town of Zolochew Galimack, Camp Commandant in the village of Lyatsky Oberleutnant Johann Sommbaren, Chief of Police of the town of Zolochew Major Ludwig, Chief of Gendarmerie of the town of Zolochew Mura, Gendarme Hilsenkar; Stormtroopers of SS detachment in the town of Zolochew Preisner, Ludwig, Mons;

Chief of Gestapo of the town of Zolkwa Captain Papen, Chief of Police Obermeister Keter, SS Obersturmführer Hildenbrandt, Kreishauptmann of the town of Kamenka-Bugskaya Nering, Camp Commandant Lipnik, Commandant of the town of Gorodok Staer, Commandant of Gendarmerie Kremler, Commandant of the ghetto Schitt, Kreishauptmann in the town of Rava Russka Hager, Stadtkommissar Laske, Chief of Gestapo Speit, Chief of Gendarmerie and Town Commandant Klein; officers of Gendarmerie: Trigner, Miert, Freinstock;

Kommissars for Jewish Affairs Holz and Struch, Commandants of war prisoners' camp Major Fischer, Major Hassiner, Major Flecker, Assistant Camp Commandant Major Ben, Chief of Gestapo Nowarro, Officers Broer, camp physician Leutnant Neumann, Ortskommandant of the town of Yavorov Captain Jenke, SS Obersturmführer Leibmaier, Landkommissar Staer, policemen Gollob, Neutze, Wolf.

All of them must bear severe responsibility for their monstrous crimes.

December, 1944

IN BUDAPEST

By V. Kuprin and D. Akulshin, *Pravda* Correspondents

The seven bridges across the Danube, including two railway bridges, were the pride of the Hungarian capital. The two suspension bridges are especially noted for their beauty; the Elizabeth Bridge is considered the largest suspension bridge in Europe.

According to a statement by a Hungarian military official taken prisoner, the Germans laid mines beneath all the Budapest bridges. Representatives of the population begged the German commanders literally on their knees to spare the bridges. But the Germans do not care much for magnificent structures; they have already blown up the Northern Railway Bridge and the Margaret Bridge.

From the part of the city still occupied by the trapped German and Hungarian troops comes the frequent sound of explosions.

Quiet reigns in the parts already taken by our forces. The streets have been cleared, de-mined and opened for traffic. The population is still frightened and many are still hiding in their houses. But most are emerging from their shelters and learning how the Germans lied to them in their propaganda about the Red Army.

As a matter of fact, the workers and most professionals never gave much credence to the German propaganda. In December, when appeals were issued to the population to evacuate to the western parts of Hungary or to the German Reich, workers and professionals refused to leave the city, and the Germans' hope of obtaining fresh thousands of hands for their industries were thwarted. Only the wealthy and members of the Salaszi party evacuated.

In the middle of December the fascists tried to organize forcible deportation of workers from Budapest. But by then the main communications leading from Budapest had already been intercepted by Soviet troops, and soon the city was surrounded. The fascists conscripted the population for defense work. At the same time they began to recruit the adult male population into the fascist troops. Several hastily-formed battalions were thrown into battle along with these troops.

Scraps of torn posters flap in the wind;

the walls and fences were placarded with appeals of the Salaszi government to defend Budapest as the Russians defended Stalingrad. But there are few people in Budapest willing to sacrifice their lives for the fascists. The Royal Security Battalion, whose mission it was to guard the government buildings, was thrown into battle at the end of December. To bolster it up it was liberally sprinkled with German infantrymen. Nevertheless, more than 20 per cent of the battalion deserted in the first three days of fighting.

In the still-resisting sections of Budapest it is the Germans, not the Hungarians, who are in full control. There all life is at a standstill. Shops are closed. Food prices have increased 10 to 15 times. The official bread ration is 150 grams a day, but actually the population receives less and that irregularly. Most stocks of food products and manufactured goods were removed to Germany.

Everywhere one sees the signs of fierce street fighting. Corner buildings suffered most, because the Germans had their strongpoints at street intersections, with the approaches barred by barbed wire entanglements and communication trenches leading under houses.

Street fighting in an unfamiliar city is very difficult, particularly against a treacherous enemy. The German garrisons in the buildings resist as long as possible, but when surrounded they discard their uniforms and try to pass themselves as civilians. Major Novikov showed us German officers' uniforms found by our men.

"We must be on the alert all the time," he told us. "Even in flats captured several days ago we are still finding Hitlerites. Yesterday two of our men were killed. The murderer was caught—he turned out to be a prominent German officer."

Late in the evening we visited the basement of a house captured during the day. The men were resting before a blazing fireplace. They smoked cigarettes and talked about things far from war and Budapest.

Suddenly a droning sound penetrated from above. The men listened. "It's a plane," someone said.

"Impossible," said a mustached signal-

man. "It's not flying weather. The clouds touch your cap. In this weather it's hard to walk on the ground, and certainly you can't fly."

"I'll bet it's one of our own P-2 night bombers," another man remarked. "Let's go out and take a look."

In the darkness the city was seething. Fighting continued in the street; rocket flares and explosions punctured the gloom. But overhead hummed our light night bombers. Suddenly ribbons of tracer bullets shot into the air from enemy-occupied sections of the city. The fiery snakes converged conewise in the sky where the engines roared. But our night bombers kept to their course. Soon a glare began to spread through the clouds and garlands of flares slowly descended, their phosphorescent glow illuminating the streets in which the enemy was entrenched. Explosions followed as the bombers released their death loads. The German flak became more intense. But the bombers went on with their work. One group followed another.

Next morning we learned some details of the night raid on the encircled enemy. It had been carried out by a Guards Squadron commanded by Guards Captain Ryzhov. Neither the dark, misty night nor the furious enemy flak could prevent Soviet fliers from carrying out their mission in support of the ground troops storming Budapest.

Information Bulletin

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APRIL
22,
1870



JANUARY
21,
1924

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, speaking in Red Square, Moscow, May 1, 1919

Lenin—Founder of the Soviet State

By Professor Mikhail Leonov

The life of the Soviet nation, the founding and development of the USSR, are inseparably associated with the name of Lenin. Half a century ago, Lenin joined the struggle against Tsarist autocracy and all forces of reaction and oppression, the struggle for the happiness of the people. He devoted all his life to the great cause of the people.

Lenin founded the Soviet State and elaborated the doctrine of this new type of state.

In August and September, 1917, Lenin, who was at that time forced into hiding by the brutal gangs of reaction, wrote his immortal work, *The State and Revolution*, in which he gave a scientific explanation of the new type of state—a state connected with the people, created by the

people, and fully corresponding to the interests of the people.

It was Lenin's belief that broad popular initiative played the decisive role in the creation of the new type of state. In an appeal "To the Population," in November, 1917, Lenin wrote: "Remember that you are now yourselves in charge of the State. No one will help you if you yourselves do not unite and take the affairs of the State into your own hands. Your Soviets are henceforward organs of State power—competent, deciding organs."

Lenin demanded of the local Soviets that they should display independence in dealing with local questions; he stimulated their initiative, insisted that they should behave as representatives of State power.

Placed at the head of the Soviet Government, Lenin tackled with all his energy the job of building and consolidating the Soviet State. In this activity were revealed new aspects of Lenin's all-embracing genius. Rarely has the leader of a state so fully combined theoretical power, political wisdom and perspicacity, unbending will and great courage, with a profound knowledge of the people, their life, their innermost desires and urgent needs. Before Lenin, history had never known a statesman so strongly linked with the people and having such strong faith in the people's creative forces. And the people, in their turn, had unbounded faith in Lenin and followed his lead.

Lenin set forth the principles of Soviet policy in all questions concerning the life

of the people. He took an active part in the numerous Congresses, made reports, delivered speeches, drew up resolutions, and wrote appeals. Lenin initiated many of the decrees issued by the Soviet Government and was author of most of them. Some of those decrees extirpated the old, in order to pave a broad way to the bright future; others sketched the outlines of that future.

All the organs of the Soviet State in the first period of the Revolution, all the People's Commissariats, were set up under Lenin's direct guidance. The first period of the October Revolution demanded the gigantic exertion of all the efforts of the people. The victories of the Revolution had to be consolidated, the old state machine demolished and a new one built instead.

In addition, it was necessary to organize the supplying of the Army and the cities with food, set the factories going, build up a new life and a new state. Lenin said at the time: "Only he will win and maintain power who trusts the people, who plunges into the wellspring of living, popular creative activity."

With the great courage of a people's leader, Lenin took the helm of the country in the critical period of its existence during the years of the Civil War. Lenin demanded that the entire life activity of all organizations of the Soviet State should be subordinated to the tasks of the country's defense, to the tasks of attaining victory. In war, Lenin taught, there is no room for half-measures: "The question consists in the following: either win or be vanquished. But to win we must have the maximum activity of the people and their resolute support for their Army."

Lenin and his closest associate, Stalin, themselves gave an example of selfless devotion and activity on behalf of the people. Their activity on the Council of Defense in 1918-1920 involved an enormous amount of work, to put in order and strengthen the home front, to mobilize all the forces and resources of the country, and to defend the Republic and organize victory over the enemy.

All through the period of the Civil War, Lenin worked a great deal on the drawing up of strategic plans, studying questions of tactics, and entering into all details of the defense of the Soviet State. He organized the country's forces,

inspired the fighting men, and directed all affairs connected with the war against the enemies of the Soviet Republic.

Lenin's creative genius was constantly engrossed with the stupendous task of securing the prosperity of the Soviet land, which was utterly ruined at the time, after years of chaos. He devoted all the force of his genius to the questions of how to heal the country's wounds, to cast off its fetters of economic backwardness, to build it into a strong and mighty power, and to strengthen its defenses.

His untimely death prevented Lenin from seeing the results of his work. But he foresaw that the Soviet State which he founded would become strong and powerful; he foretold that despite all its enemies might do, the Soviet State would live, would accumulate fresh strength, and would occupy an appropriate place of honor among the nations of the world.

Lenin was firmly convinced that the Soviet system would be the most stable system in the world, and that no force could break what the Soviet people created. "Never," said Lenin, "will a nation be defeated whose workers and peasants in their majority have learned, feel and see that they are defending their own Soviet power, the power of the working people; that they are defending the cause whose victory will assure them and their children the opportunity to enjoy all the benefits of culture, all that has been cre-

ated by human labor."

Lenin died twenty-one years ago. But Lenin's undying cause is alive in the work and fears of the peoples of the Soviet Union. For twenty-one years since Lenin's death the Soviet nation has firmly and confidently marched under Stalin's leadership along Lenin's road.

Great changes have taken place in the Soviet Union in these years. Three Stalin Five-Year Plans have completely changed its face. The USSR has become a land of advanced socialist industry and advanced collective farming.

The Soviet system established by Lenin has stood the severest tests of war. The Germans counted on the collapse of the Soviet system. They expected that under the blows of Hitler's war machine, discord would set in among the peoples of the USSR and the country would disintegrate into its component parts.

Things turned out quite differently. Hitler's hopes have been dashed. The Soviet Union has given a powerful rebuff to the insolent enemy, cleared him out of all Soviet territory, and in alliance with the Armies of the United Nations has shifted hostilities to the lair of the fascist beast.

The Soviet people, following the road indicated by Lenin, will achieve complete victory, and together with other freedom-loving nations will establish a lasting and enduring peace.



Lenin's office in the Kremlin, Moscow

Twenty-One Years Later

By D. Zaslavsky

Mr. H. G. Wells will have much to look back upon in his old age, but perhaps one of the most interesting events in his life was his visit to Lenin in Moscow. Years and tens of years will pass, and much of what Wells has written will be forgotten, but his visit to Lenin in the Kremlin is something that will go down in history.

The whole of Moscow at that time was like one huge building-site—the land had been dug up, old buildings had been pulled down, everything was topsy-turvy in a maze of scaffolding, temporary staircases and rickety planks. . . . The layman was scarcely able to find his way in this jumble; people were scurrying here and there in apparent disorder.

The English author, accustomed to an orderly and comfortable life, found Lenin in the midst of these crowds of navvies, concrete mixers, carpenters and mechanics, working on a gigantic and mysterious construction job. Lenin was little known abroad at the time; many fantastic stories were told about him, and he was the butt of all the malicious anti-Soviet slander then current.

Very few people in the West believed that anything at all worthy of the attention of economists and sociologists would come of the Soviet "experiment." H. G. Wells had specialized in social fantasies and fascinating romances of men from other worlds, and he wanted to see with his own eyes what he and his fellow-countrymen regarded as something in the nature of a socialist novel.

Lenin was the architect, chief engineer and production manager of this huge Soviet construction job, and Stalin was his right-hand man. Wells found Lenin immersed in his work. As production manager, he showed the writer around the construction site and explained to him what a magnificent edifice was in the course of erection. Wells, however, saw only disorder; Lenin was still the dreamer in the Kremlin, still the socialist visionary. In telling the story of his visit to Moscow, Wells confirmed the current view that the Bolshevik experiment was doomed to failure.

Twenty-one years have passed since Lenin died. In those 21 years many states, large and small, with old and new constitutions drawn up according to the best ideas of bourgeois democracy, have collapsed, unable to withstand the strain. Dozens of presidents and prime ministers have passed into oblivion. The Soviet Union has not only survived, but has shown itself to be a strong state. The Soviet people have dealt fascism a stunning blow.

The strength of the Soviet Union is shown by the fact that the statesmen who built it are still at its head. The people of the entire world regard Stalin as the wisest statesman and thinker of our times. Nobody calls him a "dreamer," as Wells did Lenin; on the contrary, our contemporaries see in Stalin a politician who is a realist.

Pushkin, the great Russian poet, likened the wars fought by Peter I to a blacksmith's hammer: "The heavy sledge that smashes glass also forges the sword."

Many states turned out to be "glass" under the hammer of the Second World War; the Soviet Union is a "sword." Contrary to the prophecies of certain journalists and strategists, the Soviet Union is approaching the end of the war greatly strengthened, and not weak and exhausted. Not everybody is able to understand how this has happened; there are some who are afraid to understand it.

Lenin's teachings have a strictly scientific foundation in Marxism. Marxism-Leninism is the social science which teaches us to see human history as constant change in the forms of society, constant development resulting from struggle and contradictions, and constant replacing of the old by the new.

From a profound study of Russia, Lenin came to the conclusion that the old Russian social and state forms had to be replaced by others. He refused to regard capitalism and parliamentary democracy as the last word in historical development, but like other great thinkers realized that socialism is a higher form.

Lenin taught that it was the working class who would create the new socialist

system, and that the peasantry, who formed the main body of people, would follow its leader—the working class—in the struggle for the establishment of a better and higher social order, one that was more in conformity with the needs of the people; that the landlords, capitalists and old-type state officials were the obstacles in the way. The people would be able to do without them and their management, and would furthermore find amongst themselves leaders and directors more capable, gifted, and of course far more honest. The people must take the power into their own hands—this is real democracy. The Soviet State is a pure, highly developed democracy.

This is what backward people could not understand, and it is what the masters of the old social order did not want to understand. Whatever they could not or would not understand, they said was impossible.

It will be remembered that not all the disputes on this question were of a strictly academic nature. The upholders of the old order resorted to arms; the working class and its peasant ally responded in kind; the issue of this historic "discussion" is well known. The Soviet leaders in the debate were Lenin and Stalin, supported by the overwhelming majority of the people.

Those who followed these leaders have no reason to repent. One may well imagine what would have happened to Russia, to the Russian people and other peoples of the Soviet Union in the present war, if power had been in the hands of the capitalists and landowners instead of in the hands of the workers and peasants, if the Army had been led by Tsarist generals, if Russian industry had remained in the pitiful state it was at the time of the First World War, and if the peasantry had remained impoverished, helpless and backward, as they were then.

We know that Hitler Germany counted on this backwardness. She had out-of-date ideas about the Soviet Union and did not believe in its vitality. It was, however, in the Soviet Union that Hitler's strategic and political plans collapsed, broken by the strength of the Red Army, by the

might of the Soviet economy and by the unity of the Soviet peoples. Soviet power saved Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and other Soviet Republics.

Lenin, together with Stalin, built up the Red Army. The Army has since changed and developed in accordance with the unchanging principles of Leninism. Stalin put into effect the plans for Soviet industry which Lenin and he drew up during the first years of Soviet power. Stalin laid the foundations of the friendship of peoples which cements the Soviet Union into one united whole, in accordance with the principles of the Lenin-Stalin national policy of equality and fraternal collaboration of peoples.

Lenin's foreign policy was strictly in accordance with this policy of the friendship and equality of all nations. Lenin did not reply to the almost universal hostility of the bourgeois governments by hostility. He did not tell the Soviet peoples to shut themselves up inside their own Soviet shell, to consider themselves well above the rest of the world, or to impose their views and their state forms on the world by force. The Soviet people love their country, have great respect for their state and are loyal to their social system. Nevertheless, peace and friendship between peoples was Lenin's first word in foreign policy.

Lenin was a great patriot. He loved his people and was proud of their talents and their sense of national independence. Lenin had great respect for all nations that did not encroach on the liberties of other nations. He taught unrelenting struggle against all forms of chauvinism, reactionary nationalism and anti-Semitism. All the peoples of the Soviet Union and millions of working people abroad call Lenin their friend and teacher. Stalin was Lenin's greatest comrade-in-arms, and is the continuer of his work.

Today we see Lenin in all branches of Soviet thought. He saw decades ahead of his time and pointed out to his people the true path of struggle and victory. Stalin continues to lead the Soviet Union along this path.

Lenin's parents, Maria Alexandrovna and Ilya Nikolaievich Ulyanov, with their children (standing, left to right) Olga, Alexander and Anna; (seated) Maria, on her mother's lap, Dmitri and Vladimir; (lower) The house in Simbirsk (now Ulyanovsk) where Lenin spent his childhood and youth



Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (Ulyanov), founder of the Bolshevik Party and of the Soviet State, was born April 22, 1870, in the city of Simbirsk, now Ulyanovsk. His father was a director of elementary schools.

After his graduation from secondary school in 1887 with a gold medal award, Lenin entered Kazan University. He was soon arrested and expelled for taking part in student disturbances, and was deported to a village. In spite of all the obstacles placed in his way by the Tsarist government, Lenin completed his studies as an outside student and brilliantly passed the examinations for his law degree.

In 1893 Lenin went to St. Petersburg, where he conducted political work in underground workers' circles and became the recognized leader of the St. Petersburg Marxists.

In 1895 he united all the separate Marxist circles in St. Petersburg into a single League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class. This League was the embryo of the future Bolshevik Party of Russia.

Lenin gave the Russian working class a scientific explanation of its historical role, its aims and the means of achieving them.

At the end of 1895 Lenin was arrested. He spent 14 months in prison, but even there did not cease his activity; he continued to guide the working class movement and drafted a program for the workers party of Russia.

In 1897 he was exiled to Eastern Siberia for three years. Upon the expiration of his term of exile in 1900, Lenin went abroad, where he founded and edited the first workers' Marxist newspaper, *Iskra* (The Spark). He united the majority of the Social-Democratic organizations of Russia around *Iskra*, and prepared the ground for the ideological and organizational consolidation of the Party, which was achieved under his leadership at the Second Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party in 1903. The attempt made to found such a party at the First Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party, held in 1898, had been unsuccessful.



Drawing by P. Vasiliev, 1941

LENIN

In November, 1905, Lenin returned to Russia to personally direct the first Russian revolution. At that time Stalin, who had known of Lenin since the Nineties, was directing the revolutionary struggle of the workers in the Transcaucasus. It was in the following month, at the Bolshevik Conference held in Tammefors, that Lenin and Stalin met for the first time. This meeting was the beginning of a lifelong ideological and practical collaboration between the two great revolutionaries and leaders of the working class of Russia.

In 1907 Lenin once again was forced to leave Russia for Western Europe.

In his scientific political writings Lenin summed up the experience of the revolutionary movement and developed the theory, tactics and strategy of the proletarian revolution. During the period of reaction he continued his fight to strengthen the Bolshevik Party. He conducted an enormous amount of Party organizational work, edited the central organ of the Party, *Proletari*, and wrote books and articles.

In 1909 Lenin published his brilliant work, *Materialism and Empirio-Criticism*, directed against the reactionary philosophy of Mach, Avenarius, Bogdanov and others. On Lenin's instructions, Stalin

in 1912 founded the Bolshevik mass newspaper *Pravda* (Truth) in Russia.

During the years of the new revolutionary upsurge in 1912-1914, the Bolshevik Party, under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin, led the people toward a new revolution.

Lenin returned to Russia in April, 1917, after the overthrow of Tsarism. From that time on, Lenin and Stalin prepared and led the workers and peasants of Russia forward to the overthrow of the Provisional Government, a government hostile to the people. October, 1917, saw the culmination of the greatest revolution—the power passed to the Soviets and a new rule, the rule of the workers and peasants, was established.

By this act Lenin and Stalin saved Russia and her peoples from the political and economic catastrophe prepared by the ruinous policy of Tsarism and its defenders. Lenin was elected Chairman of the first Soviet Government, the Council of People's Commissars.

From the very outset of the socialist Revolution, Lenin placed in the forefront the task of the economic and cultural reorganization of the country, and the strengthening of its defense.

Lenin, together with Stalin, created the Red Army and insured the defeat of the Germans at Narva and the subsequent defeat of all the enemies of Soviet power during the years of the Civil War.

Lenin and Stalin aroused the people to great deeds of selfless labor, and the observance of iron discipline everywhere, in the rear as well as at the front. The people followed Lenin and Stalin, and this saved the young Soviet State from ruin and created the conditions for the rapid material and spiritual flourishing of the peoples of Russia.

Under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin the numerous peoples of Russia were united into a single, close-knit family—the great Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Lenin pointed out to the Soviet people the path for the reconstruction of Russia. He showed them that without the creation of a powerful industry, it was impossible to strengthen the union of work-



Lenin at the age of four

ers and peasants, the most important political basis of the Soviet State; impossible to overcome the age-old backwardness of Russia, to end poverty and hunger in the village and to reorganize the scattered peasant farms into a large, collective mechanized economy, and to build a cultured, prosperous life.

Lenin paid constant attention to public education, the development of science and culture, the encouragement of old scientific cadres and the training of new ones.

During the most difficult years of famine, blockade and intervention, Lenin was deeply interested in the well-being of scientists, writers, teachers and artists, and created the basis for the advance of art and science in the Soviet Union.

Standing at the head of science, Lenin mapped out for mankind the way to a bright future. He put into practice Marx's

great teachings on socialism, and developed Marxism still further, raising it to a new, higher level. There is not a single field of social science which has not been enriched by Lenin's great ideas. His economic, philosophical and historical works are a great treasure-store of science.

Lenin's name has won the profound, sincere love, universal recognition and admiration of all honest-thinking people throughout the world.

On January 21, 1924, at 6:50 P. M., Lenin died, after a long and severe illness.

In the days of mourning for Lenin, Stalin made a solemn vow to preserve and fulfil Lenin's behests. And Lenin's behests have been fulfilled. Lenin's immortal cause is now in the hands of his brilliant co-worker, Stalin.

LENIN LIVES

By Colonel A. Galin

More than two decades have passed since hundreds of millions of people, with grief and anguish in their hearts and tears in their eyes, mourned the loss of the greatest of their geniuses, Vladimir Lenin.

Rarely does nature shower so many generous gifts upon one man. Politician and statesman of genius, outstanding scientist in the spheres of economics, philosophy and social sciences; brilliant publicist and talented organizer of the masses, fearless in the fight and implacable toward the enemies of the people; the greatest revolutionary of all time, the nation's founder and the leader of the Red Army; a man of vast human culture and a great human heart—Lenin was one of those rare individuals who possess the gift of foreseeing social phenomena and events.

Lenin's conclusions were not based upon conjecture or abstract considerations, but upon careful study of the course of historical processes and social classes, and of the forces contending in the historical arena. He hated phrase-mongering not backed by deeds. He could not tolerate improvisation in politics, economics or international relations. He demanded both of himself and others a thorough analysis of the relation of forces, and

from this drew his far-reaching conclusions.

An ardent patriot, Lenin detested every form and species of oppression of one nation by another. He hated oppression and oppressors, no matter what tinsel they might deck themselves in. From the moment he entered the political arena, in 1891, he began to organize the working class and the peasantry and to call upon them to fight the historical scourge of Russia—Tsarist autocracy.

In order to rouse the masses of the people to struggle, Lenin deemed it necessary that they first understand who their real enemies are; second, come to hate their enemies; and third, organize the overthrow of the regime of oppression and tyranny. To this mission Lenin devoted his brief but remarkable life.

In the days of underground revolutionary struggle, Lenin was fond of quoting the words of the poet:

*"Long have we known how to love,
It is time we began to hate."*

The masses can learn to understand their condition, if it is explained and demonstrated with facts who their enemy is. On this the whole propaganda and agitational work of Lenin and the Party

he founded was based. When the masses learned who their real enemy was and where lay the causes of the desperate condition of the Russians and other peoples of Tsarist Russia, they conceived a conscious hatred of the autocracy and its instruments.

But the unorganized working class and the scattered peasantry could not constitute a force, even with a heightened class consciousness. If this heightened class consciousness of the masses was to be converted into a force capable of overthrowing all obstacles and building a new society, the most advanced and class-conscious elements would have to be organized. What was needed was a party of a new type, and then an organization embracing tens of millions of people—the Soviets of Workers and Peasants Deputies.

By 1917, Lenin and the Bolshevik Party which he created had already passed through a stern career of struggle and trial. The peasant revolts, the uprising in the army and navy, the general mass strikes, the Revolution of 1905-07, the rise of the Soviets in the course of that Revolution, the savage repression of the revolutionary movement, etc.—all were

events which helped to steel and cement the Bolshevik Party, to perfect the theory, policy, tactics and organization on which Lenin and then Stalin constantly worked.

As soon as the First World War broke out, Lenin foretold the inevitable defeat of Russia and the downfall of the Tsarist regime; and when in 1917 the three-century-old Romanoff dynasty and the regime of tyranny, oppression and national inequality it had created, collapsed, Lenin, who was still abroad, declared that only the Soviets could lead Russia into the broad path of progress. Then came the October Socialist Revolution, led by Lenin and Stalin, and the creation of a new type of state, the Soviet State.

Now, in the light of the successes of the Soviet State in the war against Hitler Germany, it has become clear to all how unsound and anti-democratic was the policy pursued by the great powers toward the young Soviet State. The intervention failed, as did the economic and financial blockade of Soviet Russia, and also the efforts of the great powers to form a *cordon sanitaire* around Soviet Russia; and, lastly, the attempts of the low-grade politicians of Poland, Rumania and other neighboring countries to hold over the Soviet Union the axe of the white emigre conspiracy of sabotage and intrigue.

Lenin was more keenly alive than any other statesman to the contradictions between the socialist and capitalist systems, but he had no intention of overthrowing the capitalist system with the force of the bayonet. From the first day the Soviets came to power, he said that the two systems could exist side by side, on condition, of course, that the independence and sovereignty of the contracting countries were fully preserved.

Who proved to be right in the contest between the socialist State and the capitalist countries—Lenin, or the statesmen of Europe and America; Lenin, who proposed cooperation on the basis of respect for mutual interests, or the statesmen of Europe and America who, instead of cooperation, strove to bring the policy and economy of Russia under their sway in order to then restore the old regime?

We may proudly say that Lenin was right, for he based his estimate on man's forward movement, whereas the reactionary statesmen of the great powers wanted

to throw back to the past one-sixth of the surface of the earth, which—thanks to the October Revolution—had brought into action all its potentialities and its immense economic, military, moral and political forces.

The superhuman strain to which he subjected himself, and the wound dealt him by an agent of the counter-revolution, undermined Lenin's physique, and he died at the age of 54. The heart of this immortal genius, greatest son of the Russian people, ceased to beat. He had guided the Soviet country through Civil War, economic chaos, counter-revolutionary revolt, intervention, and the storms and stresses of the early years of the Revolution. He saved the workers' and peasants' State, but he himself died prematurely at his high post.

But Lenin's cause did not perish with him. He had entrusted the guidance of his country to his favorite disciple, his closest colleague and friend, Stalin—who just as firmly and farsightedly led the country along the road which Lenin had charted.

It is not difficult now to imagine what would have happened to Russia, what would have happened to Europe and the world, if the nearsighted schemes of the would-be restorers of the Tsarist autocracy, and their foreign patrons, the interventionist states, had succeeded. Only a Russia re-formed by Stalin on Lenin's

lines, with the friendship of its peoples, its moral and political unity, highly developed industry and collective farm system—only a Soviet State—could have withstood Hitler Germany and thereby saved not only itself but all mankind.

Now all the world realizes that the Soviet Union is not old Russia, and that Stalin is carrying on Lenin's great work in new conditions and under new circumstances, that Stalin is the Lenin of today.

Thanks to the frank and sincere cooperation between the Soviet Union and its great Allies, Britain and America, Hitler Germany will be smashed and mankind saved from being turned back many centuries in its course.

Not only people of the older generation who had the good fortune to see and work with Lenin, but all the peoples of the Soviet Union, young and old, will never forget the great Lenin. Lenin has taken his place in the centuries and millennia of human history, and when posterity studies the grim years of the World Wars which our generation has lived through, it will say that Lenin was the first to create the conditions for putting an end to the exploitation of man by man, and of nation by nation.

That is why all the people of the Soviet Union and millions beyond its borders will say—not only on this sad anniversary, but always—"Lenin is dead, but Lenin lives."



In this house, in the village of Shushenskoye (Yermakovskiy District, Krasnoyarsk Territory), Vladimir Lenin and his wife, Nadezhda Krupskaya, lived in exile from 1897 to 1899

Lenin and the Red Army

By Colonel Fedor Baslyk

In his speech at the Red Army review in Moscow on November 7, 1941, Joseph Stalin, Chairman of the State Committee of Defense, said that the spirit of the great Lenin and his victorious banner inspire us today in this Patriotic War. The name of Lenin, founder of the Soviet State and organizer of the Red Army, his noble and majestic image, his acts and teaching, inspire the Soviet people in the great war of liberation against the German invaders.

Following the path outlined by Lenin, and under the leadership of Supreme Commander Marshal Stalin, the Red Army is now not only the strongest and the most highly tempered, but also the best-trained army in the world. Lenin worked out in theory and solved in practice all the main problems connected with the building up of the Armed Forces of the Soviet State.

Lenin had profound faith in the inexhaustible strength of the people and its creative potentialities. He taught that in order to triumph and retain power, what was needed was the invincible moral strength drawn from the depths of the popular masses, military organization, military technique and military knowledge. Such were the principle requisites of a people's army.

Lenin taught that every army is an in-

strument of the social system which formed it and which it serves. The formation of a strong army, loyal to the people, was the cardinal task of the victorious October Socialist Revolution. On the ruins of the old society the Soviet country, by the hands of its workers and peasants, built a new State, and at the same time created its armed force, the Red Army.

The military problem was one of the most difficult confronting the young Soviet State—which built up its army on the battlefield, in the literal sense of the phrase, at a time of economic chaos, with an almost complete lack of armaments and a material base.

In painful torment the Soviet State was born and grew in strength—and with it the military organization of the people's Red Army was born and grew in strength.

On January 28, 1918, Lenin signed the decree for the formation of a new army which would fully answer the needs of the Soviet State.

The young detachments of the Red Army were first called upon to fight predatory German imperialism. Taking advantage of the treachery of the unscrupulous pack of Trotskyites and Bukharinites, the German army on February 18, 1918, treacherously violated the Armistice and passed to the offensive along an immense front, from the Baltic to the Black

Sea. The German imperialists moved their hordes against Petrograd, the Ukraine and Byelorussia, with the aim of strangling the Soviet Republic and converting Russia into their colony.

It was necessary to muster all forces for the defense of the country and for the repulse of the German invaders. On February 21, 1918, the Council of People's Commissars addressed an appeal to the people compiled by Lenin: "The Socialist Fatherland Is in Danger." In response to Lenin's call, the finest sons of the young Soviet Republic joined the Red Army and left for the front. The Germans were administered a staggering defeat at Pskov and Narva. February 23, 1918, the day German imperialism received this rebuff, has come to be regarded as the birthday of the Red Army.

But even after this the Red Army was allowed no respite in which to carry on and strengthen its organization. It had to build up its strength and temper itself in the process of battling the white guards and foreign invaders.

Lenin and his faithful colleague, Stalin, created the Red Army in the fire of war. In the course of its operations the Army built up and perfected its military skill and created a corps of commanding officers. Lenin and Stalin, organizers and leaders of the Red Army, displayed unflagging solicitude for its political education, morale, discipline, and armament and materiel supply.

On November 30, 1918, the Workers and Peasants Defense Council was set up to exercise political, military and economic leadership. It was headed by Lenin. Stalin was virtually his immediate assistant. The Council of Defense decided all the principal matters concerning the defense of the Soviet State and the building up of the Army and Navy, as well as main problems of military strategy. It was the military staff of the Soviet Government, and Lenin and Stalin were its brains.

The Red Army, like the Soviet people generally, had to bear incredible trials and hardships during the period of the Civil War, 1918-20. There was an acute food shortage, factories were practically



Radiophoto

On the First Byelorussian Front—Troop-carrying tanks move into attack positions

at a standstill, raw material and fuel were lacking, and no uniforms or arms were available. But the Soviet people, led by Lenin and Stalin, did not lose heart even in those times of sore trial.

Lenin inspired the regiments of the Red Army. His disciple, Stalin, exercised immediate direction in all its decisive operations. Wherever the Soviet Republic was menaced, whether at Tsaritsyn or Petrograd, on the Eastern front or in the South, Stalin took the direction of military operations into his hands, turned the tide and achieved victory. Wherever Stalin appeared he, as Henri Barbusse put it, "carried on military activities with such brilliance and scored such victories as would have covered any commander of armies with glory."

In the process of fighting and defeating the invaders and white guards, Lenin and Stalin worked out the new Soviet doctrine of war: a doctrine of methods of warfare, direction of troops, strategy and tactics. They taught the Red Army to display extreme activity and to solve military problems by bold, energetic and resolute offensive operations. They inculcated in the Soviet soldiers fortitude and courage, gallantry and valor, fearlessness and iron discipline.

Under the brilliant leadership of Lenin and Stalin the Soviet people and their Red Army triumphed in the Civil War of 1918-20. Victory was due primarily to the fact that the Soviet Government, headed by Lenin, exercised correct political and military leadership and mustered all the political might of the country to secure superiority over the enemy.

The Red Army was victorious because it enjoyed the support of the people, and because it was an army built on the brotherhood and friendship of the peoples. The high moral and political spirit at the front and in the rear—springing from the profound understanding by the masses of the aims and objects of the war and the consciousness of their justice—was one of the cardinal factors which insured the triumph of the young Soviet Republic over internal reaction and foreign intervention.

When Lenin died, Stalin, the great continuer of his cause, vowed, "We will not

RED ARMY TROOPS IN BUDAPEST



Reconnaissance gunners observing the results of artillery fire



Radiophotos

Tommy gunners firing from a rooftop in Budapest

spare our efforts to strengthen our Red Army and our Red Navy." This vow has been completely fulfilled by the Soviet people under Stalin's wise leadership.

The Red Army, faithful guardian of the Soviet frontiers, stood sentinel over the peaceful constructive labors of the Soviet people. These peaceful labors were foully and treacherously interrupted by Hitler Germany's brazen attack on the Soviet Union. The Soviet people rose to defend their land, and the Red Army went into

action to save the country and to drive the German invaders beyond its borders.

The Red Army, the great Army of liberation, not only performed its patriotic duty with credit and ejected the enemy from the country; it came to the help of other countries languishing under the Nazi yoke. Together with the Armies of its Allies, it will consummate its historic liberating mission. By the united efforts of all the freedom-loving nations of the world, fascism will be destroyed.

GREAT CHAMPION OF THE FREEDOM AND EQUALITY OF NATIONS

By Professor I. Levin
Doctor of Juridical Sciences

The founder of the Soviet State, Vladimir Lenin, was a great democrat. He had faith in the people and in its creative forces. Lenin's ideal, as formulated by him on the eve of the October Revolution, was "democracy applied with the greatest fullness and consistency conceivable." But Lenin did not conceive of democracy without recognition of the freedom and equality of nations.

Lenin witnessed the regime of national oppression which existed in Tsarist Russia. He saw how the Tsarist authorities persecuted the Bashkirs, Tatars, Uzbeks, Letts, Lithuanians, Poles, Jews and numerous other nationalities of Russia. And from the first day of his political activity, Lenin connected the task of the struggle against the Tsarist regime with the task of emancipation of the oppressed peoples of Russia.

Policy of Oppressing Other Nations Repudiated

Himself a son of the dominant Russian nation, Lenin passionately reacted to the slightest evidences of national inequality and oppression, and profoundly sympathized with the cause of all the oppressed nationalities in Russia. He held the opinion that in its own interests, in the interests of its own freedom, a ruling nation must resolutely repudiate the policy of oppressing other nations. He often repeated the words of his teacher, Marx, "A nation cannot be free if it oppresses other nations."

"A great nation," said Lenin, "must not take advantage of its might and superiority to keep down weaker nations. That is incompatible with the national honor and dignity of a great nation. The honor of a great nation consists not in oppressing weaker nations, but in the ability to inspire confidence among them by a policy based on recognition of the freedom and equality of all peoples, a policy of solidarity and mutual assistance between large and small, and strong and weak nations."

Lenin's profound patriotism, his love for his own nation, could not reconcile itself to the idea that that nation served as a tool for the oppression of other nations. In 1914 Lenin wrote the following flaming words, "We, too, we great Russian workers, filled with a sense of national pride, want at all costs a free and independent, self-reliant, democratic republican, proud great Russia, basing its relations with neighbors on the principle of equality, not on the feudal principle of privilege, which is humiliating to a great nation."

These few words reveal the essence of Soviet ideology and Soviet policy in the question of nationalities, the ideology which in our days is locked in mortal combat with the ideology which glories in the conquest and extermination of peoples and which justifies its monstrous crimes by claiming the right for Germans as a "superior race" to dominate peoples of "inferior race"—the ideology of fascism.

In his defense of the equality of nations, Lenin drew no line between races, between Europeans, Asiatics and Africans. He believed in the progress and victory of the forces of democracy everywhere in the world. The first efforts of the democratic movements in China, Turkey and Iran, in their struggle against despotism in the years of 1906-11, inspired him with confidence that the peoples of the East were heading toward the creation of national democratic states.

Lenin watched with deep indignation the intrigues of European reaction against the Chinese republicans who had deposed the Manchu despots. "Backward Europe and Progressive Asia" was the title of an article by Lenin in defense of the Chinese Republic.

Organizer of Social and National Liberation

Lenin was the organizer of the struggle of all the peoples of Russia for social and national liberation. He pointed out to these peoples the road to freedom and

led them along that road.

Lenin's closest associate was Stalin, who in his early youth had studied the question of nationalities in the multi-national Caucasus. Lenin and Stalin jointly drew up the program for the solution of the nationalities question in Russia.

The first point in that program embodied the recognition of the right of nations to self-determination, going as far as secession, and the formation of independent states. Lenin maintained that unless that right was recognized, there could be no talk of the equality of nations: "Is not the denial of the right of a nation to its own state tantamount to the denial of equality of rights?" asked Lenin.

And when the October Revolution won the day and Lenin and Stalin headed the Soviet State, they immediately set out to put that program into execution. On November 15, 1917, several days after the Revolution, a "Declaration of the Rights of the Peoples of Russia" was published over the signatures of Lenin and Stalin. It proclaimed the "equality and sovereignty of the nations of Russia," their right to self-determination and secession, and the abolition of all restrictions against citizens associated with their nationality or religion.

For the first time the peoples of Russia obtained the opportunity to freely decide their own destiny. The fetters of oppression were cast off. The principles enunciated in the Declaration were embodied in life.

Already in December, 1917, the Government of Soviet Russia, presided over by Lenin and acting on a report by Stalin, recognized the independence of Finland, formerly a province of Russia. Similarly, the independence of Poland was recognized.

Since Finland and Poland wished to exercise their right of self-determination by means of secession, the Soviet Government accorded them that opportunity. For as Lenin said, the forcible detention of a people within the framework of a state

gainst its will is tantamount to annexation, and the Soviet Government has always opposed annexations.

The Soviet Government, headed by Lenin, took the initiative in annulling the unequal treaties concluded by the Tsarist government with nations of the East—Iran, Turkey and China. It renounced all privileges in those countries and recognized their complete independence.

The vast majority of the peoples of Russia who had traversed the glorious road of struggle against Tsarist despotism under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin, did not want to secede after that struggle had been crowned with victory. In line with the plan proposed by Lenin and Stalin, Russia was transformed into a federation of free national Republics. This federation took final shape in 1922, during Lenin's lifetime, when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was formed.

That success was achieved thanks to the special attention which Lenin had devoted to the needs of the peoples of Russia, and to their interests as nationalities. The peoples of Russia who desired to maintain their ties with Soviet Russia determined their own destiny. They set up their own Soviet Republics within their own territorial boundaries, in close alliance with Soviet Russia.

Lenin's concern for the special requirements of the peoples of the East, for example, can be illustrated by several facts. The Moslem Congress held in December, 1917, expressed the desire that the copy of Osman's Holy Koran, which was revered by the Moslems, and which was then in the Petrograd Public Library, be handed over to them for safekeeping. And in December, 1917, Lenin as head of the Government signed a decree that the sacred book should be turned over to the Moslem Congress.

Nationalities Given Special Assistance

From the earliest days of its existence the Soviet Government, under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin, rendered special assistance to the nationalities which were weaker in an economic respect, in order to raise their economic and cultural level and to lead them onto the highroad of progress.

In 1918, when the economic situation

of the Soviet State was extremely grave, as a result of the protracted war against Germany, and the resources of the State were limited, Lenin signed a decree appropriating 50,000,000 rubles for irrigation work in Middle Asia. In 1920, work to revive cotton growing in Middle Asia was begun on Lenin's initiative. To inaugurate the industrial development of the Middle-Asian Republics, several textile mills with all their equipment were moved to these Republics from Central Russia.

Lenin did not live to see the day when as the result of the consistently applied national policy of Lenin and Stalin—a policy of support for formerly oppressed nationalities—powerful industries, technically advanced agriculture and a rich national culture had grown up in the former borderlands of Russia, in Middle Asia and the Transcaucasus. But he had foreseen this development, and together

with Stalin had mapped its course.

That road has led to the consolidation and unity of all the Soviet nations, and this unity has revealed itself vividly in the present great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union against Hitler Germany—when all the peoples of the USSR have rallied to the defense of the country and are performing miracles of heroism at the front and of labor enthusiasm in the rear.

Lenin taught the peoples of the USSR to respect the rights of nations, their sovereignty and equality. These principles have served the Soviet State as a lodestar in its home and foreign policies. Today in the great war of liberation against Hitler Germany, the Soviet Union under the leadership of Marshal Stalin is again demonstrating its unswerving loyalty to the great legacy of Lenin, founder of the Soviet State and teacher of the Soviet peoples.



Lenin in the village of Gorki, near Moscow

LENIN AND THE PEASANT QUESTION

By V. Karpinsky

Lenin began his literary career with a paper on peasant economy, written in 1893. No one studied the economics of Russian agriculture with such scientific profundity as Lenin. His interest in the peasantry and in agriculture was very natural, for old Russia was chiefly an agrarian land of peasants.

The position of the old Russian peasantry is shown by the following figures: 28,000 of the largest landowners held 70 million *dessyatins* of land; 10 million peasants owned the same amount. The Royal Master of the Hunt, N. Balashev, held over 383,000 *dessyatins* of land; the Keeper of the Royal Stables, Prince S. Golitsin, held over one million *dessyatins* in the Perm Gubernia and about another one-half million in six other gubernias. [A *dessyatin* is 1.93 hectares].

The landowners worked their lands by extremely primitive methods. More often than not they rented the land out to the peasants on terms that kept the latter enslaved. The peasants suffered greatly from the semi-feudal exploitation by the landowners.

Lenin's research into the agrarian relationships existing in Russia led him to the conclusion that the ownership of large parcels of land by the nobility and other landowners was the economic basis of Tsarist absolutism and of the reaction that reigned in the country. Lenin showed that until the peasant problem had been solved, until Tsarism had been overthrown, no progress was possible and Russia would not be able to take her place among the civilized nations.

Lenin also showed practical ways of solving the peasant problem. He turned to a study of the peasant movement, a study of the demands put forward by the peasants themselves.

These demands were clearly expressed by the peasant deputies to the Duma, that pitiful substitute for a parliament, set up by the Tsar as a concession to the revolution of 1905. The peasant demands were, essentially, nationalization of all the land and its transfer to the peasants for their use.

Lenin gave the scientific basis for the demand for the nationalization of the land. He showed that nationalization would root out the remnants of feudalism in the economy and state structure of Russia, and would clear the way for the free development of the country. He showed that this reform, in addition to being in the interests of the peasants, would be to the interest of all classes (except, of course, the nobility and the landowning class)—would be to the interests of the whole country.

Lenin said that any really democratic Russian government was bound to nationalize the land and hand it over to the peasants; that in this way it would gain the complete trust of the peasantry and would have the support of the overwhelming majority of the people. Any government which did not do this, he said, would inevitably collapse.

History has proved the profound truth of Lenin's statements.

After the overthrow of Tsarism in February, 1917, a Provisional Government was formed in Russia which contained no representatives of the people; this government refused to grant the demands of the peasantry and even attempted to suppress the peasant movement by force of arms. This government was overthrown by the people.

All the anti-popular governments that were later set up on the outskirts of Russia collapsed, despite the fact that they were supported by foreign armies of intervention, chiefly by the Germans. The various Russian emigre "governments" that found refuge in Western Europe passed away quietly as soon as their patrons became convinced of their utter uselessness.

On the contrary, the really democratic Government, headed by Lenin—which was set up by the people in October, 1917, and which immediately set about nationalizing the land and handing it over to the peasantry for their free use in perpetuity—received the full support of the peasantry and a majority of the population of the country. Depending on this

support, the Soviet Government emerged victorious from the three years' struggle against the internal counter-revolution and the foreign intervention. Depending on the support of the people, the Soviet Government was able to surmount all obstacles to the rebuilding and reorganizing of the country's national economy.

The fulfillment of the age-old dream of the Russian peasantry, however, did not mean that the peasant problem was finally and completely solved. The peasantry were soon convinced by experience that if the whole mass of peasantry were to be insured a secure, cultured life, they would require, in addition to land, machinery and scientific forms of farming.

It seemed that the peasant problem was insoluble, that it was a kind of vicious circle. To raise the productivity of their labor, the peasants needed improved machinery, tractors, combine harvesters, etc., and the possibility of employing all achievements of agricultural science. None of these was available to the tiny peasant farm with its tiny income.

The great service which Lenin rendered the peasantry was the providing of the solution to this problem; he formulated the theoretical foundations and revealed the practical methods of solving the peasant problem; he was able to explain the problem to the masses of the peasantry in a way they could understand.

Lenin advised the peasants to change from their tiny private holdings to large-scale collective farming, on the basis of the voluntary uniting of the peasants' lands, means of production and labor power with the financial, technical and organizational help of the Soviet Government.

As Lenin pointed out, the only way to completely solve the peasant problem was by the organization of large, highly-productive farms on the land they had received, and by the building of a secure and cultured life for all the peasants.

The peasants of the Soviet Union changed to the collective farm system after Lenin's death, chiefly between 1929-32, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin,

Lenin's closest collaborator and the continuer of his work.

By 1940, a total of 97 per cent of the peasant farms had joined the collectives. The formation of collective farms led to an increase in the productivity of farm labor—three and one-half times on grain-growing farms, and five times on cotton-growing farms, as shown by the figures for 1939 as compared with those of 1927.

These few figures show beyond the shadow of a doubt that with the organization of collective farms another age-old dream of the peasants has been realized—they are insured secure and cultured lives.

The complete solution of the peasant problem, in accordance with the ideas of Lenin, shows us why the Soviet peasantry are displaying such a high degree of

patriotism in defending the Soviet Union, both with arms at the front and by means of their selfless labor in the rear areas. The unlimited support given by the peasantry to the Soviet Government, and the tremendous economic advantages of the collective farm system, are among the most important sources of the strength of the Soviet Union, the sources of its brilliant victories.

Lenin and Stalin

By A. Mikhailov

The writer of the following article is the author of ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF THE USSR; also of "The Strength of Russia," to be published shortly.

Lenin was born in the heart of Russia, son of a schoolmaster. He lived on the banks of the Volga, breadgiver of Russia, and was brought up among working people.

His mighty brain envisaged the whole course of history; it early became clear to him the road his native land and the people he loved must take—from Tsardom, by way of revolution, to socialism.

He was essentially Russian; modest, unaffected, closely bound up with the people. But beneath this unassuming and inconspicuous exterior lurked a charge of tremendous energy and will power, a steel-like strength of character.

His strength came from the people. It proved capable of altering the entire course of history for the good of the people. The founder and leader of the Party, head of the State, savant, philosopher and publicist, a man of high cultural attainments and deep practical sense, he combined revolutionary sweep with forceful efficiency, creating a new type of man—the Bolshevik—the man who breaks down all obstacles in the path of the people's welfare. This lofty avocation and epoch-making genius resided in a warm and thoroughly human being, who was fond of duck hunting, had a passion for Beethoven, and loved to play with children.

Beneath the walls of the Kremlin in Moscow stands a low, quadrangular edifice which seems to be made up of triumphantly ascending surfaces. Its dark-red mar-

ble is austere and monumental, and at the low entrance, frozen like statues of gray stone, stand two figures—Red Army sentinels—who keep watch over the remains of Lenin.

Workers and peasants, old folks and schoolchildren, Muscovites and Siberians, Russians and Uzbeks, descend with hushed breath into the vault, to look upon him as he lies, as though living, in a green-hued tunic, with lofty brow and closed eyes. They gaze upon Lenin, the closest and most precious memory that lives in the minds of the people.

On public holidays and celebrations, all Moscow streams past the tomb of the teacher. And Moscow is Russia. It is the

country filing past the tomb of the teacher. It is the country filing past the mausoleum where behind the marble parapet stands he whom Henri Barbusse describes as "the Lenin of today." All eyes are riveted upon him, hands are raised in greeting, and children are lifted high so that they may catch a glimpse of him, of Stalin.

He marched shoulder to shoulder with Lenin in the revolutionary struggle. With Lenin he foresaw Russia's path to the future, and together with Lenin he led Russia along that path. And when Lenin passed away, he gave living shape and form to his behests.

Stalin, Lenin's friend, was born at the other end of Russia, in the Caucasus, son



Lenin and Stalin in Gorki village

of a Georgian workingman. The Georgians are one of the oldest peoples inhabiting Russia. They bear the stamp of courage and nobility, fostered by thousands of years of struggle and culture.

Stalin, "that wonderful Georgian" and "fiery Colchidean," as Lenin called him, spent his childhood and youth in this land of sunshine and mountains, full of splendid vitality. He brought from there an ardent temperament and the seething heart of a warrior and thinker.

The inseparable friendship of Lenin and Stalin, and their profound intellectual affinity, were symbolic of the kinship and monolithic unity of the vast, multinational country, stretching from the broad plains of the Volga to the ardent and majestic Caucasus.

Stalin called Lenin the "mountain eagle" who knew no fear in fight, and these words are fully applicable to Stalin himself. Stalin said that Lenin was "born for revolution," and the same might be

said of Stalin. He fearlessly devoted his whole life to the revolution.

He was immured in Tsarist prisons; but he repeatedly escaped from exile. While Lenin lived abroad, Stalin headed the revolutionary movement in Russia. In October, 1917, together with Lenin, he led the revolt in Petrograd; he organized victory on all the decisive fronts of the Civil War; he was Lenin's closest colleague, and when Lenin died, he replaced him.

Like Lenin, Stalin possesses majestic, revolutionary sweep. Faith in the people lends him the boldness to conceive plans on a grand scale. The people follow Stalin's lead, and these lofty plans, thanks to the harnessing of all forces, are achieved one after another.

"We can overcome centuries of backwardness by the Five-Year Plans of constructive work," Stalin said. And the people answered, "It shall be done."

"Our country, which covers one-sixth of the surface of the globe, must be con-

verted into an impregnable fortress," Stalin said. And the people answered, "It shall be done."

And it was done.

Like Lenin, Stalin knows no fatigue or relaxation of action. No other man has ever had the task of guiding an administrative and economic machine so vast and complex. Like Lenin, Stalin is the personification of modesty. He is plain and forthright.

Through stormy seas, with a hand as firm as steel, he steers the ship of state with all its sails spread. He plots the course of the country; he guides its foreign policy and national economy; he builds up the might of the Army. And at night he will phone some factory manager in the Urals to discuss some new detail of a fighter aircraft with the designer, or he will explain his views on how a school textbook should be revised.

And the people follow him, for they know that Stalin will not flinch.

LAUNCHING THE NEW OFFENSIVE

By Hero of the Soviet Union S. Borzenko, *Pravda* Correspondent

The line of the front in the sector of the Vistula bridgehead ran along the small but deep Czarne River. The Germans were on the right bank, and the Soviet troops in the dense forest on the opposite side.

Scores of dugouts were built here in a few months, and many new lanes were cut through the forest by sappers to the front-line positions. Night after night—crossing the bridges spanning the Vistula—countless columns of infantry, tanks, guns and vehicles moved along in a constant stream.

The concentration of Soviet forces was carried out with great secrecy. Special groups of officers were assigned to look after the blackout; the machines moved along without lights, and campfires were strictly forbidden.

A tremendous number of artillery pieces of different calibers was concentrated in the forest. Yet despite this congestion, the order here was exemplary. To avoid confusion, each lane in the forest had its own number and every detachment its own pseudonym. Plywood arrows with inscriptions pointed the direction in which the "Swallow," "Zebra,"

"Lily of the Valley" or "Heron" had moved. One battalion of heavy tanks was called Violet.

"The Germans will soon be smelling Russian violets," Red Army men joked.

Staff officers examined the routes beforehand, from the points of concentration to the initial positions. They could confidently lead their detachments in the darkest of nights. Firing data for all types of guns was collected and passed on to other artillery units as soon as they arrived.

The Soviet Command confused the enemy with its skilfully executed maneuver. The German generals scattered their reserve troops throughout the entire length of the front in this sector.

Constantly circling around in full view of the Germans, a small number of Soviet vehicles created the impression of a large force of motorized infantry concentrating here. Not more than a dozen tractors, making a great deal of noise just behind the foremost positions at night, and dragging wooden models of tanks from one place to another during the day, forced the German reconnaissance patrols to re-

port the approach of Soviet tank units where actually no tanks were being concentrated.

Firing operations of solitary roaming guns, which were immediately replaced by wooden imitations, gave the impression that whole batteries were being concentrated at their firing stations.

Three days before the offensive started a battalion led by Guards Major Yuklayevsky carried out a reconnaissance mission in force to gain a small bridgehead on the enemy-occupied bank and to learn the particulars of the German system of defenses there.

In the night, while snow was falling, the battalion approached the dark and cold river. The infantrymen carried storm bridges. Not waiting till the powerful artillery barrage ended, they threw the bridges across the river and raced to the other side. Companies led by Guards Senior Lieutenants Ambarinov, Gadyuchkin and Kiychevin, drove the enemy out of the woods adjoining the river. The battalion wiped out 400 Hitlerites and captured 27 machine guns and three soldiers and an officer of the 168

German Infantry Division.

This reconnaissance mission revealed that the enemy defenses consisted of an extensive network of trenches and communication lanes, with numerous gun emplacements. Shelters and blindages in the trenches and communication lanes were spacious and protected with log roofs strong enough to withstand even 152-mm. shells.

The numerous rows of barbed wire entanglements were protected by anti-infantry mines, as well as incendiary bottles and grenades which exploded as soon as the barbed wire was touched. All this was discovered by Yuklayevsky's battalion, which brought back valuable information to the command.

At 5 A. M., after artillery preparation which lasted a half hour, the forward Soviet battalions commanded by Guards Majors Rudnev, Reshetnikov and Andryushenko, attacked the enemy positions. The snow had been swept away two days before by a warm wind blowing from

the south. The Red Army men now dashed across snowless sandy ground.

Inspired by the powerful artillery preparation, infantrymen and artillery observers pushed on swiftly. Sub-machine guns were fired on the move. The artillery fire shifted deeper into the enemy defenses and the Soviet infantry sped forward to catch up with it.

The infantrymen soon reached the enemy's forward positions and broke into the first line of trenches. Here they saw the results of the artillery preparation. Disfigured bodies of Germans, shreds of clothing, splinters of smashed logs, lay everywhere. Those German soldiers who remained after the artillery barrage offered very little resistance. They were stunned by the hurricane of fire, which had swept over their positions. Blood streamed from their noses and ears.

The enemy put up a stiff resistance at the second line of trenches, which ran across the hills. Heavy machine guns and

German tanks buried in the ground fired at the oncoming Red Army detachments. The Germans were evidently trying to win time in order to bring up reserves from the rear and stop the advance at the next line of trenches.

However, another surprise artillery raid took place in a short time, and thousands of tons of shells were dropped on the German positions in the entire depth of their defenses. Soviet artillery made a wide gap in the German defenses and silenced the anti-aircraft guns of the enemy. The results gained by the artillery were immediately strengthened by the infantry, which followed in the wake of the curtain of fire.

The Soviet forces managed to take the enemy by surprise at a time and in an area where he was least prepared for resistance. Toward the end of the first day of the offensive, the tactical break-through developed into an operational one, when tank and motorized infantry formations swept into action.

WARSAW IS FREE

The red-and-white flag of the Polish Republic is flying over Warsaw. Liberation has come from the East. It has been brought by the heroic Red Army. Together with the First Polish Army under Lieutenant General Poplawski, Marshal Zhukov's troops have smashed one of the mainstays of the German "Central European wall."

Only six days have passed since the Red Army launched its decisive offensive, and the dawn of freedom has already risen over all Poland. The mighty Soviet power marches in the vanguard of the struggle of the freedom-loving nations. By a fresh onslaught against the German barbarians it saves European civilization, helps the European nations to regain freedom and national independence.

For five years the Polish Capital was martyred. When the first German boot trod Warsaw's streets, everything Polish was condemned to destruction. The Germans closed down Polish educational institutions, theaters, museums, and cinemas. The Germans forbade Polish priests to pray for Poland. To earn a piece of bread, scientists and actors worked as waiters in German nightclubs.

Signboards "For Germans only" appeared everywhere.

Since ancient times Warsaw has been a great commercial center. Under the Germans, commerce died. Under pain of death the Hitlerites prohibited the supplying of Warsaw markets with food. The Germans plundered Warsaw in an organized manner. Its industrial equipment was taken away to Breslau and Leipzig. The valuable property of universities, churches, museums and ancient castles was sent to Germany.

Scores of thousands of Warsaw residents were abducted to Germany for convict labor. When the Red Army began the liberation of Poland, the Germans turned Warsaw into a military camp. Its entire population was driven to build fortifications. Warsaw lived through all the horrors of German occupation—gallows with bodies of victims swinging in the wind; charred bodies of people burned alive in their own homes; corpses of people starved to death.

"I shall never forget," writes an *Izvestia* war correspondent, "how one night a Warsaw woman swam the Vistula to the Soviet lines, climbed the bank and

collapsed, exhausted, whispering: "I have no more strength to stay in Warsaw. Help. . . . Save us, Russians!"

* * *

The snow-covered Polish plain rumbles with the weight of thousands of Soviet tanks and the thud of the advancing Red infantry. Veterans of Stalingrad, the Caucasus, the Don, Orel and Smolensk, participate in the great offensive.

The "Blue Line," the most powerful line of German defenses, stretching north of Warsaw on the approaches to East Prussia, was ripped by Marshal Rokossovsky's forces within the first four hours of the offensive. The air was ringing with SOS calls from the German commanders.

"Give us Tigers and be quick about it!" "Our flank is turned!" "All artillery wiped out or captured by the Russians!" "Block-houses smashed!" "Cannot hold any longer! Cannot hold any longer!" "My company wiped out to the last man! If reinforcements do not arrive, all is lost!"

Spearhead tanks bearing the famous names of Vatutin, Chkalov, Kutuzov, Minin and Pozharsky are crushing the German defenses. The tank columns fan out, splitting the German armies into

parts. Gigantic battles rage in the air, the Luftwaffe sustaining losses which approach those of the battle of the Kursk salient.

PRAVDA correspondent B. Polevoi gives a bird's-eye view of the battle scene:

The entire area, far and wide, up to Germany's frontier in the west, resembles a honeycomb. The country is studded with fortifications and indented with traces of battle. Some of the fortifications are smashed, whereas some remain intact—those which fell into the hands of the Soviet troops before the retreating Germans reached these shelters. All the roads are filled with Soviet tanks, as are the fields and forests. The vast area swarms with Soviet tanks, self-propelled guns and motorized infantry.

The German command hurls its reserves into action, including picked SS divisions. Furious fighting has extended to the whole front. At some points the Germans try to encircle Soviet vanguards. But the superior force, skill and courage of Soviet officers and men win the upper hand. The Germans are offering a back-to-the-wall stand. On some occasions the trapped German garrisons fall to the last man. The enemy suffers extremely heavy losses. Within 48 hours the 73rd German Infantry Division lost 2,200 men killed and 600 captured. Some units have lost from 50 to 70 per cent in killed. In some cases German companies surrender in a body.

Speed and confidence in victory mark the actions of each Soviet soldier, from general to private.

IZVESTIA writes editorially:

Under the deadly blows of the Red Army the snarling enemy creeps back to his lair. No one doubts that other defense lines have been prepared by the enemy farther west, but no one doubts that they will be similarly overcome by the Red Army in its crushing onslaught. The present offensive reveals Stalin's splendid science of victory. Its basic principle is to hit the enemy without missing.

Yesterday the German Information Bureau announced that the war had reached the phase of the finale. This time the Germans are not lying: the matter draws toward an end. The Red Army, which cleared the native soil of the German invaders, is carrying out its last mission with honor and dignity.

Marshal of Tank Troops Yakov N. Fedorenko

Yakov Nikolayevich Fedorenko was born in 1896 in the village of Krasny Oskol, Kharkov Region. His father was a peasant. The boy attended elementary school until the age of 11, then went to work as a messenger. At 15 he joined the merchant marine. Until his 19th year, he worked as a sailor in summer, and in the Donbas coal mines in winter.

When Fedorenko was called up for military service, he entered the Black Sea Fleet. In the revolutionary days he was elected a member of his ship's committee, and later of the Odessa divisional committee. The Civil War followed. Fedorenko joined the Tiraspol detachment and became its commissar. Later he became commissar of the Second Ukrainian Front.

First Armored Unit

In 1918 he was put in command of an armored train; within 12 months he was commanding two, and in 1920 he was in charge of seven armored trains, two armored cars and four tanks. With these forces he assisted in the defeat of Wrangel and broke through into the Crimea.

For the Red Army commanders, the coming of peace meant, above all, time for study. Their country insistently demanded that they study, and Fedorenko entered the Kharkov secondary school and passed from it to the Artillery School at Detskoye Selo. After graduation he was put in command of a division. Later, when the Red Army formed its tank sections, he became commander of a tank regiment.

Soon afterward he was given a brigade, and still later became Chief of Staff of the armored forces of one of the military districts. On the outbreak of the war in 1941, he was appointed to his present post, Marshal of the Tank Forces of the Red Army.

Development of Tank Forces

The history of the Soviet-German war is very largely the history of the development of the tank forces. They showed their mettle early, when they routed Guderian's tank army before Tula. They

were the first to close the ring around the Germans at Stalingrad. They overran the entire Donbas. On the Orel-Kursk arc they quickly turned the hunting Tigers and Panthers into the hunted. They forced the Dnieper. They defeated the German counter-attack at Kiev.

In the tank units of the Red Army are included self-propelled artillery, armored vehicles, transport trucks, motorcyclists, motorized infantry and their auxiliaries. All this mass of machines and personnel is wielded by the man who, years ago, commanded seven armored trains, two armored cars and four tanks against Wrangel.

When Marshal Stalin speaks of the tank formations, he never refers to them by number, but always by the names of their commanders, whom he knows well. At all decisive moments the initiative comes from him—or rather, he foresees the decisive moment long before it arrives.

Every soldier, of course, is an ardent champion of his own weapon, and Marshal Fedorenko is no exception. But he is no bigot in the matter. To a friend he once remarked, "Stalin knows which section of the forces deserves praise, and when."

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The Power of Soviet Arms

An editorial from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, January 17:

The Orders of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief published today announce to our country and to the whole world the new outstanding successes of Soviet soldiers, the new brilliant triumphs scored by Soviet arms.

Having launched the offensive, the troops of the First Byelorussian Front under the command of Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov breached the strong, deeply-echeloned enemy defenses. In three days of fighting, the advancing troops gained up to 60 kilometers, widening the breach up to 120 kilometers along the front. They captured Radom, one of Poland's largest cities, and cleared more than 1,300 other inhabited points. Persistently developing their successes, Soviet troops continue battering their way forward.

And all this is taking place on the western bank of the Vistula, to the south of Warsaw, in an area to which the Germans have been clinging with especial desperation and persistence, on lines which Hitler ordered his generals to hold at all costs! The Germans tried to do it. They dug into the ground. They fenced themselves off from the Soviet soldiers with a multitude of the most clever barriers and obstacles. The enemy built up a powerful defense system in this sector, reinforced with numerous firepoints and strong forces of men. And all these fortifications were swept away by the hurricane of the Soviet offensive in a few days.

The breach accomplished by Marshal Zhukov's troops affords one more convincing proof of the justness of Stalin's words to the effect that the Germans' "chief foe, the Soviet Union, has excelled Hitler Germany in strength." The glorious victories of the advancing troops of the First Byelorussian Front afford one more

convincing proof of the complete futility of the enemy's efforts when he is faced with Soviet soldiers; of the fact that the Germans will be smashed.

With every passing day the Red Army's winter offensive is growing in scope and strength. The liquidation of the remnants of the enemy troops encircled at Budapest is nearing conclusion. Smashing the Germans on Czechoslovak territory, Soviet troops are liberating one city after another, and village after village.

Confidently and uninterruptedly, the valiant troops of the First Ukrainian Front are forging ahead. The victories now won by the troops of the First Byelorussian Front herald the further extension of the front of the Red Army's winter offensive, and further increase the power of the Soviet blows at the enemy.

On November 7, 1944, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Marshal Stalin declared in his Order of the Day, No. 220: "The Red Army and the Soviet people are ready to strike fresh crushing blows at the enemy." The time has come when these blows have descended upon the enemy. They are distinguished by herculean force,

and by the precision and purposefulness characteristic of all actions of the Red Army, led by Stalin's military genius.

One has only to glance at the map to realize the mortal danger which every one of the Red Army's new blows, and especially all its combined blows, spell for the enemy. The struggle is now raging in districts which are of vital significance for Germany. Hence the desperate resistance of the Hitlerites, and the strength of their defense. But Soviet soldiers reply to the strength of the German resistance by greater, overpowering strength.

The victories of Marshal Zhukov's troops afford eloquent testimony to the ability of Soviet soldiers to win mastery on the battlefields and to force their will upon the enemy in any conditions. Adverse weather conditions ruled out the possibility of using aircraft here, as well as on the First Ukrainian Front. But this did not deter the advancing troops. Massed artillery blows cleared the way for them.

Soviet artillery, the principal shock force of the Red Army, has won new glory in these battles. Backed by the support of their batteries, all branches of the Army



Radio photo

ON THE SECOND UKRAINIAN FRONT—Soviet tank-borne tommy gunners break into the enemy lines

have operated with the skill of masters, with the daring and determination of true heroes. The brave Soviet infantrymen, the glorious tankmen and the daring sappers—all the participants in the offensive—have shown examples of military skill and valor.

The high offensive ardor, combined with mature skill, has yielded splendid fruit. Soviet troops did not merely breach the German defenses; they forced the breach with speed and determination, giving the enemy no chance to recover, ruthlessly destroying him. In five days of fighting, Marshal Konev's troops covered

more than 100 kilometers and reached the approaches to Cracow. In three days of fighting, Marshal Zhukov's troops gained up to 60 kilometers. And such tempos have been attained in struggle against a well-fortified, strong and stubbornly resisting enemy.

These outstanding successes of the Soviet arms are all the more significant in that the Soviet offensive is developing in extremely unfavorable weather, which adds to the difficulties of the hard labor of the advancing Soviet soldiers.

The struggle continues. The Red Army's offensive is developing success-

fully. Whatever the enemy may undertake, he shall not escape his doom, shall not escape severe and just punishment for all his monstrous crimes. Filled with determination to bring about the final defeat of the Hitlerite hordes, the Red Army soldiers will cover with honor the remaining lap of the war road. Victory is being decided by our will, our skill, our strength of arms.

To strengthen the blow at the enemy, to skilfully force the enemy's fortified zones and keep up relentless pursuit to encircle and destroy the enemy—such is the task of the Red Army.

THE LIBERATION OF CRACOW

A PRAVDA war correspondent with the troops of the First Ukrainian Front reported on January 20:

In August, the Hitler underling Seyss-Inquart, stated: "I can swear by the Fuehrer's name that Cracow, this most ancient fortress on the Vistula, witness of many futile sieges and present capital of the Polish Governor-Generalship, both now and in the future is beyond all danger. I tell you that sooner will the Vistula flow back, than the Red Army approach Cracow. Despite the Red Army's local successes in East Prussia, now, just as one year ago, we can say that no danger threatens Cracow."

However [the correspondent writes], from long experience of war we knew there was no fortification which the Red Army could not capture. And now during the very first week of our powerful offensive, the walls and lines of the Cracow fortified zone are already behind—the victorious Red Army is marching through the streets of the ancient Polish capital. The battle of Cracow will undoubtedly go down in the history of the Patriotic War as an example of skilled, lightning maneuver.

The fortifications of the Cracow area were among the strongest on the Vistula. But our Command boldly and correctly sealed the outcome of the battle on the Cracow bridgehead. The Germans expected an attack on Cracow from the southeast and concentrated their main efforts in this direction. However, the first blow was dealt from the northwest, where they

least expected it.

In the earliest days of the offensive, Marshal Konev's troops not only advanced rapidly west toward the German frontier, but also swiftly expanded the front of the break-through, both downstream and upstream on the Vistula. While the right flank of the advancing armies was closing in on Kielce, the left flank with equal swiftness crushed the German defensive lines and raced southwest toward Cracow and the Carpathians.

Dozens of kilometers were covered across roadless country studded with numerous small hamlets, every one of which had been converted into a strongpoint.

Advancing on Cracow along the left bank of the Vistula, our generals and officers displayed fine technique of maneuvering. Large and small centers of resistance were either by-passed or invested in a circle, and enemy garrisons were either annihilated or compelled to flee, abandoning arms. Whenever the Germans decided to hold their ground and fight to the finish, they were completely wiped out.

On the seventh day of the offensive, our infantry, supported by tanks and aircraft and accompanied by artillery, broke through to Cracow and engaged the enemy on the outskirts, just where the Germans had never expected the blow.

The front of the offensive grew wider and extended in the southern direction beyond the Vistula. Increasing the pace of the offensive each hour, the troops of the left flank broke through the German

defense, battled their way forward in the western direction and captured hundreds of inhabited localities. The line of the Dunaec River was pierced straight from the march.

After this the pace of the offensive became even faster. Soon, before the eyes of the troops advancing from the southeast, opened a view of the ancient towers and steeples of Cracow. The German garrison of the last belt of the Cracow fortifications, which was already being attacked from the north, was then attacked from the south. The pincers began stretching toward the town, closing around it from the northwest and southwest.

The most critical phase of the battle for Cracow—the engagements at the approaches and in the streets of the city—began. Yesterday our troops completely captured the ancient capital of Poland.

* * *

MARSHAL KONEV'S HEADQUARTERS. January 19: Soviet artillery is blazing a trail from the Vistula to the Oder. *Pravda* correspondent B. Polevoi describes how this arm acts. At the new stage of the war, the enemy, frightened by the specter of retribution, tries to find shelter deep underground. The Germans mustered millions of slaves to build fortifications and are trying to shield themselves from the Red Army with strongly fortified lines.

"The East European wall," broken by Marshals Zhukov's, Konev's and Rokossovsky's armies, was most formidable. All means of modern reconnaissance were used before the new offensive. Day after

day Soviet scout planes photographed the enemy positions, sound locators registered every shot of the German guns, infantry scouts went deep into the German rear and returned with valuable information, and gunners made brisk fire raids, provoking the enemy fire.

Every detail was marked on maps in the Russian headquarters—every pillbox, every firepit. In sectors of densest Soviet artillery concentration, officers and men prepared gun positions and ammunition dumps in advance. But to conceal the preparations, the guns were kept back until the zero hour.

On the night preceding the offensive, colossal artillery formations took up prepared positions noiselessly and in perfect order. Every battery commander had a map with carefully marked targets. Now it only remained for the gunners to aim the guns and open fire upon signal.

The long-awaited hour struck. The thunder of scores of thousands of guns of all calibers, ranging from small regimental guns to 305-mm. breach and assault guns, demonstrated to the entire world the power of Soviet artillery—the power of Stalin's artillery.

The enemy defenses were suppressed across their entire depth. Small guns fired pointblank, destroying the Germans' first line of firepits; medium guns wrecked the second and third defense zones; super-powerful cannon poured shells on previously ranged distant targets some 12 miles from the enemy's forward edge. They pounded the Germans' second echelons, divisional and corps headquarters, and concentrations of reserves.

A German captain, Wenzel, when asked why the German artillery retaliated so lightly, shrugged his shoulders weakly and helplessly. "I can't even tell you how many guns were destroyed by your first salvos, as my communications broke off at once," he said. "Even if we had replied, it would have been only a fly buzzing against a lion's roar."

Under cover of this wall of fire moving westward, Soviet infantry rushed into the attack. Artillery observation officers are moving in its ranks, on foot or in tanks, correcting artillery fire along the entire front of the break-through. The infantry advances, inhaling the hot breath of the Russian squall of fire.



Radiophoto

Hitlerites captured by the Red Army in the battle for Budapest

Marshals Malinovsky and Tolbukhin Completing Capture of Budapest

Two large German factories were discovered in the Budapest area. One of them, located deep underground, manufactured Messerschmitt engines. The other was built secretly over a period of three years and was destroyed by the Allied Air Force on the day of its completion.

The engine plant is protected by a stone roof 80 feet thick. In hot pursuit of the enemy, a Soviet detachment under Major Sergei Petrov reached the underground entrance. A few moments later they found themselves in a cave, surrounded by a crowd of men and women. These were Yugoslavs and Poles—slaves kept there by the Germans. The German foremen managed to escape at the last minute.

The underground shops were brightly lighted, machines were working, trucks and carts with finished motors stood at the exits. The Germans' slaves did not even know that the great battle for the liberation of Budapest had been raging over their heads for 15 days.

The discovery of this underground plant explained the particularly fierce resistance of the Germans in this area. A massive, five-story building stood nearby. A Russian assault group broke into the first floor. In bitter fighting the Russians

gained ground, floor by floor, exterminating the Germans or taking them prisoner. Finally a mere handful of SS cutthroats remained. When the Russians reached the fifth floor, the last three SS troopers committed suicide by jumping out of the windows.

Then and there the Russians coined a new battle cry for assault units, "Drive the Germans to the fifth floor!"

Not in all houses, however, do the men of the doomed garrison fight so desperately. In a huge building which occupied an entire block, the Germans put up machine guns on all sides. They fired from every floor and the basement and attic. The Russians drew up artillery and opened deadly fire. Several minutes later a fluttering white rag appeared from one embrasure, and the 100 German survivors laid down their arms and marched out of the building.

Twenty thousand German and Hungarian officers and men surrendered in Budapest on January 18. Marshal Malinovsky's forces have completely liberated the eastern part of the city. The rattle of machine guns and rifle volleys come from the other side of the blue Danube. Marshal Tolbukhin's troops are finishing off the remnants of Hitler's Budapest army.

TO BERLIN!

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From PRAVDA, January 15:

A German woman, complaining to her husband about the petty vexations of life, wrote: "I sent Aunt Herda's frock to be dyed. When I got it back, everyone was in raptures. It was just like the good old times. But everything we have now is ersatz—and just imagine, a week later, instead of the lovely blue frock, it broke out all in spots, and what is worse, it began falling to pieces—so that I found myself practically naked in broad daylight. . . ."

I recalled Aunt Herda's frock when I read the press reports on the Germans' ersatz offensive in the West. When Rundstedt pushed the Americans back in the Ardennes, the Germans went into raptures of delight. They saw the waters of the Meuse, if only for a day, and the sight reminded them of the good old times. They already imagined themselves not only in Liege, but even in Paris. Although the fast is supposed to come before Christmas, the German fast came after the New Year. Aunt Herda's frock split and the Germans found themselves naked in broad daylight.

Of course, the German Information Bureau is not so frank as Aunt Herda's niece. But now even the Bureau admits that "the German offensive in the West is an operation of a local character, from which the German public never expected serious operational results."

A fortnight ago Goebbels spoke of the force of German arms. Now he writes, "There are periods in war when the force of arms temporarily loses its power of conviction." The Fritzes in the West, and especially in the East, are scarcely likely to agree with that. The ersatz offensive in the Ardennes cost the Germans about 100,000 soldiers, and in a fortnight all they captured was a patch of Belgian territory where there are no factories and no large towns. Such successes, it cannot be denied, are very far from convincing.

However, the gauleiters of Vienna and Cracow will not start unpacking their trunks when they read that the force of arms has temporarily lost its power of conviction.

In what then, does Goebbels place his hopes, seeing that he has lost faith in Tigers—even in Royal Tigers? In the difficulties experienced by the liberated states, in discord among the Allies, in the cunning of the criminal and the naivete of the judge.

The best way to solve the German enigma is to take a glance at Madrid. On New Year's eve the Germans were still revelling in the rolling drums of their ersatz offensive. Hitler made a highly beligerent speech. But if the Fuehrer roars like a lion in Berlin, he coos like a dove in Madrid. The Madrid newspaper ABC at once reacted to the Fuehrer's speech. It said that the German offensive had once more demonstrated Germany's strength to England and America, that Hitler had once more demonstrated his statesmanship, and that therefore what was necessary was a "stalemate peace."

It is not improbable that in the eyes of the cretins who now rule Germany even the V-2 is an olive branch; and the wilting cannibal is yearning for the embrace of the "appeasers." Fond hopes! I will not say that the breed of "appeasers" has died out; they still exist. But they have grown astonishingly modest. These old courtesans now pretend to be innocent schoolgirls. They even lisp, "We are for victory." They can still be a nuisance, but they can't do any serious damage; they are impotent in the face of their peoples, who have seen with their own eyes what fascism means.

It is vain for Hitler to bank on the morbid processes which are going on in one or another European state. In times of danger the human organism will cope with many diseases. The existence of Berlin is helping to weld together the French, and to weld other nations, too—no matter how deep their internal dissensions may be.

What else is Hitler banking on? On his opponents having fallen out among themselves, forgetting him. Only doltishness and the constitutional incapacity of the Germans to comprehend the mentality of others can account for such hopes. Nations are not children. Nations

may discuss and argue as to which is the best road, but they know that all roads are equally menaced by the highwaymen. Members of a conservative club of Coventry will easily reach an understanding with a Komsomol of Smolensk when it comes to bridling incendiaries and assassins.

The citizens of the Soviet Union, America, Britain and France have different ideas of peace, but they are all one in their love of peace, in their hatred of war, and the hotbed of war—marauding Germany. Britain has a grand old culture, America has brilliant mechanical genius, the ideals of liberty proclaimed by France are immortal. We are proud of our friends, as other honest nations are proud of us. Our friendship will stand the test, for it is based on something which is both complex and simple—the longing to shield from evil storms the torch of civilization and the breath of a child.

Goebbels' strivings are in vain. And in vain are the Munich sofas being made ready in the Madrid house of assignation. The only convincing thing in war is the force of arms, and arms are deciding the fate of Germany. The pledge of this is the new and remarkable Red Army offensive.

War is not a game of poker in which the chief thing is to know how to bluff. When the Germans in 1940 "took" Paris, they proclaimed it a supreme military victory. Whom did they hope to deceive, if not themselves? They entered Paris as one enters a hotel when the porter politely throws open all the doors. They entered an empty city where only prostitutes and traitors were left.

Of course, the word Ponryri doesn't sound nearly so grand as Paris. Ponryri was known only to Muscovites traveling south for people used to sell famous apples at the railway station. But it was in the battle of Ponryri that the Red Army scored one of its greatest victories, a victory which made it possible a year later to drive the Germans out of Paris.

Now, as formerly, the Red Army finds itself facing Germany's main forces. The battles in the Ardennes and the Vosges look like skirmishes when compared with the battles of the Eastern Front.

The courage and resolution of Russia is the pledge that together with the Allies she will bring Germany to her knees.

The Germans say of our latest offensive that "it was preluded by hurricane fire of gigantic power." Yes, it is not for nothing that we celebrate Artillery Day. We know that war is war, and not a miracle of pyrotechnics. We do not try to destroy Königsberg or Breslau or Berlin from a distance. We know we are going to get to these cities. We don't want to talk to them from afar; the talk must be at close quarters. We are not interested in V-weapons, but in artillery, which by demolishing German defenses saves the lives of our soldiers and opens the way for our infantry into Germany.

To finish off the Germans will be no easy matter, and we don't imagine that getting to Berlin will be a promenade. We speak frankly of supreme difficulties, for we know that we will cope with them and that we will get to Berlin. All Europe knows it. The Germans know it, too. And it is precisely for that reason they are resisting so desperately: the furnace stokers of Maidanek are terrified at the thought of retribution.

The war has receded far from our country, and there may be people in the rear who three years ago suffered from pusillanimity and are now suffering from equanimity; who think the war is practically over, and that one may revert to the affairs and concerns of peacetime. There are not many such, for our people know the cruel ordeal is continuing; they know there are not two wars, but only one—that in Budapest our soldiers are fighting for the fields of the Ukraine, and that in East Prussia they have the scars of Leningrad before their eyes. In Hungarian cities where everything is strange and foreign to them, the Red Army men yearn for our fields, our streets and our girls. And each of them knows that in bringing liberty to the oppressed and death to the oppressors, he is fighting for the field, street and girl he left far behind him in the East.

An English newspaper correspondent reported the other day that the Germans in Crete are belligerently-minded, although actually they have nothing to hope for. That does not surprise me; I have always held that the Fritzies are not amenable



Radiophoto

A Soviet patrol on the banks of the Vistula

to correspondence courses. They are belligerently-minded in Crete because nobody is molesting them; the military operations in Greece have affected everybody but them.

What are the Germans in Crete hoping for? Just what the Germans in Berlin are hoping for. One of the latter writes to his brother: "Formerly we used to cross each day of the war from the calendar with joy; that was another done with. Now we regard each day that passes with regret, for things may be good or bad, but we are still alive, whereas ahead there is nothing but a void." They are not hoping for anything; they are simply striving to postpone the hour of reckoning.

Victories do not come easily. Let each of us, when he hears the thunder of the salutes, think of the sacrifices. We are advancing not because it is easy to advance, but because we have raised up the tree of victory and watered it with our blood. We never entertained an idea of coming in when it was all over and just shaking the tree, when the fruit is over-ripe.

The German army today is not the army which stormed Stalingrad, but let nobody underrate the strength of German resistance. We know that in 1918 Germany was exhausted, corroded by doubt and bled white; yet she undertook a gigantic offensive, reached the Marne and threatened Paris. But five months

later she collapsed.

The German is an automaton. He marches, shoots, and then the spring runs down and he stops. I am convinced that even Germany's death agony will resemble a military operation.

We have advanced from Vladikavkaz to Budapest. Who then can doubt that we will get to Berlin? In war, not to complete a thing is not to do it at all; and we have suffered much too much, our feelings have been harrowed far too grievously, for us to stop without reaching our goal. We must get to Berlin because the Germans were in Stalingrad. We must march through Germany because we have seen the "desert zone." We must find the assassins. For which of us has not a grave where a dear one lies?

Every country has something it prides itself on. Our pride is not Neptune's trident, nor the elegance of the Graces, nor the gold of Croesus. Our pride is the Russian conscience. Whoever knows this, knows that we will get to Berlin. We cannot betray our dead or forget the lofty sacrifices of heroes, or the blood of infants. Can the stones of burned-down Smolensk stand still in their places? No—they are being impelled towards Berlin.

The gaunt hand of the winter of 1942, the Leningrad winter, is already tapping at the window of the German capital. And over the advancing Armies, like an avenging angel, hover the shades of the

children slaughtered in Babi Yar Ravine. They are flying to Berlin.

We understand what Hitler and Goebbels and the furnace stokers of Maidanek, and the most indifferent of Fritzes, who in a most indifferent and matter-of-fact way killed a fair-haired little girl in Byelorussia, are reckoning on. They are reckoning on eluding justice, procrastinating, getting off lightly, and then returning to their old game of inventing new retaliation weapons, rocket-propelled Tigers or something similar, and then 20 years or so hence, issuing the command, "A quick march to the East."

But that will not be—either now, or 20 years hence, or 100 years hence. We will put an end to them for good. Can we rebuild Chernigov, Gomel or Vyazma, if we know that Germany is manufacturing lethal weapons under the guise of sewing machines? Can we rear children if we know that the inventors of "murder vans," having changed their passports, are sketching plans for gigantic death factories? We love our children too dearly not to go to Berlin.

The Germans reckon on our forgetfulness in vain: the chronicles of suffering are written in blood, not ink; and they cannot be obliterated with an eraser. We must get to Berlin. Our conscience demands it. It is we who will judge our torturers, and we shall not make over the right to anybody.

We fall asleep and wake up with the thought of Berlin. When we are silent, we think of Berlin, and we do not forget it in our sleep.

"But aren't you fed up with it by now?" some neo-appeaser will ask. "We are," we reply, "and that is just why we are in a hurry to get to Berlin."

Man was not made to go on reconnaissance, or to pierce the enemy's defenses, or to knock out tanks. He was made for something else, for wheat-ears, for the play of the imagination, for love, poetry and happiness.

The Germans tore our people from their constructive labors, from their families, and from the land. They compelled them for many long years to press cold steel instead of the warm hand of a loved one, and that was a sore trial for our people.

We are fed up with the Germans. We do not consider the destroying of fascists

the pleasantest of occupations. But that is just why we want to destroy them. That is just why we are in a hurry to get to Berlin. We want peace, and while striving for peace we think only of war. Our soldiers are longing for their homes, and that is just why they are marching farther and farther away from their homes and nearer and nearer to Berlin.

Abroad we were often depicted as many-sided but diffuse, as broad-natured but scatter-brained. That is not true. We can be so; we can think of many things, love many things and treasure variety. But we can also compress our hearts, fasten them with steel hoops and live for only one thing, think of only one thing, and want only one thing.

In the bitter days of 1941 and 1942 we repeated the words "Stand firm" as something dear and precious and unique, but now we want to hasten the end, to accelerate the hour of happiness—and we keep repeating: *To Berlin!*

Oh, of course, the days of the Vistula offensive do not resemble the days of Stalingrad. Houses are being built in Orel, refugees are returning to Minsk, the surface of life in the rear seems to have receded from the war, since the war has receded from it. But that is only on the surface.

Can the mind of a wife be absorbed by anything else than the letters of her husband, can the mind of a country be absorbed by anything else than the Orders of the Day of the Supreme Command?

The fourth year of the war is a severe one, but words cannot describe the courage of the rear; of the workers of the Urals, of the miners who are rehabilitating the pits, of the collective farm women, arsenal workers and tillers of the land. What enables them to stand the hardships, the worry for their dear ones, and the grief of bereavement? Only one thing . . . the knowledge that we are moving on to Berlin; that the blood of our finest was not shed in vain; that there will be retribution, and that there will be peace; a firm peace, a good peace, not the ersatz peace the Germans are anxious to fabricate, but a genuine peace. Not a German peace, but a human peace. For that peace and the happiness which are near, we say: *On to Berlin!*

GERMAN DESTRUCTION IN WARSAW

The Germans laid waste to Warsaw. On the soot-covered wall of a demolished building someone has chalked in Polish: "We will rebuild you, dear Warsaw." Somewhat lower, another inscription reads, "Stalin will help us."

Thousands of residents who went into hiding when the Germans were deporting people to Germany have returned to Warsaw. They warmly hug the Russian and Polish soldiers and bless them for the holy war against the German fiends. Special services were held in the churches which escaped destruction.

The Germans have reduced Warsaw to ruins and ashes, and they did it methodically from 1939 until January 17, 1945. During last year's rebellion, criminally provoked by adventurists from the Polish emigre government at a time when an uprising was doomed to failure, the German command flung dozens of bomber squadrons, Tiger tank detachments and assault guns against Warsaw. Special squads blew up residential houses, together with their inhabitants. Thousands of old men, women and children were buried alive under the debris.

The statue of Nikolai Copernicus, the Cenotaph of the Unknown Soldier, and Chopin's statue have been wrecked. Warsaw citizens commented sarcastically, "The Germans feared Chopin might play a funeral march for them."

The Germans destroyed all public utilities. The city is plunged in darkness and deprived of drinking water. Practically all factories have been burned down and their equipment taken to Germany.

Columns of volunteers, armed with picks and shovels, have already marched over the thin ice of the Vistula from Praga to Warsaw. From time to time, hollow explosions sound in the city: Russian sappers are clearing it of countless German time-bombs.

Trampled pictures from the Warsaw Art Gallery and from churches and palaces lie about in the trenches with which the Germans criss-crossed the streets of Warsaw. But Polish national flags already fly over the houses, and banners hang from the balconies decorated with the coat-of-arms of democratic Poland.

LENIN AND THE YOUTH

By Boris Burkov

Lenin died twenty-one years ago. His memory is sacredly cherished and his behests studied and obeyed by the youth of the Soviet Union. All through his career Lenin made a practice of appealing to the youth to fight for the happiness of the people. He placed a high value on their energy and determination in the fight against the oppressors of the people.

Long before the October Soviet Revolution, Lenin championed the interests of youth and their right to education. He passionately pilloried the inhumanity of the industrialists and landlords in employing child labor, and at starvation wages.

One of the earliest acts of the Soviet Government headed by Lenin was to pass a law prohibiting the employment of children under 14 years of age, reducing the working hours of adolescents to six, prohibiting night work for adolescents and providing for vocational education for youth. The doors of all educational establishments were thrown open to the youth.

Lenin called upon the younger genera-

tion to study, to acquire the knowledge accumulated by mankind, and with the help of this knowledge to build a new life and a better future. He advised them to "arrange their studies in such a way that every day, in every village and in every town, the youth should be carrying out one or another assignment of common labor, even if the smallest and simplest." Only in this way could the youth build a new life and convert Russia from a poor and weak country into a rich and mighty one.

When Lenin died, the cause to which he had devoted all his energies was taken over by his faithful colleague, Stalin, who confidently led the people along the path outlined by Lenin. That is why people say that Stalin is the Lenin of today, and why Soviet youth—like Soviet people generally—have the deepest love for their leader and military commander, Joseph Stalin.

Thanks to the unflagging concern of Lenin and Stalin, from the first year of the Soviet regime the youth were given

the opportunity of taking an active part in the administrative, economic, cultural, social and political life of the country. They formed their own organization, called the Lenin Komsomol—Young Communist League—which has a membership of several million, and which carries on educational and cultural work among the youth and is a school of practical politics and economics for its members.

Unemployment was long ago abolished in the Soviet Union. Every citizen enjoys the right to work. The youth, who regard labor as a matter of honor, valor and heroism since all the fruits of their work are for the benefit of the people, have widely availed themselves of this right.

A blast furnace in Magnitogorsk—one of the largest in the Soviet Union—was built by young people. They built it, like many other plants, in a fabulously short period, notwithstanding the cruel and bitter winter. They also built the large and beautiful town of Komsomolsk, on the Amur River, in the Far Eastern taiga.

Pupils of a Moscow girls' school make 1,500 shoulder straps daily for the Red Army in the uniform accessories shop



Under the Soviet Constitution, every young man or woman of 18 and over has the right to elect and to be elected to any organ of the State. In the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, highest organ of State authority, there were 284 members under the age of 30 at the time of its first election.

Education in our country is compulsory. If for any reason boys or girls go to work at the age of 14 to 16, the law requires that they be provided with the opportunity to continue their education, usually in special schools connected with factories.

An extensive network of schools, technical colleges and higher educational establishments provide the youth with the possibility of obtaining both a secondary and higher education. On the eve of the war, 33 million children were attending primary and secondary schools, and one-half million young men and women attending colleges or universities. In addition, there are vocational, trade and factory schools.

Soviet youth enjoy wide opportunities for recreation and entertainment. There are some 700 theaters in the USSR and over 30,000 cinema theaters and projection machines. There are more than 200 clubs in Moscow alone and over 60,000 in the rural districts. Before the war, sanatoria, health resorts and rest homes provided accommodations for about four million persons annually.

Many more examples might be cited to illustrate the solicitude shown by Lenin, Stalin and the Soviet Government for youth. Soviet youth revere the memory of Lenin, think of him with gratitude and consider it their duty to live according to his teachings. They strive in the Lenin way to fight and vanquish the enemy and to build a new life and culture. In this Stalin constantly encourages them.

When the German fascists attacked the Soviet Union, all the youth rose to the defense of their country, their liberty, lives, honor and independence, as they had been taught by Lenin and Stalin. They have displayed dauntless courage and heroism on the war front and on the home front.

Hundreds of thousands of youth—soldiers, officers and members of underground organizations operating in the en-

emy's rear—have been decorated with orders and medals. Some 2,000 members and former members of the Komsomol have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. The Soviet people revere the memory of Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, Lisa Chaikina, Alexander Chekalin, Viktor Talalikhin, and many others of its gallant sons and daughters who fought and died, or who are now heroically fighting the enemy.

At the bench, in the mines and on the railways, Soviet youth are toiling with all their might, staunchly enduring all hardships and difficulties of wartime. They are dedicating all their energies and knowledge to producing the largest possible numbers of weapons for the Armed Forces. Perfecting themselves in their trades in the process of work, the young workers make suggestions for the improvement of production methods and invent new devices and appliances, as a result of which they are often able to considerably increase their output.

In the industrial plants of the country, there are nearly 130,000 youth brigades which, aided by foremen, technicians and engineers, are constantly improving their knowledge and skill and considerably exceeding their daily and monthly output assignments.

The labor feats of the youth in the rear and their martial feats at the front testify to their initiative, persistence and skill, born of a deep love for their country. In this our youth are obeying the behests of Lenin and of his successor, Joseph Stalin. In this war, the younger generation of the Soviet Union, brought up in the finest traditions of their people and on the lessons of its past and present, are defending their future.

The youth of the Soviet Union entertain the deepest respect for the rights, traditions and culture of other nations. Our youth in the ranks of the Red Army are fighting fascist Germany side by side with the youth of the freedom-loving countries of Europe and the whole world. They are eagerly and admiringly following the courageous fight of the youth of other countries against fascism, and are actively aiding them in this fight, so as to hasten the final defeat of the common enemy of mankind, Hitler Germany.

SCIENCE IN FILMS

By Oleg Leonidov

Moscow has a special studio devoted solely to the production of technical and scientific films, of which it releases about 100 yearly.

At present the studio is making a picture called "The Law of Great Love," dedicated to one of the most interesting of all biological phenomena, the maternal instinct. The principal hero is a baby fox, and the film illustrates the various forms in which the maternal instinct is manifested among wild animals: the building of homes, the nurture, protection and rearing of the young.

The film is being made at the Osino-Ostrovskoye game preserve near Moscow.

Another nature film, "The Life of Bees," is being shot at an experimental apiary in the Maikop area. It shows the division of labor among bees. The "actors" include bee nurses and orderlies, working bees, builders, drones and the queen.

A fantastic and charming spectacle is the dance of the bees, expressing their delight at the discovery of a new source of nectar. A special hive was built for the filming of this picture, and micro-photography is being employed. With the aid of clever devices the producer persuades the bees to follow the demands of the scenario.

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No 'Walls' Will Shield Them

From a PRAVDA editorial, January 23:

The Red Army is within 170 miles of Berlin.

Marshal Zhukov's Armies, paralyzing with lightning strokes all enemy attempts to make a stand on intermediate defense lines, continue their vigorous offensive. Marshal Konev's forces have secured a firm foothold in German Silesia—Germany's smithy. Marshal Rokossovsky's spearheads are swiftly wedging in from the south, outflanking the German forces massed in East Prussia.

For the first time in 150 years, the Germans have to bear the weight of a war on their own territory. Nothing can check the Red Army's victorious progress. Fascist Germany will have to pay for her sanguinary aggression, for the war of extermination she imposed upon the world, for the monstrous crimes against civilization, for the blood and tears of millions.

The righteous cause we are defending in this war is triumphant. The Red Army

has had to endure a hard struggle against the million-strong armies of the armor-clad huns of the 20th Century. At the outbreak of the war the Red Army did not have the rich experience of modern warfare which the German army had. But Soviet soldiers are true patriots. They are men of strong will, courage, daring and staunchness. They have never failed to overcome difficulties in times of peaceful labor. In time of war they have proved to be true sons of their country.

The victorious Red Army relies on the economic might of the Soviet State. The Soviet people have scored an economic victory over Hitlerite Germany. The war has revealed the moral force of the Soviet peoples. In their family there is no discrimination against any members. The people of the various races and nations are bound together by ties of friendship and brotherhood. The savage nationalism and racial hatred of the Hitlerites is opposed by the union of free, equal peoples.

Fifty million people inhabit European

territory beyond the Soviet borderline which has been liberated by the Red Army from the German fascist plunderers and hangmen. The peoples of Europe who are being liberated heartily welcome the Red Army. Those millions have learned that Soviet soldiers are inspired with the idea of defending civilization.

The enemies of peace and freedom, the instigators of war, will be punished. No "walls" will shield them. Nothing can save the Hitlerite criminals from the just historical retribution being brought by the Red Army and the Armies of the Allied States. No pro-fascist pleaders and solicitors can help them out.

Our task is to win complete and final victory over Hitlerite Germany. We know the strength of the enemy. A war on his territory is a difficult war. The Hitlerites resist with the fury of doomed criminals. The Red Army is marching over German soil. It is moving to Berlin; it will reach the last shelter of the fascist beast, despite all obstacles and difficulties.



Soviet tanks advancing on the First Byelorussian Front



Guards Major Bugayenko, commander of a tank unit, watching operations

Red Army Smashes Powerful Silesian Defenses

The six lines of German defenses which shielded Silesia, Germany's second industrial center after the Ruhr, are now behind Marshal Konev. All six lines consist of fortified areas based on the most modern science of fortification. The Germans built them at 15 to 20-mile intervals. These lines form a network of fortified towns, settlements and hills. Endless lines of deep trenches run between them, with fire-nests set up at 100 to 150-yard intervals. Barbed-wire fences and mine-fields stretch for miles.

Under the blows of the American and British Air Forces, the Germans evacuated numerous plants from the West to Silesia. In Silesia, industry is so concentrated that the southern part actually became one single city, stretching over 70 miles. One-fourth of Germany's coal, ten per cent of her steel and 15 per cent of her pig iron were produced here before the war. During the war the volume of

production in German Silesia greatly increased.

Soviet troops advance without stopping. Not only the tank forces, but infantry and artillery as well, gain 15 to 20 miles daily in heavy fighting. Mobile units attack fresh German reinforcements arriving from the interior, split the German defenses and speed on westward.

Soviet second echelons are engaged in the annihilation of encircled German garrisons. Some German garrisons which remained in the rear of the Russians are attempting to escape westward. Very few, however, succeed. The surrounded German forces are either destroyed by the second and third echelons, or join the huge columns of war prisoners plodding eastward.

In ten days Marshal Konev's troops took 21,000 German prisoners. The enemy lost 60,000 officers and men in

killed. The German losses in destroyed or captured equipment amount to some 750 tanks and self-propelled guns, 1,500 guns, 650 armored troop carriers, 22,000 trucks, and a large number of food and equipment stores and munitions dumps.

A large enemy group surrounded in the woods was annihilated yesterday. Four thousand Germans were killed there during the day. The body of Lieutenant General Von Block, commander of the 56th German Tank Corps, was found on the battlefield. The commander of the 10th German Motorized Division and his chief of staff surrendered.

The German command transfers to this front troops from the Western Front. Among the new war prisoners are officers and men of the 712th Infantry Division, which several days ago fought in Holland against the British, and from the 2nd Tank Division, which one week ago was on the Western Front.

THE OFFENSIVE IN EAST PRUSSIA

By M. Merzhanov, *Pravda* Correspondent

Soviet forces are again on the offensive in East Prussia. Troops under the direction of Lieutenant General Luchinsky launched the attack on a foggy day, when neither the Air Force nor the heavy artillery could fully support them. Nevertheless, the infantry confidently pushed ahead and quickly captured the first line of trenches. Here they found only bodies of German soldiers and smashed blind-ages: the two-hour artillery preparation had devastated the Prussians.

That same day a Red Army unit under Major General Aniov advanced several kilometers west of Stalluponen, occupied Alt Budaponen, and reached an important highway near a forest. To the south of this forest, Luchinsky's men forged ahead along the highway leading to Gumbinnen, a large district center of East Prussia, and fighting broke out further north in the vicinity of Pillalen.

Early the next morning, 30 German tanks and nearly a regiment of infantrymen launched a strong counter-attack, but were soon stopped by our heavy artillery barrage. The battle was resumed at noon with renewed force. The duel be-

tween the German tanks and Soviet artillery and self-propelled guns continued for over an hour. Soviet gun commanders, gunlayers and loaders applied all their skill in firing with maximum precision. Their shells knocked off the tanks' tracks and turrets, and set the enemy machines on fire.

One of the Soviet self-propelled guns was enveloped in flames, but the crew kept on fighting. The jacket of the driver Tikhchenko was burning, but he remained in his seat, operating the levers. Gun commander Sayevich continued to issue orders and point out the targets. Gunlayer Shekhin and Sergeant Zaitsev, loader, carried on with their duties. When the last round of ammunition was spent and the driver killed, Sayevich, Shekhin and Zaitsev jumped from the self-propelled gun, pulled out their pistols and joined the infantrymen, helping them repulse the enemy counter-attack.

The battle ended late in the afternoon. Sixteen German tanks were left on the field and scores of bodies in green trench-coats were scattered all over no man's land. The highway and Alt Budaponen

again fell into the hands of the Soviet forces.

Similar engagements took place in the capture of Pillakonen and on the approaches to Gumbinnen. When the enemy was driven out of Alt Budaponen, the Red Army battalions led by Captain Yemelyanov and Captain Karchagin—the latter decorated with the United States Silver Star Medal—pursued the Prussians, cut off their retreat and wiped them out.

The fighting in East Prussia continues. The fog has disappeared and hundreds of Soviet aircraft are again attacking German positions. Yesterday, General Luchinsky's men, supported by the Air Force, moved ahead and cut off the roads adjoining Gumbinnen.

Columns of vehicles, guns and tanks rumble along the highway to the west. The tank force directed by General Burdeiny has penetrated into the rear of the German army. The bodies of German soldiers and officers and the demolished materiel on the approaches to Alt Budaponen are already covered with snow. The Russian winter war is advancing to the heart of East Prussia.

WARSAW

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Berlin's triumph began with Warsaw's fall; Warsaw's liberation foreshadows Berlin's fall.

Red Army and Polish troops have set free glorious Warsaw; city of sorrow, city of pride. We remember a time when, ill-armed and duped by her mean and irresponsible rulers, Warsaw repelled for three weeks running the attacks of the powerful German army. We remember how she fought the invader in the darkest years. We remember the more recent tragic weeks when Warsaw's citizens, cheated once more by vainglorious and reckless people, died for liberty.

Warsaw seems dead. But she is not dead; and if she has lost some of her gayest streets, she has saved her soul. Today we can cheer with the Poles, "Poland has not perished. Warsaw lives and will live!"

More than once have the stones of the Polish Capital witnessed conflict between two brother nations. But may this now become ancient history. Not only has

the Red Army broken through strong enemy defenses, but it has overcome mistrust and enmity. The slanderers are silent. On whom did they rely, those last obsolescent "aurochs" who changed their abode from the Dielowiezh preserves to London cottages? On the Swiss Red Cross? Or the Swiss Guards at the Vatican?

It was not the staff of the *Catholic Herald* but Siberian plowmen and Moscow workers who freed Warsaw. We did not think of helping our brother people by sending them airy kisses, even with chocolate filling. We got ready for the attack. It was not for ourselves that we took Warsaw, but for Poland. The liberation army is doing its work. Belgrade for the Yugoslavs; Warsaw for the Poles.

And what of us? Day and night we are thinking of something else.

Yesterday the German Information Bureau announced, "The war has entered upon its final phase." This time, at least,

they are not lying. Things are coming to an end. In a few days we have traveled a long distance. In these few days we have captured Kielce, Radom, Ciechanow and Czenstochow. We are approaching Upper Silesia; and need it be explained that Germany without Upper Silesia is like a cannibal without his gall bladder?

No matter what city we take, our thoughts are fixed on one thing. We are hastening towards one goal, which we never for a moment forget. We have freed Sofia, Belgrade and Warsaw. Three capitals of three states. We have taken Bucharest. We have tamed Helsinki. We are clearing up the last blocks of Budapest. Six capitals, six states. But we are thinking of one thing—the seventh capital, towards which we are striving with all our hearts. We are going on foot; we are riding on tanks, with all the necessary tools. And we shall soon arrive.

Dead Warsaw will return to life. Berlin is still alive, but it has not long to live now.

IN THE REICH

By Ilya Ehrenburg

At school they were taught, "We shall fight on alien territory." The Fuehrer also assured them, "We shall fight on alien ground." And fight they did, in the Kuban, in Algiers, in Norway and Macedonia. "That is alien territory," they smirked.

They were burning alien cities, raping alien women, murdering the wives of others. Today the names of "Grunheide, Kraupischken and Scupinen" are music to our ears, harsh and repelling though they sound.

Every day we are penetrating ever deeper into East Prussia. We have broken through to the interior of Germany, to Upper Silesia. The war has now been transferred to their territory, and from the bottom of my heart I wish to say that I am happy I have lived to see these days.

The German scribblers are in a quandary. Though admitting that "the Russians have attained considerable suc-

cesses," they still strive to deny everything as of old. "In East Prussia German troops continue to maintain the initiative." Initiative for what? Flight? Or striving to soothe the troubled hinterland, they insist that "the ferocity of the fighting shows that the German troops have preserved their discipline." Who will be soothed by such an admission?

If they find it necessary to prove that the German army has preserved its discipline, they succeed only in proving that not only have the Germans lost their heads in Koenigsberg, Marienburg, Breslau and Danzig, but in Berlin as well.

When we seized the border towns of East Prussia in the autumn, the Germans wrote that these were "sparsely inhabited outskirts of the Reich." They reminded their readers that in 1914, too, the Russians had been in East Prussia. They strove to prove that the loss of a few pastures, and even Goering's hunting lodge, could not adversely affect Ger-

many's economy. They swore that the Red Army should never reach the life centers of the country.

Where are these strategists today? Where are these economists? These braggarts? In what cellars, under what beds, are they hiding?

We are in Upper Silesia, known not so much for its potatoes as for its coal and ore. Silesia furnishes Germany with more than half its armaments. We have seized the witch by the hair and she won't get away.

They will, of course, defend themselves desperately. Nobody believes that German towns will be easily taken. They will be hard to take, but take them we shall, nonetheless. The Germans know that they will have to answer for all, and they are fighting furiously.

It isn't a sheepfold we have reached, but the lair of a beast of prey. We have not come here armed with a wisp of grass however, but with tanks, artillery and all

weapons necessary to annihilate beasts of prey; and annihilate them we shall.

I still preserve a letter written by a German woman from Tilsit, Gertrude by name. This woman in 1943 wrote the following to her husband:

"I like the Russian servant girl because she is so undemanding. Nothing, absolutely nothing, need be given her to eat. She picks up things somehow and sleeps in the stable."

Today we are in Tilsit, in Gertrude's house. This German woman, of course, has fled, but she can flee only within certain limits. She won't get out of Germany. She was pleased by "the undemanding nature" of a lone, helpless Russian girl.

Now Gertrude and others like her will acquaint themselves with the demand of justice. Now we are in the Prussian and Silesian towns, in the homes of German merchants and counsellors, of gauleiters and slave owners. How fortunate!

Voelkischer Beobachter observes: "The hour of denouement has arrived." It is a long hour, of course, but the denouement has undoubtedly arrived.

Heinrich Heine in a poem gave voice to the sentiments of the wretched Silesian weavers who were weaving a shroud for an old German witch by night and by day. The old witch in those days survived. Heinrich Heine died in Paris, in exile, and the Nazis have solemnly burned the

books of this poet because he was not "Aryan" and because he loved liberty.

As for the old Silesian weavers, they were unable to finish their shroud. Their grandsons have been done to death by the Nazis. Others have long since sold their honor as workingmen and have become quite ordinary Fritzes, fond of plundering foreign countries.

The Silesian weavers who once wove the shroud of Germany are gone. We, however, shall weave her a shroud without the aid of weavers. We shall weave her a shroud of shells, mines and bombs. Her array does not matter. What does matter is that her coffin should be closed as firmly as possible—and that we shall do.

Marshal of Engineering Troops M. P. Vorobyev

Mikhail P. Vorobyev was born in 1896 in the Cossack village of Chasav-Yurt, on the mountainous shores of the Caspian Sea. His father, a railwayman, taught him from childhood to respect learning and labor. For the boy, the two were inseparable.

As a youth, Vorobyev entered a mining institute, but was called up for the Tsarist Army in the First World War. After demobilization he rejoined his family, who had removed to Vladikavkaz in the Caucasus. There he entered the ranks of the defenders of his country against the White Russian insurrectionaries, who had occupied the whole of South Russia. As soon as the Red Army was formed, he volunteered for service in it.

In 1924 Vorobyev entered the Military Engineering Academy. After his graduation in 1929, he remained in the Academy as a lecturer, teaching an entire generation of Soviet military engineers.

In 1940, after the Soviet-Finnish war, Vorobyev was appointed general inspector of engineering troops. When the Soviet-German war began, he was sent to supervise the Dnieper defenses and was appointed Chief of Engineering Troops on the western front. In the latter capacity he participated in the defense of Moscow. In April, 1942, he was appointed Chief of Red Army Engineering Troops, a post he still occupies.

Since that date there has not been a



Marshal Mikhail P. Vorobyev

single action of the war in which Vorobyev has not had a part. He was at Stalin-grad for some months and was personally responsible for the preparation of the defense line known as the "third ring."

Other notable operations in which he played a prominent role were the breaking of the blockade of Leningrad and the forcing of the Dnieper.

In the spring of 1944 the Soviet offensive in the Ukraine developed over terrain which was, by ordinary standards, impassable. It was largely due to Marshal Vorobyev that Soviet engineering troops were able to overcome all the handicaps of weather, soil and complete lack of roads, without reducing the tempo of the

offensive by a fraction.

Of his subordinates, Marshal Vorobyev demands that they endeavor to develop their own methods, as yet "unknown to science," as he jokingly puts it. He approved their initiative in the Dniester action, when they used windmills as barges and as supports for a bridge. On Lake Sivash, with its swampy bottom, his sappers built a mile-long bridge which withstood the worst the Luftwaffe could send against it. The Germans dropped no less than 4,000 high explosives around the bridge in 24 hours.

Marshal Vorobyev introduced a system under which every engineering section, on being moved into the reserve, does a "post-graduate course," often only half a mile or so behind the front line.

"I am a field professor," the Marshal says. And every word he speaks reveals the teacher who can show his students how to make daring decisions—and how, above all, to be self-reliant.

"When life demands it, you must be able to remember every single thing you have ever been taught—and base your decision on it," he tells them.

Of the men under his command, Marshal Vorobyev says, "We have excellent people. Stalin knows that. He knows he can ask them to do anything. And they know he will not ask without good reason. I think that is the ultimate secret of victory."

LENIN AND POLAND

By J. Kowalski

The recognition accorded the Provisional Government of the Polish Republic by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has made a profound impression on public opinion in Poland and upon all friends of the Polish people. It is regarded as new proof of the friendly sentiments of the peoples of the Soviet Union toward resurgent Poland.

This did not come as a surprise to those who have followed the development of Soviet-Polish relations and are aware of the principles by which the Soviet Government is guided in its foreign policy. These principles are particularly clearly revealed in the example of Poland.

For 400 years the policy of the Russian Tsars on the one hand, and the Polish magnates on the other, widened the gulf between the Polish nation and its Slavic brothers—the Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians. Only the collapse of Tsardom under the mighty blows of the Russian people; only the formation of the new, truly democratic Soviet Russia paved the way for entirely new relations between the Soviet Union and the Polish nation. Lenin and Stalin, leaders of the Soviet State, based it on the principles of humanity and progress, equality and mutual respect among nations.

Lenin was an ardent patriot of his country. But precisely because he was a patriot and proud of the great Russian people, Lenin passionately and ruthlessly fought against chauvinism, against the policy of oppression of other peoples. Lenin's love of his people and his country was free of any national exclusiveness, of any trace of nationalism; it was harmoniously blended with respect for the rights of other nations to a free and independent life.

That was why, from the very beginning of his political activity, Lenin implacably opposed the oppression of the Polish people by Russian, German and Austrian imperialism. He consistently championed the right of the Polish people to determine its own destiny; its right to independence.

The Soviet Government proclaimed the right of all peoples oppressed by Tsardom,

among them the Polish people, to self-determination, even to the point of seceding from Russia and establishing independent states.

On August 29, 1918, when Poland was still languishing in the fetters of the German occupation and when the German governor, General Count Von Deweler ruled in Warsaw, the Council of People's Commissars of Soviet Russia, presided over by Lenin, adopted a decision abrogating all treaties concluded by the Tsarist, Prussian, German and Austrian governments regarding the partitions of Poland. In this decision was proclaimed the right of the Polish people to unity and independence as a state.

In November, 1918, after the defeat of German and Austrian imperialism, when Poland became an independent state, Soviet Russia was the first to recognize Poland's independence and sovereignty.

Even in 1920, when the Pilsudski clique pushed Poland into an adventurous robber campaign against the young Soviet Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia, Lenin and the Soviet Government, while organizing resistance to the imperialistic invasion, at the same time emphasized their inviolable desire to live in peace and friendship with the Polish people.

In a declaration issued by the Council of People's Commissars in January, 1920, it was stated that the policy of Soviet Russia with regard to Poland was based not on fortuitous, temporary, military or diplomatic considerations, but on the indefeasible principle of self-determination of nations; that Soviet Russia unqualifiedly and unreservedly recognized the independence and sovereignty of the Polish Republic and regarded that as the foundation of its relations with Poland from the very inception of the Polish state.

The Soviet Government stated that there was not a single question at issue between Poland and Russia that could not be settled by peaceful means.

The policy of the Soviet Government with regard to Poland remained the same after Lenin's death. The present period of the war of freedom-loving nations

against Hitler Germany has most vividly revealed the great role of the Soviet Union's friendship and aid to other nations of Europe; among them, to the Polish nation. The Soviet Union and its heroic Red Army have extended the hand of brotherly help to the peoples of Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and other countries oppressed by the Hitlerite invaders.

The leader of the Soviet Union, Marshal Stalin, has repeatedly stated that the Soviet Union is interested in the existence of a strong and independent Polish state. The Soviet Government, headed by Marshal Stalin, has done and is doing everything in its power to help the Polish people in its struggle for full independence, for the formation of a strong, democratic Polish state. The Soviet Union has helped to build up the Polish Army and has equipped it with first-class modern weapons. Red Army troops have liberated a considerable part of Polish territory and will help the Polish people to liberate all Polish lands.

The Soviet Government has rendered every assistance to the democratic authorities of the Polish people, the Polish Committee of National Liberation, in their great constructive work to rehabilitate the country which the Hitlerite bandits ruined.

And today, when by the will of the Polish people the Polish Committee of National Liberation has been replaced by the Provisional Government of the Polish Republic, the Soviet Union has been the first to recognize this Government, and has thus still further strengthened the bonds of friendship that link the Polish people with the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Colonel Marian Spychalski, mayor of Warsaw, in a statement in the newspaper *Warsaw Life* on the reception by Marshal Stalin of representatives from Praga, cited a number of utterances made by the head of the Soviet Government regarding Soviet-Polish relations. At that reception Marshal Stalin said that for 400 years the two nations had pursued an unreasonable policy of strife and mutual distrust which had been detrimental to both

nations and useful only to their traditional common enemy, Germany.

Marshal Stalin further said that the time had come to turn over a new leaf, to work for the elimination of all differences between the Polish people and the people of the USSR. He emphasized that the Soviet-Polish alliance would constitute a guarantee of a free, independent and democratic Poland. Marshal Stalin

further pointed out the importance to Poland of maintaining friendly relations with Great Britain, France and the United States.

In his speech of November 6, 1944, Marshal Stalin stated that "... the peoples of the USSR respect the rights and independence of the nations of foreign countries and have always shown themselves willing to live in peace and friendship

with their neighbor states."

That is the basis of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union inaugurated by Lenin and successfully applied by Stalin. The Polish people and all freedom-loving people see more clearly the fruitfulness and humanity of this policy, which is contributing to the speedy defeat of Hitlerism and the establishment of a just, enduring peace.

BLOOD AND MONEY

By Ilya Ehrenburg

I have often wondered why the Germans are called beasts. A beast may be fierce, but never base. But what strikes me about the Germans is their baseness, a combination of cruelty and avarice. They have turned the murder of millions of people into a profitable enterprise.

The Germans killed the whole of the Jewish population in Siauliai, as in other cities. This, of course, was a fact known to all Germans, not only at the front, but in Berlin also.

A very significant letter has come into my hands. It is headed, "Artibus and Litteris. Society of Humanitarian and Natural Sciences. Berlin, Marienstrasse 40, April 12, 1943.

"Herr Schavelski, Gebietskommissar: In reply to a request for the book *Great Masters of Music* received from a Lithuanian subject, Vladas Levitanas (Siauliai, Tagizhu Garve 107), we sent the book at the beginning of 1938. Levitanas owed us 43 marks, 25 pfennigs. We regret that we have only now learned that Levitanas was a Jew, whose present place of residence it is impossible to ascertain. We suppose that the authorities will take measures in regard to the book we sent, when they are disposing of Levitanas' other property. We will be grateful if you will kindly inform us if you know anything of the matter, and help to restore our property."

They have a nice way of expressing themselves, these German tradesmen; it is "impossible to ascertain the present place of residence" of a man who has been done to death. Knowing that tens of thousands of defenseless people were murdered in Siauliai, the Marienstrasse hucksters are worried as to where their 43 marks, 25 pfennigs can be?

Women were flogged and old men were hanged in Gelguda Street in Siauliai. These executions were invariably attended by the most prominent Germans in the city: from Gebietskommissar Krohl to Hauptsturmfuehrer Fortener and others. The blood of innocent people was shed.

Here I have a note written in a round, childish hand in Polish.

"Dear father: I am saying goodbye to you before I die. We want very much to live, but all is lost; they will not let us. I am so afraid of this death, because they throw little children alive into the grave. Goodbye, father. I kiss you very, very hard. Your Unis."

Of what were the gentlemen from the Society of Humanitarian Sciences thinking? Of 43 marks, 25 pfennigs.

On April 2, 1943, the chief of the building department of the Galicia Region, a German named Gress, made a rather unusual request to the chief of the Tarnopol territory. He required stones for road repairs, and there were some tombstones in the two Jewish cemeteries in the town of Zbarazh that would do. To this the chief of the Tarnopol territory replied:

"April 14, 1943, 300-611: The Landkommissar of Zbarazh agrees to place the tombstones from the cemeteries at your disposal. However, the Landkommissar wishes to use the tombstones for other purposes, too. You must come to an agreement as to price with the Landkommissar. I suggest that the interested firm should communicate directly with Herr Von Braunsweig on this question. Von Garbut."

Desecration of graves is a punishable offense according to the laws of all civilized nations; Article 168 of the German Criminal Code states that "anyone found

guilty of stealing a tombstone or of desecrating a grave is subject to imprisonment." But why refer to laws when we are dealing with bandits? They have traded in tombstones, in the hair of women they asphyxiated, and in dresses taken from children they murdered.

Von Braunsweig, Landkommissar of Zbarazh, trafficked not only in graves, but also in people. He supplied German firms on occupied territory with men, women and children. He particularly valued the building firm of Richard Reckman of Kortbus.

On August 1, 1942, Richard Reckman wrote to Von Braunsweig, "Please send me 300 people. Heil Hitler."

Meantime, what was taking place in Zbarazh? The town was deserted; townspeople were taken to Belzhets, where the largest death factories were situated. Whereas in Maidanek, Sobibur and Tremblyanka, doomed people were asphyxiated, in Belzhets they were killed by electric shock.

Mothers clasped their children to their breasts and wept. They knew they were to be taken to Belzhets. One woman found strength to smother her own child and then herself.

Von Braunsweig said, "We are clearing Zbarazh. This is an excellent measure." But at the same time, Von Braunsweig was doing business with Richard Reckman's firm, and he understood that unless he gave Reckman workers, Reckman would not pay him his money.

On December 12, 1942, Von Braunsweig requested the chief of the Tarnopol territory not to send all the doomed people to Belzhets. His letter, No. 1007-3, contains the following admission:

"After the last action the district was left with very few hands." In German, the word action means action, that is, what the Hitlerites call their actions—which is to say, the mass extermination of people.

Money is money and blood is blood. The Landkommissar did not forget about the blood either.

On November 16, 1942, nuns working at a Roman Catholic creche found near it an infant about a year old. On learning of this, Von Braunsweig wrote:

"The infant is of female sex, probably of Jewish origin—since a Jewess, whose identity it has not been possible to establish, asked the peasants to conceal the child the day before. Please take the necessary measures."

Measures were taken, and the year-old child of "probably Jewish origin" was killed.

Blood is blood, money is money.

The chief of the Tarnopol territory, Von Garbut, worked with the German firm of Kremin, which was engaged in collecting junk. Von Garbut pleaded in Lvov that the dispatching to the death factory of Jews sold to the Kremin firm should be temporarily postponed.

In Order No. 912, signed by SS Brigadenfuehrer, we read that the doomed people who were working for the Kremin firm should be provided with tabs saying, "not for immediate dispatch" to Belzhets. But afterward? Afterward Von Garbut sent the money to his wife and ordered the unfortunate victims to be shot: the Kremin firm had wound up its activities.

The same thing happened at Sanko. The firm of Kirhof, builders from Stuttgart, was working there. Its representative, engineer Egelefer, selected from the ghetto 600 adults and 100 children. The German overseers beat the slaves with sticks and set dogs on them. The unfortunate victims had to break stones, push wheelbarrows and work standing up to the waist in icy water. Thus they worked from September 5 to December 15, 1942. Then engineer Egelefer arrived, and after looking over the slaves, said, "These are no good for anything anymore." They were forced to dig pits and in these they were buried.

Many of the victims who had been

captured by the Germans were working outside of Meirov in the wintertime. Commandant Genig and a representative of the German firm of Maindl, examined the footwear of the doomed people every week. If a worker's boots were quite worn out he was killed, because he could no longer work. The firm knew its business, and the hangmen, too, and they acted together in perfect agreement. At first the tradesmen wrung out of the people the last drop of their sweat, and then the hangmen shed their blood.

On April 7, 1943, the landkommissar of Zbarazh was in excellent humor. The firm of Richard Reckman had completed its operations very successfully. That day Von Braunsweig had killed, with the help of a Tommy gunner, over 2,000 people. Old people cursed the hangmen, innocent children wept—they could not understand that these were Germans. Von Braunsweig caroused until morning. He had arranged a lavish banquet to celebrate this latest "action."

And the next morning the landkommissar engaged in commerce. He sold the tombstones to this firm. What was it to him that he risked imprisonment for the desecration of graves? He knew that he already deserved the halter; for he had killed 5,000 people.

Base and loathsome creatures! Merchants Richard Reckman and Kirhof made money out of human agony, out of the last convulsive shudder of the doomed. Merchant Kremin collected garments of those who were shot. Other tradesmen made money out of the women's hair. And after this they dare to assert their innocence!

Some "humanists" in Berlin, on learning that their countrymen were killing millions of innocent people in the East, felt only anxiety about their 43 marks, 25 pfennigs. They are not only frightful, they are abominable. After hanging them, one would have to ask pardon of the trees from which the gallows was made.

Before my mind's eye arises the version of the little girl Unis, lisping, "They throw children alive into the grave." This child will recall everything. This child will visit the house of merchant Reckman, the house of the chairman of the Society of Humanitarian Sciences, and the house of hangman Von Braunsweig.

Cracow Rejoices in Liberation

By B. Polevoi

The triumphant ringing of church bells fills the city of Cracow. Holiday crowds throng the streets. We are inside the ancient Cracow fortress, Wawel. Here, the national and religious relics of the Polish people were kept for centuries.

Franck, one of the most bloodthirsty of the German satraps, and his assistant, Seyss-Inquart, chose this Polish sanctum for their headquarters. These sanguinary hangmen are responsible for the loss of several million human lives.

Everywhere in the Castle are traces of the hurried flight of the German governor-generalship. Stairs and hallways are strewn with torn papers, fireplaces are full of ashes and papers—the German thieves and murderers attempted to destroy the traces of their crimes. In Franck's study everything is upside down; the desk drawers are thrown aside, and his fascist uniform jacket with a fancy badge lies on a windowsill.

Before the flight the governor-general ordered that the Castle be blown up. The ancient cathedral, burial place of Polish kings, and the palace and towers, were mined.

The thunder of Soviet guns at the walls of Cracow caught the hangmen by surprise. The Germans had no time to set the fuses. The Red Army restored to the Polish nation the most valuable monument of her national culture.

Crowds are tearing down the German street names, and the German signboards in the large square which the Hitlerite imbeciles named for Adolf Hitler.

We stopped at the editorial offices of the fascist tabloid. Its latest makeup sheet, which never appeared, still lies on the tables. Across the front page runs the headline: "Composure! Soviet Armies Checked!" Following this, the words: "The Russians will never tread Cracow streets."

This issue did not appear, for reasons not dependent on the editor. The Russians are already in Cracow—and the day is not far off when we shall be in Berlin.

KIRGHIZIA

By J. Limmonik

Situated in the heart of Central Asia and bordering on China, the Kirghizian Soviet Republic is as large as the combined area of Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Hungary. Before the Revolution, Kirghizia was a backward agricultural borderland of the Russian empire. Its principal occupation was livestock-breeding. A small percentage of the people grew rice and cotton.

Since the Revolution, and with the financial, technical and material aid of the Government of the USSR, Kirghizia has developed its agriculture to a high level. Irrigation of arid lands has contributed greatly to this progress. Four thousand canals were built in the last 20 years, resulting in an increase of 173 per cent in the irrigated area. The total area under cultivation has been increased by 75 per cent. Sugar beet, a crop new to the region, is now cultivated in the Chu Valley. The yield is so abundant that Kirghizia has won first place in the USSR for its sugar beet. It is outstanding too for its cotton and for the progress it has made in livestock-breeding.

Geological exploration has brought to light important mineral wealth. According to the most recent estimates, 75 per cent of all the coal deposits in Soviet Central Asia, or about 10 billion tons, are concentrated in Kirghizia, which has also assumed first place in the Soviet Union for its deposits of rare metals.

In industry, as in agriculture, the Kirghizian Republic has made great progress and now large coal, oil, mining, chemical, metallurgical, cotton-ginning, sugar-refining, silk-reeling, leather, flour and tobacco industries, are equipped with modern machinery.

The war has given added impetus to industrial development in Kirghizia. Factories have been converted to war production and the fuel output has been stepped up. The industrial importance of the young Republic has increased enormously and 50 per cent of Kirghizia's total output is now in industrial products.

Predominantly a highland country, pre-Revolutionary Kirghizia had no more than 35 kilometers of roads suitable for motor transport. Paved highways have

since been laid over more than 6,000 kilometers and railway systems have been introduced.

This economic development was accompanied by cultural progress. Pre-Revolutionary Kirghizia had less than 70 schools, all of them Russian, with an enrollment of 7,000 pupils. There was not a single national Kirghiz school nor was there a book or newspaper published in the Kirghiz language. The Republic now has over 1,600 schools attended by 300,000 children, six institutes of higher learning and 34 technical schools, attended by 10,000 students.

Frunze, formerly Pishpek, the capital of the Republic, is the seat of the Kirghiz branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Newspapers and books are published both in the Kirghiz and Russian languages. Hundreds of clubs, libraries and cinemas have been opened and for the first time in history the Kirghiz people have founded their own national theater.

Kirghizia is proud of the soldiers it has given to the Red Army in the present war. The infantry division of Kirghizians and Kazakhs, formed by General Panfilov at the beginning of the war, covered itself with glory in the fighting around Moscow in 1941. For the heroism it displayed in action, the division was promoted to the Guards and has honorably lived up to its name.

Kirghizian women have successfully replaced men in industry and agriculture. The Tokmakosh and Dzhalaabad schools of mechanized farming have trained scores of women tractor drivers and combine operators in record time, and thousands of Kirghiz women have become skilled and capable farmers. Women in the cities of Kirghizia have rapidly learned to operate factory machines.

The Kirghizian Soviet Socialist Republic celebrated its 20th anniversary last year in the grim days of war. The Kirghiz people look forward with confidence to victory and to the further progress of their national economy and culture in the post-war period.

Soviet Music— A People's Weapon

By Dmitri Shostakovich

For 27 years the Soviet system has shaped the heroes of our epoch. Russian music and literature have helped mold the national character of the Soviet people. During the present war, Soviet artists, writers and musicians, both men and women, have been called upon to strengthen the spirit of the people, to sharpen and deepen their understanding of life, by striving to create monumental works of art. The best works of Soviet composers are symbolic of their country. They reflect the intense patriotic spirit and friendship of its peoples.

Many of our artists in all fields have joined the Armed Forces to defend our country against the impending menace. Others have immortalized in their works the life and deeds of our fighting people. In their music, Soviet composers have expressed the feeling and thoughts of millions of courageous Soviet citizens who have set their united might against the mailed fist of Nazism, which menaced the entire civilized world.

I chose music as my weapon. The source of my inspiration is the courage, valor and glory of our people, evoked by the Soviet system. Soviet music, which resounds through the roar of battle, is a fighting weapon of our people and we have raised it as a banner calling for mightier achievements.

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The Pace of the Offensive

On January 24, PRAVDA wrote editorially:

For the 13th day the Red Army offensive continues at an unparalleled pace and force. The German front has been broken up from the southern foothills of the Carpathians to the Baltic Sea.

The armies of Marshals Zhukov, Konev and Rokossovsky, and Generals Cherniakhovsky and Petrov, launched the present offensive in strict accordance with the time-table set by the Supreme Command. The pace of their offensive on the various fronts is the more astounding, as the Soviet troops have everywhere had to fight through deeply-echeloned fortifications built according to the latest word in military science.

On January 17 Marshal Zhukov's troops captured Warsaw, and six days later had advanced 150 miles, averaging 25 miles per day.

Marshal Konev's troops invaded German Silesia on January 21, and on January 23 are already in reach of the Oder River along a 35-mile front, covering 55 miles in three days of heavy fighting—that is, 18 miles per day.

Marshal Rokossovsky's armies reached the southern frontier of East Prussia on January 19. Yesterday, January 23, they captured the town of Mohrunen, 50 miles north of this frontier. They advanced through exceptionally strongly fortified terrain, abounding in natural barriers, at the rate of 13 miles per day.

General Cherniakhovsky's troops renewed the offensive in East Prussia from Stalluponen on January 15, and by January 24, nine days later, had fought across 60 miles of powerful defenses, advancing six miles per day, and are now 25 miles east of Koenigsberg.

The history of wars has never known offensive operations on such a scale, and such speed of advance against a ferociously resisting enemy.

Only an army excellently equipped with all arms in wide variety for mobile warfare, an army with a well-organized supply service providing the spearheads with everything necessary, can effect such an offensive. Only seasoned troops are capable of such speed.

Soviet generals and officers daringly lead their armies forward, without halting or dispersing their forces to annihilate isolated enemy groups. Here is a typical episode of the present offensive:

A large enemy tank force set out to arrest the progress of Soviet troops. The Russian Command made a daring deci-

sion: to strike at the enemy, force a way through his dispositions and speed on, leaving it to the second echelon troops to conclude the battle. The plan was carried through to the last detail—a huge Soviet tank group dismembered the enemy force, and the second echelon completed its rout.

The speed of the offensive was based upon excellent cooperation of all services. Artillery of all types, organized in large formations, serves as the Red Army's main shock force. The Soviet Command masses it in the decisive directions. The artillery crushes the enemy defenses, blazes a trail for the infantry, and advances along with the latter, rendering it permanent support.

The Soviet Air Force cooperates with the artillery, blasting the enemy's deep rear, his strongpoints and communications. Large formations are the backbone of the advancing armies; coordinating their actions with other arms, they insure high speed of maneuver.

The Red Army has reached the Oder in Silesia and is depriving the enemy of this major economic base of the German army. The Red Army is capturing one German town after another. And every day there will be more of them. This road leads to the vital centers of gangster Germany; it is the road to Berlin.

The Red Army successes evoke the pride and elation not only of the Soviet people. All freedom-loving peoples of the world rejoice in these victories. The thunder of victorious salutes from Moscow ushers in the real "spring of the peoples"—the complete liberation of European nations from the Hitler yoke.

All honest people regard the Red Army's offensive as the token of coming retribution for the fascist hangmen. This formidable hour of retribution for the Hitlerites is close and inevitable.



Radiophoto
Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky,
 Commander of the Second Byelorussian
 Front

THEATER OF WAR

JANUARY 25:—Twenty thousand towns, villages and railroad stations have been wrested from the Germans by the Red Army in the first two weeks of the offensive, in Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Prussia and German Silesia.

Two-thirds of Poland has been cleared of the German invaders. The territory gained by the Red Army amounts to one-third of Germany proper. Thirty-four gun salutes in Moscow marked this victorious progress.

In furious battles Marshal Rokossovsky's and General Cherniakhovsky's armies are closing a pincers around the picked Hitler army in East Prussia. Soviet tank and motorized spearheads are already 65 miles southeast of Danzig. The thunder of Soviet guns is clearly heard by the populace of Koenigsberg, capital of East Prussia.

Fighting is raging on the first line of the Koenigsberg defenses. The Germans are counter-attacking ferociously. Fourteen German counter-attacks were repelled yesterday by the Russians, who gained a further advance.

General Cherniakhovsky's forces are dealing blows on a wide front, attacking suddenly and simultaneously at numerous points. Thus they do not allow the German command to maintain land communications between East Prussia and Pomerania.

The Germans have hurled into battle all available manpower, including police and naval cadets. Routed German divisions in many sectors are reinforced with Volkssturm men. The Hitler authorities have banned the evacuation of civilians from 12 to 65 years of age, and have mobilized them for defense. However, the German command does not trust this last source of reserves. Wherever Volkssturm men form the majority of the defenders, officers' observation posts are installed behind and ordered to machine-gun everyone who retreats a single step.

The entire 300-mile front of the German defense is torn to shreds by Soviet tank and motorized columns. Large enemy army groups are hopelessly trapped in countless pockets; the contents of many of these pockets are already annihilated. Remnants of German divisions and corps

are being finished off in the woods, far behind the front of the advancing Red Army. A large German group caught southwest of Lodz was finished off yesterday, losing 6,000 killed, 3,000 taken prisoner, and 53 tanks.

Marshal Zhukov's forces, pushing forward to Poznan, meet with the most stubborn German resistance. The German command wants to arrest at any price the advance of the Soviet Armies on this shortest route to Berlin. The Hitler command is massing reinforcements here switched from various sectors of the Western Front.

In East Prussia

Red Army troops are already fighting on the forward lines of the Koenigsberg fortified area, reports *Krasnaya Zvezda* correspondent Lieutenant Colonel Prokofiev. Insterburg is far behind. The correspondent points out that in this, the third largest city of East Prussia, the Germans failed to blow up a single bridge, left all their factories in full working order and abandoned large stores of food, raw materials and ammunition.

At the approaches to Koenigsberg, Soviet troops encountered large, fresh German forces which launched dozens of counter-attacks. The advancing troops, however, striking on a wide front, continue to capture powerful enemy centers of resistance, one after another. Troops which forced the Daime River are relentlessly approaching Koenigsberg.

The Soviet offensive is also making good progress in the Angerapp River Valley, at the approaches to the Mazur Lakes.

The correspondent, who drove some 100 kilometers over East Prussian roads, points out that residents of Prussian towns and villages abandoned not only the property created by slave labor, but also all the loot taken by the Germans in France, Byelorussia, Norway, the Ukraine, Belgium and Poland. In one house of a German landowner he found articles with the trademarks of nine European countries.

The roads of the swift Russian offensive are bestrewn with smashed, as well as sometimes completely serviceable,

trucks, guns, tanks and self-propelled artillery. At one rail junction the Germans abandoned several trains loaded with tanks, half of which were in serviceable condition, as well as provisions, army clothing and loot carried away by the Germans in the past few days from Polish towns.

Most of the Prussian towns and villages have been deserted by their residents. The fleeing Germans abandoned literally everything. In several villages large groups of Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Poles, who had been driven by the Germans to convict labor in Prussia, were met. Defying danger, these people had hidden, waiting for the coming of the Red Army.

* * *

M. Merzhanov, PRAVDA correspondent reports from Allenstein:

The sky over East Prussia is clear. Sunny, frosty weather has set in. A sunlit panorama of Prussian farms and estates unfolds before the Russian airmen. Ilyushin squadrons flow in an endless stream across the blue skies; above them sail Petlyakovs, surrounded by agile Yakovlevs and Lavochkins.

The ground fire of tommy guns, mortars and big guns has been supplemented by the accurate pounding of Russian Stormoviks, which give the Germans no respite, either in the trenches, on the roads or at railroad stations.

A Guards Air Regiment staffed with veterans of the battles of Stalingrad, the Crimea and Minsk, is giving the Germans a hellish time. I visited the regiment's airfield. The wide-winged sky-blue machines were landing one after another, raising clouds of snow-dust. The roar of the engines shattered the air; signal flares flashed. A machine gun rattled as someone checked his armament.

Perspiring after the intense fighting the pilots crowded the staff dugout, reporting their scores. The regiment's second-in-command, Major Vitali Golubev could be seen all over the airfield, solving countless little problems, including the organizing of an evening movie show. The fliers hastily dined and hurried back to their humming machines, pulling the zippers of their fur jackets.

We Believe In Brotherhood

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Far from their native places, Siberians and people from Tambov fill the streets of Budapest with Russian speech. In northern Norway men are singing the songs of the Ukraine.

Our people are now on the soil of the villains, in the first Prussian towns, where the Gothic letters of the signboards wriggle like wicked gnomes. A major whom I met in Kastornaya has just written me from there. He drinks poor red currant wine with his meals and smokes cigarettes rolled from straw tobacco.

Russia has forced rivers, crossed mountains. But it not of conquest she is thinking. For the Russians, war is sorrow, sacrifice, baseness—never a profession.

We do not want to force our ideas, our customs, on anybody. Nowadays everybody talks about freedom. People conceive "freedom" in many different ways. There are different ways of breathing. But one thing is certain—whatever his method of breathing, if a man cannot breathe at all, he must die.

With the approach of the Red Army, prisons are opening, tongues are loosed. Stirring words are spoken. People curse and bless, cry and laugh. They have come back to life.

Those who are malevolently disposed toward us maintain that we wished to bring on our bayonets that very freedom our own people found in October, which they achieved in suffering, in 27 years of privation, toil, struggle and solitude. But bayonets cannot create free people. They can only destroy jailers. Vainly do the malevolent ascribe a magic power to metal.

Perhaps the King of Norway is a Communist?

Why do anti-fascists of fascist kidney fear our victories so? Probably because we do not replace one kind of fetters with another. We do not disarm the Slovak patriots. We do not demand that the Yugoslavs subordinate themselves to Mihailovic, or force the Norwegians to reconcile themselves with quislings.

How people wish to live is their own affair. The Red Army is busy with its job—the removal of the hangmen.

There is something universal in the Russian concept of life. The Russians feel the world as their own—their own in the sense that it is the possession of all mankind.

There is much in Russian history that is bitter. There are whole pages written by the wicked in the blood of the people, while our people were still weak, while they were forcibly recruited, driven to Siberia. The soul of Russia could not find expression in the annals of the empire.

Why did Russian soldiers come to Hungary 100 years ago? Tsar Nikolai was defending not Russia, but tyranny. We are proud of the courage of Suvorov's soldiers who crossed the Alps. But we know that in trying to crush the French Revolution, Tsar Pavel was worried not about his motherland, but about his throne.

Our war is justly called the Second Patriotic War, and 1942 is justly compared with 1812. Yet how different is 1944 from 1814! The Russian people, after expelling the Napoleonic hordes, did not expel their home-grown enslavers; and the Tsarist army brought to defeated Paris a stupid and vengeful Bourbon.

The Red Army has crossed the frontier

as an army of liberation. If Paris is ruled not by Germans or Petains, and not by the half-Germans or half-Petains who were ready to seize France in the Algiers period, it is to a certain extent explicable by the Red Army's victories.

If the Bulgarian people are trying their traitors, if there are in Lublin ten parties and a hundred factions, persecuted under Pilsudski, who are now able to argue freely about the future of Poland—that is the service rendered by the Red Army.

There is an old French tale about a certain Jean the Beekeeper. He was very strong, very kind-hearted, and he never interfered in the affairs of even his closest neighbors. But for leagues around everyone said it was dangerous to offend an orphan, or to hide a dishonest man, because Jean the Beekeeper might get to hear of it. Evil-doers stayed their hands, their hearts froze at the words: "Wait till Jean the Beekeeper hears of this!"

Though a Russian captain from Penza, commandant of some Hungarian town, says to the mayor: "We do not interfere in your affairs"—yet much changes in that town. The prisons open twice, once to release the innocent, and again to



Radiophoto

Lieutenant Colonel Maslennikov, Hero of the Soviet Union, briefing a bomber crew on operations to be carried out over East Prussia

receive the traitors.

The footsteps of the Volga farmers and the Urals metal-workers are heard across immeasurable distance. Even in distant Spain the people have half-raised their heads. They know there is a Jean the Beekeeper in the world.

Even in peacetime the Germans took pride in one thing only—their military prowess. Even when they walked on the Champs Elysees the only remark they could think of was: "We were here in '71."

Our pride is of a different kind. Near Amsterdam there is a little house. Russian visitors recalled with pride that there Peter I, in workman's clothes, learned the shipwright's trade. We are proud that the young Herzen marched among the heroes of '48 along the streets of Rome. We are proud that Leo Tolstoy became the conscience of the world.

We are proud that a country, formerly known as poor and backward, opened up a new era. Our relics in Paris are not in that square through which marched the soldiers of Alexander, but in the Rue Marie-Rose, where Lenin worked. We have many relics scattered throughout the world. I know several graves near Valencia. There are no headstones on them but, in secret, grateful hands adorn the earth with roses.

The Red Army had given expression to all Russia's ancient hopes, all her longings. With its blood it has melted the ice of tyranny. Like a sower, generously it sows the seeds of liberty.

In the years before 1939, Europe and America cultivated dwarf palm trees. Bored with the real, they invented surrealism. But suddenly the world grew pale in premonition. Everyone awaited doom. Today it is clear to everybody that the victory of fascism would have been the end of civilization.

In a hundred years, or five hundred years, somewhere in Australia or Alaska, a new culture would have arisen. Patagonian archeologists, exploring dead Europe, would have written monographs on her decline and fall.

When I write of the fascist threat to culture, I am thinking not only in material terms. Perhaps some towns, museums and gardens would have survived Hitler's victory. What then does fascism destroy? It destroys the essence of man, of thinking

man. The Red Army has saved this thinking man from destruction. No greetings, no presentations, no addresses can express what mankind owes to Stalingrad. I think that on this matter it is better either to be silent or to say what a young French girl said when the Germans led her out to be shot: "Friends, there is Russia."

The strong do not need illusions. The fields are overgrown with thistles, beautiful buildings everywhere are powdered stones. But still more terrible are the wounds suffered by the human heart. It is one thing to build, to write novels, to rear children. It is another thing to fight.

It was not in our power to save the world from war. Among the defenders of culture there were blind men and hypocrites. In the West they spoke of "peace" while dreaming of war in the East. We were unable to save the world from war, but we have saved it from perishing. Without Soviet consciousness and Russian steadfastness there would be neither liberty nor culture today—and various foreign Pharisees would not be able to discuss how to protect those who worked for Himmler from inevitable retribution.

By our side stand ghosts dear to us. I want to write of those who died without having seen the dawn of victory, of those who perished in those most terrible days when whole regiments died to give the motherland a day, or even an hour. I want to write of those whom no one saluted, for their battles were lost. Yet without those lost battles there would be no victory.

They are with us. The battalions, the regiments, the divisions of the dead, storm the enemy towns with us. They warm themselves with us by the campfires. Over our shoulders they sigh sadly as we write home on the flap of the envelopes: "Still alive, and in good spirits."

They will come with us to Berlin. I do not envy the Germans. The death they carried to the world has returned to them like a boomerang.

They gave the world a Christmas performance, a show by their charlatan Fuehrer, an ersatz offensive in Belgium. For a short time they even captured several small towns and shook the fancy of several small people. They do not know what forces they have awakened.



Chief of Staff of the First Byelorussian Front, Colonel General Malinin

We have not betrayed ourselves. As before, we believe in brotherhood. If the Germans have excluded themselves from the universal family it is not our ideas that are at fault, but their crimes. To them we promise neither sympathy nor leniency.

And to the peoples we offer our friendship. Diplomats are fond of talking about round tables, though the tables they sit at have sharp corners. But the table of the people is truly round. At it we shall cut the bread of peace and pour the wine of liberty.

Our Commander-in-Chief knows the taste of that bread and the aroma of that wine. That is why people infinitely far from our country repeat his name today like that of a friend. That is why they think of him with hope. In wishing him health, the peoples wish themselves happiness and peace.

Listen, friends! The chimes of history are striking. We are beginning not a fresh page, but a fresh volume. It is dangerous to forecast and not really necessary. But the heart and mind insist that the year 1945 will be the first year of another, a great life—the life for which we have suffered.

1944—1945

An editorial from WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 1, 1945:

A year has passed, filled with events of the greatest magnitude; a year that will be a memorable landmark in the history of the struggle of the United Nations against fascist barbarism. It has been a year of decisive victories of the Red Army and the troops of our Allies over the German-fascist aggressors; a year of consolidation and expansion of the front against the Hitler coalition.

The self-sacrificing struggle waged by the Red Army has resulted in the liberation of our Soviet soil from the Hitler invaders, forever. In fierce and stubborn battles, combining mass heroism with high military skill, Soviet troops have carried their glory, enshrined in their colors, from the banks of the Dnieper to the banks of the Danube, from Zhitomir to Budapest, from Nevel to East Prussia.

The course of the war has proved in irrefutable language the fact that Hitler Germany's principal opponent, the Soviet Union, has surpassed her in strength. Our country has won a military, economic, moral and political victory over the powerful and crafty foe. The whole world has witnessed the indomitable might of our Soviet system and has heard the firm footsteps of our Red Army, marching to fulfill its great liberating mission.

Nineteen-forty-four witnessed a radical change in the military and political map of Europe. The piratical Hitler bloc collapsed and, following Italy, the rest of Hitler's satellites — Rumania, Bulgaria, Finland and, lastly, Hungary—turned their weapons against the Germans. The Red Army has liberated from the Germans a considerable part of Poland and Czechoslovakia and is fighting on Norwegian soil.

After the Soviet Union and its Red Army had heroically fought Hitler Germany and her satellites single-handed for three years, the Armies of our Allies, Great Britain and the United States, millions strong, entered the fight against the Germans.

Seriously damaged by defeat on the Soviet-German front, the German war machine was unable to withstand the on-

slaught of the Allied troops which landed in Normandy. France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and a part of the Netherlands; and, in the south, considerable parts of Italy and Greece, have been liberated from the German yoke. Hostilities are now being conducted on German soil and in its immediate neighborhood.

Thanks to the implementing of the historic decisions of the Teheran Conference, Germany finds herself in a pincers grip between two fronts. The key to victory lies in keeping her in this grip. Having plunged the world into the maelstrom of the most bloody and devastating war, predatory Germany is now heading for inevitable defeat.

No less important are the results achieved during the past year in the sphere of international and political relations. All hopes the Germans had placed in a rift taking place among the Allies have utterly collapsed. The three leading powers of the anti-Hitler coalition have clearly shown that they can march together in solving military and political problems.

The events of the past year have shown that the Allies appreciate the necessity of jointly settling questions that arise in the course of the common struggle, of eliminating differences in a spirit of complete harmony by subordinating them to the general and vital interests of the Allies.

The incoming year will be the year of complete victory over Hitler Germany. The more hopeless the enemy's position becomes, the more furiously does he fight to save his skin. The task of finishing off the fascist beast in its own lair still calls for no little effort on the part of the Red Army and the troops of our Allies. Everything that is likely to hinder the speed of the achievement of victory must be swept aside.

Gripped in the torments of a protracted war, the peoples of Europe are waiting with understandable impatience for the day when the victorious flags of the Allies will be hoisted over Berlin. The blood of the millions of victims of Hitler's rapacity, and the acres of towns and villages burned down by the Germans, cry out for relentless retribution. The vital interests of mankind demand that Ger-

man imperialism shall not survive this war; that after the military defeat of Germany she shall be really disarmed, economically as well as militarily and politically.

It is strange and monstrous that even today, after the horrors of the Hitler rule in the subjugated countries of Europe, after the exposure of the horrible crimes the German fiends have perpetrated in all countries where their feet have trodden, advocates should still be found to plead to the United Nations for mitigation of Germany's lot after the war. It is time to tell these advocates, irrespective of whether they carry the false passports of Socialists or speak under the auspices of the Vatican, that their efforts are in vain.

The incoming year must bring not only victory over the enemy, but also the solution of the fundamental problems of post-war organization. The peoples want the victory over Hitler Germany to serve as the foundation of a permanent and durable peace; they want fascism of every shape and form to be eradicated forever, and they want the principles of democracy and progress to triumph all over the world.

The Hitlerites are staking their all on the possibility that democracy will fail to overcome the difficulties that confront it, and that it will betray weakness and irresolution in the struggle against the pro-fascist elements. In this gamble they must lose out.

The Hitler rule has left a trail of frightful ruin and devastation in a number of countries in Europe. But great is the urge of the people toward regeneration, indomitable is their striving for liberty and independence, and unshakable their determination to take their fate into their own hands. The political crises and difficulties that arose in some of the liberated countries of Europe at the end of 1944 testify to the fact that the peoples who have endured the horrors of German occupation cannot be satisfied with, or resign themselves to, the return of the regimes and statesmen whose bankruptcy was proved during the years of severe trials to which Hitler subjected Europe.

The peoples are striving to restore the statehood of which the Hitlerites robbed them, on new, wider and sounder principles. The substantial flaws from which the political organizations of prewar Europe suffered are too obvious and have cost the European peoples too dear, for them to agree submissively to the restoration of bankrupt regimes and to giving pro-fascist fifth columns a free hand after their countries have been liberated from the Hitler occupation.

The inhabitants of a number of European countries fought the invaders arms in hand. Men and women who have paid for the liberation of their countries with their blood naturally do not wish the destinies of their respective countries to again become playthings in the hands of political cliques which have remained mere onlookers during these bloody battles; which have alienated themselves from their people and virtually bear a considerable part of the responsibility for the catastrophe that has occurred.

The masses of the people want to have governments which can be trusted to protect the national interests, and at the same time guarantee the preservation of their democratic rights and liberties. Only a government which relies on the people and is based on a broad democratic foundation can guarantee peace and order in a country.

The incoming year brings the task of erecting the magnificent edifice of the international organization of security; a task making the outbreak of another war im-

possible, if not forever, then at least for a long time to come.

The peace-loving nations have shown that they are stronger than the aggressors; that, notwithstanding the hopes of the international pirates, they are capable of acting together and of uniting their efforts for the purpose of defeating the aggressors.

It would be dangerous, nay fatal, if we were to ignore the historical law that aggressive nations which muster forces a long time ahead, are usually more prepared for war than peace-loving nations. Hence, peace-loving nations must at last set up an effective and powerful organization to protect peace and to insure the security of an organization which will possess both the powers and the necessary forces to avert aggression or nip it in the bud.

The guarantee of success in this matter is the unity and coordinated action of the leading powers of the anti-Hitler coalition, and the friendly cooperation of big and small countries. During the course of the war these powers have shown that they are able to act together in a spirit of unity and harmony. It is obvious now that for some countries bona fide unity and successful cooperation is not only an indispensable condition for their security, but also an important premise for the solution of a number of postwar economic problems.

If the great powers which have borne the brunt of the war against Hitler Ger-

many continue to act in a spirit of unity and harmony, the international organization of security will prove sufficiently effective and will justify the hopes placed in it.

At the beginning of this year there will be held an international trade union conference whose mission it is to lay the foundations of unity among the organized working class of the democratic countries. The importance of this cannot be exaggerated. The working class, which marches at the head of all working people, is vitally interested in a speedy victory over the enemy, in a just solution of postwar problems, and in the maintenance of a durable peace among nations. This noble aim will be served by the prestige and influence of a united trade union movement of the democratic countries.

The Soviet people welcome the year of 1945 with the unshakable conviction that it is the year in which our just cause will triumph over the enemy. The martial feats of our Soviet people on the field of battle, and their labor feats in the rear, will be worthily crowned by the victorious peace that will be won by the freedom-loving nations. The new year will open for our country new pages of unfading glory.

Fulfilling its great historical role of saving the civilization of Europe from the fascist pogrom-mongers, the Soviet Union will pursue the struggle to the end and will occupy a worthy place in the postwar family of peace-loving nations.

ALEXANDER SERGEYEVICH GRIBOYEDOV

By Leonid Leonov

The following is from Leonid Leonov's article, OUR DAILY BREAD, written in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian writer and author of WIT WORKS WOE, one of the classics of Russian literature.

When people are moving toward their historic goals, there are always more of them than the eye can see. The spiritual prototypes of a people's heroes and geniuses, the founders of their glory and their progressive qualities, march with them. No, these are not merely "eternal" and already indifferent fellow-travelers

... but companions-in-arms and campaigners, people who do the rough work of an epoch, as we do.

Our feeling for our country begins with this awareness of communication with our country's past. Does not the foundation of our victories on the battle front and home front lie in this, that the Soviet citizen is conscious every moment not only of Stalin's wise, watchful will, but of the paternally attentive gaze of Lenin, the resounding glory of Suvorov, the singing wind of Pushkin, and the glow of love of country in Griboyedov's crea-

tive work.

Happy are a people who have such a genealogy. And if in the decisive days of war they find time to celebrate a poet's birthday, it means that they have a firm grip of their native earth.

In this crowded century, and while we have been slowly and resolutely ascending the ladder of our regeneration we have had Griboyedov's book with us. Now, on the threshold of our greatness we can look back into the sorrowful and ruinous distance from which Russia emerged onto the highway to the stars.

The heritage left us by Griboyedov is not of great proportions. Moreover, one of his works remained unfinished and another was done in partnership with friends. A considerable part of what he wrote is in an old-fashioned, romantic style, or a choked and outmoded Slavonic archaism. It was strange for us to learn that the sparkling comedy *Wit Works Woe* and—let us say—*David, or Radamist and Zenobia*, were produced by one and the same pen.

We are accustomed to the idea that Griboyedov was the author of a single book, as was Dante—or Cervantes, whose creative biography, by the way, is also not confined to one book. But we are not so much interested in the precious supplementary leaves in which the treasure is wrapped, as in that most essential spiritual daily bread upon which mankind was nourished. And also in the reason for this one isolated flash of genius.

The impression created is that a beautiful and incensed muse made but one visit to Griboyedov's "solitary abode,"—and behold!—a part of Prometheus' flame was left on the poet's desk.

None of our more notable writers of that time, with the exception of Ryleyev himself, was so close to the Decembrists. Griboyedov was undoubtedly a Decembrist—a non-party Decembrist.

There are poets of an especially civic

turn of mind for whom there is but one worthy theme in all the many-voiced choir. This is the theme with which the soul of the poet, almost inert to every other influence, united most closely.

Thus, in the light of the torch held high by Griboyedov in the midnight gloom of the reign of Nikolai I, a thoughtful Russia suddenly saw what it was that hindered her from fulfilling her historic design. It was Europeanism assimilated in a distorted and superficial way, national stagnation, a slavish fettering of life and a petty, servile bureaucracy.

Many books have been born and have passed into oblivion since Griboyedov's day; but his book survives. For unlike the books that are merely printed on paper, this book was inscribed by an impatient hand upon the grateful and unfading memory of a people.

The axioms in the comedy have become household words; the names of his characters are applied to people encountered in everyday life. No other writer, with the exception of Gogol, who was a master of apt expression, has left such generous word deposits in our speech.

The influence of Griboyedov upon our language extends far beyond the bounds of literature. Lenin himself drew his polemic figures of speech from this cherished casket. And how cleanly the keen-edged blade of Griboyedov's and Lenin's



Radiophoto

Alexander S. Griboyedov

From a portrait reproduced by M. Ozersky

words slashed through the enemy's snares.

The shades of Fomusov, Molchalin, Skalozub, Lisa and Repetilov wander through the pages of Lenin's articles and speeches. And if during one of the fiercest struggles for the world's future happiness, the great leader plucked his figures of speech in handfuls from Griboyedov's book, as a soldier pulls a handful of cartridges from his pouch, is not this undying fame for the author?

The ear of grain has ripened countless times, sowing in its turn the soil around it, and every year the sown area grows wider. How many harvests have we gathered? Grown wiser with the experience of struggle and victory, striving to attain once more the high quality of the seed, we reverently examine the handful of grain from which our fathers made, with many a complex and subtle mixing, the bread of life.

We remember this bread and compare it with other samples. We appreciate anew its perfect form, its classic clarity, its high idea, its calorific value and, grateful to the genius who created it, we cast it once more into the people's field, now cleared of weeds and tares.



Radiophoto

Memorial meeting in the Moscow Bolshoi Theater, January 15, honoring the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian writer Alexander Sergeyevich Griboyedov

Notes from Front and Rear

Inspired by the Red Army's great offensive, Soviet workers are raising their production for the front. "We will support the Red Army's new offensive with a new labor offensive!"—this slogan, advanced by the workers of the Moscow Dynamo plant, found an instant response throughout the country from Vladivostok to Lvov, from Murmansk to Sevastopol. In many factories "Victory teams" have been organized, and one munitions plant immediately set up a "Stalin fund for storming Berlin."

★

Rest stations are being set up along the road for Soviet citizens returning from German captivity. The care and attention they receive are deeply touching to these people who have suffered so much at the hands of the Hitlerites.

★

Nineteen forty-four was a year of successes in the Soviet coal industry. The miners of the Moscow coal basin not only completely rehabilitated the mines demolished by the German invaders, but doubled the coal yield as compared with prewar output. The young coal industry of the Central Asian Republics and the Eastern part of the USSR is developing rapidly. Production for December, 1944, was 30.4 per cent higher than for the corresponding month of the preceding year.

★

Three new feature films for children will be produced shortly by Soviet studios: "Robinson Crusoe," "Distant Voyage" and "The Fifteen-Year-Old Captain." Another production planned will be a fairy tale in the tradition of the highly popular "Little Humpbacked Horse."

★

A decision has been adopted for the construction in Lvov of a number of new industrial enterprises, including machine-building and automobile assembling plants. A radio plant and shoe factory are under way, and the construction of phonograph and perfume factories and textile mills is planned.

This year will see the electrification of the 114 machine and tractor stations of the Tatar Autonomous Soviet Republic. Forty new electric power stations will be built, and existing stations will receive new equipment. The new power stations will be constructed in areas where the force of the small rivers in which Tataria is so rich may be utilized.

★

The Lenin Central Museum in Moscow is visited daily by 15,000 persons. Eight thousand documents, pictures and other exhibits record Lenin's life and activities. His works have been issued in 107 languages, and 150 million copies of his books have been published in the USSR. In the Museum is a revolving globe on which fluorescent arrows mark the places where Lenin's works have been published: America, the Pacific Islands, the extreme North, Europe, Africa and India. Newsreels of Lenin are shown in the cinema hall and the people hear his voice. There are Lenin Museums in many cities of the Soviet Union and in remote villages where he lived in exile. The Lenin Museum in Leningrad, closed during the war, has reopened. Its exhibits have been brought back from Siberia, or removed from the earth where they were buried during the blockade.

★

Large shipments of caracul furs have been dispatched from Tashkent, center of Soviet caracul sheep-breeding, to the fur-working factories of Moscow and the Ukraine.

★

In September, 1942, when the battle of Stalingrad was at its height, members of a collective farm of the Saratov Region purchased a plane for the Red Army with their personal funds. This machine, which was entrusted to Guards Major Shishkin, Hero of the Soviet Union, blazed a trail from Stalingrad to Brest. Now, at the request of the collective farmers, the plane has been turned over to the Saratov Regional Museum.

Sports organizations have trained 800,000 swimmers capable of overcoming difficult water barriers, one and one-half million skilled hand-to-hand fighters; and 5,200,000 expert skiers. Sports clubs will celebrate the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army, February 23, with mass competitions. Ski races for collective farm youth will begin in Moscow on that date. Some two million rural sportsmen are taking part in the preliminary runs. A Red Army Ski Olympiad will be launched the same day, with ski detachments from the various fronts participating.

★

Eskimos, Chukchis and representatives of other Kamchatka peoples have arrived in Petropavlovsk-on-Kamchatka to participate in a review of amateur drama, dance and song circles. From settlements scattered throughout the taiga, the most highly-skilled handicraft workers have brought for exhibit their embroideries, clothing of reindeer skin, and carvings of bone and wood.

★

The Academy of Sciences of the Georgian SSR is opening five new scientific research institutes, in addition to the 26 now functioning. The number of research projects planned for 1945 will be increased from 535 to 600.

Information Bulletin

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Red Army Upsets Forecasts

IZVESTIA wrote on January 26:

The "Red Army days" have come, as the British radio calls the first fortnight of the Soviet offensive. One may say that not a single event in the past few years has evoked such comment as the "Russian squall," which, in the words of the London Times, bore down upon Hitlerite Germany.

Neutral reports describe the general confusion in Germany. The German press and radio no longer conceal the desperate situation. Even the notorious Ley shrieks, "We Germans are going through horrible hours, as if dams had collapsed. One is at a loss as to what should be done to create new fronts against the bolshevik armies. We feel the same as a people whose dam is being wrecked by the fury of the elements."

According to reports from Stockholm and Berne, the evacuation of Berlin has begun.

In the light of these reports, a curious

sight is presented by certain "profound" analysts of American newspapers, who have time and again made fools of themselves with their forecasts.

Thus, for instance, the editor of the *New York Times*, Edwin L. James, even now believes that the Germans will not try to transfer troops from the West to the Soviet front. And the Turkish journalist Sadak knows almost for certain that one of the reasons for the Red Army's rapid advance is that "the Germans transferred part of their forces from the Russian front to the West."

A surprising ability not only not to understand the course and significance of current events, but to ignore the actual facts! James, as well as his war analyst, Hanson Baldwin—notorious for his ability to make blunders—and other similar "experts," are now searching the map for the "line" on which the Germans might check the Soviet onslaught. They have successively mentioned Warsaw, Cracow, Lodz,

Poznan, and Silesia as places where "Germany might succeed in coping with the present crisis."

The ink had hardly dried on their screeds when the Red Army knocked over all their calculations and forecasts. Probably the most amusing feature of Baldwin's position is that the Germans themselves already refute their hopes. Hitler's war analyst, Fritzsche, states: "While we are compelled to shift our reserves here and there, we cannot give military forecasts. We cannot tell on which line resistance will be organized."

The London Times correctly points out that the enemy's problem is not so much where he can stop between the Vistula and Berlin, as whether he can hold out at all.

For all unprejudiced observers, it is clear that the Germans are suffering the greatest defeats in the present war, and that the utter rout of the German army is on the schedule.

In this connection it cannot but seem strange to hear the apologetic statements of some foreign commentators to the effect that the Allies cannot now launch a serious offensive on the Western Front. References to Rundstedt's restricted operations, the diverting aim of which is perfectly evident, cannot convince anyone.

It is worthwhile to recall that at the very outset of the German counter-attacks in the West, when to some people they seemed more dangerous than they actually were, General Eisenhower without hesitation gave a correct appraisal of the situation and declared that they would accelerate and not delay the rout of the Germans.

It is to be believed that events will develop in the way described in General Eisenhower's well-known Order, and not as certain petty newspaper "strategists" wish.



Marshal Georgi Zhukov, Commander of the First Byelorussian Front, at his field command post

Radio photo

THEATER OF WAR

BALTIC COAST, January 27:—East Prussia has been cut off from the rest of Germany and has become a huge pocket in which a large German group is trapped.

Marshal Rokossovsky's armies, which broke through to the coast of Danzig Bay, have cut the Koenigsberg-Elbing highway and the last railroad running from East Prussia. The Soviet offensive in this area was so swift the Hitlerites even failed to blow up bridges and mine roads and buildings.

The enemy is putting up furious resistance, realizing the grave danger threatening him. He has thrown tank divisions, naval cadets, Volkssturm battalions and police detachments into the battle, ordering them to keep the Russians from reaching the sea or to die in the attempt.

Enemy resistance increased especially in the last few days, when German units retreating from the central areas of East Prussia westward, joined the battle. But in most cases Soviet tankmen appeared on the enemy escape routes completely by surprise, attacked the columns and routed them before they could deploy for defense. Moving swiftly, Soviet tanks carrying infantry and tommy gunners bypass the centers of resistance, leaving them to be dealt with by the main infantry forces following.

Yesterday Marshal Rokossovsky's troops captured important strongpoints on the western frontier of East Prussia—Marienburg and Stuhm. The first is an important railroad center with war, chemical and other plants. During the day's fighting Soviet troops wiped out 1,500 German soldiers. Huge booty has been captured—a large quantity of armaments, many locomotives and railway cars, and dozens of stores of ammunition, food and war materiel.

Marshal Rokossovsky's troops continue to widen the corridor they have driven to the Baltic.

Insterburg and Tilsit Burned by Germans

PRAVDA correspondent M. Shur reported, January 26:

A mile or so out of Insterburg the town was still invisible, concealed by a

dense pall of black smoke that rose into the sky like a thundercloud, pierced every now and again by lurid bursts of flame. The retreating Germans had set fire to Insterburg. It was their last act in the town which they were unable either to defend or evacuate.

Perhaps there is no better indication than these conflagrations of the state of mind of the Germans, who, in the face of the disaster moving down so swiftly upon them, are desperately burning and destroying their own cities.

The inhabitants of Insterburg deserted the city as our troops approached it. At the last minute, the German soldiers also fled—that is, all who were able. Many were trapped. Some of these are now wending their way through the burning city under the escort of Soviet tommy gunners. Most of them, however, lie dead in the streets of the town and its environs.

Everywhere may be seen signs of the fierce fighting and the irresistible impetus of the Soviet assault. Dead German soldiers and crippled German guns and vehicles lie densely scattered over the defense lines girdling the town and in the triangle formed by the rivers Pregdl, Inster and Angerapp.

The fortifications facing eastward are solid and permanent. Those facing northward show signs of being built at the last moment and in great haste. But neither the former nor the latter were of any avail. Insterburg was captured by converging attacks from three sides, and when fighting began in its streets the Germans were no longer able to withdraw their troops, as the western roads had already been cut.

Insterburg is plastered with the last appeals of Gauleiter Erich Koch. He exhorts the population and the Volkssturm to remain calm, to cease their panic flight. The appeals are full of reassurances. One is headed, "Forward." "Here," it says, "is the limit of German retreat." A group of Soviet infantrymen to whom their commander translated this phrase, burst into a roar of derisive laughter.

Through the city, past the burning buildings, move columns of Soviet mechanized artillery and infantry, special ve-

hicles, and technical troops. Ahead of them are tommy gunners and sappers in white cloaks.

A PRAVDA correspondent reported on the same date:

In the center of Tilsit is the square named for Ludendorff. From it rises the town hall with a clock which, symbolically, stopped at five minutes to twelve; also many stores and public buildings.

Broken glass and charred rafters are scattered everywhere. Houses are burning all over the city. Not a living soul is in the streets. The doors of the houses are wide open and the windowpanes broken. Only the noise of fire, occasional mine explosions, and the footsteps of soldiers escorting captured Germans break this dead silence.

Tilsit was a front city for several months. Civilians were evacuated from long ago. All the houses were turned into barracks, trenches dug in the streets, barricades erected on the outskirts, and embrasures made in the upper stories of houses. The Germans prepared to fight in earnest for every house, every floor, but were dislodged by our troops in one vigorous night thrust.

Tilsit is plastered with hastily written proclamations, loud posters and strict orders. Some posters urge discipline, others implore the people to defend the city, still others promise the German people a victorious end to the war—and all reveal the state of hysteria in which the town lived, in anticipation of coming retribution.

There are no civilians in the city. At any rate they cannot be seen in the streets and houses; but several Germans were caught hiding in attics and sheds. They did not resist, threw down their arms, put up their hands and produced our leaflets. They were taken to the commandant.

Red Army patrols and traffic regulators have appeared on street corners, squares and bridges.

Formidably and inexorably our troops move toward Koenigsberg. This largest city in East Prussia is only 27 kilometers away.

The Offensive in Silesia

A KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent reported on January 26:

Guns thunder over the Oder River, which is almost clear of ice except for a thin covering near the banks. The enemy blew up all bridges, demolished all crossings and took up a defense on the western bank, where he has three lines of trenches with numerous pillboxes and blockhouses.

The Upper Silesian industrial district is of extreme importance to Germany: it contains a coal basin second only to the Ruhr, a number of synthetic fuel plants, iron and non-ferrous metal industries, and automobile, building and chemical industries.

The Germans are making every effort to check our offensive here, but have met with failure. After the seizure of Oppeln, troops of the First Ukrainian Front yesterday took Gleiwitz, another important center of Upper Silesia.

The enemy stiffly defended Gleiwitz on the east and northeast. The Soviet Command resorted to a ruse and struck from an entirely different direction. Having cut the Katowice-Berlin automobile highway near Bischofshof, advancing mobile troops turned sharply to the south along the Oder River and broke into Gleiwitz from the west. Although taken by surprise the German garrison put up stubborn resistance, but was unable to turn the scale in its favor.

The importance of this city is evident from the following: it contains over 20 iron and steel plants, a number of munitions plants, coking and chemical works, sulphuric acid and cellulose paper factories, and a number of machine-building plants. There are coal mines around the city.

A large railway junction and river port on the canal connecting the city with the Oder River and the airport located here, Gleiwitz is the terminus of the automobile highway crossing the whole of Germany in the southeastern direction. During the present war the Germans extended this highway to Cracow and Lvov.

Between the First and Second World Wars, when a part of Upper Silesia was given to Poland, Gleiwitz became the center of German Upper Silesia.

KONSTANTIN ALEXANDROVICH OUMANSKY

On January 26 the Soviet press published the following obituary, signed by the People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, V. M. MOLOTOV, and a number of leading officials of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, and diplomatic representatives of the USSR abroad:

On January 25, the Soviet Ambassador to Mexico, Konstantin Alexandrovich Oumansky, perished in an air accident while on duty.

He was on his way to Costa Rica to present his credentials, having been appointed concurrently Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR to Costa Rica.

Konstantin Oumansky was born in 1902, in Nikolayev, into the family of an engineer. He received his education in Moscow University and the Institute of Red Professors.

As a 17-year-old youth he joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In his youth he showed himself to be a talented Soviet journalist and worked for many Soviet newspapers and magazines.

For about 10 years he was one of the leading staff members of TASS in Moscow and abroad—in Vienna, Rome and Paris.

In 1931 Oumansky began his work for the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, first as Vice Director and then as Director of the Press Department.

From 1936 to 1941, Oumansky consecutively held the posts of Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in the United States, and Ambassador of the USSR to the United States.

In the capacity of Ambassador to the United States, Oumansky exerted great efforts for the strengthening of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and the United States of America, thereby rendering considerable service to the cause of the struggle of the freedom-loving nations against their common foe—Hitlerite Germany.

Upon his return from the United States to the Soviet Union at the close of 1941,



Konstantin A. Oumansky

Oumansky was appointed a member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, and did responsible work at the Commissariat.

In 1943 he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR to Mexico; and in 1944, concurrently, Minister of the USSR to the Republic of Costa Rica.

In Oumansky, the staff of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR has lost an outstanding Soviet diplomat, devoted to the Party of Lenin and Stalin and the Soviet Government, an energetic and resourceful man of broad vision who worked untiringly to strengthen friendly relations between the USSR and Mexico.

For successful diplomatic activity, Oumansky was decorated by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR with the Order of the Red Banner of Labor.

The memory of Konstantin Alexandrovich Oumansky, who perished at the height of his creative talent, will live with us as the memory of a prominent and gifted Soviet diplomat who honestly traversed his life path, of a true son of his Bolshevik Party and his people.

Lenin and Democracy

By I. Smirnov

As a thinker, Lenin devoted a very considerable part of his literary works to democracy: an analysis of its form, its content, and the historical role it has played. As a politician, Lenin took into consideration world experience in democracy, and considered democratization, political and civil, to be the great victory gained by civilization.

Lenin had a detailed knowledge of the theory and practice of the democratic states of the entire world. Lenin's detailed study of the work of the civilized states of the West is explained by the fact that the interests of the masses were dear and comprehensible to him, a socialist whose whole life had been devoted to the service of the people.

From the very beginning of his political career, Lenin gave proof of the fact that socialism and democracy are indivisible and do not contradict each other, a principle which he always maintained. As early as 1897, in one of his first works, *The Tasks of the Russian Social-Democrats*, Lenin evolved the postulate that the consistent socialist should be a consistent democrat.

One of Lenin's distinguishing features was his realism, his historical approach to democracy. He considered democracy to be the victory that humanity had gained in the struggle against the middle ages, autocracy and reaction. Lenin, however, taught that democracy is not something constant, stagnant, and changeless. He considered a parliamentary democratic republic to be a big forward step in the development of human society.

"Naturally," he wrote, "bourgeois democracy is tremendous historical progress as compared with Tsarism, autocracy, monarchy, and all the remnants of feudalism."

Lenin believed that a democratic republic is the best form of state for the proletariat under capitalism. Democratic forms of government are, in Lenin's view, an indispensable condition for the defense of the rights of people against the dark forces of reaction, obscurantism, and plutocracy.

Being a consistent democrat, Lenin



Drawing by P. Vasiliev

V. I. Lenin speaking in Palace Square, Petrograd, 1919

realized better than anyone that the democracy of the parliamentary system is historically limited and conventional, and he was the supporter of a democracy of a higher type, whose state form was discovered in the Republic of the Soviets.

Lenin worked out the theoretical principles of Soviet democracy and applied them in practice in building up the Soviet State.

Soviet democracy is expressed in the direction of the state by the whole people, in the real power of the people. The Soviets, as the expression of the interests of the working people of town and country, possess complete state power in the USSR.

How was the real power of the people achieved? How do representative bodies become genuine expressers of the will of the people? Lenin gave an exhaustive answer to this question. All elected representative bodies become a genuine expression of the people's will when the electors enjoy the unrestricted right to recall those they elect. Only under these circumstances is it possible to establish real unity between the deputies to the Soviets, between the representatives of the people in government institutions, and the people themselves.

Lenin considered that the right of recall was, in principle, the basis of Soviet democracy.

Soviet democracy really expresses the interests of the majority of the peoples, and expresses the will of all those who toil. In order that this may be really effected, Soviet democracy draws into active political work, into control of the state and election of the organs of state power, sections of the population that did not enjoy full rights: the peoples liberated from national oppression, the youth, the Army, and women.

Soviet democracy guarantees complete equality of rights to all citizens, and political liberties to all working people, irrespective of their sex, nationality or religious beliefs. In so doing, Soviet democracy advances from the formal acknowledgment of equal rights and privileges, to their actual accomplishment.

Lenin said that all talk of universal suffrage, of the will of the whole people and the equality of all voters, would be a mere formality as long as economic inequality remained. There can be no real equality between the hungry and the well-fed, between the rich and the poor, between the exploiter and the exploited.

Soviet democracy knows no contradiction between the proclamation of equality and its actual existence.

Lenin said that all talk of freedom—freedom of the press and assembly, for example—are mere empty words as long as the material means of accomplishing them: printing presses, paper, the best buildings, etc., remain in the hands of a handful of rich people who use their property against the interests of the people. The Soviet system affords the people every opportunity for the enjoyment of civil and political liberties, and does not know any contradiction between the declaration of liberties and the possibility of actually enjoying those liberties.

Soviet democracy has effectively solved the national problem by granting to all peoples the right to political self-determination, including the right to form separate states. The Soviet system knows no national oppression for, as Lenin said, a

nation that oppresses other nations cannot itself be free. In the Soviet State, the equality of all nations is not merely a proclamation, but all measures are taken to abolish the remnants of actual inequality and to overcome the economic and cultural backwardness of all peoples that form a part of the Soviet Union.

Soviet democracy means that all cultural achievements are at the disposal of the people. The strength and durability of the Soviet State, said Lenin, depends on the education of the people, on their consciousness, and their understanding of the tasks of foreign and internal policy. "According to our concept," he said, "the consciousness of the masses makes the state strong. It is strong when the masses know everything, when they can judge everything, and do everything consciously."

Soviet democracy is active; it is not confined to the proclamation of equality and liberty, but arouses the masses of people to the conscious building of a new way of life.

It was on these principles that Lenin built up the Soviet State. By steadfastly putting into practice the fundamentals of Soviet democracy, the Soviet State grew and became stronger. These principles underwent further brilliant development under Joseph Stalin. These principles were coordinated and given legal force in the Stalin Constitution, which at the same time summarized all the historical achievements of the Soviet people in building up the society and state, in the years that had passed since Lenin's death.

In building up the new state and in organizing its defense during the years of the Civil War and the foreign intervention in 1918-1920, Lenin relied on his faith in the people and in the strength of Soviet democracy. In this period of difficult wartime trials, Lenin produced a profound analysis of the invincibility of the Soviet people, of the vitality and indestructibility of the Soviet State, and established direct bonds between the armed might of the Soviet Union and its democracy.

"That nation can never be defeated," said Lenin, "in which the majority of the workers and peasants have learned, feel and see that they are defending their own Soviet power, the power of the working

people; that they are defending that cause which will insure for them and their children the possibility of enjoying all the benefits of culture and all that human labor has created."

In his speech at the pre-election meeting of the electors of the Stalin District in Moscow, December 11, 1937, Stalin gave a clear picture of what a deputy should be under the conditions of Soviet democracy. Stalin said the following:

"The electors, the people, should demand that their deputies always live up to their job; that in their work they should never fall to the level of professional politicians; that they should continue at their posts as political workers of the Lenin type, that they should always be as clear and determined in their actions as Lenin was; that they should be as fearless in battle and as merciless to the enemies of the people as Lenin was; that they should be free of all forms

of panic or anything like panic, when matters become difficult and there is some danger looming on the horizon, that they should be as free of anything similar to panic, as Lenin was; that they should be as wise and unhurried in deciding intricate questions, where all-around orientation and all-around consideration of the pros and cons are necessary, as Lenin was; that they should be as just and honest as Lenin, and that they should love their people as Lenin loved them."

The Soviet people's war against the German-fascist invaders has been a serious test of the correctness of the Lenin state principles. Life itself has shown the strength of Soviet democracy and its ability to withstand the evil forces of fascism and to defeat them in open battle.

History, therefore, is the best confirmation of the justness of Lenin's views on democracy, an irrefutable confirmation of the progressive nature of the Soviet democracy created by Vladimir Lenin.

60,000 Tons of Grain to Liberated Warsaw

In token of friendship for the Polish people and in order to relieve immediately the food situation in liberated Warsaw, Soviet Republics are sending 60,000 tons of grain to Warsaw out of their own resources—15,000 tons from the Ukrainian SSR, 10,000 from the Byelorussian SSR, 5,000 from the Lithuanian SSR, and 30,000 from the Russian SFSR.

* * *

On January 26, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR Shvernik, and the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian SFSR Kossygin, addressed the following letter to President of the National Council of Poland, Boleslaw Bierut and Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of the Polish Republic Osobka-Morawski:

The peoples of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic greet the fraternal Polish people on the occasion of the liberation by the Red Army, together with the united Polish Army, of the Capital of allied Poland—Warsaw—and of almost the entire territory of the Polish Republic, from the German-fascist invaders.

The day is not distant when the Polish people, building its independent, democratic State, headed by its popular Government, will celebrate the complete liberation of the territory of the Polish State from the yoke of the base fascist occupationists. . . .

In token of friendship for the Polish people, the peoples of the Russian SFSR are turning over 30,000 tons of grain free of charge from the resources of their Republic to aid the population of liberated Warsaw.

The friendship between our peoples is henceforward cemented with the blood shed in the struggle against the common enemy—the German enslavers. No intrigues of the enemies of the Polish people, from the Polish emigre clique, can shake the will of the Polish people, which is building its independent, democratic state.

The peoples of our Republic are confident that the solidarity of the peoples of the Soviet Union and democratic Poland will strengthen daily in joint struggle against the worst enemy of our peoples—the German-fascist fiends.

THE DEN OF THIEVES

By A. Avdeyenko

This is an account of what I saw in a typical small Hungarian town. Only one highway runs through this town, and a single railway line connects it with the outer world. It was never a supply base for the Hungarian army nor a center for troop concentrations; nor was it the headquarters of any special organization engaged in looting the Soviet Union. It was just an ordinary little Hungarian town, like scores of others, with neatly curtained houses and tree-lined streets. Therefore, I can be fairly certain that what I saw there is typical of the greater part of Hungary.

A brilliant winter sun was shining as I walked through the town with my companion, a Czech by nationality and a linguist by profession, who has been teaching for many years in the local high school. We entered a small garage with the Hungarian national emblem dangling over its concrete facade. The owner, wearing a leather jacket, ran out of a little glass office at the back with an ingratiating smile, cringing and bowing and pouring forth a stream of Magyar.

My companion translated: "He is able to undertake repairs of Soviet automobiles."

We walked through the garage. Along the walls stood Soviet lathes bearing the Soviet "Proletari" trademark, and engines with the trademark of the Gorky automobile factory. All the shelves were

crowded with tools and instruments removed from Soviet combines, tractors and motor vehicles. The storeroom was packed with Soviet spare parts: springs, pistons, piston rings, acetylene welding apparatus and tires.

"Where did you get all this?" asked my companion.

The owner hurriedly averted his eyes, but answered blandly enough: "Professor, I am a tradesman, and I trade in whatever comes to hand."

My companion explained to me what the "tradesman" had omitted to add. During the war this garage owner, on government authority, had equipped several convoys of trucks to go on looting expeditions in occupied Soviet territory. With the profits from these little ventures he had purchased several houses in town, and was now preparing to build a motor repair works.

* * *

We continued our walk. Our next stop was at a hardware and crockery shop. The shelves were well stocked with Soviet pots, pans and dishes, clean and shining, sorted in sets with neat labels. The shed in the yard was piled high with unsorted Soviet crockery, evidently taken straight from Soviet kitchens, perhaps after the owners had been killed or carried off into bondage. My companion informed me that the owner of this shop, too, had received

a mandate from the Hungarian authorities to take part in a pillaging expedition to Soviet territory.

In a furniture shop and warehouse we saw Soviet tables, cupboards, chairs and bookcases, some brand-new, others slightly worn, and still others quite old. In the repair shop Magyars were tearing upholstery from couches, covering them with new cloth and placing their own trademark on them.

At the watchmaker's we saw large electric clocks which had once been installed in Soviet railway stations and in towers on the highways of the Western Ukraine. There was a large variety of clocks and wrist watches from a Moscow factory.

In the local hospital we saw Soviet surgical instruments, and even beds and nurses' overalls with the stamp of the Stanislavsky hospital. There were Soviet medicines in the chemist shop; at the fire station there was only one good engine, which proved to be Soviet. The beer we drank in the little shop at the corner was served in Soviet mugs.

In a street bearing the robber name of "Nemetskaya" (German), every house bore a sign in glaring yellow, advertising wooden and leather articles for sale. One house had a large showcase filled with clogs, leather boots, shoes and sandals. The door stood wide open, so we went in. A tall man, with a little black moustache clinging like a leech to his upper lip, hurried out from behind the counter. He stood at attention before us and bowed, showing his brilliant head with a wide parting down the middle. In fairly good Russian he announced that he and his shop were at our service.

We asked him to show us the leather goods displayed in the window. Quickly he spread the counter with shoes from the Leningrad Skorokhod factory, galoshes from the Leningrad rubber goods trust, little soft shoes for babies from the Kirovsk handicraft shops.

"How did you get hold of these?" we asked.

The shopkeeper held out a box of cigarettes to each of us in turn, lit a match in readiness. Declining, we lit our own cigarettes and repeated the question:



IN BUDAPEST—Red Army troops attacking in the vicinity of a factory

Radiofoto

"How did you get hold of these?"

"We are traders, sir!" he smiled—a broad, guileless smile. "Perhaps the gentlemen would like to take coffee? I always serve coffee to my customers."

"We want to know how you got your goods."

"If these are yours, I beg you to take them back. Please take them."

"Where did you get these shoes?"

The man was silent for a long time. Finally he said: "I bought them from some German soldiers who came here on leave from the Russian front."

"Only from German soldiers?"

The merchant smiled wryly.

"I also bought them from Magyar soldiers."

My companion asked sternly: "Didn't you yourself personally take part in the auctions that used to be held every month in the cellars of 27 Budapest Street?"

"Well, yes, I did," answered the man helplessly, pinned down to the truth at last.

"Weren't these auctions arranged by government officials?"

"Yes."

"So it appears that the Hungarian government, as well as private individuals, were selling stolen goods?"

The Magyar was silent. Then, as if glad of a straw to catch at, he exclaimed: "Yes, yes, of course! The government forced us. We tradesmen are only small fry, you know. But to tell you the truth I could hardly sleep or eat, I was haunted by the thought of these . . ." He pointed to the children's shoes. "Thank God it's all stopped now. Please, gentlemen, please be so good as to tell me the address where I can return all these goods. Free of charge. Absolutely free of charge."

We continued our walk. My companion

stopped outside a door bearing a dentist's signboard in black paint, bronze-bordered, under a frame of Bohemian glass.

"The most fashionable dentist in town," he explained. "He served in the Hungarian army. He was in Russia. A Soviet shell tore away his left leg, but he came back with pockets bulging. Lately he has been making false teeth of pure gold and charging through the nose for them. I want you just to notice how he looks when we confront him. You needn't say or do anything."

We went up to the second floor. The dentist met us in the hall, blocking the door to his waiting-room. At the sight of us he turned very white. His short puffy fingers, covered with rings, clutched at the wall. My companion said in Hungarian: "Please excuse us, we have come to the wrong address."

We hurried back into the fresh air.

Fourth Section of Moscow Subway

By M. Makarov

Work continues apace on the fourth section of the Moscow subway, a 12-mile belt passing through 18 city districts, with stations at most of the railway terminals. With the completion of this section the total length of the Moscow lines will be 37 miles.

The first four-mile stretch of the circular route running from the Kursk station to the Gorky Park of Culture and Rest is scheduled to be ready within a year. The plans for the stations call for the elaborate finish to which Moscow is accustomed. The marble factory of the Moscow Metro construction trust has sent its representatives to the Urals, Armenia and the Ukraine to expedite the quarrying and shipment of the stone needed.

I visited the construction sites recently. Twelve shafts have been sunk, and tunnelling is going on at a great depth. The workers of shaft No. 5 had already completed 200 yards of tunnel. The huge shield worked its way through the strata. It looked as though it never budged from its place, but in reality its speed was one yard per day.

The crews were competing with one another. The engineer on duty at shaft

No. 5 told me the tunnelling shield would soon be averaging as much as 2 yards a day, as they were approaching softer strata. The workers are always prepared for the surprises which spring up every now and then under the surface of Moscow. Subterranean waters constantly trickle down in tunnels and shafts, and at times break through in torrents. Powerful pumps are always ready to combat the flood.

Mikhail Yanchev's crew is the best at shaft No. 5. Yanchev himself was sent to Stalingrad in 1942 as an expert to help build fortifications there. He wears

the "Defense of Stalingrad" medal.

The average speed of tunnelling is twice what it was a year ago. Ratnikov's 10-man brigade does as much as three yards per shift. There are many girls among the subway builders, and as a rule they do not lag behind the most experienced men. One of the women's crews, led by Tatyana Lavrentyeva, has already built nearly 50 yards of tunnel. A year ago Tatyana was working in a factory. I asked her why she had changed her job.

"Like everybody in Moscow, I am very fond of the Metro," she said, "and I wanted to help build it."



Radiophoto
A view of the new subway tunnel connecting the Okhotny Ryad and Ploshchad Sverdlova stations in Moscow. The tunnel is 127 meters long and 7.6 meters wide. Passengers now change from one station to another in three minutes.

New Postage Stamps

During the war years, Soviet postage stamps have been enriched by some 100 new designs. The first war stamp, issued in the summer of 1941, bore the figure of a Red Army soldier and the inscription: *Be a Hero*. The next stamp showed a line of men enlisting in the People's Volunteer Army.

A special series is dedicated to Heroes of the Soviet Union. One depicts the flier Nikolai Gastello, who crashed his burning plane into an enemy truck column. Another bears a portrait of the 17-year-old guerrilla, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, who was hanged by the Hitlerites for refusing to betray her comrades. On another is a portrait of Red Army Private Alexander Matrosov, who blocked the embrasure of an enemy pillbox with his body.

One large stamp carries portraits of five young boys and girls of the Krasnodon Young Guards—an underground anti-fascist organization—who died as heroes.

Another special series is dedicated to the fighting men and women of the various services. A beautiful series honors the heroic cities of Leningrad, Stalingrad, Sevastopol and Odessa. Each stamp portrays an episode in the defense of the city, and also the medal instituted for its defenders.

There is a series on the war effort of industry and agriculture, and a series reproducing Soviet decorations: the Orders of the Patriotic War, Suvorov, Kutuzov, Alexander Nevsky and others.

Late stamps bear portraits of Rimsky-Korsakov, Chekhov, the fable writer Krylov, hero of the Civil War Chapayev, and the Siberian guerrilla leader Sergei Lazo.

The People's Commissariat of Communications recently issued a series with portraits of Heroes of Socialist Labor. An especially fine group, carrying the State flags of the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain, is dedicated to the fighting alliance of the freedom-loving peoples. On one of these stamps is inscribed Marshal Stalin's words: *Hail the victory of the Anglo-Soviet-American fighting alliance!* Still another series is dedicated to United Nations Day, June 14.

'Safety First' in Soviet Factories

By K. Isayev

The man with the keen gray eyes introduced himself as "Vasili Volonyuk, brigade leader." My companion, the chief of the labor inspection department of the Central Committee, Trade Union of Workers of the Chemical Industry, explained the purpose of our visit.

"We want to talk about your social duties," he said.

"I thought as much," said Volonyuk. "If ever I'm called to the factory committee during lunch hour I know it's my little notebook they want to see." He took out a notebook labeled "Suggestions for Improving Labor Protection."

I had heard that Volonyuk was the most active public labor inspector at his plant. In the USSR every group of 20 trade union members elects a public labor inspector. The chemical industry has thousands of them. The "social duty" of inspecting labor conditions was entrusted to Volonyuk by his fellow-workers about 12 months ago.

The shop where he works handles explosives. The administration, of course, is responsible for the safety of the personnel. "Do they take proper notice of your suggestions?" I asked him. "Can't complain," he said. Adjusting his glasses, he opened his notebook. "See for yourself. I've got everything written down."

My companion from the Central Committee explained that every labor inspector notes down his suggestions and criticisms in a book like Volonyuk's. The left-hand pages contain suggestions. The opposite entries refer to the implementation of the suggestions. The factory administration, fully aware of its responsibility for the health and safety of the workers, takes all necessary precautionary measures. But workers who are on the job day in, day out, often notice shortcomings that escape the eye not only of the man, but even of the engineers and chief of the shop.

In Volonyuk's notebook, on the left-hand page, I read: "Upper shelves have not been cleaned since ladder broke down." The entry was dated July 9, 1944. Opposite was a note: "New ladder installed." And that entry too was dated July 9, 1944.

"Wagonette has holes in bottom" recorded the next left-hand page entry. "Explosive matter falls on floor." "Wagonette replaced," recorded the opposite page.

A few pages further on I read: "During the shift of foreman Mokeinin I discovered a violation of the technological process. It might have caused a fire. Foreman is to blame." From the opposite entry I learned that foreman Mokeinin had been relieved of his duties.

"The case was gone into very thoroughly by the trade union group," explained Volonyuk.

There has not been one serious accident in this factory for the past 12 months. This is largely due to the good work of all inspectors. The senior inspector is a woman, Polina Solovyeva. Twice a month she and her fellow inspectors confer together on safety first measures.

Last month, on the proposal of Solovyeva and Volonyuk, the little conference discussed the method by which extra milk, fats and other foods were distributed to workers employed on processes injurious to health. A number of anomalies were discovered. The factory committee informed the chief of the shop, requesting him to set things right. The result was that another person was put in charge of the distribution.

I handed back the little notebook. "You see, we get things done all right," smiled Volonyuk.

Information Bulletin

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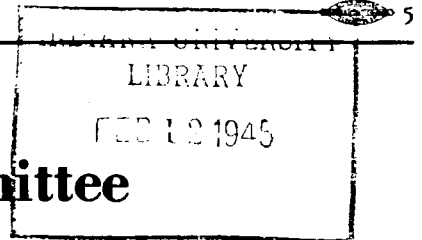
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Washington, D. C., February 1, 1945



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 Crimes Committed by the German-fascist Invaders in the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic During the Period of Occupation

After occupying the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German fascists tried to make it a German colony and enslave the Lithuanian people. This criminal aim of the Hitlerite government found its full expression in the looting carried on everywhere, in the general devastation of the country, the violence committed against the Lithuanian population, and their humiliation, and in the wholesale killings of old men, women, children and prisoners of war.

The fascists deprived the Lithuanian peasantry of land, sacked and closed universities and schools, and wrecked industry and cultural values. Under the leadership of Reichsminister Rosenberg, the occupationists tried to Germanize the Lithuanian people and to uproot their national culture. Lithuania was proclaimed a part of the German province of Ostland.

After the liberation of the Lithuanian SSR by the Red Army, a special Commission consisting of A. J. SNECKUS, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; M. A. GEDVILAS, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Lithuanian SSR; I. M. BARTASHUNAS, People's Commissar of Home Affairs of the Lithuanian SSR; Professor A. PURENAS, and I. M. JURGINIS, Lithuanian writer, with the participation of V. S. ZURABOV, representative of the Extraordinary State Committee, conducted an investigation of the crimes committed by the Hitlerites in Lithuania.

The Extraordinary State Committee, on the basis of the findings of this Commission, the excavations of graves of victims of fascists tortured to death, and the testimony of witnesses, has established the instances of crimes committed and destruction done by the German-fascist bandits during their occupation of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic.

During the year of Soviet power in Lithuania before the war, every opportunity was afforded for the sweeping development of Lithuanian culture. New educational institutions were opened, a network of new schools was set up, a State Philharmonic and House of Popular Art were established, and an Academy of Arts in Vilnius and an Institute of Applied Arts in Kaunas were opened. Unions of Lithuanian writers, artists and composers were founded.

Cultural Institutions Wrecked

Immediately after the invasion, the German occupationists sacked and wrecked the Lithuanian cultural institutions. They closed the Philharmonic in Kaunas, the Conservatory of the Academy of Arts in Vilnius and the Institute of Applied Arts, did away with all art schools and disbanded the unions of intellectuals.

On March 17, 1943 the Gestapo surrounded the building of the Vilnius University, oldest in Lithuania, and smashed the statues and ornaments in it, ripped up the canvases and looted the exhibits

on display, valuable study accessories, scientific literature, the electric motors, machine tools and other scientific and auxiliary equipment. They shipped off to Germany 1,743 grams of platinum. The "scientists," Doctors Mueller and Wulp, took an active part in the wrecking of the University.

The same fate also befell another major Lithuanian State University and the Institute of Chemistry. In Vilnius and Kaunas the Germans wrecked 14 secondary schools and 46 elementary schools, and likewise wrecked the educational establishments in Siauliai, Mariampole, Panevezys and Ukmerge; they destroyed by dynamite the Agricultural Academy, the higher agricultural school and seven lower agricultural schools.

Hingst, Gebietskommissar of Vilnius, appropriated and carried off from the Vilnius State Museum of Art valuable collections of furniture, old porcelain, rugs, paintings, engravings and other museum property. From the same museum the Germans stole 40 valuable 19th and 20th-Century paintings, 130 plates of exceedingly rare copper engravings (17th, 18th and 19th Centuries), and the entry of sculptor T. Krueger in the contest for a monument to Peter the Great. General Runau stole the valuable paintings, "Holy Family" (Rubens studio) and "Landscape" by Teniers. From the library of the Academy of Arts the Germans stole 743 of the oldest and rarest editions and

collections of historic gold and silver medals.

The following well-known Jewish cultural institutions were completely smashed: 1) the M. Strashun Library; 2) the Jewish Scientific Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Lithuanian SSR; 3) the Museum of History and Ethnography. Ten thousand copies of old 15th, 16th and 17th-Century editions were shipped to Berlin (Bismarckstrasse No. 1). The German invaders sent to Frankfurt-on-Main valuable paintings by Repin, Levitan, Mark Chagall, sculptures by M. Antokolsky, Ginzburg, Aronson and N. Treger, and manuscripts and letters of Maxim Gorky, Leo Tolstoy, Romain Rolland, Sholom Aleichem, etc. When they retreated the Hitlerites burned down the old Library of the Evangelical Reformation Synod, which was founded in 1611; it contained 20,000 volumes of rare editions of the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries.

In Kaunas the Germans sacked the house-museum dedicated to the well-known Lithuanian poet Maironis; and the opera, drama and operetta theaters. In Siauliai they burned down the largest Lithuanian peripheral theaters and the regional Natural History Museum, with all its unique ethnographic, archeological and historical collections. The Germans looted the theaters in Panevezys and Mariampole.

Persecution of Intellectuals

Lithuanian intellectuals were subjected to the cruelest persecution and repressions. The Germans shot Gribas, well-known sculptor; Montvil, poet; Hofmekleris and Durmashkinas, orchestra conductors, and Wyrwicz Wichrowski, regisseur and art director of the Polish Theater of Musical Comedy in Vilnius. The following perished from the hardships they were subjected to under the fascist regime: Academician Kuzma, surgeon; Binkis, poet and playwright; Professor Albinas Rimka; Didziokas Mencinskis and Sumaplis, artists; and Simkus and Karnavichius, eminent composers. Balis Sruoga, playwright and head of the Department of the History of the Theater at Vilnius University, was sent to a concentration camp in Germany.

During the occupation of the Lithuanian SSR, the Hitlerite hangmen estab-

lished a regime of bloody terror. Aiming to suppress all resistance on the part of the population to the fascist policy of colonization, the Germans methodically and in planned fashion annihilated the Soviet people and subjected them to the worst humiliations, torture and violence. According to far from complete data, they annihilated in concentration camps in Lithuania 165,000 prisoners of war, and shot, burned alive or tortured to death over 300,000 civilians.

Immediately after the seizure of Vilnius, capital of the Lithuanian SSR, the German occupationists began to exterminate its population en masse. A special camp was set up in the small town of Paneriai (Ponyri) eight kilometers from Vilnius. Mass murders were begun in this camp in July, 1941, and continued until July, 1944.

"Beginning with July, 1941," the witness Stanislav Stepanovich Seiniuc, resident of the Paneriai station testified, "groups of several hundred people each were driven to this camp and shot daily. When the people were being brought up in the motor vehicles, I could hear the cries from the distance. Shooting took place almost every day from morning till night and continued until the Red Army liberated Vilnius."

Beginning with the end of 1943, the Hitlerite hangmen took particularly great care to eliminate the traces of their bloody crimes. With this in view, they began to burn the bodies of the people who had been shot in Paneriai.

"In December, 1943," the witness Marvei Fyodorovich Zaidel testified, "we were forced to dig up and burn the bodies. First, logs were laid and then the bodies, 100 to a row; they were drenched with combustible liquid and more bodies were laid on top. Thus we laid about 3,000 bodies on each bonfire, poured oil over them, placed incendiary bombs on all four sides, and then set them off."

The burning of the bodies went on from the end of 1943 until June, 1944. During this period no less than 100,000 bodies were removed from nine pits totaling 21,179 cubic meters in volume, and burned in bonfires.

During the last few days before their retreat, the Hitlerites did not have time to burn the bodies of the people they

shot, and instead threw them into the pits and covered them with a light layer of sand. By papers found in the clothing of the killed and the testimony of witnesses, it has been established that the victims included scientists and workers, engineers and students, pastors and Orthodox priests, residents of Vilnius and other cities, small towns and villages of the Lithuanian SSR.

Findings of Medico-Legal Experts

A Commission of medico-legal experts consisting of Lieutenant Colonel of the Medical Service V. P. NIKOLSKY, chief medico-legal expert of the front; Lieutenant Colonel of the Medical Service V. C. MOLOTKOV, Doctor of Medical Science, chief pathologist and anatomist of the front; S. B. MARBURG, Professor of Pathological Anatomy; I. Y. BUTKEVICH, municipal medico-legal expert of the city of Vilnius, and others, has established the following:

"The bodies investigated are mainly of civilians. A small number of bodies were found dressed in uniform. On some of the bodies were found articles revealing adherence to the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. On the basis of the articles and papers found, it has been established that among the victims of the shootings were physicians, engineers, students, chauffeurs, fitters, railwaymen, seamstresses, watchmakers, merchants, etc."

"In most cases the cause of death was a wound clean through the head, inflicted by a single bullet from a firearm, with the attendant destruction of the brain matter. In some cases two and more wounds were found where projectiles had entered."

"The holes made by the bullets in entering the body—eight-tenths of one centimeter—correspond to bullets in use in the German army. By the nature of the holes made by the bullets in entering the body, it may be judged that the shots were fired at close range."

"The condition of the investigated bodies and the papers discovered in the clothing of the victims indicate that the shooting took place in the period from autumn, 1941, to July, 1944."

The Commission of medico-legal experts established that the German-fascist hangmen shot and burned the bodies of

no less than 100,000 persons in Paneriai.

The 'Death Fort'

The inhabitants of Kaunas called Fort No. 9 the "Death Fort." Situated six kilometers northwest of the town, it was an old concrete fortress structure. Within were a large number of casemates used by the Germans as cells for the prisoners. The fort was surrounded on all sides by a concrete wall and barbed wire.

A few days after their arrival in Kaunas the Hitlerites drove about 1,000 Soviet war prisoners into Fort No. 9 and compelled them to dig ditches in a field of more than five hectares at the west wall of the fort. In the course of July and August, 1941, some 14 ditches were dug, each about three meters wide, over 200 meters long and more than two meters deep. No one escaped alive from Fort No. 9. The Hitlerites drove women, children, youth, men and old folk by the thousands into the camp, where they were either shot or burned to death.

Stanislav Nikodimovich Mikhailovsky, a witness from the village of Kumpiai, told the Commission: "I myself saw how in the autumn of 1941 the Germans drove a column of Soviet citizens into Fort No. 9. Once I saw a column of people stretching all the way from the fort to Kaunas. The Germans also brought people in closed cars. Soviet citizens driven here to their death were stripped naked in the garden of the fort, then sent off in groups of 300 to dig ditches, and there shot down by Tommy guns and rifles. There were so many of these doomed men that they stood for hours naked in the cold, waiting for their death."

The witness A. Scestno, from the village of Gedraitz, told the Commission: "When the ditches were ready the Germans began to ship a large number of peaceful Soviet citizens from Kaunas and other districts to Fort No. 9, where they were shot."

In two days only in November, 1941, 10,000 peaceful Soviet citizens were shot in Fort No. 9, and about 22,000 in two days in December, 1941.

People of various nationalities were shot in Fort No. 9: Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Lithuanians, Poles and Jews. In this fort were shot Bujinskiene, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the

USSR; Zibertas, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR; Shcherbakov, a Kaunas Stakhanovite worker, with his wife and new-born baby, and many others.

Besides Soviet people, the Hitlerites killed in Fort No. 9 citizens of France, Austria and Czechoslovakia. J. J. Naujunas, former warden at Fort No. 9, testified: "The first group of 4,000 foreigners came to the fort in December, 1941. I spoke with a woman who said they were being taken to Russia allegedly to work. On December 10, on the pretext that they were to be inoculated, they were told to leave the fort in groups of 100 at a time. No one returned from that 'inoculation'—all 4,000 foreigners were shot. On December 15, 1941, another group of about 3,000 arrived, all of whom were similarly killed."

By October, 1943, all the ditches west of Fort No. 9 were filled with the bodies of victims. In each of these ditches were between 3,000 and 4,000 corpses. Up to October, 1943, the Hitlerites slaughtered here more than 50,000 persons, of whom more than 40,000 were Soviet citizens and nearly 10,000 foreigners. Beginning with October, the Hitlerites burned on special bonfires the bodies of people they killed, in order to hide the traces of their crimes.

Human Bonfires

Mikhail Ilyich Geltrunk, former inmate of the fort, whom the Germans had forced along with others to dig up and burn corpses for six weeks, gave the following testimony to the Commission: "We dug up and burned 600 corpses every day. This was the number fixed by the Germans. Every day two huge bonfires were built, each containing 300 bodies. After the bodies were burned the bones were crushed with metal objects and buried in the ground. In the course of six weeks we dug up three and one-half ditches, from which 12,000 corpses were removed; and nine and one-half ditches and many small pits containing no less than 40,000 corpses altogether remained to be dug up."

The Hitlerites brought corpses to Fort No. 9 for cremation from other places as well. They burned people alive on these bonfires. According to the testi-

mony of witness Geltrunk, the family of the docent Schapiro, consisting of five persons, was burned alive at Fort No. 9 on December 16, 1943. Witness N. F. Korolkov, from the village of Gedraitz, stated: "I saw closed cars drive up to the fires in daytime and people thrown out into the flames. Screams and shots were sometimes heard."

After all the corpses had been cremated, the Hitlerites filled in the ditches, plowed up the field and planted seed. Beginning with April, 1943, the slaughter of Soviet people was effected inside the fort grounds, in a ditch at the west wall where a bonfire was constantly blazing. In this ditch were found the remains of firewood, eight barrels of some fuel mixture, and traces of a large bonfire.

A Commission for the investigation of the crimes of the fascist scoundrels in the town of Kaunas, consisting of I. CRIGOLAVICHUS, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR; RUTKAUSKAS, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Kaunas Soviet of Working People's Deputies; Professor MAZILIS; Doctors Tiknius GURAUSHAS, Lashiene GUREVICHUS and Viuvidaite KUTORGENE; Felicia ORTKEVICIENE, the authoress; Mihai PRANZKUNAS, the artist; AJUKAITIZ, a student; Major FRANCUK and Major RUMYANTSEV, has established that the Hitlerites slaughtered more than 70,000 peaceful inhabitants in Fort No. 9.

On the territory of the Lithuanian SSR the Hitlerites killed a huge number not only of local inhabitants but also inhabitants driven there from the Orel, Smolensk, Vitebsk and Leningrad Regions. Up to 200,000 persons passed through the camp for the evacuated population near the town of Alitus (formerly Camp No. 133 for Soviet war prisoners) from the summer of 1943 until June, 1944. All barracks were enclosed by two rows of barbed wire. Those "guilty" of venturing beyond the enclosure without permission were punished by solitary confinement and brutal flogging. Prisoners had to perform hard physical labor and were starved; the daily rations were 150-200 grams of bread mixed with sawdust and one-half liter of slops made of moldy lentils or peas. The youngest and healthiest prisoners were sent to work in Germany.

As a result of the shocking, unhygienic conditions, the incredible crowding, lack of water, and hunger and disease, as well as the mass shootings, up to 60,000 peaceful Soviet people perished in this camp during a period of 14 months, as confirmed by documents and testimony of witnesses residing in the town of Alitus: S. V. Gashkeris, M. G. Gashkeris, Petrova, Doctor Rybkin, Hovakovsky, Strembovsky and others.

Toward the end of 1943, peaceful inhabitants—men and women of various ages, as well as children—were brought to the former camp for war prisoners near the airdrome in Kaunas. The number of inmates in this camp fluctuated constantly between 1,200 and 1,500. A record found in the camp office shows that on January 3, 1944, there were in the camp 433 able-bodied men, 26 incapacitated men, 737 able-bodied women, 42 incapacitated women, and 253 children—making a total on that particular day of 1,491 persons.

Children Taken Away by Force

Early in 1944, the children between the ages of six and 12 in this camp were taken away by the Germans by force. Vladislav Lumb, inhabitant of the city of Kaunas, testified: "Heartrending scenes took place before my eyes: the Germans tore children from their mothers and sent them no one knows where, and many children were shot together with their mothers."

Inscriptions testifying to the infamies perpetrated by the fascist monsters were found on the walls of buildings inside the camp. Here are a few of them: "Avenge us. Let the world know and understand how our children were brutally murdered. Our days are numbered. Farewell." "Let the whole world know and avenge our innocent children. Women of the world! Remember all the atrocities that were committed in the 20th Century against our innocent children. My baby is no more. Nothing matters to me now."

The Germans set up special concentration camps for families of Red Army men on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR.

The following order was posted in these camps: "For expression of dissatisfaction with the German authorities and for vio-

lation of camp regime, Soviet citizens are to be shot without trial, imprisoned or sent to Germany for hard labor for life." Public executions were frequently held in these camps.

Facts testifying to the torture of families of Soviet servicemen and to the high death rate among them were related by V. M. Kozlova, A. M. Shabayeva, M. F. Vyglova, N. S. Panshchina, V. V. Lapochkina, wives of Red Army commanders, and other witnesses.

Seeing, the German woman in charge of four such camps, repeatedly told the inmates: "You're my slaves and I shall punish you as I see fit." She employed brutal torture in the camps, flogged men and even shot the inmates herself.

During the investigation, Seeling stated that chief of camps Jatske, a Gestapo official, and Obersturmfuehrer Mueller had given the following instructions at a special conference: "Women in the camps must be strictly watched, since they are wives of Soviet commanders. Anyone who refuses to work should be sent at once to the camps to be shot, without investigation. No one is to be permitted to leave the camps. Strict discipline must be enforced. The slightest attempt at disobedience or hostile actions must be severely punished."

In the Lysaya Gora compound, east of the village of Lozniki, Vilnius District, the Commission found two sites, 30 by 12 meters and 10 by six meters—where the Germans burned the corpses of the inhabitants of Nanoi, Vilnaia, Mitskunai, Lavoriskis, Sumskas, Medninikiai, Totorkaumis and other places. According to statements made by Andrushkovich, Naganovich and Petrilevich, inhabitants of the village of Lozniki, the Germans brought Soviet people here to be shot in the autumn of 1941. Between June 1-18, 1944, the Germans dug up the pits and burned the bodies. The ashes were buried in holes. The Soviet people who had been forced to dig up the pits and burn the bodies were shot by the Germans. Altogether 10,000 people were shot by the Germans in the Lysaya Gora compound.

In September, 1941, 800 persons were shot down by machine guns in the small town of Ieshiskis. In the town of Prenai the German executioners, headed by Captain of SS forces Reinart, commandant of

the town, tortured and murdered more than 3,000 citizens, including Jozas Stepianavicius, Mare Martsynkeviciene, Macek Stursene and others. In Viliampole, a suburb of Kaunas, nearly 8,000 Soviet citizens were burned to death by the Germans.

Mass Slaughter of Civilians

On June 3, 1944, the Hiderites broke into the village of Percupe, Trakais District. Surrounding the village, they looted it completely, after which they drove all the men into one house and the women and children into three other houses, and set fire to them. Those who tried to escape were caught by the fascist monsters and thrown back into the flaming buildings. The entire population of the village—119 persons, including 21 men, 29 women and 69 children—were burned in this way. Among those who perished were Jalkomas, his wife and four children; Jozas Valrisus, with his wife and children; Stase Kovaliauskene and three children; Eva Uzdavinene and her three children; Imbaleikis and child; Mariana Uzdaminene and four children; Stasa Uzdavinis and two children; Jozas Martynkevicius and mother; Jozas Markevicius and three children; and Brazuaskas and child.

The German occupationists perpetrated a similar mass slaughter of peaceful inhabitants in the district of the town of Mariampole, where 7,700 persons were killed. In the small town of Seiriai, Alitus District, the Germans shot 1,900 persons; in Pilviskai, more than 1,000 inhabitants were shot. According to incomplete data, 3,830 persons were killed in the Siauliai District. In the towns of Trakai, Panevezys, Ukmerge, Kedainai and Birzai the Germans slaughtered 37,640 peaceful inhabitants.

In Fort No. 6 in Kaunas was located Camp No. 336 for Soviet war prisoners. War prisoners in this camp were subjected to brutal torture and humiliation, in strict adherence to "Instructions for Supervision of Labor Teams," signed by Colonel Erhardt, commandant of Camp No. 336, and found there. "Every war prisoner should be regarded as an enemy," it is stated in this document. On the basis of these directives, the lives of war prisoners were wholly at the mercy of the German

soldiers and guards.

War prisoners in Fort No. 6 were doomed to death from exhaustion and starvation. Hunger, cold and hard physical labor rapidly undermined the health of the prisoners of war. Witness Rosalia Mideshevskaya, from the village of Petrushany, told the Commission: "The war prisoners were frightfully hungry. I saw them plucking grass and eating it." Dmitri Interesov, a schoolteacher from Kaunas, stated: "Residing near Fort No. 6 since December 24, 1943, I had several opportunities to talk to Russian prisoners of war. They told me that they lived in gloomy, damp cells underneath the fortress, but that the cellars were not large enough to hold all the prisoners; many slept in the fortress moat under the open sky. Their food consisted of raw beet roots, potato peelings and other vegetable scraps, but bread, salt and other products were out of the question."

The local population was forbidden to render the slightest assistance to the prisoners on pain of death. At the entrance to Camp No. 336 stands a board with the following notice in German, Lithuanian and Russian: "Anyone who maintains contact with war prisoners and especially anyone who gives them food products, cigarettes or civilian clothes, will be arrested on the spot and shot if he attempts to escape."

The camp of Fort No. 6 had a "hospital" for war prisoners which actually served as a stopping place between the camp and the grave. War prisoners thrown into this hospital were doomed to die. From the German lists of sick in Fort No. 6, it is seen that between September, 1941, and July, 1942—that is, in 11 months—13,936 Soviet war prisoners died in the "hospital."

On the camp grounds the Commission found 67 standard graves, 2.5 by 5 meters each. Upon opening the graves, rows of skeletons were found. In the office of the camp was found the plan of cemetery No. 5, on which each grave and its contents were clearly designated. This plan shows that in cemetery No. 5 alone, there were buried 7,708 persons. Altogether, as evidenced by camp documents, some 35,000 war prisoners were buried here.

In Kaunas there was another camp

for war prisoners; it had no number and was located on the southeastern side of Kaunas airdrome. As in Fort No. 6, hunger, whip and stick reigned supreme here. Each day exhausted war prisoners no longer able to move were brought out of the camp and laid in open pits and buried alive. This is confirmed by witnesses I. V. Gutavkinas, I. I. Gedris and B. K. Jonaitis, local inhabitants. Near the camp were found 32 graves: 25 were 12 by 2 meters each, and one 15 by 2 meters; five graves 12 by 2 meters each, and one grave 15 by 15 meters. Upon opening these graves, the bodies of men dressed in gray overcoats and khaki uniforms, were found at a depth of three-quarters of a meter. On the basis of exhumations, documents and the testimony of witnesses, the Commission has established that some 10,000 Soviet war prisoners were tortured to death and buried in the vicinity of the airdrome.

War Prisoners Perished from Hunger, Cold and Typhus

In July, 1941, the Germans opened camp No. 133 for Soviet war prisoners near the town of Alitus. This camp existed until the early part of April, 1943. Enroute to this camp prisoners were kept on the verge of starvation and many of them were either dead or dying upon arrival. According to the testimony of witnesses Margialis, Lithuanian guerrilla, and inhabitants of Alitus, as the war prisoners were detaining, the Germans shot down on the spot all those who were too exhausted to move. The war prisoners were placed in stables where many of them froze to death, since their uniforms were taken from them. The Hitlerites opened fire at the prisoners from machine guns and automatic rifles. No less than 35,000 prisoners in camp No. 133 were shot or perished from hunger, cold and typhus. Especially notorious for his brutality was the camp chief, Major Rosenkranz and his assistant, Ewert; SS Doctor Hancke and Sonderfuehrer Mamt.

In the autumn of 1941 the German-fascist invaders organized a camp for Soviet war prisoners on the territory of an army camp in the town of Nauioi Vilnia. No less than 20,000 persons were kept in this camp at one time. Witness A. A. Tumanov told the Commission about the torments

inflicted on the inmates of this camp by the Germans: "Prisoners were tortured until they lost consciousness. They were suspended from chains by their legs, then removed, doused with cold water, and strung up again."

The mortality of the war prisoners here was never lower than 150 a day. The dead were buried in the cemetery 200 meters from camp.

Testimony of Witnesses

On the basis of the testimony of numerous witnesses—inhabitants of the small town of Nauioi Vilnia: L. I. Galevsky, R. N. Galevskaya, K. A. Kozlovsky, A. P. Tumanovich, S. N. Bublevich, A. A. Gulbinsky and K. O. Kondratovich—the Commission established the deliberate, systematic wholesale slaughter of Soviet war prisoners in this camp by a regime of starvation and exhausting, unbearable labor, torture and shootings. The total number of victims slaughtered by the Hitlerites in this camp exceeds 60,000 persons.

Another camp for Soviet war prisoners was set up five kilometers from Bezdany station, Hemenchin Volzt, Vilnius District. According to the testimony of eye-witnesses, inhabitants of the village of Bezdany: I. M. Lastovsky, A. V. Matskevich, I. V. Rodzevich, P. Y. Bryzhuk, L. I. Bukshansky and others—constant starvation, brutal floggings and shootings resulted in a tremendous death rate. Eighteen large graves were found on the territory of this camp. In August, 1943, the camp was razed completely by the Germans. The number of war prisoners who perished here, according to documents and testimony of witnesses, totals 25,000.

It has been established that in all of the above-mentioned camps on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR, the Germans annihilated no less than 165,000 Soviet prisoners of war.

In 1940-41, land allotments were apportioned in Lithuania to more than 75,000 agricultural laborers, and peasants with little or no land. Approximately 400,000 hectares of land were distributed among them. All who received land were guaranteed loans for construction, agricultural implements and equipment, and seed. The cornerstone for a flourishing agriculture was thus laid in the Lithuanian SSR.

The fascist colonizers immediately took away from the working peasantry the land it had received. The Hitlerite minister of agriculture, Darre, openly declared, "Small local peasants must be moved from their land and turned into landless proletarians, to reduce their propagation. Arable lands must pass over into the hands of the class of German masters. Throughout the Eastern area only Germans have the right to own large estates. A country inhabited by an alien race must become a country of slaves, agricultural servants and industrial workers."

In an order dated September 18, 1941, Von Renteln, General Commissioner of Lithuania, issued the following directions: "New settlers, and peasants with little land who received land for use in pursuance of a decision of the Bolshevik Council of Ministers on August 5, 1940, are considered as having lost this right. This applies as well to persons of non-German origin who have migrated from Germany. Allotments given to the new settlers and migrants from Germany are to be turned over to the management of the persons to whom they belonged prior to the alienation."

Peasants Robbed of Land and Stock

When they drove the working Lithuanian peasants from the land, the Hitlerites robbed them of all their stock and farm implements, and even took away the lumber they had prepared for building dwellings. Loze, Reichskommissar of Ostland, issued the following instructions in an order dated September 13, 1941: "All agricultural stock and implements are to be turned over to the old proprietors or to duly appointed managers who bear the responsibility for running the farms."

After they had taken the land away from the Lithuanian peasants, the occupationists turned them into slaves of the German colonizers. In an order issued by Loze, dated September 13, 1941, it is stated: "New settlers are to be considered hired laborers of the proprietors to whom the land is being returned." Expanding on this order, the General Commissioner of Lithuania, Renteln, on September 18, 1941, instructed that: "Farm laborers and former new settlers who refuse to occupy and work in the place assigned to them, leave it, or prevent an appointed manager

from taking over management of the farm, are to be severely punished."

In January, 1942, there was formed in Riga the Ostland Land Management Society, whose tasks included the organization of the farms of the German colonizers. According to incomplete data, prior to the autumn of 1942 alone, 16,300 German families were shipped into Lithuania, not counting numerous proprietors of various agricultural and urban commercial and industrial enterprises.

Throughout the occupation the Germans ruthlessly drove the Lithuanian peasants from their farms and looted their property. Thus in the autumn of 1942, 2,057 families in Mariampole, Taurag, Kedaini and Vilkaviskis districts were deprived of land. Taken from them, together with the land, was all their movable property: 2,475 horses, 2,267 cows, 2,973 hogs, 2,386 sheep, 1,426 plows, 1,318 harrows and 859 carts. All of these families were obliged, with no compensation whatsoever, to leave the Germans the following stocks of farm produce: 2,216.6 metric tons of rye; 1,630.7 metric tons of wheat; 1,311.4 metric tons of barley; 2,291.4 metric tons of oats and 5,705.2 metric tons of potatoes.

In consequence of the rule of the Hitlerite invaders, according to incomplete data, livestock and poultry in only 14 districts of the Lithuanian SSR were reduced as follows as compared with 1940-41: horses by 136,140; cattle by 565,995; hogs by 463,340; sheep by 594,492; chickens by 996,000, and geese and ducks by 424,178.

The German invaders wreaked tremendous destruction to the industry of the Lithuanian SSR. They blew up the Republic's large power plants at Vilnius, with a capacity of 9,000 kilowatts, and at Kaunas, with a capacity of 16,000 kilowatts. They wrecked, burned and looted all the main industrial enterprises in the towns of Lithuania.

In the city of Kaunas, the Germans demolished the Metalas metallurgical works, the Spektras optics factory, Guma rubber factory, a meat packing plant, a glass works, three flour mills and two soap factories. They shipped the equipment of saw mills, woolen and cotton mills and the Ramuns factory to Germany.

In the city of Vilnius the invaders de-

molished the Elektrit radio apparatus factory, and the saw mill and plywood enterprises. In the city of Siauliai they burned and destroyed the first-class leather factory No. 6, the Vatas shoe factory, which had produced up to 2,000 pairs of shoes a day, three confectionery factories, breweries and a creamery.

In the town of Nauioi Vilnia, the Germans destroyed the machine tool works and a paper mill, and in the hamlet of Sventupa they burned the distillery down. The occupationists shipped out all electric motors from the tobacco factories and burned down many lime works and brick kilns. In Panevezys they blew up seven flour mills and a bakery. The invaders shipped out 244 of 300 electric motors that were at a paper mill in Petrushany. The Germans destroyed a large number of small industrial and handicraft enterprises throughout the Republic.

Public Utilities Wrecked

The German-fascist invaders barbarously wrecked the public utilities in Lithuanian towns. Besides the power stations in Vilnius, they destroyed the gas works and water stations with all its aggregates and the Kaunas water main in Eiguli, with its reservoir at Zaliakalnis. The urban population was left without light or water. In Vilnius the Germans blew up the new 82-meter Zverinas bridge, the 86-meter Zeleny and 110-meter Antokolsky bridges across the Neris (Vilia) River, and in Kaunas they wrecked three bridges, two across the Nemunas and one across the Neris (Vilia) River.

Before their retreat from Lithuania, the Germans in the course of seven days, beginning July 6, 1944, blew up and burned down the best houses and public buildings in the towns and wrecked entire blocks of streets. One of the central streets of the city of Vilnius, the Vokecu, center of the business section, lay in total ruin after the departure of the Germans. In the city of Kaunas, the suburb of Viliampole and its population were burned down by the Germans and Bistono street wrecked. Altogether 4,612 buildings with a volume of 8,414,000 cubic meters were wrecked in the cities of Vilnius and Kaunas. The district towns of Vilkaviskis and Raseiniai were blown up and burned.

The fascist raiders caused tremendous

damage to communications institutions. Buildings of the city and interurban telephone exchanges, radio stations and post offices were burned down. Communication lines and cable structures were put out of commission or wrecked. A considerable part of the equipment of the automatic and interurban telephone exchanges, the central telegraph office, radio stations, radio relay station and workshops were shipped to Germany by the Germans.

Under the direction of Dolling, chief of Lithuanian railways, his assistants Hofmann and Girkens, and Krause, chief of police of Lithuanian railways, the German invaders devastated the railway network in Lithuania. They blew up, burned and wrecked the railway power stations, buildings, depots, locomotive repair shops, water pumping stations, the 332-meter railway bridge across the Nemunas River, a 301-meter bridge across the Neris River, and 49 other bridges, and destroyed 330 kilometers of main track and 46 kilometers of station track; they blew up the station buildings at the stations of Kaunas, Furmontas, Dukstas, Zasliai, Kaisadoris and Varen, and demolished the station buildings at the stations of Vilnius, Svenceliai, Pabrade and elsewhere, and smashed or blew up 4,283 freight cars, 257 passenger coaches and 183 locomotives, and shipped to Germany the machinery of many depots and locomotive repair shops and the apparatus of the telephone exchanges and telegraph stations.

The fascist invaders effected the wholesale pillaging of the Lithuanian urban population. All the best houses and apartments were taken away from the residents and given to German civilian and military officials and "colonizers" who migrated from Germany. The Hitlerites robbed the population of the towns of their possessions and food.

Valuable articles and goods were assembled by the Hitlerites in special shops marked "For Germans Only" and were sold to Germans at incredibly low prices.

The Following Will be Called To Strict Account

The Extraordinary State Committee has established that the following are guilty of the monstrous crimes committed on the territory of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic:

Reichskommissar Loze; Esche, Matisen and Freundt, his assistants; Doctor Von Renteln, General Commissioner of

Lithuania; his assistants, Obergebietsfuehrer Nabarsberg, Doctor Penze, Captain Schenenbek and Doctor Deksheimer; Cavalry General Bremen, Commander of Troops; SS Obergruppenfuehrer Iekeln, Chief of Police of Ostland; SS Brigadenfuehrer Major General Garm, Chief of Police of Lithuania; SS Brigadenfuehrer Gintze; Major General Wysotski, Chief of Police of Lithuania; Oberfuehrer Doctor Fuchs, Chief of Security Police and SD of Lithuania; Doctor Muzil, Chief of SS and Police; SS Brigadenfuehrer Gintze; Major General Vanse; Doctor Vrede, representative of General Commissioner, and Von Frick and Week, secretaries of General Commissioner; Meize, Adjutant to the General Commissioner; Major General Just, Military Commandant of the Lithuanian General Area; Kossmann, Chief of Secret Police; Oberbannfuehrer Kortmann and SA Sturmbannfuehrer Wester, leaders of the Hitlerite youth in Lithuania; Doctor Kobe, Director of Society for Colonization; SS Sturmbannfuehrer Dukart, Director of Resettlement Headquarters; SA Standartenfuehrer Luet, Supreme State Counselor; Friese, Chief of Courts' Department of General Commissariat; Doctor Dunbir, Government Counselor and Chief of Manpower Distribution Administration; Professor Doctor Kasnitz, Official on Agricultural Problems in the East; Doctor Gaul, Doctor Friedrich Ross, Frelich and Elsmann, Counselors of Military Administration; Dolling, Chief of Lithuanian Railway Lines; Hofmann and Girkens, his assistants; Krause, Chief of Police of Lithuanian Railway Lines; Langner, Railway Counselor; Jatske and Obersturmfuehrer Mueller, Chiefs of Concentration Camps; Doctor Mueller, Obereinsatzfuehrer of Rosenberg's Headquarters; Doctor Paul, Director of "Research Museum of Eastern Peoples" in Frankfurt-on-Main; Wilhelm Spilger, bank director; Major General Dittfurt, Commandant of the city of Vilnius, and Von Ostmann; Obersturmbannfuehrer Krieg, Chief of SS and Police in the city of Vilnius; Mueller, Chief Regional Labor Director; Beckmann, Regional Agricultural Director; Gebietskommissars Hingst, SA Oberfuehrer Kramer, Lentzen, Wulf, Geveke, Von Staden and SS Obersturmbannfuehrer Walter Neum; Assistants Appenrodt and Lakner; Rector Braun; Murer; Captain Buenger, Chief of Secret Police in Kaunas; Oberscharfuehrer Lange; Captain Morgerd, Captain Pabst, Captain Keidel, and Lieutenants Til, Weis and Tilmann, Commanders of the Secret Police and Field Commandant's office, Kaunas; Gues, Commander of Kaunas Garrison; Captain of SS Troops Reinert, Commandant of the town of Prenai; Judges Gafaken and Lukas; Ichtenstein, Prosecutor; SA Sturmfuehrer, Baron Von Staden; Baron Von Ropp and Reke, Chiefs of Political Departments; Schmitz, Criminal Counselor; Richter, Chief Regional Labor Director; Standartenfuehrer Doctor Erich Meyer, Director of Education in Kaunas; SS Obersturmbannfuehrer Schmoll; Frauenfuehrer Ellerbrok; Gestapo men SA Oberfuehrer Wagner, Obersturm-

bannfuehrer Gekke, Hauptsturmfuehrer Rink, Unterscharfuehrer Pilgram, Oberscharfuehrer Auer, Oberscharfuehrer Fininger, Oberscharfuehrer Kittel, Grott Wulf, Gestapo Chief from Berlin; Captain Gert from Koenigsberg, Obersturmfuehrer Neugebauer, Obersturmfuehrer Artschwager from Klaipeda, Obersturmfuehrer Richter of Berlin, Oberscharfuehrer Meyer, a German from Vienna, and Schweinberger of Berlin; Hauptscharfuehrer Martin Weiss from Karlsruhe, Chief of Prisons of the city of Vilnius; Elizabeth Seeling, Chief of Concentration camps; Colonel Erhardt, Commandant of Concentration Camp No. 336; Major Rosenkranz, Chief of Concentration Camp No. 133; Ewert, his assistant; SS Doctor Hancke, doctor of the same camp; Sonderfuehrer Mamt; Sons, Senior Commander, SS Storm Troops; Luet, Commander, SA Storm Troops; Brand, Chief of Department at Commandant's Office; Welema, Chief of Department of Propaganda; Garsch, Director of Communications Service in Kaunas; Mueller, Commander of Storm Troop Company; Oberscharfuehrer Faulgarber; Perr, Chief of Paneriai District; Binke, Security Chief of Paneriai District; Sporket, Chief of Rosenberg's staff in the city of Vilnius; Doctor Wulp, Director of Kaunas Department of Rosenberg's Staff; Sonderfuehrer Hans Lutz; Lieutenant Mueller, Commander of Regional Gendarmerie in the city of Kaunas; Obersturmfuehrer Jordan, Commandant of the camp at Viljampole; Doctor Hartmann, Manager of Ostland Society.



WARSAW—Houses in Market Square demolished by Germans

From an Article by Ilya Ehrenburg

A world astounded and filled with admiration by the Red Army's unparalleled offensive asks itself: On what do the Hitlerites still pin their hopes? On fortifications? On the Oder River? On the Volkssturm? No, on folly.

I have just read about one quite fantastic school. I dwell on this because what is important in everything is the start. This school has been organized by Americans. It is attended by pupils who but recently hunted French prisoners and tormented slave girls brought from Russia.

Those "children," between 39 and 60 years of age, are Hitler policemen. They are the most diehard fascists. When the Hitlerites prepared to evacuate Aachen, they brought some picked scoundrels from Cologne to reinforce the local police. Later, they were taken prisoner by the Americans, and to their utter surprise found themselves pupils in a police school organized by the Americans.

Eighty-nine of these policemen, as reported by the American magazine *Liberty*, are successfully studying the English language, the regulations issued by the

Allied authorities, and "military courtesy" as well.

A charming program! *Liberty* says that the students have no sense of their own guilt. They reject the Hitlerites only because the latter have been defeated.

That means being frank, at least. Patented on their heads by the Americans, those fascists insolently declare themselves innocent as lambs, they even agree to renounce their Fuehrer temporarily, inasmuch as the Fuehrer has been beaten, and to place at the head of Germany the notorious Bruening who once before paved the way for Hitler.

The French newspaper *Lettres Françaises* describes another picture just as original. The Americans captured a German town. The Military Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel Peterson, asked the Germans to resume their occupation. But the Germans replied: "As you have just liberated us, we have now the right to rest." This was said to Americans by those very Germans who sleep on mattresses stuffed with the hair of women slaughtered in the Maidanek death camp.

The Germans would not dare talk so insolently to the Red Army. We have come to them not to liberate the Hitlerites from Hitler. We have come to liberate ourselves and the whole world from gangster Germany. We will not train German police anew. Those who tortured defenseless people will sit in the dock and not on a school bench.

We will not discuss with the members of arson crews the problems of rebuilding Luebeck or Cologne. First they will have to rebuild Smolensk, Warsaw and Le Havre.

Now that Russian blood is being shed on the fields of Silesia and Prussia for the cause of universal liberty and peace, the hypocritical defenders of the hangmen arouse especial disgust. Not for the sake of training German policemen in the Aachen school, for new wars and for new bloodshed and tears, do the mothers bewail their sons.

The world is looking upon us with admiration and hope. Advancing swiftly on Berlin, we say: No, this shall not be! We will punish the criminals and save the children.

NEW MEMORIAL PARK FOR PUSHKIN

From 1830 to 1835, the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin lived on the family estate in the village of Bolshoye Boldino, Gorky Region.

"Ah, my dear friend," he wrote to Pletniev at the time, "what a charming place this is! Imagine steppe, nothing but steppe. As for neighbors, there isn't a soul. You can sit at home and write as much as you like. I shall prepare all kinds of things for you, in prose and verse."

In September, 1833, he traveled to Kazan, Simbirsk, Orenburg and Uralsk to gather material on Pugachev. "I dream and see myself arriving at Boldino," he wrote to his wife. He was there by October 1 of the same year, and put the finishing touches to his *History of Pugachev*.

The Gorky regional organizations have decided to found a memorial to the great poet at Boldino. The grounds of the Pushkin estate are to be laid out exactly as they were in the poet's time. The mossy seat where he loved to sit has been put

in order. The spruce he planted in this park is still flourishing.

A new house, built in 1846, on the foundations of the mansion in which the poet lived, was used as a school. The architect Vogin has been employed on the restoration of this building, which will be a museum.

About a mile from Boldino there is a pleasant grove called Luchinnik, where the poet loved to roam and rest. Nearby is the little village of Kistenka, which Pushkin was fond of visiting, and which is also part of the memorial park. In Boldino village itself the People's Club is being repaired, a water supply system installed, and flower-gardens and lawns laid out in front of the hospital, polyclinic and other public buildings.

The Germans ruined the Pushkin memorial parks at Mikhailovskoye and Trigorye. The surviving estates connected with the poet's name have become all the dearer to the Soviet people.

Peterhof Parks to be Restored

By a decision of the Leningrad City Soviet, the famous Peterhof Parks, wrecked by the German vandals, will be restored and opened to the public by the summer of 1945.

Information Bulletin

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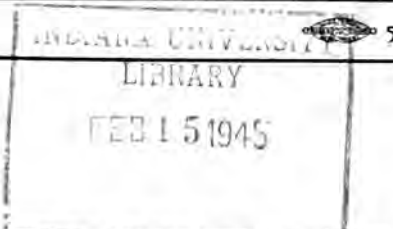
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Information Bulletin

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The Great Offensive

By Ilya Ehrenburg

from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, January 26:

Our offensive resembles the inexorable march of history. We have captured Opeln, one of Germany's major industrial centers. We are near Koenigsberg and are threatening Breslau. We are moving swiftly toward Danzig and our communiqués mention the names of towns located in West Prussia.

Our forward units are nearer to Berlin than Warsaw is to our forward units.

The Germans are unable to conceal their dismay—I am referring to the German ringleaders. Before me lie articles by Hey, by Chief of the Press Department Sunderman, and by General Dietmar. They are bound in exclamation points which are as many howls, and in dashes which betray their fear and trembling.

"Our feelings are the feelings of a people when the raging elements sweep away the dams they have built." (Ley).

"All that remains for us to say is: To

the barricades!" (Sunderman).

"Space is no longer our coadjutor. The issue of the war is now being decided!" (Hamburger Fremdenblatt).

"The seriousness of the situation is extreme. Events are on a knife-edge. Individual islands are being submerged by the flood. The apocalyptic hordes are marching down upon us. That which to the inhabitants of the central regions, far from the border areas, was until recently only a remote threat, has now become their immediate destiny. Everything is now at stake! Our only alternative is to win or perish!" (Dietmar).

"Win?" Even the Germans for all their lack of humor will laugh at that. A fat chance we stand of winning, they'll say. The quotation marks have only been put there for decency's sake: they have no alternative but to perish.

Ley frankly writes that "the great events do not allow him to think." He never did

think—that marauder who has made himself infamous by his grand thefts and petty scandals. But now he has lost his head entirely.

Need we ask what is happening to ordinary Germans? They don't write articles, they don't talk about barricades, nor do they quote the Apocalypse. They are worried by something else: where to flee to.

They have again taken up geography. Three years ago they were absorbed by the wealth of the Urals and Mesopotamia; they studied maps of Egypt and the Caucasus. Now they are more occupied with Bavaria and are yearning for some village in the south of Germany where they might hide in safety. The supermen remind us more of common rats.

Beaten in the East, the Germans are still trying to put on a bold face in the West. Oh, of course they're being beaten in the West, too. I am not referring to victories but to talk: turning their faces to the West, the Germans still pretend to be unperturbed. They don't count any more on seizing Belgian towns; they've become more modest: all they want is to fool certain military commentators in England and America.

And willing dupes have been found. They write that the Germans are fleeing "in accordance with a preconceived plan." When I recall all that was written about us during this war, I cannot help asking myself—can human naivete really be so profound?

How can people read the reviews of commentators who have been lying for four years on end? Have English and American readers forgotten that in certain newspapers Russia was invariably referred to as a "colossus with feet of clay." If they haven't forgotten, let them ask the commentators how it is that Russia with her



ON THE SECOND BYELORUSSIAN FRONT—Red Army artillerymen supporting the advancing infantry

Radiophoto

"clay feet" could stride from the Vistula to the Oder.

The commentators at one time wrote that the fall of Moscow was inevitable. Without adopting new pseudonyms, they now write that the fall of Berlin is inevitable.

For three years the Allies prepared for the operations in France. The commentators attributed this to strategical considerations. After three years of fierce fighting, the Red Army spent four months preparing for the break-through of the powerful German defenses in Poland, and these same commentators attributed it solely to political considerations.

When the Red Army smashed the Germans in Byelorussia, certain Allied newspapers asserted that the German army was exhausted and that its defeat was to be explained not by the strength of the Russians but by the weakness of the Germans. When the Germans advanced 50 kilometers in the Belgian Ardennes, these same newspapers began saying that the German army was extraordinarily strong.

Now these newspapers are dismayed by the Red Army's swift advance. They vaguely hint that maybe the Germans themselves have made a present to the Russians of such trifles as Lodz and Oppeln.

These gentry are equally dissatisfied when we advance, when we halt for a moment, and when we advance again. One might think that the Red Army was engaged not in fighting the Germans but in a controversy with certain foreign commentators.

However, these alases and alacks will neither help nor prevent us from nearing Berlin. We are engaged in a far more serious job than refuting the military reviews in the *Daily Telegraph* or *The New York Times*: we are waging an offensive.

War correspondents on the Western Front report that British, American and French soldiers hail the news of our victories with jubilation: every evening they wait in expectation of fresh Moscow salutes. They are probably anxious to respond to these salutes with thundering volleys from their own guns, and to supplement the invasion of Silesia by the invasion of the Ruhr.

German newspapers try to reassure their staggered readers by saying, "We

are fighting in the East, but in the West all is quiet, thanks to the skilful strategy of our Fuehrer."

It is quite likely the Germans are miscalculating here, too. Reuters and Associated Press correspondents report that there are far fewer Germans on the Western Front now: the Fritzies are rushing from the Ardennes, not to Antwerp, as they expected, but to Breslau and Danzig. It is quite likely that after this German movement, the Americans and British will begin to move from the Ardennes to the Ruhr or to Cologne or Frankfurt.

Incidentally, there are two Frankfurts—one on the Main, the other on the Oder. If we quickly tackle the one on the Oder, it is quite possible our Allies will decide to tackle the one on the Main.

I know that the English people, indignant over the continuous bombardment of their peaceful towns, are anxious to finish off the Germans as quickly as possible. I am familiar with the healthy sporting instinct of the Americans, and the offended wrath of the French.

There is a railway in Berlin that intersects the whole city. The station at the eastern end is called the Silesia-Schlesische Bahnhof. We have our eye on the station.



Radiophoto
Marshals of the Soviet Union Georgi Zhukov (left) and Konstantin K. Rokossovsky

The one at the western end of Berlin, the smart and wealthy section, is called Charlottenburg. It will please our Allies very well.

There is one thing in our offensive that should furnish food for reflection for foes and friends alike. Military experts of various countries have repeatedly asserted that the Russian Army is right when fighting on its own territory but that outside its native forests it is powerless. The Red Army is now fighting on alien territory: in the passes of the Carpathians, the streets of Silesian towns, among the lakes of East Prussia. And it is fighting not at all badly.

It is time to see us for what we are: to study us not from old fables and legends, or even from Dostoevsky, but from our present-day deeds and our living people. The Red Army isn't Alyosha Popovich or Anika; it is a modern army. It is able to defend its country not only on its native soil, but even in remote lands.

Many things in our history were incomprehensible to the world at large. Foreigners were astounded by Peter, by the Decembrists, by Tolstoy, by the October Revolution, by Magnitogorsk; now they are astonished by our victories. The world must have been asleep; it failed to see that we were learning to write and build and fight.

We win now—not by our Cossack horsemanship or the talents of our individual commanders, or the infinite docility of the old Russian soldier. Now we have learned to fight as the times demand. We don't stagger the imagination of housewives with flying bombs; we operate with first-class artillery, new tanks which run like tigers into lambs, and with Stormoviks. Our armies are led by skilled and cultured commanders.

The Germans looked upon military art as a privilege of caste. But talent is not inherited—only titles and gout are inherited. The sons of German generals become generals, but the sons of good generals are not necessarily good generals themselves.

Our commanders studied the art of fighting and mastered it; the stars on their shoulder straps are not heirlooms. And we are winning because we have

dent and skill to back us. The soldier of the Tsar's army was brave; he loved his land; but his ideas of the world were vague. The Red Army man knows why he is fighting and for what.

He is a citizen in a soldier's uniform. He is one of the masters of his country, who obeys the orders of his superior not because the superior has blue blood in his veins, but because he realizes the need for military discipline.

And if certain foreign wiseacres now say that the Red Army is winning owing to the traditional qualities of the Russian soldier, we are entitled to retort: You laud Platon Karatayev only because you don't like the October Revolution.

The Red Army has occupied Tannenberg, in East Prussia. With this town is associated the defeat of the Tsar's army. Where the haughty and ignorant Tsarist generals were impotent, where the soldiers of the Tsar's army died gallantly and uncomplainingly, there we are now scoring victory after victory.

We do not object when foreigners talk with affection of old Russia. But let them refer to the Soviet Union—if not with admiration—at least with esteem and respect.

We have set foot on that last road which for three long, long years we thought of in silence, in the gloom of soldiers' bivouacs. Swedish newspapers say that Hitler is now straining every effort to halt us. The Fuehrer has even mobilized Von Jagow, German ex-ambassador to Budapest, and sent him to the front as a common Fritz. Well, we shall cope with the ambassador somehow.

Of course, terrific battles are still to come, but it will be easier and simpler now that we are in Oppeln and Morunggen.

The grand offensive is being directed by Stalin—and he, when times were very slack, assured us that there would yet be rejoicing in our streets, and saw in his mind's eye the arrow plunging into the heart of East Prussia, and our breakthrough to the Oder, and many different kinds of streets . . . from the streets of Oppeln to the streets of Berlin.

We are already striding through Oppeln. We shall also be striding through Berlin.



Sergeant Shilin, who advanced with the Red Army from Moscow to Budapest, has been awarded the Order of Glory, Third Class

THE TREAD OF THE RED ARMY

IZVESTIA wrote editorially, February 1:

Happy news is coming from the front. With quickened pulse the Soviet people listen to the names of captured German towns.

Yesterday the Soviet people heard with indescribable emotion the Order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief on the invasion of Brandenburg. Yesterday Marshal Zhukov's troops emerged on the road to Kustrin and are at the approaches to Frankfurt-on-Oder! Simultaneously, Army General Cherniakhovsky's troops operating in the central areas of East Prussia captured the towns of Heilsberg and Friedland, deep in the interior, the latter of which is the place of a historic battle.

The Soviet offensive against the vital centers of Hitlerite Germany is developing with irresistible force. Each day the Hitlerite liars speak in the press or over the radio about "effective German counter-measures" which are to check the Soviet avalanche on some unspecified line. And now the battle has been carried almost entirely to German territory. Yesterday Pomerania and today Brandenburg—and everyone thinks: what will it be tomorrow?

The military disasters which the Germans for five years carried to the peoples of Europe have now fallen on their own heads. Hundreds of thousands of refugees

are scurrying along the German roads, seeking salvation; cities are being evacuated, the thunder of guns is approaching Berlin. The entire fascist den is in the grip of panicky fear.

Let political dunces console themselves by saying that the Germans are still shortening the front. In the hardest times, our Army and people used to say: the Hitlerites will shorten the front until the shortest front line for the German army will pass along the Spree River, on which Berlin is situated.

We know that there are still many difficulties to overcome on the roads to the Oder and the Spree. But there is no force on earth which can bar the path of the Red Army in its holy march, since with it goes the just wrath of the peoples and the memory of our devastated towns. The Hitlerite beasts will not escape punishment or just retribution.

Listen to the victorious tread of the Red Army! This is revenge marching. It has reached German soil; it is at the approaches to Frankfurt. It blazes the road to Berlin. The troops under the wise leadership of the brilliant strategist, the great Stalin, are inexorably and relentlessly driving the Hitlerite invaders into the very depth of their den, to the bottom of the abyss.

Death to the German-fascist invaders!

STALIN AND THE BLACK SEA FLEET

By Admiral Filip Oktyabrsky

Long years of friendship link Joseph Stalin, continuer of the cause of Lenin, with the men of the Soviet Navy. The founding and growth of the Soviet Navy, like the Red Army, are indivisibly linked with the name of Stalin. Together with Lenin he created the Baltic Fleet, the Black Sea Fleet and a number of naval flotillas. His name is also linked with the formation of new fleets in the Pacific and in the Far North. Not a single keel of the Navy was laid without his attention.

Rather agitated, I crossed the threshold of his study in 1940. His first questions revealed a deep interest in the Black Sea theater, to which he attributed special importance. He conducted the discussion in his own characteristic manner. Stepping into an adjacent room, he returned with a map, pointing out the Southern districts of the Soviet Union, a rich region which had to be safeguarded from encroachment.

He asked various questions about the fighting capacity of the Black Sea Fleet, the construction of naval bases, and the distribution of ships and shore defenses.

I could not but wonder at Stalin's thorough knowledge of Naval affairs and of the specific qualities of our Fleet. Though he asked many questions, it was evident he knew conditions very well, knew our shortcomings and our requirements. Touching upon the possibility of attempted enemy landing operations in the Crimea, he at once explained how additional defenses should be arranged, indicated vulnerable spots, demanded reinforcement of a number of strongpoints.

Our talk lasted for two hours, and I was subsequently to remember my meeting with this greatest man of our era. Ensuing events gave proof of his remarkable ability to foresee developments. Many times during the war I have thought of our talk. Stalin had not only perceived the general outline of coming developments, but even their details, and by certain barely perceptible signs had known how to work out the entire strategic plan.

Throughout the war the Black Sea sailors have been aware of the constant solicitude and attention of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. For us, the war

began simultaneously on the Danube and the Black Sea. The first serious test was the defense of Odessa, which was carried out in the manner and within the time limit designated by Stalin. The enemy was driving hard for the Dnieper and the Crimean Peninsula. He hoped to capture Odessa within a few days and thus free his men for further offensive operations. For this reason Stalin attributed primary importance to the defense of the city, which engaged large forces of the enemy.

Stalin's idea was completely effective. The Black Sea Fleet compelled the enemy to mass huge forces here—what was in fact the whole of the Rumanian army: 18 divisions. The well-organized defense of Odessa gained the Red Army much valuable time, while the enemy sustained enormous losses in manpower and armaments. During the 80 days of the city's defense, Stalin sent many messages to the defenders. He encouraged them, demanded the rapid and maximum evacuation of the civilian population and of valuable property, sent reinforcements and advised where blows should be dealt.

Stalin extended great moral and practical aid to the defenders of Sevastopol, also attributing great importance to the defense of this Black Sea citadel. For eight months, Sevastopol's small garrison, aided constantly by Stalin, held the enemy at bay. Riveted on the main directions, the enemy was delayed for a long time, and this was one of the reasons for the failure of his much-trumpeted "spring offensive." While the Nazis were delayed, the Red Army gained much precious time.

During the 250 days of the Sevastopol siege the enemy sustained enormous losses. More than 30 German divisions were shattered against the walls of the great Black Sea fortress. In dead and wounded alone, the Germans lost as many as 300,000 soldiers and officers; they also lost thousands of planes, tanks and guns.

A new phase of war operations came with the defense of the Caucasus. The Germans strove in that period to make up for their losses at Sevastopol; they hurled an enormous, well-equipped army into the battle to seize this gem of the Soviet

Union. Once more our sailors and soldiers felt the proximity and guiding hand of Joseph Stalin. Thanks to his measures the Red Army and the Black Sea Fleet preserved the Caucasus, prevented the Germans from reaching the richest sections of the country, and drove them from those places which they had managed to penetrate.

During 1944, I met the Supreme Commander-in-Chief on two occasions. Both times we spoke about the problems of the Black Sea Fleet in the latest phase of the Patriotic War. The elimination of the German army in the Crimea was working out with a thoroughness characteristic of Stalin, with a view to all possibilities, and without vagaries of chance for which war is noted.

This program provided for the annihilation at sea of the Germans attempting to withdraw from the Crimea, for the disruption of enemy communications linking the Crimea with Rumania, and for the disruption of supplies to the Crimean forces of the Nazis.

The sailors of the Black Sea Fleet carried out these tasks with honor. In 3 days Soviet naval aircraft, submarines and motor torpedo boats sank enemy ships with a total displacement of 246,240 tons and damaged others with a total displacement of 83,000 tons.

Immediately after the liberation of the Crimea, the Black Sea Fleet on Stalin's instructions began fresh operations in the western section of the Black Sea. The sailors soon seized the main naval base of the enemy—the port of Constanza—and the naval bases of Sulina, Galtz and Braiov. Soviet naval units achieved excellent results on the sea communications of the enemy, and assisted the Red Army on the Dnieper, the Danube and other western rivers.

Stalin has shown his appreciation of our operations. Many ships and naval units will henceforth be known as the Sevastopol, Kerch, Nikopol, Nikolayev, Odessa, Ismail, Constanza and Varna units. A number of vessels and units have earned the distinction of the Guards title during the war. Thousands of officers and sailors have been decorated for exceptional courage in action.

Marshal of Troops Communications Ivan Peresyphkin

Ivan Peresyphkin, Marshal of Troops Communications, comes from the Donbas, where he was born in 1904. His father, a borer in a quicksilver mine, died before the child was 18 months old. His mother went to work as a janitress to bring up her boy.

Ivan had barely learned to read and write before he had to start earning a living. At 12 he was taken on as an errand boy, but the wages were not enough to keep him in food, so he got an underground job at a coal mine. There he worked for three years, supporting his family with his earnings.

As a boy he had a passion for "battle" games. Though ill-clad and poor, he was well-built, tough and resourceful. He grew up by the Don River, nourished on brave legends. He watched the Cossacks exercising their horses, and vowed that he too would one day be a cavalryman. He realized this dream in 1919, when the Red Army cleared the Germans out of the Donbas. He had hated the Germans with all the passion of a child, for their condescending and despicable treatment of his people.

Red Army—A Real School of Life

At the beginning of 1921, when the Civil War came to an end, he was demobilized, as he was under age, and returned to the mine as a locksmith. The Red Army had been for him a real school of life. He was energetic and well-disciplined.

In 1922 he joined the Communist youth movement, and a year later was sent to study at Kiev Military School. On graduation he was sent to a cavalry division. His intensive technical training began. The young commander set himself to master every detail of the complex art of military communications.

In 1932 the Divisional Command appointed him squadron commander. All this time Peresyphkin was bent on entering the Military Electro-Technical Academy. Mathematics fascinated him. After completing a five-year course at the Academy he was made a colonel and put in

charge of the Communications Research Institute. January, 1938, found him Commissar of the Communications Administration of the Red Army.

He assisted in the preparations for the great flight of Chkalov and Gromov to America.

People's Commissar at 35

In May, 1939, Ivan Peresyphkin, then 35 years old, was appointed People's Commissar of Communications. In this capacity he directed a vast extension of the telephone network over the whole of the USSR. When the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia were reunited with their brother Republics he completed the telephone link-up with Moscow and the rest of the USSR in three weeks.

A month after the outbreak of the war the Supreme Command appointed him one of the heads of the Central Communications Administration of the Red Army.

He directed the enormous work of organizing production of equipment for the communications service and research laboratories where new methods were evolved. It was he who supervised the evacuation to the distant rear of the priceless equipment of radio stations and telephone exchanges lying in the path of the German advance.

Most of his time, however, was spent at the front. When the Germans approached Stalingrad they sliced clean through the communications linking the Commands at the front with the Supreme Command. Under peacetime conditions it would have taken three years to get those lines back into working order. The Red Army got them going in six weeks.

In February, 1943, Peresyphkin was given the rank of Colonel General of Communications Forces. His present rank, Marshal of Troops Communications, dates from February of last year. Among his decorations are the Order of Lenin, the Medals for the Defense of Stalingrad and Moscow, and the Order of Kutuzov, First Class.



Units of the Polish Army passing through liberated Warsaw



Radiophotoz

Soviet Tommy gunners in a street in Pultusk

WE RUSSIANS

By B. Polevoi, *Pravda* War Correspondent

This happened in the German town of Kreuzburg, on the eve of its capture by Soviet troops during the Red Army's sweeping drive into Upper Silesia. I was taken to the exact spot where the scene I am about to describe was enacted. As I spoke to its few survivors, I could not help being proud that I was Russian.

There were four Russians chiefly concerned, and all of them, although deported from different places, were fated to meet in the same plant on German soil. There was Vladimir Chesnokov, a mechanic from a power station in Kursk, who was called up at the very outset of the war, fought in the battles around Moscow, was wounded, and later returned to the service. He was again wounded, this time in the battle for Orel, was taken prisoner and, due to a great demand for men of his trade, sent to work in Upper Silesia.

There was also Stepan Zarubin, fitter in a machine-building plant in Orel. Up to the last moment he worked at the dismantling and crating of machinery which was to be evacuated. When the enemy's grip closed around Orel, he tried to get away, but was captured. Like Chesnokov, he remained alive because his trade was needed, and was eventually deported to Upper Silesia.

The case of Gennadi Suslov, mechanical engineer, was different. His whole family died of hunger in the winter of 1942, and in occupied Kharkov he himself became ill with scurvy. He could endure it no longer; duped by German propaganda he appeared voluntarily at a labor recruiting station and was deported.

The fourth man, Vladislav Sibirko, was also a Russian; but he had been born in Paris into a Russian emigrant family and had never seen his motherland. When Paris fell he was grabbed and sent to Germany with other young people.

After many bitter experiences the four men met in the autumn of 1943 in a so-called clearing camp, which was in reality a slave market in the city of Neustadt, Upper Silesia. Here they became friends. They understood each other perfectly and resolved to carry on a secret struggle against the Germans.

Their idea was to try to get work in

some war plant and to jointly carry out diversionary acts. Gennadi Suslov, whom the Germans knew to be a good engineer, thought he could arrange for them to get jobs at the same place.

It worked out. The four friends soon found themselves in the Oppel Works in Oppeln, on the Oder. This huge plant, supplying the Germans with automobiles and trucks, was also busy producing self-propelled guns. Here the four men made contact with other Russian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian deportees, and began their silent, secret struggle against the enemy.

It was a struggle no less perilous than the operations of the guerrillas behind the enemy lines. The least suspicion of sabotage would have meant immediate execution. Nor was this struggle less important, for it helped to retard and disorganize supplies for the German front.

Each of the four comrades had his own sphere of sabotage. Chesnokov specialized in accidents at the power station. He was particularly proud of an explosion in one of the dynamos, which put the plant out of action for three days.

Stepan Zarubin, who was regarded by the Germans as an efficient and trustworthy repairman, had permission to enter the shops at almost any time repairs were necessary. In his own clever way, which was beyond suspicion, Zarubin would manage while repairing one machine to put two or three others out of commission—by placing sand in the bearings or by some other method he had devised.

Putting the assembly line out of order at every opportunity was the particular activity of Gennadi Suslov and Vladislav Sibirko.

Thus while working for the enemy they did as much harm as possible to the enemy's production, and the realization that they too were fighting the Germans and helping to win the war gave them strength to endure all the horrors of their life of slavery. They lived in filthy, ill-smelling barracks, where they literally slept in layers for want of room, and their only food was turnip soup, which they called Hitler broth. The German guards

did not spare their fists, and corporal punishment was inflicted every Saturday for offenses committed during the week.

Smarting under humiliations, deprived of all rights and reduced to the status of slaves, the Soviet deportees did not give up the struggle. Undaunted by possible consequences, they fought single-handed against the enemy. And hundreds of Russians at the plant lost their lives. There were, for example, Boris Nikitin from Voronezh, Konstantin Zuyev from Smolensk, Shura Vasiliev from Spas Demyansk, and engineer Vorobyev from Rzhev. They too were soldiers. Their battlefield was the Oppel Works, and many were the victories they scored over the enemy.

But while scores of workers were killed, the four men who had sworn to do all possible harm to the enemy were not suspected. They lived until the happy day when the news reached the Oppel barracks that the Red Army had broken through the defenses on the Vistula and was advancing deep into Polish territory.

The Germans hastily began sending away the Eastern deportees, putting them in a train bound for Kreuzburg. In Kreuzburg the men were ordered to dismantle and help evacuate the equipment of factories which supplied the Oppel Works with various parts.

The four friends managed to get into the same brigade, led by engineer Suslov. In the distance they could hear artillery cannonade. Soviet Stormoviks swooped low over the city and struck at the retreating German columns and heavily-loaded trains. The four comrades decided that this was the time for action.

The signal was given. Engineer Suslov's brigade started a fist-fight. Guards rushed to the scene, but were immediately struck on the head with parts of machinery. Some of the men were able to arm themselves with the rifles of the guards. Suslov gave orders to destroy the railway switches and prevent the Germans from dispatching the six trainloads of equipment ready for shipment.

Soon the revolt spread to brigades working within the factory. The German guards and overseers were speedily finished off. The factory was in the hands

of the rebels. But the director, who had barricaded himself on the top floor of the office building, managed to get in touch with the commandant by telephone. One of the retreating German units was promptly sent to deal with the rebels.

Meanwhile Stepan Zarubin had got hold of a red signal flag. Creeping up to the roof he hoisted it on the factory smokestack. He was the first to be struck down by enemy bullets. He fell from the smokestack, but the red flag remained flying.

The revolt soon grew into a real battle. Barricaded in one of the shops, the workers prepared to meet the armed onslaught of the Germans. They had only a few rifles against the enemy's self-propelled guns and tanks.

Everything they could get hold of—stones, rods, iron scrap, was used as arms against the enemy. Engineer Suslov connected the hose to the hot-water line and sprayed scalding water into the enemy ranks. But it is unnecessary to say that all the resourcefulness of the workers was powerless against the enemy's heavy guns. The strongest weapon the men had was the hatred that burned in their souls.

The battle lasted five hours. Sibirko was the second of the four comrades to die by an enemy bullet; there were six wounds in his body. A shell splinter tore off engineer Suslov's right foot, but he continued to fire from his rifle until a bullet pierced his head.

Chesnokov, who is now back in the Red Army, commanding a tank crew, was the only one of the four to survive. He saw the Soviet tanks roll into the hated German town, straight to the gates of the factory. It was from him I learned most of the story of the heroic four and the hundreds of others who fought the enemy in the Opiel Works.

In Kreuzburg he showed me the bodies of his three friends and the hundreds of others who laid down their lives in this unequal combat with the enemy. We all removed our caps and stood in silence, to do honor to the valiant hearts of these Soviet people who had fought the enemy in his own lair.

IN LIBERATED WARSAW



Red Army officers talking with Warsaw citizens



A bridge across the Vistula, destroyed by the Germans during their retreat



Ruins of the Poniatowsky Palace, wrecked by the Hitlerites

Radiophotos

Music in Tatar Republic

By M. Shumsky

Tatar music is as young as the Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Of course its roots go back much further than that, but it is in the past two decades that the music of this nationality has genuinely flourished.

This was made especially clear at a joint session of the Union of Soviet Composers and leading Tatar composers held in Moscow last year, which reviewed the progress of the past 20 years.

Folklore is the source of modern Tatar music, as of most music. Tatar folk melodies, fragrant and delicate as field flowers, are based on the pentatonic scale and hence do not lend themselves easily to symphonic development.

On the other hand, Tataria is extremely rich in songs. The principal vocal genre is the lyrical song, very similar in form and intonation to the folksong. During the war years a large number of lyrical songs have appeared, expressing the emotions and reflections of the people in this period.

But Tatar composers do not confine themselves to national themes; the experiences of other Soviet peoples interest them as well. Excellent arrangements have been made of Kazakh, Bashkir and Chuvash folksongs and of many popular Russian and Ukrainian songs.

An interesting aspect of Tatar music is the development of a national opera. Nazib Zhiganov, an extremely gifted and prolific musician who is fully conversant with European musical technique, wrote his first opera *Kachkyn* (The Fugitive) in 1937. He is now completing his fifth, *Tulyak*, based upon the 15th-Century Tatar national hero of that name. The most important of his operatic works, *Altyn Chech* (literally "Golden Locks," the name of the heroine), is a story of fervent patriotism, which explains its popularity in the Tataria of today.

His last completed work, *Ildar*, is an opera on the present war. Ildar is a young tractor driver who joins the Army as a volunteer and becomes a hero. The theme is the story of Ildar's love and his moral development. Other Tatar operas portray the struggle against fanaticism, ignorance and superstition and the fight for a new culture.

An opera on the participation of Tatar youth in the present war, *Fatiza Urduk*, by M. Yudin, a Russian composer who has lived for some years in Tataria, was extremely well received. Local music critics noted the strong influence of Tatar music in Yudin's work.

Musical comedy, a very popular genre

in Eastern countries, is well represented in the work of the young Tatar composer D. Faizi, who derives his themes both from folk legends, as in *Khuzha Nasredin* (story of the popular Oriental hero) and from modern Soviet life, as in *The Seagull*, written in the style of Soviet musical comedy.

Development of Ballet Art

The ballet form of theatrical art, unknown in Tataria's pre-Soviet days, has come to stay. Drawing on the folk tales of their people as well as on modern themes, Tatar composers have produced ballets of much merit. Zhiganov's *Fatyl*, for example, is the tale of a schoolboy who helps the Red Army liberate his village.

Chorus singing and instrumental music are two fields in which Tatar music still lags. A symphony by N. Zhiganov and M. Muzafarov, a quartet by Alexander Klyucharev, a few odd pieces for piano, violin and cello, and the cantata, *Young Patriots*, make up the list of achievements thus far.

But no one who has followed the development of Tatar music and the earnest efforts of its gifted young composers, can doubt that in the not distant future there will be considerable progress in this direction as well.

MOSCOW LIBRARY OF FOREIGN LITERATURE RECEIVES BOOKS FROM UNITED STATES

The Central Library of Foreign Literature in Moscow recently received a large number of books and magazines from American public groups and individuals. Assistant Secretary of State Archibald MacLeish has sent a collection of modern American poetry. The Library has also received a letter from Eleanor Melville Metcalf, granddaughter of the famous writer Herman Melville, who is sending a collection of her grandfather's books to the Library.

In the quarter-century of its existence the Moscow Library of Foreign Literature has collected 300,000 volumes of

foreign literature, mainly American and English. The Library serves 50,000 Moscow readers. Courses in English and other Western languages are given as part of the Library's activities; amateur dramatic circles stage plays in foreign languages, and reading and critical evenings are held frequently.

Among the patrons of the Library are Red Army officers, engineers, students, doctors and housewives. Branches of the Central Library have been opened in many large Moscow factories and in hospitals for convalescent Red Army men.

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The Hour of Retribution Has Come

By Ilya Ehrenburg

from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, January 31:

An icy wind sweeps through Berlin's trees. But it is not the wind, it is terror, that is driving the Germans and their *fraus*. They are inundating the German capital from the East, from Danzig, from Breslau, from Frankfurt and Kustrin.

"*Mein Gott*, tanks!" they howl. Ohly yesterday Berlin was to them a haven of salvation, but now they see the Berliners themselves in flight: Berlin is trying to get away from Berlin.

"I will give anything for a seat in a train," cries a superman. With what does he hope to tempt his fellow-supermen? With the title of *Gauleiter* of the Kuban, with his genealogical tree, or with gold dentures torn from mouths in Maidanek?

Like the witches from Brocken, German men and women are scurrying along the slippery, icy roads through the snowdrifts. They drag along with them remnants of their booty; tatters of their former glory; common, vulgar German trash: rucksacks stuffed with maps of Mesopotamia and toilet paper, Parisian perfumes and smelling salts, abdominal bands embroidered with quotations from *Mein Kampf*, and beerpots emblazoned with sham coats-of-arms.

In their panic they keep repeating, "*Mein Gott*, tanks!"

Not far away sits Guderian, the general who set out to conquer Russia in six weeks, author of a book entitled *Attention, Tanks!* Incidentally, Guderian isn't sitting still; he's trying to outstrip the refugees in his car. *Attention, Tanks!* is no longer the title of a book; it is a cry wrenched from Guderian's heart: Soviet tanks are moving down upon him.

Fragments of the colossal monument to Hindenburg mark the place where Germany's pride was stricken. It has been trampled upon, never to rise again. We

have invaded their stamping ground. Here rampaged the violet-jowled apoplectic cattle-drovers, lovers of the whip; the bellying and guffawing Prussians and the hinter-Pomeranians.

The hour of retribution has come. Our regulators stand directing traffic near the castles of the Teutonic Order in Allenstein, in Osterode and Marienburg. Here in the days of yore feasted the Orders of *Meisters* and *Hofmeisters* and *Deutschmeisters*, those predecessors of the *Gauleiters* and *Sonderfuehrers*.

Here, eight hundred years ago, Lithuanians and Poles said, "When we die and go to heaven we shall torment the Germans as they tormented us here on earth." (I quote from an ancient chronicle). Only the other day, Prussians were tormenting Soviet girls. The hour of retribution has come: not in heaven, but on earth. In Koenigsberg they are scurrying like trapped rats. Neither the howls of Koch, "Governor of the Ukraine," nor icebreakers nor the Volkssturm can save them.

Let them recall their favorite word: blitzkrieg. They wanted it so badly; now they've got it. The world has never witnessed such an offensive. After East Prussia comes West Prussia, and after Silesia comes Pomerania. Brandenburg is already shaking to the thunder of guns.

Berliners used to love to hear the communiques which mentioned mysterious names: Sidi Barani, Pyatigorsk, Abrau Durso . . . now all they hear is familiar and unbearable, and one German woman blanches as she whispers to another: *Mein Gott, they're already in Woldenburg.*

As for us, we exultingly repeat the loathsome and yet enchanting sounds: Lukatz, Kreuz, Chrombenen, Nesselbek, Horneck, Saudowitz, Schweintainen, Stroppen, Prausnitz.

The hour of retribution has come. They are now writhing in East Prussia, in Posen, and in dozens of other "kettles."

Before they knew where they were, the war had swept to the west of them. They thought they were in the "Government General," that they were conquerors. But now the Fuehrer, having taken to his heels, has lost these "conquerors" like so many pins.

How did Hitler decide to pacify his frantic Germans? He told them he had "received Quisling"; they had "discussed the organization of Norway after Germany's final victory." The rogue is still up to his old tricks. But it would be interesting to know what the Germans who are now fleeing on foot from Berlin think of the future organization of Norway.

I don't know whether Hitler and Quisling actually did meet, but if they did, they could have discussed only one thing: which of them was going to be hanged first.

The Germans are not overblessed with imagination: they are a mixture of sheep and parrots. Three years ago Hitler attributed his defeat at Moscow to the frosts. "We were unfamiliar with the climate of a foreign country," he declared. Today German newspapers write: "The frosts favor the Russians' advance, as lakes and rivers are frozen over." Maybe the Germans were unfamiliar with the climate of Pomerania or East Prussia?

In the eyes of whom is the Fuehrer trying to justify himself? Of the Fritzes? It is not worth the trouble: Fritzes are Fritzes, and don't think. In the eyes of the world, perhaps? But the world is looking forward to only one thing: the gallows in Berlin, frost or no frost.

The *Kieler Zeitung* writes: "It would be folly to predict how events in the East will end." This paper is published in

Kiel, which, as we know, is in the West. Kiel is still tranquil, and Germans in Kiel are glad they aren't in Breslau, and so they babble, "We don't undertake to predict. . . ." However, they too know very well where events in the East will end: in Berlin.

Evidently no one but a few transatlantic commentators have failed to grasp the significance of what is happening. They still think we are in the year 1940. "Apparently this is an organized retreat of the Germans," they write. I have a hunch that when the Red Army enters Berlin *The New York Times* commentator will write, "Apparently the Germans have rapidly evacuated their capital, thus foiling the plans of the Soviet Command." Let them talk: that is their trade.

All honest newspapers in the Allied countries speak of the Red Army's offensive with admiration. Last summer we spoke with equal admiration of the Allies' offensive, which carried them from Cherbourg to Brussels. But while admitting them we waged our own offensive, which carried us from Bobruisk to the Vistula.

In the theater, some act and others applaud—that is quite natural. But usually in the theater of war everybody fights: it is only seemly of angels or Swiss merchants to applaud. I therefore think that the Allies will soon be showing an interest in Berlin. English correspondents report that the troops are seized with "travel fever." Judging by the dispatches of these correspondents, the winter this year in western Germany is a cold one; well, there is nothing like movement to keep you warm.

Some Americans are fond of betting. They bet on the most diverse things: on who is going to be elected President, or what the weather will be like tomorrow. One thing interesting the betting fraternity just now is whether "this offensive of the Red Army will be the last in this war, or the one before the last." Let me say that the proper place for such conjectures is on the moon, or at least in Lisbon.

After all, whether this offensive is to be the last depends to some extent on the bettors themselves. As to the Red Army, it is not disposed to drag out matters; it is anxious neither to keep the sub-



Radio photo

Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgi Zhukov

scribers to the *Kieler Zeitung* in a fever of uncertainty, nor to inflame the ardor of our betting friends. We will do our level best to finish off the Germans as soon as possible.

Some say that the Germans on the Rhine are more human than the Germans on the Oder. I don't know whether such nuances are worth discussing. Germans are Germans everywhere. I may be told that western Germany is already punished by aerial bombings. No, you can't make any impression on Germans that way. This is a case where a little hand-grenade is more effective than the biggest demolition bomb. The Germans in Cologne or in Frankfurt-on-Main have not been punished yet. But the Germans in Oppeln, Koenigsberg and Breslau have already been punished.

They have been punished, but not enough. They have been punished, but not all of them. They are still in Berlin. The Fuehrer is still standing on his feet, not hanging by his neck. Fritzes are still on the run, not lying prone.

They are true to themselves right to the end. A neutral who has just extricated himself from Berlin relates that the Germans are driving Soviet women, girls and children through the city. Where are the unfortunates being driven to? To what tortures? We shall never forget this terrible picture: Germans, defeated, panic-stricken and having lost the war, maltreating defenseless Russian children as a last act of retaliation. No, there can be no

mercy or leniency for such as these.

Nothing will be forgotten. We are marching through Pomerania, but before our eyes looms devastated and blood-stained Byelorussia. We shall carry to Berlin the all-pervading stench of burning that impregnated our overcoats in Smolensk and Orel. And at Stalingrad. The breaking of the Leningrad blockade was on everyone's lips. But did we think then of the blockade itself: or of our children who perished, who in dying pleaded, "Mama, only a crumb of bread." Our soldiers who are now storming German cities will not forget how mothers of Leningrad dragged the dead bodies of their children on sleds to the graveyards.

For Leningrad's heroism, Leningrad has already been decorated. But for the sufferings of Leningrad, Berlin has not yet answered.

But it will answer soon, for everything. It will answer for the German who ripped open pregnant women in Bude-novka. It will answer for the German who threw infants into the air and shot them with the grinning remark, "This is a fine new sport." It will answer for the German who burned Russian women alive in the Leningrad Region and boasted, "These Russians burn as if they were made of straw instead of flesh." It will answer for the German who buried old Jews alive with their heads protruding above the ground, and wrote, "They make a lovely flowerbed." Berlin will answer for everything. Berlin isn't so far away now.

The Germans are howling, groaning, snarling. They are scurrying hither and thither, the witches and vampires of Germany, weaving and whirling, in between the shells and snowflakes. They are on the run, but they realize they have nowhere to run.

On to Berlin! There are no words which mean more to the heart of each of us. *On to Berlin!* These words will raise even the dead. *On to Berlin!* These words mean life; they mean something more than life—they mean living to see that the sacrifices, sufferings and woe have not been in vain.

Who can stop us? General Modl? The Oder? The Volkssturm? No, too late. Whirl and weave, burn and howl in an agony of mortal fear—the hour of retribution has come!

OUR STALINGRAD

By Ivan Zimenkov
Chairman of the Stalingrad Regional Soviet

TWO YEARS AGO—FEBRUARY 2, 1943—the greatest battle in the history of wars came to an end. Stalingrad had withstood the onslaught of the enemy and had won. The picked German divisions trapped in the Stalingrad area were wiped out.

The epic struggle at the walls of our city was the turning point in the course of the war. The German army never recovered after the defeat in Stalingrad.

Many historical events have taken place in the two years since the Hitlerite hordes were routed at the Volga fortress city; events of great importance in the life of our country and our famous city.

Our territory has been cleared forever of the German-fascist invaders. The Red Army, launching its victorious offensive from Stalingrad, has traversed a long and glorious path. The defenders of our city are now fighting on the fields of East Prussia and storming the towns of German Silesia, Hungary and Poland. The famous Stalingrad regiments and divisions are moving along the roads to Berlin, to hoist the flag of victory over it. The working people of Stalingrad are exerting every effort to achieve this final victory over Hitler Germany.

The Nazi vandals wrecked our beautiful city. When the fighting ended in the ruined residential sections and around the wrecked industrial enterprises, the people of Stalingrad immediately began to restore their city. They formed building brigades and started the herculean task of rehabilitating workshops and dwellings.

The entire country came to their aid. Builders arrived from Siberia, the Urals and Central Asia. Life was severe and not very pleasant. The people lived in dug-outs and blindages. There was no light or water in the city. Food had to be cooked over campfires.

But this did not discourage the Stalingrad people. "Our men in the fighting forces had a harder time defending our city, and still they won. We will win, too," they said.

A new Stalingrad is rising from the ashes and ruins. We were, and still are, proud of the industrial might of our city. It will again become one of the biggest



Radlophoto

OKTYABRSKAYA STREET, STALINGRAD—The city which the Germans leveled to the ground two years ago lives, builds and works for the front—for victory!

industrial centers in the southeastern part of the country. Many shops of the Stalingrad tractor works have been rehabilitated, and new tractors are already rolling off the main conveyor. One enterprise has launched the production of Diesel engines and spare parts for agricultural machinery. The eight open-hearth furnaces restored at the Krasny Oktyabr metallurgical works are producing steel 24 hours of the day. Blooming and rolling mills are turning out tons of rolled metal. Also working for the country are the Barricades factory, the hydrolysis plant, wood-working shops, a cannery and dozens of other industrial enterprises of rehabilitated Stalingrad.

Six hundred thousand square meters of production area have been restored in the past two years. Restoration continues today despite severe winter conditions. Builders are rapidly restoring open hearths, lathes and dwellings.

Last year another 115,000 square meters of housing were repaired or newly built. Thousands of Stalingrad families have moved into new apartments. In addition to dwellings, the people have built and repaired seven schools now attended by some 3,800 children, and 13 kindergartens with accommodations for 2,480 youngsters. A new hospital was erected in 1944, as well as public steambaths and

other communal facilities. Functioning today are medical and teachers colleges attended by 2,000 students, a theater, several cinemas and a local radio station. Twelve newspapers are being published.

Stalingrad will once more be enhanced by beautiful parks and green boulevards, as before the Nazi invasion. Last year the people planted 65,000 young trees.

Tens of thousands of builders are working at the construction sites. Experienced carpenters, bricklayers and plasterers are training novices, mostly youths and girls who came to Stalingrad a short time ago from the countryside. Such famous people as Ivan Smolyaninov, bricklayer; Elena Konova, carpenter; Grigori Oreshin, plasterer, and many others, are systematically exceeding their quotas and have been extremely successful in the training of new skilled building workers.

Volunteer brigades are taking an active part in the restoration. Following the example set by Alexandra Cherkasova, director of a kindergarten, railway workers, office employees and housewives of Stalingrad are voluntarily working on the reconstruction of the city in their free time. There are 1,804 such volunteer brigades in Stalingrad today, with more than 20,000 members. Many of the volunteers are studying evenings at special training courses for workers of different build-

ing trades. That is how the Stalingrad people are manifesting their love for their native city.

Our friends in England and the United States of America have contributed to the revival of Stalingrad. The workers of London donated £150,000 to the Stalingrad Relief Fund. Equipment for medical institutions restored in Stalingrad was purchased out of this fund; and part of it was spent in buying equipment for the Stalingrad automatic telephone exchange. New buildings for the telephone exchange have been erected and the equipment will be installed as soon as it arrives.

Gift parcels from England and the

United States have made life considerably easier for the people of Stalingrad, who lost all their property in the flames of the great fires in the city. Our citizens are most grateful to the peoples of England and the United States for their solicitude for Stalingrad.

Although the front line is today several thousand kilometers from our city, the thoughts of Stalingrad are centered on the war front—the struggle for the coming victory. We are proud and happy that our industrial plants rising from the ashes and rubble are helping the Red Army to rout the enemy. The Diesel engines made at the Stalingrad tractor

works, the steel smelted at the Krasny Oktyabr works, and the war materiel produced at other Stalingrad plants, are bringing retribution to the enemy for the ghastly wounds of Stalingrad, for the grief and suffering of our people.

Today, on the second anniversary of the rout of the German troops in Stalingrad, we look forward confidently to the future. The hour is rapidly approaching when the fascist beast will be finished off by the united efforts of the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies. This victorious advance, launched in Stalingrad, is approaching Berlin.

The Stalingrad Tractor Plant

By Grigori Gurko

Stooping slightly, the man in the short cloak and ear-muffled cap passed through the factory grounds at dawn. First to appear, he always arrives at the designated hour; he is so punctual one can tell the time to the minute by his arrival.

This man is Fedor Proshin. He and I helped to build the Stalingrad tractor plant. I later became editor of the plant newspaper and he a turbine machinist at the power section.

Much water has passed along the Volga since those days, and both of us have turned gray. For his kindly features and his friendly and hearty advice, Fedor Proshin is known as Uncle Fedya among the young people of the plant. He has changed little. His hands are as skilful as ever and his habits are the same.

As he used to do long ago, Proshin walked slowly around the yards, paused before two massive pedestals capped with tank turrets, and turned grimly westward. Ruminating, he passed on, accelerating his stride as he entered the factory gates through which in the autumn of 1942 the tractor builders went directly into battle. In those days, Proshin, too, had come out of these gates with a tommy gun in his hands.

By now the snow showed traces of many footsteps. The morning shift was hurrying to the machine tools, drop forges and conveyors.

Today the big plant is alive. Although there are still plenty of ruins, its great

conveyors are already releasing new tractors for the collective farm fields; the front is being supplied with Diesel engines, and the workers are steadily eliminating the damage wrought by the Germans.

At the machine tools in the enormous departments—each covering three, five and eight hectares of space—are representatives of two generations. One, represented by such workers as Fedor Proshin, is equipped with the experience of many years of labor. The other consists of exuberant young people, who are nonetheless hard workers. The first generation works and teaches; the second works and studies, but both cherish the fighting and labor traditions of the tractor builders.

Lyubov Chigbintseva, a young girl who came from Kazakhstan to help restore Stalingrad, was the first woman to operate a drop forge. Her skill is surprising. In the tool-making department is a girls' brigade made up of Maria Pobedinskaya, a polisher; Asya Spasenova, a young fitter; Valya Sycheva, and many others, who exceed their labor quotas sixfold in a single shift.

As the plant rises from its ruins, the appearance of the entire district is also changing. Dozens of houses have been rebuilt; the tractor workers have already received 50,000 square meters of housing space. Housing construction continues in

all weather, even in the worst frost and blizzard.

The tractor builders, like all Soviet people, are accustomed to set aside the best things for their children. Before the war they were proud of their schools and kindergartens, and in these difficult days they are still doing what they can for the little ones. They have already restored two four-story secondary schools and ten elementary schools. They have built new children's nurseries and kindergartens. New Year's trees were set up for the youngsters in the classrooms.

The polyclinic hospital, the first ambulance stations, and the rest home of the plant are already restored and serving the people.

When their work is done, the Stalingrad tractor builders go to the cinema or to the library, reading rooms and club rooms of their dormitories. Three hundred young men and women attend evening school, continuing their education after working hours. Others take to the skis or skates. Amateur artists rehearse for new performances. The plant has its own young workers' theater group, a concert and vaudeville group, a jazz orchestra, a chorus and two ballet studios.

When night descends over the city, the lights of the tractor plant may be seen from afar. The rumble of production never ceases. The great plant is working for victory.

IN THE NEW POLAND

By Lev Slavin, *Izvestia* Special War Correspondent

The roads of Poland are very busy. Only a few days ago they terminated at the Vistula. Now they have crossed it and are stretching away to the west; in some places they have even reached the old Polish frontier, the Oder River.

Who are the people we see these days on the busy Polish highways? They are those uprooted from settled homes and scattered far and wide. It seems that liberated Poland is now settling down again. One man, whom the German occupation had cast up at Vieszum, is cycling northward to his home in Kutno, with his few remaining goods and chattels behind him. Another is hurrying from Siedlece to Lodz to learn if his relatives are still alive. Some are making their way nearer to Gdynia and Poznan, in order to enter these cities immediately after their liberation.

Men of all sorts and conditions are driving along Poland's roads today, plowing through the soft January snow. Recruits march past singing. They are led by a heavily-moustached officer in a square cap—a veteran of the Kosciuszko Division—the first division of the Polish Army to enter the fight against the Germans and the first to enter Warsaw with the Red Army units a few days ago. In roadside villages the windmills are working, grinding the harvest of revived Poland.

From time to time one comes upon graves that look familiar. They are marked by little wooden pyramids crowned by a star. The graves of Russian soldiers! We passed them on the Polish Memorial Day for the fallen, when hundreds of Polish men and women set small saucer lamps among the flowers on these mounds, lighted them, and prayed for their liberators.

We were near a small town when night fell. These small Polish towns are very much alike: part of them is usually asphalted, but here the unpaved market place is deep in heavy clay. They all have a miniature gasoline station, cabmen in long coats with tin buttons; little coffee-houses and shops with impressive names—like Olympia, Palermo, New Babylon—a large Gothic chapel, a standard monument to Pilsudski crowned with the

spread eagle, and the usual obituary notices on fences and walls beside the announcements of touring companies from the Danzig Theater, and the Provisional Government's decree on land reform. Interest in this reform is now uppermost in the minds of the Poles. And the Polish dailies print news about the division of the landowners' estates, just as they print the communiques from the theater of war.

This town has no native population. It is full of newcomers, most of whom are exiles from Poznan. The local people were brutally murdered by the Germans—only 70 survive out of 20,000.

When at night the shutters are closed over the windows, life goes on indoors. Cards and endless political arguments while away the evening. Poland is full of these political debates now.

The master of the house where I stopped, Stanislaw Mankowski, a building contractor, says with a chuckle: "It's an old misfortune of ours: wherever there are two Poles, there will be three parties. I've even known people who belonged to two opposing parties at once—they wanted to be on the safe side."

The conversation turns chiefly to the new land reforms.

"Yes," says Stanislaw, shaking his gray head, "between 1918 and 1939, many Polish governments wanted to introduce this reform and couldn't."

"And why?" young Josef Marcinek demands hotly. "Because they did not want to—that's all! I've heard that the reform has gone very well in Atopol, Krinice and Lenow. My brother-in-law Jan Kopac lives in Lancut and he has gotten some land from Count Potocki's estate. The Polish magnates used to live there. And it is not so long since Potocki was receiving that hound Goering in his castle." Whereupon Marcinek calls Goering and Potocki a few choice names.

Marcinek is a curious type; he might be either a worker or a shopkeeper. He has no settled trade. When he finds it profitable he keeps a tiny shop called "The Cosmos." His stock consists mainly of dried-up shoe polish, apples, disintegrating toothpaste and crooked lamp chimneys. When trade is bad he goes back to work at a turner's lathe in a bobbin mill. Sometimes he does both. There are many like him in Poland, because one trade is not sufficient to live. That is why it is not uncommon to meet very curious combinations: a cellist may also be a chemist, a water-carrier a chimney-sweep, and a literary man a meteorologist.

Marcinek is a small, lean man with a thin, foppish-looking moustache, the rough hands of a manual worker, a football league badge in his buttonhole, and endless anxiety about his wife and child and how to support them. He is not a politician; he does not use the word de-



Radiophoto

Inhabitants of liberated Warsaw greet the men of the Polish Army

mocracy at every turn. He believes firmly in one thing alone—in the Polish troops, which he regards as the hope and salvation of the new Poland. And he is joining them.

The man beside him is Eduard Mazur, a Praga worker of 26, very typical of the people of the new Poland. Formerly a railway fitter, he fought as a partisan in a detachment of the Ludowa Army. Now, in response to the Provisional Government's call, he is entering an officers' school. There are thousands like him, and they form the framework of the new body of Polish democratic officers.

Our conversation is interrupted by a commotion in the streets. Red Army units are marching through the town. Boots and hoofs clatter over the wooden pavements, machines flounder and sputter through the mud, hundreds of young voices are singing. Occasionally a burst of laughter, a word or two, the clang of arms, reaches our ears, and a gleam of light comes through a crack in the closed shutters as a car with blazing headlights passes.

Then all the windows are flung wide open. The people watch with respect and admiration as the great Army marches westward.

* * *

Lublin looks like a capital. It is a fairly large, bustling city, with noisy traffic. Stary Miast, with its medieval streets and corners, is very beautiful. There are many modern houses, some of which were wrecked during the fighting, but they are being rebuilt very quickly.

This unusually quiet provincial town has the tempo of life in a capital. Many papers and magazines are published; several theaters are open. Polish, Soviet, American and French films are shown at the cinema. Most popular are Soviet pictures with scenes of Moscow. For example, in the movie "Escorting the German Prisoners," the Polish audience was interested not so much in the prisoners as in the impressive views of Gorky street and the Sadovaya.

Notices of meetings and congresses of various parties, societies and unions are seen everywhere. The first art exhibit in Poland since 1939 has been opened. The life that was broken in upon by the Germans is being revived with great zest.



Radiophoto

Survivors of Warsaw returning to the city in the first days of its liberation

Many Government and private schools are reopening: for example, the Organists School, the Merchants Association High School, etc. Three universities—the Lublin, Warsaw and Catholic—are open.

This is not the only town returning to life. In Byelostok and in recently liberated Radom, dozens of schools have resumed work. Poland is eagerly reaching out for the education of which she was deprived for so many years. Shops are opening; the cost of living is going down. This is a result of the money reforms and the general reorganization of life. Profiteering in staple products is forbidden by Government decree. Special notices announce the arrest of those found guilty of speculation.

From all over liberated Poland people are coming to Lublin, and it is probable that there are more people passing through it than there are native Lublin citizens. In the thronged streets you can see a rugged peasant who looks as though he has stepped out of the pages of a Sienkiewicz novel. He has just come to consult someone in the Government office about his land, and has brought along a horse, provisions and the old plans of allotment.

And you may also meet a scientist who somehow survived the Hitlerite orgy of slaughter among the Polish intelligentsia. A young fellow, here to enter the University, has brought with him a pile of textbooks that were buried in the ground for five years—since Polish textbooks were banned during the German

occupation. And here is a curious personality, garrulous and fantastic, with a touch of the charlatan about him, possessed by vague ideas about plans of salvation.

Here too is a writer who fled from occupied Poland with the manuscripts he had written in secret. He can hardly believe his eyes as he reads the notices of new Polish publishing houses, the literary magazine *Revival*, a notice of a literary gathering, a signboard of a poet's cafe, and all the things that have not existed in Poland these five terrible years.

A Chopin Festival was held here. Lectures on the great musician were delivered by Tadeusz Mazurkiewicz, Director of the Warsaw Opera House. Chopin's works were performed by the well-known Polish virtuoso, Stanislaw Szpinalski. There is nothing extraordinary about this; perhaps it is a concert like any other. But for the Pole who has gone through five gloomy years of the German occupation, the mere mention of Chopin, the Warsaw Opera and Szpinalski is sensational and joyous.

The Polish intelligentsia's losses during the German occupation are incalculable. In reading the list of Polish scholars killed by the Hitlerites, we find representatives of all branches of learning.

After the names of some people we saw bracketed the word "Oswiecim," the huge death camp near Cracow. After others, we saw: "Dachau," "Machusen," "Buchenwalsee," "Maidanek," "Pawiak," "Oranienburg." The Germans closed the schools, but opened the morgues. Some-

SOVIET GUERRILLAS TODAY

By O. Savich

times within the brackets are added the words: "killed together with his son," as in the case of Professor V. Neswicki; "carried away in an unknown direction," in the case of Professor Jan Rostafinski; or "killed in the Warsaw Gestapo during 'interrogation'"—in the case of the lecturer Stanislaw Sachs; "killed in the ghetto," after the name of Professor Rozoj; "killed when released from prison," after Professor Konstantine Konieczkowski.

In this dreadful roll of dead there are about 100 well-known names. And it is not complete, we are told.

There is another terrible list, an index of Polish books forbidden during the German occupation. It itself it would make a thick book. Practically all of Polish literature is registered here in alphabetical order, with German pedantry. Books under the ban were ordered to be burned; they included the works of Mickiewicz, Sienkiewicz, Joseph Conrad, Zieromski, Konicka, Proust, Maria Zaplaska, Temayer, Reymond Kraszawski, etc.

As I was walking through the streets of liberated Warsaw with a Polish writer a few days ago he said to me, "This reminds me of Spain during the struggle against the fascists. If Lublin resembles Valencia, then Warsaw is like Madrid—both outwardly and in spirit. Today the Red Army and the Polish Army have driven the Hitlerites many more kilometers away, and this gladdens me not only because the area of liberated Polish territory is thus extended, but also because the Hitlerite territory is thus reduced. There is more of Poland and less of Germany in the world. There is more light, reason and justice in the world, and less gloom, filth and brutishness."

We stopped at a crossing not far from Saxony Square, which was once the most beautiful in Warsaw. Street signs reading "Adolf Hitler Platz" were being taken down.

There was another sign in German. A man was about to tear it away when my companion stopped him. The sign was on the charred wreckage of a trolley car. It read: "For Germans Only."

"Leave this sign here. There is something symbolic about it," my companion said, looking at the miserable skeleton of war. "It's true—this is for Germans only."

In the summer offensive, the Red Army liberated nearly the whole of occupied Soviet territory. Thus the guerrilla movement in our country drew to a close.

During the offensive, special stations were set up at many places along the front. Here, after the combined operations with the Red Army which had led to the complete liberation of their respective districts, the guerrillas gathered. They were fed, clothed and equipped, given medical examinations, and registered. The wounded and sick were sent to hospitals, sanatoriums and rest homes.

When asked what he would like to do next, each guerrilla invariably replied, "I should like to fight until final victory; until justice has been done." There were many difficult moments—when young specialists were ordered to the rear, or when students were told that they should return to their studies instead of fighting.

A considerable section of the guerrilla youth joined the Red Army. Strong of body, well-trained in the use of all types of arms, resourceful and disciplined, they are proving their value in the ranks of the regular Army. Many have since been decorated several times.

Moskalenko, formerly chief of staff of one of the Ukrainian detachments and now commander of a Red Army battalion, won two decorations in the space of four months, in addition to the three which had been conferred upon him in three years of guerrilla warfare.

At their own request some of the guerrilla commanders have been sent to military schools. There are men of all ages among the students at the military academies—guerrilla generals, officers, cadets and privates. The experience of each is very valuable in his further studies.

The others—more than half the guerrillas—are people of the older generation, men and women specialists who have gone back to their former professions, or who are studying in the rear.

The former Chief of Staff of the entire guerrilla movement and the chief of the Byelorussian guerrillas, General Ponomarenko, is now Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of Byelorussia.

Others holding administrative posts in the Ukraine today are Kovpak and Fedorov, twice Heroes of the Soviet Union, who were formerly commanders of famous guerrilla detachments.

The commander of one of the finest Lithuanian detachments, Monchunskas, has returned to his post as Chairman of the Trakaisk District Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

In all formerly occupied districts one may find collective farm chairmen, teachers, engineers, tractor drivers, doctors, collective farm brigade leaders and mechanics wearing guerrilla medals of the Patriotic War. In most cases these people do not merely return to their old jobs, but assume more responsible positions. Guerrilla life has broadened their vision, strengthened their ties with the people, trained them as skilled administrators and taught them the value of large-scale collective endeavor and solicitude for the people.

Many young men and women have returned to their studies. Twenty-two-year-old Nadezhda Trojan, Hero of the Soviet Union, is now a student at the Moscow Medical Institute. Valeria Borts, a member of the famous underground youth organization, the Young Guards of Krasnodon, is a student at Moscow University. Twenty-year-old Nikolai Sokolov has joined a diplomatic school.

The former guerrillas, like the invalids of the Patriotic War, are the most honored students in the higher schools. Many are now studying who had not acquired an education before. Children of guerrilla fighters are enrolled in the Suvorov Schools (secondary military schools) and secondary schools. In some localities, nearly all members of the local militia are former partisans, and in their leisure hours they undergo special training.

All invalidated guerrillas, needless to say, receive work and pensions. There are special trade schools where they may learn new trades, or strive to overcome the handicaps of their injuries and carry on at their old jobs.

Such are the activities of the Soviet guerrillas today.

Notes from Front and Rear

For the outstanding services of the working people of Leningrad to the motherland, for the courage and heroism, discipline and staunchness displayed in fighting the German invaders under the hard conditions of siege, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has conferred the Order of Lenin upon the city of Leningrad.

★

The 100th work of Sergei Prokofiev, his FIFTH SYMPHONY, was conducted by the composer himself at a recent concert in Moscow.

★

Eight thousand tons of medicinal herbs were gathered in 1944 by the All-Union Medicinal Trust. During the war special attention has been given to the collection of these herbs, under a committee headed by Academician Nikolai Tsitsin. Each summer groups of botanists explore all parts of the country to find new varieties. An expedition to the Tian-Shan mountains discovered vast growths of termopsis, the seeds of which are used in the production of medicines for treatment of ailments of the respiratory tracts. From the Turkmenian desert came a plant from which salsolin, used for lowering blood pressure, is obtained. At present 100,000 acres on 10,000 collective farms are planted to medicinal herbs, and in the near future 30 new stations of the Medicinal Trust will begin gathering wild herbs and assisting in their cultivation on collective farms, as well as in their processing.

★

In a recent air battle over East Prussia, fliers of the French Normandie Squadron destroyed six German planes out of 12 and prevented an enemy attack on Soviet ground forces.

★

Sixty-five million rubles have been allocated for construction of medical institutions in the Ukraine. A considerable part of this fund will be used for children's health institutions, milk kitchens and homes for expectant mothers. The network of medical institutions and sanatoriums is to be extended.

Numerous small power stations supplying current to one or several villages are under construction in rural areas of the Urals. These stations are usually built on the site of old mill ponds or near dams of old mining enterprises. The work is done by collective farmers. The electrification of Urals villages will go forward on a large scale after the war, when it will become possible to produce small turbines on a mass basis.

★

It is now 100 years since the organization of the State Service of Weights and Measures. Much credit for this work belongs to the famous Russian chemist, D. I. Mendeleyev, who was placed in charge of the Department of Weights and Measures in 1892. The following year Mendeleyev founded the main Chamber of Weights and Measures, a research center. The All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Metrology, with 25 laboratories, was founded in 1935. On its recent anniversary, January 13, the name of Mendeleyev was conferred upon this institute by the Soviet Government.

★

Soviet composer Aram Khachaturyan is writing a triumphant overture for symphony orchestra, foreshadowing the victory of the United Nations.

★

The drafting of a plan for construction of a gas pipe-line from Dashava in the Drohobych Region to Kiev has begun. The problem of utilization of the rich gas resources available in the western regions of the Ukraine was first attacked in 1940. Preliminary explorations confirmed the possibility of supplying Dashava gas to Kiev by means of a pipe-line but work was suspended owing to the outbreak of war.

★

Academician Boris Grekov, noted Russian historian, is chairman of the newly founded History Section of VOKS (All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries).

The remains of Red Army men who died for the liberation of Byelorussia from the German-fascist invaders are now buried in the center of Minsk. The citizens, who sacredly revere the memory of the heroes, keep their graves decorated with flowers. Portraits of the men and a brief resume of their deeds are on many gravestones. A monument to the memory of the fallen heroes will be erected in the near future.

★

A group of prominent architects are preparing drafts for new buildings in the Soviet Capital in accordance with the general plan for the reconstruction of Moscow outlined by Stalin and launched in 1935. The rebuilding of Moscow's main thoroughfare, Gorky street, will be continued, and large and medium apartment houses and individual cottages will be built.

The plan for 1945 provides for reconstruction of a number of important avenues. Another large group of architects is planning new cultural institutions and utilities, while a third group is designing school buildings, children's homes, a central city library, a large cinema theater, hospitals, maternity homes and other public buildings.

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The Greatness of the Red Army's Victories

RAVDA wrote editorially, February 5:

Within three weeks of the offensive, the troops of the First Byelorussian Front have made a fighting advance of some 150 kilometers. The troops of the other fronts have also advanced by gigantic strides.

Fulfilling its historical mission, the Red Army has liberated from the Hitlerite vandals almost the entire territory of our ally, Poland. The hour is not distant when the whole territory of Poland will be cleared of the fascist vermin.

The might of Soviet arms and the military skill of the Red Army are manifested in the fact that our troops do not simply eject the enemy from this or that area. Red Army troops surround and liquidate the German divisions, and annihilate them during pursuit.

In the present offensive the Red Army has caught the Germans in dozens of large and small pockets. The German troops in East Prussia are caught in a gigantic pocket. Soviet troops have already captured not less than five-sixths of the territory of East Prussia. The surrounded Hitlerite garrison in Torun has fallen. Surrounded German troops in Poznan and Schneidermuhle are being annihilated. The annihilation of the enemy group in the western part of Budapest continues successfully. In the woods south-east of Kustrin, our troops surrounded and completely routed a considerable group of German troops.

On January 21, the troops of the First Ukrainian Front crossed the German frontier and advanced into the territory of German Silesia. A few days later, troops of the First Byelorussian Front broke into the territory of German Pomerania and Brandenburg. At present, almost the whole of the German eastern frontier has been broken and crossed by our divisions. This fact is of tremendous



Marshal Joseph Stalin
Supreme Commander-in-Chief

Radiophoto

political and strategic importance. From the town of Linde and up to the southern tip of German Silesia—i.e., on a stretch of more than 600 kilometers—the German frontier has been left behind by our advancing troops. Our units have advanced into the depth of the enemy's land. About 70 kilometers separate our troops, which yesterday captured Borwalde, from the capital of Germany.

Soviet troops have reached the Oder, the last water barrier before Berlin. Advancing to the West, Soviet regiments march through the streets of German towns. The German invaders intended to conquer the whole world; now the Hitlerites are being annihilated on the accursed German soil. The Hitlerites resist with the fury of despair. The German command issues one order after another attempting to organize the defense on the Eastern front, throwing into action all remaining reserves.

The powerful Red Army's offensive threatens the most important vital centers of the Hitlerite state; the German divisions are sustaining one defeat after another; the German army is bleeding white. Government institutions are being evacu-

ated from Berlin. The population is fleeing in panic from the eastern areas, trying to find refuge in the western and southern provinces. Abandoning their loot, fearing just retribution, the Germans are fleeing from their robber dens. However, they will not escape retribution. We shall find the war criminals, the Hitlerite vandals and the barbarians, wherever they hide, even at the world's end!

The Red Army is marching over a land which in the past experienced the might of Russian arms. Soviet troops have captured the town of Tannenberg, in East Prussia, near which in 1410 the united forces of the Poles, Lithuanians and Russians utterly defeated the German Teutonic Knights. At the settlement of Kunersdorf, near Frankfurt-on-Oder, and in Palzig—in the Zuellihau area—historic battles were fought during which Russian troops defeated and dispersed the army of Friedrich II. On October 9, 1760, Russian troops entered Berlin.

The Red Army has heightened the manifold glory of Russian arms. It has destroyed the unprecedentedly powerful fortified enemy lines on a front from the Baltic Sea to the Carpathians. It wins its glorious victories in gigantic battle, demonstrating the greatest military might of the Soviet country.

We know that hard battles await us on the path toward final victory. But the Red Army, confident of victory, batters the enemy mercilessly, giving him no respite. The Soviet people, inspired by the historic victories of the Red Army, are ready to give all their strength for the cause of the final destruction of the hateful enemy.

The Red Army soldiers, led by the great strategist Stalin, are fearlessly and selflessly blazing the way to the West, carrying forward their victorious banners, and will hoist them over Berlin!

THE FLOWER OF GERMANY

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, February 2:

Now that the hour of retribution has come, Germany's defenders are trying to shift the whole blame on Hitler. Nobody is anxious to exonerate Hitler; the gallows are waiting for him. But one gallows is not enough. The Germans may say, "We are not playing any more." But they won't get away with it. They were one and united in their misdeeds; Hitler only perfected the Germans' vices. Germany was eaten by racial and national arrogance before Hitler. Even before him they looked upon other nations as inferior. Even before Hitler they practiced their brutalities in Russia, Belgium and France.

We know that the Hitlerites bred typhus lice on Russians, Poles and Jews in order to obtain serum. In Riga and Lvov they had special institutes where the unfortunates died, covered with lice. That is the Nazi physician's idea of science. And I repeat, Hitler invented nothing. I would recommend my readers to study attentively a report on the experiments of Professor Jurgens. It is no less dreadful than the report on Maidanek. Yet Professor Jurgens conducted his experiments 30 years ago. There was no Hitler then, but there was Germany. And what I want to tell about now relates to Germany's crimes.

In 1916 a book by Professor Jurgens called *Typhus* was published in Berlin. He had conducted gigantic experiments in a Russian prisoner-of-war camp. The book contains diagrams and photographs. Professor Jurgens arranges eight sectors. In the first he places Russians who are sick with typhus, together with the healthy Russians, without delousing the prisoners. The Professor remarks with satisfaction: "One by one the healthy men fell sick."

In the second sector he places healthy prisoners together with sick prisoners who had been deloused. There was a special sector, consisting of "semi-dark and inadequately ventilated" dugouts, where Professor Jurgens studied the spread of disease in generally unsanitary conditions.

On page 62 of his book he describes the following experiment: "From various sectors, 750 men were selected, some of

whom had not previously fallen sick, and others who had been infected with typhus by means of lice. They formed a new sector." Jurgens was interested in learning how people with resistance to the disease would react to infection.

The book describes the starvation, sores and gangrenous limbs. It contains photographs of the deliberately infected Russians, who to the Professor were not human beings but guinea pigs. The Professor calmly records that 20 per cent of the Russians died of these experiments.

To this account of the awful barbarism of the German scientist, there is only to be added that his experiments were not only inhuman, but purposeless into the bargain. For seven years earlier the celebrated French epidemiologist, Charles Nicolle, had proved by experiments, not on human beings but on guinea pigs, that typhus is spread exclusively by lice. Charles Nicolle's book was published in 1909, yet in 1915 the German Professor Jurgens undertook the experiments in which he tortured and slew thousands of Russian war prisoners.

This review of the humane activities of German medical men might be continued. In 1915 a German physician, G. O. (the Germans refrained from disclosing his name), decided to test the peculiarities of typhus on Turkish soldiers.

At first he inoculated 120 healthy Turks with the blood of patients recovering from typhus. Several of them contracted a light form of typhus. Thereupon G. O. took the blood of the typhus patients and injected it into 310 Turkish soldiers, of whom 174 fell sick and 48 died. As Turkey at that time was an ally of Germany, this caused a scandal and the Germans certified Doctor G. O. as insane, but at the same time refused to disclose his name.

The "madman" returned to Germany where he no doubt continued his experiments on Russians or Serbs. And here, too, we are amazed as much by the stupidity as by the barbarism of these experiments—inasmuch as long before, in 1876, Professor Joseph Mochutovsky of Odessa had established exactly what the German G. O. was endeavoring to ascertain. Professor Mochutovsky inoculated himself

with the blood of a typhus patient and contracted a severe form of the disease.

The Russian professor experimented himself. The Frenchman Nicolle experimented on animals. The German G. O. tortured and killed Turks. And the pride of German science, Professor Jurgens, experimented and killed Russian war prisoners. Yet nobody attempted to proclaim Jurgens a madman; on the contrary, his book was published in Berlin and various German scientists congratulated their colleague on the success of his experiments.

This was before Hitler and before fascism; but it was after the Germans had decided that they were a superior race and that other nations were guinea pigs.

That is why German doctors bred typhus lice on Poles, Ukrainians and Jews in Lvov. That is why German professors at the Riga "Institute of Medical Zoology" performed experiments on the unfortunates taken from the ghetto.

They took a man named Schneider, formerly a lecturer at the Paris Sorbonne, and turned him into a guinea pig. They opened his veins in order to see how hormones and secretory glands act when the blood is completely drained away. Another German scientist studied the phases of strangulation in persons killed by hanging. In order to gather material for his dissertation, he had 35 innocent persons hanged.

Of course, far more persons perished in Maidanek. But the Germans might say that it was executioners and jailers, off-scourings of Germany, who operated in Maidanek. But who was Professor Jurgens? Not an executioner, but a celebrated doctor. Who were the professors working in the Riga "Institute of Medical Zoology"? Off-scourings of Germany? No, they were famous scientists, the flower of Germany.

All this must be recalled now that we are in Pomerania, Brandenburg and East Prussia. The curtain is rising on the last act. We must not forget, we must not allow ourselves to get soft-hearted. The country whose scientists torture human beings must be bridled; it must be put in a strait-jacket and its hands tied behind its back.

SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF THE RED ARMY

By Academician Alexander Baikov

The war has been a trial of unparalleled proportions for the Soviet people, a test of the strength of the industry we had built up, a test of the morale of our people and their readiness to devote all their energy, knowledge and ability to the defense of the country.

Despite the strength of the monstrous fascist war machine which has been supported by the productive forces of occupied Western Europe, the Red Army and the Soviet people behind it emerged victorious from this trial. Our people did not lose heart during the worst period of the war but, staunchly enduring all hardships and privations, mobilized all the country's material and moral forces for defense.

The self-sacrifice and titanic efforts of the Soviet people bore excellent fruit. When the enemy struck blows of unbelievable force so that we had to retreat with extreme difficulty, although we lost some of our most important industrial and farming regions, our people built up the world's greatest Army in the course of the fighting and created a wartime economy capable of supplying it with all necessary munitions. In the course of the war we have been able to recapture from the enemy all the advantages he had gained by the suddenness of his attack and, after wearing down his forces, have driven him beyond the frontiers of our country.

"The successes of the Red Army," said Marshal Stalin, "would have been impossible without the support of the people, without the selfless work of the Soviet people in factories and plants, collieries and mines, in transport and agriculture."

Marshal Stalin gave very high praise to the work of Soviet intelligentsia. "Nor does our intelligentsia lag behind the working class and peasantry in helping the front," he said. "The Soviet intelligentsia is working with devotion for the defense of our country, constantly improving the armaments of the Red Army and the technology and organization of production. It helps the workers and collective farmers to expand industry and agriculture, and promotes Soviet science and culture in war conditions."

In all this work the Academy of Sci-

ences, one of the most progressive and most highly qualified sections of the Soviet intelligentsia, has made a great number of contributions.

The present war has no equal in history, either in scope or character. Science and technology have never been as important as in this war of motors, machines and instruments. Aircraft, warships, tanks, guns, automatic weapons and ammunition are required in great variety and are extremely complicated in design. Their manufacture and use, based upon the latest achievements of science and technology, require proficiency and accuracy in many branches of knowledge.

For the successful fulfillment of its task, therefore, it was essential to mobilize all the scientific and technical resources of the country. The Academy of Sciences, the universities and higher schools all played a very active part, as did the research institutes and factories in various branches of the industry.

The course taken by the first phase of the war compelled our country to undertake the difficult and complicated task of transferring industrial enterprises from the southern and western regions into the interior of the country, beyond the Urals to Siberia and Kazakhstan, the Volga Region and Central Asia; all forces were then mobilized to settle these industries in their new homes and organize them to supply the needs of the front.

The losses of the country's most important metallurgical and power centers and the transfer of industry to the East raised the problem of rapidly mobilizing the resources of the Eastern regions to provide new sources of raw material, fuel and power for the evacuated industries.

A number of Institutes of the Academy of Sciences and other research institutions and hundreds of outstanding scientists took an active part in this great work under the leadership of Academician V. L. Komarov, President of the Academy of Sciences. Their efforts, directed by the Commission for the Mobilization of the Resources of the Urals, Siberia and Kazakhstan, bore good fruit. Extensive geological exploration was carried on to find new iron ore deposits for the Ural

and Siberian industries, to provide manganese for the East, and to locate new and extend old deposits of aluminum, nickel, tin and copper in the East. Tungsten, molybdenum and niobium deposits were surveyed and studied. New ways and means of increasing the output of coal in the Urals, Kuznetsk Basin and Karaganda were developed. Considerable success was also achieved in studying new oilfields in the region known as the Second Baku.

Because of improvements made in the smelting processes and a fundamental study of the main deposits of ores, the output of copper, lead, aluminum and zinc was greatly increased. Plants were built to refine nickel, tin and cobalt. New electrothermal methods of smelting metallic magnesium were introduced; flint and aluminum alloys (silumin), various iron alloys (molybdenum, tungsten, vanadium and others) and special steels for tanks were evolved.

The course taken by the war required ever greater and greater efforts on the part of science in giving a theoretical basis for the production of new and improved types of equipment, such as Yakovlev fighter planes, Ilyushin Stormoviks; the organization of the geological and geographical service of the Red Army, and the search for new ways and means to treat wounded officers and men.

Attention must be drawn to the successful work of our physicists, mathematicians, chemists and mechanical engineers. The study of short-wave radiation, the study of luminous compounds and accumulation of light energy, the design of instruments according to the magnetic theory for protecting ships from mines, the invention and design of instruments to detect distant sounds for defense against air raids, the production of liquid and gaseous oxygen on an industrial scale by a newly invented apparatus for liquifying air, the work on the theory of shell movement, the work on aerodynamic calculation of aircraft parts, the research into aircraft and submarine construction, the further work on the theory of combustion and detonation, the invention of new methods of producing high-

(Continued on page six)

Members of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR



NIKOLAI CHIZHEVSKY, metallurgist. His principal researches have been on problems of obtaining coke, and on iron nitrogen. He has written many works on Bessemer and open-hearth processes, and has received a Stalin Prize and the Order of the Red Banner of Labor

EUGENE CHUDAKOV, an expert in mechanics, has devoted his researches to the theory of automobile construction. Among his more than 70 works is *The Theory of the Automobile*. He has received the Order of the Red Banner of Labor and a Stalin Prize



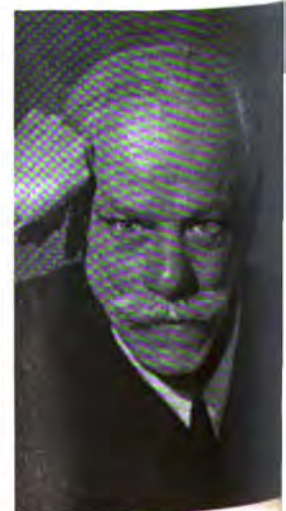
NIKOLAI BRUYEVICH specializes in mechanics and has done a large amount of research on aircraft engines and stationary engines

PETER MASLOV, an economist whose principal works are on agrarian problems



LEV IVANOV is working on urgent problems of the history of international relations and the analysis of naval armaments and naval warfare. He has written more than 140 research and popular scientific works, including *Politics After Versailles*, *The League of Nations* and *International Peace Treaties and Peace Conferences*

ALEXANDER PORAI-KOSHITZ, known for his researches in organic chemistry. He has worked out many questions of organic syntheses, in particular those of dyes and the theory of dyeing, and has actively assisted in building the Soviet aniline dye industry. He is also a Stalin Prize winner



Who Have Made Contributions in Many Fields



ALEXANDER ZAVARITZKY, geologist, interpreted in a new way the tectonics and geological structure of the Urals. Among his writings is a three-volume work on *Magnitnaya Mountain and Its Iron Ore Deposits*. Academician Zavaritzky has received a Stalin Prize for his many years of important work in scientific and technical fields

BORIS GALERKIN heads the Soviet school of building mechanics, in which he has introduced new methods and solved many theoretical questions. He has done research on the Dnieper dam, aircraft construction and hydraulic power construction. For researches on the elastic equilibrium of cylindrical casings he was awarded a Stalin Prize



ALEXANDER TERPIGOREV has devoted his efforts to the development of the coal-mining system, researches in production processes and their mechanization, and problems of the Donets Coal Basin. Among his more important published works is *Mechanization of the USSR Coal Basins During the Second Five-Year Plan*. He has been awarded the Order of Lenin and a Stalin Prize

VLADIMIR VERNADSKY (deceased), noted mineralogist and crystallographer. He is the founder of geochemistry; he organized the Institute of Bio-Geochemistry of the Academy of Sciences, and founded a large school of young scientists. His many published works include *Problems of Bio-Geochemistry* and *The Geological Significance of Symmetry*. He was honored with the Order of the Red Banner of Labor and a Stalin Prize



PAVEL STEPANOV, geologist, founded the theory of distribution of coal deposits, established the laws governing the distribution of coal deposits over the globe, and calculated the world's coal resources. He is the foremost expert on the Donets Coal Basin. For his *Geology of the USSR* he received a Stalin Prize

I L Y A GREBENSHCHIKOV aided in founding the Soviet optical glass industry. He has developed new methods of polishing optical glass, and his *Theoretical Electrochemistry* and *Grinding and Polishing* have influenced the development of Soviet physical chemistry. For work in optics valuable to defense he has received a Stalin Prize





Academician **SERGEI OB-NORSKY**, philologist and scholar of Slav languages, has published more than 50 works. Among the best known are *On the History of Word Formation in Russian Literary Language* and *Notes on Russian Dialectology*

Academician **MIKHAIL PAV-LOV**, metallurgist, has written a number of works, including textbooks on blast furnaces and the metallurgy of cast iron. He has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor and a Stalin Prize



Academician **ALEXANDER ARBUZOV**, whose extensive researches in organic compounds of phosphor-carbonic acids have made him one of the foremost experts in this field. He has been awarded a Stalin Prize for his many years of fruitful work

Academician **VASIL STRUVE**, authority on the history of the ancient East, author of works on ancient Egypt and its monuments, and on other Eastern countries



SOVIET SCIENCE

(Continued from page three)

quality aviation fuel and substitutes for lubricating oils, the invention of new explosives, the improvements in methods of preparing raw materials for explosives—all this is only part of the work done by scientists, which has had a direct effect upon the qualitative improvement and practical employment of our weapons.

Biological research institutions have evolved new methods of treating the wounded, a number of effective methods of treating shock, hemorrhage, burns, pulmonary edema and nerve injuries and of combatting infections, frostbite and gangrene. Methods have been found for the prevention and treatment of disease on a mass scale, new drugs for the treatment of malaria, new sulfonamides and new methods of preserving blood are among the other successes achieved in this field.

In view of the tremendous significance of science in extending the possibilities of farming and of increasing the food supply of the country, especially since some of the important agricultural districts had been lost temporarily, Soviet institutes of agronomy and academicians specializing in agriculture expended tremendous efforts to solve the problem of extending the cultivable area for potatoes, sugar beets and rubber-bearing plants. They have also sought to provide the country with an ample supply of vitamins derived from natural raw materials and through chemical synthesis.

Particular mention must be made of the work done during the war by the Academy of Sciences to raise the level of scientific knowledge in the non-Russian Republics. Uzbek and Armenian Aca-

demies of Sciences and a Kirghiz branch of the Union Academy were founded and Academies of Sciences have been projected for Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

Our country has now entered the most important phase of the war against the German invaders. A more persistent will to victory than ever before is required of our people, the Red Army and Soviet scientists.

We will work with ever greater intensity of effort for the victory of the great cause for which the liberty-loving countries are fighting. We will overthrow Hitler tyranny, and in place of rapine and blood we shall create a world in which culture and science will be honored, in which intellect and conscience will triumph over brute instinct and the rule of brute force.

200th ANNIVERSARY OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TO BE CELEBRATED

By a decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, the 220th anniversary of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR will be celebrated. A special celebration committee has been set up, headed by Vladimir Komarov, Hero of Socialist Labor and President of the Academy. In an interview recently given to an IZVESTIA correspondent, Academician Komarov made the following statement:

The Academy of Sciences was founded by Peter I. The first documents referring to the "Society of Sciences"—that is, our Academy—show how much attention Peter devoted to this creation of his; how closely the establishment of the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg [November 12, 1725] was connected with Peter's reforms and with our country's cultural, industrial and military progress in the first quarter of the 18th Century.

All through the year 1724, Peter was busy inviting scientists to join the new Academy, creating proper conditions for their activity, and outlining the tasks of Russian scientists. Those tasks stemmed from the practical requirements of the times.

Peter built up the army and navy, constructed shipyards, developed mining industries, manufactures and commercial centers and the interests of Russian industry and commerce, and demanded a wide study of the country's natural resources and transport routes.

The study of Russia's contours, surface, rivers, lakes, flora and fauna, mineral deposits, soils, towns, economy, the languages of her peoples, etc., was the first task of Russian science. Hence the great significance of the Russian academic expeditions of the 18th Century. The study of the country and the drawing up of geographic maps required geodetic surveys and astronomical observations, which gave special importance to astronomical and mathematical investigations. The scientific and illuminating activity of Russia's first academicians was also of great social significance.

During the reign of the successors of Peter I and Catherine I, in the times of Biron and later, the Academy became honeycombed with self-seeking officials of the type of Schumacher, who treated the Russian scientists with contempt and impeded the development of Russian science. But these obstacles were overcome. In the person of its founder, Lomonosov, Russian science rose to the pinnacle of world science.

The Lomonosov Period

Lomonosov's fight against antiquated views in physics and chemistry and against anti-national traditions in literature, his anticipation of modern atomism, his ideas of evolution, of the principle of the preservation of matter and energy, his close contact with the practice of production,

the breadth of his national economic ideas, his concern for the training of young Russian scientific forces—all this was a brilliant page in the history of world science.

The first period of our Academy's existence was so closely connected with the beginning, content and results of Lomonosov's activity, that it might rightly be called the Lomonosov period.

In the 19th Century the Academy made brilliant contributions to all spheres of knowledge and continued to be one of the main centers of world scientific thought. Mathematicians such as Chebyshev and Ostrogradsky, and chemists of the type of Butlerov, founder of the structure theory, added to the fame of the Academy.

But quite a number of the most eminent scientists of Russia in the 19th Century remained outside the Academy. The daring innovator in mathematics, Lobachevsky, was not recognized by the Academy. One of the greatest chemists of the past century, Mendeleyev, was not a member, owing to the opposition of the "German Party." The latter was headed by reactionaries who deliberately kept the doors of the Academy closed to men prominent in Russian social movements. The eminent Russian biologists, Timiryazev, Sechenov and Mechnikov, and the physicist Stoletov, did not belong to the Academy. Some of the finest representatives of scientific thought, men of whom



Academician KONSTANTIN SCRIBIN, specialist in helminthology, has developed new methods of fighting the more dangerous helminths and has written some 400 works on this subject. For his work in veterinary and medical helminthology he has received the Order of Lenin and a Stalin Prize

Academician VLADIMIR KISTYAKOVSKY, chemist, has devoted his principal works to the development of colloid electrochemistry. Of his 100 papers, some 20 are on the corrosion of metals. He has discovered a new instance of catalyzers of thyrocolloids, analyzed the question of association of liquids and formulated the laws of their properties, studied the question of the mathematical analysis of reversible reactions, and numerous other problems of physical chemistry



our people are proud, remained outside its doors.

Toward the end of the 19th Century and at the beginning of the 20th, however, the Russian Academy of Sciences gave rise to such remarkable trends in modern science as evolutionary embryology, reflexology, geochemistry, etc. Pavlov, Karpinsky and Vernadsky are classics of contemporary natural science. In the sphere of the humanities, the Academy won fame by the remarkable works of Marr, founder of the most modern theories of language.

Scientific Center of USSR

The 220th anniversary of the Academy coincides with the 20th anniversary of its existence as the scientific center of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. These 20 years have been filled with notable scientific discoveries. Soviet physicists have produced the theory of the mechanical durability of crystals and the theory of semi-conductors and insulators; they have elaborated the theoretical principles of modern electro-techniques, radio techniques and optics. They have obtained valuable results in the theory of the atomic nucleus.

Academician Kapitza's discoveries are known throughout the world. His discovery of the superfluidity of helium is one of the most important made in physics in recent years. Chemists working in the Academy of Sciences of the USSR have every reason to be proud of the theory of

physico-chemical analysis created by Academician Kurnakov, of the works of Academicians Zelinsky and Favorsky, and many others.

It was in the Academy of Sciences of the USSR that Academician Bach developed his biochemical ideas. The works of Academician Krylov represent a major contribution to mechanics and mathematics, and the latest mathematical discoveries of Academician Vinogradov have been the starting point of new trends in science. The study of mineral deposits of the USSR has led to remarkable generalizations in the works of Academician Obruchev and other Soviet geologists. Geography has been enriched by the discoveries in the Arctic. Physiological research is being carried on by Pavlov's brilliant disciples, the most eminent of whom is Academician Orbelli.

I could go on enumerating the achievements of the Academy in technical sciences, natural sciences, history, philology, etc. I should like, however, to emphasize one point. All these achievements are closely connected with the practice of socialist construction, with the application of Lenin's and Stalin's idea, with participation in the national economic activity, with the solicitude and attention of the Soviet Government. One of the manifestations of this solicitude is the decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR to mark the celebration of the 220th anniversary by a number of measures designed to further improve condi-

tions for the activities of our All-Union scientific center.

The scientific potency of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR has been proved in the years of war. What the Academy has done to help the fighting front and home front stems from the patriotic traditions of Russian science and from the profound devotion of Soviet scientists to the cause of Lenin and Stalin.

The Academy which now marks its 220th anniversary looks always to the future. It is making its contribution to the closely approaching annihilation of the enemy, and will continue to advance toward discoveries in scientific thought worthy of the great Stalin epoch in which we are living.

In conclusion, Academician Komarov told the correspondent that scientists of friendly nations will participate in the celebration of the Academy's anniversary.

Destroyed Observatories to be Rebuilt

The famous Pulkovo Observatory in Leningrad, which was destroyed by the Germans, will be rebuilt in accordance with the latest requirements of astronomical science. A special headquarters in charge of restoration of astronomical institutions demolished by the invaders has also begun reconstruction of the observatory in Simeiz, in the Crimea. A new observatory will be built on the spurs of the Alatau Range, near Alma-Ata, and another near Kiev.

NEW PROPERTY OF MAGNET DISCOVERED

A new property of the magnet, discovered by Russian scientists, is described by Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Arkadiev.

A magnetized ferro-nickel bar—one centimeter long—thrown upon a lead saucer which had been cooled to 269 degrees below zero Centigrade, bounced up and remained suspended in space. When the temperature of the lead saucer rose to 266 degrees, the bar again settled on its surface.

This phenomenon is due to the superconductivity of lead. At a very low temperature, a magnet strikes up incessant inductual magnetic currents in lead,

which repel the magnet and keep it suspended in space.

The property of a magnet to remain suspended over a super-conductor can be used to determine the properties of the super-conductors themselves, such as tin, aluminum and some alloys. Microscopic nets thrown upon the surface of the super-conductor will reveal the parts having normal conductivity, as magnets will not soar over them, but will gather in ridges.

Arkadiev also points out that a further study of this phenomenon promises to shed more light on the origin of the universe and the structure of the atom.

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New Battles and New Victories

From an editorial in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, February 7:

Soviet troops are already smashing the Germans beyond the Oder. What can give us, our Allies and our friends greater pleasure—or the Germans greater terror—than this? The forcing of the Oder and the breaching of the strongly fortified, deeply echeloned German defense zones by Marshal Konev's First Ukrainian Army, is a splendid victory for Soviet arms and a heavy defeat for the Germans. The crossing of the Oder is another milestone on the Red Army's glorious road to victory and the final defeat of the enemy.

It is not long since the Germans themselves made no attempt to hide the great hopes they placed on the Oder defenses. The enemy was sure he would be able to stabilize the front along this line.

The Germans based their calculations, first, on their confidence in the invulnerability of their defenses. These were powerful fortifications equipped according to the very last word in modern engineering technique, with tremendous fire resources of all kinds and huge reserves of troops drawn from all sectors, principally from the West. Second, they hoped that in an offensive from the Vistula to this great water barrier in Germany, Soviet forces would exhaust all their energy, that their offensive spirit would die down, and that they would be simply incapable of further attacks. Both these calculations were founded on illusions. And once more the plans of the German High Command have failed.

The Red Army has disposed of all former conceptions concerning the possibilities of an offensive under modern conditions, and its driving power, far from weakening in the course of the long offensive, is constantly increasing. In 15 days Marshal Konev's gallant Army has fought its way forward about 400 kilometers,

measured in a straight line from Sandomirz to Balau. It has crashed through a number of strongly fortified German defense lines and has been victorious in a number of hard-fought battles.

Despite this, our valiant troops dealt the Germans a further titanic blow when they reached the Oder.

The defenses which the German propagandists had extolled to the heavens have been unable to check our onward rush. Cracks have appeared in another German wall, this time on the Oder.

Thus the First Ukrainian Army's victory on the Oder has again demonstrated the fact that in modern warfare there is no such thing as invulnerable defenses, no mystic, impassable barriers. The obstacles which our divisions had to overcome on the Oder were enhanced by the fact that they had two major tasks to perform simultaneously: the forcing of a wide

water barrier, and the breaching of strong fortifications echeloned in depth. The will to victory, determination, and indomitable courage, overcame all obstacles.

The victory on the Oder is a fresh triumph for Soviet arms and Soviet military skill. Marshal Konev's troops have fulfilled these difficult tasks with all the brilliance of true masters of the art of war. In three days of offensive operations they penetrated 20 kilometers beyond the Oder and widened their bridgehead to 80 kilometers.

The Germans are resisting desperately, again and again launching furious counter-attacks. The Red Army, however, persistently overwhelms German centers and important strongpoints. The exceptional courage and valor displayed by units of the First Ukrainian Army in this battle have earned them an expression of thanks from Marshal Stalin, Supreme



Soviet self-propelled guns, with tommy gunners aboard, speed into the depth of the enemy defenses

Radiophoto

Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army, and the gratitude of the whole Soviet people. With a roar of guns and the flash of rockets, the Capital of our country has saluted the heroes of the great victory on the Oder.

It is to the tune of Moscow's salutes—music sweeter to Soviet ears than any symphony—that the Red Army is marching toward its Twenty-Seventh Anniversary. Twenty-seven years is but one brief moment in history. . . . But our years are equal to centuries, from the standpoint of the energy, toil and creative effort that have gone into them.

In the course of its 27 years of existence the Red Army—an army of a new type such as has never before been known—the Army of the Soviet Socialist State, has advanced to first place in the world. Fighting under the banner of Lenin and under the leadership of Stalin, it is now the most powerful and the most progressive of all modern armies, capable of defeating any, even the strongest, enemy.

A German radio announcement made a few days before the Soviet offensive went as follows: "Everywhere, right around Germany, tremendous fortifications, barriers and walls have been erected." German newspapers proclaimed, along the same line: "There can scarcely ever have been such powerfully fortified positions as ours in the East." A few weeks have passed since then, and this idle bragging has already given place to panic-stricken whining. The avalanche of the Soviet offensive sweeps all obstacles from its path. The strength of the Red Army's arms has driven the German-fascist beast to the brink of a bottomless gulf.

For over two years now, Hitler's army, exceeding in strength the German army of the First World War, has met with nothing but defeat in the fighting against the Red Army. The Red Army is fighting the Germans on their own soil. The most important of the Germans' vital centers are within reach of our blows. We have taken the grain of East Prussia from the enemy; we have deprived him of Silesian coal, iron and munitions. Fighting is now in progress around what the enemy calls his "fortified outposts of Berlin." The war is raging within the den of the fascist



Heroes of the battle of Budapest—Private Tokarev, Lieutenant Khot and Sergeant Ponomarev



Anti-aircraft gunners, under Senior Lieutenant Zemskov, at firing positions outside Budapest

beast who was going to conquer the world!

Persistently and irresistibly, the Red Army moves on across the fields of battle toward its final goal: the total defeat of Hitler Germany. This goal is close at hand. We must finish off the fascist beast in his own lair—and finish him off we shall! Our constantly growing strength, and the entire development of events at the front, are a guarantee of this. Our confidence in speedy victory and our faith in the invincible might of Soviet arms have nothing in common with arrogant conceit or idle complacency.

Zoologists tell us that the bite of a dying reptile is the most venomous. In

an effort to put off the hour of final defeat and to gain as much time as possible to bury the traces of their crimes and sow the seeds of a future war, the Hitlerites hesitate at nothing. The enemy is hanging on to every clod of earth, and is prepared to descend to any depths. This makes it essential for our troops to be ever on the watch and to exert all efforts to the fullest. Every new victory is for us an incentive to win yet other and more glorious victories.

Smash the enemy without rest or pause; constantly increase the might of our blows! Mobilize all our forces, all our energy, in order to break the back of the fascist reptile as quickly as possible!

THE RED ARMY'S OFFENSIVE

By Colonel M. Tolchenov

Future historians will devote scores and hundreds of books to the Red Army's present triumphant offensive, which is radically, with unprecedented rapidity, changing the whole situation in the war against Hitler Germany. Contemporaries all over the world are watching with the greatest intensity the course of the gigantic battles that have unfolded on the Soviet-German front. And the eagerness with which wide circles in all democratic countries desire to grasp as fully as possible the significance of the military events now taking place, and their importance for the cause of achieving complete defeat of Hitler Germany, is quite understandable.

The Red Army's gigantic offensive, which is still developing at an unprecedented rate on a vast front from the Baltic to the Carpathians, is naturally the focus of attention of the press of the entire world. The amazing power and skill displayed by Soviet troops in this offensive have evoked innumerable comments. In the Allied countries, all thoughtful and conscientious military observers—and these, of course, constitute the majority—are making sincere efforts to properly understand and explain to their readers the real significance of the military operations proceeding on the Soviet-German front.

At the same time, comments of another type are heard. Some observers have suddenly been struck by doubt, and ask: is it possible to advance with such speed if the enemy is not retreating voluntarily? Others hasten to the assistance of their colleagues and dispel their "doubts" by stating bluntly that the Germans are retreating . . . voluntarily, according to plan.

There is no sense, of course, in arguing with people who try to turn facts upside down. Nor is there any particular need to explain the motives which prompt this or that observer to make comments of this kind, or to ascertain what should be attributed to their ignorance, dullness, stubbornness or malice. Nevertheless, all distortion of facts in such an important matter can in the long run only bring grist to the enemy's mill.

Consequently, at present, a true picture of events is a task that cannot be neglected.

The experience of the war has shown that under present-day conditions the attacking side can successfully breach the enemy's line on a wide front by employing all forces of the armies concentrated on a given front. This is achieved by striking, simultaneously or in rapid succession, a number of sudden and concentrated blows, as a result of which the separate breaches are widened until they all form one gigantic breach, and the enemy's front collapses, breaking into parts. In such case, the defending side, having expended its tactical and partly its operative reserves in fruitless attempts to close the gaping breaches in its front, tries to build a new defense front deep in its rear, and there to hold up the enemy's attacking army.

Such is the general scheme of present-day offensive operations pursued for decisive aims. But this, of course, is only the scheme, which does not by itself insure success. Success is achieved by the operation of a number of factors, in which must be included the military skill of the command, the efficiency, courage and daring of the troops engaged, and the qualitative and quantitative relation of the combatants' forces and means—by which we mean not so much absolute superiority in general, as relative superiority in a definite sector. The achievement of this relative superiority is the index of the superiority of the attacker's strategy; for the degree of military skill is measured primarily by the skill with which a commander induces the enemy to concentrate his forces in certain important sectors, and suddenly strikes in another and still more important direction.

It is in the light of this general theoretical postulate that we must regard the operations of the Red Army which were successfully consummated by the encirclement of the large grouping of German troops in the Baltic, and which also compelled the German command to transfer considerable forces to Hungary. If all these fairly large German forces had been mustered in Poland during the Red Army's

present offensive, they would certainly have made the task of carrying out offensive operations more difficult.

Moreover, by the brilliant conduct of its campaign in the Baltic and the Balkans, the Red Army safeguarded its strategical flanks; and the advance of Soviet troops in Hungary created the necessary prerequisites for striking at Germany from the southeast and for her complete encirclement. Undertaken to insure the success of the gigantic offensive subsequently launched by the Red Army on a front stretching from the Baltic to the Carpathians, the Balkan campaign was in itself a tremendous contribution on the part of the Soviet Union to the common cause of the struggle of the United Nations against Hitler Germany; for in that period it undoubtedly exercised a considerable influence on the course of military operations in the West.

Now that the Red Army's amazing successes have revealed the depth and magnitude of the strategical designs of the Soviet Command, it is opportune to recall the unfriendliness with which certain foreign observers greeted the offensive of Soviet troops in the Balkans.

In this connection, the Des Moines, Iowa, *Register* recently wrote: "Anyone who thinks that the campaign in the Balkans had no effect upon what happened in France is either stupid or wilful." This appraisal can be accepted, with this proviso, however, that in addition to stupidity and wilfulness, an important role was played in this by the hostility of certain foreign commentators toward the Soviet Union, which in the long run made them look ridiculous in the eyes of their readers.

True, the most thorough preparation and even the breaching of the enemy's defenses do not in themselves insure the success of an operation. If the attacking forces merely mark time or push into the depths of the enemy defenses slowly and hesitatingly, the enterprising enemy will succeed in drawing up his reserves and in localizing the breach. In that case, the offensive will fizzle out without achieving the results expected.

If, however, the initial blow struck at the enemy with maximum force is sup-

plemented by a series of other consecutive blows, if the troops rush into the breach and, maintaining the rate of progress, penetrate more and more deeply into the enemy's dispositions, the military operations assume a maneuvering character, with all the specific features of a rapidly changing situation characteristic of this. The further success of the offensive depends upon the skill displayed by the command of the attacking side and upon its ability to maintain a high rate of advance by a timely relief of units engaged in the fighting and by the prompt organization of communications.

The results achieved by the Red Army in East Prussia, Poland and Silesia prove convincingly that the Soviet Command has brilliantly carried out these tasks. Obviously the German command must have foreseen that the Red Army would launch its offensive in the central sector of the Soviet-German front, and had adopted measures accordingly. Nevertheless the blows of the Soviet troops were delivered with such crushing force and speed, they nullified all counter-measures planned by the Germans.

The rapidly succeeding blows of the Red Army crushed the Germans' defenses. Extremely mobile units of Soviet forces, penetrating deeply into the enemy's dispositions, frustrated the counter-attacks which the enemy had prepared, as well as the entrenchment of retreating enemy units in intermediate lines. As a result, the German army was hurled back for hundreds of kilometers without having time to cause any considerable damage in the vast territory west of the Vistula. This circumstance not only saved a large part of the territory of our ally, Poland, from the senseless vandalism of the retreating Hitler hordes, but also insured that high rate of progress of the Red Army which has amazed the world.

Such, in general, is the picture of the Red Army's present gigantic offensive, as every observer who is at all objective must see it. It leaves no room for a "voluntary" retreat of the Germans. It is absolutely obvious that the uninterrupted retreat of the German army from the strong positions it had built up for itself during the past few years is not voluntary, but the result of grave defeat and enormous losses.

To say that this is retreat according to plan is tantamount to making the following obviously absurd assertions: first, that the Germans had planned for the loss of vast territories of enormous economic and strategical importance; second, that the Germans wanted the Soviet troops to cut off East Prussia from the central regions of Germany, to capture a considerable part of Silesia and to reach the borders of Pomerania and Brandenburg; third, that the Germans are deliberately abandoning their stores, loaded trains and even hundreds of undamaged airplanes (as was the case in the region of Poznan, where on three airdromes and in an aircraft factory our troops captured in one haul 2,912 planes); and fourth, that while voluntarily retreating and offering the Red Army no resistance, the Germans nevertheless managed to lose in the period from January 12-24, 1945, over 380,000 men in killed and prisoners alone, and also thousands of tanks, guns and mortars and tens of thousands of machine guns, automobiles, etc.

The absurdity of these assumptions is so obvious that even Goebbels and his underlings dare not speak of a "voluntary" retreat of the Germans. One German commentator did say something about "elastic defense," but his voice was at once drowned in the wild howl of despair that has arisen in Germany. The more astounding, therefore, is the zeal which certain military commentators in the countries of our Allies display in this respect.

Only quite recently some of these "experts in subversive propaganda," as an American newspaper quite rightly called them the other day, had the temerity to reproach the Soviet troops for being "inactive"; now they are expressing extreme dissatisfaction with the range which the Red Army's wide offensive operations are taking.

Thus the retired British General Fuller complained in an article published in the *American News Week*, [January 29, 1945] "The Russians are more concerned about fighting the war and winning the peace along their own lines than in synchronizing battles."

It is difficult to imagine anything more surprising than hearing an Ally reproached for exerting greater efforts than other

members of the coalition in the struggle against the common enemy and for doing more than others to bring about his utter defeat.

Now that the war has entered a new and decisive stage as a result of the victories of the Red Army, the achievement of this goal is more imminent than ever has been before. Naturally the "synchronization" of our common efforts to achieve final victory over Hitler Germany, to carry the struggle against fascist aggression to the end, should be subordinated to this object. The enemy is fighting with the desperation of the doomed, and the *Daily Express* was undoubtedly right when, in summing up the further prospects of the war, it observed that "there is still work for all of the Allies to do."

The Red Army's advance of hundreds of kilometers westward has greatly reduced the distance between the Eastern and Western Fronts and has increased their mutual dependence. Of course, military operations on the one front affect the situation on the other more quickly than before. The military operations now in progress in the East on German territory, close to the capital, have placed the enemy in mortal danger. This undoubtedly gives the Anglo-American Armies in the West an important advantage and opens up for them wide possibilities of intensifying their military operations. So far, the operations conducted by our Allies in the West have not prevented the Germans from transferring a number of divisions to the Soviet-German front. Every German soldier, every tank and every gun transferred to the East increases the already heavy burden borne by the Red Army, which is contending against the enemy's main forces. It must be assumed that our Allies will utilize the advantages that now present themselves, and will back the Red Army's offensive with mighty blows against the common enemy.

Disaster is bearing down upon Germany with terrific speed. The Red Army's victories have opened up for the United Nations real prospects for the utter defeat of the common enemy. This task must be carried out in the interests of all peace-loving nations, who are vitally interested in securing the complete liquidation of the hotbed of piratical aggression in Europe.

ELEVENTH-HOUR SAVIORS OF FASCISM

By I. Yermashev

No one who has realized the full magnitude of the defeats inflicted on the Wehrmacht in the East during the past three weeks can fail to come to the conclusion that the denouement is in sight. In spite of the ferocity and desperation of German resistance, Hitler Germany's fate has been sealed.

The historic significance of the Red Army's magnificent thrust across the German border toward Frankfurt-on-Oder and Kustrin, along the shortest route to Berlin, is clear. The war has shifted to German territory. No "miracle" will take place on the Oder. Nothing can save Hitler Germany from imminent, total defeat.

Moscow's victory salutes are chimes of the clock of history, whose minute hand is rapidly approaching the hour of final judgment of the fascist criminals, a last hour that can be hastened by all of the Allied Armies exerting an effort commensurate to the magnitude of the moment.

The European peoples have suffered enough to earn this approaching victory. No previous war in history has been fought for an aim uniting so many nations as this war. This war, whose aim is to annihilate and uproot fascism wherever it might be and whatever mask it might assume, has its own moral code. To say today that the nations concluded their fighting alliance merely to save themselves from immediate danger, is to leave much unsaid. It is a war with a great constructive program, a war to save mankind from fascism and to put an end to the outrageous injustices to which the peoples of Europe (and in some respects not only of Europe) have been subjected by fascism, and to create a stable peace.

German fascism would not have been able to hold bloody sway on the Continent and to threaten the whole world for so long, were it not for the connivance of reactionary forces in the countries which fell victim to German aggression and which are only now being freed from tyranny by our joint efforts. Hence the debacle of Hitlerite Germany cannot but give rise to a number of problems upon whose settlement will depend the future tranquility of nations.

The will of these nations, inasmuch as it does not run contrary to the interests of a durable peace in the future, is the only lawful foundation for any real regeneration. There can be no other foundation. Who can seriously maintain that the Polish fascist clique, the self-styled "government" of Poland, for instance, can enjoy more rights, or even the same rights, as the Polish people, who do not want either Hitler's "new order" or Pilsudski's "old order"?

Or can anyone believe that the King of Yugoslavia has more right to lay claim to lead the country than the leaders of the powerful and heroic movement of national liberation that saved Yugoslavia and rendered such invaluable services to the cause of the United Nations?

Upon what are based the "rights" of the contemporary "legitimate claimants to the throne," whether Polish reactionaries, or any other? The Arciczewski-Rackiewicz crows are riding the 1935 constitution, that fascist charter of oppression. If they are in the right and one wishes to be logical, Petain's claim is stronger than De Gaulle's, and Mussolini's stronger than Bonomi's! No, there can be no revival of Europe along these lines; to attempt to do so could only lead to chaos, which would inevitably give birth to a new war.

This war has taught all sensible people that there can be no settling down to a peaceful life until fascist ideology and fascist politics have been uprooted and eradicated. Why was it that the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States became close Allies in this war against the fascist bloc? Something must have united these three great powers. What was this something, if not the striving to safeguard the foundations of civilization, the freedom and honor of nations, against the dark forces of fascism?

There are some, however, who hasten to aid these forces. One of the vanguard groups among these people in Britain—but neither very powerful nor at all reputable—is the National Peace Council with its "national petition for a constructive peace." The signatures of naive people are being collected for this petition, which

includes the following statement: "Peace should be based on the recognition that all peoples—whether allies, enemies or neutrals—were responsible in some measure for the breakdown of the international life of the world, which was the ultimate source of the war."

These advocates of German fascism posing as "peacemakers" go a bit too far. For if, as they imply, the war guilt of the Hitlerites differs only in some measure from the war guilt of the anti-German powers—that is, the victims of fascism—the attitude to them must be the same as to the others, and from there it is but a step to vindicating Hitler.

That is precisely what the organizers of this "petition campaign" are doing: they are declaring that the Germans are not the only guilty parties. One shrinks even from arguing with such open defenders of the fascist gang of cutthroats. It is, however, necessary to point a finger at them, so that everyone will know who are the devil's advocates.

The same insidious activity is being conducted by some who call themselves radicals. Well might it be said: scratch a radical of that variety and you find—the devil knows what! The London *New Statesman and Nation*, which never fails to flaunt its radicalism, is aiming all its heavy guns in these days at those who are demanding that Hitlerite Germany be crushed and punished. The publication does not want the Allied powers to apply any repressive measures against Hitlerite Germany; it wants them to fight the Hitlerites with kid gloves. Peace, it declares, cannot be based on the punishment of the Hitlerites; you cannot deprive German imperialism of its war industry, inasmuch as this would allegedly doom Europe to poverty and the English workers to unemployment, since the Germans would not be able to buy British goods! The treatment of the Germans, it claims, must be founded on "sense and reason." And, developing the argument to its logical conclusion, the publication was bound to state, "Hitler's new order was terrible, but seen in retrospect, any order seems better than anarchy!"

So now everything is clear, at last.

There you have the "radicals" who are afraid of a world without fascist gendarmes. To them, the democratization of Europe means chaos, a view which is shared by all of Hitler's friends. As for Hitler himself, although he planned to rule the world, he would no doubt agree to reconcile himself to the role of gendarme, in order to save his skin.

Those who claim that there will be no order in Europe without the Hitlerites are merely echoing Goebbels, who says the same thing every day, just as if Maidanek and the rest of the nightmarish horror of which the German "order" is compounded had never existed.

Dorothy Thompson claims that peace will be possible only when "enemies will be friends." But who wants to be friends with fascists, who wants friendship with cutthroats and murderers?

What can be more revolting than all this talk about "re-educating" Hitlerites?

Unfortunately, this is not merely talk. In an article entitled "De-Nazifying Germans," published in its issue of December 31, the *Sunday Times* reported with evident awe that "experimental re-education" of young Germans has been started in Sweden with a view to their "de-fascization." The objects of the experiment are Germans recently arrived from their home country in connection with its imminent collapse. They are all young, just the kind who are Hitler's most zealous followers. This risky undertaking is run by some Swedes, Germans and an Englishman by the name of Martin. They belong to an organization called the Committee for Democratic Reconstruction, headed by one Doctor Robert Myrdal. True, the *Sunday Times*, or rather its special correspondent, does admit that "whether their [the Germans] views are completely honest is a matter only time can prove." Nevertheless, he hastens to announce that more

courses of a similar nature are planned.

In a word, a legalized asylum is being founded in Sweden for Hitler's thugs. The hand of friendship is already being stretched out to them; they are being forgiven all their sins and are declared victims, although "whether their views are completely honest is a matter only time can prove." A repulsive spectacle, is it not?

All this fuss and bother is taking place while the freedom-loving peoples are still shedding their blood on the battlefield. All honest champions of a true peace in Europe, cleansed of fascists and fascist evil, ought to be on their guard. As for us, we can assure these ardent philanthropists and advocates of fascism that nothing will help them, for the peoples have suffered and sacrificed too much throughout all these years of war to allow a single drop of their blood to go unavenged! We are convinced that all sincere people are of the same opinion.

HOMECOMING

By S. Sergeyev-Tsensky

The writer is a member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and author of THE SAGA OF SEVASTOPOL.

At the beginning of 1906 I built a workshop for myself in the Crimea—a small four-room house on the southern coast, not far from the town of Alushta. For 35 years, I lived there, writing a number of books, among them *The Saga of Sevastopol*.

Naturally, I came to regard this home as my native place, but in 1941 I had to leave it: the Germans were approaching Perekop. I came to Moscow, leaving behind a library of 10,000 books and my archives, which were too bulky and cumbersome to take along.

In April, 1944, Alushta was liberated by Red Army units.

It was only at the beginning of last August that I found it possible to return from Moscow to my home.

On the site of my house stood the grim skeleton of a building, without roof or windows. The library, archives and furniture were gone. My neighbors told me that many copies of my books had been burned by the Germans, my archives destroyed and my library removed.

The district near Alushta where my house was situated was called the Workers' Corner—large and splendid rest homes and sanatoriums for workers had been built there in Soviet times. Before the war thousands of workers had come to the warm southern sea from all parts of the Soviet Union, enjoying the sunshine and pleasant beaches.

Now I could see only pitiful skeletons of ruined buildings. Alushta had stood in the midst of orchards and gardens, especially luxuriant in the valleys of the mountain rivers. The Germans reduced them to such a state that it will take no less than three or four years to put them in order.

Curious changes have taken place in the landscape around Alushta. The local people, who suffered hunger during the occupation, set to work in the spring after their liberation and cleared stretches of land of shrubs and bushes, broke the land with picks and spades, and sowed wheat.

On my return I also heard sad news of my fellow countrymen: many were shot, hanged or drowned by the Germans. Of three Alushta doctors whom I knew well, one was shot together with his wife,

another was drowned in the sea, and the third—a woman—was hanged for attending wounded guerrillas.

At first I doubted whether I could live again in my defiled workshop, even after it had been restored. The sea I had loved to watch looked wild and unfrequented; rarely was there a vessel on its blue spaces. The coasting vessels had not yet appeared, and even the wharves were non-existent.

Very soon, however, through the efforts of the Soviet people, life was revived in the land racked and tormented by the Germans. There were few people in Alushta when I arrived there in August, but when I left for Moscow in December, 1944, the town was crowded.

The beautiful Crimea will be reborn; it is already being revived. The immense scale of State aid and the enthusiasm of the people are a guarantee of the future.

As for myself, I have collected material in the Crimea for a future work, the third of a series. As soon as I complete the second, "The Transfiguration of Russia" (the first part, *Sevastopol*, was finished in 1939), I shall begin on that section which deals with the present war. The Crimea will have a leading place in this work.

THE SPEED OF WARTIME RECONSTRUCTION

Although the sweeping advance of the Red Army is first and foremost in the minds of all Soviet people today, the rapid pace of rehabilitation in areas liberated from the enemy has not been slowed.

It will be realized that the general conditions in these areas which form the immediate rear of the Army—and in particular the condition of railway, telegraph and telephone systems—have a direct bearing on the speed of the Red Army offensive and the outcome of the great battles now taking place.

Vast areas now in the rear were only recently under the German yoke. Before their retreat the Hitlerites did everything in their power to turn these regions into a desert zone. It is not too much to say that the Hitlerites were "trail blazers" in the science of destruction. They harnessed all achievements of engineering and science for the complete devastation of occupied areas.

Factories, mines and railways were demolished according to instructions worked out by German experts long before the war. In dynamiting a blast furnace, the Hitlerites saw to it that the structure collapsed in such a way as to render repairs incredibly difficult. When they destroyed a telegraph line, they cut down pole after pole, carefully rolling up the wire, every meter of which was sent to Germany.

Construction Exceeds Prewar Record

During the period of the Stalin Five-Year Plans, the Soviet Union achieved a staggering pace in construction. Many foreign visitors were amazed at the speed with which new factories, railways and mines were brought into being. A substantial aircraft plant, for example, was built in a year. Huge mines were opened and railways, canals, etc., were developed in record time.

But all this has been eclipsed by the pace of wartime building. Before the war, four years were required for the completion of the Moscow-Khabarovsk telegraph line—which, incidentally, is one of the longest in the world. During the war, in a period of one year, more than 280,000 kilometers of steel and copper wire were



Radiophoto

The restored plant of the Stalin heavy machine works, in Novo-Kramatorsk, Donbas region

used for new and rebuilt lines.

Such great telegraph and telephone networks as those of Kharkov, Kiev, Minsk, Dnepropetrovsk and the Donbas originally required several years to build. They were restored in less than a year, although the work involved more actual rebuilding than repairing.

In the telegraph network alone—this most vital link in military and economic organization—89,000 kilometers of telegraph lines, requiring about 2,000,000 poles, have been restored in liberated areas. It would have been a lesser job to string a telegraph line around the world. During the war, over 35,000 kilometers of railways and hundreds of bridges have also been restored in the liberated zones. The huge bridges across the Dnieper, the Dniester and Bug Rivers were built in a mere matter of weeks, something without precedent in this field.

It will not be an exaggeration to say that the speedy rehabilitation of the rear prepared the ground for the lightning thrust of the Soviet offensive at the front. While the Red Army was still fighting the Germans on the Don, bridge builders were already thinking of the Dnieper. Knowing the Germans would demolish the bridges, they laid their plans for rebuilding them.

The workers who restored the railway

bridges across the largest European rivers, thus insuring the normal functioning of Red Army communication lines, had at their disposal all the wealth of equipment, machinery and specialized plants constructed before the war.

When the first Stalingrad tractor plant was built, the country was short not only of modern technical equipment, but of personnel trained to make maximum use of such equipment. The rapid pace of construction attained today may be explained by the fact that the Soviet Union has had this trained personnel for some time—a new people developed in the school of the Five-Year Plans.

Technical might and skilled workers and industrial leaders—these are the factors which will insure the rapid healing of the wounds inflicted by the Nazi vandals on Soviet economy.

Smolensk Repairs Churches

Fifty-six churches wrecked by the German invaders in Smolensk, Vyazma and other cities and villages of the Smolensk Region, have been repaired. During the German occupation of the Region, 239 churches, among which were many fine examples of 13th and 14th-Century architecture, were completely destroyed, and an equal number badly damaged.

Textile Center Will Be A Garden City

The city of Ivanovo is known as the "Soviet Manchester" because of its highly developed textile industry. It also has machine-building and chemical factories. During the war it has become one of the most important industrial centers of the USSR.

Like so many large production centers, Ivanovo lacked sufficient trees and gardens. Without waiting for the end of the war, the people of Ivanovo have begun to turn the "Soviet Manchester" into a garden city. More than 350,000 apple, pear and cherry trees as well as thousands of currant and raspberry bushes have been planted along the streets, in squares, yards and open spaces. Three nurseries have been set up to provide plants for next year.

The municipal Soviet has set up a special commission of prominent landscape gardeners and bureaus where amateur gardeners can get advice.

The best amateur gardener in Ivanovo is an old weaver, Andrei Mikhailov. He is famous for his successes in crossing southern varieties of apples with Siberian types, and acclimatizing the results.

Mikhailov has also experimented with pear trees, and has interested all his neighbors in gardening. He has offered to plant the street he lives in with his own fruit tree saplings, and to lay out the grounds of the local hospital with trees and flower beds.

Ivan Knyazev, a fitter, has an orchard of 25 apple and 150 cherry trees. He is helping 20 fellow-workers to lay out gardens around their homes.

Last autumn, the Ivanovo Gardening Society, which has over 500 members, planted 16 acres of waste land within the city limits with fruit trees and berry bushes, and laid out a large cherry orchard in Pushkin Square, in the center of the city.

All Ivanovo is tremendously interested in the project. A city gardening board has been formed, watchmen have been hired to look after the young trees, the industrial cooperatives are speeding up output of garden tools, mineral fertilizer is being procured. Amid the hardships of wartime, the people of Ivanovo see the flowering cherry trees of the future.

A SINGING PEOPLE

By Alexander Alexandrov

People's Artist of the USSR, Director of Red Army Song and Dance Ensemble

We Russians have always been a singing people, but before the Revolution we sang very mournfully. Our great poet Pushkin once said, "We all sing dismally, from the coachman to our leading poets." But he maintained that all the Russian needed was a chance to rejoice. In the years of Soviet power we have learned to rejoice and to sing new songs.

I remember how the whole country sang as we set about industrializing the USSR. Those were the days when Stalin said, "Life has become better, life has become more joyous." And you could hear it in people's voices. Yes, we were always a singing people—but never did we sing so loudly nor so gaily. Songs unite people—in the words of one famous song, they "help us to live and to play our part," they "cheer our advance like a friend."

The Moscow factory workers sang about the brightening world, collective farmers sang about their new tractors, and in the Eastern Soviet Republics the people's bards, poet improvisors and storytellers held the people enthralled with the new tidings.

Songs in Occupied Territory

The voice of the Soviet peoples was not silenced even during the German occupation. Old men would seat themselves on church steps, in the fields, or in the marketplaces, and sing to the accompaniment of ancient stringed instruments. They sang about the great days of old, about the Zaporozhye Cossacks and how they defended their land against the invaders.

Then the singers would strike up new songs, savagely witty songs that openly mocked at the SS men, the Gestapo and their henchmen. Crowds always gathered around these minstrels, and it was long before the Germans realized what audacious propaganda was going on under their noses.

The war has enriched our treasury of song with melodies composed by Red Army men in dugouts and by guerrillas in the Bryansk forests. We are also learning the songs of our Allies.

The Railwaymen's Central House of Culture has a new song and dance ensemble called "Songs of War and Friendship," which gives performances that are always packed. The audiences are taken on a kind of musical tour of the United Nations.

First they hear the song of the Yugoslav partisans, followed by a Serbian folk song, "Evening on the Sava River." Next a chorus in Polish national costume sings the partisan song, "Our Oath," with its passionate refrain: "The fascist shall not stifle Polish speech. Our people will live on."

The scene shifts to the crags of Norway and the song of the Norway guerrillas, "Alien ships are moored in our blue fjords." Then the song of the French *Francs Tireurs*, and the Czech patriots' song, "Prague is Waiting."

Half the program is devoted to guerrilla songs and the other half to songs and dances of Britain, the United States and the USSR. Ukrainian and Georgian war songs are mingled with "Tipperary," American barn dances, "Convoy" and United States naval marches.

Correction: In issue No. 16, February 8, 1945, the title of the article on page seven should read: 220TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TO BE CELEBRATED.

Information Bulletin

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Initiative of Soviet Soldiers

The successes of the Red Army are based on daring and sweeping maneuver. Operations of the Army throughout the entire course of the war prove that the high tempo of the offensive would have been impossible without the boldness and initiative of Soviet officers, non-coms and rank and file. Initiative and daring, based on a sober estimate of the tactical situation, are the soul of maneuver.

A Soviet infantry regiment was pursuing the Germans over rugged terrain. In the path of the offensive was a road where the Germans had assembled their retreating units, covering all approaches with strong outposts.

The Soviet regimental commander decided to seize the road, entrusting the task to a company commanded by Senior Lieutenant Kozhukhov. The mission was successfully carried out before dawn. Kozhukhov took stock of his surroundings. Near the road was a height dominating the locality. What was he to do? Occupy the height, or wait on the road? The height was a kilometer distant. The fire and manpower at his disposal were limited.

The regimental commander had ordered that the road be seized and held at all cost. Acting on his own initiative, Kozhukhov ordered a rifle platoon with a heavy machine gun to prepare a defense of the height. With this height in their hands the Soviet troops deprived the enemy of the possibility of maneuvering on the highway, and the order of the regimental commander was successfully carried out.

Senior Lieutenant Ivan Korukin, now a Hero of the Soviet Union, had a group of six tanks under his command. He was ordered to force a river and seize a bridgehead on the western bank. At the approach of the tanks, the Germans blew up the bridge. Without waiting for the

bridge to be restored, Korukin took soundings of the river under cover of the tank guns, found a shallow sector and crossed.

Assigning three tanks to hold the bridgehead, he dispatched the remaining three to a road crossing, cutting the enemy's escape route. He ordered two tanks to ambush the road in one sector, and the third in another, coordinating the fire of all crews. When the enemy column appeared, covered by two Panthers, the first ambush group let the Panthers pass, then attacked them from the rear. Both were hit and disabled. With no armor to cover them, the enemy trucks were trapped.

The tactics of maneuver, now part and parcel of Soviet military science, are impossible without initiative. Soviet officers are not satisfied with merely dislodging the enemy from his positions; they complete the maneuver by encircling and annihilating the enemy garrisons.

* * *

The general had taken no part in the

discussion. Engrossed in a magazine, he had apparently heard nothing of what was said. It was dinner time. The officers, weary after a long march, sat near the hot stove. They were talking about courage, and one spoke of the "recklessness of the brave." At this point the general joined the discussion.

"You must know how to apply those words of Gorky," he said. "I see that some of you misinterpret them. Nothing is gained by pushing your head in front of a bullet.

"On the other hand, I recall an incident in the Arctic. The terrain was exceedingly difficult; nothing but boulders, snow-covered cliffs, swamps, woodland and coast, all swept by a fierce wind. A party of our scouts, headed by Senior Lieutenant Pokramovich, had moved ahead of the main force and reached a bay in Varanger Fjord.

"They spent the day in their boats, scouring the Fjord, peering into every bay and inlet, finding nothing. It seemed there was not a living soul on the coast.



Radiophoto

Colonel General Malinin, Chief of Staff of the First Byelorussian Front, at his headquarters

Finally they clambered up a tall cliff overlooking a narrow bay. Below lay the sea and coast, shrouded in a milky haze—and apparently deserted. Suddenly one of the men raised a warning hand; he thought he heard the clank of metal. Approaching the edge of the cliff, the scouts saw a German tanker hugging the coast under the tall cliff.

"Taking stock of his men, Pokramovich decided to attack the ship and seize it. You might call this recklessness. Pokramovich had only three small boats and 20 men at his disposal, but he had the advantage of surprise. The milky haze was also in his favor. Splitting his detachment in two parts, he ordered one to secretly approach the tanker from the coast, but not to open fire until they heard rifle shots.

"Then, taking 10 men, Pokramovich made his way to the boats concealed in a small inlet about a kilometer from the tanker. Pushing off silently, the three

boats headed straight for the tanker. When they were almost alongside, the commander gave the signal. After the first shots from the boats, bursts were fired from the shore. The Germans, taken by surprise, lost their heads. A voice cried in broken Russian, 'Cease fire! We surrender!' A white flag went up, a gangway was lowered and the scouts ran up and disarmed the Germans. You can imagine their astonishment when they saw the handful of men.

"Under the escort of part of the scouts the crew was removed from the ship. Pokramovich and the remainder of his men stayed on board. The tanker was loaded with fuel; other ships undoubtedly knew of its location and would come for replenishments . . . so why not wait for them?

"About midnight Pokramovich heard the distant drone of an approaching vessel. A German patrol boat was sailing straight for the tanker, with lights out.

The scouts crouched in concealment. When the boat drew up alongside and began to tie up, they hurled their grenades. After a few moments of fierce fighting the enemy crew was wiped out. The Soviet scouts then scuttled the boat and sent it to the bottom.

"However, the German radio operator had apparently had time to report the occurrence. A few hours later a gunboat appeared on the horizon. Pokramovich immediately took his men off the tanker, ascended the cliff and watched the approaching boat. What followed proved the correctness of the scouts' appraisal of the situation. When it came within 500 meters of the tanker, the German gunboat opened fire, and the deserted vessel burst into flames.

"As to whether this was recklessness or not, I can only say that a few days ago Pokramovich was honored with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union."

BULGARIAN HITLERITES PAY THE PENALTY

Referring to the sentences passed by the Supreme People's Court in Sofia, Bulgaria, an IZVESTIA international observer writes:

The Hitlerites' accomplices are already paying the penalty. War criminals, persons guilty of the sufferings of peoples in various countries, are facing the judges.

Bulgaria is the first and most determined country in respect of punishing the clique of fascist bandits. The Bulgarian people have passed sentence, and executed it.

But unnatural as it may seem, mourners for Hitler's Bulgarian agents have turned up. Among them is the Turkish journalist Yalcin. His tears are especially surprising against the background of German-Bulgarian aggressive plans against Turkey exposed at the trial. Yalcin and those who share his view consider the case not in its political, but in its allegedly "moral" aspects. What were the Bulgarian Hitlerites convicted of?—he asks. "Only because they headed the government and associated Bulgaria's interests with Germany's victory . . ."

This cynical "only because" should not be taken as the height of political stupidity—no! The defenders of the Bulgarian fascists now creeping out of various cracks undertake a belated defense of the political criminals, closing their eyes to their crimes. They pretend not to know that the gang of Hitlerite bandits have exterminated many thousands of Bulgarian patriots.

The murderers and traitors, merchants in the blood and lives of the people, have paid with their heads. This runs against the grain of the advocates of fascism. The attitude of the peoples of Europe is somewhat different. The Rome newspaper *Avanti* writes: "Bulgaria gives a stern but salutary example, and there is no doubt that she is taking care of her future and internal pacification much better than we do."

It is already 18 months since Italy dropped out of the war, and only now, after endless postponements, do we see several fascist gangsters in the dock. Just as if fascism had never existed in Italy! Even now, many of Mussolini's under-

lings calmly continue to work in the government apparatus.

Slowness and indecision in regard to war criminals is pregnant with danger for nations who have taken the democratic path. It is also dangerous for the whole world, as these criminals are microbes of a third war.

Only this week the first list of 65 war criminals, with Antonescu at the top, was published in Rumania—as if until now the Rumanians did not know who was to blame for their misfortunes. In Finland they are still making up their minds whom to regard as war criminals.

The Bulgarian sentence has served as an example of a resolute break with the disgraceful past and a real improvement of the atmosphere in the nation's life. The peoples of Europe are alarmed not by sentences passed against fascists, but by the fact that in some places they are still slow to pass them.

Too many people guilty of national calamities are still at large, and one recalls the indignant words of Saint-Just: "There can be no freedom for the murderers of freedom!"

MARSHAL KONSTANTIN K. ROKOSSOVSKY

The wide repute of Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky dates from a December night in 1941, when the world learned that the Germans had lost the battle for the Soviet Capital—that Moscow would not fall.

Rokossovsky's men covered the city on the northwest, from the Moscow-Volga canal to Volokolamsk. That front could not be allowed to give way, though the enemy's forces were enormously superior. It did not give way. Rokossovsky directed those battles, which continued right around the clock for days on end. His calm never wavered. His will never swerved. He displayed quite exceptional personal courage. Wherever the situation was particularly grim, he was there among his men.

After the defeat of the Germans before Moscow, Rokossovsky and his troops fought their way to Sukhinichi. The days of retreat were past. The first 60 miles of the victorious offensive had been covered.

It was in March, 1942, at Sukhinichi, that he received a wound which put him in a hospital for three months.

He was sitting at his desk in his temporary headquarters, a typical little provincial house with a carved porch, on the outskirts of Sukhinichi. The Germans were shelling the place. Rokossovsky was studying his maps with his chief of staff, Malinin, then a colonel, when a shell fell within a few yards.

Hero of Stalingrad and Orel-Kursk Battles

He recovered in time to take part in the Stalingrad battles. From September 30, 1942, he commanded the troops of the Don Front. In cooperation with other armies, his men surrounded and destroyed 22 of Hitler's picked divisions.

The name of Rokossovsky is associated with another great battle, one of the most brilliant ever fought on the fields of Russia. That was the battle of the Orel-Kursk arc, when the Germans tried to get their revenge for Stalingrad.

There followed the break-through toward Kiev at Rylysk, the emergence on the



**Marshal of the Soviet Union
Rokossovsky, Commander of
Second Byelorussian Front**

Dnieper by way of Bakhmach-Chernigov, the forcing of the river, the capture of Rechitza and Gomel, and finally the rout of the enemy before Bobruisk and Minsk, in the forests and swamps of Byelorussia.

Konstantin Rokossovsky was born in Warsaw in 1896. His father was a locomotive engineer. His mother worked in a hosiery factory. Though poor, his parents managed to provide their son with a secondary education.

In 1914, the 18-year-old youth was called up for military service. He went to the front as a private in the Fifth Dragoon Regiment. By 1917 he had advanced to the rank of junior non-commissioned officer.

After the October Revolution, Rokossovsky remained in the Army. It was the Revolution which made it possible for him to develop his remarkable talents. He served as assistant commander of the Kargopolsk Red Guards Cavalry Detachment, as a squadron commander with the First Urals Cavalry Regiment, and as commander of the cavalry regiment in the renowned 30th Rifle Division. He was twice wounded in the battles against Kolchak, who led his hordes from Siberia to the Urals and the Volga.

The years of peace gave Rokossovsky his chance to study. Even while on active service, he spent every spare moment at

his books. He completed the military-political training course. The tactics of cavalry and mobile formations interested him particularly. For a considerable time he commanded a cavalry brigade. His higher military education was received a few years before the Soviet-German war.

In June, 1941, Rokossovsky, with his mechanized corps, appeared on the western Soviet front. He was soon in command of an army.

Rokossovsky received his present rank of Marshal of the Soviet Union in 1944.

* * *

The Marshal is personally known to hundreds of his men. Indeed, he spends half his time with his soldiers. He has a remarkable memory for faces. He has never lost his soldierly simplicity and good-natured kindness, and is sensitive and tactful in his dealings with people. No matter who his visitor may be, whether sergeant or general, he listens with the same courteous attention.

He seems completely tireless. His day begins at 10 A.M. with physical exercises, an invariable routine of many years' standing, and continues until 3 or 4 o'clock next morning. He plays chess, gorodki and volley-ball very well. When he can get away from his work for a half-hour, he likes nothing better than to ride horseback.

Skiing and hunting are his other favorite sports. While his troops were stationed in Byelorussia, the sight of Rokossovsky in tall hunting boots, returning from the forest in the late morning, was familiar to his officers. Often, when he finished work—which was usually at dawn—he would go with Generals Malinin and Telegin for a few hours' hunting, and then return to his desk, without having slept.

He has been awarded many military decorations, among them the Gold Star of a Hero of the Soviet Union.

His officers and men regard him with pride and respect. His photograph, cut out of newspapers, decorates the walls of countless dugouts. The Soviet people love him because he is unsparing of his strength in the cause of victory.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

The National Assembly of the Russian Orthodox Church—convened in keeping with the decision of the Episcopal Assembly, passed on November 23 of last year, to elect a Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, and to adopt the administrative statutes of the Russian Orthodox Church—opened in Moscow on January 31 and closed on February 2.

Participating in the proceedings were: Alexius, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod; Metropolitan Nikolai Krutitsky; Ioann, Metropolitan of Kiev and Galicia; Benjamin, Metropolitan of North America and the Aleutians; 41 Archbishops and Bishops and 126 representatives of the clergy and the laity of parishes.

Attending the Assembly as guests of honor were: His Beatitude Christophor, Patriarch of Alexandria; His Beatitude Alexander III, Patriarch of Antioch and all the Orient; the Most Holy and Beatific Kallistrat, Catholicos and Patriarch of all Georgia; Hermanos, Metropolitan of Phiatir, representative of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople; Athenogor, Archbishop of Sebastia, representative of the Patriarch of Jerusalem; Joseph, Metropolitan of Skoplje, representative of the Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church; Joseph, Bishop of Argesh, representative of the Rumanian Orthodox Church; and the Metropolitans, Bishops, Archpriests and other persons accompanying them.

The National Assembly opened on January 31, in the Church of the Resurrection in Sokolniki, with a church service and an opening speech delivered by Alexius, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod and Incumbent Patriarch, who was Chairman of the Assembly.

Following the opening address, G. Karpov, Chairman of the Council on Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church under the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, greeted the National Assembly on behalf of the Government of the USSR. On the motion of Metropolitan Nikolai, the National Assembly unanimously adopted a message to the Government of the USSR.

The Assembly was greeted by His Beatitude Alexander III, Patriarch of Antioch and all the Orient, on behalf of the

Eastern Patriarchs; the Most Holy and Beatific Kallistrat, on behalf of the Georgian Orthodox Church; Joseph, Metropolitan of Skoplje, on behalf of the Serbian Orthodox Church; and the Patriarchal Exarch in America, Metropolitan Benjamin, on behalf of the American Eparchy.

Metropolitan Alexius, Incumbent Patriarch, read a report to the Assembly concerning the activity of the Russian Orthodox Church during the great Patriotic War. The Assembly adopted an appropriate decision.

The first day of the meeting was taken up with discussion and unanimous adoption of the administrative statutes of the Russian Orthodox Church.

At its second session, on February 2, the National Assembly heard a report of the Credentials Commission and the report of Protoheireus Tikhon Popov, Rector of the Orthodox Theological Institute, concerning theological schools.

Following this, the Assembly went on to the election of a Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia. In an inverted order of precedence, the Bishops in turn, on their own behalf and on behalf of the clergy and laity of the Eparchies, named their candidate for the post.

The National Assembly unanimously elected Alexius, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod and Incumbent Patriarch, as Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia.

Appeals to Christians the world over and to the Russian Orthodox Church were adopted.

The National Assembly closed with a speech delivered by its Chairman.

Enthronement of Patriarch Of Moscow and All Russia

The enthronement of the new Patriarch Alexius took place on February 4 in the Patriarchate Cathedral of the Epiphany, Moscow.

The patriarchal miter was presented during the ceremony by Metropolitan Ioann of Kiev and Galicia, and the patriarchal staff by Metropolitan Nikolai Krutitsky.

The ceremony was followed by a solemn liturgy, at which guests of the Assembly and other dignitaries officiated. When the liturgy ended, Reverend Nikolai Kolchitsky, Prebendary of the Cathedral, read the newly-elected Patriarch's message to the clergy and congregations of the Russian Orthodox Church.

After this, a service of thanksgiving was held and addresses welcoming Patriarch Alexius were made by Patriarch Alexander of Antioch, Bishop Joseph, head of the Rumanian delegation, and other distinguished guests.

The Patriarch was greeted on behalf of the Government of the USSR by G. Karpov, Chairman of the Council on Russian Orthodox Church Affairs of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR.

Patriarch Alexius replied to the greetings and pronounced blessings on the congregation.

On the evening of the same day, Patriarch Alexius gave a dinner for the Patriarchs and Church delegations from abroad and for the members of the Assembly. G. Karpov attended as a representative of the Government of the USSR.

Bishop Alexander nominating Metropolitan Alexius, of Leningrad and Novgorod, as Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia



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MESSAGE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH TO CHRISTIANS ALL OVER THE WORLD

Brother Christians of the whole world!

This is the message of the National Assembly of the Russian Orthodox Church, convened here in Moscow, in our historic Capital, with the spirit of our historic shrines, and established by the deeds of the great Russian prelates and men of State, for the election of the Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, successor to the Holy Patriarch Sergius, who rests in God.

This Assembly of ours is attended by the holy austere Patriarchs, His Beatitude Patriarch Christophor of Alexandria; His Beatitude Patriarch Alexander of Antioch; His Eminence Metropolitan Hermanos, the representative of the Universal Patriarch; Archbishop Athinogor, the representative of His Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem, who has brought the blessing of the Orthodox East; His Beatitude Catholicos and Patriarch Kallistrat of Georgia; His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph of Skoplje, representative of our brother Serbians' Orthodox Church, and the Most Reverend Joseph, representative of the Rumanian Orthodox Church.

Blessed be the Lord who has granted us the joy of communication with our sister Churches, and united us in one spirit.

Brothers and sisters in the Lord! The present Assembly of the Russian Orthodox Church has met at a time when our country has been freed of the enemy through the deeds of our valiant Army, but this dire war is not yet over throughout the world. Terrible battles are still being waged; fierce and bloody conflicts are still to come; but the war's outcome is already decided, and this no one and nothing can alter.

It has now been made clear to everyone on earth whose arms were blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and whose did not receive this blessing; whose prayers ascended like Abel's sacrificial offering to the Lord, and whose blasphemous appeals in the Lord's name spread over the earth like smoke from the fire of the fratricide Cain.

Our valiant Red Army brings and has already brought many neighboring nations freedom from the unmerciful enslaver. The German troops have been ex-



Alexius, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia

pelled from almost all of the countries they seized, and the territory of Germany itself has now become a battlefield. The former dreams of world domination of the "Herrenvolk" have retreated with ignominy into the realms of legend.

The freedom-loving peoples have united in one brotherly, friendly and mighty family, and this unity in Christ's name has brought forth blessed fruits. Let us give thanks to God and rejoice that truth will soon triumph, that evil will be crushed, and that mankind may return to peaceful labor and to the building of a happy, joyous life on earth.

We believe that the One Omnipotent over earth and sky, to whom dominion has been given in Heaven and Earth—who with the brief command, *Peace, be still* (St. Mark, Chapter IV, Verse 39), stilled the tempest on Lake Galilee—will soon still the tempest of the world. We shall see the intervention of His justice when the blessed hand of the victor will inscribe on the pages of history the dread sentence of the fascist evil-doers.

The Russian Orthodox Church, the Church of our great country which took

upon herself the heaviest blow struck by bloodthirsty fascism, and in conflict dealt it a mortal wound, appeals with the voice of the Assembly of all the Bishops, the numerous representatives of the clergy and the laity, to you, brother Christians, to join with us and bend all your efforts toward the culmination of the sacred struggle: we shall end the sacred work we have begun of destroying fascism in the same close union and spirit of brotherly, mutual aid.

Christian soldiers, we shall not weaken in our heroic deeds; the enemy is yet strong. He knows that his days are numbered, and this increases his malice tenfold. Forced to leave the lands he seized, he strives to destroy all living things in them, tries to leave not one stone upon another.

Brother soldiers, the more unexpected our blows will be, the swifter our onslaught, the more hasty the enemy's flight—the less time will be left to him to do his dark deeds. Many human lives will be preserved; many national shrines will be saved from destruction.

The Orthodox Church fervently calls upon the Christians of the world to pray to the Lord, with lips and hearts as one, to grant final victory over the enemy, a victory perfect and complete, that the very remembrance of fascism's misanthropic teaching should be destroyed forever; for if after the end of the war fascism should begin to spread anew her dreadful teaching, and poison the rising generation with its venom, then all the immeasurable sacrifices made in the name of freedom would be in vain; the peace for which suffering humanity—plunged into the flames of war, and not for the first time, by Germany—is thirsting, will prove unstable and short-lived.

Yet meanwhile voices are heard, calling upon us in the name of forgiveness to have mercy and to forgive infanticides and traitors. Such appeals come from people who have the temerity to regard themselves as Christians. Thus these people, who in the words of the Apostle are partakers of these sins, subject themselves to the same condemnation as the fascists who plunge their victims in blood. Has there

then been too little blood shed? Have there been too few tears shed? Must our children also live under the constant menace of another outbreak of war? This shall not be!

In the name of the triumph of Christian and common human principles of freedom, the Orthodox Church calls upon Christians throughout the world to fight with all means in their power against such mon-

strous distortions of the divine teaching of the Savior.

May fascism, and those who inspired it, fade like smoke and vanish like wax before a flame. For now already the words of Christ—*He who takes up the sword shall perish by the sword*—are being fulfilled. God grant that mankind may at last cease to decide all disputes by the sword. May God bless all of us, brothers in Christ, in

the unceasing struggle for the triumph of freedom, truth and good throughout the world, forever! We shall be firm and united to the end!

The National Assembly of the Russian Orthodox Church sends its blessing to the working people of the whole world and to those leaders of the peoples who care for the welfare and improvement of the life of their younger brothers.

CHURCHMAN FROM AMERICA GIVES IMPRESSIONS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Benjamin, Metropolitan of North America and the Aleutians, who came from the United States to attend the National Assembly of the Russian Orthodox Church, gave his impressions of the first proceedings, as follows:

The National Assembly of the Russian Orthodox Church was convened in the Church of the Resurrection in Sokolniki. The large five-domed Church was full; yet it would not hold all who wished to attend. I heard that one old woman came at six o'clock in the morning and stood waiting until nearly 2 P. M., when the Assembly opened. When I entered the Church there was a solid wall of worshippers on either side of the aisle.

As I passed down the aisle, I bowed to the right and left, saying: "The Russians in America send you their cordial greetings."

And I reflected—if only our Russian-Americans could witness this occasion with their own eyes, how happy they would be. There would be no need to prove that the Church lives here, that there is full freedom of worship. Foreigners, too, would be happy to see this strength of spirit.

I recall with what admiration the Archbishop of York, who had been a guest of the late Patriarch Sergius, spoke in America and Canada about the Russian people. I myself addressed an audience of 15,000 in Canada from the same platform with him. Afterward I wrote in the papers that I could not have praised the Russian people more highly than he. Now I understand what he meant.

In the middle of the central part of the Church, in three special rows of seats

Metropolitan Benjamin, of North America and the Aleutians, addressing the National Assembly of the Russian Orthodox Church



Radiofoto

assigned to them, sat the prelates, behind them the priests, and then the representatives of the laity of the parishes, one from each section of the Church. There were about 170 of them in all, if not more, and about 30 guests from the East and Serbia.

When I had taken my seat I examined my surroundings: the tall cupola, the unfinished design on the gray-blue walls, the electric lamps in the iconostasis, the several movie cameras on both sides, and the huge spotlights projecting from various points to improve the lighting for the cameras. In front was the magnificent chorus of the Patriarchate, with its remarkable Regent, Doctor Komarov.

Orthodox Church Representatives From Abroad Were Present

The seats at the long table of the Presidium were still empty. They were reserved for the guests of honor: the Patriarchs from the East, their representatives and traveling companions; Joseph, Metropolitan of Serbia, deputy of Patriarch Gabriel whom the Germans took

prisoner; and our Incumbent Patriarch Metropolitan Alexius and his colleague, Metropolitan Nikolai Krutitsky, outstanding churchman and ardent patriot, whose name is also known abroad as a member of the Extraordinary State Committee for the Investigation of German Crimes.

Suddenly the chorus boomed forth and little bells somewhere within the Church rang out gaily to welcome the arrival of the guests of honor from the East and from glorious Yugoslavia. Again and again the chorus thundered, and the bells continued to ring until all the guests had taken their seats. Representatives from the Rumanian Orthodox Church were also present. The service began with the Incumbent Patriarch officiating.

Among those who arrived before the service began was Georgi Karpov, Chairman of the Government Council on Affairs of the Orthodox Church—calm, sincere, frank, benevolent and modest.

I will not attempt to describe the procedure of the opening Assembly. Everything was quite simple. G. Karpov spoke

from the pulpit, as did all the others except the Incumbent Patriarch. The Government representative greeted the Assembly, its members and guests; thanked it for its patriotic activity, especially during the war; spoke with respect of the late Patriarch Sergius; he also paid tribute to the Incumbent Patriarch, and wished the Assembly success on behalf of the Government, on behalf of Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, and on his own behalf. He spoke of the freedom of the Church in the conduct of its internal affairs, in which the State does not interfere.

When it came my turn to address the Assembly, I began by hailing the victorious and heroic Army, which in America had been more in my mind even than Church affairs, for the main thing is to save the people from the monsters. The end of the war is near at hand.

I touched briefly on the political and legal freedom of the Church in the Soviet Union, but did not expatiate on the question inasmuch as everything in this respect is clear and obvious, although

abroad they do not yet see it all quite so clearly. Soon all will see it. I dealt at much length on the importance of "spiritual freedom," freedom from our own sins.

Patriarch Alexander of Antioch, a graduate of the Russian Theological Academy, made a speech in Russian. Metropolitan Joseph of Skoplje spoke on behalf of the Slavs.

Administrative Statutes Presented and Adopted

The extremely cordial meeting of the Assembly then passed on to a reading of the statutes concerning the administration of the Russian Orthodox Church; the supreme power of the Church Council, consisting of bishops, clericals and laymen; the Patriarch of the Holy Synod, and the Patriarchal administration and parishes.

The statutes will evidently be submitted to the Soviet Government for its information. The Soviet Government, as

G. Karpov pointed out in his speech, does not interfere in the internal life of the Church, granting it freedom to administer its own affairs.

After the report on the statutes had been read, discussion was opened. Several spoke, approving the spirit and various points in the statutes. The Assembly adopted all points.

I should like to stress the significance of the Assembly meeting for the whole world. The fact alone that it met, as well as the election of the Patriarch, with the participation of the clergy and laity and the presence of representatives of all the Orthodox Churches of the world, will be received as blessed tidings in all lands. The whole world will be able to see once again that the Russian Church lives and that it enjoys freedom in the Soviet Union. And there is no doubt that the Russian Church, serving the interests of the people, will continue to march ahead with the Soviet Union, not only during the war (it will soon end), but after it has ended.

MESSAGE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO THE MOST REVEREND PRELATES, PASTORS AND ALL TRUE CHILDREN OF RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

From IZVESTIA, February 6:

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and of Christ Jesus our Lord. (Second Epistle, Peter 1: 2).

His Beatitude, the Patriarch Sergius of Moscow and all Russia, who was head of the Russian Orthodox Church for over 18 years and with God's help brought her safely through the tempestuous sea of disturbances within the Church to a quiet haven of unity in faith and love, died by God's will on May 15, 1944.

By an Assembly of all prelates of the Russian Church Assembly, which was honored by the presence of: His Beatitude, the Patriarch Christophor of Alexandria; His Beatitude, Alexander of Antioch; His Beatitude, the Catholicos Patriarch Kallistrat of all Georgia; Metropolitan Hermanos, representative of the Universal Patriarch; the Archbishop Athinogor, representative of the Patriarch of Je-

rusalem; Metropolitan Joseph of Skoplje, representative of the Serbian Orthodox Church; Bishop Joseph of Argesch, representative of the Rumanian Orthodox Church and also representatives of the clergy and laity of all dioceses of the Russian Orthodox Church, on February 2, 1945, Alexius, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod, was elected Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia.

Believing that such is the will of the Holy Spirit, the assembly of prelates, pastors and laity gathered in Moscow today, offers up thanks and glorifies the pastor of pastors, our Lord Jesus Christ, whose wise care is for His Holy Church, and beseeches him to grant her in the years to come, the peace she desires, and to unite her scattered children and keep us united in love and obedience to divine laws and to our country's traditions; and that the Holy Orthodox faith may be firmly rooted in our hearts, and that the true

children of our Church may dwell in increasing piety and honor, exemplifying, each according to his own rank, unity and love in mutual relations and in life and public service—truth and loyalty without hypocrisy, and obedience to the power established by God.

Turning to the internal system of Russian Church life and to her children's spiritual and moral state, the National Assembly takes consolation in marking that great impulse of self-abnegation and spiritual unity which has been so clearly displayed in the time of tense struggle of all our country's sons, without exception, against the savage enemy—German fascism; the religious enthusiasm and unity with which the church-going public rallied around the Church's pastors who were headed by the late Patriarch Sergius; the response to the appeals of the clergy for contributions of all kinds; the gradual, and now almost final, cessation

of the disastrous schism of the "living Church" and others; and finally, the desire to participate in every way in the general holy exploit of defending their country.

But in addition to these gladdening signs, the Assembly cannot but point out the unhealthy signs suffered by God's will, and our own negligence, to cloud the purity of the Bride of Christ, the Holy Church.

We have seen on the part of some, even of many pastors, negligence in the observance of the dignity and order of Church life; negligence in the most precise execution of the rules for Divine Service in the Holy Church; furthermore, we see the custom existing among many church-goers of permitting a marriage union to take place without the grace of the Sacrament. We see that, calmly and without compunction, the fasts appointed by the Holy Church are not observed, and this is not only among the laity, but among clergymen; we see the gradual weakening of even so ancient an institution as devotion through preparation for the Holy Sacraments, by repentance and communion; we see in general the decline of Christian discipline, both in the Church and in private life.

We note with particular distress how in some places—due to the negligence of the pastors toward the instruction and edification of their flock—the sheep of their pastures, in their ignorance, are unable to

distinguish the pastor appointed according to canons and clothed in grace, from the impostors alien to God's grace, the self-appointed who officiate at Christian rituals, sacrilegiously daring to administer even the Holy Sacraments.

Observing with sorrowful hearts all these disorders in the life of the children of our Church, we pray with the voice of the Assembly that you, our brethren, and our children, will "stand fast and hold the traditions which ye have been taught." (Second Epistle to the Thessalonians 2: 15)....

And in particular, we pastors of the Holy Church should unceasingly remember the exhortation of the Holy Apostle to: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." (First Epistle of Peter 5: 2) and "in all things showing thyself a pattern of good works." (Titus 2: 7)

"Wherefore, brethren, lift up the hands which hang down and the feeble knees," (Epistle to the Hebrews 12: 12), and apply all our efforts to healing those disorders that through our negligence afflict the body of the Church of Christ.

We have before our eyes a living example of what can be done by strength of spirit when it is guided by a sense of duty, zeal and love for the ancient shrines.

When the enemy treacherously encroached upon our country and her

shrines, a mighty patriotic impulse seized all the peoples of our Union and united all, from small to great. And the strength of that impulse, the strength of the spirit, led to those victories won by our troops at the front, at which the world marvelled and to the great success of the work done on the home front; and already the time is near when the truth we are defending will triumph over the evil and untruth of our enemies.

May the sense of duty and the love of Christ illumine the minds and hearts of all true children of our Holy Church and move them to as great a religious impulse of the spirit to fight the deviations and distortions of the true way of life established by the Church, so that our Russian Orthodox Church may shine in piety and faith as in olden times and serve as a support of the might and prosperity of our country, founding the kingdom of God upon earth.

In asking God's blessing upon all true children of the Russian Orthodox Church, the National Assembly prays to God fervently that He will send our pastors zeal and vigilance for the souls of all our Holy Orthodox Church, illumine them with the light of the Gospels, and warm our hearts with the warmth of His goodness, to strengthen our will in His holy will, so that nowadays, as in olden times, in our land and in us and through us, the Holy Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, will be glorified forever and ever.

Tartu University Reopens

More and more departments are resuming work at Tartu University in Estonia, one of the oldest in the USSR. All of the classes are now open. The equipment and supplies, which had been safeguarded from the Germans, are arriving from the surrounding villages and towns. The equipment of ten polyclinics, which the Red Army prevented the Germans from shipping away, is already in use.

All departments and nurseries of the botanical gardens have also resumed their scientific work. The scientific workers and students devote their Sundays to the restoration of buildings demolished by the Hitlerites. Three buildings of the Veterinary Department have been restored and repairs made to other buildings.

Leningrad Youth Contribute Free Time to Restore City

Young workers of Leningrad have produced goods to the value of 105,000,000 rubles, above their planned quotas, as a special gift to the Red Army Defense Fund.

In their free time the young people have also restored 64 factory departments, repaired and put into operation 10 lathes, laid 107,050 meters of narrow gauge railroad, and restored 4,225 square meters of factory space, 25 parks and gardens, 281 sports grounds, 11 stadiums and 45,077 meters of dwelling space.

In the past year, 8,346,510 hours of voluntary overtime work, or 72.5 hours per person, were contributed by these young workers toward the restoration of industry.

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Decisions of Crimean Conference of Leaders of Three Allied Powers

The decisions of the Conference of the leaders of the three Allied powers—the Soviet Union, the United States of America, and Great Britain—were given front-page space by all Soviet newspapers, with large photographs recording the various phases of the historical Crimean Conference. All newspapers commented editorially on the results of the Conference.

RAVDA wrote editorially, February 13:

The Crimean Conference will go down in the history of the war of liberation against the German-fascist invaders, as a historical demonstration of the close fighting cooperation of the great democratic powers in the period when the war entered its final phase.

Only 14 months separate us from the Conference of the leaders of the democratic powers in Teheran. During this short term, the world has had an opportunity to see the decisive role which the fighting companionship and concerted actions of the great democratic powers played in the cause of salvation from the Hitler plague.

During these 14 months, Hitler Germany, which had enslaved 10 European states, has been thrown back into her beast's lair. The victorious Red Army, the liberator, completely cleared the German invaders from the land of the Soviet Union, of Poland, and a considerable part of Czechoslovakia. German troops have been thrown out of the territory of Rumania, Bulgaria, Finland and the greater part of Hungary. The Red Army has carried the war to German soil, and today is striking blow after blow at Hitlerite Germany's most important vital centers.

In their turn, the Armies of our Allies rejected the German hordes from the territory of France, Belgium and a part of

Holland, and now continue pressing them back on German soil.

The pincers of the Allied Armies are closing ever tighter on the fascist den. In the course of the war, Hitler Germany has lost decisive strategic places d'armes and food sources. She has been abandoned by all her European allies, and has evoked universal hatred. She is experiencing insurmountable difficulties as regards manpower reserves and sources of strategic raw materials.

Such is the balance with which the Hitlerites have entered the last phase of the war. Nazi Germany is doomed. Her resistance is hopeless.

The historical significance of the Crimean Conference lies in the fact that not only did it determine the timing, scope and coordination of new, even more powerful blows into the heart of Germany, but also evolved the prerequisites which will render impossible the repetition of a new gangster attack by German militarism on the peace-loving nations.

Expressing the will of entire freedom-loving humanity, the leaders of the three Allied powers stated at the Crimean Conference: "It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism and to insure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world."

The section on "the occupation and control of Germany" laid down a program of measures which will be acclaimed by entire progressive humanity.

The war is moving to its end by swift strides. The greater becomes the importance of the problems of postwar peace and security. The decisions of the Crimean Conference on these problems are exceptionally important for humanity's destinies.

The Conference of the three Allied powers also discussed the problem of Poland and the problem of Yugoslavia. The three Allied powers reaffirmed the common desire "to see established a strong, free, independent and democratic Poland."

At present a new situation has been created in Poland as a result of her complete liberation by the Red Army. This calls for the reorganization of the presently functioning Provisional Government on a broader democratic basis.

Regarding Yugoslavia, the Conference deemed it necessary to "recommend to Marshal Tito and Doctor Subasic that the agreement between them should be put into effect immediately and a joint Provisional Government should be formed on the basis of that agreement."

The decisions of the Conference are of historical significance indeed. Its results will be seen in the rapid conclusion of the rout of Hitler Germany, and in the further cooperation of the three great powers in the creation of a secure postwar peace. The interests of stable and lasting peace and security require that the cooperation and mutual understanding between the three Allied powers, reached under conditions of war, be strengthened in the peace to come.

The Crimean Conference strongly emphasized the decisive importance of unity in the organization of the peace, as in the waging of the war. The Crimean Conference proved once more that the alliance of the three great powers not only has its historical yesterday and victorious today, but also its great tomorrow.

On the same date, IZVESTIA wrote editorially:

The statement by Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill shows that the new meeting

of the leaders of the Allied countries was the greatest political event in contemporary history, an event which will go down in history as a new example of concerted solution of the most complicated problems, in the interests of peace, democracy and progress. Within eight days, a broad scope of problems was reviewed and discussed, each of which might serve as a test of the political wisdom and foresight of statesmen.

The Crimean Conference demonstrated with fresh force the strength of the combat unity of the Allies, and justified once more Marshal Stalin's words that "... the alliance between the USSR, Great Britain and the United States is founded not on casual, short-lived considerations but on vital and lasting interests."

These plans—dictated by the firm determination of the Allies to wipe from the face of the earth the Nazi Party, Nazi laws, organizations and institutions, and

every other form which German aggression may acquire—are the expression of the firm will of all liberty-loving nations.

The great importance of the Crimean Conference also consists in that the USSR, the USA and Great Britain decided to found, jointly with the other Allies, an efficient international organization, which in the interests of all freedom-loving nations will be capable of preventing and suppressing aggression. The common principle of the policy of the Allied powers is the establishment of such an order as will enable the liberated peoples to destroy the last vestiges of fascism and to create democratic institutions of their own choice.

The Crimean Conference served as an example of the practical solution of such problems as regards Poland and Yugoslavia. In view of the new situation created by the victorious offensive of the Red Army, the leaders of the Allied countries have found a way to solve the differ-

ences. A spirit of unity, a vivid demonstration of solidarity and concerted action on all vital problems, are the main features of the Crimean Conference; unity in the organization of peace, as well as in waging war. To preserve and, moreover, to strengthen unity of purpose and action for peace—that is what the Governments of the USSR, the United States and Great Britain regard as their sacred duty to the peoples and the nations of the world.

The Crimean Conference will go down in history as the meeting at which the days of Hitlerite Germany were numbered, at which victory was finally planned and the greatest opportunity in history for a lasting and secure peace was created.

The Soviet people firmly believe that the decisions of the Crimean Conference will be carried out with the utmost determination and consistency, in accordance with the interests of entire freedom-loving mankind.

SOVIET PEOPLE HAIL CRIMEAN CONFERENCE

Last night [February 12], the Soviet radio flashed to the entire country the news of the historical decisions of the leaders of the three Allied powers at the Crimean Conference.

At the front, in night shifts in factories and mines, in villages, homes and schools, millions of Soviet people listened breathlessly to every word of the statement by Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill. As soon as the broadcast ended, spontaneous meetings were held everywhere.

Night-cloaked Leningrad presented an unusual appearance. Crowds of people gathered around the loudspeakers on street corners. In solemn silence the working people of this soldier city, which for two and one-half years heroically sustained the furious onslaught of the bloodthirsty Hitler gang, listened to the words of indictment against gangster Germany.

"The Hitler thugs wanted to seize the whole world," said one speaker at a street meeting. "They thought they would enslave the Soviet people. They failed! The decisions of the leaders of the three

Allied powers will guarantee peace and prosperity to many generations."

At a meeting in an Army barracks, officer Alexander Romanoff said, "The decisions of the Crimean Conference may be described as a charter of fighting comradeship. We are sending reinforcements to the front. The statement of the three leaders inspires every one of us to new fighting deeds. We shall spare no effort to expedite the defeat of our accursed enemy, Hitler Germany. Long live the great and unbreakable fighting comradeship of the peoples of the USSR, America and Britain!" A mighty hurrah shook the barracks in response.

Workers and engineers in Moscow, Stalingrad, Kiev, Minsk, Gorky and other cities appealed to their comrades to exert new effort to increase the flow of production for Army and country.

"The fascists failed to drive a wedge between the Allies," said a speaker at one war plant meeting. "The purposes and aspirations of the Allies are united as never before. The Germans call the product turned out by our plant the 'black

death.' Let it bring death to those who raised a hand against us!"

Stakhanovite foreman Nikolai Borisenko spoke at a meeting of workers of the Moscow Stalin automobile plant. "Our collective," he said, "as a part of the great Soviet people, is working and will continue to work without thought of ourselves, to supply excellent trucks, arms and munitions to the Red Army. The beaten German army is now on the brink of disaster. We are approaching the end of the war stronger than we were in the first war months. The situation is entirely different from that at the end of the First World War. The last and heaviest blow against fascist Germany is being prepared. We will do everything in our power to insure the success of this blow."

Steam-hammer operator Sergei Tyaplov concluded, "There was a time when the Germans bombed our Capital and boasted to the world that they could already reach our homes, factories and streets through their field glasses. Let them look through their glasses now and see how much time is left them before the final collapse of fascism."

BEYOND THE ODER

Pravda correspondent writes:

Beyond the Oder, northwest of Breslau, the Russian offensive is developing powerfully. Marshal Konev's troops have forced the river, pierced strong German defenses on the western bank, and sped on to the interior, capturing the towns of Liegnitz, Steinau, Lueben, Heinau, etc.

In appraising this brilliant operation one should bear in mind that in February, quite unexpectedly, the Oder swelled, broke its ice crust and rose by more than one and a half meters, overflowing its banks at some points. Bridges and pontoon crossings built by sappers were broken. But neither the Germans' furious resistance nor the raging elements can check Soviet soldiers. Our sappers, working waist deep in icy water under bursts of German air bombs, lay the beams of a bridge while a steady stream of troops and supplies is already moving along a neighboring bridge.

Somewhat farther north, a pontoon bridge had already been laid. Six times in one day, ice packs swept away parts of this bridge, but the sappers repaired it at top speed. Having no time to build few permanent fortifications, the Germans literally stuffed all roads to fords, forest edges and approaches to villages with anti-tank mines and traps. About 1000 mines were removed from a four-kilometer section of road leading to the village of Offendorf.

In the past few days the Germans have brought to this sector fresh divisions of the new Volksturm formations, and large artillery forces. To the Nazis' desperate attempts to hold their ground, the Soviet command opposes the tactics of lightning maneuver. Towns are turned and blocked, and our mobile forces cut between them and bear down upon the main centers of German resistance. Troops of the second line deal with the garrisons of blocked fortifications.

A vivid example of this tactic is the town of Steinau, which was surrounded and its garrison annihilated, with the exception of those who surrendered. Only a small group of cadets of a school of non-combatants succeeded in breaking out of the town; but this group, too, was overtaken and wiped out.



On the Third Byelorussian Front—Soviet tanks move along a road in East Prussia



A Red Army traffic regulator directs a column of trucks along a military highway in Poland

Steinau, one of the most powerful fortresses on the Oder, fell as a result of a vigorous assault and intense street fighting. The Germans tried to use every large building to extend the fighting in the town. Thus a large group of enemy officers and soldiers fortified themselves in a monastery and continued intense fire from inside. It was next to impossible to capture this thick-walled fortress. The Hitlerites surrendered only after sappers tunneled under the monastery wall and blew it up. More than 600 Germans came out of the building with their hands raised.

The skilful maneuver of mobile units also resulted in the rapid seizure of the heavily fortified town of Lueben, where the Germans resisted with especial stubbornness. While the surrounded enemy garrisons kept up their hopeless resistance, Soviet divisions had already advanced far to the interior and cut the famous Breslau-Berlin automobile highway.

Continuing the movement, they broke

into the town of Liegnitz—the largest industrial center after Breslau and a junction of railways and highways. Then they turned to the southeast, along the highway, emerging in the rear of the Breslau group.

We covered the entire road, from Steinau to Liegnitz. Everything we saw testifies to the furiousness of German resistance and to the panic in Germany. The narrow streets of the towns were littered with German bodies and disabled equipment. Roads are blocked by laden trucks, and trains of enormous carts, with trunks, uniforms, motorcycles and arms. The Germans abandoned everything in an effort to make good their escape. Dozens of trains of military supplies stood at almost every railway station captured by us.

Long files of German war prisoners are marching to our rear under escort. . . . Like the spring freshets, the offensive of the troops of the First Ukrainian Front floods the plains of Germany beyond the Oder.

COOPERATION OF NAVY AND ARMY

By Naval Lieutenant Georgi Padalka

One of the principal tasks of the Soviet Navy in this war has been the protection of the maritime flanks of the Red Army.

At the outbreak of war the Germans had every opportunity to effect landings from the sea in the rear of the Soviet armies, or to harry their flanks with fire from warships. But not once have the maritime flanks of the Red Army come under the fire of enemy warships, and never have the Germans succeeded in effecting a landing from the sea.

They made two attempts—one on Oesel Island in 1941, and the other on Sukho Island, Lake Ladoga, in 1942. Both were complete failures. No troops were permitted to land, most of the enemy's vessels were sunk, and the landing forces were either killed or forced to retire.

Not only did the Soviet Navy securely protect the coastal areas upon which the flanks of the Soviet armies rested, but by active counter-blows they nipped in the bud every landing or raiding operation attempted by the Germans. This was the case in the Black Sea, when the Germans held the Crimean ports; it was also the case in the Baltic and the North. Soviet warships attacked the Germans' coastal groups, shelled their flanks and landed tactical forces in their rear.

In the autumn of 1941, when the armored and motorized divisions of the Germans broke through to Leningrad and the situation became critical, the Baltic Fleet came to the aid of the Red Army units stemming the enemy's onslaught. The guns of battleships, cruisers and other war vessels, firing at close range, took a heavy toll of the Germans.

The Navy likewise played an important part in the defense of other cities—Odessa, Sevastopol, and Murmansk. The Volga flotilla aided in the heroic defense of Stalingrad. Everywhere the Navy coordinated its actions with the Army, giving the latter powerful support with its guns, and protecting its flanks from an attack from the sea.

In fighting shoulder to shoulder, sailors and soldiers struck up a firm friendship based upon common striving for

perfection in their fighting skill. In time, precise laws of cooperation between the Navy and the Army were worked out. This coordination assumed its most graphic form when the Red Army took the offensive. The part taken by the Navy in coastal, river and lake areas has considerably facilitated and accelerated the Army's advance. But these results were not achieved without strenuous effort on the part of Naval and Army officers, and a study of all the peculiar problems of coordination.

Landing operations are among the most difficult the Fleet is called upon to perform. It must closely coordinate its actions and maneuvers with those of the landing forces, at a time when conditions for the maneuvering of the two arms vary considerably. The Fleet must coordinate its actions with the infantry, the coastal batteries and the Air Force, and all this simultaneously. Moreover, besides insuring the success of the main operation, the landing, the Fleet must look to its own safety.

There are two other forms of cooperating with land forces in which Soviet sailors have become expert: one is assisting in the operational transfer of troops across water barriers; the other, supporting a land offensive with their fire. Both forms are actually a development of landing operations, but they have acquired the right to independent classification.

The operational transfer of troops undoubtedly has much in common with landing operations—the major differences being that the forces carried in the former case are tens and even hundreds of times larger than in the latter case, and that they are not landed in the enemy rear, but on already held bridgeheads. One thing they have in common is the necessity for secrecy; although in the former case it is much more difficult to maintain. Nevertheless, Soviet Naval men perform such operations with success.

There is also undoubtedly a similarity between supporting the attacking land forces with naval fire, and effecting a landing operation. The difference is that in the former case the warship's share in the operation begins with an artillery

barrage, which precedes the attack. Ships, moreover, are not confined to a given area, as they are in a landing. They follow the advancing troops, although at a respectable distance; in doing so they often have to pick their way through mine fields and must sometimes engage enemy warships. In the case of the Svore Per sula operation, fire support from the warships developed into a naval engagement in which various classes of vessels, as well as aircraft took part, and this is typical.

In this war the Soviet Navy has taken part in operations in which all three forms of coordination with land forces were involved. An example is the action of the Baltic Fleet in the Karelian Isthmus operation. Here the enemy had several lines of solid fortifications. But the Baltic Fleet was able to secretly transfer additional troops from the Oranienbaum area to the Sestroretsk area, thus creating the necessary superiority of forces in this sector of the front. Later, when the land artillery opened its barrage against the enemy defenses, naval guns from ships, forts and coastal batteries opened up on the flank. This flank fire was extremely effective. The Red Army smashed through the enemy defenses and pushed along the shore of the gulf toward Vyborg, which was captured 10 days later. All this time Soviet warships moved along the coast, shelling the retreating enemy and preventing him from digging in and making a stand. After the fall of Vyborg, the enemy still held the islands of the Berk and Vyborg archipelagos. These were captured by means of landing operations.

Thus the Navy engaged in all three forms of cooperation with the land forces. It should be mentioned that the chief problem in this, as in many other operations, was that of not losing contact with advancing land troops. If the contact had been broken even for a brief period, it would have been fraught with unpleasant consequences, mainly the likelihood of the offensive being slowed up. But thanks to the efficient work of the staffs and the tactical skill of the officers, the Fleet was able to overcome all difficulties and advance side by side with the men of the Red Army.

THE FIGHTING IN BUDA

The following was written shortly before Marshal Stalin's Order of the Day announcing the capture of Budapest:

The struggle in Buda, on the western bank of the Danube, is a complex affair. Across the river the scene is different—there are heights instead of plains; a road runs down the steep slopes into a wooded valley and again climbs the tall heights. The eastern side of Budapest is the industrial center, with numerous factories and plants. The western sector abounds in villas and houses scattered in the thick woodlands. Palaces and government offices are located near the Danube.

Every small height provides a good view of the Danube and the dwellings located on the embankment. The city looks deserted. Windowless, roofless houses, and fallen walls make a gruesome spectacle. From one of the big buildings with a cupola-shaped roof dangles a strip of red silk—the Germans are decorating the city, Soviet soldiers say jokingly. It is a German parachute dropped from a Junkers and caught in the cornice.

Another parachute lies crumpled in the road. The Germans are making desperate efforts to prolong the existence of their doomed garrison. Each night transport planes drop fuel and shells by parachute, but the better part of the cargo falls into the hands of Soviet troops. Last night one such Junkers was set on fire before it could release its goods.

During the day, Soviet aircraft dominate the sky. If weather permits, they hover over the enemy positions all day. Six aircraft have just passed. They dive on the enemy and loose their bombs. A second or two later the bombs explode on a long block of buildings where the Germans are established. Soon smoke and pillars of dust conceal it from view.

The nearer the Danube, the more vivid becomes the picture of desperate fighting, and the more ruins and corpses are to be seen. Despite fierce resistance, Soviet troops are advancing steadily, ready for the final battle.

The infantrymen will never forget the exploits of the artillerymen who fight by their side. Under fierce rifle and machine-gun fire, the gunners pound the enemy, firing point-blank and repelling the endless counter-attacks.



IN BUDAPEST—Soviet anti-aircraft gunners in a city square



Civilians returning to the blocks of Budapest occupied by the Red Army



Posters issued by the Provisional National Government of Hungary

Radiophotoe

Cultural and Educational Activities in the Red Army

By Lieutenant Colonel Sergei Rostovsky

Cultural and educational activities have always constituted a major part of the training of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union. There are two reasons for the great importance attached to these activities. The first is that only educated, socially conscious men and commanders can carry out the aims and tasks of the Red Army. The second is that the leaders of the Soviet State have always been aware that in modern warfare, in which engines play such a vast part, only skilled soldiers can master the complex and varied armaments, and that this requires proper education and training.

On the other hand, modern war requires high morale, and this also can only be expected of men of a definite cultural level. The experience of the present war has shown how true these views are.

Cultural activities form part of the normal military training. Such study is carried on in groups which sometimes consist of no more than a squad. When a group is in action, a special political instructor—who often goes into the thick of the fire with the men—briefly explains anything new or important. Thus the daily communiques of the Soviet Information Bureau are relayed to the fighters; and when a unit receives a citation from Marshal Stalin, every means is taken to acquaint each man of the unit with the Order of the Day in which his group was cited. The soldiers are kept posted on all major events and on the international and home situation.

Each man is aware of his own part and place in the great Patriotic War. He is therefore able to rise above his personal interests; he feels that he is a member of one great family of democratic nations fighting against fascist aggression. This accounts for the fighting spirit and fortitude of the Red Army.

Many forms of cultural activity developed and became rooted in the Red Army in the days of the Civil War. At that time the Army had a wide network of courses for the elimination of illiteracy. Today there is no need for such courses; all Red Army draftees can read and write, most of them have a secondary education, and a large number have a college

education. This is due to the vast educational activity carried on by the Soviet Government since the Civil War.

But the Red Army maintains various other study circles, and gives courses of many kinds, training electricians, radio, telegraph and telephone operators, tractor drivers, etc. If a Red Army man had no special trade before induction, he is taught one. War has not interrupted this work; the courses have been continued successfully until the present day.

Red Army Clubs

Each Red Army regiment and division has its club. Every Army front and military area has its "Red Army House." Every battalion, company, and even platoon, has a special tent or dugout, or a corner in the barracks, set aside for cultural activities. Here there is always a small lending library, constantly replenished with new books; there are late newspapers; facilities for playing chess, checkers and dominoes, and musical instruments, usually accordions.

The regimental and divisional clubs naturally have larger libraries. They also have bands and orchestras, and a considerable supply of musical instruments. Art circles, choruses, and sports groups arrange for entertainments. Motion pictures are very popular, and cinema installations mounted on motor-trucks make the rounds of the units at the front. In addition to the general Red Army clubs, there are also officers' clubs.

Amateur activities are highly popular among Red Army men and officers. Real talents are frequently revealed and developed. The programs of amateur groups usually reflect the life of their units; they are topical and interesting.

The units also have their own poets and composers, singers, dancers, artists and scene designers. From time to time, the amateur groups give public performances; the best artists are sent to the larger formations to demonstrate their accomplishments. In this way, many song and dance ensembles have developed in the various military areas.

The Red Army's Central Song and Dance Ensemble, directed by Professor A.

V. Alexandrov, is well known abroad. This group was developed from the amateur art circles of the Red Army.

Mass sports are also widespread in the Red Army. Skiing is the favorite sport in winter; running, swimming, and gymnastics in summer. In formations and units stationed in the rear, all these programs are of a continuous nature.

Each company in the field has a man assigned to distribute books. In addition to his regular kit, this Red Army man unselfishly carries the company's lending library. Every book is read until it is in tatters. If a man happens to bring a volume of Pushkin, Byron or Moliere to the Army, it becomes common property. Late newspapers are received daily, and new magazines arrive frequently. In addition, men and officers themselves write stories and verse.

Portable cinemas following the advancing units often give showings under conditions that might appear absolutely impossible. The field units are also visited by groups of professional players, dancers, singers and musicians. Lectures on various subjects are delivered regularly by experts from Moscow and other large cities. The political educational organs of the various fronts also have their own lecturers, recruited from men in active service, many of whom were formerly doing scientific work, holding posts as professors or instructors. This comprehensive and varied cultural and educational activity has undoubtedly contributed greatly toward raising the Army to its present high level. Those who thought the Red Army would prove unequal to the special requirements of modern warfare, who felt that its level of culture was below that necessary to master modern weapons and methods of fighting, soon learned their mistake.

It may be stated without exaggeration that the Red Army is the most cultured army in the world. This is the result of the earlier efforts of the Soviet Government, the intensive activity carried on along these lines at present, and the high cultural level of the Red Army Command. And this, in turn, is one of the factors making for victory.

Writers of Soviet Moldavia

The Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, which lies in southwestern USSR and borders on Rumania, was founded August 2, 1940, by the desire of the people of the Moldavian Autonomous SSR, and the Moldavian population of Bessarabia, restored by Rumania to the Soviet Union.

The German and Rumanian invasion of 1941 and the temporary occupation of Moldavian territory caused immense losses to the prosperous Republic, but the people mobilized their forces and drove the Nazi barbarians from their territory.

Contemporary Moldavian literature is comparatively young and reveals a steady development under the influence of the Russian classics and the Russian writers of today.

Emilian Bukov, one of the most gifted of Moldavian poets, has published four volumes of verse. During the Patriotic War he has written a book of poetry, the story *I See You, Moldavia* and a poem on Kotovsky, the noted Red Army commander who has become a symbol of the struggling Moldavian people.

Bogdan Istru sings of the land and the golden Moldavian fields. The traces of modernistic influence apparent in his early work have disappeared and given place to realism. The war, the occupation of his native country, and his people's torments, have filled his soul with a deadly hatred of the invaders . . .

Ionn Kanna, a very popular writer of prose, has had a long and fruitful career. His news stories of the Patriotic War describe the people who are avenging Moldavia's outraged honor and freedom. Kanna is master of the living and characteristic Moldavian language spoken by the mass of the people.

V. Galia, who writes fairy tales, uses folklore material in his stories for young people.

Other popular authors are Unger, Barsky and Chebean, who write poetry and prose of a heroic nature. Many Moldavian poets, novelists and journalists have been in active service, working on newspapers at the front since the outbreak of war. Among them are Menyuk, Cheza, Palubok, Krucheniuk, Bortnik and Ponomar, who fight beside the Russians, Georgians, Armenians and Uzbeks.

TO THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD

On February 10, the Soviet press published the following message:

The representatives of the Orthodox Autocephalous Churches who attended the Assembly of the Russian Orthodox Church convened in Moscow for the election of the Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, taking into consideration the present international situation, raise their voices against the efforts of those—in particular the Vatican—who by attempting in their public speeches to shield Hitlerite Germany from responsibility for all the crimes she has committed, and by appealing for mercy for the Hitlerites who have drenched all Europe in the blood of their innocent victims, desire by this means, in our opinion, to permit the fascist misanthropic anti-Christian doctrine and those who sow it to remain on earth after the war.

The Christian religion ought to bless only the efforts of the whole of progressive, freedom-loving and peace-loving mankind; efforts which are at present directed toward the building of such an order that the world may never again know fascism and bloody nightmarish aggressions like those of the Hitlerites.

With lips and heart as one, the Orthodox Church prays fervently for this, ask-

ing blessing on the arms that are at present securing the freedom of all nations from Hitlerite tyranny, and on the great leaders of progressive mankind in the coming postwar organization of the world.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHOR, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria
ALEXANDER III, Patriarch of Antioch and all the Orient
ALEXIOUS, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia
KALLISTRAT, Catholicos and Patriarch of all Georgia
HERMANOS, Metropolitan of Phiatir, Representative of the Universal Patriarch of Constantinople
ATHENOGOR, Archbishop of Sebastia, Representative of Patriarch of Jerusalem
JOSEPH, Metropolitan of Skoplje, Representative of Serbian Patriarch
JOSEPH, Bishop of Argesh, Representative of Rumanian Patriarch

KOLYMA MINERS SEND GIFTS TO DONBAS

A vessel recently left the snow-clad port of Magadan, capital of Kolyma, the Soviet Klondike, carrying a delegation of Far Eastern gold miners with a shipload of presents for the Donbas workers. The gifts included fish from the Okhotsk Sea, jam made from Northern berries gathered by the children in the taiga, books printed in an Arctic publishing house, musical instruments, etc.

A Tsarist official of the old days once stated: "Agriculture and civilized life are impossible in the Russian North. A hen and a cock could not find enough food for themselves in the Arctic. What would people do? We cannot change the Northern climate."

"During the Stalin Five-Year Plans and in the period of the war," stated Vasili Troitsky, head of the Kolyma delegation, "we have created industrial centers hous-

ing scores of thousands of people. The gold miners have overcome incredible difficulties.

"Here in the regions of eternal frost the temperature often falls to 50 degrees below Centigrade. Soviet engineers have designed excavators which cut the rock-like soil. The gold miners have completed their production program ahead of schedule. The people have conquered the cold; they grow cabbage, potatoes, tobacco and other crops.

"Magadan is 7,500 miles from Moscow. Radio and cinema help the people to maintain contact with the life of the Soviet Union and the rest of the world.

"Last year the amateur art circles staged 800 performances in the gold fields; and 20,000 cinema showings were given during the year."

Notes from Front and Rear

Marshal of the Soviet Union Leonid Govorov was honored with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union on the first anniversary of the liberation of Leningrad. Marshal Govorov commanded the troops of the Leningrad Front during the blockade of the city.

★

The first numbers of a new social and political magazine and a new newspaper have appeared in Soviet Latvia. The Writers Union of Latvia is also preparing to issue a new literary and art magazine to be called KAROGA, (The Banner). The publications are in the Latvian language.

★

The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences is now in session in Kiev. Vice President Palladin reported on the work of the Academy in 1944 and plans for 1945, which include various questions connected with the rehabilitation of the economy, science and culture of the Soviet Ukraine, as well as theoretical problems. Departments of the Academy will also elect new members.

★

A children's music school has been opened at the Drama Theater in Novgorod, with classes in piano, violin and accordion.

★

The growing of colored cotton in the USSR has developed beyond the experimental stage. This cotton, the color of which cannot fade, is now being grown in dark green, rose and lemon colors, in addition to the original brown and green. The yield per acre is about the same as that of ordinary white cotton. Last year about 350 tons were picked, but only 12,000 yards of cloth were woven. This year 700 tons will be grown (on an area of 3,700 acres) and over a million yards of naturally colored cloth will be manufactured.

★

Construction of an astronomical observatory in the Armenian SSR has commenced, in accordance with a decision of the Presidium of the Armenian Academy of Sciences.

People's Artist of the USSR Reinhold Gliere, one of the oldest Soviet composers, whose 70th birthday was recently celebrated by the Soviet public, has completed a poem for a large military orchestra. The work is based on three popular themes—Russian, American and British. Gliere has written a number of works during the Patriotic War, including an opera, several overtures for symphony orchestra, a concerto, and many chamber music pieces.

★

Twenty-eight thousand collective farm cottages and 7,000 communal structures have been erected in the villages of the Moscow Region since their liberation from the German invaders. Some of the villages had to be entirely rebuilt.

★

Compilation of a history of aeronautics in the USSR is under way at the History of Aviation Department of the Moscow Aviation Institute. The study of aeronautics was begun in Russia in 1910.

★

A school of applied arts devoted to the restoration of churches, monasteries and museums has opened in Troitsko-Sergieievsky Monastery in Zagorsk. The students, boys and girls from 14 to 16 years of age, are taught the fine art of metal, wood and stone carving. After graduation some of the students will apply their knowledge to the preservation of the monastery in which they are studying, while others will be sent to the liberated areas for restoration work.

★

Weight-lifter Grigori Novak, establishing the first record for 1945 in the one-hand clean and press, lifted 132 kilograms. This is one kilogram above the 1944 record.

★

One hundred thousand students are now attending the higher medical schools of the Soviet Union.

A new open-face coal mine with an annual capacity of two million tons is now in operation in the Northern Urals, also the first section of a power station equipped with a 50,000-kilowatt turbine. This new fuel and power base will supply power for the development of the aluminum industry in this area, where one of the world's finest bauxite deposits, known as the Red Cap, is located. In a report to Stalin, workers have undertaken to build a second power station of 25,000-kilowatt capacity, another open-face coal mine with an annual capacity of 1.5 million tons, and to begin production of pure aluminum—all in 1945. Preparations are also under way for the development of a third rich coal deposit in this area. Local conditions are most favorable for open-face mining, as the topsoil is four to nine meters in thickness.

★

Fifteen scientific papers have been prepared for publication by physicians of a Sanitary and Epidemiological Detachment of the Red Army, which accompanied Soviet troops from Stalingrad to East Prussia. The detachment, under Major K. Pyatkin, did important work in the protection of both troops and civilian population from epidemics and disease, organized chemical and bacteriological research work, and analyzed donors' blood under field conditions.

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The Keys to Victory

IZVESTIA wrote editorially, February 15:

Day after day, fresh blows rain upon Hitlerite Germany. After Budapest in the South, yesterday the surrounded city of Schneidemuehl in Pomerania fell.

The German command's attempts to organize resistance in the large centers in the path of the Soviet troops have had no success. The Germans failed to check the Soviet offensive on the Oder: Marshal Konev's troops have rammed through the enemy defenses, penetrated deep into German Silesia, and are now far beyond the Oder, west of Liegnitz and Bunzlau.

The powerful flood of the offensive spreads out in all directions, like a huge fan. The might of the Soviet State is reflected in this offensive, and it is not without reason that the Red Army offensive is recognized as a military "miracle" unparalleled in history.

The main blows, however, are yet to come. The present Red Army offensive is only a prelude to the blows which will fall upon the fascist lair, as decided by the Allies, "from the east, west, north and south."

Last November, Stalin said: "The thing is to keep Germany gripped in this vise between the two fronts. That is the key to victory." The keys to victory are in the hands of the Allies and, as proven by the decisions of the Crimean Conference, they know how to use them.

The reports on the plan worked out by the Allies for the final defeat of Hitlerite Germany, with all her military and economic power and state machine, have called forth innumerable comments throughout the world. The decisions of the "big three" sent a shudder through the Hitlerite bandits. There is no place on earth where the friends of peace and liberty, filled with confidence in the future, do not applaud the Allied plan—to destroy the Hitlerite Reich quickly and resolutely, to wipe out German militarism and fascism. From all freedom-loving countries come ardent words of approval of the determination and unity of the Allies.

Only recently some foreign war observers specialized in proving the "impossi-

bility" of launching an offensive from the West. What can they say now that the Allied staffs have determined the precise timing and scope of the decisive operations which will be launched everywhere, including the West!

The decisions of the leaders of the three great powers and their staffs are being widely discussed by Soviet citizens throughout the country. The Soviet people express not only full approval of the historical decisions, but even more—the determination to carry them out by all necessary means.

The troops of the heroic Red Army are ruthlessly battering the enemy in Prussia, Pomerania, Brandenburg and Silesia. They are fighting at the gates of Berlin and have opened the road to Vienna. How mighty then will be the combined blow of all the Allied Forces from all sides!

Hitlerite Germany knows what to expect. She knows that she cannot escape retribution. Germany is burning on all four sides. The formidable thunder of the present Red Army offensive foretells the near and happy day of victory.

BUDAPEST IS TAKEN

From an editorial in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, February 14:

The fall of Budapest marks one more triumph for Stalin's strategy and the military skill of the Red Army.

On December 26 the troops of Marshals Tolbukhin and Malinovsky completed the encirclement of the enemy's Budapest group. On December 27 this group was split in two. One part was pressed by Soviet troops into the mountainous and wooded area of the Danube bend, and soon afterward completely liquidated. The second and main part—quite strong in men and technical equipment—was caught in a vise in the area

of Budapest proper; and by the close of December 27, Soviet units were fighting on the outskirts of the city.

As was the case in earlier encirclement operations, the Soviet troops immediately proceeded to develop their success, pushing the front line beyond the encircled group and advancing 60 kilometers to the west of Budapest. Thus the enemy was deprived of the possibility of breaking through to his encircled troops.

The Germans, who had pinned on Budapest their last hopes of preserving at least the appearance of "friendship" with Hungary, and who dreaded Red Army penetration into the industrial districts

of Austria toward Vienna, exerted desperate efforts to restore the situation. The enemy tried at all costs to free his strongest forces from the ring. The loss of the divisions included in the Budapest group was in itself a tremendous defeat for the Germans. Urged on by all these considerations, the ill-starred Hitlerite strategists hastened to mass strong forces, especially tanks, in an effort to strike a counter-blow and break through to the encircled group.

Having achieved a miserable gain in territory, which looked especially ridiculous against the background of the titanic Soviet offensive and which cost them tremendous losses in tanks and men, the

German troops which delivered the counter-blow were exhausted, without obtaining any results. While repulsing enemy counter-attacks and bleeding white the troops which tried to break through toward Budapest, the Soviet Command simultaneously proceeded to smash the encircled group.

The battle of Budapest matches the Stalingrad battle in the scope and violence of street fighting. It was a complete epic, a majestic and heroic epic, which has shown the world the courage and skill of Soviet soldiers. Budapest—with its thousands of blocks, numerous industrial enterprises, depots, large apartment buildings, and labyrinth of underground passages—afforded the Germans a base for a circular defense, the like of which cannot be afforded even by the strongest fortresses.

When Soviet troops began their liquidation of the encircled troops, the Germans had large supplies of food and munitions in Budapest, and even a well-equipped base for receiving transport planes. Every inch of territory in Budapest was within range of the enemy's fortified fire-nests. Nevertheless the Soviet troops, having breached the enemy's outward belt of fortifications, proceeded to wrest house after house and block after block from him.

The battle of Budapest has revealed fully the remarkable military and moral qualities of the Red Army soldiers, true heroes for whom no insurmountable obstacles exist on the road to victory. At the same time, the battle of Budapest has once more exposed the criminal nature of the Hitlerites, who in their moral poverty degraded themselves to the level of wild beasts. The Soviet people and soldiers will never forget that precisely in the Budapest area the Germans deliberately perpetrated a monstrous crime, the like of which cannot be found in the history of modern wars. Brazenly violating all written and unwritten laws, sanctified by thousands of years, the German monsters villainously murdered Soviet envoys carrying a flag of truce.

The Hitlerites hope to prolong their existence with the aid of vile provocations and treacherous murders. But nothing will help the enemy any longer; nothing will save him. Having rejected the ultimatum of the Soviet Command and monstrously murdered the Soviet truce envoys, the fascist monsters did not save their skins for long. Whatever the enemy's resistance, Soviet troops each day took scores and hundreds of blocks.

By January 18, the eastern section of the Hungarian capital, Pest, was cleared of the enemy. Hitler, however, continued to encourage the remnants of his encircled

troops. But under the blows of the Red Army, the enemy's powerful group melted away daily. Finally the hour came when the western part of the city, Budapest, passed completely into the hands of Soviet soldiers.

Neither the base provocations nor furious resistance of the doomed could avert the debacle of the German group at Budapest. Tens of thousands of swastika-branded villains have already paid for their crimes with their own heads. More than 110,000 Germans, with the German colonel general in command of the encircled group, were taken prisoner. The hour of reckoning has struck. The blood of the Soviet truce envoys murdered by the fascist monsters must be and will be completely avenged.

The capture of Budapest concludes one of the most striking chapters in the annals of the Patriotic War: chapters replete with valor, heroism and high military skill. Our victorious banners wave proudly over the walls of one more European capital.

The victory won in the South is a brilliant addition to the great successes of Soviet troops fighting in the Eastern provinces of Germany. The powerful and ever stronger blows of the Red Army and the troops of our Allies will insure speedy, complete and final victory over the enemy.

SOVIET SOLDIERS ABROAD

By Colonel E. Boltin

The war has brought the Red Army in contact with the peoples of other countries. In the past year, Soviet soldiers have entered Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Norway, as liberators and Allies. They have expelled the Germans from Rumania, Bulgaria and most of Hungary. Millions of people who had only heard of the Red Army, now see it with their own eyes.

We must not forget that for years fascist propaganda slandered and is still slandering the Red Army. The most vicious insinuations and absurd inventions have been used against it. Yet one need but listen to the opinions of the people in the countries which the Red Army has liberated; one need but read,

however cursorily, the press of these countries—from underground partisan publications to revived newspapers and magazines—to see that the Nazi lies failed to achieve their purpose. Despite all the lies, despite all the efforts of Goebbels, millions of people have learned of the real deeds of the Red Army and have formed their own ideas of it.

The patriots of many countries, who now have a chance to see the Red Army on their own soil, have become further convinced that their ideas were correct. As for those who yielded to the poison of the Nazi propaganda, they must now admit that the Germans merely lied about the Red Army in order to frighten the peoples, to incite them against the Soviet

Union, and thereby make it harder for them to get rid of the Hitlerite yoke.

I was with Marshal Malinovsky's troops in the days when they were preparing to launch the thrust into Rumania. On the eve of the attack, the officers read to the soldiers in the trenches an Order of the Day of the Soviet Command. It spoke of the offensive and its aims, of the need to fight bravely and with determination. Then it dwelt on how the men were to behave on Rumanian territory. Here is an excerpt from that document:

"We are now fighting on foreign territory. Every soldier and officer must display a high degree of self-restraint and organization. Any manifestation of license will be resolutely combatted. The attitude to

the Rumanian population must conform with Soviet dignity, and no unauthorized or arbitrary actions must be permitted. Remember that in foreign territory a soldier may and should feed only upon his rations. He has no other sources or opportunities."

That was what Soviet soldiers were taught, how they were trained. Yet in those days—it was before August 20, 1944—Rumania was still an enemy country, an obedient satellite of Germany. It goes without saying that in regard to the friendly peoples, the Poles, Czechoslovakians and Norwegians, the Red Army men feel a warm sympathy and profound respect for them in their fight for freedom and national independence.

Of course, war is war. Modern warfare is unfortunately of such a nature that the population cannot escape or avoid its fiery touch. War imperiously invades villages; it spares no factories, fields or homes. The liberated peoples suffer from war, but their sufferings are the inescapable price of liberation. Millions of people understand and willingly accept this.

The population of Warsaw, whose city the Germans destroyed and whom war has deprived of everything—shelter, property, and near and dear ones—enthusiastically saluted the Red Army; for they knew that its coming marked the beginning of life—perhaps hard and full of privations at first, but free, and therefore full of happiness.

Now, what sort of person is he . . . the Russian in the gray overcoat, with the red star on his cap . . . who is purchasing freedom for other peoples at the cost of his own blood?

An army consists of armed men wearing military uniforms and bound by military discipline. The attitude toward an army operating in foreign territory is in the long run determined by the daily actions and behavior of its men. The men of the Red Army, its soldiers and officers, have gained respect and affection.

In scores of documents, published and unpublished, the people of Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary and other countries express their opinion of the Red Army. It is a fact, say the inhabitants of these countries, that the Germans were arrogant and rude, whereas the Russians are unassuming and affable. It is a fact that



Red Army men in Budapest look over buildings taken from the enemy in fierce street fighting



Soviet traffic regulator Natalia Strukova directing vehicles and pedestrians in the Hungarian capital

the Germans flaunted their "superior race," whereas the Russians respect the nationality, customs and culture of other peoples. It is a fact that the Germans built crematoriums to burn their innocent victims, whereas the Russians help to revive schools, colleges and other cultural institutions. These are eloquent facts; they convince even those who would prefer not to see them.

Under the protection of the Red Army, the people of other countries feel confident and at ease. In October, 1944, I crossed all of Rumania, from the Prut to the Hungarian frontier. I saw peasants peacefully toiling in the fields, urban folk engaged in their everyday affairs. Even in the front-line towns of Transylvania, life went on practically unruffled. The

Soviet garrisons were hardly noticeable, and Soviet military authorities took pains to avoid any interference in local affairs.

I also spent some time in Hungary, in the neighborhood of Debreczen. I visited several villages which the population had left during the fighting. In the deserted houses, soldiers and officers of the Red Army were billeted. It was autumn, and the troops needed a roof over their heads.

I was also put up in a deserted house. The yard was full of livestock and poultry which the owners had found it too hard to take along. The creatures were hungry and thirsty; they filled the air with their bleating, cackling and clucking. And the first thing our soldiers did, before they had even a chance to rest, was to feed the animals and birds. It was

Radiophotos

too much for the heart of the Russian farmer to see them suffer: after all, the animals were not to blame for the war.

Next day the owners gradually began coming back to the village. It is difficult to describe their surprise, gratitude and joy when they found their homes in perfect order and their livestock and poultry alive and well-fed. This told them, more than any declaration, that here was an army of a different type, an army of democracy.

To be sure, in the countries liberated by the Red Army there are some people who hate and slander everything Soviet. They are fascists, overt and covert. Yes, to them the Red Army is the worst enemy.

Without imposing its political beliefs on anyone, the Army of the Soviet Union considers it its duty to help the peoples stamp out fascism and purify the atmosphere of the liberated countries from the Nazi miasma. The coming of the Red Army has signified the restoration of popular rule; it means genuine death to fascism in all spheres of state and public activity. The liberated peoples order their own lives through their own representative institutions and governments, responsible to them.

Facts have given the lie to the fascist calumnies about the predatory aims of the Red Army, about what they call "Bolshevization." Such fairy tales can no longer deceive even political ignoramuses. In foreign lands the Red Army has opened the eyes of all who do not want to remain blind. The enslaved and the deceived see that here is an army of friends, bringing them the right to life and liberty.

Soviet Scientist Honored

Academician Alexei Abrikossov, dean of Russian medical science, has been awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor in appreciation of his outstanding services in the development of Soviet medicine. Academician Abrikossov is Vice President of the recently established Academy of Medical Sciences, and is author of more than 100 fundamental studies. The 70-year-old scientist is also President of the All-Union and Moscow Societies of Pathologists and has received a Stalin Prize for his multi-volumed classical study on pathological anatomy.

NAVAL AIR SCOUTS

By Captain Pavel Starostin

The air scouts of the Soviet Navy have been doing an important and difficult job since the first days of the Patriotic War. Day and night, in all weathers and seasons, they fly over enemy shores, past German fighters and through flak. Keeping the sun behind them, or slipping through clouds and fog to evade detection, they reconnoiter the forward and rear naval bases and communications of the enemy.

The Soviet Naval Command has always devoted great attention to air reconnaissance. Special scouting units supplied with the ablest fliers and the most modern planes, armament and equipment, are a part of every fleet. From the beginning of the war, their accurate and timely reports have enabled the Naval Command to anticipate the enemy's stratagems and upset his plans time after time.

Soviet air reconnaissance is usually carried out on a wide scale by considerable forces covering large districts. Combining visual and instrumental observation, the air scouts obtain precise information. Besides stereoscopic photography of enemy objectives at sea, they photograph individual targets and land positions held by the Germans. As a result of such observation, the Soviet Command was able to destroy the enemy's submarine tenders in the Gulf of Finland; to deal heavy blows to German bases, mine and artillery positions in the Baltic; and with relatively few forces to destroy the Germans' suspension bridge across the Kerch Straits.

Equally important are the new tactics worked out by the naval air scouts to accord with changes introduced in naval warfare through the various technical improvements of the past years.

When the enemy began to use radio detectors in one theater, making it difficult to approach his positions unnoticed, Navy fliers planned their reconnaissance on the basis of force and speed. Since one scout reconnoitering the enemy's shores and bases could easily be discovered by radio detectors and overtaken by enemy fighters, the scouts now took off in pairs or quartets in fast fighters. They fought their way to the objective, took their pictures and

returned. At times, all three principles—speed, concealed approach and force—were combined. No matter how stubbornly the Germans defended their objectives, the naval scouts always got what they wanted.

New Tactics

During the war Soviet naval fliers have developed and improved one of the most important methods of reconnaissance at sea—air observation and control—which requires great courage, daring and skill.

On one occasion, scout planes commanded by Lieutenant Avtsyn and Junior Lieutenant Pankrashin discovered a German convoy of 27 ships in the Barents Sea. The air scouts were attacked by four Messerschmitts. Taking advantage of weather conditions, Avtsyn and Pankrashin evaded the German fighters and radioed the location, speed and course of the enemy to the Naval Command.

Four additional Messerschmitts joined the attack on the scouts. The Soviet fliers, making the most of the intense fire power and maneuverability of their planes, scattered the Germans and continued photographing the convoy and directing our warships, which had already left their bases. Reforming in pairs, the Messerschmitts again attacked. Still maintaining radio contact with the Soviet ships, the scouts fought off the German planes, sending one of them down in flames.

The first of the Soviet warships contacted the convoy and opened fire. The scouts photographed the progress of the battle, at the same time issuing directions to a second echelon of ships. Fighting off new enemy attacks, they continued their observation of the battle, photographing the results of the blows dealt by the Soviet ships and directing new echelons of vessels to the spot. When the battle finally ended, the scouts had brought down one Messerschmitt each and damaged two others.

First-rate fliers, with an excellent knowledge of fighting tactics and familiar with all the enemy's tricks, the naval air scouts are doing their part to hasten the day of fascist Germany's final defeat.

Chief Marshal of Tank Troops Pavel Rotmistrov

Marshal Rotmistrov, now 44 years old, was born on the banks of the Volga, in the village of Skovorodovo, Kalinin Region. His father, a peasant, had five sons and five daughters. Life was far from easy, since the family had little land. The four elder boys went to the town to earn their living. It was the father's ambition that young Pavel should "have a chance." With the help of his four other sons, he managed to find the money to send the boy to an elementary school.

Pavel's development as a professional soldier began in 1919, when he volunteered for the Red Army. He was consumed with a single ambition: to acquire military art. At 20 he entered a military engineering school, but the young Soviet Republic was calling for defenders, and he left before he had completed the course. For distinguished service in the Civil War, he was awarded the Order of the Red Banner.

Peace brought him opportunity for serious study. He entered an infantry school, and in 1924, having graduated with honors, was assigned to a Leningrad rifle division. Well-disciplined and eager to learn, the young officer began to advance in the service and became a battalion commander. In 1928, after a competitive examination, he was accepted as a student at the Frunze Military Academy. Three years later he was appointed chief of the operational section of the staff of a division stationed in the Far East, and later chief of the operational department of a military district. In 1937 he was placed in command of a regiment. The following year saw his appointment as a lecturer at the Red Army Academy of Mechanization and Motorization.

Now at last the young commander's most cherished dream was realized—to devote himself wholly to investigating the tactical and operational potentialities of the tank. To his students, future Red Army tank commanders, he imparted his belief in the power of these mobile fortresses.

While on the Academy staff he wrote two scientific works: *The Employment of Troops in Mountainous and Forest Terrain*, and *Massed Tanks in the Break-*

through of Fortified Lines. He was becoming a theoretician of repute.

Tested Theories in Finnish War

When in the winter of 1939 the Finnish-Soviet war broke out, Rotmistrov asked the Command to let him go to the front, so that he might test his theories in practice. As commander of a tank brigade he demonstrated more than once the resources of the tank, and the benefits which complete mastery of this weapon would confer on the Red Army. His brigade operated in some of the most difficult terrain in the world—the forest and marshland of the Karelian Isthmus. Here he and his men roundly defeated the Finnish troops. He received the Order of the Red Star for his services in this war.

When the Finnish-Soviet war ended Rotmistrov returned to his post as lecturer, but did not remain at the Academy for long. After six months he was placed in command of a tank division stationed near the Soviet-German frontier.

At the time of the German invasion he was Chief of Staff of a Tank Corps which acquitted itself with complete success in the first armored clash with the Germans on the Soviet frontier. Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy. But in those days the Germans had the advantage of numerical superiority, and this imposed a fighting retreat on Rotmistrov's tanks.

The heavy tank battles of the summer of 1941, in Marshal Rotmistrov's view, revealed certain deficiencies in the training of Soviet tankmen. But even in those days, and in spite of the Germans'

obvious numerical superiority, Soviet armor proved capable of tackling and defeating the German heavy tanks.

After the first phase of the war the Red Army tank arm was to some extent reorganized. At his own request, Rotmistrov was placed in command of a tank brigade. He wished to challenge the enemy directly, in the field; to pit his skill against German skill.

He won. Not once was his brigade defeated. The dazzling prowess of his men won them the Guards title. In 1942 Rotmistrov was given command of the tank corps that overwhelmed the Germans before Yelets and Stalingrad. For its feats on the Southern Front this corps too received the Banner of the Guards.

The theory of the mass employment of tanks, which Rotmistrov had elaborated in peacetime and which had many adherents among the higher officers of the Red Army, was applied with great effect at Kotelnikovo, and later, in July, 1943, before Belgorod, in the tremendous clash which will go down in history as the battle of the Prokhorov place d'armes. Over 1,500 machines, Soviet and German, participated simultaneously in these operations. This was the complete vindication of the theory of the mass employment of tanks.

The Foiling of Hitler's 1943 Offensive

The Prokhorov clash was the turning point in the Belgorod-Kursk battles. The enemy was stunned by the impact of the T-34's, dizzied by the virtuosity of the Soviet regrouping for the break-through.



A Red Army tank in Gleiwitz—German Silesia—captured by Soviet forces

Radiophoto

The most important divisions of Hitler's SS corps were routed and destroyed. The turrets flew off the Tigers. Soviet shells sheared through their armor. The Germans were unable to develop the big offensive they had planned. In these battles the Soviet tankmen helped to facilitate the Red Army's great offensive in the summer of 1943.

By this time Pavel Rotmistrov was a Lieutenant General of Tank Troops. In the autumn of 1943, for his brilliant conduct of a tank offensive during the forcing of the Dnieper, and for his success in holding the important road and rail center of Pyatikhatka, which resulted in the complete rout of the enemy in this district, he was made a Colonel General.

His theory was tested once again in the grandiose Korsun-Shevchenkivsky operation. Rotmistrov is a master of surprise and hidden movement, and of the lightning switch of a mass of armor from one front to another. He applied these maneuvers on many occasions during his service under Army General, later Marshal, Konev.

With Konev, Commander of the Front, Rotmistrov took a big risk. One night, in pitch darkness, he broke contact with the enemy, and leaving only a small screening force, raced 50 miles with his tanks to close the escape gap of the German troops surrounded at Korsun-Shevchenkivsky.

The Germans at first mistook Rotmistrov's tanks for their own. They only realized their mistake when the T-34's sliced into their columns and began to smash them to pieces. After this catastrophe they were quite unable to pull themselves together. The Red Army occupied Uman, and drove across the Southern Bug, the Dniester and the Seret.

For their brilliant conduct of the Korsun-Shevchenkivsky operation, Konev was made a Marshal of the Soviet Union and Rotmistrov Marshal of Tank Troops. Today he is Chief Marshal.

During the war Pavel Rotmistrov has been awarded two Orders of Lenin, Orders of Suvorov, First and Second Class, the Order of Kutuzov, First Class, and the Medals for the Defense of Moscow and Stalingrad. He also wears the Medal "20 Years of the Workers' and Peasants' Army."

RED ARMY ENGINEERS

By Major General of Engineers Eugene Alexandrov

In the present war the part played by Red Army engineers has increased in importance, and their numbers have grown considerably. The engineers not only insure the smooth functioning of other arms of the service, but also carry out independent operations. Great changes have taken place in the organization and equipment of engineers in recent times. Engineering reconnaissance, camouflage, mining and de-mining, the bridging of rivers being forced, road and bridge building, and defensive work have been very highly developed.

On one front, in a period of 100 days, engineering troops built 491 kilometers of anti-tank obstacles, laid 625,000 mines, set up 593 kilometers of entanglements, and dug 4,240 kilometers of fire and communication trenches.

Red Army engineers carry out huge camouflage projects, build sham fortifications, lay dummy roads, build dummy bridges, etc. New forms and methods of mine-laying have been developed during the war. All fronts have mobile sapper units equipped with mines. Many examples of the successful operation by these units might be given. In one sector, they blew up some 300 tanks and dozens of guns in 13 days. Sappers of an army group laid 120,000 mines for one battle, blowing up 400 German tanks and several dozen armored cars, trucks and self-propelled guns.

No less important is de-mining. During four months' offensive operations on one front, sappers de-mined about 6,000 kilometers of roads, 28 bridges, 248 inhabited places, and 37 airdromes. Altogether they removed over 100,000 German mines, 500 fougasses and 350 booby-traps. Mining and de-mining are usually done at night. They demand great concentration and caution on the part of the sapper. Not for nothing do we say, "A sapper only makes one mistake in his life."

Forcing Water Barriers

During its gigantic offensives the Red Army has crossed many water barriers, including such large rivers as the Dnieper, Niemen, Vistula, Danube and Oder. The forcing of these rivers is without precedent in the history of warfare—from the

standpoint of scale and complexity of operations, and results.

The specific feature of these achievements is that almost all the rivers were crossed directly from the march, and the suddenness and the secrecy of the crossings insured their success. The speed of the offensive required the engineers to use whatever means of crossing was at hand, later building regular crossings. In forcing one wide river, men and stores were sent across by various means, of which only 64 per cent were the regular sapper equipment. Later, 97 per cent of the traffic was carried by regular ferries.

Under modern conditions of warfare no important military operation can be carried out without the engineers. Obstacles and stretches of roadless country are constantly encountered, in forests and swamps, during spring and autumn floods, and the roads often determine the manner in which operations will develop. It is the engineers' job to see that the roads are repaired in time.

During an offensive, great demands are made on the engineers to repair and build the networks of roads necessary to enable the army to maneuver its elements and to bring up stores, etc. Engineers on one front repaired and rebuilt 3,720 kilometers of roadway and laid 133 kilometers of corduroy road to insure the success of large offensive operations then in preparation. Figures for bridge building are similar: in two months, sappers of one front built 16 high bridges over flooded rivers with a total length of 1,320 meters. On another front, engineers constructed 135 bridges with a total length of 11,311 meters, in six months of offensive operations. These figures speak for themselves.

During the present war, defensive works have become extremely important. Experience has shown the necessity for defenses in several echelons which go back a long way in depth and have a developed system of trenches. All this means more work for the engineers.

During the war, Red Army engineers have developed new methods of fighting and of using engineering constructions in battle, thus improving the operation of other arms of the service.

Sportsmen Prepare for Red Army Day

By Alexander Sinelnikov

The war interrupted the activities of many outstanding Soviet athletes, who went to the front. But after the rout of the Germans at Moscow and Stalingrad, stadiums, gymnasiums and swimming pools and sports clubs were again opened.

During the war years the sports clubs have trained 821,400 swimmers, 1,576,000 experts in hand-to-hand fighting, and more than 5,200,000 skiers. Nearly 2,350,000 people passed the tests for the "Prepared for Labor and Defense" sports badge. The Red Army was thus assured of physically fit reinforcements.

The ties of friendship between Soviet athletes and the Red Army become stronger every year. Since the beginning it has become customary to celebrate Red Army Day with All-Union sports festivals and championship meets. On this date—February 23—new sports records are set. For example, Lieutenant Grigori Novak, phenomenal weight-lifter, twice broke records on Red Army Day.

Last year, when the entire country celebrated the 26th Anniversary of the Red Army, mass ski runs for rural athletes were held for the first time. More than 1,130,000 young collective farmers took part in races held throughout the USSR.

Soviet athletes are making great preparations for the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army, determined to celebrate the great victories on the battlefields with new athletic achievements. In many cities, festivals and sports meets will be held on February 23. Rural skiers are already training for the mass ski runs to be held on that date. Champion skiers of the collective farms, districts, regions, territories and National Republics will come to Moscow to compete in the All-Union championship events.

In accordance with a decision of the All-Union Central Committee of Trade Unions, the Soviet trade unions will hold cross-country ski races in honor of the Red Army Anniversary. Several million workers, students, research workers, and youth of pre-draft age—men and women of various ages and professions—will take part in these races.

In preparation for these forthcoming



Ice hockey teams in training on the rink of the Dynamo Stadium, Moscow

cross-country events, some 260 skiers of Moscow competed in races held the beginning of January in Podrezkovo, a suburb of the Soviet Capital. Distances were 20 kilometers for men and 10 for women. The men's event was won by Vasili Smirnov, who covered the 20 kilometers in one hour, 19 minutes, 30 seconds. Zoya Bolotova, USSR women's champion, was first in the 10-kilometer run; her time being 48 minutes, 26 seconds.

The results of the first races in Moscow this season revealed that the skiers of the Soviet Capital were well-prepared for Red Army Day events.

Hundreds of thousands of excellent skiers have been trained during the war to carry out any fighting assignment on skis. This has enabled the Red Army to form a large number of ski detachments, which penetrated deep behind the German lines and paralyzed the movements of enemy troops. The best Army skiers will arrive from the front lines to take part in the Moscow contests on February 23.

An ice-skating meet will also be arranged in the Capital that day, as well as a number of hockey games, including the finals of the USSR hockey cup tournament, in which 48 men's and women's teams are now competing. The tournament is the first to be conducted since the outbreak of the war.



Winter sports in Moscow



Radiophotos
Youthful skating enthusiasts in the Gorky Park of Culture and Rest, where squares and lanes are flooded and frozen over for ice sports

MILITARY POSTMEN

To the military postmen, not only means more than to any other group of the Red Army, from the front lines to the rear, from the fascist invaders and from other sectors of the front—from the entire country—come floods of letters, bringing the men news of their relatives and friends.

Each day thousands of motor trucks laden with letters and newspapers arrive at Red Army mail bases. From here the letters are carried to the trenches and forward areas, often under fire and at great risk. This work is done by the military postmen, who are appointed for each unit in the order of the day. Special permits give them the right to travel within the bounds of their formation.

On all the roads of war you will meet the mail-carriers, traveling by horseback, motorcycle, motor truck and sometimes on foot, their bags slung over their shoulders. They are always in a hurry, knowing how eagerly the mail is awaited. Besides letters and papers, they also bring the latest news.

There are many heroes among the military postmen. During the operations in the Crimea, two carriers regularly brought the mail across the shallow Sivash and Gniloe Seas, although they often had to wade to their units, carrying the mail on their backs. Red Army postman Safonov, delivering mail on the First Byelorussian Front, was caught in a strong curtain of enemy fire. Wounded by a shell splinter and bleeding profusely, he delivered the mail before going to a first aid station. Safonov has been awarded the Order of the Red Star.

Mail-carriers Buneyev and Losev were crossing the Narew River on a small bridge built by an assault group. The enemy opened fire on the bridge, destroying it. Both postmen were wounded and flung into the river. Despite their wounds, they swam across and delivered the mail to their unit. Both have been decorated by the Soviet Government.

Daily, in frost and storm and under enemy fire, tens of thousands of military postmen bravely and modestly carry on their work.

Studying Art at the Front

By I. Ostrovsky

Yulia Obolenskaya, who teaches correspondence courses in drawing and painting at the Moscow House of People's Art, recently received a letter from Red Army man Ivan Shaptali.

"I took a first course in art with you," Shaptali wrote. "The war interrupted my work. I joined the Red Army, experiencing the bitterness of retreat and the joy of advance. I helped defend Odessa, fought twice in the Crimea, then on the Don and in the battle for Stalingrad, and twice forced the Dnieper. What I am trying to say is that the accursed Germans have given me no chance to practice drawing or painting. I ask you to kindly send me an assignment which I can carry out between battles."

Shaptali's pencil sketches, mainly scenes of the everyday life of Red Army men, indicate talent and craftsmanship.

Another student of correspondence courses in drawing and painting is Vladimir Panin, who was so deeply stirred by the Maidanek death camp that he devoted a whole series of water colors to this subject: "Burning of Children," "Seeking Refuge," "Unsuccessful Escape," "Soldier, Avenge!" and others. The most expressive and tragic composition is "Unsuccessful Escape," portraying a prisoner caught in a barbed-wire entanglement and killed by an electric current. The horror in the face of this victim of Hitlerite fiendishness is powerfully expressed.

Red Army man Ivan Druge is only 22. His father was a collective farmer in the Ukraine, and he writes that he has never seen a real "live" artist. But his psychologically restrained portraits convey graphically the characteristic traits of every face he has drawn.

Private Alexei Pismenny was wounded and hospitalized. While convalescing he sent a number of sketches to the House of People's Art, depicting life in the hospital. One superbly drawn portrait of a nurse was highly praised by the well-known Soviet artists, the Kukriniksi trio. It has been acquired by a purchasing commission for a forthcoming exhibit to be called "The War Through the Eyes of Its Participants."

Another picture bought for this exhibit is a Leningrad landscape in oils by the brothers Vasili and Vladimir Kulikov. Red Army men. In this harvest landscape, the senses the buoyant mood and warmth of a bright midday. Another painting by the brother artists—"Outskirts of Leningrad"—reveals against the background of a serene and sunny day the solitary, shattered ruins of a few surviving houses.

The correspondence courses of the House of People's Art, initiated in 1929, have justified themselves. Hundreds of soldier students have received excellent training and the possibility of becoming professional artists, the dream of every student. The importance of the course to the men at the front is evident in another letter to one of the teachers. Red Army man Alexander Fenin writes:

"When I returned from a battle mission last evening, I was handed two letters—one from my wife and one from you. I was terribly tired, yet these two letters put so much life into me that I started to dance. In my thoughts I went home again at my easel and beloved pictures. There is plenty of material here, especially themes based on accumulated hatred for the fascist beasts who have no mercy on anyone. I want to become a real artist so that I can record for posterity the monstrous images of the Hitlerite criminals."

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Major Operations of the Red Army In the Patriotic War

By Major General Nikolai Belayev

Hitler counted upon destroying the Soviet Union by a lightning stroke. But when the heroic resistance of the Red Army thwarted his simultaneous offensive along the whole front, he confined his assault to three sectors, aiming at Moscow, Leningrad and the Caucasus, and attaching the greatest importance to the blow at Moscow. This operational plan enabled Hitler to concentrate large forces in each of these sectors.

Massing a tremendous force, the Germans began their offensive against Moscow, confident that the city would fall into their hands. The Red Army's stubborn and heroic resistance shattered these expectations. The Germans sustained enormous losses and their offensive was soon exhausted.

Hitler then massed an even greater force—51 divisions, including 18 panzer divisions—and in November 1941, launched a second offensive at Moscow. This suffered the fate of the first, and the enemy was stopped at the distant approaches to the Capital.

While the Red Army was defending Moscow, the Soviet Command was preparing a counter-blow. The plan for this blow was drawn up under the direction of Marshal Stalin, who selected the time for its execution, and directed the operation. It was a signal success.

In continuous fighting lasting 40 days—from December 6, 1941 to January 15, 1942—the Germans were defeated and flung back west of Moscow, at some points as much as 400 kilometers, sustaining 300,000 casualties in killed alone, and losing thousands of guns, tanks and aircraft.

The victory was of outstanding significance. Hitler's hopes of defeating the

Soviet Union by blitzkrieg were frustrated, and a protracted war began. The myth of the invincibility of the German army was dispelled, and the spirits of the democratic peoples rose.

Stalingrad Battle

After this defeat, Hitler felt it wiser to renounce further frontal assaults on the Soviet Capital, deciding instead to bring about its fall by a gigantic out-flanking movement. His plan was to make a dash to the Volga, sever that life-artery of the Soviet Union, seize Stalingrad, and then turn northward along the Volga, cut off Moscow from its rear, and capture it. For this purpose he mustered huge forces.

The German offensive began in the middle of July, 1942. But this plan of Hitler's also failed. The heroic resistance at Stalingrad continued for several months. Then, in the middle of November, the

Red Army launched a powerful counter-blow at the Germans, who had driven their spearhead into Stalingrad. The German flanks were shattered, and on November 22, 1942, a solid ring was closed around their forces outside Stalingrad.

The attempts of large forces of enemy reserves to break through to rescue their surrounded group were beaten off, and on February 2, 1943, the mopping-up process was completed. For this adventurous gamble, Hitler paid with the lives of 850,000 of his men and officers, while another 343,000 were taken prisoner.

The Red Army pursued the defeated enemy, thereby ushering in a new phase of the Patriotic War of the Soviet people—a phase marked by the wholesale ejection of the enemy from the Soviet Union.

But it was the battle of Kursk, in the summer of 1943, which definitely forced the Germans to pass from offensive to defensive.



Radiophoto

ON THE SECOND BYELORUSSIAN FRONT—Soviet gunners firing at German fortified positions

At the beginning of the summer of 1943, the Red Army's front formed a deep salient wedged into the Germans' positions, with its center at Kursk. This salient constituted a serious threat to the Germans and prevented them from undertaking large-scale operations either in the north or south. Hitler therefore decided to reduce this salient by blows at its base from north and south, to cut it off from the general front lines, and then to launch another offensive against Moscow. A force of 17 German armored divisions, three motorized divisions and 18 infantry divisions was massed for this purpose.

The offensive began on July 5, 1943, and continued for a little over two weeks. It ended in complete failure. The Germans wore themselves out in fruitless attacks; between July 5 and 23, they lost 70,000 men in killed alone, 2,100 tanks, more than 1,000 guns and about 1,500 aircraft.

Having thus decimated the enemy in defensive operations, the Red Army in turn passed to the offensive, striking its main blow at the Germans' Orel salient, and another at Belgorod. On August 5, both of these cities were captured. German casualties and materiel losses from July 5 to August 6 were enormous: over 130,000 killed and taken prisoner, and upwards of 5,000 tanks and about 2,500 guns captured.

The battle of Kursk was a vivid demonstration of the growing strength of the Red Army, which despite the absence of a second front in Europe was able within a short period to destroy a huge enemy army. It marked a turning point in the war, when the Red Army definitely passed from strategical defense to active offense.

Victories of 1944-45

All Red Army operations in 1944 were remarkable, and it is difficult to give the palm to any one of them. In conception and execution, as well as in the heroism of the troops, all were brilliant, and all were of paramount military and political significance. They entitle us to call 1944 the year of decisive Red Army victories.

As a result of these victories, the liberation of the territory of the Soviet Union was completed, and hostilities carried beyond its borders. These great victories were the prelude to the liberation of Poland and Czechoslovakia; they knocked



WINTER SPORTS SEASON IN GERMANY—A mass cross-country run from Berlin to Munich

Cartoon by Boris Efimov,
from *Krasnaya Zvezda*

Finland, Rumania and Bulgaria—Germany's satellites—out of the war against the United Nations and led them to declare war on Nazi Germany. Lastly, as a

result of these operations the war was carried to German soil in East Prussia, and into Hungary, last of Germany's satellites.

The Red Army operations begun in January, 1945, have no equal in history for their scale, speed and results. They have led to the complete liberation of Poland, the further liberation of Czechoslovak territory, and have made deep incursions into the lair of the fascist beast in East Prussia, Pomerania, Brandenburg and Silesia.

This enumeration covers the principal milestones on the victorious path of the Red Army in its great Patriotic War. They testify to the continuous growth of the power and might of the Red Army and the continuous perfection of the Soviet art of war, based on the finest military traditions of the Soviet people and on Marshal Stalin's science of victory.

A GREAT MOMENT

By Academician Eugene Tarle

Great news has come to us from the Crimea. The end is approaching for the German nightmare which, except for brief intervals, has hung over Europe for exactly 75 years.

"Might is above right! We shall build up our Empire with blood and iron!" These are the words of Bismarck, creator of the German empire. And since 1870, all European diplomacy has lived and acted in the shadow of German blackmail and in dread of German threats; all Europe has looked with constant alarm at Berlin.

"Berlin has been created for manslaughter!" This prophecy of our great satirist, Saltykov-Shchedrin, who observed the Germans at the very beginning of this long 75-year period, has been fully borne out.

There was one brief moment, at the end of 1918, when it seemed that Bismarck's accursed child—Prussia—which had swollen into Germany, had at last drowned in defeat, in disgrace, in a sea of blood. But a few years passed, and once again arose—more hideous than ever—that robber dream of enslaving Europe, of conquering all of Russia from the Niemen to Vladivostok, cherished by the

German "supermen," by the Berlin "organizers" of total pillage of foreign lands.

And once again the world was flooded with blood. Hitler, gloating beforehand, shrieked over the radio that he was ushering in the "1,000-year reign of Germany's victorious sword," and that he, Hitler, would give Europe a "new order."

But it did not work! The Red Army is nearing Berlin, whose fate is sealed.

In the Crimea, the leaders of freedom-loving mankind have already pronounced their final sentence. The robber den will be stamped out—this time in earnest, and for good. No subterfuges, no lies and no intrigues will avail Germany. The formidable alliance of the three great world powers, facing her fully armed, is firmer than ever. An end has come to the fascist nightmare.

Eternal glory and eternal gratitude to our heroic Red Army and the Armies of our Allies!

The memory of those days in the Crimea when the leaders of the three greatest nations of the globe solemnly proclaimed they would not sheathe the sword until the vile German monster is utterly crushed, will shine forever with unfading brilliance.

THE SOVIET MARINES

By Senior Lieutenant L. Ivich

Numerically the Marines form but a small part of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union, but they have earned the affection and admiration of the entire country.

Marine detachments operate on nearly all sectors of the front. In the early days of the war we saw them near Odessa and Leningrad, near Moscow and Rostov. When the Nazi hordes reached the gates of Stalingrad they found the Marines there too, fighting alongside the Red Army men.

During defensive operations, the Marines fought in the most dangerous sectors, and when the Red Army took the offensive they were constantly in the foreground.

Glorious Traditions of Russian Marines Multiplied During Patriotic War

The Russian Marines have a long and interesting history. Formed during the reign of Peter I, they grew and developed with the Russian Navy. During the Napoleonic war, the splendid landing operations of the Russian Marines caused a sensation in Europe. The Naval officers who conducted these operations—Voinovich, Pustoshin and Belli—became famous in other countries as well as in Russia. A descendant of Belli is now serving in the Soviet Navy, with the rank of Vice Admiral.

In 1798, Russian Marines, operating in conjunction with a British squadron under Admiral Nelson during landing operations on the Ionian Islands, took Corfu Island.

In those battles and in numerous others, the Russian Marines established their glorious traditions—traditions which have been multiplied many times by the Soviet Marines during the Patriotic War.

In numerous landing operations, when the seizure of a bridgehead on the enemy coast determined the outcome of an engagement, the Marines were always in the first group to obtain a foothold. It was they who formed the daring detachments (similar to the British commandos) which not only reconnoitered enemy defense

zones, but inflicted heavy casualties and struck panic into the foe. It is not surprising that the Germans nicknamed them the "black devils," "striped devils," "black clouds," and "sea devils."

Kurt Weinmear, a German prisoner, stated on interrogation: "The sight of the striped devils gave us a queer feeling. Our soldiers are terribly afraid of the Russian Marines." Admissions of this kind from the enemy are the most convincing proof of the effectiveness of the Marines.

Courage and Resourcefulness Exemplify Soviet Marines

A few examples of recent operations show the courage and resourcefulness of Soviet Marines.

A group of Marines were ordered to land on the coast of the distant Northern port of Liinahamari. In single file their motorboats proceeded at full speed. From the coastal heights, enemy artillery, and mortars and machine guns camouflaged in granite blockhouses, met the landing party with a rain of fire. The small Soviet craft replied. Maneuvering amid the fountains of water raised by shells, they headed for the coast.

Against all opposition, the Marines finally broke through and landed, immediately engaging the enemy. The detachment commander of the first party was wounded. Senior Sergeant Ivan Katorzhny, who wore two decorations for bravery in previous landing operations, took over command, leading his men into action.

The dash and skill of the handful of Marines proved more than a match for the Germans. In a short time the enemy's telephone communications were cut and the German pillboxes on the coast blasted. This daring attack demoralized the foe; the Nazis wavered. Taking advantage of their confusion, the platoon under Sergeant Katorzhny drove a deep wedge into the enemy's positions, considerably weakening his fire and thus enabling other parties to approach and land without casualties.

After this Katorzhny's platoon penetrated still deeper, seizing the dominating height of the locality. In this battle,

Katorzhny alone accounted for more than a score of Nazi soldiers.

During the night the Germans made several attempts to retrieve the lost height, but the Marines repelled all attacks and held on until the main force arrived. They then set out in pursuit, overrunning Liinahamari. Katorzhny has received the highest award of the country, the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

There are many men like Ivan Katorzhny in the ranks of Soviet Marines. During the battle for Liinahamari, a detachment under Captain Ivan Barchenko also distinguished itself. Landing a day ahead of the main force, Barchenko and his Marines covered more than 30 kilometers along cliffs in the enemy rear. A fierce snowstorm swept the men off their feet, and it was bitterly cold. The path of the detachment lay through inaccessible gorges and steep, slippery slopes.

The Germans were utterly unprepared for this attack from the rear. The Marines surrounded them. The Nazis counter-attacked five times, and each time were forced to fall back, abandoning their wounded. Soon afterward, they surrendered.

Five hours after the battle, the Soviet detachment was transferred to the port of Liinahamari. Although the Marines had had no rest for four days, they carried out this assignment most effectively. Landing at the southern edge of the port, they dislodged the Germans and firmly established themselves in their new position.

Many members of the detachment were awarded orders for their courage, and Captain Barchenko was named Hero of the Soviet Union.

In every battle—whether it is a feint landing, reconnaissance operation, capture of a strongpoint, or a raid—the Marines invariably display courage, selflessness, contempt for death, and unusual ability to get out of difficult situations. And this is not surprising, for the Soviet Marine possesses all the splendid qualities of the Soviet seamen, as well as the skill and valor of the ground forces.

MARSHAL IVAN S. KONEV

Forty times Moscow has saluted the troops under Marshal Ivan S. Konev, who led his men over the road of war from the gates of Moscow to the heart of Hitler's lair. Ivan Konev is one of the national heroes of the USSR.

The 48-year-old Marshal was born into a simple peasant family. He received his higher military education after the Soviet Revolution. During the war he has shown himself a talented strategist, winning the Marshal's Star and the Gold Star of a Hero of the Soviet Union.

Ivan Konev has served 27 years in the Red Army, which he joined as a volunteer in 1918. He began his soldier's career in Siberia, where Admiral Kolchak's anti-Soviet army was then operating. Young Konev was soon appointed commander of an armored train. For bravery in battle he received his first military award—the Order of the Red Banner.

Today nine decorations for valor and strategic skill sparkle on Marshal Konev's tunic. He has a typically Russian face, attractive primarily because of his bright, intelligent twinkling eyes and strong mouth, with its hidden smile at the corners. He knows English and other Euro-



Marshal Konev, Commander of the First Ukrainian Front

pean languages, and in his rare hours of leisure reads foreign military books and fiction.

In the summer of 1943, the first salute sounded in Moscow in honor of the expulsion of the Germans from Orel and Belgorod; in honor of the beginning of the great counter-offensive of the Red Army. Konev, at that time an army general, was one of the heroes of this brilliant victory, which signaled the end of

the last German attempt at an offensive in Russia.

After this, Konev, aided by the troops of two other fronts, won another grand victory, liberating Kharkov, second capital of the Ukraine. The Germans were still furiously shelling the abandoned city when Konev entered, followed by his troops.

A year ago—February 17, 1944—the whole world learned of the annihilation of the German Eighth Army in a pocket on the bank of the Dnieper. This was the work of Generals Konev and the late Nikolai Vatutin, liberator of Kiev. With a powerful pincers they cut off a huge salient of the front and closed a trap on 10 enemy divisions. After this operation, the highest military title, Marshal of the Soviet Union, was conferred upon Konev.

Marshal Konev was the first to reach the Soviet State frontier on the Prut River. He cleared the western Ukraine of the enemy and entered Poland, liberating her from the German oppressors.

Thirty-five days ago, from the Sandomierz bridgehead on the Vistula, Konev opened the present offensive against Hitler Germany.

THEATER OF WAR

MARSHAL KONEV'S HEADQUARTERS, February 16: Soviet troops are swiftly approaching the Spree River, which flows through Berlin. Having captured Sommerfeld, Marshal Konev's forces are now within 20 miles of Cottbus, an important center of German resistance on the Spree River, and the Breslau-Berlin Railway.

With the capture of the towns of Naumburg, Sommerfeld, Sorau and 150 other points, the troops of the First Ukrainian Front, advancing from the southeast, came abreast of the Armies of the First Byelorussian Front under Marshal Zhukov, fighting on the approaches to Berlin from the east.

The German command is feverishly throwing in fresh divisions, but all German attempts to check the Russians fail. The latter, in very heavy battles, are rapidly developing the offensive. The 750

German planes captured by Marshal Konev's troops on airdromes in the past five days are indicative of the pace of the Russian offensive which is progressing under the unusually unfavorable conditions of an unexpectedly early spring. It is raining, and fields and roads are turned into mud. River bridges are blown up by the retreating Germans. The area abounds in dense forests, which form a difficult barrier for the advancing troops.

* * *

A KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent with Marshal Zhukov's Headquarters writes:

The unexpected thaw has melted the snow. Our plane took off with difficulty from the muddy ground. The weather improved, and visibility was good. Below spread Brandenburg, central province of

Germany. We flew over a highway, where infantry, tanks and endless lines of supply trains rolled westward like a river, fanning out into the central regions of Germany.

The smoke of conflagrations still blankets towns and villages. Loaded trains stand motionless at stations; the Germans had no chance to carry away their property. They were getting ready to flee, but the Russian tankists showed greater speed.

The highway winds toward a forest. Light armored cars and indefatigable Studebakers speed along. A squadron of Stormoviks passes to the right of us, heading over the forest. An endless gray ribbon stretches along the road. The pilot dives to have a better look. It is a line of German war prisoners taken in previous battles.

Red Army Infantrymen

By Lieutenant Colonel Mikhail Yuriev

No matter how good the Soviet tanks, guns and aircraft; no matter how brave the tankists, gunners and pilots—they cannot get along without the infantry, which is always on hand to assist them and to secure their advance.

In the war against the Nazi invaders, the Red Army infantry has shown amazing courage and persistence. It has proved stubborn in defense and tireless on the march; in the offensive it has dislodged the enemy and driven him before it.

To the infantry falls the main and most arduous task—only the infantry can consolidate and hold a captured position. It is the infantry which finally decides the outcome of a battle.

"Where a deer cannot pass, the Russian soldier will get through; where one gets through, a company will pass, and where a company passes, a detachment will follow," said the great Russian General Suворov. At that time, Russian soldiers had already covered themselves with glory by crossing the Alps.

The Red Army has added fresh pages of glory to the history of the Russian soldier of Suворov's time.

Infantry Training

The Soviet Union, whose vast territory includes every variety of climate and terrain, provides excellent year-round training conditions for infantrymen. The encouragement of sports, to which the Government has paid great attention in past

years, has developed large numbers of splendid skiers, sharpshooters, swimmers and mountain climbers for the Red Army.

A Soviet soldier is trained to cross every obstacle—mountain, ravine, swamp, woodland or river. A cliff where a tank cannot go will be climbed by the Red Army man, who will carry his weapons with him. In the Carpathians, there were times when Soviet soldiers ascended steep peaks, dragging their guns after them, and attacked the Germans from heights which had seemed completely inaccessible to man.

Soviet infantry recently forced a river with a current so swift it was impossible for a man to wade it and keep his balance. Corporal Sergei Malishkin cut a long pole to use as a staff. Tying a rope around his waist and giving an end to his fellow-soldiers, he waded into the river. Before he reached the middle, he was knocked down by the current. His comrades dragged him back. Again he tried, with the same luck. With the third attempt, he reached the other bank and made fast his end of the rope. With the rope for support, the rest of the unit waded across.

In the area of Siauliai and Yelgava, Red Army tanks advanced at the rate of 60 to 80 kilometers a night. The infantry did not lag behind; in scorching sun, over roads plowed by shell fire, the men marched day and night, without rest or

sleep, until they reached the objective. During the push to the shores of the Baltic, the infantry made a fighting advance of almost 200 kilometers in four days, upsetting the Nazis' plans of establishing themselves in new positions.

The infantryman is frequently called a "trench-man"—because the earth is his armor. If the number of cubic meters of soil dug by Soviet infantrymen to build trenches were calculated, it would probably equal the world's largest mountain.

Infantry Against Tanks

But the labors of the infantry in digging-in in captured territory have enabled them to hold occupied positions against the most powerful counter-attacks. On one sector of the front, a Soviet infantry company was attacked by a German battalion supported by tanks. The Red Army men repulsed the attack. The Germans counter-attacked nine times in one day, but were finally routed after losing seven tanks and nearly 100 tommy gunners. Such is the unyielding stubbornness of the Soviet infantryman—a trench soldier whose armor is the earth.

But the Soviet infantryman is known above all for his skill and power in assault and hand-to-hand fighting. There is no more impressive moment in an engagement than when the ranks of infantry rise, and above the roar of battle you hear the mighty Russian "Hurrah!"

The infantry has gone into action.



Radiophoto

Red Army infantrymen of the First Baltic Front advancing to attack an enemy-held populated place

'THE DAWN IS AHEAD'

By Konstantin Simonov

Before the war, Dusya Zhelyabova operated a baby spotlight in a movie studio. At the will of the cameraman she focused the blinding white light—now on the sets, now on the floor, and now on the actors.

For eight years Dusya worked in the movie studio. It was under her "baby spot" that the star of the film *Circus*, Lubov Orlova, ran away, clutching her black son to her breast; that the actor Dmitri Cherkassov raised his sword to lead the Russian troops against the Livonian knights in *Alexander Nevsky*; and that the actor, Boris Shchukin, played the role of Lenin in makeup so perfect that people gasped when they met him in the studio corridors.

Dusya knew all the actors by their first names, and she treasured the couple of miles of film made up of cuts from all the pictures she had helped to make.

Then the war began. The studio and its mountains of equipment were evacuated. The train traveled a long, long time—almost forever, it seemed to Dusya—until they came to a city in Central Asia. There the freight car came to a stop, and they went no further.

At first the studio found quarters in a small, inconvenient building in a corner of the ancient city. It was a difficult time. One alarming report after another came from the front. The electricity was turned on for only a few hours during the night—and not even every night, for all current was needed for the evacuated war plants.

No full-length pictures were made; only shorts with war themes. As yet, no one really knew how to film the war. But it was a war everyone wanted to film, and every picture was full of shooting and running around and getting killed.

In this town there was nothing with which to make such pictures. There were no tanks . . . they had all left for the front. There were no airplanes, for the same reason. There were no German helmets, uniforms, or weapons, because we had as yet taken very few German prisoners. And finally, there was no fuel to heat the studio, and in off moments the actors huddled around Dusya's "baby

spot" to thaw out their frozen fingers. Almost all the electricians had left for the front.

Early in the morning, Dusya would return to the barracks which had become the studio's bunking headquarters and throw herself on her cot without taking off her boots or the quilted jacket and trousers she wore for work. Closing her eyes, she would think her unhappy thoughts.

More and more frequently, especially as the news from the front became more disturbing, Dusya thought that everything she and those around her were doing, was futile and unnecessary; that the only real business was out there at the front, where most of her comrades had gone. One day in the spring of 1942 she went to the Red Army Headquarters and signed up.

When she came to say goodbye to her friends at the studio, the director of the picture on which she had been working—a fat, noisy fellow with a tendency to bawl everyone out—suddenly looked at her unhappily and said:

"Too bad . . . too bad."

But he offered no objection. He only looked at her again and said:

"I also asked to be sent, but they refused. They said it was more important that I stay on here to do this." He nodded toward the set in the corner—a building with a sign over the entrance in a foreign language. The studio was making a picture about the resistance movement in one of the occupied countries of Europe.

In her present frame of mind, this picture struck Dusya as being particularly unnecessary.

"Western Europe, indeed!" she thought. "The Germans have taken Kharkov."

With a last reluctant look at the director, Dusya extended a hand that was long and narrow like a board and said goodbye.

* * *

It was a dark and silent night in Belgrade. That very morning the last of the Germans had been shot out of the attics where they had entrenched themselves. The fighting had already moved beyond the Danube and the Sava, and

now utter silence reigned in the city deafened by seven days of battle.

The general in charge of the Rifle Division which had taken the southern section of the city had a passion for music. He loved music to an extent that seemed strange in one of his age and position. As a boy he had been a member of a church choir for several years, and perhaps this accounted for his love of singing. But whatever it was, anyone in his division who had a voice and could sing was for him someone apart. The General knew not only the last name of such a person, but his first name and patronymic as well. He paid special attention to the singer and even tried to spare him to whatever extent was possible, here where there were neither headquarters of the front nor headquarters of the army, but only the Rifle Division.

With or without the right, despite the absence of official provision for such a group, the General organized a small song and dance ensemble, rating its members as hospital assistants. When things were quiet the musicians and dancers stayed in the rear of the division. When things were hot, they carried the wounded from the field of battle.

Belgrade was taken. And as is usually the case with the infantry, they were to keep right on going, crossing the Danube the following morning and advancing to the north.

But the General wanted to mark that day somehow. And remembering his ensemble, he decided to hold a concert in the National Theater, the largest of the theaters remaining intact in Belgrade. As always happens, the news spread rapidly and that evening a larger audience gathered than was expected.

Many Yugoslav officers and guerrillas came. Members of the War Council of the Army came, and some members from the political department of the front, and two generals from the tank corps, and a couple of correspondents.

The night was very dark and very quiet, making the bustle around the entrance to the theater particularly noticeable. Jeeps and other machines drew up at the entrance one after another. The driv-

ers called to each other and noisily slammed the doors of their cars. Tommy-gunners walked up and down the sidewalk, dotting the pavement with white circles of light from their flashlights.

* * *

Dusya Zhelyabova, along with the other members of the ensemble, walked about the stage behind the closed curtain, deciding who would stand where, how to place the accordion players and how to move the piano back so as to allow more space for dancing.

Everyone was excited. They were unusually tense tonight because during the fighting of the preceding nights they had not slept, because this was a strange city—and particularly because their best dancer, Sergeant Larikov, had been wounded the day before, and Olya Solomina, the girl who usually sang their lyrics, had been killed.

Dusya had joined the ensemble only three months before, and quite by chance. One evening she had been singing to members of the battalion in which she was a Red Cross instructor. She was singing songs of her native Samara. At that moment the General had driven up and listened to her. He asked her to sing for him. Two days later he ordered that Dusya be included in the ensemble.

Usually she sang her native folksongs, or Volga songs, to the accompaniment of an accordion. But tonight, now that Olya had been killed, she would have to sing for both of them. She was unhappy at the thought of Olya, and nervous as to how she would sing. Hearing the noise of the people gathering in the theater, she went to the curtain and peeked through.

There were many familiar faces out there, but more unfamiliar ones. Three-quarters of the auditorium was filled with the greenish uniforms of the Yugoslav guerrillas. In the front row sat several Yugoslav priests in black cassocks with large crosses on their breasts.

The Red Army men were silent. Their faces showed the exhaustion of the seven-day battle, but they sat patiently awaiting the concert—not speaking, doing nothing to break the silence.

At last the curtains parted. First, two accordionists played "The Moon Is Shining" and a Liszt prelude. Then there was a dance in which almost the entire en-

semble took part. At the end of the first half, Dusya was to sing her folksongs, and then the songs that Olya usually sang.

Dusya noticed that the audience was receiving her comrades with generous applause . . . as though not to hurt anyone's feelings, they kept each performer on the stage as long as possible.

When her turn came, Dusya was perfectly calm. She knew that everything would be all right. She sang a Saratov folksong, then the ditty, "If the Volga Overflows—the Volga, Mother River." She sang gaily, and from the corner of her eye she could see that even the Yugoslav priests sitting in the front row smiled after each number and loudly applauded.

But as the time approached for her to sing Olya Solomina's songs, she became more and more disturbed. The moment came soon enough. The first song began:

What are you longing for, sailor boy, sailor boy?

Why is your accordion sighing and sobbing?"

Olya had always sung this song with particular feeling, and suddenly Dusya felt that she could not sing it. In a panic she looked into the audience, and in that moment she realized fully, for the first time, that this was a foreign country, that this was Belgrade, that in this hall three-fourths of the audience were Yugoslavs . . . people who spoke a language which, while resembling hers, was still a foreign tongue.



Radiophoto
Mikhail Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, presents the Order of the Red Banner to Colonel General O. Gorodovikov—in recognition of his long and distinguished service in the Red Army

It was probably that sudden realization which sent her thoughts back to the cold studio in Central Asia and the face of the director when he said, "It is more important that I stay on here and do this." She remembered the sets of the building, with the foreign sign over the entrance, and the words of the song from that picture—a song that everyone in the studio was singing at the time.

And as unexpectedly for herself as for her friends and everyone in the audience, Dusya took a step forward and, closing her eyes, softly began to sing that song.

The night over Belgrade is silent.

Its silence replaces the day.

*Remember the nights that were violent,
The skies in their battle array.*

*Remember the charging, the fleeing,
The horror that lasted so long.*

*Now listen with all of your being,
For the night is singing its song.*

Flames of hate our steps have led.

*The hour has come, vengeance is rife.
Blood for blood and life for life!*

To battle, Slavs! The dawn is ahead!

She sang the first and second verses, standing there with closed eyes, not looking at the audience. She sang . . . oblivious of the words, not noticing them.

In those moments she was reliving the cold winter days of that first year of the war. She was back in that city in Central Asia, reading newspaper reports ending, "After stubborn fighting, our troops withdrew from —." She was in that unheated studio in which at that time—heavens, how long ago it seemed!—yes, even at that time, when the papers were printing those ominous words, the studio was making a picture about the very city in which she was now singing.

"As though anyone could have believed then that in three years we should be in Belgrade . . . as though anyone could have guessed or foreseen such a thing," thought Dusya.

And at the same time she thought, "Yes, they could. Someone knew and planned and guessed and foresaw. And for that reason refused to let the director go to the front, but told him to go on making his picture. There was a person who foresaw that, just as he foresaw thousands of other things . . . big things and

little things. It must have been so, otherwise nothing could have turned out as it had during these years."

She finished her song and opened her eyes. The audience was silent, as though under a spell.

Then something took place that had never happened to Dusya before. The people began to clap. They clapped louder and louder. Then they began to shout, and one by one to stand up and again clap. Now the entire audience was standing, clapping.

Helplessly, like a child, she raised her hands to the clapping, shouting people. They fell silent as suddenly and obediently as they had suddenly and stormily risen to their feet. And in that silence Dusya wanted to tell them something of what she just remembered.

"This song," she said, stepping forward, "is from a film about your Belgrade. We made that picture three years ago, far from here, when we were evacuated to Central Asia. At that time it was very cold and unpleasant and difficult. The Germans had taken Kharkov. And they were at the gates of Moscow. But we made that picture anyway. I worked in the movie studio then."

The fact that she mentioned herself made Dusya self-conscious. Stepping back, she said in confusion, "And so . . . well . . . I'll sing it again."

* * *

On the large stage of the National Theater in Belgrade stood a small, unattractive girl in uniform and rough, worn boots. She sang in an uncertain voice, whose clear tones were heard to break. She sang, "Night Over Belgrade."

As she sang, some of the people in the auditorium wept. People wept who for three and a half years had been guerrillas, living at the edge of death.

When I remember all that now, I realize that perhaps Dusya's singing was not very good. But the people wept.

That is all I wanted to say.

Except that when they send our films to Yugoslavia, let them be sure to send that short war feature called "Night Over Belgrade." It may not be particularly good, but it reveals the force of our hoping and our gift of foresight.

Such things touch the human heart like the finest art.

The Dogs Enlist

By Antonina Shapovalova

The two boys riding beside me in the streetcar were excited about something. They began chattering to me.

"We've just given Bobik to Osoaviakhim." (Society for Chemical and Air Defense).

"Who is Bobik?"

"Our dog," the younger replied.

"What kind of dog?"

"Oh, I forget—he was just a dog."

The passengers began to laugh and the boys heatedly explained that Bobik was a remarkable dog, that they had trained him to carry out orders and he was now going to study at a real Army school. The older boy added that Osoaviakhim would give them another dog, a pedigreed pup, to train at home.

Soon after this, I visited the central offices of Osoaviakhim and met Fedor Burdelny, manager of the communications department, who has charge of the club for dog trainers, to which the little boys belonged.

"Our society began to breed dogs for the Red Army in 1925," he told me. "At first we ran our own kennels, but we later realized it would be easier and better to have the pups raised in private homes. We distribute them and provide funds for feeding them. The owner usually does most of the training, and the dog receives special training only when he is taken for Army service.

"We once tried to give the dogs special training, but found it difficult to foresee what specific training would be necessary.

"Therefore the dogs in our charge are divided into two groups, for breeding purposes and for Army service. The former remain with their owners, and each owner promises to give us at least six pups a year, but we usually receive more."

"You've been speaking about pedigreed dogs, but what about mongrels?"

"The war has proved the possibility of using any dog, regardless of breed. Our Army dog must be at least 50 centimeters tall and have a thick coat to protect him from the frost.

"Naturally we prefer pedigreed dogs and encourage the breeding of German police dogs, Airdales, Doberman Pinschers, and Turkmenian, Caucasian and South Russian collies.

Service in Medical and Signal Corps

"The dogs serve mainly with medical battalions and the Signal Corps, where they run ahead with field telephone wire. Service with medical battalions is more complex; the dogs hunt for wounded in the woods or bushes. Each dog has a stick tied around his neck; if he finds a wounded man he grabs the stick in his mouth and dashes back to the advanced medical post. This is the signal for an orderly to follow the dog back to the wounded man.

"Medical service dogs have first-aid kits fastened to their bodies. If a wounded man is in condition to dress his own wounds, he makes use of the kit.

"The dogs are also widely used to transport wounded; in summer they are harnessed to wheeled litters and in winter to sleighs. This has saved many men from being wounded a second time, which sometimes happens when they are being carried off the field by an orderly or stretcher-bearer. The dogs return to the battlefield with munitions and food."

Information Bulletin

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27 YEARS OF THE RED ARMY AND NAVY

1918



1945

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Soviet War Poster

ON TO BERLIN!

From a message by Mikhail Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, on the occasion of the Red Army's 27th Anniversary:

For the fourth time in the course of this Patriotic War, the Red Army is celebrating its birthday in the midst of a fierce struggle on the war fronts.

Our Red Army men and officers have expended much effort and energy in the defense of the country for whose sake so many fine lives have been sacrificed. In their obtruse arrogance the Germans thought to repeat their piratical raids of the past on the Soviet Union, and haughtily believed they would avoid the errors which in their opinion were committed in past wars on Russia.

On this 27th birthday of the Red Army we can proudly record for posterity that we, like our forefathers, have upheld with credit the frontiers of our country, and

that now our troops are pursuing the enemy on his own territory, striking blow after blow at him.

The Red Army's successes are not fortuitous; they are due to the Soviet system which provides the Army with modern weapons in larger quantities and of better quality than the enemy's, to the deep devotion of all the Soviet people to their country, and their readiness to dedicate all their strength to the defense of its honor, liberty and independence.

The Red Army's successes follow from the firm alliance of the three great powers, from their common efforts at the front and in the rear. They are backed by the blows dealt not only by our Army, but also by the Armies of our Allies which are steadily moving forward to meet it.

Our military successes owe their value to the fact that they are cemented by the common aim of the Allies to defeat Ger-

many as a constant fomenter of wars and an insatiable aggressor with regard to its neighbors. It may be confidently said that day is not distant when the German aggressor will be compelled to acknowledge himself utterly beaten and to surrender unconditionally.

The aim of the United Nations is the noble one of establishing an enduring peace among nations, promoting on this basis the welfare of all peoples and developing and strengthening democracy.

Our Red Army, its men, officers and generals, know that the German beast is ferociously fighting back and trying hard to save its skin. But the torments of our girls enslaved in Germany, the tears of mothers bewailing their slain children, the blood of millions annihilated with unexampled cruelty, are a call to our Army to fight until the fascist fiends are completely vanquished.

LENIN AND STALIN, ORGANIZERS OF THE RED ARMY

The Red Army's 27th birthday finds it in the flower of its strength and might, and crowned with the laurels of victory.

The Red Army was created and molded by Lenin and Stalin. The two names are inseparably connected with it; they are intimately associated with its rise, development and growth, with its moral strength and its military science and skill, its structure and mode of action.

Lenin and Stalin were the organizers and leaders of the Red Army. From the very inception of the Soviet regime, Lenin stressed the necessity and urgency of the formation of the Red Army.

Lenin and Stalin devoted all their organizing talent to building up the Red Army at the fastest possible speed. This was no easy matter in those days. There was no experience in forming such an army, there was a lack of military experts, the country was in a state of economic chaos, the people were worn out by three years of imperialist war, and the Soviet machinery of administration was only just taking shape. The internal and external enemies of the Soviet Government lost no time in making war on the Soviet Republic. First among them were the German imperialists.

The Red Army had to be built in the midst of the Civil War, at a time when the Soviet Republic was a besieged fortress. But all these difficulties did not prevent Lenin and Stalin from creating an Army which fully justified the hopes reposed in it.

In the Red Army, Lenin and Stalin created a military organization of a new type. The Red Army was the product of the Great October Socialist Revolution, an instrument of justice, of the emancipatory home and foreign policy of the Soviet State. This predetermined its character, its specific features and its historical mission.

It was an Army of the workers and peasants who had triumphed in the Revolution, the protector of their interests and of their revolutionary gains. The Red Army and the Soviet people are therefore one indivisible whole. And this is true not only in the sense that both the commanding officers and the rank and file come from the people; the Red Army



has no other interests or aims except the interests and aims of the people. That the Red Army may act in a way which does not meet with the approval of the masses and which does not correspond to their wishes and desires, is inconceivable.

This identity with the people is the chief and principal feature of the Red Army. The Soviet people love their Army and grudge it nothing.

Lenin and Stalin created and educated the Red Army not only to be the protector of the interests of the Soviet workers and peasants; they made it an Army representing the friendship and brotherhood binding the peoples of the Soviet State. These peoples came to know the Red Army as their liberator, as the defender of the liberty and independence of all the national Soviet Socialist Republics.

This is the second feature of the Red Army, one which assures it the confidence and full support of all peoples and nationalities of the multi-national Soviet Union. To the Red Army, the misanthropic ideology and policy of persecuting other nations, of suppressing their liberties, independence and sovereignty, is fundamentally abhorrent. It is the sincere and honest supporter of those who combat reaction and aggression and fight for the liberty and independence, the peace and progress, of nations.

That is the third feature of the Red Army, and the reason why its deeds and victories are hailed as glad tidings all over the world, by all to whom peace and liberty are precious.

Lenin and Stalin created, molded and educated the Red Army as an army of high principles. They never conceived it otherwise than as an army of politically conscious champions of a just and noble cause—the happiness of their country, the peaceful labor of their people, and the independence and freedom of the oppressed.

Lenin and Stalin were the founders of the Soviet science and art of warfare, which are being so brilliantly demonstrated in the Red Army's fight against the German-fascist aggressors.

In the Civil War, Lenin and Stalin were the inspirers and direct organizers of the Red Army's victories; acting on their plans and orders and under their direction, it won all decisive battles and gained final victory over the whiteguards and armies of intervention.

It was then that the genius of Lenin and Stalin worked out the program and plan of action for the people and Army, which constitute the science of victory. And today, too, in this war against fascist Germany, the Soviet people and their Army are marching to victory under the guidance of Lenin and Stalin.

Lenin is dead, but Lenin lives in his behests, in the ideas and aims of the Red Army, in the science of victory. Under Lenin's standard, Stalin is leading the Soviet people and the Red Army. He inspires, mobilizes, organizes, indicates the program, means and methods, and gives political guidance. He is the real author of the great and historic deeds of the Soviet people in the rear and of the Red Army on the battlefield.

The spirit of Lenin hovers over the Red Army. Stalin is the Lenin of today. To every man in the Red Army, Stalin's name is the call to fight the German-fascist beast to the death, without mercy. Stalin is the Red Army's banner of victory—victory on behalf of the peace and happiness of the Soviet country, victory to rid the freedom-loving nations of the evils and the very existence of Hitler's ultra-reactionary state, of Hitler's marauding army and his "new order" in Europe, which is so hateful to all who love liberty and progress.

MASS HEROISM IN THE RED ARMY

By Major Nikolai Kostrov

A hero is not a superman. Here he is an ordinary Soviet soldier, ready to fight valiantly and to sacrifice himself for a high ideal. At the front one need make no special effort to find a hero—in every company, battery or squadron, one is among heroes.

The Russian people have long been known for their courage. Fearlessness in battle is one of our glorious traditions, whose roots must be sought in the ancient past of our country. But the great past of the Russian soldier pales before what we see on the fronts today.

The Red Army is a new type of army, sprung from a people liberated from the chains of centuries. An epoch of economic and spiritual renaissance has instilled the highest energy into the Soviet man. The Red Army soldier is a man of progress; he is a creator in art, an innovator in labor techniques.

Heroism had become a part of Soviet life long before the war. In the era of peaceful construction it was embodied in giant new structures, in canals, in the

conquest of the Arctic and the air. Labor had become a matter of honor, heroism and glory, rewarded each year by new successes and achievements.

This life of peaceful endeavor was interrupted by the German invasion. Millions of citizens left their factories and farms to take their places in the Red Army. The hero of civilian life became a soldier hero.

During the war the men of the Red Army came to know their own strength. They probed the soul of their adversary. They saw the German for what he is—a seducer, assassin, murderer of children—and they look upon him with burning scorn and deepest hatred. They have seen their cities and villages burned to the ground; they have seen the mutilated bodies of women, children and aged.

A certain unit was asked through its front-line newspaper: "What sorrows have the Germans brought to you personally in this war?" The answers revealed that 300 officers and men had lost 2,228 relatives killed by the Nazis and 229 driven into slavery. Eighty-eight of their native villages and towns had been burned to the ground.

These 300 documents cannot be read without deep emotion. A Byelorussian, Private Shilovich, wrote that 113 people perished in the flames of his once-flourishing village of Perekhodi. Fifty villages in his native district had been completely destroyed. He had lost his parents and kinsmen. Guards Private Mamai, from Ivangorod village, Chernigov Region, revealed that the Hitlerites poured gasoline over 120 old men and women of his village, burning them alive. Guards Sergeant Kochuro's mother, father and two sisters were tortured to death, and his eight-year-old son killed, together with his brother's wife and her two small children.

It is easy to understand how the men of this unit feel about the Germans. The love of the Soviet man for his country is matched by the intensity of his hatred for the enemy who so long tortured his people and desecrated his native soil. The country demands grim retribution for the sufferings wantonly inflicted upon it.

The Soviet soldier draws his spiritual

strength from the close ties existing between him and his people; from the warm love of the people for their defenders. The press tells us instance after instance of workers, farmers and intellectuals giving their savings to increase the might of the Red Army. A battery of guns was recently built with money contributed by Ivan Barinov, a collective farmer, who requested that the guns be turned over to his son at the front. Workers of the Narofominsk district purchased and presented two planes to the brothers Kurzenkov, Heroes of the Soviet Union.

Such examples reveal the deep desire of the people to speed the final victory, and the great love of the workers for their heroes at the front.

The war will not end until the last German gun is silenced. It is the will of the people that the Red Army shall continue to advance. The heroism of that Army deserves the admiration not only of the Soviet people, but of all progressive mankind. It is a source of hope and faith in the final victory over the foe.



Senior Sergeant Alexander Passar, Hero of the Soviet Union—of the Nanaï people, Soviet Far East—a famous hunter who has become an equally famous Red Army scout



Captain Viktor Nagorny, Hero of the Soviet Union, a 22-year-old fighter pilot from the Ukraine, has brought down 23 enemy planes singly and six in group battles

TACTICAL LANDING OPERATIONS OF THE SOVIET NAVY

By Navy Captain Georgi Padalka

The Soviet Navy has carried out scores of landing operations during the present war. With rare exceptions, all were successful and rendered important aid to Red Army troops operating in the maritime sectors.

Conditions of naval warfare on the Soviet-German front did not call for strategic landing operations. This explains the fact that there were few operational landings—as, for example, the landings at Kerch and Feodosia at the end of December, 1941, and the second landing in Kerch at the end of 1943.

Tactical landings were, however, extensively employed. They were carried out in all active naval theaters of the Black, Baltic and Northern Seas, on the Dnieper and Danube Rivers, and on Lakes Ladoga and Onega. The tactical landing operation became one of the principal forms of coordinating operations of the Soviet Navy and the Red Army.

Practice has shown that the tactical landing is always conducted in the interests of land forces. Yet the coordination of operations between ships and land troops was always considered a very complex matter, in view of the sharp differences in tactical and technical elements involved, and their specific features. In no country has the experience of former wars been sufficiently studied, summed up and generalized within the framework of certain tactical rules. This will not be difficult to understand, if it is remembered that as a rule the navy has solved independent tasks; that its operations have rarely been connected directly with the army.

Only during the present war has the Soviet Navy been obliged to coordinate its operations closely with land forces. A new, large and very complicated chapter has been introduced into the operative skill and tactics of naval warfare—the organization of landing operations.

Soviet Navy men have not only assimilated the slight experience afforded by past wars; they have also developed new methods of carrying out landing operations, introduced many innovations, and made a valuable contribution to the tactics of naval warfare.

During the defense of Odessa in 1941, ships of the Black Sea Fleet landed troops in the area of the village of Grigorievka. By striking a blow at the flank of the German-Rumanian group storming Odessa, these troops considerably weakened the enemy pressure, giving Soviet forces the possibility of regrouping, occupying favorable positions and stabilizing the city's defense from the direction of Grigorievka. As a result, the enemy divisions which had already broken through to the city's walls were smashed and beaten back.

Time after time a comparative lull has prevailed for certain periods in a number of coastal sectors of the Soviet-German front. Positional war, in which the principal role is played by artillerymen, snipers and small reconnaissance units, was in progress at such times. During these comparative lulls, Soviet ships frequently landed troops in the enemy rear, with the object of reconnaissance and diversionary action.

The systematic landing of such troops and their subsequent reembarkation enabled the Soviet Army and Naval Command to keep abreast of the enemy's plans and regroupings, and to react in good time.

But tactical landings were employed most extensively during Red Army offensive operations. Pursuing various tactical objectives, these landings were carried out in enemy-occupied ports, as in the case of the liberation of Novorossisk in September, 1943, and of Pinsk and Petrozavodsk in the summer of 1944. On some occasions the landing groups captured a city, holding it until the arrival of the main forces, as at Petrozavodsk, or at Sulin on the Danube, etc. The landings played a tremendous part in the pursuit and destruction of the retreating enemy.

Following the Soviet liberation of Novorossisk, the Germans began withdrawing to the Taman Peninsula. The troops landed at Blagoveschenskaya and in the Arda salt lake, cut the Hitlerites off in the rear and forced them to change the route of their retreat. As a result, the entire German group found itself under

the blows of pursuing Soviet troops.

A similar situation arose in the struggle for Pechenga and Kirkenes in the Arctic in October, 1944. A number of units landed behind the German lines on the shore of Varanger Fjord, cut off the enemy's retreat in the direction of the coast and frustrated his plans for evacuating troops by sea, bringing the enemy group under the blows of the main forces of the Soviet Karelian Front.

Even a brief enumeration of the functions of tactical landings shows their tremendous role in defeating the enemy, in accelerating the pace of offensive operations, and in clearing the enemy from coastal sectors. If to this we add that the landings were as a rule combined with active battle against the enemy's communications, the strain under which the Navy labored during such operations becomes clear.

It is sufficient to mention that the first stage—that of landing troops and securing a foothold on a coast—was at the beginning of the war considered the most difficult part of the operation. Subsequently, the supplying of landing troops became the most complicated question. The enemy always attempted to isolate the landing forces from the water and to blockade and destroy them. Thus while preparing for a landing, the Naval Command was obliged to make preparations for securing its communications.

In February, 1943, the Black Sea Fleet landed a small detachment of marines at Hako cape, near Novorossisk. The landing itself was accomplished in less than 24 hours, but for several months the fleet delivered supplies to the troops.

In the face of furious counter-action on the part of the enemy's naval aviation and artillery, ships of the Black Sea Fleet have transported more than 80,000 men, over 12,000 tons of ammunition and food, and some 400 guns and other cargo. Thus, as a result of skilful utilization of the experience of earlier landing operations, efficient staff work, and the courage and high military skill of the seamen, the Soviet Navy has successfully carried out the tasks assigned to it.

COMRADES-IN-ARMS

By Colonel P. Kolomeitsev

Some days ago, Soviet soldiers fighting in the area of Kustrin and Frankfurt-on-Oder saw German anti-aircraft shells bursting around some planes flying very high overhead. An explanation soon came from the observation posts: American long-range fighters had flown to the Oder, circled over the area of fighting, and dipping their wings in greetings to the Soviet troops below, disappeared into the west.

At night, the glow of fires may be seen from the Oder in the direction of Berlin. During the Allied air raids on Berlin on February 3 and subsequent days, the rumble of heavy explosions could be heard at the forward positions of Soviet troops. The cooperation of the Allies on the Western and Eastern Fronts is not merely symbolic, but a matter of hard fact. As a result of the latest offensive of the Red Army, the distance between the two Allied fronts has been cut by another 500 kilometers.

The American Ninth Army operating in the area east of Aachen is now less than 600 kilometers from Marshal Zhukov's troops fighting on the approaches to Berlin. There is every reason to suppose that this distance will be shortened rapidly from both sides.

In their time the American forces played a big role in smashing the so-called "Atlantic wall" of the Germans. Watching closely the operations of the Allied Armies in the battles in France, Russian Army officers learned to value the fighting qualities of their American comrades-in-arms and their efforts directed toward the rout of the Germans.

The strength of an army is composed of two factors—materiel and morale. Americans have proven themselves strong in both respects in the present war. The splendid material equipment of the American forces is common knowledge. As regards morale, very interesting things have been revealed during the course of the war.

I want to point out, first, the determination of the American soldiers, officers and generals. I stress the word determination because it has great meaning. I understand determination as the desire to

fight the enemy with all means at one's command and to achieve victory.

The Americans excel in tactical combinations, but at the same time the tactic of the so-called "indirect approach"—i.e., avoidance of a direct clash with the enemy on the battlefield—is foreign to them. The Americans understand that it is impossible to win in this way.

All this has left its imprint on the character of the fighting operations and tactics of the American forces.

After launching an offensive the Americans do not mark time, but push on boldly and energetically, driving deep wedges in the enemy's positions, without being afraid of taking risks. Let us recall the breakthrough at Avranches, followed by the swift maneuver of American troops which advanced into the open spaces. This maneuver entailed a certain risk, but the American general took the risk and proved that it was justified.

The swift blow in the main directions—from Normandy in the west and from Toulon in the south—brought about the

defeat of the German forces in France. American troops, coordinating their operations with British and French forces, displayed sufficient energy and skill to shift the line of the front from the western coast of France to the territory of Germany proper. After a brief lull, the American First Army and later the American Ninth Army started an assault on the Siegfried Line in the area of Aachen. At the same time the American Third and Seventh Armies, together with French troops, launched offensive operations to clear Alsace-Lorraine of the Germans.

The American First Army had to bear the brunt of the main blow of Rundstedt's desperate counter-offensive. This Army had fought well in Normandy. Although it fell back in the Ardennes, everything points to the fact that the American First Army had fought with due zeal. That the Allies managed to neutralize the breach and then to liquidate the German salient is sufficient evidence of the good fighting qualities and determination of the command, soldiers and officers who took part in this operation. The situation on the Western Front, shaken by Rundstedt's sortie, was restored.

The Red Army offensive has greatly changed the situation in the West. Now, after the defeat of the Germans in the Ardennes and the necessity of the German command to transfer reserves to the East where the Soviet forces are routing the Germans, the position of the enemy in the West has greatly weakened. The hopes of the Nazi command that there would be lack of coordination between the Western and Eastern Fronts of the Allies have been smashed. The fighting contact between the Allied fronts is growing stronger and stronger.

Pushing on to Berlin and observing the flight of American aircraft in the wintry sky, Soviet officers and soldiers see the hour approaching when they will be able to meet and shake hands with their American and British comrades-in-arms. This comradeship will find its finest expression in the utter defeat of the German war machine. All efforts of the three great powers and the Allied Armies are directed toward achieving this goal.



Junior Lieutenant of Tank Troops Nadzhar K. Rafayev, Hero of the Soviet Union, an Azerbaijani. His crew has destroyed two Ferdinand self-propelled guns, 13 cannons, 29 trucks, 40 wagons, three mortars, and more than 400 Germans

TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF CRIMEAN CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF THREE ALLIED POWERS

For the past eight days, a conference took place of the leaders of the three Allied powers—WINSTON S. CHURCHILL, Prime Minister of Great Britain; FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, and Marshal JOSEPH V. STALIN, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics—in the Crimea, with the participation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Chiefs of Staff and other advisers.

In addition to the three heads of Government, the following took part in the Conference:

For the Soviet Union: V. M. MOLOTOV, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of USSR; Admiral KUZNETSOV, People's Commissar of the Navy; Army General ANTONOV, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Red Army; A. Y. VYSHINSKY, Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of USSR; I. M. MAISKY, Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of USSR; Marshal of Aviation KHUDYAKOV; F. T. GUSEV, Ambassador to Great Britain; A. A. GROMYKO, Ambassador to the United States.

For the United States of America: Edward R. STETTINIUS Jr., Secretary of State; Admiral of the Fleet William D. LEAHY, Chief of Staff to the President; Harry L. HOPKINS, Special Assistant to the President; Justice James F. BYRNES, Director, Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion; General of the Army George C. MARSHALL, Chief of Staff, United States Army; Admiral of the Fleet, Ernest J. KING, Chief of Naval Operations and Commander in Chief, United States Navy; Lieutenant General Brehon B. SOMERVELL, Commanding General, Army Service Forces; Vice Admiral Emory S. LAND, War Shipping Administrator; Major General L. S. KUTER, Staff of Commanding General, United States Army Air Forces; W. Averell HARRIMAN, Ambassador to the USSR; H. Freeman MATTHEWS, Director of European Affairs, State Department; Alger HISS, Deputy Director, Office of Special Political Affairs, State Department; Charles E. BOHLEN, Assistant to the Secretary of State together with political, military and technical advisers.

For Great Britain: Anthony EDEN, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Lord LEATHERS, Minister of War Transport; Sir A. CLARK KERR, Ambassador to the USSR; Sir Alexander CADOGAN, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Sir Edward BRIDGE, Secretary of the War Cabinet; Field Marshal Sir Alan BROOKE, Chief of the Imperial General Staff; Marshal of Royal Air Force Sir Charles PORTAL, Chief of Staff of Air Force; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Andrew CUNNINGHAM, First Sea Lord; General Sir Hastings ISMAY, Chief of Staff to Minister of Defense; Field Marshal ALEXANDER, Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean theater; Field Marshal WILSON, head of the British Military Mission at Washington; Admiral SOMERVILLE, member of Military Mission at Washington, together with military and diplomatic advisers.

The following statement is made by the President of the United States of America, the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Prime Minister of Great Britain, on the results of the Crimean Conference:

1. The Defeat of Germany

We have considered and determined the military plans of the three Allied powers for the final defeat of the common enemy. The military staffs of the three Allied nations have met in daily meetings throughout the Conference. These meetings have been most satisfactory from every point of view and have resulted in closer coordination of the military efforts of the three Allies than ever before. The fullest information has been interchanged. The timing, scope and coordination of new and even more powerful blows to be launched by our armies and air forces into the heart of Germany from the east, west, north and south have been fully agreed and planned in detail.

Our combined military plans will be

made known only as we execute them, but we are confident that the very close-working cooperation among the three staffs attained at this Conference will result in shortening the war. Meetings of our three staffs will be continued at any time the need arises.

Nazi Germany is doomed. The German people will only make the cost of their defeat heavier to themselves by attempting to continue a hopeless resistance.

2. The Occupation and Control of Germany

We have agreed on common policies and plans for enforcing the unconditional surrender terms which we shall impose together on Nazi Germany after German armed resistance has been finally crushed.

These terms will not be made known until the final defeat of Germany has been accomplished.

Under the agreed plan, the forces of the three powers will each occupy a separate zone of Germany. Coordinated administration and control have been provided for under the plan through a Central Control Commission, consisting of the Supreme Commanders of the three powers, with headquarters in Berlin.

It has been agreed that France will be invited by the three powers, if she should so desire, to take over a zone of occupation and to participate as a fourth member of the Control Commission. The limits of the French zone will be agreed by the four Governments concerned through their representatives on the European Advisory Commission.

It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism and to insure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world. We are fully determined to disarm and disband all German armed forces; break up once and for all the German General Staff that has repeatedly contrived the resurgence of German militarism; remove or destroy all German military equipment; eliminate or control all German industry that could be used for military production; bring all war criminals to just and swift punishment and exact reparation in kind for the destruction wrought by the Germans; wipe out the Nazi Party, Nazi laws, organizations and institutions from the face of the earth, remove all Nazi and militarist influences from public offices and from the cultural and economic life of the German people; and take in harmony such other measures in Germany as may be necessary to the future peace and safety of the world. It is not our purpose to destroy the people of Germany, but only when Nazism and militarism have been extirpated will there be hope for a decent life for the German people, and a place for them in the community of nations.

3. Reparation by Germany

We have considered the question of the damage caused by Germany to the Allied nations in this war and recognized it as just that Germany be obliged to make compensation for this damage in kind to the greatest extent possible. A commission for the compensation of damages will be established. The commission will be instructed to consider the question of the extent and methods for compensating damage caused by Germany to the Allied countries. The commission will work in Moscow.

4. United Nations Conference

We are resolved upon the earliest possible establishment with our Allies of a general international organization to maintain peace and security. We believe that this is essential, both to prevent aggression and to remove the political, economic and social causes of war through the close and constant collaboration of all peace-loving peoples.

The foundations were laid at Dumbarton Oaks.

On the important question of voting procedure, however, agreement was not reached there. The present Conference has been able to resolve this difficulty.

We have agreed that a conference of the United Nations should be called to meet at San Francisco, in the United States, on April 25, 1945, to prepare the charter for such an organization, along the lines proposed in the informal conversations at Dumbarton Oaks.

The Government of China and the Provisional Government of France will be immediately consulted and invited to sponsor invitations to the conference jointly with the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. As soon as the consultation with China and France has been completed, the text of the proposals on voting procedure will be made public.

5. Declaration on Liberated Europe

This declaration provides for coordination of the policies of the three powers and for their joint actions in the solution of the political and economic problems of liberated Europe, in accordance with democratic principles. The text of the declaration follows:

The Premier of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the President of the United States of America have consulted with each other in the common interests of the peoples of their countries and those of liberated Europe. They jointly declare their mutual agreement to concert during the temporary period of instability in liberated Europe the policies of their three Governments in assisting the peoples liberated from the domination of Nazi Germany and the peoples of the former Axis satellite states of Europe to solve by democratic means their pressing political and economic problems.

The establishment of order in Europe and the rebuilding of national economic life must be achieved by such processes as will enable the liberated peoples to destroy the last vestiges of Nazism and fascism and to create democratic institutions of their own choice. In accordance

with the principle of the Atlantic Charter, on the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live, the restoration of sovereign rights and self-government to those peoples who have been forcibly deprived of them by the aggressor nations, must be insured.

To provide the conditions in which the liberated peoples may exercise these rights, the three Governments will jointly assist the peoples in any European liberated state or former Axis satellite state in Europe where in their judgment conditions require it: a) to establish conditions of internal peace; b) to carry out emergency measures for the relief of distressed peoples; c) to form interim governmental authorities broadly representative of all democratic elements in the population and pledged to the earliest possible establishment through free elections of governments responsive to the will of the people; and d) to facilitate where necessary the holding of such elections.

The three Governments will consult the other United Nations and provisional authorities or other governments in Europe when matters of direct interest to them are under consideration.

When, in the opinion of the three Governments, conditions in any European liberated state or in any former Axis satellite state in Europe make such action necessary, they will immediately consult together on the measures necessary to discharge the joint responsibilities set forth in this declaration.

By this declaration we reaffirm our faith in the principles of the Atlantic Charter, our pledge in the Declaration by the United Nations, and our determination to build, in cooperation with other peace-loving nations, world order under law, dedicated to peace, security, freedom and the general well-being of all mankind.

In issuing this declaration, the three powers express the hope that the Provisional Government of the French Republic may be associated with them in the procedure suggested.

6. Poland

We have gathered at the Crimean Conference to solve our differences on the Polish question. We have discussed fully all aspects of the Polish question and we

have once again confirmed our general desire to see created a strong, free, independent and democratic Poland; and as a result of our discussions, we have agreed upon conditions under which the new Provisional Polish Government of National Unity will be formed in such a way as to receive recognition by the three leading powers. The following agreement has been reached:

A new situation has been created in Poland as a result of her complete liberation by the Red Army. This calls for the establishment of a Polish Provisional Government which can be more broadly based than was possible before the recent liberation of the western part of Poland. The Provisional Government which is now functioning in Poland should therefore be reorganized on a broader democratic basis with the inclusion of democratic leaders from Poland itself and from Poles abroad. This new government should then be called the Polish Provisional Government of National Unity.

V. M. Molotov, Mr. A. W. Harriman and Sir A. Clark Kerr are authorized as a commission to consult in the first instance in Moscow with members of the present Provisional Government and with other Polish democratic leaders from within Poland and from abroad, with a view to the reorganization of the present Government along the above lines. This Polish Provisional Government of National Unity shall be pledged to the holding of free and unfettered elections as soon as possible on the basis of universal suffrage and secret ballot. In these elections all democratic and anti-Nazi parties shall have the right to take part and to put forward candidates.

When a Polish Provisional Government of National Unity has been properly formed in conformity with the above, the Government of the USSR, which now maintains diplomatic relations with the present Provisional Government of Poland, and the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the United States of America will establish diplomatic relations with the new Polish Provisional Government of National Unity and will exchange Ambassadors, by whose reports the respective Governments will be kept informed about the situation in Poland.

The three heads of Government consider that the eastern frontier of Poland should follow the Curzon Line, with digressions from it in some regions of five to eight kilometers in favor of Poland. They recognize that Poland must receive substantial accessions of territory in the north and west. They feel that the opinion of the new Polish Provisional Government of National Unity should be sought in due course on the extent of these accessions and that thereafter the final delimitation of the western frontier of Poland should be postponed until the peace conference.

7. Yugoslavia

We have agreed to recommend to Marshal Tito and Doctor Subasic that the agreement between them should be put into effect immediately and a joint Provisional Government should be formed on the basis of that agreement. It was also decided to recommend that as soon as the new Yugoslav Government has been formed it should declare that:

1) The Anti-fascist Assembly of National Liberation of Yugoslavia should be extended to include members of the last Yugoslav Parliament (Skupschina) who have not compromised themselves by collaboration with the enemy, thus forming a body to be known as a temporary Parliament;

2) Legislative acts passed by the Anti-fascist Assembly of National Liberation will be subject to subsequent ratification by a Constituent Assembly.

There was also a general review of other Balkan questions.

8. Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

Throughout the Conference, besides the daily meetings of the heads of Governments and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, separate meetings of the three Ministers of Foreign Affairs, with the participation of their advisers, have also been held daily.

These meetings have proved of the utmost value and the Conference agreed that permanent machinery should be set up for regular consultation between the three Ministers of Foreign Affairs. They will, therefore, meet as often as may be necessary, probably about every three or four

months. These meetings will be held in rotation in the three Capitals, the first meeting being held in London, after the United Nations conference on the creation of the international security organization.

9. Unity in Peace as in War

Our Conference here in the Crimea has reaffirmed our common determination to maintain and strengthen in the peace to come that unity of purpose and of action which has made victory possible and certain for the United Nations in this war. We believe that this is a sacred obligation of our Governments to our peoples and to all the peoples of the world.

Only with the continuing and growing cooperation and mutual understanding among our three countries and among all the peace-loving nations can the highest aspiration of humanity be realized—a secure and lasting peace which must, in the words of the Atlantic Charter, "afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want."

Victory in this war and the establishment of the proposed international organization will provide the greatest opportunity in all the history of humanity to create in the years to come the essential conditions of such a peace.

(Signed)

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
JOSEPH STALIN

February 11, 1945

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In Germany

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, February 22:

In one of the Prussian towns I looked into the editorial office of the local newspaper. Among piles of manuscripts and galleys lay several issues of the paper. I opened one of them, and couldn't help smiling. On the front page, printed in large type, was an order of the day by Adolf Hitler in which the maniac, for some reason or other, thought it necessary to hold Ilya Ehrenburg up as a bogey. At the same time, the Fuehrer assured the Fritzies that East Prussia was impregnable.

A few weeks later the said Ilya Ehrenburg was driving through East Prussia, from the Masurian Lakes to Elbing. This is an amusing epilogue to a good, though anything but amusing, story. The hour of reckoning has come. We need no longer talk of retribution in the future tense: we see it at last.

I witnessed the terrible exodus of Spaniards from Spain in January, 1939.

The roads of northern Catalonia were covered with discarded property and overturned carts. Hundreds of thousands of women and children tossed in agony; above them calmly flew the German pilots of the Condor Legion, emptying their machine guns into the refugees. At the same time they sang a song composed by Oberleutnant Erich Schlecht, the refrain of which was: "We are German legionaries; we fly victoriously over all frontiers." Yes, they were "victorious" then—and I shall never forget the mangled bodies of Spanish children.

Scarcely two years had passed when in June, 1940, I saw the roads of France. Again the shattered automobiles, the corpses of children, and the millions of people fleeing they knew not where—only to escape from the sight of the Germans. Again the arrogant "victors" circled overhead, killing hundreds of women every moment. And again the Germans

sang: "We are marching into the heart of France; we are smashing their world to pieces."

And finally, the summer of 1941. Can any of us forget it? Who will not remember to the end of his days the creak of peasants' carts, the burning cities and villages, the moans of dying children? I can still hear the wail of the mother clasping her dead infant to her naked breast. And the Germans strode on, singing:

"We are speeding East,
We are speeding to victory;
German blood courses in our veins.
A bloody dawn is breaking in the East.
We are Prussians,
We come from the shores of the Baltic,
And nothing will stop us."

We can never forget that. And now I see the roads of Germany, smooth-surfaced, tree-lined. These roads are strewn with abandoned carts, trunks, featherbeds and rubbish of all kinds. Here is a woman's dressing gown; here a portfolio stuffed with some tax inspectors' papers; here a ball dress, and pots and pans.

Long columns of refugees have found themselves in battle areas. The contents of ripped featherbeds whirl like snow in the warm spring air—a feathery blizzard. Towns are ablaze. Unmilked cattle low pitifully; pigs run about wild.

The war has entered German territory.

And if one travels toward the rear, one may see tens of thousands of German women and children wending their way eastward. They tried to run away somewhere, anywhere; but they failed, and are now returning home. Among them are old Germans. They bow to me obsequiously. One of them said to me, "Herr Stalin hat gesiegt. Ich gehe nach Hause." (Mr. Stalin has won. I'm going home).



Radiophoto

ON THE SECOND BYELORUSSIAN FRONT—Red Army motorized units passing through a village in East Prussia

These "supermen" no longer act like victors. Their homes have been shattered by shells. Their belongings lie discarded somewhere on the road. Their dream of world dominion has been crushed beneath the tracks of tanks.

Naturally, I experience no malicious glee at the sight of these German children and old women. Nor do our soldiers. We are not fighting infants, nor do we wish to avenge ourselves on the aged; we are not fascists. But it is not only children, and not only old folk, whom we see.

Here are war prisoners, soldiers of the Volkssturm, officials, landowners, members of the Nazi Party. The whole of East Prussia, with the exception of a small pocket around Koenigsberg, has been captured by us. That is retribution. That is justice. And not malicious glee but pure joy fills my heart when I see the most piratical province of Germany in flames and confusion, tamed and trembling and acknowledging our strength.

Why am I so glad as I pass through the streets of German towns? I drove to Elbing from Moscow. Again I saw Smolensk and Byelorussia and Lithuania. I passed through Poland. How black are the German crimes! I passed the night in the village of Krasnoye. The village itself is no more; it is a colony of dugouts. A naive old man said to me, "Perhaps you'll meet my daughter in Germany. Her name is Vera. The devils carried her away."

In another family the Germans killed a 14-year-old boy. They looted everything and then set fire to the cottages. The only thing they left was a handmade ashtray on which some Fritz had inscribed in German: "Minsk, Bryansk, Orel, Smolensk." That was the road he had traveled. A road of blood, ashes and tears.

After that, how can one help feeling glad as one enters the town halls of German cities?

Our newspapers have repeatedly described the hastiness with which the Germans flee. And indeed, in German homes one can see tables laid for dinner, with the food left uneaten, or a soapy shaving brush and razor—the owner had probably fled with one cheek unshaven.

But even more ludicrous was the flight of the authorities. In town halls I have found municipal banners, files, records and seals. I have picked up folders of

Volkssturm records. On the table of the Burgomeister of Rastenburg lay a folder marked "Business of the day." He had begun to sign one paper, but the signature is unfinished and ends in a blot. He had thrown down the pen and fled.

I have seen forgotten German banners: the coat-of-arms of the Preussisch Eylau—a lion and three crosses; of the Welau—a deer's head; of the Tapiau—a hand brandishing a sword; of the Bartenstein—crossed battle-axes . . . and dozens of others. These "Aryans" were fond of comparing themselves to tigers, but they fled like rats.

Why did the Germans rob the cottages of Krasnoye of frying-pans, kerchiefs and blankets? Because they needed them? No, out of sheer greed. They had frying-pans and blankets in plenty. In one German house I saw a small table with the mark of a Leningrad factory. Why did the Germans bring it home? A table isn't a coat-of-arms—and he already had five tables.

Their homes are overcrowded with things. The walls are lined with vapid oleographs and dozens of deers' antlers. Cupboards and sideboards are filled with numberless vases. There are mottoes on rowels: "Orderliness is the foundation of good housewifery." Mottoes, too, on bed-sheets—"Sweet dreams." Portraits of Hitler and Hindenburg. Sometimes there is idiotic humor: an ashtray in the shape of a chamberpot, marked "For ashes only."

They had enough land and cows and household furnishings. And if they thirsted for "living space," if they looted the cottages of Byelorussia, it was not from poverty but from greed—and for such as these there can be no "extenuating circumstances," nor even simple human leniency.

Hitler once paid a visit to the house where the Soviet Military Commander of Rastenburg is now residing. On the wall is an amateur photograph: the daughter of the house presenting a bouquet of flowers to the Fuehrer. Perhaps these lines may reach the madman Hitler while he is still in the land of the living; if so, let him know that I slept very well under his picture.

Let him also know that Major Rosenfeld, Soviet Military Commander of Ras-

tenburg, has introduced order in Rastenburg—not the "new" order, but human order. German women and elderly Germans are cleaning the streets of the town, and they await orders with eagerness.

Earlier in the war the Germans killed the entire family of this Soviet Commander. Yet he does not take revenge, as he might have done. He does not slaughter unarmed people. He has only compelled yesterday's "supermen" to work and obey orders. Perhaps that is the sweetest revenge of all. Work and obey orders.

Now, of course, they all bow servilely and say, "We were against Hitler." Some of the fascists even raise clenched fists and roar, "Rot Front." Our people do not talk to them or argue with them or abuse them. They have found something better for such as these: silence. Let them work; let them atone, at least in part, for what they have done.

And as to the criminals, they will be tried and punished swiftly and justly.

Nearly all Germans deny that they knew anything about the atrocities perpetrated by their fellow countrymen in Russia. Rather, they try to deny it. This is the best proof of the criminals' mutual responsibility. But when they see that no one has any intention of asphyxiating them in gas chambers or burning them alive, they are reassured and confess, "Yes, our soldiers on furlough did tell us . . . Yes, we are now paying for Warsaw, Kiev and Smolensk." . . .

I talked to Vicar General Aloise Markwart, Deputy to the Catholic Bishop of Fraunberg. He spoke of the Hitlerites' atrocities in a whisper, so that I was moved to ask who he was afraid of—the arrested Gestapo officials or the Vatican? He admitted that the Germans had drenched Europe in blood; and in answer to my inquiry: what should now be done to the Germans?—he diplomatically replied, "Only not what the Germans did to others."

Rudolf Abramowski, Lutheran pastor of Rastenburg, said to me with a deprecating cough, "We were coerced . . ." That is the favorite tale of them all; I have heard it from eye specialist Schilling, from wholesale merchant Brecht, and from Grossbauer Scheider: "Zwang"—"Coercion." One might think they were coerced

into looting, and growing fat and bloated with drink.

In the homes of these "coerced" unfortunates you will find a rare assortment of red French wines, white Serbian and Italian wines, and Ukrainian embroidery or Russian furs. And on the walls faded maps, which they forgot to take down, with the Stalingrad Front marked in red or blue pencil. They have no dignity, these whining "Nietzscheans." No, they are not Nietzscheans, they are a vile mixture of jackal and sheep.

There are many of them, and still more as you travel westward. At first they all fled with one accord (they now say they were "forcibly evacuated"). Then they stopped running away.

"Why didn't you leave?" I asked a corpulent burgher with a belly capable of holding at least twenty pints of beer. He blinked and answered, "*Kein Zweck*" ("It was useless").

The German newspapers say that we are occupying deserted territory. Nonsense. Over half the population remained in Rastenburg. The same is true of Nikolaiken and Heilsberg. And as to Elbing, second largest city in East Prussia—out of a population of 100,000, at least 60,000 remained, although street fighting raged for a week.

The Germans bow to you, and even try to twist their features into a smile. Six weeks ago they were still firmly convinced that East Prussia was impregnable. So the newspapers said, and so the Fuehrer assured them. Gauleiter Erich Koch, with the true German love of accuracy, told them, "The Russian will never penetrate into the heart of East Prussia, for in these past four months we have dug trenches and ditches to a total length of 22,875 kilometers and excavated 41,421,511 cubic meters of earth."

There is no denying that East Prussia was well prepared for defense. We did not catch them unawares—but we caught them all the same. Their defenses stretched to a depth of 100 kilometers. Twenty lines in all. And they were preparing not for four months, but for 40 years. The *Osthilfe* gave subsidies to the peasants—they were to build houses with walls one and one-half meters thick, and with solid basements. But neither walls nor basements nor cubic meters nor lakes saved them. The Red Army has learned



German equipment captured by Soviet troops in East Prussia, on the Second Byelorussian Front Radiophoto

to surmount all obstacles.

Only the stupid Germans could believe in the beginning of January that East Prussia was impregnable. In Liebstadt I found an incomplete *Nachweis Der Aryanischen Abstammung* (Certificate of Aryan Origin). On January 12, 1945, a certain Erich Schnoller, having decided to get married, began to fill in the certificate of his pure pedigree. He had already filled in the columns relating to his mother, father and paternal grandfather. But three columns remained unfilled: the Red Army had interrupted the labors of this pure-bred cretin, and so posterity will never know who Erich's grandmother was.

In the Elbing post office I picked up a pile of undispached letters. In one of them I found the following assurance, "Our affairs in the West are going splendidly. As to the Russians, they are able to fight only on their own soil; every child knows that and so you needn't worry about us." That is what a German wrote in Elbing on January of this year.

Yet the whole world knew that nothing could stop the Red Army now. That was known even in East Prussia—to hundreds of thousands of prisoners from various countries . . . Russians, Frenchmen, Englishmen and Poles. It was known, of course, to our Allies.

More, it was known to the most hide-bound people in Europe, to the politicians of Switzerland. I was in Elbing when

our men, after fierce street fighting, saved Monsieur Charles Brandenburg, Swiss vice consul, who had protected the interests of 3,000 Swiss engaged (officially, at least) in cheese-making. This strictly "neutral" diplomat spent several exceedingly unpleasant days in a cellar, to escape the shelling. To me fell the duty of interpreter. We offered the diplomat lodging and supper. He wore a fixed smile; he could not believe he was alive.

I would not stop to mention him if it were not for the fact that he had a notable document in his possession—a safe conduct in the Russian language made out in Berne and signed by the chief of the police department of the Swiss Confederation.

"Why was this document made out in Russian in Berne on September 15, 1944?" the vice consul was asked. He replied with a smile, "Nobody in Berne doubted that the Red Army would take Elbing." They are beginning to understand a thing or two in Berne.

And so they are in Berlin. I fancy that sturdy old fascists in Brandenburg and Saxony are following the lead of the East Prussians and zealously learning to say in Russian, "Good morning. We are not guilty." These are the first words the Germans learned. They pronounce them quite articulately. But they do not understand one thing: We do not listen to their words—we know their deeds.

THE GUARDS' TRADITION

By Major Alexander Belikov

The history of the Russian Guards goes back to ancient times. The bodyguards of the old Russian princes—formed from the more stubborn, gallant and skilled soldiers—inspired traditions which have lived for centuries and are preserved to this day.

Their motto was . . . *Conquer or Die!* . . . and this became the rule of conduct for Russian bodyguards. It was upheld in numerous historic engagements where Russian Guards measured their strength against the enemy.

The name of "Guards" was first conferred upon the Preobrazhensky and Semenovsky Regiments in 1700, by Peter I. They proved themselves worthy of the honor. Many glorious pages in the history of our country have been written by the Russian Guards.

Today it is interesting to recall that the Kegsgolmsky Regiment of Guards, chosen by Peter himself from eight of the best companies of the finest Russian regiments,

was one of the first to enter Berlin during the Seven Years' War.

Soviet Guards

The Soviet Guards were born in the autumn of 1941, when the Nazi hordes were pressing on Moscow. Near Dubosekovo station, 28 men of General Ivan Panfilov's division defended a decisive sector at the approaches to the Capital. Fifty German tanks rushed the position held by this handful of gallant men.

The incredible battle raged four hours. For these heroes there was no such word as retreat . . . behind them was Moscow. They died to the last man, but they stopped the tanks. Panfilov's Guardsmen will remain forever enshrined in the memory of the Soviet people.

During the early battles in Stalingrad, one of the men of General Rodimtsev's immortal division wrote on a wall on the right bank of the Volga: *Here Rodimt-*

sev's Guardsmen stood to the death. After the final battle, someone added: They stood—and defeated death.

In the ranks of the Soviet Guardsmen there are many such heroes. Their strength lies in the mass heroism of the people; the national traditions of each of the peoples inhabiting the Soviet Union, combined with Soviet patriotism, have found their fullest expression in the uncompromising battles of civilized humanity against Nazism.

Soviet Guardsmen are superior to the enemy not only in morale and courage, but also in skill. To the ancient battle traditions of the Guards they have added splendid new technique and the Stalin science of victory.

The Red Army, pervaded by the spirit of the Guards, has fought from the Volga to the Oder. It is now moving on Berlin—the same city the Russian Guardsmen captured nearly 200 years ago.



Senior Lieutenant Dmitri Potapov, Hero of the Soviet Union, began the war as political instructor on an armored train. Twice wounded in battle, he returned to the front as commander of a tank platoon which has destroyed three German Tigers, two Panthers and two guns, and captured one Tiger



Major Alexander Rybin, Hero of the Soviet Union, is commander of a battalion which took part in the liquidation of the encircled Korsun-Shevchenkivsky grouping of Germans. In recent battles the battalion has killed 800 Hitlerites and captured 114 prisoners, besides taking many trophies



Senior Sergeant Murat Kardanov, Hero of the Soviet Union, is a Circassian from the Caucasian Mountains. In the fierce battles for the Karelian Isthmus, Sergeant Kardanov's unit killed 260 Germans, took 60 prisoners, destroyed five guns and four mortars, and captured a large quantity of ammunition

ARMY GENERAL IVAN D. CHERNIAKHOVSKY

Army General Ivan Danilovich Cherniakhovsky, 37, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, Cavalier of two Orders of Lenin, three Orders of the Red Banner, two Orders of Suvorov, a First Degree Order of Bogdan Khmel'nitsky (for the liberation of the Ukraine), and the Order of Kutuzov, who died on February 18 of wounds incurred on the battlefield, was the youngest of all generals in command of the fronts.

He was born in the town of Uman in the Ukraine, in a railwayman's family. Losing his parents at the age of nine, he knew poverty in childhood. The future strategist began work as a cowherd and later became a longshoreman in the Novorossisk port. By lucky chance he entered a military school, thus beginning the military career fated to become so brilliant. Sixteen years later he returned to Uman as a Lieutenant General in command of troops which liberated his native town.

Ivan Cherniakhovsky was a Colonel when the Soviet-German war began. His formation displayed miracles of heroism in the summer of 1941, on the banks of the Western Dvina, where in hard fighting for six costly days it held back the onslaught of the enemy, who outnumbered it five to one. In these battles, Colonel Cherniakhovsky set examples of valor for his men, going with them into bayonet attacks 10 to 12 times daily. Seventy-three soldiers and officers of Cherniakhovsky's formation opened the roster of Soviet soldiers decorated in this war.



Army General I. D. Cherniakhovsky

One year after these battles, Cherniakhovsky was made a Major General, assuming command of a large formation. His military talent was vividly revealed in the 1943 offensive, when his troops, after an extremely difficult 150-kilometer march across deep snow, smashed the enemy defenses at Kursk and captured the city.

It was the Ukrainian general's fortune to be the first to step on the soil of his native Ukraine. His troops there made a brilliant leap across the Dnieper. For this operation, 306 of Cherniakhovsky's officers and men, including Cherniakhovsky himself, were named Heroes of the Soviet Union.

Until the end of 1943, Cherniakhovsky's troops fought their way across the

Ukraine, completing this victorious march by the assault and capture of Tarnopol.

In the spring of 1944, already an Army General, Cherniakhovsky was appointed Commander of the Troops of the Third Byelorussian Front. Under the blows of these troops the German defenses crumbled at Vitebsk, Orsha, Borisov, Vileika and elsewhere. The great Byelorussian operation was completed by the liberation of Minsk, capital of the Republic. From here Cherniakhovsky launched the offensive on Lithuania. Soon his forces liberated the capital of Soviet Lithuania, Vilnius, and reached the approaches to East Prussia. His troops were the first to enter German territory.

Not long ago the world learned of the fresh successes of Army General Cherniakhovsky's troops, which together with those of Marshal Rokossovsky broke the German defense in East Prussia.

Army General Ivan Cherniakhovsky's family consists of his wife, Anastasia; a daughter, Neonilla, and a son, Oleg. The Government has decreed a grant of 125,000 rubles to General Cherniakhovsky's family and has set up a life pension for his wife, and pensions to the children until their education is completed.

General Cherniakhovsky was buried in Vilnius, the city which he liberated, and a monument will be erected to him there. He was given a State funeral.

The Soviet press published an obituary of General Cherniakhovsky signed by seven Marshals of the Soviet Union and other outstanding Red Army leaders.

One of Red Army's Most Talented Commanders

By Major E. Ratner

I first met Army General Ivan Danilovich Cherniakhovsky, Commander of the Third Byelorussian Front, last summer, after our troops had captured Vilnius, capital of the Lithuanian SSR.

Cherniakhovsky's name was famous throughout the country. Almost every other day Moscow saluted in honor of his troops. The interest with which I studied the appearance of this outstanding General was therefore but natural.

His manner was simple and prepossessing. He wore an ordinary battle tunic with green field shoulder-straps. I knew he had been decorated with the highest Orders, but he did not wear a single decoration or ribbon. I remembered stories of his great modesty: on one occasion, for example, when he saw large portraits of himself along a highway, he ordered them removed at once.

Cherniakhovsky revealed his talents

and courage as a commander in the first days of the war, when he routed a German tank regiment. He rose from Colonel to the rank of Army General, commanding the troops of the Third Byelorussian Front. Here he contributed one of the most brilliant chapters in the history of the great Patriotic War.

After the liberation of Vilnius, capital of Soviet Lithuania, Cherniakhovsky said to the commander of one of his armies,

"What we need now is high speed. Let the divisions dash ahead without fear of exposing their flanks. Don't let them worry about their neighbors—the best way to support a neighbor is to forge ahead."

The great battle of Byelorussia was a triumph of Soviet tactics. Only miserable remnants of the German troops escaped from the huge "Byelorussian trap." After this operation Cherniakhovsky received the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for the second time.

On August 17, 1944, the troops of the Third Byelorussian Front reached the East Prussian frontier in one sector. In the autumn of 1944 they were the first to launch an offensive in East Prussia.

During the preparations for this offensive I met General Cherniakhovsky, who was attending field exercises of one division. He spoke, giving instructions not only to the commander of the division, but to junior officers and even individual soldiers. He did not conceal the difficulties of the coming offensive, but emphasized them. "East Prussia," he said, "is the bastion of Hitler Germany, and we must crush this bastion."

The offensive began on January 13. The morning was so foggy that nothing could be seen at a distance of 10 meters. The Air Force was unable to support the ground troops.

I did not see General Cherniakhovsky in those days. But in the dugout of the Chief of Staff of one of his armies I was able to observe how his firm and experienced hand was felt everywhere. He called several times over the telephone, listened to reports of the Chief of Staff and gave brief orders. The Chief of Staff, an elderly General, would exclaim each time, as he hung up the receiver, "What talent! What foresight!"

After breaching two powerful lines of enemy defenses, our troops stopped in front of the Gumbinnen fortifications. The German command, bent on holding that line, rushed reinforcements from the Tilsit area—confident that no danger threatened in that quarter. Cherniakhovsky threw tank forces into the gap and turned the flanks of the enemy groupings at Tilsit and Gumbinnen. While one tank force turned to the south to outflank Gumbinnen, another made a sudden dash for Tilsit and captured that city.

In East Prussia, too, where six permanent defense lines had to be overcome in succession; where each yard of ground was fortified and where firing came not only from countless reinforced concrete pillboxes, but from every farmstead, house and barn; where the entire area was stuffed with death, General Cherniakhovsky remained true to his tactics of swift maneuver, of trapping and wiping out large enemy forces. Crushing, sledge-hammer blows, swift movement, precision, and cooperation of all arms, were features of the offensive in East Prussia under Cherniakhovsky's command.

Ivan Cherniakhovsky was always to be

seen among his officers and men. He disregarded danger to himself. He was severely wounded on the battlefield and died February 18.

In Army General Cherniakhovsky the Soviet Union has lost one of its best Red Army leaders, one of the most talented of the young generals who came to the fore in the present war. Ivan Cherniakhovsky spent almost all his adult years in the ranks of the Red Army. As an army and front commander on the most active sectors of the Soviet-German front in the present Patriotic War, he traveled a victorious road from Voronezh to Tarnopol and from Orsha to Koenigsberg.

IN BRANDENBURG PROVINCE

From PRAVDA front-line correspondents Boris Gorbатов and Oleg Kurganov, February 23:

In old textbooks we read that Germany is a country of idyllic, peaceful, precisely trimmed landscapes. We do not know what Germany was like before Hitler. We see her now as a huge, gloomy prison with rusty doors from which the locks are now at last knocked off.

What is taking place today on the roads of Germany would move a heart of stone. It has come! . . . Yesterday's captives, war prisoners and slaves are now marching along all the roads to the east. American and British soldiers from war prisoners' camps, Poles, Yugoslavs, Italians and Bulgarians, from concentration camps—a girl from the Ukraine, a Hindu from Bombay in British Army uniform, Russian girls from Smolensk, Czechs, men from the Donbas, a Mulatto from French Morocco, French soldiers of 1940—all these much-suffering people, speaking all languages, are now moving eastward.

They do not want to wait for means of transportation, for trains. Eastward! . . . To the country which set them free . . . and then home to their native lands, to their families. Everyone wears his national emblem on his clothing. They do not want to be mistaken for Germans in this new Babylon which Hitlerite Germany has become.

An American soldier has sewed to his overcoat a large flag of stars and stripes;

the few Jews who miraculously survived wear the signs with which the Germans branded them . . . the brand of martyrdom. And such is the bitter irony of fate—now the Germans envy them! Huge national flags float over houses where yesterday's slaves are now quartered.

Only one nationality in conquered Germany does not display its national flags—the Germans themselves. The "men of the master race," the Nazis would now like everyone to forget that they are Germans. They hang white rags and towels in their windows as a sign of surrender. They wear white armbands—in token of submission, in prayer for mercy. No one ordered them to do this. It is their own idea. And from this time on it is the national flag of Germany—the flag of surrender! Until the German people, purged of the Hitlerite filth, earns the right to be admitted into the family of nations.

There is one Russian word which everyone knows—Americans, Hindus, Dutch—everyone. This is the simple, old, good Russian word: *spasibo* (thanks). *Spasibo* . . . shout yesterday's slaves, war prisoners and captives to our men. *Spasibo* for freedom!

Will those people ever forget who caused all their misery and suffering? Will they forgive the Germans? And will they ever forget who set them free from captivity and slavery, who gave them back freedom and life and the road home?

Famous Metal Engravers Make Gifts For Red Army

Famous artisans of the town of Zlatoust, in the Urals, cradle of Russian metallurgy, prepared gifts for Red Army soldiers for February 23, the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army.

The skilled Urals engraver Alexander Boronnikov is completing a sword to be presented to Marshal Stalin, engraved with superb drawings of various episodes of the battle for Stalingrad. The same master is also working on a sword for Marshal Zhukov, on which will be depicted the rout of the Germans before Moscow.

Many Red Army commanders will receive sabers and pistols, artistically engraved by the master-craftsmen of Zlatoust, as gifts of honor.

The art of metal-engraving developed in Zlatoust in 1815, and during the past 130 years Urals artisans have created many masterpieces. Among exhibits in the Zlatoust Town Museum is a sword commemorating the victory over Napoleon's Grand Army. The names of all the towns—from the Russian town of Tarutino to Dresden, Germany—which were landmarks on the path of Napoleon's retreat, are engraved on this sword.

The work of Zlatoust engravers has been exhibited at many international expositions, winning the highest awards. Landscape engravings of the Ural mountains and pine forests, the taiga with the hunter's hut, and a deer motionless on a hilltop listening to the sound of the hunting horn, are widely known.

During the war the Zlatoust artists have made many engravings showing the expulsion of the Germans from Soviet soil.

The finest master in Zlatoust, Ivan Vogtev, has devoted 40 years of his life to this art. Recently he presented an album decorated with an engraved metal cover to a volunteer tank corps now fighting on German soil.

A brigade of Zlatoust metal engravers has completed a large composition in honor of the Red Army's recent great victories.

UNIFORMS FOR THE RED ARMY



Cutting cloth for uniforms in a Moscow factory



Conveying the various parts to the sewing rooms



Preparing the materials for the conveyors

Radiophotos

Cultural Activities in the Soviet Navy

By Sub-Lieutenant Mikhail Lazarev

At four bells, officers of the destroyer Baku, sailing with a convoy of British transports, crowded into the wardroom to hear a lecture by the First Officer on "The Legacy of Russia's Admirals." Many sailors were also present. Everyone followed the talk intently, some took notes, and a spirited discussion followed.

Meanwhile, in the ship's library a number of seamen sat reading papers and magazines. In one corner two amateur artists were busy with paints and brushes, preparing the next edition of the wall newspaper. It would contain, besides current news items, cartoons, notes on individual crew members who had distinguished themselves for initiative or efficiency, and a letter from the workers of a factory on shore who had constituted themselves "patrons" of the destroyer.

In the forecabin a group of sailors of the amateur jazz orchestra rehearsed a new piece.

Such activities might have been duplicated on almost any vessel of the Soviet Navy. The cultural and educational work in the Navy covers a wide and varied field. It has as its principal aim the raising of the level of knowledge and skill of the crews, and keeping them in close touch with their country. Sailors are encouraged to read, study, take part in ama-

teur dramatic and other groups, engage in sports, etc.

Soviet seamen are avid readers; during 1944 the Navy libraries received 630,000 volumes, exclusive of the many booklets and magazines on current questions. During the siege of Leningrad the Kronstadt naval library set up hundreds of small libraries for units of Marines fighting ashore. Officers encourage the sailors to read, and frequently hold meetings at which the newest works of Soviet and western literature are discussed, and Russian and foreign classics read aloud.

Concerts of classical music are also extremely popular. A special brigade of musicians organized in Moscow recently held a "Festival of Russian Classical Music" at the main naval base in the Arctic, giving many concerts and lecturing on the works of Tchaikovsky, Glinka and other famous composers.

Navy Clubs

On the Northern Front the Soviet Navy has five "Navy Houses," 12 garrison clubs, seven floating clubs and eight officers' clubs. Here thousands of seamen hear lectures and concerts and attend theaters and cinemas. The ships also have "Lenin cabins," comfortably arranged, where the men may read papers and magazines and play chess.

In the Black Sea Fleet, over a thousand lectures were given on shipboard in 1944. Officers, academicians, writers, artists and others spoke on various themes. The most frequent and popular topics were history, international affairs, art, music and literature.

Amateur Groups

Amateur art groups play a large part in the Navy's cultural work. An art festival was held by ships of the Northern Fleet, with 20 choruses, 15 drama circles, 13 acrobatic teams, 17 string orchestras and 34 choreographic groups participating. Six thousand officers and men took part in a similar festival in the Baltic Fleet, which included 60 choruses, 100 dramatic groups, 70 choreographic groups, 18 string orchestras and 30 jazz bands.

Song and dance ensembles are found in all fleets of the Soviet Navy. The Pacific Fleet ensemble, which recently celebrated its fifth anniversary, has given more than 1,500 concerts in clubs in the naval bases. In addition to the amateur activities, the fleets are visited frequently by the most outstanding professional artists of the country.

Besides the foregoing, the Navy has frequent photographic and amateur art exhibits, and many varieties of sports competitions.

GROWTH OF KARAKALPAKIAN REPUBLIC

The Karakalpakian Autonomous Soviet Republic, situated along the lower reaches of the Amu-Darya River, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Collective and State farms of this Republic, which has an extensive irrigation system, raise cotton, rice and a huge quantity of Lucerne grass. During the past 20 years the harvest has increased fourfold. The past year saw an early fulfilment of the year's plan for cotton deliveries.

Karakalpakia, which did not have a single large industry before the Revolution, now has enormous cotton gins and oil refineries, and canning, shoe and other factories.

Before 1917, the people of this area had no written language, no schools and no hospitals. The death rate from poverty, disease and lack of hygiene was extremely high. In the past 20 years the Republic has made great cultural strides; 673 schools, seven technical and special schools, two institutions of higher learning, three theaters, 14 cinemas, 166 clubs, houses of culture and reading rooms, and a ramified network of medical institutions, have been opened. Thirteen newspapers and magazines, as well as numerous books, are published in the Karakalpakian language.

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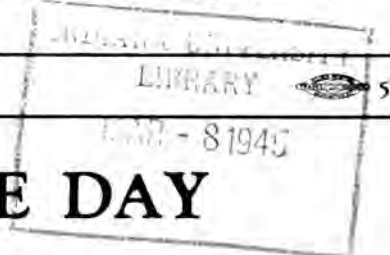
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STALIN'S ORDER OF THE DAY

No. 5: Moscow

Order of the Day of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief on the Occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army and Navy

Comrades Red Army men and Red Navy men, sergeants, officers and generals!

Today we are celebrating the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army's existence. Created by the great Lenin to defend our motherland from the attack of foreign invaders and reared by the Bolshevik Party, the Red Army has traversed a glorious path in its development.

It has fulfilled with honor its historical destination and rightfully is the beloved child of the Soviet people.

In the years of the Civil War, the Red Army defended the young Soviet State from numerous enemies. In the great battles of the Patriotic War against the German invasion, the Red Army saved the peoples of the Soviet Union from German-fascist slavery, upheld the freedom and independence of our motherland, and helped the peoples of Europe to cast off the German yoke.

Now we are celebrating the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army in the midst of new historical victories over the enemy. The Red Army has not only freed its native land of the Hitlerite filth but also hurled the enemy back for many hundred kilometers beyond those lines from which the Germans launched their bandit attack upon our country, carried the war into Germany's territory, and now, together with the Armies of our Allies, is successfully completing the rout of the German-fascist army.

In January of this year, the Red Army brought down upon the enemy a blow of unparalleled force along the entire front from the Baltic to the Carpathians.



Drawing by B. Karpov

**Supreme Commander-in-Chief
Marshal Joseph Stalin**

On a stretch of 1,200 kilometers it broke up the powerful defense of the Germans which they had been building for a number of years. In the course of the offensive, the Red Army by its swift and skilful actions has hurled the enemy far back to the West. In stiff fighting, Soviet troops have advanced from the frontiers of East Prussia to the lower reaches of the Vistula—for 270 kilometers; from the bridgehead on the Vistula, south of Warsaw, to the lower reaches of the Oder River—for 570 kilometers; from the Sandomierz bridgehead into the depth of German Silesia—for 480 kilometers.

The first consequence of the successes of our winter offensive was that they thwarted the Germans' winter offensive in the West, which had as its aim the seizure of Belgium and Alsace, and enabled the Armies of our Allies in their turn to launch an offensive against the Germans and thus link up their offensive operations in the West with offensive operations of the Red Army in the East.

Within 40 days of the offensive in January-February, 1945, our troops ejected the Germans from 300 towns, captured about 100 war plants manufacturing tanks, aircraft, armaments and ammunition, occupied over 2,400 railway stations, and seized a network of railways totaling over 15,000 kilometers in length.

Within this short period, Germany lost over 350,000 officers and men in war prisoners and not less than 800,000 in killed.

During the same period, the Red Army destroyed or seized about 3,000 German aircraft, over 4,500 tanks and self-propelled guns and not less than 12,000 guns.

As a result, the Red Army completely liberated Poland and a considerable part of the territory of Czechoslovakia, occupied Budapest and put out of the war Germany's last ally in Europe—Hungary—captured the greater part of East Prussia and German Silesia and battled its way into Brandenburg, into Pomerania, to the approaches of Berlin.

The Hitlerites boasted that for more than 100 years no single enemy soldier was within Germany's borders and that the German army fought and would fight

only on foreign soil. Now an end has been put to this German braggery.

Our winter offensive has shown that the Red Army finds more and more strength for the solution of ever more complex and difficult problems.

Its glorious soldiers have learned to batter and annihilate the enemy in accordance with all rules of modern military science. Our soldiers, inspired by the realization of their great mission of liberation, display miraculous heroism and selflessness; they skilfully combine gallantry and audacity in battle with full utilization of the power and might of their weapons.

The Red Army generals and officers masterfully combine massed blows of powerful equipment with skilful and swift maneuver. In the fourth year of war, the Red Army has grown stronger and mightier than ever before, its combat equipment has become more perfect

and its fighting mastery many times higher.

Comrades Red Army men, Red Navy men, sergeants, officers and generals!

Complete victory over the Germans is now near. But victory never comes of itself—it is won in hard battles and in persistent labor.

The doomed enemy hurls his last forces into battle, resisting desperately in order to escape stern retribution. He grasps and will grasp at the most extreme and base means of struggle. Therefore, it should be borne in mind that the nearer our victory, the higher must be our vigilance, the heavier must be our blows at the enemy.

On behalf of the Soviet Government and our glorious Bolshevik Party, I greet and congratulate you upon the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army!

To mark the great victories achieved

by the Armed Forces of the Soviet State in the course of the past year, I order:

Today, February 23, the day of the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army, at 8 P. M., a salute of 20 artillery salvos shall be fired in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, Petrozavodsk, Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius, Kishinev, Tbilisi, Stalingrad, Sevastopol, Odessa and Lvov.

Long live our victorious Red Army!

Long live our victorious Navy!

Long live our mighty Soviet motherland!

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

Death to the German invaders!

(Signed)

SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION STALIN
February 23, 1945

POZNAN IS LIBERATED

By M. Ruzov

Riding into Poznan from the southern outskirts, one could scarcely believe that a stubborn battle had been going on in the city for a long time, and that the well-armed enemy garrison had resisted with the fury of the doomed.

Long columns of tanks, armored cars, motor vehicles, heavy guns, wagons and troops move along the highway running west of Poznan. Tracks, switches and signaling installations are rapidly being repaired on the railroad running through the city. A small shunting locomotive hauls cars loaded with factory equipment and war materiel abandoned by the Germans at the Poznan junction. The local Polish inhabitants, who were evicted by the Germans, are returning to their homes in wagons, on bicycles and on foot. One sees here the typical scenes of a liberated Polish city not far from the front line.

Poznan is an important industrial and administrative center of Poland, situated near the German border and covered by the Varta River. Long ago the Germans began preparing for a protracted defense of the city. Girdling the city with several lines of strongly-fortified positions, they built up a formidable resistance center

around an old fortress protected by reinforced concrete forts. Large quantities of munitions and food supplies were stored in the subterranean halls of the fortress.

The German defenses in the Poznan area suffered from one shortcoming, which the Soviet Command took into consideration: the Germans had devoted most of their attention to fortifications at the eastern approaches to the city, believing that the attack of Soviet troops could come only from this direction.

Marshal Zhukov's troops, however, bypassed Poznan, crossed the Varta south of the city, and broke into it from the west and southwest. This operation was effected with such great speed that the Germans did not have time to reorganize their defenses. After stubborn street fighting, the greater part of the city fell into Soviet hands.

The remnants of several enemy divisions, which had been cut off near the Varta, took up the defense in the fortress, in its forts and in adjoining streets. They were reinforced by cadets from several officers' schools which had also been

trapped, and by Volksturm battalions composed of thousands of Germans who had flocked here during the occupation period to share in the loot. These troops, under the command of Major General Mattern, German commandant of the Poznan fortress, and Gauleiter Greiser, bloody executioner of Poland, planned to hold out behind the thick walls of the fortress until relief came, as promised by Hitler.

The German positions here were indeed strong. The ancient buildings on either side of the narrow streets had thick concrete walls and basements. Each house was a fortress. But Soviet officers again demonstrated their skill in street fighting. In such action, it is particularly important to be able to find one's bearings quickly, and to discover ways of getting around the enemy—through alleys, yards and basements.

Most often street fighting is at close quarters, and bayonets and grenades must be employed to clear out every floor and room in a house.

Thus, step by step, Soviet warriors finished off the Germans in the Poznan sack.

In Germany—PART II

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, February 23.

The Koenigsberg *Allgemeine Zeitung* wrote in January, "The war has now crossed into our territory. All East Prussia will rise against the alien." Erich Koch threatened guerrilla war. Where are the Prussian guerrillas? I have traveled a great deal at night along desolate Prussian roads, through marshland and forest, but I never noticed any guerrillas.

Let us recall the heroes of our Byelorussia or of Leningrad Region; let us recall Tito's partisans and the *Francs Tireurs* of Savoy. Why do the Germans in East Prussia piously study the orders posted by Russian military commanders, zealously perform the jobs assigned to them, and curse Hitler in chorus? Is it because they do not agree with their Fuehrer's theories?

Oh, no. On the eve of the Red Army's arrival they were praising Hitler in chorus, piously studying the orders of their own commanders, and zealously digging trenches. They have not changed. It is circumstances which have changed. And the robots, accustomed to blind obedience, continue to obey. There can be no people's war in a country where there are no people.

The surrounded German divisions are in a tight "pocket." They are offering stubborn resistance. They counter-attack. One might think they are irreconcilable lunatics. But no sooner are these "lunatics" taken prisoner than they renounce their leaders, and even Germany. As long as the Fritzes are commanded by officers, they fight staunchly; but left without supervision, they do not seek forest recesses, but a war prisoners' camp. That is why East Prussia is so meek—and why the Fritzes fight so fiercely for every house, and even for every pocket so tiny the surrounded Germans haven't room to swing a cat.

Last autumn the Volkssturm was formed in East Prussia as it was all over Germany. The Germans lauded it at length as a formidable force. Actually, the Volkssturm is a wretched farce. They are navvies, not soldiers. In Bartenstein I picked up a file of Volkssturm records inadvertently left behind by the German

authorities. It contained the personal histories and photographs of the fire-eaters, and orders. Fritz Kanet, a puffy-faced, bald-headed farmer, 60 years old; one-eyed Paul Struve, a clerk, 59 years old; Karl Lempik, a wrinkled ancient fitter of 60. Order No. 2 releases 67 Volkssturmers for three days, owing to weakness of the legs.

The Volkssturmers are miscellaneously armed. They fight badly, not because they are wiser than the soldiers, but because they are old and feeble. They are just cannon fodder; and apparently the sole historical mission of the Volkssturm, as I see it, is a humble but worthy one—to reduce the population of Germany.

Gauleiter Erich Koch, former "governor of the Ukraine," is still in Koenigsberg. He appeals to civilian Fritzes to kill Russians. For this purpose daggers have been manufactured and are distributed to all who desire them. On them are inscribed the words, "All for Germany." However, the money spent on these daggers was wasted: in order to kill Russians you have to get at them—but the one concern of the civilian Germans just now, is how to get away from the Russians.

There are plenty of people in semi-wrecked Koenigsberg. German refugees are living in carts. What they all dream about is night and ice. The sea between the shore and the Frischeshafen Spit is frozen over. Kreisleiter landowners and venerable Nazis are escaping across the ice. So the Germans in the "pocket" are praying for a hard frost.

It is hard to say what forces Infantry General Gosbach, commander of the surrounded group, has at his disposal. Prisoners are found to have belonged to 34 different divisions. Of course, many of these divisions are no larger than regiments now. But there are plenty of strong units in the pocket, like the Greater Germany, and Fifth Panzer Divisions, the 95th, 367th, 562nd, 21st, 203rd, 541st, 170th, 183rd and the Second Herman Goering Infantry Divisions.

Why are the surrounded Fritzes resisting? I can say it in a word: because they are Fritzes. All animadversions on

what a German soldier thinks are, in my opinion, idle. The German soldier does not think. One would think that the divisions formed of natives of East Prussia, such as the 1st, 349th and 549th, should fight the hardest of all. But it is not so. The soldiers from East Prussia fight worst of all. They have no patriotism, because patriotism implies a certain moral level. For five years they conceived of war as organized plunder. Now, seeing their homes in flames, their families wandering through the fields, the Prussian soldiers say to themselves, "This isn't war; it is an outrage."

I have talked to many prisoners. They all vow that the soldiers want the war to end. "Why don't they end it then?" I ask. They stare dully and reply, "How can we end it when the orders are to stand firm or counter-attack?"

The officers tell their Fritzes that relief is coming, that there is some fantastic new weapon, that their fleet will drive off the Russians, that the Fuehrer has pledged himself to save the surrounded forces. "Miracle" is the favorite word in the pocket. The German sausage-makers and brewers are obviously falling prey to mysticism. The Fritzes listen to talk about a new V-weapon that can annihilate everything for 100 kilometers around in one minute—and then dejectedly ask one another, "Say, what's the climate like in Siberia?"

True, the German army is not the army which attacked us in 1941. The Germans then were certain they would win. Only a year ago, they hoped they would win. Now they are fighting by inertia. They have plenty of tanks, self-propelled guns and ammunition in the pocket. Ferroconcrete pillboxes built in the years 1932-37 protect the pocket in many places. They are skilfully camouflaged. Every farm has to be fought for.

A German officer we took prisoner said to me, "We cannot change the end now, but we are trying to postpone it." Thus a man condemned to death, who has no hope for a reprieve, submits an appeal all the same, simply to prolong his life a few days more.

Perhaps the state of mind of the sur-

rounded Germans is best conveyed by the diary of Sergeant Johann Reshte. Here are some entries:

January 26—Retreated one and one-half kilometers. Willy killed. We slaughtered a pig. Wrote a letter to Irma and tore it up, since there is no mail, but I wrote all the same. They say the Russians are near Breslau.

January 29—I took a razor and stockings for Irma from an empty house, then threw them away. I am tired. Corporal Graber killed. They say we are going to be taken off on ships. Hardly likely. We have retreated again. I have the grippe and diarrhea.

February 1—Disaster is obvious. The Russians are too many for us. We used to say that all they could do was smoke makhorka and cut wood. Possibly, but their artillery is terrific. The orders are to stand firm. They say there are divisions coming to our rescue. They say reinforcements are being sent in. But it is all up with us anyhow.

February 7—It beats me that I am still alive. But I am indifferent to everything now, even to Germany, even to Irma. I don't know if I want to live. Three of us devoured a goose. That will be one goose less for the Russians.

February 13—This is the end, end, end. But that is nonsense. There cannot be any end. I have an inflammation of the ear. I swiped 50 grams of tobacco. I dreamed Irma was unfaithful with Rudolf, but it left me absolutely cold. However, Heil Hitler!

The author of the diary was killed February 14, but it seems to me he was dead long before he actually died, just as Germany is dead. She is still on her feet and still fighting. But that is only a post-mortem muscular contraction.

The Germans in Elbing consoled themselves with the assurance that the Russians could fight only on their own territory. They were not alone in this error. I have often heard and even read expressions of this belief on the part not only of our enemies, but even of certain alleged friends. What is the basis for this legend? Our peaceableness. A Russian could understand defending his country, but he could not understand wars of aggrandizement.

There is something profoundly pa-

The Red Army in Allenstein, East Prussia—Soviet cavalry riding through streets cleared of the enemy



Radiophoto

thetic in the fate of the general who doubted whether he ought to pursue the French beyond the borders of Russia. Maybe the Germans in Elbing, and certain foreign diplomats and journalists, too, thought that when the Red Army reached the German frontiers, its spirit would weaken.

They have not understood the tragedy of our times. Among Napoleon's motley horde there were bandits, marauders and bullies (there were plenty of Germans among them). But could Napoleon have instituted a Maidanek? Were his grenadiers capable of the fiendishness of the SS troops? Hitler's army has offended the conscience of our people so deeply that it seems to me that if the Germans escaped to the Argentine, we would go after them there.

Although the fighting in East Prussia is rigorous, our soldiers are jubilant—it is as if they were celebrating a birthday—and not only from a sense of military victory, but from a deep moral gratification. A sense of responsibility exalts every one of our soldiers: he has come to this country as plaintiff, prosecutor and judge. I have repeatedly said that the idea of revenge is not compatible with the role of the Red Army. Here I have convinced myself that the Red Army does not wreak vengeance. After all, there are wells here, too—but no one throws children into them. There are horses and old women here, too—but no one ties the old women to the horses' tails.

One cold gloomy day I saw German women and children plodding along an ice-covered road and some of our soldiers marching the other way. They passed the women in silence. Yet how many of those soldiers (they were Byelorussians) are

mourning for their children, tortured, crushed or burned by the Germans? There are no reprisals. But there is retribution. Our soldiers will not coddle the Germans, they will not smile at them or say a word to them. Hatred has steeled us. Germany will shed many tears before she can melt the ice in our hearts.

Our troops have developed amazingly in these years of war. Everyone knows they have learned to fight; that can be seen by their boots—it is no light matter to march from the suburbs of Moscow to west Prussia. But in the battles our men have learned more than fighting. They have learned to gauge true and spurious values.

I recall how in 1941 our men used to gaze almost with respect at a captured Fritz who carried in his pocket some intricately fashioned cigarette lighter or fountain pen, or some other gadget. Now our men see the well-appointed houses of the Germans, but they are no longer awed by perfected mincing-machines or refrigerators. It only makes them hate the tenants of these houses all the more. "Why did they want to go to war with us?" they ask. With their hatred they feel a mounting contempt for these people who could appoint their homes so well, but whose heads remained empty and whose hearts were filled with ferocity, greed and villainy.

I saw tankmen who had just broken through the enemy's defenses. It had been a tough job. But there was joy in their hearts, although they had lost many a comrade. Who can fail to understand the feeling of men who have fought all the way from Tapinskaya to these Welaus and Tapiaus?

I have seen the infantrymen who helped

to take Elbing. It was no joke, fighting in the streets of an enemy city with its old houses, its winding streets and spiral staircases. The Germans fired from windows and attics. Among our men were many novices who had come from western Byelorussia. These may not have known war, but they knew Germans for what they were—and hatred made up for everything else. I will not describe individual episodes. It is too late for a journalist to write about them, and too early for a novelist. The time will come for epics when some now unknown writer, who fought in these campaigns, will portray the nobility and gallantry of our men. What we expect from the newspapers now is not episodes, but information.

What can be said about the fighting in East Prussia is that it has revealed not only the courage and skill of the Red Army. To reverse a Russian proverb: Big ships are needed for long cruises. Only the Red Army, as it is today, a mature and intelligent Army, is capable of performing the mission that has fallen to its lot: saving Europe and the world.

It is not their idiosyncracies or their daring, but their wisdom, their will power, their genuine talent, that impress us in the generals who are now drawing the noose on the Prussian pocket.

General Gorbatoov or General Krylov have many campaigns and long careers behind them; and a career is also a campaign in its way. Their victories are not lucky chances, not gifts of fortune, but fruits of an art won by toil and suffering.

I cannot but recall here the shadow that has fallen upon this morning of victory. Ivan Danilovich Cherniakhovsky, one of the youngest and most brilliant of our generals, is dead. The inhabitants of Voronezh, Kursk, Vitebsk and Vilnius will remember him as their liberator. The entire Soviet country will never forget that he was the first to set foot on German soil. He had the passion and sweep of a tank commander; it seemed that never would his lucky star desert him.

He died like a soldier in battle . . . died without seeing the day of victory. But his achievement is great: by liberating scores of Soviet cities he ground the one-eyed Prussian eagle into the dust.

And the troops which General Cherniakhovsky commanded are carrying on

his grand work. The ring is drawing tighter. It is only some 20 kilometers from the southern edge of the pocket to the sea. Germany has not only lost the battle of East Prussia: she has lost East Prussia. This bandit salient will be cut off.

The Junkers will never return to their fortress estates. Cattle breeding will continue there, but the breeding of pedigreed Prussians has been stopped. Here they stand, the castles of the Teutonic Order—in Rastenburg, Insterburg, Osterode and Marienwerdere. This is the cradle of militant Germanism. This is its grave.

In August, 1914, the Germans won the battle of East Prussia. The bravery of the Russian soldier could not compensate for the conservatism and ignorance of the Tsar's generals. The victory of Tannen-

berg intoxicated the Germans; they were firmly convinced they could make short work of Russia.

They did not understand what a road our country had traveled. They did not understand that the Red Army was not the army of Nicholas II. Now they are wandering through the ruins, weeping and glancing ingratiatingly into the eyes of Red Army men. In Elbing I saw Germans outside the city jail pleading to be taken in; they would somehow feel more at ease in jail. That is something they will never forget, neither they nor their children.

"Now we will finish the job," one of our men in Elbing said to me gaily. We will. Of course, many Germans will still remain alive—but after this you could not tempt them to fight for gingerbread.

GESTAPO ARCHIVES CAPTURED

From PRAVDA correspondents Boris Gorbatoov and Oleg Kurganov:

In the town of Landsberg, in Brandenburg Province, at the approaches to Berlin, Soviet authorities have ordered registration of Nazi Party members. Before the Commander's office there is a long queue, stretching down the entire street and even around the corner. To show their submissiveness, the Nazis put on white armbands.

Among those reporting for registration are Germans who joined the Hitlerite party back in 1933: shopkeepers, homeowners, judges and police inspectors. One is even a "professor"; in his laboratory experiments in blood transfusion were made with Russians and Poles as subjects. The "professor" tries to justify himself, saying, "None of the Russians died." He threw his Nazi badge on the floor and stated that his Nazism was a mere accident; that in general he was a Social Democrat. Now they all speak about their "democratic" past. Now the people who took part in Hitler's bloody feast renounce him, cringing and imploring mercy. One German, in whose house we stopped for the night, asked: "What will you do to us?" We answered jokingly: "We shall treat you as your soldiers treated our civilians."

The German turned pale. "No! You

can't do that!" he cried. "You are Soviet people and you are prohibited to do that. Your laws are quite different. I know . . . I have read. . ."

These vile people know that we are different; they appeal to our Soviet conscience. They want us to forget the murder vans, Babi Yar ravine in Kiev, Maidanek and other death factories. We will never forget. But we will not kill them; we will make them face the court.

The notorious archives of the Gestapo in Landsberg have fallen into the hands of the Soviet Command. The town was seized by Red Army troops so quickly that the police fled without even locking up the archives, which occupy 30 rooms in the police office of Brandenburg Province.

The card indexes were kept behind solid steel doors. Long cases filled with cards line the walls in three tiers. Everything is mechanized. The cards reflect the life of all residents of Brandenburg Province—who went where, who called on whom, and who said what, is recorded on the cards. Even such things as going to the theater or circus, the purchase of an overcoat or the giving of a party, are recorded here. There are separate rooms for the cards of unreliable elements, of "useful" people, and of those kept under special surveillance. In a room marked with a black cross are the cards of the dead.

THE EVENTS IN RUMANIA

PRAVDA wrote editorially, February 22:

Events in Rumania have recently taken a turn which justifies us in saying that a political crisis is ripening. The broad mass of the people desire a resolute democratization of the country, the elimination of all vestiges of Antonescu's fascist regime, and certain urgent and essential reforms. But these aspirations are being baffled by the irresolute, vacillating and often frankly anti-democratic policy of Radescu's government.

The National Democratic Front Program published on January 28 describes the situation as follows: "Owing to the anti-popular policy pursued both inside the government and out, by reactionary elements among the leaders of the National Taranist and National Liberal parties, who are hindering the democratization of the country; owing to sabotage and delays in carrying out the armistice terms, and owing to the resistance of these circles to essential economic and social reforms, our country finds itself in dire straits and is threatened with economic and national chaos."

This picture fully corresponds to the realities. And the National Democratic Front Program goes on to say, "The way the government, in which reactionary elements predominate, is directing the country hampers the establishment of a sincere and stable friendship with the USSR and other democratic countries, is an obstacle to the democratization of the country, prevents it from escaping from the dire plight in which it finds itself, and hinders it from winning a place among the peaceful, freedom-loving countries."

The Program met with the unanimous approval of the broad mass of the people. But circles associated with the National Taranist and National Liberal parties made no concealment of their extreme irritation.

In connection with the conclusion of the Congress of the Rumanian Trade Unions and the formation of the Rumanian General Confederation of Labor, a huge mass meeting was held in Bucharest on January 30. It was addressed by Georg Apostol, a member of the General Confederation, who condemned the policy of the reactionary circles headed by Maniu.

The meeting demanded the immediate arrest of the war criminals, observance of the armistice terms, and agrarian reform.

In an interview given to the Rumanian press on February 6, Techari Jorjescu, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, stated that the purge of fascist elements from the government administration was extremely slow and was being sabotaged by influential officials. A radical clean-up was needed in the police force, which Jorjescu said was infected with the fascist virus. The reactionary ministers were unwilling to adopt a resolute policy in this matter.

A large part of the Rumanian press endorsed the accusations of irresolution and protection of reactionary elements leveled at the government. The fascists' reply to this was an attempt on the life of Miron Constantinescu, editor of *Scanteia*. Unidentified persons riding in an automobile overtook his car and fired eight shots at him. They missed. The police failed to find the would-be assassins.

The growing dissatisfaction of the Rumanian people with the government's policy induced Prime Minister Radescu to make a programmatic speech on February 12. But it was delivered in such surroundings, and both its contents and tone were such, as only to aggravate the situation.

Radescu was to make his speech in the Scala cinema theater. Long before the meeting opened, the theater was filled to overflowing, there being many supporters of the National Democratic Front in the audience. But, quite unexpectedly, Radescu made his speech in the Aro cinema house before a selected audience consisting predominantly of reactionary elements. The theater in which the Prime Minister, who is fond of calling himself a "democrat," spoke, was cordoned off by armed police so as to keep out dissidents.

The people gathered in the Scala were indignant and refused to listen to Radescu over the radio. Part of the audience proceeded to the Aro and staged a demonstration of hostility to the Prime Minister.

Radescu's speech was a tirade against the democratic elements. He accused the workers of excessive zeal for politics. "Let the workers," he said, "give less time

to politics and more to their jobs. Only in that way can they benefit the country and themselves. All agitation must cease, otherwise the very existence of the country will be jeopardized."

That is strange language for a democrat. Ousting the workers from politics is characteristic of a fascist, not a democratic, regime. Rumania heard such speeches of hostility to the working class in Antonescu's reign. Naturally, Radescu's attacks on the workers afforded the liveliest satisfaction to the reactionary elements, and they applauded the Premier vociferously.

But no better was Radescu's attitude toward the peasants. He categorically declined to carry out the agrarian reform immediately, on the dubious pretext that it was inconvenient to do so at a time when Rumanian soldiers from the peasant class were away with the army. Radescu said, "Having carefully weighed the pros and cons, I have come to the conclusion that the proper moment for agrarian reform has not arrived and that, furthermore, to carry out the agrarian reform at this moment would be a gross mistake."

He argued that to transfer the land of the big estates to the peasants would be injurious to agriculture, and that the agrarian reform cannot and must not be carried out until after the war.

If there is anything new in Radescu's contentions, it is only that they are sponsored by a politician who claims to be a democrat. These are the customary assertions of hidebound reactionaries. The Rumanians heard all these arguments during the First World War. Then, too, agrarian reform was promised "after the war"; at the "proper moment," but that moment never came. The Rumanian peasants were cruelly deceived.

It need scarcely be said that the present situation in Rumania threatens the failure of the spring sowing, whereas an immediate agrarian reform would fire the Rumanian peasants with enthusiasm, which would spur them to work more intensively on their land and increase the crop.

This is obvious to all in Rumania who are not blinded by reactionary malice; and in a letter signed by 61 professors

and lecturers of Bucharest and other universities, it is stated that, "The unsettled question of agrarian reform threatens the country with real disaster."

However, the voice of the Rumanian progressive intelligentsia is as alien to the ears of Radescu as the voice of the workers and the voice of the peasants. Radescu's speech was imbued with a spirit of hostility to the political utterances of the intelligentsia, toward the press, and toward "agitation" for an early and honest democratization of Rumania.

The fascist elements were not slow in drawing their own conclusions from Radescu's speech. They looked upon it as an encouragement to them, as the signal for an open war on democracy. The consequences were not long in manifesting themselves. After Radescu's speech, the fascists savagely beat up demonstrators in front of the Aro theater. The police, by aiding the hooligans and bandits, justified the characterization given them by Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Jorjescu. The activization of the pro-Hitler elements in Rumania is undeniable. It is an inevitable consequence of the fact that the Radescu government, refusing to rely upon the support of the broad mass of the people, is turning for support to the reactionary elements. This rupture with democracy threatens to render Radescu's government impotent. Radescu is trying to compensate for this growing sense of impotence by resorting to the force of the police. This is only widening the rift between him and Rumania's democratic circles.

An episode in the *Dreptatea* printing offices confirms this. *Dreptatea*, which expresses the views of the National Taranists, attacked the National Democratic Front, the labor unions and democracy, and leveled the most filthy and libelous accusations at them. The workers refused to print this wretched fascist sheet, rightly holding that it was impossible to allow virtual supporters of Antonescu to undermine the foundations of the new regime in Rumania. Freedom of the press does not exist for pro-Hitlerites and their agents.

What did the government do? It dispatched police and troops to the *Dreptatea* and other print shops. The workers were forced to print the calumnious ar-

ticles. This naturally aroused indignation in the workers' circles. A printers' delegation went to see Radescu. Received by him on February 16, they protested against the occupation of a number of print shops by the troops, and against the beating up by fascist bands of peaceful demonstrators outside the Aro theater.

Did Radescu find a common language with the printers' representatives? No. They demanded the restoration of democratic rights. Radescu upheld the rights of the police. He took the fascist hooligans under his protection. We learn in a statement of the printers' delegation published in *Scanteia* that, "The Prime Minister threatened that he would act the same way as they had acted in Greece. He said that he would declare war on the workers, that he would call on the army and order it to fire on the workers."

This "Greek" talk of Radescu's indicates that, owing to his own fault, the democratic ground is slipping from under his feet, and that in his relations with the masses he can only resort to anti-democratic measures. Need it be said that this slippery path can lead Rumania to no good?

All reactionary elements sense in Radescu's words the reluctance and the powerlessness of the Premier to work for the genuine, sincere and honest democratization of Rumania. Who were the ring-leaders of the hooligans whom Radescu approved and encouraged in his reply to the printers' delegation? According to the newspaper *Romania Libera*, they were the leader of the Taranist organization of Transylvanian Refugees, Ilis Lazar; the leader of the Legionaries affiliated with the National Taranist Party, Commanciu; the leader of the Liberal Youth, Farkas-anu, editor of *Viitorul*; the leader of the Taranist youth, Zezu, and Valerampop, son of a war criminal.

The names of the bandits are known. The police do nothing, although the Rumanian public demands that they be called to account. The Prime Minister encourages them.

Events are developing at an ominous speed. Huge protest meetings against the savage excesses of the fascist hooligans are being held in Bucharest, demanding a resolute purging of Rumania of the

fascists, and immediate reforms. Distrusting the government, which has exposed its reactionary complexion, the masses have begun to clean up the government administration on their own initiative.

In Craiova, a popular meeting attended by eight to ten thousand persons, deposed the prefect, an Antonescu supporter, and elected in his place engineer Cielac, a supporter of the National Democratic Front. That same evening three companies of gendarmes, about 700 strong, were rushed to Craiova. Members of the Council of the National Democratic Front were arrested and beaten up in the prefecture, on the way to the police station, and in the police station itself. Old officials took an active part in the manhandling. This savage episode filled the noses of all Rumania with the revolting stench of the old *siguranta* of Antonescu's dungeons.

The Hitlerite elements have thrown off all restraint. On February 20, at the Malacska works, a nefarious assault was perpetrated upon the factory committee. Severe wounds were inflicted on Georg Apostol, member of the General Confederation of Labor, whose speech calling for the democratization of Rumania had just been heard by the Bucharest workers, and approved at a meeting.

Such is the picture of events in Rumania. It signifies that the Radescu government has demonstrated its inability to create firm order in Rumania by democratic means; that by refusing to find a common language with the democratic forces of the country, it confesses that it has no influence over the mass of the people; that in its determination to cling to power it is preparing for an alliance with the recent supporters of fascist Antonescu, who embroiled Rumania in a criminal war on the side of Hitler Germany, and that this reactionary course is fraught with disaster and untold misery for Rumania.

The Soviet public cannot remain indifferent to this struggle of the democratic and fascist elements in Rumania. This is not only Rumania's internal affair. The war has not ended. Hitler Germany has not been finally defeated. She is frantically resisting. On the eve of her inevitable downfall, she is striving to mobilize her followers and agents.

We cannot for a moment lose sight of

the fact that Rumania is in the rear of the Red Army, and in that rear the sway of pro-fascist elements must be eliminated. This is demanded by the historic decisions of the Crimean Conference. No Rumanian government which looks for support to the reactionary circles which have compromised themselves by their intimacy with Antonescu and the Hitlerites, can hope to create in Rumania an atmosphere calculated effectively to assist the powers of the anti-Hitler coalition.

The only strong government in Ru-

mania—as in every other country—can be one that relies on the people, that functions by democratic means and in the interests of the broad sections of the population. When Radescu resorts to police violence against Rumanian workers, peasants and intellectuals, when he tries to strengthen his authority by savage repression, shooting and manhandling, he only portrays his impotence. By setting himself against the democratic forces he is inevitably brought to realize the extreme weakness of his political influence

on the Rumanian people—and, as a consequence, seeks for support among those who only yesterday were the buttress of Antonescu and in alliance with the Hitlerites who forced Rumania into the war with the USSR and other democratic countries.

Rumania can escape from its present plight only by determined, consistent and all-round democratization; by resolutely extirpating all vestiges of the fascist regime, and by firmly carrying out essential political and social reforms.

NEW FILMS IN BYELORUSSIA AND THE UKRAINE

By Oleg Leonidov

When Kiev, center of the Ukrainian cinema industry, was liberated from the Germans, the film workers evacuated to the East returned, rehabilitated their studios and refitted them with modern equipment. After an interval of nearly three years, production was resumed.

Director Mark Donskoy is at work on *The Unbowed*, a picturization of Gorbatorov's novel of the same title. The action takes place in the Ukraine and the Donets Basin during the fascist occupation, and shows the failure of Nazi attempts to break the will of the Soviet people and destroy their national pride by moral and physical terror and degradation. Instead,

the people rose in wrathful struggle against the invaders.

Donskoy is known for his successful filming of Wanda Wasilewska's novel, *The Rainbow*, and Nikolai Ostrovsky's *How The Steel Was Tempered*.

A new picture *Great is Life*, produced by Leonid Lukov, strikingly portrays the restoration of the mines in the Donbas after the expulsion of the invaders. Several years ago Lukov made a film of the same name, to which the present is a sequel, showing the development of the Donbas and the rise of the Stakhankov movement in the period of the Five-Year Plans. The heroes of the earlier film now appear as restorers of the savage destruction wrought by the Germans.

The Match of Death, based on a stirring incident from real life, is being produced by Alexander Zarkhi and Joseph Heifitz, who directed the famous picture *Baltic Deputy*. During the German occupation of Kiev, the Nazis arranged a football match between the best German team and some Ukrainian players.

The Ukrainians were warned by the Germans that if they did not lose the match they would forfeit their lives. But the Soviet patriots preferred to die as victors rather than to save their lives at the cost of defeat.

Among other films in production at the Kiev studios is *The Long Sea Journey*, based on the stories of the classic Russian writer Konstantin Stanyukovich. The pic-

ture is a romance of the sea and its heroes, the Russian sailors.

In Minsk, capital of liberated Byelorussia, director Vladimir K. Sablin is making *Zaslonov*—based on the guerrilla exploits of a Byelorussian engineer. When Minsk was occupied by the Germans, Zaslonov, who was in charge of construction of one of the Byelorussian rail lines, asked to be allowed to continue his work.

The Byelorussian people branded Zaslonov as a traitor. In reality he was carrying out acts of sabotage for his country, boldly blowing up trains and putting locomotives out of action. When the fascists became suspicious, Zaslonov escaped and organized a powerful guerrilla unit.



Marina Ladynina in the leading role of the film *Tractor Drivers*

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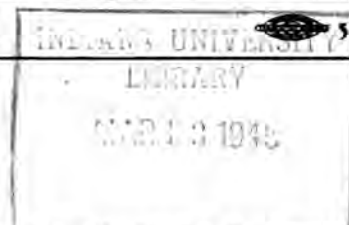
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In Germany—PART III

By Ilya Ehrenburg

"We liberated this town at the beginning of February," the Captain said, and it once corrected himself: "We did not liberate it exactly, we captured it. I say liberated from force of habit." And then after a pause he added, "But one might even say we liberated it, because there were more slaves here than Germans—our own people, Poles and Frenchmen. So it is true to say we liberated it."

All Europe is wandering along the roads of East Prussia: girls from Poltava, Scotchmen, Belgians, Parisians, Neapolitans and Czechs. They smile wanly, as if after long years of night they had suddenly emerged into brilliant sunshine. The picture will always remain in my memory: the ruins of tanks, the sinister guns, the litter of discarded impedimenta, the scared Germans, the eiderdown of the early spring sun, and the words of gratitude to the Red Army on the lips of all.

German posters on the walls of Elbing announce a grim warning: "He who steals will be punished with death." The posters are in French, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Czech, Polish, Croatian, Ukrainian and Russian. The German robbers had the brazenness to teach their slaves good morals. Let us remember these posters, changing the tense to read, "He who stole will be punished with death."

Every German town, even the tiniest, had its slave market. It was called the Arbeitsamt—Labor Exchange. Bertha Zeik says, "I lived very modestly. I had only three horses, an Italian, and a Ukrainian girl aged 17. For every labor unit I had to pay the Arbeitsamt 30 marks a month."

On the estate of Baroness Von Zigeisen there were 12 Frenchmen, 12 Belgians and 14 Russians. One hundred and five slaves worked on the estate of Dietrich von Dinhof—Russians, Poles and Frenchmen. On the Losgenen estate, the

mistress and a steward used to flog their slaves, among whom were Byelorussians, Frenchmen and Moroccans. Before retreating, German soldiers shot all the Losgenen slaves who did not manage to hide.

In Bartenstein every German family in which there were several children was given a Russian slave girl. In that town there was a camp in which there were 2,500 war prisoners. Many Frenchmen worked in the Masurian Lake region, felling trees and digging trenches. The Germans forced the war prisoners to build defense works; the Hitlerites begin to remember international conventions only when the jails are being filled with yesterday's jailers. One thousand Russians, 300 Poles and 200 Frenchmen worked in

the war plants at Metheren, where explosives were made. Their food ration was 300 grams of bread and a liter of gruel a day.

Last autumn, four Russians were hanged at one of the factories. Englishmen and Frenchmen languished in Marienburg. Hollanders and Czechs died in Elbing. A terrible story could be told of the sufferings of these polyglot communities. They learned to know one another in misfortune. Near Lyck, the Germans killed a Frenchman named Remy, a youth from Perpignan, for flinging himself upon a German woman who had struck a Russian girl with an iron rod.

Peter Chudovsky, a railwayman from Dniepropetrovsk, worked on an estate with some Moroccans. They became friends. Chudovsky taught the Moroccans Russian, and they now keep repeating with delight: "*Russky soldat borosho; Niemetz kaput.*" ("Russian soldiers are good; the Germans are finished.")

In one of the hutments where the slaves had lived, I saw the following notice printed in ten different languages:

"By an order dated October 10, 1940, war prisoners are strictly forbidden to consort or communicate with German women or girls. Violation of this order will be qualified as insubordination and is punishable under Article 92 of the German Military Code—published January 10, 1940, page 1,347—by ten years imprisonment, and in flagrant cases, by death."

A Frenchman commenting on this order said to me: "For the sake of women I am ready to take any risk. But they were wasting their threats on me. I think I would rather serve ten years imprisonment than pay court to a German woman."

The lot of the Soviet war prisoners was worst of all, especially in 1941-1942,



Radiophoto
Soviet infantrymen fighting in the streets
of Muelhausen

when the Germans were certain they would win. A Scotch army chaplain said to me, "We saw the way they treated the Russian prisoners, and now we can only admire your nobility." I dedicate these words to the pious Lady Gibbs.

Captain Rafali, of the French Army, said, "A Russian prisoners' camp was next to ours. About a hundred dead were carried out of it every day. The dying were mixed with the dead and buried alive. The Germans used to say, 'They will be dead by evening anyhow.' I am a doctor and my profession bids me be humane. But after what I witnessed, I want to take part in the occupation of Germany, so as to punish the criminals." I dedicate these words to yesterday's Vichyites, who claim to have taken part in the Resistance movement and are now advocating a soft peace.

In the kitchen of one German house, among jars neatly marked salt, pepper, flour and rice, our men found a notebook. It was the diary of a Russian girl. I will quote a few extracts:

"Yesterday she was raging mad. But she knows the cup was already cracked. She raised her hand as if to strike me, and I know that if she ever hits me, I will kill her with a flatiron. . . .

"September 26—I took advantage of her absence from home and tuned in Moscow on the radio. Kharkov is ours! I cried with joy all evening. I called myself a fool for weeping when our soldiers are retaking cities. I thought of Petya. Where is he now? Is he alive? Perhaps he has forgotten me. But I don't care, if only he is alive. I know I shall never live to be free again. But now I know for a fact we will win. I won't be there to see it, but they will make her pay for everything. . . .

"November 11—My birthday. I remember how Tanya and Nina used to come to see me and we would have tea and cakes and argue about books. I didn't think then that I would be emptying her chamberpot and listening to her taunts. She despises me; she wouldn't think of treating a cat the way she treats me. She is rich and has plenty of things, yet she is absolutely uncultured. I have never seen her with a book, and in the newspaper she reads only the advertisements. But why must I think of her? I must go

and do the washing. Let Lermontov's lines keep running through my head:

*Give me a boat
With a half rotted thwart
And a tattered sail
That has braved the storm."*

I don't know the name of this girl, nor what has become of her. Did her German mistress carry her away with her? Or had she given her over to the police long ago for insubordination? But we will remember this, too, the story of this Russian girl who loved Lermontov's verses and had to empty a chamberpot for a doltish German woman in the town of Friedland.

Today, German women are working under the supervision of Russian and Polish girls who have learned to talk German. German women humbly beg the Polish girls: "Say that I gave you food and drink." The girls smile and retort: "Yes, you made us eat potato peelings and drink our tears."

I wandered through Rastenburg in the company of a boy named Vasya, from Grodno. Only a little while ago Vasya was wearing the badge of shame and suffering the abuse of the Germans. Now they greet him, "*Guten Tag, Herr Vasya.*"

We have liberated very many Frenchmen. The Germans sent them to East Prussia so that they would be as far from France as possible. How much merriment, liveliness and eagerness is in them still, after four and a half years of slavery. A man from Marseilles amused me with his philosophical reflections. "I was taken prisoner at Dunkirk," he said. "I knew the Boches would be licked in the end. Only I was terribly worried that I would be liberated 15 years after I was dead. But when I learned the Red Army had taken the offensive, I knew it was the real thing. . . ."

I met a worker from Paris on the road. He was a humorous fellow who loved a good laugh and loved a good fight no less. He was wearing the top-hat of a German burgomeister and had put a cigar between his teeth. "How do you like me as Ribbentrop?" he said.

Captain Lucien Rafali is 40 years old. He tried to escape from a prison camp and was tried in Oflag 17A for "insubordination" and sentenced to two years' imprisonment (he has kept a copy of the verdict). He was then sent to a discipli-

nary camp in Graudanz. He has seen a lot and hates fascists. He speaks enthusiastically of his first meeting with Red Army men: "They fairly petted us. They were real friends."

I have spoken to hundreds of Frenchmen. On the roads of Prussia I have met some of the finest characters of my novel *The Fall of Paris*. They are proud and promising. Suffering has steeled them. They have acquired a new austerity, but they have not lost their native wit and humor.

I was deeply touched by these meetings, for it is over five years since I have seen ordinary Frenchmen. I saw them again in Germany, and again I feel the strength of their national spirit. Yes, these—not diplomats or journalists, but mechanics, vintners, miners and weavers—are the immortal people . . . are the real France. When you talk to them you realize that the fall of Paris will remain a gloomy but a minor detail in the history of a great people.

And one other thing should be remembered: here on German soil our friendship was sealed. The French know and will not forget who liberated them. "Stalingrad . . ." says the French worker René Bourben reflectively, ". . . after Stalingrad captive Europe could think of nothing but the footsteps of the Red Army." The same thought was expressed by an English officer, Major Daffus. I have seen many Britishers. But where is their phlegmatism? They laughed and joked like children.

Captain Crock of South Africa said: "We are being treated royally. Our shrunken stomachs are gradually beginning to fill out. The Russians even arrange cinemas for us and show American films. I had read about Russian hospitality but I have now seen it for myself."

Who else is there? Dutch actors. Greek workers. Many Italians. Slovenes. Czechs. Americans. The whole world is here. Many years hence, in South Africa and Paris, in Piraeus and Texas, men will tell in different languages of this unusual early spring, and of the wonderful joy amid the fire and ashes of Prussia.

One of our officers requested me to ask some Frenchmen if there was anything they needed, and a fervid southern wine grower from Narbonne, threw u

his hands and cried: "What else can we want? You have given us the biggest thing of all—liberty."

• • •

The Germans had a prison camp at Dobreck, near Elbing. Last autumn the prisoners were sent to the southern border of East Prussia to dig fortifications. Among them were citizens of Holland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, and Soviet girls from Lithuania. When the Germans began to retreat, Rotenfuhrer Falk ordered poison to be injected into the women. The poison was of poor quality and some of the women survived. But as a result of the injections, they contracted terrible ulcers. These women will be witnesses at the trial of Germany, side by side with the survivors of Maidanek, Tremblyanka and Ponyri.

On the East Prussian border, near Augustow, our men found pits containing fresh corpses. Among them were girls of

10 or 12, and old women. This was one more reminder to our men: look, comrades, before you lies the land of the miscreants.

I would like to say how happy I am that I have been in Germany. Justice moves slowly—and how many friends and comrades have departed this life while the dark night still hovered over the earth? We have lived to see the dawn. Let us bless the heroes who fell in the hours of night when even birds do not stir—the heroes of 1941-1942.

History has known great and powerful armies. There have been victor armies. But there has never been a Red Army in history—the army of human dignity and justice. In Germany you feel every moment that it was we who saved the world, we who liberated Europe, we who are stamping out the fascist basilisk. That is why one feels so light of heart. That is why our men, and the

Ukrainian girls, the Poles, Frenchmen and Englishmen, are all smiles and laughter. Only the Germans are not laughing. The French have a fine saying, "He who laughs last, laughs best."

The Germans laughed for a long time. They guffawed when Warsaw was in flames, when Paris wept, when Russian peasant women staggered along the roads of Smolensk, clasping their infants to their breasts while Messerschmitts poured a hail of lead upon them. The Germans then split their sides with laughter: "Ho, ho, ha, ha," they cried.

They are not laughing now. They will be weeping soon. Does it matter if some Kreisleuter escapes across the ice to Danzig? There will be a Danzig kettle, too; and there will be a Berlin kettle. They will yet boil and stew.

All thanks to the Red Army, which has saved the world with its blood.

TRAINING OF RED ARMY OFFICERS

By Lieutenant General Vasili Morozov

Director General of Education, Red Army

The Red Army training program was based upon the assumption that a future war would be a war of motors and machines, requiring a large personnel trained in all army skills. Guided by Marshal Stalin's statement to the effect that trained personnel—people who have mastered the techniques of their professions—are in everything the deciding factor, the Red Army established schools covering all branches of military knowledge.

In the training of officers, the Army also took into consideration Marshal Stalin's injunction that the Army school is only the first stage of training; that the real work is done outside the school in the struggle to overcome difficulties and obstacles. The Red Army Educational Department, basing itself on these principles, developed a contingent of officers which has grown into the present officer corps—whose strength, skill and initiative have been revealed in the war against the German invaders. Each battle has proved that for Soviet soldiers fighting in accordance with Stalin's science of war, there are no insoluble problems or insuperable obstacles.

Following are the various types of schools and colleges maintained by the Red Army for the training of its officers:

1. Officers Training School for subalterns (platoon commanders)—the largest section of officers on the Red Army rolls—and junior technical specialists for all arms of the services.

The Officers Training School draws its students from the ranks: non-commissioned officers and men who have served at the front and who are in good physical

condition, who have been graduated from a secondary school (or, in exceptional cases, a seven-year school), and who have good service records. Many are soldiers who have already been decorated.

The length of the courses depends upon the nature of the school. The students have a stiff schedule—nine hours in class daily, plus two hours of independent study under the guidance of an instructor. The curriculum is designed to turn out loyal and disciplined officers who will make the highest demands upon themselves and

Recently mentioned in Stalin's Orders of the Day — Guards Lieutenant General A. V. Outin (center), his assistant, Guards Colonel Ivanov (left), and Chief of Staff, Guards Major General Semyonov



Radiophoto



Guards Colonel A. I. Pokryshkin, Thrice Hero of the Soviet Union (left), commander of a fighter plane unit, with his Chief of Staff, Guards Colonel B. Abramovich. Both won recent mention in Stalin's Orders of the Day

their subordinates; who are determined, persistent, courageous and capable of initiative; officers who can command a platoon under all the conditions of modern warfare, who know all weapons of the platoon and are themselves able to use them; who have mastered the technique and tactics of fighting at close quarters; who are capable of training non-commissioned officers and men, and who, if necessary, can replace their company commander during a battle.

The greater part of the instruction is given in the field, or in specially equipped quarters; 25 per cent of the training takes place at night. Special attention is paid to the cooperation of all arms.

The best officer instructors available—men who have fought at the front in the present war—are selected. After completing the course, the students are placed on probation in the regular Army (the technical personnel go to factories), and take their final examinations only when their superiors have reported favorably upon them.

2. Special Military Schools under the People's Commissariat of Education, and Suvorov Cadet Schools.

The first type of school is for boys who have received exemplary reports on completion of their seventh year in the

secondary schools. They are given three years' training in special military schools, as candidates for artillery, aviation and naval colleges.

The Suvorov Cadet Schools were established during the present war to prepare boys for military service, giving them a complete secondary education and the training befitting an officer of the Red Army. In these schools the pupils are boarded, clothed and maintained at State expense; they are sons of Red Army officers and men and of guerrillas, or orphans who lost their parents at the hands of the Germans.

3. Officers Refresher Courses and Officers Colleges.

These institutions provide additional training for captains and field officers. They are attended by officers who have had experience at the front and good records, and who have been marked for promotion, but require extra training in their particular branch of the service. Length of the course depends upon the officer's specialty. The study of the Red Army's operations in the present war is the central feature in these colleges and courses.

4. Military Academies and Higher Schools for Officers.

These are for the training of field and other high-ranking officers in all branches of military knowledge. The most outstanding officers are selected, who must be graduates of Officers Training Schools, have a full secondary or higher education, and exemplary records. Entrance to the academies is by competitive examination. Length of courses depends upon the nature of the academy. Instructors are drawn from the country's leading scientific workers in various fields of military knowledge, many of whom have received Stalin Prizes for notable work or inventions.

The aim of the academies is to develop higher ranking officers who have not only a thorough knowledge of their professions, but also a very broad military, social and political outlook. Considerable time is allotted to study of the history of warfare and the art of conducting operations.

In academies which train Army engineers, the students have a period of probation in factories. Officers with a more general specialty serve their probation in the regular Army. Only when a candidate has successfully passed his final examina-



Guards Major General I. S. Polbin, Hero of the Soviet Union, commander of a bomber unit, also mentioned in Stalin's Orders of the Day

tions, defended his thesis and received a favorable report from the officer under whom he served his probation, is he considered a graduate of the academy. He then receives a diploma from the Committee on Higher Schools of the Council of People's Commissars.

Special attention is paid to the political training of Red Army officers, with the aim of developing officers of exemplary patriotism, ready without hesitation to give up their lives for their country.

The training of Red Army officers is not limited to schools and colleges. Officers are constantly perfecting their knowledge while on duty. They study the experience of the latest battles, and all new information pertaining to warfare. The study is well organized both at the front and in rear areas.

In perfecting their training, Red Army officers are carrying out the instruction of Marshal Stalin: "In military matters and the more so in such a war as modern war, one cannot stand still. To stop in military matters means to remain behind. And as is known, those who remain behind are beaten. Therefore, the main point now is that the whole Red Army must day in and day out perfect its combat training, that all commanders and men of the Red Army must study the experience of war, must learn to fight in such a manner as is needed for the cause of victory."

THE GERMAN GENERAL STAFF—A HORNET'S NEST OF FASCIST MILITARISTS

By M. Bonch-Bruyevich, Doctor of Military Sciences

From IZVESTIA:

In their statement on the results of the work of the Crimean Conference, the leaders of the three Allied powers—the Soviet Union, the United States of America and Great Britain—state: "We are fully determined . . . to break up once and for all the German General Staff that has repeatedly contrived the resurgence of German militarism. . . ."

The German General Staff has a sad and sinister fame. Germany owes to her General Staff the proportions and strength of her war machine. In the quiet of its offices were drawn up and matured the robber plans of the German imperialists; there were formulated the strategic principles and doctrines of Scharnhorst, Schlieffen and Moltke. In its safes lay the blueprints of many wars, all planned beforehand in numerous variations. In it were trained the most prominent leaders of the German militarists, such as Hindenburg, Ludendorff and Von Seeckt.

The militarists' corps of officers played a special role in the Kaiser's Germany. Segregated and aloof, the military caste was recruited from the landed aristocracy, from the most reactionary strata of Prussian Junkerdom; possessed of the boundless arrogance of their ancestors, the Teutonic knights, they wielded great influence in the country. The military caste had its own specific features, customs and distinctions, its own traditions and habits. The caste character of the officers corps was maintained by a special system of drill which began in childhood.

A sensational book by Bernhardt, which appeared before the First World War, quite frankly expressed the main idea of the German military caste. Bernhardt said in his book, "One need but look at the sword with the eyes of a man of courage, ponder its mission and awe-inspiring action, to become convinced that war is in itself a divine task, as useful and essential as food and drink."

Bernhardt drew the conclusion that war "should be provoked under any favorable conditions." That was the end toward which the German militarists bent

their activity. In them German imperialism found its best tool.

The German General Staff is the center of the German military caste. The members of the German General Staff are distinguished for their haughtiness and arrogance, even among German officers.

The Chief of the General Staff holds a position higher than that of the Chief of General Staff of any other army. He and his entourage are the brains of German militarism. From them extend numerous threads connecting the German militarists with the industrial and financial magnates. The kings of coal and steel, chemical and other concerns, and the omnipotent banks, dictated their tasks and demands to the General Staff, in whom they found an obedient servant ready to carry out their predatory designs. The war plans of the General Staff fully accorded with the robber tendencies of the German imperialists.

The war of 1914-1918, which proved unsuccessful for Germany, officially put an end to the existence of the German General Staff. According to the terms of the Versailles Treaty, it was dissolved. In any event, that was the official report. Only the section on military history re-

mained, ostensibly to study the history of the First World War.

It goes without saying that this was nothing but a sham. In actual fact, the German General Staff did not interrupt its activity for a single day, and lost no time in embarking upon preparations for a new world war. There is reason to assert that those preparations began before the conclusion of the Versailles Treaty, and even before the signing of the Armistice terms. Ludendorff, and those among the higher officers of the aristocracy and big capitalists who shared his views, were aware at that time that Germany had lost the war, and they set out to work for an opportunity for Germany "to take revenge" at a future date.

Ludendorff set up and headed the secret General Staff. Ludendorff's associates were Walter Nikolai, head of the German intelligence and espionage service; Schleicher; the industrialists Thyssen, Vogler, Krupp and Von Bohlen; the "learned" exponent of "geopolitics" Haushofer, and others.

The peace treaty, as we know, left German imperialism—its economic foundations and personnel—intact. The clandestine General Staff then set itself the aim of preserving the cadres of officers, and an organization of industry which would enable it to be converted to war production at short notice.

The German rulers managed to maintain the old command of the Kaiser's time at the head of the "republican" Reichswehr. But the Reichswehr was too small, and they organized the so-called "Black Reichswehr," a secret military force, under the guise of sports societies, rural cooperatives, youth organizations, associations of "war veterans," and the like. The present Hitlerite Field Marshals Von Rundstedt and Von Bock were active in those organizations. At the same time, "volunteer corps" were organized, such as the Erhardt Brigade, into which swarmed the most desperate cutthroats.

The underground General Staff maintained the Prussian military traditions and the strictest discipline in its units. It pro-

AFTER THE CRIMEAN CONFERENCE

Cartoon by B. Efimov



Berlin in prospect



Prospect in Berlin

duced and concealed weapons, kept from the Allies secret war documents and plans, and at the same time it was busy drawing up new plans for war.

It was in those years that Ludendorff elaborated his theory of total war. At the same time, Von Seeckt so organized the activity of the legal Reichswehr as to enable it, thanks to its high professional level, to play the role of a large military force. The Reichswehr trained cadres for a future big army.

The German General Staff sought to rehabilitate and vindicate the German strategy which had failed in 1918. To raise the prestige of the German military caste, and to exonerate it from all blame for the lost war, the claim was put forward that the German army had not been defeated in battle, but had become a "victim of politics."

The General Staff paid great attention to economic organization for war. A special department was also set up to deal with the problems of finance. Finally, the secret General Staff became the center for the organization of revolts (the Erhardt-Kapp putsch), espionage, and shady financial machinations (it is asserted, for example, that inflation in Germany was deliberately engineered by the General Staff).

Hitler's first steps in the political sphere were sponsored by the military, by prominent officers of the German Staff (among them the son of Kaiser Wilhelm II, August Wilhelm, nicknamed "Prince Auwi"; General Epp, Colonel Hirl, Captain Roem, Captain Goering, etc.). Hitler was given the opportunity to create a party which was to be directed and led by the most reactionary circles.

Those circles of the German military caste itched after a war of revenge; they wanted to "rewrite history," as if history were a blackboard from which they could wipe off the defeat of 1918. It soon became clear that Hitler was the figure in whom the interests of both the German imperialists—the industrialists—and the German militarists, met. Hitler became the focus of new imperialistic plans, and the most handy tool for their accomplishment.

Hitler came to power with the active assistance of the German General Staff; and received power from the hands of

Hindenburg, leader of the militarists.

During the Hitler rule, the German General Staff, in which all the old features of the Prussian military caste had become enhanced by fascist obscurantism, began to work feverishly to restore and strengthen German militarism. It succeeded in forming, first secretly and then openly, a huge army, and in equipping it with modern perfected armaments.

At the dictates of Hitler's party, the German General Staff directed the German war machine toward the extermination of millions of human lives, the complete enslavement of the population of the occupied countries, and the establishment of German domination over the world.

The German General Staff became closely and inseparably entwined with the Hitler gang. At one time, attempts were made in European press organs to draw the line of demarcation between, and even to contrast, Hitler and the General Staff. But such attempts have been decisively refuted by the course of events. The latter have fully confirmed the fact that the German General Staff is completely fused with the Hitler organization in all ways. In the book, *The German Army's Guilt*, Hans Fried points out that the deal had its consequences also for the reactionary German military caste: "Generals had to bow to the Tyrolese corporal." The strife among the military circles which flared up as a result of the defeats of Hitler's army was only a fight for influence inside the Hitler gang, and only enabled Hitler to gain control over the General Staff by removing its chiefs (Brauchitsch, Beck, Keitel and Zeizler), and replacing them with SS Germans. Fried's conclusion is that "the army and the Fascist Party in Germany are interconnected and share a common responsibility." The cadres, methods, doctrines and strategy of the German General Staff bear the robber mark of the swastika. The General Staff has become a hornet's nest of fascist militarism.

German strategy set itself the impossible aim of vanquishing and subjugating the whole world and establishing Germany's world domination. But adventurism is not its only fault. The strategy of the Germans "... is defective because as a rule it underestimates the enemy's forces

and possibilities and overestimates their own forces. Their tactics follow a routine—as they endeavor to fit events at the front into this or that article of the regulations. The Germans are accurate and precise in their actions when the situation permits them to act as required by the regulations. In this is their strength. The Germans become helpless when the situation becomes complicated and begins to 'run at variance' with this or that article of the regulations, calling for the adoption of an independent decision not provided for by the regulations. In this is their main weakness." (*Stalin*).

Stalingrad, Kursk, Orel, Dnieper, Byelorussia, the Ukraine, Poland, East Prussia—all these are landmarks of the ignominious defeats suffered by the German army. Germany, relentlessly held in a vise from the East and West, is heading for a collapse. Hitler imperialism is doomed.

The most experienced representatives of the German military caste have long since realized that Germany has lost the Second World War. But they have drawn only one conclusion for themselves: with pig-headed Teutonic persistence they have begun to plan and prepare for a third World War.

But this time they will not succeed. In the Crimea the Allies have decided not to stop at the defeat of Germany's armed forces. German militarism itself, with its entire military and economic machinery, headed by the German General Staff, is to be broken up.

The freedom-loving nations must have firm guarantees that the Hitlerite army, broken by the victory of the Allies, will not reappear, and that its staff will not continue its infernal activity with even greater energy after rectifying its methods to accord with the experience gained in the Second World War. It is obvious that the brutality which the Hitlerites have introduced in the present war would perhaps seem like child's play compared with the methods which they could be relied upon to employ in another war.

It is obvious that the interests of freedom-loving mankind require that the German General Staff be broken up for all time. The leaders of the three great powers have decided to do this. And it will be done.

HITLERITES PREPARE FOR THIRD WORLD WAR

On February 26, PRAVDA political observer Minayev wrote:

Preparing for a third World War, the Nazis have begun to set up underground terroristic organizations. Hitler has appointed Himmler special commissioner for placing the Nazi Party on an underground status.

With this view, the following measures have been undertaken: (1) creation of a powerful financial base for the extensive subsidizing of underground work; (2) preservation of the main cadres of the Party; (3) preservation of the economic base of the German war machine; (4) political preparation for revenge.

These activities are being carried out both within and outside Germany. Within Germany, the Hitlerites are preparing to conduct underground work along three lines: (a) organization of sabotage and terroristic bands; (b) setting up of a widely ramified clandestine fascist organization; (c) sabotage of peace terms between Germany and the United Nations.

At present the German General Staff is feverishly preparing plans for operations of the fascist underground army, to be centered chiefly in the hilly and wooded terrain in East Prussia, southern and southwestern Germany, in the Tyrol and Austria—which favor the conduct of a "little war." To direct these operations, special headquarters have been set up in Munich, under Wilhelm Schepmann—one of the organizers of anti-Allied sabotage in the Ruhr in 1923. The members of Schepmann's staff are Ernst Kaltenbrunner, chief of the Gestapo and chief of the military intelligence service; Hitler's personal friend Werner von Alvensleben, and senior officers of the "security service" Obergruppenfuhrers Schellenberg and Melle.

The terroristic detachments will consist of picked fascist cutthroats from the SS units. At present all these units are studying future theaters of operations in the areas assigned to them.

Simultaneously a ramified network of secret caches of arms, ammunition, clothing, provisions and secret signal communications lines, are being laid away. Along with the preparation of the terroristic bands, a huge underground apparatus is

being set up to conduct various underground work and fascist propaganda—a so-called "sixth column."

The territory of Germany, divided into sectors and areas, is being covered with a dense network of clandestine Nazi Party organizations, consisting of many thousands of secret cells. The Hitlerites are planning a wide range of activities for their underground organization: terror, diversions, espionage, provocation, untiring propaganda of the Nazi ideology, and preparation for a third World War. This clandestine organization will serve to build up cadres for the future German army.

It is not without reason that Himmler's newspaper *Das Schwarze Korps* declared: "We shall need a strong army in 20 years."

In order to preserve their cadres and permit them to evade responsibility for the crimes which they committed, the Hitlerite ringleaders are now resorting to various methods of disguise. They are placing some of their stoolpigeons in concentration camps and prisons, as "anti-Nazis." For others they have fabricated faked Gestapo files in which they are accused of "underground anti-fascist" activities. Still others are listed in the Gestapo card indexes as "politically unreliable" and "wanted by the police."



Charred bodies of Polish victims of German massacre in Radogoszcz. In this building nearly 2,000 Poles were imprisoned. Before their retreat from Radogoszcz, the Hitlerites deliberately cut a hole in the wall of the third floor, then set fire to the building. As the suffering people rushed to the opening, the Germans picked them off with machine-gun fire.

Many arrant fascists pose as "deserters." All over Germany, Hitlerites are being issued forged documents, their names and residence changed. Yesterday's killers, violators and robbers have today become "respectable burghers," or disguise themselves as "anti-fascists." Many active Hitlerites are now taking positions as clerks, bookkeepers, technicians and other minor posts in civil enterprises of second-rate importance.

The destruction of many German towns by bombs and the great wave of refugees favor the camouflage of the future "sixth column." Special schools in Germany are training cadres of skilful saboteurs and terrorists. Himmler and his assistants are taking special pains to set up a technical base for the underground organization. The latter will have clandestine printshops, secret radio transmitters, and an extensive network of rendezvous.

Leadership of the fascist and underground activities in Germany will be exercised from abroad by a special secret general staff, consisting of prominent Nazi leaders. This general staff will have its residence in one of the neutral countries.

Employing the experience of the anti-Allied sabotage after the First World War, the Hitlerites intend to use a similar method on a tremendous scale. They plan to hide huge quantities of arms and war materials, as well as strategical materials, factory equipment, stolen treasures and masterpieces of art. The Hitlerites thereby intend to thwart German's military and economic disarmament, also the payment of reparations.

The fascist vermin is trying to crawl into hiding, and from there to cause harm to mankind. But the United Nations, which have found enough strength to smash the German war machine, will be able to bring this cause to an end. To do this, urgent, resolute measures are required against the doomed enemy, who resorts to extreme and the most vile means of struggle.

The great vigilance which the Supreme Commander-in-Chief calls for must become an irrevocable law for every Red Army man fighting on the enemy's territory. The last trump card of the doomed enemy will be beaten!

Notes from Front and Rear

By Government decree, four Soviet officers have been decorated for a second time with the Gold Star of Hero of the Soviet Union. Major Alexei Smirnov and Captains Andrei Borovykh, Kirill Evstigneyev and Ivan Pavlov have joined the ranks of the 42 twice-Heroes of the Soviet Union. Bronze busts will be erected in the birthplaces of the four officers to mark their heroic deeds. Captain Evstigneyev also wears the Order of the British Empire, conferred upon him in 1943. By another recent decree, 172 Soviet fliers have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

★

One million gifts were presented by the trade unions of the USSR to children of men in the Armed Forces, on the occasion of Red Army Day.

★

In Yalta, repairs have been completed on the sanatorium in the Courtiers' Quarters, next to the palace of the former Tsar at Livadia. Before the war this was one of the finest sanatoriums in the Crimea. The Tuberculosis Institute, the Chekhov Sanatorium, two sanatoriums for scientists, and other health resorts in Yalta have also been restored.

★

Hundreds of millions of oranges, lemons and tangerines have been shipped from Soviet Georgia this season to Moscow, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Leningrad, Novosibirsk and other Soviet cities, as well as to Warsaw and Lublin.

★

One hundred motorcycle racers of the Red Army Armored Forces competed in a winter cross-country race at which Marshal of Tank Troops Pavel Rotmistrov was chief umpire. The grueling conditions of the race closely paralleled front-line hardships—the course being over the frozen Moscow-Volga Canal and snow-bound roads, forests, hills and ravines. The men covered the distance in full fighting kit, using machines of various makes. First place was won by the team of the Moscow Military District.

Bobo-Lyngar, a small village in the Pamirs—"The Roof of the World"—1,500 feet above sea level, has an exhibit on the partnership of the three great Allied powers. Special posters by local artists show American and British landings in France and Italy. There is also a rich series of photographs of American and British planes, tanks and other equipment. The exhibit is very popular and has many visitors from remote mountain hamlets.

★

The Committee on Stalin Prizes has begun selection of works to be awarded Stalin Prizes for 1943-44. Over 300 works have been submitted in the technical sciences section, headed by Academician Evgeny Chudakov, leading Soviet automobile designer; and 70 in the medical section, under Academician Alexei Abrikosov. The technical section has received works on new methods of quick construction and restoration of blast furnaces and railway bridges.

★

In accordance with a Government decree published February 24, the Soviet collective and State farms will cultivate 20,250,000 acres more during the coming agricultural season than last year. The share of the collective farms in this new extension of the cultivated area will amount to 14,750,000 acres.

★

Ships laden with gifts to the USSR from the American Red Cross recently arrived in Archangelsk and Murmansk ports. The gifts, including hospital equipment and linens, have been sent to Smolensk, Sevastopol, Stalino, Kharkov, Kursk and other cities which suffered from the German occupation. New hospitals of 500 beds each, which are being opened in cities liberated from the invaders, will be supplied with the American equipment.

★

One billion books—57,000 titles in 100 languages—have been published in the USSR during the war.

French fliers of the Normandie Air Unit in the USSR are now in the skies over the Koenigsberg pocket in East Prussia. By order of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, 45 French fliers were recently decorated with Soviet orders "For exemplary execution of military assignments of the Command at the front, in the struggle against the German invaders, and for valor and courage in action."

★

Patriarch Nikoldim of Rumania, in a letter addressed to the Vice Chairman of the Allied Control Commission, Lieutenant General Vinogradov, expressed gratitude for the care and respect displayed by Soviet troops for the Rumanian monasteries.

★

Letters delivered to Soviet front-line fighters in the past 12 months are counted in billions; if laid out on the ground they would form a 1,250-mile strip from Stalingrad to beyond Berlin. Red Army men fighting in Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary receive newspapers on the date of their publication. During the past summer and autumn campaign, 45 million copies of Moscow newspapers were delivered to officers and men of the advancing troops. Thousands of Red Army postmen have been decorated for bravery in getting the mail to the soldiers.

Information Bulletin

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Radiophotos

IN EAST PRUSSIA—(left) Soviet self-propelled guns rolling through Maideburg; (right) Paintings stolen from palaces in Peterhof and Pushkin, near Leningrad, and abandoned by the Germans in their flight before the Red Army offensive

LIBRARY

MAR 16 1945

Retribution

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From PRAVDA, March 1:

I spent two weeks in Germany—terror-stricken, flaming, smoking Germany. German men and women plod along the roads through snow or mud. These roads are littered with furniture, domestic utensils and clothing.

The towns are in flames. Hogs wander in and out of deserted city halls. The wind ruffles the tatters of municipal banners emblazoned with eagles, lions and stags. We might gloat and say—*It serves them right*—if malice were not beneath us. Ours is a different feeling; to us this is the triumph of justice.

Many, when they talked of retribution, thought only of the clauses of some future treaty. I don't know what the verdict of the diplomats will be, but one thing is certain: fascist obscurantism will find its defenders—jealous champions of "equilibrium," the equilibrium between light and darkness.

But whatever our idea of the future peace may have been, one thing is clear: retribution has begun. Germany has come to learn what war means. And who knows, perhaps these weeks and months of war on German soil will make a far deeper impression on the memories

of the Germans than all the stipulations of the peace treaties.

Fighting raged for several days in the streets of Elbing. And when the battle was over I saw a rather picturesque sight: Germans queued up outside the gates of a prison in a long line. Nobody was driving them in. But jail seemed to these "supermen" the most tranquil and comfortable haven they could find.

They resist desperately, they maintain fire from every building, they have every appearance of being irreconcilable. But once their officer is killed, or their ammunition gives out, these "irreconcilables" draw themselves up stiffly to attention, salute our drivers, even our horses, and try to show that the conquest of the world was no business of theirs.

Not only the Fritzes—even Colonel Heinsgenk changed as one watched him. At first he kept reiterating, "Germany is invincible," and then, as if some spring had run down, he cried in an entirely different tone, "How can you call me a Nazi? Why, I was married to a Jewess!"

The civilian population try to run away. Thousands upon thousands of carts are moving westward. And the things they are loaded with! Coffers, featherbeds,

furniture, abdominal belts, mustache bandages and (concealed under the straw) Italian carbines and daggers issued by the Kreisleiter with mottoes on them: "All for Germany" and "Blood and Vengeance."

With these daggers the German men and women were to kill the Russians. But the Red Army straddled the road, and not only armchairs but mustache bandages, too, were abandoned. Tens of thousands of featherbeds lie strewn about (the Germans sleep under featherbeds) and the eider of all the geese from the time of Bismarck to our day covers East and West Prussia with a carpet, as if a blizzard had passed.

As to the German men and women—when we overtake them, they try to get rid not only of their daggers, but even of their past. "I am a Frenchman . . . I have non-Aryan blood in me . . . my mother was a Dutchwoman. . . ." They hastily doff their caps. The girls gaze at our passing soldiers ingratiatingly and lecherously, as if they were night cabaret waitresses instead of burghers' daughters.

The Germans know all the orders of our military commandants by heart, and they piously say, "Those were the orders of the Herr Russian Commandant."



Radiophoto

German war equipment seized by the Red Army in East Prussia

I have been through many forests. They are deserted. The Germans who were so recently surging westward and vowing to kill the Russians are fervidly plodding eastward, and they bow to the Russians. The more we advance westward, the more German civilians we meet: they have nowhere to flee. I have seen the inhabitants of the eastern districts in west Prussia. There are many of them; hundreds of thousands. They inform one against the other, "The butcher is an active Nazi . . . Herr Mueller used to beat Russian girls . . . Willy Stableman killed a Polish woman . . . Frau Schmidt received the thanks of the Gauleiter."

They all try to prove their innocence. One of them brought a certificate to show that 11 years ago the Hitlerites kept him in jail for a month. Another produced a testimonial signed by a Belgian war prisoner who was yesterday a slave. A third dug up a membership card of the Social Democratic Verein, dated 1928. A woman in trousers climbs up the front of a house to remove the swastika sign. No one ordered her to do it. She is all sweaty and gleeful; she thinks she has rehabilitated herself in the eyes of history. But don't ask me how she treated her Russian maidservant, Galya. . . .

The German advances the hands of his watch two hours and triumphantly announces, "It is now exactly 12 minutes past three, Moscow time." He beams; he is prepared to live by Vladivostok time, let alone Moscow time, as long as he is not asked about the four Frenchmen who

worked for him from early dawn till late at night.

"How could I have sympathized with the Nazis? I am a doctor, and therefore a humanist, whereas the Nazis are fiends," a venerable physician says. A Vicar General, rubbing his hands, murmurs, "The Catholic Church has always condemned Hitler. Of course I could not condemn him openly, but I condemned him in my own heart. But as for the Evangelical Church. . . ."

A Lutheran pastor, for his part, vows, "We also condemned the ungodly regime." An engineer in Elbing declared, "As a man of progress, I am against Hitler," and then with a crafty smile added, ". . . and I am willing to work for the Russians."

A worker exclaims indignantly, "Who dares to call me a Nazi? My father was a Social Democrat. I myself once voted for the Communists. Of course, I could not speak against the regime, because that was strictly *verboten*. But now I am even prepared to come out against Hitler."

Not one of them can be believed. They are innocent lambs now; but they were wolves, and they have remained wolves. They are throwing away their carbines and daggers, but who knows what they will be doing a month hence? A German cannot fight on his own initiative, he waits for orders. Among the scared and confused throng, there are people who have been instructed to engineer sabotage and putsches. For the present they are lying low: their fellow country-

men are too terrified, they need a breathing space.

And if they are allowed a breathing space, if they are not taken in hand, if a watch is not kept on them, if an X-ray is not turned on every one of them—some, even the meekest of them, those who now cry "*Rot Front*" and trample on pictures of the Fuehrer, will again be raving about "greater Germany," and at the orders of camouflaged *oberleutnants* and *rotew-fuehrers* will be taking to rifles, bombs and daggers. I have not met genuine remorse in a single German—only fear and pretense.

If there is anybody at all on the roads who can be pitied, it is only the tiny bewildered children and the crazed un-milked cows and abandoned cats and dogs: these alone had no share in the atrocities.

All honor to the Soviet soldier who does not believe in the magic of blood, and to whom an infant is an infant. We are not fighting children and old women: we are not fascists. And we have come to Germany not to vent our feelings, but to eradicate even the memory of the vampire state.

The Germans time and again insisted that it was need that forced them to embark on conquest, that they were cramped in Germany. Our people can now see that the bandits were lying: it was not hunger, but greed that drove them out of their den. The war was not a calamity to them, but a means of plunder; and as long as the war raged on the Seine and the Volga, they liked it. They had plenty of living space and plenty of property.

Here is the house of a German, Grossbauer. It has spacious rooms, with tiled stoves. On the walls are clocks, oil-paintings and the inevitable stag's antlers. There are a dozen or so of pure-bred Dutch cows, pigs and geese. His husbandry was not much affected by war: the Fritzes slaughtered foreign cows and wrecked foreign cottages.

I have been in scores of German towns. A month before the Red Army arrived, the burghers still reveled in their sense of security. In Rastenburg, a German bought a hotel. In Gutstadt, a "dark brunette with a well-preserved figure" (*vide* advertisement in a matrimonial column), aged 42, owning her own house,

sought for a new husband. In Deutsch Eylau, a cabinet-making shop was working on a luxurious suite for a certain Demke.

The homes of the burgomeisters are sumptuously furnished, with portraits of the Fuehrer and green goblets for Rhenish wines. Beerhalls have special tables marked with flags, "For Permanent Clients." It should be said that the Germans spent the greater part of their incomes on their homes, and even in peacetime did not waste much on amusements. They dressed modestly, but they filled their homes with sofas and armchairs, vases and cushions, statuettes, bric-a-brac and "souvenirs." During the war they accumulated all sorts of household ware, utensils and knickknacks from Paris, Rotterdam, Florence, Warsaw and Kiev. Their homes are regular bric-a-brac stores. One of our men said facetiously: "One can live all right in a den like that."

But it all seemed too little to them: greed drove them to the Urals and Iraq. Slaves worked for them. In small provincial Rastenburg not only the wealthy, but even the workers' families had their Russian servant. After all, there was no need to pay her anything.

The German agricultural laborers revered the Prussian landowners; what they dreamed of was not the Junkers' estates, but a farm in the Ukraine, for did not Erich Koch promise every Prussian a handsome allotment of Russian land? The German workers believed that if their bosses seized Russian manganese and French bauxite, a share of the spoils would fall to them too.

Here in Germany you can plainly see the corrupting influence of fascism, and it is not easy to draw the line between the dupers and the duped.

In the closet of a saddle-maker were 12 German bedsheets and two Ukrainian ones, a "present from his son." Why did he need these two? Read the mottoes on the walls: "Orderliness is your richest possession," "The day for useful work, the night for pleasant sleep," "A little extra never comes amiss." It would seem that the two stolen bedsheets did not come amiss to the saddle-maker; but it turned out just the opposite: the son was killed on the Dniester, and the saddle-maker lost



Radiophoto

A train of tank cars captured by Soviet troops

his workshop, his bed and his 12 German sheets.

They can set their watches forward, they can pull down the "Hitlerstrasse" street signs, but the damning evidence remains at every step and cannot be destroyed. We see the scared slaveowners, but side by side with them we see the beaming slaves who have just been liberated: Frenchmen, Poles, Belgians, Netherlanders—who can count them! Who can count the girls from the Ukraine and Byelorussia who wept themselves almost blind? There are Soviet war prisoners who survived by a miracle.

No, Germany's crimes cannot be obliterated by pushing the clock forward.

The world now knows that the Germans killed six million Jews. They killed all Jews—from infants at the breast to the aged. Until quite recently, dragging out their sadistic pleasure, the Germans kept the last thousand living Jews near Elbing. Here there were architects from Prague, a composer from Amsterdam, doctors from Kovno, a professor from Belgrade. They were set naked on stools in the mid-winter frost, and icy water was poured over them. Then they were killed. Do the Germans think it is enough to take down street signs for these atrocities to be forgotten?

They come and swear, "We knew nothing about it. We are innocent." But the evidence is there. They fled in such a hurry they discarded not only the city banners, not only the seals and police

records, but even their own personal papers.

Here are the notes of Erich von Bremen. This is no hothead youth; he is 57. When I acquainted myself with his biography, I learned that he had married Ursula von Ramm and that his two sons took part in the conquest of the world. In his flight, this pedigreed German left two memoranda behind him. One is dedicated to the colonization of the Baltic countries, the other to the exploitation of the Caucasus. I will quote a passage from the latter:

"We must take possession of the Caucasus because we need the oil of Grozny and Baku to put our economy on sound lines. In this way we shall shake off our dependence on America. The grain of the North Caucasus will supply Transcaucasia, while we will obtain from there—besides oil—timber, fruits, canned foods, wine and tobacco. Thus the Caucasus will become a German colony."

I daresay the Red Army will find Erich von Bremen somewhere around Stettin. The author of the memorandum on the Caucasus will no doubt say: "I am against Hitler and I am going to adjust my watch to Moscow time."

Side by side with prosperity, we find intellectual degradation everywhere. There is a collection of books in every home. And what splendid bindings! But don't open them: the cannibal's *Mein Kampf*, a collection of articles on Himmler; *March Into Poland*, *Race Hygiene*, *The*

Jewish Plague, The Russian Sub-Men. Our Faithful Prussia. What intellectual poverty! However, from all signs, these books were little read; the tomes were part of the furniture, like vases and porcelain cats.

I looked in vain in Loetzen, Rastenburg and Tapiau for a public library; they were nonexistent. I found only one museum in Bartenstein. What did it contain? Portraits of Hindenburg and the epaulettes of an officer of the Tsarist Army, with an inscription underneath: "The Victory at Tannenburg." The uniform of a Polish officer and a photograph of the ruins of Warsaw: "The Polish Campaign." The skeleton of an ape, not less than 100 portraits of Hitler, a beer mug of the time of Bismarck, a model of a barrack, and a photograph of the benefactress of the town. That was the whole museum.

The club of the Nazi Party in Heilsberg was a low saloon: a bar and a few bloodthirsty books. Everywhere one sees huge police buildings: here the Germans did their thinking and writing, here they gave reign to their imaginations, and here they repented. The maps of the world still had faded little flags stuck into El Barani and Maikop.

Loetzen has a splendid schoolbuilding. There I found a songbook. I will quote from a few of the songs intended for the juvenile supermen: "Fall Merrily, Bombs on England"; "Let the Jewish Blood Flow"; "Let the Bolsheviks Writhe at

the Sound of our Drums"; "We Have Driven the French Swine out of Strassburg." And an immense photograph of the Fuehrer with a little sniveller of five or six standing in front of him, holding a toy gun.

No, one could not live in this den. Culture is not measured by vacuum cleaners or mincing-machines. We see the revolting face of Germany and we are proud to have set topsy-turvy the lair of the revolting beast.

I do not know what the diplomats will say at the round, oval or rectangular table. But I do know what the citizens of half a score of countries are saying on the roads of Germany: the people liberated by the Red Army—Frenchmen and Poles, Englishmen and Czechs, Belgians and Serbs, Netherlands and Greeks, Americans and Australians.

I have spent many hours in cordial conversation with them. Some are loquacious, others taciturn; some dark, others fair, some grim, others jovial. But I have not met a single defender of the Germans among them. If there are still people in Paris who are inclined to restore the Munich climate, the Frenchmen I have met all say one thing: "We want to be sent against Germany. Germany must be no more."

I spent an evening with some Englishmen. They have had some hard experiences. It would be a good thing to take

them to London and show them the honorable member of Parliament who recently referred to the Germans as "brothers." I am afraid that their attitude toward this compassionate gentleman would be anything but brotherly.

The people who have been through the German camps, through all these Orlags and Stalags, have learned to know Germany well. The people who have been liberated by the Red Army know what Soviet Russia means. The people from half a score of countries on the roads of Germany yearn not for the dubious "equilibrium" between good and evil, but for the triumph of justice. That is why in Germany you so often hear the words uttered in all languages: "Death to the Germans! Long live the Red Army!"

Retribution has begun. It will be carried to the end. Nothing can save piratical Germany. The first words of the treaty which will be called the Peace Treaty will have been written in the blood of Russia. These words can now be heard in Germany.

And to me—as a Soviet citizen, a Russian writer and a man who has seen Madrid, Paris, Orel and Smolensk—it is supreme happiness to be trampling the land of the miscreants underfoot, and to know that it was not chance, not luck, not speeches or articles which saved the world from fascism—but our people, our Army, our heart, our Stalin.

THEATER OF WAR

MARSHAL ZHUKOV'S HEADQUARTERS, March 2:—Steel and concrete shield the approaches to Berlin. Formidable fortified belts run uninterruptedly for dozens of miles. This, Hitler's "Magenot Line," has been broken by Soviet forces in several places.

Details of the construction of these formidable fortifications have now become known. Today *Krasnaya Zvezda* published photographs of fortifications captured by the Russians. The underground fortresses reach 40 yards in depth, and only the gigantic steep cupolas, the height of two men in diameter, bulge above the earth's surface. Heavy guns were fired through the embrasures in these cupolas.

Narrow-gauge railways interconnect the

subterranean fortresses, running along ferro-concrete tunnels. Big power stations situated at the bottom of the many-storied fortifications supply current to all services of the German "Magenot Line" and to its electric-powered artillery. Four rows of concrete dragon's teeth stretch for scores of miles. A wide and deep anti-tank moat runs in front of the dragon's teeth, disappearing beyond the horizon.

These fortifications, built according to the last word in German military fortification technique, failed to check the Soviet troops. Russian guns, Air Force and infantry are fighting in the midst of Germany's "Magenot Line."

In a strawstack, Russian scouts found a "roving" German general. He headed the construction of German fortifications

—those very belts of steel and concrete which on the German General Staff's maps, now in Russian hands, are marked as impregnable.

Now, this general, who has just crept out of a strawstack, does not look at all proud. Stout, with fleshy cheeks, the German in general's uniform, bespattered with mud and bristling with straw, presents a pitiful and ridiculous sight. Some time ago he was chief of police and gendarmerie in a large German-occupied Soviet city. He held the rank of SS Obergruppenfuehrer and, he modestly says, engaged only in stationing police patrols.

For excellent services, Hitler promoted him to a generalship. This German cut-throat managed to escape from the Russian city, but was caught.

FIGHTING QUALITIES OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT

By Colonel Vasili Miloserdov

The Soviet aircraft industry has done much during the Patriotic War to improve the qualities of Soviet planes. Designers have not only continued to perfect existing models, but have created a number of entirely new ones, distinguished by excellent flying and tactical qualities.

Especially notable are improvements in the qualities of fighter aircraft. If the average fighter speed in 1941 is taken as 100 per cent, this has been exceeded by 150 per cent in 1944. In the same period, climbing speed has increased by more than 200 per cent, and the fire power of some fighters has increased by 140 to 150 per cent.

The Soviet Air Force is now equipped with all types of planes necessary to satisfy the demands of the present war.

Let us analyze, for example, the Yak-3 fighter, put into service in 1944. This is the world's lightest fighter of its class. In maneuverability, and especially in vertical stunting, it surpasses the best existing models of this type of plane. It is capable of quickly changing position at any level, and also of rapidly gathering necessary speed in horizontal flying. Due to its small force of inertia, the Yak-3 is very light and easily controlled; it has a small radius in turning, which enables it to quickly take a favorable position for attack in air battles. At the same time its speed is far higher than that of all the enemy's serial planes.

The same excellent fighting qualities distinguish the Lavochkin-7, another Soviet fighter whose flying and climbing speeds exceed those of the German fighters. The Lavochkin-7 has a powerful air-cooled engine and bombing equipment.

The superior flying and tactical qualities of Soviet fighters, combined with the personal qualities of Soviet airmen, have enabled the Red Army Air Force to win complete dominance in the air, thereby insuring successful operations of ground troops.

The most striking illustration of the splendid qualities of Soviet aircraft is afforded by the IL-2, known as the Stormovik, which successfully combines powerful armament, maneuverability and reliable armor. These features make the

Watching tests of new Ilyushin-2s — from left, Vladimir Kokkinaki, noted Soviet pilot; Hero of Socialist Labor Sergei Ilyushin, aircraft designer, and Fedor Nesterov, director of the plane factory



Radiophoto

IL-2 a true assault plane, enabling it to attack any objective on the battlefield from a low altitude, acting in conjunction with the ground forces, and to support them in close-range fighting.

It is known that German attempts to produce a similar plane failed to yield the expected results.

In offensive operations the Stormovik has a most effective striking power. Operating from a low level, it rains bombs and machine-gun and cannon fire at all varieties of obstacles in the path of advancing troops, facilitating their successful progress. At the same time, it takes a tremendous toll of enemy soldiers and equipment.

The high efficacy of Stormovik operations is evident from the following example: During the Gomel operation in June, 1944, the enemy, yielding to the pressure of Soviet troops, began withdrawing his units to his next line. The Soviet Air Command immediately called for ceaseless blows by Stormoviks at the retreating enemy troops. One hundred and twenty-one trucks, nine tanks 70 carts, 21 guns and 18 mortars were destroyed as a result of 973 sorties flown in one day. In addition, the Stormoviks killed some 800 German soldiers and officers, blew up a munitions dump and wrecked a bridge over a river.

The splendid fighting qualities of the IL-2 are also evident in air battles. With good maneuverability and powerful armament, the Stormovik is capable of successfully repulsing the attacks of German fighters, and of conducting offensive operations against enemy bombers.

Besides improving fighter planes and

Stormoviks, Soviet aircraft designers have continued to perfect and build new types of bombers.

One of the latest and most perfect models is the Tupolev-2. Without exceeding the weight and size of other models of the same class, this plane is vastly superior to most foreign bombers in lifting capacity. It has, moreover, a long range of action, high speed and maneuverability, enabling it to deliver blows at enemy objectives situated far from the front line and protected by strong anti-aircraft defenses.

Good results in battle have also been achieved by the Petlyakov-2 dive-bomber, which has been operating on the fronts since the beginning of the war. Possessing good maneuverability and powerful armament in addition to its other qualities, it has even waged offensive operations against enemy bombers on occasion.

One of the most important fighting qualities of any warplane is its durability — the resistance of plane and engine to damage by bullets and shells from various weapons. The war has seen an increase in the durability of Soviet planes. Soviet aircraft have frequently landed safely at their bases despite serious damage to plane and engine suffered in air battles.

One Yak-3, which had received more than 10 shell hits, made a normal landing on its own airdrome, where it was discovered the damage was so great it could not be repaired.

Such are the fighting qualities of Soviet planes, skilfully utilized by the fliers of the Red Army's Air Force, which now dominates the skies over the Soviet-German front.

PREPARATIONS FOR SPRING SOWING

By A. Savchenko-Belsky

This spring, for the first time since the outbreak of war, sowing will take place throughout the entire Soviet Union. Preparations now under way in the countryside, and the scale of field work involved, are tremendous.

The collective farms cannot, however, count upon receiving any appreciable number of new tractors or other farm machines. This is quite understandable, for many of the country's agricultural machinery works are still engaged in war production. Hence the collective farms and machine and tractor stations will have to draw upon their own resources to an even greater extent than in previous years.

Tractor repairs at machine and tractor stations are progressing at a more rapid pace than last year. Especially noteworthy is the work in the Ukraine, where by February 1 the machine and tractor stations had repaired nearly 11,000 more machines than by the same date last year. Most of the Central Asian and Transcaucasian Republics are also ahead of last year's pace, and the Armenian and Azerbaijani Republics have practically completed this phase of spring preparations.

These successes are due to the increased supply by industry of spare parts and critical material, and the experience gained by machine and tractor stations in repairing machines and making spare parts.

Spring is already advancing in the southern areas, and Uzbekistan reports that field work has already begun on the irrigated lands. But the Soviet Union's principal agricultural regions—the Volga area, the Ukraine, the North Caucasus and the Central Belt—are still blanketed in snow.

The blizzards in many areas at the end of January and the beginning of this month caused rejoicing among the farmers. In the dry belt of the country, snow is exceedingly important, since it means plenty of moisture in the spring and guarantees a good crop even in a dry year.

In the Volga area, for instance, experience has proved that artificial retention of snow raises the yield of wheat by 300 to 400 kilograms, and even more, per hectare.

Incidentally, while the significance of snow retention was understood in the past, it could not be employed on any appreciable scale until the establishment of collective farms. No small farmer would allow his neighbor to set up snow fences on his fields, for the reason that if more snow remained on his neighbor's land, there was less on his. Only by joining these small holdings into large collective farms did snow retention become a factor which could be fully utilized by the Soviet farmer. Now the aim is to insure maximum accumulation of snow on fields earmarked for the more valuable crops, leaving less on the fallow land.

An example of the effect of snow retention is afforded by the Oskarov District in Kazakhstan. The district's chief agronomist, who is now visiting Moscow, recently told me that one of its collective farms effected snow retention measures last year on an area of 5,500 hectares. The crop in this area averaged 1.4 tons per hectare, whereas in the neighboring fields where these measures were not taken, the yield was 1.15 tons, although all other conditions were identical. Snow retention is now practiced in an area of between five and six million hectares in the dry steppe belt. Its importance is not difficult to estimate.

Liberated Districts Increase Cultivated Area

With the approach of spring the collective farms are busy cleaning, sorting and testing seed. Last year's good crop laid a better foundation for the spring sowing than that of any previous war year. Collective farms in the liberated areas now have considerably more seed prepared than last year.

The Ukrainian collective farms report that by February 1 they had two and one-half times more grain and bean crop seeds prepared than last year. The seed supply of the collective farms of the Krasnodar

Region, one of the country's leading grain producers, has increased by nearly 50 per cent. In the Stalingrad Region the farms have more than twice the amount of seed they had last year. This promises a sizable expansion of the cultivated area in the liberated districts.

Owing to the wartime cut in the supply of mineral fertilizers, collective farms are paying more attention to preparing and spreading local fertilizers of barnyard manure. The fact that the central non-black earth belt has actually increased its crop yields during the war is due in a great measure to more extensive use of local fertilizers.

Data on hand to date shows that more local fertilizer is being hauled to the fields than ever before. According to figures up to February 1, two and one-half million tons more have been spread on the farm fields throughout the country this year than last. Collective farms of many liberated regions are likewise making a good showing in this respect, which also indicates a revival of livestock raising in the war-wrecked areas, prominent among which are the Velikie Luki, Leningrad and Pskov districts.

To complete the picture of the spring sowing, mention should be made of preparations for the training of farmers. Tens of thousands of collective farm chairmen have completed one-month courses of advanced training and have returned to their farms with a fresh store of knowledge. Other contingents of farm executives are now taking courses organized at territorial and regional centers.

Training of tractor drivers, tractor team leaders and mechanics is also proceeding at a good pace. Courses of advanced training will be opened shortly for directors of machine and tractor stations. Numerous evening courses are being held on the collective farms for rank-and-file farmers and field team leaders.

This educational activity is another proof that the successes scored last year in agriculture will be eclipsed during the coming season.

TRADE UNION OF STATE TRADING ORGANIZATIONS

By Olga Russanova

Gubelman, chairman of the central committee of the Trade Union of Employees of State Trading Organizations in the Russian SFSR, is one of the oldest trade union workers in the Soviet Union. His union covers workers in the urban trading network. In the rural districts the trading enterprises belong to the cooperative organizations, and are served by the Trade Union of Consumers' Cooperatives.

Besides employees of trading organizations of the Russian Federation, Gubelman's union includes workers in various cities of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia and Byelorussia. The total number of employees eligible for membership is 400,000. Actual membership is around 90 per cent. Recently both the number employed and the union membership have been steadily increasing. At the beginning of the war union membership fell sharply, since a great part of the urban trading network and its employees were turned over to the workers' supply (catering) departments of the defense enterprises.

The union's highest authority is the congress, attended by delegates from all republics, regions and districts. These delegates are elected by secret ballot at regional and district conferences of trade union representatives elected in their turn at general meetings of the primary trade union groups. In the Union Republics there are regional trade union committees, as well as a central committee for the republic in question. For instance, in the Byelorussian SSR one central committee and twelve regional committees will shortly be elected.

The regional committees in their turn coordinate the work of city and district committees. In a comparatively small city, where one committee is sufficient to take care of all the subordinate trade union groups, one city committee only is formed, as a rule. But in such a large place as Gorky one city committee would be totally inadequate, and district committees are formed in each of the administrative districts of the city. Their work is coordinated by the Gorky regional committee.

An employee of a store in Khar-kov checks a new consignment of goods

Radiophoto

Each trading organization employing over 15 union members elects a local committee by secret ballot. In institutions with less than 15 members, organizers are elected, also by secret ballot.

Combined city committees were organized in large Soviet cities some time before the war. Let us take Moscow as an example. It has 25 administrative districts, each of which could well be described as a city in itself. Every Moscow district has numerous shops belonging to a variety of trading organizations. For instance, you will find in every district shops belonging to the Gastronom trust.

In order to deal with any one question affecting all these shops, all 25 district trade union committees would have to apply to one and the same executive committee at the Gastronom city office. To avoid this duplication, the work of all local committees in the Gastronom stores is coordinated by one combined city committee.

Combined city committees of other Moscow trading organizations are formed on the same principle. They also exist where there are large department stores with several branches. Thus the combined committee of the Moscow central department store unites three local committees — of two branch stores and one production combine. The trade union activities of all shops where organizers are elected are also supervised by combined committees. Experience has proved their value,

and we are now organizing them in a number of other large Soviet cities.

We always take great care to insure strict observance of all the principles of trade union democracy at elections. A representative of the central committee of the union is always present at elections of regional or district committees. Twenty-nine such committees were elected during 1943-44.

Leading workers from the central committee attend all regional and district conferences. For instance, this year Vladimir Zdrovenin, secretary of the central committee, visited the Far East, 6,250 miles from Moscow, and Archangelsk, headquarters of one of our northernmost regional committees.

The various trade union committees report to the membership on their activities from time to time. A report is always made before an election. The day appointed for the election of a local committee must be announced orally and in writing 10 days in advance. The local committee's report on its work during its term of office must be distributed among the members before the meeting.

Some time ago a certain local committee failed to adhere to this rule. Members were informed of the elections only on the eve of the appointed day. A local committee was elected, but the regional committee, hearing of the infringement of the rule, ordered its dissolution and the election of a new one.



Transcaucasian Music Festival

By Grigori Chkhikvadze

Vice Chairman, Union of Composers, Georgian SSR

A major event in the cultural life of the Transcaucasian Republics was the festival of Soviet music recently held in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital. Some 1,200 musicians from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan participated. Fifteen concerts, attended by capacity audiences, were given. Programs included symphonic works, suites, overtures, concertos for violin and piano, string quartets, folk music, instrumental pieces, songs and choruses.

The festival demonstrated the tremendous strides in the musical culture of the Transcaucasian peoples. Moreover, it showed that this progressive movement has not been retarded by the war. In Azerbaijan, for example, more than 400 symphonies, operas, cantatas, suites and songs have been written in the past three and one-half years.

In this period the Transcaucasian composers have produced some outstanding pieces of music. These works reflect the heroic exploits of the people, recall the days of peace and prosperity, and foreshadow the defeat of the enemy and the return of happiness and peaceful creative endeavor. Each composer in his own

fashion enriched his national style. The music is individual in temperament, manner and technique, yet akin in spirit, breadth of vision, and depth of ideas and emotions.

An extremely gratifying feature of the festival was the array of young native talent revealed. Besides such stars of the musical firmament as Aram Khachaturyan, famous Armenian composer; Uzeir Hajibekov, founder of Azerbaijanian music, and Dmitri Arakishvili, Georgian classic composer—who are renowned both here and abroad—and in addition to numerous masters of the old and so-called middle generation, several young talents of great promise made their debut.

Soltan Hajibekov, one of the latter, is still a student at the conservatory. His three-movement symphony is evidence of the unusual gifts and taste of the author.

The interest of both the public and the critics was also aroused by the work of Kara Karayev and Javler Gajiev, two young musicians whose symphonies are notable for their technique, orchestration, originality of language and purity of melody; Alexei Machavariani, a young Georgian composer whose piano concertos are both colorful and rich in design; and a number of other Armenian, Georgian and Azerbaijanian composers.

Armenia, for example, whose people are notably musical and artistic, was well represented at the festival. An outstanding number was Aro Stepanyan's symphony, generally regarded as an outstanding achievement in Armenian music in 1944. Its clear-cut design, national color, breadth and intensity, are all evidence of the development of its author.

The concerts were gala occasions. Some—chiefly the ensembles of folk music and dancing—were staged with musicians, dancers and singers grouped in picturesque tableaux at the foot of a steep mountain.

A song and dance ensemble led by composer Grigori Kiladze was followed by the Kartalino Kakhetin Chorus, led by Maro Tarkhnishvili, after which appeared

groups of performers on national instruments.

Set against the background of a colorful national pavilion, the Azerbaijanian program began with a talk on the development of Azerbaijanian musical culture, which has its roots in antiquity and has always been part and parcel of the life of the common people. The program that followed proved how loyal the national musicians and composers have been to these traditions. Included were a dance suite by Ashrati Abasov, written in the style of a folk dance and ending with a triumphal march symbolizing victory; and a symphonic poem by Niyazi, dedicated to the Azerbaijanian heroes of this war.

Especially well received was the *Symphony in B-Minor* by Andrei Balanchivadze, Georgian composer, which expresses triumph of light, truth and justice over darkness and evil. With the crashing chords of this theme still echoing, the music launches into an old Georgian melody, a battlesong of the mountain warriors of Georgia for hundreds of years. These ancient melodies, mingling with the general theme of the symphony, ring out with solemn triumph.

The general high level of the festival performances revealed the growth of Transcaucasian music during the past three and one-half years.



One of the national costumes of Soviet Armenia

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5

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INTERNATIONAL

WOMEN'S

DAY

MARCH 8



Anastasia Grigorieva—decorated for her services as member of an anti-aircraft gun crew in Leningrad



Klavdia Studentzova and Marina Kolesova—geology students who enlisted in the Red Army in the early days of the war



Maria Ivanova—an electric welder in a munitions factory. Ivanova fulfills her production quota 300 per cent



Valentina Posdnyakova—a young surgeon



M. Popova—Captain of a Volga ship. Her crew, all women, ranks first among the ships of the Upper Volga

WOMEN'S PART IN THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

This year the women of the Soviet Union mark International Women's Day—March 8—in an atmosphere of new, great victories of the Red Army. The Soviet troops have ejected the German enslavers from our soil and are now battering the enemy on German territory. By their self-denying labor, Soviet women are helping the Red Army to win historic victories over the German-fascist invaders.

In the great Patriotic War the glorious daughters of our motherland—the women workers, collective farmers, engineers, technicians, agronomists, zoo-technicians, scientists, artists, doctors, teachers and women of Soviet institutions—are giving all their strength and knowledge to the cause of victory over the enemy. By replacing their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers in industry, Soviet women have proved their readiness and capability in mastering trades which from time immemorial have been considered men's professions, and they are bearing the main burden of labor in factories, and on collective and State farms.

Soviet women workers represent a great force in our socialist industry. At munition works, power stations, oilfields, and in railway and river transport, women and girls display valor and heroism in labor, insuring the Red Army ever growing quantities of armaments and ammunition.

Women collective farmers constitute

the main force in agriculture. Throughout the war the Red Army has not experienced any shortages in provisions, and great credit for this goes to the women collective farmers of our country. By their heroic labor, millions of women collective farmers help to supply the front and rear with provisions, and industry with raw materials.

The women of districts liberated from the enemy are daily increasing their assistance to their liberator—the Red Army—and are working self-denyingly to restore the towns and villages, the economy and cultural institutions, ruined by the German invaders.

Soviet mothers have reared the gallant soldiers who have covered the historic road of battles from Stalingrad to the approaches to Berlin.

The Soviet State pays a tribute of glory to these women, to the mothers who have reared their sons as gallant and fearless soldiers. The institution of the title Mother Heroine, the Order of Glory and the Motherhood Medal have raised still higher the honored role of mother.

Mothers are bringing up the growing generation in a spirit of devotion to the motherland and love for knowledge and labor. Tens of thousands of women have adopted children who lost their parents during the war, and have surrounded them with motherly affection.

Soviet women render inestimable aid

in tending the wounded and convalescing Red Army soldiers. Thousands of women donors give their blood to save the lives of the front fighters.

Soviet women discharge with honor their duty to the motherland, contributing to the growth of the military and economic might of the Soviet Union. They have proved worthy of their fathers, sons, husbands and brothers who have defended their native land from the German-fascist invaders.

Many Soviet women are heroically fighting the enemy on the fronts of the Patriotic War. There are not a few women masters of military art in the Signal Corps, and among the snipers, anti-aircraft gunners and pilots. Medical orderlies, nurses and surgeons are saving the lives of wounded officers and men. Thousands of women at the front have been decorated with orders and medals. The foremost among them have been honored with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The heroism of the Soviet woman in labor and at the front, her staunchness, her fighting spirit, her ability to brave, overcome all wartime difficulties, have as their source ardent Soviet patriotism, profound devotion and loyalty to the Soviet motherland.

In the Patriotic War, Soviet women are defending their own power which has given them freedom, all political rights, opportunities for creative labor and happy motherhood. The German barbarians intended to deprive Soviet women of their free life, to convert them into meek, obedient slaves of the Germans.

The Red Army has saved the peoples of the Soviet Union from German-fascist slavery. Shoulder to shoulder with their husbands, sons and brothers, the glorious Soviet women patriots have defended the freedom and independence of their socialist motherland.

The days of the Hitlerite bloodthirsty regime are numbered. But on the road to complete victory the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies will have to overcome the violent resistance of the doomed enemy. A fresh exertion of all their strength is required of the Soviet women, as of the entire Soviet people.



Mining Engineer Mariana Kosogorova is director of one of the most productive mines in the Kuznetsk coal basin

THE SOVIET STATE AND THE WOMAN

By Alexander Askerov, Candidate of Jurisprudence

In granting woman the right to economic independence and education, the Soviet State laid the basis for the political equality of women in the USSR. The Soviet woman has equal rights with men in running the affairs of the State.

This political equality is guaranteed, first of all, by the election laws. Universality and equality are the rule in Soviet elections. Any citizen of the USSR of either sex, who has attained the age of 18, has the right to vote in the elections of Soviet Deputies of the Working People to all Government organs, from the village or city Soviet up to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Elections to representative bodies are completely democratic and free. In addition, every effort is made to guarantee the participation of the entire voting population. The election laws provide the maximum of convenience for the voter. If, for example, a voter is ill and confined to a hospital, he may still participate in elections, since voting booths are set up in all hospitals. If a voter is ill or infirm, he may be brought to the election center at public expense, or a member of the election commission is sent to his home with a portable ballot box.

Freedom of the vote is guaranteed by secret balloting, freedom in campaigning for candidates, and the composition of the election commissions. These commissions are composed of representatives chosen by civic bodies, and by general meetings of factory and office workers and collective farmers at their place of occupation. The election commissions decide all questions of voting procedure; in other words, the people themselves control the elections without interference on the part of Government officials.

A number of women were included in the first central election commission for elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, which consists of two chambers: the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities.

In the 1937 elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, 189 women deputies were elected, or 16.5 per cent of the total number of deputies. In 1938, 848 women were elected to the Supreme Soviets of

the Union Republics. Altogether, there are more than 1,700 women deputies in the parliaments of the Union and Autonomous Republics of the USSR.

Figures for the elections to local Soviets in 1939 are even more striking. Elections were held to the Soviets of six territories, 97 regions, 21 areas, 3,572 districts, 1,301 cities and city districts, and 63,183 rural localities. The number participating in the elections was 92.8 million, or 99.21 per cent of the total number of voters. In all 1,081,008 deputies were elected, including 422,279 women, or 32.9 per cent of the total.

For the various Soviets the results of the elections were as follows: Soviets of territories—158 women elected, or 24.35 per cent of the total number; Soviets of the regions—2,254 women elected, or 28.65 per cent; Soviets of areas—266 women elected, or 28.18 per cent; Soviets of districts—42,049 women elected, or 32.39 per cent; Soviets of cities—36,268 women elected, or 37.42 per cent; district Soviets in cities, 18,142 women elected, or 39.27 per cent; Soviets in rural localities—323,142 women elected, or 32.37 per cent.

The elections in the Union Republics of Central Asia are of particular importance, since it is well known that in this part of the country, in Tsarist times, women had no rights whatever and were the property of their husbands or fathers. Following are the figures on the number of women elected to local Soviets, and the percentages of women deputies to the total number (the average percentage of women elected in the entire Soviet Union being 32.20 per cent): in Turkmenia, 3,619 women were elected, or 34.2 per cent of the total number; in Uzbekistan, 13,853, or 33.98 per cent; in Tajikistan, 4,173, or 32.97 per cent.

These figures show how great is the progress made in the Eastern Republics of the Soviet Union. In the Alma-Ata district of Kazakhstan alone, 85 women were elected chairmen of village Soviets. Eight women are vice chairmen of Executive Committees of Regional Soviets of the Kazakh Republic.

Besides the many deputies to the So-

viets, a number of women also fill leading Government posts. In the Chuvash Autonomous Soviet Republic, Z. Andreyeva, a Chuvash woman, was elected Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. In the Yakut Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, the same post is held by S. Sidorova, a Yakut citizen of 40 who was one of the first women of Yakutia to receive a higher education. Her indefatigable labor for the Republic won her the highest office in its Government. Since 1938 she has been a leader of Yakutia, which has a population of 200,000 and a territory of 3,000,000 square kilometers, with enormous deposits of gold, platinum, salt, coal and oil.

In 1942, two women were chosen, respectively, to head the Commissariats of Social Welfare and Justice in Uzbekistan. Khamzina, Commissar of Justice, has had a most interesting life. To this woman of the East, the Soviet power brought freedom, opportunity for education and the right to become a civic leader. In a country where, according to the old laws, women did not have even the right to appear as witnesses in court, Khamzina became public prosecutor and finally Commissar of Justice. Today she is a member of the Department of the Central Prosecuting Attorney of the Russian SFSR.

The number of women promoted to Government posts in the Soviet Union is constantly growing. This is one of the surest proofs of the triumph of true popular democracy.

New Palekh Masterpieces

The remarkable craftsmen of Palekh village, in the Ivanovo District near Moscow, who make the world-famous lacquered boxes and miniatures, are producing new masterpieces on Russian and war themes. Dmitri Butorin is completing "The Motherland's Salute," showing Moscow at night during the salvos in honor of victories. Ivan Myakichev is working on "Volga Songs," and other Palekh artists are busy creating a series of miniatures dedicated to the heroic deeds of Red Army men.

SOVIET WOMEN FARMERS AND THE FRONT

By A. Savchenko-Belsky

Women have been the main factor in Soviet agriculture since the outbreak of the war. Their unselfish labor in the collective farm fields has sent a steady stream of food to the front and raw materials to industry.

During the years of peaceful construction, Soviet farm women—members of society with equal rights in every sphere—were advanced to executive posts on the collective farms and became an important factor in all branches of agriculture. Thus when it became necessary for them to replace their men as chairmen of collective farms, agronomists and technicians, they were well prepared to assume responsibility for the collective farm economy.

In the first year of war, over 50,000 farm women were advanced to executive posts on collective farms of the Tambov Region. Writing to Marshal Stalin, 170,000 farm women of this Region pledged themselves to "work so well in the fields and on the stock farms that our labor

will become a straitjacket for Hitler." They kept their pledge: each year the farms increased production.

A striking example of the successes achieved by women farmers is the Krasny Putilovets collective farm in the Kalinin Region. Nina Pylayeva, an agronomist, has been chairman since 1942. For several years prior to the war she had been a brigade leader, then was placed in charge of the farm's seed stocks. When the chairman and all male brigade leaders joined the Red Army, she and other workers taught by her took over their jobs. In 1944 the farm exceeded its planned deliveries to the State and was able to sell agricultural products to the value of over a million rubles to the cities and industrial centers of the country.

Nina Pylayeva promotes women and young people to responsible posts without hesitation. Nearly all the brigade leaders and heads of stock farms are women, and they are all quick to apply new methods and ideas. Chairman Pylayeva is instructor as well as director; she teaches an agronomist circle all year round, and gives daily instruction in the process of work. Each evening she reviews the work of the farm, points out defects and makes suggestions for overcoming them. Each morning, she discusses the day's task with the farmers.

Under her direction a large orchard and model vegetable gardens have been planted and a large apiary developed. The chicken runs on her farm are exemplary. While teaching others, she is constantly studying; her desk is piled high with books and magazines. She regards it as part of her duty to her country to constantly increase her knowledge.

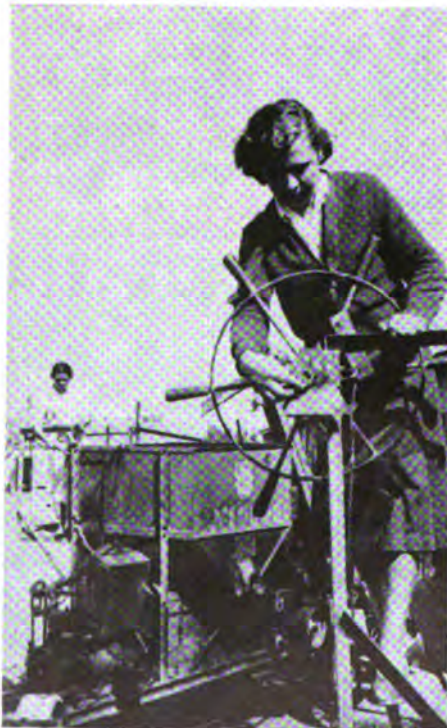
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The fourth war year—a year of brilliant victories at the front—was also one of signal successes in agriculture. The sown area was increased by 30 million acres over 1943, and the productivity of fields greatly increased. The entire country knows of the labor heroism of the collective farm women, among whom are such outstanding names as those of Maria Fomina, who on a collective farm near

Moscow, harvested over 40 tons of potatoes from each acre in 1944; Tamara Krutova, of Kolomenskoye, who harvested over 32 tons of potatoes per acre; and Surkhan Kainazarova, of Kirghizia, who grew 24 tons of sugarbeet per acre. Many of the pupils of this last-named farm have exceeded her record.

Marshal Stalin gave high praise to the work of the collective farms, stating, "Thanks to the care of our collective farm peasantry, the Red Army suffers no lack of provisions in the fourth year of war." This estimate of their work has inspired the women farmers to new feats in 1945.

The famous tractor driver Darya Garmash has pledged herself to work 5,000 acres of land with each of her tractors. Surkhan Kainazarova and a fellow beet-grower of Kirghizia, have set a mark of 80 tons per acre as their goal. Soviet women are also boldly attacking the problem of raising farm productivity by extensive application of mechanization and modern agrotechnics.



Tatyana Milyukova, a harvester-combine operator, became a mechanic in order to be able to repair her own machine



Twice Darya Garmash and her tractor brigade won first place in the All-Union competition for the best girl tractor brigade

A Woman Director General of Railroads

Zinaida Troitskaya's father was a railwayman, and from her childhood she had the highest respect for his profession. After graduating from secondary school, Zinaida, on the advice of her father, attended a factory training school and then worked for a time in repair shops.

But her interest in railroading persisted, and she entered courses for assistant locomotive engineers. She was assigned to drive a switching engine, and a year later was engineer of a passenger locomotive, being the first woman to hold this job.

In April, 1936, Zinaida was awarded the Order of Lenin for her splendid work. At the end of 1937 she was appointed assistant to the Chief of the Moscow Sorting Depot. The following year she became head of the Locomotive Department, and then Chief of the Moscow Circular Railway. She was now the first woman to hold the post of chief of a railway. In 1939, she was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor for fulfilment of special assignments and improvement of railway service.

During the war, Zinaida Troitskaya has been constantly serving in the most difficult posts. In the winter of 1941-1942 the fuel situation in Moscow was critical. Delivery of coal to the Capital was of decisive importance. Zinaida was then in charge of coal deliveries from the Moscow basin. She worked in the front lines, personally accompanying the coal trains to Moscow.

During the bombings, she went out on the railroad and directed emergency repairs. For weeks, she did not take off her clothes, snatching sleep whenever she happened to find a moment, and working day and night at her job.

When Moscow was no longer in danger, Troitskaya was appointed to a responsible post in the Administration of the People's Commissariat of Railway Communications, with the title of Director General of Railway Traction, Third Class. Today this exceptionally clever and capable woman is also Assistant Chief of the Moscow Subway.



(Top) Vera Samoilova, bricklayer, awarded the Order of the Red Star for work on one of the largest Siberian factories; (center) Lutfi Akramova and Kumri Shakirova, in foreground, are the best cotton pickers of a Tajikistan collective farm; (lower) A Tatar collective farm girl, Mahzumia Valeyeva, doubles her work plan for wool deliveries to the Red Army

AN ARCHITECT OF SOVIET SCHOOLS



The Order of Lenin was awarded Antonina Alik for her work as electric welder in a munitions plant



An entire battalion of Red Army men wear sheepskin coats made by Klavdia Kolesnikova

Anna Kapustina is well known in the USSR as the designer of a number of excellent public buildings. She understands the needs of her country and keeps pace with the leading builders. Several years ago when the Moscow City Soviet decided to build 374 schools in the short space of 145 days, Kapustina entered the architects' competition and won one of the first places.

Seven schools with fine, large classrooms, long corridors and wide staircases were built in accordance with her designs. An important feature of these schools is their pleasant appearance and excellent lighting. As Kapustina says, she did not leave a single dark corner. She believes that the architecture of schools should be simple and expressive in form, and should be such that "the Soviet child leaves his school with certain acquired cultural habits in addition to his formal learning."

Her work was commended by the Moscow City Soviet, and for one of the designs she received the Grand Prix at the 1937 International Exposition in Paris.

In Kapustina's opinion, it is impossible for school architecture to create a strong, pleasing and inspiring impression without the inclusion of other branches of art, such as sculpture and painting. She understood, of course, that when it was necessary to build 374 schools in 1935—and even larger numbers in subsequent years—no form of luxury was possible. Nevertheless, she is dissatisfied and is anxiously awaiting the victorious end of the war, when she will have an opportunity to build the kind of schools she has in mind.

Kapustina is convinced that this will come in the very near future. "I am therefore preparing designs for schools for the towns and villages which must be rebuilt," she explains, "schools which will not only please the eyes of the children, but even of the most exacting parents."

The daughter of a peasant, Kapustina has not forgotten her own cheerless childhood in pre-revolutionary Russia. Her father, who left a village near Ryazan for Moscow, succeeded after much difficulty in getting a job as cashier in a railway station, where he worked long hours so that his daughter might at least finish secondary school.

After the Revolution, 17-year-old Anna Kapustina began her own career. She was first bookkeeper and then secretary in a Moscow cooperative organization, attending night school at the same time. In 1920 she was able to take courses in art and to enter the Institute of Civil Engineers. After five years she received her diploma as an architectural engineer.

Among her instructors were such famous figures in architecture as Academician Viktor Vesnin, now President of the Academy of Architecture of the USSR, and the late Professor Ilya Golosov.

The project submitted by Kapustina for her diploma was a design for a large agricultural-technical institute, which she regarded as an outpost of culture in the rural districts. The design was placed on exhibition in Moscow. Two weeks after completing it, she entered a competition for a design for an Institute of Industrial Raw Materials, collaborating with Professor Ginsburg. They received first prize, and Kapustina has since won eight prizes for independent designs and work done with colleagues. She designed the Institutes for the Protection of Labor in Moscow, Baku, the Urals and the Ukraine; sanatoriums in Kislovodsk and Yevpatoria, and a rest home in the Urals. A number of large buildings on the boulevard on the outer circle of Moscow are also from her plans.

Always striving for simplicity of expression in her main design and in ornamental details, Kapustina also endeavors to adapt her buildings to the surrounding country. Her search for a correct design for large apartment houses is expressed in a building now under construction in Kirov street in Moscow, which will soon be ready for occupancy.

In 1942, Kapustina was sent by the Academy of Architecture to Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, to work on an important research project—"Building Materials in the Krasnoyarsk Region." She is now one of the senior scientific workers of the Academy, heading the section on school construction which is now designing schools, hospitals and children's institutions for the devastated regions. In addition, she is working on designs for buildings for local Soviets of all types, from village to city Soviets.

Nine Women Fliers Awarded Title of Hero of Soviet Union

The title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred upon nine women pilots and navigators of a light bomber squadron—to three of them posthumously.

Flying Polikarpov-2s, a light night bomber adapted from the slow training planes of that type, the women fliers participated in the bombing of German pinpoint targets. Most of their sorties were flown at night, but on one occasion, when it was necessary to blow up an important German river crossing, Pilot Ekaterina Ryabova dived to 100 meters in broad daylight, and before the eyes of the dumbfounded Germans destroyed the river crossing with several accurately placed bombs.

Altogether, Ekaterina Ryabova has flown 650 sorties. She took part in the defense of the Northern Caucasus, the Crimea, and the Taman Peninsula, and is now fighting over East Prussia.

The other girls—Evgenia Zhigulenko, Anastasia Popova, Irina Sebrova, Rufima Gasheva and Natalia Mekhlina—have each flown from 700 to 850 sorties. Each has dropped no less than 100 tons of bombs on the enemy and caused hundreds of fires on enemy territory.

At first the Germans were contemptuous of the Polikarpov-2 light bomber—an air jeep, a slow biplane made from veneer and canvas, powered with a small engine and nicknamed by the Nazis, "Russ Faner," (Russian plywood). These planes were used to destroy individual firing pits in Stalingrad, in the Caucasus, in the Crimea and in Budapest, and are now destroying difficult pinpoint targets in Koenigsberg.

All nine of the new Heroes of the Soviet Union went to the front as volunteers. Ekaterina Ryabova was graduated from secondary school in 1939. On July 3, 1941, immediately after Stalin's historic speech, she reported to the military commissariat and stated, "I shall not leave this place until you send me to the front."

Natalia Mekhlina, only 22, is a senior pilot. Before the war she was graduated from secondary school and entered the first course in a Moscow aircraft institute. Soon after the outbreak of war, she volunteered for an air unit. In May, 1942, after finishing the flying courses, she took off for the front with her regiment. For gallantry in action, she has been decorated with three orders and a medal. She has flown a total of 840 sorties, starting 162 fires in enemy territory.

The three women upon whom the title of Hero of the Soviet Union was conferred posthumously—Squadron Commander Captain of the Guards Olga Sanfirova, Air Flight Commander Tatyana Makarova, and the latter's navigator, Vera Bilik—all perished in action.

One of First Women Heroes of Soviet Union

Hero of the Soviet Union Valentina Grizodubova is a famous flier and one of the most popular women in the USSR. In 1938 the entire Soviet country followed with anxiety the flight of three



Radiophoto
Guards Senior Lieutenant Anastasia Popova, one of the light night bomber pilots recently decorated with the Gold Star of Hero of the Soviet Union

courageous women pilots: Valentina Grizodubova, Marina Raskova and Paulina Osipenko. They broke the world's non-stop long-distance flight record for women.

During the war Colonel Grizodubova has been in command of a long-range night bomber unit. Soviet women patriots are extremely proud of Grizodubova, one of the first women to win the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union. She has also been decorated with orders and medals for distinguished action in battle.

Grizodubova is likewise noted for her social activities. She is Chairman of the Soviet Women's Anti-Fascist Committee, and her appeal to all women patriots of the country to exert every effort to rout the Hitlerites found an enthusiastic response among women working in factories and on collective farms.

She is also an active member of the Extraordinary State Committee for the ascertaining and investigation of crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders and their associates, and a Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

A heroic flier, a prominent figure in State and social life, and a woman with a great heart, Colonel Grizodubova is an inspiring example to the youth.



Radiophoto
Guards Air Major Serafima Amosova has made 510 night operational flights. She wears the Orders of the Red Banner, Alexander Nevsky, the Patriotic War and the Red Star, and the Medal for the Defense of the Caucasus

MOSCOW GIRLS SCHOOL HOLDS EVENING DISCUSSION ON UNITED STATES

By N. Militseyna

The Stars and Stripes, the Soviet Flag, and the Union Jack provided a colorful and appropriate background in the main auditorium of Moscow Girls School No. 329, at a recent evening's discussion devoted to the United States. The school's Geography Circle sponsored the evening, and the audience was a gay and intensely interested group of teen-age boys and girls.

The program included reports by members of the circle—the oldest of whom is 16—American songs, and dancing to American music.

The idea originated in a series of reports on the countries of our Allies, planned by the Geography Circle. The first report, "Britain in Wartime," delivered by Honored Schoolteacher of the Russian SFSR Alexander Solovyov, leader of the circle, was so successful it was decided to arrange a large affair and invite pupils from other schools.

The reports, all made by members of the circle, covered "The Rise of the United States as a Sovereign State," "The State Structure of the United States," "A Biography of President Roosevelt," "Literature of the United States," and "America in Wartime." The applause that greeted each one was as unreserved as the interest with which it was heard.

Nadya Valdaiskaya, a blonde, typically Russian girl in a blue sweater, dealt with the first topic. Speaking of France's assistance in the American struggle for independence, she stressed the part played by the Americans today in liberating France from the Germans.

Admiration for President Roosevelt

That President Roosevelt gave attention to naval development even before his election was noted by Anna Avrikh, a slip of a girl who looked much younger than her years. She spoke with respect of the President's firm will and courage, and his resolute struggle against an illness which would have prevented many men from taking part in public affairs.

Literature in the United States was reported upon by Angelina Kulygina. Her knowledge of Longfellow, Mark

Twain, Jack London and O. Henry was not surprising; all Soviet boys and girls read the works of these writers. But it appears that Washington Irving and his contemporaries are likewise popular with the young people.

A storm of applause from fellow-students and guests—among whom were young men from Army schools—greeted Elya Pons, a tall, slim girl, who spoke on "America in Wartime." This was perhaps the most difficult topic. In her brief report, Elya touched upon many features of American life in which Soviet audiences are most interested: the isolationists and their defeat, the conversion of industry, the progressive policy pursued by President Roosevelt, the interest displayed by the average American in everything Soviet, the sincere manifestations of friendship on the part of the American people, and their desire to help the Red Army.

The audience was pleased to learn that many Soviet songs are now popular in America and are often heard at gatherings there.

At the conclusion of Elya's report, a Lieutenant Colonel of the Red Army Air Force took his place on the platform in front of Old Glory. The applause grew into an ovation. The Colonel was introduced as the representative of an organization which had become "patron" of School No. 329. He had come to speak of his recent visit to the United States.

It was clear that if it had been left to the audience, the Air Force officer would have been on the platform all evening. The young people showered him with questions about the city of Washington, what the theaters were like, what kind of films were playing, the food situation, the mood of the American people, etc.

The Colonel's answers were like a fascinating newsreel. He told the boys and girls about the ivy-covered buildings in Washington, the pigeons and squirrels in the Capital parks, the dizzying speed with which flying fields were built and planes repaired; he told them that Americans know how to work and how to rest; and

he told them much more about those friendly, hospitable people for whom the words "Russian," "Soviet" and "Red Army" are now an "open sesame" to all hearts.

Students Eager to Hear More

He spoke of big things and small things; of American industry, of concert programs—and still the students wanted to hear more.

As I listened, I recalled another young audience of Moscow University students whom I had visited a month before, with a delegation of British Members of Parliament, and the astonishment of the latter at the young people's knowledge of the make-up of the British Commonwealth. I think that if they had attended this meeting, they would have ceased to be astonished.

When all the reports were finished, there was a concert of American songs: "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Shenandoah," "Dixie," and others. Then a reading of excerpts from *The Song of Hiawatha*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and other books by American authors.

The evening ended with dancing to American phonograph records.

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The Spirit of the Soviet Woman

PRAVDA wrote editorially, March 8:

In the hard trials of the war against Germany, the Soviet woman has revealed herself as a great force. In these historic war years, the world has seen the rich fruit borne by the emancipation of women, the brilliant results of the enormous educational work accomplished by the Soviet State which insured full rights to women and wide possibilities for the development of all their creative talents.

A working woman with the spirit of initiative, a heroine of the battle and home front, a firm and inspired patriot, a devoted wife and loving mother—such is the character of the Soviet woman in the eyes of the world. She tirelessly works in the collective farm fields and in the factory. With selfless courage, rifle in hand, she fights the enemy at the front. She tends the wounded on the battlefield and takes care of the war orphans and children of the front fighters.

When our Soviet motherland was experiencing hard days, in the Urals the women's hands helped to install the machinery of the evacuated Ukrainian plants in record time. Women's hands are assisting in the restoration of the heroic cities of Leningrad and Stalingrad, the factories and collective farms, the mines of the Donbas and the towns converted into ruins by the enemy.

Women are in laboratories and in professors' chairs. Women are educating the young generation.

These deeds and exploits of Soviet women are not an accidental phenomenon or isolated episodes. The labor valor of the Soviet woman, the strength and firmness of her spirit, her place in the country's life—all this is part and parcel of our entire social and State system, of our life and customs.

International Women's Day—March 8

—is celebrated by our country in an atmosphere of historic victories of the heroic Red Army. The final defeat of the enemy and the hour of victory are near. However, to achieve and consolidate victory, new moral and physical efforts are needed. Women's selfless labor, the firmness and courage of the wives and mothers of the front fighters, have helped our country to withstand the enemy's onslaught. At present, this labor and this firmness must be directed toward increasing the assistance to the Red Army, in gaining final victory over the hateful enemy!

IZVESTIA cites some data showing women's part in the nation-wide assistance to the front:

At one large war plant, women and girls head almost half of all production teams and sections. Half the foremen's posts are filled by women. This plant is no exception. Women's labor now prevails in many branches of industry.

On the collective farms in 1943, 71.2 per cent of the total work-day units fell to the share of women. Within three years of war more than half a million women collective farmers have become mechanics, tractor drivers and harvester-combine operators.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes:

The heroic deeds of Soviet women in

the battles against the German invaders form one of the brightest pages in the history of the Patriotic War. Together with the women soldiers of the Red Army, our gallant guerrilla girls have won great glory.

The people's struggle on the lands seized by the enemy produced such immortal heroines as Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, Liza Chaikina and Natasha Kovshova. In their footsteps, tens of thousands of girls and women fought in the guerrilla detachments, taking vengeance upon the German hangmen and murderers.

Women Red Army officers and soldiers have won distinction by their bravery in action. At present, at the advanced battle positions we now see not only tremendous detachments of heroines of the First Aid Service, but also famous snipers, members of the Signals Service, anti-aircraft gunners, pilots, etc. Most of these are volunteers.

By February 1, 1945, 72,196 women soldiers of the Red Army had been awarded orders and medals. The title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred upon 44 women. In all the historic battles of the Red Army for the liberation of Soviet soil, woman soldiers have discharged their duty with honor. They are now courageously fighting in Germany.

Captain Alexei Voronin, of the Red Army Engineering Corps, examines munitions ready for shipment to the front



Radiophoto

THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WAR CRIMINALS

The following article by Borissov, Professor of International Law, appeared in PRAVDA:

The necessity of really bringing the war criminals to answer has now been recognized by all democratic countries. The monstrous atrocities of the German fascists have again raised the problem of the responsibility under criminal law both of the main culprits and war criminals who unleashed the war of aggression and directed the crimes of the Hitlerite hordes, and the rank and file criminals of war who violated the laws and usages of war.

The principle of the responsibility of war criminals under criminal law has been expressed in numerous acts emanating from the USSR. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet proceeded from this principle when it formed the Extraordinary State Committee for Ascertaining and Investigating Crimes Committed by the German-fascist Invaders. The numerous statements of the Extraordinary State Committee list the German-fascist war criminals who will not escape the hand of justice.

The USSR does not confine itself to drawing up lists of war criminals. The USSR has started to implement its right of punishing the war criminals and their accomplices, and thus far has sentenced several culprits to capital punishment at open trials in Krasnodar and Kharkov.

Other democratic countries have also expressed themselves in favor of applying sanctions to war criminals. In this it is quite obvious that war criminals are not only those who directly committed heinous violations of the laws and usages of war, but also those who unleashed the war of aggression.

On January 13, 1942, nine countries signed a declaration on the punishment of the Hitlerites and their accomplices. It has been supplemented by the declaration of December 17, 1942, on the extermination of the Jewish population of Europe conducted by the Hitlerites.

At that time a Commission of the United Nations was set up in London for the punishment of the war criminals. This Commission, however, spent too

much time discussing whether or not the war criminals should be tried by national court at the place where they committed the crimes, or by an inter-Allied or international court, and also what should be the procedure for the extradition of criminals.

True, the Commission drew up lists of some 1,700 war criminals. However, in its deliberations the Commission failed to mention such a vital issue as that the preparation and unleashing of the war of aggression is also a crime, and that those guilty of it should be at the top of the list of war criminals. It transpired that the list drawn up by the London Commission does not include Hitler! This caused indignation among wide public circles in all countries. The British Prime Minister has stated that the mistake committed by the Commission has been rectified: Hitler and other prominent Nazis have been included on the list. In general, the tardiness and fruitlessness of the work of the London Commission have evoked much criticism in the American, British and Soviet press.

Trials in Liberated Countries

Without waiting for the results of this Commission's work, the liberated European countries have already started, though slowly, to act. France, which experienced the disgrace of the Vichy regime, has arranged trials of the collaborationists. As yet, these courts have passed only some 1,200 sentences.

A special court has been set up in Poland for the trial of fascist mercenaries and traitors to the people. Popular courts are already acting in Yugoslavia. The Czechoslovak Government has drawn up a list of 2,000 war criminals. A special tribunal has been set up in Holland to try the traitors and war criminals, but as yet it acts very slowly. In Belgium, too, they do not hurry to bring to answer the accomplices in the Nazi crimes.

The armistice agreements concluded in 1944 and 1945 with the satellites who broke with Germany contain special provisions concerning war criminals. The governments of Germany's former satellites undertook to collaborate with the

Allied (Soviet) Supreme Command in the detention, or extradition to the governments concerned, of persons accused of war crimes, and in trying them. Each of the four countries which concluded this armistice agreement, as well as Italy, which had previously dropped out of the war on the side of the Hitlerite bloc, took a different approach toward the implementation of the above condition of the armistice agreements.

Bulgaria has resolutely adopted a course of the extirpation of the fascist vermin. The popular courts in Sofia have sentenced to capital punishment the main war criminals—three ex-regents, 22 ministers and 68 fascist deputies. This just sentence has already been carried into effect. Now the other lesser war criminals are being tried in Bulgaria.

Sentences upon war criminals are being passed in the liberated part of Hungary.

In Rumania, where the main criminals (Antonescu and others) were arrested by the Soviet Supreme Command, the Council of Ministers announced a list of 65 war criminals only in February, 1945, having divided them into culprits of the national disaster and direct war criminals. However, no actual steps have been taken. In vain do certain Rumanian politicians hope to get away with empty phrases about the punishment of the war criminals.

In Italy, too, the fascist criminals have not been tried as yet, because accomplices in the fascist crimes have entrenched themselves in the state machine.

Only 34 persons accused of war crimes and 72 accused of the humiliation and ill-treatment of Soviet war prisoners have been detained in Finland. The Finnish government has only now formed a special commission to deal with the problem of the culprits of the war. In his statement to the Finnish Diet, Prime Minister Paasikivi pointed to the constitutional and legal difficulties involved in bringing to answer all the culprits of the war. According to reports from Helsinki, Finnish public circles insist on urgent measures for revealing the war criminals, in order to bring them to answer.

Thus, in the main, the fascist war criminals have not been exposed and brought to the dock to bear just punishment. At times they find very ardent advocates. Suffice it to mention the British *Catholic Herald Weekly*, which states that it would be better if many murderers escaped rather than one innocent be condemned. It is obvious that such a statement opens a loophole for the worst fascist criminals.

There should be no vacillations and procrastinations in administering due punishment to the war criminals. The problem of the Hitlerites' responsibility for

their atrocities has been thoroughly solved in the Roosevelt-Stalin-Churchill Declaration, published in Moscow on November 2, 1943. This Declaration established that the main war criminals will be punished jointly by the decision of the Allied Governments.

Consequently, the precedent of Napoleon I, proclaimed a prisoner of the allied powers and exiled to the Island of St. Helena, cannot be applied toward the main Nazi gangster, Hitler—contrary to the argument advanced by the chairman of the London Commission.

The decisions of the Moscow Declaration have been newly confirmed in the statement of the leaders of the three Allied powers on the results of the Crimean Conference. This statement once more emphasized forcefully the determination of the Allied nations to administer justice to the war criminals.

Armed by the historic decisions of the Crimean Conference, the public opinion of the democratic countries will even more resolutely insist upon the speedy and just trial of both the rank and file fascist bandits and the ringleaders of the criminal Hitlerite gang.

'MOTHER OF ALL CHILDREN'

In the women's barracks of a German concentration camp in an area recently captured by the Red Army, there was once a prisoner known as Clara, a little dressmaker from Prague.

One night, while the other women were sleeping on the cement floor, Clara died. When the Germans dragged her body away, the fair head of her little daughter, Elly, appeared from under the straw of her pallet. A woman gathered the child to her breast and spoke soothing words.

Elly did not understand the words, but she nestled close. She could not pronounce the woman's difficult Russian name and patronymic—Marfa Ossipovna. Children and adults remembered only its first syllable—comprehensible in all languages—"Ma."

Soon afterward an Italian woman, Lucy, died, leaving her two-year-old son. The child screamed and scratched at everyone who approached. But in "Ma's" arms he became quiet.

Then Simone, an eight-year-old girl, came to Ma on her own initiative. It was like this: Simone's mother died, but the Germans did not remove the body for a long time. The little girl covered her dead mother's face with straw, then came to "Ma" and said, "Madame, permit me to remain with you. I can carry water and nurse the children."

"Ma" did not understand French. She simply kissed the little girl.

Later a boy of 14 appeared in "Ma's" corner; then a tiny, pale girl from War-

saw. A new name was given to Marfa Ossipovna: "Mother of all children." Mothers, sensing the approach of death, called "Ma" to them and pressed their lips to her calloused hand, whispering words of anguish and gratitude.

No Food for Children

The Germans did not issue a food ration to the children. Only those who worked were entitled to 100 grams of sawdust bread and half a pint of prison "soup" daily. One day on her way back to the barracks after work, "Ma" resolutely stepped over to the barbed wire behind which the men prisoners were working. She called loudly, "Any Russians there? Help the little children. Throw pieces of bread into this crater near the fence."

For this the Germans ordered "Ma" to be punished with 25 strokes from a wire whip. Without a word, she took off her blouse and turned her back to the woman overseer, a husky German wearing black leather gloves, who struck her 25 times with the whip. The "Mother of all children" then put her blouse over her bleeding shoulders and returned to the barracks.

When Simone saw the blood she began to cry. "Ma" smiled and tried to calm her. "Bread . . . bread . . . now you will have bread," she said. It was true. The crater near the barbed wire began to be filled with pieces of Russian rations,

then with the bread of Polish, French, Czech and Italian prisoners.

But the bread had to be brought to the children. At night, "Ma" would crawl toward the fence to fetch it. The beams of searchlights skimmed the earth, machine guns crowned the watch towers. German sentries listened intently for the slightest rustle.

For four months "Ma" outwitted death and fed her eleven foster-children. In the daytime she went on with her work, doing three times the usual quota for a man. She did not want to be considered feeble or ailing—such people were killed by the Germans without delay. Her life meant the lives of her little ones.

At the beginning of the fifth month, a searchlight tore out of the darkness in the dead of night and picked out the body of a woman pressed close to the ground. One moment later a German sentry was reloading his tommy gun.

For days the children awaited their mother's return. But she did not come back. Another ten days passed. With great difficulty the other women fed the children.

Then the Soviet troops came. They heard the story. Red Army officers and men were unable to find the grave of the "Mother of all children." But they lined up in a guard of honor about the crater near the barbed wire fence. A solemn salute was given to the unknown great woman who had laid down her life for the children of others.

PRESIDENT OF HER REPUBLIC

By Z. N. Labkovsky

The Chuvash Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, situated in the northern part of the Volga Region, in the Russian SFSR, is perhaps the only Republic in the world with a woman president. She is Zoya Andreyeva, and before her election as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Chuvashia (a post equivalent to president), she was a country schoolteacher.

The population of Chuvashia is about one million, although before the Soviet Revolution a similar number of people had left their native soil to search for a livelihood in neighboring regions. Some went as far as Kuibyshev, Bashkiria and distant Siberia.

Before 1917 the Chuvashi were a poverty-stricken people who had neither statehood nor national freedom. Only a quarter of a century ago they attracted attention chiefly because of the wide incidence of trachoma among the population.

Today every trace of trachoma has been eradicated, and one might say that Chuvashia's distinguishing feature at the present time is its motor-roads. In my visit to the Republic I drove over the country on highways that rank among the best in the USSR.

Zoya Andreyeva, who was elected to her present high post seven years ago, was born in Oraushi, a village of 350 miserable huts. The soil around was fertile, but the farmers lacked the most elementary implements for tilling it. They were without education. Zoya's father, the village doctor, was troubled by this mode of existence. While treating the eyes of the people for trachoma, he spoke constantly of the need for education and enlightenment if their way of life was to be changed.

Zoya listened to her father and to her older sister, a schoolteacher, and resolved to become a teacher also. She attended a secondary school in the nearby town of Yadrin. The day on which she received her teacher's diploma coincided with a momentous event in the history of the country: the Soviet Revolution in Russia.

Andreyeva began her career as a teacher in Yangorchin village. She felt keenly the responsibility of her profession; in



Radiophoto

Zoya Andreyeva, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Chuvashia

Chuvashia it imposed broader duties than ordinarily fell to the lot of a teacher.

"I must teach both the children and adults," she said. "Both must be taught to read and write, and the elders to understand their life as well." She planned her campaign carefully.

In the winter evenings the peasants usually gathered in the bathhouse. The warmest place in the village, it was their only social center. Here the girls and young men would sing plaintive songs. Andreyeva came to the bathhouse with a book in her hand. She sat down quietly apart from the others and read.

Everyone's curiosity was aroused, and in a short time Andreyeva was reading aloud to the girls. Soon the young men joined the circle, and in a little while the entire village, including the old folks, was listening and learning about the earth, the stars, and man himself.

This was the beginning. Soon Andreyeva's school was the center of the village communal life. She became known as the teacher who was more interested in others than in her own welfare. News of her success reached Cheboksary, the capital. Andreyeva was invited there, and then sent to Moscow to continue her education. Later she returned to her home-

land and seven years ago was elected to head its Government.

* * *

I visited Andreyeva in Cheboksary, soon after her return from a visit to the rural areas for conferences on the spring sowing. It was Saturday, her reception day, and I was struck by the large number of visitors she received, and her scrupulous care in keeping appointments.

Zoya Andreyeva is still a teacher despite her maturity as a stateswoman. A typical Chuvash woman—the face round, the cheekbones slightly prominent and the eyes almond-shaped—she welcomed me warmly and spoke eagerly of the past, present and future of Chuvashia. Education is her credo. "The Chuvashi would never have risen to their feet if they had not enjoyed the support of the Russian people, who sent us engineers and agronomists, machines for our factories, pedigreed stock for our farms—and schoolbooks for our children.

"The first thing we did was to teach our people to read and write, for we know that culture follows literacy."

I could not refrain from thinking that the very presence of a woman in this office was in itself proof of the vast cultural, social and economic progress of the Republic.

But there were other proofs. Chuvashia has not only scored great successes in agriculture, but has built up its own industry. A locomotive repair works has been added to the old Cheboksary railway car shops; there are a wood-working mill and a furniture factory, and the war years have added a boot and shoe factory, a tobacco factory, four cotton textile mills and numerous other industrial enterprises.

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Chuvash Republic, the People's Commissariat of Education summed up its work. The following are some of the most striking figures: 1,030 schools, seven normal schools, a pedagogical institute and an agricultural institute—all this in a country where not long ago 98 per cent of the women were unable to read and write.

Special Care for Expectant Mothers

Situated in Sokolniki, one of the picturesque suburbs of Moscow, is Sanatorium No. 4 for Expectant Mothers, maintained by the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions. Each month 140 women from various trade unions come here to rest and build up their strength in preparation for bringing their children into the world. Everything about this beautiful sanatorium, from the pine woods surrounding it to the fresh curtains at the windows, pleases the eye and conduces to rest and relaxation.

As the women arrive, they enter a spacious reception hall. The rugs are soft and thick, the walls hung with pictures by well-known artists. Maria Miserova, senior gynecologist, greets each newcomer warmly. After a complete examination, the guest receives fresh linen, a warm bathrobe and bedroom slippers, and is assigned to a spotless ward.

Besides the chief gynecologist, the staff of the sanatorium includes a therapist, a dentist and three midwives. There is a special lying-in room for women who give birth here.

Young mothers bearing their first child receive special preliminary instructions in their future role as mothers. Lectures in physiology and the care of the infant are held regularly. The regime is designed to build up the health and strength of the prospective mothers.

Guests rise at 7:30. After specially prescribed exercises and baths, they have a substantial breakfast, then put on sturdy shoes and warm outer clothing and go for

Nina Antikhina and Vera Lebedinskaya, who work in a war plant, rest at the Sokolniki sanatorium



Radiophoto

a walk. Dinner is at two o'clock; at five milk is served, and at eight there is a light supper.

For leisure hours there is varied and interesting entertainment. Three times a week new films are shown, and once a week there is a concert, usually by groups of the artists from the leading Moscow theaters. There are also readings from books and lectures on international affairs. A library with a wide choice of new books and magazines is at their disposal.

The guests are of various ages. The young wife of a Red Army commander, Varvara Sorokina, operates a turning lathe in a Moscow war plant. Her neighbor in the ward is Anna Mescheryakova, a spinner in a textile mill. This will be Anna's sixth child; she will receive the Government "Motherhood Medal." Her eldest daughter will be graduated from the Moscow Medical Institute this year, and a younger one is in her second year at an architectural-engineering school.

Anna tells young Varvara of her moth-

er's experiences as a weaver in the textile mills in the old days. At that time, pregnant women worked up till the last hour before birth, and sometimes bore their children in the mill, beside their machines.

Now Soviet women have six weeks' vacation from their work before childbirth and six weeks afterward, with full pay. During the entire period of pregnancy they receive constant care from the maternity health centers, without charge, and for those who require it, special rest and care in sanatoriums.

To Anna's reminiscences, Varvara makes her own contribution. "When I think that our country, which surrounds mothers and children with such care and affection, was in danger of being enslaved by the Hitlerites—who pumped the blood from children's bodies for their bestial soldiers—I want to shout to my husband and all Red Army men, 'No mercy to them. They must be crushed so that the children may live.'"

THE PEOPLE OF YAMAL NENETS

By V. Karpinsky

Yamal Nenets is just one region in the Siberian north. It is a vast area along the lower reaches of the Ob and Taz Rivers, on the Yamal peninsula which extends far into the Kara Sea. More than half the area lies beyond the Arctic Circle. It is inhabited by the Nentsi, a people that were once doomed to extinction.

Since the Yamal Nenets national area was set up in 1930, the region has begun to live again. At present, all the government bodies—the Soviet of the working

people's deputies of the area, the district, town and rural Soviets, the regional court, the district and people's courts—and the schools conduct all their affairs in their native language.

In the Yamal Nenets area two-thirds of the deputies to the Soviets are representatives of the Nentsi and other local peoples. As many as 218 representatives of the local population hold leading posts in government, economic and cultural institutions.

The regional Soviet and the executive committee of the national area enjoy all the rights of government bodies in all questions pertaining to the life of the area. The local citizens take part in the state affairs of the Russian Federated Republic as well as of the Soviet Union as a whole, by electing deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR and to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR consists of two chambers, the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities. In

elections to the Soviet of the Union, the citizens of the national area elect representatives on the same basis as all other Soviet citizens. But to the Soviet of Nationalities each national area, regardless of size and population, elects one deputy who represents its direct interests in the highest organ of the Soviet State.

This two-chamber system insures the rights of even the smallest nationalities to participate actively in the affairs of government and in the political life of the Soviet Union as a whole. It solves the national problem even for peoples whose numbers are only in the thousands.

Yamal Nenets is typical of such a national area. This ancient home of the Nentsi abounds in fur-bearing animals, fish, game and reindeer. Before the Revolution, the Tsarist government exacted heavy tribute in furs from the inhabitants. The people were robbed by Russian fur traders, their native princes and their medicine men.

A Russian encyclopedia published in 1899 gives this information about the Nentsi: "The tribe, numbering 16,000, is dying out." The 1913 edition of the same encyclopedia has the following entry: "The tribe, numbering 2,000, is dying out."

The Soviet power was established in that area in 1919, with the aid of the Russian people, and the Soviet State has saved the Nentsi from extinction. The 1939 census revealed a population of 12,000 Nentsi, as compared with 2,000 in 1913.

The population of the region began to grow when the Yamal Nenets area was set up in 1930. In the past ten years more than half the Nenets nomads have settled on the land. Most of the families engaged in hunting and fishing have united in producers' cooperatives. The fishing collectives turn their catch over to the canneries which in turn supply them with first-rate fishing equipment. There are 12 state canneries in the territory, six of which have been organized since the war. The hunters turn over all their furs to central cooperative stores which supply their needs. The prices of all consumer goods are the same, even in the most remote settlements. But the Nentsi hunters bag ten times more than they did before the area was set up, and for the first time

in history they have begun to breed silver foxes.

The herds of reindeer owned by the Nenets collective farms have multiplied fourfold. This is largely due to the help given the collective farms by the Reindeer Station, an experimental station for the study of animal husbandry, and by the Reindeer Breeders' School.

When the collective farms were organized, stock breeding was also introduced. The Nentsi began to raise cattle, sheep, hogs and horses in addition to reindeer. In 1940, the collective farms in the Yamal Nenets national area had 13 stock sections. The Dawn collective farm, for example, not only had 10 acres of crops planted in hothouses and outdoors, but also had stud and fox sections. In 1943, the farm had an income of over 10 million rubles, of which more than half was derived from farming and 13 per cent from the stud and silver fox farms.

With the organization of collective farms, an agricultural research station was set up in this zone of eternal frost, where the people had never seen any vegetables. In 1940, barley, peas, flax, hemp, tobacco and various vegetables were planted. The yields were as good as those of many of the old farming regions of the Soviet Union.

In the old days the Nentsi had to get along without medical care. In 1940 they were served by 12 hospitals, 18 dispensaries and 21 medical stations staffed by 133 qualified doctors and obstetricians. Salekhard, the administrative center of the area, has a spacious hospital with 96 beds, complete dental and X-ray departments and a laboratory.

In Tsarist times the Nentsi were completely illiterate and had no written language of their own. In 1943, there were 56 schools in the area, 19 of them secondary schools. Special boarding schools have been created for the children of the nomads. A number of Nentsi are studying at higher educational institutions in the Omsk Region, and in Moscow and Leningrad.

The Yamal peninsula now boasts a teachers' training school, a school for zoological technicians, two vocational schools, a museum of local history and ethnography, 10 libraries and 13 reading rooms, five Houses of the Nenets, eight

Red Tents in nomad settlements, six regular newspapers and 150 wall newspapers. The Houses of the Nenets are important centers of culture. They show the best Soviet films and conduct amateur art groups of various kinds. At the regional House of the Nenets in Salekhard, for example, plays by Gogol, Ostrovsky, Gorky, Molière and Lope da Vega have been presented in the Nenets tongue.

A national Nenets literature has been created. The first play written by a Nenets, Ivan Nogo, was presented during the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Yamal Nenets national area. It deals with the struggle of the Nenets national hero, Vauli Poetto-min, against the Tsarist autocracy. The incidental music is based on national airs. The tragic past of the people and their progress in Soviet times have also inspired the prose writers P. Usov and Pir Khuba and the poets G. Suftin, E. Sobolev and S. Nogotysy.

The clue to the truly amazing progress made by the Nenets and the other small nationalities in the Soviet Union may be found in the words of a Nenets poet: "We ourselves are the builders of our happy life." These words also explain why all the Soviet nations, from the largest to the smallest, are inspired by lofty patriotism for their Soviet country and are its zealous defenders. One of the best snipers in the Red Army is Teseda, a Nenets from the Gudy settlement. His score is 100. He is not much of a talker. He says briefly, "Teseda has killed many Germans; he will kill still more."

The inhabitants of the Khalmersede settlement, beyond the Arctic Circle, wrote to Marshal Stalin, "Our dear beloved father, Joseph Vissarionovich! We collective farmers, workers and office employees of the Tazo district, far in the north, are at one with the whole Soviet people in our aim of swiftly defeating the enemy and clearing the fascist scum from our native land."

Within six weeks the 5,000 inhabitants of this district donated 200,000 rubles in cash and 150,000 rubles in State Bonds, to build a tank column. The people of the Yamal Nenets area have given the Red Army large quantities of furs, fish and reindeer, and are helping to restore the distant Zaporozye region.

WHEN SOVIET CITIZENS GO TO COURT

By Counsellor A. S. Spectorov

The Soviet Constitution and the law relating to the court system in the USSR, provide for cases in all courts to be heard in the presence of people's justices. The functions of a people's justice ordinarily occupy 10 days a year; the rest of his time he is free to devote to his usual work.

The Constitution establishes that people's justices serving in people's courts are elected, like the judges, by equal, direct, secret ballot for a term of three years, by the people of the territory within the jurisdiction of the given people's court, on the basis of the electoral districts.

Functions of People's Justices

People's justices serving in district and regional courts are elected at sessions of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies; justices to the Supreme Courts of Union and Autonomous Republics and to the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union are elected at sessions of the corresponding Supreme Soviets.

The functions, rights and significance of the people's justices are very great. A people's justice is a member with equal rights in the court throughout the entire trial. All cases are decided by the judge together with the two people's justices, whether it is a matter of establishing guilt, applying the law, fixing punishment, calling additional witnesses or satisfying a plaintiff's claims.

Should both justices hold an opinion contrary to that of the judge, the sentence or judgment will be that of the justices. In such cases the judge has a right to express his minority opinion and affix it to the sentence or judgment. This dissenting opinion is not read out in court, and serves only as material for the higher court which checks the correctness of the sentence or judgment of the lower court. Either of the people's justices, should he be in the minority, has the same right to express dissent.

Should the right of the judge be impeached, i.e., should either party claim that he is not disinterested, it is the people's justices who decide whether the impeachment is just. In such cases, should either people's justice hold that the claim

is justified, the judge is held to be impeached.

Guarantee of Objectivity

During a trial the people's justices have the right to put any question to the witnesses, experts or the accused, which they may consider necessary to make the facts of the case clear or to establish the claims of objective justice. They may examine the material evidence and documents in court, as well as during the preliminary proceedings. This system guarantees the accused or the parties in the case full objectivity in passing judgment, and protects the court against errors.

In Tsarist Russia jurors were called only in the lower courts, and their rights were rigidly limited. Their only function was to decide whether or not the crime with which the accused was charged had been committed. Their answer could be only "Yes, it has been proved" or "No, it has not been proved." No discussion was permitted. In the higher courts, cases were decided without jurors.

In the Soviet Union, people's justices attend in all courts, from the People's Court to the Supreme Court of the USSR. All courts consist of a permanent judge who presides, and two justices; except in certain special cases established by law.

According to Soviet law, a people's justice has the right to substitute for the judge. In cases of his temporary absence through illness, or on vacation, the district Soviet of Working People's Deputies charges one of the people's justices with the duties of the judge.

The functions of the people's justices are varied. They take part in the trial of all sorts of cases relating to crimes committed against the life, health and reputation of citizens, charges of theft and embezzlement, civil cases relating to property claims, cases of infringement of labor laws or the theft of socialist property. Together with the judge, the people's justices receive the petitioners' applications and complaints, and give consultations. Not only do they take an active part in the work of the State's judiciary; they also receive instruction themselves in the administration of the State.

Many people's justices who have proved themselves capable and efficient, have been elected as judges. There are thousands of them working as assistant judges. For example, A. Zhuravlev, a Moscow factory worker, who was elected a people's justice in 1935, has been working as an assistant judge since the summer of 1940. In this capacity he conducts preliminary investigations of cases brought to court, interviews both parties and examines material evidence. Leonova, a schoolteacher, who is a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, serves as an assistant judge at the Supreme Court of the USSR.

The People's Commissariat of Justice organizes short-term courses to help the people's justices in their work by acquainting them with the basic laws of the Soviet code. They are active in defending the rights of servicemen's families. They strive to settle cases out of court wherever possible.

A people's justice is the elected representative of the people. He knows the needs of the people well, and is in a position to judge competently in both criminal and civil cases. Like the judge, he makes periodical reports on his activities to his constituents.

The fact that he is the elected representative of the people, his extensive rights, his close connection with his constituents and the fact that he is directly responsible to them, illustrate the democratic character of the Soviet judiciary system.

Church Delegation Visits USSR

On February 10 a church delegation from the Metropolitan of all America and Canada, Theophilus, arrived in Moscow to discuss internal church problems with the Moscow Patriarchy. The delegation, consisting of the Vice President of the Metropolitan's Council, Bishop Alexius, and Archpriest Joseph Dzvonchik, was received on three occasions by the Most Holy Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, Alexius, and members of the Holy Synod. On February 17, the delegation left Moscow for the United States.

CHILDREN'S RESEARCHES

By Lev Gumilevsky

In pre-Soviet times there was in Russia a wealth of societies of amateur naturalists and historians. The members were retired Government officials, pensioners and rentiers. They delved into local records, or studied the geography of their district, just as others collected stamps, musical instruments or match boxes.

If you imagine the modern Soviet local historian as a white-haired old man swathed in his dressing gown, bending over an ancient manuscript in his study, then you are making a serious mistake. Most of the local historians and geographers of modern Russia are children in their teens. They study their localities as part of the regular school curriculum.

These young naturalists, who make easy work of hills, caves, woods and swamps, have already rendered great services to Soviet national economy. The children of Kaluga, for example, discovered a decorative marble-like limestone which was used for facing the walls of the Moscow Subway. More important—on the river Ugra they found a deposit of coal.

The young naturalists of Northern Siberia discovered large growths of rose mallow, a fibrous plant now extensively used in local industry. The schoolchildren have made many interesting finds while studying old mine workings. The Nikitovka Mercury trust, evacuated from the Donets valley to the Far East, is now working valuable deposits that had been abandoned for several hundred years. Before this it was believed that the only

The leader of a children's brigade of vegetable gardeners and his assistant take their duties very seriously



deposit of mercury in the Soviet Union was at Nikitovka.

Since the war began, the young naturalists' circles have placed at the disposal of factories their investigations of old mine workings in the Urals. They have rendered great service in the search for raw materials, principally metals and mineral fuels. Historical materials and ancient records have given many invaluable clues.

Professor Konstantin Korobkov, who directs the historical section of the Institute of Local Natural History, stated: "In ancient days people looking for minerals selected only those deposits which were easy to work. They were only interested in ores that contained a large percentage of metal, and they only worked the upper layers. Thanks to modern mining technique, these workings pro-

duce vast quantities of raw material."

In village records, chronicles and letters written by local worthies, mention is often found of such abandoned workings. Investigation invariably proves that these mines are fully capable of further exploitation. For example, the staff of the Ivanovo Local Natural History Museum, after studying historical records, carried out a thorough exploration of the locality, and discovered long-forgotten but not exhausted deposits of salt. These are now being worked.

With their keen eyes, active limbs, insatiable curiosity, and courage, the young natural historians have won the respectful regard of the senior natural history societies in the USSR.

NEW EDITION OF WALT WHITMAN

A new collection of selected poems and prose by Walt Whitman, translated by the well-known Soviet writer Kornei Chukovsky, contains a biography and an analysis of the poet's work, calling him a "universally recognized classic."

The study of Whitman in Russia has begun long before he was finally recognized in his own country, states Chukovsky. The present edition of *Leaves of Grass* also includes Whitman's prose "Letter to a Russian," "Hours of the Soul," and "The Silent General."

Chukovsky's book contains two articles, "Turgenev and Tolstoy on Whitman" and "Whitman and Mayakovsky." The first concerns the earliest translation of Whitman into Russian, made in 1872 by the great Russian writer Ivan Turgenev, and recalls how highly Leo Tolstoy valued the American poet. The second analyzes Whitman's influence on the early work of the poet Vladimir Mayakovsky, whom Stalin has called "the most gifted poet of our Soviet epoch."

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ONWARD!

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, March 8:

"It would be interesting to know when the Russian offensive will stop, for every offensive must come to an end," argues a military commentator in the *Kieler Zeitung*.

We can answer the question which interests this moron: our offensive will end when Germany ends. Our goal is not Stettin, nor Dresden, nor even Berlin; our goal is Germany. We have begun the battle for Germany and will carry it to the finish. Our offensive will end on the same day that the war ends, and the war will end on the same day that Germany ends.

"Why did I escape across the ice?" the Germans who succeeded in extricating themselves from the Koenigsberg kettle ask, now that they find themselves in the Danzig kettle.

Each day our tankmen push deeper and deeper into Germany. Each day our infantry clears some new piece of territory of German troops. We are moving swiftly toward the accomplishment of our aim, which is to carry by assault the large inhabited place known as "Germany."

With us are our Allies. They are gnawing through the enemy's defenses. They have reached the Rhine. And I don't think the Rhine will stop them; it is not for that they sailed across the ocean, and it was not for that they bestrode the English Channel.

Our Allies have measured their cloth seven times; now they are cutting it, and are not cutting it badly, either. We will not count the kilometers separating them and us from any particular German town; this is not a game of who gets there first. We have a more important job on hand; we are assaulting Germany. In six weeks we have substantially curtailed both

Germany's territory and its predatory fauna.

If we had come to Germany to educate the Fritzes, we might well despair—those dolts are incorrigible. But we have come as tamers, not as educators.

We know that depression reigns in the German army. Before me lies the news sheet of the German 252nd Infantry Division, known as the Elchenlaub, or Oak-leaf, Division. In it I read, "Urgent measures must be taken against soldiers who are disseminating false rumors, as, for instance, that the Reichstag has been convened, or that Sweden has declared war."

This model newspaper ends with the words, "After reading this news sheet, burn it." They have lied themselves into such a fix that they are now burning not only the Gestapo records, but even their newspapers.

With them everything is oaken: oak-leaf decorations, oak divisions, and oaken foreheads. What Reichstag could be con-

vened in Germany? There are appointed "deputies" whose only function is to cry "Heil Hitler." Even the Reichstag building was burned down by the first Nazi incendiary, Goering.

As for Sweden, to speak frankly, we will get along without her. But if the Germans have begun to fear Sweden, they must indeed have gone out of their senses. This, of course, does not prevent them from shooting. They fire, not because they hope for victory, but because they have nothing left to hope for.

The venomous scorpion has been caught in an iron ring. It can still bite. Soon it will be biting itself, but that does not interest us either. We count not on the Fritzes coming to their senses, but on our artillery fire. The scorpion may bite itself or not. We shall trample the life out of it anyhow.

We hate the Germans now doubly, not because they are beaten, but because they are even viler in defeat than in victory.



Soviet tanks attacking in East Prussia

Radiophoto

These clowns pretend to be innocent. They hang out white, and even red flags. They proclaim themselves Poles. Soon they will be proclaiming themselves Jews! The German women offer their bodies for the gratification of the victors. What is behind the masquerade? Bestial fear and bestial malice. The faces of the German clowns are pallid, not from powder but from fear; they are reddened not with rouge, but with the blood of their victims.

They bow low to us. They are so insolent as to offer us French wine and Macedonian tobacco. But who will believe them? In Gleiwitz, one old German cried, "*Hitler ist kaput!*"—and later an infernal machine was found in his house with which he intended to blow up Russian officers. Let the vipers creep and crawl. We will turn them inside out anyhow.

"Why don't they give us meat?" demanded the Germans in Hindenburg, after they had recovered from their fright. They see that the Red Army does not kill women and children, and they grow more brazen every hour. Maybe tomorrow they will be demanding Astrakhan caviar?

We are not vindictive. We are humane. We are not fascists. All that is so, and it is a good thing it is so. But let the Germans know that we are not simpletons, that we are not to be fooled with words, that between us lies an ocean of blood, that between us lie all the ravines and ditches and pits into which the Germans threw the corpses of the children they slew.

He is no human being who looks upon child-slayers as human beings. One's anger may cool, but one's hatred of butchers can never cool. We are too humane to forget the Germans' misdeeds.

The *Voelkischer Beobachter* snarls hypocritically: "The steppemen are falling upon our peaceable towns. They want to seize possession of our comfortable homes, our squares, linden trees and our *ratshouses*." One would think we had invaded a peaceful home. The contemptible clowns have forgotten June 22, they have forgotten the ruins of Voronezh, the blood of Stalingrad, their "living space." But we have forgotten nothing. We do not need their *ratshouses* filled with empty

champagne bottles and denunciations; we do not need their homes with their vapid vases and cushions; we do not need their lindens.

But we curse the land of the miscreants. If the linden trees had hearts, they would wither rather than afford shade to the assassins of Maidanek. We have not come to Germany for booty; we have come to tame her. And we are taming her.

Grief purifies a man; pain only infuriates a beast. The Germans in the days of Germany's defeat are more revolting than ever. A prisoner, Corporal Ewald Brumm of the 542nd Infantry Division, calmly relates: "We are shooting all Russian prisoners now." He says it with a businesslike air, as though to say: what's the use of prisoners now—the Germans no longer need laborers.

And they kill with relish, as their last consolation. Some wounded Russians fell into their hands. Before killing them, the Germans gouged out Private Tsiulyak's eyes, cut a five-pointed star on the face of Valenyuk, and ripped Naumetz with daggers.

How can the Germans behave otherwise? They have been trained to be butchers. In a school in Rosoggen, near Bischofsburg, a miniature gallows was

found, on which hung a Russian doll. It appears that German teachers taught their pupils the art of the hangman. We shall not molest German children. But woe to the teachers!

They are perishing as vilely as they lived; about to die themselves, they still torture the defenseless. When the Red Army took Ehrensfort, it found a camp where the Germans tormented people from different countries. Three hours before their flight, the butchers murdered the prisoners. That is what they do before they hang out a white or red flag. We shall not forget it.

When our men say, "We must get to Berlin," Red Army soldier Zaitsev, of Minsk, pulls out a sheet of paper with an address on it: "Berlin, Uhlandstrasse 39." It is the address of a German named Meller who killed Zaitsev's wife and two daughters, one aged eight, the other three. Zaitsev knows where he is going—and why.

We all have a brief address: Germany. We have come there to find the torturers of our people. And we are going farther. We shall pass through all of Germany. We shall find all the criminals. On the Oder and outside Stettin, we swear by the blood and tears of our dear Russia: Germany shall not be.

AT THE APPROACHES TO DANZIG

Marshal Rokossovsky's troops have cut the Danzig kettle into two kettles. Russian spearheads are now [March 10] within seven miles of Danzig.

The pace of the advance of Soviet tanks and infantry is growing every hour. In the last 72 hours, the headquarters of the Russian vanguard divisions have moved forward four times. Forty-eight hours ago, the infantry pierced a strong enemy line and our tanks poured into the gap.

Tanks, with infantry pressing on their heels, are showering the Germans with a hail of blows, cutting their roads of retreat and their communications, and smashing the German rear services and headquarters. Yesterday our tankmen overwhelmed an enemy tank screen covering the Germans' retreat to Danzig. They overtook a column of 300 trucks

loaded with war materials, stretching four miles. This entire column, from tail to head, was crushed by the caterpillars of heavy Russian tanks.

Everywhere one sees traces of the debacle. Not only abandoned arms litter the snow, but even the uniforms of officers who hastily donned civilian clothes.

According to the testimony of German prisoners, the German command promises them that Himmler, "at the head of 100 divisions, has vowed to rescue the trapped Danzig army."

The Soviet ring is tightening inexorably. In accordance with established tradition, a bottle of the salty Baltic water was brought to Russian headquarters by the Russian vanguards which reached the Baltic coast in a new area, north of Stolp, where the Germans face the threat of being caught in a fresh kettle.

Soviet Submarine Operations

By Rear Admiral Nikolai Vinogradov

It is too early to determine precisely the number of ships and amount of enemy tonnage sunk by Soviet submersibles in all sea theaters. But it is certain that Soviet submarines have played an important role in the great war of liberty-loving peoples against Nazism.

The submarines of the Northern theater helped to a great extent to stem the German offensive in the Arctic and drive the Nazis from northern Norway. Submarines of the Baltic Fleet safeguarded the sea approaches to besieged Leningrad. During the liberation of Sevastopol, submarines of the Black Sea Fleet earned high praise from Marshal Stalin. In these operations, officers and sailors alike displayed mass heroism, not sparing their blood or lives for the cause of victory.

In the summer of 1942, Leningrad was blockaded by the enemy. With the object of subjugating the city and launching offensive operations against Moscow from the northwest, the Germans intensified the transport of war materials and food for their forces in Finland and the Baltic Republics.

Submarines of the Baltic Fleet began operations to disrupt the enemy's sea communications. The Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland swarmed with U-boats, and the Gulf was littered with mines and serried with anti-submarine barriers. Yet despite these hazards, submarines of the Baltic Fleet destroyed more than 70 transports during the summer of 1942, compelling the enemy to discontinue transportation by sea of troops and arma-

ments, and also strategic raw materials destined for the various Gulf ports.

In the autumn of 1942, the Germans on the northern sector of the front prepared for a mighty offensive designed to bring them to Murmansk, where they hoped to quarter their troops for the winter. Here, too, the enemy intensified his sea transport of armaments and ammunition.

Among other Soviet submersibles engaged in the North at this period was the boat commanded by Viktor Kotelnikov. Returning to his base after a mission, Kotelnikov reported sinking two large German transports. He looked upon this as a routine matter, deserving no special notice; he was therefore surprised when a few days later he received the thanks of Red Army officers, who had learned that the transports carried artillery, tanks and 35,000 warm coats for the German troops at Kirkenes. In a routine mission, by a single blow, Kotelnikov had stripped three German alpine divisions preparing to storm the Soviet Arctic in the autumn.

In July, 1943, a large convoy of Allied ships from American and British waters was heading for ports in the Soviet Arctic. The convoy was threatened by a German squadron in the waters of northern Norway, led by the battleship Tirpitz. Information was received that the enemy squadron was preparing to sally forth against the convoy from Alten Fjord. The commander of a submarine squadron of the Soviet Northern Fleet distributed his boats across the path of the German war-

ships. The most dangerous position was taken by Nikolai Lunin, an experienced submarine commander with nerves of steel.

Cruising in the assigned zone at periscope depth for several days was a dull business for the Soviet seamen. But at last their hydrophones picked up the sounds of numerous ships' screws driven by powerful engines. Soon the superstructure of a destroyer loomed from the south. This was the leader of the enemy's vanguard unit; as it drew nearer, Lunin sighted the enemy squadron approaching in two parallel columns: the Tirpitz, escorted by four destroyers, and a cruiser of the Lutzow type, also escorted by four destroyers.

The situation favored an attack upon the cruiser, but Lunin waited. At last the newest and mightiest battleship of the German fleet came within his sights. At long-range he released four torpedoes, aimed across the path of a destroyer. The seconds dragged; Lunin saw one of the destroyer leaders approach close to the battleship's bow, and realized that it might intercept his torpedoes. Then two explosions were heard, but the presence of the enemy escorts rendered it unfeasible for the Soviet boat to remain on the scene long enough to check the results of the action. Toward evening the German squadron abandoned its attempt to intercept the Allied convoy and returned to Alten Fjord.

Later it was learned that the Tirpitz had sustained a torpedo hit in the side and had withdrawn to the southern waters of Norway for prolonged repairs. One fascist destroyer leader failed to return to its base; it had apparently intercepted one of Lunin's torpedoes.



Radiophoto

Sailors give an impromptu concert between operations

Famous Actor Honored

The Order of Lenin has been conferred upon Vasili Kachalov, People's Artist of the USSR, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the art of the theater. The award was made on the seventieth birthday of the noted actor, and the fiftieth anniversary of his theatrical work.

ARMY GENERAL GEORGI F. ZAKHAROV

General Zakharov is one of the outstanding Soviet commanders who have distinguished themselves in the battle of Hungary. He was mentioned by Marshal Stalin in an Order of the Day of December 2, commending the troops of the Third Ukrainian Front.

Georgi Fyodorovich Zakharov was born in the former Saratov Gubernia. His parents were poor peasants with a large family, and at the age of 11 young Zakharov went to work.

He began his military career as a private in the Tsarist army, and has never lost his fellow-feeling for the rank-and-filer, whose welfare is his constant concern. After serving as a private in the First World War, he joined the Red Army.

When the Civil War ended, Zakharov was in command of a battalion, and had decided to make the Army his career. Gradually he advanced in the service, commanding first a regiment, then a division. He was entrusted with many important staff posts. After completing courses at the Frunze Military Academy, he was later admitted to the General Staff Academy of the Red Army.

The outbreak of war with Nazi Germany found Zakharov chief of staff of one of the military districts. In August, 1941, when the Germans reached Bryansk, he was responsible for the defense in this sector. In the autumn of that year, as Deputy Commander of the Soviet forces on the Western Front, he took part in the defense of Moscow, and later in the Soviet offensive which removed the German threat from the Capital.

Supplied Sevastopol by Submarine

In the spring of 1942 the battle in the south began, and the unforgettable defense of Sevastopol. Now Zakharov appeared as Chief of Staff of the North Caucasian Front. Part of his job was to keep the defenders of Sevastopol supplied with munitions and fuel, which he did with great ingenuity. When it seemed beyond human power to maintain contact with the port, he used submarines to deliver vital supplies; on the return journey they brought out the wounded.

Zakharov was Chief of Staff of the

Stalingrad Front. He and his staff had the gigantic task of supplying the defenders. The city lay on the right bank of the river, and there were no bridges or crossings at this point. Rail communications had been cut by the enemy. The only road to Stalingrad lay across the river. And across that road, under incessant bombardment, men and materiel had to be ferried day by day.

When Mannstein, striking in December from the Kotelnikovo district, attempted to link up with Paulus, Zakharov was placed in command of the southern wing of the Stalingrad Front. The task of the Red Army was to prevent the German link-up. Zakharov, calculating the relation of his own forces and the enemy's, realized it would be no walk-over. He decided that the battle would be fought on the open expanses by the Aksai River.

His design was to separate the German tanks from their infantry and from their rear, and then to destroy them. He proceeded to dictate his will to Field Marshal von Mannstein, and to maneuver him into position for the death-blow. Mannstein was allowed to advance without interference toward the Aksai River. Then he tried to fan out to the south, but, meeting opposition, continued to move northeast. Another attempt to fan out, this time to the east, also failed. Mannstein, forced to obey the will of Zakharov, proceeded along a narrow corridor with the Soviet forces on his flanks. The Soviet forces fell on him from east, west and north, and dismembered his army. After losing 400 tanks and an enormous number of infantry, Mannstein turned back and began to retreat toward Novocherkassk and Rostov-on-Don.

The completion of this operation made it possible to embark on the liquidation of Paulus' group surrounded before Stalingrad. The mighty Soviet offensive followed. The Germans fell back to the Mius place d'armes, screening the Donbas, Tavia and the approaches to the Crimea. In August, 1943, the Guards army under Zakharov's command was ordered to break through the Mius fortified zone.

In this operation Zakharov displayed his inventiveness and his dislike of stereo-

typed methods. The Germans had spent nearly two years strengthening the Mius positions. A frontal attack was obviously out of the question. The backbone of the enemy defenses extended from the Mius to the Krynka River. The trend of the lines was mainly from north to south. Zakharov decided that the most effective way of dealing with the situation would be first to break the northern sector of the fortified zone, then to push west, sending part of his forces south, following the hills and river valleys, thus slicing the enemy defenses into separate layers.

That was precisely what happened.

Smashing the Wotan Line

The Germans, fearing catastrophe, threw large reserves into the southern sector to hold the Soviet offensive. They pinned their faith to their Molochnaya River line, which they called the Wotan line after their god of war. Zakharov's forces regrouped, struck, burst through two defense zones in succession, veered south, and continued the offensive with other forces of the Fourth Ukrainian Front. Before long they had cleared the last German out of northern Tavia.

The next task was the storming of the famous Perekop positions. Zakharov spent three months training his men for this job. He went over every yard of ground himself, worked out the minutest details. Thanks to the careful training and scrupulous attention to planning, Zakharov's men broke through the Perekop positions with but slight losses.

Zakharov is exceptionally farsighted. Even while preparing the Perekop breakthrough he was organizing the powerful, well-equipped mobile detachments which, according to his plan, would plunge through the gap and capture in their stride the powerful defenses at the approaches to Sevastopol. His plan was brilliantly realized. When the enemy tried to defend his lines near the Chatyryk River, Zakharov's mobile units had already taken Eupatoria, Saki and the strong positions near Kach.

No portrait of General Zakharov would be complete without a reference to his personal courage. When the enemy,

thrown out of his Perekop positions, had retreated to the Ishun positions and beyond, to the Chatyrylyk, Zakharov was informed that his mobile units were held up on the river, unable to make their way out into operational space. He at once proceeded to the battle center, marked the best fording places, and himself led the detachments out of the blind alley, by-passing the enemy. On many other occasions his intervention at decisive moments has clinched the victory.

The offensive developed. Zakharov's forces, comprising part of the Fourth Ukrainian Front, approached Sevastopol from the north. On May 9, 1944, they retook Bartenyevka and rapidly mopped up the northern suburb of Sevastopol. The northern bay lay across his path. He forced a crossing under cover of heavy artillery fire, and burst into the town.

The next outstanding phase in Zakharov's military activities was the summer offensive of 1944 when he commanded the forces of the Second Byelorussian Front. In a single month of the summer offensive, from June 23 to July 23, Zakharov's forces accounted for over 100,000 Germans killed, 31,718 captured, and enormous quantities of booty.

At the end of June, 1944, Zakharov was given the rank of Army General. He is 47 years of age, and at the height of his military abilities. He has two children—12-year-old Anatoli, who is at secondary school, and an 18-year-old daughter, Elena, who is studying at an industrial institute.

Soviet Marshals Decorated

Twelve Marshals of the Soviet Union, Chief Marshals and Marshals of Artillery, Aviation and Engineering; nine Army Generals, and other higher Army commanders were decorated with the Order of Lenin on the occasion of the Red Army's twenty-seventh anniversary. The list (in alphabetical order) of those decorated includes: Marshals of the Soviet Union Semyon Budyenny, Leonid Govorov, Ivan Konev, Rodion Malinovsky, Kirill Meretskov, Konstantin Rokossovsky, Boris Shaposhnikov, Semyon Timoshenko, Fedor Tolbukhin, Alexander Vasilievsky, Klementi Voroshilov and Georgi Zhukov.



Soviet self-propelled guns at initial positions



A German tank knocked out by Red Army artillery



German prisoners taken by Soviet troops. A number of the prisoners are in civilian clothes

Radiophotos

An American Flier With the Bulgarian Partisans

By V. Barykin

The story of an American flier, Harold James, who was saved last summer by the Bulgarian partisans, is told in a booklet called *The People's Voice* which a friend of mine, a war correspondent, recently brought from Bulgaria.

The booklet is a collection of the material that appeared in five issues of a mimeographed newspaper of the same title published between June and August, 1944, by a Bulgarian partisan detachment named for the Bulgarian national poet, Christo Botev.

The motto of the newspaper was a line from a poem by Botev: *He who has fallen fighting for liberty is not dead.*

The editor, K. Lambrev, then known by the *nom de guerre* of "Kamen," tells of the circumstances under which the newspaper was published. Often printed copies, together with the mimeograph and the typewriter, had to be hastily buried in the ground and the editor had to seize a rifle or a pistol and a supply of hand grenades, and join in the fight against a fascist band.

The newspaper called upon the Bulgarian people to loudly raise their voice "for the immediate rupture of the alliance with the Germans and the expulsion of the latter from Bulgaria; for friendship and alliance with the new Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union; for peace with England and America; for the immediate withdrawal of Bulgarian troops from Yugoslavia and Greece. . . ."

As reported by the newspaper, the American flier Harold James was forced to bail out from his plane. He landed near the village of Syrnigor, and for some days hid in the mountains. But he was soon captured by the Bulgarian-fascist troops. That was in the middle of July.

The partisans of the Christo Botev detachment learned about the plight of the American flier. They broke into the village, disarmed the guards and freed James.

Soon after that the newspaper *The People's Voice* published the text of a letter addressed to the American flier by "Peter," the commander of the Christo Botev partisan detachment. It read:

Mr. James:

My comrades and I are happy at having succeeded in releasing from the bloody clutches of the Bulgarian-fascist agents a gallant and brave son of the great and noble American people, for whom our people have always had the best feelings. Our people cherish the bright memory of the generosity and magnanimity displayed by the Americans in the First World War—in which, as in the present war, the Bulgarian people were embroiled by German agents and fought on the side of the German robbers.

Mr. James, we should like the operation carried out by our people's fighters, the partisans, in Syrnigor village, in order to free you, to become a symbol of the fraternal sentiments and respect our people have for your heroic nation, for its democratic principles and its boundless love of liberty and independence, for which your fathers and grandfathers shed their blood, and for which Americans are now shedding their blood on European soil, fighting to save the culture, civilization, happiness, progress and liberty of all mankind from their worst enemy—fascism.

You are now fighting with a rifle in our ranks for those same principles for which you have time and again crossed the sky of the Old World; and for which we, too, and the overwhelming majority of the enslaved Bulgarian people are fighting. The absence of information about your fate will cause much grief to your parents and comrades. You will have to experience many hardships with us. But you have daring. You yourself are convinced of the early end of fascist tyranny and of our complete and absolute victory.

We trust that you will have the chance to fly back to your country. Meanwhile, we ask that you feel at home with us. You are a welcome guest here. We ask you, when you return to your country and to your comrades, to convey to the gallant Anglo-American airmen and fighting American and English people, our militant partisan greetings. Death to fascism!

Peter

On August 1, 1944, Harold James was

preparing to proceed to the West. Before leaving the partisans, he wrote them the following letter (retranslated from the Bulgarian):

To my very good friends, the Bulgarian partisans:

I don't know how to thank you, my friends, for all you have done for me. If it were not for your good will and courage, I would have spent many gloomy days in some fascist camp. But you decided to sacrifice yourselves to get me out of fascist hands.

I have now lived for more than a month with you, eaten your food and slept in your camp. You gave me warm clothes. You gave me of the best you had, and I think that sometimes you denied yourselves to do so. I greatly appreciate your forbearance toward the offenses I may have committed inadvertently. We flew over inhabited places to destroy all that is fascist and the fascists themselves.

You, Bulgarian partisans, and I, an American flier, are Allies. We are fighting for the same ideal—for a free life, for freedom of speech, and for the happiness of the people. You and I believe in a government for the people, and of the people. As long as there are people like you who believe in goodness and truth, we may be sure that the fascists will never again come into power. You partisans are the real representatives of Bulgaria. After the war, when we have won the victory—you, the people of Bulgaria, will be at the head of your country. I am sure that you will build up a new and better Bulgaria; a Bulgaria for the people.

I hope that one day some of you will come to America—to my country—and I will be able to entertain you as a guest and repay everything that you have done for me. I am sure you will like America.

Be true to your noble cause which is so hastening the end of the war. I hope the war will end soon and you will go back to your homes, to your near and dear ones. Meanwhile, farewell, my friends. Death to fascism!

Your everlastingly grateful friend,
Harold D. James

ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM IN USSR

By E. Finn

On February 21, the Electrification Commission of the Soviet Union, known as Goelro, completed its 25th year of work. This body of nearly 200 outstanding experts was set up by Lenin and Stalin, founders of the Soviet State, to work out a general construction plan for the country's power plants, which were to form the basis for the industrialization of the USSR. At that time, Russia was behind almost all the countries of Europe in the production of electric power, and this lack was one of the main factors preventing the development of industry.

The plan worked out in 1920 provided for the construction of power plants in the next 10 to 15 years. It was proposed to make the widest possible use of every form of fuel, including coal, oil, peat, and the power potentialities of numerous rivers. All these plants were to be linked up into a unified power system.

The Electrification Plan was rapidly carried out. After its fulfilment, construction of new plants continued, and on the eve of the present war the Soviet Union had reached second place in Europe in the output of electric power, and third in the world.

The war caused tremendous damage to Soviet electric power. In a press interview, Dmitri Zhimerin, People's Commissar of Power Plants, has spoken of the vindictiveness with which the Germans destroyed power units in the districts they occupied. Among the plants blown up and plundered are such giants as Dnieproges, Zuyevskaya, Shakhtinskaya (supplying power to the Donets Coal Basin), Odessa, Sevastopol, Stalingrad and Bryansk.

However, our people succeeded in saving considerable equipment. During the first weeks of the war, 11,000 carloads of motor cables and various instruments were evacuated to the interior of the country; because of this, it was possible to increase the capacity of power plants in the Urals and Siberia, and to build a number of new ones.

Restoration of power plants was begun as soon as occupied areas were liberated from the Nazis. At present, 35 dis-

trict power plants are again operating, and on February 18 the country was informed that the Sevastopol station, which supplies power to the resorts of Crimea, had been rehabilitated.

"The power resources of the country," said the Commissar, "have grown continually throughout the war. The capacity of power plants of the Urals, Novosibirsk, Tashkent and Kazan has almost doubled; that of Omsk and Kuibyshev plants almost trebled. The total production has increased almost 25 per cent over last year in consequence of the launching of restored plants.

"The need for power is growing continually, and to satisfy the requirements of the country's factories, the Commissariat has drawn up an extensive program of continued restoration and construction of new plants. Particular interest is manifested in the construction of the great hydroelectric plants which were destroyed by the Germans, such as the Dnieper power plant in Zaporozhye."

Reconstruction is now in full swing. The clearing away of the blown-up concrete of the dam and controls board, and damaged metal, is almost completed. New concrete is being poured into the body of the dam. Some 190,000 cubic meters of concrete must be poured.

"We plan to begin installation work next December," said the chief of the construction job. "We are already contracting with factories for turbines and generators, and we believe that Dnieproges will begin to produce power by the summer of 1946."

Work on other power stations destroyed by the enemy is going forward at an equally rapid rate, particularly the Svir River plants. The hydro plant on the Vuoksa River is about to begin producing. In accordance with the Peace Treaty, Finland has returned equipment removed from these plants. Much work is also being done on the Volkhov plant, which supplied the city of Leningrad.

* * *

In connection with the anniversary of Goelro, Academician B. E. Vedeneyev, Deputy Commissar of Power Stations of the USSR and formerly chief engineer in

charge of the Volkhov and Dnieper power stations, writes:

In 1913 the capacity of Russian power stations serving the general public equaled 260,000 kilowatts, while the power of those belonging to factories equaled 750,000 kilowatts. The total annual output did not exceed two billion kilowatt hours. The Goelro plan was to build 30 power stations within 10 to 15 years (20 steam-driven and 10 hydroelectric stations) with a total capacity of 1,500,000 kilowatts. In addition, the plan provided for reconstruction of existing power stations to give an additional capacity of 250,000 kilowatts. The power stations were to be connected by a high-voltage grid, and were to make use of local fuels and water power. The plan also provided for capacity increases and the centralization of electric power production, for the conversion of farming into a large-scale industry and the founding of new industrial districts.

Ten years later, in 1931, Soviet power engineers reported to the Government that the Goelro Plan had been overfulfilled. Instead of the planned increase of 1,750,000 kilowatts, the capacity of district power stations had been increased by 2,080,000 kilowatts. In 1925, Moscow received electric power from the Lenin power station at Shatura, the world's largest peat-burning power station. In 1926, current was supplied to Leningrad from the Volkhov power station. This latter station was the first big water-driven station built in the USSR; but despite our lack of experience, we built it in five years.

In 1932, the Dnieper power station, at that time the largest in the world, began operating. By 1933, its capacity had risen to 434,000 kilowatts, and the total output of the station was estimated at 2,900,000,000 kilowatt hours.

By the 15th anniversary of the Goelro plan, Soviet power engineers had the following achievements to their credit: capacity of stations had increased ten times over, the output of electricity was 19 times what it had been in 1913, and district power stations provided 72.4 per cent of the total for the whole country.

ACADEMICIAN A. ABRIKOSOV HONORED

As a mark of its highest appreciation, the Soviet Government has conferred the title of Hero of Socialist Labor on Dr. Alexei Abrikosov, Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and First Vice President of the recently established Academy of Medical Sciences. Dr. Abrikosov recently celebrated his 70th birthday, his 45th year of scientific research, and his 25th year as head of the Chair of Pathological Anatomy at the First Moscow Medical Institute, awarded the Order of Lenin for its notable work.

Dr. Abrikosov's life has been that of a hard-working scientist. At the age of 25, soon after he was graduated from the medical school of Moscow University, he wrote his brilliant thesis on the preliminary changes which take place in lungs affected by tuberculosis. Although only at the beginning of his medical career, the young physician showed how the disease developed, and presented ample data in confirmation of his theory. These researches, although now 45 years old, have not lost their scientific importance, but form a basis for the study of problems in tuberculosis. They were taken up with enthusiasm abroad and widely quoted.

The first work on the changes that take place in the sympathetic nervous system in various diseases was written by Dr. Abrikosov. Subsequent to the publication of these researches, many works appeared on the same question here and abroad which confirmed Dr. Abrikosov's premises. He was among the first to systematize the theories on oleogranulemas (a particular form of inflammatory tumors), and suggested the classification now in use. To him is due credit for discovery of the form of tumor of the muscular tissues now known to medicine as the "Abrikosov tumor."

Beginning with 1933, Dr. Abrikosov wrote a series of works on the morphological nature of allergic reactions. These researches brought clarity into the concept of the complex biological process united under the conception of allergy (altered reactivity of the organism). His data on the subject are used by all scientists studying allergies.



Academician A. Abrikosov

His most recent work is on the subject of wound sepsis, and his data have considerably facilitated the understanding of those complex patho-biological processes observed in the system of the patient suffering from infested wounds made by firearms.

This is a brief enumeration of the problems upon which light was shed in Dr. Abrikosov's brilliant works.

In 1939 he was elected to membership in the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and in 1944 to membership in the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Dr. Abrikosov's erudition in the field of pathological anatomy is well-known; he is the author of students' textbooks that have become classics. His manual on general pathological anatomy was published in eight editions, and his manual on special pathological anatomy in three editions. At present he is working intensively on a textbook of pathological anatomy for doctors; two volumes have already been printed and the third has gone to press. This work earned the author the Stalin Prize.

In the teaching of young scientists, Dr. Abrikosov's services have been very great. Under his guidance many theses have been written for doctors' and candidates' degrees.

The Department of Pathological Anatomy might be compared to a forge of new forces; it is the place where a medical student receives exact knowledge and where a doctor continues his studies and specialties. Around this department has grown up an entire school of Soviet anatomists who work in various cities of the USSR. The department is the acknowledged center of pathological anatomy in the Soviet Union, and its chief is the most brilliant representative of this branch of medical science.

Dr. Abrikosov's services to public health in the USSR, and particularly to hospital organization, are incalculable. He combines an enormous amount of scientific research work and teaching with social activities; for 20 years he has been a permanent member of the Moscow City Soviet; he is Chairman of the Society of Pathologists and a member of the Medical Council and of other organizations.

It is impossible to conclude this review without mention of Dr. Abrikosov's personal qualities. Extremely modest, unassuming and approachable, he is at the same very exacting, both to himself and his assistants.

Such is Dr. Alexei Abrikosov, a scientist whose name is widely known abroad, who has done much for public health and welfare in his own country, and who has been considered worthy of its highest award, the title of Hero of Socialist Labor.

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The End is Ripe

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, March 11:

A couple of months ago the Germans were still calmly lording it in the Polish towns. Now Stettin is in its death's agony, Breslau is enveloped in flames, and Berlin is listening in fear to the rumble of guns.

A couple of months ago the Germans were jubilating; they had seized several Belgian towns—don't you see—and had thereby "overthrown the Americans." Now the Americans have taken Cologne and forced the Rhine.

With each day Germany is growing smaller and smaller: the octopus is being hacked to pieces. We have turned one "kettle" into several. Pomerania has been slashed into mincemeat. Not only Fritzies are raising their hands; so are lieutenant generals of the "invincible German army."

"The end is near," ran the heading of an editorial in a Stuttgart newspaper. It was some lyrical Fritz trying to console his readers with the thought that "the end of winter is near." Yes, the end of

winter is near, and with it the end of piratical Germany.

What are the would-be conquerors of the world thinking in these last nights of winter, in these last nights of Germany? I will quote some passages from a letter written by a German woman living in Heidenheim, in Wurtemberg:

"I cannot accustom myself to the thought that our dear Eissendorf is no more and that never will I see its houses again. Things are getting blacker and blacker—there is no end to this terrible war. We are still living in Heidenheim. There are alerts every day, but we have not been bombed yet.

"They bomb the railway junctions chiefly. There are many refugees here from the Saar and evacuees from Stuttgart, so that the town now has a population of 50,000. If Heidenheim is bombed, it'll be all up with us, because there are nothing but cellars to hide in. They are digging shelters, but very slowly and somehow half-heartedly. My only wish is that if death

comes, it come suddenly. You can sometimes hear guns here already, but we intend to remain—where would you have us go? Fate will overtake us anywhere.

"Ulm was bombed the week before Christmas. It was a charming town with little winding streets. But it also had factories. Nearly 4,000 were killed and 40,000 rendered homeless. So you can imagine what's left of Ulm. Before the war it had a population of 60,000. The whole sky was wrapped in flames; it was unbearable to watch.

"We are all inconsolable, everyone is grieving over some loss. I am longing for the end. This uncertainty is terrible. What is still in store for us?

"You ask about the general situation, but there is very little I can tell you. One has to be extremely careful, you know. One has only to say something unpleasant and he is denounced at once. So I avoid talking to anybody. But one thing is clear, and that is that things are going badly. Fraulein Von Mannstein writes me from Hanover that they have been bombed out a second time. She says that life in Hanover is unbearable, but that she can't get away because they won't give her permission to leave . . ."

* * *

When Warsaw was being bombed, they bore it with equanimity in Eissendorf. When Gomel was burned down, Fraulein Von Mannstein took it quite easily. When children were dying in the Babi Yar ravine, German women in Ulm were eating Kiev jam. Let them howl now, on the dark, moonless nights before the end.

It is not only this German woman in Heidenheim who is howling; Goebbels is howling too. His latest article is written in such a style that it cannot be read; it must be howled. Clubfoot was once an up-and-coming lad. He licked his chops



Lieutenant Durandin's battery of long-range guns has fought from Stalingrad to Czechoslovakia

Radiophoto

as he wrote about iron ore, oil and manganese. Now he flaps his ersatz wings like a dear little ersatz cherub. A little more, and one fancies the Herr Minister of Propaganda will melt away and turn into a little cloud.

Goebbels writes: "It is not seemly to discuss the logic of war." He assures us that "imponderable factors" are the most important. How long ago was it that he was discussing the logic of pillage, gloating over the seizure of Krivoi Rog and extolling the gratuity of the Kuban?

Now the birdie—the imponderable Herr Doktor of the imponderable Reich—has swallowed the last seed and flown away into the clouds. And as a farewell consolation to the Germans, he says: "Usually wars end suddenly after a most frightful explosion." Suddenly? Let him ask that German woman of Heidenheim. She knows very well that things are nearing their logical conclusion. It is vain for clubfoot to picture the end of Germany as something sudden and unforeseen, as a stroke of destiny. All the world knows that fascist Germany has been condemned for her incredible crimes. The sentence is now being carried out. What is more, it is all proceeding quite logically—from the east and west, city after city, region after region.

Oh, of course, it will end suddenly—because on the eve the Fritzes will still be trying to counter-attack somewhere, and on the morrow it will be found that nothing is left—neither the general who gave the order for the last counter-attack, nor Doctor Goebbels, nor their Fuehrer, nor their Germany. That will be the end.

* * *

That end is near. It may be seen by a number of signs: Goebbels is vanishing into thin air, the Fritzes are pillaging German towns, and Himmler has been seized with a fit of humanity. This super-executive has issued an order placing "Russian workers in Germany on the same footing as other foreign workers."

Yes, now that we are outside Berlin, Himmler orders the *Ost* badges to be removed from the Russians. Too late! Even if he were to order a pound of pork to be issued to every male slave and a bouquet of flowers to every female slave, it would not help. Himmler will receive

his deserts, and Germany will receive hers. They raved and roared, but they have now changed their tone and are lisping like innocents. But they will soon stop lisping and will be wheezing instead.

We have invaded the dreadful prison of Europe. Here millions upon millions of captives from different lands are languishing. Here our daughters, our sisters and our sweethearts are grieving, blinded with tears.

The German women in the towns which the Red Army enters swear: "We did not ill-treat them. We even gave them meat on Sundays." The hags simply will not understand what their crime was. I am not referring to those who beat and tormented the unfortunates. I mean the "good" ones—those who fed their slave girls so that the latter could work for them.

What we accuse the German men and women of is having taken free people, citizens of the Soviet Republic, and turned them into slaves. We accuse them of having dared to despise our young men and women.

"What a dress she is wearing!" they guffawed. "What a nose she has!" "How she pronounces German!" "Why, she has never seen a vacuum cleaner!" "Why, she has never eaten stewed rhubarb." "Ha, ha! Ho, ho! What a savage—just like a Russian!"

It is for that they will have to answer. Yes, maybe Olya had never seen a vacuum cleaner before. But she had seen liberty. Maybe Vera had never eaten stewed rhubarb. But she had read Pushkin and Tolstoy. They are head and shoulders superior to those who mocked them. And for their tears Germany herself will shed so many that their wretched little Spree will seem a broad river.

I don't know what is most striking about the Germans—their villainy or their stupidity. They think that if at the last hour they remove the shameful badge from the slave girls, we will say, "Thanks, you are deeply humane. You have decorated our Russian girls with roses, not welts."

In January, after our last and decisive offensive began, Hitler issued an order on the treatment of Soviet war prisoners. The cannibal hypocritically condemned "roughness on the part of guards." He

cited the case of sentries in the Blodov camp who spurred on war prisoners with clubs.

Too late, too late—and once again, too late. For three years they beat the war prisoners not with clubs, but with iron rods, starved them to death, buried them alive. And now, seeing that the end is near, they are assuming the mask of compassion. But we will sooner take the night for the day than the cannibals for human beings.

It is not concerts nor puppet shows that await them, but the prisoner's dock. We believed in human kindness. Then we saw vile and evil beings who looked like humans. We spent many nights in mental struggle and anguish, but we retained our faith. We know that human beings are kind. But we also know that the Germans of 1945 are ersatz humans.

In the village of Hohenwalde, near Elbing, a German swore that he was an "anti-fascist." He raised his hand in a *Rot Front* sign. But in his desk a photograph album was found, and amid the pictures of picnics, newly-wed couples and children were three which were as terrible as the three terrible years we have been through. Two of them showed Russians hanging by the neck, with an inscription on a placard: "I wanted to burn down a sawmill; I abetted the guerrillas." The third was a photograph of Jewish women behind barbed wire, with large stars cut on their backs, about to be shot. He forgot to burn the album. But he could not resuscitate the men and women who were hanged and shot; all he could do was cry, "I'm against Hitler."

Others burn their photographs, letters and Party cards in time. But they cannot burn what is in our hearts. We know everything.

General Dietmar says to his countrymen: "Germany's adversaries have no recognized aims of war." Yet everybody in the world knows why the enemies of Germany are fighting and what their aims are. General Dietmar should recall Yalta. Did he not write about that town when the Germans seized it?

In Yalta, after it was lost to the Germans, the aims of the war were defined precisely enough. Those aims are as simple as air and water, as simple as spring. We

have come to Germany to tame her. We have come to Germany in order that the Germans may never again come to us. We have come to Germany to punish the jailers and liberate the prisoners. We have come to Germany to make an end of her. And there is no nation, no honest man or woman, who does not subscribe to this.

There is a sentence in Goebbels' latest article which seems to me quite sensible. I cannot understand how clubfoot could have allowed such truth to slip from his pen. Goebbels writes: "When the end is ripe, it comes."

The end has been ripening a long time.

For years we fought with clenched teeth. We did not talk about the end then. We said then that we must hold this hill or this wood. Our heroes died without seeing victory.

Now victory is marching in our ranks. And it is not a grove that lies before us, but Berlin. The end ripened on the blood-drenched fields of Russia. And the end is coming. Nothing can avert it. The "kettles" are seething from Koenigsberg to Coblenz.

German newspapers report that the Fuehrer visited a "sector of the front nearest to Berlin." He did not have to

travel far. Yet there was a time this vile comedian was in Mozhaisk. Why did he go to the Oder? He is not a tank obstacle, he is only a beaten corporal. He cannot save Berlin nor Germany nor himself.

"At nights I have a feeling that somebody is hammering over my head with a hammer. Can it be hallucinations?" writes a nervous woman from Heidenheim.

No, it is history hammering nails into the big coffin for Hitler, for his myrmidons, for the hangmen, for the would-be conquerors—for piratical Germany.

The end is ripe and it is coming.

IN THE STETTIN DIRECTION

By Major L. Kudrevatykh

After reaching the Baltic Coast and slicing Pomerania in two, Soviet tank columns slashed up the German troops at several points and disrupted their direction. Considerable forces of the enemy were trapped in large and small kettles and pockets, and are now being finished off by Soviet troops who are combing the woods and river valleys. Those German soldiers and officers who manage to escape from the kettles are being pressed back to the sea and harbor district of Stettin and Lake Dammscher.

All these events developed with astonishing speed and upset the plans of the German command. As a result of these swift operations, the eastern bank of the Oder at its mouth and the eastern shore of Lake Dammscher have been cleared of the Hiderites.

The offensive was launched one gray morning in March from the small river Ihna. After artillery preparation, Soviet infantry crossed the river, and at midday the tanks went into action. When we passed through the initial positions of the new offensive, we saw the deep tracks made in the muddy fields of Pomerania by the treads of Soviet tanks. They ran in different directions. Red Army troops are moving north, northwest and west, securing the successes scored by the tank columns. They are surrounding enemy strongpoints, liquidating garrisons, breaking down the stubborn resistance of the

separate enemy groups, and tightening the ring around the trapped Hitlerite troops.

Numerous roads run in different directions from Pomerania. Many of these roads have not been repaired for years and the majority are not wide enough for two-way traffic. Today columns of Soviet tanks, guns, motor vehicles and supply wagons move along them in an endless stream.

Not only do the roads show the strength, scope and speed of the offensive. Night found us in the Pomeranian town of Reetz. We looked everywhere, but could not find a single building standing intact. All the rooms had suffered some kind of damage: broken windows, a hole in the wall, or a fallen ceiling. Separate houses were completely wrecked. The Ger-

mans had put up stiff resistance in this town, which was an important communications hub.

The Germans prepared for defense not only in the cities and large inhabited points; Pomerania is cut up with trenches and anti-tank ditches. Many districts are covered with kilometers of barbed-wire entanglements. The highways running through the large forests were particularly well prepared for defense.

But Soviet troops, after breaking through the German defense on the Ihna River, did not give the Germans time to entrench themselves in intermediate positions. Sometimes they by-passed the enemy groups and forged ahead. In one forest, which stretches for 30 kilometers, I saw trenches and firing points set up on either side of the road at 100-meter

IN THE BERLIN
DIRECTION
—Soviet artillery on
the roads of Bran-
denburg Province



Radiophoto

intervals. Not a single shot was fired at Soviet troops from these trenches and firing points. The Germans were cut off and could not take up the defense of this area.

According to statements made by German war prisoners, the direction of their troops was disrupted in the first days of the Soviet offensive. As a result of clever maneuvers carried out by Red Army units, the staff headquarters of German corps and divisions were cut off from their troops. German regiments and battalions were left to shift for themselves.

Northeast of Stargard, a Soviet unit moving up to forward positions was forced to engage a German column in battle. When the German prisoners were led out of the woods they were asked, "Where were you heading for?"

"We intended to join up with our troops in Stargard."

The Soviet soldiers burst into hearty laughter. "You Germans are certainly confused. Why, Stargard has been in our hands for two days."

Quite often German trucks with ammunition and food supplies, and passenger cars with staff officers, drive into towns—totally unaware that they have been occupied by Soviet troops.

Slashed up into separate isolated groups, deprived of direction and pressed back to the sea from all sides, the German troops beat a hasty retreat toward Stettin. Thousands of enemy motor vehicles are accumulating beside river crossings on the Oder. Soviet Stormoviks and bombers are attacking these motorized columns, spreading panic and destroying the machines.

Each day of the Red Army advance shortens the road of possible retreat for German forces from the central parts of Pomerania. With the fall of Kammin, Hitlerite troops lost the only road running along the coast to Swinemünde.

The swift advance of the Red Army in Pomerania is another brilliant page in the history of the successes of the troops of the First Byelorussian Front. Soviet forces have eliminated the German salient in northern Pomerania and have emerged at the mouth of the Oder and on the eastern shores of the Pomeranian and Stettin Bays. Stettin itself is now under fire of Soviet artillery.

A WIND FROM THE SEA

By Alexander Isbakh

PRAVDA War Correspondent

A large red arrow has been drawn across the map of Pomerania; its tip pierces the squares colored blue, which represent the Baltic Sea. The tip of the arrow was formed by the Guards tank units which pressed forward along the roads of Pomerania, breaking into inhabited localities, wiping out enemy garrisons and then pushing on in swift and implacable pursuit.

"We are going to the sea," Lieutenant Alexei Dolzhenkov told his Guardsmen. And the tankists felt the driving power that lay behind his words. A former sailor of the Baltic Merchant Marine, Dolzhenkov twice sailed around the world and has breathed the salt of many seas and oceans. In the great Patriotic War it fell to his lot to fight on land; a tank became his battleship.

To reach the sea meant putting another noose around the Germans. To reach the sea meant cutting off the enemy's roads of retreat; to reach the sea meant hastening the day of final victory. All of Dolzhenkov's Guardsmen knew this. They pressed forward tirelessly night and day, and when the roar of battle died down for a moment, it seemed that in the distance they could already hear the murmur of the waves of the Baltic—the sea about which the lieutenant had told them so much.

Lieutenant Dolzhenkov's tanks did not enter the city of Koeslin; they skirted it, and reaching the western suburbs formed an ambush on the road leading to the sea—the road of the enemy's retreat.

Under the pressure of our troops, the Germans retreated from Koeslin. They made two attempts to break through, but tankists Dolzhenkov and Anokhin closed the road with an impenetrable curtain of fire. The fascists did not succeed in breaking through.

A Soviet tank appeared on the highway leading from the city's northern suburbs to the sea. On its armor stood Fritzies—prisoners whom the tankists had taken at the very seashore. The tank stopped. Guardsman Mikhail Revyakin, tall and broad-shouldered, emerged from it.

"Look," he said with a sweeping gesture, "here you have the first prisoners from the Pomeranian kettle. The temperature of the water is very cold just now, but in the kettle it is hot. It is beginning to boil."

A dismal and gaunt non-commissioned officer, Erich Milch, a Berliner, looked out from under his spectacles and said that he was a painter, that he was old, and that he was a peaceful civilian.

Child Prisoners Freed

At that moment, a strange group of cyclists rode out from a side street. The children, little boys and girls, rode straight up to the tankists.

"Comrade Commander," said the oldest, a thin, black-eyed boy, "we were prisoners in a camp. Your scouts came and freed us and gave us these bicycles from a warehouse. If you only knew what tortures we have been through."

And the boy looked with such hatred at Erich Milch that it seemed that the spindle-shanked German would shrivel under his gaze.

Volodya Pilipenko, Fedya Odintsov, Joseph Kulakov, Katya Zhestimenko—scores of Soviet children from the Smolensk and Polesye Regions from the Ukraine—had been brought here to bleak Pomerania, to a camp near Koeslin. They were starved and given work far beyond their strength. The bodies of nearly all are bruised and wounded. Scores of children torn from their parents died in Pomerania.

Guardsman Mikhail Revyakin lifted Volodya onto the tank. "Children," he said, and his voice was deep and kind, "dear children, you will soon go home. Give our greetings to the motherland, tell them that we shall also soon return with victory." He embraced the boy and kissed him.

The Guards tankmen reached the sea. Alexei Dolzhenkov lifted his head out of his tank and inhaled the salt air deeply. It had the long-familiar tang of the sea. But this time it had a special flavor—the flavor of victory.

FINLAND BEFORE THE DIET ELECTIONS

By N. Baltisky

*From WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS,
No. 5:*

While Finland was fighting on the side of Hitler Germany against the Soviet Union, the ruling circles in Helsinki loudly proclaimed that the Finnish people unanimously approved of their pro-German policy and the fascist war.

Subsequently it transpired that even then there were no few opponents of the German-Finnish coalition and the war, but their voices were forcibly suppressed. The opponents of the government's policy were either intimidated or flung into prison or concentration camps. Not a single newspaper or public speaker was permitted to criticize the German-Finnish "comradeship-in-arms" that was so fatal for the country. In this way the Finnish government was able during the war to create an illusion of at least tacit "unanimity" of the Finnish people in the fascist war.

This artificially created illusion, however, was swept away as soon as the armistice was concluded. It was enough to deprive the Finnish reactionaries of the opportunity of keeping the advocates of peace and collaboration with the United Nations under lock and key, for this mirage of the Finnish people united and solid around the banners of jingoism, reaction and fascism, to vanish.

It turned out that there was not only the camp of reaction and fascism in Finland, but also the camp of democracy and progress. From the depths of the masses there sprang up at once a rapidly growing movement which rallied around the militant banner of the democratic front.

But the old camp of Finnish reaction had not yet lost its predominant position in the country. . . . Thanks to the efforts of President Mannerheim, the old reactionary camp was very strongly represented in the cabinet, and this probably explains why the Paasikivi government finds it difficult to make progress.

All the departments of the state apparatus, starting from the higher cadres of the army, police, judiciary, etc., are dominated by the reactionary forces which

during the Ryti-Linkomies regime displayed exceptional zeal in strangling the democratic forces of the Finnish people. In the present situation they are behaving more cautiously, but there is no evidence that they have abandoned their former fascist line and intend to leave the reactionary camp.

The leaders of the reactionary camp are now employing flexible defensive tactics, and when necessary, make a minimum of concessions in order to save the maximum of their positions and privileges. Virtually, they have no other program. Only the representatives of the democratic front have advanced a positive program which demands a change of course in Finland's foreign and domestic politics in the interests of the Finnish people.

Both camps are now appealing to the electors. In the political conflict between the forces of the old and new, the course of the forthcoming diet elections, which are to be held on March 17 and 18, will undoubtedly mark a very important stage.

What questions are being pushed into the forefront in the present election campaign?

As regards foreign policy, the main question is the revision of Finland's ill-advised policy toward the Soviet Union which was pursued for so many years. Such a revision is dictated by the most vital interests of Finland.

As far as the Soviet Government is concerned, it has clearly indicated its readiness to welcome all sincere steps on the part of the Finnish people toward friendship and collaboration with the Soviet people. It is quite obvious that the Soviet Government was fully in a position last year to dictate to Finland, had it so desired, more far-reaching armistice terms than those it actually presented, and would have been morally justified in doing so. The leniency the Soviet Union displayed toward Finland was clearly prompted by a desire to help the Finnish people to take the path of firm, peaceful relations and collaboration with their great eastern neighbor.

After the armistice was concluded, a fairly broad movement sprang up in favor of initiating and developing collaboration with the Soviet Union. This movement was headed by the well known Finland-Soviet Union Society, to which belong not only leaders of workers' organizations and representatives of the progressive intelligentsia, but also prominent representatives of some liberal and conservative circles of the Finnish bourgeoisie.

Thanks to the activities of this important organization, a breach has already been made in the wall of anti-Soviet prejudice, and steadily, if slowly, there is spreading among the various sections of the Finnish public not only a realization of the historical necessity for Finland to live in peace and harmony with her eastern neighbor, but also a deeper understanding of the importance to the country of the free development of Soviet-Finnish relations.

The people who six months ago saw no way out of the impasse created by the fatal German-Finnish "comradeship-in-arms" are now beginning to understand what incalculable advantages for Finland's future are held out by the development of economic, political and cultural collaboration with the Soviet Union; and they are beginning to realize that such collaboration opens reliable prospects for a rapid and all-sided revival of the national economy and culture of an independent, democratic Finland.

There has never been a case in the history of Finland of the ruling reactionaries subordinating their policy to the national interests of the country. Had they been concerned about the interests of their country, they would have found the road to collaboration with the Soviet Union long ago. But just as before the war they sabotaged even the most modest step toward the development of commercial relations with the Soviet Union, so now they would like to block the road to the development of firm collaboration between the Finnish and Soviet peoples.

They are obviously afraid that as Finnish-Soviet business and cultural relations

expand, the interest of broad circles of Finnish society in the further cultivation and expansion of such good-neighborly relations will grow, and that then it will be extremely difficult for them to turn the country back to the former foreign policy, the spearhead of which was directed against the Soviet Union.

True, at the present time the Finnish reactionaries do not publicly advocate a return to their former anti-Soviet policy, but neither do they dissociate themselves from the traditional policy of the reactionary ruling camp. They merely demand that their assurances of good-will toward the Soviet Union be taken at their face value. These verbal assurances, however, fail to convince unbiased observers who look below the surface. For example, A. Werth, an English commentator who recently visited Helsinki, drew attention in his statement of February 10 to the present political views of leading elements of such a large pro-German organization as the Comrades-in-Arms League, which was at last dissolved in spite of the stubborn resistance of all reactionary circles in Finland.

Concerning these elements, A. Werth said: "These people have not yet accepted the idea that cooperation with Russia is the only course, and though Germany is being effectively knocked out by the Red Army, they still go on playing with the idea that there may some time be a conflict between Russia, Britain and America, and that Finland can then cash in."

Nevertheless, after his trip to Finland, A. Werth became convinced that "the idea will also sink in that they (the Finns) will have to cooperate with the United Nations, notably with their neighbor Russia." "Now a new era has opened in Finnish-Russian relations," he emphasized.

At the same time, knowing how stubborn the Finnish reactionaries were, and the "educational" activity they had conducted for many years in inculcating a spirit of jingoism and Nazism, he quite rightly warned that time would be needed for the entire Finnish people to accustom themselves to the new idea of Soviet-Finnish collaboration.

In the election campaign, the Finnish reactionaries have come out under the

false watchword of "protecting the independence of Finland." This is the very slogan under cover of which, as is known, they waged war in conjunction with the Germans for aggressive aims. Now they are using this slogan to conceal their aim of abusing the independence of Finland in the way they had done in past years when Finnish diplomacy was directed against the security of the neighboring Soviet State.

Nevertheless, the Finnish people are beginning to realize, as a result of their own experience, that the only dangers that might threaten the independence of Finland are the shady tricks of Finnish reactionary jingoists working hand in glove with German fascists or other enemies of the Soviet Union.

In their election campaign, the representatives of Finnish democracy are exposing the pernicious foreign policy pursued by the reactionary camp and are advocating in opposition to it a policy of peace, friendship and collaboration with the Soviet Union.

As regards questions of domestic policy, prominent among the election issues are the political and economic demands of the Democratic League of Finnish People, which consists of the so-called "Group of Six" (led by six members of the diet who, during the war, were arrested for anti-war activities), the Communist Party, a number of local organizations, the Social Democratic Party, most of the leaders of the Social Democratic opposition and numerous democratically minded intellectuals.

The Democratic League of Finnish People primarily puts forward a program for the democratization of the state administration and legislature, the extirpation of fascism from government offices and from all public and political life, and also the prosecution of those responsible for the war, and other war criminals.

Representatives of the reactionary camp deny the existence of fascism and of fascists in the country, and on these grounds deny the necessity for any measures to eradicate fascism and its influence from public life. True, during the past two months, hundreds of fascist organizations have been dissolved, but in most cases the fascists have remained in their

posts, including very high posts. Not a single department has been purged, neither the leadership of the army and police, nor the government and municipal offices.

Even the old criminal secret police which closely collaborated with the German Gestapo is still alive and flourishing. Nor have the Finnish adherents to Hitlerism yet been deprived the opportunity of disseminating fascist poison. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that Finnish democrats regard such a situation as intolerable from the point of view of the normal development of Finland.

At the same time, the Democratic League of Finnish People comes out in the elections in defense of the economic interests of the working classes upon whose shoulders the Finnish reactionaries are trying to impose the brunt of the material consequences of the war. In their election program, the organizations affiliated to the Democratic League propose a number of measures for alleviating the hard conditions of the workers, peasants and salaried employees. A special place among these measures is occupied by a practical plan for allotting land to settlers, demobilized soldiers and poor peasants. To carry out this important plan, a land reform is proposed to be carried out at the expense of the arable land of large private estates, and adequate state aid for settlers.

These important problems of foreign and domestic policy constitute the dividing line between the two fronts that are deploying in the election campaign. Whoever wishes to make a pre-election appraisal of the relation of forces of these two fronts, must bear in mind that the Democratic League of Finnish People was organized only several months ago, and that it is opposed by all the old parties, including the Social Democratic Party, which have long been in power.

True, as a consequence of their political bankruptcy in connection with the war, these parties have lost many of their former supporters, but, on the other hand, they have gained new supporters from the dissolved I.K.L. (Nazi Party), Schutzkorps and other fascist organizations. While there are a number of wavering or opposition democrats among the

candidates put forward by parties like the Social Democratic Party, the Swedish Party, the Progressive Party and the Agrarian Party, the fact remains that the leaders of these parties are hand in glove with the arch-reactionary Coalition Party with which they had formed a governmental bloc during the war.

In addition, the following must be taken into consideration. There are many localities in Finland, particularly in the rural districts, which have by no means been completely freed from an atmosphere of hidden intimidation on the part of the Schutzkorps elements. In most of the towns and villages throughout the country, the democratic forces have no premises in which to hold meetings, whereas their opponents, of course, have premises everywhere.

The old parties have other advantages, too. They have hundreds of newspapers, whereas the supporters of the Democratic

League of Finnish People have only a few. The reactionaries have large election funds at their disposal, whereas the democrats have only small funds collected mainly from workers. Moreover, the older parties in the diet have had considerable experience in electioneering with all the demagogic dodges (some of them have even had experience in faking election results).

On the other hand, the old parties are handicapped by their former collaboration with the Hitlerites. Over 30 of the principal and best known candidates of these parties—Linkomies, Tanner, Ramsey, Reinikka and others—are so discredited as close accomplices of the Hitler bandits, that either they were compelled to abstain from standing for the election, or else their own parties had to throw them on the scrap heap without waiting for the verdict of the electors.

It will readily be understood that if the

reactionary elements had succeeded in using the course of the election campaign to consolidate their positions, this would have been fraught with serious danger to the Finnish people; for the reaction thus encouraged would have attempted to maneuver the country into a repetition of the fatal mistakes that so recently brought it to the brink of disaster.

The Democratic League of Finnish People is fighting under clean colors and for a just cause. Herein lies its advantage. And this is quite sufficient to enable the young forces of Finnish democracy, by their earnest struggle in the interests of the people, to win at the forthcoming elections a considerable mass influence and a considerable number of seats in the diet. If this result is achieved in the very first elections contested by the League, it will undoubtedly mark an important step forward on the part of the Finnish people toward a better future.

A COLLECTIVE FARM LABORATORY

By Viktor Polyansky, of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture

I recently returned to Moscow from a six months' tour of rural Siberia. The Siberians are energetic people. Last year they put 2,500,000 acres of virgin land under the plow, and that at a time when most of the men of the villages were away in the Red Army.

One of the people I made a special point of seeing was Terenti Maltsev. I can best describe him as a "self-taught scientist." He is a collective farmer who made his mark before the war at the All-Union Agricultural Exhibition. In 1941 he was awarded the Order of Lenin "for outstanding contributions to agrobiological science."

He still lives in his native village of Maltsevo, in the Schadrinsk District. I had not seen the place for twenty-five years. It used to be called Old Maltsevka. I can still picture the barren fields, the tumble-down cottages and poverty-stricken peasants.

The crops were always failing because of drought. When that happened, the starving villagers boarded up their cottages and scattered in all directions in search of food. The climate in those parts is very capricious. The soil is poor, and

abounds in salt marshes.

Today Old Maltsevka has a flourishing collective farm, the Zavety Lenina, which for the past 15 years has reaped the biggest crop in the entire Kurgan Region. It was Terenti Maltsev who showed the people how to obtain high crop yields.

He was born in 1895 into the family of a poor, illiterate peasant. He asked to be sent to school, but his father and grandfather were against it. They had got on all right without grammar, they said. So what did Terenti want with it?

So Terenti did his grammar on the sly. Later he became interested in farming, and began to try out some ideas of his own on his father's small plot. The villagers made fun of him, but their ridicule changed to respect when his wheat crop stood out among the scanty crops on neighboring plots.

They even began to come to him for advice. He started an "agricultural circle" in his village. And that was really the genesis of what later became the Zavety Lenina collective farm. Maltsev became the collective farm agronomist.

Great opportunities opened before him. What had been impossible on his father's

small plot could be realized quite easily on the spacious fields of the collective farm. In 1930 the peasants set him up in an agronomical laboratory.

He made a detailed study of the collective farm fields, compiled soil maps, introduced the ten-field rotation system. He proved in practice that a good crop of rapidly-maturing varieties of wheat was possible under the conditions prevailing beyond the Urals, provided the sowing was carried out late and the soil cultivated well beforehand.

At the suggestion of Professor Trofim Lysenko, an old friend of his, Maltsev is now trying to cultivate a variety of salt-resisting wheat which will be capable of yielding bumper crops on saliferous soils.

He is working on hybrids of wheat with couchgrass and perennial rye, and hybrids of different varieties of summer wheat such as will prosper in sharply differing climatic and soil conditions.

This self-taught biologist and seed selection expert has contributed greatly to the theory and practice of agriculture in the Soviet Union. He is now working under the auspices of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Notes from Front and Rear

Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Evdokia Bershanskaya, a light bomber regiment composed of women volunteer fliers is operating over East Pomerania. The regiment has fought its way from the Caucasus through the Crimea, Byelorussia and Poland into Germany. Thirteen of its members have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, and 200 others have received various decorations. Colonel Bershanskaya, who was graduated from flying school 13 years ago, wears the Order of the Red Banner and the Order of Suworov.

★

A new variety of helicopter invented by engineer Ivan Bratukhin is equipped with a double motor, which increases the machine's capacity to remain motionless in the air, fly at a greater speed and land on rugged terrain.

★

The competition for standard designs for school buildings announced in 1944 by the Committee on Architecture of the Council of People's Commissars has just closed. Two hundred and fifty projects were submitted, and a jury headed by Academician A. V. Shchusev has awarded prizes to 20 winners. An original feature of one design was a building without corridors; instead, the doors of classrooms open into light, spacious halls which may be used for meetings and social events.

★

Caspian shipyards have been building small ferro-concrete ships of up to 2,500 tons displacement, after American models.

★

Osoaviakhim, the Society for Air and Chemical Defense, has given 600 lectures on how to find and render harmless mines left by the German invaders in rural districts. Volunteer de-miners in the Kiev Region cleared 35,800 square kilometers of arable land, removing 221,000 mines and 199,200 shells, and exploded some 200,000 mines. In the Taraschansky district, two 16-year-old boys removed 2,400 mines from the fields, and another youth team collected 88,000 artillery shells and de-charged 3,850 mines.

In Leningrad port, on the Neva River and in the Gulf of Finland, divers are busy raising German ships sunk by Russian fliers. Salvaging of ships, bridge frames and valuable cargoes is also in progress off the shores of the Crimea and on the Volga, Dnieper, Danube and Vistula Rivers.

★

The winter hunting season is in progress in Siberia and the Far East, with thousands of veteran marksmen and young boys roaming the snow-covered taiga. Hunting for squirrels, otters, American mink, foxes and bears is especially good on the Pacific Coast. Thousands of miles distant, in Central Asia, boars and muskrats are among the principal game. The muskrat, brought to Kazakhstan from America, has multiplied rapidly in the past few years, and the hunting of this valuable animal has become an important industry in the Republic.

★

Natural gas has been discovered in various regions of the Ukrainian Republic. Investigations are under way to determine the extent of the deposits, and plans have been worked out for the supply of natural and industrial gas to Ukrainian cities.

★

The Executive Committee of the Kiev Soviet has approved the city budget for 1945. To effect the speediest possible restoration of the city, the budget was almost doubled as compared with 1944. Over 327,000,000 rubles were allocated for the development of local industry, the municipal economy and public education and suburban agriculture. Sixteen schools, seven libraries, 62 repair shops and 62,000 square meters of dwelling space will be rehabilitated in 1945. Children's homes, nurseries, maternity homes and polyclinics will be expanded.

★

A three-volume translation of the collected works of Hippocrates, recently published, is based upon 50 years of research by Professor Rudnev of the Samarkand Medical Institute.

In the fighting at the end of February, two Red Army men repeated the heroic deed of Private Alexander Matrosov, who early in the war blocked an enemy machine-gun embrasure with his body, deliberately sacrificing his life for his country. Sergeant Grigori Denisov, a Latvian, saved his platoon by crawling up to an enemy blockhouse and throwing himself onto the machine-gun muzzle. By a similar action, Sergeant Pavel Zaitsev, a Russian, silenced a pillbox obstructing a river crossing, after which his comrades killed the entire garrison of 38 Germans.

★

Dormitories and dining rooms have been set up in 42 schools of the Latvian Republic, making it possible for parents who live in distant villages to bring their children to school and leave them for the entire week.

★

Construction has commenced on the Kzyl-Orda dam, one of the largest irrigation projects in Central Asia, near the city of Kzyl-Orda in Kazakhstan. The dam will span the Syr-Darya River and considerably raise its water level. Irrigated rice fields in the area will be expanded. The dam will have four spans, power stations, a bridge, a canal and a dike.

Information Bulletin

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300th Artillery Salute in Moscow Celebrates Capture of Kuestrin

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote editorially, March 14:

Yesterday—following the artillery salute honoring a fresh victory of Marshal Rokossovsky's troops—the Soviet Capital saluted the valorous troops of Marshal Zhukov who seized the city and fortress of Kuestrin. The Order of the Day issued by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief on that occasion bears the number 300.

Three hundred salutes have been fired in Moscow to celebrate 300 major victories of Soviet arms. Such is the summary of the Red Army's heroic struggle, marked yesterday by the capture of Kuestrin.

On August 5, 1943, renewing an old military tradition, the Soviet Capital for the first time in this war fired an artillery salute to honor victorious troops. The mighty salvos then heard in Moscow honored the victors of Orel and Belgorod. Since that time the Red Army has advanced from Orel and Belgorod to Kuestrin.

It has been a long and glorious road of victories, and the final defeat of fascist Germany is now on the order of the day.

When the first artillery salutes lighted up the skies of Moscow, the Germans were still near the Soviet Capital. A considerable section of the Soviet Union was then in the clutches of the occupantists. Today our troops are hammering at the enemy on his own territory. The last World War was concluded at the borders of Germany. In this war, however, the Red Army and the Armies of its Allies have crossed the German frontiers. War and all its grief have been brought home to the instigators of war. Fierce battles are raging within the lair of the fascist monster.

Victory never comes of itself. Resisting with the fury of despair, the enemy is intensifying his efforts as his doom approaches. These efforts of the Germans, however, are being countered by mightier efforts on the part of the Red Army. Intensifying their blows against the bandit hordes of the Nazis, Soviet troops are pushing steadily westward to the very heart of fascist Germany—to Berlin.

The fall of Kuestrin signifies another step toward the end of this difficult and glorious road.

Kuestrin lies on the shortest route to Berlin. This city, a junction of seven railroads and six highways, was a mighty defense center of the Germans on the Oder, protecting the approaches to Berlin.

The words "defense center" here attain a special significance. Here were

numerous extremely massive artillery emplacements, mighty forts of armor meant to withstand the most intense fire. Here were the ramified anti-tank barriers known as dragon's teeth. Here the terrain was serried with anti-tank pits and minefields without number. One of the oldest and mightiest fortresses in Germany, Kuestrin had been prepared for defense under modern conditions as far back as 1941. Here the enemy had availed himself of everything modern engineering can do.

When the Red Army moved toward the Oder, the Nazi command massed strong forces in the district of Kuestrin. Fighting here were Hitler's picked divisions, the most advertised of his cut-throats. Hysterical orders and the threat of execution for the slightest sign of weakness were, according to the Nazis, to



Radiophoto

Marshal Zhukov, Commander of the troops of the First Byelorussian Front, at his field command post

have made the defenders' lines in this vast citadel of Germany's defenses invincible.

Regardless of this, the Red Army again triumphed. Having worn down the enemy in hard fighting, the troops of the First Byelorussian Front, commanded by Marshal Zhukov, stormed the city and fortress of Kuestrin. The victorious Soviet banners have been raised over this bastion erected by the Germans for the defense of Berlin as far back as the 16th Century.

From Orel and Belgorod to Kuestrin . . . for us this has been a road to victory—for the enemy, a road of misfortune, the road leading to his doom.

What have the Germans not attempted to bring the Soviet advance to a stand-

still? In the path of the Red Army the enemy has built ever fresh obstructions which he termed defense walls. There was a defense wall on the Dnieper, but it is gone. There was another on the Vistula. It, too, is behind the Red Army. Of late the Germans have been staking their hopes on the Oder defense wall. The victories of Marshal Konev's troops of the First Ukrainian Front, of Marshal Zhukov's troops of the First Byelorussian Front—and particularly the fall of Kuestrin—clearly show that these hopes of the Nazi command are also futile.

The last kilometers of the road may prove the most difficult. Though hanging over the precipice of his doom, the enemy will fight back rabidly. As is known, a wounded beast is the most

dangerous. The soldiers of the Red Army are well aware of this.

The ashes of our towns and villages left by the Germans are not forgotten. The shades of those who were done to death by the Nazis accompany the Soviet troops. The Red Army has brought the sacred wrath and hatred of the Soviet people to the approaches of Berlin. They have reached the approaches to Berlin because of the superior skill of their Army leaders, because of their mighty weapons.

The Red Army is knocking at the gates of Berlin, and these gates are splitting under its hammer blows. The banners of our victory shall be hoisted over the capital of Hitlerite Germany.

THE BATTLE FOR KUESTRIN

By Guards Major I. Anufriev

In order to insure reliable protection in the East of the shortest route leading to Berlin, the Germans devoted much time to the erection of a defense line between the rivers Wartha and Oder. They built powerful fortifications, stretching over scores of kilometers in the so-called Oder Square which is bounded in the north by the Niesse and Wartha, in the west and south by the Oder, and in the east by the river Obra and a network of lakes.

In the northwestern corner of this square, at a point where the Wartha flows into the Oder, stood the important road junction and powerful stronghold of German defenses, the city and fortress

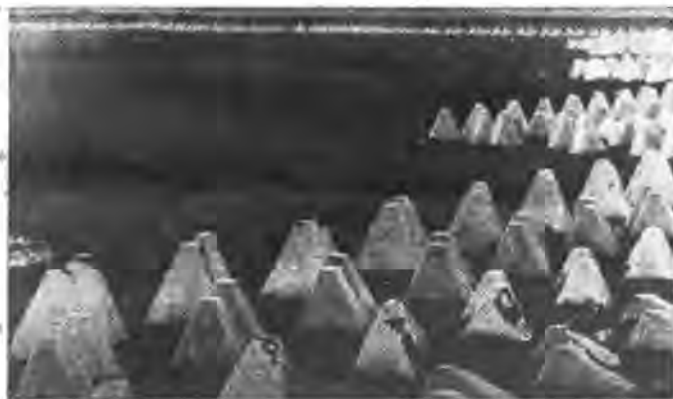
of Kuestrin. In the German defense system at the approaches to Berlin, this fortress held an exceptionally important place.

The troops of the First Byelorussian Front, developing their swift offensive, overcame the fortifications of the Oder Square with its powerful defense structures, reached the Oder and approached within close range of Kuestrin. The German command took all measures to stem the advance here. In their appeal to the Kuestrin grouping, they called Kuestrin and Frankfurt-on-Oder the "two iron fists against which all attacks of the Russians must be shattered." Nazi propaganda assured the population that

this Oder bulwark would never fall.

The enemy garrison in Kuestrin was divided into several battle sections. One of these sections alone, Neustadt, was manned by some ten battalions of various arms, reinforced by six artillery units. Supported by strong defenses, the Nazis offered desperate resistance.

A few days ago, after a powerful artillery barrage, units of the First Byelorussian Front commenced the storming of Kuestrin. Soviet infantrymen and tankists, supported by unceasing artillery and mortar fire and also by aircraft, attacked the enemy garrison in the northern suburb of Neustadt. The blow was so swift and powerful the Germans could



ON THE APPROACHES TO BERLIN—This line of dragon's teeth, built of concrete and protected by an anti-tank ditch, stretched for many kilometers; (right) Steel pillboxes of a German fort, operated from underground installations, captured by Soviet troops

not withstand it. Toward the end of the first day Neustadt was captured completely and several advancing units rushed into the northern part of Kuestrin. Acting in small assault detachments, Soviet units drove the Hitlerites from their own fortifications and captured house after house, street after street.

Meanwhile other units which had already captured a bridgehead on the western bank of the Oder to the south of Kuestrin, attacked the suburb of Kitz. After taking the railway station on the southwestern outskirts of the city, these units straddled all roads leading from Kuestrin to Berlin.

Fearing that Kuestrin was in danger of complete encirclement, the Germans brought a number of fresh units and formations to this sector. These reinforcements launched frequent counter-attacks, making frenzied attempts to reach the station and hurl back the attackers. But all their efforts were vain; Soviet troops, harrying the counter-attacking Nazi units, advanced implacably.

By now blows were being rained on the city simultaneously from all sides. Units acting along the northern bank of the river Wartha attacked Kuestrin from the southeast. Fierce battles broke out in the southern part of the city in an area of sawmills and gas plants which the Germans had turned into a fortified island of resistance.

Crushing enemy resistance, Red Army men captured the plants and from there began developing their offensive to the

north and northwest. They won a hold on the southern suburbs of Kuestrin and commenced to press the Germans back to the center of the city. In the fierce fighting in the streets of Kuestrin, the Germans suffered heavy losses. For instance, in one day on one sector only, some 750 German soldiers and officers were killed and 400 taken prisoner, two enemy tanks were damaged, and 25 guns, 50 machine guns and many other armaments destroyed.

As a result of the stiff street fighting, advancing Soviet units succeeded in cutting the enemy garrison into three isolated groups which lost all touch with each other. Surrounding these isolated and weakened groups, Red Army men began to tighten the noose around them. The Germans continued to resist desperately and launched a number of counter-attacks. The Soviet forces pressed them back to the area of the shooting range and water tower in the northeastern outskirts of Kuestrin and blockaded them in several blocks of other districts in the city. After that the Red Army units began to mop up the last three enemy islands of resistance.

Very soon a large group of Germans besieged in the southeastern districts of Kuestrin was cut up into parts. Remnants of this group entrenched themselves in brick houses, and Soviet assault detachments began to clear them out house by house. These battles ended in the complete liquidation of one of the three enemy centers of resistance. The blocks of this district are strewn with

corpses of Hitlerites, and much German materiel, damaged or in good condition, fills the streets.

Meanwhile the German groups surrounded in the two districts in the north of the city were being destroyed. Having killed over 400 German soldiers and officers and captured some 200 prisoners, our units also wiped out this nest of Hitlerites in the course of a day. Now the Germans were left in only one fort to which the officers had mainly withdrawn. The Hitlerite command sent orders to the garrison of this fort to fight to the last man and to shoot on sight any who attempted to leave the fort to save themselves by flight or surrender. But nothing could save them from impending doom. After encircling the fort, Red Army men annihilated the garrison.

The fighting in southwestern Kuestrin also ended victoriously. Our advancing formations captured the suburb of Kitz and closed all roads leading from Kuestrin to the west. In their numerous but vain attempts to regain this important point, the Germans suffered extremely heavy losses, 650 men being killed in one skirmish alone.

Thus, as the final result of an assault of several days, the troops of the First Byelorussian Front captured this ancient fortress city of Kuestrin. The forts, fortress wall and the many fortifications erected around Kuestrin and in the city itself, availed the enemy nothing. The Germans themselves called Kuestrin the key to Berlin. Now this key is in the hands of Soviet troops.



115 FEET UNDERGROUND—A power station which operated the machinery of permanent German fortifications on the road to Berlin. A Soviet soldier is oiling the mechanism; (right) Red Army men resting in subterranean barracks provided for the garrison of a German fort

THE RUMANIAN ADMINISTRATION IN TRANSYLVANIA

PRAVDA wrote editorially, March 10:

The exchange of letters between the Prime Minister of Rumania, Petru Groza, and the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, Joseph Stalin, concerning Transylvania, is an event of great political importance. This event will meet with a wide response among the Rumanian people and far beyond Rumania.

As is already well known, at the beginning of April, 1944, when the Red Army had just crossed the Rumanian frontier, the Soviet Government presented the Rumanian government with armistice terms, insisting upon a break with the Germans and a joint struggle against the German fascists for the purpose of the restoration of Rumania's independence. At that time the Soviet Government had already declared that it not only agreed to cancel the Vienna award concerning Transylvania, but would help Rumania liberate Transylvania.

This attitude of the Soviet Union was confirmed in the Armistice Agreement concluded in September, 1944, between the Governments of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States, on the one hand, and the government of Rumania on the other.

The liberating Red Army ejected the German invaders from Rumanian territory. Rumania, cleared of the Hitlerite occupationists, received the opportunity for the free development of its policy. The Red Army also threw the German and Hungarian troops out of Transylvania, on whose territory the Rumanian administration had begun functioning.

However, it soon transpired that under the protection of this Rumanian administration, underground German agents had reared their heads and started committing diversions—demolishing railways and engaging in acts of sabotage directed against Soviet troops. In addition, so-called volunteer detachments named for Maniu, which had absorbed the Iron Guards and all the reactionary

riff-raff of hooligan elements, were sent into Transylvania.

These gangs massacred Hungarians in Transylvania, and their chief aim was to kindle reactionary prejudices. The former Rumanian government, far from fighting these crimes, actually encouraged them.

The situation created in Transylvania by the Rumanian authorities was pregnant with the most serious consequences, for it created dangerous unrest in the Red Army's rear. An honest attitude toward the armistice terms was, of course, incompatible with such a policy of the administration in Transylvania.

The criminal actions of the leadership of the National Taranist Party, headed by Maniu, and of the Radescu government, represented a wilful violation of the Armistice Agreement which, among other things, provided for the immediate disbanding of all the pro-Hitlerite, fascist-type political, military, militarized, and other organizations conducting hostile propaganda on Rumanian territory.

The Soviet Supreme Command in Rumania was compelled to put an end to the ravagings and crimes of these gangs, to establish order and peace in Transylvania. In this conjunction, the administration of Transylvania was turned over to the Soviet military authorities.

On March 8, the President of the Council of Ministers of Rumania, Groza, and the Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tatarescu, sent a letter to the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, Stalin, in which the Rumanian government requested the consent of the Soviet Government to the establishment of a Rumanian administration in Transylvania.

In this letter the new Rumanian government promised "to concern itself with the maintenance of perfect order, so that nothing disturbs the normal functioning of all institutions serving the needs of the battle front."

In this letter the Rumanian government promised that the administration

which it establishes in Transylvania "will concern itself with the protection of the rights of the nationalities residing there, and will be guided in its actions by the principles of equality, democracy and justice regarding the entire population."

The Soviet Government, as stated in Stalin's reply, decided to grant the Rumanian government's request. In this the Soviet Government proceeds from the fact that "the new Rumanian government, which has now undertaken the administration of the country, assumes responsibility for proper order and peace on the territory of Transylvania, and for securing the rights of nationalities, as well as the conditions for the proper functioning of all local institutions serving the needs of the front."

This decision of the Soviet Government meets the desires of the new Rumanian government and the Rumanian people. At the same time it places on the Rumanian government the responsibility for maintaining order and peace in Transylvania, which is in the interests of the entire population, as well as of the Soviet troops for which Transylvania is the immediate rear. We hope the new Rumanian government will cope with credit with this important and responsible task.

Georgian Scientists Meet

A general session of the Academy of Sciences of the Georgian SSR was recently held in Tbilisi.

Academician Akhvlediani reported that work had been completed on 370 subjects, among them problems of the historical relations between the Georgian people and Iran and other neighboring countries in the 19th and 20th Centuries; results of archeological excavations in Mtskheta; an extensive monograph on the past few years' work in the sphere of applied mathematics, and a study of the "Flora of Georgia."

Reports were also made on a number of researches carried out in institutes of Abkhazia and Southern Ossetia.

YUGOSLAVIA ON THE ROAD TO REGENERATION

By S. Belinkov

From *WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS*,
No. 5:

The historic decisions at the Crimea Conference of leaders of the three Allied powers are of enormous significance for Yugoslavia's future. As is known, these decisions contain a recommendation to Marshal Tito and Doctor Subasic "that the agreement between them should be put into effect immediately and a joint Provisional Government should be formed on the basis of that agreement." The new joint Yugoslav Government is further advised to extend the Anti-fascist Assembly of National Liberation to include "members of the last Yugoslav Parliament who have not compromised themselves by collaboration with the enemy." Thus, a new body, to be known as a temporary parliament, is to be formed. Lastly, the decisions provide for the subsequent ratification by a constituent assembly of all legislative acts passed by the Anti-fascist Assembly.

There can be no doubt that these decisions of the Crimea Conference will help considerably to rally still further the national forces of Yugoslavia, and this, in its turn, will hasten the complete liberation of the entire country from the Hitlerite invaders and their hangers-on. The conditions will thus be created for the complete regeneration of the country on truly democratic lines.

A specific feature of the situation in Yugoslavia during the present war has been, that while the country was under the yoke of the German-fascist invaders, the emigre government and the elements that grouped themselves around it, for a long time opposed the liberation of the masses of people fighting in Yugoslavia, and the vital aims of the struggle of the United Nations.

For a number of years the men at the head of the Yugoslav emigre government—Puric and his predecessors—pursued a policy inimical to the people. Suffice it to recall that Draja Mikhailovic's Chetniks were considered this government's "army," and their ataman was the war minister. The government-in-exile tried to keep the masses from fighting the

Germans. Its adherents claimed that the positions of the forces of occupation were "impregnable," and in this connection advice was given "to wait awhile," ostensibly in order to avoid heavy and useless sacrifice.

The operations of the Yugoslav People's Army of Liberation, however, long ago refuted the fairy tales about the alleged impregnable positions of the Hitlerite invaders in the Balkans. Already in 1943, one-third of the territory of Yugoslavia was liberated from the invaders and five million persons freed from Hitlerite captivity. The self-sacrificing struggle waged by the Serbian, Croatian and Slovenian patriots saved the lives of millions of people who undoubtedly would have perished had not this heroic mass resistance been put up. The casualties sustained by Marshal Tito's troops were far less heavy than those sustained by the civilian population as a consequence of fascist violence and murder.

In the course of nearly four years of continuous fighting, the People's Army of Liberation has wiped out about a half a million enemy men and officers, while its own losses amounted to about 230,000. During the same period, 1,500,000 civilians, nearly one-tenth the population of the country, perished in the occupied regions as a result of fascist terrorism.

The National Liberation Movement, from the moment it arose, acted as a magnet to the broad masses of the people. The partisan units, which subsequently grew into the People's Army of Liberation, drew their strength from their unseverable ties with the people. During the period of occupation, which was also the period of self-sacrificing struggle waged by the best men and women among all the peoples of Yugoslavia, fundamental changes took place in the social life of the country. New democratic forces arose and new social relations were established. In the struggle against the foreign invaders, a new, free, democratic federal Yugoslavia came into being. The broad masses of the people regard the prewar pro-fascist regime as

dead and buried. The civilized world highly appraises Yugoslavia's contribution to the common cause of the United Nations in their fight against Hitler imperialism.

All this, combined with the Red Army's victories which have brought Hitler Germany face to face with inevitable disaster, could not but affect the mood of the Yugoslavs abroad. Considerable sections of the emigres refused to stand aloof and cut their ties with their motherland. This found its reflection in the utterances of prominent Yugoslav political leaders in England and America, who paid tribute to the heroic struggle waged by the People's Army of Liberation and called upon the people to render it every assistance. The reactionary emigre government of Puric found itself isolated, and this isolation grew as the position of Hitler Germany became worse and the success of the Yugoslav people in their struggle for national liberation increased.

Great-Serbian chauvinism, the sole prop of reactionary emigre governments, has lost all influence, even in Serbia. The resignation of the Puric government in May, 1944, testified to the bankruptcy of its political line. A new government was formed, headed by Doctor Subasic, and at once arose the question of relations between the royal government abroad and the National Liberation Movement at home.

Subasic's statement of his intention to collaborate with the National Liberation Movement was favorably received in fighting Yugoslavia, and her doors were flung open for all genuine anti-fascists wherever they were to be found, at home or abroad. The National Liberation Movement was never averse to enlarging its base by the inclusion of men and women who were prepared to take a real and active part in the common struggle to liberate the country from the yoke of the hated fascist invaders.

At the time the Subasic government was formed, Yugoslavia was in very sore straits. The invaders were conducting their seventh general offensive with the

aid of air, parachute and tank forces. At that time the Hitler command had in Yugoslavia 30 German divisions and about an equal number of vassal and quisling forces, making a total of about 600,000 men. This was twice as large as the number at the command of the People's Army of Liberation.

The territory recaptured by Marshal Tito was mainly mountainous country, without any large towns, and almost destitute of large industrial plants. Armaments, ammunition and supplies needed by the army were manufactured in small handicraft workshops. The civilian population suffered extreme privation and hunger; there was a shortage of medical supplies and consumers goods.

Subasic's visit to the liberated area and his negotiations with Marshal Tito in June, 1944, produced good results. An agreement was reached on many questions. The Subasic government recognized the national democratic achievements of the Yugoslav peoples during their three years of struggle. It fully recognized the fighting forces of the people organized in the People's Army of Liberation under the command of Marshal Tito, and denounced the traitors who were collaborating with the enemy. It called upon the whole of the Yugoslav people to make common cause with the People's Army of Liberation.

Marshal Tito, on his part, gave a pledge that the Committee of National Liberation would not raise the question of the country's final form of state while the war was in progress. It was agreed that this question would be settled by the people after the entire country was liberated. Both Marshal Tito and Doctor Subasic agreed that it was necessary to form a joint democratic government at the earliest possible date.

Undoubtedly the Tito-Subasic agreement greatly contributed to the reinforcement of national unity in Yugoslavia. This explains why it met with the complete approval of the Yugoslav peoples and was very favorably received in the Allied countries.

On July 7, Doctor Subasic formed a new cabinet, which included two Serbs, two Croats and two Slovenes. It contained two representatives of the National Liberation Movement. By way of

removing the obstacles to the achievement of national unity, Subasic abolished the staff of Draja Mikhailovic. This marked a grave defeat for the Yugoslav pro-fascist emigre circles who vainly clung to this now utterly exposed Hitlerite agent, the chief of the Chetnik bands.

* * *

An important factor that hastened the liberation of the Yugoslav people from the German-fascist yoke and the achievement of the cherished desires of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, was the absolutely new military and political situation that arose in the Balkans as a result of the unprecedented victories of Soviet troops.

In the summer of 1944, the Red Army, fulfilling its historic liberating mission, expelled the German invaders from the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. Naturally, this seriously weakened the German positions in the western part of the Peninsula. The Red Army rendered the Yugoslav People's Army of Liberation enormous assistance. Soviet fighting men shattered the powerful German defenses in eastern Serbia, and together with Marshal Tito's troops liberated the ancient city of Belgrade, main center of German defenses in the Balkans. The restitution of their Capital to the Yugoslav peoples was of prime importance.

One of the consequences of the triumph of Soviet arms in the Balkans was the collapse of the fascist regime of Bulgaria, and the accession of the Fatherland Front Government to power. The fratricidal war among the South Slav peoples was thus brought to an end. The artificially fomented enmity was eliminated by the efforts of both sides. The united military efforts of the Yugoslavs and Bulgarians facilitated the successful operations in clearing the German scum out of the Slav lands of the Balkan Peninsula.

Now that the Red Army's winter offensive has inflicted irreparable losses upon the German troops, Hitler is vainly trying to avert an utter rout of the German forces still in the Balkans, by gradually withdrawing the remnants of the shattered army of occupation.

There are still about 200,000 Germans and approximately 150,000 Pavelic bandits in Yugoslavia. This tattered-

malion army is being methodically mopped up and destroyed by units of the People's Army of Liberation. The latter have already liberated two-thirds of the territory of their country. The invaders have been expelled from Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Hercegovina and Dalmatia, and nearly all the islands, a large part of Bosnia, and considerable parts of Croatia and Slovenia have been liberated from the Germans.

Such are the notable results achieved by the four years of nation-wide struggle in Yugoslavia. Could the People's Army of Liberation have achieved such successes on the battlefield without the complete support of the people?

Nevertheless, reactionary circles in neutral and even Allied countries are trying to impugn the democratic character of the state system of the new Yugoslavia. Not a few of Goebbels' legends on this score are circulating in the foreign press. The reactionary section of the foreign press tries to depict the National Liberation Front of Yugoslavia as a "Communist organization" which, it is alleged, was thrust upon the people and is not supported by them. It is common knowledge, however, that the National Liberation Movement unites in its ranks people of different democratic groups and parties.

The elections to the Anti-fascist Assembly, now to be transformed into the temporary parliament, were conducted on the widest democratic basis. Over one-half the inhabitants of the country took part in them, the entire population of the liberated area of 18 years and over enjoying the right to vote, irrespective of sex, nationality or religion.

The nation-wide character of the Anti-fascist Assembly cannot arouse the slightest doubt. The Yugoslav peoples exercised their political rights for the first time in over 20 years. The last elections to the *skupschina* were conducted by Stojadinovic in December, 1938, amid a reign of unbridled fascist police terrorism. In spite of that, the government's ticket polled only 1,639,000 votes, while that of the opposition polled 1,339,000. By various manipulations, however, Stojadinovic got together a pro-fascist "parliament" with 304 "deputies," in which the opposition had only 68 seats.

It is interesting to note that some of the candidates on the official ticket who were "elected," polled only 14 to 20 votes, whereas opposition candidates who had polled several thousand votes were declared to be defeated. In the old *skupschina* there were scarcely any representatives of the opposition parties of that time, the only exception being a small group of members of Macek's Croatian Peasant Party, most of whom subsequently went over to the Ustashi.

It is not surprising that the overwhelming majority of the members of this "parliament" obsequiously served the German, Italian and Hungarian fascists. Some of them belonged to the puppet government formed by the traitor Nedic. Others were members of Pavelic's "Za Zbor," while many fought in the ranks of the Ustashi and Chetniks.

The conduct of the government and opposition "deputies" during the occupation differed in no way; nearly all of Macek's deputies went over to Pavelic. Recently a number of these "deputies" fled to Hitler Germany to escape retribution. Under these circumstances, as the Yugoslav press observes, the task of finding members of the old *skupschina* who have not compromised themselves by contacts with the enemies of the people, is not an easy one. Nevertheless, all deputies who fulfil this stipulation will have a seat in the temporary parliament.

Now that the complete destruction of the Hitler war machine is near, the formation in federal Yugoslavia of a joint democratic government—enjoying prestige and confidence at home and recognized by all Allied countries—becomes an urgent task. Only such a government can most effectively insure Yugoslavia's security, economic development, and economic and political collaboration, with the object of guaranteeing peace and progress in the Balkans.

In November, 1944, a new agreement had already been concluded between Marshal Tito and Doctor Subasic to form a joint People's Government at the earliest possible date. While proclaiming the principle of the continuity of State authority in Yugoslavia, the agreement reaffirmed that the ultimate form of government would be fixed by the free deci-

sion of the peoples. It was provided that King Peter II should not return to the country until such a decision was made, and that in his absence the royal power should be exercised by a Regency Council.

Everywhere—in Yugoslavia and abroad—the new agreement met with hearty approval. Everything seemed to show that the agreement would be put into effect without delay. It guaranteed the Yugoslav people free elections and left it to them to decide the question of the form of state, including the question of the constitution and the monarchy. At the last moment, however, King Peter refused to approve the agreement, expressed a lack of confidence in Subasic, and tried to compel him to resign.

The same forces that supported Mikhailovic for four years now tried to disrupt this agreement. This was virtually the last big stake played by the paltry remnants of the Yugoslav emigre reaction, which were dreaming of the times of the great-Serbian hegemony and the pro-fascist dictatorial regime. This new attack on the national unity of Yugoslavia roused a storm of protest all over the country. Serbs, Croats and Slovenes unanimously characterized it as a treacherous stab in the back.

The political line pursued by King Peter II was sharply condemned by the overwhelming majority of English newspapers. Thus the *Daily Express* wrote with obvious irritation on January 25: "It should be brought home to this young man that the people of Britain are not greatly interested in him."

A by no means insignificant role in the reaction's attacks on Yugoslav national unity is played by the notorious Macek, who deserted to the camp of the enemies of the people long ago. This "peasant leader" entered Cvetkovic's pro-fascist cabinet, which adopted the decision that Yugoslavia should join the Hitler "axis." Macek made no secret of his hatred of the Serbs and of progressive circles among the Croatian people, and openly backed Nazi Germany and her bloody "new order."

The American journalist Robert B. Parker quotes in his book *Headquarters Budapest*, the following statement by

Macek: "The Serbs must distinctly understand that either they will give us what we are asking for, or we will find someone else who will. Yes, I mean Adolf Hitler. . . . Somebody must make order in Yugoslavia. If the Serbs cannot, Germany can."

Events have shown that Macek had taken the path of treason and treachery. It is no accident that one of the present advisers of the emigre King Peter is Jura Krnjevic, one of Macek's close companions, who in conjunction with the Ustashi took part in organizing the autumn putsch in Zagreb. Even at that time the Macek clique wanted to start civil and fratricidal war in Yugoslavia.

Exposing the intrigues of the Yugoslav reaction abroad, whose object is to prevent the Tito-Subasic agreement from being put into effect, the Belgrade *Borba* wrote: "All roads of Yugoslav reaction lead to Berlin, and there can be no doubt that its recent pronouncement against the Tito-Subasic agreement was concocted in Goebbels' kitchen."

The decision of the Crimean Conference on the Yugoslav question, and the guarantee that it will be implemented without deviation or delay, strike another blow at the Hitlerites and their accomplices. The hopes of the fascist chiefs that Yugoslavia would become a stumbling block in the relations between the Allied powers have now been utterly shattered. The close unity of Serbs, Croats, Slovenes and Macedonians within a democratic federal Yugoslavia, is fully in accord with the general interests of Europe, as it is the best guarantee of peace and tranquility in the Balkans.

Artillery School Honored

The Order of the Red Star has been conferred upon the First Tomsk Artillery School, on the 25th anniversary of its founding and in recognition of outstanding successes in the training of cadres of artillery officers for the Red Army, as well as its combat services to the motherland. Marshal Stalin sent a telegram of congratulation to the chief of the school, Guards Major General of Artillery Ivanov.

NEWS OF THE MOSCOW THEATERS

Moscow's fourth war winter was marked by a busy season in music and drama. Fighting people and working people love the theater.

The Bolshoi Theater of Opera and Ballet has revived Mikhail Glinka's opera *Ivan Susanin*, of which the critic Vladimir Odoevsky, a contemporary of the great composer, wrote: "This opera introduces a new period in art, the period of Russian music." The magnitude of its conception, its profundity and power and its musical idiom, make this work of Glinka's a magnificent contribution to the Russian operatic stage. It is extremely popular with Soviet audiences.

The State Gypsy Theater, the Romany, has staged a new play, *Bride of a Gypsy Camp*, written by a young native dramatist and actor of the theater, Ivan Rom-Lebedev. Based on the rich musical and dance folklore of the Gypsies, it is a vivid and picturesque production.

Wandering tribes of Gypsies have found a permanent motherland in the Soviet Union. They have settled down as workers in industry, as farmers and handicraft artists; they have their own

written language, their own schools and technical institutes.

In Moscow they have been given ample opportunity to develop their original native art on the professional stage. One of the most successful productions of the Romany Theater during the war is *Taiganochka* (The Gypsy Girl), based on Cervantes' novel.

Muscovites were delighted to see the posters announcing a revival of the State Jewish Theater's production of *King Lear*. The staging of this immortal tragedy in Jewish translation is typical of the artistic orientation of the Moscow theater of the Jewish people.

The leading role is played by that singular master of the stage, Solomon Mikhols, who creates a character of prodigious power and variety.

"Born in 1944"

Under this title, the Moscow Actors Club has arranged a series of evenings dedicated to young actors who launched their professional careers in 1944. One extremely interesting program was given by Galina Pashkova, a young actress of the Vakhtangov Theater. Pashkova is

known for her brilliant portrayal of the leading role in the Vakhtangov's latest production, *Mademoiselle Nitouche*.

An evening devoted to two young artists of the Stanislavsky Opera and Drama Studio, Zoya Solyova and Boris Levinson, drew large crowds.

Another distinguished evening featured Maya Plisetskaya, a young dancer of the Bolshoi Theater. Graduated from the choreographic school only last year, Plisetskaya has already danced the lead in the ballet from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*.

An interesting experiment of dramatizing a book of reminiscences was made by the well-known dramatic actress Vera Yureneva. The pages of her memoirs come to life on the stage, interspersed with monologues and scenes from her favorite roles in the plays of Ostrovsky, Shakespeare, Lope de Vega, Chekhov and Ibsen.

Yureneva's partner in dramatic scenes from *The Seagull* and *The Doll's House* was Vladimir Yakhontov, well-known monologist. Incidental music unified the compositions and added to the dramatic effect.

The actress' theatrical memoirs speak eloquently of the long years of hard work and training of a Russian actress, and of the new world of themes and characters that unfolded before her after the Revolution.

CHANGING TRAINS IN THE CAPITAL

One wall of the railway station was decorated with a design incorporating the flags of England, the United States and the USSR. Underneath were the words, "Long live the victory of the Anglo-Soviet-American Alliance." Another wall was covered with a huge map of Europe, with the latest positions of the Red Army and our Allies marked with flags. On the third wall was a huge triple panel illustrating the unity of the battle and home fronts. The fourth wall was a portrait gallery of Marshals of the Soviet Union.

The reading room of this Moscow station was crowded with soldiers reading magazines, writing letters or playing chess. A sergeant arrived with an accordion and somebody suggested a concert. It seemed there were a number of amateur musicians longing to do their stuff, if only they had instruments. The waiting room attendant obliged. Saxo-

phones? Certainly. Violins? Certainly. And if necessary, trombones, clarinets, anything the Red Army fancied. The station had a storeroom filled with instruments; one only had to ask for them.

All Soviet nationalities meet in Moscow, and the ensuing concert was enlivened with a variety of dances, including the Caucasian *lezginka*.

Later on, cheerful groups arrived—they had been to the theaters as guests of the railway station; some to the ballet, others to dramas and musical comedies. For some of the Red Army men, it is their first visit to the Capital. The railway stations make it their business to see that none of the soldiers are bored while filling in time between trains—that in their short stay they are made to feel abundantly welcome and are entertained with the best that Moscow's museums, theaters and cinemas can provide.

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Knights of Justice

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, March 14:

Yesterday I received a letter from a man who is now dead. There are traces of blood on it. Boris Antonovich Kurilko perished on German soil, defending the liberty and honor of our country. The letter was forwarded to me by his comrades, and I would like the last words of Comrade Kurilko to reach my readers, as they have reached me. This is what this Red Army officer wrote on the eve of his death:

"The fire of hatred supported us in the bitterest times. Now we are in Germany. Our hatred is guiding us to Berlin. The Germans think we shall do on their soil what they did on ours. These butchers cannot understand the spirit of the Soviet soldier. We will be stern but just, and never will our people debase themselves. . . ."

My heart is filled with pride as I hold this sheet of paper in my hand: it is stained with the blood of a hero, and its lofty and splendid words are written in blood. We are not only vanquishing fascism on the battlefield; we are vanquishing it in the moral duel between good and evil.

"Have the Russians also got gas vans?" a German, a doctor by profession, asked me fearfully. With a humble smile he explained, "We see now that you have everything . . ." I gazed at him with contempt. How could I make it clear to this savage with a diploma that we have tanks and guns and aircraft, but that we also have something else which the modern Germans haven't got—a conscience—and that therefore we could not possibly have such things as "murder vans."

When our people on the Volga said, "An eye for an eye," they did not stop to ponder the meaning of these words,

but were simply giving vent to inexpressible hatred. There are eyes, and there are visual orbs. There are human beings, and there are cannibals. The Germans dashed out the brains of children against trees.

But to the soldiers of the Red Army a child is a child. I have seen Russian soldiers saving German children, and we are not ashamed but proud of it. Our hatred is none the weaker for it. The criminals may expect neither leniency nor reprieve from us. We are stern but just.

We do not subscribe to the "blood myth" invented by the epileptic German corporal. We grew up in the land of socialism. We remember what Lenin stood for. We are proud that Stalin is not only a great military leader, but the peer of the soldiers of liberty, the peer of the knights of justice.

The Germans set fire to houses with human beings inside them. They tied old

women to horses' tails, ravaged, tortured and raped. We will not pay them back in the same coin. Our hatred is a lofty sentiment; it insists upon justice, not reprisals; upon punishment, not violence.

The soldier of the Red Army is a chivalrous knight. He liberates Ukrainian girls and French prisoners; he liberates Poles. He kills German soldiers, but he does not offend old German women. He is not a butcher or tyrant.

On German soil we have remained Soviet citizens. We see German women who only the other day were maltreating our girls. They are now frightened, subservient and lewd. But we say, let them toil in the sweat of their brows; let those of them who are guilty of atrocities answer before a court.

But Soviet soldiers will not molest women. The Soviet soldier will not ill-treat the German woman, nor will he have intimacies with her. He is superior



Radiophoto

ON THE SECOND BYELORUSSIAN FRONT—Senior Lieutenant Alimov, chief technician of a self-propelled gun battalion, tests a gun about to go into action

to her, he despises her for being the wife of a butcher and for having reared fiends. The Soviet soldier will pass the German woman in silence: he has not come to Germany in search of booty or easy pickings or mistresses; he has come to Germany in search of justice. He has not come to stare at a stupid and greedy doll, but to tame Germany.

We are not in Berlin yet, but we will be there soon. But in the German towns we have occupied, we see the tawdriness of the houses, the malice or flattery of the vanquished German, and the grim silence of the Soviet soldier.

He has forgotten nothing, this defender of Stalingrad, this warrior of Yelnya, Rzhev and Sevastopol. He is silent, because he is superior to the Germans, superior not in "blood"—let us leave that vile invention to the "Aryans"—but in mind, conscience and heart.

He is silent because he despises the

Germans, despises their tawdriness, their bric-a-brac, their flags, their newspapers, their women, their past arrogance and their present servility. He has come not as an avenger, but as a judge.

* * *

Every sentiment has its form. Hatred has its form, too. Our hatred is not bestial malice, not an outburst of wrath, but a ripe feeling. It is born of our intelligence and corresponds to our ideas.

We hate fascism and we swear to leave not one stone of the "new order" standing on another. We hate Germany's piratical spirit, and we swear there will be no more of these barracks where conquerors were trained, no factories where secret weapons and Tigers were manufactured, and no staffs where plans were made for the conquest of the world.

We hate evil and we swear that not a single German who murdered children

or set fire to peaceful villages will escape retribution. Lofty feelings demand lofty deeds, and our wrath will be visited not on German children or old folk, but on the German state, on that nest of rapine and evil.

Like all words, the word "knight" has had different meanings at different times and in different mouths. The ancestors of the Hitlerites who harried peaceful peoples also called themselves knights. But as we conceive it, the word implies a champion of justice, a defender of the oppressed, and a foe of the oppressors.

"A knight without fear and without reproach"—this used to be said in ancient times of men of sterling worth. The Red Army is such a knight of the 20th Century. The words of Officer Kurilko were sealed with his blood; they are the words of our whole land. Its victory is something more than a triumph of military genius—it is the triumph of man.

ON THE ROAD TO DANZIG

By I. Denisov

We have left behind the town of Schoeneck, the yellow wooden board with the German inscription *Nach Danzig*, the ruins of a burned-down manor house, and the blockhouse across the road near the village of Neufits. Our car crosses a bridge over a little river called the Butkownica, and we enter the territory adjoining the "Free City of Danzig."

In the snow, near the road, lies an old frontier post knocked down by a German rifle butt in 1939. For 20 years after the First World War the "Free City of Danzig," with adjoining territory, existed as a separate state under the protectorate of the League of Nations. On September 1, 1939, Hitler announced the incorporation of Danzig into the Reich.

We are driving over Danzig territory liberated after five and one-half years of German occupation. A sharp wind is blowing from the Baltic. Quite suddenly a blizzard begins, and the horsemen and supply vehicles flashing past the car windows assume fantastic shapes. The climate here is very capricious; the blizzard is

followed by calm and sunshine, but two hours later it rains, and toward evening we again ride into a snowstorm.

Over stone and concrete roads the troops are marching toward the sea. Tanks and self-propelled guns are rumbling; powerful "Stalinets" tractors are pulling the heavy guns. Yesterday they fought for Czersk and Berent; they pounded the enemy in eastern Pomerania, at the distant approaches to the sea, blasting the way to Danzig. Today they are speeding toward the walls of Danzig itself.

Our troops are advancing, but not to the west. They are heading east and northeast. This may seem strange at first. We have been accustomed to identify the word "forward" with "westward." But here we have a classic example of skilful maneuver. Danzig had been deeply outflanked from the west.

We are driving northward to Karthaus, which has been captured by our troops. Beyond Grabausheutte we come upon a scene left by the rout of a German column: for eight kilometers on both sides

of the road lie scattered and overturned trucks; smashed carts, guns and motor cars; dead Germans and dead horses. spades, ammunition crates, helmets, knapsacks, and even metal boxes with German medals. This was the work of a Soviet tank column which smashed, scattered and trampled everything in its way. A crowd of German prisoners of war are contemplating the scene with horror.

There are no such smashed columns between Egersheutte and Karthaus. But here, too, the road bears the traces of recent fighting. Our driver slows down to examine some red vehicles piled up in a ditch near the road. They turn out to be fire engines. From beneath them stick out the arms and legs of dead German soldiers who tried to escape in the fire engines but were overtaken.

Near Karthaus begins the "Iaszubian Switzerland"—some of the most beautiful scenery in this part of Europe, with woods, hills, lakes and picturesque landscapes of tall slender pine trees. An engagement was fought here; trees were

felled and whole sections of forest cut down as if shaved by a razor.

At the railway station in Karthaus we find German engines, wagonloads of war supplies, and smashed tanks. Wrecked German cars block nearly all the roads of the town. At last we get to a street called Danzigerstrasse, which leads straight to Danzig.

In the square of one town on the sea we witnessed a stirring reunion. An artillery unit moving to the front encountered a crowd of Russian women, just freed from German slavery. Suddenly one of the women cried out, "Vanya!" She had recognized her brother. Thus Ivan Kur-nosikov, an artilleryman from Orel Region, met his sister Anna and his aunt Maria Zamarinova. The two women had been deported by the Germans from their native village in 1942. With bitterness and pain the men listened to the tragic tale of life the captive women led in the German camp.

"We were treated worse than cattle," they said. "They sold us at ten marks per head. We were punished with whips, fed some awful gruel, and kept behind barbed wire entanglements."

• • •

Over the sea, beyond the horizon, a snowstorm rages. The changing weather interferes with the action of our Air Force. But Soviet fliers take advantage of the slightest clearing of the skies to swoop down upon the enemy. Above the roar of the motor of our car we hear the droning of aircraft overhead. We stop to count a squadron of Stormoviks flying in beautiful formation, as if on parade, heading northeast. After three minutes we lose count, there are so many. Day and night the Soviet Air Forces are bombing and strafing enemy positions, the German coastal artillery fortifications and the port of Danzig. The fliers operating over Danzig are commanded by Hero of the Soviet Union General Baidukov.

Near Danzig we came across a long, green autobus with an inscription over the windshield, "Captured at Stalingrad." This bus had covered the long road from the Volga to Danzig Bay. It is now driven by the same man who first sat at its wheel in Stalingrad.

TWILIGHT ON THE ODER

By S. Krushinsky

The weather has been cloudy. For days the Oder, the Bober and other German rivers, large and small, have been rippled by the wind. Only stray beams of sun fall on the dismal soil, littered with scraps of paper and broken boxes.

On the roads we see the same scattered household goods and abandoned enemy guns, the same old lacquered carriages left behind by the Silesian fuhrers. To the left are round, wooded hills, and beyond them the Czech villages awaiting liberation. To the right are the level German valleys, with houses in even rows.

But on the monotonous soil of this land the days unfold ever more colorfully. At dawn the fires twinkle and our men warm themselves about their tea kettles. The artillerymen sit on ammunition boxes, talking about letters from home or of the German towns ahead. The silent tankmen examine their machines, parked in groups among the houses. The infantrymen are livelier; their soldiering interests are many and varied.

The roar of planes usually heralds the beginning of day, as they appear from the East. Gazing at the red stars on their wings, each of us remembers home and for a moment is silent. Now the artillerymen take their places, like workers at a factory bench, and fire their first salvos. The self-propelled guns rumble forward with tommy gunners riding their steel armor, and soon the ice in the ditches splinters in the trembling air. Then comes the infantry. The furious, uneven chatter of machine guns and rifles is heard.

Each day our tireless infantrymen perform thousands of deeds of valor. They are natural inventors and innovators. While the big guns are hammering regularly at assigned targets, the infantryman may change his position many times and strike at 20 targets. His maneuvers are difficult to catalog and analyze, and are always quickly adapted to changing conditions.

Later in the day, at the height of the fighting, the troops pass through the silent streets of towns. Everything that survived is still hiding in cellars and slit trenches. Germany has at last learned the full mean-

ing of war. In many places we saw holes in the ground covered loosely with boards. Sitting in these rude shelters were old women, cursing the war. Only a short time ago they blessed the war, blessed their sons who were plundering our soil.

To us, Germany is most satisfying in the evening, when we survey our harvest of victory; when the columns of German prisoners are marched past, each with his eyes on the heels of the one ahead. Often we meet groups of Russian people who have just been liberated and are hurrying homeward. Their homes are far away, but their joy is intense.

• • •

In the semi-darkness we overtake a regiment that has just emerged on the Berlin highway. The infantry had already dug in beyond—had set up machine guns and laid out hand grenades under the breastworks. Along the hedges dividing the road into equal parts, anti-tank guns stood in ambush.

The mortarmen came up and emplaced their weapons behind the road embankment. Their spotters were on the job in no man's land. Boxes of shells were brought up silently. No word of command could be heard. Every man seemed to know just what to do. Nearby we could hear the rumble of the tank motors. They, too, were taking up new positions.

While our men, sure of their strength and having taken all precautionary measures, were preparing to rest, the enemy behind the hills also grew quiet, disclosing his presence only by a rare salvo of trench-mortar fire. No rockets soared above his positions as in former days. The Germans now, as a rule, prefer the dark.

The fading day bore witness to our victory—these burning settlements were not illuminating Soviet soil, but the soil of Germany. Soon our men were sleeping, except for the sentries in the trenches and at the gun emplacements, the men who were listening to the sounds of the night on enemy soil. In the blacked-out stone buildings our staff officers were poring over maps, determining tomorrow's route for the battalions.

A SCHOOL FOR MERCHANT NAVY APPRENTICES



The young apprentices drill, with emphasis on form and smartness



A lesson on the construction of the ship's engines



Y. Deisadze, V. Irkhin and G. Denisenko practice knotting and splicing

In 1942, a school for Merchant Navy Apprentices was founded for sons of seamen who lost their lives during the war, and sons of sailors and soldiers serving at the fronts.

The boys, who come from all parts of the USSR, are trained as able seamen, ship's engineers and boatswains for the merchant fleet. In addition to special subjects, they cover the regular secondary school curriculum, and study English.

Their day begins at 6 A. M. with setting-up exercises, and putting the boat in trim; then breakfast, lessons, drill, practical instruction, swimming and various other activities.

In the evening the apprentices sing and dance, give concerts with their own brass band, play chess, or listen to the stories of the "Old Man," a Captain of 40 years' service, who knows all the boys by name and is a favorite with them all.



Petty Officer G. Tseme, 14 years old, whose father fell at Sevastopol, explains the sails and rigging of a windjammer



Signaling practice



Listening to stories by the "Old Man"—Captain Pomazansky



Orderly Petty Officer of the Day,
15-year-old V. Zagorodnikov



A chess tournament with E. Kantorov, P. Danilov and G. Kravchenko



A concert by the school's band



Dancing to the accordion on the upper deck. The day finishes with a sailor's dance

Three Transports of Allied Soldiers Liberated From German Prison Camps Leave Odessa

Two transports recently left Odessa with war prisoners, including Americans, Englishmen and Frenchmen, liberated by the Red Army during its offensive.

Odessa has two camps for repatriated officers and men. They are housed in the best buildings in the city, including the Dzerzhinsky Sanatorium of the People's Commissariat of Health. The people, the local Soviet authorities and the repatriation representatives of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR have displayed the greatest solicitude for the soldiers of the Allied countries.

Soviet Odessa, only recently liberated from the fascist yoke, heartily welcomed its guests. The first trains to arrive brought the wounded and sick; they were taken to the best hospitals and placed under the care of specialists. Many soldiers arrived in worn-out uniforms and without linen. At the camp they were supplied with everything needed.

The ex-war prisoners receive good food, their daily rations being on a par with the norm for officers and men of the Red Army in action. Cultural activities are also offered in the camps. Soviet, American and British films are shown daily in the clubs, and there are concerts by Odessa's leading artists.

The people of Odessa gave the ex-prisoners a warm send-off. With bands playing their native songs, the columns of officers and men marched to the port.

The American, British and French officers and men warmly thanked the Command for their hospitality. Individuals and groups of the ex-war prisoners

wrote letters to the Army groups which liberated them. In a letter to Marshal of the Soviet Union Rokossovsky, Captain Robert Tier wrote:

"On behalf of the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of our train, I want to express to Your Excellency and your Army our heartfelt gratitude for our liberation from the Hitlerite yoke. The Red Army has made us free men. After a long journey through your vast country and several weeks in camp, we are leaving for our country in order to serve it again, and together with you to struggle for the destruction of our common foe, fascism."

* * *

A third transport later left Odessa with officers and men of the Allied countries liberated from fascist captivity during the Red Army offensive and now being repatriated.

In this connection, the representative of the American Military Mission, Major Hall; Lieutenant Colonel Otten and Major Croft of the British Military Mission, and Corvette Captain Mazoyere of the French Mission, made the following statement to a TASS correspondent:

"The health of our officers and men was seriously impaired as a result of their stay in German captivity. The hunger, insanitary housing conditions and exhausting labor in the Nazi camps had their consequences.

"The gallant troops of the Allied Red Army which invaded Germany freed from fascist captivity considerable numbers of officers and men of the Allied Armies. The Soviet officers sur-

rounded them with great attention and care. In Odessa the Red Army Command and local organs did everything possible to create good conditions for the ex-prisoners. Despite the difficulty in accommodating such a large contingent in a city which had also suffered from the fascist invaders, the repatriation representatives of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, jointly with the Command of the Odessa Military Area and local organs, coped perfectly with their task. They took into consideration everything necessary for the inhabitants of the camps, down to movie shows and concerts.

"Our officers and men appreciate this solicitude. They speak with profound gratitude of the gallant Soviet troops who freed them from Hitlerite captivity, and of the considerate and polite attitude displayed toward them in the Odessa transit camp. Our officers and men return home with the firm desire to rejoin the Army ranks and take an active part in the conclusive phase of the struggle of the United Nations against Hitlerite Germany.

"Leaving the shores of the hospitable Soviet Union, the American, British and French officers and men have requested us to convey their gratitude to the Red Army Command, the Odessa public, and to all Soviet people for the generous reception and solicitude."

To this statement the representative of the French Military Mission, Captain Mazoyere, added: "The officers and men of France, who for over four years have been wrested from their motherland, take a tremendous interest in the life of liberated France, in the rehabilitation of her economy ruined by the Hitlerites. They are ready to join the struggle waged for the removal of the vestiges of the Hitlerite occupation. The Soviet people serve as an example to them. The years spent in fascist captivity have not undermined the fighting spirit of these people. Their strongest desire is to join as soon as possible the forthcoming battles for the final victory of the freedom-loving nations over Nazi Germany."



A Soviet officer talks with French soldiers liberated by the Red Army from a German prison in East Prussia

Radiophoto

Millions Take Part in Cross-Country Ski Runs

Mass cross-country ski runs are held annually by the trade union sports societies in the USSR. Thousands of ski troopers trained by these groups have joined the fighting forces during the Patriotic War. Skiing is extremely popular with Soviet youth. In the Northern areas of the country, where winter lasts for many months, the youth of the large cities spend much of their leisure time skiing in the suburbs.

Considerable sums of money are spent annually by sports societies for training skiers. Large industrial enterprises have their own stadiums and ski stations, and provide the athletes with skis, costumes and free instructors.

The traditional cross-country ski runs begin simultaneously in all cities of the USSR, except in the Southern regions where the snow melts early. In Leningrad 30,000 men and women participated in the races on the first day of this year's two-week event.

At the same time, nearly 10,000 tex-

tile workers of the Ivanovo Region competed in similar events. The best time was registered by skiers of the Vychuga textile mills. The young athletes of these industrial enterprises began to train for the cross-country races a month before the event, as a result of which they won most of the races.

This year, cross-country runs were held by the Tractor plant sports society in Stalingrad, where two years ago shells were bursting and bitter hand-to-hand fighting was in progress. Hundreds of Stalingrad skiers participated. Among the contestants were young men and women who are helping to rebuild the heroic fortress city, and students in the restored institutes and colleges. Many fought in the battle for Stalingrad and wear medals and orders.

Numerous skiing meets and festivals preceded the annual cross-country runs this winter. Each of the leading groups trained a number of young skiers who took up this sport for the first time.



Radiophoto

Moscow skiers practicing in the Sokolniki Park of Culture and Rest

LUNCH HOUR AT X AIRCRAFT PLANT

By V. Magram

I arrived at the X aircraft plant, just outside Moscow, during the lunch hour. The workers were already pouring through the wide doors of the factory dining room and hurrying back to the shop. I looked at my watch. There was still a good half hour.

"Why are they rushing back?" I asked Maria Vazhenina, chairman of the cultural department of the factory committee, who was showing me around.

"Come into the shop and you'll see," she said.

We entered the assembly department. The workers were seated on benches or perched on stacks of propellers in one of the bays. On the platform a tall gray-bearded man was arranging some apparatus on a small table. Professor Vasili Korneyev, of Moscow State University, had come to deliver a popular talk on physics.

Professor Korneyev spoke of Newton's great discovery relating to the properties

of substances and gases, illustrating his talk with experiments. The audience listened intently. The Professor agreed to come back a few days later to answer questions.

The lunch break at this particular factory, as at most Soviet enterprises, is one hour. The workers take 20 to 25 minutes over their meal, and spend the rest of the time enjoying lectures, concerts and other entertainment arranged by the factory trade union organizations. They have just had a series of talks on "The History of Our Country," "Our American and British Allies," on world affairs and the situation on the battle fronts.

Writers and poets are frequent guests. Konstantin Simonov recently read excerpts from his latest work, *Days and Nights*, a narrative of the defense of Stalingrad. Soviet authors regard it as a great honor to be invited to read their new works before such audiences.

In spring and summer, agronomists give lunch-hour talks on vegetable growing and storage; the aircraft workers are keen victory gardeners. Often doctors from the factory polyclinic visit the shops to talk about personal hygiene, the struggle against epidemic diseases, and other public health questions. Leading sportsmen speak on athletics and give displays of gymnastics, wrestling and weight-lifting.

Once a week the factory librarians visit the shops, bringing the latest books and magazines. They often introduce a new author by reading a short story, essay or poem of the writer.

There is also the regular amateur art day, when members of the factory's 14 amateur art circles entertain their colleagues with half-hour lunch-time programs. The folksong and dance ensemble is especially popular, with Evdokia Lvova, a lathe operator, and Tatyana Lavreneva, a fitter, as the star soloists.

Notes from Front and Rear

When a Red Army hospital was set up in a castle in Kreuzburg, Germany, the place was found to be crowded with beautiful furniture from Soviet museum palaces, marked with the inventory numbers of Peter I's Palace near Leningrad. Exquisite and fine as golden lace, the furniture stood out in the gloomy castle. There were also a number of malachite vases by old Urals masters, a table of mosaic on polished stone, from the Kiev Museum, and other loot. A *Pravda* correspondent writes that Germany is a colossal thieves' den; peasant cottages, middle-class homes, palaces and factories are filled with goods stolen from all Europe.

★

Over 8,000 wall newspapers are issued in Moscow, with some 1,000 worker-correspondents contributing to them.

★

The fourteenth All-Union Chess Tournament is scheduled to be held in Moscow in May. Eighteen of the leading Soviet masters will participate, including Grand Master Botvinnik, champion of the USSR; Grand Master Smyslov, champion of Moscow, and Grand Masters Bondarevsky, Kotov, Levenfisch, Lilienthal and Flor. The championship tournament will be preceded by semi-finals of four groups of 16 players each, in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Baku.

★

Eighty restored food enterprises have opened in the liberated Lithuanian Soviet Republic, and 24 more are due to open in the near future.

★

An All-Ukraine Review of Amateur Art was held in Kiev in February, with a total of 1,500 performers of dance ensembles, choruses and folk orchestras. The participating artists were chosen at amateur art competitions held in various cities and districts. Over 200,000 persons, members of art circles formed after the Ukraine was liberated from the Germans, took part in these preliminary contests.

Posters and prints by Deni, Shmarinov, the Kukriniki trio, Goidze, Zbikov, and other Soviet artists have been issued in enormous quantities during the war. The Moscow Art Publishing House has issued 752 posters in 30,763,000 copies, and 88 prints in 3,099,000 copies.

★

Soviet victory gardeners are starting their fourth year's planting. In the first three war years, amateur gardeners harvested 10 million tons of vegetables, releasing 600,000 freight cars for other uses. Last year sixteen and one-half million people planted victory gardens totaling three and one-half million acres. Soviet trade unions sponsor the victory garden movement; 97 out of every 100 members of the railwaymen's union and 80 per cent of the members of the automobile and aircraft industries have their own gardens. This year victory gardens will be cultivated in Republics and regions recently liberated from the German invaders.

★

The Kazakhstan Conservatory of Music, first in the Republic, recently opened in the capital, Alma-Ata. One hundred and thirty students have registered for the first courses in violin, piano and singing.

★

In Soviet Moldavia, 227 collective farms, 48 machine and tractor stations, 50 State farms and 573 livestock farms have been rehabilitated since the Republic was liberated. The network of children's institutions is being expanded, and the number of children in nurseries and kindergartens in Kishinev, the capital, has increased severalfold. Five health centers for mothers and children and a polyclinic for schoolchildren will be opened shortly.

★

Courses in English have been opened in the village of Kontzeva, Odessa Region, for teachers, agronomists, doctors and others of the rural population.

The forty-fifth Red Army man to be twice awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union is Lieutenant Colonel Nelson Stepanyan, of the Naval Air Arm, an Armenian. A bronze bust of the hero will be set up in his native city, Erevan. Stepanyan, a former mechanic in a Baku oil refinery, was graduated from flying school in the early days of the war. He fought in the area of Zaporozhye, Poltava and Odessa, and later defended Leningrad. Flying over the Baltic Sea, he became the terror of German transports; in 10 months he made 135 attacks—a record figure for a naval pilot. At the end of the first year of war, Stepanyan had a score of 500 enemy trucks, 85 tanks and 250 anti-aircraft guns destroyed, and several hundred Hitlerites killed.

★

The All-Union Council of Trade Unions will shortly open a 300-bed sanatorium in Yalta for students of higher educational schools.

★

Traces of men who existed 100,000 years before the Great Ice Age of Europe were found near Novgorod-Seversky by a Russian archeological expedition, and evidence of another settlement of primitive men who lived not less than 25,000 years ago was also discovered.

Information Bulletin

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Kolberg Captured

Recent operations of Soviet troops on the northern flank of the front have been marked by a systematic annihilation of the surrounded German bastions on the Baltic Coast.

The Germans offered stiff resistance in the central part of the Pomeranian coast in the port city of Kolberg. But all efforts of the German garrison in Kolberg failed to prevent the Soviet break-through into the city. Troops of the First Byelorussian Front, including units of the First Polish Army, broke the resistance of the blocked garrison and captured the city and port of Kolberg.

Thus, practically the entire southern coast of the Baltic Sea—from the Pomeranian Bay to Danzig Bay—has been completely cleared of the enemy.

In the Stettin direction, Marshal Zhukov's troops continue their successful operations. In the past week Red Army troops entrenched themselves on the eastern coast of Stettin harbor, which was under Soviet artillery fire. The troops are at present fighting for the destruction of the last German bridgehead on the eastern bank of the Oder—in the Altdamm area.

The importance of the Germans' defense on the Baltic was that it strengthened their northern flank. After the Red Army broke through the German defense on the Vistula in January, the Hitlerite command hastily transferred its forces to Pomerania, striving to retain strong-points on the shore, and especially the largest naval bases, such as Gdynia, Danzig and Stettin, regardless of cost.

The German command believed that in holding these bases it would be able to put up a sustained resistance in East Prussia, in the Koenigsberg area and farther north, in the Baltic area. For this purpose it intended to use to the utmost all the remaining forces of the German surface fleet for the defense of the coast. But the maneuvers of the troops of the First, Sec-

ond and Third Byelorussian Fronts thwarted this plan.

The Red Army's offensive operations in East Prussia, western Poland and Pomerania not only resulted in the encirclement of large enemy groups, but also rendered useless the most important Baltic naval bases and ports.

With the development of the Soviet offensive against Koenigsberg, Gdynia, Danzig and Stettin, the German naval command was compelled to withdraw ships of the Baltic fleet from these bases. Swinemuende is the only large base still available to the Germans on the Baltic coast. Since Marshal Zhukov's troops reached Stettin harbor, however, even this base is threatened. At present the main forces of the German navy are based in remote Danish ports.

German sea communications along the entire Baltic coast are controlled by the Soviet Air Force, making it even more

difficult for the Germans to maintain sea communications with the groups surrounded in the Baltic area, in East Prussia and in the Danzig area.

The position of the German troops surrounded in the Baltic is obviously going from bad to worse. The German General Staff tries to convince the Hitlerite troops which have been pressed back against the sea that their situation is not hopeless, as they "have contact with the sea expanses."

"The sea factor," the German observers state, "contributes to the strength of German resistance in the Baltic."

Goebbels' agents asserted the same in the spring of 1944, when the Red Army began the annihilation of the German group in Sevastopol. German troops surrounded in the areas of the main Baltic bases will share the fate of the Hitlerites in the Crimea—they will be thrown into the sea.



Radiophoto

Red Army Tommy gunners under the command of Lieutenant Yegorov advance along the Baltic Coast

THE FIGHTING SOUTHWEST OF KOENIGSBERG

In all sectors southwest of Koenigsberg, the fighting does not let up for a moment. When dusk comes, the glare of fires lights up the sky. Soviet artillerymen and mortar gunners rake the German-held area right up to Frisches Haff Bay.

In one sector where the Germans resisted with especial stubbornness, enemy positions captured by Soviet troops presented an astounding picture. Trenches were plowed up, and everywhere were craters filled with half-buried German dead. Soviet artillery had been shelling this position for one hour.

Advancing Soviet units must overcome numerous obstacles. After the recent rains, fields are impassable and lowlands flooded with water. All roads have been washed

out and the advancing troops often have to haul their guns by sheer strength. The Germans converted one settlement into the usual strongly fortified resistance center, with a deep and wide ditch filled with water, then barbed-wire entanglements and minefields. In addition they opened floodgates and flooded the entire lowlands in front of them, where a huge lake formed. On this line the Germans hoped to check the offensive for a long time.

During the night one Soviet group turned the marsh and at dawn, under cover of fog, struck an overpowering blow from the rear. Simultaneously, other elements advancing from the front surged forward. The enemy garrison was attacked from various directions. The panic-

stricken Germans, unable to put up an organized resistance, dispersed, abandoning their arms. Our elements intercepted all roads and not a single German succeeded in escaping from the tight ring. Many of them were killed; others, seeing the hopelessness of their situation, surrendered.

Each day the situation of the German East Prussian group becomes worse. Until the last few days, the enemy was able to use the highway to swiftly send tanks and self-propelled guns to the most threatened sectors. Now our troops have captured a large part of the highway, after which our advancing forces cut another front road running along the coast of the Bay, thus finally disrupting the German defense system and hindering the enemy's maneuvering capacity.

Germans Work Under Soviet Supervision

A KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent reports:

When we first entered the German city of Schwerin, on the Wartha River, it was enveloped in flame and smoke. Grenades and mines left in the houses by the Germans were bursting with a hollow thunder. Built close together, the houses burned and caved in, blocking the streets with falling bricks.

Three weeks later we were again in Schwerin. We drove past burned houses, but the streets were swept clean, all unsafe places fenced off, and the bricks and stones neatly stacked.

The German men and women no longer shout "*Hitler kaput*"—they understand that no one believes their pretended dislike of fascism. The Germans realize that the Russians will not be fooled or softened, that Soviet citizens will not fall for flattery. The only thing for them to do is to report punctually for work and clean up the city, according to the Commandant's orders.

Now when one passes through any German town, one sees German men and women cleaning the streets with shovels and picks. Some push loaded wheelbarrows, others sort bricks. Of course they don't do all this because they like it, but on the orders of the Commandant.

We found the Commandant of Schwerin, Major Grabchak, in his spacious office. The Major was as familiar with this district as if he had worked here several years. The first few days after his arrival, he had inspected the town and its environs thoroughly. He was immediately overwhelmed with work. The German landlords in the district had abandoned everything, including several thousand head of cattle. It was necessary to take measures to preserve this most valuable state property.

The Commandant set to work. The roving cattle were collected, the Germans were assigned to look after them. At first there was a shortage of trusted people to supervise the Germans. But among the Ukrainian peasant girls driven into slavery by the Germans and now liberated by the Red Army were many excellent farm workers. Although the girls were eager to go home, they volunteered to stay temporarily, to be of use to their country here in Germany.

The Soviet girls do not slap the faces of the German women and do not call them names, but they are strict and exacting supervisors.

Every morning hundreds of Germans line up near the Commandant's office.

Their delegate enters the office and respectfully reports that yesterday's assignment of Herr Major has been fulfilled—the required number of people are gathered and lined up. Under the direction of our sergeants, groups of Germans set out to work: they clear the streets, repair the roads and drive piles for bridges.

In Landsberg, the Commandant's office took charge of the local factories. A considerable part of the equipment in the machine-building plant beyond the Wartha has been put in working order. Several dozen military trucks and many weapons have already been repaired here. The Commandant is taking every measure to get the German plants working for the Red Army as quickly as possible.

Of course, it would be wrong to believe that the Germans want nothing better than to please the Soviet Commandant. On the contrary, from the first day the Germans have been seeking loopholes to evade work and violate orders.

In Landsberg, despite a strict order two Germans did not report for work and hid in cellars, and another German did not surrender a radio set. A search of the apartments of these Germans revealed hidden arms, which were confiscated. The Commandant ordered all three arrested and court-martialed.

Meeting of Czechoslovak Guerrilla Detachment With Red Army Troops

By *Pravda* Correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov

The famous Czechoslovak guerrilla force named for Marshal Stalin has broken through the enemy lines and met the advancing Soviet troops.

This detachment was born several years ago. "To the mountains, brothers!" "Death to the fascists, freedom to the people!"—these appeals appeared on walls in towns and villages occupied by the Germans. In the heart of the Carpathian peaks gathered workers, students, soldiers and peasants—men and women—who raised the banner of sacred war against the Hitlerites. Eugen Novak, a worker, was elected commander.

But the guerrillas had no arms. A German garrison was billeted in a particular village. The guerrillas noiselessly infiltrated into the village, disposed of the sentries with daggers, and using the first few captured rifles, wiped out and disarmed the garrison. The guerrillas returned to the mountains with a caravan of pack-horses carrying arms, ammunition and food captured from the fascists.

The fame of the Stalin Detachment spread over all Czechoslovakia. The guerrillas blew up bridges and smashed German motor convoys and garrisons.

The Germans recently sent a large punitive expedition of SS troops against them, and surrounded the guerrilla camp. The patriots were running out of ammunition and provisions. A bitter frost set in.

Two messengers from the lowlands brought news that the Russians were near. The Stalin Detachment resolved to fight its way through the enemy ring to the front line. They launched a heroic assault upon the vastly superior enemy. Many guerrillas perished in the fighting. The Slovak scientist Francisek Klempa fought the Germans to his last round of ammunition.

Two guerrilla girls, Sofia Stanovic and Anna Kahniceva, fought alongside their fathers and brothers. Sofia was wounded and taken prisoner by the Germans, who subjected her to horrible torture to force her to give information about the guerrillas. She kept the guerrilla oath to the end. The fascists gouged out her eyes, cut off her breasts, and hanged her on a roadside tree while she was still living.

The guerrillas broke out of the encirclement and after a sweeping raid through the German rear reached the front line, where Soviet troops and elements of

the First Czechoslovak Corps were fighting the enemy.

On the outskirts of Kosice, Soviet tommy gunners broke into the dugout of a German headquarters. The Hitlerites had been preparing for a hasty flight; trunks of loot stood ready to be loaded onto a truck. But the German driver did not wait for his officers; he fled, abandoning the machine.

A German staff officer, riddled with bullets from a Soviet tommy gun, lay on the ground. A big key was in his hand. It was a heavy key of solid gold, engraved in exquisite design: the key to the town of Kosice. It was later restored to its lawful owners—the Czechoslovak authorities.

In Kosice I saw the commanders and men of the Stalin Guerrilla Detachment. They were led to the front line by their brave commander, the old worker Eugen Novak. Together with the regular troops, they are continuing the struggle for the complete liberation of Czechoslovakia.

Winter still reigns in the Carpathians. Defying heavy blizzards, the gallant Red Army troops and detachments of Czechoslovak patriots are closing in on Moravska-Ostrava.



IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA—German tanks in good condition, captured by troops of the Second Ukrainian Front



Soviet tankmen in Czechoslovakia pause during a march to prepare dinner

Radiophotos

SHORE BATTERIES OF THE SOVIET NAVY

By Navy Lieutenant Georgi Padalka

It was dawn of June 22, 1941. Dozens of fishing boats and barges loaded with men moved away from the right bank of the Danube, until it seemed the earth itself was encroaching upon the broad expanses of the river.

From a height on the opposite bank, Senior Lieutenant Spiridonov of the Soviet Navy watched the scene. In the faint light of dawn he could not at first make out the boats' "passengers."

As the craft reached midstream, Lieutenant Spiridonov realized what was happening. In a harsh voice he gave a command to his shore battery, "Fire!" A curtain of shell splashes arose in front of the boats; then shells began to explode among them. The first Nazi corpses floated downstream. From the right bank an enemy battery opened up on Spiridonov's ordnance. The Soviet gunners altered their range and accelerated their fire.

Thus the first Soviet seamen to open fire upon the enemy were the gunners of the Danube Flotilla, on the southern borders of the USSR. The shore batteries of the Black Sea, the Baltic and the Arctic responded no less bravely. At Sredni Peninsula, Captain Ponochevny's battery at once covered the entrance to Petsamo port, the enemy's largest naval base in the North. Ponochevny's guns came to be known as the right flank's battery, justifying the name and carrying on staunchly on the extreme right flank of the Soviet-German front.

The Germans made every effort to destroy or silence this battery emplaced on the bare granite of the shores of the grim Barents Sea. Dozens of planes bombed it; numerous Nazi batteries duelled constantly with the Soviet gunners. The rocks were pitted with shell holes, the granite crumbled under the blasts.

But Soviet sailors proved stronger than granite. They held out—and more, they sank 50 German ships. The Government conferred the Order of the Red Banner on the battery—and the event was celebrated by the gunners during a hard fight with a German convoy heading for Pet-

samo. Of the enemy's 19 ships, the Soviet sailors sank seven.

In speaking of the work of Soviet shore batteries, it must be remembered that not once throughout the war did the Germans attempt to seize Soviet naval bases from the sea, but always from the land side. This forced the artillerymen to turn their guns around, and during the war Soviet gunnery officers worked out new and unusual tactics for batteries originally designed to fight the enemy at sea.

The defense of Odessa, Sevastopol,

Hango, Leningrad, the Izhorsk base and other fortified maritime districts are brilliant examples of the success of Soviet naval gunners in meeting these changed conditions.

Modern warfare is based upon swift maneuver, and particularly on the rapid movement of troops along and behind the front. This could not but affect the activities of shore batteries. It might seem that movement of such batteries would be out of the question, since they were in most cases solidly emplaced in steel and concrete.

But Soviet sailors solved this problem. Guns were mounted on rails, or drawn by tractors. Stationary guns of light and medium caliber were also moved from sector to sector—such jobs being done by the gunners themselves, down to the minutest calculations and the preparation of temporary emplacements.

A battery division commanded by Major Marushenko distinguished itself in the defense of Sevastopol. These guns destroyed a tank and motorized column of Germans moving against the Black Sea citadel, and repelled dozens of enemy attacks upon Soviet positions.

The Navy's artillery railway brigade was formed in the harrowing days of the siege of Leningrad. Heavy naval guns were mounted on flatcars. With other batteries of the shore defenses, both ships' ordnance and field artillery, this brigade maintained a ring of fire about the city. The artillerymen helped to halt the enemy at the walls of the city, and also waged a courageous counter-battery struggle against the Germans when the latter murderously shelled the residential sections of the city.

Gunners of this brigade were recently commended by the Supreme Commander in-Chief of the Red Army, Marshal Joseph Stalin, for their superb operations during the capture of Memel (Klaipeda). The fact that these men had to simultaneously restore railway tracks destroyed by the retreating enemy and keep up their fire reveals something of the skill of Soviet gunners and their fighting spirit.



Radloff photo

Senior Lieutenant Yuri Kalganov, commander of an armored cutter squadron of the Danube Flotilla, wears two Orders of the Red Banner. Most of the officers of the Danube Flotilla are young graduates of Naval Training Schools. Their tiny ships perform miracles, penetrating deep behind the enemy lines, landing task forces, smashing crossings and attacking enemy shipping

Liberated Allied War Prisoners Sail for Home

A PRAVDA correspondent in Odessa describes his visit with American officers liberated by the Red Army from a German prisoner-of-war camp in Poland:

Captain Allan White remembered not only the day he was liberated from the fascist prison, but the hour and minute. "The happy event took place at 9:35 P.M., January 22, 1945," he said. The first thing he noticed, White remarked, was the Soviet heavy tanks. Recalling his stay in the German camp, he said the insolent arrogance of the Germans knew no bounds.

Another American officer, Captain William Ferrow, said, "I could never have imagined what the Germans did in Poland—and especially in the Soviet Union—if I had not seen with my own eyes the ruins of Warsaw and the many wrecked and burned Soviet towns. Now I not only understand; I feel real hatred for the Germans."

James Davis wears an American paratrooper's shoulder patch. With his slightly weather-beaten face, high forehead and fair hair, he reminds us of one of our Northern types, perhaps from Leningrad. Davis landed on the European Continent with the American Parachute Forces in Normandy. He was taken prisoner there and brought to Poland by the Germans.

"I have been impressed by the kind, cordial relations among the Russians, and the same attitude toward us—literally from our first acquaintance," Davis said. "We were liberated in a Polish village. The advance units went on without halting, pursuing the Germans. The Russians invited us to a party. Not knowing the language, we got along splendidly by gestures—and more important, became friends at once. Although the Russians have had many trials, they are full of vitality and vigor. They have traits in common with the Americans."

I spoke to Davis and his comrades just before they set out for the port to return home. They were happy, joking with each other. Someone began to sing a soldier's song. At the head of the column was a Red Army band. To the strains of a battle march the American officers filed down to the ships and sailed for home.



Soviet Captain V. Voronin talking with American officers liberated by the Red Army from German prisoner-of-war camps in Poland



James Davis, an American officer, with a Soviet interpreter at the sanatorium near Odessa where the former war prisoners were housed



Radiophotos

British ex-war prisoners in Odessa about to board ship for home

REPORT ON WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS

At a large meeting of the Moscow Trade Unions, V. Kuznetsov, Chairman of the All-Union Central Committee of Soviet Trade Unions, made a detailed report on the results of the work of the World Trade Union Conference recently concluded in London.

The audience, which gathered in the House of the Trade Unions, warmly greeted Chairman Kuznetsov and applauded his statement that the representatives of trade unions of various countries who met at the World Conference had asked him to convey fraternal greetings to the working people of Moscow and of the USSR, to Supreme Commander-in-Chief Marshal Stalin, and the glorious Red Army officers, men and strategists whose heroism and courage inspire the workers of the entire world to irreconcilable struggle against German fascism.

Kuznetsov stated that the World Trade Union Conference convoked by the Congress of British Trade Unions with the participation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations of the United States of America, and the All-Union Council of Soviet Trade Unions, was an important event in the life of workers of all democratic countries and of great significance for the world labor movement.

The conference, he said, discussed problems of the modern trade union movement and outlined paths for the solution of vital problems confronting the working class both during the war and in the postwar period. The World Trade Union Conference met at a most important time, when all efforts of the United Nations

are directed toward the achievement of final and complete victory over German fascism. It was in session at a time when the world followed with admiration the gigantic winter offensive of the Red Army toward the center of the fascist den—Berlin.

The participants of the conference spoke enthusiastically of the brilliant victories of the Red Army and of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal Stalin. In the person of the Soviet delegates, members of the conference ardently greeted the entire heroic Soviet people and its Armed Forces.

The conference, continued Kuznetsov, took place during the historic meeting of the leaders of the three great Powers, the USA, the USSR, and Great Britain, which put its imprint on the decisions of the World Trade Union Conference and played a great part in the organization and strengthening of international trade union unity.

Delegations from the trade unions of over 40 countries participated in the work of the World Trade Union Conference. The 204 delegates represented about 60,000,000 workers united in trade unions. There were 35 delegates from the Soviet Union, including eight women.

Peoples of various races, creeds and political convictions took part in the work of the conference. Trade unions which have traversed various historical paths of development and possess varied experience and traditions were represented there. Numerous trade union organizations of colonial countries were also repre-

sented at the conference, and their opinions considered in decisions determining the policy and work of the world trade union movement during the war and in the postwar period of organization of the peace.

Kuznetsov emphasized that the expectations of some circles that it would be impossible to achieve unity at the conference in the solution of problems were not justified. The delegates differed on certain points, but the important thing is that ways of eliminating these differences were found then and there.

Kuznetsov made a detailed report of the work of the conference. The World Trade Union Conference, he said, ardently welcomed the decisions of the Crimea Conference. It was decided to request the three Allied Governments to permit representatives of the trade union movement to attend the coming conference in San Francisco, giving them a consultative vote. Kuznetsov informed the meeting that the attitude of the Soviet Government to this request is favorable.

He further pointed out that one of the most important results of the work of the conference was the decision to organize a world trade union federation which will unite all trade union organizations accepting a platform of irreconcilable struggle against fascism and any aggression.

The Soviet delegates energetically supported the organization of a world trade union federation which would really lead the workers' movement and protect the vital interests of the working people of all countries. Despite certain differences during the discussion on this question, the resolution on the organization of a world trade union federation was passed unanimously.

In conclusion, Kuznetsov stressed the fact that all the proposals of the Soviet delegation—which reflected the wishes of the trade unions of the country and the trade union members of the Capital and which had been expressed before the delegation's departure—received full consideration in the decisions of the conference.

The World Trade Union Conference, Kuznetsov stated, demonstrated the strength, solidarity and organization of



Section of the Il-yushin (Stormovik) plane factory where the final assembling is done

Radiophoto

the working class of the democratic countries, and its desire for unity.

The most important result of the conference is that it laid the foundation for a new world trade union organization. At the conference there was an opportunity for the representatives of the working class of various countries to meet and exchange information, to discuss the experience of trade union work and struggle.

Members of the Soviet delegation accomplished considerable work in strengthening international ties, visited many plants in London, the Universities of London, Oxford and Cambridge, and factories in Manchester and Sheffield.

The decisions of the conference place a great responsibility on the working class of our country, on the Soviet trade unions. Kuznetsov said that the task of the trade unions at present is to raise labor productivity even more, to increase the output necessary for victory over the enemy, to improve the material conditions of the entire country. He expressed the confidence that Soviet workers, engineers, technicians and office employees will increase their labor efforts and bring nearer the defeat of Hitlerite Germany.

The meeting of the Moscow Trade Unions passed a resolution approving the

decisions of the World Trade Union Conference and the work of the Soviet delegation there. The meeting noted that the decisions of the conference concerning further mobilization of the forces of the working class to support the Allied war effort constitute a program of action for the world trade union movement; it ardently welcomed the decision to organize a world trade union federation.

The meeting urged all members of trade unions of the Capital to increase their production effort and to supply the front with even more arms and ammunition—to speed up the final victory over the enemy.

GERMANY'S WAR POTENTIAL MUST BE DESTROYED

By Colonel Alexander Baikov

The following article appeared in PRAVDA:

Germany's war potential must be destroyed to the end, fully and methodically. The Allies are resolved to profit by the lessons of the past, and Germany will once and forever be deprived of the opportunity to launch new sanguinary adventures.

In order to render Germany harmless, it is not sufficient to disarm her and destroy her General Staff. Her war potential must also be crushed. The entire German war equipment must be taken away or destroyed; the entire industry which the Germans could adapt for war production, as they have done in the past, must be liquidated or taken under control.

The history of German bandit imperialism is closely associated with the growth of the munitions concerns and heavy industry—this powerful base of German militarism. Backed by the swiftly growing war industry, German militarism started an armaments race in Europe and other continents. The heads of the huge monopolies rose to the forefront among those who wielded Germany's destinies. The concerns of Krupp, Stumm, Thyssen, Ludwig and Loewe were directly interested in the growth of Germany's army and naval armaments. The owners of these concerns became cham-

pions of German imperialist aggression.

German militarists succeeded in dragging out to the utmost the First World War, but they failed to win it. Though Germany had been preparing for that war for decades, she overestimated her own strength and underestimated that of her enemies.

The Versailles Treaty, however, left intact the enormous German industrial plants. For appearance's sake, the war industry switched to "civilian" production, but the backbone of the industry was never affected. This left every opportunity for mass production of armaments. Backed by the enormous productive capacity of industry and the wide influx of foreign credit, German imperialists once more launched preparations for a new world war.

The concentration of capital in Germany reached an unparalleled scale. By 1928, only 100 men formed the plutocratic upper crust of the rulers of Germany, while on the eve of the First World War, 1,300 magnates ruled Germany. Krupp, Siemens, the Steel Trust and the IG Farbenindustrie chemical concern installed in power the Hitlerites, those rabid imperialist gangsters.

An unconcealed military and industrial mobilization for a new world war began. The German imperialists discarded their

masks. This time the entire German industry was placed on a war footing long before the war began. Having occupied nearly all of Western Europe, the Hitlerites switched her industry to the production of armaments and other items, and at the same time carried away to Germany factory equipment and raw material stocks from the occupied countries.

By the time Hitler Germany attacked the Soviet Union, her war potential had sharply increased. Before launching the October offensive against Moscow, Hitler bragged: "Now there is no enemy on the continent whom I would not be able to crush with the available stock of war materials. At the pitch of the present battle we can even curtail production in Germany."

But the Soviet Union has surpassed Germany in strength. Under Marshal Stalin's leadership, the Soviet people and the Red Army have overwhelmed their enemy. The Red Army in the East and the Allied Forces in the West have carried the war into the den of the fascist beast. Germany has been caught in the vise between the two fronts.

Final victory is near. This time the German imperialists will not be able to maneuver out of defeat. The German war potential will be destroyed to the end.

Building a Three-Room House in 30 Hours

By Alexander Karpov and V. Korenkov

Prefabricated houses have come to stay in the USSR. Many have already been erected in Moscow, Stalingrad, Kiev, Smolensk and other Soviet cities. We recently inspected a "Pavlov house"—named for its designer, V. J. Pavlov—erected in October, 1944, in Podlipki, an industrial area near Moscow.

It is a one-story house designed for one family. Exactly 30 hours after the first sod had been lifted for the foundations, the water and electricity were turned on. The job was done by 40 workmen, including 12 carpenters, two bricklayers, two electricians, two plumbers and three painters. The rest were unskilled laborers.

The Pavlov house will accommodate a family of four or five, and Soviet housewives are delighted with it. It is comfortable and cheap. The total cost, including materials and labor, does not exceed 27,000 rubles. The monthly rent, which covers the cost of light and water, is fixed at 10 per cent of the householder's earnings.

The house stands in its own garden. It has three rooms, with a total floor space of 538 square feet, a kitchen (75 square feet), a pantry (22 square feet), a bathroom (59 square feet), and a porch. There are front and side entrances. To the right of the porch is a large living room, to the left a room suitable for a study or bedroom, opening onto a covered veranda which, during the summer

months, is equivalent to another large room. At the rear is a large bedroom, with kitchen and bathroom adjoining.

The kitchen is planned to allow plenty of room for cooking, and the kitchen fire heats water for the bath and general household purposes. Warmth is provided by Dutch stoves, which are universally used in detached Russian houses. The inside walls are a pleasant pastel-colored plaster. Floors, doors, window frames and external walls are painted. The roof is covered with artificial slates made of asbestos cement.

Apart from the 11,200 bricks used for the foundations (the Russian climate calls for solid foundations), and the Dutch stove, all components of the Pavlov house are prefabricated. The outside walls consist of prefabricated wooden frames filled with a mixture of sawdust and lime as heat insulation. The internal partitions, ceilings and floors are also made of prefabricated frames. All other parts and fittings are factory-made. They are delivered at the site ready to be assembled with the aid of a mobile crane and a few gangplanks.

The main material is wood. The job takes 742 cubic feet of timber, 1,500 square feet of artificial slates, 258 square feet of glass and about 2 hundredweight of nails. The building covers an area of 969 square feet, and has a total capacity of 11,225 cubic feet.

The prefabricated parts are light and easily handled, designed for fast working on the site. Before the actual work of erection begins, the materials and components are distributed in logical order, to reduce handling and carrying to a minimum.

The use of timber for prefabricated parts has speeded up rehousing programs. This material is light, easily worked and transported. Semi-skilled and unskilled labor can handle it satisfactorily. These are important considerations in the war-stricken areas of the USSR.

Pavlov houses are going up by the hundreds in the former war zones. Over 700 have already risen on the blood-drenched ruins of the workers settlement at the Krasny Oktyabr plant in Stalingrad. The People's Commissariat of the Aircraft Industry has adopted the Pavlov house for its big rebuilding plan in the city proper. Parts were prefabricated in the Urals, and trained teams of builders and supervising engineers also came from there. Some 20 factories producing standard parts for Pavlov houses have been opened recently, and more are being built.

The entire operation of building the specimen Pavlov house in Moscow has been made into a film, copies of which have been sent to housing committees throughout the USSR.

SEVASTOPOL RECONSTRUCTION

On the day of its liberation, Sevastopol had only 2,000 inhabitants. Only 157 of its 10,000 buildings remained standing. The Germans dropped 125,000 bombs on the beautiful Black Sea city during their assault in June, 1942. After they seized Sevastopol they blew up more than 400 historic monuments in the city and suburbs, and nearly all buildings which had escaped the bombardment.

But Sevastopol lives. Its people are returning; many buildings have been restored and demolished city blocks are assuming their former outlines. A number of factories and the naval yards are

in operation. The first schools are holding classes and a cinema theater has been opened in the basement of a wrecked building.

After the siege of Sevastopol in the last century, 25 years were required to rebuild it. The Sevastopol of today will be restored within a few years. In 1945, 15,000 square meters of living floor space will be rebuilt, 57 kilometers of power transmission lines restored, and work will commence on the construction of water works. Half a million rubles have been allotted for construction of roads and bridges.

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Significance of Recent Red Army Victories

PRAVDA wrote editorially, March 21:

The thunder of our powerful guns on the Soviet-German front does not abate. Fulfilling its great historic mission, the Red Army continues to batter the Hitlerites ruthlessly, to strike overwhelming blows at the enemy and to win new victories.

Yesterday the motherland again marked two outstanding victories. The troops of the Third Byelorussian Front captured the town of Braunsberg, a strong enemy center of resistance in East Prussia. In hard-fought engagements, the troops of the First Byelorussian Front captured the city of Altdamm at the mouth of the Oder and crushed the enemy bridgehead on the right bank of the river.

Both of these victories are extremely significant. In the course of the winter offensive the Red Army encircled the large enemy group in East Prussia. All attempts of the Hitlerites to break through to the west proved futile. Tightening the ring of encirclement, attacking the enemy from the east, south and west, our Armies pressed the Germans to the coast of the Baltic Sea.

Several days ago, Marshal Vasilievsky's troops split the remnants of the surrounded German forces and are now annihilating them. Although the Hitlerites resist furiously, their situation is absolutely hopeless. The Red Army holds almost all of East Prussia, having captured 80 towns and about 6,000 other inhabited localities on its territory. The Hitlerites hold only a small bit of land along Frisches Haff Bay, which is completely raked by our artillery. The fate of the surrounded troops is sealed; they cannot escape utter defeat.

The capture of Altdamm ended the battle in eastern Pomerania. This province played a most important part in Germany's economy. It supplied the coun-



Marshal Alexander M. Vasilievsky, Commander of the Third Byelorussian Front

try with grain, meat, sugar, fish, and various agricultural raw materials. Many war plants had been evacuated to eastern Pomerania from western Germany. German naval and merchant ships had used as bases the ports of Pomerania in the central part of the Baltic Coast. It is not surprising that the Germans defended this province with everything they had.

The German resistance in the Altdamm area was especially stiff not only because this city covers the eastern approaches to Germany's largest Baltic port, Stettin; the Germans strove desperately to retain at least this small bridgehead on the right bank of the Oder. As usual, the enemy's plans were thwarted. Now the eastern bank of the Oder has been cleared of the enemy for a stretch of several hundred kilometers, while in the area of the upper Oder, Marshal Konev's troops have forced the river, driving deeply into the territory on its opposite bank.

This is a great defeat for the Germans. The Oder, which intersects all Germany

from south to north, was a powerful water barrier protecting Berlin and other vital areas of Germany from the east. The front line is being pushed farther and farther to the west.

Saving European civilization from the German barbarians, helping the peoples of Europe to win freedom and national independence, the Red Army is ruthlessly beating the Hitlerites. Last year our Armies crossed the frontiers of Finland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Hungary. During the winter offensive, the Red Army threw the Germans out of Poland, liberated a considerable part of Czechoslovakia and the capital of Hungary.

Germany is between the hammer and the anvil. The Red Army is hammering her from the East, while the Allies are hitting her from the West. Hitlerite Germany will be crushed.

* * *

MARSHAL VASILIEVSKY'S HEADQUARTERS, March 22: The battle of annihilation of the enemy army in East Prussia is approaching its end. The "deepest" German rear on the coast of Frisches Haff Bay is only three miles from the forward line. The fighting has reached a climax of fury. The garrisons in the German strong-points which refused to surrender are exterminated to the last man by Russian Guardsmen.

Clear weather allows the Russian Air Force to blast the remnants of the German divisions pressed to the sea. The roads inside the "kettle" are jammed with trucks and carts. Remnants of routed German divisions and regiments are massed on a strip of land amounting to several dozen square miles.

Many German divisions have lost all their equipment. The Greater Germany tank division has lost almost all its tanks and assault guns. The Herman Goering

division hasn't a single tank left. Four German assault gun brigades lost all their equipment and were disbanded and merged with infantry units.

The battle area is strewn with so many dead Germans that the Soviet road repair teams have to clear enemy bodies from the streets of strongpoints to make way for Russian truck columns.

A major air battle with a large group of German fighters raged yesterday over this "kettle." The Luftwaffe suffered utter defeat, and the Russian fliers continue to sow death and destruction in the enemy ranks. Some German units surrendered in a body, emerging from the forests with flags of truce.

"A kitchen wagon arrived yesterday with dinner for a neighboring company," testified German Corporal Karl Waschlawski, taken prisoner. "The cook did not find the company, because it had surrendered to the Russians. Then he left the food for our company. Our non-com, Trages, told us that there was only one way out of the East Prussian hell: to surrender—which we did."

According to the prisoners, the number of desertions in the "kettle" has increased. SA officers are shooting on the spot German soldiers dressed in women's clothes.

MARSHAL ZHUKOV'S HEADQUARTERS, March 22:—German industries in Russian-captured territory are working for the Red Army. The population of towns in Brandenburg Province are gradually recovering from their initial shock. Upon the orders of the Soviet Command, streets and squares are being cleared of debris and neatly swept. Bakeries and barber shops have opened; factories have resumed work and their products are going to the Russian front.

There is not a single cloud in the sky; all day long Soviet squadrons fly westward. Allied bombers, swerving sharply over the Berlin-Poznan highway, are also flying toward Berlin. The Berlin highway is now in the hands of the merry Soviet girl traffic regulators, who do their job efficiently. Soft Russian speech is heard on the highway and brief Russian signs are seen everywhere. Most noticeable are the pine-board arrows pointing to the west: *Berlin Ahead*.

The area of the highway presents a very revealing picture. The Red Army thrust was so swift the Germans had no chance to blow up the bridges; they abandoned a multitude of guns and entrenched tanks. On the hillocks the long barrels of large-caliber German anti-aircraft guns

point skyward. Hundreds of Opel and Mercedes cars, and thousands of cars and old-fashioned cabriolets stretch along the roadside. The panic-stricken Germans abandoned not only military equipment but operating factories, airdromes and hangars.

Landsberg was captured so skilfully and swiftly that the machine-building plant, power station and port were still working.

Russian tankman Lieutenant Andrei Melnik ran into a telephone station in the town of Duringshof and ordered the operator to connect him with Berlin. Frantic with fear, the German telephone operator began to clutch at the wires. The Lieutenant, who knew German, took the receiver from the girl and called Berlin. He ordered the Berlin telephone operator to deliver the following message to the commandant of the German capital. "Wait for us in Berlin. Arrange billets for Russian officers and men. Signed, Commander of Infantry Platoon, Lieutenant Melnik."

The highway stops short at the bank of the Oder. The river, swollen by the spring flood, rolls by. Soviet guns stand on the steep eastern bank. Alert men lie in trenches on the edge of the bank, waiting for the command.



Sergeant Major of the Guards Vasili Morozov, Senior Sergeant Sergei Belan, and Major Fedor Khimich—each of whom wear the Gold Star of a Hero of the Soviet Union



Radiophotos

ON THE BERLIN MOTOR HIGHWAY—A Soviet tank rolls ahead; (right) Red Army gunners cover the road

SOVIET ARMOR SUPERIOR TO GERMAN PANZERS

By Colonel Peter Kolomeitsev

The part played by tanks in the present campaign is well known. Tanks have tended to make operations exclusively mobile in character and wide in scope. Never before has armor been employed on such a tremendous scale as in this war. The German panzer divisions with which Hitler believed he would carry through his strategy of "blitzkrieg" have now lost their capacity for extensive offensive operations and have become ordinary weapons of defense. The Tiger deprived of its striking power is no longer a serious menace.

Nazi armored divisions were forced on the defensive as a result of crushing defeats at the hands of Soviet troops. German losses in tanks on all sectors of the Eastern front total approximately 100,000 machines. In nearly four years of war, Soviet shells have knocked out 2,500,000 tons of German armor. In this greatest of all struggles, the German armored forces sustained a crushing defeat.

German panzer divisions swept Western Europe, then turned eastward against the Soviet Union, encountering a resistance they had not met elsewhere. The Soviet Command clearly understood the menace presented by the German panzers and took adequate measures to cope with them. The mass of enemy tanks were dealt with by huge forces of artillery and other anti tank weapons.

But these tactics of wearing down the enemy armor would not have yielded decisive results had they not been supple-

mented by more active combat means. I refer to the measures adopted by the Red Army Supreme Command to outnumber the German army in tanks. This was not an easy matter, since the Germans already had a powerful tank force equipped with the most modern machines.

When the war broke out the Red Army tank forces had not yet been brought up to wartime level, and when suddenly attacked were inferior to the German army in numbers. A competition in tank production between our country and the Nazis began. Our object was to beat the Germans not only in tank output, but also to devise tactics superior to those employed by the enemy. In both cases the Red Army outmatched the Germans.

In respect to thickness of armor, fire power and mobility, Soviet tanks were superior to German armor at the outset of the conflict. Before the war, experts argued as to which of these three items should be given preference. The experiences of the war leave no doubt in the matter: light tanks have had to give way to the medium tank with its thick armor and long-barreled gun. The initiative belongs to the tank-builders of the Soviet Union.

The German General Staff blundered seriously in its estimation of Red Army tank forces. Prior to the war, Soviet tank units were mainly equipped with light tanks (types BT and T-26). But the production of medium and heavy tanks (the

T-34 and KV) had already started in peacetime. The Germans favored their T-3 (front armor 30 mm.) and T-4 (front armor 40 to 50 mm.), besides the light tank, the T-2.

The Soviet T-34 and KV at once displayed their advantages, being superior in armor and armament and just as mobile.

In the early phases of the war the Germans outmatched the Red Army in sheer numbers. But Soviet munition factories, overcoming the difficulties caused by the evacuation of industries, began a steady increase in the output of the T-34 and KV tanks. This forced the Nazis to re-equip their tank park and to begin making tanks with thicker armor and stronger fire power. As a result of these efforts the Tiger and Panther tanks appeared.

The Tiger has a front armor of 110 mm. and the Panther 85 mm.; the former is equipped with an 88-mm. and the latter with a 75-mm. long-barreled gun. The front armor of the latest German King Tiger is 200 mm. In one of his orders of the day Hitler wrote that tank superiority would from then on remain with the German army; that the part of the Russian tanks in future operations would count for nothing.

Vain hope! The Tigers were pitted against Soviet tanks, and the Nazis discovered that the Soviet tank armor was just as formidable, and the fire power and range of its guns superior.

Government Care for Families of Red Army Men

By Colonel Alexander Fedorov

The soldiers of the Red Army have daily proof that the Soviet Government does not neglect their families. This assurance is one of the principal sources of the high fighting morale of Red Army men.

The families of the rank and file and the non-commissioned officers of the Red Army and Navy receive monthly allowances. The families of junior, senior and higher commissioned officers receive allowances in accordance with their rank. The members of servicemen's families are exempted from paying taxes, deliveries of agricultural products and payments of rent; they receive postal and railway exemptions; they enjoy preference in the matter of housing accommodations, in food supplies and consumers' goods and in employment.

The Soviet Government pays particular attention to the children of Red Army men. They are not only excused from payment of tuition in the middle and higher institutions of learning, but also receive stipends and free school supplies. School-children are served hot luncheons and provided with shoes and clothing. Hundreds and thousands of children of front-line servicemen receive free board in special children's homes. The State maintains playgrounds, infants' homes, children's camps and sanatoriums, forestry schools and trade schools.

The concern for the families of the country's defenders is not limited to the foregoing State allowances, aid and exemptions. Special features of the nationwide assistance rendered to the Red Army are material security and improved living conditions for the men's families. The Government has opened special Republic and local departments for providing servicemen's families with proper living conditions and State aid. This again is evidence that the Government considers this a matter of prime importance. These special departments have accomplished tremendous work in rendering all-round assistance to the families of men in action.

In Azerbaijan, for example, over 430,000,000 rubles were disbursed in State aid to servicemen's families during the war. The network of kindergartens, nurseries

and children's homes has been considerably extended.

Sixty-nine thousand children of soldiers and officers of the Georgian SSR are in children's institutions. Attached to the children's homes are 79 workshops where the children are taught trades. Some 27,000 children spent their summer vacations in the finest health resorts. Fourteen thousand, eight hundred and eighty-eight families received shoes and clothing; 2,000 families were installed in new dwellings, and the apartments of 5,000 families were renovated. In nine months, 18,500 mothers, wives and sisters of the country's defenders were taught new trades and are now first-class producers.

In Moscow alone, about 113,000,000 rubles were paid out in aid and pensions to the families of the front-line fighters from February, 1943, to September, 1944. Twenty-seven million rubles were disbursed in the form of grants; and in 1944, 12,400 members of servicemen's families were registered at dining rooms where they receive two extra meals a day. Families also received 495,000 pairs of shoes and 313,000 outfits of clothing, and 122,000 families were provided with vegetable plots, seed and implements. More than 100,000 Moscow children spent their summer vacations in children's health resorts and camps.

Aid Nationwide

Such facts and figures can be cited about any Soviet Republic or region, about every city and district.

Special State aid is granted to servicemen's families liberated from German domination. For the purpose of maintaining, teaching and rearing children of Red Army men, in districts cleared of the enemy, nine Suvorov military schools, 23 trade schools, 118 children's homes and 26 infant homes were opened in a short time; 36,750 children are being accommodated in these institutions. Families are granted loans for restoration or major repairs of their homes. In Byelorussia, 28,968 homes for the families of front-liners and guerrillas were built. More than

23,000 families live in newly renovated apartments. Individual building is being done on a large scale. Over 32,000 servicemen's families are building three to four-room houses, for which they have been supplied with 585,000 cubic meters of building timber. In December, 1944, only, 360 soldiers' families received new apartments in Lvov. Local Soviets have delivered to the families of front-liners over 500 tons of fuel and 100 tons of vegetables.

Combined with the colossal State aid is the nation-wide care rendered to servicemen's families. Millions of Soviet patriots, local administrative organs, trade unions and other organizations, enterprises, institutions and collective farms find ways and means of helping these families from their own resources. Thus in the Leningrad Region, 76,000 people took part in "All-out Sundays" for help to Red Army men's families. On these Sundays, 4,457 servicemen's homes and apartments were repaired and 19,000 cubic meters of firewood prepared. In one day the Front-Line Family Aid Fund received 53 tons of grain, 313 tons of potatoes and vegetables, and 350,000 rubles in cash.

Youth is tireless in its aid to the families of the country's defenders. Here are a few of the thousands of examples: In a factory in Kuntsevo, Moscow Region, young workers made children's tables and chairs outside their working hours. In the Kuntsevsky knitting mills the workers produced 250 boys' suits. A textile factory made 1,000 children's blouses and 3,000 sets of children's underwear above its plan. The young weavers of Serpukhov made and handed over 40,000 meters of various fabrics to the front-liners' children's aid fund. The Yegorov weaver presented 80,000 meters of cotton goods and 1,000 knitted articles to the children.

These are only some instances of how Soviet people fulfil their patriotic duty toward the country's defenders. The people understand that the greater the aid extended to servicemen's families, the sooner will final victory be achieved. To this the valiant fighters respond with new brilliant advances.

A Home for Orphaned Children of Servicemen

The Central Children's House in Moscow was staging a play. A yellow curtain covered with autumn leaves parted to reveal a colorful little Russian cottage in a meadow surrounded by a little fence, with small fir trees and huge red mushrooms growing nearby.

The play was about a frog and a mouse, who both wanted the little cottage for a home.

But the most interesting thing was not the play itself. The cast and the audience were made up of children who had been brought to the Moscow Children's Home from cities and villages liberated from the Germans. Almost all were orphans. They had been picked up by Red Army men or guerrillas from the ruins of their homes and from the streets of demolished cities. Some had been found near the dead bodies of their parents.

As the play progressed, the director of the Home and the nurses and instructors watched with warm satisfaction the gaiety and happiness of their charges. They had put great effort into the task of bringing these fear-stricken children back to normal childhood.

Tamara Mitrofanova, playing the part of the mouse, no longer remembered her frightened days of wandering in the forest near Smolensk. The others were similarly carefree.

Alik Zakharov, another one of the little actors, is the only child in the Home fortunate enough to have his mother with him. She was working in Minsk when the Germans invaded the city. Taking her two-year-old son, she escaped into the forest on foot. Enemy planes strafed the refugees with machine-gun fire.

After a long and tragic journey, Alik's mother finally reached Moscow, where she found that her relatives had been evacuated to the East. She brought her son to the Central Children's Home. The director asked her to stay on and help care for the other little ones.

Children remain at the home until the age of four, when they are transferred to homes for older youngsters, although as a rule they are adopted before that time by Soviet citizens eager to give them a family and to take the place of the parents they have lost.



HOLIDAY IN A MOSCOW KINDERGARTEN—(Above) Tanya and Natasha help to arrange a display of the children's work; (center) Galya and Lusya give an exhibition of "tight-rope" walking; (lower) The hoop-and-ball exercise

Moscow Exhibit of Prefabricated Housing From the United States

By Mikhail Dolgoplov

An exhibition of prefabricated housing from the United States opened in the Moscow Architects Club on March 15.

The display, organized by the USSR Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (VOKS) and the Union of Soviet Architects, aroused considerable interest among Moscow builders and architects. *

The entrance to the club was decorated with American and Soviet flags. Attending the opening ceremony were members of the diplomatic and military missions; leading architects, writers, theater and cinema workers, and Soviet and foreign newspapermen.

The exhibition features numerous photographs showing methods of manufacturing and erecting prefabricated dwellings in the United States.

Vladimir Kemenov, Chairman of VOKS, Karo Alabyan, Chairman of the Architecture Section of VOKS and Secretary of the Union of Soviet Architects, and Mr. W. Averell Harriman, United States Ambassador to the USSR, spoke at the opening.

Chairman Kemenov said, in part:

Mr. Ambassador of the United States of America, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The USSR Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries has conferred upon me the honor of opening this photographic exhibition of prefabricated housing from the United States.

This exhibition brings to our attention a form of cultural and technical achievement which will be of the greatest significance in developing postwar cooperation among our peoples. Prefabricated housing is destined to play a most important role in the reconstruction and rebuilding of towns and villages destroyed by the cyclone of the German invasion.

The display of prefabricated housing from the United States is of the greatest practical interest to Soviet architects and builders already engaged in their colossal task of reconstruction. At the same time this exhibition is, as it were, a symbol of our common determination "to maintain and strengthen in the peace to come that

unity of purpose and of action which has made victory possible and certain for the United Nations in this war." May we soon enjoy final victory over Hitlerism.

Academician Karo Alabyan made the following remarks:

The enormous destruction which the German invasion has brought to our cities, towns and villages confronts architects and builders with the responsible task of transforming ashes and ruins into factories, homes and public buildings. This tremendous task of reconstruction must be carried out quickly and economically, yet be of high quality.

Throughout the world, engineering and architectural thinking is concentrated on solving these problems and discovering new methods of bringing radical changes in the technique of large-scale building. It is only natural that Soviet architects and builders should be vitally interested in the work of their American colleagues, which has shown such excellent results. This exhibition, so kindly arranged by the Architects Committee of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, is an eloquent witness to these results.

Allow me, on behalf of the Architecture Section of VOKS and of the Union of Soviet Architects, to thank all organizations and individuals who have contributed to this important and valuable

exhibition. I am sure that it will lead to the further strengthening of cooperation between Soviet architects and builders and those of the United States, thereby aiding the great task of reconstructing the cities destroyed by our mutual enemy.

Ambassador Harriman responded with the following speech:

I wish first to express my thanks to Mr. Kemenov and the staff of VOKS for making this exhibition possible.

It has become a truism to say that the future peace of the world depends on the friendly relations between our two countries. Our friendship cannot be prefabricated. It will be built on the firmest of foundations, laid stone by stone, on mutual understanding and mutual aid in the solving of our problems.

This exhibition is a very small but tangible example of the form that exchange may take. All over the world there is no more acute problem for the immediate postwar period than that of housing. This is true to a great extent because of the devastation which was wrought. Anything which can contribute to the restoration of normal living for millions of people in this country who have been made homeless by the ruthless German invaders—anything which would assist them in obtaining homes even one day earlier—



Clearing the snow from Gorky Street, Moscow

Radiophoto

would be a truly worthwhile exchange between friends.

However, the restoration of areas ruined by the war, while most urgent, is only one of the reasons for the interest in prefabricated housing. America has suffered no physical devastation of its homes, yet the United States needs great numbers of prefabricated houses. The reason is industrial. New industries will be established. The plan to decentralize industry, interrupted by the war, will be resumed. New housing is as essential as new plants. The same is true in your country. It is obvious that your industrial growth will be facilitated by the use of prefabricated housing.

If you have read some of the literature on display with this exhibition, you might conclude that the postwar years will become the age of the turtle. This, of course, is not realistic. The primary contribution of prefabricated housing is to erect comfortable shelter more quickly and at low cost.

Parenthetically, perhaps I should explain that the corner of the building which you see erected in the exhibition room was not part of the exhibition sent from America, and it is not part of a prefabricated dwelling. It is the corner of a barracks. The dwellings are much more esthetically acceptable. But our Military Mission happened to have some prefabricated barracks, and I thought you might like to see how they are put together in this rather crude form.

I am especially pleased that what might be called our first postwar exhibit in Moscow should be on housing. The admiration which the Americans have acquired for the Red Army and the Soviet people during the war is sincere and deep, and will be lasting. In the years to come we will work together as friends of good will. That means we will assist each other to create a fuller life and a greater happiness for our peoples.

We know that the source of man's happiness, as of his strength, begins with the



Radiophoto

The trolley-bus line to Lenin Hills, on the outskirts of Moscow

home—literally, with the security of a roof over his head.

This exhibition is small, but it expresses a large sentiment. I hope that even those of you who are not architects or technically interested in the subject will view it in that light.

SOVIET BATTLE ARTISTS WORK AND FIGHT AT FRONT

By Vsevolod Shevtsov

All over the Eastern battlefields, in Stalingrad, in the Crimea, in Yugoslavia, Hungary and East Prussia, you will meet people with sketch books in their hands and knapsacks across their shoulders. They are war artists from the Moscow Grekov Studio, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year. This studio was named for the well-known Soviet painter of battle scenes, Mitrofan Grekov.

Fifty Soviet artists have been given the task of recording the war on the Soviet front in pictures. Their "studio" is the actual terrain where the battles were fought. Every one of them has actually fought in the ranks, as an infantryman, tankman or Tommy gunner. Some of the artists were in guerrilla units. They all have a good knowledge of the technique of war and of the people who are fighting in it.

Many of the artists have been decorated. Nikolai Obrynba accounted for 37 Germans with his Tommy gun while fighting

with the guerrillas. During his three and one-half years in a guerrilla unit he painted ten pictures recording the life of his friends, the People's Avengers.

Nikolai Zhukov, Stalin Prize Winner, directs the studio. He too tours the front, making drawings and collecting material for large canvases. He was the designer of a famous poster, "Lebensraum," which showed crows hovering over endless snow-covered fields dotted with crosses crowned with German helmets. Zhukov returned from the front not long ago, after marching with the men of the Byelorussian Front all the way to the banks of the Niemen.

Sometimes the war artists travel singly, sometimes in groups. They go by car, taking with them everything necessary for their work: paints, brushes, easels, sketch books, and even umbrellas.

Vasili Porkopinsky made a sketch of a machine-gun position 50 yards from the German positions. Another artist, Mark

Domashenko, who wears the Order of the Patriotic War, has a very interesting history. Formerly a journalist, at the beginning of the war he went to the front as a volunteer tankman. "I saw the whole war through a slit in a tank," he says.

During one of his trips to the Crimean front, Domashenko sat down to make sketches of the attack against the Nazi fortifications on Mount Sapun. A commander passing by, and not knowing who he was, exclaimed, "What on earth do you think you're doing? Get busy and do some fighting!" A few seconds later this commander was wounded, and Domashenko took command. After the battle he went back to his sketching.

The commander apologized later and thanked him for his initiative.

Konstantin Kitaiko, an artist of outstanding talent, participated in a cavalry raid behind the enemy lines, and recorded his experience on canvas.

OIROT—LAND OF MOUNTAINS

By Y. Medvedovsky
IZVESTIA Special Correspondent

Oirot, an Autonomous Region situated in the far Altai territory in South Siberia, is called the land of mountains. It lies amid craggy heights which reach an average altitude of two kilometers above sea level. The territory of the Region could easily accommodate Switzerland, Belgium and Albania together, but its tillable soil forms only 10 per cent of the total area. This is compensated for, however, by fine alpine pastures which create excellent conditions for livestock breeding.

Less than 30 years ago the native population of the Region—the Oirots and Altai people—were nomads who roamed the mountains from camp to camp with their cattle, carrying all their goods and chattels with them. They had no national culture or even a written language of their own.

Today no traces of this semi-savage existence remain. The nomads have settled down and formed into large collective farms. On the formerly desolate mountain plateaus now flourish rich cornfields which amply reward the farmer for his labor.

People Aid Front.

Oirot is one of the most remote corners of the Soviet land. It is nearly 4,500 kilometers from the western borders of the USSR, but the people nevertheless feel the breath of war. Skilled Oirot hunters and pathfinders have put down their hunting rifles and taken up the grim weapons of the Red Army. Instead of tracking the wild beasts of the taiga, they are fighting side by side with Russians, Ukrainians, Georgians and other peoples of our country to destroy the German beast. Those who have remained at home are working both for themselves and the men who have gone to the front.

In 1944 the number of collective farmers who overfulfilled their work-day quotas increased by 23 per cent as compared with the preceding year. Long baggage trains of grain, meat, wool and butter travel down from the mountain collective farms toward the railway which runs through the valley.

In Oirottura, capital of Oirot, I was

introduced to Kandyskhanov, chairman of the leading collective farm of the Region, who was attending a conference of agricultural workers. The Soviet Government had granted this collective farm many thousands of hectares of land in perpetuity. In answer to my question as to whether the farm is in a position to cultivate such a vast area, Kandyskhanov said briefly, "We have doubled the sown area."

The collective farm chairman did not exaggerate. Before the war the collective farm had sown from 520 to 560 hectares. Last year it reaped a harvest from 1,065 hectares. The richness of the soil is evident from the fact that after the collective farmers were all plentifully supplied with grain, the farm still sent over 200,000 pounds to the Red Army as a gift.

Many such examples could be cited. In the battle for a rich grain harvest, this mountain land has won a large-scale victory.

Oirot also has great achievements to its credit in the field of livestock breeding. Scores of collective farms have doubled and trebled their herds. Recently the local land department decided to inaugurate a roll of honor on which the best livestock breeders were to be listed. Their number reached 16,172. Included was a 63-year-old shepherd, Shandyk Shukanov, from the Sverly Put collective farm, who had spent more than half his life in the sheep pastures. Shukanov, who looks very young for his years, recently saw his third son off to the Red Army.

My attention was attracted by his shepherd's crook—a long stick carved with hieroglyphics from top to bottom. It appeared that the old man, who is illiterate, marked the increases in his flocks by notches carved on the stick. According to his own calculations, he has raised over 12,000 sheep.

Later I met another shepherd—Gesalov, who during the past year alone has reared 416 lambs from the offspring of 399 sheep.

A shepherd from the Mukhortarkhata collective farm told me of the achievements of his farm in wartime. It is suf-

ficient to quote the figures: In 1940 there were 12,000 sheep in the farm pastures—now there are 16,300.

"Come back in a year or two," said the shepherd. "When our people return from the Red Army, our farms will grow still more rapidly. We have already acquired the necessary experience."

Wild Orchard in Central Asia

An immense wild orchard, some 1,500,000 acres in extent, has been discovered by an expedition which recently returned from the Ferghana Valley in Central Asia. The main task of the group was to explore the Ferghana mountain chain between Tashkent and the Sinkiang border, with the object of exploiting the extremely productive forests.

Professor Lupinovich, one of the leaders of the expedition, reports that the wild orchard contains many varieties of apple, fig, walnut, almond, pistachio and prickly fruit. The fruits and nuts are not inferior in flavor to cultivated varieties, and many are even finer. Ferghana nuts contain 15 per cent more oil than Caucasian and French varieties, and the apples and figs are so sweet that jam can be made from them without the use of sugar.

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Annihilation of the German Oppeln Group

An IZVESTIA correspondent reported, March 23:

A few days ago, part of the troops of the First Ukrainian Front launched an offensive west and south of Oppeln. They struck out simultaneously from two points—from the area of Grottkau, and from the bridgehead beyond the Oder, north of Ratibor. The western bank of the Oder, almost from Oppeln to Kosel, had been held by the Germans; they put up a stubborn resistance and made several attempts to dislodge our troops who had consolidated their hold on the bridgehead between Kosel and Ratibor.

In the past few days the enemy launched violent counter-attacks with about six infantry regiments and 35 tanks. The offensive was supported by massed artillery fire. But all enemy attempts to improve his position failed.

The German efforts to hold the west bank of the Oder south of Oppeln and to eliminate the Soviet bridgehead north of Ratibor were perfectly natural. Deprived of the main highways and railways connecting Berlin through Breslau with Katowice, the Germans strove at any price to retain the roads running along the Sudeten Range to the industrial area of Moravska-Ostrava and linking up their forces in Czechoslovakia.

Our drive came as a complete surprise to the Germans, who figured that the Soviet Armies engaged in fighting in the Berlin direction and in annihilating the blockaded Breslau garrison would not be able to launch an offensive in a new sector.

The artillery preparation, skilfully organized by the Soviet Command, caused heavy losses to the Hitlerites. According to the testimony of prisoners, the German troops on the forward lines lost almost 60 per cent of their personnel under the Soviet artillery fire.

On the first day the Russians broke through two lines of trenches. The Germans resisted everywhere furiously, and especially in the area of Grottkau. Here the Hitlerites hastily drew up one tank division, one motorized division and two artillery brigades. Fierce engagements were fought for the inhabited localities lying on the Grottkau-Neisse highway. The tanks which poured into the breach fought against counter-attacking German tanks and self-propelled guns.

Evidence of the force and violence of the engagements is supplied by the fact that in one day alone our advancing troops crippled or burned out 46 enemy tanks and self-propelled guns, and killed over 4,000 Hitlerites.

The Soviet drive developed on difficult terrain in the foothills of the Sudeten Mountain Range. Nevertheless, in two days our forces covered over 20 kilometers and reached the approaches to Neisse. Here enemy resistance grew stiffer. Neisse is a junction of six railways and nine highways. By reaching this place, our Armies threatened to encircle a large enemy group.

Soviet infantry forced the Neisse River near the town and seized a bridgehead on its eastern bank. The infantry was followed by mobile units which crossed the river, and dividing into two groups, drove ahead to the southwest and southeast. Tanks and motorized infantry, advancing southeast, cut the Neisse-Oppeln railway and headed along the highway toward Neustadt.

The tanks broke into the city straight from the march and engaged the enemy in street fighting. Throughout the evening and night, the guns thundered in the city. By morning Neustadt was cleared of the enemy. The loss of Neustadt deprives the German group of two railways running from Kosel to Neustadt and Krappitz.

The Soviet Armies advancing from the north captured the town of Falkenberg



Radiofoto

IN LANDSBERG—Part of the tremendous amount of war materiel abandoned by the routed Germans

and a number of other inhabited localities. In the village of Lamsdorf our troops liberated 4,000 Soviet war prisoners.

An offensive from the bridgehead south of Oppeln, launched at the same time, developed with equal success. Having pierced the enemy defenses, Soviet infantry cooperating with the artillery advanced west, driving a wedge in the direction of Neustadt.

Our Air Force blasted the enemy troops. Soviet fliers had mastery of the air from the first day of the drive. They fought many air battles and shot down over 50 German aircraft. More than 30 other planes were destroyed on airdromes in the Neisse area.

The pincers around the Germans' Oppeln group closed, and the trapped enemy vainly sought a way out, launching numerous counter-attacks. Realizing the hopelessness of the situation, the Germans began to surrender in groups.

Other Hitlerites, however, showed in their continued resistance the desperation of doomed men. For example, when the settlement of Pulau was almost cleared of the enemy and only three thick-walled stone houses were still in German hands, the garrisons of these houses, which had been converted into powerful centers of resistance, put up furious resistance. A self-propelled gun and several field guns were sent against them. The houses were demolished to the very foundations by shells, but the Germans kept up heavy fire from the cellars. Then Soviet sappers tackled them; they blew up the cellars and all the Hitlerites were buried under the debris.

In some sectors the Germans tried the following method: A group of soldiers came out of the trenches with hands up and set out in our direction, while behind them were soldiers armed with tommy guns. On approaching our positions, the Hitlerites opened fire. But our men perceived this base enemy trick, and in the end the Germans paid for it with even greater casualties.

Continuing to tighten the ring, Soviet troops captured the powerful strongpoint and highway center of Friedland, as well as the large communication center and town of Zuelz.

Caught in a pocket, the Germans counter-attacked from within, trying to



Radiophoto

Germans who had been hiding in houses in Breslau surrender to Red Army men

fight their way through to the southwest. An infantry regiment with 20 tanks and self-propelled guns was flung into the counter-attack. But the Hitlerites failed. Acting from a small bridgehead south of Oppeln, our infantry captured several

more inhabited localities, including Praskau, a strong center of resistance. Then widening the bridgehead north of Ratibor, we seized the river port of Kosel.

The enemy made several more attempts to break out of the ring. East of Neustadt, the enemy counter-attacked from inside and outside the ring of encirclement. Suffering enormous losses, the Germans fell back. Over 3,000 bodies of German officers and men, and more than 30 tanks and self-propelled guns and 21 armored troop-carriers, remained on the battlefield.

Exploiting their success, our troops continued the annihilation of the surrounded enemy. On March 19 and 20, the territory of the kettle was reduced to no more than one-fourth of what it had been.

One Soviet unit headed for the town of Ober-Glogau. The Germans were dislodged from it by a vigorous thrust. On another flank our troops captured the town and river port of Krappitz. A large number of barges with various cargoes were seized in Krappitz and Kosel.

Within a few days the Armies of the First Ukrainian Front have completely annihilated the surrounded enemy groups taken about 15,000 German prisoners and captured rich booty.

SIGNAL CORPS HEROES DECORATED

The Soviet Government has conferred the title of Hero of the Soviet Union upon two officers of the Signal Corps who distinguished themselves recently.

Officer Alexander Roshchin stayed for eight days in 40-degree cold in a tank converted into a telephone exchange. On one occasion a wire was severed by a mortar bomb splinter. A Red Army man climbed out of the tank to repair the damage and was picked off by a German sniper. Another man climbed out and met the same fate.

Roshchin spotted the sniper and killed him with one shot. Then, under fire of German mortars, he repaired the torn wire. A half hour later the wire was again damaged and again Roshchin climbed out of the tank and despite a shower of splinters and a sniper's bullets, found the wire in the deep snow and connected the ends.

Under such difficult and hazardous

conditions, the Red Army officer maintained liaison for eight days, thus insuring the accomplishment of an important offensive operation.

The commander of a Signals Platoon Lieutenant Gurevich, was ordered to cross to an island where a Soviet regiment was fighting and establish liaison between the bank and the island. By the time Gurevich and his comrades reached the island by boat, under fierce enemy shelling, the Soviet regiment had already advanced far ahead. The signalmen once spotted a large group of German soldiers, Gurevich attacked. During the hand-to-hand combat which ended in the complete rout of the Germans, two signalmen strung a telephone line right up to the positions of the Soviet regiment. When liaison was interrupted by German tommy gunners, the signalmen wiped out the enemy and restored the line.

AN EXHIBIT OF MILITARY LITERATURE

An exhibit of Russian military literature was opened recently in the Central House of the Red Army in Moscow. On display are some 3,000 volumes, reflecting the heroic past and present of the Russian Army and Navy and the important contributions to military science made by Russian military authorities of various epochs.

Among the exhibits is the first book on Russian military regulations, *Training and Skill of Fighting Formations of Infantrymen*, published in 1647 at the request of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich by the Moscow Synodical Printing House. The title page and illustrations were ordered from abroad, and the edition was printed in 134 copies.

Next to this biographical rarity is a unique copy of Peter I's manuscript on "Military Rules and Regulations," dated 1720.

The Germans have long boasted of their military science, their authorities on the art of warfare, and their military theoreticians and practitioners. It is not commonly known that as far back as the 19th Century they had wide recourse to Russian military works. Among the numerous works of Russian military writers, historians and analysts translated into German are: *Field Service*, by A. Puzyrevsky, the German translation of which was published in Hanover in 1888; *General Military History of All Times and Peoples*, by N. Golitsin, published in German in Kassel, 1874-76; *History of the Patriotic War*, by N. Bogdanovich, published in Leipzig in 1863.

The exhibits include numerous editions of Marshal Stalin's works on the Patriotic War translated into 52 languages of the peoples of the USSR and of foreign countries. Works of other Soviet military authorities on display include *Unified Military Doctrine and the Red Army*, by M. V. Frunze; *Defense of the USSR*, by G. E. Voroshilov; *History of the Art of Warfare from Ancient Times to the Imperialist War of 1914-1918*, by E. Lazin, consisting of two parts and published in 1939-1940.

Most interesting among the pre-revolutionary material on the history of the development of Russian military art are

books by the well-known historians A. Bayev, N. Mikhevich and D. Maslovsky. The latter's *Notes on The History of Military Art in Russia*, published in 1891 in three volumes, is one of the major works in this field. It deals with the development of the Russian art of warfare at the end of the 17th and 18th Centuries.

Of particular interest are four books on military art by General N. I. Dragomorov, one of the most prominent military writers of the second half of the 19th Century. To him belongs the credit for the Russian Army's return to the traditions of the Suvorov military school.

Outstanding in the literature on strategy are a number of books published during the first half of the past century. A. V. Suvorov's famous collection of instructions, *The Science of Victory*, belongs to the classic literature on tactics. There are also several interesting books on the tactics of guerrilla warfare. Foremost among these is *Guerrilla Operations*, by the poet Denis Davidov, a famous partisan of the Patriotic War of 1812. His words "Russia has not yet risen to her full height, but woe to her enemies should she some day do so," are an epigraph of this section.

Of enormous theoretical and practical significance is V. I. Lenin's *Remarks on the Works of Clausewitz on War*. Lenin's writings on the question of strategy are contained in two collected works, *In Defense of the Socialist Motherland* and *War Correspondence*. Another work, expounding Stalin's strategic art, is the chapter "Strategy and Tactics," from the lectures of J. V. Stalin in *Foundations of Leninism* (Vol. XI, pp. 52-4).

There are a number of books devoted to the tactics of fortress warfare. Two were written by Caesar Cui of the Military Academy, a Professor of Fortifications and a well-known Russian composer. They are entitled *Attack and Defense of the Modern Fortress*, published in 1881, and *Experience of Rational Determination of the Size of Fortress Garrisons*, issued in 1899.

The general works on the history of Russian wars written in the 19th and at

the beginning of the 20th Centuries contain important factual material reflecting the experience of centuries in the building up of Russia's armed forces, and the military past of the Russian people. The epoch of Peter I is one of the most important stages in the history of Russian military affairs. This was the period when the permanent regular Russian Army and Russian Navy took final shape. All this is recorded in the works of Leyer, Lebedev, Panov and others.

Two display cases contain Suvorov literature devoted to one of the most brilliant pages in the history of Russian wars—Suvorov's Italo-Swedish campaign in 1799. Biographical and epistolary material testify to Suvorov's brilliance as an army leader, strategist and friend of the soldier. Outstanding among his biographies published in the 19th Century is a rare book, *The Life of Suvorov*, written by himself.

The History of the Russian General Staff, by Major General N. P. Glinovetsky, embraces the history of the General Staff in Russia from the time of the creation of the regular army by Peter I to 1825. A three-volume work by Marshal of the Soviet Union B. M. Shaposhnikov, *The Brains of the Army*, is of great interest; it records the activity of General Staffs in the period of the First World War, citing as an example the Austro-Hungarian General Staff.

Much factual material and literature are offered by sections devoted to the building up of the Red Army, the foreign military intervention, the Civil War in 1918-20, and the present great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union.

The final section consists of novels and other fiction on the war and the army, and contains all works of old Russian and contemporary Soviet writers on this subject, as well as military periodicals and rich Soviet biographical literature. A sign above this section reads: "The Berezovsky Printing House, which served the Russian Army for 30 years—from 1879 to 1910—published 3,050 titles. The military publications of the People's Commissariat of Defense of the USSR for the five-year period from 1936 to 1940 number 5,816 titles."

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 'VICTORY HARVEST'

Soviet farmers are energetically preparing for what they have come to call the "Victory Harvest."

In 1944 the sown area was increased by 24 million acres over that of 1943, and the gross yield of grain, potatoes and other vegetables, sugarbeet, cotton, flax, vegetable oils, etc., was increased. The State plan for the 1945 spring sowing was recently published. Under this plan the sown area is to be increased by about 20 million acres over that of 1944.

But more than this, the State enjoins Soviet farmers and all workers in agriculture to utilize the latest achievements of science and the experience of innovators to raise the crop yield in all cultures and to secure an increase in the gross harvest. An army of many million collective farmers—men and women—is now working on this task in all parts of the USSR.

In this connection, the agreement recently concluded between the masters of high potato yields—Anna Utkina, Anna Kartavaya, Tamara Krutova and Kapitolina Shorina—is highly significant. During the war, Anna Utkina, an ordinary Siberian farmwoman from the Krasny Perekop collective farm in the Kemerov Region, gathered a record potato harvest of about 53 tons per acre. She was awarded a Stalin Prize. Her friend Anna Kartavaya also gathered a record harvest. Krutova and Shorina are farmwomen from near Moscow, who grow potatoes on their collective farms.

The agreement signed by the four reads: "We are concluding this socialist competition agreement for securing high potato harvests in 1945. We undertake:

"A. Utkina—to surpass her own record on two hectares; and on 10 hectares to harvest an average of 600 centners of potatoes per hectare. T. Krutova—to harvest 700 centners per hectare from an area of two hectares. A. Kartavaya—from a record plot of two hectares to harvest 900 centners per hectare, and on an average area of 10 hectares to obtain 350 centners per hectare. K. Shorina—from an area of two hectares to obtain 600 centners of potatoes per hectare."

The conditions under which this vic-

tory harvest can be realized are stated in the concluding section of the agreement: "We consider that the following important conditions are absolutely necessary for the groups striving for high harvests:

"1) To plant sound, selected and sorted potatoes; 2) Vernalization of tubers; 3) All kinds of local manure, humus, ash, bird droppings, etc., to be placed in soil; 4) Proper organization of labor within the group."

The four women, who are group leaders on their respective farms, have indicated the way to obtain high potato yields not only for themselves but for the hundreds of thousands of others who are also anxious to obtain a victory harvest.

Now, when preparations for the spring sowing are in full swing in the Soviet Union, thousands of such socialist competition agreements are being signed. Their fulfillment begins immediately. Each signer is determined to prepare thoroughly for the spring sowing so that he can gather the highest possible harvest and win first place in the competition.

But to achieve this, one must have a good knowledge of agricultural technique, keep abreast of the latest achievements of science, study the practical experience of such people as Anna Utkina, and skilfully apply all this on one's own collective farm fields.

For this reason, in the Ukraine alone 300,000 farmers and agricultural workers have taken to study. Special courses taught by local experts have been organized. In addition, 50 one-year schools have been opened in the Republic, where 11,000 young farmers are acquiring special knowledge of vegetable growing, horticulture and other branches of agriculture.

The same mass study may also be observed in the Russian SFSR, Byelorussia, Georgia, Armenia, Uzbekistan and other Soviet Republics. Thousands of schools and special courses are now training tractor drivers and combine operators, and the pupils of these schools include many women. At the same time, mechanics and repair workers are putting the machines in good condition.

Hundreds of machine and tractor workshops are busy day and night, determined that all tractors shall be ready by the time they are needed. In Byelorussia the plan for tractor repairs has already been fulfilled and the workers are repairing 1,000 machines above the plan. Tractor repairs have also been completed in Armenia, in many regions of the Ukraine, in Kazakhstan, and other areas.

But it is not enough to repair tractors and train their drivers; it is necessary to bring fuel to the machine and tractor stations before the spring floods set in. An endless train of trucks and carts loaded with fuel now streams along the roads of the Ukraine, Byelorussia, the Russian SFSR, Turkmenia and Tataria. Special bases of the Central Oil Supply Administration are working day and night. The roads are also crowded with carts loaded with mineral and local fertilizer. In one month the farmers of Chuvashia collected and scattered on the fields more than a million cartloads of manure and scores of tons of ashes and bird droppings. Cows as well as horses are used for traction.

Retention of moisture in the soil is of major importance in the struggle for a large harvest in the southeastern districts which are most liable to droughts. Farmers of the Volga areas are extensively utilizing the system of snow retention. Collective farmers of the Saratov Region have carried out snow retention projects on an area of two and one-half million acres. To retain the spring waters on the fields of the Saratov Region, men and women farmers have placed more than a million shields on their farms, over a million sheaves and 70,000 cartloads of brush. These figures reveal the tremendous labor of thousands of people fighting for the victory harvest.

The Soviet farmers are now busy selecting, cleaning and sorting seeds. In the districts in the USSR are rapidly carrying out repairs of agricultural implements, plows, seeders, etc.; horses and bullocks are being fed up so that they will be strong for the field work. The entire country is preparing to sow the golden grains of the victory harvest in the tilled soil.

RUMANIA ON A NEW ROAD

By K. Demidov

From PRAVDA, March 22:

The Rumanian people have emerged from a grave political crisis which was fraught with disastrous consequences for the country. Organized forces were formed among the people which were able to prevent the group of adventurers from effecting a coup d'etat and plunging the country into civil war and internecine strife. The newly formed government headed by Petru Groza has the backing of the vast majority of the people, as is strikingly shown by the huge demonstrations in Bucharest and other Rumanian cities.

The defeat of the Germans and the Red Army's entry into Rumania made it possible for the people to break the fatal ties with the German-fascist invaders. The generosity of the Soviet Union, which is acknowledged by the nations of the world, saved the Rumanian people from disaster. The armistice terms open before the Rumanians a new path of development. They demand the resolute and complete elimination of all remnants and vestiges of the fascist regime, stern punishment for war criminals, and radical reforms.

The overwhelming majority of the Rumanian people hailed the armistice terms with approval. They appreciated the magnanimous and friendly attitude of the Soviet Union toward Rumania. Rumania witnessed an intense outburst of popular enthusiasm, because her withdrawal from the war against the Allies and her joining the war against piratical Germany meant the emancipation of the people from the fascist tyranny which has oppressed Rumania for so long.

The Rumanian people were ready to justify the trust of the Soviet Union, whose armed forces are continuing the war against Germany from Rumanian territory. Every honest Rumanian is alive to the responsibility which rests upon the rulers of a country which forms a part of the Red Army's rear. The security of its communications must be guaranteed by a firm democratic regime in the countries through which these communications pass.

The Rumanian government assumed

weighty obligations. It transpired, however, that General Radescu, head of that government, and his followers, had no intention of scrupulously carrying out those obligations. The armistice terms were not fulfilled, although over six months had elapsed since they were concluded, and although there were no obstacles to their fulfilment.

Radescu and his followers were in no hurry to eliminate the survivals of fascism in Rumania. On the contrary, they created a state of affairs in which many of Antonescu's followers, known to the whole country and hated by the people, felt themselves absolutely secure and continued their activities. The purge of fascist officials from the government machine was either not undertaken at all or turned into a criminal farce. The Rumanian people saw the same rogues in posts of power who had oppressed the people under Antonescu.

The demand for the trial and punishment of the men guilty of fighting a rapacious war on the side of Germany remained unheeded. Those who had dishonestly amassed wealth by robbing the people under Antonescu continued with impunity to amass wealth, to engage in swindling and profiteering under Radescu, and to aggravate the already grave economic crisis. The big landowners who were the faithful bulwark of Antonescu and Hitler Germany remained unmolested. The agrarian reform which had been promised the people was shelved. Property stolen from the USSR was concealed, not without the connivance of the authorities.

Radescu and his clique betrayed no inclination in their policy to rely on the people, on those new social forces which had begun to come to the fore after Rumania was liberated from the German-fascist invaders and their agents. On the contrary, Radescu sought for support in the old politically bankrupt groups, in the National Taranist and National Liberal Parties. The followers of Maniu and Bratianu laid claim to a monopoly of political power. They refused to cooperate honestly and sincerely with the genuine democratic elements.

Actually, Maniu's clique was opposed to any serious reforms and to the carrying out of the armistice terms. And no wonder, seeing that it was these "historical" parties which over a long series of years had led Rumania toward, and at length brought her into, a situation in which she was sold to Germany. Maniu paved the way for Antonescu's dictatorship. Rumania had become a fascist country even before she entered the war on Germany's side. When it became clear that the Germans had lost the war and that the days of Antonescu's government were numbered, Maniu and his ilk cherished the belief that their hour had come again and that they would be able to restore the regime of unrelieved reaction, corruption and tyranny which had paralyzed every spark of freedom in the country and completely delivered the people into the power of the profiteers and feudal landowners.

The democratic liberties were now exploited by the old National Taranist and National Liberal leaders to convert these parties into an asylum for all fascist elements, for the Iron Guard terrorists, old gendarmes and police, and the most reactionary and frankly pro-fascist generals of the Rumanian army. Just as before, these gentry in their policy betrayed an utter lack of a sense of reality.

We now know by the exposures made by the ex-members of the National Taranist Party that the calculations of Maniu and his clique were based on a belief that the Allies were bound to fall out among themselves; and that they had decided to muster their forces to effect a coup d'etat and to nullify the armistice terms, meanwhile concealing their intentions and waiting for the opportune moment which they thought would come when a conflict arose among the Allies over the Balkans.

The fools! They were feeding on illusions. They lacked both political insight and restraint. They were in too much of a hurry to reveal their sordid schemes. The Rumanian people learned with disgust of the relations of Maniu and the notorious bandit Vaida Voevod, one of the leading chieftains of the Iron Guard.

They were discussing a joint policy. Maniu, who had obstinately refused to cooperate with the genuine democratic elements, consented to an alliance with the sworn enemy of the Rumanian laboring people, the butcher of workers—Vaida Voevod. This was a direct betrayal of the new Rumania.

The fact is that a peaceful development for Rumania was not in the interest of the adventurers. They were aware that a real democracy, by eliminating the vestiges of fascism, would eliminate them, too, as old-time accomplices and protectors of fascism. The Rumanian people have not forgotten the speech made by Maniu in 1937, when he hailed Hitler and Mussolini and expressed his admiration of them, their policy and their piratical regimes.

Relying on the backing of the old leaders of the National Taranist and National Liberal Parties, General Radescu took the course of thwarting the armistice and levying open war on the people. This was inevitable on the part of a man who had decided to restore in Rumania the reactionary and tyrannical dictatorship. But this was a fatal course for him, inasmuch as the liberation of Rumania from the German-fascist yoke had also liberated the forces of the people, stimulating the reactionaries to endeavor to stem this natural and legitimate movement of the people. They unblushingly opposed the legalization of the trade unions. The workers united, despite the efforts of Radescu and his agents. At numerous meetings and at the Trade Union Congress, the workers demanded an honest and prompt fulfillment of the armistice terms, and radical reforms.

* * *

In vain did Radescu and the old pro-fascist officials endeavor to hinder the agrarian reform and to oppose the movement of the peasants. The peasants united and proceeded to confiscate the landed estates. They held new elections of local authorities and refused to consent to the notorious fascists retaining posts of power.

The progressive intelligentsia likewise united. University professors in Bucharest demanded that the Radescu government pursue an honest policy of democratizing the country. Besides the old venal pro-

fascist press, which had disguised itself in new colors, new newspapers appeared which told the people the truth.

And lastly, there was formed the National Democratic Front, embracing all democratic and progressive elements of Rumania. Its program is well known. It demands that the armistice terms be fulfilled and sincere and friendly relations maintained with the Soviet people. The National Democratic Front has the backing of an overwhelming majority of the people.

The Radescu government found itself isolated. It had forfeited the confidence of the people. The "historical" parties, too, had lost their former prestige. All the live elements began to desert them. The opposition in the National Taranist Party formed an Initiative Committee whose chief demand was the removal of Maniu and other reactionaries from leadership.

Radescu plotted a coup d'etat. The reactionary conspiracy assumed wide dimensions. It cannot be regarded as a chance coincidence that the gendarmes opened fire on the people simultaneously in a number of cities. Nor can the outbreak of reactionary terror directed against the democratic leaders be regarded as an accident. Radescu ousted from the army generals who were unwilling to become tools of the reactionary fascist conspiracy. A bloodbath for democracy was being prepared.

In Bucharest a peaceful demonstration was fired upon. This was the signal. Radescu threw off his mask. In his notorious speech of February 24, he used the language of a frank fascist and called upon the army to make short work of the democratic leaders. He tried to rouse the army against the people. He referred to the leaders of the National Democratic Front as "people without God or country," showered anti-Semitic abuse upon them, couched his speech in Nazi style and concluded with an order to the army in which he said, "We must rise up as one man and meet the danger face to face. The army and I will perform our duty to the end. You, too, must all stand ready at your posts."

The shooting down of peaceful citizens on the square in front of the Ministry was, as it were, an illustration of these

words. It was also a prelude to civil war. Radescu prepared a bloodbath and inevitable disaster for the Rumanian people. But he and Maniu overestimated their forces. Their sordid game was beaten from the outset. The entire Rumanian people rose up against the unscrupulous adventurers; the army refrained from backing them. Radescu got cold feet. He was as cowardly as he was mischievous. He fled from the Rumanian people, a total failure as the heir and successor of Antonescu.

Within a few days the crisis which had threatened Rumania with calamitous upheaval was resolved. It had revealed the weakness of the reactionaries. Only the blind, or those who find it profitable to pretend to be blind, can fail to see what happened. For the first time the people of Rumania, who for decades had been gagged by the foes of democracy, acquired a voice of their own. The people proved to be a real force. They advanced from their midst a new government, in which the representatives of diverse parties who are sincerely anxious to carry out the armistice terms and are interested in maintaining friendly relations with the Soviet people have come together for common action. The Petru Groza government comprises representatives of the democratic parties: the Agriculturists Union, the opposition within the National Taranist Party, the National Liberal Party, Communists, Socialists, non-party democrats, democrats in the army, and democrats among the clergy. This government is guaranteed the support of the people in carrying out resolute and radical reforms.

Rumania is again jubilant. Various public organizations are expressing their friendly sentiment toward the Soviet Government and the Red Army. Impressive demonstrations are being held in Bucharest and other cities, which indicate that the overwhelming majority of the people are in favor of the new government and the democratic regime.

Fascism has sustained one more moral and political defeat. This the Germans are unable to conceal. They waited with impatience for the end of the crisis in Rumania, hoping for victory for General Radescu. When it became clear that he had suffered ignominious bankruptcy,

the German information bureau declared, "The Rumanians [in other words, the followers of Maniu and Radescu] employed very skilful tactics. They acquiesced in all the Russians' demands, even before the Russians could make them. But as to the fulfillment of these demands, that was another matter. . . ."

The triumph of the Rumanian people is all the greater for the fact that the Soviet Government has entrusted the new government formed on the basis of the democratic program with introducing a Rumanian administration in Northern Transylvania.

As we know, the armistice agreement of September 12 abrogated the Viennese arbitration decisions. The gratitude of the Rumanian people was profound and sincere. The opportunity had come, given favorable conditions, to entrust the Rumanian administration with establishing a new order in Transylvania based on a policy of friendly and peaceful cooperation between the Rumanian and Hungarian populations.

Shortly after the Red Army had cleared Transylvania of German and Hungarian troops, a Rumanian administration began to function there. But it did not justify the confidence reposed in it. The terms of the armistice concluded in September, 1944, between the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States on the one hand, and by the Rumanian government on the other, were violated.

Under the protection of the former Rumanian administration, the Germans' underground agents again raised their heads. Acts of sabotage became rife, roads were damaged in the rear of the Soviet armies. Detachments made up of Iron Guards and all sorts of reactionary hooligans engineered massacres of Hungarians in Transylvania. The former Rumanian government encouraged the hooligans. The situation became intolerable. Disorders of this kind in the rear of the Red Army could not be allowed. The former Rumanian administration was removed and its affairs taken over by the Soviet military authorities.

The new Rumanian government has undertaken to maintain order in Transylvania. On March 8, Prime Minister Groza and Foreign Minister Tatarescu addressed a letter to J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the

Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, requesting their consent to the establishment of a Rumanian administration in Transylvania. Their consent was granted. In the message to Stalin, the Rumanian people express their deep gratitude and give assurance of their friendly sentiments.

The new government has every opportunity for working fruitfully for a thorough improvement in the economic, political and cultural life of the Rumanian people.

The events in Rumania are of profound political significance. The removal of the pro-fascist Radescu regime is in full harmony with the decisions of the Crimea Conference regarding the elimination of all vestiges of the fascist regime and the creation by the efforts of the people themselves of a democratic regime in the countries where the German fascists held sway. Events have shown that the people possess the strength and

the means to sweep from their path all who stand in the way of the regeneration of the country.

The Rumanian people are deeply hostile to supporters of fascism and to all who take these supporters under their wing. Those foreign newspapers who in their unwisdom or malice are striving to kindle a new conflagration in Rumania are doing a disservice to their own people. The Rumanians have suffered too heavily under the rule of the fascists to be tempted by the bait of clumsy fishers in troubled waters.

Rumania needs tranquility and the chance to work in peace to heal the wounds dealt it by fascism, and it is the duty of peace-loving nations to help her along the new road she has taken.

A firm and unshakable democratic order in Rumania, which is part of the Red Army's rear, is essential for the success of the fight against Hitler Germany, and it is essential in the interests of all freedom-loving nations.

SPRING IN HUNGARY WITHOUT THE GERMANS

By *Krasnaya Zvezda* Correspondent Hiren

Many changes have occurred since my first visit to Hungary. The front has moved hundreds of miles away and the towns look entirely different. In Bekerz a crowd of boys in the Hungarian school uniform are coming from classes.

Three days after our troops arrived the Russian Military Commandant asked the Mayor of Bekerz why the children were not in school. The mayor was surprised; he thought it too soon to resume studies. The commandant suggested that the schools be opened. The new government is taking steps to change the entire educational system. The reactionary chapters of books have been expurgated and new textbooks printed.

To understand Hungary, you need only ask three questions of any mayor of any town or village: how much land is in his district, how many people live on it, and how much belongs to the landlords.

The Mayor of Bekerz complained last autumn that he was the poorest landowner, with only 320 acres. Compared with others he mentioned, he did indeed seem poor. Landlord Karas had 7,500 acres;

Feld-Itel 15,000, and Keresz 8,000. In the district, 90 per cent of the cultivated area belonged to 10 landlords, and was worked by people in rags. Although Hungary is considered a country of highly developed poultry breeding, the peasants see no meat—only vegetable stew and pickled pepper.

The big tenant pays only one-fifth the rent paid by the peasant for an acre of land. Former legislators explain this by saying: the rich man has a lot of land, so he must be given a discount; the poor man has little, so a discount means nothing to him.

The Hungarians now talk of nothing but the agrarian reform planned by the new government. Hundreds of thousands of people are waiting for the land of which they have dreamed for centuries, to enable them to rise from pauperism and hunger. The agrarian reform will fundamentally change life in Hungary.

In the towns, all municipal employees have resumed work, stores have opened and all factories are functioning. The population display an increasing desire to assist the Red Army.

Notes from Front and Rear

Marshal Zhukov has sent the following telegram to a Volga collective farm, in acknowledgment of gifts to the men of the First Byelorussian Front: Dear Friends—Your gift of an airplane will be presented to the ablest and bravest flier, while the smoking tobacco you sent our men warmly remind them of those who work tirelessly on the labor front. You asked about our life—glorious is the road from the Volga to the Oder, traversed by the soldiers who are now storming the last citadel of fascist Germany. The enemy is resisting frantically, but he will be finished off. Forward to new labor exploits—victory is near! Let us do everything to hasten it!

★

On March 2, at the French Embassy in Moscow, Ilya Ehrenburg, famous Soviet writer and war correspondent, was invested as an Officer of the Legion of Honor, a distinction conferred upon him by the French Government.

★

The first volume of a history of Moscow has been completed by the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences. This volume embraces the period from the 10th Century, when the first settlers arrived, to the end of the 18th Century, when Moscow became the economic, political and cultural center of Russia. A second volume will be devoted to the 19th Century, and a third and fourth will cover the period from 1900 to the Patriotic War, while a fifth will be devoted to Moscow during the war.

★

Paintings by Rembrandt, Raphael and Titian, and the works of the famous Russian masters Aivazovsky, Serov and Vereschagin, are among the pictures recently returned from the East to Kiev, Odessa, Poltava and other Ukrainian cities. These treasures were evacuated before the German invasion. The museums now have their original collections, including old porcelain, carpets, and masterpieces of Ukrainian folk art, as well as paintings by the famous national poet and artist Taras Shevchenko.

More than 80,000 collective farmers are preparing the irrigation system of Uzbekistan for the spring sowing. An unusually long and severe winter in Central Asia has retarded the clearing of ice and silt from the irrigation canals.

★

Suvorov Military Schools will soon have new quarters of a special design. The schools, which train future officers from the sons of officers, guerrillas, war invalids and orphans whose parents were killed by the Germans, are now housed in the buildings of the former Russian Cadet Schools. The new project provides each Suvorov School with a 35-acre site, an open-air sports field, a drill ground, riding academy, stables, and tailor and shoe shops. The teachers will live in special houses on the campus. The central building will contain spacious, light classrooms, an assembly hall, a military museum, recreation halls, music and game rooms, a library, laboratories, workshops and study halls. Each Suvorov School will be equipped with a winter gymnasium large enough for tennis and basketball games, and an indoor swimming pool.

★

Production of mortars in the USSR has increased eightfold compared with the prewar period, and that of mortar shells sevenfold. The Soviet mortar industry is concentrating especially on the output of the famous Katyusha mortars, which have been the terror of the Germans since the early days of the war.

★

The Merchant Fleet and aviation forces of the Soviet Far North are concluding preparations for the coming navigation season. Defying Polar weather, the pilots fly over the boundless Russian North and along the Great Northern Sea Route, exploring the icefields and directing convoys. More than once Russian Arctic fliers on routine flights have reached the threshold of the North Pole, coming within less than 200 miles of it.

Sergeant Georgi Kokushadze, of the Georgian Republic, who was decorated by President Roosevelt with the United States Distinguished Service Medal, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant on March 22. In his three years at the front, Lieutenant Kokushadze has killed over 300 Hitlerites, captured 40 prisoners and destroyed 14 German blockhouses. He joined the Red Army as a volunteer in 1942, when the Germans were at the gates of the Caucasus; prior to that he had worked in the Baku oilfields. He later fought in the Ukraine, the Crimea and the Baltic, and is now in Germany, where he has already killed 50 Hitlerites.

★

On the Caspian, the spring fishing season has been launched, with fishermen reporting rich catches. The Caspian Merchant Fleet is also ready for navigation. A special flotilla is preparing the fairways in the Volga Estuary and clearing remnants of enemy minefields.

★

More than 2,500 citizens of the Uzbek Soviet Republic have been awarded orders and medals for outstanding services; 81 receiving the Order of Lenin, 382 the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, and the remainder the Badge of Honor and Labor Service Medals.

Information Bulletin

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The Soviet Soldier in Foreign Lands

PRAVDA wrote editorially, March 26:

"A great mission of liberation has fallen to your lot. Be worthy of this mission!" These stirring words were addressed by Marshal Stalin to the men of the Red Army and to the whole Soviet people in his unforgettable speech at the parade of the Red Army on November 7, 1941, in Red Square, Moscow.

Today the war is drawing to a close. The Red Army and the Armies of our Allies are driving forward to the victory over fascist Germany. The Red Army and the Soviet people have fulfilled their great liberating mission with honor.

The Red Army in its role as liberator has driven the German invader out of the bounds of the Soviet land and is freeing millions of Soviet people who were driven into German slavery. It has liberated the fraternal Polish people from the Germans. The victories of the Red Army have helped the peoples of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria in their struggle against Hitler Germany. The victories of the Red Army have aided our Allies to liberate France and Belgium, and to drive the Germans from Italy and Greece.

The Soviet people beyond the borders of their own country are liberating Europe and the entire world from the brown plague and the fascist nightmare. The Red Army is sweeping through Europe in triumph, and the freedom-loving peoples are greeting these men as the saviors of world civilization and culture.

The fraternal Slav peoples greet the Soviet people with profound love. A *Pravda* correspondent writes: "As our triumphant advance sweeps through Poland, we witness a continuous festival among the people—the joyous meeting with the Red Army on the part of the entire population. They look upon us as their saviors

Marshal Tolbukhin (right), Commander of the Third Ukrainian Front, with his Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Ivanov



Radiophoto

who have cleared Poland's cities and villages of the German scum. Moreover, their joy has never expressed itself with more force than it has here, in ancient Dubrowa, and in the industrial centers."

The fascists' propaganda was ready to go to any lengths and to perpetrate any lie, however monstrous, to inculcate fear and hatred of the Soviet Russian people. The noble might of the Red Army has dissipated these lies and prejudices in the countries drawn by their fascist rulers into the fatal adventure as Germany's satellites.

Pravda received the following dispatch from Hungary: "The most popular person in Budapest today is the Soviet soldier. Wherever he appears, he is surrounded by a crowd. Nor are they idle folk or sensation-lovers, but serious and at times gloomy people, who have seen much and have gone through much. They understand one thing, and this is most important: that if the Soviet soldier had not come to Budapest, their sufferings would still not be ended."

The Soviet people and the people of other countries are drawing nearer to each other. The groundwork has been laid for friendly rapprochement. Soviet artists and scientists are received in Bel-

grade and Sofia as welcome and valued guests. The friendly ties that have sprung up in the war, and that have been strengthened by the liberation of the peoples from the German yoke, will grow and flourish. The Soviet people are sending effective aid to the peoples who have been saved from fascism. Soviet architects and engineers are working on the restoration of cities and industrial enterprises wrecked by the Germans.

The peoples of Europe are coming into contact with the generosity and sincerity of the Soviet character. The peoples of Europe are becoming acquainted with those Soviet people who were brought up in the great school of socialist democracy. Marshal Stalin has pointed out that the peoples of the USSR respect the rights and independence of other countries and have always displayed a readiness to live in peace and friendship with their neighbors.

The peoples of Europe are making the acquaintance of the Soviet man, who has grown up and received his training in a state whose laws forbid the propagation of any national or racial discrimination, and regard such propaganda as a crime. The Soviet man in Europe is the bearer of the high principles of the Lenin-Stalin na-

tional policy of equality of peoples, of their cooperation and friendship.

This lays a great responsibility upon the Soviet man who finds himself beyond the borders of his own country. He must be worthy of the noble liberating mission which has fallen to his lot. He must be worthy of the highest and most honorable name—that of a citizen of the USSR!

The defeat of fascism means the defeat of those barbarous ways that the German invader brought with him into

all the countries he occupied. The high liberating mission of the Soviet people is reflected as well in the removal of these ulcers from the body of humanity.

The Soviet soldier in foreign lands remembers the words of Marshal Stalin: "Today when the Patriotic War is drawing to its victorious conclusion, the historic role of the Soviet people is revealed in its full greatness. It is universally acknowledged now that by their selfless struggle the Soviet people have saved the

civilization of Europe from the fascist vandals. That is the great service rendered by the Soviet people to the history of mankind."

Every Soviet soldier in foreign lands stands at an important and responsible post. The eyes of the whole world are upon him. The Soviet man in foreign lands can repeat with pride the words of the famous Russian poet and great Soviet patriot [V. Mayakovsky]: *Read and envy: I am a citizen of the Soviet Union.*

THE DRAGON'S TEETH

By Y. Makarenko

PRAVDA War Correspondent

A first glance at the yellow sandy hills and dark, distant woods does not reveal anything special about this landscape, so typical of Brandenburg Province. Nonetheless, it is all camouflage. The sandy hills, the pine wood, the plowed fields and the valleys are lined with steel and concrete—the Germans made them serve the purposes of war.

That hill in front of us is not really a hill at all, but a fort that goes deep down underground; while in the forest is a stronghold built for defense from all sides and carefully hidden in the shadows of the tall pines.

The gray landscape changes before your eyes. As you climb the hill, the panorama of the powerful line of defenses opens up before you. At first glance it is difficult to grasp the full extent of these

fortifications. A wide zigzag line of white concrete posts stretches across the slopes of hills, sweeps through woods and fields and disappears on the horizon. The posts are packed closely together in eight rows. Some are small, others are large and thick; still others are as high as a man and lean forward with pointed tops thrust out like a serpent's tongue. From this distance they look like the jaws of some gigantic monster which had opened to grab its prey and become permanently fixed. The Germans themselves call their anti-tank obstacles "dragon's teeth."

In front of the line of posts there is a deep ditch with vertical sides, and in front of this again is a mass of rusty barbed wire. The earth all around is scarred with trenches which intertwine in an intricate labyrinth. They stretch

up and down and across the hills, with branches to the left and right.

Green steel cupolas with gaping black loopholes look like turtles sitting on the tops of nameless mounds. These cupolas are all that is visible of the huge underground forts, the strong armored walls, which support these steel turtles. They are disposed in checkerboard fashion and stretch in a line as far as the horizon.

We are in the center line of the German permanent defenses, one of the "lines" that was supposed to check the advance of our troops. The "Dragon Line" was built over a number of years under the supervision of the best German engineers, and was one of the strongest in Europe. Hundreds of thousands of workers were employed on it. The defenses lay along the east bank of the



GERMAN PERMANENT FORTIFICATIONS ON THE APPROACHES TO BERLIN—Steel pillbox of a fort captured by the Red Army; (right) The surface section of another fort, reduced to twisted metal and rubble by a Soviet artillery barrage

Oder, with tunnels under the whole territory in a triangle between the Wartha and the Oder, and with outpost forts and blockhouses on the hills and in the forests. The steel body of this line covered the approaches to Berlin.

The whole of this huge complicated installation was mechanized. The underground casemates were filled with machines of all kinds; a narrow-gauge railway ran through the tunnels, while buried deep underground were water mains, the air pipes of the ventilation system, and electric power and telephone cables. Elevators brought the shells from the magazines to the forts.

We climbed to the top of one of the hills beside the highway. This was Fort No. 713. The hill was surrounded by barbed-wire entanglements and by trenches. Opening the heavy door with some difficulty, we entered the fort. The walls were several meters thick. The messrooms, kitchen, barrack rooms, telephone exchange, and flame-thrower and machine-gun positions were all built in niches in the walls.

A steel spiral staircase led us some 140 feet underground. Everything was in complete darkness until the electric lights flashed on—Soviet troops in a neighboring fort having started up the power plant. To the left and right were tunnels which reached a height of 18 to 20 feet; they were wide enough for an ordinary motor car to drive through.

The tunnels connected Fort 713 with neighboring forts. Rails were laid along them on which stood wagonettes and small electric cars.

At the sides were powder vaults, shell

stores, living rooms, and compressor and power stations. Normally the underground fortifications were supplied with electric current from Frankfurt-on-the-Oder, but in case of accident they made use of their own stations.

We then went up into the cupola of one of the steel turtles. Here we found machine guns mounted on a traversing mechanism: every machine gun was fitted with telescopic sights and the cupola had six loopholes, so that fire could be maintained in all directions. In addition, there were visor slits for observation. The walls of the cupola were about 25 mms. thick.

Our guides then showed us the central entrance to the tunnel—the key to the whole underground fortress. It was hidden in the cliff face of the wooded hill. The Germans had blown up the entrance, covering it with an avalanche of stones, but Soviet troops had cleared away the stones and exposed a round chamber, with rails laid on the floor. When we arrived, the tiny locomotives that our troops call "cuckoos," because of the peculiar noise they make as they puff along, had already got up steam.

We walked eight kilometers along the tunnel. For the first six kilometers it was lighted by electric light; after that we had to use electric torches. As in the forts, so in the walls of the tunnel there were spacious premises for power generators, barracks, storerooms, and powder magazines. Pipes leading from air compressors and ventilator pumps and a huge network of electric cables, hung from the ceiling. Lying about everywhere were shell boxes, cartridge cases, shells and German

armor-piercing "*Faustpatronen*." Everything bore evidence of the speed with which the Germans fled when they were caught unawares by the Soviet troops.

Quite unexpectedly we walked into a huge workshop where there were hundreds of machines. Alongside the machines lay manufactured aircraft components, rough castings and measuring instruments. Edward Kajewski, a Pole, who was acting as our guide, told us that this factory had been brought here from a place near Berlin. About 2,000 workers were engaged in the underground factory. This was apparently a typical "refugee factory" that had dug itself 140 feet into the ground to escape British and American aircraft. In fact, there was a whole city underground.

The farther we went through these underground fortifications, the greater was our respect for the might of the Red Army and the skill of its leaders. The Germans believed their eastern citadel invulnerable. Here they employed large forces and brought into action the most perfected means of defense.

General Katukov's tanks struck the enemy unexpectedly. They carried out a deep, enveloping movement, drove through the Dragon Line north of Meseritz and reached the rear of the German fortified line. Our infantry poured through the gap made by the tanks and drove the Germans out of their underground premises. The forts fell so quickly that German prisoners still don't realize what happened. Marshal Zhukov's troops have since left the notorious Dragon Line far behind and have reached the Oder on a front of hundreds of kilometers.



Radiophotos

Formidable German forts were connected by a ramified system of hydraulic structures. The Nazis did not have time to open sluice gates like the above, intended to flood surrounding areas; (right) Another enemy fort reduced by Soviet artillery

Soviet Secondary Schools Prepare Students For College and University

Professor E. N. Medynsky

Member of Soviet Academy of Pedagogical Sciences

The task of the Soviet secondary school is to give children of both sexes and of all nationalities a complete general education and to prepare them to enter institutions of higher learning.

The ten classes of the Soviet secondary school are divided into three stages: junior classes (first to fourth), the plan and program of which correspond to the elementary four-year school; intermediate (fifth to seventh classes), and senior (eighth to tenth).

The first seven classes correspond in every respect to the seven-year school (formerly called the "incomplete secondary school"). Pupils completing the elementary school may enter the fifth class, and those completing the seven-year school may be enrolled in the eighth class. Children of seven (the age requirement until this year was eight) may be enrolled in the first class.

Separate education for boys and girls was introduced in 1943 in capitals of the Union and Autonomous Republics, and in 77 of the largest cities. Having yielded highly satisfactory results, it was extended last year to 28 more cities.

Co-educational schools were the rule from the time of the October Revolution until 1943. The system was introduced after the Revolution as a measure aimed at securing equal rights for men and women, and similar educational advantages for boys and girls. In the quarter-century since that time, the equality of women has been firmly established in every field of Soviet life.

All secondary schools in the USSR are under the direct control of the Government. By 1938 the number of these schools had increased 6.4 times, as compared with pre-revolutionary Russia, and the number of students had increased 14.2 times. All schools are under the supervision of the People's Commissariat of Education, with immediate control exercised by regional and district departments of education.

The People's Commissariat of Education appoints a director for every school.

Each director has an assistant who is in charge of the educational work of the school. There is a study supervisor for each class, appointed from among the teachers of the particular class. The study supervisor is responsible for the general progress of the children.

The director and his assistant, and the study supervisor and teachers, may be either men or women; their appointment depends only upon their teaching experience, knowledge and skill.

The Curriculum

With the exception of certain differences in the program for physical culture and military training, the curricula are similar for boys' and girls' schools. These curricula are approved by Government commissions and are obligatory for all secondary schools in the USSR.

The subjects taught in the Soviet secondary school include: Russian language and literature, the native language (in non-Russian schools), mathematics (arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry),

physics, chemistry, nature study, geography, astronomy, history, the Constitution of the USSR, a foreign language, physical culture and military training, singing, drawing, draftsmanship and calligraphy. Beginning in 1945, the senior classes will study psychology and logic, and all the ten classes will have "practical" lessons which will acquaint the pupils with the elements of technics, agriculture, domestic science, etc.

The classes are 45 minutes each, with four classes daily in the junior groups and five or six in the senior groups. Grades are based on a system of five marks, the highest mark being 5 (excellent), next 4 (good), 3 (satisfactory), 2 (poor), and 1 (very poor).

The school year begins in all Soviet schools on September 1 (in the war years this has been changed temporarily to October 1) and is divided into four terms with fixed dates for the beginning and end of each term. At the end of the year examinations are held for promotion into the next higher grade (in junior classes promotion is granted without examination).

In 1944, special examinations on completion of the entire course of study for the "certificate of maturity" were instituted. Students receiving a rating of 5 in all subjects included in the examinations for this certificate are awarded a gold medal; those with no more than two 4's, all other marks being 5, receive a silver medal.

The entire teaching process aims at training and developing all the talents of the future citizen, instilling a love of country, a sense of discipline, love of work, consciousness of the citizen's duty to the country and to society, and ability to live and work in a collective. Much attention is devoted to esthetic training by means of lessons in literature, singing, drawing and other subjects, as well as art circles and excursions.

The children's creative abilities are encouraged by means of various "circles";



The girls of this school do the cleaning themselves

membership in these is voluntary. Other forms of extra-curricular and extra-mural activity are school newspapers and journals, recitations and readings, concerts and dramatic presentations.

Parents' Committees

A sense of social organization is developed through general school and class meetings where students elect students' committees which appoint study, cultural and health-education commissions. Student organizations work under the supervision of the director. Every school has a parents' committee whose purpose is to maintain close contact between school and family.

After completing the course at the secondary school, the young man or woman may enter any institution of higher learning on passing examinations in subjects varying according to the nature of the institution he or she wishes to enter.

Those who earn gold or silver medals on graduating from the secondary school are enrolled in higher schools without a preliminary entrance examination.

Children's Workshops Aid Front

In many Moscow schools, workshops have been set up where children spend part of their after-school leisure, while their mothers are still busy in offices or factories.

These shops make a variety of articles useful to the men at the front or to civilians. Pupils from the third grade up—from 11 or 12 years of age—come to the shops for three hours. They receive workers' ration cards, entitling them to more food than the usual pupils' rations, and they are paid from 150 to 400 rubles per month. All work is voluntary, and neither the child's health nor his studies suffer in any way.

Some of the youngsters make clothing for children of the liberated areas, and accessories for uniforms, others do carpentry, rope-making, toy-making, etc. The carpenters make new desks and seats for their schools. A group of children in a metal-working shop utilize scrap and waste from factories to make kitchen utensils. The older boys and girls in this shop fill orders from the People's Commissariat of the Tank Industry.

THEY HELP THEIR COUNTRY AFTER SCHOOL



Young tailors make Army uniforms and clothing for children of liberated areas



In vacation time, thousands of boys and girls help on the collective farms



Making new desks, chairs and tables for their school

THE BANKRUPTCY OF THE SANACJA

By J. Kowalski

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA:

The historic decisions of the Crimea Conference were received with profound satisfaction by broad sections of the Polish people. Polish public opinion correctly appraised these decisions as a big victory of the anti-Hitler coalition and an important success for Polish democracy in its endeavor to build up a strong, independent democratic Poland with the support of the USSR, Great Britain and the United States.

Goebbels' pack naturally raised a howl about these decisions. But the German-fascist hangmen were not alone in their rage at the decisions of the Crimea Conference. The Raczkiewicz-Arciszewski-Kwapinski-Berezowski clique, as we know, refused to recognize the decisions of the leaders of the three great powers.

Mr. Arciszewski even rattled the sword. At a press conference in London, he threateningly stated that his "government" had at its disposal "armed forces in the air, on the sea and land," which he intimated would support the militant stand of the emigre clique. That cocky statement, however, could only arouse laughter.

Polish reactionaries in Great Britain and the United States shrink from no lies in their efforts to disparage the historic decisions of the Crimea Conference. Mr. Arciszewski's paper, *Dziennik Polski*, in its issue of February 15, describes the decisions of the Crimea Conference as a "sentence pronounced in absentia against Poland, and not only against Poland."

The Pilsudskiite fascists, like Zygmunt Nowakowski and Count Welegorski, gathered their few adherents in London to announce to them that "the Curzon line means the fifth partition of Poland." In the United States, the rabid Pilsudskiite Matuszewski shouts that the decisions of the Crimea Conference imply the "elimination of Poland as an independent state." A group of Polish fascist emigres in Jerusalem staged a demonstration against the decisions of the three great Allied powers. The "demonstration"

was led by an inveterate reactionary, General Slawoj Skladkowski.

Who are all these gentlemen who are so maliciously and impotently maligning the decisions which have evoked enthusiasm throughout the world?

Nowakowski gained "fame" as the author of articles which the Hitlerite invaders were only too glad to print in newspapers which they published in Poland. Matuszewski is the "leader" of whom General Sikorski once said that for his "propaganda" he deserved to receive the Iron Cross from Goebbels himself. General Slawoj Skladkowski, a close associate of Rydz-Smigly and Beck, cordially received Goering in Poland prior to 1939, and did everything to introduce Hitlerite ways in Poland.

All of them represent what is known as the *sanacja*, that is, the fascist coterie of Pilsudskiites who have been responsible for all the misfortunes of the Polish people in the past 25 years, and particularly the disaster of September, 1939.

The Pilsudski clique, representing the interests of the landowning magnates and cartels, seized power in 1926, and since then has systematically betrayed Poland's national and state interests. The Pilsudskiites established a fascist dictatorship, oppressed the masses of the people, and cruelly persecuted Polish democrats and anti-fascists; they turned Poland into a prison-house for millions of Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Lithuanians and Jews; pursued a policy of conquest directed against Poland's neighbors, Czechoslovakia and Lithuania, and took part in all anti-Soviet intrigues of the reactionary forces in Europe.

The adventurous, rapacious foreign policy of the *sanacja* and its dread of its own people, led its representatives into a rapprochement with Hitler Germany. The pro-Hitler policy of the Pilsudskiite clique was responsible for Poland's utter isolation and became the cause of its disaster in 1939. The *sanacja* became utterly compromised in the eyes of the Polish people, and it seemed that not a single *sanacja* politician would ever again dare

to openly engage in political activity.

But the Pilsudskiites have proved to be exceptionally tenacious. The clique headed by Raczkiewicz—who received his "authority" from the former *sanacja* president, Moscicki—captured all key positions in the machinery of the emigre "government" and in its military formations, as well as in its organizations in occupied Poland.

Throughout the war the *sanacja* representatives sabotaged the organization of a real fight by the Poles against the German invaders. The Pilsudskiites in emigration indulged mainly in unbridled anti-Soviet propaganda, and they employed their "home army," as it was called, to fight against Polish and Soviet guerrillas. They hoped that that "army" would help them seize power in Poland after its liberation. In order to further their own sinister ends, Raczkiewicz, Sosnkowski and Bor-Komorowski (the latter now enjoying the hospitality of the Hitlerite hangmen) launched the uprising in Warsaw, thereby dooming 300,000 Poles to death and Poland's Capital to destruction.

Lately the forces of Polish reaction, headed by the *sanacja*, have resorted to the most dastardly crimes of sabotage and assassination in order to interfere with the creative efforts of the Polish people who, under the direction of their democratic Provisional Government, are rehabilitating the political, economic and cultural life in their country, now liberated from the enemy.

The Polish reactionaries headed by the *sanacja* have suffered complete bankruptcy. And that refers not only to the Pilsudskiites, but to other reactionary groups and leaders who, though not belonging to the *sanacja*, follow its lead. They are representatives of the nationalistic *Stronnictwo Narodowe* and the ONR (National Radical Camp), men of the type of Berezowski, Folkierski and their ilk, who are included in the present emigre "government." They are well known for their reactionary and racist views which have earned them the name of Polish Hitlerites. Their distinguishing features are

hatred of the popular masses and democratic institutions, a narrow chauvinistic attitude to other Slav peoples, and impotent malice toward the Soviet Union.

The friends of the Polish reactionaries in emigration often wax indignant when democratic Polish public opinion denounces Arciszewski and his clique. Usually they cite the alleged "services" of the Arciszewskis and the Kwapinskis as "old Socialists." It is common knowledge, however, that these conservative leaders of the right wing of the Polish Socialist Party, the PPS, were always closely connected with Pilsudski and his coterie and systematically gave their support to their anti-national, imperialist policy.

The influential French weekly *Action*, discussing the Polish question in connection with the decisions of the Crimea Conference, justly remarks: "Actually the London Committee [meaning the emigre 'government'] consists in part of elements abusing the name of Socialists in order to deceive Anglo-Saxon public opinion. However, Pilsudski's defection from Socialism, which led him to ally himself with the most reactionary and anti-Semitic elements of the landed aristocracy, showed the Polish people what to think of it."

"Socialists" of the type of Arciszewski and Kwapinski share with the Pilsudskites responsibility for the reactionary adventures of official Polish policy directed against the Polish people and other peoples. The Arciszewskis unreservedly supported Pilsudski's imperialist robber campaign in 1920; they helped the future Polish dictator seize power in 1926; they disrupted the struggle of the masses of the Polish democracy against the fascist *sanacja* dictatorship; they supported the rapacious policy of Rydz-Smigly and Beck with regard to Czechoslovakia, and they have always been outspoken enemies of the Soviet Union.

In the fateful days of 1939 these "Socialists" did nothing to interfere with Beck's pro-Hitler machinations. Small wonder, therefore, that in emigration these gentlemen have become loyal friends of Raczkiewicz, Sosnkowski and other *sanacja* representatives; that they furiously defend the anti-national constitution of

1935, continue Beck's anti-Soviet policy, and still cherish the wild dreams of 1920.

It must not be forgotten that "Socialists" of the type of Arciszewski and Kwapinski never expressed the sentiments and desires of the honest members of the PPS, and that the PPS now active in Poland regards Arciszewski and Kwapinski as apostates from the ideas of socialism and Polish patriotism, as flunkies of reaction and fascism.

Arciszewski and his followers have taken over the *sanacja*'s pro-German attitude, too. Arciszewski opposes the demand of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, and later of the Provisional Government, for the reincorporation in Poland of ancient Slav lands which the Germans seized, objecting that Poland "could not cope with this," that this would "embitter the Germans," etc.

President Bierut of the National Council of Poland has pointedly remarked in this connection: "If Mr. Arciszewski . . . is angry with Prime Minister Churchill because England expresses a readiness to recognize Poland's right to a border on the Oder and the Neisse, one can only wonder why Mr. Arciszewski has chosen not Berlin but London as his place of residence. By coming out in defense of the continuance of German sway in territories from which the Poles were ruthlessly evicted and squeezed out in the course of centuries, he actually speaks on behalf of maintaining prewar political relationships in Europe, although the result of those relationships was the present war and the loss of Poland's independence."

The *sanacja*-fascist attitude assumed by Arciszewski and his "government" in regard to the decisions of the Crimea Conference, and the utter bankruptcy of this "government" have accentuated the friction among the small group of PPS leaders in emigration, and have strained relations between the Arciszewski-Kwapinski clique and the other PPS leaders in emigration who do not agree with Arciszewski's policy. There has also been increased friction among other emigre politicians.

But the fact that they do not share Arciszewski's absurd ideas or disagree

with him on minor questions, does not mean that theirs is a democratic platform. These gentlemen refrain from attacking the decisions of the Crimea Conference as vociferously as Arciszewski, but in their magazine *Poland Tomorrow*, published in London, they spout about their "doubts" regarding the good intentions of the USSR; they "doubt" whether the elections to the parliament in Poland will be really democratic. And this is the sort of argument used by the people who to this day have not renounced the fascist constitution of 1935 and the *sanacja* electoral law which robbed the masses of every opportunity for representation. . . .

These emigre politicians who are out of touch with the people and the country cannot reconcile themselves to the fact that the Provisional Government of the Polish Republic enjoys the confidence of the broadest sections of the Polish people, and that in accordance with the decisions of the Crimea Conference it therefore represents the base for the formation of the Provisional Government of National Unity.

The decision of the Crimea Conference speaks of the necessity of setting up a Government of national unity with a democratic platform. The masses of the Polish people take this to mean an unqualified repudiation of the *sanacja* constitution of 1935 and of the *sanacja* itself, along with all its groups; a return to the democratic Constitution of 1921, and the acceptance of the democratic platform of the Provisional Government.

Polish public opinion interprets democracy as meaning renunciation of all attempts against the unity and independence of the Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Lithuanians, Czechs, Slovaks and other neighbors of Poland; sincere and cordial friendship with the USSR; and friendly relations and alliance with Great Britain, the United States of America, France, Czechoslovakia and other democratic countries.

The fundamental condition for the creation of a strong, independent and democratic Poland is the eradication of all vestiges and all manifestations of the *sanacja*, whatever guise they assume.

Moscow Sends Trolley Buses to Warsaw

The aid being rendered by the Moscow trolley bus trust in the restoration of Warsaw's transport was noted by A. Trofimov, member of a commission of experts recently sent to the Polish Capital by the Soviet Government to assist in rehabilitating the city. Trofimov is chief of the trolley-bus system in Moscow.

"While we were in Warsaw, 30 trolley buses shipped from Moscow in February arrived," said Trofimov. "The local population and members of the Provisional Polish Government greeted their receipt with satisfaction. The buses were garaged in a trolley-car barn in Praga suburb, where they were inspected by representatives of the Provisional Government."

Organization of trolley-bus service in Warsaw, which previously did not possess this variety of transport, will require much preparation, Trofimov said. Streets are now being cleared of the rubble of brick and stone left by the German demolition of the city.

After an inspection tour, experts agreed that a 16.5-kilometer line could be laid out for a beginning. It will pass through a considerable part of the city, including the avenue named for Marshal Stalin. Measures will be taken immediately to provide the necessary power transmission lines and various materials and equipment, and to train bus drivers.

Trofimov also investigated the condi-



Radiophoto

Soviet heavy artillery and tanks in Unilubelska Square, Warsaw—just after the city's liberation from the Germans

tion of the Warsaw streetcar service, which suffered heavily at the hands of the Germans. Of the nearly 700 streetcars operating before the war, only 143 can be repaired and used again. Power substations were almost completely wrecked and the transmission lines removed and shipped to Germany.

In Praga the situation is somewhat better. Here streetcar service can be repaired comparatively quickly, Trofimov stated—within about two weeks after

the power is turned on, which will be in the near future.

"We have estimated that more than 200 kilometers of power lines will have to be put up for the first section of the streetcar and trolley-bus lines. Naturally in wartime, when economy is imperative, this is no small undertaking.

"But we are eager to do all we can to aid in rehabilitating Warsaw. I hope we shall be able to provide everything necessary to restore the city's transport."

Collective Farm Art

In a recent review of the art of collective farm villages of the Russian SFSR, held at the suggestion of the Government of the Republic, 500,000 members of various amateur art groups—musical, choral and dramatic—and nearly 90,000 soloists, participated. Besides old lyric songs, the collective farm choruses sang new songs by Soviet composers and contemporary folksongs. Many choruses introduced theatrical elements, interweaving song and dance. Rural dramatic groups staged plays by the Russian classic dramatists Ostrovsky, Gogol and Gorky, and modern European playwrights.

New Zoo for Leningrad

A new zoo is being built in Leningrad on two natural terraces, one 25 to 40 feet above the other. The zoo will have artificial waterfalls and fountains, and the animals will live in conditions closely approximating their natural habitats. Lakes of five to 15 acres will be created for water birds.

Some of the denizens of the old Leningrad zoo perished under German bombs and shells. The future collection will be replenished by representatives of the rich fauna of the Soviet Union, America and other continents.

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Radiophoto

THE RED ARMY OFFENSIVE IN POMERANIA—Tank-borne troops under the command of Lieutenant Tokarev were the first to reach the shores of the Baltic Sea

The Path of the Liberator Army

IZVESTIA wrote editorially, March 31:

In its victorious drive to the West, the Red Army is fulfilling great tasks of liberation. Its very nature is that of a liberator army.

The splendid victories of the Armies of the Second Byelorussian Front and the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts have once more demonstrated that the Red Army is fulfilling with honor its mission of helping the nations of Europe in their struggle for liberation from the yoke of the German-fascist invaders.

The Polish Flag, which since yesterday is waving freely over Danzig, testifies to the world that the Soviet State, relying upon the victories of its Army, is helping Poland in a friendly manner, understanding and considering the national and economic interests of the democratic Polish state.

At the very beginning of the war, the leader of the Soviet people proclaimed that the object of the nation-wide Patriotic War against the fascist oppressors "is not only elimination of the danger hanging over our country, but also aid to all the European peoples groaning under the yoke of German fascism."

The heroic struggle of the Red Army for the freedom and independence of the Soviet country had a great and inspiring influence on the enslaved peoples of Europe; it kindled in them the hope for liberation and roused them to the struggle for liberation. Admiration for the Red Army by the nations which it frees from Hitlerite slavery is natural.

Equally natural is its progressive influence on the democratic consciousness of these peoples. For the first time in history, they have seen a powerful army which, after it had liberated the territory of other countries, returned it to its own peoples; an army which fights self-sacrificingly not to extend the territory of its own state but for the freedom of its own and other nations. The Red Army's victorious offensive is significant in that it sets in action, organizes and directs ever new forces in the liberated countries for the defeat of the German invaders.

* * *

Yesterday the Soviet people learned with satisfaction from Marshal Stalin's Order of the Day that the Polish Army had distinguished itself in the battles for Gdansk (Danzig). The Soviet country

sincerely greets the glorious Polish soldiers who shoulder to shoulder with Red Army officers and men defeated the Germans in the name of the victory of freedom-loving peoples. The Soviet people will also note that the Order of the Day of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief mentions the action of Bulgarian formations.

Unshakable in its noble goals, powerful in its advanced military skill, the liberator Red Army marches further West, bringing death to the enemy and liberation to nations oppressed by the Germans.

Yesterday, after piercing the enemy defense, our troops advanced in the Bratislava direction and reached the frontier of Austria, filled with the determination to insure the restoration of Austria's independence. Under the powerful onslaught of the Soviet Armies, the entire system of defense which the Germans prepared so carefully and defended so furiously in the South, is collapsing.

Complete victory over the Germans is near. Inspired by their beloved leader and strategist, the Red Army daily strikes harder blows against the hateful enemy.

SOVIET FORCES EMERGE ON AUSTRIAN BORDER

By Major K. Tokarev

Developing offensive operations on Hungarian territory in the past week, Soviet troops swiftly forged ahead, overcoming enemy strongpoints. Mobile units and forward infantry detachments soon reached the Raba River and forced it in several places. Overcoming strong resistance and counter-attacks by the enemy in this sector, the Red Army captured the important road junctions of Csorna and Sarvar. Csorna is 15 kilometers from the Austrian border.

Soviet troops continued their swift advance on this sector of the front, taking the towns of Szombathely and Kapuvar, and later capturing the town of Koeszeg on the Austrian border.

The road of German retreat is littered with demolished enemy materiel. On the edges of the forest, on mountain slopes and in the outskirts of Hungarian villages, one sees burned-out and crippled German tanks, demolished or abandoned guns and vehicles, and piles of cases with shells and cartridges—all testifying to the tremendous losses suffered by the Hitlerites as a result of the crushing blows of Soviet tanks, artillery and infantry. This mass destruction of enemy materiel has permitted the mobile units of the Red Army to advance rapidly. Soviet infantry followed in the immediate wake of mobile units, mopping up resistance pockets and protecting the flanks and rear of the forward elements.

Furious fighting took place in the wooded and mountainous area north of Lake Balaton. Here the Germans clung to every village and height, leaving ambushes along the roads and forest lanes. The

enemy calculated on containing the main forces of Soviet troops in the forests, thus gaining time to strengthen his defenses on the Raba. But this plan was frustrated by the Soviet forces which routed the enemy garrisons in the forests, crushed the last pockets of resistance, and quickly cleared the forests of German troops. The demoralized and hungry Hitlerites emerged from the woods and groves, and singly or in groups surrendered to the Red Army.

The Germans put up stiff resistance in a number of places and made frequent counter-attacks. The breaching of their positions involved considerable difficulty. For example, the Germans brought up their last reserves to one sector, where they launched violent counter-attacks at the flanks of Red Army units which had advanced far to the west. The so-called assault group of the enemy consisted of two battered tank divisions. But this enemy group was forced to retreat to the south before the onslaught of Soviet tanks and self-propelled guns.

On the northern sector, the Germans set up an intermediate defense line along a highway and railroad. Here they also counter-attacked furiously, but were repelled. Mobile units of the Red Army were the first to breach this intermediate line. Then Soviet infantry, supported by artillery and tanks, pushed on along a wide front. Soviet tanks drove the Germans out of a large inhabited point where the highway and railroad met, and cleared the way for the infantry. During this operation, tank crews led by Tuzhikov, Akulov, and Yurchenko burned nine Ger-

man tanks and four armored carriers, and routed an enemy column of motor vehicles. The tank crews held the inhabited points and crossroads until the main forces of the Red Army came up.

Raba River Forced

The Raba River cuts through the western part of Hungary, flowing from southwest to northeast. It is 50 meters wide and quite deep, and its banks are reinforced by dikes. The Raba was a serious obstacle for advancing units, but it was quickly forced on a wide sector.

After crossing the Raba, Soviet mobile troops broke into the town of Sarvar and engaged the enemy in street fighting. Forward infantry and artillery detachments reached the town and immediately joined the battle. The stubborn enemy resistance was broken.

Other advancing units of the Red Army simultaneously waged battles for the town and road junction of Csorna. A German tank column rushing up to the relief of the Csorna garrison was forced to go into action from the march. Soviet tank and self-propelled gun crews occupying advantageous positions greeted this enemy tank column with intensive fire and went into attack. In a brief engagement the Germans lost 10 tanks and two assault guns.

The German garrison in Csorna was thrown into confusion as a result of the surprise blow. The fleeing Hitlerites even abandoned their wounded in the hospital. After capturing the town and routing the enemy garrison, Soviet forces developed offensive operations in a westerly direction and wiped out enemy covering groups on the way.

The Raba was the last major barrier on the way to the Austrian border. Routing the enemy troops on the defense line along this river and occupying the towns of Csorna and Sarvar, the Red Army rapidly pushed on and reached the Austrian border in the area of Koeszeg. In addition to Szombathely, Kapuvar and Koeszeg, Soviet forces captured more than 100 other inhabited points on the territory of Hungary.



Marshal Malinovsky (center), Commander of the Second Ukrainian Front, with Colonel General Susankov (left), of the Armored Corps, and Lieutenant General Stakhursky

Radiophoto

Order of Victory Conferred Upon Marshals Konev, Zhukov and Rokossovsky

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has awarded the Order of Victory to Marshals of the Soviet Union Ivan S. Konev, Georgi K. Zhukov and Konstantin K. Rokossovsky.

This news has been received with profound joy by the Soviet people. Throughout the war the names of these strategists brought up in Stalin's school of victory have been associated with the Red Army's remarkable operations for the realization of the plans of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, which bore the stamp of genius.

The three Marshals skilfully directed troops in the defense of Moscow, Leningrad and Stalingrad, and ruthlessly shattered the Germans in the northwestern forests of Orel and Kursk, in the fields of the Ukraine and Byelorussia, in Poland, and in East Prussia, Brandenburg, Pomerania and Silesia.

Strategists of the Stalin school, Marshals Konev, Zhukov and Rokossovsky possess rich military knowledge and ex-



THE ORDER OF VICTORY

Highest military decoration of the USSR, awarded to commanders for operations which turn the tide in favor of the Red Army

perience gained in the battles of this war—unparalleled in its scope and violence. Sons of a great people, they have demonstrated the talents of great masters of Soviet military art. Skilfully executing the strategical plans and assignments of the Red Army's Supreme Command, our strategists direct the large-scale operations

which result in outstanding successes in the defeat of the German-fascist armies.

Commenting on the decoration of the three Marshals, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes:

By conferring on the famous Soviet strategists whose names are inseparably bound with the historic victories of Soviet arms the title of knights of the highest military order, our motherland places a wreath of immortal glory upon all Soviet soldiers.

Under the leadership of Stalin and under the command of strategists of the Stalin school of military art, Soviet soldiers display miracles of gallantry. We began our fighting road with honor and glory on the battlefields of the Patriotic War against the German-fascist invaders, and with glory and honor we shall complete it. The enemy will be finished off. The German war machine, brought by the men of the Red Army to the verge of disaster, will be completely smashed.



Marshals of the Soviet Union Konstantin K. Rokossovsky (left) and Georgi K. Zhukov



Marshal of the Soviet Union Ivan S. Konev

Radiophotos

COMBATING KING TIGER TANKS

By Major Konstantin Polonnik

On the Eastern Front no day passes without a tank battle. Vast numbers of German tanks have been put out of action. In his Order of the Day on the 27th anniversary of the Red Army, Marshal Stalin pointed out that in 40 days of the Soviet winter offensive the Germans lost over 4,500 tanks and self-propelled guns. On some days Soviet soldiers knocked out a hundred or more of the Nazi machines: on February 19, 1945, 206 German tanks were demolished; on February 21, 198; and on the 25th, 139. This is repeated almost daily.

The Germans had great faith in their Tiger tanks, which first appeared on the Eastern Front in the summer of 1943 during Hitler's "general" offensive in the area of the Kursk bulge. How this "general" offensive changed to a general retreat of the German army is too well known to need comment. On the Prokhorov sector (northeast of Belgorod) Red Army troops knocked out several thousand Nazi tanks, including a large number of Tigers. The bravery of the Russian soldier has proved superior to the highly advertised Tigers.

Last year Hitler put a new steel monster into the field, the King Tiger. The Nazis pinned all their hopes on it. But the King Tigers failed to bring relief to the besieged Budapest garrison. They met with no better success in East Prussia, Pomerania, Silesia, Brandenburg and all other sectors where the German high command hurled them into battle in an attempt



Soviet self-propelled guns in the streets of Breslau

to delay or stay the advance of our Armies.

The King Tiger is a heavy machine; it may at first sight impress one with its huge dimensions, but on better acquaintance, it appears as vulnerable as any other tank. Its weakest points are limited maneuverability of treads and slow speed. Except on highways, it never makes more than 10 kilometers an hour, and on sandbanks it is hardly able to move at all. The treads of the King Tiger are the same as on other types of heavy machines and are just as vulnerable to anti-tank, grenade and shell-fire of all caliber guns.

But the greatest menace to the steel

monster is the Red Army soldier—his stubbornness, stoicism and skill. Sergeant Fedor Ivanov told me of a recent encounter with King Tigers.

"My gun was set up on the slope of a hill. The Germans were on the other side. My position was only 200 meters from the top of the hill. Suddenly I saw six huge tanks roll over the crest. I had never seen any like them before. There was no time to think; I had to get down to business. I dispatched the first shell when the head tank was 100 meters away. I aimed at the turret, but the shell ricocheted. Then I took aim at the track and scored a hit. The tank stopped.

"Just then a second tank opened up. I took careful aim and hit the barrel. This tank was also put out of commission. Then the third tank exposed its side, and I set it afire with the first shell. The other three withdrew. After the battle we examined the battered machines. All were King Tigers. It was our first acquaintance with them. Since then, we shoot to kill, knowing all their vulnerable points."

Russian gunners always have been good shots, and Red Army gunners are especially expert. The Soviet soldier is fearless; he has nerves of steel. During a recent engagement near Koenigsberg, Private Nikolai Stebun saw a King Tiger heading straight for his slit trench. He waited until the machine was only a few yards away, then threw an anti-tank grenade under the track. The tank stopped dead with a crippled tread.



A column of Soviet self-propelled guns halts in Budapest



Red Army artillerymen in the suburbs of Breslau

LAST HONORS PAID MARSHAL SHAPOSHNIKOV

The funeral of Marshal of the Soviet Union Boris M. Shaposhnikov, who died March 26, was held in Moscow in Red Square on March 28. At 2 P.M. admission to the House of the Trade Unions, where the urn containing the ashes of the deceased had reposed in state, was closed. Members of the Government Commission for the funeral arrangements, Marshals and higher officials of the General Staff of the Red Army, and relatives and friends of the deceased, remained beside the ashes. The last Guard of Honor, composed of N. Shvernik, General F. Golikov, I Gorkin, Antonov, Popov, S. A. Lozovsky and Mordvinov, took its place.

At 3 o'clock, Shvernik, Antonov and others lifted the urn and the funeral procession marched to Red Square, escorted by a military Guard of Honor. The troops lined up motionless in the Square as J. V. Stalin, V. M. Molotov, Antonov, Lozovsky and others ascended the tribune of Lenin's mausoleum. At 4 P.M. Colonel General F. Golikov opened the funeral services. Shvernik, First Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, spoke on behalf of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

"Our country and the Communist Party," he said, "have suffered a heavy loss—death has wrested from our ranks an outstanding strategist of the Red Army, Marshal of the Soviet Union Boris Mikhailovich Shaposhnikov. His life, from his early youth, was connected with the military service—first in the old Russian Army and then in our heroic Red Army. At 19 he entered the Moscow Military School, and after graduation devoted himself to service in the Army. He was graduated from the Academy of the General Staff and continued to work in the old Russian Army. Shaposhnikov was one of the first outstanding military leaders to join the Red Army and give all his force and knowledge toward strengthening the Soviet State and Red Army.

"Fulfilling the instructions of the Party of Lenin and Stalin, Shaposhnikov, without sparing his strength, worked indefatigably throughout his long years of



Marshal B. M. Shaposhnikov

service to perfect the Red Army and prepare it for the defense of the Soviet motherland. As Chief of the Higher Military Academy, he did much to organize, prepare and train commanders for the Red Army; he imparted to them his knowledge and experience as an outstanding military leader. Many commanders who have now distinguished themselves in the Patriotic War in battles against the German invaders, take pride in the knowledge that they are alumni of the Higher Military Academy which Boris Mikhailovich headed and where he worked so indefatigably and affectionately to perfect and train highly skilled military cadres.

"The Government and the Party highly valued Shaposhnikov's knowledge, organizational ability and services to the country. He was decorated by the Soviet Government with three Orders of Lenin, two Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of Suvorov, First Class, and two Orders of the Red Star. In 1940 the military title of Marshal of the Soviet Union was conferred upon him.

"Together with his enormous military services, Shaposhnikov did much and

varied work as a Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and an alternate member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He was closely connected with his electors, the working people of the Shchelkovo constituency, Moscow Region; he considerably attended to the needs of his electors.

"When need arose, the Party and Government entrusted Shaposhnikov with various duties. He fulfilled them conscientiously and skilfully, displaying an example of iron discipline.

"Shaposhnikov was commander of the troops of a number of military areas, Chief of the General Staff of the Red Army, Deputy People's Commissar of Defense, and lately Chief of the Higher Military Academy.

"During the Patriotic War, despite a grave illness, he worked until the last moment of his life. All of Shaposhnikov's seething energy and creativeness, his long years of work, were devoted to strengthening the combat qualities and might of the heroic Red Army, which is winning brilliant victories over the German invaders. No small part of the credit for these victories goes to Marshal of the Soviet Union Shaposhnikov."

Army General Antonov, and Popov, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Soviet, also spoke.

As the funeral ceremony ended, Stalin, Molotov, Kalinin, Shvernik, Voronov, Popov and Golikov lifted the urn with the ashes of Marshal Shaposhnikov and carried it to the Kremlin Wall, where it was interred. An artillery salute of 24 salvos from 124 guns followed. The funeral music merged into the solemn strains of the Soviet National Anthem.

Supreme Commander-in-Chief Stalin and his comrades-in-arms again ascended the tribune and the troops passed in review. Veterans of victorious battles against the German invaders, students of Military Academies, cadets and sailors—representatives of all the services of the glorious Soviet Armed Forces—paid the last military honor to a leader of troops whose life was dedicated to our great Soviet motherland.

FRANCE AND THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

By M. Nikolayev

From WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 6:

As the date of the San Francisco Conference, which is to prepare the final charter of an international organization for the maintenance of peace and security, draws near, there is naturally a growing interest in matters relating to the tasks of the Conference. One of the topics on this order which is being much discussed in the foreign press, and especially in the French press, is the refusal of the French Government to sponsor invitations to the Conference, and the reasons for this refusal.

The question of creating a new international organization to maintain peace, in place of the bankrupt League of Nations, was first officially raised at the conference of the three Foreign Secretaries in Moscow in October, 1943. It was then decided to submit this question for preliminary discussion to a conference of representatives of the four powers—the Soviet Union, the United States, Great Britain and China. It was quite obvious that the condition precedent for the creation of such an organization was agreement among the leading powers on the main underlying principles of the organization. A conference of representatives of the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain, followed by a conference of representatives of the United States, Great Britain and China, was held at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington in the autumn of 1944. A lengthy exchange of opinions took place, and differences in viewpoint on various questions between the Governments represented were resolved by means of mutual concessions. In the end, proposals were drawn up and published in the press which may be regarded as material for the drafting of a charter of the future organization.

These proposals virtually amount to an agreement among the four Governments represented at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, under which they undertook to sponsor these proposals at the forthcoming Conference of the United Nations; not only to refrain from repudiating or amending them, but to defend them against possible attempts on the part of

other participants to amend or weaken them. Indeed, if each of the initiators of the preliminary negotiations reserved for himself freedom of action and the right to move at the general conference amendments or addenda to the decisions jointly arrived at, the labor expended on these negotiations would be wasted and the success of the conference jeopardized.

At the recent meeting of the leaders of the three Allied Governments in the Crimea, it was decided to summon a conference of the United Nations on April 25 for the final preparation of a charter on the lines proposed during the Dumbarton Oaks conversations. Invitations to other countries were, of course, to be sent out by the participants in the Dumbarton Oaks conversations, namely, the Soviet Union, the United States, Great Britain and China. It was, however, deemed expedient to invite the Provisional Government of France to add its signature to the invitations. This was done, of course, on the assumption that the French Government was in agreement with the proposals drawn up at Dumbarton Oaks and that, therefore, by sharing in sponsoring the invitations it would undertake equally with other inviting powers to support and defend the Dumbarton Oaks proposals at the conference. As far as is known, the French Government had never expressed a disagreement with these proposals to anyone. Possibly it had had no suitable opportunity to do so. Be that as it may, the above-mentioned assumption was unfortunately not justified, for it turned out that the French Government has certain objections to some of the Dumbarton Oaks proposals and therefore could not undertake to associate itself completely with the inviting powers. Under the circumstances, the French Government found it impossible to subscribe to the text of the invitation submitted to it.

That, of course, was its right. On the other hand, much as they would have liked to see France among the inviting powers, the participants at the Crimea Conference could not amend the text of the invitation drawn up in the Crimea, and thus shake the foundation on which the conference was being summoned. This

is the formal side of the matter.

But one is naturally interested in the substance of the matter, namely, the objections which the French Government has to the Dumbarton Oaks proposals. What exactly these objections are, we do not know. It has been freely stated in the press, however, that the French Government fears there is some inconsistency between the French-Soviet Pact and the Dumbarton Oaks proposals. According to the latter, all coercive or punitive measures against any state are to be undertaken by a decision of the Security Council; the French-Soviet Pact, on the other hand, provides for automatic mutual assistance by the two powers under certain circumstances.

Put in this way, this question interests the Soviet Union as much as France. The French-Soviet Treaty was concluded in December, 1944—in other words, after the Dumbarton Oaks conversations, when it was already known that a conference of the United Nations was to be held in the near future. It is scarcely likely that the Soviet Government would have signed this treaty if it had considered that it ran counter to the Dumbarton Oaks decisions, or that as far as its most important provisions were concerned it would remain operative only until the conference met and finally set up the new organization.

Nor, evidently, did it occur to other participants in the Dumbarton Oaks conversations that any treaty previously concluded by them might run counter to the decisions there adopted. True, the French-Soviet Treaty did not exist, but analogous treaties between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, and between the Soviet Union and Great Britain did exist. Although the Anglo-Soviet Treaty provides for the possibility of operation of articles relative to mutual assistance being terminated after the creation of an international organization for the maintenance of peace, such termination is made dependent upon the decision of both parties. As the Treaty states, "this Article shall remain in force until the high-contracting parties by mutual agreement shall recognize that it is superseded by the

adoption of the proposals contemplated in Article III (one)"—in other words, in view of the creation of an international organization. As we see, the Treaty may remain in full force even after the creation of the international organization if both, or even one, of the parties do not consider the Treaty superfluous. In the Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty, at any rate, there is no reference at all to a future international organization.

If any of the participants in the Dumbarton Oaks conversations had considered the above-mentioned treaties to be inconsistent with the decisions adopted by them, he would have made some proposals to the effect that such inconsistency be not permitted, all the more so that such cases were provided for in the Covenant of the League of Nations, Article 20 of which reads: "The members of the League severally agree that this Covenant is accepted as abrogating all obligations or understandings *inter se* which are inconsistent with the terms thereof, and solemnly undertake that they will not hereafter enter into any engagements inconsistent with the terms thereof."

"In case any member of the League shall, before becoming a member of the League, have undertaken any obligations inconsistent with the terms of this Covenant, it shall be the duty of such member to take immediate steps to procure its release from such obligations."

By not proposing a similar stipulation in the charter of the future organization, all the participants in the Dumbarton Oaks conversations sanctioned, as it were, the Soviet-Czechoslovak and Anglo-Soviet Treaties, of which they were cognizant. In this sense . . . no objection can be raised to the French-Soviet Treaty which, with respect to its automatic operation, is identical with the Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty.

Indeed, what inconsistency can possibly be detected between these treaties and the contemplated basis of the future international organization, which provides for the taking of measures "for the prevention and removal of threats to peace and the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace"? Is this not the purpose of all the three above-mentioned treaties?

It should not be forgotten that the future international organization will be created by the United Nations, in other words, by nations which have proclaimed themselves at war with Germany and which are naturally interested not only in the destruction of the Nazi seat of aggression, but also in the elimination of the possibility of such aggression arising, and in suppressing it if it does. The automatic operation of the French-Soviet Pact is provided for exclusively in the event of a new act of aggression by Germany, or of measures which may be adopted to remove a new threat on the part of Germany. If the Soviet Union, France, Britain and Czechoslovakia assume in advance a special obligation to combat German aggression irrespective of the decisions of the international organization, this can only be regarded as a special form of promotion of the organization's aims.

The operation of the treaties by no means precludes the participation of other members of the new organization in the suppression of German aggression should they desire it, or should it be the decision of the organization. But the parties to the bilateral treaties, as it were, voluntarily obligate themselves to strike the first blow at a new act of German aggression.

It might be objected that, inasmuch as the international organization undertakes to suppress all aggression, including German aggression, the bilateral treaties are superfluous. But, alas, the melancholy experience of the League of Nations, which set itself just such aims, is all too fresh in our memories. One may and should hope that the new organization, which will embrace all the big powers and avoid the organizational and other defects of the League of Nations, will perform its duty successfully and unfailingly. But the peoples of the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France and Czechoslovakia have suffered far too much from the present war, have borne too many sacrifices, to found their security on hopes. They dare not neglect any supplementary guarantees for their safety against future German aggression.

Experience has shown that individual obligations of individual states, in respect to allied assistance, are observed to a

greater degree and more rapidly than obligations assumed under collective agreements. That is why the countries which are most directly threatened by German aggression value the bilateral agreements they have concluded, and it is scarcely likely they will want to renounce them or agree to make their operation contingent upon the decision of an international organization which has still to demonstrate its effectiveness.

For the above reasons, the fear of the French Government that the charter of the future international security organization may nullify or hamper the automatic operation of the French-Soviet Treaty, seems to us groundless. The fact that the participants in the Dumbarton Oaks conversations did not deem it necessary to adopt any formula to remove assumed contradictions between their decisions and the existing treaties makes, as it were, their taking cognizance of these treaties without any reservations a part of the basis of the future work of the conference as outlined in the text of the invitation.

However, if any further formulation is necessary, a resolution might be moved at the San Francisco Conference by which bilateral treaties previously concluded between countries most directly liable to the danger of German aggression, will be taken cognizance of by the conference itself and considered to be consistent with the general trend of policy of the future organization. One cannot believe that the members of the conference, knowing what value these countries attach to the concluded treaties, would object to the adoption of such a resolution.

Maps of Berlin Prepared During Leningrad Siege

While Leningrad was still under German blockade and bombardment, the city's cartographic works—one of the largest map publishing establishments in the USSR—was filling a Red Army order to prepare detailed maps of Berlin for mass printing. The job was done with tremendous enthusiasm and finished on time. Some time ago the Red Army ordered this cartographic house to begin printing maps of areas west of Berlin.

FRANCO'S PRECURSORS

By Rafael Vidiella

Once again events on the Soviet-German front have revealed the falsehood of the propaganda about Franco's neutrality. Soviet troops of the Second Ukrainian Front have just captured some soldiers of Franco in the service of Hitler Germany.

Franco and the Falange are trying to conceal their aid to Hitler, and claim that there are only anti-Communists. But their camouflage will not avail them. Franco and the Falange are confirmed Hitlerites and pro-Germans. The presence of Franco's soldiers on the Eastern Front proves that Falangist Spain is fighting not only against the Soviet Union, but also against its Western Allies.

The hatred of democracy and the pro-German orientation of the generals, aristocrats and representatives of other sections supporting the bloody regime of Franco and the Falange, are by no means a new development. The Falangists of today are the descendants of those who shot Riego and Empecinado, and of those who opened the gates of Spain to the "100,000 sons of Saint Louis." It is their example that Franco followed when he invited German and Italian divisions to fight against the Spanish Republic.

The Falangists of today are the descendants of the pro-Germans of the period of the First World War (some of whom are still alive) who, led by Vasquez Mella, chief idol of the Falangists, compromised Spain's neutrality and sought to embroil Spain in the war on the side of the Kaiser's Germany.

Vasquez Mella, who is constantly quoted by the Falangists, stated at a public meeting held on September 13, 1914:

"Against England and France, who are our natural enemies, we have no other support save Germany. That nation will lend us the strength which we lack. I maintain that it is essential for us to conclude a treaty of alliance with Germany, which will become the foundation of our sovereignty—without which no state can exist."

On May 31, 1915, at a rally in the Zarzuela Theater in Madrid, the same Mella who is so extolled by the Falangists today, spoke of "Spain's rights to Tangier and Gibraltar."

It was the Falangists of the past and their descendants who prevailed upon the despotic General Primo de Rivera to go to Italy in the company of Alfonso XIII, to conclude a secret treaty whereby Spain undertook, in the case of war between Italy and the Western powers, to forbid the passage of English and French troops and to permit Italy to establish naval bases on Spanish territory, including the Balearic and Canary Islands.

Primo de Rivera, another idol of the Falangists, had no opportunity to carry that treaty into effect. It remained for his successor Francisco Franco to do it for him. The seizure of Tangier, which enjoyed international status, was an act of hatred against the Western powers and a manifestation of the pro-German orientation of the generals supporting Franco and the Falange.

When the Blue Division fought against the heroic Red Army, the war criminal Munez Grandes gave vent to the anglophobia of the Falangists in the following

words addressed to his soldiers after their crimes in the Novgorod area:

"Soldiers, when you are asked whether you are tired at the front, say that you are tired of the British flag waving over Gibraltar."

Need we recall Franco's offer to Hitler to send one million Spanish soldiers if the road to Berlin is open? Even today the Falangist radio is upholding Hitler Germany. The following statement, for example, was broadcast over the Falangist radio in Valladolid on March 8: "In the face of the decision of the three gentlemen who have arrogated to themselves the role of world arbiters, only one country can guarantee peace to the nations of Europe. That country is Germany. Only the Third Reich represents a guarantee of order, work and freedom."

This is the true face of the Franco regime and its so-called neutrality.

The Spanish people have never relented in their struggle against the terrorist regime of Franco and the Falange. This is confirmed by the actions of the guerrillas and the sabotage in the Hitler-Falange industries. The Spanish people are confident that they can count on the help of all the free peoples of Europe and America, and of all the working people who were represented at the Trade Union Conference in London.

Information Bulletin

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'Island of Cotton' in Central Asia

In Chimkent, Central Asia—where only a quarter-century ago it was impossible for men to exist—an island of cotton has arisen in the so-called Hungry Steppe.

Six hundred miles of irrigation canals have been cut through this dead desert in the past 25 years, and cotton plantations have rapidly developed. The sowing season is now opening, with 500 power-

ful tractors in the fields. The plantations are surrounded by orchards and vineyards. A railroad connecting the cotton island with the interior of the country was built during the war.

A city with a population of 20,000 has arisen here, with factories, shops and all necessary cultural institutions, and a picturesque park laid out in the sands.

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SPRING

By Ilya Ehrenburg

from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, March 30:

Yesterday the Berlin radio announcer poked poetically and at length about spring. He treated his hearers to the following reflections: "Spring has entered into its rights, and while it is true that the ruins of cities are a gloomy sight, side by side with them the trees are budding. Spring is a hard time for people whose health has been undermined by years of war; it is a time of sickness, but it is also a time of cheer and hope and of the first blossoms. We welcome the spring..."

I can picture to myself the Germans listening to this effusion. As to ruins, budding trees, hardships and sickness, they know all about them. They expected something else from the radio—a little geographical information: where the American tanks are now, for instance; and what was happening to Danzig. But the announcer extolled the spring.

Well, for that matter, we too are glad of spring, and with a little more reason than the Germans. This time the spring is for us; this time, without minimizing difficulties, we can say: Comrades, we are finishing the job! The Berlin announcer is too modest when he says that spring is a hard time for people who have been undermined by years of war. Let us round out his thought: This spring will be fatal for Germany.

The Germans hoped to find concealment in the South. Having lost ancient German cities, Hitler, nevertheless, counter-attacked in Hungary. He wanted to find where he began: the cannibal was born in the Tyrol. He had one last hope: to convert Austria, Bohemia and Bavaria into a fortress, and under the protection of mountains and SS troops to linger on another year or two. He had thought about it for many a long month.

His hopes were dashed in a few days. The Red Army has pushed through to Moravska-Ostrava. The Red Army is marching on Vienna. In the West the tanks of the American Third Army are dashing merrily forward. They are speeding along the excellent German roads. They are already in Bavaria. Hitler can no longer retreat to Munich. The Germans in North Italy are already asking themselves, "What do we need the Apennines for?" The "Pifke," as the Austrians call the Germans, are already fleeing from Vienna. One week has done the work of many months. We welcome the spring with all our hearts. This is some spring!

American correspondents report that General Patton's tankmen are moving so fast they have no time to take the Fritz as a prisoner. The Americans love fast driving; now they have the chance to make war according to their taste. They did a splendid job of smashing through the

German defenses; they crossed the Rhine in fine style and then went merrily rolling on. I do not want to underrate their achievements: a man is proud of his friends and a nation of its Allies. Nor do I ignore the services of the English and Canadians who are fighting on the most difficult sectors—around the Ruhr.

If I mention our contribution to the advance of American tanks from Luxembourg to cities in Bavaria, it is only because I recall Petushki. That was in March, 1942. I was with one of our regiments which was trying to recapture the village of Petushki. This may seem ancient history now that we have the "Vienna sector" and the "Berlin sector" and are taking dozens of towns a day. But at that time the battle raged for three months for the ruins of one village between Volokolamsk and Rzhev.

Our Allies are now inspecting the cities of Westphalia, Pfalz and Nassau, but then the German panzers were preparing to make a tour of Egypt. At that time the Germans were very strong, and I would like to remind you of the heroes who died fighting for Petushki and of the multitudinous graves on Russian soil. After all, it was not for ruins that those men were fighting: they were opening the road for the Red Army to Stettin, to Berlin and to Vienna; and they were opening the road for our Allies to the Ruhr and Kassel and Nuernberg.

The time has now come to end it all and finish off Germany. The cannibals remain true to themselves: in yesterday's communique the maniac Hitler, while admitting the loss of German cities, tried to encourage his subjects by saying: "Our vengeance weapons continue to hold London under fire." They are at their last gasp, but they still bite. They howl, "We have lost Darmstadt and Limburg, but



"The Allies will find in Germany nothing but ruins, rats, starvation and death." . . . Hitler

Cartoon by Kukriniki
PRAYDA, March 17

we have killed several more women in London." That is Hitler's last spasm.

At first they fled from Cologne to Koenigsberg. Then they made top speed from Koenigsberg to Nuernberg. Now they have nowhere to flee to. To the many "kettles" in which millions of Germans have perished has been added another. This "kettle" contains Berlin and Munich and the Fuehrer himself. It is a huge kettle, there is no denying, but the fire around it is no mean thing either. By summer it will be boiled dry.

That Germany's end has come is clear to all. And as usual, along with tragedy come various comedies. The Argentine fascists have decided to "declare war" on their German colleagues before it is too late. Maybe Wurtemberg or Baden will be declaring war on Germany soon. That butcher Franco, whom the Fuehrer appointed his Spanish gauleiter, is preparing to declare war—on Japan. I would not be surprised if Franco were to declare that his Blue Division at Volkhov was fighting for the Philippines . . . the hangmen's assistants are evidently relying upon



GAULEITERS IN KETTLES

The German press claimed that Gauleiter Hanke's speech from beleaguered Breslau was the "most sensational performance transmitted over the ether in recent times." (Kettle in foreground is marked Breslau; above are Koenigsberg and Grudziadz)

Cartoon by Boris Efimov
IZVESTIA, March 9

the boundlessness of human folly. Here, too, they are following in the footsteps of their masters. What can the Germans now

be relying upon, if not the folly of others?

I do not think, of course, that all people are wise. But there are not so many fools, nor are they so powerful. "We shall not permit a repetition of history; 1945 is not 1918. There will not be another Versailles dictate." So writes the *Voelkische Beobachter*.

Yes, 1945 is not 1918. At that time Germany was in the preparatory class of the school of nation slayers; now she is a professor in this same school. At that time there was no Maidanek. The enemies of Germany had their illusions. The vanquished Germans were treated like children. Rules of good behavior were dictated to them. They were sent home for the holidays.

Now it is guns that are talking, and guns do not "dictate"; they are not school ma'ams. The SS will not be allowed to disperse for the holidays; they will be gathered together and sent to the right place. The end will come, not in Compiègne, but in Berlin. There will be no "dictation." There will be an indictment and it will be followed by a severe sentence.

GERMANY'S UNDERGROUND PLANTS

By Professor S. Vishnev

It will be remembered that the question of moving the most vulnerable and important military objectives underground had been raised in Germany long before this war. For example, in 1935 one German magazine carried an article proving the expediency of using idle mines for distribution of military stores and industrial enterprises.

Before the war the foreign press frequently mentioned German construction of underground stores, oil dumps and airdromes (or rather, hangars). But it was the failure of the Hitlerite blitzkrieg plans which made the question of underground factories of urgent and paramount importance for Germany.

When the Red Army delivered its crushing blow to the fascist hordes at Stalingrad, when the Allies intensified their raids on Germany's military objectives, penetrating ever deeper into the interior of the country, and when it be-

came clear that the war was acquiring a prolonged character, the German command was obliged to raise the question of protecting their war industry from air raids.

As shown by facts which came to light later, the German command proposed a vast program for the construction of underground enterprises both in Germany and in the occupied and vassal countries. The scale and character of this construction is illustrated by the facts brought to light.

In the Budapest area the Red Army discovered a huge underground aircraft engine plant built by the Germans to supply engines to a Messerschmitt factory likewise built in the Budapest area. In general, Budapest had many surprises underground—one Soviet officer accidentally came upon a cement underground building; after tramping for a long time on foot, he finally decided to continue his

investigations by auto, and traveled there for another four kilometers! It was discovered that Budapest had ancient catacombs which were utilized by the Germans.

Similar facts were also brought to light in the Poznan area. Underground shops were built by the Germans in the fortifications of an old fortress. Many of these forts had gigantic underground edifices of two or three stories each. To these forts the Germans moved the equipment of the Focke-Wulf factory, evacuated from Bremen, and other plants.

Of interest are the underground plants established by the Germans in France during the occupation period. Among other things, the Germans made use of a branch line and stations of the Paris subway for this purpose. The equipment of French plants of the Swedish SKF concern was used for the production of ball bearings there to supply the German

war industry. A fairly large factory was discovered by the Allies in the caves of eastern France where flying bombs for raids on London were manufactured in the greatest secrecy. Foreign workers were forced to work in these underground factories.

The largest underground enterprises were discovered on German territory by the troops of the First Ukrainian Front. In a deserted area amid forests they found a huge underground plant for the assembly of planes—a branch of one of the large German aircraft concerns. Everything was in perfect order in the underground shops, the Germans retreating in such haste they had no time to cause any damage. Thus Soviet troops beheld an underground German arsenal in its full glory.

A comparison of data on various German underground factories shows they were built by one organization and with uniform plan. The notorious Todt organization, which built highways, the Siegfried Line, the fortifications on Germany's eastern borders, the Mius Front fortifications, etc., was entrusted with the construction of these underground enterprises. It is known that General Todt himself met an inglorious end on the Soviet-German Front. The underground factories were run with the direct assistance of the Todt organization and under strict control of the Gestapo.

Workers of underground factories freed by the Red Army painted a nightmare picture of the Germans' systematic destruction of the builders of the underground enterprises.

Doubtless the continued advance of the

Red Army and of Allied troops will bring to light more underground enterprises in the interior of Germany. It is already possible to speak of a ramified network of such enterprises set up in natural caves, neglected mines and shafts, ancient forts, cellars and catacombs, subway lines and stations, and lastly, in underground galleries specially built by slave labor.

There is no doubt whatever that it was not for fun the Germans went underground. The construction of underground factories demands a tremendous expenditure of labor power, building materials and transportation equipment. It must also be remembered that to supply the underground factories it was necessary to build additional railway branches and highways, communication lines, power stations, etc.

Thus the construction of underground enterprises involved vast expenditures of metal, electrical equipment and other machinery, diverting considerable means and forces from other war construction, from fortifications, and in particular from the restoration of ruined factories above ground.

The Red Army's victorious offensive increased the danger to Germany's eastern districts. The transfer of important war factories from the north of Germany to the south, and from the west to the east, became senseless. The German war industry had only one path open to it—underground.

This enforced step was all the more unfavorable for the Germans since the size of underground premises and the conditions of work underground make it

extremely difficult to employ rationalized forms of production (direct flow methods, conveyors, etc.) and thus reduces labor productivity.

The greater the destruction caused by Allied air raids to old war factories above ground, the larger the number of war factories transferred underground by the Germans, and the more difficult it became, naturally, to achieve effective results by air raids. The Allies constantly increased the weight of their bombs, bringing the weight of the explosive bomb up to two, four, six and lastly, ten tons. In reply to this the Germans increased their "ceiling" of earth and concrete.

With bayonet and grenade the Red Army soldier fought his way through to the deep underground tunnels where the Germans considered themselves safe from the heaviest bombs and shells.

* * *

Not nearly all the secrets of German underground enterprises have been brought to light. It may be presumed there are still many underground factories in Germany where thousands of foreign slaves are bent under back-breaking labor. There the production of armaments continues for the last desperate resistance of the German-fascist troops.

Have the Germans built underground enterprises with a view to using them later for underground struggle, following the defeat of the regular army? It is hard to give a definite reply to this question, but there is no doubt that the system of underground enterprises, as it already exists, occupies an important place in the treacherous plans of the Hitlerites to continue the struggle underground and prepare for a third world war.

According to the foreign press, the Hitlerites intend to use the underground enterprises primarily for the staffs of future underground armed detachments and sabotage groups. The underground stores are designed to become armaments supply centers.

Apparently the Hitlerites intend to withdraw underground, not only in the indirect, but in the direct sense of this word. In vain, however, do they hope to find safety in their underground hideouts. Fascism will be wiped off the face of the earth, and it will also be destroyed underground.



Gallery of a German underground factory captured by the Red Army on the approaches to Berlin. A Soviet soldier stands guard

Radiophoto

BROTHERHOOD IN ARMS AND IN WORK

By J. Kowalski

Constructive work is going on full blast in Poland, now liberated by the Red Army. Under the leadership of the National Council (*Krajowa Rada Narodowa*) and the Provisional Government, the Polish people are healing the wounds inflicted on their country by the Hitlerite invaders.

Industrial enterprises are being started again, particularly in the western sections of Poland where the Germans retreated with such haste they had no chance to demolish the factories and mines. Over 100 large and medium mills are working in Lodz, the Polish Manchester. In the Dubrowa Basin 14 coal mines are in operation, and eight large metallurgical plants are again producing steel. Coal mines and metallurgical plants have been put into operation in Upper Silesia, which the Germans turned into an arsenal. Smoke is issuing from the factory stacks in Czestochowa, Zyrardow, Tomaszow, Malanowka, Cracow, Poznan, and other industrial centers.

There are still many difficulties to overcome: the shortage of means of transportation to haul coal from the Silesian and Dubrowa fields to other industrial centers, and a shortage of food for the urban population. But the Polish workers and the broad masses of the people, united around their democratic Government, are sparing no efforts to rehabilitate their country.

Profound changes are taking place in the rural districts of the newly liberated territories of Poland, where the agrarian reform is being enforced. In the province of Kielce, 900 landed estates are being divided. In the province of Cracow, 45,000 hectares of land that formerly belonged to the landlords have already been distributed among the peasants. Polish peasants are cooperating with Government authorities in the application of the agrarian reform in Lodz, Silesia and other provinces.

Scientific and educational institutions and organizations have resumed their activities. The Universities of Warsaw and Cracow have reopened; preparations are under way to reopen the University of Poznan. An entirely new Polish University with 16 departments is about to

be established in Lodz, which had no university of its own in the time when Polish reaction was in the saddle. Theaters are reopening everywhere. Polish literature and art are again a part of the resurgent cultural life of the country.

The Polish people now see for themselves that in all spheres of rehabilitation work they can count upon the aid of the peoples of the Soviet Union, to whose heroic Armies they owe their deliverance from the Hitlerite yoke. The first concrete manifestation of this help was the arrival last year of 10,000 tons of grain and other products for the relief of the population of Praga. This was followed by the gift of the Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Lithuanian Soviet Republics, which allotted 60,000 tons of grain for the relief of the population of Warsaw and other Polish cities. The generosity of the Soviet peoples has earned them the deep gratitude of the entire Polish nation.

The above by no means exhausts the contribution of the Soviet people to the rehabilitation of Poland. In response to the request of the National Council and the Provisional Government of Poland, the Soviet Government, in the person of Marshal Stalin, has promised to render practical aid in the reconstruction of Warsaw. The Council of People's Commissars of the USSR has undertaken to defray 50 per cent of the expenditures involved in the rehabilitation of Poland's Capital. The Soviet Union has already sent Warsaw 500 prefabricated houses, 30 trolley buses, and other vehicles. The Soviet Government

has promised to send some of the best architects and engineers to assist in the planning and restoration of Warsaw.

A delegation of well-known Soviet experts, headed by the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian SSR, Nikita Khrushchev, and Vice Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian SFSR, Pronin, recently visited Warsaw. (Nikita Khrushchev is known for his outstanding services in the reconstruction of Moscow).

One Sunday in March, thousands of people of Warsaw came out with spades and picks to help in the rehabilitation of their city. At a rally held on that occasion Khrushchev said:

"I am very happy that Marshal Stalin commissioned me to go to Warsaw together with engineers, architects and other construction experts, for the purpose of rendering all the help we can in the rehabilitation of your glorious Capital. Stalin stated to us: 'We must do as we can and all that is necessary to rebuild Warsaw.' The promises made by Stalin, the promises made by the Soviet Government, will be fully carried out. . . .

"Permit me to convey to you our wishes for the successful rehabilitation of the national economy of the Polish Republic, which the Germans destroyed, and in the rehabilitation of Poland's Capital, Warsaw."

Khrushchev ended his speech with an appeal for the strengthening of the ties of friendship between the Polish people and the peoples of the Soviet Union, and friendship among all the Slav nations.

**IN LIBERATED
CRACOW — Soviet
artillery rolls through
the streets of the
Polish city**



Radiophoto

which will guarantee them against enemy encroachments and enable them to order their life without interference, according to their own wishes.

The fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union to the new democratic Poland takes many concrete forms. The Command of the First Byelorussian Front has placed at the disposal of the Polish authorities 1,000 motor trucks captured from the Germans, to be used in the transportation

of coal from the Dubrowa and Silesia fields to Lodz. Large shipments of flour and other food products have arrived from the Soviet Union at Warsaw. Lublin has received 40 carloads and Lodz 204 carloads of high-grade seed grain, sent by the Soviet Union to help the Polish peasants in the spring sowing campaign.

Nikita Khrushchev said in his speech at the rally in Warsaw that not only the brotherhood in arms of the Polish and So-

viet peoples is now becoming cemented, but also their brotherhood in work, expressed in the joint efforts of the two countries to rehabilitate the towns and villages wrecked by the German invaders. This brotherhood, as pointed out by Khrushchev, will become a durable foundation for close cooperation between the Polish people and the peoples of the Soviet Union, a foundation of universal peace and security.

THE NEW SITUATION IN POLAND— AND THE OLD DELUSIONS

The following editorial appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 6:

As the communique on the results of the Crimea Conference states, the agreement on Poland proceeded from "a new situation" which had been "created in Poland as a result of her complete liberation by the Red Army." This proves the realism of the Crimea decision, and in this lies the pledge of its practical validity. For the agreement reached in the Crimea is based not on nebulous phrases, but on the firm ground of actual reality.

By defeating Hitler's hordes, the Red Army saved the Polish people and their state from what seemed inevitable destruction in the clutches of the German beast of prey. Perhaps in the eyes of certain hypocritical devotees of "justice," the defeat of the Nazi invaders by the Soviet Armies was a manifestation of "power politics"; but the fact remains that these "power politics" saved the Poles.

Perhaps, also, other hypocrites are inclined to interpret the liberation of Poland by the Soviet Armies as a manifestation of the "policy of *fait accompli*"; but millions of Poles—who for the first time after five years of savage Nazi terror have straightened their backs and are breathing freely on their native soil—are showering blessings on the Soviet Armies, thanks to whose efforts this fact was accomplished.

The new situation in Poland, created as a result of her complete liberation by the Red Army, lies in the fact that the regeneration of the Polish state on new democratic lines is now successfully pro-

ceeding on Polish soil. While still underground, under the Hitler regime, the democratic forces of the Polish people united for the purpose of devising new ways of restoring the Polish state, so as to rid it of fundamental defects in foreign and domestic policy which led to the catastrophe of 1939.

These democratic forces of the Polish people vigorously condemned the reckless and criminal policy of the ruling circles of prewar Poland, a policy that was based on pro-Hitler orientation in foreign affairs and on fascist methods of government at home. The democratic forces of the Polish people unanimously denounced the fascist constitution of 1935 and the machinations of the reactionary Polish emigre politicians who try to base themselves upon this moribund constitution.

Polish patriots drew the only correct conclusion from the tragic fate that overtook their country in this war. That conclusion was that Poland can be regenerated only as a democratic country living in friendship and harmony with her great Eastern neighbor; as a country which is a mother and not a stepmother to her masses—workers, peasants and intellectuals; as a country where the peasants possess land and the entire people liberty; as a strong democratic republic capable of successfully withstanding any new attempt on the part of Germany to strike against the East, and possessing all the necessary requisites for this in the sphere of home and foreign policy.

There is no need to retrace the thorny

path traversed by democratic elements of the Polish people who united on Polish soil to fight the brutal Nazi occupation. From this movement sprang the Polish Committee of National Liberation, later re-formed into the Provisional Government of the Polish Republic.

The Provisional Government, which rests upon a broad coalition of the democratic parties, is now effectively exercising its functions throughout the whole territory of liberated Poland. The Polish Provisional Government took the only possible path of creating a strong, independent, free and democratic Poland. This path was the resolute democratization of the internal life of the country, a firm policy of alliance and friendship with the Soviet Union as well as with Great Britain, the United States, France and other democratic countries, and a determined struggle against the pro-Hitler reactionary elements.

The Provisional Government of Poland has proceeded to give effect to a broad program for the democratization of the entire political and social life of the country. Success is being achieved in carrying out the agrarian reform, which will satisfy the Polish peasant's age-old longing for a plot of land of his own, and which will at the same time cut away the economic base of the feudal landlord reaction.

Administration, judiciary, organization of the Armed Forces, and education are being reconstructed on the basis of the democratic Constitution of 1921. In this

the Provisional Government has the active support of the broadest sections of the Polish people. The liberation of Poland from the German invaders has called forth an outburst of immense enthusiasm and creative fervor among the masses of the people—all through the country which was plundered and denuded under Nazi occupation, thousands of mills and factories are already operating, trains are running, millions of children are attending school, universities are being opened, and towns are beginning to receive supplies, although still with great difficulty; while the Polish Army, shoulder to shoulder with the gallant Red Army, is fighting the German-fascist armies and daily increasing the contribution of the Polish people to the common cause of smashing Hitler Germany.

* * *

Such, in broadest outline, is the new situation in Poland. Such are the facts—and facts, as the British say, are stubborn things. It was from these facts that the Crimea agreement on the Polish question proceeded. This agreement, as we know, states that "the Provisional Government which is now functioning in Poland should . . . be reorganized on a broader democratic basis with the inclusion of democratic leaders from Poland itself and from Poles abroad."

In the Crimea a committee of three—V. M. Molotov, Mr. A. W. Harriman and Sir A. Clark-Kerr—was authorized to consult in Moscow in the first instance with members of the present Provisional Government and other Polish democratic leaders from within Poland and from abroad, with a view to the reorganization of the present government along the above lines. At the same time the Crimea Conference settled the differences which had existed between the three Allied powers over the question of Poland's frontiers.

These decisions of the Crimea Conference were hailed with deep satisfaction and approval by the broadest sections of the public, both in liberated Poland and in all Allied countries. They also aroused the quite understandable fury of those elements to whom the strengthening of unity among the Allied great powers and the genuine rehabilitation of the Polish state on democratic lines are equally odious.

It is not surprising that the Hitlerites and their numerically few but exceedingly vociferous mouthpieces in the Allied countries raised a howl over the Crimea agreement on Poland. In the general chorus of Hitler's henchmen, loudest of all were the shrill voices of the Polish bankrupts who have remained alien to their own country, of the Raczkiewicz-Arciszewski clique in London which, to the amusement of the world, continues to call itself the Polish government.

The Polish people have approved the Crimea decisions because they strengthen the unity of the anti-German coalition, which is the guarantee of the rebirth of a strong, independent and democratic Poland. The gentry of the Raczkiewicz-Arciszewski camp, on the other hand, raised an outcry against the Crimea decisions because their only prospect of political existence lies in the disintegration of the anti-Hitler coalition. These two positions are so antithetical, so mutually exclusive, that any attempt to reconcile them is foredoomed to failure.

It is also clear from this how vain are the attempts to adopt a *berwixt-and-between* position made by a group of exile leaders who, as a result of events with which we are familiar, find themselves outside the Raczkiewicz-Arciszewski camp, but who are averse to joining the camp of Polish democracy which is fighting the Hitlerites and building a new life. This group has never resolutely dissociated itself from the reactionary camp, and whatever its intentions may be, by its efforts to make it appear that a compromise is still possible, it is only helping to strengthen this camp of political bankrupts.

The tone in the camp of the emigre "government" is set by a handful of land magnates who stand to lose their vast estates as a result of the agrarian reform, and by a clique of reactionary politicians whose last hope of preserving their power, privileges and lucrative posts is being frustrated by the abrogation of the constitution of 1935.

The interests and aspirations of the Polish people are alien to these bankrupts. They are opposed to Poland's eastern frontier following the Curzon line, because they do not want to give up their vast

estates to the east of this line, or the savage feudal exploitation of the millions of Byelorussian and Ukrainian peasants. They object to the substantial accessions of territory to Poland in the north and west, provided for in the Crimea decisions; to the restitution to the Polish state of the ancient Slavonic lands which the Germans seized, because they still cherish the dream of reversion to the pro-German and anti-Soviet policy which the Polish reactionaries pursued in the period between the two wars.

At the time when the Red Army is copiously shedding its blood in battles upon whose outcome the liberty and life of the Polish people depend, the reactionary, pro-fascist elements among the Polish exiles grouped around the London "government" continue to incite the Poles to hostile actions against the Red Army.

The democratic public of the Allied countries unanimously endorse the Crimea agreement on the Polish question. They rightly regard it not only as the solution of the urgent problem of the future of much-suffering Poland, but also as a striking proof that the Allied great powers, despite the hopes of their enemies, will succeed in settling their differences even over the most complex questions in a spirit of harmony and unanimity.

Characteristic of the opinion of the Crimea decisions on the Polish question held by the reputable press of the democratic countries was an editorial in the London *Times* of February 27, on the eve of the debate in the House of Commons on the Crimea Conference. Selecting the mildest expressions, the newspaper admits that if it were relevant to examine the legal credentials of the Polish exile government, they would "certainly not be beyond challenge." It opportunely draws attention to the fact that the experience not only in Poland, but in other countries of liberated Europe as well, shows that "new governments and new leaders thrown up after liberation are the necessary bulwark of a stable future administration." It goes on to say: "given these premises, it is difficult to see what decision is possible other than to recognize the administration now working, however imperfectly," in Poland.

In conclusion, the *Times*, while express-

ing the hope of a felicitous settlement of the Polish question, warns that: "It would be tragic if any heated or unguarded words pronounced in the House of Commons in the forthcoming debate were to discourage this hope or render its realization more difficult."

As we know, there was no lack of "heated and unguarded words" during the debate in the House of Commons, although there is no need to take this too tragically. As was to be expected, these words came chiefly from the mouths of those British members of Parliament who with enviable constancy never let slip an opportunity to oppose cooperation among the Allied powers. Their animadversions on the subject of Poland added nothing to the clarification of the Polish question nor to the characterization of their political complexion.

It is difficult not to agree with Labor Member Shinwell's estimate of the political complexion of those members of Parliament who came out in opposition to the Crimea Conference and voted for the amendment that was moved to the resolution.

"The names of those sponsoring the amendment," he said, "are reminiscent of the Chamberlain era of Anglo-German fellowship, of the era of the friends of Franco, and of many other questionable episodes. Having regard to their record, they are much more concerned about hostility to Soviet Russia than they are to promote the best interests of the Poles."

Among these people may be found not only conservatives of the Chamberlain persuasion, but also some of Mr. Shinwell's colleagues in the Labor Party.

What, for example, should be said of the efforts of worthy Labor Member Stokes who, while accusing the British Government of wanting to "destroy Poland," is so solicitous of the interests of the Polish people that he objected to Poland having access to the sea, and tried to console the Poles with the statement that: "Lots of countries in Europe have no such outlet and live economically secure." As if this overgrown child in the British Parliament does not understand that if the southern Baltic Coast is not in Polish hands, it will remain in the hands of the Germans. Perhaps Stokes has some other scheme in mind about which he is silent?

Not all opponents of the Crimea decision are as frank as Stokes. Others prefer to hide behind a screen woven of all sorts of "doubts." Thus, Michael Foot, of the labor newspaper *Daily Herald*, is very worried about "freedom of speech and freedom of action" in Poland. He might recall that freedom of speech and action is what Polish seamen in British ports recently wanted to avail themselves of. They expressed their support of the Provisional Government, which is successfully functioning in Warsaw. And what did they find? Repressive measures were immediately showered upon the directing body of the Seamen's Union by "authorities" of the Arciszewski clique. The representatives of the Union were forbidden access to the ships, some of the seamen were discharged, the shipowners vetoed the collection of union dues, etc.

Michael Foot, who champions freedom of speech and freedom of action, had the opportunity—if he had wished it—to apply his efforts in this cause in a wide arena which, incidentally, lies not in far-off Poland but in his own immediate vicinity.

* * *

The strength of the Crimea agreement is that it proceeds from the new situation created in Poland as a result of her liberation from German-fascist slavery. The weakness of those who are trying to upset or pervert the Crimea decisions is that they proceed from old prejudices. Attempts to place old prejudices above the actual state of affairs have never succeeded and never will.

Naturally, anybody who confuses geography with politics and calls the Warsaw Provisional Government of Poland the Lublin Committee, puts himself in a ridiculous position. For everybody now knows that the functioning Provisional Government to which the Crimea communique refers is the sole real authority recognized by the Polish people. In the controversy with the incorrigible advocates of a Munich policy in the House of Commons, it was convincingly argued that to ignore this fact may only be productive of harm.

At the Crimea Conference the leaders of the three Allied powers—the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Brit-

ain—agreed that by broadening the basis of the present Provisional Government of Poland, with which the Soviet Union maintains diplomatic relations at the present time, a new Polish Provisional Government of National Unity should be formed, which will be recognized by all the Allied powers. This means that the Provisional Government now functioning in Warsaw, the Polish Capital, must serve as the basis of the future Polish Provisional Government of National Unity.

As for the London emigre "government," no mention at all is made of it in the decisions of the Crimea Conference. This impostor "government" is ignored because it is utterly discredited in the eyes of the Polish people and alien to the country, whereas the Provisional Government has acquired enormous prestige among the broad masses of Poland and has won the confidence and support of her people. It was no accident, therefore, that the Crimea decisions were welcomed with full approval by the Provisional Polish Government, whereas the London emigre "government" of Raczkiewicz and Arciszewski released a flood of all sorts of "protests," as stupid as they were ludicrous.

The democratic forces rallied around the Polish Provisional Government have always stood for broad national unity. They have striven and are still striving for such unity. They are fully determined to broaden the Provisional Government by the additional inclusion of democratic leaders both from Poland and abroad. But the issue is precisely the inclusion of additional democratic leaders, and not an attempt to galvanize into life the political corpses of bankrupt "leaders" of the utterly decayed camp of Polish reactionaries.

The Crimea decision on Poland is being so warmly hailed by the broad public of the democratic countries because it conforms to the general interest of the freedom-loving nations, and makes for the most successful conclusion of the war against Hitler Germany and the insurance of an enduring, stable peace in Europe and in the world generally. This is a guarantee that nobody will succeed in preventing the Crimea agreement on Poland from being put into effect.

Notes from Front and Rear

The cornerstone of a 90-foot-high monument to the heroes of the battle for Odessa will be laid in that port on April 10, anniversary of its liberation. Architect Nikolai Belchikov designed the memorial. The obelisk will be of snow-white Bes-sarabian marble, and the sculpture groups at its base will portray episodes of the heroic battle for the city.

★

Prominent artists of the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theater, including A. Nezhdanova, N. Obukhova, N. Kanayev, Sergei Lemeshev and Viktor Smoltsov are among the 398 artists and employees of the Theater awarded Medals for the Defense of Moscow. When the Hitler armies stood at the gates of the Capital, the famous singers and dancers continued to perform in the theater and to visit the fighting units, inspiring them in the battle which ended in the rout of the Germans before Moscow.

★

Captain Konstantin Badigin of the Soviet Merchant Marine, a Hero of the Soviet Union, has published a book of his travel notes on the United States. Captain Badigin led the famous 812-day drift of the Soviet icebreaker Sedov amid the Arctic ice floes. During the war he has delivered valuable cargoes from abroad.

★

Stalin Prize Winner Alexander Chalkov, smelter at the Stalin Kuznetsk steel works, smelted about 5,000 tons of steel above his quota in 1944. During the war he has smelted enough steel to build 2,250 tanks. This famous Soviet worker also contributed 20,000 rubles to the Red Army Fund, requesting that the money be used to provide tommy guns for a Siberian division of volunteers from the Kuznetsk Basin. Chalkov pledged to smelt above his norm the steel necessary to manufacture these weapons. A few months later the division received the tommy guns. The Commander has conferred upon Chalkov the title of Honorary Guardsman of the Division.

Moscow recently marked the 20th anniversary of the date on which the Rumyantsev Public Library, founded in 1862, became the Lenin State Library of the USSR. In 1944 the book stocks numbered 10,000,000 volumes. Some 900,000 persons visited the reading halls in this period, and about 4,000,000 books were loaned. The library maintains connections with 400 cultural organizations of 36 countries.

★

Yalta, famous Crimean health resort devastated by the Germans, will be completely rebuilt. The main feature of the general plan for the city, completed by Andrei Burov of the Soviet Academy of Architecture, is the reconstruction of Yalta Quay. Builders will push the sea back by erecting a causeway, which will widen the quay from 35 to 150 feet. With its continuous row of foundations, Yalta Quay will stand comparison with Nice and Rio de Janeiro. A motor highway will be built in the mountains nearby, girdling the city and passing through a tunnel under the quay. There will be hotels along the quay side facing the sea.

★

The Kamchatka fishing plan for 1944 was completed five months ahead of time. The plan for the first quarter of 1945 was fulfilled by Red Army Day, February 23. The war years have seen the fishing industry double its fish yield and canning output.

★

S. Makarov, chief mechanic of a mine in the Karaganda coal basin, Kazakhstan, has designed a combine which revealed splendid qualities when tested in the industry. Carrying out the entire process of coal mining from hewing to feeding the conveyor, it handles 40 to 50 tons of coal per hour. The Karaganda machine-building plant has gone over to serial production of these combines, and the first models have already been delivered to the mines.

The mother of the famous flier, Thrice Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel Alexander Pokryshkin, has been decorated with the Motherhood Medal, First Class. All Pokryshkina's five sons are fighting at the front. Novosibirsk residents and delegations from military units, institutions and factories daily visit this mother of heroes, and the postman brings congratulatory letters and telegrams from the four corners of the USSR. "When the war ends and the Hitlerites are finally routed, all my falcons will fly home," Pokryshkina hopefully says.

★

The Soviet Government has posthumously conferred the title of Hero of the Soviet Union upon Senior Sergeant Andrei Yelgin, who was standard-bearer for his regiment. During a counter-attack by a large German force in East Prussia, the Russian unit found itself in a tight spot. The regimental commander ordered Yelgin to save the banner. The Sergeant removed it from the flagpole and wrapped it around his body, then with several tommy gunners began battling his way through the ring of enemy fire. He was gravely wounded, but continued to fight. When the Russians finally flung the Germans back, Yelgin's body was found on the battlefield surrounded by nine dead Hitlerites, and with the battle standard still wrapped around him.

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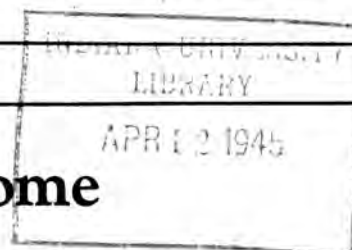
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The Finale Has Come

By Ilya Ehrenburg

German soldiers dream of getting civilian clothes; on the black market, gauleiters buy Austrian birth certificates, papers testifying to their political unreliability, and documents which had belonged to the Jews they killed.

German propaganda urges the Germans to be staunch and stubborn. Now we can laugh at this. Now we know how the big city of Mannheim surrendered over the telephone. Now we know how Heidelberg capitulated: eight German officers flying a Red Cross flag brought the Americans the plan of the city and offered their services as guides. Evidently this is the much-lauded German staunchness.

Why do the Germans now hang out white rags? Why is it that now not only the Fritzies but the Reichswehr generals are saying "*Hitler kaput*"? They have no moral staunchness. They are insolent and cowardly gangsters.

Did the Poles who fought in the Westerplatte surrender over the telephone? Did the defenders of Sevastopol present Germany with the plan of the city? Did

the Jews of the Warsaw ghetto who fought the German army with homemade grenades think of saving their lives? Did the Yugoslav guerrillas hang out white flags? Did Russian young boys and girls whom the Germans bled white in torture chambers repudiate Russia? No! Emphatically no. That was courage.

If the Germans on the banks of the Oder do not raise their hands but fight stubbornly, it is only because these hands are smeared with blood—they fear retribution. Conscience, ideals, a noble spirit, are indispensable in the fight against a superior force. That is why the British did not surrender in 1940; that is why the heroes of Stalingrad won. And that is why the Germans in Mannheim howl: "Please don't shoot."

Surrendering to the Americans wholesale, the Germans evidently think that, inasmuch as they failed to invade America, a resident of Nevada will receive them better than a resident of Byelorussia.

I am sincerely enthusiastic about our Allies' actions on the front: before sweeping through Westphalia, Hessen and

Bavaria they had to break through the enemy defenses. I am sincerely happy that the big victories cost our friends few sacrifices. There is no room for jealousy here: we have all come out with sickles to reap the harvest of victory, and each of us has his own field.

In these days of dazzling harvest among the abundant fields of glory, I recall other and sterner days—I recall the men who sowed the victory.

Why is it that the tankmen of the American First and Third Armies do not encounter resistance? Where are the Germans who were to defend Darmstadt, Mannheim and Frankfurt? In Russian soil. They have rotted to dust between the Volga and the Vistula. The fate of Germany was decided not on the Niemen and not on the Rhine, but on the Volga. The Medal for the Defense of Stalingrad, in the eyes of everyone, decorates the wearer for the capture of Berlin.

Countless are the sacrifices of our nation. No diplomats can weigh them or count them. But there are people in the world who are trying hard to forget; for



Radiophotos

ON THE FIRST UKRAINIAN FRONT—Private Petukhov preparing signs in Russian to be put up on German roads; (right) German prisoners of war crossing the Oder River on their way to camps in the Soviet rear

whom memory is but a burden. The Germans are not short of advocates. It is now already possible to form an "association for the protection of hangmen." The advocates have become excited: "The Russians want to doom the Germans to slave labor."

This is a gross lie! We want and we will see to it that the incendiaries rebuild what they have destroyed.

And Germans who are now in American-occupied regions dare to demand that

they be "temporarily" permitted to continue to exploit Russian, French and Polish slaves. This is what they say on the very first days when the grimace of the death-horror is still on their faces. What tune will they sing three months from now? . . .

No, you cannot reform Germans with sermons and canned food. If the Germans have advocates, then prosecutors will be found: the peoples. And courts will be found: the soldiers of justice. The blood

of Soviet soldiers is still flowing; on our front the Germans do not attempt to surrender cities over the telephone. The world still needs the whole might of the Red Army to crush fascism.

And yet the day of the finale has arrived. In this great hour, recalling the four years of hard struggle, we promise the nations of the world and our children *This will never come again!* The Red Army gives its word of honor. The Soviet Union gives its word of honor.

Toward the Sudeten Heights

By Major V. Poltoratsky

The encirclement and defeat of the German troops southwest of Oppeln created favorable conditions for fresh blows against the enemy, and these instantly followed. The Soviet Information Bureau had already reported that, having suppressed enemy resistance, Soviet troops seized Strehlen. Simultaneously, Soviet forces in another sector in Silesia launched offensive operations, breached strong enemy defenses and seized Rybnik and Ratibor. Fighting now proceeds in the foothills of the Sudeten Heights, a series of terraces rising from 1,000 to 1,500 meters. The terrain favors the defenders, but Soviet troops are pushing doggedly ahead.

We reached the area of the fighting early in the morning. Pale mists still hovered over the mountain tops. The shrubbery in the valley bore the fresh greenery of spring. Along the road we could see the red brick roofs of villages.

An unceasing rumble in the distance told us that Soviet artillery was in action on the flanks. Echoed by the cliffs, it sounded much like thunder. Trucks rushed over the road to the front. These were the Studebakers bringing up ammunition; the red banners on their radiators showed they were carrying especially important loads. The infantry strode evenly ahead.

Fresh traces of battle were visible everywhere; the roadsides were festooned with the wreckage of German trucks, twisted metal and charred timber. Shell holes in the fields resembled blots of ink on a green cloth.

But spring is spring, even at the front. The countryside was turning green, and at the edge of a small grove near the

road we saw wild goats grazing. At the sound of our motor they raised their heads and leaped away. Pheasants strutted through the corn.

As we rounded the spur of the mountains, the sounds of fighting grew louder. Now we could hear the rattle of machine guns. The earth was steaming. Amid the ruins of a brick house at a fork in the road we met a Lieutenant Colonel, who was reporting to his chief by phone.

"They are resisting hard," he said. "It is difficult to drive the Nazis from these heights, but we are doing it bit by bit."

Attempting to hold their favorable positions, the Germans drew up fresh tank units and counter-attacked in several places. These sorties of the enemy yielded him little.

The certainty of victory is characteristic of Soviet soldiers. Pressing steadily onward, they overcome the enemy's resistance. Fierce fighting broke out that day near a well defended stronghold of the enemy. Soviet tanks broke through from the northwest. Located in the upper reaches of the Oder, this stronghold covered the approaches to the foothills. The Germans therefore spared no efforts to hold fast. In the evening, however, we learned that tanks were already engaging the enemy on the flanks, supported by striking units of our infantry. Our aircraft, too, made the best of the clear weather and threw their weight into the balance.

The fighting in the Sudeten foothills is fierce and bloody, and the courage and daring of Soviet troops are evident here as elsewhere.



Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel Yakubovsky (left), whose tanks were the first to cross the Oder and Bober Rivers



Soviet tommy gunners fighting in the streets of Breslau

BRATISLAVA LIBERATED

The Vienna-Bratislava ring of German defenses has been pierced. Marshal Malinovsky's forces have liberated Slovakia's main city, Bratislava, which was for seven years under the German yoke.

After liberating this ancient Slav city, the Russians pursued the routed enemy troops and are forging toward Vienna from the east and northeast.

The Hitlerites have lost an important military-economic base. In Bratislava are concentrated war industries, chemical, electro-technical and machine-tool plants, and large German army stores, as well as the biggest power station in Czechoslovakia. Protected from the west by the small Carpathians and the deep Morava River, from the south by the wide Danube and from the east by the small Danube, Bratislava is a natural fortress at the meeting point of three states—Czechoslovakia, Austria and Hungary.

All Soviet arms, including the Danube Flotilla, took part in the encircling of Bratislava and subsequently in clearing this fortress of the furiously resisting enemy divisions. Cossacks and tankmen broke through the German defenses in the foothills of the small Carpathians and

in fierce mountain fighting, vigorously assisted by assault detachments, made their way across the small Carpathians and emerged in the western foothills punctually at the time set by the Soviet Command.

An avalanche of Cossacks and tanks swept upon Bratislava from the north, while infantry columns headed by artillery engaged the main enemy forces from the east. The German defenses bristled with fire arms. Inside the city the Germans stationed machine guns in every window of the largest factories, and ringed the streets with guns of all calibers. Soviet gunners crushed the Hitlerites' resistance by massed point-blank fire, and the Bratislava garrison was routed. The Russians took over 4,600 German officers and men prisoner.

An IZVESTIA correspondent with the Red Army in the foothills of the Austrian Alps wrote on April 5:

The population of some Austrian inhabited localities refuse to evacuate with the retreating German troops. The roads from Austria to Hungary are crowded day and night with a stream of natives

of western Hungary who were forcibly driven away by the Germans and are now returning home.

The German command forced thousands of Soviet war prisoners and Yugoslavs and Poles to work on the construction of the Austrian frontier defenses. They were herded together from concentration camps in all parts of Austria. Slaves were even taken away from German landowners at the height of the harvest to build the wall protecting Austria—fascist Germany's last war arsenal.

At first one gets lost in the maze of trenches, anti-tank moats and underground forts. It is hard to figure out where one line ends and another begins. In front of every bridge, even the smallest, the enemy erected barriers of gigantic mountain oaks, dragged there by thousands of unfortunate slaves. The Red Army's swift thrust sealed the fate of this wall in a short time. I saw dozens of German trenches which were never used by the Hitlerites: the German reserves were annihilated by the Russian tanks and Cossacks who broke into the enemy rear.

IN GDANSK (DANZIG)

By K. Taradankin

The road to Gdansk crosses the German defense lines. Everything here, even the earth itself, is scorched by battle, speaking of the fierce and bloody fighting that raged at the approaches to the city. In some places the road is cut by an anti-tank ditch; in others you have to by-pass a wrecked bridge. On either side of the highway the eye meets ruined blockhouses and burned German tanks. German guns stand silent on the hills; corpses of German soldiers lie in caved-in trenches.

The streets of Gdansk are strewn with a rubble of bricks, and glass splinters under your feet. Most of the buildings bear traces of the action of our artillery and aircraft. The inhabitants have emerged from their cellars—these are the Germans who fled to Gdansk from Pomerania and East Prussia, from Polish cities liberated by the Red Army. They drag huge bun-

dles. A fat German woman with her hat awry on her head is screaming that she will walk to Berlin and with her own hands strangle Hitler who, it appears, has so deceived Germany. It is a well-known fact that Germans falling into the hands of Soviet troops begin to pour curses on Hitler, Himmler and the entire fascist gang. But this does not prevent other Germans—soldiers and officers disguised in mufti—from shooting Red Army men in the back.

Colonel Ramazan, Military Commandant of Gdansk, had to take decisive measures to safeguard the city from German incendiarys haunting its streets. The Commandant is establishing order in the city; the population is being registered, and valuables, historical buildings and monuments are being listed. The mail has

brought the latest copies of Moscow newspapers to the men who fought for Gdansk. Little by little life in this city, in which the fighting is over, is becoming organized.

Passing wharves blown up by the Germans, barricades of yellow streetcars and trucks piled on top of each other, we reach the center of the city. A crowd of prisoners, guarded by Soviet tommy gunners, is marched in the opposite direction. A rifle formation overtakes us, hurrying toward the Frische Nehrung Spit on which the remnants of a German garrison are being wiped out. The Germans are still attempting to reach the port of Pillau from there, and several thousand automobiles have been collected on the narrow stretch of land. Soviet aircraft struck at the Spit and then turned in the direction of the Gulf to rain down their bombs on enemy shipping.

Donbas Mine Yields up Bodies of Soviet People Slain by Germans



Radiophoto

Almost daily during their 23 months' occupation of the Donbas, the Germans shot peaceful Soviet civilians and hurled their bodies down the deep shaft of the flooded Kalinin mine No. 4, near Stalino. At night German trucks carrying 30 to 35 people each drew up at the mine entrance. The doomed were ordered to undress and march through a line of German guards to the edge of the shaft, where they were forced to their knees and shot in the back of the head. Their bodies fell forward into the shaft. German police officials sitting in their private cars watched these executions. On the eve of their retreat from Stalino, the Nazis dynamited the surface structure of the mine (shown left) in an attempt to conceal their crime. By order of the Extraordinary State Committee the debris of stone, iron and concrete was cleared away and salvaging crews began bring the bodies to the surface. On the right are seen the rows of bodies near the mine entrance, with grief-stricken relatives endeavoring to identify mothers, fathers, husbands and children

THE BLOOD OF LITTLE CHILDREN

By A. Verbitsky

The Germans themselves called this monstrous enterprise a "blood factory." Every day cases filled with bottles and ampullas were shipped from here to German hospitals. And what they contained was the blood of little children.

This merciless blood-letting of little children went on in a concentration camp at Salaspils, near Riga, which we had occasion to visit recently. The camp proved to be a miniature edition of Maidanek. It was a death camp for war prisoners and for peaceable civilians from around the Dnieper, from the Donbas, from Holland and from the Ukraine. The victims were either shot or suffocated with gas, burned alive or done to death by "cyclone."

We were shown around the huge camp, where exhumation of the bodies of victims is still going on, by Albert Varno, a Latvian from the neighborhood whose

two sons are serving in the Baltic Fleet.

"It is all too monstrous for words," he kept repeating. "Had I not seen the little children with my own eyes, I would never have believed it." He guided us to a little country place overlooking the sea. Nestled in among the trees in a dense park stood a children's home. In this home live the little girls and boys who survived the horrors of the Nazi concentration camp at Salaspils.

Altogether there were 400 of them. I was amazed at the quiet that reigned here, as though the house were wrapped in slumber. But we did not find the children asleep. They were sitting or lying in their beds in grim silence, evidently still oppressed by what they had so recently lived through.

"Where do you come from?" we asked a blue-eyed youngster who seemed about nine years of age.

Catching his breath in gasps and speaking in a feeble, hardly audible voice, he replied, "From Sevastopol. I lived right by the sea like here, only this is the Baltic Sea, and in Sevastopol it's the Black Sea." And as he pronounced these words, a faint flush covered his wan cheeks and a light came into his sunken eyes.

We learned the little boy's story. Gruesome as it is, it is typical of the little boys and girls confined in the home.

Vitya Kravchenko—that is the boy's name—lived with his parents in Sevastopol. He had four brothers and one sister. When the Germans seized Sevastopol they shot Vitya's father, a former sailor who was one of the city's defenders. His mother and 16-year-old brother Kolya were deported to Germany. The younger children, with hundreds of others, were packed off to the camp at Salaspils.

At the camp there were special juvenile

barracks. And although the bunks were built in four rows, up to the very ceiling, still there was not enough room and the children lay huddled together on the floor. They were subject to the same regulations as grown-ups. In one of the barracks Vitya Kravchenko lived with his three brothers, Alyosha, Lenya and Mitya, and his sister Valya. Mitya, the youngest, was only a year and eight months old.

"Mitya cried all the time because he was hungry," says Vitya. "We fed him with cabbage leaves, but he soon fell ill and died. Valya was bled to death."

The Hitlerites abducted hundreds of children, forcibly tearing them away from their parents, in order to set up the blood factory near Riga. The factory was run on a real business basis; the administration of the camp had concluded an agreement with their fascist Red Cross whereby it promised to deliver a supply of fresh blood of the little children to the Nazi hospitals daily. And the fascist vampires were extremely proud of this factory with its daily blood output running to 200 liters.

We spoke to little victims from Leningrad and Odessa, from Poltava and Lvov. We saw two little girls from Paris. From what these children told us, we were able to reconstruct a picture of the horrors in the Salaspils camp.

Every morning the fascist doctor, a veritable child-slayer in a white smock, with two German soldiers as his assistants, would pay a visit to the juvenile barracks. As soon as he arrived a large table was moved to the center of the barracks and one of the soldiers got the blood-letting instruments.

The very sight of these preparations sent the children into hysterics. But their pitiful cries did not make the least impression on the doctor. While he fussed about with the instruments, the soldiers, with lists in hand, went rummaging in the bunks for their victims. According to the rules, blood was to be drained from each child once a week. The children had special tags around their necks. These were compared with the lists by the soldiers, and amid heartrending cries the children were dragged in turn to the operating table.

Being undernourished and sickly, only in rare cases did the children survive the

fifth or sixth operation. In each barracks a daily death toll of from ten to 15 children was reported.

In August, 1942, a large group of Ukrainian children, mostly sons and daughters of Soviet soldiers and sailors, were brought to the camp. Among them were the six children of the Lemeshev family, the eldest being 14, the youngest three. The children looked extremely healthy, which pleased the fascists, and they decided to draw blood from them every three days. Two months later the six children died, suffering terrible agonies.

We were shown the case histories of many of the children now in the home. Here are a few examples:

Natasha Panfilova, age 10—Looks very sickly, is suffering from pernicious anemia. Natasha is extremely nervous, is given to frequent outbursts of tears. At the Salaspils camp she was bled 18 times.

Pavel Levchenko, age 12—Was bled 10 times at the Salaspils camp. The boy is suffering from mental derangement . . . screams at night.

Gregori Senkevich, age 7—Is afflicted with acute inanition from lack of blood. Gregori is silent all the time, has no appetite, and gives little hope of convalescing.

We read the names of children under the age of two who were imprisoned in the camp and bled. "Anna Karamysh, one year and seven months, was subjugated to vivisection at the Salaspils camp."

It is hard to say how many children were done to death by the fascist vampires in the juvenile barracks at Salaspils. And the few who survived and are now harbored in the home near Riga have not yet recovered from the frightful nightmare they lived through.

In one of the basements at the camp we discovered cases with empty ampullas and jars. The labels read: *Conserved Blood, Group, Date.*

The Red Army has expelled the fascist vampires from the Baltic States. To their long list of crimes yet another has been added: the bleeding to death of the children at Salaspils. When the day of reckoning comes, the blood of these innocent children will be avenged.

To Save the Youth

On June 22, 1941, hundreds of thousands of Soviet children were en route to Southern vacation resorts. On that day the bloodthirsty Germans invaded the country. The war changed the direction of the trains—they turned east to save their little passengers from the bombs, shells and bullets of the German killers.

A new Soviet film, *Children and War*, describes how the Soviet country exerted every effort to save its young generation.

The Hitlerites trapped many children in encircled towns. The youngsters were brave, they helped to care for the wounded, they helped the Red Army men and guerrillas. In besieged Leningrad the children who remained did their share of war work. When the front was at the gates of Moscow, two little girls, Nina Orlova and Galina Firsova, gave such valuable aid to the wounded that they were awarded medals.

In the war-stricken areas, many children whose parents had fallen victims to the Nazis were picked up by Red Army men and guerrillas. The film shows that these adopted sons and daughters of soldiers later entered military, vocational and art schools, and that many were adopted by Soviet families.

During the worst months of the war, when the enemy stood at the Caucasus, on the Volga, at Moscow and Leningrad, the people and the Government paid the utmost attention to the children. New rest homes, sanatoriums, children's palaces and schools have been opened for children freed from German concentration camps.

Child Slaves Liberated From German Camps

Two hundred and fifty Soviet children liberated by the Red Army from a German slave camp near Lodz, Poland, recently arrived in Kiev. They were all that survived of more than 1,000 children taken to the camp.

With horror the little captives told of their life. They were driven to work, and fed on starvation rations. Many died of hunger, exhaustion and beatings.

The children are being sent to various homes where they will be given loving care and the best medical attention.

THE STRUGGLE FOR AGRARIAN REFORM IN RUMANIA

By I. Golikov

From WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 6:

The day following the formation of the new Rumanian Government, Premier Petru Groza declared at a press conference that one of the first measures of his cabinet would be to pass the agrarian reform. The demand for immediate agrarian reform constitutes one of the main planks of the program of the National Democratic Front. Behind this demand the broadest sections of the Rumanian peasantry are united.

Governments in which reactionary elements dominated—and such were the preceding Rumanian governments—opposed the agrarian reform tooth and nail. It could not be otherwise. The reform would destroy the material base of the most reactionary forces in Rumania—the agrarian magnates; it would undermine this bulwark and citadel of fascism, and create conditions for the complete extirpation of the pro-fascist elements which were acting in close contact with the Germans.

All through the history of Rumania, the feudal estates of the boyars served as a brake on the development of the productive forces of agriculture, and on the economic progress of the countryside; they were an obstacle to the democratization of the internal regime, the bulwark of oppression, chauvinism, rabid reaction, stagnation and conservatism, and the source of aggressive trends in foreign policy.

Rumania's agriculture is dominated by the feudal boyar, who employs semi-feudal methods of exploiting the poverty-stricken landless and small peasants. The agrarian reform of 1918-21, which the ruling circles conceded out of fear of the revolutionary upheavals of the postwar years, did not abolish the landed estates and did not give land to the peasants.

This is strikingly borne out by the figures showing the distribution of land today: out of 19,750,000 hectares of arable land, 13,385,000 hectares belong to 3,255,000 peasants, while 6,365,000 hectares belong to only 25,000 large landowners. As the leaders of the Patriotic

League recently pointed out, 12,000 of the largest landowners own as much land as two million peasants.

When it passed the reform of 1918-21, the government of the National Liberal Party—largest of the "historical parties"—took care that the boyar owners of the big latifundia should not suffer; and that the numerous survivals of feudalism, in the perpetuation and further intensification of which the big landowners were interested, should be preserved. . . .

We thus see that the reform of 1918-21 did not abolish the feudal survivals which are still a drag upon the country's agriculture. The heavy purchase payments were a severe drain on most of the newly created farms. The peasants were unable to purchase the necessary agricultural implements or obtain cheap government loans. As a result, very many of the peasants were unable to cultivate their land or else fell into bondage to usurers who, as a rule, extort no less than 20-25 per cent on loans they advance. Rumanian economists estimate the indebtedness of the peasant farm is usually twice or three times as high as the market value of its land.

The Rumanian variety of sharecropping known as *dijma*, under which the landowner not infrequently takes two-thirds of the crop or even more, still remains the principal basis of landlord farming. *Dijma* became widespread in Transylvania and the Banat, which were incorporated into Rumania after the war of 1914-18.

Under these conditions, Rumanian agriculture remained almost the most backward in Europe. Its feudal survivals hampered transition to a highly developed commodity economy and prevented growth of the home market. This in its turn hindered the development of manufactures, industrialization of the country, and the shaking off of its age-old backwardness.

The preservation of feudal survivals likewise hampered Rumania's political development along democratic lines. The dominant role played in the state by the

boyars imparted a reactionary trend to the domestic policy of the Rumanian governments during many decades. After the First World War, the Conservative Party representing the interests of the landlord clique, was forced to yield the palm to the National Liberal Party; but this did not deprive the boyars of their social and political weight, nor in particular of their influence at the court and in the army.

Both the National Liberal and National Taranist Parties exercised power in close political alliance with the big landed aristocracy, and made no attempt to curtail the latter's privileges. A prominent place in the leadership of both parties was held by representatives of the feudal landlord clique.

Both the National Liberal and National Taranist Parties, when they were in power, instituted a reign of terror against the democratic forces, suppressed the peasant and working class movements with fire and sword, and pursued a policy of persecution and even of direct extermination of national minorities. In obedience to the will of the boyars and the reactionary financial oligarchy, these parties assisted the fascist organizations, the Iron Guard and the Legionaries. It was the policy of the leaders of the "historical parties" which paved the way for Antonescu's dictatorship, in which the reactionary feudal landowners were so interested.

The Rumanian agrarians were not only the instigators of the fascist home policy; they also inspired the reckless foreign policy based upon partnership with Hitler Germany. Certain successes achieved in developing the home industry only served to aggravate the handicaps to economic growth, as well as the contradictions arising from the unsolved agrarian problem and the consequent restriction of the home market. The boyars and their allies sought—in foreign expansion and the annexation of foreign territories—a solution of the contradiction between the demand for economic development and the preservation of semi-feudal forms of agriculture.

Long before the present war, in obe-

dience to the wishes of the boyars who in 1918 had seized Soviet Bessarabia and who cherished the dream of creating a "greater Rumania" at the expense of the Soviet Ukraine, the Bucharest rulers had established "friendly" relations with Berlin and were gradually robbing Rumanian foreign policy of all independence.

In 1939, these rulers concluded an onerous trade agreement with Germany which deprived Rumania of her economic independence. They converted Rumania into a base for the piratical attack upon the Soviet Union and placed at Hitler's disposal the entire army, industry, raw material and food resources of the country. The Rumanian boyars supported the Antonescu gang and were its mainstay to the very end.

* * *

The feudal boyars clung to their role of Hitler agents in Rumania even after Rumania's defeat. After the events of August 23, 1944, and Rumania's rupture with Hitler Germany, the landlord clique proceeded to carry out its designs against the interests of the people, to muster and camouflage the fascist forces, to sabotage all measures aiming at the democratization of the country, and to disrupt the Armistice Agreement.

Those Rumanians who did not flee the country together with the German settlers (known as the "Saxons") worked to prevent the country's economic rehabilitation. In the autumn of 1944 they sabotaged the gathering of the harvest, hoping with the aid of the gaunt hand of famine to stifle the movement of the masses and to compel the democrats to capitulate to the forces of reaction. The landlords sowed only six per cent of their arable land with winter crops.

The consequences for the country would have been disastrous if the peasants had not themselves set about plowing and sowing the derelict land of the "Saxons" and the landlords. Last autumn the peasants began to cultivate the neglected boyar estates and sowed 71 per cent of the arable area, thereby saving the country from immediate danger of famine.

It is not surprising that the agrarian

question at once became one of the main issues of the political life of the country. The peasant masses were stirred into movement and demanded a broad democratic agrarian reform. Owing to the fact that the former Rumanian governments, which took their cue from boyar-fascist circles, had no intention of satisfying the peasants' demand, the atmosphere became extremely tense. The peasants began to divide up the derelict landed estates.

The National Democratic Front, which embraces all progressive and democratic forces in the country, demanded that the agrarian reforms be put into operation without delay by expropriating landed properties exceeding 50 hectares and dividing them among landless and small peasants. This land was to be acquired as private property for a suitable price, equivalent to the value of a year's harvest, the payment to be spread over a period of ten years.

Owing to the fact that at least six million hectares of land are cultivated under extremely unfavorable conditions, and owing to the irrational forms of land tenure, the National Democratic Front insists upon redistribution of holdings, abolition of the open-field system, etc. Another demand is for the creation of peasants' cooperative societies—credit, supply and producing—on democratic lines, to promote peasant initiative.

It is quite clear that the agrarian program of the National Democratic Front does not go beyond the bounds of a democratic reform designed to destroy the survivals of feudalism, which have long been abolished in all democratic countries. It is likewise clear that the cry of "collectivization" raised by the servitors of the boyars against the demand for agrarian reform, has the sole aim of confusing the issue.

One of the most important demands of the National Democratic Front is that the land should be divided up before spring, so as not to jeopardize the sowing and to insure the country's food supply. But it is precisely this demand that was most vigorously combated by the foes of agrarian reform, by the boyar foes of democratization of the political life of Rumania, by all the forces which on the

orders of Berlin strove to turn the country back to the pro-Hitler fascist path.

The Landowners Association, a recently formed organization of landed proprietors, rose up in arms against the agrarian reform. This organization is headed by some of the biggest landowners in Rumania: Mavrocordat, Sturdza, Supu and others.

One of its spokesmen is the reactionary Professor Stoianovici who, in an interview published in *Timpul* on January 15, 1945, declared that the measures for the strengthening of peasant proprietorship, the rationalization of peasant husbandry, and the creation of conditions favorable for its development toward production for the market, meant the beginning—of "forcible collectivization."

The National Liberal Party headed by Bratianu at first refrained from expressing a direct opinion on the agrarian reform, and did not even object to it in principle. But when the struggle of the masses against the sabotage by the Radescu government of measures to solve the agrarian problem became extremely acute, Bratianu broke the silence. He declared that any demand for immediate agrarian reform was a call for "revolution"; he however was in favor of evolutionary development of agriculture. He ominously warned that immediate dividing up of the landed estates would mean that the fields would go unsown and that this would result in economic chaos. He called the program of the National Democratic Front the "first step toward communism."

The purpose of this diatribe by the leader of the National Liberal Party is perfectly clear: it was not only a call to the reactionaries of the country to sabotage the agrarian reform, but also a direct appeal to reactionary elements abroad who are only too eager to clutch at any slanderous charge of "extremism" on the part of the masses of Rumanian people.

A number of other anti-democratic groups, which are still quite numerous in Rumania, profess to be opposed only to the reform being carried out in wartime, on the ground that this would lead to dissension and disorder, and would moreover deprive the soldiers of the

Rumanian army of the opportunity of benefiting by the reform.

Most vicious of all is the attitude of the National Taranist Party headed by Maniu, which at one time gained large numbers of followers among the peasants by calling for the "total expropriation of the landed estates." This cry, issued to the masses for demagogic purposes, carried the National Taranist Party into power in 1933; but as soon as it got into power, it commenced a fierce struggle against agrarian reform of any kind and against all demands of the peasants.

True to their old tactics, the National Taranists headed by Maniu do not openly oppose the reform, preferring to express their "skepticism regarding it," as Serdici, one of Maniu's henchmen, wrote in *Dreptatea*. Juggling with the figures of the area of large landed estates which it was planned to alienate under the agrarian reform of 1918-21, and not of the area actually alienated and distributed, this same National Taranist newspaper *Dreptatea* endeavored to prove, in defiance of facts, that by 1930 only about 1,300,000 hectares of land remained available for alienation. But in view of the fragmentation of farms which has since continued, the newspaper argues, the land reform authorities will scarcely

have a fund of more than 700,000 hectares for distribution.

The official data of the Finance Department of the Rumanian Ministry of Agriculture show, however, that actually up till now 6,400,000 hectares of land are concentrated in the hands of the big landowners.

The purpose of the National Taranist Party's juggling with statistics is clear. Anxious to prevent interference with big landlordism, it is endeavoring to conceal the fact that the agricultural land available for transfer to landless and small peasants is over six million hectares.

The efforts of the National Taranist leaders to preserve the big landed estates and the survivals of medievalism in the countryside, go hand in hand with their touching solicitude for the fascist cut-throat Legionaries, to whom Maniu has opened wide the doors of his party.

One feels impelled to ask whether the National Taranists intend to utilize the boyars' estates as the estates of the East Elbe Junkers were utilized in Germany after the First World War, namely, as hiding places for arms concealed from the Allied Commissions and as asylums for fascist forces and future military formations.

Are the National Taranist defenders

of the boyars' estates repeating the tactics of the Polish reactionaries who endeavored to convert landed estates into bases and armed seats of subversive activities on the territory of liberated Poland?

The anti-popular policy pursued by the reactionary leadership of the National Liberal and National Taranist Parties has caused considerable groups of members and entire local organizations of these parties to emphatically condemn the Maniu-Bratianu political line. These sections of the National Taranists and National Liberals have joined the National Democratic Front, and a number of their prominent representatives have entered the Petru Groza Government.

The Agriculturalists Front, the democratic peasant organization which was founded in Transylvania in 1938, is rapidly growing. Peasants are flocking into this organization, which is affiliated with the National Democratic Front.

The immediate carrying out of the agrarian reform is a matter that concerns not only the internal life of Rumania. A resolute break by Rumania—as by other states which were formerly Hitler's satellites—with the old fatal foreign policy, implies complete elimination of the economic base of the feudal-fascist reaction. Hence the problem of agrarian reform in Rumania, like the entire problem of the democratization of the country, cannot but interest the public of all freedom-loving countries.

Scientific Expeditions for 1945

The Soviet Academy of Sciences plans to send five large expeditions to various parts of the USSR in 1945.

A Leningrad - Murmansk expedition, consisting of four groups headed by Professors Alexander Fersman, Alexander Polenov, Ivan Bardin and Vitali Khlopin, respectively, will prospect sources of raw materials for a new iron and steel industry to be created in the northwestern part of the USSR. Prospectors will work in the area between Lakes Ladoga and Onega and in the Kola Peninsula, where iron ore and coal deposits abound.

The northern expeditions, headed by Professors Vladimir Obruchev, Vladimir Obratsov and Lev Shevyakov, will continue prospecting the little-explored natural resources of the north of the USSR, in particular the Pechora River Coal Basin.

These will provide a base for the creation of an iron and steel industry in the northeast of the USSR and in the northern Urals.

In 1945 the prospecting of vast territories in the central and southern parts of the Urals range will be completed.

A large group of scientists under the Vice President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Alexander Baikov, will embark on a three-year project in the Caucasus. Their investigations will aid the development of the agricultural, oil, chemical and iron and steel industries of the Caucasus.

The fifth expedition will be sent to Southern Kirghizia to study a forest tract of a million acres which contains a greater number and variety of trees and shrubs than any other known forest tract in the world.

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IN AUSTRIA

By V. Kuprin and D. Akulshin
PRAVDA War Correspondents

Keszeg, the last Hungarian town along the route of advance of one of our Guards units, is a small frontier town on a river bank. All bridges leading to the southwest were blown up by the Germans. The German defense was built along the Austrian border, which runs on an elevation beyond the town, almost at the forest edge.

Crossing with difficulty over a hastily built bridge, we reach the Austro-Hungarian frontier—the fifth state boundary we have crossed with Marshal Tolbukhin's troops during the last eight months. Standing near the yellow frontier guardhouse with its embrasures facing Hungary was the wreckage of a striped pole cut down by a shell, and on the ground alongside it a mutilated fascist eagle with the swastika in its claws.

On this border the Germans built their fourth defense line. All the hills are honey-combed with trenches. From the edge of the dense forest we could see mounds here and there concealing fire nests protected with five to six layers of timber. Wide-muzzled tank cannon protruding from the brush resembled fallen tree trunks. Ruts made by wide tank caterpillars were evident everywhere. Deep and small craters caused by explosions of mines, shells and bombs; broken young oaks and split birches, testified to the power of the artillery barrage directed at this area. But the fighting was short-lived, the Soviet Guards regiments also breaching this defense line straight from the march.

The road to Austria passes over the summit of an elevation, and immediately beyond the pass is blocked by two deep anti-tank pits stretching to the heart of the forest. But the Germans were given no chance to take advantage of these obstacles. The sweeping and well synchronized blow of Soviet aircraft, tanks, Guards mortar

units and infantry, caused confusion among the enemy. German artillery was unable to put up organized resistance.

Crushing everything in their path, Soviet tanks swept on toward the Repcze River, leaving the infantry to finish the rout. We beheld a picture of complete debacle. Scattered all around were broken carts, trucks and offal, piled up with German corpses, overturned guns and six-barreled mortars. Several passenger cars were stuck in the bog near the river. Among them were de luxe limousines with the Hungarian emblem on the doors, used by the Salazists, traitors to the Hungarian people, for fleeing to Germany.

The Germans did not succeed in checking Soviet troops on the fortified line beyond the Repcze River. Crossing the river straight from the march, Guardsmen supported by artillery and tanks from the opposite bank forced their way into and captured the first Austrian township on the highway leading to Wiener Neustadt.

On a road at the entrance to the township is a small church crowned by a crucifix with a nimbus. On the walls, at a distance of one meter from the ground, are embrasures arranged fanwise. The small brick buildings with massive walls are

almost all painted ochre, and tall Gothic roofs with attics and small towers are covered with red shingles. Many buildings have embrasures in the walls, and nests for snipers and machine gunners have been set up on some of the roofs.

Few fields are in evidence around the inhabited points scattered in the foothills of the eastern spurs of the Styrian Alps, but there are numerous orchards and vineyards. Fair spring weather prevails. Cherry and apricot trees are in bloom, and almond blossoms stand out against the white background like a faint flush. White birch trees with their first emerald leaves lend charm to the groves and woods on the hills.

The road through Saint Martin leads to Wiener Neustadt, an important industrial center and rail and road junction. The mountainous and wooded terrain makes progress very difficult. Swift rivers flow through the narrow valleys between ranges. Bridges have been blasted and it is almost impossible to skirt them; sappers are called upon to display exceptional resourcefulness, to speed restoration, so as to insure the high tempo of the offensive.

Supply columns, artillery and tanks move in a continuous stream along the

244,604
Marshal Ivan S. Konev, Commander of the First Ukrainian Front (right), with Marshal of Tank Troops Pavel Rotmistrov, at an observation post



Radiophoto

mountain passes and the zigzagging highway. Clouds of dust hover constantly over the road. The trucks, moving in two rows, are almost touching sides as they race forward at top speed.

Soviet vanguard units have crossed the mountains into the Hungarian valley. Stretching along the rivers Leitha and Schwartz was the fifth German defense line covering the approaches to the Austrian capital and the Vienna industrial district. Wiener Neustadt was the principal strongpoint of this defense. On its approaches the enemy offered stubborn resistance. The terrain is exceptionally favorable for defense.

The city is covered by rivers, numerous creeks and flooded lowlands, and stretching beyond them are wooded hills and the numerous roads leading to the interior of Austria and Germany which enabled the enemy to bring up reserves. German tank and infantry divisions, sorely battered in the Lake Balaton area, were unable to check the Soviet advance on the defense lines of the river Raba and on the Austro-Hungarian border, and the German command is now bringing up there all reserves available in Vienna. New regiments and Volksturm detachments are being hastily formed. The as yet unrecovered wounded have been urgently discharged from the hospital and students withdrawn from officer schools. These hastily formed units, thrown into action straight from the march, are being ruthlessly destroyed by our advancing troops.

The fighting for Wiener Neustadt acquired a character of combined blows by all branches of the Soviet Armed Forces, which used tactics of by-passing maneuvers, deep envelopments and infiltration of the enemy interstices and flanks. High skill was displayed by Red Army soldiers and officers in forcing the rivers in the difficult mountainous and woody area. Crushing the enemy's resistance, Soviet units approached Wiener Neustadt, penetrating and fanning out through its environs and capturing communications.

The Germans tried their utmost to retain this city at any price. Concentrated there are important aircraft, automobile, locomotive and many other plants, and the only factory evacuated to this area which produces screws and spare parts for submarines.

The Fighting in the Hungarian Oil District

The town of Nagykanizsa lies in a valley southwest of Lake Balaton, surrounded by mountains and wooded hills.

Only a short time ago a little known administrative center in the southwestern part of Hungary, Nagykanizsa developed rapidly on the eve of war. Large deposits of oil were discovered in its suburbs, in the valley and on the mountain slopes.

The output of oil jumped from 42,000 tons in 1938 to 143,000 tons the following year. The Germans captured Nagykanizsa's oil district and boosted the output to a million tons. In the last two years they exceeded this total by a savage exploitation of the oil deposits.

When Germany lost the Rumanian oil, the Nagykanizsa oilfields became the main source of natural fuel for the German armies. The Hitlerite command took every measure to keep Marshal Tolbukhin's forces from the Nagykanizsa area, building a formidable defense line from the southern extreme of Lake Balaton to the Drava River, constantly improving their defense positions and preparing for a counter-blow. The attempts of German troops to wage offensive battles in the last three months have had one aim: to push the Soviet forces back across the Danube and thus protect the Nagykanizsa oil district.

At the beginning of March the Germans mounted violent counter-attacks, striking out simultaneously from the area of Nagykanizsa and the Drava River. The counter-attacks from the latter direction were more dangerous; the Germans managed to force the Drava in two places and to establish bridgeheads in the sector defended by the troops of the First Bulgarian Army. Lieutenant General Stoicheff's forces, supported by Soviet troops, withstood the onslaught of the German divisions and then went over to the offensive and routed this enemy force.

The German command attached great importance to the defense of Nagykanizsa. German divisions were recently brought from Yugoslavia to support the divisions operating south of Lake Balaton.

The Hitlerite command believed the Red Army would attack the defense line between Lake Balaton and the Drava. Soviet forces, however, captured Veszprem

and then made a thrust to the left and rapidly approached the Hungarian oil district from the north. The German command was forced to shift two divisions from the Balaton-Drava line to cover Nagykanizsa from the north. A wooded mountain range runs through the area of Keszthely, a town situated on the southwestern extreme of Lake Balaton.

Tying down the enemy forces in this area, Soviet troops made an outflanking maneuver, turned sharply to the west and reached the Zala River, which empties into Lake Balaton. Here the Germans had a reserve defense line which they had fortified in depth during the last eight months. This line joined up with fortifications on the Raba River. The Germans were unable to hold back the swiftly advancing Soviet units on the Raba and Zala; their defenses were breached on both rivers. Some Soviet units which forced the Zala started to by-pass the mountain range, while other units pushed on in a westerly direction, diverting enemy troops from Nagykanizsa. The Red Army captured the towns of Zala Egerszag and Keszthely.

When the Germans weakened their main defenses south of Lake Balaton, the troops of the First Bulgarian Army went over to the offensive, while on the right flank the Soviet forces energetically overcame swamps and inundated lowlands. The enemy's defense line here was breached on a wide front.

Advancing units soon occupied the main strongpoints covering the Nagykanizsa oil district. The Bulgarian troops captured Csurgó and threatened Nagykanizsa from the south, while Soviet forces pushed on rapidly from Zala Egerszag and threatened the German rear. The fighting shifted to the near approaches to the oil; Soviet forces threatened Nagykanizsa itself. Soviet troops operating together with the Bulgarian forces broke into the town. After a furious battle, this important center of the Hungarian oil industry was completely cleared of the enemy. On the approaches to Nagykanizsa and in street fighting the Germans lost 3,000 officers and soldiers in killed alone. Soviet forces captured many prisoners and much booty.

ON THE VIENNA FRONT

The Red Army is crushing the German defenses along the entire Vienna front. Advancing along the southern bank of the Danube between Bratislava and Vienna, Marshal Malinovsky's forces are clearing the highways of enemy troops and screening units. Russian heavy artillery is shelling enemy positions on the eastern and northeastern outskirts of Vienna.

The German command is desperately bringing up reinforcements from Austria and Germany. A fierce battle is raging for suburban settlements, factories and stone buildings. The Russians, advancing step by step, are ruthlessly exterminating thousands of German officers and men.

Masses of military and civil transport, concentrated on the roads running from

Vienna, as well as all enemy communications, are being incessantly attacked by the Soviet Air Force. Russian fliers are supreme in the air, and this is one of the most important factors of the successful drive.

The desperate attempts of the Germans to check the Russians on the difficult terrain between Lake Neusiedler and the Danube have completely collapsed. Soviet cavalry and tanks are overwhelming their strong defense lines one after another.

The retreating German troops wreck the highways. On both sides of the roads, hills and fields are dotted with trenches and fortifications. German artillery is firing intensively from the northern bank of the Danube. A major tank battle is

raging on the Budapest-Vienna motor highway.

As a result of tank and cavalry actions, the front moved several dozen miles in 48 hours. Numerous signs in Russian have appeared on the roads leading to Austria: *To Vienna; Forward into Austria; Forward to the complete rout of the enemy!*

Confidence in early victory over Hitlerite Germany adds new strength and vigor to the Soviet divisions. Their state of mind is well expressed by one young but seasoned signalman who, in reply to his regimental commander's question as to how he felt, said: "I'm feeling fine, Comrade Colonel! We took Budapest and we'll take Vienna!"

Commended in Stalin's Order of the Day

In many of the Orders of the Day issued by Marshal Stalin, the troops of the Second Ukrainian Front under Marshal Malinovsky have been mentioned. In all of these orders the tank forces under command of Colonel General A. G. Kravchenko have been commended. Kravchenko's tanks paved the way for the infantry and crushed the German defenses at Stalingrad, on the Don steppes, in the Ukraine, Moldavia, Rumania and on the Hungarian plains. They have spread confusion and panic in the German rear.

Be in front—always and everywhere!—is the motto of Kravchenko's tankists. They were among the first to force the Dnieper, to cross the Dniester and the Prut, and to reach the Danube outside Budapest, which had been turned into a formidable fortress by the Hitlerites. In the battle of Budapest they again distinguished themselves.

Colonel General A. G. Kravchenko—Ukrainian by nationality, peasant by birth, Bolshevik by conviction, Army leader by calling—advanced with his famous tank

forces all the way from Stalingrad to Budapest.

Colonel General Kravchenko, commander of a tank formation, has trained famous tank commanders whose efforts have greatly assisted in the successes of the fighting operations of the Red Army.

Among his most brilliant comrades-in-arms is Major General Mikhail Ivanovich Savelyev, commander of a tank unit in his formation. Major General Savelyev's name has been frequently mentioned in the Orders of the Day of Marshal Stalin.



Colonel General Kravchenko, commander of a tank formation, pins on the fourth decoration awarded by the Soviet Government to Major General Savelyev, tank unit commander



Radiophotos

Major General Savelyev (second from right) and his staff officers elaborate plans for a tank raid deep behind the German lines on the Second Ukrainian Front



At Sakhalin, women have taken on the hard work of longshoremen. Above they are loading barrels of fish



Valentina Drozdova drives a high-powered locomotive, bringing heavy trains in ahead of schedule, and saving fuel



Logging on the Yenisei River in Siberia. In the foreground are the sisters Kyryukina, skilled lumberjacks

SOVIET WOMEN AND THE WAR

By Elena Kononenko

Soviet women are weary of war. They long to have their husbands, brothers and sons home with them again. For nearly four years they have been planting the crops, gathering the harvests, felling trees for timber, building roads, mining coal, drilling oil, and doing countless other jobs formerly done by men.

Yet never have Soviet women been as strong as today. In the letters of the young girls to their sweethearts, brothers and friends, you will not find one discouraged note.

And yet how weary they are of war; how they long for peace, for pleasant times. This war came just when our women had begun to reap the magnificent fruits of the Soviet system. Their lives were happy. For the young there were festivals, sports olympiads, parties, dances, the prospect of a career, and a happy family life and motherhood, to which Soviet girls give the most serious thought.

Suddenly everything was changed. The German hordes invaded Soviet soil. The

girls left their comfortable homes, their blossoming gardens, their studios; they went to the firing lines, to the mines, the lumber camps, the oilfields—and there they proved they were not hot-house plants.

Women in the Soviet Union are indeed a mighty force. And this applies to very young girls and older women as well.

The Germans were amazed at our women. "Oh, those Russian women . . . they are strong and dangerous and they do us great harm. You cannot do anything with them," the Hitlerites wrote in their diaries. "Even the very young ones fight like tigresses. . . ."

Yes, even the very young ones. There was a story told me by guerrillas in the village of Khotlomin. From time immemorial the girls of that village have been famed for their beautiful singing voices. The Germans ordered some of the best singers to be brought to one of their drunken orgies. "Sing for us!" they ordered.

But the young girls would not open their mouths. They stood with clenched teeth, a proud and wrathful light in their eyes. These men had killed the sweethearts, brothers and fathers of the girls. Sing to them? Never! The furious Germans began to beat the proud village girls, but still they uttered no sound. Then they were taken into the village square and shot.

By their noble bearing in this war, Soviet girls have eclipsed some of the greatest heroines of history and literature. And I am thinking not only of Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, Natasha Kovshova and others like them, who gave their lives for their country—but of all the Annas, Maryas, and Ninas of the home front and battle front.

These are the girls who dress the soldiers' wounds under fire, who make shells for the Army, sew uniforms, till the soil, rebuild Nazi-wrecked cities, give their blood for the wounded, write to the fighting men bereaved of families, help the



One of the fire brigades in Leningrad consists entirely of women, who work as fearlessly as men



Anna Lugovkina learned the trade of electrician and replaced her husband when he enlisted in the Red Army



Young surgeon Valentina Posdnyakova operates in a military hospital just behind the front lines

orphans, invalids and old folks. These are also heroines of the war. And the girls do all this very simply and cheerfully. They have learned to be strong, to endure, and thus they have made a priceless contribution to the war effort.

Noble and constant in their emotions, Soviet girls inspire their war-mutilated sweethearts with new confidence in life. I frequently have occasion to meet a young Moscow couple; the girl is a factory worker, and her fiancé was crippled at the front. He refused to see her after he was wounded; in fact, he did everything to evade her. But she found him in a hospital and spent hours at his bedside. For a long time he would not accept her love; he said he wanted no pity from her, and would not allow her to ruin her life. But she persisted, finally making him realize it was not pity but genuine love. Now they are very happy together.

I could cite hundreds of similar examples. Galina, a beautiful young university student, was engaged to a flier who returned from the front completely blind. But she insisted upon their marriage; she spends hours reading to her husband; they

go everywhere together; she has become his eyes.

Elderly Women Heroines

Our elderly women, our Soviet mothers who have sent their sons and daughters to fight to the death against the Nazis, are worthy of the highest admiration. On a collective farm in Georgia I talked with Maro Shakiashvili, whose four handsome sons were at the front. The old Georgian mother, who was busy drying apples, hummed a little song. "What is it about?" I asked, not knowing the language.

"About Hitler," she said. "I will translate it for you."

*May his mother's milk
Be poison to him!
May he meet a mad dog's fate!
May his life be a hell,
And his wounds never heal!*

Vera Golodayeva, mother of three fighting sons, is chairman of a large collective farm near Moscow. With other women of the farm, she recently sent the following letter to their fighting men:

Dear Boys—We send our heartiest greetings. We cannot tell you how proud of you we are; you inspire us with com-

plete confidence in your strength and we know you will be victorious. There is no denying it—every mother's heart aches for her son; every wife fears for her husband; every sister for her brother. Yet over and over we say to you: Don't come back until you have won victory. Strike at the invaders with all your strength; give your life's blood if need be. Our hearts are filled with love for you. Day and night we think of you. We have not bowed our heads and we will never bow them before the hardships and pain the war has brought us. We will do everything in our power to help you win.

Countless Soviet mothers who have lost their sons in the war carry on correspondence with fighting men whom the war has deprived of their mothers. Vera Litinskaya, of Leningrad, lost her only son at the front. Her neighbor Fedikova died during the blockade of the city. Fedikova had a son, Vladimir, a sniper, who was deeply grieved by his mother's death. Knowing this, Vera Litinskaya began writing him letters filled with sympathy and understanding; a correspondence developed between them.

Here are excerpts from one of the sniper's letters: "You can't know how grateful I am for your kind letters. It is good to feel that you, a soldier's mother, take such deep interest in me and my affairs. It might please you to know that after reading your last letter I killed 16 Germans. This was to avenge you and your son."

Zhuravleva, a Leningrad mother, lost two sons at the front. Her third son and daughter are reported missing. Her husband is fighting in the ranks. On the day she received the news of her first son's death, she went to work in a defense plant. Her face was set and ashen, but she shed no tears.

"Let the Germans weep," she said. "I

will work." And today this staunch woman, who fulfils her work quota 160 per cent, wears the Medal for the Defense of Leningrad.

The great moral force which the Soviet woman has displayed in the present war has proved a mortal weapon against those who have stopped at nothing to crush human happiness.

GIRL MARINES

By M. Izin

Martha Bonzhus appeared at the Marine Brigade when the front lines literally fringed the gates of the Kirov industrial plant in Leningrad and the Germans were shelling the city with their siege guns. This was in the tragic days of 1941.

Glancing at the 18-year-old girl, the brigade commander asked: "What do you want to do? Communications or medical unit?"

"I am a sniper," Martha replied, "and a machine gunner. Send me to the advanced positions." It took a good deal of talking to convince the commander, but at last he agreed.

Martha proved her mettle during one of the first battles. A machine gunner was killed and the Germans counter-attacked. The girl seized the silent gun, opened fire and hammered at the Nazis until they fell back. Shell-shocked, she was removed from the field, but returned to her unit after convalescence.

"They received me as a long lost friend," she said. "Since then I have traveled thousands of kilometers with my unit. I fought in the liberation of the Baltics, and helped to remove wounded."

Martha has been decorated with the Order of the Patriotic War, First Class, and the Leningrad Defense Medal.

Martha Bonzhus is not the only woman marine. I have had occasion to visit many units of marines and sailors on their ships. Everywhere I met girls who had shared all the hardships and dangers of the front. All of them are volunteers who left for the front to avenge the death of a husband or brother, or their destroyed towns

and villages. In courage and daring they are equal to the strongest man.

At one of the anti-aircraft batteries I met a Red Navy girl, Vera Bulatova. She had recently been decorated with the Order of the Red Star. Her commander described her deed. When Stukas attacked the battery, the earth trembled with exploding bombs and shrapnel filled the air. Several gunners were wounded. Vera bided her time behind her machine gun, and when one of the Junkers dived upon the battery she opened fire. The German plane burst into flames and crashed nearby. Later the gunners found the corpses of the German crew. The

pilot was a major who had fought over Crete and France and had bombed Yugoslav cities. He met his death at the hands of a Russian girl avenging a murdered friend.

Particularly numerous are the women serving in communications. They do their duty splendidly under all conditions. Junior Sergeant Elena Tarasova, a sapper, discovered and removed more than 1,000 mines. With other Marine sappers she helped to de-mine the city of Tallinn. Many of the houses there bore a wooden signplate, "De-mined. Tarasova." She has been decorated with the Order of the Red Star and the Distinguished Service and Leningrad Defense Medals.

According to an old superstition of the sea, the presence of women aboard ship was considered unlucky. The crew on motorboat No. 48, however, are quite satisfied with their helmsman, Faina Murzakova. Though the boat participated in many difficult and dangerous operations, no serious damage was sustained throughout the war. The skipper admits that this was largely due to the cool courage of Faina. The boat on which this girl helmsman serves does a dangerous job: it lays down smokescreens for transports and their escorts. No little courage is required to run the gauntlet of enemy shelling and bombing while enveloping the convoy in smoke.

Faina says the Germans dropped 112 bombs upon her little ship. "I have lost track of the number of shells they fired at us," she adds. But owing to her skill at the wheel, the motorboat always managed to evade the enemy shells.



Radio photo

Field nurse Tatyana Petrova serves with a naval infantry unit

Fifth Anniversary of Karelian-Finnish Soviet Republic

By Vladimir Stefanikhin

The author is Vice Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Karelian-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic, which observed its fifth anniversary on March 31. The territory of the former Karelian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, and the greater part of the territory ceded by Finland under the 1940 Peace Treaty, were incorporated into the Karelian-Finnish Republic. Located in the northwestern part of the USSR, it has a total of 196,000 square kilometers, of which 70 per cent is forest land and about 17 per cent lake area. With a population of 600,000, it is the smallest of the Union Republics in number of inhabitants.

The anniversary of the Karelian-Finnish Soviet Republic which its people are now celebrating in the midst of new great victories of the Red Army—to whom they owe their redemption from fascist bondage and their return to the fraternal commonwealth of the Soviet peoples—finds our Republic one vast construction site. What we have now undertaken, however, is not new construction, but the restoration of that in which we once gloried and which the invaders destroyed.

The transformation five years ago of the Karelian Autonomous Republic, which formed part of the Russian Federation, into a Union Republic, opened up new opportunities to our citizens to develop their economy and culture. It is enough to say that capital investments in the Republic's economy amounted to more than one billion rubles in 1940, which is more than the total for the whole Second Five-Year Plan period. This leap forward was a result of the progress made in the Republic in the course of the Five-Year Plans.

Timber is the leading item in the natural wealth of the Karelian-Finnish Republic, whose timber reserves are estimated at about one billion cubic meters, and the annual growth at some 16-17 million cubic meters. Dozens of sawmills and wood-working plants and two shipyards for constructing wooden ships were built during the prewar years. The Republic's timber output in 1940 exceeded

13 million cubic meters, almost eight times the output in pre-revolutionary Karelia. Lumber-mill production totaled one million cubic meters, of which a sizable portion was exported.

Before the present war the Karelian-Finnish Republic held first place in the Soviet Union for pulp and paper production and for the extraction of mica.

Other branches of its industry likewise made great progress. The Republic's oldest plant, the Onega engineering works in Petrozavodsk—founded by Peter I, but modernized several times since—produced gas generators for tractors and machine engines in large numbers. The USSR's only pegmatite works was started here, and construction begun of an iron and steel works and non-ferrous metals plants during the last few prewar years; but the war necessitated discontinuing the construction jobs.

In the prewar years the people of the Republic did much to tap their natural wealth and place it at the service of the country. They quarried granite and marble known far and wide for their color and quality. The opening of the White Sea-Baltic Canal in 1933 stimulated the development of the whole area, and towns and factories were built along this great waterway.

Cultural development kept pace with the Republic's economic progress. Before the war there were three higher schools, 14 technical schools, 834 elementary and secondary schools with an enrollment of 100,000, a State Philharmonic, four theaters and many other cultural and educational institutions.

The fascist invaders, who occupied a considerable portion of the territory of the Karelian-Finnish Republic in the early days of the war, wreaked incalculable damage. They destroyed dozens of large enterprises, and almost wiped such towns as Kondopoga and Medvezhegorsk from the face of the earth; they badly wrecked Petrozavodsk and destroyed many Karelian villages. Thousands of Soviet people who refused to submit to their domination were shot, tortured or starved.

On June 29, 1944, the troops of the Karelian Front liberated Petrozavodsk

from the German and Finnish invaders, and soon afterward the enemy was driven out of other occupied towns and regions.

Only nine months have passed, but the Karelian-Finnish people have already covered much ground in regenerating their war-wrecked economy. More than one-half the enterprises of the timber industry, for example, are operating again. Three large power stations have been restored, and rehabilitation of paper mills and other plants is under way.

The towns are also healing their wounds. The people who were evacuated to safe regions and those driven into slavery by the enemy are returning. In the liberated districts 250 schools are functioning, as well as the university and teachers college.

Collective farmers have applied themselves enthusiastically to the revival of their farms. To date, 460 collective farms, which is approximately one-half the total; five State farms, and 18 machine and tractor stations have been restored. Preparations for the spring sowing campaign are on the whole proceeding satisfactorily. The Government is rendering extensive aid to collective farmers.

The principal task of the current year is the restoration of the Republic's national economy. The sum of 68 million rubles has been allotted for capital construction in 1945, from which 20 million rubles have been earmarked for the restoration of Petrozavodsk. Considerable assistance in this respect is being rendered by the Government of the USSR.

At the same time we are beginning to think of carrying on with large-scale projects for the development of our industry and agriculture which were interrupted by the war. Construction of iron and steel and non-ferrous metals plants, and lumber, pulp and paper mills will be resumed at the first opportunity. Plans are being drawn up for what will be one of the largest plants in the Soviet Union producing prefabricated houses. These, of course, are still only plans. But remembering the rapid progress made by our Republic during the years preceding the war, it may be safely predicted that these plans will not remain on paper.

A CONCERT OF RUSSIAN CHURCH MUSIC



RUSSIAN CHURCH MUSIC IN MOSCOW CONSERVATORY—The Patriarchic Choir, with People's Artist of the USSR and Stalin Prize Winner I. Kozlovsky as soloist

Early this year a concert of Russian church music was given in the large hall of the Moscow Conservatory. Arranged by the Moscow Patriarchate in honor of members and guests of the General Council of the Russian Orthodox Church, it was attended by the Most Holy Alexius, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, members of the General Council and delegations of churchmen from abroad.

The first two sections of the program were devoted to church songs, performed by the Patriarchic Choir of 100 voices under the leadership of V. Komarov. Among the soloists were the prominent Soviet singers Natalia Shpiller, Ivan Kozlovsky and Maxim Mikhailov. The third part of the program was given over to a rendition of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* by the Symphony Orchestra of the USSR under the baton of Professor Nikolai Golovanov.

Russian church music developed rapidly in the 19th Century. Works in this category are by their very nature either adaptations of ancient melodies for choral rendition, original compositions written specifically for church, or orchestral or vocal symphonic compositions which, although thematically religious, are works of art in their own right.

Dmitri Bortnyansky, one of the founders of professional Russian church music and the first to lend it a national character, worked in the second half of the 18th Century. He was followed by Peter Turchaninov and Alexei Lvov. Excellent compositions in the field of church music belong to Sokolov, Arkhangelsky, Kastalsky, Chesnokov, D. Nilin and Komarov.

Many celebrated Russian composers,

among them Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Taneyev, likewise turned to religious themes.

The concert program gave only a limited idea of the wealth and art of Russian church music. Scattered numbers by the above-named composers and others made up the entire first two sections of the program. For all that it made a rather complete and striking impression. Many of the composers who were presented afforded a glimpse into the development of this music.

The first thing that strikes one in the works performed is the national character of each, and at times the affinity of many of them to the Russian folk song. The diversity and wealth of Russian musical folklore refresh the austere, archaic style of the ancient psalms and make Russian church music human and warm. It is precisely these qualities that distinguish the work of Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and many other composers.

Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, performed in the third part of the program, is a perfect specimen of Russian patriotic music. Its content is closely bound up with the grim events of the Napoleonic invasion, when the whole Russian people rose to the defense of their country, smashed the mighty enemy and defended their honor and independence.

This work, Russian in spirit and content, shows how all the forces of the country were united to ward off the enemy, and how they achieved victory over him. In the finale the melody of Glinka's well-known song, *Glory, Glory to the Russian People*, which Tchaikovsky borrowed and used as the musical symbol

of the Russian nation, rings out triumphantly.

Before the third part of the program, after the members of the orchestra had already taken their places and the conductor had lifted his baton, the master of ceremonies announced that another Order of the day issued by Marshal Stalin had been read over the radio announcing a new victory of the Red Army over the fascist invaders. All arose and the orchestra played the Soviet National Anthem.

A little later, when in the finale of Tchaikovsky's overture glorifying the Russian people and the Russian army of 1812, the triumphant pealing of bells rang out—simultaneously the Moscow artillery salvos saluted the valiant Red Army whose might and heroism are a guarantee of rapid and complete victory over fascism.

For Capture of Berlin in 1760

The State Historical Museum in Moscow has on display a number of silver fanfares presented to Russian units which won distinction in the capture of Berlin in 1760. On October 9 of that year, Russian troops entered Berlin.

Field Marshal Saltykov, who directed operations in Prussia, ordered 13 fanfares to be made in Dresden, Koenigsberg and Danzig, and presented to the 13 regiments which had especially distinguished themselves in the action.

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The Death Agony

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, April 7:

There is something revolting in Germany's death agony: the old hag still primps herself and displays her charms while on her deathbed.

The German Information Bureau reports: "Nothing sensational has occurred in the past week. The German command is master of the situation."

How do the Germans like that? They know that Hitler is losing at least a dozen cities a day. Nothing sensational? No, not if you consider Germany's death agony unsensational. Nothing eventful has happened if you consider uneventful Germany's loss of the Ruhr, the Saar, the Hungarian oil, Slovakia, Frankfurt, Mannheim and all the rest.

And in general, nothing has happened except such unimportant trifles as that the Red Army has broken through to Vienna, that the British are swiftly moving on Bremen and the Americans on Erfurt. The wretched little liars are trying to palm off their last gasp as a blaring march.

The German newspapers write: "In the West as in the East, our grenadiers prefer death to disgrace. The Americans are paying with rivers of blood for every meter of German soil." Meanwhile German grenadiers, gasping for breath, ask the astonished Americans, "Where is the nearest war prisoners' camp around here?"

The soil of Thuringia is not red with American blood but white with German rags. If the Fritzes in the East are still stubborn, it is because the cat knows whose meat she has eaten.

Goebbels called the Volkssturm an "im-movable rock." But these Volkssturm-ers, despite their venerable age, are extremely sly. In Frankfurt the Americans captured a Volkssturm-er who had been in the ranks of the German army exactly 45 min-

utes. On the 46th, this "rock" raised his hands.

The fate of the Germans on the Rhine was decided at the hour the Red Army reached the Oder. The wrathful breath of our guns is to be heard in Berlin—and the sonderfuehrer of Nezhin, the German military commanders of Mozyr and Bobruisk, and the cremation experts of Maidanek and Tremblyanka are saying, "Anybody but the Russians!"

Why were the Germans unable to hold the Rhine? Because we are on the Oder. It is easy to understand the simple "strategy" of the Fritz: he has been in Smolensk; now he has had to defend Erfurt against the Americans, when behind him is the Red Army—when behind him is the Russian soldier from Smolensk whose home he burned down and whose family he killed. So the Fritz is dashing westward. Only do not think he is counter-attacking. Oh, no, he is hurrying to a prison

camp as he would to a haven of refuge.

Their end is not the end of soldiers, but of thieves caught in a round-up. The gauleiters are transferring their wealth to Switzerland; the generals are burying their stolen booty; and somewhere on the road the Americans discovered Rubens' canvases which the Germans had carried off from Paris.

There have arrived in Sweden from Gdynia, 86 "Oak Leaves" torn from the parent tree, or in other words, 86 officers of the German army who prefer Swedish punch to Russian water. These officers also arrived with "booty"; with gramophones and accordions. Such is the end of the career of the "conquerors of the world."

They are at their last gasp, but they still bite. On our front they bite collectively—at the word of command. In the West the German army has scattered, and there the biting is done by individual fanatics. English newspaper correspondents tell of a German woman who came to an American army doctor and with tears in her eyes implored him to come and save her child. The doctor set out in a jeep with her. Later the body of the driver was found. The doctor, the jeep and the German woman had disappeared.

There are villains enough in Germany who have nothing to lose: their names are known, their crimes have been registered. These will go on biting to the end. You cannot tame them with sugar candy; metal is more to the purpose.

But in western Germany the villains are still given an opportunity to continue their villainies. German industrialists, members of the Nazi Party who were out for conquest of the world, are at liberty; they are being interviewed, not by the public prosecutor, but by journalists. The mayors appointed by the occupation authorities in many cities are busying them-



MORALE-RAISING MEASURES

(The German press recently reported that Hitler had paid a visit to the Oder front)

Cartoon by Boris Efimov

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Germans of the Volkssturm battalions captured by the Red Army in East Prussia



German prisoners marching east on the Berlin highway to camps in the rear

selves with saving the Nazi scoundrels. I will quote a passage from a secret order of the gauleiter of Coblenz, Simeon: "Civilian officials who have distinguished themselves in the party, or in the service of the state, are not to remain with the Allies. They must be replaced by older men who did not engage in political activities and who enjoy the confidence of the population, which is necessary if they are to perform their duty. This policy should be extended to other persons holding lower posts. Germans are forbidden to take office at the orders of the Allies without the party's sanction."

Hitler is running away, but he is leaving his shadow behind him. The British and Americans are not only acquiring German cities; they are also acquiring German mayors selected by the gauleiters. When a German cries, "*Hitler kaput*," he is most likely obeying the instructions of the Nazi leaders.

Hitler has lost the war in the air, on land and on the sea. He wants to recoup himself underground. He realizes his army has been beaten in open battle, and so he instructs his "werewolves" to kill on the sly.

That is why it is not enough to beat Germany; she has to be tamed. We must not forget this for a minute and must talk about it without fearing to appear over-important, for the fate of our children is at stake. It is possible to win the war and lose the peace. We are well aware of this old truth. So are the Germans, and they, having lost the war, want to win the peace.

On more than one occasion I have taken up the cudgels against the devil's

advocates who are to be found both in the old and new worlds. Some of my American friends rebuked me for what they considered exaggerated and unfair criticism. But when I attack the protectors of the "poor Germans," I have one thought in mind: peace for the whole world.

In one American newspaper I came across the following:

"We should pity the German youths who, even when they are taken prisoner, continue to believe the German a superior being and our American soldiers dirty half-breeds."

I don't and never could understand why one should pity these boorish ignoramuses. A little girl said, "Seat a pig at a table and the poor thing will put its feet on the table." But she is only a little girl and does not write for the newspapers.

When a certain Englishman said that we could not try Hitler because he had acted in accordance with the laws he himself made, I expected this Englishman to be put in a nursing home—he must have overworked himself. But, no, he continues to express himself in the same vein.

My criticism of the British or American appeasers in no way diminishes my sympathy for the British soldiers who are now taking revenge for Dunkirk at Bremen, or for the American tankmen who are now slicing Germany into mincemeat.

The Germans have protectors everywhere. They are motivated more by political sympathies than nationalist passions. In order to dispel all misunderstanding I will say a few words about an article by the well-known French writer, Francois

Mauriac. Nobody can suspect me of unfriendliness to France. As to Francois Mauriac, I consider him a very talented writer who gave a good description of the French bourgeoisie's path to Vichy.

But today, Francois Mauriac is filled with mercy for the former jailers of France. At a time when the regenerated French Army is capturing towns in Baden and Wurtemberg, Francois Mauriac is concerned with saving Germany. He sheds tears over the fate of the inhabitants of Westphalia and Bavaria. At the same time he pleads that the treachery of the treason-mongers be forgotten. This might, of course, be explained by the fact that Francois Mauriac is a Catholic. But the Catholics are not Quakers or vegetarians. In Spain, Catholic priests blessed the Falangists who shot women, old men and children. Catholics are capable of shedding blood as well as tears, and as to the smoke of censers, it is usually a smoke screen for anything-but-angelic deeds.

It is not from an excess of Christian forgiveness that Francois Mauriac takes up the cause of the Germans; what frightens him is the strength of the Soviet Union. I would like to ask the French: Have they not had enough lessons? Can France have forgotten how Munich ended?

The ignominy of Paris, the execution of hostages, the gas huts near Strasbourg, the starvation and slow extermination of prisoners—all this the French have had to suffer. Along comes Francois Mauriac, and as if those fateful years had never been, cries: "Our danger is the triumph of Soviet Russia! . . . If we take revenge on the Germans the Red conflagration will carry all before it!"

This is terrible. This is revolting. It is hard to believe that this was written by a Frenchman and written in the Paris which won its liberation only because Soviet Russia stood firm and did not sell her honor for a mess of portage of Vichy "independence," and because Soviet Russia has not forgiven, does not forgive and will not forgive fascist Germany.

Of course it is not Francois Mauriac who sets the tone, but there are plenty of powerful and influential people who think like him. These are not always friends of France; but they always defend the "poor Germans" and they are always enemies of the Soviet Union. If the devil's advocates get their way, the peace will be lost, and a few years hence the "werewolves" will pass from petty murder to a big war. Germany has to be thoroughly scratched and those who are now covering themselves with white rags have to be particularly scrutinized.

By persisting in the East and surrendering in the West, the Germans want to save not only their skins, not only their stolen wealth, but also the machine which is to prepare for a third world carnage. The devil's advocates in America, England and France know this very well; but they defend the miscreants all the same.

What these advocates fear is not the brigands but the judges, just as in the days of Munich what terrified them most was their own people and the strength of the Soviet Union. But this is not the year 1938. The world has learned to know the Red Army.

The Fritzes may surrender to the Americans; that is their affair. In the final count, the only choice they have is whom to surrender to. Only in that sense is the "German commander master of the situation." But is it not all the same to whom one Fritz or another surrenders? After all, there is such a thing as a coalition, and

such a thing as the conscience of nations. The sonderfuehrer of Nezhin, having partaken of American bacon, will spew it up on Russian gallows. Our fellowship in arms is a firm one and no lamenters and no calumniators can break it.

The sooner the end comes, the better. Let the Fritzes surrender to Francois Mauriac if they want to; I have no objection. We are glad the French have reached Stuttgart. We are glad the British are reaching Hanover and Bremen. We are glad the Americans are near Erfurt, Weimar and Nuernberg. Our friends have helped us many a time before. We have not forgotten the efforts of American workers or the gallantry of Allied sailors and airmen.

We are happy that our January has brought our Allies such an April. But while we rejoice, we are busy ourselves—with Vienna. Soon will come Berlin. This year, May will be a real May.

THE STORMING OF KOENIGSBERG

Koenigsberg, greatest German fortress and bulwark of Prussianism and German militarism, has been crushed by the Red Army. The Soviet Armies have executed one of the most skilful and daring operations in military history.

For half a century the Germans built and improved the Koenigsberg fortress. On the eve of the assault by Marshal Vasilievsky's and General Bagramyan's troops, all the 80 square miles of the city were one solid fortress. One hundred thousand civilian Germans had been left in the city to build defenses.

Koenigsberg was shielded by a line of 16 forts. All buildings in the city were connected by newly-built underground passages. The streets were barred with brick and steel barricades several yards thick. Ancient castles, palaces and even cemeteries were converted into forts.

Behind the 10-foot walls of the three-story underground forts, strong garrisons had ensconced themselves with ample stocks of ammunition, provisions and medical supplies. Every inch of ground in front of each fort was covered by the Germans.

The thunder of an unparalleled artillery concentration announced the begin-

ning of the Soviet assault. Each gun pounded at a previously assigned target. The first guns began to divest the underground forts of their upper cover; they were followed by heavy siege guns which blasted steel and concrete into the air. Russian Stormovik and bomber forces dumped bombs and shells on scores of enemy divisions defending Koenigsberg.

The Baltic Red Banner Fleet Air Arm struck simultaneously at the remnants of the East Prussian German army and German navy in the port of Pillau and in Danzig Bay. On April 7 and 8, Russian fliers sank 14 enemy ships, including nine transports totaling 36,000 tons, one de-

stroyer and two escort ships. Five ships—including one cruiser, one destroyer and two transports totaling 10,000 tons—were damaged by direct bomb hits.

The assault on the city began on a clear spring morning. One hour later the sky over Koenigsberg was dark with dust and smoke. The Germans fought back savagely. Under enemy fire, Soviet soldiers brought up assault bridges, stepladders and explosives. Sappers blew up the steep granite-covered banks of the canals, blazing a trail for the infantry. Picked German divisions defending Koenigsberg were backed by a huge concentration of artillery. In this great battle Russian ar-

Lieutenant General A. S. Fokanov and Colonel I. M. Pashkov talking with Soviet scouts on the Second Byelorussian Front



Radiophotos

tillery demonstrated its absolute superiority.

MARSHAL VASILIEVSKY'S HEADQUARTERS, April 10—Forty-two thousand German officers and men headed by the commandant of the fortress, General Lasch, with his staff, surrendered in the two days of storming the East Prussian capital. The German command resorted to the most brutal measures to compel the Koenigsberg garrison to hold out. Scores of deserters were shot daily at the northern railway station, and as a warning to others their bodies, suspended by the feet, were left in the central square for several days. Each day the *Koenigsberger Zeitung* printed lists of men shot for desertion.

The garrisons of some forts fought until they were blown up with the fortress.

Other forts surrendered only after having lost over half their personnel, exterminated in hand-to-hand fighting inside the casemates.

German Major Macht, commandant of Fort No. 10 which opposed the right flank of the assault forces, stated after capitulation: "I was ordered to fight to the last man. But the terrific power of the Russian artillery and infantry offensive forced me to lay down arms."

Preparations for the storming of Koenigsberg were begun many days ago. Extensive ground and air reconnaissance yielded detailed data on the enemy's armament and fortifications despite the fact that for the purpose of concealing their defense systems the Germans deliberately weakened their fire during the weeks preceding the Russian onslaught.

Day and night Marshal Vasilievsky's troops underwent combat training. Forts, pillboxes and barricades—exact replicas of the Koenigsberg fortifications—were built behind the front line. Men learned how to storm a fortress, wage street fighting, quickly climb into house windows, fight the enemy at close quarters inside casemates and houses, and to blockade and storm pillboxes.

While rivers and canals were still ice-bound, Russian troops advancing on Koenigsberg captured a whole network of locks by means of which the German command had planned to inundate the approaches to Koenigsberg. When the spring floods came, the rivers and canals girdling Koenigsberg were already in Russian hands.

Marshal Tolbukhin's Appeal to Population of Vienna

Residents of Vienna!

Battering the German-fascist forces, the Red Army has approached Vienna.

The Red Army has entered Austria not for the purpose of seizing Austrian territory, but exclusively for the purpose of routing the enemy, the German-fascist troops, and liberating Austria from dependence on the Germans.

The Red Army adheres to the Moscow Declaration of the Allies on Austria's independence and will assist in the restoration of the order which existed in Austria before 1938, that is, before the Germans' invasion of Austria.

The Red Army fights against the German invaders and not against the population of Austria, which may calmly continue its peaceful labor.

The rumors circulated by the Hitlerites alleging that the Red Army exterminates all members of the National Socialist Party, are a lie. The National Socialist Party will be dissolved, but the rank and file members of the National Socialist Party will not be molested if they show a correct attitude toward Soviet troops.

The hour of liberation of Austria's capital, Vienna, from German domination, has struck; but the retreating German-fascist troops wish to convert Vienna into

a battlefield as they did Budapest. This threatens Vienna and its residents with the same destruction and horrors of war as were caused by the Germans to Budapest and its population.

To save the capital of Austria, its historical monuments of culture and art, I propose:

(1) All the population to whom Vienna is dear—not to evacuate the city, because when Vienna is cleared of the Germans you will be freed from the horrors of war, while those who evacuate will be driven to destruction by the Germans;

(2) Not to allow the Germans to mine Vienna, blow up its bridges, or convert the houses into fortifications;

(3) To organize the struggle against

the Germans, to defend Vienna from destruction by the Hitlerites.

(4) All Vienna residents to actively hinder the Germans in carrying away from Vienna the industrial equipment, commodities and provisions, and not to allow them to plunder the Vienna population.

Citizens of Vienna! Help the Red Army to liberate the Austrian capital, Vienna. Make your contribution to the cause of the liberation of Austria from the German-fascist yoke.

(Signed)

COMMANDER OF THE TROOPS OF
THE THIRD UKRAINIAN FRONT,
MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION
TOLBUKHIN

April 6, 1945

Lieutenant General Korchagin, Hero of the Soviet Union, commander of a tank formation



Radiophoto

Soviet Heavy Machine-Building Giants

By Nikolai Kazakov

People's Commissar of Heavy Machine-Building of the USSR

The development of Soviet industry, and particularly of the machine-building industry, has always occupied a prominent place in Government plans. Machine-building was the starting point for the reconstruction of the entire national economy, and it rose to a leading place in industrial output. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan in 1937, the machine-building industry was producing 23 times more than in 1913.

The heavy machine-building industry, set up to supply industry with modern equipment, has in the past decade produced much equipment for blast and open-hearth furnaces and coking batteries, hoisting mechanisms for collieries and mines, and numerous rolling mills, Diesel engines, locomotives, turbines and power plant boilers.

A number of large heavy machine-building plants were erected during the years of the Stalin Five-Year Plans, and many old factories were completely overhauled. The scale of these reconstruction jobs is best revealed in the words of Sergei Orjonikidze, the first Commissar of Heavy Industry, who said that it reminded him of the repair of a coat which entailed sewing a coat on buttons.

We may take as an example the Voroshilovgrad (formerly the Lugansk) locomotive plant. Before overhauling, it turned out three hundred 1,000-h.p. locomotives annually, each weighing 150 tons. After reconstruction, the yearly output was stepped up to nine hundred 2,200 to 3,200-h.p. locomotives, each weighing 260 tons. The splendid plant had become completely self-sufficient. It turned out new types of Soviet locomotives with mechanical stoker and six-axle tender. This locomotive has proved itself superior in most of the important points of comparison to the modern American locomotives, the TA and TB, which were operating on Soviet roads.

The first steam turbine was assembled at the Leningrad turbine plant in 1930. Eleven years later the plant designed and built a 100,000-kilowatt turbine, unique

in design and speed. During the Stalin Five-Year Plans, the plant began to turn out high-power turbines of special design for power plants.

The plants we have cited as examples are typical of all Soviet heavy machine-building enterprises which have undergone basic reconstruction. But the country takes particular pride in the new heavy machine-building plants which were put up during the First and Second Five-Year Plans. The largest is the Novokramatorsk Stalin machine-building plant, launched in 1934. It was at that time one of the greatest plants built by our country. Its foundries turned out double the production of the Krupp plants. With regard to steel castings, it was also the largest enterprise in Europe. The press and blacksmith shops had presses of up to 10,000 tons pressure.

This giant turned out equipment for blast and open-hearth furnaces and Bessemer converters, high-capacity mixers, cars

for ladles, slab-mills and sheet mills, furnaces and rolling mills for non-ferrous metallurgy, port cranes, etc. As an example of the special equipment turned out by the plant, we may mention the slab-mill, producing 1,800,000 tons of rolled steel a year, the first of its kind in the Soviet Union and the largest in Europe.

Widespread Destruction By Germans

During their temporary occupation of Soviet districts, the Germans destroyed the largest heavy machine-building plants. The Novokramatorsk plant was one of those which suffered the greatest damage. Special demolition crews of German soldiers laid explosives under the huge columns of the largest shops and under the 12 brick smokestacks, 60-80 meters high. As these enormous smokestacks came down upon the shops they smashed through roofs and girders and overhead cranes. The whole

Dmitri Sechkin, now making munitions, has worked in one factory for 40 years



Assembling self-propelled guns in an armament factory in the Urals



Radiophotos

mass of metal, brick and concrete crashed onto the equipment in the shops and turned the open-hearth, flue runnels, communications and equipment into heaps of debris and crushed brick.

The invaders carried out widespread destruction of the heating and power system, which had a 25,000-kilowatt capacity and a splendid remote-control installation. The fine city with its theater, shops, dining rooms, clubs and schools was plundered and leveled to the ground. Thirty thousand workers and employees of the plant and their families had been housed there.

The Germans carried out similar destruction in the Voroshilovgrad locomotive plant. Here all the new shops and the factory power plant with 16,000-kilowatt capacity were completely destroyed and burned.

At the Odessa plant which produced hoisting equipment, the Germans destroyed 34,000 out of 50,000 square meters of production space. Other factories destroyed were the Kharkov turbine factory, the Bezhitsa machine-building plant, and other heavy machine-building enterprises.

The heavy machine-building plants in the invasion zone evacuated the most valuable part of their equipment and their people to the interior of the country. In their new locations the factories were set up in any buildings available, and often in newly constructed quarters. Here they helped to build up the capacity of the iron and non-ferrous industries of the Urals and Siberia, to increase their power sources, and cooperated in developing the geological riches of the Eastern regions of the USSR.

New Industrial Bases

New bases for heavy machine-building sprang up in the eastern and central districts of the country during the war years. From the Urals, the Volga Region, Siberia, Central Asia, the Altai and the Moscow District, the rapidly expanding war industries, power plants and transport of the country began to receive the turbines, Diesels, locomotives and other equipment they were in need of.

Nineteen-forty-four saw the rebirth of the machine-building industry in the districts liberated from German occupation. During that one year, 12 Novokramatorsk

shops rose from ruins. On November 7, the plant completed its production for the year. It had filled a number of important orders for the iron and steel industry and the turbine construction industry, and had turned out a whole series of powerful electric hoisting machines for the mines of the Donbas and Krivoi Rog.

The workers of the Kharkov turbine factory who returned from evacuation found their plant in ruins and ashes. There was no roof over the shops, nor equipment or electric power. But the workers pushed forward stubbornly in the face of all these difficulties. Lathes were turned by hand, metal heated under open fires, torches burned over machines in darkness; but the workers refused to give in. And on the 26th Anniversary of the October Revolution the plant completed the restoration of the turbines of the Kharkov power plant. The whole city and plant as well received electric light. From the ruins of the plant the people salvaged thousands of tons of twisted metal and charred beams. Steeplejacks raised new iron girders for the roof, working at a height of 45 meters, while workers and engineers installed the newly arrived equipment. While the shops were still in a half-ruined state, the production pulse of the plant began to beat. A 100,000-kilowatt turbine was restored for the Zuyev power plant in the Donets coal basin, and other turbines were built and repaired for power plants in Kiev and Sevastopol.

Before the war the assembly, installation and launching of a 50,000-kilowatt turbine took one and one-half months. A Kharkov factory brigade did the job in 12 days. The plant is already at work building more turbines. At the Zuyev power plant the first newly built 50,000-kilowatt turbine was recently installed.

One after another the heavy machine-building plants are being launched. The Soviet people are displaying great initiative, technical invention and true heroism in this work.

The achievements in the new enterprises, built when the battle against the foe was at its height, are no less significant. One new boiler works has already turned out many boilers for power plants. In October, 1944, this plant completed work on the largest Ramzin high-pressure boiler in the world, developing 220 tons

of steam per hour under a pressure of 100 atmospheres and a temperature of superheated steam of 500 degrees Centigrade.

One may obtain an idea of the scope of work of Soviet machine-builders from the fact that the capacity of the turbine and boiler units built and reconditioned in the years of the war comprises 25 per cent of the capacity of all power plants of the Soviet Union. The unflagging toil of the workers of metallurgical machine-building plants has made it possible to launch in Magnitogorsk a 60-blast furnace, which is the largest in Europe and produces 500,000 tons of metal; the Tagil and Chelyabinsk blast furnaces with an annual output of 350,000 to 400,000 tons of pig iron each, and the Chusovaya and many other blast furnaces, open hearths, rolling mills and coking batteries.

The production of mine and electrical hoisting machinery in 1944 was several times greater than in any prewar year.

Heavy machine-building plants are producing increasing quantities of ammunition and mines, mortars and guns, and Diesels and turbines for the Navy. The iron and steel and non-ferrous industries which are being restored and developed, as well as the coal industry, power production and transport on seas and rivers, present increasing demands for modern products of heavy machine-building; and Soviet machine-builders are making tremendous efforts to carry out their duty to their country with honor.

Within the next years the Soviet Union will heal the wounds inflicted upon her economy by the war. However, there can be no doubt that the Soviet Government has the moral right to demand reparations for what was destroyed and to count on the help of all freedom-loving mankind in the speediest possible reconstruction of her economy.

The postwar world is interested in the economic prosperity of the Soviet State, which has offered convincing proof in the war against Hitlerism that it is a bulwark of international rights and justice.

The military cooperation of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union in the struggle against the common foe should, when the war is over, develop into a firm economic cooperation which will be in the interests of and make for the welfare of everyone.

Property of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences Discovered in Germany

By Professor Peter Pogrebnyak
Secretary, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences

The German vandals caused great losses to the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and its research institutes. The buildings were destroyed, laboratories plundered, and books, furniture, unique and priceless works of art, and exhibits and manuscripts from the History Museum, stolen.

From the Institute of Geology the Germans removed the skeleton of a mammoth elephant, the only complete skeleton of this particular species in the world (skeletons of this species are ordinarily assembled from the bones of several animals). They also carried off the skeleton of a cave bear, the only copy of a Stratigraphic Map of Pre-Cambrian Ukraine, and pictorial representations of geological scenes drawn by such great Ukrainian painters as Izhakevich, etc.

They stole paleontological collections which cannot be duplicated, and materials on vertebrates gathered together over a period of dozens of years. They took away the largest meteorites, and collections of Ukrainian topazes and precious stones, as well as the Institute's library of 120,000 volumes. They plundered and destroyed the priceless laboratory equipment of the Institute.

From the Institute of Botany the Germans carried off herbariums containing 105,650 plants representing the flora of the southwest USSR, which were collected by Russian and Ukrainian botanists over a period of more than 100 years.

All the Academy's institutes of technical sciences were plundered, as well as the Institutes of Zoology and Archeology, and the Shevchenko Institute of Literature.

Millions of books were carried away from the central library of the Academy of Sciences, among them priceless volumes such as the *First and Second Gornostai Evangels of the 16th Century*, with artistically worked silver mountings; the *Serbian Evangels of the 16th Century*, also with valuable mountings; the *Notes of Vaska the Scribe* dating back to the 15th Century, and a number of ancient manuscript volumes and documents.

The plundering of the Academy's prop-

erty was in the main the work of experienced thieves. There can be no doubt that the ordinary Hitlerite soldier would not have dragged off to Germany the herbarium of Ukrainian flora, or the heavy skeleton of the mammoth, or the hundreds of thousands of volumes of scientific literature.

Moreover, we know the names of the vandals. They include Professor Sommer (zoo-technician), Professor Schaedl (zoologist), Professor Walther (geobotanist), and the *leiters* and *sonderfuehrers* of the German administration. Professors Mannsfeld and Benzing were particularly active as robbers of Academy property.

The victorious Red Army reached and entered the territory of Germany, and soon afterward the Academy began to receive letters from officers and men informing us of the discovery of Academy property which the Germans had carried off. The letters tell of the whereabouts of the property and include short lists of the names of the people who were entrusted with the safekeeping of property taken back from the Germans.

On January 24 of this year, Commander Pushkarevich found property belonging to the Academy in the village of Neudorf, five kilometers from the city of Nazdra, and in Poznan, including the seed herbarium and laboratory equipment. Pushkarevich also informed the Academy that their property had been discovered in the city of Miloslavov, 10 kilometers from Neudorf.

Georgi Karpenko, Secretary of the Technical Sciences Section, recently made a trip to Pomerania. In a landlord's house in the village of Grabow near the city of Steinberg, he found over 40,000 volumes on geography and ethnology belonging to the Academy of Sciences. On the same day he discovered a considerable number of books bearing the stamp of Kiev University and the Odessa and Kharkov Libraries.

Major Mikhail Strokov discovered property of the Institute of Zoology and the Zoo-Biological Museum of the Uk-

rainian Academy in the fortress city of Heilsberg, East Prussia. The Major writes:

"In one of the fortresses the men discovered a storehouse for cases and filing cabinets with cards in Ukrainian writing fastened to them. The cases contained thousands of scientific exhibits, herbaria, optical instruments and apparatuses, and a scientific library of hundreds of books. All of it is the property of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

"Strewn about over the floor were scores of books on flora and fauna, botanical atlases, and other works written by Soviet and foreign scientists. There were broken microscopes and special cameras. The men gathered all the books and other valuables together and we put up a sign over the door reading: 'Library and scientific exhibits of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences which were stolen by the Germans were found here. This property must be preserved and sent back to our country.'"

The war is drawing to a close and the hour is near when the full bill will be presented to the Hitlerite invaders for all the atrocities they have perpetrated and the enormous damage they have inflicted upon our economy, our science and our culture.

Restoration Plans for Ukraine

Eleven million square feet of living space, of the total demolished by the Germans, will be rebuilt this year in Kiev, Kharkov, Stalino, Dniepropetrovsk and other cities, according to a program approved by the Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic. The plan for restoration of the western regions of the Ukraine will be approved later.

Under the direction of elected street committees, the people are taking an active part in rehabilitation. Volunteer teams are clearing debris left by the Germans, and salvaging bricks, window and door frames and nails for future use. Numerous building materials factories have been set up in the Republic.

The Smallest Nationality in the USSR

By Vladimir Bulgakov

Ten years ago Nikolai Sidorov, a school-teacher, arrived in Sovietskaya Gavan, a Far Eastern Soviet town on the coast of the Tatar Strait, about 500 miles north of Vladivostok. Sidorov had not come for pure adventure. As a high-school pupil he had dreamed of becoming a teacher and of working in some remote district where the need for education was particularly great.

That is why, when the opportunity came to go to the taiga and teach in an Orochon camp, he readily agreed. He was not deterred by the severe conditions of life, nor by the great distances that would separate him from the centers of culture.

The Orochons are probably the smallest nationality dwelling in the USSR. According to official statistics there are not more than 600 of them in the Far East. Until a short time ago these backward people preserved their half-savage customs. Their main occupations were hunting and fishing, and they lived in nomads' tents and huts. Not a single one knew how to read or write.

The Uska-Orochenskaya camp, lost among the mountains in the wilderness of the Maritime Province, became the young teacher's permanent home. First of all, he made the rounds of the tents and huts, wrote down the names and ages of the children, and informed the parents that he was going to teach their youngsters to read and write. The Orochons welcomed the idea, and helped him to build a school. It was the first wooden building ever to be erected in the camp.

But the building of the school was only the beginning. The children lived like their parents. They slept on the floor, did not know the use of soap or towels, knives or forks. They had to be taught cultured habits. It was therefore decided to build a second wooden building, a boarding school, where all the Orochon pupils would live together.

It was finished within several months. Carpenters came from the city to make the furniture. Bed linen, dishes, clothing and other necessary items of equipment were ordered from Sovietskaya Gavan.

The little Orochons moved into the

boarding school and gradually dropped their former habits. Under the patient guidance of Sidorov, they learned to dry themselves with towels, and even to use handkerchiefs. At last they stopped crawling out of their beds in the middle of the night to curl up on the floor in the old way.

The youngsters gradually got accustomed to holding pens and pencils, to sitting straight at their desks, and to standing up when the teacher asked a question. They proved capable pupils, and in a comparatively short time learned to read and write. In fact, it became a problem to tear them away from their books.

Milk and Vegetables Unknown

The word "Orochon" means "deer-breeder." The Orochon children go off on hunting and fishing trips with their fathers. But though unafraid of wild animals, they were terribly frightened when they saw the teacher escorting a cow into the camp. They had never seen such an animal before. The cow seemed more terrible than any grizzly bear. Some time passed before Sidorov could persuade them to drink cow's milk.

Nikolai Sidorov gradually introduced other "novelties." Helped by the children, he dug up a small plot of land near the schoolhouse and planted vegetables, using fertilizers. There was a fine crop of vegetables in the summer, but the youngsters refused to eat them.

Sidorov taught the grown-ups as well as the children. As soon as the youngsters had finished their lessons, their fathers and mothers sat down at the same desks to study reading and writing. Sidorov found it more difficult to teach the adults than the children, but he was patient and the slightest success encouraged him.

He enjoyed great authority among the Orochons. They regarded him as a person who knew everything and could do everything. And in fact, Sidorov really did know a great deal. He had a ready answer for any question, and gave sound advice. In the beginning, when the camp had no doctor, he looked after the sick Orochons himself.

On his advice, the Orochons started building wooden houses for themselves. But the grass huts still stand beside the wooden houses, and the older Orochons live in them during the summer months.

Sidorov's ten years' patient work, which his wife has shared, have borne fruit. Today you would not recognize the camp. A well-planned settlement has sprung up with wooden houses, a hospital, steam bath, club and post office. Many Orochons have radio sets and listen to Moscow, 6,250 miles away.

Not a single one is illiterate. The school has developed from an elementary school into a seven-grade school. Now there are several other teachers on the staff besides Sidorov. One of them, an Orochon woman, Darya Namunka, is a former pupil of Sidorov's.

The Orochons receive newspapers and write letters to their countrymen who have enlisted in the Red Army and are fighting the Nazis on the battlefields of Europe.

Nikolai Sidorov is extremely fond of this small nationality, so rapidly acquiring culture. He was recently offered a job in a district school, but declined, declaring that he would never leave the Orochons.

The Soviet Government highly values the selfless work of this Russian school-teacher. Not long ago he was awarded the Order of Lenin.

Information Bulletin

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AMBASSADOR GROMYKO'S STATEMENT ON THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

It was a terrific shock for me to learn the news of President Roosevelt's death. His death is a great loss not only to the American people but to all peace-loving peoples of the world. One of the greatest statesmen the world has ever had, as well as a great person, has been lost. President Roosevelt's merits in the task of mobilizing the forces of this nation for war against our common enemy—Nazi Germany—are enormous. He could distinguish true friends as well as real enemies. He knew the value of the unity of the great Allied Powers and its importance for victory.

The personal charm of President Roosevelt was great. My personal meetings with him will always remain in my memories.

I do not doubt that the great American people, who has produced such a great man, will with the same determination as under his leadership continue to fight against the common enemy until complete and final victory, which is very near, is achieved.

The Soviet people shares this great national grief which has befallen the friendly American people.

April 12, 1945

THE SOVIET-YUGOSLAV TREATY

IZVESTIA wrote editorially, April 12:

The treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration signed between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia yesterday, April 11, was met with a feeling of profoundest satisfaction by the Soviet public.

The treaty, concluded for a term of 20 years, pursues two major objectives—to carry the war against Hitlerite Germany to the end, to complete victory, and in the joint struggle against the common enemy to further strengthen the friendship existing between the Yugoslavian and Soviet peoples and to secure their close cooperation both in war and peace.

The few brief articles of this concise document have very great content. By this treaty the USSR and Yugoslavia undertook to render each other military and other assistance by every means at their disposal, both in the present war and in the event one of the high contracting parties finds itself involved again in war with a Germany who would resume her

aggressive policy, or with some state which would unite with Germany in such aggression.

On the strength of the treaty of April 11, the USSR and Yugoslavia undertook to participate in international actions aimed at insuring peace and security in a spirit of the most sincere collaboration. Such a statement is very significant, because the whole history of the relations between the peoples of the Soviet Union and of Yugoslavia guarantees that this undertaking will be carried out in a worthy manner.

The treaty springs from the very nature of the relations existing between both countries, which found particularly bright expression during the war imposed upon the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia by the German-fascist bandits. The fraternal ties binding the Slav peoples of Europe were particularly strengthened in wartime. They were really cemented with the blood of both peoples shed so

profusely in the battles against Germany.

Immediately after the invasion of Polish, Czechoslovak and Yugoslavian territories, the Germans tried first of all to dismember these states and destroy them as independent state entities, to erase them from the face of the earth. Having started their drive to the East, the German bandit hordes set themselves a monstrous task—to destroy the Slav states and exterminate the Slav peoples.

Like Poland and Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia is living through great historical days. The new foundations of the great future of these states are being laid in the battles for liberation from the Hitlerite yoke. With the wisdom of experience accumulated in the grave trials of recent years, their peoples are building a new democratic polity amid the ruins of the old world destroyed by the Hitlerites. And they strive by a wise foreign policy to secure in advance their future freedom and independence with the support of the Soviet Union and in

collaboration with all the United Nations.

It is just this course which is followed by Yugoslavia and her Government. The Yugoslavian people will never forget how four years ago, on April 6, 1941, the first German bombers appeared in the skies over Belgrade and fascist bombs burst in the city's streets. For four years the peoples of Yugoslavia have been fighting for the country's freedom. In the course of this struggle they have created a new democratic state, their own really democratic authority, and their own popular Army whose fighting services are acknowledged by the world.

With the support of the Red Army and the entire Soviet people in the struggle waged jointly with the Allied countries against the common enemy—bandit Germany—they have defended their freedom and state independence.

Now the struggle against Hitlerite Germany is drawing to an end. The complete liberation of the whole of Yugoslavia is a matter of the immediate future. And the Yugoslavian people now crowns the struggle for the freedom and independence of its motherland by the historical treaty with the Soviet Union.

From the very beginning, both countries marched hand in hand in the war against Hitlerite Germany. We all remember that when the Germans were pressing toward Stalingrad, the Partisans of Yugoslavia heroically fought against the common enemy and immobilized a part of the German armed forces. Yugoslavian Partisans kept the German invaders under constant tension; they prevented them from using Yugoslavian resources in the war against the Soviet Union; they struck at the German rear and forced the Germans to look back in constant fear.

The struggle of the Yugoslavian patriots represented a contribution not only to the cause of military, but also of moral and political defeat of fascism.

The Yugoslavian patriots heroically fighting under Marshal Tito's leadership had unshakable faith in the victory of the Soviet Union. They firmly believed that the Soviet Union would overwhelm the enemy, would eject him from its land with disgrace and help the fraternal peoples of Yugoslavia to free themselves from the German-fascist yoke.

They have lived to see the day when the Red Army ejected the hateful enemy from its land, entered Yugoslavia, liberated Belgrade, and together with Marshal Tito's troops started driving the Germans out of Yugoslavia.

The jointly-won victory has now been crowned by the treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration between the USSR and Yugoslavia, aimed not only at carrying the war to an end but also at making a contribution to the postwar organization of peace and security. This treaty meets the vital interests of both peoples. In the first place, these vital interests require the creation of a reliable bulwark against German aggression. And it is not accidental that the treaty provides not only for the most extensive mutual military assistance in the present war against Hitlerite Germany, but also for assistance in the event Yugoslavia or the Soviet Union again find themselves involved in a war with a Germany who would resume her aggression. And not only with Germany, but with any other state which would unite with Germany directly or in any other form in such a war.

Throughout their history, the Slav peoples in the East of Europe were an object of the bandit policy of German imperialism. This policy found support within these countries on the part of circles hostile to democracy. It was this

pro-fascist policy of reactionary elements who had been covert or overt agents of the Germans in the East of Europe that fed the roots of German aggression.

It is said that history repeats itself. The history of German aggression must never repeat again. German aggression in the East has already smashed against the impregnable barrier created by the will of the Slav peoples, bound by close ties of collaboration and friendship, united by a common goal and common task. To serve this goal is in the interests of the whole of Europe and of all freedom-loving countries and nations.

The treaty of friendship and mutual assistance signed yesterday in Moscow is a new and even more remarkable proof of the firmness of Soviet foreign policy, untiringly acting in the interests of the early and complete rout of the common enemy of all democratic countries—Hitlerite Germany—in the interests of strengthening friendship and close collaboration with all peace-loving nations.

The treaty signed on April 11, 1945, will go down in the history of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia as an act of great international importance, called upon to play its role in the further development and strengthening of friendly relations between the peoples of the USSR and Yugoslavia, between the Balkan peoples and the peoples of all democratic countries.



Soviet airmen just back from a bombing raid over East Prussia discuss the results of their night's work



Soviet self-propelled guns entering Czeszochowa, Poland



Radiophotos

Red Army tanks on the march in south Pomerania

THE DRIVE OF SOVIET MOBILE FORCES FROM THE VISTULA TO THE ODER

By Nikolai Pilayev

In this article, written after a visit to the headquarters of Colonel General M. Katukov of the Red Army Tank Forces, a Soviet correspondent recounts some of the episodes pertaining to the famous drive by the Soviet mobile forces from the Vistula to the Oder, during which they fought their way forward a distance of 570 kilometers in two weeks.

The officer working at the sand table was in a quandary: the model strip of terrain made of papier-mache, clay and sand, eight paces in length and four in width, was not big enough for the markers—themselves tiny enough to fit three or four in the palm of a hand—not even if he made each dummy tank and gun represent five in the field.

A higher ratio was required to show the number of tanks and guns concentrated by Marshal Zhukov on one of the bridgeheads beyond the Vistula near Warsaw, from which he launched his main blow in January. The sand table represented this bridgehead.

A few days after I had seen the model at one of the Red Army's research institutions, I arrived in the actual area depicted by it. The offensive had started, but the terrain still bore ample evidence of the strength that had been massed there. Stuck into the ground I found literally thousands of pegs, each bearing the numbers of guns, batteries, artillery groups or tank units to which the par-

ticular strip of terrain had been assigned.

In the talks I had with some of Marshal Zhukov's officers who had been in charge of preparations for the January blow at the German defenses, they termed the bridgehead a titanic powder magazine.

"You can take that literally," said one officer. "On this small strip of terrain there were thousands of guns and tanks and vast stores of shells and fuel. It looked as if a single air bomb might be enough to touch the whole thing off. We assembled the concentration so carefully, however, that not a single enemy plane spotted the guns or tanks."

Of tanks alone there were thousands. They took up positions hidden from the enemy. All traffic across the Vistula took place at night. The time required for each tank to make its way across the river to the peg bearing its number was figured in advance, with the margin for error not exceeding a minute or two. The unit commanders themselves regulated the traffic.

During the day all activity was suspended on the bridgehead. Every German officer taken prisoner when the drive began agreed that their command was quite certain Marshal Zhukov had decided to dig in for a protracted defense.

The price the Germans paid for this miscalculation is well known. For a stretch of hundreds of kilometers, their

defenses were first rammed and then completely smashed over a period of several days. Our artillery blasted gaps in these defenses, the infantry cleared the corridors, and then the tanks swarmed through.

In the wake of one Soviet tank column I covered the distance from the Vistula to the Oder. I did not exactly follow the trail, for although it is 570 kilometers from the Vistula to the Oder as the crow flies, the speedometers of the tanks indicated that the latter had covered from 1,200 to 1,500 kilometers.

Marshal Zhukov struck with two armored fists. The forces under Colonel General Bogdanov lunged out to the right, and those under Colonel General Katukov to the left. They described a vast arc, to grip the German Warsaw grouping in a semicircle and cut all its communications, and then without pausing swerved sharply to the west and headed for Bromberg, Gnezno and Poznan.

I traveled along the main axis of the route of General Katukov's tanks. The districts through which the German Vistula defenses ran are still a vast cemetery of enemy materiel. Roads have been cleared, but fields are strewn with the wreckage of guns, armored carriers, tanks and trucks, many of which were flattened out under Soviet tank treads.

In front of towns, rivers and defense lines all the way to the Oder I saw simi-

lar junk yards. According to my count, General Katukov's tanks smashed through ten previously prepared intermediary defense lines with field fortifications, bypassed six large towns turned into fortresses, broke through the Pomeranian wall, and then through three lines of reinforced concrete structures of the Oder quadrilateral the Germans had built up on the road to Berlin.

I lost count of the small and large, one-story and two-story forts with revolving embrasure-pocket turrets and cupolas, of the tank ditches with reinforced concrete escarpments, of the dragon's teeth and other tank obstacles.

Most impressive were the fortifications of the Pomeranian wall and the Oder quadrilateral. I made a trip along a railway line 45 meters underground, visited subterranean barracks for several hundred men and ate a dinner prepared by our cooks in an officers' kitchen built at the same depth as the railway.

"How did your tanks break through such a thick net of modern fortified lines?" was the first question I asked General Katukov, and later his officers.

They were resting when I visited them. It was late evening and the General was wearing a sweater and house slippers. He is a very vigorous, quick-moving man who looks to be about 45 to 48. When he answered my questions or told of the various stages of his march through Poland to the Oder, he drew the outlines of the maneuver on a sheet of paper, and then walking over to a map on the wall gave a detailed explanation of what he had told me.

"How did we leap through the German fortifications?" he repeated. "The details you can learn from my officers. I will tell you this: speed is what did it—yes, speed! The German defenses on the Vistula were smashed so swiftly, and our tanks dashed ahead so unexpectedly for the Germans, that on not even one of the subsequent intermediary lines could the enemy really make use of his defense possibilities.

"We reached these lines ahead of the retreating German units that we had smashed. We even got there ahead of the reserves the German command was transferring from rear districts. If we had stopped for two or three days, or even

a day, that march to the Oder might have taken us not two weeks, but twenty-two."

When I asked the General about the tank battles fought after this march across Poland, he gazed at the map for a few moments in silence and then replied:

"There were no real tank battles."

"But you smashed several German tank divisions, didn't you?"

"Yes, but what kind of battles were those?" He turned away from the map. "At the Kursk bulge there was a real tank battle. There were 17 panzer divisions against us. Do you remember the battle of Prokhorovo? And what was there here in Poland? The German command was in a panic and rushed divisions against us one at a time. And we picked them off one at a time, each in its turn."

He strode up and down the room several times. Then he seated himself in an armchair opposite me, picked up a notebook and began to chart the tank battles. On each chart he placed the numbers of the tank divisions he and General Bogdanov had smashed. When he finished he handed me the sheets of paper and said: "Note the fact that when the Red Army began its general offensive in Poland, the main German tank forces were not in this theater."

"Where were they?"

"In Prussia and Hungary, on the flanks."

"Why?"

"Evidently the Germans were absolutely confident that we had stabilized our Polish front and would deal our subsequent blows at the flanks.

"That was their first calculation; secondly, they counted on their ability to make rapid operational maneuvers. A captured German colonel who knew some of the plans of the command related that headquarters thought the very massing of tanks on the flanks would localize any possible thrust into Poland. 'Our tanks were to have struck at the flanks of the Polish front as soon as you began an offensive,' the prisoner said."

The General again walked over to the map. Spreading out his arms he pointed out the width of the breach our forces had made in the German front in Poland. "Just try a flanking blow against a breach that size," he said. "The front was pierced over a length that localizes any German attempts to deal flanking counter-blows. And then—speed and more speed! The German operational planning could not keep up with our tanks."

By this time it was after midnight and I had to break off my interview with the General. I had hoped to see him the following morning, but he had gone. His officers gave me further details about the march. They are highly interesting, but they must be told some other time.

New Types of Captured German Armament Exhibited in Moscow

New types of the German heavy King Tiger tanks and Panther motor guns, and other samples of the enormous mass of German arms captured in the present battles have arrived at the Exhibition of Captured German Armament in the Moscow Park of Culture and Rest.

The latest exhibits include new searchlights and sound detectors, the newest devices for directing artillery fire, a new 88-mm. German mortar—the "Puppchen"—the Offenrohr anti-tank rifle, Faust cartridges, and a 100-mm. double-barreled mortar, "Salaszy's needle," which was captured in Budapest.

The aircraft section received a new

Junkers-34 transport plane and a Focke-Wulf-144 liaison plane.

German tools of torture and execution, shown in another section, include the fetters, whips, rubber clubs and gallows which the Germans used in dealing with the Soviet people.

The balloons of cyclone poison which the Germans used in Maidanek to murder hundreds of thousands of defenseless people are exhibited in the chemistry section.

Among the exhibits is the banner of the Berlin higher technical school, which was sent to the front by the Hitlerites and captured in battle.

THE APPROACHING ROUT OF HITLER GERMANY

The following editorial appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 7:

The first months of the present year will serve as an outstanding landmark in the history of the war which the freedom-loving nations are waging against Germany. This war is now reaching a climax.

Even at the turn of the year it seemed as though the Germans still had some chance of putting up prolonged resistance. At that time the Red Army was on the Vistula and on the border of East Prussia. The Hitlerites were still in control of the entire area of Germany, of all her vital regions. This area was protected by powerful fortifications, erected in the east and west in the course of years.

In December, 1944, the Germans launched an offensive in the West with the object of recapturing Belgium and Alsace. A note of alarm prevailed in a number of English and American newspapers and journals at that time. Pessimistic views were expressed about the prospects of the war. The Germans counted on being able to prolong their resistance and on this leading to a split in the camp of the anti-Hitler coalition.

The Red Army's mighty January offensive shattered the last hopes of the Hitlerites. Smashing the powerful German defenses on a stretch of 1,200 kilometers, Soviet troops by rapid and skilful operations hurled the enemy back hundreds of miles to the west. The loss of regions like Silesia, Pomerania and East Prussia sapped Germany's economic base. Within a short space of time Germany sustained enormous irreparable losses in manpower and materiel. Rundstedt's winter offensive in the West was frustrated, and the Armies of our Allies were enabled to pass to the offensive.

The offensive operations of Allied troops in the West were combined with offensive operations of Soviet troops in the East, where, as is known, the main forces of Hitler's army have been concentrated from the beginning of the Soviet-German war to the present day. This was mentioned once again the other day by General Eisenhower, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Expeditionary Forces. Weighing the prospects of the joint of-

fensive in the East and West, at a press conference on March 27, he especially noted that Soviet troops were contending against the bulk of the German army.

When the Allies landed in Normandy in the summer of 1944, the Germans had about 60 divisions in the West, whereas in the East they had concentrated over 200 divisions. Subsequently the German High Command removed contingent after contingent of its best units from the West to the East. Needless to say, the Hitlerites have not transferred a single unit back to the West, owing to the Red Army's continuous offensive since the beginning of this year. As regards the German reserves, they have long existed only in the imagination of the Hitlerite commentators. Actually, these reserves were wiped out on the Soviet-German front.

Under these circumstances, the swift advance of Allied troops in the West—which in some cases is almost as rapid as that of the Soviet troops after their breakthrough of the German Vistula front last January—is not surprising. The rapid breach of the Siegfried line and the crossing of so serious a water barrier as the Rhine, have proved once again that not the obstacles themselves, but the troops that defend them, can hold up powerful attacking armies.

Sensational reports on the unhindered advance of numerous columns of Allied troops deep into Germany without meeting any resistance, of towns being surrendered by telephone, and of thousands of untrained Volksturmiers surrendering without firing a shot, confirm the undisputable fact that Kesselring, who has replaced Rundstedt, has only a very inconsiderable number of troops left to resist the numerous American, English, Canadian and French divisions which are advancing from the West. At the same time the Hitler command is continuing to hold its main forces in the East and to offer strenuous resistance to the Red Army, which is steadily fighting its way nearer and nearer to Berlin and Vienna.

Comparing the positions on the Western and Eastern Fronts, the foreign press naturally notes the peculiar situation which has been created by the concentra-

tion of the main forces of the German army in the East. Thus a military correspondent of the London *Evening Standard* wrote on March 31 that the German army on the Western Front "is condemned to over-all inferiority by the decision of the German leaders not to reinforce it with units drawn from the Eastern Front."

It is presumed that by acting in this way the German command is playing a definite game. Thus Kimche, Reuters' military correspondent, wrote on March 31: "This completeness of the German collapse in the West, while the concentration against the Russians continues, is more than suspicious. What is the German game? Having recognized their inability to stop Eisenhower from advancing from the West, they decide after the successful Rhine crossings to act as if the West no longer concerned them. This move can of course do little to avoid the military catastrophe facing the Nazis."

And indeed Germany is faced with an unavoidable military catastrophe. In the face of this catastrophe, the fascist ring-leaders have remained true to themselves as reckless adventurers and provocateurs. As Reuters' correspondent Kimche says, they are striving to "cause friction between the Allies" and to "stimulate" this friction by their suspicious behavior, which consists in acting "as if the West no longer concerned them." But this virtually amounts to discontinuing resistance in the West. Numerous reports from war correspondents bear this out. Some observers are even inclined to the opinion that the Germans have "opened the gates in the West." The Germans are obviously doing this with the hope of kindling and fanning disagreement among the Allies, not stopping at weakening or even completely terminating resistance in the West while at the same time increasing their resistance in the East.

Now in the face of this final frantic attempt of the Hitlerites to cause a split among the Allies, it is clearer than ever that anything that hinders the complete eradication of fascism and its baneful and at times skilfully camouflaged agencies, works only to the enemy's benefit.

DENUNCIATION OF SOVIET-JAPANESE NEUTRALITY PACT

From IZVESTIA, April 7:

On April 13, 1941—that is, prior to Germany's attack on the USSR and before the outbreak of war between Japan, on the one hand, and the United States and Great Britain on the other—a pact of neutrality was signed in Moscow between the Soviet Union and Japan. The conclusion of this pact marked the culmination of a definite stage in the development of Soviet-Japanese relations. For more than two decades, beginning with the great October Socialist Revolution and the formation of the Soviet State, these relations had been of a most unsatisfactory character.

The Japanese intervention in the Far East, during which Japanese troops landed in Vladivostok and occupied the Maritime Province; Japan's occupation of northern Sakhalin; the numerous frontier clashes, and lastly, the memorable events at Lake Chankufeng and the Nomanhan River in 1938 and 1939, are only a few of the facts indicating that over the course of many years Japan's leading circles pursued an aggressive policy toward the Soviet Union which time and again led to sharp conflicts between the two countries.

It required some considerable time before Japan's leading circles arrived at the conclusion that the establishment of formal relations with their neighbor, the Soviet Union, was essential, and renounced the policy of military provocation and adventures toward the USSR.

The conclusion of the Neutrality Pact between the USSR and Japan on April 13, 1941, testified to the failure of this policy of Japan's leading circles, who in the end were forced to adopt a course of regulating relations with the Soviet Union. The Neutrality Pact of April 13, 1941, played a beneficial role by removing a number of causes for misunderstanding and conflict with Japan, which were fraught with danger especially at the time when Germany was betraying her ambitions for new imperialist aggrandizement and for domination in Europe.

On June 22, 1941, intoxicated with her

easy successes in western Europe, Germany treacherously attacked the Soviet Union. Having launched into a military adventure in the east, Germany reckoned on just as easy successes in her way in the Soviet Union, confident as she was of her military might and backed as she was by the vast resources of nearly the whole of western Europe which she had seized.

Germany's temporary successes in the early months of war in the Soviet Union, which were due to the suddenness and surprise of the German fascists' dastardly attack, turned the heads, as we know, of many Japanese politicians who were ready to put their stakes on Hitler. But the rebuff which the Red Army administered to the insolent invader at the walls of Moscow and on a number of other sectors of our front, had a sobering effect on the Japanese hotheads.

However, the idea had already matured in the minds of Japan's leading political and military circles that it was necessary to take advantage of the "golden opportunity"—as the more frank of the Japanese military expressed it—to set about realizing their cherished imperialist schemes in the region of the southern seas. The subsequent course of events in the Pacific, beginning with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the opening of hostilities between the United States and Great Britain on the one hand, and Japan on the other, is general knowledge.

In the Soviet Union's period of greatest trial, Japan continued to strengthen her cooperation with Germany, which was not only of supreme political significance, but also of substantial assistance to Germany in her war on the Soviet Union.

In the course of this war which was forced upon the Soviet Union by Germany, a radical demarcation of forces took place, which led to the formation of the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition. At the same time Japan was and still is at war with the Allies of the USSR—the United States of America and Great Britain.

Thus, since the Neutrality Pact was concluded on April 13, 1941, the situation has undergone a radical change. Regarding this change, the statement made on April 5 by People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR V. M. Molotov to Japanese Ambassador N. Sato, says: "Germany attacked the USSR, while Japan—Germany's ally—is helping the latter in her war against the USSR. Moreover, Japan is at war with the United States and Great Britain, who are the Soviet Union's Allies."

All through this war, even when it was quite evident that the German gamble was doomed to complete failure, Japan continued in every way to strengthen her alliance with Germany and support German piratical imperialism. The Soviet Government recognized that "under these circumstances, the Neutrality Pact between Japan and the USSR has lost its meaning, and the prolongation of this pact has become impossible."

Consequently, the Soviet Government on April 5 informed the Japanese government of its desire to denounce the pact with Japan.

The statement, as we know, refers to Article III of the Neutrality Pact. It is specified in the pact that it is to remain in force for five years from the day of its ratification. Article III provides that unless either of the parties denounces the pact one year before its expiration, it automatically remains in force for another five years. Precisely at the present juncture the parties must decide whether, in accordance with Article III, the pact is to be prolonged for another five years or whether to denounce it. As we know, the Soviet Government decided to express its wish to the Japanese government to denounce the pact.

The Soviet Government's denunciation of the pact with Japan is a direct consequence of the fact that Japan is the ally of Germany, who is waging a vile piratical war on the Soviet Union, and that she is at the same time waging war on the United States and Great Britain, who are Allies of the Soviet Union.

SOVIET SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

This spring the Soviet Government is celebrating the 220th anniversary of the Academy of Sciences, founded in 1725 by a decree of Peter I. The jubilee will be international in character and invitations are being sent to a large group of British, American, and other scientists of friendly countries.

Preparations for the festival are in progress, and members of the Jubilee Committee are drawing up the program. Several discussions have already been held under the chairmanship of Vladimir Komarov, President of the Academy of Sciences.

It has been decided to hold special meetings on the occasion of the festival in both Moscow and Leningrad. The Academy was intimately connected with the latter city from the time of its foundation, and for over 200 years had its headquarters there. Those who will write the chief papers have been selected; among them are such well-known scholars as Academicians Leon Orbeli and Ivan Meshchaninov.

Leon Orbeli, one of the most prominent Soviet physiologists, has worked on the ideas propounded by Academician Ivan Pavlov in the sphere of higher nervous activity. The great achievements of Orbeli and his school during the past 20 to 25 years will form the subject of a paper to be read at the festival.

Ivan Meshchaninov was a pupil of Academician Nikolai Marr, who evolved a new theory of language. Meshchaninov will report on the development of this theory during the past 25 years.

The Russian Academy of Sciences has always devoted great attention to the study of geography and geology. Among Academy members there have been a large number of explorers and geologists. Countless mineral deposits which form the basis of the present economic potential of the USSR were discovered by them. There will be a paper on this subject at the celebration.

* * *

Despite wartime difficulties the Soviet Government has decided to carry out a number of measures for the building and

repair of Academy institutes and laboratories. This spring work will begin on a huge edifice for the Academy of Sciences on the banks of the Moskva River, designed by Academician Alexei Shchusev.

A large quantity of paper has been allotted to the Academy for the publication of scientific papers, and another Moscow print shop has been placed at its disposal. This year many scientific papers whose publication had been held up by the war will be issued.

* * *

Planning in the Soviet Union embraces new fields of science each year. A large group of scientists are at present working on a scientific research plan for establishments of higher education during the next two or three years. In addition to educational work, all colleges and institutes do research work in which teachers and professors play an important part. This enables them to constantly improve their knowledge and the teaching of their particular subject, and at the same time assist in the development of science. There are 15,000 workers in colleges and institutes engaged in this scientific task. Until now their work had not been planned



Academician Igor Grabar,
Doctor of Art

as a whole and this led to much unnecessary parallelism.

* * *

In Moscow and other cities a number of scientific conferences were held in February, most important of which was the All-Union Conference of Archeologists.

Naturally, in wartime excavation work was to a very great extent abandoned, although some has been done in Georgia, Armenia and the Central Asian Republics.

In view of the fast approaching end of the war and the defeat of the Nazi enemies of culture, Soviet archeologists are already working out extensive plans for new excavations and for the replacement of exhibits stolen from our museums by the Germans. Considerable attention is being paid to the preservation of ancient monuments. Papers on this subject read by Academicians Igor Grabar and Ivan Meshchaninov were discussed at great length.

Much interest was aroused by the reports on results of archeological work during the past few years. A paper on an expedition which explored the banks of the Lena, a large Siberian river, was something in the nature of a sensation. The expedition discovered some very rare rock drawings by primitive man. The discoveries cover the tremendous period from the Paleolithic Era down to the 18th Century. Relics found show that a huge area of Siberia which is now a land of eternal frost was once inhabited by man.

* * *

Moscow scientists look forward to a year of crowded events, some of which will be attended by guests arriving for the 220th anniversary of the Academy. One of the most interesting will be the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Alexander Popov's radio inventions.

There is no doubt that the participation of representatives of British and United States science in the Academy's jubilee celebrations and other festivals will do much to strengthen the bonds between the scientists of these friendly countries.

VLADIMIR MAYAKOVSKY

(July 19, 1893—April 14, 1930)

Vladimir Mayakovsky is one of the outstanding Russian poets of our century. The significance of his work has been expressed by Stalin in the words, "Mayakovsky was and remains the best, most talented poet of our Soviet epoch."

The poet was born in the village of Bagdadi (now Mayakovsky), in Georgia, July 19, 1893. He was the son of a forester. In 1906, after his father's death, the family moved to Moscow, where young Mayakovsky came into contact with revolutionary youth circles. From the age of 15 he took an active part in the revolutionary movement, and was at one time arrested and imprisoned.

After his release, he devoted himself passionately to the idea of founding a new, revolutionary art. In 1911 he entered the Moscow School of Painting, Architecture and Sculpture, but soon busied himself wholly with poetry.

Mayakovsky welcomed the October Revolution in 1917 with great enthusiasm. He became its most brilliant and ardent poet. Rebelling strongly against cold, apathetic "academic" art, he strove to bring poetry closer to life. He regarded the poet as a direct participant in the struggle for freedom and a happy future.

During the years of the Civil War Mayakovsky directed all his energy as a poet and artist to creating propagandist and satirical posters which lashed the enemies of the Soviet country. This was followed by much intensive newspaper work, in which he reviewed political events of the day and also wrote a number of poems unsurpassed for their caustic political commentary.



"Mayakovsky was and remains the best, most talented poet of our Soviet epoch."
—Stalin

Mayakovsky took poetry out of the close confines of literary salons into the open air, into the streets and squares. He appealed directly to the people, tirelessly traveling over the entire country and reciting his poems before mass audiences of workers and farmers.

A profound lyricist, Mayakovsky expressed in his verse the wealth and variety of emotions and experience of the new free man born of the Revolution. ("Verses to a Soviet Passport," "Home"

and others). A master of keen wit and painfully stinging satire, he created a large gallery of pamphlet caricatures and grotesque figures, exposing the enemies of Soviet man in their diverse manifestations, from bureaucrats and philistines to the international ravagers and fascist murderers preparing

to attack the Soviet country. ("Mayakovsky Gallery," "The Bedbug" and others).

Among Mayakovsky's most striking works are his volumes of verse written after his trips to Western Europe and America: *Paris* (1924-25), *Verses About America* (1925-26), *There and Back* (1926-29).

His greatest poetic achievements are his long poems, "150,000,000," Vladimir Ilyich Lenin," and others, in which he reveals with exceptional power the historical greatness of the October Revolution and its leader, Lenin, and the spiritual beauty and strength of the Soviet people who defended their land and the lofty ideals of mankind.

The influence of Mayakovsky on all modern Soviet poetry is tremendous. A tireless innovator, he transformed poetic language, democratized it, and introduced into it ordinary, everyday colloquial speech. He reformed poetic rhythm, using live oratorical and colloquial intonations, and skilfully developed new rhythms. Despite the difficulty of translation, his verse has been published in 23 foreign languages.

Upon his death, Mayakovsky's literary legacy was declared by the Soviet Government to be a State possession, and the Vladimir Mayakovsky State Museum was established in Moscow.

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Soviet People Mourn President Roosevelt

The entire Soviet people received with profound shock and grief the news of the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

All Soviet newspapers published obituaries of President Roosevelt, pointing out that "his attitude toward fascist aggression and his effort to insure the future security of the world greatly contributed to the success of the historical conferences in Teheran and in the Crimea in which he participated

"Roosevelt's foreign policy found support in all progressive sections of the American nation. One of his first acts after his election in 1932 was to establish diplomatic relations with the USSR.

"Immediately after Germany's treacherous attack on the Soviet Union, President Roosevelt declared that the American national sympathies were with the USSR. Agreements were concluded be-



tween the United States and the USSR insuring practical measures for supplying the USSR with arms and materials. . . .

"In 1944 Roosevelt was re-elected President of the United States for a fourth term. Questions of foreign policy were in the focus of the election campaign: the prosecution of the war to a victorious end; friendship and cooperation among the United Nations. In one of his campaign speeches Roosevelt said that the American people are proud to be allied with the brave people of Russia not only in the struggle for victory but also in laying the foundation for universal peace which will follow the war, and for the preservation of this peace.

"The death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt will cause grief in all freedom-loving countries."

Messages of Sympathy from the USSR

Marshal J. V. Stalin to Eleanor Roosevelt:

Accept my sincere condolences on the occasion of the death of your husband, and the expression of my sympathy with your grave grief. The Soviet people highly valued President Roosevelt as a great organizer of the struggle of the freedom-loving nations against the common enemy, and as a leader in the cause of insuring security throughout the world.

Marshal Stalin to President Harry S. Truman:

On behalf of the Soviet Government and on my own behalf I express profound condolences to the Government of the United States of America on the occasion of President Roosevelt's untimely death. In the person of Franklin Roosevelt, the American people and the United Nations have lost the greatest political leader, of world scope, and herald of the organization of peace and security after the war. The Government of the Soviet Union expresses its sincere sympathies with the American people in its grave bereavement and its confidence that the policy of collaboration among the great powers which took upon themselves the brunt of the war against the common enemy will be strengthened also in the future.

Mikhail Kalinin, Chairman of Presidium of Supreme Soviet of USSR, to President Truman:

I am deeply grieved by the news of President Roosevelt's death. The Soviet people have always highly valued his friendly attitude toward the USSR and his invariable efforts to strengthen the fighting alliance of the democratic countries in the struggle against the common enemy. Accept the expressions of my sincere sympathy with your grave bereavement.

V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, to Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius:

Accept the expression of my sincere condolences on the occasion of President Roosevelt's death. This is a grave loss not only for the American people but also for all the United Nations, who know well his outstanding role in the organization of the defeat of our common enemy and his exceptional solicitude about the future peace and security of the peoples. The Soviet people will always remember how much Roosevelt did for the strengthening of Soviet-American friendship.

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 Crimes Committed by the German-fascist Invaders in the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic

When they seized the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic the German-fascist invaders abolished its independence and set out to enslave the Latvian people. They declared Riga the principal city of "Ostland" (Eastern Territory) and the residence of the headquarters of Reichsminister Rosenberg; Lose, Reichskommissar of the Baltic, and Drexler, General Commissioner of Latvia.

In their criminal activities the German invaders were guided by the directives of SS Reichsfuehrer Himmler, not only to colonize the "Eastern Territory," but to turn it into German provinces and to populate them with Germans.

In August, 1942, *Das Schwarze Korps*, the central Berlin organ of the SS, published a leading article entitled, "Shall We Germanize It?" It stated as follows: "For one of the issues of the magazine *Deutsche Arbeit*, dealing with the problem of settling in the East, the SS Reichsfuehrer wrote the following slogan, 'Our task is not to Germanize the East in the literal sense . . . of the word, but to see to it that the East should be inhabited by people of Germanic blood.'

"And further, we must create conditions whereby the settlers our nation sends to the East . . . should develop the biological forces that in the future will nourish the region and become a controlling and formative influence.

" . . . In the realms they (the German soldiers) acquire for their people, with the unlimited opportunities they afford, there will be no more drop in the birth-rate, no worries about food, no limitation in housing, no puny, city-bred children, no departure from natural development due to the suffocatingly narrow confines of civilization.

"Under natural conditions, German

mothers will again be able to bear their husbands children in large numbers. . . ."

Seizing the land belonging to the Latvian peasants for the barons and landowners, the Germans ruthlessly exterminated the peaceful population of men, women and children.

A Commission composed of J. E. KALNBERZIN, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; V. T. LACIS, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Latvian SSR; F. J. ROKPELIS and J. K. SUDRABKALNS, writers; A. F. DEGLAV, Chairman of the Riga City Executive Committee, and N. N. DYMOV, Representative of the Extraordinary State Committee, with the participation of a group of medico-legal experts consisting of A. A. ASTURYAN, Chief of the Ambulance Service of the Army; S. N. KRIVTSOV, Army Medico-Legal Expert; V. A. KUZEM, Chief of the Diagnosis Department of the Medico-Legal Service of the Army, and S. P. ILYINSKY, pathologist and anatomist, has investigated the facts of the German crimes.

Findings of Committee

On the basis of the investigation and the voluminous testimony of the witnesses, the Extraordinary State Committee has established that the German invaders wrought vast damage to the cities of Riga, Daugavpils and Resekne; wrecked the scientific and cultural institutions of the Latvian SSR; ruined the agriculture; deliberately exterminated more than 250,000 civilians and 327,000 Soviet war prisoners, and drove into German slavery 175,000 citizens of the Latvian SSR.

For more than three years the German invaders wrecked industrial establishments, public utilities, libraries, museums

and houses in Latvian towns. The Hitlerites tried to destroy everything associated with the national traditions of the Latvian people. Streets and boulevards in Riga named for Rainis, Waldemar and other Latvian writers and distinguished citizens were given German names. Brivibas (Liberty) street was renamed Adolf Hitler street. German was declared the official state language.

The German invaders plundered priceless libraries in Latvia. They wrecked eight library buildings in Riga, and turned the building on Anglican street, an outstanding piece of 13th-14th Century architecture, into barracks. Rosenberg's headquarters shipped to Germany 100,000 volumes of books and 70 cases of old period literature and valuable monographs.

The Germans burned down the Riga City Library founded in 1524, with its priceless books and manuscripts. Nearly 800,000 books, periodicals, manuscripts, etc., perished when this library was burned down. This was a tremendous loss to Latvian national culture.

The picture gallery in the Riga City Museum was used by the Hitlerites for storerooms and barracks, while paintings by famous Latvian, Russian and foreign artists were shipped to Germany. Many paintings by the Latvian artists Rosenthal, Strahl and others were stolen by representatives of the German occupation authorities. General Commissioner Drexler stole 10 pictures; Schroeder, General of Police, stole four pictures; Gebietskommissar Medem, six pictures; Doctor Benner, nine, and Doctor Zimmerman, four.

The Germans looted the Art Academy, the State Conservatory and Music School, and used their premises as barracks: they

blew up the buildings of the former Artisan Society with its vast concert hall; they wrecked 65 schools in Riga. Exhibits from the State Historical Museum, the Riga Duma and the War History Museums were shipped to Germany.

Intelligentsia Executed

Many representatives of the Latvian intelligentsia were thrown into jail and concentration camps, tortured to death in Gestapo dungeons, and shot; many were transported to Germany. The German executioners shot J. Lieknis, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR and one of the leading men in the field of public education; Janis Eigens, artist; Robert Lux, writer and playwright; B. K. Perov, actor; Professor S. M. Dubnov, famous historian; G. Polonsky, engineer; Doctor Ginsburg; M. Lat, educator; T. Strupovich, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR; and F. Lei, a young author who contracted tuberculosis in an acute form after the Germans had pumped out his blood.

The German invaders wrecked Riga's largest enterprises: the VEF State electrical equipment plant; the Vairogs State car-building works; the Kvadrat rubber factory; they wrecked 13 hotels, and put the watermains and telegraph and telephone system out of commission. They blew up the Kegums hydroelectric station with a capacity of 55,000 kilowatts; damaged the Riga port and railway junction; destroyed 300 kilometers of railway, 6 kilometers of streetcar tracks, and 100 kilometers of overhead power lines; damaged 330 streetcars and shipped 200 buses to Germany.

The Germans wrecked 2,789 houses in Riga, and destroyed whole blocks of buildings erected from the 15th to the 17th Centuries.

In Daugavpils (Dvinsk) the Hitlerites blew up the People's House, the railway station, the railway repair yards, the depot, and the power station; wrecked 32 schools, four hotels, 15 bath houses, the telephone and telegraph system, and 2,896 houses. In their bestial hatred for the Latvian people the German invaders, upon retreating, burned, blew up and otherwise wrecked schools, libraries, hospitals, apartment houses and industrial enterprises.

Plunder of Agriculture

Immediately after occupying the Latvian Soviet Republic, the German invaders began to lay waste its agriculture. They took some 600,000 hectares that had been allotted by the Soviet Government of Latvia to the agricultural laborers and poor and landless peasants. They took away the peasants' cattle, and all their agricultural implements that had been acquired by credits totaling 27,179,000 rubles granted to the peasants by the Soviet Government of Latvia.

The German invaders began to restore the landlord and kulak estates and to settle in Latvia people of "pure Germanic blood." More than 75,000 Latvian peasant families were deprived of land by the Germans, who forced them to work for the German barons and Latvian landowners and kulaks.

The Germans plundered all machine and tractor stations in Latvia and shipped, according to as yet incomplete data, 700 tractors, 180 trucks, 4,057 plows, 2,815 cultivators, 3,532 harrows, 10,600 reapers and sowers, 506 threshers and other farm machinery; they took from the peasants 6,283,000,000 domestic fowl. The devastation wrought by the German invaders resulted in the loss to Latvian livestock of 127,300 horses; 443,700 head of cattle; 318,200 hogs and 593,800 sheep.

In pursuance of their invariable policy of effecting the wholesale extermination of freedom-loving peoples, the German executioners slaughtered more than 170,000 peaceful citizens in Riga, men, women, children and aged. On the outskirts of Riga the Germans set up concentration camps for civilians: in Salaspils, Mazhapark, Strasdumuije, Bishu, Muije, Milgravis and elsewhere. Thousands of citizens were arrested and confined in the Central Srochny Citadel and other prisons.

The German executioners tortured and murdered the inmates of the camps and prisons. The prisoners in the Central Jail were beaten and tortured. Screams and groans issued from the cells day and night. Between 30 and 35 persons died daily from maltreatment. Those who survived the tortures returned to their cells with their bodies burned and lacerated.

No medical aid was rendered the tortured. Evidence regarding these tortures was given the Commission by A. J. Gluzde, S. E. Zarankin, R. Lauks, M. J. Jacobson, V. Vanag, J. J. Trifonov, K. G. Munkevich, a lawyer, and many other witnesses who had been confined in the Central Jail.

Soviet people in all towns of the Latvian SSR were tortured by the Hitlerites.

Witness G. M. Osipov, held by the Germans in prison in the town of Daugavpils (Dvinsk), testified, "The German executioners beat me with a rubber hose and tortured me with electricity. All prisoners suspected of sympathy for the Soviet Government were beaten and tortured. Many had their arms twisted with barbed wire during cross-examination."

Children and Hospital Patients Tortured and Murdered

The German monsters spared no one. They beat men, women, children and old people, healthy and sick alike. In the Riga Central Jail they murdered more than 2,000 children who had been taken from their parents, and more than 3,000 children in the Salaspils camp. All the patients in the First and Second Psychiatric hospitals in Riga were murdered.

According to the testimony of Hermanes Saltups, a doctor at the Second Psychiatric Hospital, the Germans removed some 350 patients from the hospital on January 29, 1942, and killed them. V. I. Drikitis, a doctor at the First Psychiatric Hospital, testified, "On April 14, 1942, the SS came to the hospital and took away more than 200 patients. On instructions from the management of the hospital I marked their case histories 'Evacuated by SS Police.' In October, 1942, the Germans took away another 100 patients." All these mentally deranged people were shot by the Germans in the Bikerneks forest.

Below we publish German documents found on the premises of the Department Commander of the Security and SD Police, confirming the murder in cold blood of the psychiatric patients:

"Commander of Security and SD Police
Latvia Department
PDV No. 109/42
Riga, May 19, 1942
Confidential

"To The Civil Registration Office of Riga:

"Re notification of deaths. Enclosures 10.

"I hereby certify that 368 incurable psychiatric patients enumerated in the attached list died January 29, 1942."

Kirste, Acting SS Sturmbannfuehrer.

Attached to this memorandum was a list of the names of patients who had been shot.

There are two other identical documents with lists attached, signed by the same Kirste; one dated May 28, 1942—re the "death" on April 14, 1942, of 243 psychiatric patients; and the other dated March 15, 1943—re the "death" on October 22, 1942, of 98 psychiatric patients.

On August 22, 1942, some 700 adult patients of the Daugavpils Psychiatric Hospital and 60 children, including 20 healthy children who had been temporarily transferred to the hospital from a children's home, were shot in the small town of Aglon.

A. A. Motisan, a policeman arrested by Soviet authorities for participation in the execution of the psychiatric patients, during interrogation testified as follows:

"While the shooting was going on I stood beside a pit with my shovel. The shooting lasted about six hours. The people screamed and wept, but no mercy was shown. When the shooting was over, two barrels of beer were brought for the executioners and a drunken orgy began."

In 1942 the Germans opened a camp for civilians on the territory of the shooting range of an old garrison at Salaspils, 18 kilometers from Riga. The regime in this camp constituted a planned system for the extermination of the people. Barracks designed to accommodate 100 to 150 persons, held 500 to 600 men, women and children. There was no heating. Owing to the lack of premises, part of the inmates lived in the open air even in winter.

The inmates were tortured by hard labor. The workday was 12 to 14 hours. Sick people were sent to the doctor, but if he found them unfit for work, they were shot.

In the beginning of 1943, citizens from the Leningrad, Kalinin, Vitebsk and Orel

Regions were brought to the Salaspils camp. The camp became so crowded that people died by the hundreds every day. The Germans organized a so-called "quarantine" to combat epidemics. Witnesses K. A. Laugalaitis, A. N. Yasevich and others stated that in order to observe this "quarantine" the Germans "forced all the inmates of the camp to strip, after which they were driven naked through mud and snow to a bathhouse located some 600 to 800 meters from the barracks. In the yard of the bathhouse the women were shorn; mockingly, tufts of hair were left; they were shorn crudely like sheep. The water in the baths was cold. After washing, all the inmates were driven back to the barracks where they left their clothes. The clothes, however, were no longer there. The naked people were kept four days in the barracks with broken windows before they finally received some rags to put on." Hundreds of Soviet people died in the Salaspils camp as a result.

Dogs Set on Prisoners

Camp inmates were subjected to all manner of torture. E. Viba, a former inmate of the camp, told the Commission that in all weathers, Krause, the Commandant of the camp, "forced the inmates to lie on the ground, to leap up and jump about on their haunches. While the prisoners were commanded to 'lie down, rise and jump,' Krause's dog attacked and bit them. Krause and other fascists derived great amusement from watching the prisoners being tormented. If, as was often the case, a prisoner would be unable to rise from the ground after such tortures, a policeman would beat him with rubber truncheons."

Those who were shot or who died from hunger, disease, torture and beatings in the Salaspils camp were buried in the old garrison cemetery not far from the camp. The Commission found nine huge pit graves, a total area of 3,043 square meters.

The burial ground was investigated by the medico-legal experts, the graves measured and the bodies exhumed. On the basis of the findings of the medico-legal experts, as well as the testimony of witnesses, including that given by the former camp prisoners, J. A. Bakshs, V. N.

Zekunde, F. L. Kuzmin, J. J. Trifonov, I. I. Kronish and others, the Commission has established that in the Salaspils camp the Germans tortured to death more than 56,000 civilians.

The Germans also massacred inhabitants of the city and suburbs of Riga, in the Bikerneks, Dreilins and Rumbula forests.

Mass Shootings in Forests

In the Bikerneks forest outside of Riga the Hitlerites shot 46,500 civilians. Witness M. Stabulnek who lives not far from this forest stated, "On Friday and Saturday before Easter, 1942, buses filled with people passed by my house en route from the city to the forest. I counted 41 buses between morning and noon on Friday. On the first day of Easter, many of us went to the forest to the scene of the shooting. We found there one large open pit with murdered women and children lying in it naked and in their underwear. The bodies of both the women and the children showed traces of tortures, the faces and heads were bruised and scratched, some corpses were minus hands and fingers, eyes were gouged out and stomachs ripped open."

The facts of the mass shooting in the Bikerneks forest were confirmed by witnesses who live not far from the scene of the shooting: M. J. Karklynsh, Z. Aleksnis, M. T. Tsiemgals, A. I. Shapochka, J. A. Berzinsh, Z. F. Dzedulys and many others.

The Commission found at the scene of the shooting 55 graves over an area of 2,885 square meters.

Bodies Burned

More than 13,000 civilians and war prisoners were shot by the Germans in the Dreilins forest, five to seven kilometers east of Riga on the Luban Highway. Witness V. Z. Ganus testified, "In the early part of August, 1944, the Germans opened the graves, removed the bodies and burned them within the space of one week. The forest was surrounded by a cordon of German sentries armed with machine guns. Around August 20, women and children referred to as 'refugees' were brought to the forest from Riga in black closed trucks and shot, the bodies being burned on the spot. I hid

in the bushes and witnessed this terrible scene. People screamed fearfully. I heard cries of 'Murderers! Executioners!'; the children screamed, 'Mother, don't leave me'; the murderers' bullets cut short the cries."

The wholesale shooting of peaceful inhabitants of the city of Riga by the Germans was carried out also in the Rumbul forest.

On the basis of the investigation by the Commission and the testimony of T. I. Kruminsh, M. S. Wutryn, E. A. Spul, L. S. Kalsons, I. J. Pried, F. A. Tseilrulis, M. M. Kalsons and many other witnesses, it has been established that 38,000 peaceful inhabitants were shot in this forest.

In Daugavpils (Dvinsk) the Germans shot daily hundreds of Soviet people confined in prisons and camps. They shot more than 40,000 men, women and children near the prison on the territory of Zolotaya Gorka between the village of Pogulyanka and the village of Budrevich.

Grave-digger P. A. Wiltzan who participated in German atrocities in Daugavpils testified: "The mass shooting of civilians in Daugavpils began at the end of July, 1941. I worked as a grave-digger on the Srednaya Pogulyanka. We dug a grave 100 meters long, three meters wide and two and a half meters deep, to hold between 800 and 1,000 bodies. One morning at dawn the Germans drove the doomed people, including women and children of various ages, to this grave. The victims were stripped and robbed. Women groaned and screamed and children cried. The mothers led their children to the graves by the hand. They were shot through the back of the head, in groups of 10 and 12. I saw the bloody mass of corpses with shattered skulls. Then policemen divided up the clothing, footwear and other belongings of the murdered victims. As a grave-digger I was given several pairs of shoes, trousers, a tunic and a woman's shawl."

Village Razed and Population Exterminated

In January, 1942, the Germans wiped out the village of Audriny in Resekne, Rezhitsa Uyezd, together with the entire population, for allegedly helping Red Army men. The following notice was

posted in German, Latvian and Russian in all Latvian towns: "The commander of the German State Security Police in Latvia hereby announces: . . . 2) For more than a quarter of a year the inhabitants of the Audriny village of Rezhitsa Uyezd have been hiding Red Army men, giving them weapons and aiding in every way their anti-state activities. Latvian policemen have been shot fighting these elements.

"3) As punishment I order the following: a) the village of Audriny to be wiped from the face of the earth; b) the inhabitants of the village of Audriny to be arrested; c) 30 male inhabitants of the village of Audriny to be publicly shot on January 4, 1942, in the market square of the town of Rezhitsa.

"I shall continue to take the most drastic measures against persons who dare to sabotage the present order, as well as against persons who render any kind of assistance to these elements."

SS Obersturmbannfuehrer Strauch, Commander of the German State Security Police in Latvia.

The village of Audriny, which had 41 homesteads, was accordingly looted and razed to the ground. All its inhabitants, numbering 194 persons, including women, old people and children, were arrested and sent to the Resekne jail. Thirty men were publicly shot on the market square in Resekne, Rezhitsa, including one boy of 12. All other arrested people were taken to the Anshupan hills and shot there.

The Germans exterminated altogether 15,200 civilians, including more than 2,000 children, in the town of Resekne and its Uyezd.

Torture and Massacre Of Jewish People

Beginning with the first days of the occupation, the Germans instituted a bloody regime of terror against the Jewish population of the Latvian Republic. Jews were tormented, humiliated and tortured, and were shot in prisons, on city streets or in their own homes. They were forced to wear a yellow star on their chests and backs and had no right to make an appearance in public, shop in stores

"for Aryans," or walk along the sidewalks.

The Germans drove the Jews into synagogues, then closed all exits and set fire to the premises, burning them down with the people inside. In this manner the synagogues on Stolbovaya and Gogolevskaya streets, at the old Jewish Cemetery and in Yugek, were burned down with 2,000 Jews in them.

In October, 1941, a ghetto was set up in Riga, where the Hitlerites herded 35,000 Jews. The ghetto was surrounded by two rings of barbed-wire entanglements and no one was admitted there from the outside. Prisoners confined to the ghetto were allowed into the city only in labor columns under police guard.

The ghetto was fearfully overcrowded, which gave rise to epidemics and a terrific death rate.

Witness G. I. Barinbaum stated: "We were marched to work in columns under police guard. After work, the police searched us at the entrance to the ghetto, which procedure was accompanied by beatings with rubber truncheons or simply fists. Those on whom the Germans found a piece of bread or cigarettes were beaten particularly brutally. At night SS men drove into the ghetto. They robbed and beat up the people, and ravaged the girls."

Children Beaten to Death

In November, 1941, the Germans picked out from the ghetto 4,500 able-bodied men and 300 women. The rest were shot on November 30 and December 8, 1941.

Witness L. Dolgitsker describes the shooting of Jews from the ghetto: "People with little children and old men and women streamed out into the streets where they were lined up. A part was shipped off in motorbuses, but the majority was driven off on foot. Endless columns of Jews wound along the streets. This began at five o'clock Saturday afternoon and went on all night, finishing only Sunday evening. The streets were covered with a crust of ice and people slipped and fell, and those who did were shot on the spot.

"The streets of the ghetto were dyed red with blood. Children and women were shot heartlessly. This was the last death march for the people. . . . The German beasts tore little children from

their mothers' arms, seized them by the feet and beat them to death against posts and fences."

Jews were shot in the Rumbul woods 12 kilometers from Riga. F. Z. Fride, who escaped death by mere chance, has told the following about the shooting of Jews in the Rumbul woods: "I was brought to a pit on December 1, 1941. It was just before dawn when we were compelled to undress to our underwear. Those who tried to resist were mercilessly beaten with rubber truncheons. The clothing had to be piled up separate from the footwear. Before I got to the pit I dropped down deliberately; the guards apparently took me for a corpse, and people doomed to be shot threw shoes on me as they filed past. All that day until evening I heard heartrending cries and wails of people being shot. I lay there until night, when I managed to crawl to where the clothes were, without the guard noticing me, dressed, and under cover of darkness escaped into the woods."

As witnesses A. S. Blyakhman, V. V. Rozhansky, S. G. Lyak, V. V. Yakovlev, I. L. Gravets and others testified, the Germans arrested about 3,000 Jews in Daugavpils (Dvinsk) in June and July, 1941, and shot them in the railway park next to the prison. The surviving Jews, including old men, women and children, the Hitlerites confined to the ghetto. The Jews from nearby towns and settlements, Vyshki, Kraslava, Dogda, etc., were also brought here.

In the Daugavpils ghetto the German headsmen arranged five massacres of Jews by shooting, the last of which took place May 1 and 2, 1942. Only 400 remained alive of 30,000 Jews in the ghetto, and they were transferred to the Citadel.

S. I. Shpungin, Young Communist League member, testified before the Commission, "That which the German-fascist monsters did defies description. People were beaten and thrown into the pit alive. Children were torn in two in front of their mothers. It is difficult to describe the tragedy of May 1, 1942. The ghetto presented a ghastly scene. Mangled bodies of children lay on the floors and the congealed blood of the dead stained everything. Thirty people who refused to climb into the truck were shot in the yard of the ghetto."

Sterilization of Jewish Women

The ingenuity of the Germans in devising torments for the people had no bounds. Wittrok, German commissioner for the city of Riga, ordered all women of Jewish nationality married to non-Jewish husbands to be sterilized. This was done at the First Riga Municipal Hospital by Doctors Krastinsh, Eiken, Legzdinsh, Petersen and Olof. The husbands of Jewish wives were called to the Gestapo and given an ultimatum that either they would agree to have their wives sterilized or the latter would be shot.

Citizeness G., who was sterilized, testified: "By order of the German authorities in Riga, I was sterilized at the end of May, 1942, as a Jewess married to a non-Jew."

Analogous statements on forcible sterilization were submitted to the Commission by B. M. Levikina, K. K. Briedis, physician at the First Riga Municipal Hospital; citizeness Y., who was sterilized, and other witnesses.

Inhuman Crimes Against Soviet Prisoners of War

The German invaders set up what they called Stalag 350 for Soviet prisoners of war on the premises of the former barracks on Pernav and Rudolf streets in Riga. This camp existed from July, 1941, till October, 1944. Soviet prisoners of war were held there in inhuman conditions. The buildings they occupied had no windows and were unheated. Although they were forced to do hard labor for 12 to 14 hours a day, the war prisoners' daily ration consisted of 150 to 200 grams of bread and of what was called soup, made of grass, spoiled potatoes, leaves of trees and diverse refuse.

P. F. Yakovenko, a former war prisoner who was held in Stalag 350, testified: "We were given 180 grams of bread, half of which consisted of sawdust and straw, and a liter of unsalted soup made of unpeeled rotten potatoes. We slept on the bare ground. Lice were a constant torment. Thirty thousand prisoners of war died in the camp between December, 1941 and May 1, 1942, of hunger, cold or typhus or were beaten to death or shot."

Every day the Germans shot prisoners

too weak or ill to report for work, and tormented and beat them up for no reason whatever.

G. B. Novickis, who worked as senior nurse at a hospital for Soviet war prisoners at No. 1 Gymnasticheskaya street, testified that she constantly saw the patients eat grass and leaves of trees to alleviate hunger pains.

In sections of Stalag 350, on the grounds of a former brewery and in the armory, over 19,000 persons perished between September, 1941 and April, 1942 alone, as a result of hunger, torture and epidemics. The Germans also shot wounded prisoners of war. "In August, 1944," witness V. M. Zekunde testified, "370 wounded Soviet prisoners of war were brought to the Salaspils camp. At the end of the month they were all shot in broad daylight, in full view of everyone. On September 25, 1944, all patients were taken from the hospital of the Salaspils camp and shot in the woods not far from the camp."

Soviet prisoners of war died even on their way to the camp, for the Germans gave them nothing to eat or drink. Witness A. V. Taukulis testified: "In the autumn of 1941 a train consisting of 50 to 60 cars with Soviet prisoners of war arrived at the Salaspils station. When the cars were opened the stench of corpses could be detected from far away. Half the prisoners were dead, and many were dying. Those who could still get out of the cars rushed for water, but the guards opened fire at them, killing several dozen."

A. Y. Kokts, a railway foreman employed at the Shkirotava freight station, told the Commission that "the Germans compelled Soviet prisoners of war to haul rails with bare hands in a 35-degree frost. The sick and those who collapsed from exhaustion the Germans laid out in the snow in rows of 20, and after they had frozen, buried them on the spot."

From 1941 to 1943 the Germans killed more than 2,000 persons on the territory of the Shkirotava station. All this has been confirmed by A. R. Chuksts and B. A. Folkman, railway workers; S. P. Kvach, a switchman; A. V. Sherementsev, a yardman, and other witnesses.

The Germans tortured to death or shot

over 130,000 Soviet prisoners of war in Stalag 350 and its sections. The Commission discovered in Riga and its environs 12 sites where large numbers of bodies of Soviet prisoners of war who had been tortured to death were buried, the biggest being at Salaspils, Ziepnieku and Kalns, on the grounds of the armory and at the new Jewish Cemetery.

In Daugavpils (Dvinsk), Stalag 340 was set up for Soviet prisoners of war. This camp was known among the prisoners held there and the residents of the city as a death camp. Here in the course of three years over 124,000 Soviet prisoners of war perished as a result of hunger and torture, or were shot.

The Germans usually began torturing and killing prisoners of war while they were still on the way to camp. In the summer the prisoners were shipped in closed cars and in the winter in cars that were half open, or in flatcars. People died wholesale of hunger and thirst; in summer they were suffocated and in winter they froze.

Witness S. Y. Orbidan, a lineman, told the Commission: "The first train with Soviet prisoners of war arrived at the siding at the 214th kilometer in July, 1941. A second train pulled in right after the first. In each car there were 70 to 80 persons. The cars were sealed. When they were opened, the war prisoners gasped for air. Many collapsed from exhaustion as they alighted. Those who could not walk by themselves the Germans shot right there, next to my booth. Some 400 to 500 bodies were thrown out of each train. The prisoners said they had nothing to eat or drink for five or six days at a time on the road."

Witness T. I. Usenko testified: "I was on duty as a switchman at the Most station when in November, 1941, a train consisting of more than 30 cars pulled in at the 217th kilometer. Not a single person in the cars was alive. No less than 1,500 bodies were unloaded from this train, and they all were dressed only in underwear. The bodies lay on the wayside for about a week."

The commandants of the Daugavpils camp, Hugo Mayer, Nision, Simson and others, like those of other German camps, starved the Soviet prisoners of war, tormented them, subjected them to horrible

torture and mockery, and shot them wholesale.

Living Buried With Dead

The hospital that existed at the camp was also a means of annihilating prisoners of war. Witness V. A. Yefimova, who worked at the hospital, told the Commission: "Rarely did anyone leave this hospital alive. Five groups of grave-diggers made up of prisoners worked at this hospital hauling dead to the cemetery in carts. There were often cases when people not yet dead were thrown in these carts and another six or seven bodies of people who had been shot were piled on top. The living were buried together with the dead. Patients who tossed about in delirium were beaten to death with sticks in the hospital."

In the winter of 1942-43 a typhus epidemic broke out in the camp. According to D. M. Daragan, former prisoner of war, the fascist scoundrels arranged mass executions by shooting, as a means of



In Poznan, Poland, the Germans set up a death chamber in the town prison, where they tortured and killed thousands of innocent Poles, Russians and Jews. Above, Polish people view the bodies of their murdered relatives

fighting the disease. It was sufficient for three or four prisoners of war to get sick in a barracks for all the rest of its inmates to be taken to the brink of pits dug in the fortress esplanade and shot. In this manner the fascist scoundrels killed about 45,000 Soviet prisoners of war on the fortress esplanade and at the 214th kilometer siding.

The Following Are Guilty

The Extraordinary State Committee has established that the bloody crimes committed on the territory of the Latvian SSR and the wrecking of towns and agriculture, were in keeping with the direct instructions of the Hitlerite government and the German High Command.

Besides the Hitlerite government, the following are guilty of all these monstrous crimes:

Colonel Generals Modl and Schoerner, general officers commanding the German Northern Army Group; General of Police Schroeder; SS Obergruppenfuhrer Jeckeln, Chief of the Ostland Police; Reichskommissar Lose; Drexler, Commissioner General for Latvia; Dankers, Director General for Latvia; SS Obersturmbannfuhrer Strauch, officer commanding the German State Security Police in Latvia; Sturmbannfuhrer Doctor Lange, Chief of the Gestapo; Sturmbannfuhrer Kirste, Assistant Commander of SS Security Police; Major General Bramberg, Commandant of the city of Riga; Major Kolbe, Chief of Police of the city of Riga; Stieglitz, Police President; Wirkchan, Chief of the Central Prison; Krause, Chief of the Ghetto and Commandant of Salaspils Camp; Sturmbannfuhrer Sauer, Chief of the Mazhapark Concentration Camp; his assistant, Oberscharfuhrer Brunner; Tidemann, SS Police Commander; Wittrok, Commissioner of city of Riga; Sturmbannfuhrer Mikke; Gestapo Officer Himler; SS Untersturmfuhrer Schultz, Organizer of the Ghetto; Thekz, Chief of the Little Ghetto; Unterscharfuhrer Roschmann, Oberscharfuhrer Miege and Gestapo Lieutenant Hesis, Commandants of the Ghetto; Hesser, Chief of the Ghetto; Mickel, editor of the fascist paper *Deutsche Zeitung* in Ostland; Doctor Zimmerman, Director of Press Department of Reichskommissar's Office; Nachtial, Military Commandant of city of Riga; Unterscharfuhrer Himlich, Assistant to Commandant of the Ghetto; Sturmfuhrer Mgse, Assistant to Chief of Gestapo; Selinger, Director of SS Detachments; Sturmbannfuhrer Krebsbach, Medical Officer and Assistant to Chief of Mazhapark concentration camp; SS Oberscharfuhrer Hans Buchholtz; SS Medical Officer Doctor Bludau; SS Oberscharfuhrer Knade; SS Unterscharfuhrer Herman Klechens; SS Unterscharfuhrer Honis; SS Sturmfuhrer Seitler; SS Lieutenant Ruisler; Major Nissel, Commandant of city of

Daugavpils; Schille, Chief of Security Police SD; Schwunk, Regional Commissioner; Heinel, Chief of Staff for Regional Commissioner; Tabor, Chief of Daugavpils Department of Gestapo; Beku and Mauritz, his assistants; Captain Hugo Mayer, Nisio and Simson, Commandants of Stalag 340; Captains Peter Paulin and Moritz Pualsin, staff officers of Stalag 340; Captain Martin, manpower administrator; Roans, kitchen manager; Jacob Miller, interpreter and

executioner; Eugen Deile, business manager; Laupert, chief of camp construction; Major Ritter von Keliander and Captain Danzeisen, Commandants of concentration camp of town of Resekne; Lieutenant Klepfman, Chief of Third Department of Gestapo; Steiner, officer in Third Department of Gestapo; SS Major Albert, Chief of Political Police of Resekne Uyezd; non-commissioned officers Piitsamer and Ulman; Feldvebels

Brick and Bachmann; SS Police Wachtmeisters Koch, Miller, Krepsch, Mayer. Tuchel, Hans Kopp, and Neuman; Corporals Karl Eisele and Karl Strickle; Privates Ogan Frei and Andre Wolf, and Pirog and Heilisch, interpreters.

A severe penalty will be meted out to the criminals for the atrocities they committed.

April, 1945

THE LIBERATION OF VIENNA

By V. Antonov, *Izvestia* Correspondent

The battle which has ended in the liberation of Vienna and which is giving Austria back its freedom and independence, began west of Budapest. Traces of it are still evident on the banks of the Danube and along the Budapest-Vienna highway, on both sides of which lie smashed guns and tractors, motor cars without wheels and burned-out German tanks.

The Germans apparently hoped to drag out the battle for many months. They had massed large forces and built numerous lines of fortifications and trenches. But the picked German troops were nowhere given a chance to entrench. Our mobile units overtook the enemy on the road, on the march, and scattered them before they could dig in.

According to statements of war prisoners, Hitler issued an order to fight to the last. To reassure the German soldiers, the order stated that Vienna had been deliberately chosen as the place at which to fight the decisive battle.

General Dietrich himself supervised the construction of defenses in Vienna. Super-total mobilization was announced. Mixed companies consisting of anti-aircraft gunners, fliers, policemen, firemen, invalids, chauffeurs, etc., were hastily formed and rushed into the fray. Behind them stood seasoned divisions just brought up from the rear.

But the Germans once again overrated their own strength and underestimated the strength of the Red Army. Soviet troops overcame the lines of trenches and anti-tank ditches which had been dug just outside the city limits along the banks of the river. The Germans tried to stem our advance at the railway embankment which rises to a height of four meters,

laying extensive minefields in front of the embankment and keeping the approaches to it under heavy fire. But soon minefields and embankment were also left behind by Soviet troops.

The canal was the last barrier to be taken in Vienna. Eight meters deep and 40 meters wide, its banks are faced with stone. Our Guards riflemen swam across the canal and gained several footholds on the opposite bank. A little later these footholds were joined, bridges were laid. The last assault in the face of fierce resistance was carried out as brilliantly as the entire battle.

The flag of Austria has replaced the swastika on the tower of the Town Hall.

* * *

IZVESTIA wrote, April 11:

The Austrian population is welcoming the Red Army as a liberator, sabotaging the last German orders, and rendering active aid to the advancing Soviet forces.

The unity of the Austrian masses was born in the fire of struggle and found expression in the Austrian Freedom Front, which arose three years ago at a conference in the Austrian mountains. The Freedom Front played a decisive part in the formation of the Austrian National Units in Yugoslavia, which fight the Germans together with Marshal Tito's Army. The Red Army's arrival in Austria gave the strongest impetus to this struggle.

The Austrians are striving to justify the trust in them expressed in the Moscow Declaration of the three Foreign Secretaries in October, 1943.

The Red Army has entered Austria to liberate her from the German yoke. In the very near future, as stated in the Soviet Government's declaration, Austria's independence will be reborn and

democracy restored. Sovereign rights and an opportunity to rebuild their democratic institutions according to their own will, will be given the Austrian nation.

The Austrian people themselves will seek to avoid a repetition of the blunders of the past. Austria's guilt consists in that she became a tool of German aggression and allowed herself to be turned into a place d'armes against her neighbors. The Austrian people paid dearly for not opposing the German agents in time.

Austria's national development must be based on the trust of neighboring peoples, on a merciless struggle for the complete extermination of Hitlerism and the complete rout of the Austrian fascists—Hitler's henchmen. All of Austria's democratic forces must be made battle-ready in order to insure her free national progress by participation in the common front of the struggle against Hitler Germany.

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The Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Birth of V. I. Lenin

Seventy-five years ago, on April 22, 1870, one of the greatest men of modern times—Lenin—was born. Lenin did not live to see the best fruit of his tireless labors and his many years of struggle for the freedom and happiness of his people and all mankind. But the fruits of his brilliant ideas and creative initiative have been ripening and multiplying, not only in his own country but far beyond its borders. Today his achievements fill the entire world with the echo of his glorious memory.

A man of profound learning, an unforgettable speaker and an unsurpassed organizer of the laboring masses, Lenin built up a working class party of unparalleled ideological unity, founded the unique Red Army of liberated workers and peasants, and on the ruins of Tsarist despotism laid the foundations of Soviet democracy.

Before the October Revolution of 1917, Tsarist Russia's equipment with modern instruments of production constituted, as pointed out by Lenin, one-fourth the equipment of Great Britain, one-sixth that of Germany, and one-tenth that of the United States.

The First World War brought with it the threat of the utter economic collapse of Tsarist Russia. After the fall of Tsardom in March, 1917, came a succession of incompetent governments, each one worse than the other (Lvov, Kerensky, etc.). It seemed to many that there were no people in the country capable of shouldering the burden of government and leading Russia out of a blind alley.

But Lenin lacked no determination to



Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

1870-1924

tackle the hard task. He clearly saw that history had confronted his country with an inexorable alternative: "Perish or drive full steam ahead," along new roads of the most advanced technique and the most perfect forms of social economy.

Lenin had a well-grounded faith in the inexhaustible creative forces of the liberated masses of the people, and he had no fear for his country's fate in the face of any trials that might beset it in the future.

Many years ago he foresaw that a new rapacious war of aggression against the young Soviet Republic was inevitable.

But he was also confident of the outcome of such aggression—he foresaw clearly the very outcome which we have now achieved, together with all freedom-loving nations, in the victorious "total" contest with the destructive forces of fascism.

"Never," said Lenin back in 1919, "will a nation be defeated whose workers and peasants in their majority have learned, feel and see that they are defending their own Soviet power, the power of the working people; that they are defending a cause whose victory will assure them and their children the opportunity to enjoy all the benefits of culture, all that has been created by human labor."

Though he was champion of a great doctrine, Lenin was no doctrinaire. He conceived his ideals not as abstract, dogmatic schemes and dry, bookish theories; he envisioned them in operation—in a surrounding of reality.

Some people in the West, as for example H. G. Wells—himself a great visionary and dreamer—were wont to picture Lenin as the "dreamer of the Kremlin." But Lenin was a dreamer in a class by himself. His dream never carried him to utopias. Always reckoning with facts, he was prepared for the sake of the future to accept even the infamous Brest-Litovsk Peace Treaty imposed by the Germans on Russia.

While never compromising on any of his principles, this soberest of realists set himself only the historic tasks that were fully ripe. It is true that they were so grand as to appear to many, from the outside, as unattainable dreams. But Lenin was not dreaming. He fought persever-

ingly and worked persistently and consistently to turn his "dreams" into living reality.

Lenin was always a center of struggle. His very name became a banner of struggle beneath which rallied legions of fighters for a better future for mankind. Thousands upon thousands of bitter enemies contended against him, but millions of friends and comrades in arms stood up for his cause. Time after time, in the heat of the fight, Lenin's enemies bespattered him with insinuations and filthy calumnies, as poisonous as the poisoned bullets which the blind fanatics of counter-revolution fired at him. But Lenin's name remained pure and unstained in the memory of hundreds of millions of his fellow-citizens, for his life from beginning to end was a refutation of any calumny. And today, after his death, even the most outspoken opponents of Lenin's ideas pay tribute to his personal qualities and the greatness of his work.

Lenin combined a sober and brilliant mind with a warm heart. He had the interests of all working people at heart, and he showered care and attention on all his associates. A man of extreme modesty, Lenin had no patience with pomp and flattery, and despised falsehood. Though always ready to do everything for his friends, he never did anything for himself. On view in the Lenin Museum is the cord from the pocket-watch of this leader of peoples. It is old, raveled, and tied in knots. Even when he headed a great State, he never took the trouble to provide himself with a decent chain for his watch.

But even amid the labors which increased when he was head of the State, he found time for his young friends, for the children, who could always expect a kindly word and a caress from him. As a matter of fact, Lenin numbered among his best friends all Soviet children, for whom he was preparing a better future and who instinctively reciprocated his affection.

When Lenin died the entire nation was stricken with grief. For five days and nights, millions of mourning people passed by his bier. Many carried children in their arms.

Lenin's foremost associate, Stalin, then made a solemn oath to loyally carry out

the legacy of his friend and teacher. Stalin has lived up to his oath to this day, developing and consummating the great ideas of his friend as successfully as could be desired by the originator of those ideas.

One of the first and most fruitful behests of Lenin to his country at the time it was lagging behind, was to drive full steam ahead. The most important prerequisites for the achievement of that task had already been created in Lenin's lifetime. But at the moment of Lenin's death in January, 1924, Soviet economy was still in process of recuperation from the losses of the war and had not reached even half of the low national income of 1913.

The amazing leap in the development of Soviet economy attained in so short a period by his great successor and continuer is therefore all the more significant.

Here are some of the changes achieved in the USSR from 1923-24 to 1940 as a result of the Stalin Five-Year Plans:

The areas under cultivation expanded by 74 per cent; grain crops increased by 11 per cent; the coal output 10 times; the output of steel nearly 19 times; engineering and metal-working industries 150 times. The total output of industry (in fixed prices) increased nearly 24 times. In the same year the national in-

come of the USSR increased by at least 10 times, and the annual capital investments, which in 1940 reached 40 billion rubles, exceeded capital investments in 1923-24 by 57 times.

During the same period the number of factory workers and office employees in the Soviet economy increased from 7,300,000 to 30,800,000. School and college attendance increased from 7,900,000 to 36,600,000. Total wages increased by 62 times and expenditures provided in the budget for social and cultural services increased at an even faster rate. Expenditures on education, public health and social insurance also continued to increase in the war years—from 31,400,000,000 rubles in 1941 to 51,400,000,000 rubles in 1944 or respectively, 260 and 430 times as much as in 1923-24.

None of the great countries of the West has ever achieved such rates of industrial and cultural progress. Even in the largest of them, the United States of America, the national income between 1923 and 1940, after a series of fluctuations, rose by a bare 10 per cent. The national income of the USSR increased more than 10 times in the same period. The USSR outstripped in its development first France, then Great Britain and Germany, and advanced to first place in Europe and second in the world, with only the United States ahead of it.

The victories of the Soviet system of economy, organized by Stalin according to the blueprints of Lenin, would be enough to cover their names with unfading glory. In the present World War, however, the Soviet system has stood one more crucial test—a test foreseen by Lenin. And today, under the banner of Lenin, the Red Army regiments of Marshal Stalin are marching victorious through Europe, liberating peoples oppressed by fascism.

Lenin and Stalin. Their names have long been associated in the minds of people throughout the world. Their books of wisdom stand side by side on our shelves. Though Lenin is no longer among us, his cause is alive and advancing.

The foregoing article was written by Stanislaus Strumilin, Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.



Lenin at the time of his graduation from the Simbirsk secondary school

A Life of Unselfish Service for the Ideals of Mankind

By Nikolai Semashko

Member, Academy of Sciences of USSR

In 1887, during the first years of his studies at the University of Kazan, Vladimir Lenin, then a boy of 17, was arrested with 40 other students for participation in a prohibited students' meeting.

"What are you raising a row about, young man? There is a blank wall before you," a police officer said sneeringly while they were questioning Lenin.

He was sent to a village near Kazan and kept under police surveillance. Continuation of his studies was prohibited not only at Kazan University, but in any institution of higher learning in Russia. For a year he lived under police supervision in the dull little village before he received permission to rejoin his family in Kazan.

On December 20, 1895, with a group of leading workers in the League of Struggle, Lenin was again arrested and held in solitary confinement in St. Petersburg prison. He was by this time a scientist with a command of European tongues, Latin and Greek; author of a number of analytical works in economics and the theory and practice of the revolutionary movement, and an excellent organizer. He continued his work throughout his confinement in prison, laboring literally from morning till night on a new great scientific work.

Exiled to Siberia

Two years passed and the Tsar ordered Lenin to be exiled to Minusinsk Uyezd, Siberia, where he remained until the end of his three-year sentence of exile.

His place of residence was the village Shushenskoye which was at the time a dull, poor Siberian village. One may easily imagine the pain of the young scientist and indefatigable revolutionary at being buried in this remote spot far away from any cultural center.

But here, too, Lenin continued his work. In Shushenskoye he completed

the classic work undertaken while he was in prison, which foretold the path of struggle of the working class in Russia and defined the tasks of the Russian Social-Democrats.



Lenin in 1919

Lenin spent his leisure time in hunting and talking to the local peasants, giving his evenings to the exiles in surrounding villages, playing chess and writing letters to his family and friends which were amazingly cheerful.

... The very furniture used by Lenin has been carefully preserved in an old house in the new collective farm of Shushenskoye. His table, stool and bookshelf ... those who visit the house look at these things with mixed feelings of love and sadness as they imagine Lenin here bent over the pages of his manuscript, his great forehead shining in the flickering light of the kerosene lamp that burned far into the night—a tiny yellow flame in the

snows of vast, dark, silent Siberia. . . .

"The spark will burst into flame," wrote the Decembrists—the first Russian revolutionaries, who were banished to the Nerchinsk mines by Tsar Nikolai I—to the poet Pushkin.

The words, a kind of symbol of the inextinguishable flame of the revolutionary ideal, became the motto of the illegal newspaper *Iskra*, which was very popular in Russia among revolutionary circles.

Lenin Edited *Iskra* From Abroad

Iskra united all the widely dispersed workers' circles and guided the liberationist movement in Russia into a single channel. Lenin was the editor of *Iskra*. He lived at the time in emigration, away from Russia, under constant surveillance of police spies who followed him at every step.

"... There is no one more important than Ulyanov in the revolution," wrote Colonel Zubatov, chief of the Tsar's gendarmerie in 1900, when he proposed "to cut off this head" by killing Lenin.

Munich, Paris, London, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden, Paris again, Stuttgart, Copenhagen, Holland, Finland again ... this great man lived altogether 17 years in banishment, suffering real poverty at times, suffering the constant pain of separation from his own country. But not for a single hour did he break off the titanic work he carried on as theoretician and practical leader of the liberationist movement in Russia. He was able to come on rare, short visits to Russia; illegally, of course, for in Russia he was under constant threat of arrest and possible death.

We all know of the time when Lenin had to cross the border during the night, fleeing over the ice of the Finnish Gulf. A Finnish peasant offered to guide Lenin; but in the rising storm he lost his way,

and Lenin led the way himself. Suddenly they came to a wide channel filled with broken ice. Before the eyes of the frightened guide, Lenin jumped from one ice floe to another, crossed the dangerous open strip and reached the bank in safety.

When war broke out in 1914, Lenin was in the little hamlet of Poronino near Cracow. He was arrested by the Austrian police and thrown into a jail for criminals.

A rumor was circulated to the effect that a Russian spy had been caught, the police hoping that the local population would do away with Lenin. The efforts of Nadezhda Krupskaya, Lenin's wife, and his friends, were finally successful in saving Lenin from this new and terrible danger.

At the end of February, 1917, the February Revolution took place and a Provisional Government headed by Kerensky was formed.

The first Soviets of Workers and Soldiers Deputies came into being in Petrograd, Moscow and Kronstadt, and later in other Russian cities. Lenin was in Switzerland at the time, and it was only with the greatest difficulty and against the will of the Provisional Government that he, who had devoted his whole life to the emancipation of the peoples of Russia, was able to come to Petrograd.

The Provisional Government, whose power was waning daily, fabricated an accusation of "state treason" against Lenin on the basis of the testimony of some unknown witness. The agents of the Provisional Government searched everywhere

for Lenin. When one of the agents asked cynically whether the Provisional Government would prefer to have Lenin "dead or alive," he was given the no less cynical answer, "Arrested persons often make attempts to escape . . ."—clearly an instruction to kill Lenin.

Stalin, foreseeing that the "trial" would be nothing but murder, saved Lenin. On the insistence of Stalin, a decision was taken that Lenin was not to appear at the trial. Stalin was particularly active in the measures taken to safeguard Lenin's life in those anxious days. Together with a worker named Allilueyev, Stalin succeeded in concealing Lenin in Petrograd.

Lenin lay in hiding in a thatched shelter on the bank of Razliv Lake not far from Petrograd. He built the shelter with his own hands, cutting down strong branches in the forest and surrounding them on all sides with bundles of hay. His household goods consisted of an iron tea kettle and saucepan, an axe and saw. His table was the stump of a tree and the earth was his bed. Nor was the place free from danger, and it was therefore decided to take Lenin away to Finland.

One night a train from Petrograd came to a halt at the station of Udelnaya. A man in a black peaked cap moved swiftly to the locomotive, climbed up the ladder and hung his coat on a hook. He looked around and then went to work in silence, stoking the fire in the firebox. The man was Lenin. The engineer, who had been informed of the plan, showed no surprise at the change of firemen.

When they reached the border, a check-



Lenin in 1892

up of documents began. While the train was searched, the engineer uncoupled the engine and ran it to a water pump. When the time came to proceed, the engineer ran the locomotive rapidly to the car and as soon as the conductor gave the signal, set off at full speed. Nor was it too soon. The officers and soldiers had finished searching the train and were running towards the engine. . . .

In August, 1918, the young Soviet Republic was fighting for its life on the fronts of the Civil War and simultaneously against a host of economic difficulties.

Lenin, head of the Soviet State, directed the whole complex functioning of military, political and economic forces, and at the same time made frequent speeches to the workers.

These talks by Lenin, who was a splendid speaker, were of the greatest value. The workers listened to their beloved teacher and friend and were more than ever convinced of their ultimate victory. They endured privations with a lighter heart since they had before them the hope of the future.

After one speech made at the Michelson factory in Moscow, a member of the Social Revolutionary Party, Kaplan, made an attempt on the life of the great man



The house in Simbirsk (now Ulyanovsk) where Lenin lived in childhood

and wounded him seriously with a revolver bullet. Lenin fell, covered with blood. The wound proved to be extremely grave. For a long time the bulletins issued on Lenin's health gave cause for the greatest anxiety. It is difficult to say that this wound did not shorten Lenin's life by many years. He might have lived much longer. . . .

Lenin died January 21, 1924, at 6:50 in the evening. The enormous work he had carried on during the years in prison and exile; the privations he endured in emigration, and the serious wound, undermined his strength and cut short the life of the great thinker, ardent patriot, founder of the Soviet State, and great fighter for a better future for mankind.

Lenin's life is a splendid illustration of unselfish service to the ideal of happiness of mankind.



Drawing by Kosyakov

In Petrograd, 1917—Lenin addresses a workers' detachment leaving for the front

Lenin and the Economic Transformation Of the USSR

By Professor Lev Gatovsky

It was the year 1920. The Soviet Republic was enclosed in an iron ring of fronts. After seven terrible years of war—four years of the First World War and three years of the Civil War—the country was in the grip of famine and appalling poverty. Fifty grams of bread mixed with chaff was the daily ration of the urban population. Factory after factory came to a standstill. Steel production dropped to two per cent of its output in Tsarist Russia, where its level was already very low.

On one of those dramatic days the famous English author H. G. Wells sat in Lenin's office in the Kremlin. He listened to Lenin with extraordinary attention and at the same time with growing perplexity. What he heard seemed incredible, fantastic.

Lenin set forth his grand plan for the country's regeneration and progress by arming it with a modern, advanced technique. It was a plan for the electrification of the vast expanses of the Soviet State, for dotting the country with numerous electric power plants whose current

was to give powerful impetus to the development of Russia's entire economy.

Wells shrugged his shoulders, and when he came back to England, described Lenin as the "dreamer of the Kremlin." Electrification in a poverty-stricken, backward country—that seemed an idle dream.

That was what even Wells, a man of vision, thought at the time. But life has shown that Lenin was right. In a matter of 10 to 15 years his "unattainable dream" became reality. Out of that "unattainable dream" grew the colossal, industrial power with which the Soviet country subsequently saved European civilization from Hitler's monstrous war machine.

Russia was indeed an extremely backward country. But no one saw the depth and dimensions of that backwardness as clearly as Lenin. No one kept constantly, daily and hourly emphasizing that backwardness as vigorously as did Lenin. But through poverty and lack of culture, Lenin also saw the road which would lead Russia to the pinnacles of economic, technical and cultural progress.

Lenin was a scientist who saw far ahead.

His great creative daring was based on precise calculation of forces and resources, on profound knowledge of Russia and its characteristic features. Closely connected with the broad masses and enjoying their boundless affection, Lenin knew what people who have become masters in their own country are capable of. He said, "We have material both in the form of natural resources and of human forces, and the magnificent sweep which the great revolution has lent to the people's creative activities, to build up a really powerful and abundant Russia."

Tsarist Russia's equipment in modern instruments of production amounted to one-fourth that of Great Britain, one-sixth that of Germany, and one-tenth that of the United States. As to its technical level, Tsarist Russia was 50 to 100 years behind the advanced countries of Europe and the United States of America. Lenin mapped out the road that was to put an end to that backwardness. He drew up the immortal plan of electrification and industrialization of the country.

With extraordinary profundity and

concreteness, Lenin's genius revealed the nature of modern technical progress. As a great innovator, Lenin found the lever which had to be applied in order to secure a real innovation of the technical base of Russia's economy. Under modern conditions this lever is the wide introduction of electricity as motive power, and technology in production. Lenin discovered the vast importance of electrification for a planned economy. He proved that under the conditions provided by the Soviet State, the construction of high-capacity electric power stations joined by high-voltage transmission lines would increase the role of economic planning and accelerate the progress of the national economy.

To Lenin the program of electrification meant the creation of a large-scale modern machine industry capable of reorganizing all the national economy, including agriculture. In connection with the country's industrialization and electrification, Lenin indicated ways for mass transition to large-scale mechanized collective farms supplied with tractors and modern agricultural machines.

Maxim Gorky gave a very apt characterization of the power of Lenin's genius. Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (he wrote) knew the history of the past so well that he was able to look at the present out of the future. No one before him could foresee what was going to be as Lenin could. He was able to do this, it seems to me, because with half his soul he lived in the future. His iron and at the same time flexible logic showed him the distant future in absolutely concrete and real forms. This, in my opinion, explains his amazing fortitude in the face of reality, which never dismayed him no matter how hard and complicated it was.

Lenin's plan for the economic transformation of the Soviet Union has been brilliantly carried out by his great associate, Stalin. Stalin is the Lenin of today. Stalin has led the Soviet people along the road mapped out by Lenin. As a result of the celebrated Five-Year Plans, the Soviet Union's industrial output in 1941 exceeded

the industrial output of Tsarist Russia in volume by 12 times, with the output of electricity increased 30 times and the output of machinery 50 times. As regards industrial output, the USSR has advanced to first place in Europe and to second place in the world.

Nearly the whole of the Soviet Union's industry was built up in a matter of 10 to 15 years. It is the youngest and technically the most up-to-date industry in the world, for it is equipped with the most modern machines. The effect of this has been seen in the Red Army's armaments in the present war.

Tsarist Russia imported most of its machines from abroad. Two-thirds of the machines in its factories and mills were of foreign origin. Of the 92 elements in the Mendeleyev Table, only 20 were extracted in Tsarist Russia. As early as the spring of 1918, Lenin formulated the task of doing away with Russia's dependence on foreign countries.

That idea was put into effect. The Soviet Union began to produce all the most complicated machines, the finest instruments, and all types of raw materials. Even before the outbreak of the present war, the USSR had begun to produce 60 of the elements in the Mendeleyev Table, including some of the utmost strategic importance.

Great strides were made in the mechanization of farming in the Soviet Union. About half a million tractors worked

on the collective farms before the war. Formerly 90 per cent of the motive power employed in Russia's agriculture consisted of draft animals, whereas engines represented only four per cent of the total. In 1938 mechanical movers represented 70 per cent of the motive power and only 30 per cent was made up of draft animals.

In Tsarist Russia the most widely employed implements in the countryside were the wooden plow and the wooden harrow. The collective farms of the Soviet Union, on the other hand, widely use tractors, combines and trucks. Collective farms have paved the way for the machine in the countryside. It is this that has enabled Soviet agriculture to withstand all wartime difficulties.

In Tsarist Russia the productive forces were distributed without any rhyme or reason. The few industrial centers were like oases in the desert. They were thousands of kilometers removed from the sources of raw materials, fuel and power. Vast natural resources remained untapped.

Lenin raised the question of rational distribution of industry in the first months after the establishment of the Soviet Government. He insisted on the need to bring industrial enterprises as close as possible to the sources of raw materials.

In line with Lenin's precepts, the Soviet people have wrought a radical change in the country's economic geography. Huge industrial centers have been built up in

the Volga Region, in the Urals, Siberia, Central Asia, the Far East, etc. The result has been to sharply raise the productivity of industry, to supply it with rich resources, to effect enormous savings for the country and to provide it with vast sources of accumulation. This development of industry in the Eastern sections of the country proved an invaluable asset in the war against Hitler Germany.

It is the road mapped out by Lenin that has brought Soviet Russia to its present brilliant position as a mighty industrial and collective farm power.



Drawing by P. Vasiliev

Maxim Gorky and Lenin

THE ORDER OF LENIN

The highest award in the Soviet Union is the Order of Lenin.

It decorates the breast of marshal and private, worker and people's commissar, academician and collective farmer. It adorns the banners of Guards divisions, of cities and of factories—an embodiment of military valor, heroic labor, and outstanding scientific discoveries and achievements.

The Order of Lenin was instituted 15 years ago at a time of strenuous struggle for the realization of the First Five-Year Plan. In accordance with the regulations governing its award, it was to be bestowed upon "individual citizens and collective staffs of institutions, enterprises and social organizations of the USSR, for special services rendered in socialist construction." During the Stalin Five-Year Plans, 7,250 people were honored with the Order.

The Order of Lenin was awarded to J. V. Stalin on his sixtieth birthday when he received the title of Hero of Socialist Labor, conferred upon him for exceptional services rendered in the organization of the Bolshevik Party, the foundation of the Soviet State, the construction of a socialist society in the USSR, and the strengthening of friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union.

* * *

Reviewing the names and deeds of the country's foremost people who have merited this highest award is like turning the pages of our history.

In 1931, among the first toilers to be honored with the Order of Lenin were the oil workers of Baku and Grozny who fulfilled the First Five-Year Plan for oil production in two and one-half years.

The Order of Lenin was also bestowed upon the large group of builders who, in fulfillment of Stalin's plan for the industrialization of the country, built the Stalingrad and Kharkov tractor plants, the machine building and iron and steel giants, and the mines and mills.

The ranks of Order bearers were constantly increased by workers, engineers, executives, builders, designers and innovators in production.

Muscovites will never forget the celebrations connected with the opening of the city's subway. On Stalin's proposal, on May 14, 1935, in the Hall of Columns of



THE ORDER OF LENIN
Highest Award of the USSR

the House of the Trade Unions, the Moscow organization of the Young Communist League was awarded the Order of Lenin for special services rendered in the building of the subway.

On December 8, 1935, the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR awarded the Order of Lenin to workers Stakhanov, Busygin, Smetanin, Vinogradova, Krivonos, and Gudov "For initiative displayed and leadership in mastering technique in their field; for heroic labor and outstanding achievements in raising labor productivity."

In 1939 the Government awarded the Order of Lenin to a long list of Uzbekistan collective farmers. This roster of names honored with the highest award reflects the epic story of the thousands of farmer volunteers who constructed the Fergana Canal.

Other awards of the Order in that period tell of brilliant conquerors of the air, of conquests of Arctic "strongholds," of heights reached in engineering, agriculture, science and the arts.

The heroic deeds of the war years follow. The Order of Lenin is bestowed on valiant soldiers, famous Army leaders, veteran commanders, distinguished workers in the field of production and daring experimenters in the fields of science and technique, who forge the weapons for victory over the enemy. The Order of Len-

in decorates the breasts of outstanding generals of the Stalin school—Marshals of the Soviet Union Zhukov, Vasilievsky, Konev, Malinovsky, Rokossovsky and Tolbukhin.

During the Patriotic War, 35,636 people have received the Order of Lenin for courage in battle and selflessness in labor. Over a period of 15 years, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the commanders of the fronts acting on its behalf, have awarded the Order to 42,886 people.

The highest award has also been bestowed upon the personnel of 389 enterprises and institutions, including the Kirov Dynamo plant, the Kuznetsk and Magnitogorsk steel works, the Stalin auto plant, the Stalin collective farm in the Genicheskiy District of the Dniepropetrovsk Region, the subway builders, the Zhukovsky Air Force Academy of the Red Army, the Lenin Library of the USSR, the Moscow Art Theater, the Maly, the Bolshoi and other theaters. Among the first institutions to receive the Order of Lenin was the newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*.

A number of Soviet Republics, including the Byelorussian, Georgian and Uzbek Republics, have also been honored with the highest award. And on January 26, 1945, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet awarded the Order of Lenin to the city of Lenin "For outstanding services of the working people of Leningrad to the motherland; for valor and heroism, discipline and staunchness, displayed in the struggle against the German invaders in the difficult conditions of enemy blockade."

Many sons of other freedom-loving nations fight shoulder to shoulder with the Red Army on the fronts of the Patriotic War. The Soviet Government highly appreciates their valor and heroism, and has decorated with the Order of Lenin the Commander of the First Czechoslovak Corps, General Ludvik Svoboda; members of the Polish Kosciuszko Division, Wysocki, Gubner and Krziwon—who have also won the title of Heroes of the Soviet Union; and officers of the French Normandie Air Unit, Herces of the Soviet Union Marcel Albert and Roland de la Pouape.

LENIN AND EDUCATION

By Academician E. Medynsky

Public education always interested Vladimir Lenin. He outlined a complete theory for the instruction and upbringing of the new generation.

In the late Nineties, at the beginning of his career as a political writer, Lenin trenchantly criticized the educational policy of the Tsarist government and demonstrated that it was deliberately designed to keep the masses of the people in ignorance.

In an article written in 1913, he accused the Tsarist government of hampering the spread of education in Russia by assigning only insignificant sums for the purpose, with the result that four-fifths of the children of the country of school age were denied an education. He pointed out that in 1912 the children of school age in Russia constituted 22 per cent of the population, and that only 4.7 per cent of the population—or one child in every five—attended school.

"This means that nearly four-fifths of the children and youth of Russia are deprived of an education," he wrote. He

insisted that all children of all nationalities be given the opportunity to attend school and be taught in their own language.

This demand of Lenin's for equality of education for the children of all nationalities in Russia—and that each nationality should be taught in its own language—has been fully realized in the Soviet Union, which is inhabited by 180 different peoples. Thanks to the Lenin-Stalin national policy, elementary education is compulsory for children of all nationalities, and tuition is given in the native language. Secondary and higher schools are available to all, irrespective of nationality. The result is that all peoples of the Soviet Union can now show nearly 100 per cent literacy, with only a few of the older people unable to read or write.

Lenin criticized the old type of schooling because it was divorced from life and practice, because it drilled knowledge into the pupils, because nine-tenths of what it taught was useless and the other tenth distorted, and because it served the inter-

ests of the ruling classes. At the same time he warned against a nihilistic attitude toward the old type of school, and held that a distinction must be made between its good and bad points. Whatever was good in it must be retained. He insisted that the experience of both the old and new type of schools be carefully and constantly studied and everything valuable extracted from it.

The aim of education, Lenin declared, was to promote all round development, but primary attention must be paid to general education and intellectual training so as to enrich the mind with the knowledge which mankind has accumulated over the course of thousands of years. Everything obsolete must be rejected, but everything vital must be cherished and inculcated.

"We don't need learning by rote, but we do need to develop and perfect the thinking of each pupil with a knowledge of basic facts," he said. "You must not only absorb this knowledge but absorb it critically, so as not to clutter up your mind with useless baggage but to enrich it with knowledge of those facts which are essential to modern man's education."

Reading and attending lectures must be supplemented by independent study, in order to acquire a clear and firm understanding of the subject.

Lenin demanded that education be combined with practical work, that theoretical knowledge be accompanied by work in industry and associated with the revolutionary struggle of the working people for their emancipation. General education should go hand in hand with polytechnical education. He warned against interpreting polytechnical education as craft training. What was needed was a general knowledge and understanding of the processes of large-scale industry and agriculture, and that pupils be familiarized with electricity and the working of industrial plants and State farms.

As to general education, Lenin insisted upon the systematized inculcation of a clearly defined body of knowledge, for



Water color by P. Alyakrinsky

The youthful Lenin at a student assembly



SOVIET POSTAGE STAMPS
COMMEMORATING
VLADIMIR ILYICH LENIN

which purpose a definite program of studies must be drawn up for each subject.

He considered universal education of all citizens up to the age of fifty to be essential in order that the population might take an intelligent part in the political and social life of the country. On December 26, 1919, at Lenin's initiative a law was passed for the abolition of illiteracy, under which all citizens were obliged to be able to read and write Russian or their own native language. This decree was of immense value. Elementary schools for children, as well as literacy courses for adults, sprang up all over the country. Education was made compulsory. As a result of these measures, by 1941 about 95 per cent of the population of the USSR were literate.

Lenin attached great importance to the study of language. He himself spoke and wrote simply and tersely, but at the same time comprehensively, systematically and convincingly. While eschewing vulgarity and excessive popularity of style, he could grip his readers and hearers by the iron logic of his arguments.

Lenin had deep respect for science and was extremely solicitous of the welfare and needs of scientists. Thanks to him and the Soviet Government of which he was head, in the very early period of the Revolution a large number of higher educational establishments and scientific research institutes were founded. A Central Committee for the Welfare of Scientists was set up by the Government.

Lenin showed equal interest in the welfare of schoolteachers who, he said, made up the army of the cultural front which was bringing enlightenment to the masses and whose daily efforts and intellectual inspiration were to educate the new citizen.

Lenin's ideas on culture and education began to be put into effect in the early years of the Revolution. Culture in the Soviet Union spread more and more widely and its level steadily rose as the might of the Soviet Union grew under the guidance of Lenin's successor, Stalin.

The number of persons attending educational institutions in the USSR increased from 7,896,000 in 1914 to

31,517,000 in 1939. In the same period the number of pupils in secondary schools increased from 636,600 to 9,028,200, and the students of higher educational establishments from 112,000 to 620,000.

All nationalities of the Soviet Union have become practically 100 per cent literate. A dense network of schools of all grades, universities, libraries and cultural centers covers the country. Science is making vigorous strides. Impressive achievements have been registered in vocational training, which before the Revolution was only in its infancy.

The heroism, fortitude and tenacity which the Red Army, led by Marshal Stalin, is displaying in the war against the fascists; the enthusiasm and energy with which the workers are forging weapons for the Armed Forces, and the collective farmers laboring in the fields; the knowledge, ability, and fertility of invention displayed by Soviet engineers, designers and scientists—all these are the fruits of socialist culture, of which the foundations were laid by Lenin, and which has reached fruition under the guidance of Stalin.

Portrayals of Lenin in Soviet Art

By Lev Varshavsky

Although Lenin inspired the works of many contemporary painters, sculptors and draughtsmen, no portrait created during his lifetime does full justice to his great and dynamic personality.

Lenin did not like to pose. Besides, his time was far too precious. Thus the artists who attempted to paint him from life were not very successful.

Now all the sketches made of Lenin from life, during his public utterances and while he was at work in his office, have been assembled. These, although extremely dear to us, are only hasty impressions which are far from conveying a complete picture of the great man.

Film documents reproducing various moments in Lenin's life and activity may for this reason be regarded as the most authentic records we have of Lenin's appearance, since those intimately acquainted with Lenin find his artistic portraits to be inadequate. "Lenin's portraits do not really look like him," wrote Lunacharsky.



One of the many drawings of Lenin by sculptor N. Andreyev

The sculptor Aronson remarks upon Lenin's resemblance to Socrates, and in his portrait of Lenin obviously exaggerates this supposed likeness.

B. Kustobiev, a well-known Russian painter, spoke of Lenin's complex expressions. "Lenin the scholar has one face, Lenin the platform speaker quite another," said Kustobiev. "What is an artist to do? Which face is he to portray?" he asks, and answers his own question, "If we expect a single portrait to fully summarize all sides of Lenin's character and activity, then the artist must create a synthesis of a whole series of impressions."

Where painters and draughtsmen in their efforts to give a consummate portrait of Lenin fall short of our expectations, the sculptor N. Andreyev scores an important point. His famous "Leniniana," a series of sculpture portraits, presents both authentic and synthetic portraits of Lenin. "Leniniana" is in addition quite a phenomenon in the history of art, which can scarcely show another example of an artist devoting 15 years of his life—1917 to 1931—to the portrayal of one man.

The sculptor was fortunate enough to have made several sketches of Lenin from life. His penetrating crayon portraits

which, incidentally, are the best pencil portraits of Lenin we have, served as the basis of "Leniniana." The sculptor himself speaks of this latter work as a task of great responsibility, a grave task for which he is answerable to posterity.

Does Andreyev in his sculpture portraits give us a true likeness of Lenin? This question may be answered in the affirmative. In Andreyev's sculptures Lenin appears as a real, living, thinking and acting being.

One of the portraits in the series "Lenin at Work," shows the great man engrossed in a manuscript. His face is intent and deeply concentrated. It is a portrait of Lenin the thinker. Expressing simple, animated and true emotions, it expresses the will and the charm of Lenin's personality, the joy of creative thought.

Other portraits of the same series show Lenin deep in meditation, supporting his chin with his right hand; Lenin in a moment of reflection while working on a



A sculpture of Lenin by N. Andreyev



Drawing by S. Adlievskaya
Lenin reviewing Red Guards

manuscript, his glance fixed on the distance; or Lenin listening to others speaking.

In the sculpture where Lenin is depicted as a tribune you feel the intense power of his personality and the great depth of his mind. In the strong-willed features and energetic gesture, Lenin's character stands out in bold relief.

We became acquainted with Andreyev's Leniniana only after the sculptor's death in 1932. Andreyev did not risk an exhibition of his works, as he considered them far from finished and hoped to put much more effort into them.

Value of Leniniana

Today Andreyev's Leniniana is a point of departure for those artists who devote themselves to portraying Lenin. A scrutiny of all the other noteworthy portraits of Lenin will reveal this: B. Koryolov's marble portrait of Lenin, S. Merkurlov's 15-meter figure at the entrance to the Moscow-Volga Canal, the colossal monument to Lenin executed by sculptor Shadr for the power station in the Caucasus and the marble bust by the Georgian sculptor J. Nikoladze.

All of these works are different, each bearing the individual style of the artist. Shadr is of the romantic school and this is clearly apparent in his work. Merkurlov is distinguished for his monumental and somewhat decorative interpretation of form, which found expression in his

monuments of Lenin, such as the Lenin Memorial in Erevan, capital of the Armenian SSR.

A review of Lenin in painting must begin with A. Moravov's pictures. To Moravov we are indebted for the largest number of pictures of Lenin's life which we have, for his painting of Lenin's arrival in Russia in 1917. "Lenin on His Way to Petrograd," "Lenin's Arrival in Petrograd," and "Lenin Speaks from the Balcony of the Kshinskaya Palace," are among Moravov's most popular pictures. They are particularly successful in conveying the tense, significant atmosphere of the period.

Lenin and the people, Lenin in Smolny, Lenin the strategist—these are dominant themes in other noted pictures of Lenin. Igor Grabar's "Lenin At the Telegraph Office" and Sergei Gerasimov's "Lenin At the Second Congress of Soviets in 1917" are widely known.

The well-known portrait of Lenin addressing workers, by Alexander Gerasimov, in which the artist reveals the great impact of Lenin's appeal to the people, is extremely popular. Lenin against a landscape background is a portrait in the romantic style by A. Rylov, noted Leningrad painter. From our graphic artists we have inherited a large collection of portraits of Lenin, many of which are extremely interesting, revealing varied facets of this great founder and builder of our State.

Chauffeur to Lenin in 1917

Vladimir Nikolayev, Lenin's chauffeur during the eventful days of 1917, was formerly a private in a detachment of Red Guards stationed in the Smolny Palace, staff headquarters of the Revolutionary forces.

The former chauffeur now lives in Leningrad, where he is employed in a factory. An old man when the war came, he survived the hardships of the blockade and wears the Medal for the Defense of Leningrad. When the city was starving, he adopted three children whose parents had perished in the siege.

"When they told me I was to be Lenin's chauffeur," Nikolayev recalled recently, "I examined dozens of machines in our garage. Finally I selected a big black limousine, the most reliable of them all."

Motoring through Petrograd in those days was very dangerous, requiring skill, courage and devotion from the driver. Vladimir Nikolayev was well-suited to the job. He became Lenin's very shadow, remaining on duty day and night.

Lenin often talked to Nikolayev about the latter's family. Once he learned the chauffeur had not seen his three-year-old son for a month. "Let us drive to your home at once," Lenin said. He spent the evening with the family, talking to Nikolayev and his wife.

On Lenin's instructions, a special rest room was equipped for the chauffeurs at headquarters. When Lenin wanted his car he usually went to the garage himself; he did not like to trouble his subordinates needlessly. Sometimes he visited the place only to have a glass of tea and a chat with the men. He sought every opportunity for talking to the people; he wanted to know how the workers were living and what they were thinking.

When Petrograd was menaced by enemies of the Soviet country, Lenin gave up his chauffeur, who went to the front, driving the only armored car available in those days. Nikolayev was wounded and was no longer able to drive.

Like millions of other citizens of the Soviet Union, Nikolayev regards himself as a pupil of Lenin, a continuer of his work.



Radiophoto

The Lenin Mausoleum in Red Square, Moscow

RENEWAL OF WORK ON PALACE OF SOVIETS

By E. Finn

About 15 years ago the Soviet Government decided to build a Palace of Soviets in the center of Moscow. A contest was held for the best design for the palace. Dozens of Soviet and foreign architects participated. The design accepted by the jury, that of Boris Iofan, was then taken as a basis, and a large group of architects and other art workers were given the task of designing the details.

Shortly before the present war the final project was approved and construction begun. The total height of the building, including the statue of Lenin which surmounts it, was to be 1,350 to 1,400 feet. Besides a number of small halls for conferences, congresses and similar meetings, the palace was to contain two main halls, one to seat 6,000 and the other 21,000.

The builders had completed the deep foundations, and the steel framework for the building was partially erected when the war began. The Germans were marching on Moscow. All available forces and all resources which the country could muster were utilized for the prosecution of the war. The 15,000 tons of metal work erected for the Palace of Soviets was dismantled; some of it went into new industrial buildings in the Urals and Siberia, and some was used to build defenses around Moscow. The site of the gigantic building became a desert. Architects, engineers and others who had been working on the palace turned to designing and building war factories.

* * *

A short time ago the plans and drawings were brought out and a re-examination of the entire project begun. Academician Boris Iofan, who heads the work, stated in an interview: "We are now working on improvements in the architectural treatment of the facade; we want to give the great palace a majestic and monumental appearance. We are also making some improvements in the proportions of various parts of the palace in order to give it a more clear-cut outline. There will be a feeling of great solemnity about the main entrance, which is architecturally and sculpturally treated



"This Palace will be a monument to Lenin, the great leader of the Socialist Revolution . . ."

to express the speech made by Marshal Stalin at the Second Congress of Soviets on the occasion of the death of the founder of the Soviet State, Vladimir Lenin.

"The first circular terrace of the main building will contain allegorical figures depicting the heroism of our epoch. Sergei Merkurov, People's Artist, is continuing his work on the huge statue of Lenin which will surmount the building.

"The interior decoration of the palace will combine solemnity and sumptuousness. The great hall and the small hall will each be surrounded by a foyer in the form of three galleries. The heroism in the present war will be the leitmotif of their decoration.

"The achievements of science and technology during the past few years will be employed on the project, with a number of the country's leading engineers such as Academicians Boris Galerkin, Nikolai Gudtsov and A. Winter taking part in the work. The huge elements supporting the columns were formerly laminated from a number of thin sheets of metal riveted together. We now plan to make them from sheets of metal 140 mm. thick welded together.

"The outside walls of the building will

be faced with quartzite. The finest Soviet sculptors are making sketches for group statues, monuments and bas reliefs. Details of mural paintings, mosaics and other decorations are being worked out, and workshops are making samples of various decorative elements from metals, hard and soft stone, wood, plastics, etc.

"We want to improve the project as much as possible," said Academician Iofan in conclusion, "and we are trying to have it ready so that we may again begin construction at any moment. Of course there can be no thought of building as long as the war lasts, but we must be prepared."

Beautiful Latvian Capital To be Rebuilt

Latvian architects have completed the general plan for the reconstruction of Riga. The capital of the Latvian SSR, with its seaports, ancient buildings, the narrow streets of "old Riga," and the wide green central avenues, was justly regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

A part of "old Riga" with its numerous historical monuments will be restored. New squares will be laid out along the banks of the Western Dvina River. On the left bank there will be a Park of Culture and Rest with a stadium.

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A Champion of Peace and Security

LIBR

APR 28 1945

PRAVDA wrote editorially, April 15:

The Soviet people deeply regret the untimely death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Roosevelt's death is a severe loss to the American people and to all the United Nations.

History will cherish the name of the great President who did so much for his country, who made such a prodigious contribution to the fight of the freedom-loving nations against their common enemy and to the cause of world security.

A man of great and versatile erudition, endowed with a searching and penetrating mind combined with a firm will, inexhaustible energy and brilliant abilities as an organizer, Roosevelt became prominent as a political leader early in his career.

He was a member of the Democratic Party from 1907. In 1910 he was elected to the State Senate of New York. Around that time Roosevelt met Wilson, became close to him, and campaigned for his election in 1912. In 1913 Roosevelt was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Elected Governor of New York in 1929, Roosevelt gained wide popularity by his progressive measures. He won a brilliant victory against Hoover in the presiden-

tial elections of 1932. Franklin Roosevelt was the only president in the history of the United States to be elected for four terms.

Roosevelt became head of the Government of the United States at a time when the country was in the throes of an economic crisis. In those stormy days Roosevelt, in the face of reactionary opposition, boldly launched his New Deal, which was expressed in the enactment of laws for regulating industrial and agricultural production, providing for the recognition of trade unions and for social insurance measures.

Roosevelt's vigorous domestic measures attracted the attention of world public opinion to the new president. As far back as 1934, Stalin in his conversation with H. G. Wells noted Roosevelt's eminent personal qualities, his enterprise, courage and resolve. "Of all the captains of the contemporary capitalist world," said Stalin, "Roosevelt is undoubtedly the strongest figure."

A statesman of global range, Roosevelt watched with apprehension the developments in Europe and outside of Europe. He watched them with all the more apprehension since in his foreign policy, which

marked a radical break with isolationism, he had to contend with sharp opposition from the forces of reaction. He was fully aware that a policy of isolationism jeopardized the national interests of the American people. He watched with deep alarm the growing arrogance of the aggressors who were meeting with no real rebuff, the highhandedness of Hitler Germany and its frenzied arming. One cannot help recalling Roosevelt's historic speech in Chicago on October 5, 1937, when he demanded that the aggressor nations be quarantined.

Roosevelt excellently understood the ruinousness of the appeasement policy of Munich. Like the present British Prime Minister, Churchill, he sharply opposed that policy and exposed the aggressive designs of Hitler Germany and fascist Italy. As a sincere champion of peace, Roosevelt was perfectly aware that peace was impossible without cooperation with the Soviet Union; that attempts to isolate the USSR were fraught with fatal consequences for the freedom-loving nations.

One of Roosevelt's first acts in the sphere of foreign policy was to establish normal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. The importance which Roosevelt attached to this act is evident from the statement he made not so long ago, on October 21, 1944, when he said:

"I cite another early action in the field of foreign policy of which I am proud. That was the recognition in 1933 of Soviet Russia. For sixteen years before then, the American people and the Russian people had no practical means of communicating with each other. We reestablished those means. And today we are fighting with the Russians against common foes—and we know that the Russian contribution to victory has been and will continue to be gigantic."

The war unleashed by Hitler Germany,



Black-bordered Soviet mourning flags displayed in Moscow after the news of President Roosevelt's death

Radiophoto

the treacherous attack of the German-fascist hordes on the Soviet Union, the attack of Japan on the United States—this chain of events showed how right Roosevelt was when he fought against the isolationist tendencies in America whose policy aggravated the danger that threatened the United States.

Roosevelt's policy won the day because it accorded with the most vital interests of the United States. Supported by the majority of the American people, Roosevelt launched an energetic campaign with the aim of combatting the aggressors. Even before America entered the war, Roosevelt obtained a revision of the Neutrality Law which hindered rendering aid to democratic countries. He secured increased war appropriations. At his initiative and insistence, on March 11, 1941, Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act which has played such a large role in this war.

The joint fight against Hitler Germany's bloody aggression has brought about the fighting alliance of the three great powers—the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain. This alliance has fully lived up to the hopes pinned on it. Rapacious Hitler Germany is on its last legs. The Red Army is administering the finishing blows to the fascist beast, and the Armies of our Allies are advancing ever deeper inside Germany.

Victory is near. It is the direct result of the close cooperation of the Allies, for which Roosevelt stood so perseveringly. He saw in this cooperation not only the sure pledge of victory, but the decisive condition for the organization and preservation of peace and security after the war.

In his speech of October 21, 1944, Roosevelt said: "It is a new thing in human history for allies to work together as we have done—so closely, so harmoniously and effectively, in the fighting of a war and at the same time in the building of the peace. If we fail to maintain that relationship in the peace—if we fail to expand it and strengthen it—then there will be no lasting peace."

President Roosevelt was a true champion of the organization of peace and security. He devoted great attention to the plans of the future system of international security. It is well known what a distinguished role he played in the historic conferences at Teheran and in the Crimea,



President Roosevelt at the Crimea Conference of leaders of the three Allied powers, with Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin

where the personal contact among the leaders of the three great powers contributed so much to the mutual understanding and rapprochement of the Allies.

Roosevelt did not live to see the day of final victory over the enemy; he did not live to see completed the edifice of peace to whose construction he devoted his extraordinary energy, his vast political experience, his brilliant talent. But the world will never forget the contribution which Roosevelt, that distinguished member of the "Big Three," has made to the cause of freeing mankind from Hitler tyranny and achieving universal security.

The Soviet people will honor the memory of the great President with whose name will forever be associated the establishment of enduring friendship between the peoples of the United States and the Soviet Union. The Soviet people remember that after Hitler Germany's attack on the USSR, Roosevelt announced that every possible assistance would be given the Soviet Union. In his message to Kalinin on July 10, 1941, Roosevelt spoke of the ties of historic friendship between the American people and the Russian people, and wrote that it was natural for the American people to watch with sympathy and admiration the courageous fight which the Russian people were waging in their self-defense.

Roosevelt remained a champion of the development and strengthening of Soviet-American friendship to the end of his days. He highly appreciated the heroic achievement of the Soviet people who bore the brunt of the aggressor's assault

and managed to smash the armed forces of Hitler Germany.

"We cannot forget," said Roosevelt last January, "the heroic defense of Moscow and Leningrad and Stalingrad, or the tremendous Russian offensives of 1943 and 1944, which destroyed formidable German armies. . . . In the future we must never forget the lesson that we have learned—that we must have friends who will work with us in peace as they have fought at our side in war."

Together with the American people the Soviet people mourn Franklin Roosevelt's untimely death. At the same time they are confident that the cause to which the late President devoted so much strength and energy will be carried on, that the cooperation among the great powers will continue to develop and grow stronger.

The Soviet people will never forget how much Franklin Roosevelt did to strengthen Soviet-American friendship. May this friendship, which has stood the test of war, continue to flower as a truly magnificent monument to the great President Roosevelt.

Leningrad Memorials Restored

Special teams working from the gondolas of huge balloons are removing the camouflage covers from the golden spires of the Admiralty in Leningrad. The four bronze horses from the Anichkov Bridge, which were buried during the blockade of the city, and other historic memorials, are being restored to their former sites.

A Great President

By Alexander Troyanovsky

The following article by the former Soviet Ambassador to the United States appeared in KRSNAYA ZVEZDA, April 14:

It may be said that the political life of the United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the prewar years was a process of preparation for the eminent role he was to play during the World War as organizer of the American people's fight against fascist aggression and as a leader of the cause of world security.

Many a time Roosevelt swam "against the current," and he proved to be right. At the dawn of his political career, when he was still quite a young man, he successfully fought the Tammany Hall bosses in the State of New York. At the Democratic Party convention in Baltimore in 1912, he came out in support of the candidacy of Wilson for United States President against the majority who supported Clark, and secured Wilson's nomination by the convention.

Appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1913, he actively set about preparing America's naval forces for participation in war, notwithstanding the policy of neutrality then being pursued by the United States Government.

Elected President of the United States in 1932, at the height of the world economic crisis, Roosevelt displayed dynamic energy. With his name is associated the New Deal policy aimed at restricting monopolies and improving the social conditions of the broad mass of the people. Together with other measures to raise the purchasing power of the population, Roosevelt organized public works for the unemployed on a large scale. He strove to put fresh blood into the administration by attracting young men who would be more capable of understanding the demands of the times.

One of the strongest features of President Roosevelt's activities was his foreign policy, a field in which he had to surmount formidable difficulties.

When the Hitlerite bandits came to power in Germany, Roosevelt very soon realized what a threat the fascist aggressors offered to the whole civilized world.

A historical step taken by the President

was the recognition of the Soviet Union in November, 1933. It was this that made it possible for the United States to cooperate with the Soviet Union in the fight against the common enemy—Hitler Germany.

Speaking at the 17th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in reference to the reestablishment of normal relations between the USSR and the United States, Stalin said: "There can be no doubt that this act is of great significance for the whole system of international relations. The point is that it is a landmark between the old position—when in various countries the United States was regarded as a bulwark of all sorts of anti-Soviet trends—and a new position, when this bulwark has been voluntarily removed to the mutual advantage of both countries."

It is perfectly obvious that the present cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union in the fight against Hitler aggression would have been impossible were it not for the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1933.

Roosevelt fought with every means in his power the policy of the isolation of the United States in international affairs. When the 1935 Congress passed the Neutrality Act, Roosevelt announced his opposition to it, and after that strove to have it repealed or at least corrected. He succeeded in having the law amended only in 1939, after fascist Germany attacked Poland.

The Second World War broke out. Roosevelt at once decided to convert the United States into the arsenal of the democratic countries, which he succeeded in doing on the basis of the law passed by Congress on March 11, 1941, to lend or lease armaments to countries engaged in the fight against fascist aggression. After Hitler Germany's treacherous attack on the Soviet Union, Roosevelt, faithful to his position, announced the readiness of the United States to help the Soviet Union by every means in its power.

At the suggestion of Roosevelt and Churchill, the Moscow Conference of the three great powers was held in September,

1941, to draw up a plan for supplying the USSR with needed materials.

On June 11, 1942, an Agreement on Mutual Material Aid was concluded between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In this war which the Nazi brigands forced upon mankind, Roosevelt revealed himself as an outstanding statesman. "In the person of Franklin Roosevelt, the American people and the United Nations have lost the greatest political leader, of world scope, and herald of the organization of peace and security after the war," Stalin said.

In November, 1943, Roosevelt attended the Conference of the leaders of the three great powers in Teheran. This Conference adopted the historic decision to open the second front in Europe, a decision which was carried out with the utmost punctiliousness. Roosevelt played a most active part in the formulation of this decision.

In February, 1945, he attended the Conference in the Crimea, where decisions of paramount importance were adopted for the complete defeat of Hitler Germany and for the organization of international security after the war. Here, too, Roosevelt, both as chairman of the Conference and as representative of a country vitally interested in the defeat of Hitler Germany, played an outstanding role. The military plans worked out at the Crimea Conference are now being energetically realized in the offensive against Hitler Germany from the east, west and south.

Roosevelt is dead. He did not live to see the end of the war. The organization of international relations after the war will have to proceed without him. But he has bequeathed to his successor a rich heritage in the shape of the fellowship-in-arms of the freedom-loving nations, the gigantic Armed Forces, the successful military operations on all fronts, and the glory surrounding the arms of the United Nations which are now finishing off the fascist enemy in his own lair.

The cause of the United Nations, to which President Roosevelt devoted his strength and energies, will triumph forever.

COMRADE EHRENBURG OVERSIMPLIFIES

By G. Alexandrov

The following article was published in PRAVDA, April 14:

Krasnaya Zvezda on April 11, 1945, published an article by Ilya Ehrenburg, "Enough." Ehrenburg in this article deals with the current situation in Germany and with the reasons for the concentration of the German army on the Soviet-German front when at the same time the German armed forces in the West are being weakened.

Anybody who reads Ehrenburg's article carefully cannot help noting that his main theses are ill-considered and obviously mistaken. The reader cannot agree either with his description of Germany as "a huge gang" or with his explanation of the withdrawal of German-fascist troops from the Western Front and the concentration of all forces of the German army in the East.

Ehrenburg assures his readers that all Germans are the same and they will all be held responsible in equal measure for the crimes of the Hitlerites. It is stated in the article "Enough" that there is "a huge gang which is scattering and fleeing now that the time has come to answer for their deeds." It is also stated that in Germany "they are all on the run, all scurrying and trampling on one another in their haste to get to the Swiss border."

There is no difficulty in showing that these assurances of Ehrenburg do not correspond with the facts. Everyone is now convinced, and this is particularly borne out by the experience of the past few months, that different Germans howl in different ways and behave differently. Some of them with doltish obstinacy continue with every means in their power to support fascism, the fascist party, the fascist state and the Hitler clique. Others prefer to refrain from active struggle on behalf of Hitlerism, and temporize or surrender. Some Germans zealously support fascism and the Hitler system, while others, disillusioned with the war and having lost hope of victory, have turned cold toward the "Fuehrer's" wild and crazy plans.

This may be said of the German army as well as of the civilian population. The

corroding acid has eaten into the body of the German-fascist army. It is not surprising that while some German officers may be fighting for the cannibal system, others throw bombs at Hitler and his clique, or are trying to persuade the Germans to lay down their arms.

What is now happening in the German army and among the German population was long ago foreseen by Stalin. As far back as May, 1942, Stalin wrote: "The war has brought grave disillusionments, the loss of millions of lives, starvation and poverty to the German people. The end of the war is not in sight, but the reserves of Germany's manpower are giving out, oil and raw material stocks are giving out. The realization that Germany's defeat is inevitable is growing on the German people. It is becoming increasingly clear to the German people that the only way out of the present situation is to liberate Germany from the adventurist clique of Hitler and Goering."

The days of fascist intoxication in Germany are passing. The fools in Germany who are ready to sacrifice their heads uncomplainingly for Hitler and his criminal aims are growing fewer and fewer. German newspapers are compelled every day to report facts which are indicative of the rapid disintegration of the rear of the German-fascist armies.

The other day, for example, the fascist newspaper *Front und Heimat* wrote that a large number of "opponents in principle" have arisen in Germany. And although the Gestapo has appealed to all "real Germans" to institute a "free hunt" against all such "opponents in principle," this is becoming less and less within the power of the ramified machinery of the Gestapo.

It is therefore clear that actually there is no united Germany and that the Germans are not all behaving the same way.

As we know, the Hitlerites, trying to save their skins and their criminal system as long as possible, are unfortunately striving to show, in defiance of the facts, that the entire German people are solidly rallied around them. The purpose of this clumsy demagoguery is quite clear. The

fascist state in Germany today has exhausted every real opportunity of holding its own in the World War it unleashed. The Hitlerites are spasmodically clinging to every slightest chance of prolonging the existence of the bloodthirsty and cannibal fascist system.

They are therefore untiringly hammering at one point, namely, that Germany's adversaries, the Armies of the United Nations, are determined to exterminate the German people and that therefore all of them must rise up and fight for the preservation of Germany. Goebbels, one of the chieftains of the piratical Hitler gang, recently wrote, "Participation in the war in one way or another is the obligation of all inhabitants of Germany without exception. . . ."

Four days ago the German radio broadcast an article by this same Goebbels which was printed in the fascist newspaper *Das Reich*, and in which he states, "We must stick out this battle in complete national unity and we must rally our ranks and see it through. We must not throw ourselves overboard in any storm. That is the commandment of the hour."

The central theme of the hullabaloo raised by the fascist press and radio is an appeal to remain united in these critical times for fascist Germany.

The question arises, why in the sixth year of war do the Hitlerites shriek so frantically about the necessity for the German people remaining united in the face of the danger threatening the fascist state? The reason is very simple. The Hitlerites are trying to tie up the fate of the entire German people and the entire German army with the fate of the fascist clique, and hope to draw upon certain additional forces with which to continue the criminal war, to delay the inevitable end, to win time for military, political and diplomatic maneuvers, and to postpone the hour of the freedom-loving nations' just trial of the bloodstained Nazi criminals.

However, as the facts eloquently show, the frantic appeals of the fascist press are of little help. The Hitler state is grow-

ing weaker from day to day, the ranks of the Nazi Party are thinning, and of course there can be no question of any unity between the entire population of Germany and the ruling fascist clique. It is perfectly obvious that the Hitlerites would have had no need to appeal to Germany for unity and would not have worried about this unity if the fascist order were not violently bursting at the seams and if there were not so many individuals in Germany anxious to "throw themselves overboard"; in other words, jump off the fascist wagon.

Such are the facts.

And from this it is clear why Ehrenburg is mistaken when in his article he represents the population of Germany as an integral whole.

Ehrenburg writes in his articles that there is no Germany, but only "a huge gang." If we admitted that Ehrenburg is right, then we should have to agree that the whole population of Germany must share the fate of the Hitler clique.

There is no need to say that Ehrenburg in this case does not reflect Soviet public opinion. In fulfilling its great liberation mission, the Red Army is fighting for the destruction of Hitler's army, Hitler's state and Hitler's government, but its purpose never was, nor is it now, to exterminate the German people. That would be stupid and senseless.

When the Hitlerites falsify the position of our troops and our State and cry that the Red Army is out to destroy all Germans to a man, that is understandable. The ruling fascist clique is trying to exploit this lying statement in order to rouse the whole German population to fight the Allied Armies and the Red Army and thereby prolong the existence of the criminal and rotten fascist system. But when genuine anti-fascists, active participants in the struggle against Hitler Germany, express such views, it is strange and incomprehensible. The Soviet people never did identify the German population with the criminal fascist clique who are ruling Germany. Stalin said: "But it would be ridiculous to identify Hitler's clique with the German people and the German state. History shows that Hitlers come and go, but the German people and the German state remain."

In complete harmony with this Soviet

viewpoint are the decisions of the Crimea Conference, where it is stated: "It is not our purpose to destroy the people of Germany, but only when Nazism and militarism have been extirpated will there be hope for a decent life for the German people, and a place for them in the community of nations."

It is clear from this that the lives of Germans who take up the fight against Hitler or who behave loyally toward the Allied Armies are not threatened. Of course, those of them who are fighting and continue to fight the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies in order to preserve the fascist regime, will receive no mercy.

In his article "Enough," Ehrenburg truthfully and powerfully describes the bloody deeds of the Germans on our sacred soil, but unfortunately Ehrenburg drew wrong conclusions from the incontrovertible facts. He says that the "insolent Germans maintain an attitude toward the Americans as if they were some neutral power," and he attributes the fierce resistance of the Germans on the Soviet-German front to their fear of the coming reckoning for their crimes on Soviet territory.

There is no denying that the Germans guilty of crimes on our territory are afraid of the reckoning all the more now that retribution is near. Nor can it be denied that this fact tends to stiffen the resistance of those who are guilty of crimes against Soviet citizens. We know that nowhere else have the Hitlerites performed such butcheries, nowhere else did they so display their cannibal nature as in the occupied regions of the USSR. Our people are bitter. Perhaps the world has never before witnessed such hatred as the hatred of our Soviet people for the fascist enslavers.

However, it would be oversimplifying matters and naive to attribute the present distribution of German armed forces between the Western and Eastern Fronts only to the fear and panic of the Nazi criminals. The reasons why the Germans have stripped their Western Front and are continuing to mass troops on the Soviet-German front lie deeper than the susceptibility of the Hitlerites to fear.

Lenin at one time, when analyzing the

policies of different states in time of war, as well as the character and causes of changes in such policy, had some very important remarks to make on this score. He said that "every war is inseparably bound up with the political system from which it springs." And the political system of Hitler Germany determines the nature of the war waged by the Hitler clique and its policy during the war.

The experience of 12 years' policy of the Hitlerites in Germany and outside Germany shows that intrigue, demagoguery and political unscrupulousness have always been an essential substance of the policy of the Hitlerites, both in time of war and in time of peace. This, for example, is what Hitler wrote regarding the principal feature of his policy: "Politics are a game in which every form of cunning is permissible and in which the rules vary with the skill of the players." Hitler's clique cannot be denied a certain consistency; for over 10 years the peoples of all countries have witnessed one act of perfidy on the part of fascist Germany after another, one intrigue after another.

To judge by all signs, the Hitlerites have been hatching a new intrigue lately. Lieutenant General Krappe, Commander of the German 10th Army Corps, who was taken prisoner, stated in February that the German command had a broad plan for transferring armed forces to the Soviet-German front. And indeed in the past two and one-half months the German command has transferred to the Soviet-German front 44 divisions from the Western Front, the central regions of Germany, Norway and northern Italy. By transferring such large forces to the Soviet-German front, the German army command left the Western Front without any effective defense.

What is the aim of the German command in distributing its forces between the West and East in this way? Can it be attributed to the fear and terror of the German command of having to answer for the bloody crimes perpetrated by the German armies on Soviet territory?

It would be truer to say that at the present stage of the war the Hitlerites are pursuing a policy of intrigue which they have long been hatching and which conforms to their whole nature. They are striving by their actions to sow dis-

trust among the United Nations, to foment dissension among the Allies, to avert—if only for a time—the last mortal blow of the Allied Armies, and to achieve by means of military-political intrigue what they failed to achieve by armed force.

As to the fear experienced by the Hitlerites on account of their past and present crimes, this sentiment does of course play its part. But as will be seen from what was said above, the fear and terror of the Hitlerites is not the whole thing. It

should be clear to everyone that if the Germans were guided by fear in their present criminal policy, they would probably not go on trying so persistently to sink British and American ships with their submarines; they would not have bombarded England with flying bombs as they did until recently, and would not continue to slay war prisoners, soldiers and officers of the Allied Armies.

From this it follows that quite a different explanation from the one Ehrenburg offers in the columns of *Krasnaya Zvezda*

must be found for the fact that the Germans have weakened their front in the West and are so stubbornly resisting in the East, for the fact that, in the words of Ehrenburg, "we did not take Koenigsberg by telephone and we are not capturing Vienna with cameras." This is all the more necessary because Ehrenburg's unfounded inferences and conclusions may confuse the question and will at any rate not help expose the Hitlerite policy of intrigue aimed at sowing dissension among the Allies.

THE AGRARIAN REFORM IN HUNGARY

By Z. Razin

From WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 7:

At the time when the Red Army was completing the clearing of Hungarian territory of German-fascist troops, the Hungarian Provisional Government passed the agrarian reform. This measure is to serve as a cornerstone for the reform of the entire political and economic life of the country on democratic lines. The abolition of the semi-feudal agrarian system in Hungary will cut away the strongest roots of reaction which dominated the country and determined the whole course of its home and foreign policy. At the same time it will destroy the economic basis of the forces whose lust for aggrandizement constituted a permanent threat to the peace and security of the Danubian nations.

The agrarian reform is designed to satisfy the Hungarian peasants' age-old hunger for land. The Hungarian people cherish the memory of Gyorgy Dozsa, the popular hero who in the beginning of the 16th Century led a powerful peasant army against the landowners. Dozsa's army was defeated, the executioners set him on a "fiery throne," but the fire of struggle for their land was never extinguished in the hearts of the Hungarian peasants. This struggle went on for centuries and was closely interwoven with the struggle of the Hungarian people against the German enslavers for their liberty and independence. The big aristocratic landowners who received their vast estates from the Austrian emperors as a

reward for their betrayal of Hungary's national interests, have always sided with the Germans against their own people.

In the war of national liberation in 1848-50, the Hungarian peasants, united by Kossuth, routed the armies of the Austrian emperor which were led by the Hungarian landlords. The Hungarian National Assembly at that time adopted a decision to free the peasants from feudal exactions. However, after the defeat of the national liberation movement, the land remained in the hands of the magnates. The big landowners bound Hungary still more securely to the chariot of the Hapsburg monarchy and through it, after 1871, to the imperialist Germany of the Hohenzollerns.

With the defeat of Germany in the First World War the stronghold of feudal reaction and piratical imperialism in southeastern Europe—the Austro-Hungarian monarchy—collapsed. A severe blow was also dealt to the chief prop of the Hapsburg dynasty, the feudal land tenure. In the years immediately following the war, agrarian reforms were carried out in a number of the succession states which sprang from the ruins of Austria-Hungary, as a result of which some part of the landed estates passed into the hands of the peasants. In Hungary, however, after reaction suppressed the people's movement of 1918-19 with outside support, the big landlords retained their latifundia in their entirety.

Subsequently, the ruling circles from time to time introduced farcical agrarian

reforms in order to allay the growing discontent of the rural population. Only as a result of these "reforms" was it that a few tens of thousands of hectares of the worst land of the big estates were ceded to the small peasants on highly unfavorable terms.

In the pattern of land distribution in Hungary, the large estates hold an entirely disproportionate place alongside the vast multitude of landless peasants. The official land census of 1935 revealed that 44.5 per cent of the total area of arable and pasture land of the country—4,700,000 hectares—belonged to 16,000 estates of over 100 holds each (one hold equals .57 hectares); while on the other hand, 1,579,000 small peasant holdings of five holds or less each comprised 1,300,000 hectares—in other words, only 12.6 per cent of the total area. Most of the big landed estates are aristocratic entailed estates, of which there are 62 with a total area of 823,000 holds. These include the family estates of Count Esterhazy with an area of 290,000 holds, of Count Fextetics with an area of 71,000 holds, of Archduke Karl Ludwig with 42,000 holds, and Margrave Pallavicini with 39,000 holds. While there are in Hungary 1,688 estates with an area of 1,000 holds and over, each aggregating 2,330,000 holds, there are on the other hand 1,800,000 landless peasants and agricultural laborers. The significance of this figure will be clear if it is borne in mind that Hungary had a total population of 8,900,000. According to official statistics,

out of 3,000,000 farm hands, agricultural laborers and sharecroppers, 1,315,000 were "gainfully employed," but only 240,000 had permanent employment, the remainder being seasonal workers employed only three to six months in the year, while some of them had no fixed employment at all. Prior to the First World War, a number of the poor emigrated, chiefly to the United States, but after the war this outlet was closed. The rural unemployment became a national scourge, exercising a depressing effect upon the wages of industrial as well as agricultural workers.

The undivided rule of the big landowners fettered the economic, political and cultural development of the country. The feudal landlords were unchallenged masters in the countryside. They had their appointees in the gendarmerie, the courts and on local government bodies. Landless peasants and agricultural laborers were in a state of semi-feudal dependence upon the big landlords. At the end of the '30s a number of works were published in Hungary by "rural investigators." These were progressive writers who exposed the savagery and ruthlessness of the landlords' reign of terror, and described the hopeless plight of the millions of rural poor who were doomed to degradation and physical extinction.

The Hungarian landowners who had lost a considerable part of their estates in territories ceded to Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia, became rabid advocates of an imperialist policy, a reckless policy of annexation of foreign territory, and of Slav territory in particular. They hoped to realize their schemes in an alliance with Mussolini and Hitler. In them, too, the Hungarian feudal lords sought support against the growing discontent of the rural poor.

After Hitler's accession to power in Germany, the Hungarian landowners promoted Gombos, inspirer of Hungarian fascism, to the post of premier. After that, Hungary's whole foreign policy followed in the wake of the axis powers. The Hungarian Economic Federation, a powerful organization of big landowners, adapted agriculture to the needs of Germany's war economy. The landowners made large fortunes by bleeding Hun-

gary's national economy for the benefit of Germany.

For a quarter of a century the fear of "Bolshevik infection" nourished Hungary's hostile policy toward the Soviet Union. The confiscation of the estates of the Polish magnates in the western regions of the Soviet Ukraine in 1939 and their distribution among the peasants living in close proximity to Hungary's borders, goaded the Hungarian land magnates to even greater fury.

In furtherance of their designs upon the territory of neighboring nations, the Hungarian landowners gave full rein to the propagation of racial theory. They demanded Hungarian hegemony over all Danubian nations. Having seized part of the territory of Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia with the help of Hitler Germany, the Hungarian occupation authorities perpetrated the most heinous crimes in these territories. The Hungarian landowners took back the land which had been divided up among the peasants 20 years earlier. Hungary's ruling clique could retain a hold of the stolen lands only with the support of Hitler Germany. That is one of the chief reasons why the Hungarian landowners converted their country into Germany's most stubborn satellite. When Italy withdrew from the war in 1943, the more realistically minded of Hungary's ruling circles sought to find a way out of the war, but the pro-fascist big landowners frustrated these efforts and paved the way for the occupation of the country by the Hitlerites.

The Second World War led to the further enslavement of the poor peasants. Large numbers of them were pressed into militarized labor battalions and made to work without pay and on starvation rations for the big landowners under the surveillance of fascist hirelings. The gendarmes and the police organized regular manhunts for peasants who "shirked" work. At the demand of the feudal lords, labor concentration camps were set up for condemned agricultural laborers where they were forced to work to the point of exhaustion for the landowners under the inhuman conditions of a fascist regime of penal servitude.

In its program the Hungarian National Front of Independence, which led the resistance of the people to the Hitlerites,

demanding a radical land reform. But it was not until the greater part of Hungary's territory was liberated by the Red Army that the conditions were created which made such reform possible. In the Manifesto of the Provisional Government, the agrarian reform was proclaimed a task of prime urgency. Four months elapsed before the Government promulgated a law on the subject. This law was based on the draft published by the National Peasant Party and the Communist Party in December, 1944, and which in the main was subsequently endorsed by the other parties of the National Front of Independence.

The agrarian reform provides for the confiscation of all landed estates belonging to fascists, traitors to the country and war criminals, and for the alienation by purchase of all large estates of an area exceeding 1,000 holds, and of all other landed property exceeding 100 and up to 1,000 holds, the owners of the latter category being allowed to retain 100 holds. All confiscated or alienated lands go to form a Government Land Fund which is to be divided up—at a reasonable price—among landless and small peasants and middle peasants with large families. . . .

The owners of the land are to receive compensation from the state for alienated lands, buildings and means of production, but to an amount and in a manner to be determined later, depending upon the financial position of the country.

Under the decree, about one-half million landless and small peasant families are to receive land. For this land the peasants are to pay a definite sum in money or in kind, payment to be spread over a period of 10 to 20 years. Certain reductions in payment will be made in the case of landless peasants and agricultural laborers. The means of production of the big estates are to be turned over to the agricultural producers' cooperative societies for joint utilization.

The agrarian reform is a mortal blow to the forces of feudal reaction in Hungary. Speaking of its significance to the democratic development of the country, the decree of the Provisional Government states: "The abolition of the system of large feudal landowning will guarantee the democratic reform of the country and

its future development. The transfer of the landed estates to the Hungarian peasants who have been oppressed for centuries, opens up to them the path of political, social, economic and intellectual progress."

The passage of the agrarian reform marked the beginning of the decisive phase in the Hungarian peasants' fight for land. Bearing in mind the growing economic dislocation of the country and the vast area of abandoned and uncultivated land, the dilatoriness with which the agrarian reform was drafted is in itself a warning of the danger that the agrarian reform will be sabotaged by reactionaries inside as well as outside of the National Front of Independence. The Hungarian landlords who clung so desperately to their estates will not surrender a single patch of land without a fight. They are already endeavoring by terrorist methods, by deceit and by dissemination of false rumors, to sow dissension in the ranks of the peasants.

The experience of Poland and also of Rumania shows that the guarantee of success in carrying out agrarian reform lies in the enlistment of the widest masses of the peasantry in the struggle for its realization. It is necessary to stimulate to the utmost the activity of the peasants, who are vitally interested in obtaining land. The successful and expeditious realization of the agrarian reform will depend upon the extent to which the democratic parties affiliated to the National Front of Independence assist the peasants in securing and retaining their land. Unfortunately, up to now these parties have by no means done all that is necessary to carry out this important task. A great responsibility rests upon the rural committees of the land-needy, whose function it is to bring to light all the land and agricultural implements liable to confiscation or alienation, to verify the lists of land-needy peasants, etc.

The agrarian reform is to be completed by October 1, 1945. Its period of realization will thus coincide with the arduous period of sowing and harvesting. Government bodies are to lend organized assistance to landless peasants in cultivating abandoned land and land liable to confiscation. The Hitlerites carried off nearly all draft animals and stole the

agricultural implements and seed stocks. Under these circumstances, agricultural laborers and small peasants will be able to cultivate the land they receive only if they are given the necessary assistance. In the harvest period of 1944, as a result of the sabotage by reactionary and fascist elements, hundreds of thousands of centers of grain and fodder remained ungarned in the fields at a time when the urban and industrial centers were going hungry. There can be no doubt that the opponents of the democratization of the country will attempt by sabotaging the agrarian reform and the sowing of fields to aggravate the hard lot of the rural poor and at the same time lay the blame for this on the democratic forces of the country. These enemy designs must be nipped in the bud.

The progressive sections of the Hungarian peasantry, who cherish the glorious traditions of the anti-German struggle of their fathers under the leadership of Rakoczy and Kossuth, hate the German enslavers. Experience has convinced them of the correctness of Kossuth's foreign policy, which aimed at maintaining peaceful and friendly relations with the surrounding Danubian nations in order to combat the German menace. Thus a dividing line arose between the big landowners and the peasantry in questions of foreign as well as home policy. In 1944 the overwhelming majority of the land magnates fled together with the Hitlerites; the overwhelming mass of the peasantry, on the other hand, remained on the territory liberated by the Red Army. After the arrival of the Red Army, the Hungarian peasants were convinced by their own experience that they had secured not only liberty and independence but also land, thanks to the freedom-loving powers, and to the Soviet Union in the first place.

The agrarian reform will rid the Hungarian people of the oppression of feudal reactionaries, and will create the conditions for the democratization of the country's home and foreign policy. Taken in conjunction with the agrarian reforms in Poland and Rumania, the abolition of the feudal estates in Hungary will be a weighty contribution to the eradication of fascist influences and to the maintenance of peaceful relations among the peoples

of Eastern Europe. By destroying the most reactionary of political forces and by sapping their economic basis, Hungary will remove the chief barrier that divides her from the neighboring democratic countries which have already broken up their own large feudal estates. This will create the most important prerequisite for the establishment of friendly relations among the Danubian nations which have always been at odds with one another. By setting a firm foot on the road of democracy, Hungary will take her place among the democratic nations of Europe. That is why the agrarian reform in Hungary provoked hysterical outcries on the part of the German fascists and their supporters all over the world. But for the same reason it was greeted with such sympathetic approval by all the champions of democracy and progress.

Restored Stalingrad Plant Produces 1,000th Tractor

All Stalingrad celebrated when the one-thousandth tractor was recently turned out in the giant plant reborn from the ruins and ashes left by the German invaders. Engineers and workers, most of whom fought in defense of Stalingrad, carried out their pledge to rebuild this pride of the Soviet tractor industry in the shortest possible time.

Information Bulletin

EMBASSY OF THE
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TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND POSTWAR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE POLISH REPUBLIC

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the President of the National Council of the Polish Republic, filled with determination jointly to bring the war against the German invaders to complete and final victory; desiring to consummate a radical turn in the history of Soviet-Polish relations toward the friendly allied collaboration which has arisen between the USSR and Poland in the course of joint struggle against German imperialism; confident that further consolidation of the relations of good neighborliness and friendship between the Soviet Union and contiguous Poland meets the vital interests of the Soviet and Polish peoples; convinced that the maintenance of friendship and close collaboration between the Soviet and Polish peoples will serve the cause of the successful economic development of both countries, both in time of war and after it; striving to support by every means the cause of peace and security of nations after the war, decided to conclude with this end in view the present treaty and appointed as their plenipotentiaries: **For the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**—Joseph Vissarionovich STALIN, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR; **For the President of the National Council of the Polish Republic**—Edward OSUBKA-MORAWSKI, President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Polish Republic; who after the exchange of their credentials found in due

form and in good order agreed on the following:

Article I

The high contracting parties will continue jointly with the United Nations the struggle against Germany until final victory. The high contracting parties undertake to render each other military and other assistance in this struggle by every means at their disposal.

Article II

The high contracting parties, convinced that the interests of the security and prosperity of the Soviet and Polish peoples call for the preservation and strengthening of a stable and permanent friendship in time of war and after the war, will strengthen the friendly collaboration between the two countries in conformity with the principles of mutual respect for their independence and sovereignty as well as non-intervention in the internal affairs of the other state.

Article III

The high contracting parties will also undertake after the termination of the present war with Germany to take jointly all measures at their disposal in order to eliminate every threat of a repetition of aggression on the part of a Germany or any other state which would unite with Germany directly or in any other form. To achieve this aim the high contracting parties will participate in a spirit of the most sincere collaboration in all international actions aimed at ensuring the peace

and security of nations, and will contribute their full share to the cause of the materialization of these lofty aims. The application of the present treaty by the high contracting parties will conform to international principles in the adoption of which both the contracting parties participated.

Article IV

In the event that one of the high contracting parties in the postwar period finds itself involved in hostilities with a Germany who would resume her aggressive policy, or with some other state which would unite with Germany directly or in any other form in such war, the other high contracting party will immediately render to the contracting party involved in the hostilities military or other assistance and support by every means at its disposal.

Article V

The high contracting parties undertake not to conclude without mutual consent an armistice or peace treaty either with the Hitler government or with any other authority in Germany which encroaches or would encroach on the independence, territorial integrity or security of either of the high contracting parties.

Article VI

Each high contracting party undertakes not to conclude any alliance and not to take part in any coalition directed against the other high contracting party.

Article VII

The high contracting parties will also,

after the termination of the present war, collaborate in a spirit of friendship with a view to the further development and consolidation of economic and cultural ties between the two countries and assist each other in the economic rehabilitation of both countries.

Article VIII

The present treaty comes into force from the moment of its signing and is subject to ratification within the shortest possible time. The exchange of ratifica-

tion instruments shall be effected in Warsaw as soon as possible. The present treaty shall remain in force for twenty years from the moment of its signing. If at the end of this twenty-year period either of the high contracting parties does not declare, twelve months prior to the expiration of the term, its desire to renounce the treaty, it shall remain in effect for the next five years and thus each time until either of the high contracting parties, twelve months prior to the expiration of the current five-year term, gives notice

in writing about its intention to renounce the treaty. In testimony whereof the plenipotentiaries signed the present treaty and affixed their seals to it. Done in Moscow, April 21, 1945, in two copies, each in the Russian and Polish languages, both texts having equal force.

(Signed)

Upon the authorization of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR:

STALIN

Upon the authorization of the President of the National Council of the Polish Republic:

OSUBKA-MORAWSKI

MARSHAL STALIN'S SPEECH AT THE SIGNING OF THE SOVIET-POLISH TREATY

Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Gentlemen!

I believe that the treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration between the Soviet Union and Poland which we have just signed is of great historical importance. The importance of this treaty consists, in the first place, in that it signifies a radical turn in relations between the Soviet Union and Poland toward alliance and friendship, a turn which took shape in the course of the present liberation struggle against Germany and which is now being formally consummated in this treaty.

It is known that the relations between our countries in the course of the past five centuries abounded in elements of mutual estrangement, unfriendliness and not infrequently in open military conflicts. Such relations weakened both our countries and strengthened German imperialism. The importance of the present treaty consists in that it puts an end to these old relations between our countries, nails down the lid of the coffin over them and creates a real basis for replacement of the old unfriendly relations by relations of alliance and friendship between the Soviet Union and Poland.

In the course of the past 25 to 30 years, that is, in the course of the last two world wars, the Germans succeeded in making use of the territory of Poland as a corridor for an invasion of the East and as a spring-

board for an attack on the Soviet Union. This became possible because at that time there were no friendly allied relations between our countries. The former rulers of Poland did not want to have relations of alliance with the Soviet Union. They preferred a policy of playing up Germany against the Soviet Union. And of course they played themselves into trouble . . . Poland was occupied, her independence abolished, and as a result of this whole ruinous policy, German troops were enabled to appear at the gates of Moscow.

The importance of the present treaty consists in that it puts an end to the old and ruinous policy of playing up Germany against the Soviet Union and replaces it by a policy of alliance and friendship between Poland and her Eastern neighbor. Such is the historical importance of the treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration between Poland and the Soviet Union which we have just signed.

No wonder, therefore, that the peoples of our countries impatiently await the signing of this treaty. They feel that this treaty is a pledge of the independence of the new democratic Poland, a pledge of her might, her prosperity.

But matters are not confined to that. The present treaty has also great international significance. As long as there existed no alliance between our countries,

Germany was able to take advantage of the absence of a united front between us, she could oppose Poland to the Soviet Union and vice-versa, and thus beat them one at a time. Things changed radically after the alliance between our countries took shape. Now it is no longer possible to oppose our countries to each other. Now there exists a united front between our countries from the Baltic to the Carpathians against the common enemy, against German imperialism. Now one may confidently say that German aggression is besieged from the East.

Undoubtedly if this barrier in the East is supplemented by a barrier in the West, that is, by an alliance between our countries and our Allies in the West, one may safely say that German aggression will be curbed and it will not be easy for it to run loose.

No wonder, therefore, that the freedom-loving nations and, in the first place, the Slav nations, impatiently await the conclusion of this treaty, for they see that this treaty signifies the strengthening of the united front of the United Nations against the common enemy in Europe. Therefore, I do not doubt that our Allies in the West will welcome this treaty.

May free, independent, democratic Poland live and prosper! May her Eastern neighbor—our Soviet Union, live and prosper! Long live the alliance and friendship between our countries!

SPEECH OF MINISTER OSUBKA-MORAWSKI AT THE SIGNING OF THE SOVIET-POLISH TREATY

Mr. President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet! Mr. President of the Council of People's Commissars! Gentlemen!

The signing of the treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration between the USSR and Poland which has been effected today is an act of consummation of the unswerving will and striving of the Polish people for the strengthening of friendship, mutual assistance and collaboration born in the common struggle of our peoples against the German invaders. These desires and aspirations for friendship and collaboration were and continue to be a historical necessity, the realization of which has become possible only now that the people in our country have received the right of expression.

A sound political idea, the idea of friendship between our Slav peoples, has been developing through the centuries—

however only in the face of danger from the German invaders, in the struggle for our existence, both on the part of the state and the people, has it become a powerful factor in the revival of Polish democracy and the Polish people. Henceforward this sound political idea will constantly guide our foreign policy because it has been dictated by our statesmanship, because it is an expression of the joint ardent wishes and desires of our peoples and follows from the constant community of our interests.

The source and basis of this historical treaty is the joint defense of our peoples who many a time in history were threatened by the barbarity of the German hordes; also our common concern about the preservation and strengthening of peace in Europe and happy collaboration among nations.

We are deeply confident that by signing this treaty we thus contribute our

share to the cause of the unity of the United Nations and the general security. If heretofore in history the German people violated peace in Europe and by barbarous wars caused inestimable damage to all peoples, especially to the Slav peoples, the permanent alliance of these Slav peoples which is now being born will be opposed to German aggression once and for all and will become a foundation of peace in Europe.

The Polish people who suffered the hell of German occupation, who made such horrible sacrifices in this war, and who on the other hand felt and constantly feels the manifestations of friendship and assistance on the part of the great Soviet people, will accept this treaty as a great political achievement, as a guarantee of lasting peace and security, as a guarantee of its freedom and independence.

Long live the great Soviet Union! Long live independent democratic Poland!

POLAND TODAY

By J. Dembowski

The following article appeared in PRAVDA:

These are great and happy days in the life of Poland. The Polish people liberated from the fascist yoke have straightened their backs. The Provisional Government of Poland has rallied round itself the overwhelming majority of the Polish nation; has gained its confidence by a democratic home policy, by constructive activity in all spheres of economic and cultural life, by a sensible foreign policy and close cooperation with the Soviet Union and other democratic powers.

The fruitfulness of this policy is obvious to the broadest sections of the Polish people.

Thanks to the Red Army's brilliant victories, Poland is at last receiving wide access to the sea. The age-old dream of the Polish people of reincorporation into Poland of the ancient Slav lands once seized by the German robbers is coming true.

The Polish Government has achieved

one more great political victory in the reincorporation into Poland of all Upper Silesia and the Oppeln area. The celebrations, the rallies and public processions in Katowice, in which scores of thousands of people took part, were a vivid expression of the joy of the Polish people in connection with this historic event.

The reincorporation of these rich ancient Slav lands into Poland is of the greatest import for the Polish people. Unlike Poland in 1918-20, the new resurgent Poland includes highly industrialized Slav lands. The Polish people are aware that these achievements are largely the result of the patriotic national policy of the democratic Provisional Government which has once and for all broken with the criminal anti-Soviet policy of the Polish reactionaries and has taken the road of sincere and cordial friendship with Poland's powerful ally, the Soviet Union.

All honest Poles similarly appreciate

the painstaking everyday activity of the Government in the matter of rehabilitating the country's economic and cultural life. Despite difficulties, the industrial enterprises in Lodz, in the coal districts and in the western regions which have escaped destruction, are already working or are about to be put into operation. The railway system is being rapidly restored. Everywhere one feels the assiduous and efficient activity of the Government resolutely struggling to overcome the grievous consequences of the war and the German occupation. Of vast importance is the agrarian reform now being enforced in the central and western regions of Poland.

All these measures of the Provisional Government by which it has won the confidence and support of the population, are at the same time the result of the creative activity of the Polish population itself. The democratic Provisional Government is carrying out all its measures with the active assistance of millions of

the urban and rural population.

The entire Polish nation is taking part in the struggle for the resurgence of a new democratic Poland. And while Polish soldiers and officers are displaying high courage and heroism in the fight against the Hitlerite invaders, the patriotism and enthusiasm of the workers are testified to by the speed with which the industrial enterprises are being started and the railway transport restored. The Polish peasants conscientiously supply the army and the urban population with food, willingly doing their duty with regard to the state which gives them land, supplies them with agricultural machinery and implements, and helps them to carry out the spring sowing in an organized manner.

Polish intellectuals, scientists, teachers, engineers, writers, actors and artists are active in the country's cultural life, knowing that wide prospects are opening before them in a democratic Poland.

An atmosphere of harmonious activity and cooperation reigns in all mass organizations, such as the united trade unions, the Peasant Mutual Aid League, organs of local self-government in the form of People's Councils set up by the people.

This atmosphere is a result of fruitful and harmonious collaboration among the various sections of the population—workers, peasants and professionals, all the living forces of the nation. The Polish reactionaries and their friends abroad seek to misrepresent the Polish reality, to picture present-day Poland as a country allegedly ruled by "one party" (meaning the Communist Party). They spread fables about the alleged suppression of other democratic parties, persecutions of the Catholic clergy, etc.

But it is a well-known fact that the government is a coalition of four democratic parties representing the vast majority of the Polish people, namely: the Polish Workers Party, the Peasant Party (*Stronnictwo Ludowe*), the Polish Socialist Party (PPS) and the Democratic Party (*Stronnictwo Demokratyczne*). Each of these parties is represented in the central and local government bodies; each of them has its platform, its own political features, its central and local

The Polish crew of a self-propelled tank fighting on the First Byelorussian Front receives a combat assignment from a Red Army officer

Radiophoto



press and its organizations. Each of these parties is winning new adherents and their ranks are swelling.

The cooperation of these four parties, despite their differences, has become possible because they have accepted a common democratic and patriotic platform. It has become possible because the PPS today has broken with the reactionary traditions of the Pilsudskis, Arciszewskis and Kwapińskis, with their adventurous anti-Soviet policy. The renovated PPS stands for friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States; for collaboration with the Polish Workers Party, the Peasant Party and other democratic groups. A similar process of inner regeneration and consolidation on a democratic basis has taken place in the Peasant Party.

The five trying years of the German occupation and nearly a year of strenuous activity in resurgent Poland have shown who are the true leaders and guides of the Polish people. As in Yugoslavia and other liberated countries of Europe, new leaders have come to the fore, leaders such as Bierut, Morawski and Zymierski, who are closely linked with the people, while many of the so-called old political leaders have turned out to be tools of fascism and reaction, alien to their people.

The honest men among the old political leaders are working with the new leaders of democratic Poland. Among the leaders of the regenerated PPS we find alongside Premier Osóbka-Morawski and Minister Matuszewski also old leaders such as the head of the Railwaymen's Union and a former member of the Central Executive Committee of the PPS, Kiryłowicz; lawyer Świątkowski, Professor Szymanowski, etc.

Thus the process of demarcation between the old reactionary politicians, irrespective of the parties to which they belonged, and the honest leaders of Poland's major democratic parties, has been accomplished.

Around the democratic Provisional Government have rallied not only the members and followers of the major democratic parties, but all honest Poles in general. It is characteristic that while *Dziennik Polski*, the sheet of the emigre "government" in London, is spreading fables about alleged persecutions of the Catholic Church in Poland, a number of prominent representatives of that church are publicly expressing their profound joy at Poland's deliverance from the Hitlerite yoke by the Red Army and Polish troops. In their statements they stress the



Radiophoto

A Soviet and a Polish soldier patrol a street in Landsberg, South Pomerania

complete freedom which the Catholic Church now enjoys in Poland. Such statements have been made by Bishop Dymek of Poznan, Bishop Tomczak of Lodz, Prior Nowak of the famous Jasna Gora Monastery in Czestochowa; Reverend De Wil, Catholic Dean of Praga, etc.

The most prominent representatives of the Polish intelligentsia—President of the Academy of Sciences, Professor Kitrzeba, and other scientists; writers Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz, Zofia Nalkowska, Pola Gojamiczynska and scores of others; actors Soliski, Zelwerowicz, etc.—have joined in the great creative work of regenerating Polish culture, of regenerating the country, which is being carried out under the guidance of the Provisional Government.

The Polish people are working tirelessly to rebuild their state; therefore they regard the Provisional Government of Poland as their sole, lawful government.

The Polish emigre clique is torn by internal strife which has assumed an extremely sharp character. The diplomatic correspondent of the *Daily Herald* reports that Raczkiewicz and Arciszewski have dissolved the so-called National Council which was set up in London to play the part of a "parliament" to the Raczkiewicz-Arciszewski "government." It turns out that even the hand-picked members of this "National Council" have denounced the adventurous activity of the Raczkiewicz-Arciszewski clique.

The decisions of the Crimea Conference have been accepted by Polish public opinion as a confirmation that the stand of the Provisional Government has been correct and as a recognition of its indisputable achievements.

At thousands of rallies and meetings, millions of Poles have expressed the people's profound confidence in the Provisional Government and in President Bierut of the *Krajowa Rada Narodowa*. According to Polish opinion, a government of national unity should be set up in strict conformity with the decision of the Crimea Conference, in which it is stated, "The Provisional Government which is now functioning in Poland should therefore be reorganized on a broader democratic basis with the inclusion of democratic leaders from Poland itself and from Poles abroad."



Machine gunners of the Polish Army

It is clear to every Polish patriot that in this case there can be no question that not only the gentlemen of the Raczkiewicz, Arciszewski and Kwapiński clique who have come out against the decisions of the Crimea Conference should not be included, but also those politicians who regard themselves as democrats but are actually supporting the *Sanacja* and other forces of reaction. Thus Mikolajczyk, while emphasizing his differences with Raczkiewicz and Arciszewski, still clings to the fascist constitution of 1935 and regards the London clique as the sole "legal" government. And Mikolajczyk's paper, *Jutro Polski*, attacks the Polish Government in Warsaw, accusing it of alleged persecutions of Polish political leaders, of "sabotaging" the decisions of the Crimea Conference, etc. It is not hard to see that Mikolajczyk is doing Arciszew-

ski's work for him. The Polish people resolutely dissociate themselves from this sort of politician.

The Provisional Government of the Polish Republic has achieved signal successes in its work to build up a strong and independent Poland and to revive economic and cultural activity. Enjoying the confidence of the Polish nation of twenty-five million, the strong Provisional Government in the opinion of all honest Poles has every right to represent Poland at all international conferences, including the conference at San Francisco. In its statement of March 22 last, to the Governments of the USSR, USA, Great Britain and China, the Provisional Polish Government says, "There are no arguments which could serve as grounds for not inviting Poland in the person of the now functioning Provisional Government of the Polish Republic to the conference in San Francisco. The fact that the commission set up by the Crimea Conference to consult on the question of Poland has not yet concluded its work, cannot serve as an obstacle to inviting the Provisional Government." The Soviet Union fully supports the statement of the Provisional Government of Poland.

The Provisional Government has the indisputable right to represent Poland before the entire world. This right of the Provisional Government derives from the support of the entire nation, from its strength, prestige and popularity, with which the popularity of any Polish government in the past cannot be compared. It derives this right from its constructive, fruitful policies and its great achievements, recognized both by the Polish nation and by all its friends; by all freedom-loving nations.

TASS STATEMENT

A certain part of the foreign press, including the London *Sunday Times*, is circulating rumors that at the Crimea Conference it was allegedly decided that only representatives of a reorganized Polish Government could be invited to the San Francisco Conference, but that the representatives of the Provisional Polish Government in Warsaw should not be invited.

TASS is authorized to state that reports

of this kind absolutely do not correspond to fact.

At the Crimea Conference this question not only was not decided, but was not even discussed.

Thus the decisions of the Crimea Conference do not constitute any obstacle to an invitation to the representatives of the Provisional Polish Government in Warsaw to the San Francisco Conference.

THE BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

By Pavel Ozhevsky

The author is a member of the Institute of Geography of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic occupies an area of 250,000 square kilometers—twice the territory of Greece, nearly three times the size of Portugal, six times that of Denmark, and eight times that of Belgium. It is situated in the divide formed by rivers flowing into the Baltic and Black Seas, in the area of the upper reaches of the Dnieper and its powerful tributary the Pripyat; the upper reaches of the Western Dvina and the Niemen, and of the right tributaries of the Bug, a tributary of the Vistula.

In the west, Byelorussia borders on Poland; this boundary line stretches through the swampy and wooded valleys of the right tributaries of the Bug.

Its border with the Ukraine in the south passes through the Pinsk Marshes and the virgin forests of Polessye, along the rivers of the Pripyat basin and the Dnieper. Since time immemorial the Dnieper has been the principal life-line of the two peoples, the main artery of their economic and political life.

In the north, Byelorussia's borders with Lithuania and Latvia pass over the elevated plateau in the upper reaches of the Niemen and the Western Dvina basins.

In the northwest, in the zone of lakes, dunes and boulders characteristic of the impassable area of the Masurian swamps and the Augustow forests, Byelorussia borders on East Prussia.

Like the Ukraine, Byelorussia is situated on the natural boundary line between eastern and western Europe. Its flora, fauna, soil and climate have many features characteristic of both the east and west.

The most characteristic natural feature of Byelorussia is the imprint left on the whole of its territory by the glacial period, which determined the present natural conditions of the Republic; it has three clearly defined geographical areas: northern, central, and southern.

The southern area—and the lowest, up to 150 meters above sea level—embraces the vast territory of the Polessye lowland

of the Pripyat basin, with numerous swamps alternating with sand dune deposits. There are frequent villages and roads. This region is rich in fur animals, waterfowl, fish and honey.

The central and more elevated region—160 to 280 meters above sea level—is distinguished by its picturesque landscapes. It is situated in the area of the Moscow-Byelorussia plateau, which consists of wooded hills and moraines framed by small elevations. It has smaller tracts of woodland, but larger stretches of cultivated and populated areas. This is the area of the Baltic-Black Sea divide.

The northern region, which represents a continuation of the Baltic lowland, is also distinguished by its moraine and hilly landscapes, but abounds in lakes and streams of the glacial period, and considerable boulder deposits. Numerous rivers cut across the three regions of the country.

Byelorussia's soil is extremely varied with podzol peat and bog, and peat and clay types predominating. Their natural fertility is similar to the soils of the corresponding zones of the USSR, Poland, Germany, and Denmark.

The climate of Byelorussia is mild, representing the transition from the Continental climate of Eastern Europe to the humid climate of the West-European Coast. The summers are cooler and the winters milder than in the east. The average annual temperature in Minsk is plus 17.5 degrees Centigrade in July (plus 18.7 degrees is Moscow's average), and minus 6.8 degrees in January (Moscow's average is minus 10.3 degrees). The abundance of atmospheric precipitation, from 550 to 700 mm., creates favorable soil conditions for stable crop yields. Drought is unknown there. The mild climate favors the successful acclimatization of the white acacia, mulberry, chestnut and Canadian poplar, and facilitates the development of fruit cultivation in the southern part of the Republic.

The opinion held before the great October Socialist Revolution—that Byelorussia had no mineral deposits of its own—has been disproved by Soviet geologists. Rich mineral deposits have

been found in the Byelorussian SSR.

According to estimates, Byelorussia has five billion cubic meters of peat. Deposits of bituminous shale, coal and oil-bearing strata have been brought to light in the Republic. It is known to contain thousands of millions of tons of rock salt, many deposits of phosphorites, rich deposits of chalk, lime, dolomite, cement, marl, clays and mineral dyes. In addition there are numerous deposits of iron ore in the swamps, mineral waters, etc. In fact, Byelorussia's natural wealth is an almost untapped store of raw materials which have supplied the base for the development of electric power and the chemical, ceramic, glass, salt, building materials and other branches of industry.

Forests, meadows and pastures occupy a special place in Byelorussia's natural wealth. Nearly two-fifths of the Republic's territory is covered with pastures and forests abounding in valuable trees—oak, pine, maple, ash, birch, etc.—which provided raw materials for the development of match factories, the production of veneer furniture, and for pulp and paper, wood-working, chemical and other industries. Timber for construction and industry has long been a profitable item of Byelorussian export. The rich meadows have provided the base for the development of livestock-breeding.

Last but not least, there is the wealth of Byelorussia's rivers, lakes and swamps, which occupy up to 20 per cent of the Republic's territory. They represent potential sources of hydroelectric power, a base for the development of fish and waterfowl breeding. For the export of waterfowl Byelorussia held first place in the USSR.

Before the war Byelorussia had a population of 13 millions, more than the combined population of Sweden and Norway, three times that of Finland, Denmark or Holland, and one and one-half times the population of Greece. About 80 per cent of its population was made up of Byelorussians and some 10 per cent of Jews; Russians and Poles comprised four per cent each, and two per

cent was made up of other nationalities.

Throughout their history the Byelorussians fought against numerous attempts at conquest launched from the west. Stubbornly and heroically they defended their rights and preserved their native language, their culture, faith and customs. In the struggle for their independence and freedom from social and political oppression, the Byelorussians strengthened their bonds of unity with the Russian, Ukrainian and Polish peoples. But their age-old dreams of free national development were realized only after the great Socialist Revolution.

In a historically brief period the Byelorussian Republic achieved unprecedented progress. Byelorussia became a country with 100 per cent literacy. It built up a vast chain of elementary schools, high schools and universities; in 1941 the Republic had more than 13,000 schools with two and one-half million students, an Academy of Sciences with numerous institutes and laboratories, 26 institutes of higher learning, 22 scientific research institutes, thousands of clubs and libraries, 23 theaters, scores of museums, a Philharmonic Society, and a conservatory and music schools.

During the Soviet period Byelorussia developed into a country with a modern industry and agriculture. By 1940 the gross output of industry increased 23 times as compared with 1913, and the production of electric power by 109 times. The development of the peat industry supplied an excellent base for power stations.

Hundreds of modern enterprises built in the Republic during the Stalin Five-Year Plan periods produced machine tools, agricultural machinery, aircraft engines, precision instruments, pipes, machines, etc; there were 41 plants of the chemical industry, many wood-working factories, pulp and paper mills and ceramic and other factories. Important success was achieved in the food, leather, shoe, textile and other branches of industry. The Republic moved rapidly along the highroad of economic progress.

The trial reclamation of 159,000 hectares of swampland revealed the promise this holds out for the national economy. The Byelorussian people adopted an un-

precedented plan calling for the reclamation of four million hectares of swamp-land, including the famous Pinsk Marshes, in 15 years. A sharp increase was registered in crop yields as a result of the introduction of the latest scientific methods of cultivation.

The country's agriculture had undergone a remarkable change. Tiny individual plots of land vanished, giving place to vast collective farm fields cultivated by more than 10,000 tractors, 1,600 combine harvesters, and tens of thousands of other agricultural machines. The cultivated area doubled as compared with the 1913 figure.

Labor became the source for the steady growth of the Republic's national wealth and an improvement in the well-being of the Byelorussian peasants. This labor transformed Byelorussia from a consumer into a producer, whose export of agricultural produce exceeded its import.

A native intelligentsia developed in the Republic—Byelorussian scientists, doctors, teachers, writers, poets, artists, actors, composers, engineers, technicians, etc. The arts flourished. With all the other peoples of the USSR, Byelorussia was moving with seven-league strides along the road of progress followed by the advanced democratic peoples of the world.

The Hitlerite invasion and the subsequent occupation period caused tremendous damage to the Republic. The Byelorussian cities—Minsk, the ancient capital—Gomel, Vitebsk, Grodno, Brest, Mogilev and flourishing villages were reduced to debris and charred ruins. Here is what a German Reichskommissar wrote in the *Deutsche Zeitung in Ostland*: "The large cities of Belorutenia—Minsk, Vitebsk, Gomel and Mogilev—have been converted into ruins. There is no need to restore these cities, as the city corrupts the Belorutenian. . . ."

The invaders destroyed the people's cultural treasures, burned books and wrecked schools. Tortures, firing squads, gallows and poison gas were the weapons used by the German invaders for the destruction of the Byelorussian people.

But the Byelorussian people did not submit to the enemy. With the immortal deed of the Byelorussian airman Captain Nikolai Gastello—who brought

his blazing plane down on a concentration of enemy troops and equipment—the Byelorussian people opened heroic pages in the history of their struggle. More than one million Byelorussians joined the Red Army. The Byelorussian people have supplied thousands of officers, 150 generals and three vice admirals to the Soviet Armed Forces. The first Guards Division in the USSR was a division of Byelorussians which destroyed 300 German tanks in the fighting for Minsk.

Tens of thousands of Byelorussians joined the guerrillas; a spellbound world followed their heroic struggle with admiration. On their native soil they wiped out more than 300,000 Hitlerite soldiers, including 23 generals; derailed 6,000 trains, destroyed more than 4,100 locomotives and some 50,000 railway cars, flat-cars and tank cars, and 23 armored trains; blew up more than 700 munition and armament stores, wrecked more than 4,000 bridges, destroyed 900 tanks and armored cars, 400 field guns, 11,000 trucks, 300 planes; smashed 30 army headquarters and wrecked 1,400 kilometers of railway track. Government decorations for courage and valor have been awarded to 20,000 guerrillas.

Byelorussian guerrillas helped the Red Army to free their native land of the enemy.

Byelorussia is at present being restored. Smoke is again rising from the smokestacks of its factories and mills; tractors and combine harvesters are again at work in the fields. The Byelorussian children have returned to their schools.

Odessa Port Busy

A little over a year ago, Odessa was liberated from the German-Rumanian invaders. Today the first ships from overseas are lying at the Odessa piers. The people have completed the tremendous task of clearing port structures and embankments of debris and rebuilding them.

In March the city won first place in the USSR for freight turnover; 325 factories have been restored and machine-building plants have exceeded their annual program by one-fourth. The 2,000 collective farms of the Odessa Region and the State farms and machine and tractor stations have all been restored.

Notes from Front and Rear

The first 500 tractors from a large new plant in Vladimir, near Moscow, are already working in the fields. Marshal Stalin sent a telegram of congratulation to the workers of the plant on this achievement under wartime difficulties. Twenty-five miles of electric transmission lines and 15 miles of various pipelines have been laid at the new plant.

★

ON THE MOTHERLAND, a 240-page collection of Maxim Gorky's writings, taken from his stories, articles, public speeches and letters, was recently published.

★

Ludmila Pavlichenko, Hero of the Soviet Union, has been graduated with honors from the History Department of Kiev University. The famous girl sniper, who killed over 300 Hitlerites in the defense of Odessa and Sevastopol, is on leave from the Red Army to continue her studies. At the request of the University Council, Pavlichenko, as a promising young historian, has remained to take a postgraduate course in the history of the peoples of the USSR. She received her diploma for her thesis on the role of Bogdan Khmel'nitsky, great Ukrainian political and military leader of the 17th Century.

★

This year the cultivated area of the Ukraine will be brought up to prewar level. Rehabilitation of the agriculture of this rich Republic is proceeding rapidly.

★

The first climate atlas of the USSR, now being prepared for press by the main Geophysics Observatory of the Soviet Union, will contain 450 maps giving detailed data on climatic conditions in all cities, regions and districts. The first section of the Atlas deals with the climate of the European USSR and the second with the climate of the Asiatic area. Some 50 experts, including climatologists of Leningrad, Moscow, Kiev, Kharkov and other cities, are working on the Atlas.

Builders of the new Moscow-Saratov gas pipeline have finished welding the first 340 meters of pipe.

★

Several thousand operations which have resulted in the restoration of sight to wounded Red Army men have been performed at the front, at the Red Army Ocular Hospital in East Prussia. This famous hospital is known as the "electromagnetic center," since foreign bodies are most frequently extracted from the eye by an electric magnet.

★

An anthology of Serbian poetry just published in Moscow includes works of outstanding poets of the 19th and 20th Centuries—Branko Radiczevic, Yakshic, Ilic, Stanmirovic and Emai Jovanovic, translated into Russian for the first time. Verse and songs by Serbian fighter poets reflect the heroic struggle of the peoples of Yugoslavia against the German invaders.

★

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has conferred decorations on the following generals and officers of the First Bulgarian Army: The Order of Kutuzov, First Class, upon Lieutenant General Vladimir Stoichev; the Order of Kutuzov, Second Class, on Major Generals Todor Toshev and Stoian Trendafilov and Colonel Tsonia Ganey, and the Order of the Red Banner on Major General Shcheria Atanossov. The awards were made for successful fulfillment of battle assignments of the Command in fighting the German invaders.

★

A lecture on "English and American Literature in Wartime" given in Moscow recently, was attended by a large audience, including Soviet writers and critics.

★

On his seventieth birthday, People's Artist of the Russian SFSR, Alexander B. Goldenweiser, Professor at the Moscow Tchaikovsky State Conservatory, was awarded the Order of Lenin for outstanding services in the field of music.

Telephone and telegraph communications between Moscow and the capitals and regional centers of Soviet Republics have been restored after the widespread destruction suffered during the German occupation. In one year workers have repaired or rebuilt 35,000 miles of communications lines, put up some 200,000 miles of wire and recommissioned over 1,000 large telephone exchanges in 49 liberated regions.

★

The Silver Star Medal of the United States has been presented at the front to Sergeant Alexander Aitlev, a heroic Red Army scout who has marched in the front ranks of the advancing Soviet forces since Stalingrad. Sergeant Aitlev wears the Silver Star next to the Soviet Order of Glory, the Medal for the Defense of Stalingrad and the Medal for Valor.

★

A research expedition to the Komandorski Islands has returned to Petropavlovsk, on Kamchatka. The expedition made excavations on the spot where the famous explorer Vitus Jonassen Bering, for whom the Straits dividing the USSR from the United States are named, once made a halt. Various historical objects, such as cast-iron cannonballs, grapeshot, and the equipment of a wrecked ship, were uncovered by the excavations.

Information Bulletin

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5

Berlin Is Encircled

PRAVDA wrote editorially, April 26:

Berlin is surrounded by Soviet troops. This news will flash around the globe like lightning, causing a new wave of admiration for the valor and skill of the Red Army. The Berlin operation strikes contemporaries with amazement; it will attract the closest attention of historians.

The Red Army during the past few years has been amazing the world with operations unparalleled in their scope and effect. The march on Berlin crowns a golden list of victories of Soviet arms.

Innumerable barriers stood in the way of the advancing troops; every foot of ground was protected by steel, concrete and fire. Every town, every farm, wood and river, was fortified and converted by the Hitlerites into strongpoints. To defend the eastern approaches to the capital, the German command mustered its shock divisions. Hitler hysterically issued one order after another, demanding that his troops hold out to the last man.

"Our lines of fortifications must be impregnable," yelled the bloodthirsty cannibal. Detachments of SS men were ordered to shoot all retreating troops. But all this proved futile!

Materializing the plan of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Soviet troops by powerful ramming blows shattered the enemy defense and dashed forward. Early in February the troops of the First Byelorussian Front captured a bridgehead on the western bank of the Oder, which the

Germans called the "river of German destiny."

On receipt of the order of the Supreme Command, troops of the front forced the river, and starting out from the bridge-

the First Ukrainian Front also swung into the offensive. In the course of the fighting they unexpectedly turned to the northwest, routed German forces which stood in their way, and broke into Berlin from the south. At the same time, mobile units of the front exploited this success, and yesterday, north of Potsdam, linked up with the troops of the First Byelorussian Front.

Thus the German group defending Berlin has been completely encircled. This operation reveals the wisdom of Stalin's strategic plan, and the maturity of Soviet military art. A most difficult operation of encirclement has been accomplished with amazing precision. The Red Army proved equal to the solution of this gigantic task.

Stalin's words to the effect that the Red Army finds more and more fresh forces for the solution of ever more complicated and difficult tasks, were once more brilliantly borne out. To the long list of gigantic pockets in which the Red Army has caught the enemy, the encirclement of Berlin has been added. The fascist beast has been trapped in his own lair. . . .

Today it is Berlin, capital of Hitlerite Germany, that has been encircled! The hornet's nest of the German invaders . . . is in a pincers of fire. Now the sword of inevitable retribution is hanging over Berlin—heart of fascist Germany.

Soviet troops in stubborn street fighting are advancing ever farther into the



MARSHAL JOSEPH V. STALIN

Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
of the Soviet Union

head made a gigantic leap toward Berlin. Part of our forces broke into and engaged the enemy in its streets, while other formations forged farther west, and then, having turned south, cut all roads leading from the capital of Germany to the west.

Almost simultaneously the troops of

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

heart of the German capital. The encirclement of Berlin seals the fate of the group defending it. The Berlin garrison is doomed; no power can pierce the steel ring of Soviet troops.

The encirclement of Berlin deals the German army a terrible blow—a blow not only of military, but also of moral and political significance. By this blow Germany has been split into pieces. Soviet troops hold fascist Germany by the throat.

IZVESTIA commented editorially on the same date:

... For the second time in history, Russian troops are capturing the German capital. But if during the Seven Years' War the Germans surrendered Berlin without a battle and delivered the keys to it on a velvet cushion, now Hitler has converted his capital into a battlefield and himself doomed it to destruction.

It was for the peace, security, welfare

and prosperity of nations that the Soviet people built their mighty state. It is to the awe of the enemies of the freedom and peace of nations that the Soviet sword has been forged. Now it has been driven into the heart of gangster Hitlerite Germany, so that the very idea of engaging in banditry should not occur to anyone anywhere. The Battle of Berlin serves as the greatest lesson added by the Red Army to the history of mankind.

They Were the First to Enter Berlin

By Roman Karmen, *Izvestia* War Correspondent

All who participated in and witnessed the mighty onslaught of Soviet troops on Berlin will always remember the dawn on the banks of the Oder, when the thunder of thousands of guns announced that the smashing blow had begun. I have watched the Red Army launch an offensive many a time, and have seen the avalanche of iron and steel rush down implacably upon the enemy. But never before had I witnessed such an overwhelming and innumerable array of men and materiel.

Night and day the ocean of steel poured along all the roads leading to Berlin. There were not enough roads, and with the roar of thousands of motors the stream overflowed into the fields and flooded meadows and gullies, woods and forests. It was clear that no power on earth could stem this sweeping tide.

The whole Soviet land was moving against Berlin—the Urals, Baku, the Donbas, Byelorussia and Moscow. Cannon thundered, engines roared, everything was in movement: tanks and generals' jeeps, fuel cars and smoking field kitchens, heavy tractors and staff radio stations. Officers with eyebrows and lashes white with dust straightened out the inevitable traffic jams at the crossroads. Snorting Studebakers crawled over hurriedly built crossings, carrying loads of shells. When a Focke-Wulf appeared in the air no one lay flat, because everybody knew it would not remain up for long. The harried and doomed bird of prey darted from side to side and then crashed on its own soil, shot down by a Soviet anti-aircraft gun.

One after another the field maps were changed on the officers' planchettes. At

last the long awaited page had been turned—the map of Berlin. On the gray paper ruled in squares, intersected by the blue ribbon of the Spree, the objects traced were no longer hills and woods, but the Reichstag, the Templehof, the Friedrichstrasse and the Kurfuerstendamm.

We followed in the wake of the troops, along roads over which the smoke of battle still hung. Gardens, cottages, vegetable plots and hothouses. . . . The German inhabitants of the Berlin suburbs. . . . They stand at the gates of their houses, watching the Soviet machines whirl past in clouds of dust. Each one looks at us in his own way. Some hang their heads with sullen faces; the majority gaze with curiosity mingled with the fear in their eyes.

The walls of the houses bear Goebbels' appeals hurriedly scrawled in white paint: "Every German will defend his capital; we will stop the Red hordes at the walls of our Berlin." Yes, try and stop them!

Steel pillboxes, barricades, mines, log-wall traps, suicide squads with Faust Patronen clenched in their hands—all are

swept aside by the avalanche of Soviet troops.

Near Bisdorf, field pieces are being installed, preparing to open fire.

"What are your targets?" I ask the battery commander.

"The center of Berlin, the bridges across the Spree, and the Northern and Stettin railway stations," he answers.

"Open fire at the capital of fascist Germany!" rings the command, and heavy volleys of the guns merge with the general roar. Hissing shells go hurtling into the heart of Berlin. I noted the time. These volleys of Soviet guns were fired into Berlin at 8:30 A.M., April 22. Ninety-six shells were fired in a few minutes.

Two hours later the tanks of General Krivoshtin streamed toward Berlin.

Let us remember forever the names of Guards Junior Lieutenant Kirillov, Guards Lieutenant Leonov and Captain Yurkevich. Honor and glory to them! Their tanks were among the first Soviet battle machines to drive into the streets of Berlin.

Soviet amphibian vehicles on the Second Byelorussian Front



Radiophoto

The Glorious Banners of Stalingrad Are Carried to Berlin



**Marshals of the Soviet Union
Who Carried Out the Plan for
the Encirclement of Berlin**

←
MARSHAL G. K. ZHUKOV, COMMANDER OF THE FIRST BYELORUSSIAN FRONT—twice Cavalier of the Order of Victory and twice Hero of the Soviet Union



→
MARSHAL I. S. KONEV, COMMANDER OF THE FIRST UKRAINIAN FRONT—Cavalier of the Order of Victory and Hero of the Soviet Union

The following is a report from the front by Vsevolod Vishnevsky, well-known Soviet writer, and I. Zolin, war correspondent:

None of us will ever forget that night. Twenty-three bridges had been thrown across the swollen Oder; motors roared in unison; pillars of heavy dust hung in the air. The glow on the western horizon grew bigger and bigger as more of our parachute flares lit up every nook and cranny of the German lines. Flare shells burst and lit up the sky; the earth trembled and over the German lines rose an immense fountain of smoke, earth and rocks.

Aircraft added their noise to the general din. The rails of the German front-line railway were twisted into hoops from the explosions of our bombs. When we took the line later, we found the German armored train "Berlin" standing intact in the town of Seelow, unable to move in either direction.

The gunfire made all conversation impossible, while the fires over the German side of the front burned more fiercely than ever. The Stalingrad Banner of a Guards Unit was brought to the forward trenches—Guards Senior Sergeant Mosolov, Guards Junior Sergeant Shmokov

and Guards Sergeant Shapovalov, all Cavaliers of the Order of Glory, carried the Unit's colors, embellished by the black and orange ribbons of the Order. The banner opened in the breeze and the face of great Lenin—a face filled with tremendous energy—was turned to the West, toward the enemy. These colors had been borne from the Volga to the very approaches of Berlin. Flashes of gunfire lit up the Order of the Red Banner fastened to the flagpole. . . .

The banner was carried slowly through the narrow trenches and the kneeling Guardsmen bent over and kissed the fringe of their colors. The ceremony was carried out in silence—there was no need for words.

The men were already in summer uniform, their field caps worn in Russian fashion, tilted over the right eye.

Suddenly the sky was lit up by a powerful searchlight, switched on as a signal. A few seconds later, a new and even more powerful beam was directed straight into the eyes of the Germans. Piercing the dense curtain of smoke and dust, it blinded the enemy and lit up the way for the Soviet infantry advancing to the attack. Signal rockets burst in all directions. . . .

The Guards were advancing over a level plain, tanks and self-propelled guns spitting fire ahead of them and leaving a dense trail of dust behind. The "trawler tanks" cut lanes through the minefields.

Surviving enemy gun positions spat streams of fire at the oncoming tanks and Red Army men, but the undaunted Soviet Guards advanced steadily, carrying red flags to plant on the heights that cover Berlin. The flags were carried in front of the troops, borne by the boldest and bravest. When one of them fell, his flag was immediately taken by another Guardsman. Corporal Igor Ivanov was badly wounded, but as he lay on the ground he waved his flag in the direction of Berlin, urging his comrades on. The flag, drenched in the corporal's blood, was taken and raised on a hill far away in the west. If you ask what hill, we don't know—we were moving on, nearer our goal.

By seven in the morning it was already daylight. Dust and smoke lay over us like a blanket, getting thicker every minute. Ahead of us still another red flag waved from a hilltop—planted by Guards Senior Lieutenant Nikolai Derevenko. . . .

Guardsmen Lukovets, Yuladashev, Shumarov and Legoshin, all veterans of

Stalingrad, pounced on a German gun, wiped out the crew. Panting heavily from their run across the country they swung the gun around and opened fire on the backs of the fleeing Germans.

The German defenses had been thoroughly and skilfully built. They consisted of a very intricate system of trenches, pill-boxes, blockhouses, dug-in tanks, hidden artillery positions, machine guns and light field guns in cellars, attics, sheds, etc.

At all points the attacking troops were met with deadly withering fire from their flanks. The fields were seared with ditches, many of them full of water; gardens were camouflaged with gun positions. Wherever you went—among the Brandenburg cornfields, orchards, greenhouses, railway embankments, woods, parks and cemeteries—you found they had been fortified; every inch of ground and every building was a link in the scheme of fortifications which had to be flattened, battered and destroyed by artillery barrage, by sudden infantry attack or by flanking maneuvers and encirclement. There were more German trenches than anybody had ever seen before. They not only surrounded the villages and railway stations, but even protected separate buildings. When the Germans retreated they had communication trenches to cover them while they moved to the next line of fortifications. The gunners kept pace with the infantry, dragging the guns themselves. Soaked in sweat and black from smoke, they struggled forward indomitably—*on to Berlin!*

The air is filled with German radio conversations. "My command post is surrounded." "Open fire." "I can't, because I can't see anything but dust and smoke from Russian shells." From the sky comes the low rumble of Soviet bombers.

We march forward over smashed bricks which lie so deep that our feet stick in the brick-dust. This was once a German village, but it had been converted into a solid fort. Soviet guns had left nothing of it but a heap of rubble. Trees had been uprooted, the pond was filled with debris and dust.

The troops continue their steady advance, carefully probing every hole in the villages. Anything foul may be expected of the Germans. In one village a white flag was hung out of the window.

Soviet troops stopped firing and a number of Hitlerites came out with their hands up. Then Soviet tanks arrived and a sergeant noticed that three Germans armed with "Panzerfausten" were hidden behind the group that surrendered, and were aiming at the tanks. He snapped out an order and the men with the Panzerfausten ceased to exist. In another place the Germans tried a new trick. A large group of Germans hoisted a white flag and surrendered. As they walked toward the advancing Soviet troops, one Red Army man noticed that all the Germans held their fists clenched. Each one of them had two small grenades with which to break the Soviet ranks. The entire gang was summarily dealt with.

On a dusty highway we questioned a group of prisoners. They had come straight from the zone of the Soviet barrage and still had not recovered their senses. They answered after a pause, articulating with difficulty. They were from an army camp at Doeberitz, some 25 kilometers west of Berlin. The Doeberitz division is one of those about which Hitler has been shouting. When we asked for details, we were told that these men were a replenishment battalion that had been sent to the front without arms. "We were told to take our arms from the wounded, but when we arrived in the trenches, we could see nothing—the smoke and dust hid everything from us. Then the Russians came. . . ."

Now and then a Messerschmitt would fly over the battlefield at 600 feet, hunting for baggage trains and wounded. This is what these "knights of the air," these "Richthofen" heroes, have come to. It was a pleasant sight to see one of these jackals of the air brought down by Soviet anti-aircraft guns.

We reached a new line. The signalmen, unsung heroes of this great battle, brought their telephone wires forward under enemy fire and strung up their line. The wounded were carried back. "The ——— wouldn't let me get to Berlin," shouted one of them. "Comrade Colonel, where are they taking us? Tell them to leave us here!" This refusal to evacuate is universal. This is the soul of the Russian speaking, after four years of fortitude, hope, labor and dreams. . . .

We crossed a plowed field with a bat-

tery commanded by a Georgian, Guards Captain Ushuradze. This splendid battery has fought all the way from Stalingrad to Berlin. There are scars and pock-marks on the gunshields—evidence of the brave battles that have been fought. Sergeant Alexei Toropov, a Siberian collective farmer, stands by his gun. He fought for the tractor plant at Stalingrad and wears three wound stripes. His face tells you. "We are advancing on Berlin."

Again the Germans are floundering in the dust and smoke as Soviet guns burn them out of their nests. The sun is hot. The great toilers of the war, the sappers, pass us by. They take part in attacks, they build, they dig, they throw up bridges, they blow up everything the Germans have built, even their trickiest fortifications on the ground or under it to a depth of 200 feet—such as those in the Oder fields of the Berlin fortified zone. And the same sappers build our roads. Right in front of us now, with the Messerschmitts whining overhead, they are constructing a viaduct so that the long columns of trucks won't be held up for a single moment on their way to Berlin.

There is a dull yellowish-gray haze around the sun. The battle becomes fiercer. Everyone on the Soviet side, from private to marshal—men in whose blood are more than a thousand years of the glory and intellect of Russia—know the full meaning of this battle. Hence the astonishingly accurate calculation which underlies every operation, the time given for each move, the gigantic nature of the preparations, the magnitude of the supplies—trains are constantly arriving at the Oder. And hence the great determination of all concerned.

There is a cloud of dust over the Berlin Highway. Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia march on. It is a great people that is marching along this road; a people whose indomitable will to victory has saved the world, has saved mankind.

Dust, dust, dust . . . nothing to drink, everything dried up, burned out. But nothing matters, we are going on to Berlin with lips black and parched. The distance to Berlin grows less and less on the signposts . . . the heavy guns pass us on their way to fire their first salvos into Berlin.

THE LAST LAP

By Captain A. Andreyev

The closer we came to Berlin the more numerous were the enemy's defense lines and the fiercer and more desperate his resistance. The German command hurled units from all parts of the front against the Soviet troops, and the final kilometers before Berlin presented such a concentration of troops, equipment and fire that to our airmen overhead the ground looked like an enormous ant hill, a milling mass of fire and movement.

If you crossed the Oder and climbed a hill on the left bank, there immediately spread before you from horizon to horizon the steep plowed field of battle. The many roads here could not hold the endless stream of advancing Soviet troops. Motorized columns swerved off to the fields, leaving new paths in their wake, while columns of Studebakers moved at top speed along the asphalt roads.

Day and night troops and baggage trains had been pressing forward. Day and night the furious north wind has been blowing without abatement. Whirls of dust sweep over the sandy soil and the horizon is covered with thick rust-colored clouds. The dust crunches between your teeth, gets into the folds of your clothing and penetrates everywhere. The men are terribly thirsty. But there is no water. The wells are blocked, wrecked or poisoned. The thick dust sheathes the soldiers' faces in a coat of grim, impenetrable armor, through which their eyes burn with impatience and determination to go on.

On the roads, trucks, tanks, and troops

without number are pressing inexorably toward Berlin, while ahead the Soviet artillery, aircraft and tanks, operating in close coordination, are at deadly grips with the enemy, piercing his fortifications and paving the way for our infantry.

Here at the walls of Berlin are fewer possibilities for tank maneuvers. The theater of military operations is limited. Nevertheless, the tankmen resort to all sorts of clever stratagems, striking sudden blows where the Germans least expect them.

One column of Soviet tanks and self-propelled guns was rolling on in a formidable wave of fire and armor. Suddenly the tankmen saw before them some civilians emerging from a tank pit. They came forward shouting. Among them were women with children in their arms, old people and girls.

"They are our people!" cried the tankmen.

The commander gave the order to cease fire. When the Germans saw that the Russians, Byelorussians and Poles were coming out of their shelters and running toward their liberators, they opened mortar fire. Women fell wounded, but continued to crawl forward. When the civilians had all passed through, our tankmen resumed their fire with even greater intensity, rushing on in pursuit of the Germans.

The tankmen, led by Hero of the Soviet Union Lieutenant General Kirichenko

who had fought the Hitlerites at the Orel-Kursk salient, on the Dnieper, and in Poland, were spurred on by a single thought, a single purpose—to break into the streets of Berlin as quickly as possible.

* * *

Berlin! We have reached it at last. Soviet anti-tank guns are lined up alongside a huge gray building on Berlinerstrasse, in the northeastern part of the German capital. This street leads to the center of the city. The battle rages in the distance. Infantrymen are storming the buildings, taking the final conclusive steps.

In the days when the Germans were pressing on Moscow, they studied the location of its squares and streets in preparation for a parade in Red Square. Berlin exulted then. But today Berlin has been converted into a vast battlefield. Entire blocks are enveloped in flames. A haze of gunpowder hangs over its streets. Its defenders, offering frenzied resistance, are retreating to the center to a spot where they have to either surrender or die.

Soviet regiments, battalions and companies covered a long road to Berlin; a road of privation and death, leading through fire and over impassable barriers. They left behind them signposts indicating the distance to Berlin. Perhaps it has become an ordinary thing to read in the newspaper articles of the traffic regulators on duty, flag in hand, in the streets of the German cities. But I simply cannot help mentioning that Nastya Smeta-



The Red Army freed 860 women from this German concentration camp in Brandenburg. British, American, Russian, French, Polish and Czech women had spent years behind the barbed wire of the camp



Radiophotos
In Elbing, East Prussia, Signals Sergeant Ivan Ulyashenko met his sister Alexandra. Before the war she was a school-teacher in Orel; in 1942 the Germans drove her into slavery in East Prussia



Marshal Konev's troops in Neisse—self-propelled guns break into the city



Soviet tanks and self-propelled guns rolling through Landsberg

Radiophotos

nina, a simple Russian girl, is now regulating traffic on the corner of a Berlin street, manipulating the colored flags in her capable hands as effectively as a conductor his baton.

Two days ago a nurse told me the following story. A wounded man was being carried from the field. The bandage around his head was stained bright red. The soldier's face was so pale that the freckles were clearly visible on it. He opened his eyes and stared upward. The blue sky over the battlefield was covered with white clouds like wind-blown sails. Suddenly he realized that he was being carried on a stretcher and his face twisted with pain as he sat up. The nurse and stretcher-bearer stopped.

"Lie still," said the nurse, "we will be there in a minute."

But the soldier slowly let himself down, then stood up, and touching the bandage on his head asked, "Where's my Tommy gun?"

"I have it," replied the stretcher-bearer, an elderly soldier.

"Give it to me."

"You can't," the nurse tried to stop him. "You can hardly stand on your feet."

The soldier glared at her. Then his lips curled into a smile, and in a low, determined voice he said, "I have been marching to Berlin all the way from Stalingrad." And adjusting his Tommy gun, he walked slowly back in the direction of the fighting.

This story comes to mind now when Soviet men are fighting in the streets of Berlin. Where is this tireless fighter at the moment? Is he running through a

labyrinth of unfamiliar streets, or firing from the window of some gloomy castle? Or, perhaps his commander has, after all, ordered him to a hospital? No one knows. But his deed is the finest testimony of the spirit of the Soviet soldiers now fighting in Berlin.

* * *

The Germans are putting up desperate resistance. On April 18, Berlin military institutions closed down and the students were dispatched to the forward lines. Next day the mobilization of all males from 15 to 65 was announced. SS men drove the recruits to the barracks, hastily formed them into battalions, and giving them cursory shooting instructions, sent the raw soldiers into battle. Meanwhile the German command continued to move the remaining reserve units at their disposal to the near approaches of the city. These units consisted of picked cutthroats who fight with particular ferocity—the desperation of the doomed.

One after another the defenses on the near approaches to Berlin gave way. Colonel General Bogdanov's tank troops and the infantry of Generals Kuznetsov and Berzarin broke into the city from the northeast. Simultaneously, Colonel General Katukov's tankmen emerged on the Spree, forced the river and broke into the German capital.

Barricades block the streets of Berlin. When the fighting draws near a given spot, the Germans drive tramcars loaded with stones to the apertures in the barricades left open for passage, thus creating a solid wall.

All the bridges in Berlin have been mined and are ready to be blown up. A large number of Volkssturm troops are taking part in the street fighting. But at the same time it must be borne in mind that many regular German units are made up of hardened bandits, who in dread of retribution for their crimes continue to offer furious resistance. They cling to every stone of the semi-demolished houses in the German capital.

But the Germans' efforts to hold out against the powerful Soviet onslaught are vain. The formidable voice of the Soviet artillery, the "God of War," thunders ever louder in Berlin. Ever stronger are the blows of Soviet aircraft. And our infantry are storming block after block with implacable ferocity.

The banner of victory will soon be waving over Berlin!

People Honor Soviet Marshals

In Marshal Konev's birthplace, the Druzhba collective farm, where the famous soldier spent his early years—and throughout the Kirov Region—a holiday atmosphere reigns. Marshal Konev's kinsmen, learning that his troops had broken into Berlin, flooded the village postoffice to hail him with congratulatory wires.

The youth of the village in a message to him vowed: "We will work still harder to bring nearer the hour of victory over Hitlerism." Spontaneous celebrations in Kirov factories are marked by special Stakhanovite shifts in honor of the Armies of Marshals Zhukov and Konev.

THE GROWING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND POLAND

PRAVDA wrote editorially, April 22:

A new and vivid page has been inscribed in the history of Soviet-Polish relations. On April 21, a treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration was signed in Moscow between the Soviet Union and the Polish Republic. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of this momentous document. It marks a turning point in the relations between the Soviet Union and Poland. As Stalin says, it puts an end to and buries once and for all the "old relations between our countries . . . and creates a real basis for replacement of the unfriendly relations by relations of alliance and friendship between the Soviet Union and Poland."

While it is an effective weapon against Hitler Germany in this war, the treaty is also designed to consolidate in the post-war period the relations of friendship and allied cooperation which have grown up between the USSR and democratic Poland. This means that Soviet-Polish cooperation, which has been steeled and tempered in the fire of the war of liberation against German imperialism, will be continued in support of the cause of the peace and security of nations and in order to remove any danger of a repetition of the aggression from which the peoples of the USSR, Poland and other peace-loving countries have suffered so drastically.

The Soviet and Polish peoples stand shoulder to shoulder in this fight; the historical community of interests of the Soviet Union and Poland, toward whose lands the German beast of prey had always turned a greedy eye, has been revealed as never before. The beast will be vanquished.

But this will not end all the problems which will confront the freedom-loving countries after they have overcome the German-fascist beast. Not only are the Soviet Union and Poland united by a common frontier; they both also border on Germany. For ages both countries have been menaced by the threat of German aggression. The German imperialists always regarded Poland as a corridor for

campaigns into the East, against Russia in the past and against the Soviet Union in our time. Twice in the last quarter-century Poland was attacked by the German aggressors, twice she served as a corridor for the realization of the piratical policy of *Drang nach Osten*. And it was with the campaign against Poland that Hitler started the present war.

Dire suffering and drastic trials have been the lot of the Polish people. They have drained to the dregs the bitter cup of Nazi oppression and experienced what the cannibal policy of extirpating the Slav nations means in practice. That bloody cannibal, Hitler, said: "By every means in our power we must work for the conquest of the world by the Germans. If we want to create our great German empire, we must first of all oust and exterminate the Slav peoples, the Russians, Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians. There is no reason why this should not be done."

And when they invaded Poland the German-fascist aggressors proceeded to carry out this monstrous program. Abandoned by their wretched leaders, who have refused to have relations of alliance with the Soviet Union and preferred a policy of playing up Germany against the Soviet Union, Poland was delivered into the hands of the Germans. The German-fascist butchers reduced Polish cities to dust and ashes, and exterminated millions of Poles.

The Polish people would not be subjugated. They stubbornly, persistently and

heroically fought the invaders. But it was beyond their strength to throw off the German-fascist yoke. The Soviet people extended the hand of fraternal assistance to the unhappy Polish people. Having routed the German armed forces, the Red Army carried hostilities beyond the frontiers of the Soviet Union and in conjunction with the Polish Army liberated Poland from the shackles of Nazi slavery. The flag of the Polish Republic waves over proud Warsaw, over Gdynia and Gdansk. The Polish people are drawing the breath of freedom and are filled with gratitude to the Soviet people and to the liberating Red Army.

The Polish people have taken their destiny into their own hands. They have turned their backs in contempt on the reactionary emigre clique and their wretched leaders, who have learned nothing and forgotten nothing. People and events in Poland have taken their own course. They have cast these ill-starred politicians, or rather, political tricksters, into discard, and have condemned them to political bankruptcy. In the fires of the war of liberation, a free democratic Poland has been born, before which broad and bright prospects have opened up for the reunion of the ancient Polish lands which at various times had been snatched by the German aggressors; prospects for the resurgence of a strong and independent Polish state.

The new Poland has arrived at a decision—a decision dictated by the logic of historical development—to put an end to

Barrels of heavy German guns seized by Soviet troops at Gdansk (Danzig)



Radiophoto

the artificially fomented enmity toward the Soviet people which was formerly kindled toward the Russian people. Only in friendship with the mighty Soviet Union, with the sister peoples of the great Soviet Union, can the Polish State acquire security and preserve its independence. This is now almost universally recognized in Poland and has found expression in the spontaneous movement for the conclusion of the treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar cooperation with the Soviet Union.

This movement sprang from the deep realization by the mass of the Polish peoples of the importance of friendly ties between the USSR and Poland, the realization that the conclusion of the treaty of friendship is dictated by the vital interests of the Polish Republic. This movement of the Polish people on behalf of the Soviet-Polish treaty met with friendly response from the Soviet public.

The peoples of our country, as Stalin said, "feel that this treaty is a pledge of the independence of the new democratic Poland, a pledge of her might, her prosperity."

This treaty is the first in the history of Poland and the Soviet Union—and before it, of Russia—to proclaim friendship and mutual assistance between the two Slav neighbors. Its first purpose is the earliest defeat of the enemy. "The high contracting parties," it states, "will continue jointly with the United Nations the struggle against Germany until final victory."

The fight for victory is intimately connected with the fight for lasting peace and security of nations. The fascist beast is now at its last gasp. It is the task of the freedom-loving countries not to permit any new act of aggression on the part of Hitler Germany or any other states which might unite with Germany in such aggression directly or in any other form.

The treaty imposes upon the parties the obligation to "participate in a spirit of the most sincere collaboration in all international actions aimed at ensuring the peace and security of nations," and to "contribute their full share to the cause of the materialization of these lofty aims."

It is stressed that in the application of the treaty the high contracting parties "will conform to international principles in the adoption of which both contracting parties participated."

Article IV outlines concrete and effective measures for the prevention of aggression. It provides for immediate rendering of military and other assistance by one contracting party to the other should it "find itself involved in hostilities with a Germany who would resume her aggressive policy, or with some other state which would unite with Germany directly or in any other form in such war."

Each contracting party obligates itself not to take part in any alliance or coalition directed against the other. The treaty provides for the broad cooperation which follows naturally from the present state of Soviet-Polish relations, with a view to the further development and consolidation of the economic and cultural ties between the two countries. The treaty has been concluded for a period of twenty years.

The Soviet people hail with the liveliest satisfaction the conclusion of the treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar cooperation with Poland. It is important as strengthening the United Nations engaged in mortal struggle with the German-fascist marauders.

"Now one may confidently say," (Stalin said on the occasion of the signing of the treaty) "that German aggression is besieged from the East. Undoubtedly if this barrier in the East is supplemented by a barrier in the West, that is, by an alliance between our countries and our Allies in the West, one may safely say that German aggression will be curbed and it will not be easy for it to run loose."

The treaty conforms to the fundamental and vital interests of both the USSR and Poland, which are united in the fight against the enslavers of the Slav peoples. The past, when the peoples of the USSR and Poland were disunited and faced each other as foes, to the advantage of the common enemy who exploited this animosity for his own selfish and unscrupulous interests—that past has been obliterated. Soviet-Polish friendship is cemented by the treaty forever, and becomes one of the major factors in the stability, peace

and security of nations. The Soviet-Polish treaty, like the treaties concluded by the Soviet Union with France, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, strengthens the foundation on which the edifice of future peace and security is being erected.

The Soviet-Polish treaty of April 21, 1945, will go down in the history of Soviet-Polish relations as an act of momentous importance, for it serves the common cause of the United Nations in the struggle against Hitler Germany, and makes for the strengthening of friendly ties between neighboring countries bound by common vital interests.

The treaty concluded on April 21 will undoubtedly meet with deep satisfaction among all who treasure friendship among nations, who passionately desire the earliest and complete defeat of the Hitler hordes, and who champion the peace and security of nations, for as Stalin said, it "signifies the strengthening of the united front of the United Nations against the common enemy in Europe."

Tula Again Makes Samovars

The famous Tula samovars are again being manufactured. Tula is renowned as the birthplace of the Russian samovar and Russian firearms. It ranks among the heroic towns of the present war; during the Battle for Moscow the German hordes almost encircled the city, only 120 miles from the Capital. The entire people took up arms and repulsed the enemy.

Information Bulletin

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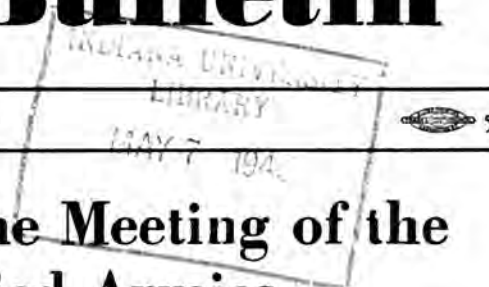
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Marshal Stalin's Broadcast on the Meeting of the Victorious Soviet and Allied Armies

The victorious Armies of the Allied powers, waging a war of liberation in Europe, have routed the German troops and linked up on the territory of Germany.

Our task and our duty is to finish off the enemy, to compel him to ground arms and surrender unconditionally. The Red Army will fulfil to the end this task and this duty to our people and to all freedom-loving nations.

We hail the gallant troops of our Allies now standing on the territory of Germany, shoulder to shoulder with Soviet troops, and filled with determination to discharge their duty to the end.

A HISTORIC EVENT

A special TASS correspondent reports on April 28 from the area of the link-up of the Soviet and Allied troops:

A historic meeting has taken place: striking at the common enemy from the East and West, Soviet and Anglo-American forces have linked up on the territory of Germany.

This is how the events of the last few days developed:

When Marshal Konev's Armies had smashed the Hitlerites' permanent defenses on the banks of the Neisse River, and after an unparalleled drive across wooded terrain abounding in lakes and rivers, approached the Spree River, the battle grew even more furious. Tank combats were almost incessant. Hundreds of

engines roared. The Germans could not stem the onslaught of our troops.

Soviet troops crossed the Spree and headed west to the Elbe. On April 22, the town of Bischofswerda, 25 kilometers northeast of Dresden, was captured. On the same day the troops of the front captured the town of Elsterwerda, northwest of Dresden.

While one group of Soviet troops was enveloping the enemy's Dresden group, forming a semicircle around it and pressing on to the Elbe, other Soviet formations advanced northwest along the Elbe.

Next day Marshal Konev's troops captured the towns of Muelder, Falkenberg and Essen. Continuing the pursuit of the retreating enemy, Soviet troops emerged

on the Elbe on a 50-kilometer front. Ahead lay the Mulde River; and beyond this river, formations of the First American Army were operating. Soviet and Allied vanguards were separated by a narrow corridor between the Mulde and Elbe Rivers.

The Germans were compelled to retreat north to Wittenberg and south to Dresden before the blows of the troops of the First Ukrainian Front in the East and of the Allies from the West.

The highway running from Leipzig to Frankfurt-on-Oder crosses the territory between the Mulde and Elbe Rivers. On the morning of April 25, two patrol groups moved toward each other along this highway. The Soviet patrols included men from the Third Company of the 173rd Infantry Red Banner Czesochowa Regiment and the 58th Infantry Red Banner Krasnodar Division of the Guards.

The scouts were led by Senior Lieutenant of the Guards Babychev, an officer of the battalion under Captain of the Guards Neda. The American patrol of the 69th American Infantry Division was commanded by Lieutenant William Robertson. During the day of April 25, in the western part of the town of Torgau, located on the Leipzig-Frankfurt-on-Oder highway west of the Elbe, the Soviet



Marshal I. S. Konev, Commander of the First Ukrainian Front, whose troops made the historic link-up with Allied forces—shown at a field observation post

Radiophoto

scouts met the soldiers of the American patrol.

This was the historic link-up of Soviet troops with Allied troops, which split the enemy front and cut off the Hitlerite armies in northern Germany from the Hitlerite armies in southern Germany.

On the same day, representatives of the Guardsmen, at the invitation of the Command of the American Division, visited its headquarters. The Assistant Commander of the 173rd Regiment, Major of the Guards Larionov; the Commander of the Second Battalion, Captain of the Guards Neda; Lieutenant of the Guards Selvashko, and Sergeant of the Guards Andreyev, were warmly welcomed by the American officers, headed by the Commander of the Division, Major General Reinhardt.

At 4 P.M., on the western bank of the Elbe, the Command of the Soviet and American Divisions met. On the Red Army side were present Commander of the 58th Division of the Guards, Major General of the Guards Russakov, and his Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Colonel of the

Guards Rudnik. On the American side were the Commander of the 69th Division, Major General Reinhardt; his Assistant, Brigadier General Marwest, and Chief of Staff of the Division, Colonel Pilinch.

American, English and French journalists and several newsreel operators were present at the meeting.

Major General of the Guards Russakov gave a reception for Major General Reinhardt and the persons who accompanied him in the area held by his division. At the reception both commanders exchanged greetings.

General Reinhardt said: "This is the happiest day of my life. I am proud and happy that my division was lucky enough to be the first to meet the troops of the heroic Red Army on the territory of Germany. Two great Allied Armies have met. This meeting will accelerate the final rout of Germany's armed forces."

Major General of the Guards Russakov replied: "The long-awaited and happy day has come. Two great Armies have

met on the territory of Germany. The heroic Red Army has traveled a long road of hard battles and glorious victories. The meeting of the Allied Armies is a great historic event in the struggle against Hitlerite Germany. Let this meeting be a guarantee of the quickest possible and final defeat of Hitlerite Germany and the establishment of a lasting peace."

Major General Reinhardt presented the Commander of the Soviet Division with the American national flag. The reception given by Major General of the Guards Russakov took place in an exceptionally cordial and friendly atmosphere. American generals and officers greeted the Red Army in the person of the officers of the 58th Division, and expressed their admiration of the heroic exploits and victories of the Russian Army.

At the reception Major General Reinhardt made a toast to the health of the leader and inspirer of the victories of the Red Army, Supreme Commander-in-Chief and Marshal of the Soviet Union Stalin.

THE FALL OF PILLAU

The enemy's last stronghold in East Prussia has been crushed. The enemy's Sammland army has ceased to exist.

Soviet troops have captured the important German port of Pillau, through which the Germans exercised control over the Baltic Coast. The Soviet forces resolutely and daringly overwhelmed the exceptionally powerful enemy defenses on the Peninsula. During the fighting some units overcame as many as 50 lines of trenches.

The port, which stands on a narrow tongue of land, is extremely difficult of access both from sea and land. Here the Germans had a naval base and shipyards. They continued their improvements of the defenses around Pillau until the last, building forts armed with very powerful guns and machine-gun nests. All approaches to Pillau from the land were seamed with trenches and anti-tank ditches. Timber barriers and minefields were encountered everywhere, and the city was prepared for street fighting.

The enemy concentrated large forces here, as well as numerous tanks, field guns

and motorized guns. The first day of the offensive brought great success to Soviet troops, who captured 28 strongpoints, wiped out 7,500 Germans and took 4,000

prisoners. Within 24 hours the Russian Air Force flew 6,000 sorties.

By a second blow Red Army troops carried 70 inhabited localities. After closing in on Pillau, Marshal Vasilievsky's troops crossed a narrow spit less than 1,500 yards wide, and by a converging blow from three sides, broke into Pillau.

Second Order of Victory to Marshal Vasilievsky

Marshal of the Soviet Union Alexander M. Vasilievsky, Commander of the Third Byelorussian Front, has been decorated with the second Order of Victory, highest Soviet military decoration. The honor was bestowed "For skilful execution of assignments of the Supreme Command in directing large-scale military operations, as a result of which outstanding successes were achieved in routing the German-fascist troops."

Marshal Vasilievsky directed the troops which 12 days ago annihilated the German army on the northern flank of the Eastern Front and captured Koenigsberg by storm.



Marshal A. M. Vasilievsky, twice Cavalier of the Order of Victory and Hero of the Soviet Union

STETTIN, THIRD LARGEST GERMAN PORT, CAPTURED AFTER FIERCE BATTLE

A KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent reported, April 27:

With the last bursts of shells and bombs which heralded the end of the remnants of Hitler's army in East Prussia, the entire front of Marshal Rokossovsky turned on its axis with the precision of a smoothly running machine. Thus began the offensive on the Stettin, West Pomerania and Mecklenburg Provinces, where Hitler's whole Northern Army is trapped. Stettin, largest German port after Hamburg and Bremen, has fallen.

During the war Stettin, situated far from both fronts, was converted into one of the greatest centers of the German war industry. Aircraft and automobile plants using Swedish ore and coal were established in Stettin; ship-building and machine-tool works, oil refineries and synthetic fuel plants were concentrated here. By the capture of Stettin the Red Army has dealt a fresh, most telling blow to Germany's war potential.

Having crossed the Lower Oder, Soviet troops smashed this important part of the German defense system. The Germans are clinging to every inch of Pomeranian ground, but are being forced to retreat.

A battle of exceptional ferocity for Stettin and West Pomerania flared up from the very first hours. The Hitler command ordered its northern forces to destroy at any cost the Russian crossings over the Eastern and Western Oder. At first the Germans tried to execute this order by using the Luftwaffe. But a strong Soviet fighter force and anti-aircraft action saved the bridges built by Soviet engineers. Not a single German bomb hit any of them. Special German crews and planes then began sowing floating mines in both rivers. Red Army engineers swiftly threw across special booms, in which the mines either got stuck or were exploded before reaching their targets.

Finally, the Germans devised a new method: they selected the best swimmers, equipped them with oxygen masks which allowed them to stay under water up to 60 minutes, and ordered them to



Marshal K. K. Rokossovsky, Cavalier of the Order of Victory and Hero of the Soviet Union

swim along the Oder at night, tugging delayed-action mines which they were to attach to pontoons and bridge piers. Not one of these men succeeded. They were discovered by Soviet night patrols; some were shot in the water and the rest taken prisoner.

The Germans had to be literally smoked out of their lairs. They had blown up both bridges on the motor road crossing the Eastern and Western Oder. Behind the seven-foot-thick walls of the piers of the first bridge, the Germans believed themselves perfectly safe. Neither shells

nor grenades could reach them here. Holding these forts, the Germans controlled the river.

A Soviet vanguard squad reached the eastern end of the bridge. Under their feet were the Germans, convinced of their invulnerability. The Red Army men took off their coats, their cotton-padded jackets and woolen underwear, made a bundle of them, set them on fire and stuck them into the embrasures. One of the German garrisons rushed out and surrendered; the other perished in the smoke.

The advance across the Oder was led by Marshal Rokossovsky's infantry. A huge wooden landing fleet had been built, including a "mosquito flotilla" of one-man rowboats. Shielded by a heavy gun barrage, the first wave of infantry forced both rivers on a wide front. Several hours later the enemy launched furious counterattacks, throwing tanks and motorized guns against our forces. Soviet artillery, while still on the eastern bank, threw up a solid fire screen, allowing infantry vanguards to consolidate the bridgeheads on the western bank.

At a precisely calculated moment, the Soviet Command introduced tanks. They were followed by a flood of the infantry's second echelons. The German command threw fresh reserves against Rokossovsky's troops, but failed to stem the Soviet advance. Having breached the front on the Lower Oder, Soviet forces have already advanced more than 20 miles along a 40-mile front.

Motorized units of the Red Army advancing in the Stettin direction



Radiophoto



Soviet cavalry on the march; (right) Inhabitants of the Czechoslovak village of Nizhne-Skalnik give a warm welcome to a scout of the Second Ukrainian Front

Brno Liberated

By P. Sintsov and A. Kostin
PRAVDA War Correspondents

The fate of Brno was decided several days ago when Soviet infantry and mechanized units forced the Morava River, swept along the roads to the north and northwest, and penetrated into the territory of Morava. The capture of Godonin was a heavy blow to the Germans and a harbinger of the speedy liberation of the whole of fraternal Czechoslovakia.

Pursuing the enemy, Soviet troops reached the approaches to Brno, where heavy fighting broke out. The Germans put up stiff resistance in this area; their orders were to hold Brno at all cost. The eastern and southern approaches to this economically important center of Czechoslovakia were covered by formidable defense lines set up along the river and running through swampy terrain. In addition, the enemy concentrated a large number of tanks and self-propelled guns at several points.

It seemed that a frontal attack on Brno was impossible. However, assault groups of the advancing Soviet columns, supported by the artillery and Air Force, crushed the stubborn enemy resistance.

The weather was ideal for air operations, and Stormoviks and fighters literally hung over the area, attacking enemy concentrations on the roads. The ground trembled from explosions. Advancing together

with infantry and cavalry units, Red Army artillerymen directed point-blank fire at the counter-attacking mechanized units of the enemy.

Cossacks Attack

Cossack troops again distinguished themselves in the fighting for Brno. Cossack cavalrymen led by Senior Lieutenant Mersalikov broke into a village occupied by the Germans and raced down the main street, slashing out at the enemy right and left with their sabers. More than 50 Nazi soldiers were wiped out in this whirlwind attack.

Junior Lieutenant Chigintsev was one of the mounted heroes of the fighting in this village. Among the first to leap over an enemy trench, he struck down seven German soldiers.

The Cossacks dismounted and beat off two violent counter-attacks. They held the village until the main forces came up. There was a moment when the Germans surrounded Lieutenant Novikov who was severely wounded, attempting to capture the Cossack officer, but Lieutenant Ibragim carried Novikov to safety.

Two Cossacks, Sepishenya and Zubov, dashed up to a small railway station on the approaches to Brno and captured a German anti-aircraft battery. Five enemy gun-

ners raised their hands and surrendered; the rest were struck down.

Thanks to effective coordination of all branches of the advancing forces, the Soviet infantry battered through the German defenses and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. German soldiers of the 107th Sapper Brigade captured during the breaching of the enemy defenses say that their unit was completely routed.

Lieutenant Kurt Mueller, commander of a sapper company, said: "We lost two-thirds of our men and practically all our guns and heavy machine guns in the first two days."

Capturing strongpoints in brief but furious engagements, Soviet cavalry and tank units forged ahead rapidly, spreading panic and confusion among the Germans. The German command rushed more reserves to the defense of Brno, but could not check the advance. Soviet forces routed the enemy and soon intercepted three lateral roads running from Brno to Prague and Austria. Developing their offensive operations, the advancing units threatened the German garrison in Brno from the west.

With the fall of Brno the Germans have lost another large city and important strongpoint of their defenses in Czechoslovakia.

THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

The following was written by Pavel Ozhevsky, Doctor of Geographical Science, Academy of Sciences of the USSR:

1. Location and Territory

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is located in the southwestern part of the East European plain. The Ukraine stretches almost 700 kilometers from north to south, and over 1,300 kilometers from west to east. Its territory covers nearly 565,000 square kilometers, which is greater than the territory of Italy or France, exclusive of their colonies.

In the west the Ukraine borders on the central axis line of the Continent of Europe. The blue waters of the Danube wash the Ukraine where it borders on Rumania, and the swift Dniester forms a border between the Ukraine and the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic. Between the Ukraine and Poland and Czechoslovakia lie the wooded peaks of the Carpathians. Between the Ukraine and her northern neighbor, fraternal Byelorussia, are the beautiful woodlands of Polesye, and in the east are the woods and steppes of the Ukrainian plain.

The southern borders of the Ukraine are washed by the waters of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, over whose calm broods the Crimean Taurides and the sparkling heights of the Caucasus.

2. Natural Resources

Over 250 minerals have been discovered in the Ukraine. Of ninety elements of the Mendeleyev Chart, 80 have been found in the Ukraine. The Republic is one of the foremost countries in the world in deposits of iron and manganese, kaolin, labradorite, coal and such rare elements as zirconium, niobium, tantalum and mercury. The resources of iron ore in the Krivoi Rog basin (including ferrous quartz) are as high as 100 billion tons; deposits of hematite ore with a 62 per cent metal content, now being tapped, are estimated at one and one-half billion tons. The Nikopol manganese deposits contain half the resources known in the world today.

The Donets coal basin is estimated to contain 89 billion tons of coal. Deposits of oil and large deposits of gas have been

discovered in the regions of the Carpathians, on the left bank of the Dnieper and in the Azov Sea basin.

The wealth and variety of the Ukraine's mineral deposits may be judged from its host of mines, which produce lignites, peat, bituminous shale, ozocerite, dolomite, limestone, marble, labradorite, quartzites, phosphorites, chalk, gypsum, asbestos, graphite, pegmatite, sulphur pyrites, non-ferrous and rare metals, minerals and radioactive waters and mud, sodium and potassium salts, etc.

The Ukraine is a land of rare wealth, a happy combination of various mineral raw materials for the different branches of modern metallurgy and chemistry and the power industries. The Ukraine is the richest country in the world in deposits of kaolin (used in the china and aluminum industries). To these riches are added three million horsepower in water resources.

The country has a rare climate and soil. Much of the latter is fertile black earth and the valleys of a number of its rivers have rich alluvial soil. A mild, warm climate (the average temperature in July is 19 degrees Centigrade in the north and 23 degrees in the south), and even and sufficient rainfall make for favorable conditions for the development of intensive agriculture and a variety of plant cultures. The Ukraine has the greatest per cent of soil under cultivation in Europe. Among the grains grown are wheat, barley, corn, rye, oats, rice, buckwheat and millet, as well as various legumes, vegetables, melons, and technical crops (sunflower, flax, hemp, sesame, tobacco, potatoes, cotton, essential oils plants, and others). Sugarbeet and wheat growing in the Ukraine must be given special mention. Before the war, the Ukraine ranked first in the world in volume of sugarbeet grown and sugar produced. Production of sugarbeet was 20 per cent higher than in the United States. Its volume was 18 million centners.

Orchards and vineyards flourish in the Ukraine. Prior to the war there were 300,000 hectares of orchards and 90,000 hectares of vineyards.

3. Population and Culture

The population of the Ukraine before the war was 40 million, of which 30 million were Ukrainians. There were slightly more than four million Russians, 2.8 million Jews, and 2.5 million Poles.

The population of the Ukraine was equal to that of France. A peace-loving and work-loving people, seasoned in the struggle against nature and external foes, the Ukrainians flourished. Before the war there were 29,878 schools with six and one-half million students, 41,000 libraries, 26,000 clubs and 130 theaters. Its 148 institutions of higher learning and seven universities served 130,000 students, almost 30,000 more than in fascist Germany.

The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, the country's center of scientific knowledge, united 26 scientific research institutes. The names of such Ukrainian scientists as Academicians Bogomolets, Filatov, Kholodny and Lysenko are known to the entire scientific world.

During the first two Five-Year Plans alone, the higher schools of the Ukraine trained more than 110,000 specialists. The increase of the technical intelligentsia and scientific cadres was accompanied by a rapid general increase in the country's productive forces.

4. The Economy of the Ukraine

A complete transformation of the country's industry and economy took place. Hundreds of new factories were built and equipped with the most modern machinery. By 1940 the industry of the Ukraine had increased eleven times as compared with 1913 figures, and the volume of production reached 22 billion rubles. The entire country was covered with a dense network of large and small power stations. The largest hydroelectric power plant in the world, with a capacity of 810,000 horsepower, was built at the crossing of the most ancient roads of mankind, on the rapids of the Dnieper.

Machine building became a leading factor in the country's economy, having increased 40 times over the figure for 1913. The Ukraine became a country of metal, machines, coal and chemistry. Its factories produced super-powered loco-

motives, turbines, tractors, the most complex lathes, slabbing and rolling mills, ships, airplanes and combines.

Agriculture did not lag behind industry. The successes achieved in socialist agriculture were enormous. In 1940 there were 26,919 collective farms in the Ukraine, 1,225 machine and tractor stations, and 875 model State farms.

The collective farms had 112,000 stock farms. The fertile fields were plowed by over 74,500 tractors and the harvests were reaped by 27,000 combines. There is no country in the world with such high mechanization of field work. In territory sown to wheat the Ukraine was first in Europe and third in the world, surpassed only by the United States and the Russian SFSR. The sharp rise in harvests increased the earnings and well-being of the collective farmers. There were millionaire farms (farms with an annual income of over a million rubles) in many districts of the Ukraine.

The Ukraine accounted for one-third

of the carloadings in the USSR. The country had 15,000 kilometers of railroads. Its cities were losing their trading and artisan character and were becoming mighty cultural and industrial centers. Kiev and Kharkov each had a population of nearly a million. Odessa, Mariupol, Nikolayev, Kherson, Berdyansk and Ismail were at once large seaports and the country's health resorts. The features of Stalino, Dniepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye and Voroshilovgrad bespoke their industrial might. Lvov, Chernovitsy, Chernigov and Poltava were again becoming large cultural and economic centers.

5. The Ukraine in the War Against Fascism

The Ukrainian people rose to a man when the Hitlerite hordes perpetrated their treacherous attack. The people knew that their future well-being demanded the destruction of the fascist beast. Temporary seizure of the lands of the Ukraine by the German vandals did not mean the

subjugation of the people. Millions of Ukrainians joined the Red Army; hundreds and thousands of Ukrainian guerrillas fought in the rear of the foe. The Hitlerites turned the Ukraine into a prison, covered the land with gallows and concentration camps, shot, poisoned and suffocated in death vans or burned hundreds of thousands of people.

They reduced to ruins the cities of Kiev, Odessa, Poltava, Stalino, Kharkov, Chernigov, Zhitomir, Belaya Tserkov and others, and thousands of Ukrainian villages.

The gallant Red Army drove the enemy from the sacred soil of the Ukraine. And like a phoenix the Ukraine is rising from its ashes, mightier and more beautiful than before. The war is not yet ended, but by the end of 1944 almost all of the country's metallurgy plants had been restored. Fifteen large power plants are again functioning, and the whole country is helping to rebuild the Dnieper hydroelectric plant. In 1945 the sown area will reach the pre-war figure.

Public Health Services in the Ukraine

By Illarion Kononenko

People's Commissar of Health of the Ukrainian SSR

Built up during the years of socialist construction, the public health network of the Ukrainian SSR had by the beginning of the present war developed into a powerful state organization. Its work was based on the principles of concentration on prophylactic measures to prevent disease, free medical treatment for all, and the enlisting of wide cooperation of the general public.

An idea of the scope of these services may be seen in the fact that in 1941 the medical institutions of the Ukraine were staffed by 93,900 people, including 29,700 doctors. Corresponding figures shortly before the great October Socialist Revolution were about 5,000 doctors and 10,000 other medical personnel.

The Ukrainian Republic had a chain of medical schools and universities for training medical workers. In 1941 there were nine medical institutes, two pharmaceutical and two stomatological colleges with 25,700 students. The annual contingent of graduates exceeded 3,500. In 1941 more than 45,600 students were

attending 199 medical schools, which graduated 21,000 specialists annually. The vast number of medical workers trained in these schools made it possible to satisfy fully the demands of the health service in the Ukraine, and also to send a considerable number of trained nurses and other personnel to other Republics.

The Ukraine's 49 scientific research institutes successfully solved problems of urgent importance for medical theory, clinical practice and war surgery.

Functioning in Ukrainian towns and villages in 1941 were 1,932 hospitals with 129,000 beds, some 6,000 dispensaries and polyclinics and more than 10,000 minor dispensaries and health centers. There were 2,445 rural medical centers in the Republic and the majority could serve as models in the organization of medical and sanitary service in the countryside under collective farm conditions.

A tremendous decrease in tuberculosis, skin and venereal diseases was achieved. Chancroid completely disappeared, and cases of syphilis declined by 90 per cent

as compared with 1913. Fresh cases of syphilis were very few and were rapidly disappearing. Important successes were achieved in the struggle against the spread of gonorrhea.

The Ukraine and the entire Soviet Union were justly proud of the network of organizations built up in the Republic during the years of socialist construction for the protection of mother and child. In 1941 the Ukraine had 1,647 mother and child health centers; 632 milk kitchens, maternity homes with a total of 31,000 beds, 2,700 permanent nurseries with accommodations for 130,100 youngsters, 25,200 seasonal nurseries, etc. This development was fully in line with the exceptional attention paid in the USSR to mothers and to the bringing up of the young generation.

A large number of sanatoriums and rest homes were built; by 1941 the Republic had more than 400 sanatoriums and 173 rest homes maintained by health authorities, trade unions and other organizations. Every year more than 100,000

working people availed themselves of the facilities for treatment offered by the Ukrainian health resorts, and more than 300,000 spent their vacation in Ukrainian rest homes. Some 900,000 children were accommodated annually in Ukrainian sanatoriums and rest homes.

Statistical data showed a continuous improvement in public health protection. The rate of disease was declining steadily and the demographic indices of physical development pointed to great improvement. Illustrative in this respect are the figures on the growth of population in the Ukraine. The increase from 1919 to 1941 was 21.6 per cent (and 22 per cent for the whole of the USSR).

Effects of German Occupation

The German invaders caused great damage to public health in the Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of civilians were murdered or deported for slave labor. The spread of tuberculosis, skin and venereal and highly infectious diseases attained exceptional proportions.

The network of medical and prophylactic institutions almost completely ceased to exist during the occupation period, and a considerable section of it was destroyed. The remaining medical institutions introduced payment for treatment. Prophylactic vaccinations against smallpox and diphtheria were not practiced. According to preliminary estimates, the material damage caused to the public health services in the Ukraine exceed two billion rubles.

The invaders also caused heavy damage to the municipal and public utility services. All this brought about a drastic deterioration in sanitation on occupied territory. In all liberated cities and districts of the Ukraine, highly infectious diseases were rampant.

Restoration of Health Services

That is why rehabilitation in every liberated city and village began with the restoration of health services. So far, 766 sanitation and epidemiological centers, 4,500 dispensaries and polyclinics and 6,000 gynecological and first-aid stations have been restored. The public health network is being steadily expanded and now has more than 86,400 hospital beds.

One hundred and ninety-six dispen-



Maria Fedulova, a worker, receiving "Solux" treatment at the polyclinic of her factory

saries and wards with 3,790 beds, and sanatoriums with about 4,000 beds have been set up for the treatment of tuberculosis. Special country schools for children suffering from this disease and homes for tubercular invalids have been opened. Institutes engaged in the study of tuberculosis have been restored in Kiev, Kharkov and Odessa. Together with scientific research and clinical treatment, these institutions are helping to improve and expand the network of institutions combating tuberculosis.

The Republic now has 701 child health centers and 344 milk kitchens; nurseries with 57,300 beds and many other health institutions for children in both town and country. Last year, 721,400 children were accommodated in 20,700 seasonal nurseries. The number of beds in maternity homes has been brought up to 8,800. All organizational and material requisities have been created for the complete restoration and further improvement of the network of services for mother and child.

Much effort has been put into the restoration of the educational and scientific-medical institutions in the Ukraine. As a result, eight medical, one stomatological and three pharmacy institutes, three post-graduate institutes for doctors and one for pharmacists have already been restored. The medical colleges in the Republic now have a student body of more

than 16,000, and a further 16,000 enrolled in 75 reopened medical schools. Forty-six restored scientific research institutes are working on urgent problems of wartime sanitation, theoretical and clinical medicine, and aiding the public health authorities with advice in this restoration period.

The greatest attention is being paid to sick and wounded soldiers and commanders of the Red Army. Hospitals are provided with the best equipment, housed in the best buildings and staffed with the most efficient personnel.

The Ukraine is well on the way to complete restoration of its public health services, but the damage caused to the health of the Ukrainian people and the medical network is enormous and will require considerable effort on the part of the Republic, and further fraternal aid from the peoples of the USSR. The Ukrainian people appreciate mightily the aid rendered by our great Allies which is striking an expression of solidarity in the struggle for complete victory over the enemy of mankind. Contact between the scientists and medical institutes of the Ukraine and the Allied countries will doubtlessly help in a further and even more successful solution of the urgent problems of medicine for the benefit of mankind.

I am convinced that in this field, too, the peoples of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America will display unity in the pursuit of their progressive aim.

Mobile Power Stations

The People's Commissariat of Power Stations has sent 30 new mobile power stations to the liberated districts. These stations have already played a vital part in restoring Stalingrad, the Donbas, the Crimea, Zaporozhye, Krivoi Rog, Gomel, Minsk and other cities. They are mounted on two to eight standard platform cars and have a capacity of 500 to 4,000 kilowatts. They invariably follow in the wake of the advancing Red Army. Since the first days of the offensive mobile stations have traveled to the front with the armored trains and have rendered invaluable service to tank and truck repair shops, supplying them with power.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE UKRAINE

By Academician Pavlo Tychina

People's Commissar of Education of the Ukrainian SSR

It would be difficult to form an estimate of the entire damage suffered by our country during the German occupation. The losses inflicted on the public education system of the Ukraine alone amount to 2 billion rubles. Over 8,000 elementary schools were destroyed, as was the home of that citadel of Ukrainian culture, Kiev University, planned by the famous architect Bereti.

Among outstanding scientists who received their education and worked there were the historians Maximovich, Kostomarov and Antonovich; the mathematicians Burkeyev and Grave; the Ukrainian composer, Nikolai Lisenko, and many others whose names are famous in the annals of science and culture. The greatest of Ukrainian poets, Taras Shevchenko, once worked at the University; the same poet who in the days of monarchic absolutism in Russia foretold the splendid future of our people. In his poem "Urodiviy," he takes us to the distant shores of free America, to that fighter for freedom, George Washington, and his "new and just laws."

Kharkov and Lvov Universities, which are among the oldest in Europe, suffered heavily at the hands of the invaders. The fascists plundered and destroyed the school and university study halls, laboratories and libraries, and burned millions of books and valuable manuscripts.

Soviet education flourished in the Ukraine after the inauguration of Soviet power. The once backward and illiterate colony of Tsarist Russia was transformed into a land of 100 per cent literacy, one of the most advanced and cultured Republics of the Soviet Union. Before 1917, only one-fifth of our children were able to study. The Revolution flung wide the doors of elementary schools and institutions of higher learning to all the children of the working people.

In 1914 we had but 19,568 schools accommodating 1,678,000 students — one and one-half million of whom were never sent beyond elementary school. A complete transformation had taken place by the outbreak of the present war. The number of schools had grown to 29,878, and

a correspondingly great qualitative change had taken place. The former three-year school, which was the average in prerevolutionary times, had given way to the Soviet incomplete secondary and secondary schools, with seven-year and ten-year courses of study, respectively. There were six and one-half million children studying in the schools of the Soviet Ukraine prior to the war, an increase of about 3.8 as compared with 1914.

The character of the school as an institution of learning had also changed. Here is one of thousands of typical cases. In 1905, in the village of Velikaya Dymarka, Kiev Region, the education inspector reported after a visit to the school: "113 pupils in all; only six are girls. Three teachers; one a teacher of Scriptures."

One year later the same inspector reported that the number of pupils had fallen to 82, that only two of them were preparing for graduation examinations and that there had been no increase in the number of books in the library or of visual aids.

Compare this with the same school in Dymarka, 1940. It was then a secondary school with 700 students. Instead of three teachers, there were 23; the school was equipped with physics, chemistry and biology laboratories and a splendid library.

We swept away the old half-rotten huts in which the school was housed before the Revolution, and in the years of Soviet power built 7,000 well-equipped schoolhouses with spacious, light and comfortable class rooms and laboratories. Before the war our schoolchildren had all the literature and school supplies they needed. For teachers they had an army of 238,000 competent men and women. The higher school system experienced a similar rapid growth. On the eve of war the Ukraine had 148 institutions of higher learning.

The aim of the Soviet school is to instill in its pupils the finest qualities of honesty, courage and love for work. A considerable part of the study program of our school system is devoted to the heroic past of our people; its literature, raised to great heights by Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Lesaya Ukrainka and Kotsubin-

sky; to the literature of the great fraternal Russian people as represented by Pushkin, Belinsky, Leo Tolstoy and Maxim Gorky; and the literature of other peoples of the Soviet Union.

Our student youth have always been profoundly interested in the cultural achievements of the progressive peoples of the world. They are particularly interested in the culture of the American people. As far back as the 18th Century the well-known Ukrainian thinker, poet and pedagogue, Grigori Skovoroda, spoke in his work of "the American Socrates" — Benjamin Franklin. American writers are popular with our students and their teachers, and our pedagogical press follows the new pedagogical thought in America closely.

The cultural ties of the Ukrainian people with the peoples of the world are strengthening, particularly during the present struggle against fascism. An evidence of this is the correspondence established between our teachers and students and those in the United States.

There are 25,931 schools functioning in the Soviet Ukraine today, with a student body of 4,500,000. Our teachers and schoolchildren are still experiencing great difficulties caused by a lack of school supplies, textbooks and literature. However, like the entire Soviet people they are confident they will overcome these temporary hardships in the shortest possible time.

Information Bulletin

EMBASSY OF THE
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Information Bulletin

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Washington, D. C., May 5, 1945

Stalin's Order of the Day

May 1, 1945, No. 20: Moscow

Order of the Day of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief

Comrades Red Army men and Red Navy men, sergeants and petty officers, officers of the Army and Navy, generals and admirals! Working people of the Soviet Union!

Today our country is celebrating May First—the international holiday of the working people. This year the peoples of our Motherland are celebrating May Day in the conditions of the victorious termination of the Great Patriotic War.

The hard times, when the Red Army fought back the enemy troops at Moscow and Leningrad, at Grozny and Stalingrad, are gone, never to return. Now our victorious troops are battering the enemy's armed forces in the center of Germany, far beyond Berlin, on the Elbe River.

Within a short time Poland, Hungary, the greater part of Czechoslovakia, a considerable part of Austria and her capital, Vienna, have been liberated. At the same time the Red Army has captured East Prussia—spearhead of German imperialism—Pomerania, the greater part of Brandenburg, and the main districts of Germany's capital, Berlin, having hoisted the banner of victory over Berlin.

As a result of these offensive battles fought by the Red Army, within three or four months the Germans lost over 800,000 officers and men in prisoners and about one million killed. During the same period, Red Army troops captured or destroyed up to 6,000 enemy airplanes, up to 12,000 tanks and self-propelled guns, over 23,000 field guns, and enormous quantities of other armaments and equipment.

It should be noted that in these battles, Polish, Yugoslav, Czechoslovak, Bulgarian and Rumanian divisions successfully ad-



Drawing by B. Karpon
Marshal Joseph V. Stalin

vanced against the common enemy side by side with the Red Army.

As a result of the Red Army's shattering blows, the German command was compelled to transfer dozens of divisions to the Soviet-German front, baring whole sectors on the other fronts. This circumstance helped the forces of our Allies to develop a successful offensive in the West.

Thus by simultaneous blows at the German troops from East and West, the troops of the Allies and the Red Army were able to split the German forces into two isolated parts and to effect a junction of ours and the Allied troops in a united front. There can be no doubt

that this circumstance means the end of Hitlerite Germany.

The days of Hitlerite Germany are numbered. More than half her territory is occupied by the Red Army and by the troops of our Allies. Germany has lost her most important vital districts. The industry remaining in the Hitlerites' hands cannot supply the German army with sufficient quantities of armaments, ammunition and fuel. The manpower reserves of the German army are depleted. Germany is completely isolated and stands alone, if one does not count her ally—Japan.

In search of a way out of their hopeless plight, the Hitlerite adventurers resort to all kinds of tricks, down to flirting with the Allies in an effort to cause dissension in the Allied camp. These fresh knavish tricks of the Hitlerites are doomed to utter failure. They can only accelerate the disintegration of the German troops.

The mendacious fascist propaganda intimidates the German population by absurd tales alleging that the Armies of the United Nations wish to exterminate the German people. The United Nations do not set themselves the task of destroying the German people. The United Nations will destroy fascism and German militarism, will severely punish the war criminals, and will compel the Germans to compensate the damage they caused to other countries. But the United Nations do not molest and will not molest Germany's peaceful population if it modestly fulfils the demands of the Allied military authorities.

The brilliant victories won by Soviet troops in the Great Patriotic War have



demonstrated the heroic might of the Red Army and its high military skill. In the progress of the war our Motherland has acquired a first-rate regular army, capable of upholding the great socialist achievements of our people and of securing the State interests of the Soviet Union. Despite the fact that the Soviet Union for four years has been waging a war on an unparalleled scale demanding colossal expenditures, our socialist economic system is gaining strength and developing, while the economy of the liberated regions, plundered and ruined by the German invaders, is successfully and swiftly reviving. This is the result of the heroic efforts of the workers and collective farmers, of the Soviet intellectuals, of the women and youth of our country, inspired and guided by the great Bolshevik Party.

The World War unleashed by the German imperialists is drawing to a close. The collapse of Hitlerite Germany is a matter of the nearest future. The Hitlerite ringleaders who imagined themselves the rulers of the world have found themselves ruined. The mortally wounded fascist beast is breathing his last. One

thing is now required—to deal the death blow to the fascist beast.

Soldiers of the Red Army and Navy! The last storming of the Hitlerite den is on. Set new examples of military skill and gallantry in the concluding battles. Smite the enemy more heavily, skilfully break up his defense, pursue and surround the German invaders, give them no respite until they cease resistance. When beyond the border of your native land, be especially vigilant! Uphold the honor and dignity of the Soviet soldier as heretofore!

Working people of the Soviet Union! By persistent and indefatigable work, increase the all-round assistance to the front. Swiftly heal the wounds inflicted on the country by the war, raise still higher the might of our Soviet State!

Comrades Red Army men and Red Navy men, sergeants and petty officers, officers of the Army and Navy, generals and admirals! Working people of the Soviet Union! On behalf of the Soviet Government and of our Bolshevik Party I greet and congratulate you on May First!

In honor of the historic victories of

the Red Army at the front and of the great achievements of the workers, collective farmers and intellectuals in the rear, to mark the international holiday of working people, I hereby order:

Today, on May First, a salute of 20 artillery salvos shall be fired in the capitals of the Union Republics: Moscow, Kiev, Minsk, Baku, Tbilisi, Erevan, Ashkhabad, Tashkent, Stalinabad, Alma-Ata, Frunze, Petrozavodsk, Kishinev, Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn, as well as in the heroic cities of Leningrad, Stalingrad, Sevastopol and Odessa.

Long live our mighty Soviet Motherland!

Long live the great Soviet people—the victor people!

Long live the victorious Red Army and Navy!

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in the battles for the freedom and independence of our Motherland!

Forward to the final rout of Hitlerite Germany!

(Signed)

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

The Banner of Victory Flies Over Berlin

PRAVDA wrote, May 3:

The banner of victory has been raised over Berlin! May 2, 1945, will go down in the history of humanity as the date of the victory of freedom and civilization over sanguinary German imperialism.

The great Stalin's words have come true—the banner of victory flies over Berlin! The Red Army has won a great historic victory. Its arms are blessed today by all freedom-loving peoples, by all who desire peace and freedom. With fire and steel it is searing out the ulcer of fascism.

The victorious Red Army has captured Berlin where were hatched the plans of the destruction of states and the extermination of peoples; from whence came the deadly menace to all humanity, to world civilization. The Red Army is fulfilling its noble mission, executing the sentence of history.

Fascism, which intended to turn the wheel of history backward, to make the world return to medievalism, to impose

upon it its sanguinary dictatorship, its slavish "new order," its ideology of beastly nationalism—is dying in the pulverized streets of Berlin. The fascist adder is writhing in its last convulsions.

The fall of Berlin is the greatest triumph of the Soviet Union, the triumph of our people marching in the vanguard of the struggle of freedom-loving peoples against fascism—for freedom and independence, for democracy, for peace between nations. The fall of Berlin is the triumph of the Red Army. The fall of Berlin is the triumph of Stalin's military art.

This is the greatest event in history. The Red Army men and all Soviet people knew: We will come to Berlin; we will be in the German capital! We believed in this even in the hardest times. We believed in our victory, for we knew that ours was a just cause. We believed in our victory because we knew the great and insurmountable strength of our so-

cialist State, knew the might of our socialist industry and socialist agriculture, knew what heroism the great Soviet people—guided by the Party of Lenin and Stalin—is capable of.

There was a time when in their dull ignorance and blind malice the Hitlerites proclaimed the Soviet Union a "geographical conception." Now even the most thickheaded Germans understand with what a powerful state and with what a people Germany ventured to match forces, and how utterly she miscalculated in her plans and estimates.

Our troops are in Berlin. They came to the fascist capital fully armed. They beat the fascist army by the superiority of their forces and their military equipment. They won by the superiority of their military experiences, by the superiority of the Stalin tactics and strategy. The fall of Berlin also symbolizes the great victory of the ideology of our people, the ideology of the equality and friendship of peoples.

over the ideology of beastly nationalism of the Hitlerites.

Our great holiday has come. We believed in its advent, we fought for it. The toilers of the Soviet rear, whose nationwide effort in the name of the Motherland has no parallel, share the glory with the Red Army soldiers.

The end of the World War unleashed by the Hitlerite imperialists is near. The Red Army and the Armies of our Allies will within the shortest time finish off fascist Germany, compel her to ground arms and surrender unconditionally.

Our Motherland finishes the war full of strength, at the peak of her creative

possibilities. She has brilliantly coped with her historic mission. She has endured the most difficult trials of this war, unparalleled for its scope. The forces of our State have grown immeasurably. During the war our entire people has rallied even more closely and firmly around its glorious Party of Lenin and Stalin.

In the Conquered Capital of Nazi Germany

The thunder of battle in Berlin which lasted for 10 days has ceased. The entire city is draped in white flags. No sooner had the advancing troops of the Red Army and the artillery batteries, in conformity with the terms of unconditional surrender, ceased to fire than the streets of central Berlin were filled with enemy battalions, heading for the places indicated by the Soviet Command for the surrender of arms.

German officers and men climbed out of cellars, basements, bunkers and subway stations, and with white flags marched silently across the city, escorted by our Tommy gunners.

The center of Berlin is a solid camp of German troops who surrendered and ceased resistance. The columns of war prisoners marching in the Berlin streets stretch for several kilometers.

The squares resemble arsenals. After surrendering arms, the Germans, under command of their officers, march from the center to the collecting depots on the outskirts. Officers and men sullenly look at the ruins of their capital. The faces of the majority reflect only animal fear and malice. But some are beside themselves with joy now that the fighting has ended.

But in general the Germans in the

marching columns are in a depressed mood. Stunned by Soviet artillery and air attacks, they cannot recover their senses. We looked closely at the people in the ruined streets . . . a grayhaired colonel passes; two soldiers lead a wounded major. At the side of the German columns march captains, oberleutnants and lieutenants. Behind plod soldiers, police and SS men, the latter having already torn the fascist signs and emblems from their uniforms. Among troops and Volkssturm members are many grayhaired old men in spectacles and boys of 15 to 16.

This scene is repeated in every street, endlessly. We asked Captain Heinrich Schultze: "What did the Germans hope for by continuing resistance?" "We had no hope," he muttered. "But we were ordered to hold out. SS men stood behind us and fired at our backs."

"But how could we withstand your artillery and aviation?" asked Lieutenant Otto Brung, who stood nearby. "Your guns and planes harassed us even underground."

German Command Believed Berlin Defense Impregnable

A TASS correspondent present at the interrogation of Major Otto Kutzitz, one

of the builders of the Berlin defenses who was taken prisoner several days ago, reports:

The German major declared, "The defense of Berlin is impregnable. Representatives of the German high command have just inspected all fortifications and found them perfect. You have reached the outskirts of the city, but this is a mere accident. You will not be able to take a single step farther. The defense is so powerful it cannot be smashed—this is beyond human possibility."

After the capture of Berlin, Paul Ludemann, an officer of SS troops commanding one of the Berlin garrisons, stated: "The German defense was adapted to repel frontal attacks. You struck at us from the rear and the flanks. Had you launched a frontal attack you would never have been able to defeat my garrison."

There is no doubt Ludemann's garrison would have been crushed even by a frontal attack, as was the case with several of his neighbors, but the Soviet Command directed the battle so as to reduce the casualties of our troops to the minimum, and to increase those of the enemy to the maximum.



Soviet tanks advancing on Berlin



Red Army artillerymen in the German capital

Radiophoton



Red Army Victories in Czechoslovakia and Austria Marked by Award of Order of Victory to Marshals of the Soviet Union Who Executed Plan of Supreme Command

←
MARSHAL RODION Y. MALINOVSKY,
COMMANDER OF THE SECOND
UKRAINIAN FRONT—Cavalier of the
Order of Victory

→
MARSHAL FEDOR I. TOLBUKHIN,
COMMANDER OF THE THIRD
UKRAINIAN FRONT—Cavalier of the
Order of Victory



THE HOUR OF GREAT TRIUMPH

Tributes of Soviet People to the Conquerors of Berlin

Vladimir Komarov, President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and Hero of Socialist Labor:

Words cannot express my feelings in the hour of this great triumph. We have been awaiting it for almost four years. The efforts of the heroic Soviet people and its Red Army in the Great Patriotic War will be studied by scientists of many generations. We contemporaries and participants of the great victory clearly realize at this solemn moment that without the Red Army, without its gigantic achievement, progress would have ceased; social thought would have been burned out and trampled under foot.

To humanity, knighthood is a synonym of fearlessness, heroism and noble aspirations. The Red Army men, heroes of the Patriotic War, are true knights. Not sparing their blood or lives they have saved world civilization, to which fascism carried a deadly menace. The victorious storming of the German capital is the apotheosis of the unsurpassed heroic effort of the Red Army.

At this happy hour the scientists of our Motherland, like the entire Soviet people, send the Red Army and its wise Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal of the Soviet Union Stalin, their most

sincere expressions of love, admiration and gratitude.

Glory to the conquerors of Berlin!

The President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian Republic, Professor Dr. Augustus Kirchenstein:

Today I look at my rejoicing people, at beautiful, ancient Riga, and think, "What would have been Latvia's fate without the Soviet system, without the Red Army, without Stalin. . . . I am 73; I have lived a long life; I have seen much. This day is the most significant my country has ever known. The German invader who for seven centuries sucked the blood of my people will never again return to us!

Bright images of the fighters for a better lot for the industrious Latvian people arise before my eyes. Their lives, their struggle against the Germans who came from the West, were not in vain. Latvia with her quiet lakes, her plowlands yielding bread because they have been watered with the sweat of generations of Latvians; her dreams, her legends, her yearning for and faith in happiness, has forever bound her destiny with the destiny of the peoples under the banner of Lenin-Stalin.

Now this banner—your banner, Latvia—is victoriously flying over Berlin.

Nikolai Burdenko, Hero of Socialist Labor and President of the Academy of Medical Sciences:

Our heroes—the Red Army men—have struck crushing blows at the very heart of fascist Germany. The city, nest of the criminal fascist ideas and sanguinary designs against the entire world, has fallen. This is the victory and the triumph of historical truth.

Fedor Tokarev, Hero of Socialist Labor, designer of automatic weapons:

I belong to the old generation of Russian intelligentsia. Like many people of my generation I witnessed the selfless courage of the Russian soldier, the unbending firmness of the Russian man in years of severe trial. But never in my long life have I happened to be a participant and eyewitness of such nationwide patriotic effort for the glory of our motherland as in our days. Never before did the Russian fight with such passion, such hatred of the enemy.

The enemy has been thrown into the dust. The capital of fascist Germany has fallen. Can there be a greater satisfaction for me than the realization that there is a part of my many years of labor in the victory, that my automatic arms made the Red Army soldier even stronger and helped him to defeat the fascist beast.

Speech of V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR

At the Session of the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco on April 26, 1945

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On instructions of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics I would like, in making this first statement on behalf of the Soviet delegation, to express to the Government of the United States of America and to Secretary of State Mr. Stettinius personally, my government's deep gratitude for the tremendous amount of preparatory work carried out prior to this Conference and for the perfect organization of the United Nations Conference. At the same time I seize this opportunity to express the Soviet delegation's most sincere gratitude to the Honorable Mayor of the City of San Francisco, Mr. Roger Lapham, for the cordial hospitality extended to the delegation in this city.

The Soviet Government attaches great importance to the International Conference in San Francisco. The end of the war has drawn near—at least in Europe. The rout of Hitler Germany, the principal aggressor in this war, has become a fact. The time has come to take care of the postwar period—of the future.

This Conference is called upon to consider the problem of setting up an organization to protect the general peace and security of nations after the war. Hence the responsibility resting upon this Conference is very great indeed.

Today as on many other occasions we must remember once again the great name of President Franklin Roosevelt. His services in the struggle for the achievement of a lasting peace and in the preparation of this historic Conference have been widely acknowledged by all peace-loving nations.

The Second World War by far surpassed the First World War in the scope of military operations, in the size of armies involved, in casualties, in immeasurable destruction, and in the unusually severe consequences for the life of many peoples. Hitler Germany which unleashed

this war shrank from no crimes in trying to impose her domination of Europe in the attempt to pave the way for the world domination of German imperialism. Mass murders of children, women and old men; the extermination of nations in their entirety; the wholesale destruction of



Vyacheslav M. Molotov

peaceful citizens who were not to the liking of fascists; the barbaric destruction of culture and of men prominent in cultural fields; the destruction of many thousands of towns and villages; the dislocation of economic life of entire nations and the other incalculable losses cannot be forgotten. In the past German fascism not only openly prepared its armies and armaments for a piratic attack on peaceful countries, but Hitlerism cynically adapted the ideology of many millions of people in its country to the purpose of achieving domination over foreign nations. This purpose was also served by

the illiterate misanthropic theories of "the German master race" in whose service foreign nations were supposed to be.

Long before directly attacking its neighbors Hitlerism had openly prepared a criminal war which it unloosed at a moment of its own choice. It is well known that Hitlerism found unscrupulous henchmen and sanguinary accomplices. It is also well known that when German fascism, which had made an easy tour of Europe, invaded the Soviet Union, it faced an unflinching adversary. The country of Soviets which has saved European civilization in bloody battles against German fascism now, with good reason, reminds the governments of their responsibility for the future of peace-loving nations after the termination of this war. This is all the more necessary because before this war the warning voice of the Soviet Republics was not heard with due attention.

This is no time to explain at length why this happened. It cannot be proved that there was no desire to prevent war. It has been fully proved, however, that the governments which once claimed a leading part in Europe manifested their inability, if not their reluctance, to prevent this war, with consequences with which it will not be so easy to cope.

The Conference is called upon to lay the foundations for the future security of nations. This is a great problem which has thus far been impossible to solve successfully. Anybody knows that the League of Nations in no way coped with this problem. It betrayed the hopes of those who believed in it. It is obvious that no one wishes to restore a League of Nations which had no rights or power, which did not interfere with any aggressor preparing for war against peace-loving nations and which sometimes even lulled the nations' vigilance with regard to impending aggression. The prestige of the League of Nations was especially undermined

whenever unceremonious attempts were made to turn it into a tool of various reactionary forces and privileged powers. If the sad lessons of the League of Nations have to be mentioned now, it is only so that past errors may be avoided—errors which must not be committed again under the guise of new profuse promises. It is impossible, however, to count indefinitely on the patience of nations if the governments again manifest their inability to set up an international organization to safeguard the peaceful life of people, their families and young generations against the horrors and hardships of new predatory imperialist wars.

The Soviet Government is a sincere and firm champion of the establishment of a strong international organization of security. Whatever may depend upon it and its efforts in the common cause of the creation of such a postwar organization for the peace and security of nations, will readily be done by the Soviet Government. We will fully cooperate in the solution of this great problem with all the other governments which are genuinely devoted to this noble cause. In spite of all obstacles, we are confident that this historic goal will be achieved by the joint effort of peace-loving nations.

The work which was carried out at Dumbarton Oaks last year and which is well known to all of us, is an important contribution to this cause. Representatives of the United States of America, Great Britain, China and the Soviet Union outlined such principles of an international security organization as will constitute an important basis for an international organization of a new type. Quite recently at the suggestion of the great President Franklin Roosevelt, the Crimea Conference adopted important supplements to this draft. As a result, this Conference has a sound basis for successful work.

Naturally, the new organization of international security will be built up on the foundation laid in this war by the United Nations.

It is well known that a great coalition of democratic powers came into being in Europe in the strenuous struggle against the common enemy. The formation of the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition ensured the rout of German fascism and its

henchmen. The other nations of Europe led by this coalition have been fighting for their liberation. The coalition of great powers with their inflexible will to defend their national rights and to promote the liberation of all nations which fell victim to sanguinary aggression is consummating the task of defeating the enemy of all the United Nations. This coalition has been able to accomplish its mission because it was conscious of its historic responsibility and because it possessed immense manpower and material resources which were invariably used in the struggle against the enemy. But we must always bear in mind that prestige is easily wasted, if certain elementary things such as the lessons of the League of Nations, or the lessons of this war in which the democratic nations rallied against an imperialistic power which considered itself master of Europe and which intended to impose its will well-nigh on the whole world, are forgotten.

This coalition was forged in the fire of struggle and rendered a great service to the cause of the United Nations. It must be admitted that the presence in this coalition of such a country as the Soviet Union where relations between great and small nations are based on equality and true democracy is of extremely great importance. On the other hand, one can hardly overestimate the active part played in this coalition by the United States of America, which had remained aloof from the problems of an international organization but which is now devoting to this cause its initiative and its enormous international prestige. This coalition would have been impossible without Great Britain, which holds an important place in the international association of democratic countries. China in Asia and France in Europe are the great nations which strengthen this coalition as a powerful world factor in the postwar period.

If the leading democratic countries show their ability to act in harmony in the postwar period as well, that will mean that the interests of peace and security of nations have at last received protection and have been provided with a sound basis. But that is not all. The point at issue is whether other peace-loving nations are willing to rally around these leading powers to create an effective in-

ternational security organization, and in the interests of the future peace and security of nations. This must be settled at this Conference.

An international organization must be created having certain powers to safeguard the interests of the general peace. This organization must have the necessary means for military protection of the security of nations. Only if conditions are created such as will guarantee that no violation of the peace or the threat of such violation shall go unpunished and that the adoption of necessary punitive measures is not too late, will the security organization be able to shoulder its responsibility for the cause of peace. Thus the point at issue is the creation of an effective organization to protect the general peace and security of nations, for which all the sincere partisans of the peaceful development of nations have long been yearning, but which has always had many irreconcilable enemies in the camp of the most aggressive imperialists.

After the innumerable sacrifices made in this war and after the suffering and hardships of these past years, the urge of nations for the establishment of such an organization has become particularly strong. The opponents of the creation of such an international organization have not laid down their arms. They are carrying on their subversive activities even now, though in most cases they are doing it in a veiled and camouflaged form. For this purpose they frequently use the most ostensibly democratic watchwords and arguments, including the professed protection of the interests of small nations or of the principles of justice and of the equality of nations. But in the long run it does not matter what reasons or pretexts have been used to sabotage the establishment of an effective security organization of nations. If even this time no such effective organization is created to protect the postwar peace, this will be another indication of inability to cope with this great problem by using the available forces. But that will not prove that the necessity for such an organization has not yet arisen and that such an organization will not ultimately be set up.

We must not minimize the difficulties of creating an international security organization. With our eyes closed we can-

not find the right road. We must warn of these difficulties in order to overcome them and in order to find at last a safe road to march ahead toward this noble objective by avoiding illusions. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, I should like to assure this Conference at this time that in our country the people are brought up in a spirit of faith in, and devotion to, the cause of setting up a solid organization of international security. I should also like to assure this Conference that the Soviet people will readily lend their ear to the voices, wishes and suggestions

of all sincere friends of this great cause among the nations of the world.

You know that there are millions of people in the Soviet Union who know how to defend their Motherland to the last by means of arms. At the same time the people of our Soviet country are especially devoted with all their hearts to the cause of the establishment of general peace and are willing to support as best they can the efforts of other nations to create a reliable peace and security organization of nations. You ought to know that as far as safeguarding the peace and

security of nations is concerned, the Soviet Union can be relied upon. This great cause is resolutely backed by our peace-loving people, by the Soviet Government and the Red Army, and by our great Marshal Stalin. It is a most important task of the delegation of the Soviet Government to express these sentiments and thoughts of the Soviet people.

I shall conclude my statement by expressing a fervent wish that our joint work at this Conference may be crowned with success.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO

Alexander S. Popov, Russian physicist and electro-technician who invented wireless telegraphy, was born in the Urals on March 9, 1859. He was a brilliant student at St. Petersburg University, and after graduation stayed on to do research work in the Physics Department. In 1883 he began teaching at the Naval College in Kronstadt.

From his student days Popov had devoted himself to the problem of long-distance wireless telegraphy. On April 25, 1895, he addressed the Russian Physico-Chemical Society with a paper dealing with his invention of a new apparatus capable of receiving electromagnetic waves—the antenna. The following year he succeeded in transmitting a short message of two words with his apparatus—this was the first radio-telegram in history. Somewhat later, in 1897, he was able to establish radio communication from shore with a ship at sea. One of his early radio-telegrams was instrumental in saving the lives of a group of Baltic fishermen who were carried off to sea on an ice floe.

Thus, in 1895, Popov justly claimed that he had solved the problem of wireless telegraphy in essence and that it only remained for him to perfect the technical apparatus of his invention in order to achieve its practical application. The Naval Ministry, however, tied his hands by refusing to grant him more than the miserly sum of 300 rubles for further research.

Following this, the Italian Marconi, drawing on Popov's invention, produced



ALEXANDER S. POPOV
Russian physicist who invented wireless telegraphy (radio) in 1895

his apparatus and claimed the honor of taking the initial step in wireless telegraphy. A special commission was set up, in which a number of prominent scientists participated, to investigate the question. The commission, which met while Popov was still alive, confirmed on the basis of documentary evidence the Russian scientist's claim to priority in the discovery of wireless telegraphy.

In 1901, Popov was appointed Professor of Physics at the St. Petersburg Electro-Technical Institute and four years later was elected Director of the Institute. But his health was undermined by his unceasing struggle to bring his work to fruition, and shortly after, on January 13, 1906, he unexpectedly died.

Alexander Fortushenko, author of the following article, is Chairman of the All-Union Scientific and Technical Society of Electrical Communications, and Assistant People's Commissar of Soviet Communications:

The Soviet Union is preparing to mark the fiftieth anniversary of radio, one of the most outstanding achievements of modern technics. Drawing upon the works of Faraday, Maxwell and Hertz, the Russian scientist Alexander Stepanovich Popov invented the radio as a means of communication, demonstrating it on May 7, 1895.

Radio communication in pre-revolutionary Russia, however, lagged considerably behind similar developments in other countries. This was due to Russia's lack of a suitable industrial base, and to underestimation of the radio by Tsarist officials. At the outbreak of the First World War there were only a few radio factories in Russia, and they belonged to German and British firms. A few antiquated radio stations were in operation.

In the first days of Soviet power, with brilliant foresight V. I. Lenin attributed exceptional importance to the radio as a means of guiding the broad masses, with the aim of organizing them, and as a most practical means of communication.

Lenin's first broadcast, known as "Calling All the People," in November, 1917, was unquestionably the first large-scale radio hookup of its kind attempted anywhere in the world. The first Russian radio fans were the operators at the receiving stations of the Army and Navy and

the People's Commissariat of Postal and Telegraph Service. After receiving the address of the head of the Soviet Government, they passed the news on to their comrades. This in itself had a tremendous effect upon the people.

Lenin devoted particular attention to the development of the radio-telephone. He was certain that this would ultimately place radio within the reach of the masses.

In his letter to M. A. Bonch-Bruyevich, head of the Nizhni-Novgorod Radio Laboratory of the People's Commissariat of Post and Telegraph Service in 1918, Lenin wrote: "... The newspaper without paper and 'without distance' that you are making will be a great thing. I promise you all possible aid in these and similar efforts."

Inspired by Lenin's interest and attention, the Nizhni-Novgorod Radio Laboratory achieved notable successes in the design and production of radio tubes. It was here in 1919 that the first powerful tubes—with copper anodes and water-cooled—were constructed. These subsequently became the principal type of high-power radio tube.

The same laboratory in August, 1922, completed the most powerful radio station of the time, 12 kilowatts, in Moscow. It is noteworthy that plate voltage was already modulated in this station. As is known, this is the most common method of modulation today.

A 100-kilowatt radio broadcasting station was completed in Moscow in 1929. In 1933, a 500-kilowatt station was completed. On the eve of the Second World War the Soviet Union held first place in Europe for total power of its radio broadcasting stations.

On Stalin's instruction, a new and up-to-date station, the most powerful medium-wave station in the world, was constructed during the Patriotic War.

Like Lenin, Joseph Stalin has always devoted careful attention to the development of radio in the Soviet Union. Radio construction held an important place in the Stalin Five-Year Plans. During the Second Five-Year Plan, the number of broadcasting stations had grown from 57 to 88. Now there are more than 100 radio broadcasting stations on the great territory of the Soviet Union. Daily broadcasts from these stations are made in 70

languages of the Soviet Union, thereby contributing to the further development of the national cultures.

The broadcasts of the central station in Moscow are relayed by dozens of other stations and thousands of radio centers in all cities and large settlements. These radio centers are now hooked up to more than five million loudspeakers. If war had not intervened, their number would have reached eight million.

The practical development of radio television was begun on the eve of the war. Up-to-date radio television centers were operating in Moscow and Leningrad.

Radio communications have developed proportionately. During the four years of the First Stalin Five-Year Plan, the power of the main short-wave transmitters increased by 2.8 times, and the number of radio communication lines within the various regions by 22 times. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, more messages had been transmitted by radio in the USSR than in any other country in the world.

The technical level of radio communication in the Soviet Union is indicated by the fact that transmitting speeds in the USSR are the highest in the world.

For the past 25 years the Soviet Union has successively held first place in the world for the power of its broadcasting stations. Soviet scientists are pioneers in ultra-short-wave transmission.

Another indication of the level of Soviet radio technics is the telephoto service maintained between Moscow and New York. The Soviet apparatuses, which were improved in 1943, yield better results than others in use. This has accelerated the speed of transmission. A photo 190 mm. by 290 mm. can at present be transmitted in 15 minutes. Radio communications between Moscow and New York, moreover, are made difficult by the enormous distance (the difference in time between New York and Moscow is seven hours), and the fact that the lines of radiation pass near the North Pole.

The importance of radio has grown immeasurably in the modern warfare of maneuver, where large forces of aircraft, tanks, mobile artillery and other mechanized units are equipped with radio receivers and transmitters. Radio has be-

come the most reliable means of directing troop movements at the front. Soviet radio technique has played a large part in enabling the Red Army to become one of the most mobile armies in the world.

The examples cited above illustrate that by the fiftieth anniversary of A. S. Popov's invention, radio technics have overcome the period of backwardness in pre-revolutionary Russia and have attained a leading place. This was achieved mainly owing to the attention accorded to the development of radio in our country by Lenin and Stalin personally and by the Soviet Government. Another factor facilitating the development of radio in the Soviet Union has been the creative talent of the Soviet people, who have brought forth a brilliant group of outstanding scientists and radio engineers.

By a decision of the Soviet Government, May 7 will be celebrated annually as "Radio Day." A monument to Alexander Popov will be erected in Leningrad and an obelisk set up on Gogland Island in the Gulf of Finland, where Popov's wireless station was used for the first time in history to save the lives of the crew of a wrecked ship.

An Alexander Popov Gold Medal has been instituted, to be awarded annually to a Soviet or foreign scientist for outstanding scientific work or invention in the sphere of radio. The badge of "Honorary Radio Worker" has also been instituted for persons who have contributed to the development of radio and broadcasting.

Information Bulletin

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Harris and Ewing

PRESIDENT TRUMAN



Sovfoto

MARSHAL STALIN



Harris and Ewing

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL

VICTORY!

PRAVDA wrote editorially, May 9:

Victory! The Great Patriotic War has ended victoriously! Hitlerite Germany has been completely routed by the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies.

The German-fascist army exists no longer. The Hitlerite bandit state has been smashed to pieces.

A new page in the history of humanity has begun. Written in golden letters on this page are the deeds of the heroes of the Red Army. Glory to the Red Army; glory to the liberator of nations! Glory to the creator of the victory of the Red Army—glory to the great strategist, the wise leader, Stalin!

The holy and just cause of the freedom of nations, of their independence, their collaboration and friendship, has triumphed over fascist brutality. Futile were the attempts of the enemy to split the nations

in their struggle against Hitlerite Germany.

Great is the triumph of the Soviet people. In the hard days of war, Marshal Stalin said that our day would come. And now this holiday has come, in the splendor of spring, in the bright rays of our victory.

Today, for the first time, the guns will cease firing on the fronts in Europe. The happy day for which the peoples of our country have been waiting for nearly four years has come.

We greet you, our heroes at the front, fearless defenders of our Soviet Motherland! You have won glory eternal. You have demonstrated to the world what the Red Army is capable of.

We greet you, selfless toilers of the rear! By your unparalleled labor you have covered your Motherland with glory. You have demonstrated to the world what the

Soviet State, created by Lenin and Stalin, is capable of.

We sing glory to the immortal memory of our heroes who have fallen in the struggle for the freedom and independence of their country. Their exploits, their selfless struggle, will serve as an example for generations.

With us, the victory of the Red Army is celebrated by the nations of Europe which it has liberated. The defeat of Hitlerite Germany has demonstrated that there is no enemy power which could withstand the onslaught of the United Nations, inspired by the noble ideals of the defense of civilization, culture and democracy.

We are proud of the fact that to the Red Army, to our entire people, belongs the main, the decisive part in the debacle of the German-fascist invaders. Powerful

and inexhaustible are the forces of the Soviet State. The Soviet people emerges from the Great Patriotic War steeled in battles, a strong people.

With love the people surveys its country. A great work lies ahead. The historical victory has been won, the enemy is crushed, but the fruits of victory must be consolidated. "But winning the war is not in itself synonymous with insuring for the

nations lasting peace and guaranteed security in the future," Marshal Stalin said. "The thing is not only to win the war but also to render new aggression and new war impossible, if not forever then at least for a long time to come."

Victory has not come of itself. It has been won by the selflessness, heroism and military skill of the Red Army and the entire Soviet people. It was the great

Stalin who led us to victory. Our holiday of victory is the triumph of the freedom-loving nations. The nations of the world know to whom they owe their salvation from destruction, from fascist slavery.

Long live our Motherland! May she shine among the nations of the world—bulwark of their independence and freedom!

Long live our great Stalin!

The Soviet Motherland Rejoices

In less than an hour after the radio announced the unconditional surrender of Germany, Moscow was decked in flags. Thousands milled about in Red Square. They sang, embraced each other and shook hands. Every greeting was caught up by hundreds of voices.

"Long live Stalin! Hail to victory!" resounded through the Square. The crowd made room for dancing, and the Lezginka, the Ukrainian Hopak and Russian dances began.

A young Red Army officer with four decorations on his breast was seized by dozens of hands and enthusiastically tossed into the air with "Hurrahs!" Many Red Army and Red Navy men were similarly tossed; the people expressing their love and gratitude to the defenders of the Motherland. Unexpectedly for such an early hour, the sound of children's

voices was heard and a column of youngsters carrying red flags marched singing into the Square. Reaching the center they halted, and turning toward the Kremlin began the "Cantata to Stalin," in which everyone in the Square joined.

At that moment windows in the Kremlin Palace were flung open and from them came a reply to the cheers of the crowds, evoking a fresh outburst of applause.

Other squares and streets of Moscow were filled with happy throngs. On Kalanchevskaya Square, where three of the big Moscow railway stations are situated, a large group of passengers who had just arrived from Siberia, the Ukraine and Soviet Central Asia gathered around the loudspeakers.

A middle-aged major spoke to a lieutenant colonel: "I left Moscow for the front on June 22, 1941, from this very

station. And today, for the first time since the war began, I am again in Moscow. I couldn't have dreamed of a happier day to return."

At daybreak a small client came to the Central Telegraph Station. Rising on his toes he could hardly reach the operator's window, but he solemnly stretched out his hand with a telegram reading: *Stalin, Kremlin, Moscow. Great thanks for the victory.*

In the first hour after the announcement of victory, Muscovites sent hundreds of telegrams to all parts of the country from the Central Station.

By morning, the clouds in the sky had dispersed, and for the first time after a week of rain the sun rose over the city. In its bright rays, bedecked with flags and jubilant in smart spring attire, Moscow met the morning of victory.



The Unconditional Surrender of Germany

PRAVDA correspondent reports from Berlin, May 8:

At 12:50 P.M. sharp, Soviet fighter planes took off one after another from the Tempelhof Airdrome, heading for the west to meet the Allied aircraft. At 2 P.M. representatives of the Red Army, headed by Army General Sokolovsky, arrived at Tempelhof Airdrome. In the sky appeared planes with American and British identification signs. They landed smoothly on the airfield.

From the planes emerged Chief Air Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, General Carl Spaatz, Admiral Harold Barlow, officers of the American and British Armies and Navies, and Allied press correspondents.

Army General Sokolovsky shook hands with the head of the delegation and presented to him the Soviet Commandant of Berlin, Colonel General Berzarin. The American and British generals and officers shook hands warmly with the Soviet generals and officers. It was a meeting of Allies and victors.

From another plane came representatives of the Hitlerite Command with General Field Marshal Keitel at the head. They walked sullenly and in silence. They were in generals' uniforms with their orders and crosses. The tall, lanky Keitel turned around from time to time, looking at distant Berlin.

After taking a seat in a car, Field Marshal Keitel at once opened a briefcase and started reading some document. The victorious Soviet, American, British and French generals and officers passed by the Soviet Guard of Honor.

Everyone felt the greatness of the moment. Chief Air Marshal Tedder stepped to the microphone and said that he was very glad to greet the Red Army officers and men, especially in Berlin.

The road to the scene of the concluding act of the war lies across Berlin—across a Berlin demolished, conquered, taken by storm by our troops. Cars speed in a stream through the streets of the German capital.

A passage has been cleared, but on the sidewalks lie heaps of smashed brick and rubble. Numerous ruins bear silent witness to the work done by Allied airplanes and Soviet gunners.

Residents stand silently on the street corners. After the victors ride the vanquished German generals who brought the capitulation. Cars drive under the Victory Arch built by Soviet soldiers. Three flags float proudly above it, and "Glory to the Red Army" is inscribed upon it.

The cortege arrives in the Berlin suburb of Karlshorst. Today this suburb has become a part of history. Here is the grave of Hitler Germany; here is the end of the war.

The signing of the act of surrender takes place in the building of the former German School of Military Engineers, in the hall of the officers' mess. The four flags on the wall—Soviet, American, British and French—symbolize the companionship in arms.

Into the hall comes Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov, Chief Air Marshal of the Royal Air Force Tedder, General Spaatz, Admiral Barlow, General de Lattre de Tassigny, and members of the Soviet, American, British and French delegations.

The historical proceedings begin. Everyone is present in the hall; few words are said. But behind these words lie the long years of war. Marshal Zhukov, followed by Chief Air Marshal Tedder, announces that the German plenipotentiaries have arrived.

"Invite the representatives of the German High Command," Marshal Zhukov says to the officer on duty.

The German generals enter the hall. General Field Marshal Keitel walks in front. He tries to preserve his dignity and even his pride. He raises his field marshal's baton in front of him and lowers it at once. He tries to be picturesque, but red spots appear on his face.

He is followed by General Admiral von Friedeburg and Colonel General Stumpf. They take their seats at the table assigned them. Behind them stand the aides.

Marshal Zhukov and Chief Air Marshal Tedder announce: "Now the act of unconditional surrender will be signed."

These words are translated to the Germans. Keitel nods, "Yes, yes, capitulation." Keitel presents the credentials of the

German High Command to sign the act of capitulation. The document is signed by Grand Admiral Doenitz, empowering General Field Marshal Keitel to sign the act of unconditional surrender.

"Do they have the act of capitulation? Have they read it? Do they agree to sign it?" ask Marshal Zhukov and Marshal Tedder.

"Yes, we agree," Keitel answers. He opens a briefcase containing documents, puts a monocle into his eye, and takes a pen, preparing to sign the act.

Marshal Zhukov stops him.

"I suggest that the representatives of the German High Command," Marshal Zhukov says slowly, "come over here to the table and sign the act here."

He points to the place where the Field Marshal must come. Keitel rises and goes to the table. Scarlet spots are burning on his face. His eyes are moist. He sits at the table and signs all the copies of the act of capitulation, one after the other. This lasts several minutes. Everyone is silent and only the cinema cameras grind away.

After signing the capitulation, Field Marshal Keitel rises and looks around. He has nothing to say and does not expect anything. Suddenly he smiles, a miserable ghost of a smile, removes the eyepiece and returns to his place at the table of the German delegation. But before sitting down, he again holds out his field marshal's baton and then places it on the table.

After that the Plenipotentiary of the Supreme Command of the Red Army, Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov, and the Plenipotentiary of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, Chief Air Marshal Tedder, as well as witnesses General Spaatz and the representative of the French delegation General De Lattre de Tassigny, affix their signatures to the document.

The war is over.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov shakes hands with Chief Marshal of the Royal Air Force Tedder, General of the American Army Spaatz and the other generals.

Victory! Humanity can now breathe freely.



Mikhail Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (left), and the Chairmen of the Presidiums of the Supreme Soviets of the Sixteen Union Soviet Socialist Republics



RUSSIA
Nikolai Shvernik



UKRAINE
Mikhail Grechukha



BYELORUSSIA
Nikifor Natalevich



AZERBAIJAN
Mir Bashir Kasumov



GEORGIA
Georgi Sturua



ARMENIA
Matsak Papyan



KIRGHIZIA
Moldogazi Tokobayev



TURKMENIA
Alla-Berdi Berdiev



KARELO-FINNISH
Otto Kuusinen



ESTONIA
Johannes Vares



LATVIA
Augustus Kirchenstein



LITHUANIA
Justas Paleckis



MOLDAVIA
Fedor Brovko

DEMOCRACY

By A. Sokolov

From WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 8:

Recently certain organs of the press in the Allied and neutral countries have commenced very energetic researches into the question of what democracy is. These researches by no means bear a purely abstract character. On the contrary, they have been prompted by an obvious dissatisfaction with the very concrete forms in which the will of the peoples has been finding expression in a number of liberated European countries; and the terminological researches of the dissatisfied authors usually result in one and only one discovery, that there is a fundamental difference between the two "conceptions" of democracy, namely, the Soviet and the Anglo-Saxon.

Thus the English liberal *Manchester Guardian* says: "It would seem to be necessary to have some international agreement on the meaning of certain fashionable expressions." And it goes on to explain which fashionable expressions are perplexing. It would like to know: "What is a democrat, a Hitlerite and a fascist? And no less important, what is an anti-fascist?"

Another English newspaper, the conservative *Observer*—in an article by its reviewer who writes under the very promising *nom de plume*, "Student of Europe"—expresses itself even more definitely. It asserts that in the Soviet Union "democracy appears to mean something different from, and in some respects even the opposite to, what the English-speak-

ing world understands by the term." To these "differences in definition" the newspaper attaches "very great political importance."

It cannot be denied that there is an extremely important difference between the democracy that prevails in the Soviet Union and that which exists in a number of other countries. That there is a difference between the social systems and ideologies of the USSR and the Anglo-Saxon countries is beyond dispute. It is equally beyond dispute that this difference should not serve as an obstacle to firm and durable cooperation among the Allies.

Of course, a country which knows no exploitation of man by man, a country in which not only political but also economic equality prevails, a country in which democratic liberties are not only proclaimed *de jure* but are fully guaranteed *de facto* by the material conditions of social life, a country in which genuine freedom of nations exists and indestructible friendship between these nations has been created—such a country has undoubtedly made more progress along the road to democracy. It is also true that Soviet democracy cannot be regarded as identical with English democracy. That the economic basis of society in the Soviet Union is different from that in England is commonly known. This directly affects the question of democracy, in that it is precisely the economic system of the Soviet Union that guarantees the people the opportunity of exercising their demo-

cratic rights, including such fundamental and vital rights as the right to work, the right to education, freedom from exploitation and from national or racial discrimination, etc. . . .

Under these circumstances, the difference between Soviet democracy and, for example, English democracy, is of course not only a "difference of definition." Nevertheless this does not mean that the Soviet people and the democrats in other countries cannot find common ground and a common criterion of what should be regarded as democratic. . . .

It is particularly easy to dispel doubts on this score at the present time, when the war against the brown plague of Hitlerism is still in progress and when the cornerstone of the future world order which will make the recurrence of fascist aggression impossible, has to be laid; for in our days democracy is revealed in the struggle against fascism. In our days a democrat is one who resolutely and relentlessly fights fascism. A democrat is one who not only in words but also in deeds is prepared to wage a struggle until all fascist elements and all fascist influences are completely extirpated; for the pernicious nature of fascism, the monstrous danger it represents to the freedom and very lives of the peoples, is clear to every right-thinking man. Freedom for the peoples means death to fascism.

It is on the recognition of this general principle, on which the Soviet people and the sincere supporters of democracy in other countries can find common ground, that the decisions of the Crimea Conference rest. The three great Allied powers pledged themselves to help the peoples of liberated Europe "to solve by democratic means their pressing political and economic problems." They also made provision for a policy which will "enable the liberated peoples to destroy the last vestiges of Nazism and fascism and to create democratic institutions of their own choice." The three great Allies agreed to help the peoples, where conditions require it, to "form interim governmental authorities broadly representative of all democratic elements in the population and pledged to the earliest possible establishment through free elections



KAZAKHSTAN
Disamet Kazakpayev



TAJIKISTAN
Minovar Shagadayev



UZBEKISTAN
Abduvali Muminov

of governments responsive to the will of the people."

Thus the Crimea agreements recognize the need for the democratic solution of all urgent and important problems that arise as a result of the liberation of Europe from destructive fascist tyranny. One would think that the clarity of these decisions, permeated as they are with a spirit of respect for the democratic rights of European nations, would preclude the possibility of all misinterpretation. But as the saying goes, even multiplication tables could be interpreted in different ways if it suited anybody's purpose to do so.

Many newly-hatched champions of democracy appear to argue that to achieve the complete triumph of democracy it is simply necessary to restore all the forms of political life that existed in European countries before the present war. It is sufficient to glance back at the past to convince oneself of the unsoundness of such an argument. It is no secret that in a number of European countries, not to speak of fascist Germany and Italy of course, the political system that prevailed before the war had very little in common with democracy.

It is sufficient to recall, for example, the regime that existed in prewar Poland. This regime arose as a result of a violent *coup d'etat* against the people brought about by Pilsudski and his clique in 1926. The fascist constitution of 1935; the inhuman national oppression of eleven million Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Lithuanians; the disfranchisement of workers, peasants and progressive intelligentsia; the feudal latifundia, nearly as large as whole counties, owned by the Radziwills and the Sapiehas; the notorious concentration camp in Bereza-Kartushka and the Brest central prison in which were incarcerated all those who dared raise their voices against the rule of the corrupt clique of reactionary politicians; the venality and obscurantism in all spheres of domestic politics; the reckless flirting with Hitler Germany, and the constant anti-Soviet intrigues in the sphere of foreign policy—such are the most memorable features of that regime, of the restoration of which the bankrupt Raczkiewicz-Arciszewski clique, their abettors and patrons in reactionary circles in Allied countries, are still dreaming.

It is common knowledge that democracy in countries like Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria fared no better. During the two decades between the First and Second World Wars, the reaction which reigned in those countries strangled the virile popular forces. Not only was the Communist Party driven underground, but every expression of progressive political thought was severely punished. Race hatred and brutal chauvinism were systematically cultivated; imperialist tendencies and great power plans of aggression were encouraged. Under these conditions the carpetbaggers of Hitler imperialism at the proper moment quickly found common ground with the reactionary ruling cliques of these small countries, who unhesitatingly flung their peoples into the bloody vortex of the war of aggression unleashed by the Germans.

Nor can the regimes in prewar Yugoslavia and Greece be described as democratic from any point of view. In Yugoslavia, for example, during the elections to the *skupschina* which were carried through by the Stojadinovic government in December, 1938, a number of candidates on the official ticket were declared elected although they had polled only 10 to 20 votes; whereas the opposition candidates, who had polled votes running into the tens of thousands, were declared not elected. In Greece the fascist dictatorship of Metaxas was rampant for a number of years before the present war. The Australian author Aldridge, who was in Crete with an Allied Expeditionary Force in the spring of 1941, shows fairly clearly in his novel *The Sea Eagle* that the struggle waged by the Greek partisans against the "ironheads," as they called the German invaders, was a direct continuation of the self-sacrificing struggle they had formerly waged against Greek fascism, against the brutal Metaxas regime.

Our picture would be incomplete if we did not mention also the notorious regime of prewar Finland. Was it democracy which gave the Finnish warmongers every opportunity to plunge the country into two disastrous wars against the Soviet Union? No sane person can deny that this is an extremely important criterion of the regime that prevailed in Finland. To characterize this regime it is sufficient to re-

call the fact that it had outlawed the party which now, at the very first elections held under something like free conditions, polled one-fourth of the total vote in spite of the fact that it had neither the time nor the opportunity to make preparations for the election campaign.

Such was the situation in a number of East European countries. But even in the West European countries, which have old democratic traditions, the political structure in the prewar years was so honeycombed with reaction that fascist agents were able unhindered to intrigue against the people and to weave their net of treachery and national betrayal. This was the situation not only in France, but also in Denmark, Norway, Belgium and Holland. As for the countries of the Iberian Peninsula, the anti-popular regimes established there were as like the fascism of Hitler and Mussolini as peas in a pod.

This obviously unsatisfactory state of affairs as regards democracy in many countries on the European Continent primarily explains Hitler's easy victories in the first stage of the war, before he attacked the Soviet Union. Had democracy not been so enfeebled, had it really reigned in prewar Europe, the world would have been saved from the tragedy of Dunkirk, and from the humiliating farce in the Compiègne woods, from the long years of domination of the Hitler invaders in a number of West European countries, and from a large share of the extremely heavy sacrifices the freedom-loving peoples were obliged to make on the altar of the struggle against the German-fascist aggressors.

Hardly anybody would dare deny today that Germany's initial victories were not due to the "invincibility" of the German-fascist army or to the "brilliant intuition" of the corporal-strategist Hitler. But these victories were not accidental. Such accidents do not happen. Fundamentally, as all thoughtful and unbiased observers belonging to the most diverse political camps admit, they were due to the fact that democracy was on the decline in the countries which became Hitler's victims and strangled in those which became his allies. On the other hand, as a result of the notorious Munich policy of abetting the aggressor, the great democratic powers of Western Europe—Great Britain and France—were not prepared to offer resist-

ance to the German-fascist hordes.

Is it surprising then that the peoples of the liberated countries of Europe want to have a democracy free from the fatal defects it suffered from in the prewar years, a democracy renovated and pulsating with youthful vitality? A democrat is one who bravely looks ahead and not one who furtively looks back. Such indeed were the great democrats and popular leaders of whom civilized nations are proud. The peoples who have passed through the ordeal of the most arduous of wars want their will, their desire for a progressive policy which will insure a durable peace and international security, to be really respected.

The will of the people finds different expression in different countries; but the European, and not only the European peoples, have drawn very similar conclusions from their experience of the present war. They want to build up their political and social life in such a way as to leave no loopholes for fascism. It is not only a matter of extirpating the remnants and all influences of present-day fascism, but of creating conditions that will prevent the birth of a new fascism.

The peoples do not want a resumption of reckless policies in foreign affairs, including reckless policies directed against the Soviet Union. Lastly, the peoples, and those of a number of countries in Eastern Europe in particular, wish to settle such burning questions affecting their lives as the abolition of feudal and semi-feudal relations in the agrarian system and of national oppression and strife between nations.

Can it be denied that the break-up and distribution of the feudal latifundia among the small peasants is a democratic measure, or that the struggle against the agrarian reform is a struggle against democracy?

Can it be denied that the path of peace and friendship between nationalities, which has now been taken by Yugoslavia and Rumania, for example, is a democratic path, or that the forces which, like the Serbian or Croatian chauvinists or the Rumanian "historical parties," are fighting to prevent the solution of the national problem, are thereby exposing themselves as downright enemies of democracy?

The pseudo-champions of democracy reveal their true colors most glaringly

when they talk about Poland. From the point of view of democracy, the so-called Polish problem is absolutely clear. The Polish people, liberated from the German-fascist yoke, are building up their new life on democratic principles. The work of restoring Polish statehood is being directed by the Provisional Government which is now functioning in Poland and which is headed by leaders of the four Polish democratic parties, who came to the fore in the course of the self-sacrificing struggle waged by the Polish patriots against the Hitler invaders. This government is exercising power throughout the entire territory of Poland; it is supported by the people and is carrying out their will.

But the pseudo-champions of democracy are conducting a fierce and unscrupulous campaign against the Provisional Polish Government, while at the same time pleading the cause of the bankrupt politicians in the emigre Raczkiwicz-Arciszewski clique. They are indignant when the Polish reactionary emigre camp is called pro-fascist. But what else can it be called? Everybody knows that this camp played a baneful role in prewar Poland and bears grave responsibility for the disaster of September, 1939. Venting their spite and hostility toward the Soviet Union in every possible way and basing all their calculations on the possibility of disagreements arising among the Allies, these people have been acting as mouthpieces and abettors of the German fascists throughout the whole period of the war.

Lastly, if any more proof were required that these reactionary politicians who have become completely divorced from their country are the bitterest enemies of democracy, they themselves have provided it by their hostility toward the Crimea decisions. Why do they so fiercely attack the agreement reached in the Crimea? Because that agreement is based on democratic principles and the Polish reactionaries are perfectly well aware that they are utterly played out unless the former anti-popular regime is restored in Poland, unless there is a return to the fascist constitution of 1935, and unless the basis of feudal land ownership is preserved.

Thus no special researches are needed to determine who are the friends of democracy and who are its foes. From the democratic point of view, and in this

case it makes no difference whether one takes the stand of Soviet democracy or that of Anglo-American democracy—it cannot be denied that gentlemen like Radescu in Rumania; Linkomies, Tanner and Ryti in Finland; Raczkiwicz and Arciszewski among the Polish emigres, and the corresponding political figures in other countries, are foes of democracy, are pro-fascists; and that those who support these elements are acting against the interests of the people. Obviously, the road of "democrats" of this type is not the road of the Soviet Union, nor can it be the road of sincere champions of democracy in other countries.

The pseudo-champions of democracy often advance an argument which the *Observer's* "Student of Europe" formulated in the following manner: "In Western usage, freedom of opposition and free competition of several parties for the votes of the people (including the upper and middle classes) are of the essence of democracy."

From this the conclusion is drawn that the rallying of the forces of the people in a united front against pro-fascist groups and tendencies is a violation of democracy, that it leads to totalitarianism, and so forth. It is not difficult to expose the hypocrisy of this argument. Why indeed should not the forces of the people in the countries just liberated from Nazi tyranny organize and form a united front in the struggle against the beaten, but not yet vanquished, foe? Why should they, to please the dubious "students," and still more the dubious friends, of Europe, engage in "free competition," in other words, split up their forces and thereby weaken them, when the enemy is continuing to weave his intrigues and is striving to recapture his lost positions by every means in his power?

In the "Student of Europe's" country, the political parties decided to abstain from "free competition" at elections for the duration of the war—in the interests of the common struggle against the enemy, in the interests of uniting all the forces of the nation for this struggle. If this is the case in a powerful country like Great Britain, how much more imperative is it to rally all democratic elements in a united front in the liberated countries of Europe which have only just entered upon a new path.

Can these peoples forget that it was precisely the disunity in the democratic camp, the division of the democratic forces, that was one of the most important factors in the establishment of fascist regimes in a number of countries? The fascists were able to turn to their advantage the fact that the democratic elements in many countries of prewar Europe were unable to find a common ground. In particular, even the supporters of democracy were so blinded by anti-Communist prejudice that they emphatically refused to have any dealings with Communists, losing sight of the fact that thereby they were splitting the anti-fascist front and easing the task of fascism.

The bloody lessons of the past few years have taught not only that a split is harmful, but also that unification of the popular forces is beneficial. The Communists fought the Hitler invaders side by side with the representatives of all patriotic, all anti-fascist parties, groups and trends. The result was united action, cemented with the blood of the best fighters for freedom. The peoples of the liberated countries of Europe do not wish to repeat the fatal blunder of the prewar policy; they do not wish to pursue a path of splitting the democratic forces. It is not for nothing that the Crimea decisions speak of insuring national unity in the liberated countries of Europe. But unity can be achieved only by uniting the popular forces and not by splitting them, by uniting all genuine democrats and not by inciting some democratic elements against others.

Democracy is a historical phenomenon. One cannot speak of one unchangeable democracy for all times and for all peoples. As is the case with every phenomenon in social life, democracy develops and goes forward. Present-day democracy bears little resemblance to the democracy, say, of ancient Athens; and the present political system of Great Britain, for example, differs very much from the system which existed in that country in Cromwell's time. Even on the basis of the same social and economic system, extremely diverse forms of democratic statehood arise.

Hence it would be quite hopeless to demand that democracy should be built up in all countries of Europe on a British or American model. This would be a totally unwarranted attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of other peoples,

an attempt to impose definite political canons upon them from the outside. Such an attempt would of course have no chance of success because it would contradict the very spirit of democracy, would contradict the indisputable right of peoples "to create democratic institutions of their own choice."

Does this mean that sincere champions of democracy need not now, when the fate of German fascism is already sealed, concern themselves with what is taking place outside their countries? It would be, to say the least, premature to draw such a conclusion. Quite apart from universally-known cases of the grossest violation of democracy in European countries such as Greece, it is sufficient to recall the state of affairs in the colonial world. To this day, as is well known, there is not even a whiff of democracy in the colonial countries, where a very large part of the population of the globe resides. This is where those who come out as the champions of democracy should direct their zeal.

When, however, they strike a Hamlet pose and express doubts about the liberated countries of Europe which have taken the path of political renovation, their concern appears affected and out of place. We must not forget the maneuvers of the German-fascist provocateurs. It is common knowledge that the latter at once proclaim every event connected with the democratization of political life in any country on the European Continent as a "Kerensky regime" and "Bolshevization." The Hitlerites affix the label "Kerensky" indiscriminately to political leaders of the most diverse complexion, and brand as "Bolshevization" every progressive measure, every democratic reform, every step taken to punish war criminals and traitors to their country.

It is not difficult to see through the Hitlerites' maneuvers. They harp on the old tiresome string that the only alternative to fascist rule in Europe is "Bolshevization," that fascism is the only conceivable "bulwark against Bolshevism." It is well known that the English-speaking countries did not allow themselves to be caught by this bait, even when Germany was at the zenith of her power. Still more transparent are these provocative tactics now when the doom of fascist Germany is not only inevitable but imminent. Who except the played-out Hitler adventurers stands to gain by con-

vincing the British and Americans that the European Continent is faced with only one alternative—that is, either fascism or the Soviet system?

The German imperialists are already making their preparations for a third attempt to achieve world domination. To thwart their crafty designs, the sternest vigilance must be maintained toward the perfidious enemy; and democratic states, strong in their unity, must be set up in the liberated countries of Europe.

Only those who place the selfish interests of groups above the national interests of their country can wish the difference in ideology and character between the social system of the Soviet Union and that of its Allies to prevent the three leading great powers in the anti-Hitler coalition from marching together in solving the problems affecting the arrangement of the postwar world. The stern experience of the period between the First and Second World Wars has shown what grave danger lurks in the absence of unity among the peace-loving nations. In the light of this experience, it is clear that groundless prejudices against democratic regimes in the liberated countries of Europe may become a serious barrier to the establishment of lasting peace among the nations and of general security.

The present war must be consummated in such a way that no loopholes are left for the re-emergence of the forces of fascism and aggression. This is in the interest of all the peace-loving peoples who are engaged in the common struggle against Hitler Germany.

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The Fourth State War Loan

By a Decree of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, a Fourth State War Loan in the amount of 25 billion rubles, for a period of 20 years, has been issued.

In connection with the floating of the Fourth State War Loan, Arseni Zverev, People's Commissar of Finance of the USSR, made the following statement:

The Soviet people is filled with determination to accelerate the final rout of the Hitlerite bandits, to cure the wounds inflicted on our country by the fascist scoundrels as early as possible, and to return to peaceful constructive labor.

This determination of the Soviet people, this will to victory, is reflected in the figures of the State budget of the USSR for 1945, which increased considerably as compared with last year, amounting to 307.9 billion rubles, as compared with 268 billion rubles in 1944.

A considerable part of the budget is allocated for military expenditures; 137.9 billion rubles have been allocated to finance the People's Commissariat of Defense and the People's Commissariat of the Navy. This means that the Armed Forces will continue to receive the necessary amount of arms, equipment, clothing, food and everything needful to strike the last blow at the enemy.

Large sums—64.6 billion rubles, i.e., almost one-third more than last year—have been allocated for the needs of the national economy. This is to insure increase of industrial and agricultural production, stepping up of transport, and speedy repair of destruction caused by the enemy.

Larger sums are allocated for social and cultural measures. This year 66.1 billion rubles—i.e., 29.4 per cent more than last year—are expended for public education, for public health, for social insurance, and for rendering aid to mothers of large

families, single mothers, invalids of the Patriotic War, Red Army men and their families, etc.

The Soviet loans are one of the most vivid expressions of the population's assistance to the State. This is proved by the subscription figures for the loans:

In 1927, subscriptions to the loan totaled 200 million rubles; in 1941, on the eve of the war, they reached almost 11 billion rubles. In the years of peaceful construction the working people loaned to the State 50 billion rubles. In the years of the Patriotic War against the German invaders, popular assistance to the front assumed even larger proportions. Between 1941-44 over 16 billion rubles were contributed in cash to the Defense Fund and to the Red Army Fund, and four and one-half billion rubles in bonds of State Loans and in huge quantities of valuables and food. Four lotteries were subscribed with great success and increas-

ed the financial resources of the country by 12½ billion rubles.

The War Loans issued by the Government have met with exceptional support on the part of the entire people. They were subscribed in a brief period and greatly exceeded the scheduled amount. Subscriptions to the Third State War Loan in 1944 were double the amount of subscriptions to the 1942 War Loan. In particular, the collective farm peasantry increased their subscriptions by almost five times.

Altogether during the war the State has received more than 61 billion rubles in loans—11 billion rubles more than all the loans issued during the years of peaceful construction.

The Fourth State War Loan, issued for 25 billion rubles, will be a great contribution by our people toward the final rout of the enemy and the further economic and cultural rise of the country.

INTERNAL WAR LOANS OF THE USSR

War loans are an index of the moral and political unity of the Soviet people. Literally the entire population buys war bonds, and subscriptions have risen year by year. In 1942 bonds were purchased in the sum of 12,861 million rubles; in 1943 — 20,323 million rubles, and in 1944—28,064 million rubles



Berlin After Surrender

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondents describe their impressions of a tour of Berlin immediately after the surrender of its garrison:

The German capital lies prostrate before our eyes: debris, bomb craters, burned tanks and smashed guns, bullet-riddled streetcars, half-filled trenches, heaps of empty cartridge cases, fresh graves, unremoved bodies of German officers and men, a multitude of white flags, crowds of despondent and hungry civilians.

The city in which the infernal plans for the destruction and subjugation of the world were hatched, lies itself in ruins, has itself raised the white flag of surrender.

The destruction is greatest in places where enemy resistance was especially stiff. Here is the famous Herz-Spree Bridge in Schoenegelde. Both banks are scorched by shells and bombs. The railway viaduct in the Branauerstrasse is shell-riddled. We ride over the Bluecherstrasse toward the Landwehr Kanal. The assault bridge built by our troops is still intact although the regular bridge blown up by the Germans has already been restored. Our tanks are parked on the left and right. The Bluecherplatz is jammed with huge self-propelled guns, T-34 tanks and tractor-drawn guns.

We spent all night making our way to the Tiergarten, but we only got as far as the Belle-Alliance Platz in the morning. Right ahead the Friedrichstrasse begins, a little to the left is the street of govern-

ment buildings, the famous Wilhelmstrasse. But it is impossible to go on—the streets are jammed. We got out and walked. Here the hardest fighting took place. The subway runs underneath this street—its vaults have caved in. The people clamber along the buildings, while below in the roofless tunnel a rearing tractor is towing two subway cars. The cars frequently jump the rails, are put back again, and continue on their way.

Several German cars sped along the Leipzigerstrasse, which crosses the Friedrichstrasse. Someone opened fire at them. Three cars bumped into a wall; the rest stopped and raised white flags. The firing ceased. This was a SS regiment on its way to surrender. The men were disarmed; the German cars were left standing and the soldiers went on on foot. The officers marched in front.

On the Wilhelmstrasse our men were met by German civilians coming out of cellars. Submissively and timidly they raised their white flags. It was impossible to drive or walk through Unter den Linden; nine layers of logs covered with sand barred the gates. We climbed upon the barricade, from which we could see the red flags flying over the buildings of the Soviet and French Embassies. Even here, however, in the building of the Academy of Arts, fighting was still in progress. Smoke and soot filled the famous street.

We walked to the Tiergarten. The park was burning; trees crackled in the flames. The Reichstag was enveloped in smoke;

the ceiling of the Hall of Sessions was caved in. But the banner of victory waved proudly over the skeleton of the dome.

The new Reichs Chancellery, Hitler's Berlin residence, a gloomy gray building is also ablaze. The windows are barricaded with stacks of books from which machine guns protrude. Beside them the German machine gunners lie dead. With iron crosses pinned to their uniforms, they lie amidst heaps of other iron crosses.

We approach the front entrance. The door is blocked by crates filled with boxes containing iron crosses with oak leaves. It is hot in Hitler's chancellery. The flames creep nearer; the floors are red-hot and about to collapse. We put on gas-masks and run through the corridor to a window. We feel the heat through the soles of our shoes; it is impossible to see anything. We have to get out through the window and down the fire escape.

An old German whom we found in the street sitting on suitcases near the curbstone showed us the way to the Ministry of Aviation, Goering's headquarters. Though protected by a thick stone wall, it is also riddled with shell holes. The building itself is ablaze and cannot be entered. But the gigantic bomb shelter is intact. Civilian Germans come out of it, begging for bread and water.

Such is Berlin just after its fall. It is all in flames, smoke and ruins. Tens of thousands of prisoners in gray-green uniforms wander through the streets. Many are already busy cleaning up the city.



On the First Byelorussian Front—Fliers of a Soviet Guards Unit, after a successful mission



German transport gliders and planes captured by the Red Army at an enemy airdrome

Kodakphotos

THE STRENGTH AND VITALITY OF THE COLLECTIVE FARM SYSTEM

By Vasili Russakov

To anyone who is aware of the decline of agriculture in Tsarist Russia at the time of the First World War of 1914-18, no more cogent argument in favor of collective farms is needed than the fact that they have so splendidly stood the test of the present war, which has been much harder and more exacting.

During the first years of the First World War the crop area in the European part of Russia decreased by 10 million hectares. Grain production dropped from 4,600,000,000 poods in 1913 to 3,300,000,000 poods in 1916, or 28 per cent. Potato production dropped by 24 per cent. The production of oil-bearing and industrial crops declined even more sharply. The livestock industry deteriorated disastrously.

In the present war, on the contrary, the producing capacity of agriculture in the USSR has definitely increased. The crop area in the Eastern regions of the USSR, which escaped the German invasion, expanded during the war by two million hectares. The 1944 harvest area of the USSR was 12 million hectares more than in 1943.

Grain-growing Siberia, vine-growing Georgia, cotton-growing Azerbaijan, and the vegetable-growing region of Moscow, are all equally aware that it is the collective farming system which makes it possible for them under wartime conditions to fully provide for themselves and at the same time to keep the Red Army and urban population supplied with food and industry with raw materials.

The success of the collective farms is due, for one thing, to the radical change which the Soviet Government has effected in the technical base of agriculture. Before the First World War, the wooden plow and wooden harrow predominated in Russia's agriculture. In the Soviet Union, on the other hand, by 1938 there were already 483,500 tractors, 153,500 combines and nearly 196,000 motor trucks working in agriculture. There were also 493,500 tractor-drawn plows, 265,500 tractor-drawn seeders, and 676,400 horse-drawn seeders.

In 1940, the tractors of the State ma-



Radiofoto

Plowing on the Galla-Aral State farm in the Uzbek Soviet Republic

chine and tractor stations did work for the collective farms which it would have taken 10,900,000 peasants to do on individual farms.

The abundance of machinery in the agriculture of the USSR is indicative not only of the technical progress of the country, but also of the adaptability of the collective form of farming to mechanization. Suppose the State supplied all this modern agricultural machinery when the prevailing system was that of individual peasant farming. Would the peasants be able to make such extensive and efficient use of it? Certainly not. On a small peasant farm even a draft-horse is employed only to the extent of one-quarter of its capacity. The division of land into small plots would interfere with the work of a tractor, to say nothing of a combine. It is different with collective farms, each of which covers a large area. Here the machines can be used most efficiently.

For example, the two Oskin brothers—combine operators whose names are known to the entire Soviet Union—working on two Stalinets combines, harvested 5,238 hectares in one season. They did the work of 1,637 men, 373 horses, 25 reapers, 25 threshers, 25 winnowers and 40 sorters. If the work were done by hand, it would require 3,323 men to perform it. There are many combine operators

who, working on two combines hitched tandem, harvest from one to two thousand hectares in one season. On small plots, they would not have even room to turn around. The same applies to any other machine (tractor-drawn seeder, threshing machine, etc.).

The demand for mechanization of the various work processes on large farms has given rise to numerous new inventions. The Soviet countryside is being supplied with an increasing number of labor-saving machines, such as flax-pullers, cotton-pickers, potato-planters and potato-diggers, which can be employed most efficiently only on large collective farms.

But machines are not all. It is people who employ the machines. The question is whether the collective farms provide objective conditions for people to work efficiently and whether the production relations existing on collective farms are conducive to higher productivity of labor. In other words, the question is whether the collective farmer has a personal interest in collective work. The answer is an unqualified "yes."

The income of a collective farm is distributed among its members strictly in accordance with the quantity and quality of their work. There is in addition an extra stimulus for highly productive work. Thus, for example, a Government deci-

sion provides for additional payment in kind to collective farmers for achieving higher crop yields and increasing their produce and livestock-breeding. The collective farmer who produces more than is specified in the plan receives an additional remuneration in the form of a bonus, over and above his share in the income of the collective farm due him for work-day units earned by him. There is also a system of bonuses paid from the common funds of the collective farm to those of its members who have distinguished themselves by conscientious work.

In general, the collective farm meets the personal requirements of its members more fully and in a larger variety of ways than the individual peasant could hope for from his individual farm. No individual peasant ever ventured, for example, to try fruit-growing in Siberia; and until the appearance of collective farms, Siberia had no orchards. Today many Siberian collective farms have orchards covering scores of hectares. The members of such collective farms receive fruit as a part of their earnings in terms of work-day units.

Collective farms are successfully introducing new crops. Sugarbeet-growing, for example, has recently been introduced in the Eastern sections of the USSR, where it was formerly unknown.

Here are a few figures illustrating the improvement of material conditions and the standard of living of collective farmers. In the five years from 1933 to 1937 the consumption of meat by collective farmers increased 2.3 times, the consumption of butter 2.8 times, and of sugar, 7.8 times. Purchases of manufactured goods increased from two to three times.

The collective farmer is directly interested in the expansion and success of the collective farm, for on that depends the welfare of his own family. He knows that he can secure this welfare more easily as a member of a collective farm than by working on an individual farm. The returns from his labor on a collective farm are much higher than on an individual farm.

There is, furthermore, the question of expert guidance in the application of methods of scientific farming. The collective farm has the expert advice of agronomists and zoo-technicians, something which most individual farmers could not

afford. As a rule, collective farms are headed by experienced agriculturists. It is this, incidentally, that accounts for the fact that the conscription of large numbers of men for the Armed Forces and their replacement on the farms by inexperienced workers—women and youngsters—has not impaired the quality of farming nor reduced its output.

The collective farm provides conditions for the development of highly-skilled workers in agriculture. In 1938 the USSR had 110,000 agronomists, 50 times as many as in pre-revolutionary Russia. Before the present war there were 933,000 tractor drivers, 247,000 combine operators, 214,000 chauffeurs, and 40,000 mechanics working on the collective farms of the USSR. These are skills which were quite unknown in the rural farm districts of old Russia. During the present war, 1,857,000 members of collective farms, including over a million women, have learned mechanical trades. The specialization of labor on the collective farms naturally makes for greater efficiency and productivity.

In addition to schools providing general education, every collective farm village has circles and courses for the study of scientific methods of farming and stock-breeding. Such circles and courses are

conducted by experts with a high school or college education. As a result of this study, many collective farmers have become expert agriculturists. There is the case of Anna Utkina, a collective farm woman in Siberia. She won fame for regularly harvesting more than 1,000 metric centners of potatoes per hectare on the plot of land assigned her on the collective farm. Her new methods of farming have even brought her a Stalin Prize, an award given to outstanding scientists. Many similar examples could be cited.

Another important stimulus for good work on a collective farm is the honor and respect in which every good worker is held. Thousands of collective farmers, men and women, have been decorated by the Government with orders and medals. There are special badges for the best farmers, tractor drivers, combine operators, mechanics, etc. The best workers on collective farms also receive material benefits. All this provides a powerful incentive for competition among the men and women collective farmers.

In view of all the above factors, it is not surprising that the productivity of labor on collective farms, according to official figures, is more than three times higher than on individual peasant farms. The collective farms in the USSR have proved their strength and vitality. They have also proved their capacity for further progress and development.

Uzbekistan Grows More Cotton

Uzbek cotton growers have introduced the crop rotation system based on the methods of Dmitri Khrenishnikov, founder of Russian agro-chemistry. This innovation has enabled Uzbekistan to do three things: to increase the cotton crop, though a smaller area was planted; to grow its own grain; and to raise two crops annually on the same cultivated area.

Uzbekistan can now boast of 21,500 tractors and 1,497 harvester combines. The efficient use of these machines saw an increased output per tractor of 28 per cent in 1944 as compared with 1943. This is the result attained by some 14,000 tractor drivers who were trained early last year.



Picking cotton on a collective farm in the Tashkent Region, Uzbek Republic

SPRING IN THE UKRAINE

By P. Shari

The spring season is at its height in the Ukraine. The sowing which began on the banks of the Danube, in the Ismail Region, at the end of March, is now in full swing throughout the Republic, from the Black and Azov Seas to the Carpathian Mountains. Work is in progress in the fields of all the 24 regions of the Ukraine, granary of the Soviet Union. Hundreds of thousands of hectares have been planted to spring grain.

It is a wonderful spring that has come to the Ukraine this year—a spring of revival. Millions of people freed by the valiant Red Army from the yoke of the German invaders are working fruitfully and with tremendous enthusiasm for victory.

I have visited many districts in the southern, central and western regions of the Republic, and everywhere I saw the same spirit among the people. Every village is determined to complete the sowing within the shortest possible time and in accordance with all the rules of agronomy, to raise a record victory harvest.

Our plane flew over the Dnieper. Below, the blue ribbon of the river zigzagged through the boundless expanses of the steppe. From the air we could see the vast stretches of plowed and sown black soil, which yields high crops of excellent wheat. Tractors were moving over the fields. They are now busy from early morning until darkness, every tractor driver trying to raise his daily accomplishment to the highest mark—and some have been doubling and trebling their goals.

Pasha Angelina, famous tractor driver and Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, lived up to her reputation when on the first day of work on the Zaporozhets collective farm in the Stalino Region of the Donbas, her team plowed 220 hectares with three tractors from the Kharkov plant. In response to an appeal of workers of the Lokhvitsa machine and tractor station in the Poltava Region, this team along with thousands of others joined in the country-wide competition to help the collective farmers raise a bumper crop.

There were 90,000 tractors in the Ukraine before the war. Many were

shipped away or destroyed by the German marauders. To make up for the shortage of machinery, the collective farms used oxen and low-productive cows for field work. Some 50,000 cows will be used for field work in the Kiev Region alone.

Throughout the Republic the people are following the progress of the spring sowing in the Kiev and Poltava Regions, which scored outstanding achievements in the restoration of agriculture, being rated first in the country by the Government. The Kiev and Poltava Regions have concluded an agreement determined to attain high yields for grain and technical crops and the highest possible results in livestock-breeding.

From the ancient city of Kiev we drove by car to the Pereyaslav-Khmelnytsky District. Our jeep carried us across the Dnieper, past German-wrecked Dnitsa, one of the suburbs of the Ukrainian capital, past the charred ruins of villages. In some places along the highway one can still see the wreckage of German tanks, trucks and guns crippled by Soviet artillery. At a point about 50 kilometers from Kiev we saw the remnants of a telephone cable, part of an underground line built by the Germans to connect Berlin with Stalingrad, and used for conveying orders to their troops. The line is now utilized by district authorities for communication with Kiev.

In the Pereyaslav-Khmelnytsky District, we met a farmer whose name is famous throughout the country—Elena Khobta,

of the collective farm named for the favorite Ukrainian poet, Taras Shevchenko. One of the thousands of women who experienced the horrors of the German occupation, 60-year-old Khobta was brutally tortured by the Hitlerites, who tried to elicit information about the guerrillas. A true daughter of her people, she bore up bravely under the torture, not uttering a word. New wrinkles have appeared in her face, but her fellow-villagers assured me that she has recovered her former vitality and is as cheerful and youthful as they had known her before the war.

Last spring, Khobta set an excellent example by raising 100 chickens at home and presenting them to the collective farm. Collective farmers throughout the district followed her example, and the farms received a total of 311,000 chickens. This led to a considerable increase in the poultry in this district, above the prewar level. This year the farm districts are determined to restore livestock-breeding to its prewar level, and raise 200,000 hens and ducks and 5,000 geese. Elena Khobta is the moving spirit behind this movement. Poultry-breeding means not only meat and eggs; hens are used for the struggle against pests in the sugarbeet fields. With this in mind, the districts of the Kiev Region, one of the principal beet-growing regions, are constructing mobile roosts. The birds will be taken to the fields to devour the weevils.

Sugarbeet is the principal industrial crop cultivated in the Kiev Region. Before

Leningrad children on a collective farm—Grandfather Alexei is teaching them the importance of keeping weeds out of the growing crops



the war the sugar plantations of this region, which covered some 150,000 hectares, comprised 19.5 per cent of the Ukraine's total beet area. This year the area under sugarbeet will be nearly doubled as compared with last year. Some 7,000 teams of collective farmers have pledged an average of from 30 to 60 tons of beet per 2.47 acres. In the region as a whole, the cultivated area will increase by 200,000 hectares, and in some districts—including the Pereyaslav-Khmel'nitsky District—it will reach the prewar figure.

Agriculture is being speedily restored in other regions of the Republic. This will mean a considerable increase in the grain crop supplied by the Ukraine in millions of tons. In 1944, their first free year, the liberated regions contributed to the Red Army Fund over and above the plan more than one-half million tons of grain and

large quantities of potatoes and other agricultural produce. The plan calls for a considerable increase in the gross grain this year. The wives, sisters and mothers of front-line fighters will play an important part in the achievement of this aim. Their effort on the agricultural front helps the Red Army to finish off the enemy on the battlefields.

Tremendous attention is being paid to the western regions of the Ukraine, which suffered most heavily at the hands of the fascist invaders—the Lvov, Dorogobush, Stanislav and other Regions. One hundred seventy-one machine and tractor stations have been set up to serve more than 400,000 farm households to which Soviet authorities have restored the land seized from them by the Germans. Throughout the country 7,000 grain-sorting centers have been established. Machine and trac-

tor stations have repaired more than 250,000 farm plows, harrows, drills and other implements. The farmers have received many thousands of tons of seed.

Red Army soldiers would scarcely recognize the regions through which they recently passed in their victorious westward advance. The land of the Ukraine, drenched with the blood of Soviet people, is coming back to life with great speed. Some 26,000 collective farms, 1,173 machine and tractor stations, and 443 State farms have been restored, and thousands of dwellings, clubs, theaters and libraries have been built in the Ukraine in less than a year's time.

In the Ukraine there are still charred ruins and gaping wounds, but the frightful traces of war and Nazi vandalism are vanishing daily. The might of the people is performing miracles.

The Sowing Season in the Soviet Baltic Republics

By Alexei Sivakov

The country roads are muddy and black. At the edges of the wood and at the roadsides where the sun's rays are warm, pools of water have formed. From under the blackened snow the upturned wheels of wrecked German machines protrude. Near a farmstead in Harkuus Volost, Harjumin Region, Estonian Republic, lies a shattered German motor truck. The local smith, blacksmith Johann Nenni, is busy stripping the "trophy" machine of everything valuable to him in his smithy—sheet-iron, bolts and nuts.

The farmers of Soviet Estonia are preparing for the spring field work. Those who have no seeds borrow from their neighbors. Carts, plows, harrows, harnesses, and other articles are being mended by common effort in hurriedly built forges. The Soviet Government has granted all farmers large tracts of arable land. "Shall we be able to till it?" the farmers ask themselves.

And there is some reason for this question. Not every farmer has a horse or agricultural implements. When the Germans retreated before the onslaught of Soviet troops, they drove off or carried away everything they could get hold of—grain, cattle, horses, household utensils and agricultural tools.

After the expulsion of the Hitlerites, some of the people succeeded in finding tools and horses. But by no means do all of them have horses.

Here again the Government came to their aid. By a decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, horse-hiring stations were set up in the Soviet Baltic Republics, to help those collective and individual farmers who possess no draft animals of their own.

How do these stations function? Edward Uula, manager of the horse-hiring station in Harkuus Volost, Harjumin Re-

gion, explained, "Many farmers in our Volost have neither horses, plows nor harness. And spring is already here. It will soon be time for the farmers to go out into the fields. The Government has established a network of horse-hiring stations throughout the Republic. We will hire our horses, plows and harrows to the farmers in need of them.

"In the first place, we manufactured several sets of harness from our own and trophy materials, and repaired a number of harrows and iron plows. My station has a score or so of draft horses. Nearly

Evacuated from Bessarabia to Uzbekistan in the early days of the war, these Jewish Soviet citizens are working on their collective farm, named for Lazar Kaganovich. Left to right—Anna Begel, M. Parkansky, S. Parkanskaya, and eight-year-old Vera Begel



every day people from the neighboring farms possessing no horses bring me applications for help in tilling their land. I accept all applications, and I am confident we shall be able to meet them all."

In Harvamaas Region I met Mikhael Ljunuurm, an individual farmer from Sjaarever Volost. Pointing to his calloused hands, he said, "All my life I worked on somebody else's land. I used to hire small plots of plow land from the landowners and pay high rent and taxes. In 1940 the Soviet Government gave me land free of charge, and having become an owner of soil, I began to cultivate it with all my energy. But the next year the Germans came, took away my fields and wrecked my farm. The two years of German slavery

seemed like ten to me. The Red Army has driven the Hitlerites from the Baltic Republics and the Soviet Government has returned the land to me. Now I again feel myself a free, independent farmer.

"I have enough seeds and a plow and harrow. Now I am collecting fertilizer and I am putting my farm in order. In the autumn I laid the foundations of a fruit garden and planted 25 berry shrubs. In the spring I'll plant several apple trees."

Many interesting reports are coming from the Government representatives in the rural districts. Millusar, a representative in the Jarvamaas Region, stated, "My sector includes 17 farm households. I have visited each family and familiarized myself with their needs. Among them are

several who have no horses. They ask me for help with the spring field work. I pass their applications on to the horse-hiring stations. Local farmers often ask me to help them obtain good seeds, and we satisfy the majority of these requests also."

Walter Wirk, a Government representative in the village of Varanga Vajanguus Volost, in the same region, reported, "The farmers are preparing energetically for spring. In the family of soldier Erik Leist there are few workers and they were somewhat behindhand with their preparatory work. The neighbors came to their aid. The local smith, Edward Lepp, is repairing his own and his neighbors' tools. There is every reason to think that we will cope well with the sowing."

A SAILOR RETURNS

By Sergei Vernov

The train stopped at a small station. Limping slightly on his artificial leg, a broad-shouldered sailor climbed out of a car. His eyes searched eagerly among the crowd on the platform.

"Misha . . . Sonny!" came a familiar voice from the throng, and in another moment the sailor's mother, sisters and neighbors surrounded him.

In a farm cart drawn by a pair of high-stepping horses, Mikhail Chelyadko set out for his native village, Savelikha, Kalinin Region, which he had last visited over two years ago. Here was the house and everything just as it had been before the war.

"They've managed to keep things going without a man about the place," he thought.

His mother tried to persuade him to rest after his journey, but Misha refused. "I'm going out to look at the village," he said.

Leisurely he walked through the familiar streets, looking attentively about him. And again, seeing the order and prosperity on all sides, he thought with admiration of the women who had done this almost unaided.

At the next collective farm meeting, Mikhail Chelyadko was appointed manager of the livestock farm. This was a

new job for him, but he set about it seriously. Late at night when the village slept, a light still burned in Chelyadko's room; diligently the sailor read special literature on livestock-breeding and prepared for his new work as though for a sea battle.

* * *

Mikhail Chelyadko had fought in the Baltic and defended Leningrad. He had fought bravely and well. Later he told me briefly of one of his battles.

"We approached an enemy island during the night. Our cutters were camouflaged. In the morning we noticed Finnish vessels moving about, closely hugging the coast. Another night passed. The next morning, enemy cutters appeared. Our seahawks rushed into the attack. A very short battle ensued, and one after another the enemy cutters caught fire. That is all I remember."

Mikhail Chelyadko was wounded in this battle and recovered consciousness in a hospital. His leg had to be amputated. When he recovered, he returned to his native village.

Now he no longer studied sea fighting, but books on ensilaging fodder, works on hog farms, and rules for milking. Persist-

ently and stubbornly he studied the questions of livestock-breeding.

The new manager of the stock farm seemed to bring a breath of the sea to his work. Even his conversation was mingled with naval slang. In the beginning this was strange to the farmers, but soon they became accustomed to it. Chelyadko did a good job with the stock farm. Last year it yielded an income of 456,000 rubles.

"How did he become such an expert?" the peasants asked each other. "He had never done any stock farming, and yet he seems to know all the secrets of it."

Of course Mikhail Chelyadko did not achieve all this easily. He read a great deal of literature and consulted many experienced people before he became an experienced livestock-breeder himself.

Recently at a meeting of the collective farmers Mikhail Chelyadko was awarded a prize.

"Thank you. This means I have fulfilled my combat mission; that I have not left the ranks, but am still fighting," the sailor said.

He was answered heartily from all sides. "Of course you are! And fighting well and leading all of us."

PUSHKIN ON THE COLLECTIVE FARM

By Georgi Blok

Back in 1941, the evacuation hurled me into a large Russian village in the Chuvash Republic, where I spent the next two years working on a collective farm. Last winter, at a children's performance in the village school, two collective farm girls suggested that it would be fun for the adults to put on a play.

But what should we play? Our choice may surprise you. We decided to put on Pushkin's famous historical tragedy, *Boris Godunov*.

I can still remember my despair when a 54-year-old collective farmer was being tried out for the role of the old monk-chronicler. The local schoolteacher was a wonderful help as stage manager. She proceeded to give our chronicler some lessons in voice production. Little by little his tongue loosened; he gained confidence in his vocal talent. Soon the pupil was ready for free expression, and eventually made a splendid chronicler.

A young schoolteacher who had the difficult role of Marina Mnishchek—the Polish aristocrat who turned the head of Grigori Otrepiev, usurper of the Moscow throne—worked on her role with great perseverance and succeeded in creating a harmonious and poetic character. Among the actors were two young farmers who had been wounded while serving with the Red Army.

Thirty elaborate Russian and Polish costumes of the 17th Century had to be contrived somehow. A sewing shop was opened, and under my wife's direction two months were spent in making the costumes. I went from house to house, urging the housewives to rummage in their chests for a remnant of silk or velvet, an outmoded dress with wide skirts, a bright-colored blouse. Each garment was merely loaned, which seriously complicated the work of the tailors, since

none of this borrowed finery could be touched with a pair of scissors.

The decorations of the Kremlin chambers and the inns on the Lithuanian border were painted by a pupil of the Art Academy, an evacuee from Leningrad. But we still had to create the garden of the Polish magnate. We got some bare bushes from the forest and covered them with leaves made of newspaper painted green. In the moonlight the illusion was perfect. Two kerosene lamps and a parchment screen served as the moon.

The carpenter work was done by two schoolchildren under the guidance of an experienced collective farmer. He made the tsar's throne himself.

The show was put on in the collective farm club. It is fairly spacious, but so many wished to see Pushkin's tragedy that we had to give several performances.

Later we were invited to go on tour to the district center. Our most memorable date was February 23, Red Army Day, when we gave a performance in the large hall of the Teachers Training School. After the performance we were invited to a banquet. At the request of the management of the local radio station, we repeated some of the scenes before the microphone. In an All-Republic contest, our company won a certificate of merit.

FEEDING THE RED ARMY

The history of wars has never known an army which, while incessantly fighting battles of an unparalleled scale, simultaneously planted, harvested and threshed grain, gathered and stored potatoes and other vegetables, constructed flour mills and other enterprises for turning out food products.

By the combined efforts of Soviet agriculture and industry, the Red Army has been supplied with food throughout the war.

By order of the Command, at the beginning of the war every front set up its own auxiliary food base with special farms. This allowed for a sharp reduction of transports of food and fodder from the deep rear. The released transport was able to deliver additional ammunition, fuel, medicines and other materials to the Army.

After the counter-offensive began and Soviet Armies moved west, the auxiliary farms with their equipment were turned over to State farms or local authorities. Two thousand large Army farms were transferred to civilian organizations by troops advancing westward. Besides the

farms, the Red Army left many restored flour mills, dairies, sugar mills and other food factories. These farms, in turn, supplied the Red Army with provisions as long as they were in the front zone.

The Red Army also solved another difficult problem. The soldiers built some 120 large vegetable storehouses for millions of tons of potatoes and other vegetables in record-breaking time. As a result, there are no diseases due to lack of vitamins in the Red Army, whereas in the old Russian Army and in the First World War, many soldiers were stricken by scurvy.

Finally, the Red Army food supply organs solved the problem of preparing appetizing food for officers and men. During the war, hundreds of thousands of women volunteered as cooks, were graduated from special courses, and became Army cooks. The women introduced into their profession their housewives' skill, providing a great variety in meals. Since the "Excellent Cook" Badge was instituted 20 months ago, 19,000 cooks have received this award.

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Washington, D. C., May 15, 1945



Citizens of Liberated Prague Joyously Greet Red Army Forces

A **PRAVDA** correspondent reports from liberated Prague (May 11):

Our Command ordered Red Army forces to pursue and relentlessly annihilate the "Mittel Gruppe" of enemy troops which had violated the terms of surrender. To prevent them from joining the German occupation troops in Czechoslovakia and capturing Prague, which would have inevitably resulted in the demolition of the city, tankmen of Generals Lelyushenko and Rybalko were ordered to break through the front of the retreating enemy troops and liberate the capital of Czechoslovakia from the occupationists, before General Schoerner could invade it with his gangs.

Tank formations of the First Ukrainian Front surged forward, sweeping the enemy screens from their path. At night this avalanche of steel pushed aside the last enemy screening forces, poured over the mountain ridges and rushed down into the valley. This was a complete surprise for the command of the "Mittel Gruppe." At daybreak our tanks again overthrew the German screen in the suburbs of Prague, broke into the Czechoslovak capital and liberated it.

Our plane was the first Soviet plane to land here, and we, as representatives of the Red Army, were the recipients of an outpouring of admiration and respect for the Red Army from the cheering, festive Prague crowds which in a few moments had gathered at the airdrome.

If it had not been for patrols of local partisans wearing tri-colored sleeve-bands, we would not have been able to get away from the crowd for a long while. The partisans stopped the first passing car, and explaining to its owner, Dr. Naden, who we were, asked him to drive us through the city.

When the population heard of the approach of our tanks, the people of many districts of the capital rose, arming themselves with formerly concealed weapons, and engaged the German garrison. And now the insurgents undertook the task of maintaining order.

We rode through Prague, along streets filled with rejoicing people. The crowd which had gathered near a group of our tanks in Masaryk street was so dense that traffic was suspended. The tank commanders told me that when their van-



Radiophoto

Colonel General of Tank Forces Rybalko, Hero of the Soviet Union, and his Chief of Staff, Major General Bakhmetiev

guards reached the suburbs, boys and girls with the tri-colored sleeve-bands of the insurgent detachments jumped onto the tanks and pointed out to them a detour of the German ambushes, mined streets, tank traps and ditches.



Soviet artillerymen in the Carpathian Mountains haul their guns by sheer strength



Radiophotoes

A Red Army Tommy gunner in the Carpathians keeps an enemy-held road under fire



Soviet infantry attacking with tank support; (right) Marshal of the Soviet Union Konev, Commander of the First Ukrainian Front, and Colonel General Zakharov (left)

Radiophotos

The Fall of Breslau

By Lieutenant Colonel I. Gaglov

After 82 days in which the thunder of guns and roaring of flames never ceased, the siege of Breslau has ended: the German garrison has surrendered and the Soviet flag flies over the city.

In analyzing the reasons for the length of this siege, we must bear three points in mind: first, Breslau is a strong fortress; and the most varied types of fortifications, beginning with those erected in the Napoleonic Wars and ending with the most modern, up-to-date achievements of engineering, were encountered here.

Second, the city had a large garrison of 80,000 soldiers and officers, among whom were a considerable percentage of SS cutthroats. Third, Breslau was not only a fortress but an important industrial center of the country, and was therefore capable of supplying the needs of its own garrison.

In view of the above, the Soviet Command applied here the tactics of prolonged siege, of measured offensive. For over two months General Gluzdovsky's troops kept the garrison in a state of siege, winning block after block in fierce battles and mowing down the enemy's men and materiel.

In the history of wars there are many examples of lengthy siege of fortresses, but usually numerical superiority was on the side of the besiegers. In Breslau this

was not the case. In organizing the siege the Soviet Command took into consideration the general situation at the front. The main forces were needed to carry the offensive into the heart of Germany. The Germans, on the other hand, by their defense of Breslau, hoped to divert the main forces of the Red Army. But their plan did not succeed. The siege of Breslau did not prevent the troops of the First Ukrainian Front from liquidating the enemy grouping to the southwest of Oppeln, from participating in the storming of Berlin, from surrounding and routing the strong German grouping to the southeast of Berlin, and from reaching the Elbe and joining forces with the Allied Anglo-American troops.

It must be admitted that in besieging a city with small forces there is always a danger that the enemy may break through the encirclement. At Breslau, this danger existed. The Germans made several attempts to break through to the southwest, but failed. A solid curtain of artillery fire was the main weapon with which Red Army units parried the enemy counter-attacks.

Soviet units harassed the enemy ceaselessly; blows from land and air were rained on him night and day. His most important military objectives were bombed from the air, while assault detachments launched uninterrupted on-

slaughts by land. Contrary to the fighting for other cities, at Breslau heavy artillery formed a part of the Soviet assault detachments. The continued action of the latter resulted in the Germans losing many thousands of soldiers. The area held by the enemy melted from day to day. The fascists began to suffer a shortage of ammunition and provisions. The stranglehold was tightening.

Particular anxiety reigned in the German camp during the last few days. They sent a radio message asking for cessation of fire for two hours and for conditions of capitulation. The gunfire stopped. The two hours passed, but no truce emissary appeared. Upon that the Soviet Command issued orders to renew hostilities. Two hundred planes took off and their massed blow spread confusion among the foe. Again his radio appealed for the firing to stop. Truce emissaries emerged. An ultimatum was conveyed to them with capitulation terms. Soon white flags fluttered over the city. The enemy garrison had surrendered.

During the evening of May 6 and throughout the night and the following day, the forces of the Breslau garrison were giving themselves up. Five stations were designated for this purpose, and in long columns headed by their officers the Germans, numbering over 40,000, were taken prisoner.

ALEXANDER SERGEYEVICH SHCHERBAKOV

On May 11, the Soviet press published the following obituary, signed by J. V. Stalin, V. M. Molotov, M. I. Kalinin, K. E. Voroshilov, L. P. Beria, Malenkov, A. I. Mikoyan, L. M. Kaganovich, N. S. Khrushchev, A. A. Zhdanov, N. Shvernik, N. A. Voznessensky, A. A. Andreyev, N. A. Bulganin, Popov, M. Shkiryatov, G. K. Zhukov, A. M. Vasilievsky, S. M. Budenny, A. I. Antonov, and others:

On May 10, after a grave and protracted illness, one of the outstanding leaders of the Bolshevik Party, Comrade Alexander Shcherbakov, died. His death has robbed us of a close friend, a comrade-in-arms and a fiery fighter for the cause of the working people.

Since his youth, Comrade Shcherbakov had bound his fate with the Party of the Bolsheviks, giving all his strength to the service of the people. For many years Comrade Shcherbakov conducted leading work in the Lenin Young Communist League and in Party organizations.

For the past seven years Comrade Shcherbakov worked as Secretary of the Moscow City and Regional Committees of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the largest Party organization.

Comrade Shcherbakov was a loyal son of the Bolshevik Party, an active conductor of its policy, and one of the outstanding organizers of socialist construction in the country.



A. S. Shcherbakov

In the years of the Great Patriotic War, Comrade Shcherbakov displayed fervent energy in the cause of the mobilization of the working masses for assistance to the front and in the organization of political work in the Red Army.

Under wartime conditions, the outstanding organizing role of Comrade Shcherbakov was fully displayed. Leading the Moscow Party organization, he roused the working people of the Capital to the defense of the Motherland and was one

of the organizers of the defense of Moscow.

Conducting leading work in the Party in his capacity of Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Comrade Shcherbakov was at the same time head of the Chief Political Administration of the Red Army.

Simultaneously he was head of the Soviet Information Bureau, created at the beginning of the war, insuring accurate information about the war operations of Soviet troops.

For successful activities in economic construction, Comrade Shcherbakov was decorated with three Orders of Lenin; and for successful fulfillment of assignments of the Supreme Command, with the Order of Suvorov, First Class, and the Order of Kutuzov, First Class.

Comrade Shcherbakov's death is a grave loss for the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet people. He did not live to see the fruits of the victory over the German-fascist invaders, the victory to which he devoted all his strength.

The memory of this outstanding leader of the Bolshevik Party and ardent patriot of our Motherland—Alexander Sergeyevich Shcherbakov—will live forever in our hearts.

Farewell, dear friend and true comrade!

A NEW SCIENTIFIC CENTER

The following is from an article by Mir Kasimov, President of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences:

The formation of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences marks a new stage in the cultural growth of Soviet Azerbaijan. The decree is a new step in the Lenin-Stalin national policy; a result of the long and fruitful connections that have existed between the Azerbaijan intelligentsia and the high culture of the fraternal Russian people.

The new Academy of Sciences contains four departments. The Department of the Geology and Chemistry of Oil occupies

a prominent place, as is only natural in our Republic. Our scientists have discovered new oilfields, penetrating the depths of the sea in order to get at the vast oil strata that lie under it.

The Department of Physico-Technical Science and Oil is concerned with the problem of the physics of the oil stratum. The Institute of Physics has rendered the country considerable help during the war, and has now been given an opportunity to develop research work of great theoretical and practical significance.

The Department of Biology and Agriculture has received a rich inheritance.

Azerbaijani botanists have done splendid work during the war.

The Medical Section, youngest branch of the Academy, has also progressed in the war years.

The social sciences form one of the fields of investigation of the Academy. Established last year, the Philosophy Section is studying the history of social thought in Azerbaijan. Since the outbreak of the war our historians have completed a great task, embodied in the two-volume *History of Literature in Azerbaijan*, covering the period from antiquity to modern times.

TRADE UNIONS AND THE STATE

By K. Omelchenko

The following article, which appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 8, is by the editor of TRUD, daily newspaper of the All-Union Council of Soviet Trade Unions:

Certain foreign circles quite often bring up the question of relations between the trade unions and the state. The interest displayed in this subject is quite intelligible as it concerns an extremely important sphere of contemporary political life in all democratic countries where trade unions exist.

One cannot help noting, however, that the discussion invariably centers around only one country on our planet—namely, the Soviet Union. Moreover, the subject is discussed only from one definite angle, the angle of the so-called "neutrality" of the trade unions. The advocates of neutrality maintain that the trade unions are organizations which stand "above the state," if one may so express it, and claim that this applies to trade unions in all countries except the Soviet Union where they are "controlled by the state," and consequently are "not independent," and are not even democratic working class organizations.

From this, certain elements draw the conclusion that it is impossible to cooperate with the Soviet trade unions. The most vociferous advocates of this schismatic view are the reactionary leaders of the American Federation of Labor. Similar arguments may also, however, be met with in the European press. The Swedish *Dagens Nyheter*, for example, recently made the following statement regarding the "character of the Russian trade union movement": "Lack of independence has always distinguished the Russian trade union movement from the trade union movement of democratic countries."

Hazy statements to the effect that the Soviet trade unions "lack independence" may also be found in the columns of the Swedish Social-Democratic newspaper, *Morgen Tidningen*, organ of the Swedish government. Honestly speaking, this newspaper would do far better to ponder over the lack of independence of the Swedish Federation of Trade Unions

which, as all the world knows, has been trailing in the wake of the ruling circles of Sweden during the whole period of the war. If that newspaper had honestly raised the question of the degree of "independence" which the leaders of the Swedish trade unions displayed in vindicating the interests of the Swedish working class, the answer would have been perfectly clear; for during the war the activities of the Swedish trade unions have been completely subordinated to the government's policy which, as is well known, has been of extreme service to fascist Germany and her satellites. The natural result has been that the interests of the Swedish working class have suffered considerably.

If it were only a matter of the personal likes and dislikes of certain leaders and organs of the press, one could ignore the assessment of the Soviet trade union movement made, say, by William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, or by certain Swedish newspapers. But both the Swedish right-wing Social Democrats and the American trade union isolationists make their arguments about the "neutrality" and independence of the trade unions a pretext for vilifying the Soviet trade unions. On these grounds they oppose cooperation between the trade unions of their countries and those of the USSR. They are doing all in their power to isolate the Soviet trade union movement. Thus the discussion of the problem of "the trade unions and the state," and the touching concern displayed about the "character of Russian trade unionism," are far from academic.

* * *

Before dealing with the character of the Soviet trade unions and their activities, we must be clear on certain general principles which govern the activities of the trade unions and their relations with the state. There is nothing wrong in trade unions cooperating with the state, and such cooperation cannot be condemned as such. Situations and periods occur in the lives of nations when cooperation between trade unions and the state is not only permissible, but even essential—on

one indispensable condition, however, namely, that such cooperation is in the interests of the working class.

Not only the Soviet, but also the British and American trade unions, for example, are actively supporting the governments of their respective countries in the struggle against Hitler Germany. Who would ever doubt that this support and cooperation are positive factors in promoting the interests of the working class? Could the trade unions today remain neutral toward the policy of the state in the struggle against Hitler aggression without actually betraying the cause of the working class? The decisions passed by the World Trade Union Conference in London to render the utmost assistance to the war efforts of the Allies provide a clear and unambiguous answer to this question. Consequently, the question of the relations between the trade unions and the state cannot be examined apart from the concrete historical situation.

The relations between the trade unions and the state in our country have also been determined by history. The attitude of our workers and trade unions toward the state under Tsarism was quite different from their attitude toward the state today, under the Soviet system, when social relations have undergone a radical change and the working class has become the ruling class. In our country it is the working class which exercises the political leadership of society. Soviet society contains no classes whose interests run counter to the interests of the working class. The close cooperation between the trade unions and the Soviet State is determined by the fact that the Soviet Union is a socialist, a workers' and peasants' state in which all power belongs to the working people. Cooperation between the Soviet trade unions and the Soviet State does not and cannot in the slightest degree imply either encroachment on the independence of the trade union movement, or a renouncement by the trade unions of their main functions, that is, the protection of the interests of the working class. This is the opposite of what exists in capitalist countries where, quite often, the

trade unions sacrifice the interests of the working class to the interests of the ruling class, which in those countries is not the working class but the bourgeoisie.

Every unbiased person who is familiar with the actual state of affairs in the Soviet Union must admit that the activities of the Soviet trade unions are of an extremely extensive and fruitful character. The fruits of these activities are inseparable from the general achievements of the working class of the USSR; that is, the abolition of exploitation, the abolition of unemployment and all-round improvement in the economic, social and material conditions of the working class.

Those who are familiar with the Soviet system of social insurance and maintenance cannot fail to see how far ahead of their foreign comrades the Soviet trade unions and Soviet workers have advanced in the sphere of protection of the health of the working people, mother and child welfare and maintenance in old age—in spite of the fact that there are trade unions in many foreign countries which are far older than the Soviet trade unions.

The enormous cultural progress of the workers of the Soviet Union is also an indisputable fact; and the colossal opportunities—compared with Western Europe and America—enjoyed by the Soviet workers, youth and women for satisfying their cultural requirements; their opportunities for education and for improving their skill in their various trades and professions, and for promotion, are undeniable achievements of the Soviet system.

The Soviet State provides the trade unions with facilities for protecting the economic and legal rights of their members on a scale unprecedented in any other country. At the same time, our trade unions are materially independent of the state. They exist and carry on their functions with their own funds, obtained from membership dues. The working people of the country have every ground for regarding their trade unions as the most democratic in the world.

The very principle on which the Soviet trade unions are built, testifies to their widely democratic character. In the first place, they are voluntary organizations. The question of joining or leaving a trade

union is a matter of free choice for every wage and salaried worker. No artificial barriers are placed in the way of the worker who wants to join a trade union. Neither occupation, degree of skill, sex, nationality or race, nor political or religious convictions are obstacles to trade union membership. All leading trade union bodies, from the bottom up, are elected and are responsible to their electors. The secret ballot fully insures the members of the trade union the democratic expression of their will.

Thus, one of the most important distinguishing features of the Soviet Union is that here the protection of the interests of the working class by the trade unions is inseparably bound up with the constant support of the state by the trade unions. The entire policy and all activities of the Soviet State are conducted in the interests of the working class and have for their main object the all-round and far-reaching protection of these interests.

Reactionary leaders of many trade unions in capitalist countries compel their unions to support the state to the detriment of the interests of the working class; for the policies pursued by the governments of these countries, by serving the ruling groups and the propertied classes, often run counter to the interests of the masses.

In the light of these general propositions the following, at first sight a paradoxical fact, will become clear. Those very trade union leaders in the foreign countries who attack the Soviet trade union movement on the plea of protecting trade union neutrality and their independence of the state, deliberately hush up the policy pursued by their own trade unions toward the state. If, however, we examine this policy, the following will become clear:

First, that it departs from trade union neutrality and independence even in theory. Second, that in practice the trade unions usually follow in the wake of the policy of their governments. Very often they do this to the detriment of the vital interests of the working class, which they are supposed to protect.

We shall deal first of all with the country where the history of the trade unions

goes back further than that of any other country—namely, Great Britain.

We have before us a work by Professor G. D. H. Cole, *British Trade Unionism Today*, published in London just before the outbreak of the present war. As the author tells us, the book was composed with the collaboration of 30 trade union leaders and other experts. Considerable space is devoted to the question of relations between the trade unions and the state. The author says that there are two views concerning the objects pursued by the trade union movement:

"On the one side are those who regard the industrial organization of the workers as the instinctive expression of the class struggle which is inherent in the wage relationship between capitalist and laborer, and which can be transcended only by the supersession of capitalism itself. Workers who take this view are class-conscious proletarians . . . seeking to weld the whole working class together into a solid force for the overthrow of capitalism. For them trade unionism is essentially a fighting movement resting on a class basis; and any agreements which the workers may make with their employers are but truces, temporary intervals in a war which can end only with the final victory of the working class. . . .

"The second idea of trade unionism is that it exists in order to protect and advance the interests of a defined group of workers who possess some special skill or other mark of distinction from the general masses of labor, so that they can hope by a close combination of those who possess this special qualification to secure better terms of employment and a higher status than would be possible if each man acted alone.

"The aim of those who hold this view is to create for themselves a limited monopoly of labor, in order to improve its price, just as capitalists endeavor by a combination to exact a monopoly profit. There is in this type of trade unionism no set intention to change the economic system, but only a will to make it work better from the standpoint of the particular group. Nor is there any desire to build up a solid combination of the whole working class; for it is clearly impossible for all of them to exact special privileges.

If there is to be exploitation, there must be persons left to exploit."

The author goes on to say, "In practice no trade union accepts completely either of these points of view." And in Britain there predominate, rather, "combinations approaching very near to the second idea." The author observes that this influences "trade unionism as a whole. . . ."

One may or may not agree with the ideas enunciated above, but one thing is clear, and that is that not one of them has anything in common with the vaunted principle of trade union "neutrality." Neither the first point of view, which is based on recognition of the class struggle; nor the second, which advocates the principle of class collaboration and support of the capitalist system of society, can by any stretch of the imagination be regarded as neutral.

Outstanding investigators of the British trade union movement, such as Sidney and Beatrice Webb, emphasized more than once in their *History of Trade Unionism* that the official policy of the trade unions always expressed the striving of their leaders toward a sort of a coalescence with the machinery of the state.

And most remarkable of all, we read in the chapter entitled "The Place of Trade Unionism in the State," "The trade union itself has been tacitly accepted as part of the administrative machinery of the state. . . . The recognition of the trade union movement as part of the governmental structure of the nation began in an almost imperceptible way. . . . It is now taken for granted that trade unionism must be distinctively and effectually represented . . . on all Royal Commissions and Departmental Committees, whether or not these inquiries are concerned specifically with 'labor questions'. . . . It is needless to say that this recognition was not accorded to the trade union world without a *quid pro quo* from the trade union movement to the government."

The character of this coalescence of the trade union machinery with the machinery of state in Great Britain, which very often runs counter to the vital interests of the British workers, was most vividly revealed in the most dramatic periods of the British working class movement—

such as, for instance, during the general strike of 1926. As an example of how the British trade unions subordinated the interests of the working class to the interests of the ruling classes, we may quote the deplorable Munich period when Chamberlain's policy of "appeasing" the German aggressor hastened the approach of the Second World War. In spite of the wishes of the trade union membership, the leaders of the Trade Union Congress followed in the wake of the official government policy, and when the government tacked, they invariably tacked, too.

The coalescence of the trade union federations with the bourgeois machinery of state—through compulsory arbitration, and conferences of employers and various class collaboration organizations—was observed also in other capitalist countries before the war. The representatives of the Amsterdam International officially announced a "new attitude towards the state." Theories such as "constructive socialism and industrial democracy" made their appearance. The substance of the latter was most vividly expressed by Karl Zwing, one of the "theoreticians" of the Amsterdam International, in the following words: "We must not lose sight of the fact that the working class is part of the capitalist system. The collapse of that system would be tantamount to its (the working class') collapse, and consequently it is the great historical duty of the working class to secure—by defining its place in this system—an improvement of the entire social system which, in turn, would be identical with improvement in its own conditions."

In this argument the function of the trade unions as protector of the interests of the proletariat is not even mentioned; their main object is stated to be "national concentration of the trade union movement and the identification of its objects with the prosperity of the whole."

* * *

These tendencies have found striking expression in the activities and policies of the American Federation of Labor. They became known in trade union movements as Gompersism, after Samuel Gompers, former head of the A.F.L. Professor S. Perlman, one of the apologists of Gompersism, stated in his book, *The*

History of Trade Unionism in the United States, that in certain periods, especially during the First World War, "the Federation took its cue completely from the national government." He goes on to say:

"An important aspect of the cooperation of the government with the Federation was the latter's eager self-identification with the government's foreign policy, which went to the length of choosing to play a lone hand in the Allied labor world. . . . During the greater part of the period of American neutrality, its attitude was that of the shocked lover of peace who is desirous of maintaining the strictest neutrality. . . ."

"When war seemed inevitable, the national officers of all important unions in the Federation met in Washington and issued a statement on American labor's position in peace or in war. They pledged the labor movement and the influence of the labor organizations unreservedly in support of the government in case of war."

We shall not enter into a general analysis of the question raised here by the author; we merely state the facts.

In characterizing the activities of the American Federation of Labor, the historians of the American trade union movement invariably arrive at one conclusion. They admit that throughout its history the American Federation of Labor pursued not a neutral line, but a clearly defined line of adaptation to the policy of the ruling class. This, in turn, inevitably led to a constantly growing process of coalescence of the leading upper circle of the American Federation of Labor with the employers and the machinery of the state, and the widening of the gulf between the labor leaders and the general trade union membership.

A yawning chasm opened between the everyday practice of the American Federation of Labor and the democratic principles which it proclaimed. Very often so-called provisionism reigns in the internal government of American trade unions. This term covers up the system of appointing from above, officials who exercise undivided sway in the lower organizations. This practice is, of course, in crying contradiction to the elementary requirements of trade union democracy.

With the aid of these appointed officials, the leading trade union bureaucrats dictatorially handle practically all trade union affairs. According to a report of the "independent" Miners' Union from whose ranks Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, sprang, organizations covering 71 per cent of the membership are governed by trade union officials appointed from above and never elected by anyone. These are official figures and are, no doubt, an underestimate.

Under these conditions a type of leader predominates in the unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor who regards his organization practically as his own private commercial enterprise. As an American journalist has expressed it, a leader of this type cannot tolerate the idea that trade union officials whom he appoints and whose pay he controls, should read his edicts without going into raptures over them.

Commenting on such fairly widespread phenomena, the American journal *Fortune* stated rather cynically:

"To make an industrial union or group then, you do not need fixed social objectives so much as a flexible tongue, ready opportunism and a pitiless hand."

The absence of democracy within the trade union movement, and of control and free criticism on the part of the membership, leads to phenomena of a revolting kind. The extent to which corruption is rife among leaders of the trade unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor is well known. The American press has quoted and continues to quote numerous facts proving that trade union officials have connections with the criminal world. Cases have even been known of gangsters climbing into responsible trade union posts, rifling trade union coffers, concluding deals with employers, and terrorizing the membership. Quite recently the *Chicago Daily News*, exposing conditions prevailing in the American Federation of Labor, wrote:

"The highest A.F.L. executives tolerated gangsters among A.F.L. officials until the Government prosecuted and imprisoned the gangsters for criminal activities."

In spite of these facts, it is precisely in A.F.L. quarters that we hear hypocrit-

ical sermons on trade union "neutrality, independence and democracy"! The practical object of the slander spread by these quarters about the Soviet trade unions is obvious. They want to sow among the American people suspicion and distrust toward the Soviet workers and their trade unions, to frustrate the idea of international cooperation and international unity among the trade unions of the democratic countries.

We are pleased to note that many organs of the press, and men prominent in trade union and public affairs in the United States, condemn the campaign against the Soviet trade union movement conducted by reactionary leaders of the American Federation of Labor. For example, Edwin A. Lahey, commentator for the *Chicago Daily News*, wrote recently:

"It is quite disconcerting to think what a noise would have been raised had the Russian trade unions kept passing resolutions denouncing the A.F.L. for supporting capitalist private enterprise, and even entering into collusive contracts with the monopolists."

This sound observation needs no comment.

GEORGIAN POET WRITES OF STALIN

Writing about Stalin, Henri Barbusse once remarked that it was a grand task to create the image of a man so closely bound up with work of world importance, the character of the political warrior in whom worlds and epochs are reflected.

A book that promises to meet the high standards set by the French writer is now in the making. It is the work of the well-known Georgian poet Georgi Leonidze, and it bears the title *Stalin*. So far only the first part—"Childhood and Boyhood"—has come off the press.

The prologue to the poem is dedicated to Georgia of old, and covers the history of the ancient town of Gori, once the gateway to Georgia, and famous now as the birthplace of Joseph Stalin. It nestles between two mountain rivers, amid ancient ruins and fragrant orchards, with the wild, majestic peaks of the Caucasus in the distance.

The Soviet workers are sparing no efforts to strengthen their socialist Motherland. The Soviet trade unions unreservedly support their workers' State in the interests of the working class. Only malicious anti-Soviet slanderers can draw from this the conclusion that Soviet trade unions are not voluntary, independent and democratic workers' organizations. And only malicious people who are striving to sap the foundations of international working-class unity can proclaim, as leaders of the American Federation of Labor do, that it is impossible to sit under one roof with the Soviet trade unions.

Incidentally, these splitting designs were, as we know, unanimously condemned by the trade union organizations represented at the World Trade Union Conference held in London last February and including the largest democratic trade unions of America. Striving to isolate the Soviet trade unions, the reactionary splitters among the leadership of the American Federation of Labor have succeeded only in isolating themselves. The Soviet trade unions occupy their appropriate place in the ranks of the international trade union movement.

The young Stalin is pictured growing up in an atmosphere of reverence for the heroic past of his people, and of warm parental love. The theme of the people's liberty and happiness runs through the entire book.

As a boy Stalin loved to roam among the rich orchards and gardens along the banks of the Georgian rivers, and he was especially fond of the songbirds there. Besides the beauty of nature, he loved books. Among his favorites were the poems of Shota Rustaveli and of other great writers of Georgia. Throughout his schooldays the young Stalin pondered the question: Why is there so much injustice in the world? He asked his teachers for the answer. But he was only to receive it much later, in the books of the advanced democratic writers of Georgia and Russia.

Centenary of the Birth of Ilya I. Mechnikov

Ilya Ivanovich Mechnikov, Russian biologist, was born May 15, 1845. In 1864 he was graduated from Kharkov University and in 1867 received his Master's degree. In the same year he was awarded the Karl Baer Prize for his work in comparative embryology.

In 1868 he presented his Doctorate thesis, which, like his Master's thesis, was a distinct contribution in the field of the comparative embryology of invertebrates. From 1870 to 1882, he occupied the Chair of Zoology at the University of Odessa.

The restrictive measures taken against progressive science by the reactionary Tsarist government compelled him, in 1882, to leave the University, and six years later to leave his country.

From that time, Mechnikov was a permanent staff member of the famed Pasteur Institute in Paris, playing a leading part in its activities. The splendid treatises which he wrote in Paris were an important contribution to the work of this institute. Among them are his *Lectures on the Comparative Pathology of Inflammation* (1892), and his *Immunity in Infectious Diseases* (1902).

In 1908 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine.

He died on July 15, 1916, after a severe illness.

Modern biology and medicine are greatly indebted to Mechnikov. He is considered one of the founders of comparative embryology. His work on the embryonic development of various invertebrates, from sponges to insects, helped to place evolutionary embryology on a firm foundation and supplied positive proof of the common origin of the entire animal world.

Mechnikov was also one of the first scientists to engage in experimental morphology, a combined study of the physiological and morphological aspects of vital phenomena. His works on phagocytosis and intra-cellular digestion in the most diverse animal species are classics. Important as Mechnikov's discoveries were in themselves, their significance is further magnified by the impetus they



I. I. Mechnikov
1845-1916

gave to the development of the comparative and evolutionary trend in physiology.

The principles of comparative pathology and phagocyte theory of immunity worked out by Mechnikov constitute remarkable achievements in human knowledge and have greatly promoted progress in the theory and practice of medicine.

Among Soviet scientists continuing the work of Mechnikov, an outstanding place is held by Academician Alexander Severtsov and his large school, who have made notable contributions to the theory of evolution, continuing the development of the principles of Darwinism.

The profound study and development of the doctrine of evolution by Soviet biologists have enabled them to establish evolutionary principles in departments of biology which until recently had lagged behind the general trend of evolutionary thought. The school of morphology headed by Academician A. Zavarzin has inaugurated evolutionary histology. The ideas of this school are a direct outgrowth of those expressed by Mechnikov. Based on methods of comparative morphology and scientific experimentation, they have supplied abundant material for elucidating the general and specific laws of the evolutionary development of tissues and have thereby greatly increased our knowledge of evolution in the animal world.

The Soviet school of physiology headed

by Academician L. Orbeli, a disciple of the great Pavlov, has been a contributor of no less importance to the theory of evolution. Taking as its basis the method of comparative embryology so widely employed by Mechnikov in his day, this school has established several laws governing the evolution of functions of the animal organism, and shed enormous light on the interdependence of evolutionary changes in form and function.

Pursuing the line mapped out by Mechnikov, the schools of pathology under Academicians A. Bogomolets and A. Anichkov have further developed his views and methods in comparative pathology, and have bridged the gap between theory and concrete medical practice.

* * *

The Soviet Government has formed a committee consisting of People's Commissar of Health Protection of the USSR, Georgi Miterov; Academicians Leon Orbeli, Alexei Abrikosov and others, who have outlined a vast program for the perpetuation of the scientist's memory.

To honor the centenary of Mechnikov's birth, a monument will be erected to him and a gold medal with his name will be instituted, to be awarded once every three years for the best studies in microbiology. A collection of his works will be published, and a film produced about his life and work.

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Morning of Peace

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From PRAVDA, May 10:

The day has come! She stands before us—no longer a word, no longer a figure of marble, but warm and living, clad in a faded soldier's tunic, gray with the dust of marches and with wound stripes on her breast, yet superbly beautiful and ardently beloved—our Victory!

The guns have roared their last and after many long years, the supreme bliss of quiet has descended upon Europe. Mothers may caress their children without fear—the shadow of death no longer falls upon the cradles. Flowers bloom, grain sprouts, and fields are turned by the plow, never to be trampled again by the steel treads of tanks. And in the unusual quiet of this morning, millions of hearts flutter their salute to victory.

The Red Army has saved the world from mortal danger. I will not cast gloom

upon this hour by recalling the fascist atrocities. And there is no need to—there are sorrows which are longer than life itself. We shall not forget what we have been through—and that is the pledge of peace. At his post guarding the future stands the soldier of Stalingrad: he has seen everything and remembers everything and he knows that the end of fascism has come.

The last of the German fascists have scurried like rats through the subterranean passages, through the underworld of Berlin. There is a deep significance in this picture of the plague of rats, terrified by the triumph of light, trying to prolong the night. They still scratch and squeal and hold out, lurking in corners of the old and new world. But there is no salvation for them; the people have hungered too long for light and truth and reason.

All nations now know what the Hitlerites did. They trampled upon human dignity, they wrought horror and degradation. And all nations now know the fate from which the Red Army saved them. Our peaceable and kindly people accepted every sacrifice in order to prevent mankind from being trampled upon.

Four years our farmers and foundrymen, builders and agronomists, miners and schoolteachers, lumberjacks and mechanics, architects and students—men devoted to peaceful labor—heroically fought the predatory marauders. The most powerful army in the world invaded our country. We remember that summer, the clanging of enemy tanks, the wail of the peasants' carts, the roads of Smolensk, the blood of children and the vow to stand firm. We remember the summer of 1942, the bitterness of wormwood, and



Hero of the Soviet Union N. Nikonov



Twice Hero of the Soviet Union V. Golubev



Hero of the Soviet Union Major S. Ivanov

Radiophotos

ORDER OF LENIN AWARDED TO UNITED STATES FORMER AMBASSADOR TO USSR DAVIES

For successful activities which have contributed to the strengthening of friendly Soviet-American relations and to the growth of mutual understanding and trust between the peoples of the two countries, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has awarded the Order of Lenin to former Ambassador of the United States to the USSR, the Honorable Joseph E. Davies.



MORNING OF PEACE

(Continued from page one)

our solemn oath to win back our land.

We have won because stout-hearted Soviet people, when Fate tempted them to seek surrender, died rather than submit. We have reached Berlin because when one soldier fell, another immediately took his place, because Soviet soldiers defended every hill and dell of their native land, because there were the victory gardens of Moscow, the embattled suburbs of Leningrad, the stones of Sevastopol, the tractor plant of Stalingrad, the Kursk salient, the guerrillas, the Girls' Young Guard, the factories that sprang up in the wastes, and the four years of the fighting people.

For long we fought single-handed against Germany's colossal forces. What would have become of the children of the Canadian farmer or the Paris worker if the Russian soldier who drained the bitter cup on the Don had not marched to the Spree? We not only saved our country, saved human culture the ancient stones of Europe, its cradles, its working folk, its museums and its books. If England is destined to produce another Shakespeare, if new encyclopedists should appear in France, if our country should confer another Tolstoy on mankind, if the dream of the Golden Age should ever come true, it will be because the soldiers of liberty marched thousands of miles to plant the banner of freedom, brotherhood and light in the city of darkness.

It seemed that there were no bounds to the night which enveloped the world.

But there were bounds—bounds placed by Soviet conscience and Soviet ideals. Who curbed the fascist book-burners? The printers of Moscow and Leningrad. Who vanquished the child-slayers? The Siberian and Byelorussian builders of child nurseries. Who overthrew fascism? The nation which preaches brotherhood, peaceful labor and the solidarity of all people.

The Yugoslavs, Poles and Czechoslovaks know who it was that brought them liberty: the graves of their Soviet brothers are before their eyes. But even farther from our land, in Paris, Oslo, Brussels and Milan, people bless the Red Army which dealt the most terrific blow to the jailers of Europe. Shoulder to shoulder with us fought our gallant Allies, and fidelity triumphed over perfidy. Fascist Germany capitulated.

A place will be found under the sun for all nations. And the German people will live, too, after having cleansed itself from fascist defilement. But there is no place on earth for fascism. That we swear by the oath of the victors. We are a free people and we do not want to enslave anyone. We do not want to enslave the Germans. We want something else—to cauterize the horrible ulcer, to save our children from the return of the brown plague.

A new era has begun, an era of plowmen and masons, doctors and architects, of gardeners and schoolteachers, of printers and poets. Washed by the tears of spring, Europe lies wounded. Much labor, persistence, audacity and determination will be required to heal all the

wounds, so that the 20th Century—saved from the bloody pit into which the fascists had cast it—may again stride toward happiness. The boldness, talent and conscience of our people will help the world to rise to its feet. Gone is the blackout, not only of cities but also of the mind. And on this morning of victory we proudly cry: *Long live the light!*

Times without number have we heard the lofty words, "Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in the fighting for the liberty and independence of our country!" As we gazed at the green and red rockets we thought of those whose all-too-brief lives illumined the roads of the people. For those who perished saved our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

On this morning of peace our thoughts are of the man toward whom all eyes are turned. It is not only a matter of military genius, not only of the watchfulness which enables the captain on the bridge to bring his vessel through the howling storm. Stalin means something more to us—he has shared the woe of each of us, and fought and won with all of us; it is not one heart that beats beneath his soldier's greatcoat but two hundred million hearts. That is why not only in our country, but all over the world, Stalin's name is associated with the end of the night and the first morning of happiness.

Soon husbands will be embracing their wives, and sons their mothers. The green grain will sprout in the fields of Porya, Korsun and Mga, where blood flowed and fires raged. It is hard to find words to express this happiness.

THE SOVIET BUDGET FOR 1945

At the first sitting of the Eleventh Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, People's Commissar of Finance Arseni Zverev submitted the budget for 1945 and reported on the fulfilment of the 1944 budget.

The budget for 1945 is balanced in the total revenue and expenditure of 307.9 billion rubles. It is a budget designed to finance the final victory in the Great Patriotic War, the rehabilitation of the German-devastated regions, and the further development of the national economy and cultural life of the country.

The supreme effort made by the Soviet people for victory was reflected in the scale of financing the first three and a half years of war—that is, to the end of 1944—during which period a total sum of 420 billion rubles was provided for this purpose out of the budgets. In the 1945 budget, appropriations for war financing amount to 137.9 billion rubles, or 45.1 per cent of the total budget expenditures for all purposes.

The Soviet economic system has stood with honor the severe test of war. It is sufficient to say that the budget for 1944, which was estimated for a revenue and expenditure of 249.6 billion rubles, actually yielded 268 billion rubles; while expenditures amounted to 263 billion rubles, showing a net excess of revenue over expenditure of five billion rubles. This sound state of finances was due to an increase in the total revenue of that year of 58 billion rubles as compared with 1943, and to the patriotic spirit displayed by the Soviet people in oversubscribing Government loans.

The chief source of national revenue in the Soviet Union is turnover and taxes on profits of State-owned enterprises. In the 1945 budget these two items are expected to yield more than half the total revenue. The profit tax on State enterprises is estimated to yield 27.6 billion rubles as compared with 24.4 billion rubles in 1944.

The proceeds from taxation of the general public and from Government loans, chiefly the war loan, comprise an important item of the 1945 budget. Taxation and the Fourth War Loan are expected

to yield 45.3 and 25 billion rubles respectively.

Another indication of the soundness of Soviet finances is the steady growth of balances in savings bank accounts.

As Zverev pointed out, the 64.6 billion rubles which the 1945 budget allocates for financing the national economy represents an increase of nearly one-third over last year. This is one of the most striking features of this year's budget. The greater bulk of this item—over 35 billion rubles—will go to finance industry; a little over nine billion rubles to agriculture; almost an equal sum to transport and communication services, and about three billion rubles to municipal services and housing.

New iron and steel, machine-building, power and other plants have sprung up in the Urals, Siberia and Central Asia during the war. Construction work will assume a still wider scope in 1945, for which period the budget provides 40.1 billion rubles for capital investment as compared with 29 billion rubles in 1944. Nearly half this sum is earmarked for rehabilitation work in the liberated regions. The Germans destroyed factories, collective farms, railways, houses, schools and hospitals in the areas which they occupied. However, the Nazis were mistaken in their belief that the Soviet people would be unable to restore their ruined economy.

The first results of their efforts are already visible. Compared with 1943, the total coal output of the country increased by 30.6 per cent, of which 18.6 per cent was accounted for by the rehabilitated mines of the Donbas, which for two years had been in the hands of the invaders. Large quantities of iron and steel have already been supplied by the rehabilitated plants in the South. Over 2,000 machine and tractor stations have resumed operation in the liberated areas, helping collective farms to raise bigger harvests.

But of course much still remains to be done. One of the major tasks in the capital development of 1945 will be to restore and reconstruct the heavy industries and, in the first instance, the coal mines and iron and steel plants of the liberated regions. Large funds are also to be appro-

priated for the rehabilitation of transport services, agriculture and housing.

Notwithstanding the burden of war, cultural development does not cease to be one of the main concerns of the Soviet Government. The 1945 budget allocates 66.1 billion rubles, or 22 per cent of the total expenditures, for education, health, social and cultural services. There will be an increase of 2,800,000 pupils in primary and secondary schools this year as compared with 1944. The number of students of universities and higher technical schools will increase by nearly one-third and will approximate the prewar figure.

A 50 per cent increase as compared with last year is provided for the financing of scientific institutions, which is indicative of the attention science receives in the USSR.

Large appropriations are provided for child welfare institutions. The welfare of mother and child is given great attention by the Soviet State. The number of mothers receiving grants from the Government increased by nearly 50 per cent in the second half of 1944. Grants to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers in 1945 will be 500 million rubles more than in 1944.

Care of disabled soldiers is one of the prime concerns of the Soviet Government and the public. Under the Constitution every citizen has the right to social maintenance in sickness, old age or loss of working capacity. This provision of our fundamental law finds practical expression in the 1945 budget which allocates 18 billion rubles, or two billion rubles more than in 1944, for social maintenance, including pensions and grants to soldiers and their families.

A noteworthy feature of the 1945 budget is that for the first time since the outbreak of war the budgets of all Union Republics are included, which is a result of the historic victories of the Red Army in clearing the entire territory of the Soviet Union of alien invaders.

The increase of budget expenditures are largest in the case of the Republics liberated from the Nazis, because of the vast scale of rehabilitation work which must be undertaken.

REHABILITATION OF WOUNDED SERVICEMEN

By A. Sukhov

People's Commissar of Social Maintenance of the Russian SFSR

The war against Hitler Germany is over, but the after-effects will be felt for a long time to come. We know the sacrifices and efforts this war demanded of the Soviet people. It has torn many thousands of people, mainly young ones, from their usual occupations. Many of the Red Army soldiers returned from the front with serious wounds.

In the Soviet Union every facility has been provided for the treatment of wounded soldiers and officers. Our hospitals and clinics, employing the most up-to-date methods of treatment, have succeeded in restoring a large proportion of wounded soldiers to the ranks. Nevertheless, 25 to 27 per cent were found unfit for active service. They represent a considerable labor power and their return to normal occupations is therefore a task of utmost significance. During the past year important results have been achieved in this respect. Nearly all invalids with a partial loss of working capacity were returned to useful labor in the Soviet national economy. As a matter of fact, they make up 80 per cent of all war invalids.

It is now no longer a question of placing war invalids in industry or agriculture—this has been done quite successfully—but of introducing the most effective organization of their labor, of employing them in skilled occupations. It goes without saying that if the invalid is well occupied, his general condition and morale are improved. That is why we have introduced vocational training for war invalids on a large scale.

Ten days before his discharge from a hospital the wounded soldier considered unfit for military service appears before a commission of medical experts to determine the classification of his disability and his fitness for labor, and to recommend the most suitable occupation for him.

War invalids are classified as follows: those completely incapacitated by illness or physical defects and who may even need special care, such cases being completely dependent on State aid; invalids

Women of Moscow factories visit hospitals with gifts for wounded Red Army men



Radiophoto

whose health renders them unfit for regular work or whose physical defects make it impossible for them to work without special appliances; those with a partial loss of working capacity. The last is the largest category, embracing approximately two-thirds of the total number of invalids.

Invalids who as a result of wounds are unable to return to their former occupations have an opportunity to learn new vocations while in the hospital. This instruction is given on the advice of the attending physician and under his supervision. The decision, however, rests with the wounded man, who is free to choose his vocation. Twenty-eight thousand wounded men received vocational training in hospitals in one year.

Experience has shown that this training not only interests the wounded man, but becomes a stimulating factor in speeding up his recovery, for it strengthens his confidence in himself and raises his spirits.

The possibilities for work in the hospital are, of course, limited. Bookkeeping and other office work, repair of typewriters, adding and sewing machines, watchmaking, photography, shoemaking, etc.—these practically exhaust the opportunities offered in most of the hospitals. However, in the hospital the invalid receives only his initial training. Thorough training is conducted on a large scale in the vocational schools maintained by the So-

cial Maintenance authorities and the factories, or directly at the point of production.

More than 40,000 war invalids are now enrolled in various trade schools (boarding schools) and courses are also given by the Social Maintenance bodies in the high schools and colleges of the country.

Upon discharge from a hospital, the invalid is registered by the Social Maintenance Department in his district. The director of the Social Maintenance Department is obliged to interview every invalid, to study the recommendations of the medical commission, and to learn the man's wishes.

In directing the invalid to his place of employment, the director of the Social Maintenance Department subsequently makes a systematic check-up on his conditions of work.

In accordance with Soviet laws, no factory or office manager has the right to reject an invalid sent by the Social Maintenance authorities. The Social Maintenance Departments have the right to exercise State control over working and living conditions of war invalids at any enterprise. They also help in carrying out rationalization methods designed to render his labor easier.

The factory managements have been most friendly and attentive to the invalids who return to work. It has been a rule in

many factories and plants to maintain contact with workers serving at the front. In the event of their demobilization, the factory organizations assist the invalids to return to their old places of work.

Investigation of conditions of several thousand invalids chosen at random has shown that if we take their average earnings in the past as 100, the present average is 122 per cent.

As an example I will cite conditions prevailing at the famous Kirov tank-building plant. The management and trade union organization in this plant pay special attention to war invalids employed there. Every invalid is first required to appear before a commission of engineers, doctors and shop superintendents, which recommends the most suitable work for training. The invalid himself, of course, has the final say in this matter.

Industrial training of invalids is conducted in the shop under the guidance of skilled foremen or in a factory trade school. Three hundred and eighty-four invalids sent to work in this plant received training: 71 as electric welders; 74 as fitters; 73 as turners; 32 as punch press operators; 15 as girders; 13 as milling work operators; 17 as drill press operators; 27 as inspectors; 4 as polishers; 2 as gear-cutting machine operators, and 56 were trained in various other specialties.

Special appliances have been introduced (footstools, special chairs, etc.) to make the labor of the invalids easier.

A study of the work of war invalids in the Kirov plant has shown that as a rule they cope with their production plans quite well. Thus, as compared with an average of 134 or 135 per cent for the whole plant, the average for war invalids

is 130 per cent of their production plan, and their earnings average 1,000 rubles a month. Their success is facilitated by a well-organized system of labor protection and labor safety.

There is not a branch of the national economy, administration or culture where war invalids are not employed. You may meet yesterday's Red Army soldier and officer at the head of a local Government organization, working as a shop superintendent, skilled worker, foreman, designer or factory director.

Thousands of ex-servicemen hold leading places in agriculture as collective farm managers and team leaders. Tankmen have returned to the tractor and combine harvester, and artillerymen and mortar gunners are operating machine tools in defense factories. All this is a result of the care given the war invalids in the USSR.

ACADEMICIAN PETER KAPITZA HONORED WITH TITLE OF HERO OF SOCIALIST LABOR

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has conferred upon Professor Peter Kapitza, Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the title of Hero of Socialist Labor, for his researches into the turbine methods of producing oxygen and his design of a turbine for the large-scale production of liquid oxygen. Another decree of the Presidium awards the Order of the Red Banner of Labor to Professor Kapitza's Institute of Physical Problems of the Academy of Sciences.

* * *

The following comments are by Oleg Pisarzhevsky, one of Kapitza's assistants:

Peter Kapitza finds inspiration not only in his scientific achievements, but also in their gigantic scale and the possibility afforded by the Soviet Union to immediately realize them in practice.

At the opening of the Conference of the State Advisory Council on the Employment of Oxygen in Industry, of which he is Chairman, Academician Kapitza spoke of the advantageous position of the Soviet scientist, who is assured the full



Academician Peter Kapitza

and generous support of the Government in his often uncertain and expensive experiments.

The large-scale application of the methods developed by Kapitza have earned him the title of Hero of Socialist Labor. This reveals the confidence placed in him by his country, and is an incentive for

the scientist to continue his work on an even grander scale.

By his extensive researches in the field of ultra-low temperatures, Kapitza—with other pioneers in new branches of physics—has done essential reconnaissance work for the further widening of our knowledge in this field. One of the achievements which opens up a wide vista for future work is his discovery of the superfluidity of liquid helium—that is, the absence of any trace of viscosity in this remarkable liquid. He has devoted much time to the practical uses to which this discovery can be put. Kapitza was disappointed when he found it impossible to test aircraft in this "ideal liquid" medium, but was rewarded when he discovered that the amazing properties of liquid helium opened a way to the development of new methods of approaching absolute zero.

Professor Kapitza is a physicist and engineer: a physicist who is able to employ the achievements of advanced modern technology; an engineer whose technological contributions are due to his scientific method.

Restoration of Health Resorts and Sanatoriums

The following article is by Dr. Alexander Andreyev, Vice Chairman of the Health Resort Administration, People's Commissariat of Public Health.

There are some 280 health resorts, 724 sanatoriums, and over 300 rest homes in the Soviet Union. Many of them were situated in the Caucasus, on the southern shores of the Crimea, and in the steep valleys of the Mineralnye Vody group. More than four million working people rested and took cures in them in 1940.

The Nazis wrecked, looted and burned the finest health spas in the Crimea and the Caucasus. The Yevpatoria children's sanatoriums for tuberculosis of the bone were burned down. The former comfortable hotels of Yalta—the Ormanda, Intourist, Russia and others—are semi-destroyed.

The same is true of the Yalta Scientific Research Institute of Climatology, the Sechenov Institute of Physiotherapy in Sevastopol and the oldest balneological institute in Pyatigorsk. The German barbarians converted the famous Yalta Sanatorium, the Gaspra, into a stable.

In keeping with plans drawn up by the People's Commissariat of Public Health, the All-Union Central Committee of Trade Unions, and the active aid of medical workers and the population, a considerable number of the destroyed health resorts were rehabilitated last year. This year still greater efforts will be exerted in the restoration of the health spas, for which over a hundred million rubles have been allocated.

Among the most notable health resorts in the Soviet Union is the one in Sochi-Matsesta. This Soviet Riviera has sulphur springs, a warm seashore climate similar to the Mediterranean, and a mineral spring near Sochi.

The subtropical climate of the southern shores of the Crimea is a cardinal factor in the cure of bone and pulmonary tuberculosis and anemia. Here in palaces and villas which the onslaught of the Red Army prevented the Germans from de-

stroying, servicemen are resting and recuperating.

A number of the sanatoriums in the Crimea for the workers of war plants are already in operation. The Proletarii Sanatorium, accommodating 300 guests, and the permanent clinic of the Sechenov Institute are now functioning in Yalta. The Yalta Tubercular Institute is being extended to accommodate 250 patients. Sanatoriums situated in the picturesque parts of the Crimea—Miskhor, Koreiz, Alupka and others—will open their doors this season. After the completion of major repairs, the children's sanatorium will open in Yevpatoria in June.

Outstanding in the Mineralnye Vody group in the Caucasus is Kislovodsk, re-

stored within three months after the expulsion of the enemy, and very popular not only for its Narzan baths, but for its pure mountain climate. In the near future the Gorky Sanatorium with 150 accommodations will open here. By a Government order, the People's Commissariat of Health of the USSR has placed it at the disposal of the Academy of Sciences.

The largest Soviet health resort for the treatment of stomach diseases is being revived in Zheleznovodsk, which is one of the most beautiful spots in the Caucasus.

For the coming season, the Health Resort Administration of the People's Commissariat of Public Health of the USSR will have in readiness five sanatoriums for invalids of the Patriotic War, with a capacity of 750—in Pyatigorsk, Essentuki, Zheleznovodsk, Kislovodsk and Sochi-Matsesta.

This year special attention will be concentrated on children's sanatoriums, for which about 2,000 beds have been installed. Artek, the well-known Pioneer camp in the Crimea, is being extended to accommodate 1,000, and in 1945 over 6,000 children will spend their vacations there.

In sunny Georgia are outstanding health resorts—Borzhomi, Tskhaltubo and Abastumani, which have long-established reputations for their balneological properties and mountain climate.

The mud baths of Odessa, Yevpatoria and Saki, the Berezov mineral springs near Khardko, Naftalan in Azerbaijan, the resorts of the Bashkiria, Kazakhstan and Chkalov Regions—all constitute a mighty chain of health resorts.

Health spas are being restored in the Western Ukraine, Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian and Karelo-Finnish Republics, and will be ready to receive the workers of their Republics this year.

It is expected that in addition to regular contingents of the Red Army, the sanatoriums and rest homes will be in a position in 1945 to accommodate over a million working civilians.



In the Artek Children's Camp in the Crimea

THE WAGE SYSTEM IN THE USSR

By N. Rytikov

The Soviet Union is a Socialist State. In it is realized the principle *"from each according to his abilities, to each according to his labor."* Conforming to this principle, wages in the Soviet Union are paid in accordance with the quality and quantity of the worker's labor. The wage systems are planned to stimulate the fulfilment and overfulfilment of norms of output, and so that the workers will have an interest in raising their qualifications.

The main wage systems are: direct piecework, progressive piecework, time work, time work with payment of bonuses, and fixed salaries. In the case of direct piecework, the worker is paid according to the rates per unit of production for the quantity he produces, and the rate remains the same, irrespective of the quantity produced.

Incentives to Exceed Norm

Under the system of progressive piecework, where the worker overfulfils the norm by not less than 10 per cent, he gets an increased rate per unit for what he produces above the norm. In machine building, for example, the increase for quantities over the norm is 30 per cent. In some branches of industry it is as much as 150 to 200 per cent.

When the norm is overfulfilled by more than 10 per cent, the rate of pay is increased for quantities produced above 10 per cent, in machine building by 50 per cent, and in some branches of industry—for example, metallurgy—by as much as 300 per cent.

Workers in branches of labor in which norms cannot be established are paid on a time basis. In cases where the workers can influence the quality of output of the machinery they handle, a bonus is paid in addition to the fixed wage: it may be up to 30 per cent of the basic wage. Especially widespread is the system of paying a bonus to workers for saving electric power, fuel and materials.

Engineers and technicians are paid fixed salaries according to the posts they occupy; they also receive bonuses for fulfilling and overfulfilling plans. Office employees, both in industrial enterprises and institutions, as a rule receive fixed salaries.

The Soviet trade unions take part in working out all wage systems, which come into force when they have been approved by the People's Commissariats concerned. The trade unions supervise their application through the wages departments attached to the central committees of the unions, and the wages commissions, consisting of voluntary trade unionists, attached to the primary trade union bodies.

The piecework and progressive piecework systems are the most widespread in Soviet industry, as they stimulate labor productivity. I shall therefore describe these systems in greater detail.

As is generally known, there are in every enterprise trades which are decisive for the fulfilment of the output plan, and other trades of an auxiliary nature. In the iron and steel industry, for example, there are in the open hearth shop steel makers, trimmers and auxiliary workers. The fulfilment of the production plan depends directly on the highly skilled labor of the steel maker.

The labor of the trimmer can easily be calculated and his quotas fixed. He does not influence output directly, and is less highly qualified than the steel maker. As for the auxiliary worker, no qualifications at all are necessary for his labor.

Wage rates in each of these categories are consequently based on the importance of each in the production process. The steel maker's basic rate is five times that of the auxiliary worker. Moreover, the steel maker receives additional pay for overfulfilling the plan, according to a scale which increases as output increases. The trimmer is paid under the piecework sys-

tem, and the auxiliary worker under the time-work system.

The quality of labor is taken into account in fixing the salaries of office employees. In the case of teachers, physicians, agronomists and other professional workers, additions to the basic salaries depend on educational qualifications and experience.

In discussing wage systems in the USSR it is necessary to remember one very important point: it is that under the Soviet system, wages are by no means the only benefit received by the worker in return for his labor.

Social and Cultural Services

In the Soviet Union the product of labor is social. It forms part of the wealth of society. This product goes partly to further the expansion of production, partly to the defense of the country, to the upkeep of the State apparatus, to the formation of insurance and reserve funds, and partly to wages. But a considerable part of the social product is used by the State to improve the material well-being of the people, and to raise their cultural level.

Soviet factory and office workers are provided with free medical aid, educational facilities, State social insurance, sanatoria and rest homes, maintenance in illness or old age, and other social and cultural benefits. Rent constitutes no more than 7 or 8 per cent of earnings (and for many population groups the percentage is much less).

In general, workers in the Soviet Union have every incentive to make their labor more productive, and to improve their qualifications.

Inspecting artillery shells at the N. ammunition plant



Radiophoto

Notes on Soviet Life

An exhibition devoted to the memory of Franklin D. Roosevelt, late President of the United States, is being held with great success at the Leningrad State Public Library. The exhibits include numerous American and Soviet newspapers and magazines telling of the life and work of Roosevelt, and material on the Teheran and Crimea Conferences. A large portrait of the former President, bordered in black, dominates the exhibition.

★

Spring sowing is at its height throughout most of the USSR. Leading districts of Turkmenia have sown more than half their cotton crops, and the first cotton shoots have appeared in Azerbaijan. Sugarbeet is being planted in the southern areas of Kazakhstan, and grain sowing is under way in central and eastern districts.

★

On May 17 the famous Tretyakov Art Gallery in Moscow will reopen after nearly four years, during which its treasures were safely preserved in the Far Eastern part of the USSR. Visitors to the 52 halls will again view masterpieces of painting and sculpture representing a thousand years of Russian art, including the celebrated ikons "The Mother of God" and "The Golden-Haired Christ." Creations of the great Russian artists of the end of the 19th Century—Repin, Surikov, Levitan and Serov—are exhibited in separate halls. In others, the finest works of modern artists may be seen.

★

The honor of being the first to open fire on Berlin fell to artillerymen who had defended Leningrad. Major Garkun's unit fired the first salvo on April 21, and other batteries followed.

★

Fifty-six executives, engineers and workers of the Sakhalin oil trust were recently decorated for successful fulfillment of Government assignments for increasing the output of oil on Sakhalin Island.

The brilliant success of the Fourth State War Loan, issued in the sum of 25 billion rubles and oversubscribed by nearly one and a half billion rubles, is a splendid demonstration of the patriotism of the Soviet people and their will to strengthen further the might of the Soviet State. Many men and women in cities and towns subscribed two and even three months' wages, and many farmers from 10 to 15 thousand rubles. Some even subscribed 25 to 50 thousand rubles, paying in cash, although the payments could be spread over 10 months.

★

Until recently, one-tenth of a second was required to take an X-ray at the Roentgen Laboratory, Institute of Machine Building, Academy of Sciences of the USSR. A group of scientific workers has achieved a reduction of this time to one-millionth of a second, thereby opening new vistas in this field. Study can now be made of a process so extremely complicated as an explosion. It is possible to record the propagation of the blast, and to measure the density of gases forming at various stages of the explosion. Instantaneous X-ray photographs make it possible to follow the process of a bullet penetrating armor and other obstacles, and to photograph the structure of metal and study the changes due to impact and stress.

★

In a sealed-off tunnel in Riga, Latvian SSR, workers found electric motors, new automatic looms, and a large quantity of silk, yarn and finished textiles. All this had been hidden by the Germans, who occupied the country for three years. In the last days before their ignominious retreat, they attempted to deprive the Latvians of the equipment.

★

The Central Municipal Bank has allotted 325 million rubles to be distributed in individual loans for the construction of private homes for workers. In areas liberated from the German invaders work has already begun on 16,000 cottages.

A monument to Army General Ivan Cherniakhovsky has been erected in Vilnius by officers and men of the Third Byelorussian Front. The 25-foot obelisk with bronze bas relief, designed by Senior Sergeant Zelinski, is adjacent to the common grave of Red Army officers and men who fell in the battle for the liberation of the capital of the Lithuanian Republic.

★

The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic has awarded the Order of the Military Cross and the Medal for Bravery to 30 Soviet soldiers who distinguished themselves in battles for the liberation of Czechoslovakia. Among those decorated are generals, officers, sergeants and privates.

★

Seventy noteworthy entries have already been received for a Victory Song contest to be judged by prominent composers, artists and writers, including Yuri Shaporin, Maria Maksakova, Samuel Marshak, Sergei Sveshnikov and others.

Correction

On page 6 of the May Special Supplement of the INFORMATION BULLETIN, the figure for coal resources in the Ukrainian SSR should read 88,872 million tons.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. V, No. 54

Washington, D. C., May 29, 1945



Statement of Extraordinary State Committee

**For the Ascertaining and Investigation of Crimes Committed by the German-fascist
Invaders and Their Associates**

On Crimes Committed by the German-fascist Invaders in the Oswiecim Death Camp

Even prior to the liberation of Polish territory in Upper Silesia by the Red Army, the Extraordinary State Committee had received numerous reports about the existence in the environs of the city of Oswiecim of a huge camp established by the German government for the annihilation of Soviet prisoners. After Soviet troops had liberated Polish Silesia, Red Army units found this camp.

On instructions from the Extraordinary State Committee, in the course of February and March, 1945, the prosecution department of the First Ukrainian Front carried out jointly with D. I. KUDRYAVTSEV and T. KUZMIN, representatives of the Extraordinary State Committee, a thorough investigation of German crimes in the Oswiecim camp.

The following special commissions of experts took part in the investigation:

A Medico-Legal Commission made up of F. F. BRUZHIN, Chief Medico-Legal Expert of the First Ukrainian Front; M. G. SCHURSANOV, Medico-Legal Expert of the Army; I. I. PERTSOV, therapist; N. A. LEBEDEV, Chief of the Laboratory of Pathological Anatomy of the Army; G. A. KOLEGAYEV, gynecologist of the Army; N. R. VANNOVSKY, psychiatrist; N. I. GERASIMOV, criminologist; and prisoners of the camp B. V. EPSTEIN, Professor of Pediatrics, Director of the Clinic at Prague University; G. G. LIMOUSIN, Professor of Pathological Anatomy and Experimental Medicine of the city of Clairmont-Ferrand, France, and M. J. GROSSMAN,

Docent of the School of Medicine in Zagreb, Yugoslavia; and a Technical Commission made up of Professors Roman DAWIDOWSKI and Jaroslaw DOLINSKI of Cracow; engineer V. F. LAVRUSHIN, Candidate of Chemical Sciences, and engineer A. M. SHUBER.

Four Million People Murdered

On the basis of interrogation and medical examination of 2,819 prisoners of Oswiecim camp who were saved by the Red Army; a study of German documents discovered in the camp; the remains of the crematorium and gas chambers blown up by the Germans as they retreated; bodies found on the territory of the camp, and belongings and documents found in camp warehouses and barracks of the people from various countries of Europe who were killed by the Germans, it has been established that:

One: By execution, starvation, poisoning, and monstrous tortures, the Germans annihilated in Oswiecim camp more than four million citizens of the Soviet Union, Poland, France, Belgium, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary, and other countries.

Two: German professors and doctors conducted in the camp so-called "medical" experiments on living men, women and children.

Three: In the degree of premeditation, technical organization, and mass scale and cruelty of murder, the Oswiecim camp leaves far behind all German death camps known hitherto.

The Oswiecim camp had gas chambers, a crematorium, surgical departments and laboratories—all intended for the monstrous annihilation of people. The Germans called the gas chambers "special purpose baths." On the entrance to the "bath" was written "For Disinfection," and at the exit "Entrance to Bath." People earmarked for annihilation thus unsuspectingly entered the premises for disinfection, undressed and from there were herded into the special purpose bath—that is, into the gas chamber where they were wiped out by cyclone poison.

Special hospitals, surgical wings, histological laboratories and other institutions were established at the camp, but they existed not to treat people, but to kill them. German professors and doctors carried out wholesale experiments on perfectly healthy men, women and children in these institutions. They conducted experiments in sterilizing women and castrating men and boys, in infecting large numbers of people with cancer, typhus and malaria, conducting observations upon them; they tested the action of poisons on living persons.

The Oswiecim camp was built in 1939 on orders from SS Reichsfuehrer Himmler, especially for the destruction of enslaved citizens of the occupied countries of Europe. The camp occupied a huge area around the city of Oswiecim and consisted of a whole chain of camps: Auschwitz, Birkenau, Monowice, Golesau, Jawisowic, Neidachs, Blechamer, and others. The chief ones—Auschwitz and

Birkenau—covered an area of 467.5 hectares and had more than 620 barracks and service buildings. From 180,000 to 250,000 prisoners were always confined in the camps at Oswiecim. All the camps were surrounded by deep moats and belted by a thick barbed wire fence through which a high-voltage current ran.

In 1941, the first crematorium with three furnaces was built in Auschwitz camp to burn the bodies of people put to death. At the crematorium there was the so-called "special purpose bath," that is, a gas chamber for asphyxiating people. The first crematorium functioned until the middle of 1943. In the summer of 1942, SS Reichsfuehrer Himmler inspected the Oswiecim camp and ordered it to be extended to gigantic size and technically perfected.

The construction of large, new crematoriums was commissioned to the German firm of Topf and Sons of Erfurt, which at once began to build four large crematoriums and gas chambers in Birkenau. Berlin, impatient, demanded acceleration of construction and completion of all work by the beginning of 1943. Voluminous correspondence of the camp management with the firm of Topf and Sons was found among the Auschwitz camp office papers. Among them were the following letters:

I

I. A. Topf and Sons
Erfurt

February 12, 1943

Central Construction SS and Police
Auschwitz (Oswiecim)

Re: Crematoriums Two and Three
of camp for war prisoners

We confirm receipt of your telegram of February 10 of the following content: We again confirm receipt of your order for five triple muffle furnaces, including two electric lifts for hoisting corpses and one temporary lift for corpses. Also ordered are a practical device for feeding coal, and a device for transporting ashes. You have to deliver complete installation for crematorium No. 3. We expect you to take all steps for immediate shipment of all machines and parts. Installation must absolutely begin functioning on April 10, 1943.

I. A. Topf and Sons

II

No. 12115/42/er/na.2

With respect to the installation of two triple muffle furnaces; one each for the "special purpose baths," engineer Pruefer has proposed taking them from furnaces prepared for shipment to Mogilev. The head of the Service Section in the SS Economic Administration of the Central Department in Berlin was immediately notified of this and requested to issue further instructions.

SS Untersturmfuehrer (S)

Oswiecim, August 21, 1942

Four new crematoriums contained 12 furnaces with 46 retorts; each retort could accommodate from three to five bodies, which were cremated in about 20 to 30 minutes.

"Special purpose baths"—lethal gas chambers—were constructed in the cellars of the crematoriums or in special wings. Besides, the camp had two separate baths, the bodies from which were burned on special pyres. Persons scheduled for execution were herded into the baths with blows from sticks and rifle butts and by dogs. The chambers had hermetically-sealing doors and the people inside were asphyxiated with cyclone. Death ensued in three to five minutes; 20 to 30 minutes later the bodies were taken out and sent to the cremation furnaces. Before the bodies were cremated, dentists pulled out any gold teeth or crowns.

The "productivity" of the baths, or gas chambers, considerably exceeded the capacity of the cremation furnaces, and hence the Germans in addition used huge pyres to burn bodies. Pits 25 to 30 meters long, four to six meters wide, and two meters deep were dug for these pyres. At the bottom ran ditches for ash pits. The bodies were brought up to the pyres on a narrow-gauge line, placed in the pits in layers alternating with logs, and drenched with petroleum. The ashes were thrown into large pits or into the Sola or Vistula Rivers.

To utilize the unburned bones, beginning with 1943 the Germans crushed them and sold them to the Strem Company for the manufacture of superphosphate. Found in the camp were shipping papers addressed to the Strem Company for 112 tons, 600 kilograms of crushed

human bones. The Germans also used for industrial purposes the hair shorn from women about to be annihilated.

In the Oswiecim camp the Germans daily executed and burned from 10,000 to 12,000 persons, of whom 8,000 to 10,000 were new arrivals and 2,000 to 3,000 prisoners of the camp.

When interrogated as witnesses, ex-prisoners Shloma Dragon, resident of a small town of Zirovnin, Warsaw Voyevodstvo; and Henry Tauber of the city of Kczanow, Poland, who had worked in a special crew servicing the gas chambers and crematoriums, testified as follows:

"... When the camp first began functioning, the Germans had two gas chambers situated three kilometers apart. They each had two wooden barracks. New arrivals were led into the barracks, undressed and then led into the gas chamber... from 1,500 to 1,700 at a time were driven into the chambers, and then SS men in gas masks threw cyclone inside through trap doors. The gassing lasted from 15 to 20 minutes after which the bodies were taken out and carted on wagonettes to pits where they were burned... Later four crematoriums functioned on the territory of the camp in Birkenau and each had a gas chamber. Crematoriums Nos. 2 and 3 were of similar design and had 15 furnaces each while crematoriums Nos. 4 and 5 were of different design, less convenient as regards size and technical perfection and had eight furnaces each. In the course of a day and night these furnaces burned from 10,000 to 12,000 bodies."

Medical Experiments On Living People

In Oswiecim camp the German-fascist professors and doctors widely practiced medical experiments on living persons, displaying monstrous inventiveness.

Among the prisoners saved by the Red Army, Doctors Steinberg of Paris, Gordon of Vilnius, Professor Grossman of Yugoslavia, Erwin Valentin of Berlin, Anna Keppich of Hungary, Edward Devind of Holland, and Albert Flechner of Paris, stated that they had been eyewitnesses to a vast number of medical experiments on camp prisoners by German-fascist professors and doctors.

Surgical operations were performed at the caprice of the German doctors to

practice operation technique. Koenig, a young German doctor, selected prisoners with inflammatory processes in the extremities, and practised amputation. The German doctors Tillo and Fischer assembled large numbers of prisoners, and with no cause performed hernia operations on them. At the slightest complaint of a stomach pain, Enders, head doctor of the hospital, practiced operating on an ulcer of the stomach.

Experiments on women were conducted in the hospital wards of the Auschwitz camp. Up to 400 women prisoners were confined in the tenth wing of the camp where experiments were carried out on sterilization by X-ray and subsequent removal of ovaries; on transplanting cancer to the cervix of the uterus; on forced childbirth, and on testing substances for roentgenography of the uterus.

In wing No. 28, experiments on inflicting skin injuries with kerosene, various salts, pastes and powders were performed on prisoners. Here also akrichine was used with the purpose of studying invoked jaundice. These experiments were performed by Doctor Emil Koschub.

In wing No. 21, wholesale experiments were performed in castrating men with the purpose of studying the possibility of sterilization by X-ray. Castration was carried out at a definite interval after the rays had been employed. Professor Schuman and Doctor Dering engaged in such experiments with X-rays and castration. Not infrequently the operations consisted in removing one or both testicles for study after the person had been X-rayed.

All these facts are confirmed as well by ex-prisoners of the camp: Judith Klein, Klara Ausen, Mina Garbman, Nona Sonders, Jakob Skurnik, David Sures, and many others upon whom the German doctors carried out one or another experiment.

On orders from Enders, chief German doctor, between 1941 and 1944 prisoners in the camp hospital were put to death by injections of phenol into the heart. The first injections were made by the doctor and later ones by orderlies. The German Kler, a former shoemaker, particularly distinguished himself in this field by killing thousands of victims. A Polish prisoner by the name of Panszczik did 12,000 persons to death by phenol injections (subsequently he was killed by Polish prisoners themselves). Stess, a Ger-

man, murdered 10,000 persons by such injections.

The facts of the inhuman experiments on prisoners are also confirmed by a number of documents found in the camp office. A report of the surgical department of the camp hospital records that in three months between October and December, 1943, surgeons of the department carried out, among other operations, the following: 89 testicle amputations (castration), 5 sterilizations, 5 removals of ovaries.

In telegram No. 2678, dated April 28, 1943, Colonel Sommer, SS Obersturmfuehrer, instructed the office of the camp commandant to list 128 women under the heading "prisoners for experiments." In a discovered "statistical review by the camp commandant of the number of women prisoners and their distribution in various categories," signed by Sell, assistant camp commandant, there is a permanent heading, "Prisoners intended for various experiments." Recorded under this heading are 400 "women under experiment," on May 15, 1944; 413 on June 5, 1944; 348 on June 19, 1944; 349 on July 30, 1944, etc.

German doctors played a leading role in selecting the prisoners for gassing and cremation. They conducted the selection everywhere: near crematoriums, in hospitals, and in barracks. The weak, sick, and disabled were dispatched to the gas chambers by the German doctors. The following German doctors engaged in selecting prisoners for annihilation: Wirtz, Mengele, Rode, Fischer, Tillo, Kitt, Koenig, Klein, and many others.

On orders from Wirtz, head German doctor of the Oswiecim chain of camps, during the typhus fever epidemics, inmates of entire barracks were put to

death by means of gas asphyxiation.

The Medico-Legal Commission has established that German doctors in Oswiecim carried out the following experiments on living persons:

1) Mass resection of tissue of cervix of the uterus, or even complete removal of the latter.

2) The testing of a number of unknown substances for roentgenography of the uterus and fallopian tubes. With special instruments these substances were injected under pressure into the cavity of the uterus, which frequently entailed excruciating pain for the victims upon whom the experiments were performed.

3) Sterilization of women by X-raying the pelvic region, with subsequent opening up of the abdomen and removal of the ovaries. These experiments were carried out chiefly on young women.

4) A study of the action of various chemical preparations, by orders of German firms. Doctor Erwin Valentin, a German, testified that there was a case when Glauber, a gynecologist from Koenigs-huette, and Gebel, a chemist, representatives of the chemical industry of Germany, bought 150 women from the camp management for such experiments.

5) Sterilization of men by X-rays.

6) Experiments on men involving the application of irritants to the skin or shin to evoke ulcers and phlegmon.

7) A number of other experiments, such as infection with malaria, artificial insemination and the like.

A great many of the experiments ended in a rapid and torturous death for the prisoners. After the prisoners had been fully utilized for experiments, they were killed and cremated. By this means the Germans strove to remove witnesses to

**Bodies of victims
of German crimes
in the Oswiecim
death camp**



Radiophoto

their inhuman experiments.

Ex-prisoner Samuel Abramovich Stern, a resident of the city of Bucharest, who was interrogated as a witness, testified: ". . . I worked in Auschwitz camp as a male nurse. On orders from Oberfeldvebel Koschub I made injections and did other things to prisoners. I know for a fact that kerosene was injected under the skin of the shin on many patients . . . A second method of experimentation was chemical irritation of the skin. Used for this purpose was an 80 per cent solution of aluminum acetate. After this, a whole layer of skin was removed and sent for analysis. In cases of deep irritation of the skin, part of the flesh was cut out together with the skin and sent for analysis. Koschub also invoked jaundice and performed transfusion operations with the blood of malaria patients."

M. Valigura, who was subjected to experiments, stated ". . . Several days after I had been brought to Birkenau—it seems to me it was in the beginning of December, 1942—all young men between the ages of 18 and 30 were sterilized by subjecting the scrotum to X-rays. I was among those sterilized. Eleven months after I had been sterilized, that is, November 1, 1943, I was subjected to castration . . . 200 other persons were subjected to sterilization on the same day as I . . ."

Witness David Sures of the city of Salonika, Greece, gave the following testimony. ". . . About July, 1943, I and 10 other Greeks were registered in some sort of a list and sent to Birkenau. There we were stripped and subjected to sterilization by X-rays. A month after sterilization we were summoned to the central section of the camp, where all who had been sterilized were subjected to a castration operation. . . ."

Ex-prisoner M. Hauser (Nine, Cite Milton, Paris) stated ". . . In Auschwitz we were placed in the tenth wing. We did not know why we had been taken there. This wing contained the hospital section and we were all perfectly healthy women . . . At first in the tenth wing they took a blood sample from me; for what purpose I don't know. At the end of August, 1943, I was taken to the operating room and anesthetized, and an operation was performed on my genital organs. The operation was performed by Doctor Samuel, a prisoner, under the

supervision and on the instructions of the German doctor Wirtz. After this operation, I lay ill for 11 months in the tenth wing. Among those who were sterilized was a Jewess from Greece named Bela. I don't know her last name. After X-rays her abdomen was cut open lengthwise. After the operation she recovered and the wound on the abdomen healed. The German doctor Schuman came to the tenth wing and as a control case took Bela to the twenty-eighth wing and then cut open her abdomen crosswise. I myself saw the crosswise cut on her abdomen. Several days later, Bela died."

It has been established by investigation that from three to five trains, each carrying between 1,500 and 3,000 people destined to be done to death, arrived every day in Oswiecim. The victims were brought from all countries of Europe. Among the 2,819 prisoners released from the Oswiecim camp and subjected to examination by the Medico-Legal Commission were 745 from Poland, 542 from Hungary, 346 from France, 315 from Czechoslovakia, 180 from the USSR, 159 from Holland, 143 from Yugoslavia, 91 from Italy, 76 from Greece, 52 from Rumania, and 41 from Belgium.

Between 200 and 500 of the more able-bodied were chosen from each trainload for various work in the camp; the rest were sent straight to the gas chambers and crematoriums.

Stanek Franciszek, traffic dispatcher at Oswiecim station, testified: "Trainloads of prisoners came in 1942, 1943, and 1944 from Czechoslovakia, Belgium, France, Holland, Norway, Greece, Poland, and other countries."

Witness Eduard de Vind testified: "After the Germans occupied Holland a purge was made in November, 1940, of the state apparatus, institutions and educational establishments of Holland. Three of us university assistants were removed. I moved to Amsterdam. A Dutch fascist was found murdered in one of the districts of Amsterdam. In reprisal, the Germans arrested 400 hostages, including myself. I was picked up on the street and brought here to this camp."

Witness Jacob Gordon of Vilnius testified: "I was brought to Oswiecim camp January 22, 1943. There were altogether 3,650 persons in our train; only 265 men and about 80 women were left in the

camp; the rest were immediately sent to the crematorium where they were gassed and cremated, among them my wife Mathilda, a doctor by profession, my son aged four and a half, my father aged 73 and my mother aged 64."

Witness Emilie Dessanti, Italian by nationality, testified: "On September 12, 1944, the Hitlerites shipped us out of Italy and brought us to the Oswiecim camp. There were altogether 500 of us Italians; only 30 have survived, the rest were brutally tortured to death and murdered in the camp."

Witness David Sures testified: "I arrived at Oswiecim by train from Greece April 3, 1943. There were more than 2,500 in the train, including my mother, aged 53; my sister with her child, and myself. Of the 2,500, about 300 were sent to the camp; the rest, including my mother and sister with her five-year-old child, were taken straight from the train to the crematorium to be burned."

Witness Georg Kitman from Rumania testified: "At the end of June, 1944, I and my parents together with 3,000 other men, women and children were brought by train to Oswiecim camp. When we alighted from the train all the old people and mothers with small children were separated and sent to the crematorium to be burned. Among them was my father, aged 52 and my mother, aged 48. Of the 3,000 people, no more than 350 were sent to the camp."

Witness Ziska Speter testified: "In February, 1943, I arrived from France with 1,100 other prisoners. On the day of arrival, 205 of the able-bodied were selected and sent to barracks; the remaining 895, old people, women and children, were taken to a gas chamber to be murdered."

Anna Keppich, a former inmate of the camp, a Hungarian from the city of Cluj, testified: "I arrived in Oswiecim camp in June, 1944, among 3,000 Hungarian prisoners. On arrival at the camp, 500 able-bodied people were left for work in the camp, while the other 2,500 were sent to the gas chambers to be killed."

Professor Berthold Epstein, a doctor of medicine from Prague University, made the following statement to the Commission: "Selected groups of prisoners were sent to the gas chambers to be put to death. For several months we saw long processions of people going to their death;

the biggest groups were exterminated in May, June and July, 1944. In that period the crematoriums were busy day and night, as could be seen from the flames issuing from the smokestacks. We could often smell burning flesh, hair or nails. At that time, besides the fire from the chimneys of the crematoriums, we saw two large bonfires. From the camp came the barking of SS watchdogs. Since the crematoriums were overloaded, the unfortunate victims were led up in groups, and at the sight of the bonfires guessed what was in store for them. I knew that my relatives had suffered the same fate and that I myself would not escape it. Approximately every two weeks the camp doctor Mengele selected new victims. One day 500 children were murdered. Heartrending scenes took place when these children were sent off, since everyone knew by then where they were going. The SS men and their assistants outdid themselves in brutality. When we arrived in Oswiecim my wife and I were separated and I never saw her again. Later on I learned that she had not been accepted in the camp. There is no doubt that my wife was murdered in the usual way. In March, 1944, the SS also murdered my sister-in-law with her two children, and my niece, aged 38. In July, 1944, my sister was also done to death."

As has been established by the investigation, besides the persons used for the purposes of experiments, some 200,000 prisoners were kept permanently in the Oswiecim camps for exploitation in all kinds of hard labor. Persons thus occupied were driven to a state of extreme exhaustion, after which, being unfit for work, they were done away with. Every week the German doctors made "selections" among the prisoners, with the result that all those who were sick and unable to work were done to death in the gas chambers. Their number was constantly replenished by persons selected from new trainloads. This was part of the organized monstrous death-conveyor system: prisoners were done to death and others were put in their places; when ruthless exploitation played havoc with their health, these in turn were sent to the gas chambers.

In 1941 the Germans launched the construction of a large chemical plant of I. G. Farbenindustrie not far from Oswiecim, as well as a war plant for the manufac-

ture of detonators and charges for bombs and shells. Construction was carried out by the Krupp firm and later by the Union and other firms. The labor of tens of thousands of Oswiecim prisoners of various nationalities — Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Poles, French, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Greeks, Belgians, Hollanders, and Italians—was brutally exploited on this construction work, as well as on the draining of marshes, work in mines, and on road building jobs.

The distance from the barracks of the concentration camps to work was seven or eight kilometers. SS men lined up the prisoners by the thousands and marched them to work under guard, surrounded by jailers with sticks and dogs. During work, the SS men, supervisors and foremen brutally beat up the prisoners for trying to straighten their backs, for not digging deep enough, for working too slowly, and to force them to run while hauling heavy wheelbarrows of earth. "The firm is paying four marks for you," the foremen would say, as they urged the workers on. "You have to work like horses."

Those who fell from exhaustion were shot on the spot. The work site was at the same time the scene of wholesale slaughter of prisoners. Murder was encouraged in every way by the management. Obersturmbannführer Liebenhenschel issued an order to pay the SS men 60 marks for every prisoner they killed "for attempting to escape." In order to get this bonus, guards killed prisoners right and left.

Maurice Stasman, a Belgian and former inmate of Oswiecim, made the following statement about the murder of prisoners on the construction sites:

"In August, 1943, I worked on the construction site of the I. G. Farbenindustrie plant. One day SS men brought 400 prisoners to the site, among whom were Yugoslavs, Greeks, French, and Belgians, led them to a newly-dug ditch and commenced to bury them alive. The doomed men begged for mercy in their respective languages, and the SS men turned to us, saying, 'Work better or the same thing will happen to you.' Two weeks later we were sent to prepare the foundation for one of the buildings at the Auschwitz camp. SS Losman and a group of other SS men selected 30 from

our group, led them over to a ditch and buried them up to their shoulders. Then they mounted horses and galloped over the field, trampling 30 helpless victims to death."

A huge area of the Oswiecim swamps became the grave of many thousands of people of various nationalities. More than 300 brigades of from 50 to 1,200 each worked here. As a result of inhuman conditions in the swamps, where the people were forced to labor at all times of the year, the constant beatings, violence and murder, no one lasted more than two or three months on this job. People were done to death in the swamps when they became unfit for work; they were either given injections of phenol in the heart or sent to the gas chambers.

Jacob Koenig, a 60-year-old land-reclamation engineer from Hungary who had worked in the swamps as an ordinary navy, testified: "I was one of a brigade of 400 prisoners working on draining the swamps. The German criminals who acted as supervisors beat the prisoners with sticks and spades until they lost consciousness. Men and women of all ages worked in our brigade. Many of them were intellectuals, doctors, teachers and professors. There were 14 engineers from Yugoslavia alone working as common laborers."

Simon Maiselier, a Belgian, formerly imprisoned in Oswiecim, stated: "During three months of 1944, between 100 and 200 corpses were brought in daily from a job on which a brigade of 1,200 of us were engaged; new victims were supplied to take their place."

The German executioners were especially savage in their treatment of Soviet prisoners; as a rule the latter were killed immediately upon arrival at the camp, and only in rare cases were the more able-bodied kept alive for work.

The following order regarding Soviet citizens was found in the camp office:

Oranienburg, 15 November, 1941

Confidential

Reichsführer of SS

Inspector of Concentration Camps

Police (Oswiecim: 14 F 14 L)

Re: Execution of Russian War Prisoners

To the Commandants of Concentration Camps: Copy to camp doctors, camp fuchers of prisoners under surveillance, managements.

The SS Reichsfuehrer and Chief of the German Police has given his consent in principle to the postponement of the execution of those of the total number of Russian war prisoners sent to concentration camps for execution (especially commissars), provided they are physically fit for work in the stone quarries. For this purpose it is necessary to obtain the consent of the Chief of Security Police and the SD police. I therefore order: Upon the arrival of the trains in camp with prisoners to be executed, the Russians physically fit for work in stone quarries are to be selected by the chief of the camp (E) and the chief camp doctor. A list of Russians (in two copies) must be sent to us. On this list the camp doctor must state that there are no objections from the medical standpoint to these people being used for work.

After receiving the consent of the Chief of Security Police and the SD police, shipment of the respective Russians to the stone quarries will be arranged by an order from here.

(Signed)

*Glueks, Fuehrer SS Brigade
and Major General*

On the basis of this order part of the Soviet prisoners of war were retained for the heaviest work, receiving the most brutal and inhuman treatment of all from SS men and supervisors.

Marian Gandzlik, a resident of the town of Oswiecim, testified: "For two weeks during the winter of 1941, when the frost was 35 degrees below zero Centigrade, Russian war prisoners were driven with whips and sticks like cattle along the road from Oswiecim camp to Babitse village. Many of them were hatless and dressed only in tunics and underwear, with torn boots on their feet. In the evenings several carts full of corpses of these Russian war prisoners would come from the direction of Babitse village. On top of the cart would sit two or three prisoners with frost-bitten faces, hands and legs, and in a state of complete exhaustion."

The Hitlerites were forever insisting on more and more murders from their subordinates. On February 14, 1944, Obersturmbannfuehrer Liebenhenschel, chief of the Oswiecim garrison, issued an order which read in part as follows: "From pro-

longed personal observation I have established that too many prisoners whose labor is not utilized are employed on all jobs except war plants. They loaf on the job. We know that in order to heighten labor productivity of prisoners, it is necessary to intensify control by the junior commanding personnel of the SS, but we also know that we have none too many of the latter, since they are either at the front or doing service on other important sectors. We shall have to help ourselves. It is clear that swift action is essential, and I hope that each man will do what is required."

As a result of this order, frightful processions of bloody, tormented prisoners surrounded by SS men and supervisors with huge packs of dogs, and carrying the bodies of their comrades on wooden stretchers, were seen coming every evening from all corners of the Oswiecim camps, from factories, swamps and mines, to the barracks. During evening rollcall, the prisoners were lined up with the bodies of the day's dead piled up in front of them, while the supervisors reported to their chiefs on the fulfillment of Liebenhenschel's order. The chiefs thanked those whose brigades had brought back the largest number of corpses. Those of the prisoners who had been found guilty of some misdemeanor during the day were flogged then and there.

Added to the frightful conditions of slave labor were the appalling living conditions prevailing in the barracks. Premises intended for 400 to 500 persons were made to accommodate 1,000 to 1,500 persons. The hunger, disease, torture and unhygienic conditions were all part of a deliberate plan to exterminate the prisoners as quickly as possible.

The Medico-Legal Commission which examined 2,819 Oswiecim prisoners rescued by the Red Army established that 2,189, or 91 per cent, were suffering from extreme physical exhaustion, while 223 had tuberculosis of the lungs. It was likewise established that the Germans had subjected the prisoners to physical torture, as a result of which the Commission found the people suffering from broken ribs, limbs, spines and facial bones, also various wounds, ulcers, and frozen hands and feet. Very many of the released prisoners are suffering from serious nervous and psychiatric ailments.

The Medico-Legal Commission performed autopsies on 536 bodies of prisoners found in various parts of the territory of the camps. It has been established that in 474 cases (88.3 per cent) death resulted from exhaustion.

Hundreds of thousands of children, from infants to 16-year-olds, were slaughtered by the Hitlerites in Oswiecim camp. As a rule, children who arrived by train were immediately sent to the gas chambers. Only a few healthy juveniles were retained for work in the camps.

Investigation has established that children between the ages of 8 and 16 were forced to perform hard physical labor along with adults. Heavy labor, torture and beatings soon reduced the children to a state of complete collapse, whereupon they were murdered.

Doctor Jacob Gordon, a former prisoner from Vilnius, testified: "In the beginning of 1943, 164 boys were selected in the Birkenau camp and taken to a hospital, where they were done to death by injections of carbolic acid into the heart."

Bakash Weldtraut from Dusseldorf, Germany, a former prisoner, testified: "In 1943, when we were building a fence around Crematorium No. 5, I myself saw SS men hurl living children into the flaming pyres."

Testimony of Child Prisoners

Here is what children rescued by the Red Army have to say about the torments to which they were subjected by the fascist beasts.

Sami Mudianov, aged 15, from Italy, said: "We children were forced to work in groups of 15 or 20, hauling carts of all kinds of freight, but mostly dead bodies, which we brought to a special wing where they were piled up for cremation. We worked from four in the morning until evening. At the end of October, 1944, the Germans who inspected our work ordered us to be punished because the wing was not clean enough. One hundred and fifty of us were lined up on the street and taken to a swimming pool. They made us strip and poured cold water on us and then led us back naked down the street. Many of the children got sick after that."

Andreas Lerinciakos, a nine-year-old boy from Cles, Hungary, testified: "When we were taken to Wing No. 22 in the

camp we were beaten by German women who were put in charge of us. They beat us with sticks. While I was in the camp, Doctor Mengele took my blood many times. In November, 1944, all the children were transferred to camp A, the 'gypsy' camp. When they counted us, one was found missing, so Branden, manageress of the women's camp, and her assistant, Mendel, drove us out into the street at one o'clock in the morning and made us stand there in the frost until noon the next day."

Children born in camp were taken from their mothers by the SS and put to death. Pregnant women among new arrivals were immediately sent to a special barrack where premature birth was induced. Women who resisted were sent at once to the gas chamber.

Sofya Isakovna Flax, an ex-prisoner from Cracow, testified: "Many of the women who arrived in August, 1944, had children aged between five and 12. All of them, together with their mothers, were sent to the crematoriums. I was in the seventh month of pregnancy when I arrived. SS Doctor Koenig, who examined me, sent me to barracks V-3, Birkenau. There were 65 women there in a similar condition. Three days later I was given an injection in the hip to induce premature birth. The injections were made four days in succession. On the fifth day I gave birth and my child was taken away. There were 14 similar cases while I was in the barracks. No one knew where the infants were taken.

Among the prisoners released from Oswiecim and examined by physicians were 180 children, including 52 aged eight, and 128 between the ages of 8 and 15. All of them arrived in camp in the second half of 1944, which means that they spent from three to six months in the camp. A medical examination of these children established that 72 of 180 are suffering from lung and glandular tuberculosis, 49 from alimentary dystrophy, 31 from frostbite, etc.

In the Oswiecim camp the Germans exterminated tens of thousands of prominent scientists and representatives of the intelligentsia of different countries.

Andre Foudrie, from the town of Samot Dipuen, told the Commission the following: "Most of the 600 Frenchmen with whom I arrived in the camp perished

within a few months. Among them were Emil Bureau, economist; Professor Joan of the Lyceum of Compiègne; Philippe Geronne, deputy from the Department of Lot; Lebigoux, Mayor of the town of Villelevit; Godeau and Broux, schoolteachers; Molyneux, architectural engineer, etc."

Professor Henri Limousin of Clairmont-Ferrand University, stated: "In November, 1944, I was taken from Dachau camp and sent to Oswiecim as a specialist on pathology. I spent about a month here in the quarantine block, where I was made to clean lavatories, wash floors and carry food to prisoners in jail."

Among those murdered in the Oswiecim camp were Professor Freyda, well-known Dutch economist; Doctor Lawoslaw; engineer Kimar; Doctor Endoklyan, an engineer from Yugoslavia; Wisniewski, a Polish engineer; Teichert, a pharmacist from Warsaw; Polish professors Geszcikiewicz and Rubarski; Czechoslovak professors Otto Sitik, neuropathologist, Leo Tausik, psychiatrist, Jan Levit, surgeon; Kraus, a famous lawyer from Vienna; Doctor Jaube, a French army doctor with the rank of general, and many, many others. They were all tortured to death by hard labor, or else suffocated in gas chambers.

Appeal of Liberated Prisoners

The Extraordinary State Committee has received an "Appeal to the Public of the World," written in three languages, German, Hungarian and French, and signed by 27 ex-prisoners from Oswiecim—professors, doctors, engineers, lawyers, students and other intellectuals from various countries. The appeal reads as follows:

We the undersigned, liberated by the great Red Army from bloody Nazi domination, before the whole world accuse the German government under Adolf Hitler of carrying out wholesale murder, brutality and enslavement to an extent unknown in human history. . . .

We appeal to world public opinion to ascertain the fate of millions of people of all nationalities who have disappeared, and to do everything possible to save millions of prisoners of all nations still languishing in Hitlerite Germany. We were saved by a miracle when the Nazis retreated

from Oswiecim camp. Although the Hitlerites left in panic, they took some 58,000 prisoners with them from the Oswiecim camp and its branches. These people, worn out from starvation, were forced to walk, but few of them could have survived more than a few kilometers. We assume that as the front moves farther into the interior of Germany, the same fate awaits all those who are still in the power of the sanguinary Nazis. We, the undersigned, appeal to world public opinion of combatant and neutral countries, and to their governments, in the name of humanity, to do everything possible to prevent a repetition of the atrocities and crimes of the Nazis in the future, so that the blood of millions of innocent victims shall not have been shed in vain.

We and some 10,000 other rescued prisoners of all nationalities ask that the crimes and incredible brutalities perpetrated by the Hitlerites should not go unpunished.

The rescued prisoners owe their lives to the valorous Red Army and they ask the world public and their governments to take this into account and express thanks on our behalf.

At Oswiecim camp the Hitlerites exposed themselves before the whole world not only as bloody killers of defenseless people, but also as rapacious plunderers of their victims. Millions of people shipped from different countries to the Oswiecim concentration camp were methodically picked clean during the first hour after their arrival. All their belongings, suitcases, clothes, bedding, down to underwear and shoes were taken away by the SS men and put into specially designed and equipped warehouses to be shipped to Germany.

Those of the able-bodied victims who were left for hard labor were given striped prison clothes instead of their own.

On the territory of the Oswiecim camp there were 35 special warehouses where clothing and other belongings were sorted out and packed for shipment. The Germans burned down 29 of these with all their contents before retreating under pressure of the Red Army. In the remaining six warehouse premises the following

was found: 1) Men's clothing, including underwear, 348,820 outfits; 2) Women's, 836,255 outfits; 3) Women's shoes, 5,525 pairs; 4) Men's shoes, 38,000 pairs; 5) Rugs, 13,964.

A large quantity of tooth brushes, shaving brushes, spectacles, an enormous number of dentures, and all kinds of utensils which the prisoners used, were also found in the warehouses. A large quantity of children's wear, shirts, panties, overcoats and caps were also found there. With bloody hands the Hitlerite child-killers kept a careful account of all these possessions of the children they murdered, and shipped them to Germany.

The Commission established, by inspecting the things found in the warehouse, that they had all belonged to people of diverse nationalities who had been killed outright or tortured to death: French, Belgian, Hungarian, Dutch, Yugoslav, Czechoslovak and other trademarks were found on clothing, shoes and other belongings. Labels of hotels in various European cities were still to be found on the suitcases.

The Commission found on the camp grounds seven carloads of clothing and bedding which the Germans had loaded for shipment to Germany. A statement signed by SS Oberscharfuhrer Reichenbach, found in the camp papers, shows that during 47 days, from December 1, 1944, till January 15, 1945, alone, the following was put in readiness in the camp for shipment to Germany: 1) Children's clothing, including underwear, 99,922 outfits; 2) Women's, 192,652 outfits; 3) Men's clothing, including underwear, 222,269 outfits—a total of 514,843 outfits.

At the tannery in Oswiecim camp the Commission found on March 7, 1945, 293 bales of women's hair, totaling 7,000 kilograms in weight. The commission of experts established that the hair was sheared off the heads of some 140,000 women.

Carefully obliterating traces of their monstrous crimes in Oswiecim, the Germans, before their retreat, took great pains to destroy all papers that might have revealed to the world the exact number of people they had wiped out in the Oswiecim camp. However, the high capacity machinery for murder which the Ger-

mans had set up in the camp, the testimony of the Oswiecim prisoners freed by the Red Army, the testimony of 200 witnesses questioned to date, isolated papers that have been found, and other material evidence, are sufficient to expose the German hangmen as having wiped out in Oswiecim millions of people by poisoning and burning. In five crematoriums (52 retorts) alone, the Germans could wipe out during the period they functioned the following numbers of people:

Crematorium No. 1 functioned 24 months, burned 9,000 corpses per month, and during the entire period burned 216,000 corpses. No. 2 functioned 19 months, burned 90,000 corpses per month, and during the entire period burned 1,710,000 corpses. No. 3 functioned 18 months, burned 90,000 corpses per month, and during the entire period burned 1,620,000 corpses. No. 4 functioned 17 months, burned 45,000 corpses per month, and during the entire period burned 765,000 corpses. No. 5 functioned 18 months, burned 45,000 corpses per month, and during the entire period burned 810,000 corpses. The total capacity for burning corpses per month was 279,000, and the total capacity for burning corpses during the entire period was 5,121,000. In view of the fact that the Germans widely practiced burning bodies on pyres, the total capacity of the murder installations of Oswiecim must be estimated at a considerably higher figure.

Making allowances for possible undercapacity operation of the crematoriums and stoppages, however, the Commission of technical experts established that during the existence of the Oswiecim camp the German executioners killed in it no less than four million citizens of the USSR, Poland, France, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Holland, Belgium and other countries.

The monstrous crimes committed by the Germans in the concentration camps of Oswiecim were perpetrated in keeping with the directives issued by the Hitlerite government and were under the leadership of hangman Himmler, Reichsfuhrer of the SS and Police. The immediate executors of the crimes were Lieutenant General of SS and Police Glueks, Chief of Camps in all Germany; General of SS and Police Pohl, Chief of the Central Sanitary Administration of Concentration Camps; SS Major General Kammler, Chief of Concentration Camp Construc-

tion; Senior Engineer Pruefer, representative of Topf and Sons; Obersturmfuehrer Polliacek and Sturmbannfuhrers Hess, Behr and Schwartz, Chiefs of Camps; Obersturmbannfuhrer Liebenhenshel (also Chief of the Garrison); Sturmbannfuhrer Kraus, Hauptsturmfuehrer Aumeyer, Obersturmfuehrer Hoffman, Obersturmfuehrer Hessler, Obersturmfuehrer Josten and Obersturmfuehrer Schwartzuber, Commandants of the Camps; Oberscharfuhrer Moll, Oberscharfuhrer Bogar, Unterscharfuhrer Scheter and Rotenfuhrer Schultz, Chiefs of the Oswiecim Crematoriums; Obersturmfuehrer Sell, Chief of Labor Detachments; Sturmbannfuhrer Bischof, Chief of Construction Office; Unterscharfuhrer Schumacher; Oberscharfuhrer Klermen; Unterscharfuhrer Lachman. Oberscharfuhrer Emerich, Unterscharfuhrer Stibitz, Oberscharfuhrer Klausen, Oberscharfuhrer Hartwik, Unterscharfuhrer Kaduk, Oberscharfuhrer Palitsch, SS Obersturmfuehrer Sommer; camp doctors Major Doctor Schmitt, in charge of experiments; Obersturmfuehrer Doctor Mengele; Untersturmfuehrer Koenig, Rotenfuhrer Rode, Obersturmfuehrer Doctor Fischer, Obersturmfuehrer Doctor Klein, Doctor Dering, Hauptsturmfuehrer Doctor Wirtz, Obersturmfuehrer Doctor Tillo, Sturmbannfuhrer Doctor Klauberg, Professor Schuman. Doctor Waber, Oberfeldwebel Emil Koschub, Obersturmfuehrer Enders, Hauptsturmfuehrer Doctor Geotmerman, Hauptsturmfuehrer Doctor Kitt, Hauptsturmfuehrer Doctor Horstman, and Hauptsturmfuehrer Doctor Kraus.

All these persons, just as all those Germans who personally participated in the murder and torture of the prisoners of Oswiecim, must be brought before the court of nations and pay the severe penalty they merit.

May, 1945

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Special Supplement

Washington, D. C., May, 1945



Declaration of the Government of The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

IN THE name of the Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic we have the honor to submit the following declaration to the Conference of the United Nations, which is being held in San Francisco for the purpose of setting up an International Organization of Peace and Security.

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, on the basis of its Constitution of January 30, 1937, and the constitutional revisions and amendments adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on March 4, 1944, has recovered the right which it formerly had and which it voluntarily ceded to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1922, to establish direct relations with foreign states, to conclude agreements with them and to have independent representation at international conferences and bodies set up by the latter. This is also in full accord with the Constitution of the USSR and the constitutional acts of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated February 1, 1944. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, with a population of over 40 million, is one of the largest European states.

The Ukraine, lying along the southwestern borders of the Soviet Union, has in the last 30 years alone been the object of numerous foreign invasions, which have brought to the Ukrainian people incalculable hardships. Therefore, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is among the states most interested in safeguarding their security against the attacks of aggressors. The Ukraine has more than once

been the object of sanguinary invasions of aggressors who have striven for centuries to seize its territory, its manpower and material resources and to enslave its people.

The whole world is aware of the contribution made by the Ukrainian people to the defeat of the common enemy of the United Nations. The persistence and the heroism which the Ukrainian people, together with the other peoples of the Soviet Union, have shown and are showing in their fight against the German-fascist invaders are well known, as is the steadfastness with which they have defended their land, their big cities—Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov—and other towns and villages of the Ukraine. Their guerrilla movement undermining the strength of the enemy and disrupting his communications in the rear is also well known. The sacrifices which they have made in their fight against the common enemy are also well known. Suffice it to say that during their last invasion of the Ukraine, German hordes inflicted damage on the Ukrainian people amounting to several billion dollars, exterminated several million peaceful citizens and drove more than three million people into German slavery.

It is natural that the Ukrainian people, who have made such great sacrifices in this war and devoted all their material resources to the destruction of the enemy and whose soldiers make up at least one-fifth of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union, are vitally interested that their efforts and the efforts of all the peoples of the Soviet Union and of all the other peoples fighting the common enemy

should be crowned with a lasting peace and should lead after the victorious termination of the war, to the creation of conditions which will guarantee the Ukrainian people and other peace-loving nations against new trials of war.

The Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is confident that the Ukraine, which played a notable part in the defeat of the enemy, with its vast manpower and material resources will be able to make a major contribution to the consolidation of peace and the maintenance of general security.

On the basis of the considerations set forth above, the Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, prompted by the desire to contribute to the establishment of the guarantees of peace and security after the war for its own people as well as for other peoples, has decided to submit to the Conference of the United Nations a declaration announcing its wish to join the world organization of security as one of the founder-states and also to take part in the Conference of the United Nations in San Francisco.

N. S. KHRUSHCHEV

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

D. MANUILSKI

People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

April 10, 1945

The Ukraine

Informative Material of the Government of the Ukrainian SSR

THE Ukrainian SSR covers the southwestern part of the territory of the USSR, and is situated in the river basins of the Dnieper, Southern Bug, Dniester, San and North Donets. It occupies an area of 565,000 square kilometers—1,300 kilometers from east to west, and almost 700 kilometers from north to south. In the west, the Ukrainian SSR adjoins Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania. The boundary lines with these states equals 1,350 kilometers. In the south, the territory of the Ukrainian SSR extends to the Black and Azov Seas. The length of its coastline is about 1,200 kilometers. In 1941, the population of the Ukrainian SSR consisted of 40 million, of which the urban population included some 13 million and the rural population some 27 million. About 75 per cent of its population consisted of Ukrainians.

The Ukrainian people have a centuries-old history of development and struggle against foreign enemies for the preservation of their state and national independence. As early as the Ninth Century, there already existed on the territory of Europe a state of Eastern Slavonic tribes—the universally known Kiev-Rus, with its capital Kiev. The area of this state included an enormous territory inhabited by Eastern Slavs. During the second half of the 12th Century, when Kiev-Rus became divided into separate principalities, the population of the latter continued in closest conjunctivity based upon unity of origin and religion, as well as the dynastic relations between the 12 principalities.

During the 12th-13th Century, the largest and strongest principalities within the territory of the present-day Ukraine were the principalities of Kiev, Galicia-Volhynia, Central Galich, and later the principalities of Lvov and Chernigov. During 1237-1241, after a great deal of bloody and persistent struggle, the countries of Eastern Europe were occupied by the invading Tatars. But the Tatar armies, until then almighty and invincible, were bled and weakened so much by the heroic resistance of the Eastern Slavs' principalities that the Tatars

were compelled to give up their extensive plans for the conquest of Western Europe. Thus, even in the 13th Century, Western Europe was saved from Tatar enslavement at the price of enormous sacrifice by the Eastern Slavs.

The Ukrainian nation, as such, was already basically formed as early as the 13th Century. During the same period, there commenced a new foreign invasion upon the territory of the Ukraine. As early as the first quarter of the century, all Trans-Carpathian Ukraine was under the Hungarian yoke, while Bukovina and the territory of Bessarabia were occupied by Turkey throughout the 14th and 15th Centuries. But the main parts of the Ukrainian territories—Eastern Galicia, the area on both sides of the Dnieper, and Chernigov were captured by Poland about the end of the first quarter of the 17th Century. From the 15th to the 18th Centuries the Ukrainian people conducted a long and persistent struggle for the overthrow of the invader's rule, for the establishment of the Ukrainian state, for the reunion of all Ukrainian lands, and for a union with Russia.

During this national liberation struggle the Ukrainian people created the universally famous group of Ukrainian customs which played the most important role in the establishment of the new Ukrainian form of state—the Cossack Republic. This national liberation war continued all over the Ukraine throughout 1648-1654. Hetman Bogdan Khmelnytsky led the Ukrainian people in that war. With the aid of the Russian people, the peoples of the Ukraine overthrew the rule of Poland and in 1654 the Ukraine united with Russia.

In the 19th Century, the territory of the Ukraine became the object of intensified aggression by the German invaders. In Eastern Galicia and Bukovina, which had been seized by Austria in 1772-1775, the bureaucratic circles of the latter pursued a policy directed toward the denationalization of the Ukrainian people and the establishment of barriers for the development of Ukrainian science and culture.

It went even so far that in the end of the 19th Century, Baron P. Rauch von Frankentum, the Minister of Education in Austria, proclaimed that the history of the Ukraine does not represent concrete historical science.

The Austro-Hungarian oppression was the reason for the mass emigration of the Ukrainian population from Eastern Galicia, Bukovina and Ruthenia into other countries and America in particular.

In the fiftieth year of the 19th Century, in the high court circles of Prussia, a group under Bethmann-Hollweg propagated plans for seizure by Prussia of the Ukrainian lands which were part of the Russian Empire. At the end of the 19th Century, the well-known all-German Union had been founded in Germany, the participants of which propagated the piratical doctrine of pan-Germanism concerning the so-called historic right of the Germans to world domination. The leaders of pan-Germanism preached the seizure of the Ukraine by Germany. In 1918, after the temporary suppression of Soviet power in the Ukraine, the anti-national Central Rada, which sold itself to the Germans, called their troops into the Ukraine to fight against the Ukrainian people. The Central Rada, and later the puppet government of Hetman Skoropadsky which replaced it, maintained the closest contact with the German invaders, in every way helping Wilhelm II to exploit the Ukraine, to utilize her riches and resources for the war against Great Britain, the U. S. A., and their Allies.

The German invaders, having occupied the Ukraine in 1918, tried to use it as a *place d'armes* for their aggression against Iran, Mesopotamia, Arabia and India.

Von Straussenburg, chief of the Austrian General Staff, who was well informed about Germany's plans, on June 13, 1918, reported to S. Burian, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, that Germany pursued in the Ukraine a definite national-political aim: she wished to secure forever for herself a safe route to Mesopotamia and Arabia, through Baku to Persia. After

the occupation of the Ukraine, the route to the East lies through Kiev, Ekaterinoslav (now Dnepropetrovsk) and Sevastopol.

Grenner, the well-known German general, openly declared in 1918 that the main interests of Germany are directed to India through the Ukraine and the Crimea.

The peoples of the Ukraine, during the whole year 1918, waged, with the assistance of the Russian people, a war against the German invaders. Everywhere the peoples' uprisings blazed against the Germans, who were forced to keep in the Ukraine about 500,000 soldiers, thus depriving Germany of the possibility of using them on the Western Front. Toward the end of 1918, the German invaders were finally expelled from the territory of the Ukraine.

Then, during 1919-1920, the Ukraine, with the aid of Soviet Russia, repelled the attempts of other aggressors to seize the Ukrainian lands.

In the course of this struggle, the Ukrainian people founded their Ukrainian State—the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which in 1922 entered the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a full-fledged member. The Western Ukraine, however, was occupied in 1919 by Poland; Bessarabia and Bukovina were occupied in 1918 by Rumania. During 1939-1940, the Western Ukraine, Northern Bukovina and a part of Bessarabia having Ukrainian population, reunited with the Soviet Ukraine, on the basis of the free will expressed by the people.

The German invaders, having suffered defeat in 1918 in the Ukraine, nevertheless did not give up their plans of enslavement of the Ukraine, which they considered as a step on the road to world domination. Hitler, Rosenberg, Hugenberg, and other representatives of fascist Germany, openly and insolently spoke and wrote about this in their books and memoranda long before the attack against the USSR.

During the Patriotic War of the Soviet people against the German invaders, Germany as a result of the blows by the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies, suffered defeat, and the insane plans of her leaders and inspirers failed. To this heroic struggle of the freedom-loving people of the world, the people of the Uk-

rainian Soviet Socialist Republic made a great contribution.

On December 25, 1917, the First All-Ukrainian Congress of Soviets in Kharkov proclaimed the establishment of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic. The Congress of the Soviets elected a Government which directed the struggle of the Ukrainian people for their freedom and independence against the German interventionists. The Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, adopted by the All-Ukrainian Congress of Soviets on March 10, 1919, expressed the main principles of Soviet rule in the Ukraine. The Constitution of 1919 secured to the Government of the Ukrainian Republic independence of relations with foreign countries, the right to declare war and to conclude peace, the establishment of the basis of the organization of armed forces, the general direction of the international policy of the Ukrainian Republic, and a number of other rights representing the interests of the Ukrainian people.

On the basis of this Constitution, the Ukrainian Republic during the period of 1919-1923 had her own diplomatic representatives in Great Britain, Poland, Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Bulgaria, and other countries, and concluded treaties with a number of foreign states. In 1922, on the initiative of the Government of the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR was formed, to whom the United Soviet Republics transferred their right of conducting foreign relations with foreign states.

On January 30, 1937, the Ukrainian Congress of Soviets adopted a new Constitution. According to that Constitution, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is a socialist state of workers and farmers. All power belongs to the toilers in the person of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies. The economic basis of the Ukrainian SSR is the socialist system of economy, socialist ownership of the means of production. The State owns the land, its natural resources, waters and forests, factories, mines, coal pits, railroads, water and air transport, banks, etc.

Concurrent with public ownership there are the small private holdings of individual farmers, based on personal labor and not permitting the exploitation of hired labor. Citizens have the right to their earnings by labor income

and wages, dwelling houses and subsidiary economy, household items and articles for personal use. The law preserves the right of inheritance of personal property of citizens. The economic life of the Ukrainian SSR is determined and directed by a state plan in the interest of increasing the people's wealth, material and cultural standards of life, and strengthening the independence of the Socialist State and its defense.

The Ukrainian Republic along with other Soviet Republics has equal rights in the Union State—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The purpose of this union is mutual assistance of the Union Republics in economic and political spheres, as well as in the field of defense. The Ukrainian SSR reserves the right of secession from the USSR. This right is also provided by Article 17 of the Constitution of the USSR.

As a result of the political, economic and cultural development of the Union Republics, which has been taking place during the years of Soviet rule, it has become necessary to expand their rights. On February 1, 1944, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted the law giving the Union Republics the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states, to conclude agreements with them, and to exchange diplomatic and consular representatives, as well as to have their own Republican Army formations. In accordance with this, the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR adopted laws for the establishment of a People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs and a People's Commissariat of Defense of the Republic.

The highest organ of state power of the Ukrainian SSR is the Supreme Soviet, which is elected for four years. The Supreme Soviet elects a Presidium consisting of a Chairman, two Deputies, a Secretary and 15 members. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet are called by the Presidium twice a year. The highest executive organ of state power of the USSR is the Council of People's Commissars responsible to the Supreme Soviet and, in the period between its Sessions, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. The Council of People's Commissars is composed of the People's Commissars of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Finance, Agriculture, Social Insurance, Communal Economy, Food Industry, Light Industry,

Lumber Industry, Trade, etc.

The laws in the Ukrainian SSR are enforced by the Supreme Court of Justice, and the highest supervision of enforcement of the laws is exercised by the Prosecutor General of all the Republic.

The Ukrainian SSR is divided into the following administrative districts: Vinnytsia, Volhynia, Voroshilovgrad, Dnipropetrovsk, Drogobych, Zhitomir, Zaporozhye, Ismail, Kamenetz-Podolsk, Kiev, Kirovograd, Lvov, Nikolayev, Odessa, Poltava, Rovno, Stalino, Stanislavov, Sumy, Tarnopol, Kharkov, Kherson, Chernigov and Chernovitsky.

The Soviets of Working Peoples' Deputies are organs of State power in a district, a region, a town or a village. The women in the Ukrainian SSR enjoy the same rights as men in all branches of State, economic, cultural, social and political life. Elections are conducted on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, with secret ballot. All citizens who have attained the age of 18 enjoy both direct and indirect electoral rights. The Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR assures for the citizens of the Ukrainian SSR the right to work and rest, to social security in old age in case of illness or loss of capacity to work, and the right to education. Freedom of conscience and freedom to exercise religious creeds are assured for the citizens of the Ukrainian SSR. Equality of rights of citizens of the Ukrainian SSR, independent of their nationality and property qualifications, is an immutable law.

Toward the beginning of the Patriotic War, the Soviet Ukraine was a country with a highly developed industry and agriculture. The Ukraine has become a country of almost complete literacy, with a high level of development of science, culture and art.

Industry

The Ukraine has the richest resources of iron ore (897 million tons); coal (887.2 million tons); manganese ore (686 million tons), and other minerals. The total yield of the industry of the Ukrainian SSR increased in the period from 1913 to 1940 by 11 times. Before the Patriotic War, the Ukraine used to yield more than half of the total production of coal, pig-iron, and iron ore of the USSR; about one-half of the steel production, three-

fifths of aluminum production, one-fifth of machine building, about two-thirds of coke production, about one-fourth of electrical energy and three-fourths of sugar production of the entire USSR.

In 1940, the Ukraine had 164,525 industrial enterprises with 2,031,000 workers. The share of heavy industry was 62.4 per cent. In 1940, the Ukraine had 5,606 power stations whose total power was 2.5 million kilowatts.

The number of coal pits in use was 872, and in 1940 coal production reached 83,718,000 tons. Coal extraction was mechanized to 93.7 per cent. In 1940, 18,878,000 tons of iron ore and 1,893,000 tons of manganese ore were extracted. In 1940, the Ukraine had 31 metallurgical works with 49 blast furnaces whose working space was 32,565 cubic meters, 135 open-hearth furnaces whose space was 4,435 cubic meters. The pig-iron production in 1940 reached 9,183,000 tons, steel production 86,217,000 tons, and the production of rolled iron 62,533,000 tons.

In 1940, the number of machine-building plants in the Ukraine comprised 599. In addition, there were 1,451 industrial enterprises for the production of iron works and 33,987 repair factories. At the same time, there were 26 coke-chemical works which had produced 15,201,000 tons of coke, etc., in 1940.

In 1940 there were 7,197 factories of the textile and light industries, and 69,053 factories in the food industry.

Agriculture

The land area of the Ukraine, according to 1940 statistics, comprised 558,253,000 hectares, of which there were 361,247,000 hectares of fields, arable and vegetable garden land.

Out of the entire acreage of the agricultural land of the Ukraine, more than 35 million hectares were at the disposal of the collective farms, while the State farms had about four million hectares.

In 1940, there were 26,919 collective farms and 875 State farms in the Republic. At the beginning of 1941 there were 1,225 machine and tractor stations; the agriculture of the Ukraine had some 90,000 tractors, 31,000 combines and 50,000 trucks.

The agriculture of the Ukraine had at its disposal a powerful repair base con-

sisting of 22 repair factories and 92 machine and tractor repair shops.

The sowing area of the Ukraine comprised:

	<i>Hectares</i>
All grain cultures.....	20,522,000
Technical cultures.....	2,625,000
Vegetable gardening	
cultures	725,000
Fodder crops.....	4,302,000
Potatoes	2,023,000

The total yield of all categories of farms comprised:

	<i>Tons</i>
Grain	28,739,000
Sugarbeet	14,805,000
Sunflower seed	1,024,000
Potatoes	21,679,000

Together with field husbandry, the development of cattle-breeding in the Ukraine reached a high level, which can be seen from the following figures. At the beginning of 1941, the livestock of the Ukraine consisted of (in thousand heads):

All horned cattle	10,593.0
Cows	5,761.7
Oxen	649.0
Sheep and goats.....	6,247.4
Pigs	9,003.1
Horses	4,565.2

The collective farms of the Ukraine had at their disposal a large acreage of fruit gardens, the total of which was 212,500 hectares at the beginning of 1940, including a fruit-raising area of 79,800 hectares.

The Development of Culture and New Living Conditions

The broad development of general education in the Ukrainian SSR can be judged on the basis of the following figures:

According to their type, these schools were classified as follows: there were 14,614 primary schools with a total of 1,145,376 pupils; 10,816 secondary schools with 2,823,993 pupils, and 4,281 higher schools with an enrollment of 2,503,531. The schools employed 238,000 teachers. Before the Patriotic War there were 486 children's clubhouses, 39 Palaces, 137 children's technical centers, 3,010 kindergartens, 12,034 open-air playgrounds, etc.

The network of political-educational institutions played an important role. In 1940 there were in the Ukraine 26,000 clubhouses, 41,000 permanent public li-

braries with 34,812,000 books. In 1941 the Ukraine had seven universities and 148 different colleges, whose students numbered 130,000. There were 653 special secondary, technical and professional schools with 860,216 students.

Research work in the Ukrainian SSR was directed by the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences which took charge of more than 200 research institutes and establishments.

There were 150 museums, 68 magazines and 1,120 newspapers published in the Republic. There were 5,963 cinema and 135 permanent theaters.

From the ranks of the Ukrainian people, apart from T. G. Shevchenko and N. V. Gogol—writers known the world over—there appeared such classics of literature as J. Franko, Kotliarevsky, Kotzubinsky, and others. At present, more than 100 writers live and work in the Ukraine, among whom are the widely-known Pavlo Tychina, Maxim Rylsky, A. Korneichuk and Nikolai Bazhan.

Medical service was developed to a very high degree. By the beginning of 1941 there were 3,115 dispensaries in villages, 1,348 independent women's and children's consultation centers, and 33,973 beds in maternity homes. There were 29,700 doctors and 64,200 assistants.

* * *

The German invaders, who perfidiously broke into the territory of the USSR, caused tremendous damage and colossal destruction to the people's economy of the Ukrainian SSR and subjected the Ukrainian people to systematic pillage and bloody terror. The country was inundated with the blood of its peaceful citizens.

According to preliminary estimates, in 22 districts of the Ukraine the Germans killed over two million peaceful citizens and abducted into German slavery 1,507,000 people. The Germans systematically and according to plan fulfilled the orders of the German High Command for the destruction of industrial buildings, mines, electric power stations, cultural establishments, municipal enterprises, houses, etc.

The damage caused by the German-fascist invaders to the citizens, collective farms, social organizations and State enterprises and establishments, reaches tremendous dimensions.

For example, in the Donets Basin, before the war there were 4,500 kilometers of underground mines. In most cases, they were flooded by the Germans during their retreat. Almost all above-ground technical establishments, the total of which equaled five million cubic meters, were burned down and destroyed. The Germans blew up and flooded 294 large mines, 549 elevator units, 320 transformers and electric substations, 1,415 kilometers of high-voltage power lines, etc.

The metallurgical and coke-chemical plants were almost completely destroyed. One of the largest plants of Ukrainian metallurgy in the city of Makayevka, which employed over 20,000 people, was burned down. Sixteen blast furnaces were blown up and 33 others damaged.

All plants of mine equipment, the Kharkov tractor plant, the Dnieper electric power stations and other giants of Ukrainian industry were destroyed.

Retreating under the blows of the Red Army, the German-fascist invaders annihilated and destroyed almost all the enterprises of the food industry. Great destruction was wrought to railway transport. Out of 19,664 kilometers of railways in the Ukraine, 18,134 kilometers were completely or partly wrecked; 668 large and medium-sized bridges were completely or partly destroyed. All means of communication, as well as water transport, were considerably damaged. Great destruction was wrought to the agriculture of the Ukraine. The Germans took away, pillaged or destroyed 1,828,000 units of agricultural machinery—14,724 engines which belonged to Soviet citizens or collective farms. The tractor park was destroyed about 52.4 per cent. The Germans abducted 2,800,000 head of horses, 4,900,000 head of cattle, 4,400,000 pigs, more than 5,000,000 sheep, and took away more than 36,000,000 head of different poultry.

The German invaders robbed the collective farms and individual citizens of the Ukrainian SSR of more than 12 million tons of agricultural products, including nine and one-half million tons of grain and flour, and destroyed a large amount of the collective farm crops. In 20 districts of the Poltava Region alone, the Germans burned up before retreating the entire crop of stacked grain over an

area covering 97,000 hectares.

The Germans burned and razed Ukrainian villages. In 197 districts of the Left Bank district of the Ukraine, the German monsters put fire to 319,000 collective farm yards, i.e., every fourth farmhouse was burned down. During the German occupation, 25,200,000 square meters of living space—i.e., 32 per cent—was destroyed. If we add to this the destruction of living space in the countryside, it will make a total of 70 to 80 million square meters. Industrial cities suffered particular damage. For example, in the city of Stalino, 45 per cent of the living space was destroyed; in the cities of Zaporozhye and Poltava, 40 per cent of the living space. In Kiev, the entire center of the city was destroyed. On the Kreshchatik, main thoroughfare of Kiev, three million cubic meters of buildings were burned.

During the German occupation, all the municipal plumbing systems were put out of use and the whole pumping equipment carried away.

By monstrously destroying cultural institutions and polluting Ukrainian sanctuaries, the Hitlerites tried to strip the Ukrainian people of their culture and reduce them not only physically, but also spiritually, to the level of slaves. The German invaders liquidated universities and colleges, and plundered museums and State reservations. In the territory of the Left Bank district of the Soviet Ukraine alone, the Germans destroyed more than 3,200 schoolhouses and 146 cinema theaters. The Hitlerites carried out planned destruction of schools, libraries, clubs, theaters and other cultural and educational establishments. The invaders plundered the institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, shipped to Germany the most valuable collections of the Zoological Museum and many other famous museums, the equipment of laboratories and scientific research institutions; they blew up the famous Kiev-Pechora Monastery and the University of Kiev. According to preliminary data, about 20,000 exhibits of Ukrainian art and folklore were carried away.

The Ukraine was the first to counter the blows of the well-armed foe. In the hard defensive fighting that raged on the soil of the Ukraine, the Red Army whittled down the enemy's forces and de-

stroyed his troops and war machine. The heroic defense of Odessa, Kiev and Kharkov will go down in history forever. Odessa defended itself for 70 days. The enemy had concentrated there dozens of divisions, shelled the city from heavy guns and bombed it from the air. But Odessa defended itself. The Germans and Rumanians lost in the battle of Odessa more than 250,000 soldiers and officers. Only by order of the Supreme Command did Red Army troops evacuate the city, to be sent by sea to defend Sevastopol.

The defenders of Kiev destroyed more than 50,000 Germans. Fierce fighting raged for Kharkov, the great industrial center of the Ukraine, which changed hands twice. The Germans lost there more than 200,000 men.

Still the enemy succeeded in temporarily occupying the territory of the Ukraine, but the Ukrainian people did not give up. At the fronts of the Patriotic War, soldiers of the Ukrainian people fought and are now fighting side by side with the sons of other peoples of the Soviet Union. The Ukrainians constitute one-fifth of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union. There are many Ukrainians among the Heroes of the Soviet Union. The whole world knows of the feats of the heroic sons and daughters of the Ukraine: Ludmila Pavlichenko, the Glinka brothers, Dmitri Ostapenko, Alexander Molodchy. The Ukrainian people gave to the Red Army Marshal Malinovsky, Army Generals Cherniakhovsky and Yeremenko, and many other well-known generals and officers. Among the Ukrainians fighting at the fronts of the Patriotic War, 288,000 have been awarded orders and medals for valor and courage displayed on the battlefield.

While the Red Army is fighting for the freedom and independence of our Motherland and of all liberty-loving nations of the world, toilers of the rear have been working ceaselessly for the front. As soon as the war started, many workers of the Ukraine moved together with their plants into the deep rear of the Soviet Union. The transfer of the Ukrainian industry was carried out with unprecedented rapidity and under the most trying wartime conditions.

After having occupied the Ukraine, the Germans figured that they would easily

bring the people to submission and profit by the riches of the Ukraine to wage war and carry on their conquest in the East. But the Ukrainian people did not permit the invaders to profit by the riches of the Ukrainian homeland. It is known that during the years of occupation the Germans were unable to restore any industrial plants, and even when they succeeded in it, the guerrillas immediately frustrated their efforts. For example, the Germans took measures to use the Donetsk coal; yet nothing came of it. They did not succeed in using the plants of Kharkov, the metal works of Dnepropetrovsk, the industries of Kiev.

Collective farmers sabotaged in all possible ways the German attempts to ship grain and other agricultural products to Germany. They not infrequently burned the grain in the fields.

The temporarily occupied soil of the Ukraine became the scene of vast guerrilla warfare. During the war 2,145 detachments, groups and units were organized in the Ukraine, numbering more than 200,000 guerrilla fighters. Many detachments grew in size, to become major fighting units, and carried on a fierce struggle in the enemy's rear not only against individual punitive squads of the enemy, but against regular troops of the German-fascist army. Each unit of the guerrilla detachments of Kovpak, Fedorov, Saburov, Melnik, Naumov, Malikov and Vershigor numbered two to five thousand guerrilla fighters. The guerrilla unit under Fedorov, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, disorganized in eight months in 1943-44 the Kovel'sky railroad hub. In the summer of 1943 the Germans sent up to 40,000 Hitlerites against 2,000 fighters of Saburov's guerrilla unit.

The guerrillas of the Ukraine drew upon themselves during the war 786,000 enemy soldiers and officers. They inflicted upon the enemy the following losses in men and war materiel: they killed and wounded 464,100 enemy soldiers and officers; smashed and damaged 5,294 railroad engines, 53,470 freight cars, 1,762 tanks and armored cars, 195 planes, 729 guns, 14,018 automobiles, and 95 river vessels. They burned down or blew up 888 stores with military supplies, 615 railroad bridges, 1,690 highway bridges, 1,960 kilometers of telegraph and tele-

phone lines. The Ukrainian guerrillas captured and held until the arrival of Red Army troops 25 river crossings over the Desna, the Pripyat, the Dnieper and other rivers.

The Soviet Government highly appreciates the military successes of the Ukrainian guerrillas. Thirty-five guerrilla fighters were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, and two of the 35—Kovpak and Fedorov—were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union twice. Orders and medals were awarded to 25,300 guerrillas.

In the struggle of the Ukrainian people against the German oppressors, the Ukrainian intelligentsia holds an honorable place. From the first days of the Patriotic War, Ukrainian scientists, together with the scientists of the Soviet Union, boldly set out on the road of innovations in the field of science and industry, successfully solving the most important industrial problems, creatively utilizing industrial achievements in the production of arms for the Red Army, and thus actively helping the Red Army to smash the hated enemy.

The research work of Academician Alexander Bogomolets, President of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, in treating wounds, is known all over the world. Hundreds of thousands of Red Army men have been saved from death by this new method of treatment by Bogomolets' system. Academician P. E. Paton has successfully solved during the Patriotic War the problem of improving the method of electric welding, which has a great importance in the production of tanks. The Soviet Government has conferred the title of Hero of Socialist Labor upon Academicians Bogomolets and Paton.

Many Ukrainian scientists died heroically in the struggle against the German conquerors at the fronts and in guerrilla detachments. Hero of the Soviet Union guerrilla P. M. Boiko, who prior to the war was a professor of the Kiev Medical Institute, was a fearless guerrilla fighter in one of the Ukrainian detachments. The German monsters caught him and subjected him to horrible torture, trying to find out the location of a guerrilla detachment. But Boiko refused to give the demanded information and for this they poured gasoline on him and burned him

alive. That is how Ukrainian scientists worked and fought, helping the Red Army in liberating the Ukraine.

By the end of 1944, through the efforts of the Red Army, the guerrillas and the entire Soviet people, the Ukrainian soil was liberated from the German invaders. The toilers of the Ukraine made enormous contributions to help the Red Army. During 1943-44 alone, the working people turned over to the Red Army these agricultural products: 175 million poods of grain, 1,782,000 poods of meat, and 86,077,000 poods of potatoes. In addition, the working people of the Ukraine gave from their personal stocks a great quantity of foodstuffs for the liberated regions of the Ukraine, cleared snow from more than 10,000 kilometers of roads used by columns and transports of the Red Army;

and during the period of rains and bad roads, thousands of men and women carried armament and ammunition, contributing in all possible ways to the rapid westward advance of the Red Army.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had to carry the brunt of the fight against the Hitlerite conquerors. The Red Army inflicted upon the enemy the most telling blows. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic played an extremely important part in the cause of destroying the German-fascist war machine. The territory of the Ukraine was the scene of fierce bloody battles; its people suffered in this war great losses and underwent unbelievable suffering and hardships. It is natural that the active participation of the Ukrainian people in the war against Germany, as well as the fact that the

Ukraine was many times in the course of its history the object of foreign aggression, especially on the part of the German conquerors, makes the Ukrainian people and its Government no less interested in the creation of a postwar system of peace and security than other freedom and peace-loving nations.

The Ukraine has a territory of 565,000 square kilometers, a population of 40 million persons, a frontier stretching 1,350 kilometers and borders on Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania. It is washed by two seas—the Black and the Azov; possesses a powerful industry and a highly developed agriculture. The Ukraine will doubtless contribute in a befitting way to the postwar structure of the world and to the organization of security all over the world.

Declaration of the Government of The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

THE Government of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, desirous of securing the sincere and effective participation of the Byelorussian people in all international activities of the United Nations directed toward the realization of the lofty aims of peace and security, addresses to the Conference of the United Nations gathered in San Francisco this declaration of its wish to participate in the International Organization for the maintenance of peace and security, which is being created, in the capacity of an original founding member, and to be represented at the Conference in San Francisco.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, in accordance with its Constitution and the constitutional law of March 24, 1944, as a sovereign state, is competent to enter into direct relations with foreign states, to conclude agreements with them, to participate in any international conferences, international bodies, etc.

The constitutional prerogatives of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic in the field of international relations give her all the rights and grounds to participate in the International Organization of the United Nations.

The Byelorussian people, whose lands in the past were the object of attacks on the part of foreign conquerors more than once, are interested no less than any other peace-loving state in securing their frontiers and in a stable, lasting peace.

The Byelorussian Republic with its population of more than 10 million, has made a major contribution to the sacred cause of the struggle of the freedom-loving nations against the common enemy—Hitlerite Germany.

The German invaders brought innumerable hardships and sufferings to the Byelorussian people. Invading Byelorussia with no reason at all, the Hitlerite conquerors carried out planned destruction of cities, villages, industry, agriculture, and national and cultural values of the freedom-loving Byelorussian people, causing Byelorussia a damage totaling about one-half of its national wealth.

The German fascists in their aim to conquer and enslave the Byelorussian people practiced brutal mass murders of the peaceful population of Byelorussia.

But even during the hardest times of the German invasion and the years of incredible suffering under the German-fascist regime of occupation, the Byelorussian people did not pause for a mo-

ment in their struggle. About one million Byelorussian warriors joined the ranks of the Red Army fighting for its Motherland and for the common cause of the United Nations.

Hundreds of thousands of citizens—men and women—of the Byelorussian Republic, devoted to the cause of freedom and peace, joined guerrilla detachments and without any regard for their own lives operated actively in the rear of the German invaders, disorganizing enemy communications, hindering the movement of its troops, embarrassing its operations and thus helping the Red Army in all possible ways to destroy the German invaders.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, aiming in every way to contribute to the cause of creating a stable peace and security together with other freedom-loving states, considers it its right and duty to participate in the International Security Organization as well as in the Conference of the United Nations in San Francisco.

The Government of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic believes that serious harm would be done to the principle of the most complete and widest representation of all the peace-loving na-

tions in the International Security Organization if the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic were not represented in this Organization, as well as in the Conference for the creation of such an Organ-

ization, and if the solution of such important problems as the ensuring of post-war peace and security were dealt with without the participation of representatives of the Byelorussian SSR.

P. K. PONOMARENKO

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Byelorussian SSR

K. B. KISELEV

People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Byelorussian SSR

Byelorussia

Informative Material of the Government of the Byelorussian SSR

SECRETARY of State of the United States of America Edward Stettinius, Jr., stated at a press conference in Washington: "The Soviet representatives at Yalta proposed that the Byelorussian and Ukrainian Republics be initial members of the proposed international organization. This was a question for the United Nations assembled at San Francisco to consider and decide. In view of the importance which the Soviet Government attached to this proposal, the American representatives at Yalta, having the utmost respect for the heroic part played by the people of these Republics in their unyielding resistance to the common enemy, and the fortitude with which they have borne great suffering in the prosecution of the war, agreed that the Government of the United States would support such a Soviet proposal at San Francisco if made."

What is the Byelorussian SSR? Let us try to give a brief answer to this question.

Byelorussia has an old culture. The population of Byelorussia had been early acquainted with agriculture and cattle-breeding. They were familiar with iron as early as 500 B.C. The further development of the Byelorussian people is linked with that of the Slavs. Having a common language, culture, and historic destinies, the Slavs in alliance with other freedom-loving peoples pursued a heroic struggle for their freedom and national independence against their ancient enemies—the German invaders.

The present territory of Byelorussia was inhabited by the following Slavic tribes: The area of the Pripyat River and to the north of it along the Berezina, and in the upper part of the Niemen up to the Western Dvina, was inhabited by the Dregovichichi. They occupied all the southern part of Byelorussia, the so-called Polessye, including the present regions

of Polessye, Pinsk, Bobruisk, as well as a considerable part of the regions of Minsk, Baranovichichi and Grodno.

To the east of the areas inhabited by the Dregovichichi, between the upper reaches of the Dnieper and the Sozh Rivers, that is, roughly speaking, within the boundaries of the present regions of Mogilev and Gomel, lived the Radimichi.

To the north of the territories inhabited by the Radimichi and the Dregovichichi in the uppermost part of the Dnieper and along the Western Dvina, that is, on the territories of the present regions of Vitebsk, Polotsk and Wilno of the Byelorussian SSR, lived the Krivichi. Thus the Slavic tribes of Dregovichichi, Radimichi and Krivichi are the ancestors of the present Byelorussian people.

Between the 10th and 11th Centuries most of Byelorussia was covered with thick forests. That is why a part of Byelorussia is even now called "Polessye"—wooded country—and the forests which are the characteristic feature of Byelorussia still constitute the most important national wealth.

At the same time the climate of Byelorussia is comparatively moderate and warm, very suitable for agriculture. Cattle-breeding and fishing were highly developed in Byelorussia. The geographical conditions of the country favored it. The paths of trade were directed to the south along the Dnieper up to the Black Sea and Byzantium, and to the north across the Baltic to Sweden.

Trade along the Western Dvina and the Niemen to the west also played an important part. The term "Byeloruss" is first quoted in the 14th Century. In the 15th Century it was already widely known not only to the local population but also among the neighboring peoples. In the course of the following centuries the Byelorussians defended their

nationality, their language, culture and national character in stubborn struggle. Today, thanks to the Lenin-Stalin national policy, they have achieved brilliant successes in the development of their national culture and statecraft.

Since ancient times the development of the Byelorussian people has been carried on in close collaboration with the fraternal Russian and Ukrainian peoples. As early as the 9th and 10th Centuries the feudal principalities of the territory of Byelorussia were a part of the Kiev State. The Polotsk and Turovo-Pinsk principalities had at this time achieved great development. During the period of feudal partitioning (11-13 Centuries) these principalities, particularly that of Polotsk, developed as independent state formations. One of the strongest and most influential principalities of Eastern Europe was, particularly during the 11th Century, the principality of Polotsk.

The Byelorussian cities of Polotsk, Brest, Minsk and others grew into large economic centers. They increased commercial intercourse among themselves and with other countries.

The Dnieper, Western Dvina, Niemen and Bug became important waterways connecting Byelorussia with the Black and Baltic Seas and thus with the Mediterranean area, particularly with Byzantium, Western Europe and the North.

From the 11th to the 16th Centuries the Byelorussians achieved a comparatively high level of social, economic and cultural development and became one of the advanced peoples of Eastern Europe.

A number of books were issued in the Byelorussian language, most of them of a religious character. The great Byelorussian educator George Skorina in the 20's and 30's of the 16th Century organized book-printing. In the middle of the 16th Century numbers of schools, print-

ing shops and cultural, educational and religious brotherhoods were active.

The Byelorussian people throughout their history fought unselfishly and heroically against invaders. In this fight they were assisted by the great brotherly Russian and Ukrainian peoples, and in their turn gave active assistance to the Russian and Ukrainian peoples. As early as 1203 the Grand Duke Vladimir waged war against the German Order of the Swordbearers, who had seized the mouth of the Western Dvina. Thanks to the assistance of the Russian people, the principality of Polotsk was able to stop the German aggression on Byelorussian soil. In the 40's of the 13th Century, when the menace to the Russian people became imminent, they were assisted by the Byelorussians. In the memorable battle on the ice of Chudskoi Lake on April 15, 1242, under the leadership of Alexander Nevsky, the Byelorussian detachments participated. On June 15, 1410, the Byelorussian people played an important part in the Battle of Grunewald. Of the 91 regiments which took part in this battle against the Germans almost 20 were Byelorussian. The Byelorussians were also among the troops of Dmitri Donskoi in the struggle against the Mongol-Tatar invaders. These troops defeated the Mongol-Tatars on Kulikovo Field (October, 1380). The troops of the Princes of Polotsk Andrei and his brother Dmitri, as well as those of other Byelorussian princes, participated in this historic battle. During the northern war against the Swedish aggressors (1700-1711), led by Charles XII, the Byelorussian people gave most important assistance to the Russian troops of Peter I.

The battle at Lesnaya, won by Russian troops with the active participation of the Byelorussian people, was called by Peter I "Mother of the Poltava Victory."

The Byelorussian people have abundantly shed their blood but have never submitted. Their history gives many examples of heroic struggle for their land and independence.

The Byelorussians have endured particularly great suffering from the Polish "pans" (feudal landlords). As a result of the Lublin Alliance, the "Retz Pospolita" was created in 1560. It incorporated Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, including all of Byelorussia.

The Polish landlords seized the Byelorussian lands and made the Byelorussian peasants their serfs. A law was adopted in 1573 authorizing landlords to punish the peasants as they liked, including the death penalty. Gallows and rods appeared on every landlord's estate. A national oppression was added to the unparalleled social oppression after the Brest Church Alliance of 1596. The population of Byelorussia was forcibly converted to the Catholic faith. The Orthodox religion was persecuted; the Orthodox were forbidden to leave the country and to become members of the municipal administrations. The use of the Byelorussian language in all institutions and courts of Byelorussia was forbidden by a law of 1697. Severe repressions provoked the stubborn resistance of the Byelorussian people. Revolts against the "pans" continued during all the first half of the 17th Century. At that time important revolts took place in Mogilev (1609-1612), Vitebsk (1623), and Polotsk (1633). During the Polish invasion of Moscow (1609-1612) the Byelorussians fought valiantly against the Polish "pans," attacking the rear of the Polish troops.

Later on, the armed struggle of the Byelorussian people for their national rights arose with renewed strength. During the War of Independence of the Ukrainian people under the leadership of Bogdan Khmel'nitsky (1648-1654) detachments of Cossacks and peasants were active under the command of Garkusha, Krivoshapka, Golota, and others. Revolts spread over the whole area of Byelorussia.

* * *

The German invaders caused particularly great suffering to the Byelorussian people. Our generation has twice witnessed the occupation of Byelorussia by the German invaders. In 1914-1918 Byelorussia was an area of heavy fighting. Her economy was ruined and her population suffered heavy losses, particularly in the occupied regions.

In the beginning of 1918, Byelorussia was occupied by German troops and units of the Polish Corps of General Dovbor-Musnitsky. In the occupied regions the Germans and the alien Poles robbed and exterminated the population of Byelorussia with ferocity. The Byelorussians launched a guerilla war of all the people. Toward the end of 1918 the Red Army,

actively supported by the whole population of Byelorussia, liberated this country from the invaders. The Byelorussian people acquired independence.

A Manifesto by the Provincial Revolutionary Workers' and Peasants' Government of Byelorussia was published on January 1, 1919, proclaiming the establishment of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. All instructions created by the occupationists and all laws and regulations enacted by them were abolished. The Manifesto, in accordance with the will of the population, proclaimed a new revolutionary order secured by the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic entered the path of statehood as an equal among equal Socialist Republics. But the peaceful activities of the Byelorussian people were interrupted by the invasion of Pilsudski's legions, which occupied Belostok and later on seized Grodno, Lida, Novogrudok and Baranovich. Later on, the legions of Pilsudski, taking advantage of the weakness of the young Soviet Republic, again occupied the western part of Byelorussia, as well as the western part of the Ukraine.

On October 20, 1920, peace was concluded with Poland in Riga. At that moment Byelorussia was cut into two parts. A considerable part of the territory was left under the authority of the Polish "pans."

The Byelorussian people regained their statehood and started a new life. The pre-revolutionary peasant of Byelorussia suffered severely from a lack of land—indescribable poverty prevailed among the peasants. Not having enough bread, they had to live on mushrooms and substitutes. Starving and freezing, thousands of laborers began to look for a better life. They abandoned their homes and moved to the towns, mills, mines and landlords' estates. An enormous number of people left the country every year. Tens of thousands of Byelorussian peasants driven by misery ran away from their country to other countries, particularly to America. The social structure of old Russia deprived them of their place under the sun of their country. Agriculture was primitive. The Tsarist government, fearing the development of cultural and political activities of the Byelorussian workers, peas-

ants and intellectuals, took all possible measures to keep the people in ignorance, and fomented national antagonisms.

In common with all the brotherly allied Soviet Republics, Byelorussia proceeded on the way of industrialization and exceedingly swift economic and cultural development. In the course of the Stalin Five-Year Plans the once backward and oppressed province of Tsarist Russia became a Republic of developed industry and collective farms. New branches of industry, such as machine-tool making, chemical, textile, leather and foodstuffs industries, etc., were created. Seventeen hundred industrial plants were constructed and their techniques mastered in Byelorussia in the course of the Stalin Five-Year Plans. The national wealth of the Republic was being effectively exploited and used for the purpose of improving the prosperity of the population. Peat, so abundant in Byelorussia, became the principal source of fuel. Its production increased 180 times and the production of electric power, 100 times.

Instead of the isolated individual farms of Byelorussia, collective farms were created. The peasantry of its own accord formed 9,619 collective farms and received over eight million hectares of rich land free of charge for permanent use. The collective farms worked on a planned basis, using advanced agricultural technique and up-to-date machinery.

The area under wheat increased in the collective farms five times; under potatoes, two times; under technical cultures, two and one-half times; under hay, three times. The harvest was increasing yearly. Agriculture was becoming more and more intensive. In 1940, on the initiative of Stalin, a program of the draining of the marshes of Byelorussia was worked out. The Byelorussian marshes, formerly a source of disease, an obstacle to communication and a cause of uncultured and miserable living, were becoming cultivated fields and meadows. By the beginning of the Great Patriotic War 250,000 hectares of marshes were drained and made available for agricultural use. They produced a large harvest of grain, potatoes and grass. It was decided in 1941 to drain and put into exploitation during the next 15 years, four million hectares of marshes in the area of the Western Dvina, the Dnieper, the Sozh, the Nie-

men and the Pripyat, including the well-known Pinsk marshes. A firm technical basis was secured for agriculture; 342 machine and tractor stations served the needs of the peasantry. They had 9,720 tractors, 1,592 combines, 2,300 complex threshers, and other machinery. In the total of traction power, tractors amounted to 58 per cent. Collective cattle-breeding, poultry-raising and bee-keeping were developed.

In Tsarist Russia, the Byelorussians were deprived of the right to use their own language and to enjoy their culture. Three-quarters of the population were illiterate, and among the women illiteracy amounted to 90 per cent.

Russification was being imposed. Before the Great October Revolution no scientific research institute existed in Byelorussia. There was only one higher school, namely the Goretsky Agricultural Institute. In 1940 there were in the Republic 26 higher schools, 41 scientific research institutes including the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences, the Byelorussian State University, a polytechnical institute, pedagogical institutes, and medical institutes in Minsk and Vitebsk. The number of students in 1941 increased 75 times as compared with 1913. By this time illiteracy had been completely abolished in Byelorussia. All children attended school. In towns as well as in the countryside, teaching was carried on in the Byelorussian and Russian languages. All facilities for universal development of their capacities and talents were available to the Byelorussian people.

The Byelorussian people from ancient times had a great talent and a strong drive for art, which was manifested in popular legends, tales and songs transmitted orally. The natural optimism of the people lived in their folk games and dances, in the merry song of "Bulba," in the impetuous dance "Lavoniha" and in the demure ronde "Lenok." The first Byelorussian dramatic theater was opened in 1920, and in 1940 the Republic already had 20 professional stage collectives, among them the Byelorussian Opera and Ballet Theater, the Byelorussian Dramatic Theater in Minsk, the Byelorussian Dramatic Theater in Vitebsk, the Jewish Theater, the Russian State Theater in Mogilev, and the regional Russian Theater in Gomel.

The flourishing of musical art in Byelorussia was assured by the establishment of a large system of music schools. There were in the Republic, in 1940, 19 music schools, four music colleges, and the Byelorussian State Conservatory. The State Philharmonic of Byelorussia was pursuing great creative work in common with the combined body of the Byelorussian Ensemble of Song and Dance.

Pictorial and plastic arts of the Byelorussian people before the Revolution manifested themselves mostly in handicrafts, in beautiful ornaments such as the belts made in Slutsk, in embroideries of linen, tissues, etc. The State Art Museum was opened in Minsk in 1940, containing a large collection of pictures by Byelorussian and Russian painters as well as by Western masters. The art of the Byelorussian people developed in creative collaboration with the art of the brotherly peoples of the Soviet Union and, first of all, with the art of the Russian people.

The Byelorussian cinema industry produced in the prewar years a number of films such as *Seekers of Happiness*, *Balm*, *Sailors*, *Daughter of Her Country*, and others, which won great success in the Soviet Union. The Byelorussian Soviet Writers Union contained many writers, poets and playwrights. One hundred ninety-seven newspapers were published in the Republic.

In 1914 Byelorussia had only 425 medical doctors and only one hospital bed per 2,000 people. In 1940 the Republic had 618 medical dispensaries, 700 stations manned by surgeon assistants and midwives, 129 stations for medical advice for mothers, 326 rural clinics, and a number of other medical services.

There were 3,000 students in the two higher medical schools. In numerous medical schools, nurses, surgeons' assistants and dentists were being trained. Thus Byelorussia, formerly a backward, uncultured and illiterate colony of Tsarist Russia, wretched and deprived of rights, became a quickly developing industrial and collective-farm Republic.

Deprived of the right to speak their own language, the western Byelorussians before their incorporation into the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, had no rights whatever, suffered humiliations and lived a miserable life. Many thousands

of peasant families of western Byelorussia had neither land nor bread, and lived in dingy homes lighted with candles. A lamp would have been a luxury for them. They could not buy matches, kerosene, salt nor sugar. Hundreds of thousands of peasants and workers were illiterate. The country was deprived of medical assistance. It was a land of social and national oppression. Misery, starvation and unemployment became the lot of the toiling people of western Byelorussia. On September 17, 1939, the Red Army broke the artificial barriers forcibly separating the Byelorussian people. It was the first time that the population of western Byelorussia felt really free. National discrimination disappeared in the territory of western Byelorussia. Schools were opened where teaching was carried on in the Byelorussian language.

Elections of deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Byelorussian SSR were held for the first time on the basis of a democratic electoral law by the peoples of western Byelorussia.

On November 2, 1939, the Fifth Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR satisfied the request of the People's Assembly of western Byelorussia and incorporated western Byelorussia into the Byelorussian SSR. The Byelorussian SSR is now, as regards territory, a great deal larger than such European countries as Belgium, Switzerland or the Netherlands.

The population of Byelorussia has increased to 10 million. Since the union of its western and eastern parts, Byelorussia occupies a territory of 250,000 square kilometers. After Russia and the Ukraine, it is the third largest Republic of the USSR. Byelorussia has a common border in the west with the Polish State, in the south with the Ukrainian SSR, and in the northwest with the Lithuanian SSR. Byelorussia is composed of 12 regions and has 76 towns and 131 townships. Its capital is Minsk, with a population of 240,000.

On a black night in June, 1941, the German invaders hurled upon the peaceful people of Byelorussia a storm of deadly bombs and shells. Thousands of German planes began destroying cities and villages built by the labor of many generations of Byelorussian people. German tanks drove into the prosperous cities of

the Republic. Byelorussia was one of the first to bear the brunt of the fascist war machine. The country became an arena of fierce and bloody battles. For more than three years the Byelorussian people, in common with the Russians, Ukrainians and other peoples of our country, fought for the honor and freedom of the USSR.

The invaders wanted to turn the Byelorussian farmers and workers into slaves; in spite of the most ferocious savagery and terror, the people did not submit.

Having seized Byelorussia, the Germans liquidated the state independence of the Republic, and destroyed all organs of local authority. The German invaders introduced into Byelorussia and its capital, Minsk, a regime of bloody terror and violence. In July, 1941, Hitler issued an order in which he proclaimed that German soldiers and officers had the right to rob the Byelorussian population and exterminate it. The fascist commanders were given full power to subject the peaceful population to the most inhuman punishment, to burn villages and towns, to deprive the population of foodstuffs and cattle, and to drive Soviet citizens to work in Germany.

The number of peaceful Soviet citizens and prisoners of war who were killed, hanged, burned and tortured in Byelorussia amounts to about 800,000; and 300,000 sons and daughters of the Byelorussian people were driven to captivity in fascist Germany. In Minsk and other cities of Byelorussia, a detailed system of concentration camps was set up. The German hangmen annihilated old men, women and children. In the "Ghetto" camp in Minsk, about 100,000 Jewish people were exterminated, a considerable part of whom were brought for annihilation from other countries of Western Europe—the Netherlands, Austria and Czechoslovakia. Similar mass destruction of the population was carried out in other cities and regions of Byelorussia.

The invaders left horrible evidence in a death camp in Bolshoi Trostyanets, where in 34 pits and graves, 150,000 persons were buried. In the prisoner-of-war camps in Glinishche village, five kilometers from Minsk, 80,000 brutally murdered Red Army men, prisoners of war, were buried; in Vitebsk, 50,000 persons

were shot; in Gomel, 50,000 persons were tortured, shot, or died of starvation; in Orsha, 35,000 persons were shot and tortured.

The German-fascist invaders in the three years of their occupation of the Byelorussian SSR greatly damaged the national economy and culture of the Byelorussian people, under the direct instructions of the German government. The Hitlerite barbarians destroyed scientific research institutes, schools, theaters and clubs.

The population, forced to live in woods and dugouts, deprived of all medical aid and normal nourishment, was ill in great numbers with diarrhea. Child mortality increased. Destruction of public water supplies, wells and bathhouses contributed to the spread of contagious diseases, especially of typhoid fever and dysentery. Formerly there were very few cases of malaria in Byelorussia. But during the period of the German occupation this disease became widespread, due to the absence of any anti-malaria work for three years, the destruction of ameliorative drainage works, and also as a result of the bringing of malaria by the occupation troops.

Because of the absence of medical assistance during the period of German occupation, many chronic cases which had had systematic treatment under the Soviet regime, suffered relapses and are now incurable. At the present time hospitals and clinics are overcrowded with the large number of sick persons.

The Byelorussian people developed universal guerrilla struggle against the German invaders and carried it on from the first days of war with gradually increasing strength. The guerrilla warfare in Byelorussia involved great masses of the population, grew into a strong force and became one of the conditions of victory over the enemy. That was the war of the Byelorussian people against the military, economic-political, industrial and ideological measures of the occupationists. The struggle was carried on everywhere—in cities and villages, against railroad communications, and in enterprises. More than 300,000 armed and united guerrillas, supported by millions of working people, fought the invaders on the entire territory of Byelorussia. The Hit-

lerites in Byelorussia suffered not only a military but also a great moral-political defeat. But German invaders could not find quislings among the Byelorussian people; they could not introduce into the local occupation organizations persons who would be willing to serve them.

In Byelorussia, more than 1,600 German military and civil officers were killed, including the Hitlerite protege—hangman of the Byelorussian people, von Kube—who was killed by a magnetic mine placed in his bed by a girl guerrilla, who escaped to the partisan zone.

Guerrillas derailed more than 6,000 trains of troops and military supplies, blew up more than 4,000 bridges, and destroyed 1,400 kilometers of railways in the front zone. The Byelorussian people, their cadres and intelligentsia, were firmly devoted to the Soviet Motherland, and all their hopes were bound up with the coming of the Red Army and the re-establishment of Soviet power. With great joy and love the Byelorussian people met their liberator—the Red Army.

The population everywhere rendered help to the advancing Red Army. Hundreds of thousands of Byelorussian farmers came out to help construct crossings and bridges and to restore railways and airdromes, giving all possible aid to the Red Army. Greatly inspired and jubilant, more than 600,000 Byelorussians joined the Red Army immediately after the liberation of the Republic.

The restoration of railroads was begun as soon as the Republic was liberated. More than 10,000 kilometers of main and station ways have been restored, over 1,400 kilometers of paved highroads and unpaved highways have been repaired, and 4,685 bridges erected. The restoration of the railways kept pace with the advancing Red Army. This was of great importance, and enabled the Army to keep up the tempo of the advance.

The Byelorussian people, by their unceasing labor as well as in the battles at the front, showed their moral and political unity and devotion to their Motherland. The sons of the Byelorussian people have covered themselves with unfading glory on the fronts of the Patriotic War. More than 11,000 Byelorussians have been decorated with Orders and Medals of the USSR for courage and fortitude in battles against the German invaders. In the ranks of the Red Army are 150 Byelo-

ussian generals and thousands of Byelorussian officers. The high title of Hero of the Soviet Union was conferred upon 61 daring sons of Byelorussia. Among them are Major General Lev Dovator, native of Vitebschina, defender of Moscow; the flier Viktor Talalikhin, first pilot to use the ramming technique against the enemy during the defense of Moscow; the flier Nikolai Gastello who directed his burning plane onto a column of enemy troops; Vice-Admiral Drozd, defender of Leningrad, whose name is now borne by a Baltic cruiser; the famous sniper Feodosi Smoliachkov, defender of Leningrad; the glorious guerrillas Konstantin Zaslonov, Mikhail Silnizky, Tikhon Bumazhkov, and others.

The Byelorussian people are proud of their valiant sons, Heroes of the Soviet Union, famous generals, officers, sergeants, fighters, of the valorous Red Army, and the brave men and women guerrillas.

The Byelorussian people sealed still more firmly with the blood of their finest sons and daughters the alliance of brotherly friendship with the great Russian, Ukrainian and other peoples of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet people and the Red Army, under the leadership of Marshal Stalin, in the course of gigantic historic battles have defeated the German hordes and routed them from the territory of the Soviet Union. The time has passed when the German fascist hordes lorded it in invaded Soviet areas, including Byelorussia. The Red Army has crushed the enemy on his own territory.

The Byelorussian people, brought up in the spirit of Soviet patriotism and of uncompromising hatred toward all enslavers and invaders, have shown in fierce battles with the enemy their steadfastness, self-denial and unshakable unity. The Soviet people have emerged victorious in this war because they opposed the Hitlerite hordes with their heroic Red Army, inspired by the lofty and noble aims of the Patriotic War, and because the Red Army is equipped with a powerful military technique.

The long and glorious path of continuous historic victories of the Red Army led from the Volga to the heart of fascist Germany—Berlin.

The Byelorussian people will present their bill of reckoning to the German invaders. The Germans must repair the

whole damage they have done to Byelorussia. We have, however, many losses which cannot be repaired by material values. They are the hundreds of thousands of Byelorussian citizens who perished, were tortured to death, were shot, hanged and burned by the Germans.

The people of the Soviet Union are giving the utmost assistance in bread, money, implements and cattle to those regions of Byelorussia which particularly suffered. Cars loaded with clothing, household articles, children's linen and medical stores are pouring in from our friends in the United States and Great Britain. The Byelorussian people are particularly grateful for this fraternal aid.

In the towns and villages of Byelorussia, tremendous construction work is under way. Thousands of schools, hospitals, nurseries, workshops, cattle-sheds and other public buildings have already been restored, and 120,000 farmhouses have been built.

The Byelorussian people learned with particular satisfaction that at the Crimea Conference the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of the United States supported the proposal of the Government of the USSR that the Byelorussian representatives take part, as initial members, in the International Organization for the maintenance of peace and security.

Correction

On page 6 of issue No. 46 of the INFORMATION BULLETIN, the population of Byelorussia is given as 13 million. The figure should read 10 million.

Information Bulletin

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JUN 9 1945

Kremlin Reception Honors General Officers of the Red Army and Navy

On May 24 the Government of the USSR gave a reception in the Kremlin in honor of the general officers commanding the troops of the Red Army. The guests included members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the People's Commissars, members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), representatives of the Red Army and Navy, and outstanding representatives of Soviet industry, science, art and literature.

By 8:00 P. M. the guests filled Georgievsky Hall of the grand Kremlin Palace. The flower of our glorious Army, of our heroic people, was represented. Alongside the famous Marshals of the Soviet Union, the commanders of the fronts who gave effect to Stalin's inspired plans for the defeat of the enemy, were the Heroes of Socialist Labor, the outstanding designers of Soviet arms whose creative efforts supplied the Red Army with first-rate fighting equipment.

Only a fortnight has passed since the memorable day when the joyous news of victory swept the world. On May 9 the historical words of Stalin resounded, con-

gratulating the Soviet people on the victorious termination of the Great Patriotic War: "The great sacrifices we have made in the name of freedom and our defense of our Motherland, the incalculable privations and sufferings experienced by our people in the course of the war, the strained work in the rear and at the front—placed on the altar of the Motherland—have not been in vain and have been crowned by complete victory over the enemy."

Under the blows of the Red Army and the Allied troops, bandit Hitlerite Germany collapsed. Our victory banner rose over prostrate Berlin. The roar of guns ceased; the din of sanguinary battles was heard no longer. The great Soviet people, a nation of victors, proudly feted the victory, the day of triumph of our just cause, for which its loyal sons fought.

On this night of celebration the ancient Kremlin welcomed the victors, all of them—from rank and file soldier to Marshal—glorious disciples of the great Stalin. Stalin led them through all the hardships and trials of war. He steeled their will and taught them the great art

of victory. Our warriors demonstrated to the whole world examples of supreme courage, gallantry and heroism. In violent battles with the German-fascist invaders, fought under the victorious banner of the great Lenin, they were inspired by the image of our great ancestors—Alexander Nevsky, Dmitri Donskoi, Kuzma Minin, Dmitri Pozharsky, Alexander Suvorov and Mikhail Kutuzov.

The Soviet people take legitimate pride in their leaders of troops and soldiers: they won victory in a war which has no parallel in history. They reduced the enemy to dust—the strongest and most perfidious enemy ever to launch a campaign against their native land.

Our victory is the result of the united efforts of the front and rear, the result of the heroic labor of the arms makers of the Urals and Siberia, the workers of the Baku oilfields, the metallurgists of Magnitogorsk, the miners of the Kuznetsk coal basin. Our victory is the product of the patriotic effort of all peoples of the great Soviet country, the sons of Russia and the Ukraine, the workers of Byelorussia and Azerbaijan, the workers and collective



N. M. Shvernik, on behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, presents the Order of Victory and the Order of Lenin to Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Marshal Zhukov. Next to him stand Marshals Konev, Malinovsky, Tolbukhin and Rokossovsky

(Radiophoto)

farmers of Uzbekistan and Georgia—the working people of all nationalities united in a fraternal Union under the great invincible banner of Lenin and Stalin.

At 8:00 P. M. the gathering rose to its feet and greeted with stormy, prolonged applause J. V. Stalin, V. M. Molotov, K. E. Voroshilov, A. A. Zhdanov, N. S. Khrushchev, L. M. Kaganovich, A. A. Andreyev, A. I. Mikoyan, N. M. Shvernik, L. P. Beria, G. M. Malenkov, N. A. Bulganin, and N. A. Voznessensky. A fervent ovation in honor of Stalin, who inspired and organized the victory, and in honor of his comrades-in-arms, lasted several minutes.

Finally, there was silence. People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs Molotov invited the Marshals of the Soviet Union to take seats at the table of the Presidium.

Molotov addressed the gathering: "Comrades, the Government has arranged the present reception with the participation of the outstanding workers in socialist construction, in science and art, to honor the general officers commanding the Red Army troops. This Government reception is being held in honor of Soviet leaders of the troops who took our Armies into battle on the numerous fronts of the Great Patriotic War against German fascism, who cleared our country of the hated invaders and brought us to victory over Hitlerite Germany. (*Stormy applause.*) In these days the eyes of all Soviet people are turned to our officers and men, to those who fought during all these hard years of war for the independence, freedom and happiness of our people. In these days all Soviet people turn their eyes to their victorious Army and its leaders, with legitimate pride in their battle services and with boundless love. Today we offer a toast to our Red Army and Red Navy men, to our officers, generals, admirals and glorious marshals, and in the first place to him who directed and directs our struggle, and who has brought our people to a great victory without parallel in history—to a great man and a beloved leader, to Comrade Stalin!"

The gathering rose as one man in prolonged acclaim.

"Comrades," Molotov went on, "our Army has proved to be worthy of our Socialist State, has proved to be worthy of the great mission of the liberation of

Europe from German fascism. Our Army, and all our Soviet people, have been brought up by the glorious Bolshevik Party, the Party of Lenin and Stalin. Our Party was created by the great Lenin, a man of great thought and great deeds. Our Party is now being led from victory to victory by the great Stalin. I propose a toast to the great Party of Lenin and Stalin, to the Central Committee of our Bolshevik Party, and to the health of our own great Stalin!"

After the tumultuous applause and cheers, Molotov spoke again: "Comrades, there is a delegation of Polish miners here who brought a trainload of coal as a gift to Moscow. I offer a toast to democratic Poland, a friend of the Soviet Union, to Soviet-Polish friendship which must set an example of indestructible friendship between the Slav peoples."

The delegates of the Polish miners were warmly greeted by the gathering as they approached the Presidium. Cheers for Stalin and for Soviet-Polish friendship resounded in the hall. The Polish delegates sang a folk roasting-song in honor of Stalin.

Molotov's next toast was: "To the health of Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin, whom we all love, an outstanding representative of the Russian people, the oldest member of the Bolshevik Central Committee, head of the Soviet State!"

After hearty applause, Stalin rose and addressed the guests: "I propose a toast to the leader of our foreign policy, Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov. Don't forget that a good foreign policy sometimes carries more weight than two or three armies at the front. To our Vyacheslav!"

The ovation was long and loud.

Thereupon Molotov toasted the general officers commanding the Red Army troops:

"In the first place," Molotov said, "I must name Comrade Zhukov. With Comrade Zhukov's name is bound the heroic defense of Moscow, the defense of Leningrad, and the liberation of Warsaw, the capital of friendly Poland. Under the command of Marshal Zhukov our troops broke into the fascist lair in Berlin and hoisted the Banner of Victory over it. To Marshal Zhukov's health!"

The demonstration was riotous for the marshals and generals of the war: Konev,

hero of the battles in the Ukraine, liberator of Prague, whose troops, together with those of Zhukov, broke into Berlin. Rokossovsky, hero of the Battle of Stalingrad which was the historical turning point in the present war, who directed the operations in Byelorussia and ejected the Germans from Danzig and Stettin. Govorov, whose troops routed the Germans at Leningrad, liberated Tallinn, crushed the enemy's powerful defense in the Karelian Isthmus, and freed Vyborg. Malinovsky, liberator of Rostov-on-Don, who led the fighting for the release of Budapest, Hungary's capital, from German and Hungarian fascists; Tolbukhin, hero of the emancipation of Bulgaria and her capital Sofia, who expelled the German invaders from Vienna, the capital of Austria; Vasilevsky, hero of the battles in East Prussia, whose troops seized Koenigsberg, the citadel of Prussian militarism. Bagramyan, who completed the rout of the German Sammland Army group. Meretskov, who directed the operations of Soviet troops in the North; Yerenenko, whose troops victoriously broke through the Carpathians.

Then there came toasts to the veteran leaders of the troops of the Red Army, to those who led the Red Army in the years of the Civil War, heroically defending the young Soviet State from enemies: Marshals Voroshilov, Budyonny and Timoshenko, who had led the Soviet troops in victorious battles in the years of the Civil War and had also directed troops during the present Patriotic War.

In conclusion, Molotov greeted Admirals of the Fleet Kuznetsov and Isaakov, leaders of the Soviet Navy, Commanders of the Fleet Admirals Tributs, Oktyabrsky, Golovko and Yumashev, and the Marshals of the special arms of the Red Army, naming all of them, beginning with Chief Marshal of Artillery Voronov, and Chief Air Marshals Novikov and Golovanov.

There were tributes to the State Committee of Defense, to its Chairman, Marshal J. V. Stalin; to members of the State Committee of Defense who had insured a ceaseless supply of all kinds of arms, tanks, aircraft and ammunition to the troops of the Red Army, who had maintained a steady flow to the front of food-stuffs and all other materials—L. P. Beria, G. M. Malenkov, A. I. Mikoyan, L. M.

Kaganovich, N. A. Bulganin, N. A. Voznessensky. A final toast was raised to the General Staff and to its Chief—Army General A. I. Antonov.

The concluding address was by J. V. Stalin:

"Comrades, permit me to raise one more last toast. I should like to raise a toast to the health of our Soviet people, and in the first place, of the Russian people. (*Stormy, prolonged applause, shouts of "Hurrah!"*)

"I drink in the first place to the health of the Russian people, because it is the most outstanding nation of all nations forming the Soviet Union.

"I raise a toast to the health of the Russian people because it has won in this

war universal recognition as the leading force in the Soviet Union among all the peoples of our country.

"I raise a toast to the health of the Russian people, not only because it is the leading people, but also because it possesses a clear mind, staunch character and patience.

"Our Government made not a few errors. We had moments in 1941 and 1942, when the situation was desperate, when our Army was retreating, abandoning our own villages and towns of the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Moldavia, the Leningrad Region, the Baltic area, the Karelian-Finnish Republic, abandoning them because there was no other way out. A different people could have said to the

Government: You have failed to justify our expectations; go away—we shall install another government which will conclude peace with Germany and secure for us a quiet life. The Russian people, however, did not take this path because it trusted the correctness of the policy of its Government and it made sacrifices to insure the rout of Germany. And this confidence of the Russian people in the Soviet Government proved to be that decisive force which insured a historic victory over the enemy of humanity—over fascism.

"Thanks to the Russian people for this confidence.

"To the health of the Russian people!" (*Stormy, prolonged applause.*)

The Triumph of Soviet Arms

By Colonel Sergei Gurov

The curtain has dropped on the huge stage of the European war theater. The greatest drama of mankind has ended. The war is over.

The Red Army has carried out its mission to the end. Together with the Armies of our Allies it has consummated the debacle of the German-fascist armies, finished off the fascist beast in its own lair, and hoisted the Flag of Victory over Berlin.

May 8, 1945—the day of the unconditional surrender of the Hitlerites—will go down in history as the day of the victory of freedom and civilization over the dark forces of fascism, over the enemies of democratic liberties, over men without conscience and honor, men with the morals of beasts.

The day of May 8, 1945, will go down in history as the day of the glory of Soviet arms, of the triumph of Stalin's military art, of the triumph of the Soviet Union and its Red Army.

Gone is the might of the German war machine, of which the Hitlerites boasted so loudly; gone are the arrogance and vanity with which Hitler's generals and officers strutted over the conquered countries.

There proved to be only one step from the dream of greatness to the ridiculous.

The Hitlerites set out to conquer the world and lost their own country. Representatives of the "master race" are now entreating their former slaves to provide them with certificates testifying to their "humanity" and "decency." They dreamed of the conquest of the Ukraine, the Caucasus, the Urals, the Near East, India, the world. Now they dream of assembly points for German prisoners of war.

The Red Army is in Berlin. The German armed forces have unconditionally surrendered. Historic justice has been done: the enemies of European civilization have been destroyed, the army of medieval obscurantism has been put to rout, the hated "new order in Europe" is gone.

The Red Army, which bore the brunt of the war, has won this historic victory the hard way. It was a tortuous and thorny way, a way which led through reverses to successes.

Hitler's army, which treacherously invaded the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941, was fully mobilized and armed to the teeth with modern weapons—particularly with tanks and aircraft. It had behind it the experience of nearly two years of war; it was backed by the economy of nearly all of Europe. One hundred seventy German divisions, together

with the divisions of Hitler's satellites, attacked the Soviet troops, which at that time had not been fully mobilized, and had not yet been moved up to the country's frontiers.

There were then no British or American Armies on the European Continent, and the Germans did not have to divide their forces between two fronts. It seemed not only to the enemies but even to the friends of the Soviet Union that there was no force able to withstand the German war machine, to stem the rolling torrent of steel.

But the Red Army proved to be just such a force. In active defensive battles in the first months of war, it wore down Germany's picked divisions; and in the autumn of 1941, when the Hitlerites were close to Moscow and Leningrad and were preparing for a parade in Red Square, Soviet troops began to rain blows on them—at Rostov, at Tikhvin and then at Moscow. The vaunted German armies were rolled back 400 kilometers from Moscow.

This was the first major defeat inflicted on the German army. It marked a turn in the course of the war. From active defense the Red Army passed to the offensive, and dispelled the myth of the invincibility of Hitler's army.



**OUT OF GERMAN
BONDAGE—Red
Army man Dankin
finds his sister in
Freienschwalde among
those liberated by
Soviet forces**

Radiophoto

The German army's losses in the summer, autumn and winter of 1941-42 were so great that in the summer of 1942 it could no longer launch an offensive on the entire Soviet-German front. But the Hitlerites were still able to take advantage of the absence of a second front in Europe and to concentrate 179 of their 256 divisions on the Soviet-German front, also bringing up 61 divisions of their satellites. Their main forces launched an offensive on approximately a 500-kilometer front on the southwestern sector.

Moscow was again the objective of the offensive, but this time the plan was to capture it from the east. The Germans got as far as Stalingrad, from which they intended to turn northward along the Volga, cut Moscow off from the Volga and the Urals, and then seize it.

But at Stalingrad the successes of the Hitlerites ended. Soviet troops not only held their own at Stalingrad, but on November 19, 1942, took the offensive, trapped Field Marshal Von Paulus' picked army of 330,000 and put it out of action.

Stalingrad marked the beginning of the decline of the German-fascist army. The Red Army continued its offensive on a wide front, and during the winter of 1942-43 ejected the German invaders from the Don and Kuban Regions and the North Caucasus.

In the summer of 1943, Hitler made another attempt to achieve some success on the Soviet-German front and to bolster up his tottering prestige. There was still no second front on the European Continent, and the Red Army still faced 257 enemy divisions, 207 of them German. On July 5, 1943, the Germans launched their offensive on the Kursk salient. If the offensive succeeded, it was to be fol-

lowed by another attempt to capture Moscow.

But the Red Army shattered the hopes of the Germans, threw back their attacks, took the offensive and sent them reeling westward. The Kursk battle brought the German army to the brink of disaster.

After that the Red Army retained the offensive, overcoming line after line and "wall" after "wall," forcing all the mighty river barriers in its path.

Nineteen forty-four was a year of decisive victories for Soviet troops. As a result of the ten crushing blows inflicted on the Germans in that year, the Red Army cleared all Soviet territory of the German invaders, forced Finland out of Hitler's robber bloc, routed the Germans in Rumania, sent them packing from Bulgaria, began to smash them in Hungary, carried the war to the territory of fascist Germany, and came to the aid of the peoples of Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia in their fight for liberation from fascist slavery, for freedom and independence.

The Red Army resumed its offensive in January, 1945. During that offensive—which for force, scope and speed surpassed everything hitherto known in the history of wars—Soviet troops blasted the German fortifications on the Vistula, freed nearly all of Poland, cut off the East Prussian army group of Germans from the central regions of Germany, invaded German Silesia, Pomerania and Brandenburg, reached the Oder in the direction of Berlin, forced it in the neighborhood of Breslau, advanced to the Neisse, forced it, and established a bridgehead on its western bank.

In April, troops of the First Byelorussian and First Ukrainian Fronts launched

an offensive from bridgeheads on the western banks of the Oder and Neisse, breached the powerful German defenses between the Oder and Berlin, and on April 23 burst into the capital of Germany. A little later, Marshal Zhukov's and Marshal Konev's troops outflanked Berlin from the northwest, south and southwest, joined up in the neighborhood of Potsdam, and surrounded Berlin. South of Berlin, Soviet troops on April 25 effected a junction with the Allied troops near Torgau, cutting Germany into two parts.

For ten days a fierce battle was fought in the streets of Berlin. In the end the Hitlerites, cornered in the central section of the city, were utterly crushed. At 3 P. M., May 2, the Berlin garrison surrendered.

After the capture of Berlin, Soviet troops pushed on north and west and effected other junctions with the Allied Armies northwest of Berlin and on the Elbe, west of it. The German army lost its unity of direction. There was no longer a front in the real sense of the term. The German army was forced to surrender unconditionally to the troops of the United Nations. This surrender took effect at 24 o'clock, May 8.

This is the glorious path of victory traversed by the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies. This is the inglorious end of Hitler Germany.

The Red Army has achieved a brilliant victory. At the end of its historic mission in the war against Hitler Germany, the Red Army is as great and powerful as ever. The Red Army is a People's Army, backed by all the peoples of the Soviet Union, by the entire strength of the Socialist State. It is an Army of liberation: it has liberated the peoples of Europe from German-fascist bondage. It has waged a just war, a war for freedom and independence, for democracy, for peace among nations. And it was this noble mission that inspired the soldiers of the Red Army to feats of valor, to mass heroism.

The Red Army, with the entire Soviet people, has been led from victory to victory by the genius of Stalin. To him the eyes of all Soviet peoples and of all progressive humanity are now turned with enthusiasm and gratitude.

RESURGENT POLAND

By K. Rudnitsky

The world is following with intense interest the processes taking place in liberated Poland. Boldly laying new paths for its development on lines of broad political and economic democracy, the country is winning the sympathy of all progressive sections of freedom-loving nations. On the other hand, and this is not surprising, democratic Poland is a target for the attacks of the forces of black reaction all over the world.

The ringleaders of the campaign of hatred and calumny being waged against resurgent Poland are the Polish reactionaries. The rallying point of these political bankrupts, who have been cast out of the political life of their country, is the notorious Polish "government" in London. This organizational and political center of activities, inimical to the vital interests of the Polish people, has ramified agencies in a number of countries. Everywhere the Polish reactionaries operate in close contact with the most arrant forces, who are prepared to support any fascist and pro-fascist subversive activity. In their campaign of vilification, the Poles from the reactionary camp know no bounds. Counting on the credulity and ignorance of Polish affairs of many people abroad, they try to create the impression that there is actually no government authority in Poland at all and that the country is in the throes of chaos and disintegration. These implacable foes of the Polish people continuously cry that the country is a prey to starvation and terrorism and that the Government is incapable of establishing order.

The best way to expose these unscrupulous calumniators is to give the true facts about the present situation in Poland. No observer, who is at all impartial, can fail to be amazed at the speed and efficiency with which the newly resurrected Polish state is handling the exceedingly difficult problems which harass the country after five years of the barbaric sway of the German invaders, and at the scale on which it is coping with them. The Polish people have awakened to a new life, and under the leadership of their democratic Government are successfully sweeping away

the baneful heritage of the German occupation; are energetically dealing with the economic chaos; are restoring normal life; and at the same time are initiating radical reforms and changes which deeply affect the social and economic structure of the country.

Recently, the Provisional Government made a report to *Krajowa Rada Narodowa*, the supreme organ of authority in the country. The plenary session of the *Krajowa Rada Narodowa*, which aroused deep interest among the broadest sections of the public, was a striking demonstration of the achievements of young democratic Poland. It furnished practical corroboration of the virility of the United Peoples' Front, and of the stability and workability of the bloc of the four democratic parties.

Under the German Yoke

What was the situation which the democratic Provisional Government found in the country when Poland was liberated from the German yoke? The economic state of the country was deplorable in the extreme.

First, the industrial plants had either been wrecked or were at a standstill owing to a lack of fuel and raw materials. The workers were threatened with almost universal unemployment. The bulk of the working class was dispersed.

Second, the Germans had bled the countryside white by continuous requisitions, imposts and compulsory deliveries. Cattle herds had been decimated and there was a drastic decline in the number of horses.

Third, the Germans had disrupted and disorganized the trading system; in the western regions there was a complete absence of trading establishments.

Fourth, transport was in a state of utter collapse, with the railway installations destroyed, permanent ways torn up, and no rolling stock.

Fifth, the money market was completely dislocated owing to the existence of different currencies in the different parts of liberated Poland and the circulation of vast quantities of depreciated German currency.

To this must be added the economic consequences of the division of Poland into two entirely distinct economic organisms: "the Government General" and the territories incorporated into the Reich. If we also bear in mind such factors as lack of directing personnel in industry, and a total absence of organized forms of economic life, the immense difficulties which confronted the Provisional Government from the very first day will be apparent.

Fruits of the Work of the Provisional Government

How is the Provisional Government coping with these difficulties? What has it done for the economic rehabilitation of the country?

It is already possible to enumerate some of the fruits of the immense work performed in so extremely short a time. As a consequence of this work the danger of economic disaster and wholesale unemployment has already been com-

Polish miners bringing a trainload of coal as a gift to the USSR are greeted at the Kiev railway station in Moscow by Sidorenko, Secretary of the All-Union Central Committee of Trade Unions

Radiophoto



pletely removed. Democratic Poland is already on the threshold of normal organization of its economic life on a new basis.

An overwhelming majority of the industrial plants have been reopened. All textile mills, nearly all coal mines, and most of the iron and steel, chemical and metal-working plants are operating. Thanks to the Soviet Union, the textile industry has all the cotton it needs. The supply of raw material to other branches of industry is improving from day to day. The starting of all the principal mines of the Dombrowa-Silesian Basin and the improved operation of the railways have made it possible to keep every industry uninterruptedly supplied with fuel. Recently a number of plants have been working in two shifts. The locomotive works in Chrzanow, the largest in Poland, is working normally, and in addition to repairing the rolling stock, has begun to produce new locomotives.

Today industry is employing over 60 per cent of the prewar number of workers, and employment is increasing by leaps and bounds. In the Lodz textile industry, for example, 1,880 workers were employed February 1, 1945, 10,300 by March 1, and 80,000 by May 1. In fact, in the textile and coal-mining industries the shortage of labor is already being felt.

In the more important branches of industry, the Government is taking measures designed to increase greatly the output and raise the productivity of labor. It was proposed to enlarge the output of coal 110 per cent in May and 230 per cent in June, as compared with March, with an increase in labor productivity of 50 and 80 per cent, respectively. The collieries are being grouped, and 10 such groups have already been formed. Boards to regulate the sale of products of the more important branches of industry have been created. By a decision of the Government, a second College of Mining will be opened in Wroclaw, as well as a number of colleges and schools for training engineers and technicians for heavy industry.

Immense work has been done to rehabilitate the railways. Starting practically from zero (144,000 tons in February, 1945) the total freight carried by the railways rose to over one million tons in April. Thanks to the devoted efforts of

Polish railwaymen, the countryside was provided with seed in due time for sowing, and industry with raw materials and coal. The railway system has been repaired to such an extent that all lines are now fit for operation. Regular passenger and freight traffic has been established. Sixty long-distance trains and 190 local trains are running. The railways are receiving hundreds of locomotives and thousands of cars, newly rebuilt and repaired.

Measures have been outlined to adapt railway traffic to the new geographic and economic layout of the country. Recently the Provisional Government decided to start a college of railway engineers and a number of railway apprenticeship schools and technical schools for training new transport personnel.

In addition to the rehabilitation of the principal branches of industry and transport, other measures are being taken that will gradually help to normalize Poland's economic life. The Government, as we know, took over large-scale industry, but it was also obliged to extend its administration to a vast number of medium and small enterprises owing to the absence of their owners. From the very first, the Provisional Government has declared that private initiative and private capital would be allowed and encouraged in medium and small industry. These medium and small plants are now being turned over to their lawful owners, or if the latter are not available, to the producers' cooperative societies, or else are leased to private individuals.

Collective agreements between the employers and the workers have been concluded in all industrial enterprises. The problems of organizational structure of economic life are being successfully solved on a countrywide scale as well as in individual enterprises; this applies, in particular, to relations between the factory management and workers' representatives.

In trade, where the widest scope is allowed for private enterprise, considerable revival is to be observed. The number of trading establishments is steadily increasing.

Having averted inflation and having successfully instituted a single currency all over Poland, the Government is estab-

lishing fixed prices for consumers' goods and is successfully combating profiteering.

One of the chief reasons for the great achievements in economic rehabilitation has been the patriotic fervor of the Polish working class, as expressed in their self-sacrificing zeal in labor and their conscientious attitude toward production and toward national property. The productivity of labor is steadily rising. The workers of one factory vie with those of another. The employees of the Scheibler textile mill in Lodz decided to turn out 130,000 meters of fabric above the program by May 1, and their call to other workers to follow their example was taken up by the entire mass of workers in the textile industry. The textile workers have fulfilled their pledge. The patriotic attitude of Polish labor toward the democratic state, is a guarantee of Poland's rapid economic revival.

The Agrarian Reform

Literally on the day following the ejection of the invaders, when the sound of guns had not yet ceased, the Provisional Government proceeded to carry out the primary point in its program, namely, the abolition of the landed estates and the apportionment of the land to the peasants. To realize the significance of what has been accomplished, one must picture the situation in the countryside at the time of the resurgence of the Polish state. Before they left, the Germans removed the last stocks of grain, cattle and horses from the villages they had ruined. Hundreds and thousands of villages had been burned to the ground and their inhabitants either killed or carried away. What still further complicated the situation was that the liberation of Poland took place on the eve of spring sowing. Time was short and swift action had to be taken.

The Polish "government" in London, tools of feudal magnates donning the mask of "friends" of Polish peasantry, loudly contended that any "experiments" at such a time would bring the country to starvation. They tried to scare the people with the bogey of economic disaster. But, confident of the support of the people, the Provisional Government did not shrink from difficulties. The democratic Government could not but realize that the

sowing could be successful and starvation averted only if the peasant millions were roused to activity, only if the peasants at once, and without delay, took the land into their own hands and became its complete and lawful masters.

As we know, notwithstanding the opposition of the landowners, their terrorism and sabotage, the agrarian reform was carried out with complete success, due to the active support of the people at large. The reform, embracing the whole of Poland from one end to the other, is now in the main completed. Individual peasant holdings have been demarcated and deeds conferring private ownership of the land issued. A few figures will give some idea of the magnitude of the work accomplished. Some 4,300,000 hectares were confiscated from the big landowners. All this land has been divided up among its new owners with the exception of the woods and forests which passed to the State and the lands set aside for breeding pedigreed cattle (63,000 hectares), for agricultural schools (15,000 hectares), for seed nurseries (76,000 hectares), and for workers' allotments, as well as for the creation of a land fund for the resettlement of peasants from districts where the land available for distribution is scarce.

Stirred into activity during the carrying out of the reform, the peasant masses have created a remarkable organization—the Peasants' Mutual Aid Society. It has hundreds of thousands of members and is the largest mass organization of Polish peasantry. All creameries, mills, distilleries, sugar refineries, brick kilns, potteries and other industrial plants which belonged to the landed estates have been turned over to the Peasants' Mutual Aid Society. The Society organizes the sale of agricultural produce, opens schools, assists in the rehabilitation of farms damaged in the war, and actively assists peasants in sowing their land. There is literally no field of activity or constructive endeavor in the countryside in which the Peasants' Mutual Aid Society does not take the lead. The sowing was a success, notwithstanding the immense difficulties of the sabotage of the former landowners and the nefarious activities of the bands which, acting on instructions of the emigre Polish "government," endeavored to disor-

ganize the sowing campaign by attacking and robbing transports of seed, and treacherously assassinating Government representatives. Ninety per cent of the arable land of the country was sown. The sowing was not carried out only in those localities which suffered most severely from military operations and which had not yet been demined. The success of the spring sowing was due to the political enlightenment of the peasant masses, and especially to the activity of the Peasants' Mutual Aid Society. Reports came in from all parts of the country to the effect that the peasants who had finished sowing their own land, at the call of the Society formed groups to assist their neighbors who lacked labor or draft cattle with which to plow and sow their land.

The peasant masses have become convinced that the policy of the Provisional Government aims at promoting the prosperity of the countryside by increasing the marketable output of agriculture, which is based upon individual peasant farming. This policy of the Government gives a direct lie to the rumors circulated by agents of the Polish reactionaries that collective farms are being imposed and that the way is being prepared for the collectivization of Poland.

Democratization of Public Life

The democratization of public life has stirred the Polish people to hitherto unwitnessed political activity. The democratic parties affiliated to the United Peoples' Front are flourishing, as is evidenced by the influx of tens of thousands of new members. All parties of the bloc without exception are growing, as is the activity of their members. Never before has Poland known such mass parties as the *Stronnictwo Ludowe*, the Polish Socialist Party, and the Polish Workers Party. Masses flocked into the trade unions which now number over 700,000 members, into the Peasants' Mutual Aid Society and the Union of Western Areas, and into scores of cultural and cooperative societies. Over 100 000 persons took part in the May Day demonstrations in Warsaw, 200,000 in Lodz, and 300,000 in Cracow. These demonstrations were a striking expression of the confidence of the mass of the people in the Provisional Government, of the determination of the working people to

continue the building up of a democratic Poland so auspiciously begun.

The reactionary Polish emigre clique and their abettors in the various countries loudly proclaim that no "democratic rights" exist and that there is no liberty for the "political leaders" in Poland. What "democratic rights" and what "political leaders" are they referring to?

If they have real democratic rights in mind, it may be said that they exist for the entire Polish people, for all their honest sons who desire to see a strong and independent Poland, in which the repetition of September, 1939, will be impossible.

The democratic regime which already exists in Poland insures every Polish citizen, irrespective of race, religion or political conviction, the opportunity to take part in all social, professional or political activity. Every democratic organization which stands by the 1921 Constitution now in operation in Poland may take part in her political life. Scores and hundreds of old political and civic leaders, regardless of their political views or their past, are taking an active share in building the new state; all that is required is an honest desire to work for democracy and in the service of the people, not of its enemies.

Is this not evidence of exercise by the people as a whole, and by the individual, of the broadest democratic rights, such as never existed in the pre-September Poland? The Polish people who have really acquired these rights for the first time are fully alive to the priceless value of their democratic achievements. This is corroborated by the active and increasing part the broad masses are taking in the political life of the country. To what democratic rights then are the bankrupts of the Polish reactionary camp and their advocates referring?

The Polish people desire permanent peace and close fraternal friendship with the Soviet Union. They want the Government to pursue a foreign policy which will render a repetition of the September disaster impossible. They are anxious to see the creation of a reliable bulwark against German aggression. At numerous meetings and assemblies and in thousands of resolutions the people of Poland de-

manded that their Government conclude a treaty of friendship and mutual assistance with the Soviet Union. Who can still doubt that friendship with the USSR is the sincere desire of the Polish people? The conclusion of the Soviet-Polish Treaty met this ardent wish of the Polish people. Is this not clear proof of respect for the democratic rights, opinions and demands of the people?

Was not the immediate carrying out of the agrarian reform, which the entire Polish people had been insistently but vainly demanding for over 20 years, proof of the respect for democratic rights and the sovereignty of the people?

Lastly, is not the fact that the state has taken over the branches of large-scale industry—which, when they belonged to trusts and concerns, chiefly foreign, were the source of incredible exploitation of the Polish people and hampered the economic development of the country—proof of respect for the democratic rights of the people?

To what democratic rights then are the Polish reactionaries and their advocates referring?

The Polish reactionaries — “internal forces of occupation,” as they were called before 1939—feeling that the ground is slipping from under their feet, adopted tactics of open terrorism. The Polish press has published names of peasants, workers and intellectuals, representative of diverse political trends or of no party at all, who were treacherously assassinated by bandits organized by Polish reactionaries. The Polish public was recently stirred to deepest indignation by the assassination of two officers of the Polish Army in the dead of the night. The fascist bandits are not averse to putting the “finishing touches” to the work of exterminating the Jewish population of Poland carried out by Hitler; they systematically attack and assassinate the Jews. No weapons and no acts of provocation are too mean for these criminals. In the countryside they try to disrupt the food quota deliveries in order to starve the urban population. In the towns they take advantage of every hitch in the food supply to incite the population against the peasants and the Government. In addition to terrorism, sabo-

tage and wrecking have become the chief weapons of the miscreants who act on orders of the Polish emigre “government.”

It is clear, therefore, that the hypocritical cries in defense of “democratic rights” and “political leaders” are only a smoke screen for the armed bandits and assassins. Their masters and leaders want to have their criminal activities legalized. The reactionary renegades try in this way to frustrate the peaceful, constructive labors of the people and the Government and to plunge the country into the maelstrom of a civil war. In vain.

The Polish people and their democratic Government gladly invite the cooperation of all sincere democratic elements who want to build a strong and independent Poland, irrespective of their party affiliation or political past. But they categorically refuse to have any traffic with assassins and their instigators. That there is no liberty and can be no liberty for the terrorist bands goes without saying. This is so elementary that the failure, or lack of desire to understand it, can only be regretted, to say the least. The Polish people have not achieved liberty and independence, have not begun to build their peaceful life on new foundations in order to foster those who would encompass their doom.

Of course the Polish reactionaries will not succeed in their dastardly plans. They are not strong enough for that. Their fate is determined; they have lost the game. Their complete divorcement from the Polish people becomes clearer every day. Every new success of the Provisional Government, which is rallying ever larger masses around itself, plunges the reactionary renegades deeper into political oblivion.

It is therefore clear that the farsighted politicians who really desire enduring peace in Europe and who realize the role Poland must play in the system of peace cannot ignore the undeniable fact that the prestige and strength of the democratic Provisional Government are steadily growing, and that the strength of the Polish reactionaries is just as steadily waning. Further support rendered to the enemies of the Polish people in the camp of the reactionary emigres and their

abettors can only be disastrous for the normal development of peaceful relations in Europe.

The war which Hitler Germany started with her piratical attack on Poland in September, 1939, has ended in the complete defeat of the German-fascist invaders. Poland, which was one of the first to fall victim to fascist aggression, has been liberated, thanks to the heroic efforts of the Red Army and the Polish Army.

Grievous are the wounds inflicted on Poland by German occupation. But united around their democratic Government, and with the support of the Soviet Union and other freedom-loving nations, the Polish people are rapidly rebuilding their state and are returning to a peaceful life.

It is absurd and ridiculous in the face of this to think that the fate of Poland can be decided without the Polish people. It is to them the decisive word belongs in all questions affecting the home and foreign policy of the regenerated Polish state.

Correction

On page 4 of the May Special Supplement of the INFORMATION BULLETIN, the figure for steel production should read 8,621,700 tons; for rolled iron production, 6,253,300 tons.

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The Wartime Achievements of Soviet Workers

By N. Matyushkin

Today the freedom-loving peoples of the world celebrate the successful termination of the frightful war into which they were plunged by the Hitlerite vandals and which raged for six years over the continent of Europe, causing enormous damage and suffering.

The Red Army, which was the main factor in breaking the back of the fascist beast and destroying Hitler Germany's major forces, received inestimable aid from the heroic working class of the USSR.

The Soviet economy had to overcome enormous difficulties in the first phase of the war. When Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, Germany had already occupied more than 10 countries. In addition to large quantities of armaments, raw materials and food, the Nazis had forced the industries and other branches of national economy of these countries to satisfy the needs of their war machine. In her war against the Soviet Union, Germany was backed by the resources, materials and manpower of almost the whole of Europe, the population of which, together with Germany proper, totaled 300,000,000.

When they invaded the USSR, Hitler's armies were backed by an economy converted to the needs of war. As a country pursuing a policy of peace, the Soviet Union was forced to place her industries and other branches of economy on a war footing after the invasion—when she was under enemy fire. In addition, it became necessary in the first days to shift the industries of the front line and threatened zones to the interior of the country. The temporary loss of the economically important Southern districts placed heavy

burdens on other sections of the country. When the Germans seized the Donbas and the Dnieper Basin the USSR was deprived of 57 per cent of her prewar output of coal and almost half of her iron and steel. The gap had to be filled by the industries of the East. The problem involved not only the expansion of industry in the East, but the launching of new types of production, among them grades of steel which had never before been manufactured in the region.

The working people of the Soviet Union came through the test of war with flying colors. The military victory over the foe was accompanied by a tremendous economic victory. Soviet industry stood up not only against the industry of Germany but also of the whole continent of Europe. The advantage the enemy had at the beginning of the war in materiel was overcome; the Red Army began to receive more armaments than the Germans. This was the contribution of the Soviet working class to the fronts and to the country.

The war affected the most vital interests of the laboring people of our country. They were defending their rights and their property, the new life, warmth and light of their country—completely transformed in the years of Soviet power into a land where the working man is creator, master and ruler of his destiny. At the same time, in their struggle for the freedom and independence of their own country, the Soviet people defended the freedom and independence of all peoples under the yoke of Hitler and his hangmen.

These noble ideals inspiring the workers of the USSR made them the Red Army's strongest support. In the worst months, when the industry of practically all of Europe was feeding the enemy's armies, the workers of our country managed to turn out everything the Red Army needed for the struggle.

The period required to convert production to supplying the front was cut down to a minimum and the country was able to make a complete shift of industry to the Eastern districts, an unprecedented

Workers assembling
Ilyushin-2's in a
large Soviet plant



Radiophoto



Radio mechanic Faina Bobtzova tests the apparatus she has just installed in a fighter-bomber

accomplishment. Basic changes were effected in whole branches of the national economy. The Ural metallurgists mastered the production of several new grades of steel. Armenia learned to put out over 270 new products, most of which were essential for the front.

In the first months of the war, Soviet industry exceeded by far its prewar production, and its output continued to increase constantly, even when the enemy occupied many of the industrial areas. By 1944 the manufacture of planes was four times that of 1941; the production of tanks was almost eight times and artillery six times greater.

The Urals achieved particularly rapid growth in production. Manager Elyan reported that his ordnance plant increased the output of guns more than 16 times in the course of the war. In Sverdlovsk Region the plants boosted the output of shells some 18 times.

Iron Will and Self-Sacrifice

The coal and iron districts of the Urals and Kuzbas became the backbone of Soviet industry during the war. Everywhere the working class displayed unexampled self-sacrifice and enthusiasm. Rest and leisure were forgotten, the privations brought on by the war were

ignored by the patriots. It took iron will to keep the work going under conditions endured in Leningrad, Sevastopol, Stalingrad and other cities. Face to face with all the horrors of war, even death, the people went on with the tasks assigned to them.

The Izhorsk plant near Leningrad was as close as two or three kilometers to the front line. Shells fell outside the factory walls in a continuous stream and the gates were under constant fire by enemy machine guns. The thunder of cannon never quieted. But the workers did not falter. Old men stood at their machines all night and were indignant at any suggestion of time off. After their shift, men often crawled to the front-line positions to repair guns that had been damaged.

The same determination was exhibited everywhere. Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, Georgia and Siberia, the Volga and the Urals were all turned into a mighty arsenal. Production drives led to the fulfilment of schedules ahead of time. The figures for only two years show an increase in the productivity of labor in these areas of over 40 per cent.

Rationalization proposals and inventions saved millions of rubles in production costs and speeded up the output of armaments. The Stalin Victory Fund was created out of industry's surplus in excess

of Government plans. In 1944, the tank factories of Sverdlovsk Region alone contributed 300 million rubles in production to the fund.

There was a widespread and rapid growth in the number of workers who turned out 200, 300 and even 1,000 per cent of their work norms. The workers made voluntary contributions from their savings, subscribed to war loans with enthusiasm, and gave money and clothing to the Defense Fund.

In addition to what they were doing for the war effort, the working people found strength to begin the work of rehabilitation while the war was still in progress.

Many blast furnaces have been rebuilt and are already turning out iron. Open hearth furnaces are making steel. The Donbas collieries are producing coal. Plants famous throughout the country have been put in working condition among them the tractor plant, the Krasnyy Oktyabr and Barrikady plants in Stalingrad, and the Kharkov turbo-generator, electromechanical and tractor plants. The power plants in the South have been opened again, as have the Volkhov hydroelectric plant and many others.

Our country crushed the enemy's plans and emerged stronger than ever. This victory is due to the effort of the working people. Today Soviet labor is filled with a new energy—a determination to win another victory on the front of peaceful construction.

Reconversion in Leningrad

Armament and munitions plants in Leningrad are now reconverting to peacetime production. This year they will turn out powerful turbine generators and electric motors.

The famous Electrosila plant will supply large electric machines for the mining industry, metallurgical plants and power stations. In production again in other Leningrad factories are linotype machines and other polygraphic equipment, radio sets, musical instruments, cinema machines, shoes, cloth, porcelain, sporting yachts and various other items.

RAILWAY TROOPS IN ACTION

By K. Levin

Senior Lieutenant Andrei Savichev, commander of a company of railway troops, worked as a line inspector on the Northern Donets railroad before the war.

"I served with the railway troops for more than three years, almost from the beginning of the war," he told me. "The distance covered by my unit during these years equals a trip throughout the whole of Europe. We repaired railroads at Stalingrad, and together with the fighting forces we later crossed the Northern Donets, the Dnieper, the Prut and the Oder.

"Let me explain what it means to repair one kilometer of railroad track. For this work we need 1,600 sleepers, 160 rails, 320 fishplates and 3,200 chairs, and we must drive 9,600 dogspikes. And mind you, this work was often done under enemy fire and not on a ready-made and level roadbed, but on one torn up by shells.

"We never lagged behind the advancing troops. On the contrary, we frequently moved ahead of them. Offensive operations cannot be developed without railroads. Tremendous amounts of munitions, supplies, combat machines and equipment must be fed to the front lines.

"I remember a bridge we built in Silesia this year. It was a small bridge in no-man's-land, blown up by the Germans when our troops went over to the offensive. The general in command of one of the advancing divisions arrived at dawn to look over the area. He summoned Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers Weitsman, Hero of Socialist Labor, under whom I served nearly a year. I was present during their conversation.

"We could attack at midnight if there were a bridge here," the general said.

"There will be a bridge by midnight, Comrade General," Weitsman replied.

"There was so little time left, I doubted whether we could finish the bridge by midnight. The river was filled with fragments of the destroyed bridge. To erect piles we had to clear away the rubble. In the nearby woods part of our men were already at work making trusses and planks for the bridge.

"The best way to clear the debris in the river was by blowing it up, but the explo-

sions would attract the attention of the enemy and he would begin shelling us. Our sappers planted the explosives, but waited until the Germans opened fire before lighting the fuse. The explosions in the river were drowned by the roar of enemy artillery fire.

"Our greatest difficulty was in hiding our operations from enemy aircraft. When German planes flew over, we all stopped working and took cover. Even our anti-aircraft gunners did not open fire in the vicinity of the bridge, so that the enemy fliers would not guess how important this area was.

"We prepared the bridge in sections which could be quickly joined together on the spot. Our men cut the rails with three blows. They drove in 2,000 dogspikes in one shift. Twilight was setting in when one of our men came up and reported to Lieutenant Colonel Weitsman that the trusses would be ready in an hour.

"Meanwhile the Germans had opened fire, and shells started falling around us. But no one heeded them. When the piles were driven in, men started to nail down the planks, while others brought up the rails already spiked to the sleepers. The Germans, apparently suspicious, increased their fire, but our brave men went on with their work. Lieutenant Colonel Weits-

man was with us all the time.

"The hardest job was bringing the trusses from the woods. They were hauled up in sections, and when the powerful tractors stopped by the river bank, hundreds of men rushed up to put them in place. The general arrived just before dark and ordered the infantry battalion to help us.

"If necessary, we can take the place of any hoisting crane," said one of the soldiers after the heavy trusses had been set up. Darkness did not halt the work.

"From time to time stretcher-bearers came up to carry away the wounded, but this did not slow the work. On the contrary, the men worked even faster.

"If you had asked me, before the war, how long it would take to build such a bridge, I should have said 10 to 12 days. And I would not have been wrong. Jobs which formerly took a day to finish were completed by our men in an hour.

"The bridge was ready at 11:30. At midnight our troops, preceded by tanks and self-propelled guns, crossed to the opposite bank.

"During the war our railway troops and special repair crews rehabilitated tens of thousands of kilometers of railroad lines, not including bridges, and several thousand kilometers of station sidings."

Latest Development in Radio

The world's most powerful radio station, the construction of which was begun in the Soviet Union in 1941 and completed during the war, has been put into operation.

The Soviet Union has had the world's most powerful radio broadcasting since 1922, when the first station with a power of 12 kilowatts was built. The principle of water-cooled valves successfully used here was later adopted throughout the world.

A 40-kilowatt station was built in Moscow, and in 1929 the world first heard the call signals of a 100-kilowatt station. In power and design the latter was in advance of world radio techniques. In

Moscow's newer 500-kilowatt station an original method of constructing the transmitter was developed, the so-called unit-panel system invented by the Soviet scientist Professor A. L. Mintz.

The latest super-powerful Soviet radio station embodies all modern Soviet techniques. The design of the transmitter enables broadcasts to be heard throughout Europe and most of the USSR. The unit-panel system previously used at the 500-kilowatt station has been considerably improved here by the installation of devices known as generator modulator units. The accuracy of the reproduction of both speech and music is exceptional.

The National Republics of the USSR— Cornerstones of Strength

By Vyacheslav Rikman

Russia is often used as a synonym for the Soviet Union, but the term is only partially correct, for while the Russian Federation is the largest of the constituent Republics, it is only one of the sixteen that go to make up the USSR. These non-Russian Republics, which in their years as Soviet states have become well-springs of progress, were a great source of strength in the war against Hitlerite Germany.

The development from a backward society under the Tsars to an advanced economy can be seen in the case of Kazakhstan. Located in the southern section of the USSR, it is one of the largest Republics in the Union. Its area is 2,734,000 square kilometers, or about one-eighth of the area of the USSR as a whole. Kazakhstan is territorially the size of a dozen European states—including Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Czechoslovakia and Austria.

The area had been exceedingly retarded, with scarcely a single school. But on the eve of the Patriotic War, out of a population of 6,100,000, there were 1,100,000 enrolled in elementary and secondary schools. A remarkable change is apparent in the status of women who, accorded no rights and barred from education and public life in old Kazakhstan, now have complete social, political and economic equality. Girls now constitute 45.2 per cent of the total school enrollment.

There was no higher education before the Revolution; now there are 21 higher schools with 8,000 students, and technical schools have an enrollment of 24,500 students. The Republic has a branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences and 15 research institutes.

Kazakhstan's industrialization is an epic story in itself. Though endowed with a great wealth of natural resources, the area had been a non-industrial, backward, agrarian country, with a semi-feudal system and remnants of a nomadic life. As recently as 1926, according to census figures, only 8.6 per cent of the population lived in cities.



State Emblem
Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic

Kazakh natural wealth, mainly copper, drew enough attention at the beginning of the century to attract concessionaires, but the absence of roads in Central Kazakhstan and means of transport other than camels and horses, the lack of skilled labor, and the rigors of life in this distant area, discouraged efforts to develop its resources. Zinc and lead-mining were started, but discontinued in 1903.

The industrialization of Kazakhstan under the Five-Year Plans began with a study of the transport problem and a survey of her natural wealth. Railways were laid to link up the area with Siberia, the Southern Urals and the main rail network of the USSR. Motor and air transport, telegraph, telephone and radio—all became part of the daily life of a once nomad country.

Kazakhstan ranks first in the Soviet Union for reserves of copper, lead, zinc, chromites, borates, phosphorites and corundum; second or third for coal, nickel, alunites, etc.; and fourth for precious and rare metals, oil and bauxites. In addition, there are important iron ore and manganese deposits.

By 1939, as a result of the industrialization, 28 per cent of the population had become urban; Kazakhstan led the Soviet Union in the rate of expansion of cities and towns.

The Karaganda coal fields, which in 1913 produced only 90,000 tons of coal, today are the third largest producer in the country, exceeded only by the Kuzbas and Donbas fields.

Kazakhstan is also one of the USSR's leading sources of non-ferrous metals. Other industries are chemical production, meat packing, canning, and sugar refining. In the course of the two Five-Year Plans alone, Kazakhstan's industrial output increased twelvefold, with a steady increase thereafter, particularly during the war.

In agriculture, the changes that have taken place are reflected in the fact that tractors totaling about 500,000 horsepower were in use on Kazakhstan farms on the eve of the war, and that the number of combines in the Republic was about 8,000. Nomadic life is a thing of the past.

Like all the Republics of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan was one of the Red Army's arsenals during the war. Dozens of new plants were launched, among them a large ferro-alloy plant and the Republic's first steel mill. Kazakh fighting men gave a good account of themselves on the fronts, as can be judged by the many decorations, including a number of awards of the title of Hero of Soviet Union.

Another example of the development of the non-Russian Republics under Soviet conditions is the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic. Georgia is comparatively small in area, totaling only 69,500 square kilometers, and located in mountainous country, which greatly cuts the arable area. For density of population, however, it is second only to the Ukraine. Although Georgia is one of the eldest civilized countries in the world, feudal relationships which the Russian Tsars did their best to uphold persisted long after their day and kept the country at an agrarian level of development up to the Revolution of 1917.

Pre-Revolutionary economic stagnation led to rural overpopulation and peasant unrest. Industrial development was limited to some manganese concessions at

Chiaturi, the mining of about 70,000 tons of coal a year, and some small factories which never played an important role in the area's economic life and suffered heavily from competition with Russian large-scale industry.

The key to the industrialization of the Georgian Republic during the Five-Year Plans was the harnessing of its rich water-power resources. Several power plants were built, facilitating rapid industrial development, the electrification of the railways, irrigation and land reclamation work to expand the cultivated area.

Georgia can well serve as an illustration of some of the basic principles followed in the industrialization of the Soviet Union. To solve three cardinal problems, closest collaboration was required with the two bordering Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The first was power, the most rational solution of which was the setting up of a united Transcaucasian power network, later to be included in the general power system of the USSR as a whole.

The second was the construction of the Baku-Batumi oil pipeline and the promotion of the oil refining industry in Georgia which directly involved oil-production of Azerbaijan.

The third was the erection of an iron and steel works. This project now under way near Tbilisi was undertaken with a view to making use of Azerbaijan iron ore and Georgian coking coal, with all three of the Transcaucasian Republics providing a market for the finished products.

A solution could easily be found for each of these three cardinal problems because the economic interests of each of the three Soviet Republics involved harmonized fully. This agreement itself is remarkable when we remember the acute struggle prevalent among the Transcaucasian nationalities as a result of incitement by chauvinistic parties and the Tsarist government.

During the prewar years of industrialization, Georgia sharply increased her output of manganese, started a large new electro-ferro-alloy plant and established from the bottom up, on a modern technical footing, oil refining, chemical, machine tool, cement, glass, furniture and

woodworking, tobacco, silk weaving, canning, tea, sugar and other industries. In agriculture the cultivation of staple food crops was supplemented by large-scale growing of tea, tobacco, citrus fruits and other specialized crops.



State Emblem
Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

Georgia's economy thrived and her population grew rapidly. The population rose 32.3 per cent between 1926 and 1939.

A few figures will suffice to show what strides Georgia has taken in the field of culture. Though the Republic's popula-

tion is only 3,500,000, it has 19 higher schools with an enrollment of 22,000 (in 1914 there was one higher school with 300 students), 215 technical and secondary schools (as compared with five in 1914), 43 research institutes and its own Academy of Sciences.

The rapid development of the economy, culture and well-being of the people in the non-Russian Soviet Republics is by no means a chance phenomenon. It is the result of a central feature of the program of the Soviet Government—the complete elimination of economic and cultural backwardness.

Not domination of one nationality over another, but the equality of all peoples; not colonial oppression, but fraternal aid in the development of the productive forces of each of the Republics of the Soviet Union—these are the principles on which the Soviet commonwealth of peoples firmly rests. This policy is a guarantee of the strength of the voluntary ties and is one of the sources of the strength of the Soviet State. It also helps to explain why all the people of the USSR, irrespective of nationality, rose as one man in the war against the Hitlerite ideology of racial hatred and national oppression, and with the Red Army were victorious.

HEROES OF AZERBAIJAN

One of the first Red Army units to enter Berlin, the Azerbaijan Rifle Unit, brought honor to this Republic, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

This unit, which Marshal Tolbukhin has called "the pride of the Azerbaijan people," advanced 3,500 kilometers in the course of the war, fighting all the way. It crossed some 40 water barriers and was mentioned 17 times in Marshal Stalin's Orders of the Day.

There are Azerbaijanian soldiers and officers in every branch of the service—famous fliers, tankmen, artillerymen, cavalrymen, army doctors, sappers and submariners. They defended their Republic at Leningrad and at Sevastopol, in Odessa and at Moscow; they died for Azerbaijan on the battlefields of the Ukraine and in Byelorussia, Poland and Rumania.

Kanakan! "Blood for blood!" say the Azerbaijan fighting men, repeating the battle-cry of their forefathers.

Among the most popular heroes of today is 35-year-old Major General Aza Aslonov of the Tank Forces. This general, whose father and grandfather were cotton pickers, is considered an authority on tank thrusts and smashing tank blows. He fought in the Battle of Stalingrad, gaining invaluable experience, which contributed in large measure to the victories of his men in Byelorussia, Lithuania and East Prussia.

Heeding the advice of their ancient national hero, Khor Ogly—"stamp out the trouble at its source"—the fighting men of Azerbaijan, alongside the troops of the other nationalities, completed the defeat of Hitlerite Germany.

ABOUT THOSE WHO CANNOT UNDERSTAND— AND THOSE WHO WILL NOT

By D. Zaslavsky

From PRAVDA, May 26:

In its disappointment at the differences of opinion on various questions that have arisen among the Allies, the *Yorkshire Post* is seeking means of overcoming them.

"A sincere desire for mutual understanding really exists in England," says the paper, "just as it exists in Russia, as is clearly shown by the press. If misunderstandings arise despite this, the cause is not to be sought in any radical conflict of interests which would be fatal but more probably in the difference of methods and traditions. An insufficient understanding of Western methods, which the Russians sometimes show by their acts, is the result of the policy pursued by Lenin, the opposite of that of Peter the Great and his rapprochement with the West, a contrast which found expression in changing the capital (Moscow instead of Leningrad)."

We agree with the *Yorkshire Post* that the basic vital interests of the great Allied powers give them every possibility for mutual understanding and unanimity in the struggle against fascism. This was proved by the war in Europe which ended in victory. We welcome the efforts of the English papers to understand our country and our people. This is really the way to overcome some unfortunate misunderstandings.

We are afraid, however, that this particular newspaper is robbing itself of the possibility of understanding by drawing historical parallels that are out of place. The newspaper reduces the whole of Russian history to the usual opposition of the conventional "West" with the equally conventional "East." Marshal Stalin once spoke about such a comparison between the Russia of Peter I and Soviet Russia. "Historical parallels are always risky," he said to the German writer, Emil Ludwig. "This particular parallel is senseless."

Peter I transferred the capital from Moscow to Petrograd. The Bolsheviks transferred the capital from Leningrad to

Moscow. The reasons which the Soviet Government had for doing this had nothing in common with the reasons which motivated the transfer of the capital by Peter I. The conclusions regarding the reverse character of the policies of the 17th and 20th Centuries in the history of Russia have no scientific foundation. It is quite obvious that anyone who wants to understand the Soviet Union from the viewpoint of 17th-Century concepts will find himself in the same position as the old-time coachman who sits at the wheel of a modern car. A superficial historical parallel is only misleading.

Another thing that puts people off the track is the traditional and politically empty comparison of "Western" and "Eastern" methods. The *Yorkshire Post* finds that the Russian people show an insufficient understanding of "Western methods." We have, however, quite a good understanding of the various "Western methods." Before the war, for example, the dominating "Western method" in British foreign policy was the opposition of all of Western Europe to the Soviet Union and the placing of the Soviet Union in artificial, hostile isolation. This "Western method" was christened "Munich." We know what it led to. The greatest of all catastrophes overcame Western Europe, and Great Britain all but perished.

This "Western method" was replaced in wartime by another, expressed in the Anglo-Soviet Treaty and the formation of a coalition of the great democratic powers. This "Western method" led to victory over Hitler Germany, and the leading role in saving European civilization from ruin was played by the Red Army on the Eastern Front.

Which "Western methods" does the *Yorkshire Post* refer to? What does it understand by them? If the words "Western method" are to be interpreted as the ways and means of democracy, equality between nations and the assurance of their independence, then the Soviet people know that in the Soviet State the highest

form of democracy has been achieved. This was proved irrefutably during the Second World War. German fascism met its strongest and most implacable enemy in the Soviet people. In the Soviet people the democratic states of Europe found their strongest and most reliable defender and liberator.

We are sorry that the *Yorkshire Post* does not understand this. The paper does not understand because it cannot understand, and it cannot understand because it does not take the trouble to judge a great power on the basis of a conscientious study of the facts, and prefers to judge on the basis of traditional archaic schematism and false historical parallels.

With these unfounded premises as a starting point, the newspaper goes on to say that the Soviet State aims at self-isolation and unilateral action. The newspaper sees examples of this in the formation of the Austrian and Polish governments. The newspaper admits that there is much here which it does not understand. "It would be useless to assert that some aspects of Russian policy are understood in Great Britain or the United States. The creation of the Lublin government and the Renner administration in Austria are examples of this." The *Yorkshire Post* does not understand. We will assume that it really wants to understand but cannot. This is again due to the paper's preference for its stereotyped schema and not for facts. Incidentally, the facts are clear and very simple.

When the Red Army liberates nations that were under the heel of fascism, it destroys the fascist party and its associates and destroys fascist institutions. The Red Army does this work very thoroughly and in complete accordance with the decisions of the Crimea Conference. This cannot, of course, be termed "unilateral action." It is a self-evident fact that the radical cleaning up of fascism will give rise to the rebirth of democracy in all liberated countries. The democratic parties and groups that conducted the underground

struggle for liberation against the Germans during the period of occupation come out into the open. All democratic institutions come to life again. People can straighten backs that were bowed under the fascist yoke. They throw back their shoulders; democracy returns to power.

The Red Army's attitude toward this process of regeneration of democracy is one of sympathy. How could it be otherwise? From the first days of the war the Red Army's purpose was to liberate not only its own native land, but also all peoples enslaved by Germany. For this reason the peoples welcome the Red Army as their deliverer. In complete accordance with consistent democratic principles, the Red Army hands over the local administration to the freed people whenever the war situation permits it. Under no circumstances can this be called "unilateral action." This is in complete accord with the decisions of the Crimea Conference on liberated Europe.

This is what happened in Poland and Austria. It would, on the contrary, have been a unilateral, undemocratic act of force for the Red Army to thrust on the peoples, governments they did not want. The Soviet people in their own vital interests demand of the provisional governments in the liberated countries merely that there should be no pro-fascist elements in the governments, or elements hostile to the Soviet Union. Fascism and hostility to the Soviet Union are concepts that coincide with each other. By cooperating with the liberated peoples in ridding their countries of all remnants of fascism, the Soviet Union is carrying out the decisions of the Crimea Conference. These are the facts. They demolish the schema that is so beloved by certain politicians in Great Britain and the United States. So much the worse for the schema and the politicians.

There are also people who regard the tactics of prewar foreign policy as being the "Western method." These people are trying to impose on other nations democratic forms without democratic content. These gentlemen think that they are the representatives, bearers and monopolists of democracy, and that all other peoples should blindly follow their ancient and obsolete examples. These gentlemen still think in terms of outlived categories.

They do not understand what has taken place in international relations. This is not because they are not able to understand. They do not want to understand. They do not accept the facts. Take the *Australian Daily Mirror*, for example. We are not prepared to say whether this newspaper is in the "West" or "East." Most likely it is on the side opposite that of common sense. A short quotation from an article by a Mr. Baum is significant: "Today, when it is no longer necessary to drive the German invaders back from Stalingrad, the British people feel an acute necessity to repulse the ideological aggressors of Moscow. The Russians threaten Europe."

The newspaper says openly that an alliance with the Soviet people was necessary when danger threatened England. Now that this danger is over, the alliance is no longer necessary. On the contrary, it seems that England needs to fight against the Soviet Union in the same way as she did against Hitler Germany. In connection with this, the Australian paper publishes the usual fascist anti-Soviet slander. It speaks of the Soviet people and their statesmen in the foul language that was the customary jargon of the Hitlerite press.

There is nothing new in this. Goebbels' voice has died out in Berlin but its echo

is still heard in Sydney. It would be pointless to speak of insufficient mutual understanding. Everything is quite understandable. The Australian reactionary paper hated the very sight of the anti-Hitler coalition. It does not want to admit that the Soviet Union is a mighty democratic power. What is to be done about it? There was a time when some people would not admit that the earth moved around the sun. There was a time when the Hitlerites did not want to admit the supremacy of the Red Army over the German armed forces—but they finally had to.

We value our friends and we know our enemies. We recommend the *Yorkshire Post* to look into the "mirror" of their brother in Sydney. They have only themselves to blame if the mug is an ugly one, as the Russian proverb goes. One of them does not understand the obvious facts; the other does not want to acknowledge them. Both of them are the victims of their own fallacies. . . .

That the Soviet Union is a great democratic power strong enough not only to insure the security of its own borders, but to insure security for the peoples of Europe, must be admitted. And the sooner our friends and enemies realize this, the better it will be for mankind.

'TASS WINDOWS'

Starting in the early days of the Great Patriotic War, a group of eminent Soviet artists and poets collaborated in the production of a series of war posters known as "Tass windows." The first of these appeared on June 27, 1941, and was entitled *What Hitler Wants and What He'll Get*. In it artist Cheremykh portrayed Hitler's "dreams" and his future ignoble end. As many as 1,253 issues of this series were published during the war, an average of 24 monthly.

In effect these "Tass windows" were a daily illustrated newspaper. The editorial board was in Moscow, but the initiative of the artists and poets of the Capital was duplicated throughout the country. Similar groups were formed in Leningrad,

Sverdlovsk, Gorky, Molotov, Kirov and many other cities.

These placards have become an influence on other forms of art. "Tass windows," staged as individual scenes in many variety shows, are used by the circus and puppet theater. Some of the texts accompanying the illustrations have been set to music.

The posters became popular abroad, where they were printed in editions of as high as five million copies.

Plans are now under way to publish a large album entitled, "The Great Patriotic War as Portrayed in Tass Windows," which will contain 100 of the best placards.

Chess Championship Tournament Opens in Moscow

By Anatoli Vladimirov



A tense moment in the match between Grossmasters Mikhail Botvinnik (right) and Salo Flohr

Radiophoto

The 14th All-Union Chess Tournament, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Soviet chess school, opened in Moscow on June 1.

The competitors are the six Grossmasters—USSR Champion Mikhail Botvinnik, Moscow Champion Vasili Smyslov, Igor Bondarevsky, Alexander Kotov, Andre Lilienthal and Salo Flohr—in addition to 12 Masters and two Master Candidates. The 20 players are winners of four semi-final competitions held in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Baku.

The October Hall of the House of Unions, an ancient building in the center of the Capital, was packed with chess fans. The players sat in pairs at tables on the platform. Despite appeals of the scorekeepers, the excited audience would not refrain from loudly expressing their feelings.

In the opening round, first to finish was Rudakovsky, taking a point from Ragozin, who had victories over Lasker, Flohr and Reshevsky to his credit. A struggle was in progress on all boards.

Naturally most of the attention centered on the Botvinnik-Flohr game. The two first met 12 years ago in a match at the same hall, with the result a draw—two games each. Since then Flohr has never been able to win from his opponent, and their numerous encounters have ended either in a draw or in victory for Botvinnik.

The same thing happened this time. After 37 moves, Flohr had to admit defeat a few minutes before time was called.

Botvinnik has made a good start. His first victory in this tournament is also important from the tactical point of view, for he successfully applied aggressive tactics to counter the overly-cautious method of Flohr. This "knockout" to Botvinnik's most dangerous opponent bodes ill for his other rivals, since it indicates the champion is in excellent form.

Lilienthal lost to Chekhover, and Goldberg to Tolush. The game between the two young Grossmasters Smyslov and Bondarevsky was adjourned at a point when the former held a small advantage. Kovot and Koblentz, the Latvian champion, played to a draw in an exciting game.

The Moscow tournament has aroused intense interest. Tickets have been sold out since a few days before the opening. Fans crowd the entrance to question those fortunate enough to witness the games. The first edition of the chess paper devoted to the tournament was sold out in a few minutes.

Chief referee Nikolai Zubarev, veteran of the Russian chess art, believes that the outstanding contenders for the crown are Botvinnik and Smyslov. "The assets of the former," Zubarev says, "are his tournament experience, the ability not to lose his nerve in temporary reverses, and a series of major successes in the All-Union and international competitions. Botvinnik is now in his prime and is ranking choice for the world championship.

"Smyslov's development as a chess player has not reached its peak. The pos-

sibilities of his exceptional talent are far from exhausted. Ten years younger than the 34-year-old Botvinnik, Smyslov's age gives him some advantage, but at the same time it is a source of occasional unsteadiness in his playing.

"The best traditions of the old school of chess in Russia are represented at the tournament by such players as Merited Master of Sport Peter Romanovsky. A good showing is expected from the younger participants, in particular the 21-year-old Stalingradite David Bronstein, winner of the Moscow elimination contest."

An ardent chess fan and chairman of the tournament committee is Commandant of Moscow Lieutenant General Kuzma Sinilov, who observed that in these days of victory, the championship events bring added fame to the school of the great Chigorin and to the Soviet chess art.

Uzbek Power Station

The Farkhad State power station of Uzbekistan will begin operation in December, 1945. During the past few months 20,000 collective farmers completed excavation work for the power station and a canal, both of which will be of enormous economic importance to the Uzbek Republic.

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The Soviet People's Historic Service To Mankind

By D. Zaslavsky

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The war in Europe has culminated in the complete defeat of fascist Germany. The course taken by the war may be divided into two clear-cut phases: before and after Germany's attack on the Soviet Union.

The two periods are opposed in character: during the first phase, Germany was victorious; in the second, she suffered defeat and was conquered.

From September, 1939, to the spring of 1941, the Germans put into operation their blitzkrieg plans. The German army at that time rapidly dispersed the armies of its opponents. With most of its equipment lost and with only a few dozen tanks remaining, the British Army was compelled to leave the European Continent.

In the spring of 1941, Germany seemed triumphant. Almost the whole of Europe was in her power and was supplying the needs of the German civilian population as well as supporting the gigantic fascist war machine. The Germans ruled the air in western Europe, they were the masters of the Mediterranean and the northern seaboard of Africa; and they were a serious threat to the sea lanes of Great Britain and the United States. The British Empire was menaced. The German people believed that within a few months the victorious fascist bloc would meet the Japanese in India. A black night fell over Europe, crushed under the gangsters' "new order."

This was the situation in 1941 that magically was reversed when Germany attacked the Soviet Union.

According to the plans of the German General Staff, the Soviet-German war was

to be a short campaign. The Hitlerites were convinced that they would achieve world mastery in the West after the East had been defeated. Hitler hurled almost all his land forces against the Soviet Union and withdrew most of his air power from the Western skies. The fascists anticipated a triumphant return to the West to deal the final blows.

But the German ground and air forces did not return from the East. They were smashed by the Red Army. The outcome of the war was decided.

When the Hitlerites attacked the Soviet Union, they had mobilized the resources of practically all of Europe. They had on their side a very considerable superiority in tanks and aircraft.

Our country had the moral support of all progressive mankind. Great Britain and the United States offered their help. But until this assistance could come, we stood alone against Hitler's war machine.

Guided by Stalin's genius, the Soviet people found strength enough to stem the onslaught of the fascist armies and then to smash them. By taking on itself the main blow of the German-fascist forces, the Red Army gave Great Britain and the United States time to develop their war industries and to build up the armed forces necessary for the struggle against Hitler Germany. At a most trying and dangerous time for our country, our people and their Red Army always remembered it was their mission to bring liberation to progressive mankind.

In the autumn of 1941, when the Germans were approaching Moscow, there were many people, even in the Allied

countries, who prophesied the downfall of the Soviet Union. Stalin said to the Red Army in his November 7 message of that year:

"The whole world is looking to you as a force capable of destroying the brigand hordes of German invaders. The enslaved peoples of Europe under the yoke of the German invaders are looking to you as their liberators. A great mission of liberation has fallen to your lot. Be worthy of this mission!"

The whole Soviet people proved equal to this historic task. The powerful rear far to the East provided the material means for bringing about a radical change in the course of the war, a change in our favor. Although the economic help of the Allies was substantial, the vast majority of equipment and munitions for the Red Army was manufactured in Soviet factories from Soviet materials—a fact frequently attested to by official Allied circles.

Stalin also paid tribute to the contributions of the home front:

"Just as the Red Army achieved military victory over the fascist forces in its long and arduous single-handed struggle, so the workers in the Soviet rear won economic victory over the enemy in their lone fight against Hitler Germany and her associates."

The turning point in the Soviet-German war and, therefore, in the whole Second World War, came when there was still no second front in Europe. The defeat of the Germans at Stalingrad put an end to the offensive strategy of the German command. After Stalingrad, all the despairing efforts of the Germans to as-

sume the offensive led only to more complete failure. The Red Army forced the Germans to go over to the defensive, which became more and more hopeless.

One of the most significant episodes in the Battle of Stalingrad was the appearance of German tanks painted in camouflage colors for use in the African desert. This meant that General Rommel in North Africa was being deprived of his reserves.

The crushing blows which the Red Army dealt the German-fascist forces provided favorable conditions for the landing of Allied troops in North Africa, Italy and France. The opening of the second front in Europe and the air attacks which the Allies carried out on the Germans supported the efforts of the Red Army.

Up to the end of the war, however, the Germans were compelled to retain their main forces against the Red Army. All their efforts to get a breathing space in the East, to transfer part of their forces and to hurl the Allies back into the sea, were in vain. The German command, on the contrary, was constantly weakening its Western Front, taking away one division after another in order to give support to its wavering Eastern Front and to fill up the ever-widening gaps.

In 1941 the Germans hurled 170 divisions against the Soviet Union; in 1942, 240 divisions; and in 1943, 257 divisions—all of which perished under the hammer blows of the Red Army. In 1944, only after "super-total" mobilization, the Hitlerites were able to place 204 divisions on the Eastern Front, leaving only 75 for the Western and Southern Fronts. And when the Allies accomplished their march across France and had reached the borders of Germany, the Hitlerite command used its main forces in an attempt to check the advance of the Red Army. Even during the last months of the war the German command continued transferring troops from the West to the East, leaving the Western Front without a defense.

Germany knew then that her fate would be decided in the East. Here she suffered her first defeat. Here she lost her superiority in forces. Here the strategic initiative was torn out of her

hands. Here the German army awaited its death.

Before her attack on the Soviet Union, Germany enjoyed all the superiority for waging a war. In this connection Stalin pointed out: "If in spite of these favorable conditions for the prosecution of the war Germany nevertheless finds herself on the brink of imminent destruction, the explanation is that her chief adversary, the Soviet Union, has surpassed Hitler Germany in strength."

The Soviet Union excelled Germany in military and economic might, in the quantity and quality of her armament, and in her moral and political forces.

From the very beginning, the Red Army's task of liberating Soviet territory from the German invaders was indivisibly bound up with the final and complete defeat of Hitler Germany and with the liberation of the peoples of Europe enslaved by Germany. The Red Army did not halt at the frontiers of the Soviet Union, but moved implacably forward, carrying the war onto German territory—and into Berlin.

The peoples of all countries acknowledge the leading role of the Red Army in the defeat of Germany. On September 28, 1944, Prime Minister Churchill said in the House of Commons:

"In thus trying to do justice to the British and American achievements we must never forget . . . the measureless services which Russia has rendered to the common cause, through long years of suffering, by tearing out the life of the German military monster. The terms in which Marshal Stalin recently, in conversation, has referred to our efforts in the West have been of such a generous and admiring character that I feel, in my turn, bound to point out that Russia is holding and beating far larger hostile forces than those which face the Allies in the West, and has through long years, at enormous loss, borne the brunt of the struggle on land."

Earlier than this, in a speech delivered on August 2, 1944, Churchill declared: ". . . The Russian armies . . . have done the main work in tearing the guts out of

the German army. In the air and on the oceans we could maintain our place, but there was no force in the world which could have been called into being, except after several more years, that would have been able to maul and break the German army unless it had been subjected to the terrible slaughter and manhandling that has fallen to it through the strength of the Russian Soviet armies."

It was the crushing blows which the Red Army dealt the Germans' main forces which deprived Hitler Germany of any hope of peace, compromise or conditional surrender. The Eastern Front was the decisive front to the last.

* * *

The Red Army has honorably fulfilled its historic mission. "Today when the Patriotic War is drawing to its victorious conclusion, the historic role of the Soviet people is revealed in its full greatness. It is universally acknowledged now that by their selfless struggle the Soviet people have saved the civilization of Europe from the fascist vandals. That is the great service rendered by the Soviet people to the history of mankind." These words of Stalin [November 6, 1944] have been inscribed on the scrolls of history.

The war is over; it has ended in a glorious victory. Peace has come into its own and it must be a durable peace. Stalin warned us: "To win the war against Germany is to accomplish a great historical task. But winning the war is not in itself synonymous with insuring for the nations lasting peace and guaranteed security in the future. The thing is not only to win the war but also to render new aggression and new war impossible, if not forever then at least for a long time to come."

The Soviet people, the Soviet State, have emerged from the war stronger and more powerful than ever. In fulfilling its mission of liberation, the Red Army stands unwavering to defend the liberty and independence of its own country and of the peoples freed from the nightmare of Hitlerism.

"Henceforth," said Stalin in his Victory Day address, "the great banner of freedom of nations and of peace among nations will fly over Europe."

CHILD PRISONERS OF THE NAZIS

By Lieutenant Colonel R. K. Sokolenko

When the Red Army troops were ousting the enemy from the town of Konstantinov, beyond Lodz in the central part of Poland, they suddenly heard children's voices coming from a huge, gloomy building.

"Don't shoot!" cried the voices. "There are Soviet children here."

The amazed Red Army men ceased firing and on entering the building found that it constituted a large concentration camp for children. Shocked beyond words by the terrible condition of the youngsters, the men hastily opened their knapsacks and distributed all the food they had. The news of this camp was promptly wired to Moscow, whereupon a group of officers—an army doctor and I among them—set out by plane at once.

We soon arrived at the one-time prison and cemetery—a three-story factory building with smashed windows and broken walls surrounded with barbed wire. In the yard were hundreds of children, pale and emaciated, dressed in filthy rags. Some wore cast-off German tunics, others wooden shoes fastened with bits of rope; many were barefoot.

As we entered the building a little boy of about five, who was the first to see us, shouted in a loud voice, "Attention!" The boys and girls with frozen, frightened faces stood rigidly at attention—rooted to the spot.

My companions, experienced officers accustomed to the strictest discipline, were positively shaken by the scene. Before us were not children, but little people grown old—converted into automatons with crushed souls and hearts, in which the spark of childhood had been extinguished by the brutal Nazi jailors.

There were 862 children in camp. The older ones, about 300, had been rounded up and shipped off somewhere in the direction of Berlin. The children left behind were looked after by 24 women, mothers of some of the smallest children. Among the little prisoners of the Nazis were 463 children brought here from Maidanek, the notorious death factory; the rest were from the camp in Salaspil.

All the children were Russians, Ukrainians or Byelorussians. They told us that their parents had been burned in the Maidanek ovens, that they had been brought here in closed cars which they were allowed to leave once a day. The train stopped only in the open country far from the forests and never at railway stations. Their food consisted of thin soup and grass which they picked themselves. Despite this, 15 of them resolved to escape and at one of the stops ran as fast as they could toward the forest in the distance. The Germans opened fire on the runaways and some were killed; only a few succeeded in getting away. Finally, the children arrived in Konstantinov and were taken to the gloomy factory building and assigned to their berths. Then began the "labor life" of the little slaves.

They showed me their berths—rough boards covered with filthy rags. Early in the morning they were roused, lined up, and sent to German estates to work. Each child seven years old and over was given a definite quota of work. If he failed to do it he was deprived of food and beaten.

I examined the children. Each child had a number tattooed on his left shoulder, the brand of the Nazi slave-owners. The findings were deplorable: many children were suffering from tuberculosis of the bone and lungs, others had skin diseases and dystrophy. Several cases of extreme exhaustion had to be sent to the hospital immediately. Many of the children needed urgent medical attention and a chance to build up some strength and resistance before they could be returned home.

We made all the necessary arrangements to supply them with food and clothing. The Red Army contributed a quantity of clothes and the Polish troops offered whatever they had. Colonel Braun himself collected most of the wearing apparel.

The food problem was somewhat simplified by the splendid efforts of the Polish population who, when they learned of the camp, contributed food from their own provisions. We did not need the flour and sugar brought by the people of the Polish villages around Konstantinov, but to have refused to take it would have hurt them very deeply.

We spent over 20 days in Konstantinov preparing the children for their journey. In the hospital train with its clean cots, linen and good food, the children regained their good spirits. The conductor told me that on this trip he had to take on more water than on any other. The children splashed like ducks and kept washing, even scrubbing, to get rid of the dirty feeling of their long imprisonment.

The train crossed the frontier and the children were traveling in their native land. They took on weight and began to look better from day to day. With returning health, their personalities began to flower again.

With time their wounds and diseases will become a thing of the past. But I often wonder about their minds. Will their mental wounds be healed as well? Will they forget the blows and bruises to their spirit?



GERMAN VALLEY OF DEATH—Relatives try to identify bodies in the deep Petrushansk ravine, near Taganrog, where thousands of men, women and children were killed and buried

How Collective Farm Income Is Divided

By Georgi Blok

In any discussion of collective farming the term "workday unit" is sure to crop up. Indeed, it is an essential part of the collective farm system. The term is peculiar to collective farm life. The work of a collective farmer is not measured by the time he has spent on a particular job, but by the results of his work in terms of quality and quantity. Those results are assessed in "workday units."

Here is a simple example. Two collective farmers have plowed some collective farm land with horse-drawn plows. Both have worked the same number of days and put in the same number of hours each day. But that does not mean that their earnings, as expressed in workday units, will necessarily be the same. For their earnings are determined not only by the time spent in plowing, but by the area each has plowed. If one, say, has plowed 3.6 hectares, while the other, working the same time, has plowed 4.5 hectares, the latter will be credited with a correspondingly larger number of workday units.

Consequently, although the term is associated with the idea of a "day," it is by no means a measurement of time. In one calendar day a collective farmer may earn 1.25, 1.50, 1.75 or even two units. On the other hand, there may be times when he earns only 0.75 or 0.50 of a workday unit in one day's work.

How "Norms" Are Fixed

How is the result of work translated into workday units? This is done on a basis of so-called "norms." Let us assume that in a given locality a collective farmer, working with a grain drill, can plant on an average three hectares of land a day. This figure is taken as a norm. It is then established that the collective farmer is to be credited with so many workday units, say 1.5, for fulfilling that norm, irrespective of whether he does it in a full day, in less than a day, or in more than a day.

For example, if in one day a collective farmer plants not three hectares, which is a norm, but 2.5 hectares, he will be credited that day with only 1.25 workday units. If instead of three hectares he plants 3.5 hectares, he will be credited with a pro-

portionately larger number of workday units, that is, 1.75.

Standards Vary

Norms are not, and cannot be, the same on all collective farms. For norms are established in accordance with local conditions, which may vary in different areas. It is one thing, for example, to operate a reaping machine on the level ground of the Volga steppes, and quite another to operate one on the hilly fields of the Valdai Region. It is one thing to mow low grass growing on sun-scorched hillsides, and another to mow lush, moist meadows.

Each collective farm, therefore, sets its own norms, which are discussed and approved at a general meeting of the collective farmers. Sometimes norms vary on one and the same collective farm. For example, of two plots planted to millet, one may be more overgrown with weeds than the other. In this case the collective farm establishes two or even three norms: one for plots with few weeds, another for plots with a normal growth of weeds, and a third for badly overgrown plots.

The leader of each collective farm brigade or team keeps a daily record of the work performed by the members of his brigade, and using a table of norms, translates the amount of work done into workday units. One copy of the record is turned over to the collective farm office, where it is entered on the personal account sheet of the particular collective farmer. The brigade leader makes another entry in the workbook with which every collective farmer is supplied. This book enables the collective farmer to check up on his personal account whenever he likes.

At the end of the agricultural year the workday units earned by each member are added up. It may happen that one collective farmer has earned, say, 180 workday units during the year, another 200, another 250 or even 300. Then the workday units earned by individual members of the collective farm are added up, and the grand total shows the number of workday units earned by the entire membership of the collective farm.

At the same time, stock is taken of the harvest for the given year, for each particular crop. From the total are deducted the amounts to be delivered to the State at fixed prices, and the amounts that are to be set aside for the collective farm's seed fund and reserve funds (the latter amounts are determined by the general membership meeting). The remainder represents the net income of the collective farm which is to be distributed among the members. It is not distributed equally, however, but according to the number of workday units earned by each member.

Suppose that the members of the collective farm have earned a total of 25,375 workday units in a given year, and that there are 30,450 kilograms of wheat and 35,525 kilograms of rye to be distributed. In that case each workday unit will be worth 30,450 divided by 25,375, which equals 1.2 kilograms of wheat, and 35,525 divided by 25,375, which equals 1.4 kilograms of rye. For example, a collective farmer who has earned 250 workday units will get 1.2 times 250, i.e. 300 kilograms of wheat, and 1.4 times 250, i.e. 350 kilograms of rye. All other crops are distributed in the same way, whether cereals, beans, vegetables or dairy produce. The same system governs the allocation of cash income.

Incentive for Better Work

Under the workday unit system of distributing income every collective farmer is directly interested, first, in earning the largest possible number of workday units, and second, in the collective farm's obtaining the largest possible crop.

The system consequently achieves two aims: on the one hand, it insures absolutely equitable distribution of income among the collective farm members in accordance with the amount of work put in by each; on the other hand, it serves as an incentive for more and better work.

The collective farmer who displays special skill in performing his work receives a bonus in addition to the workday units he has earned on the basis of the norm. The bonus, too, is expressed in workday units.

THE SOVIET RED CROSS

By Professor Ksenia Maistrakh

Vice Chairman, Executive Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of USSR

The Soviet Red Cross is a volunteer social organization with a membership of more than ten million. The broad masses of the population are constantly drawn into first-aid work, rendering assistance to victims of the war and other calamities.

Every Soviet Republic has its own Red Cross or Red Crescent Society (the latter functions in the Azerbaijan, Uzbek, Turkmenian and Tajik Republics).

All Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in the individual Republics of the USSR are united into the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, whose Executive Committee directs the activities of these Societies and is their representative before the Government of the USSR and foreign branches of the Red Cross.

Branches of the Red Cross in plants, factories, collective farms, offices and higher institutions of learning, form the basis of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies. At present there are 190,000 branch organizations in the Soviet Union.

The administrative bodies of the Soviet Red Cross are: District Committees, which direct the activity of branch organizations; territorial, regional, railway line and waterway committees; and Central Committees. The highest administrative body of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR is the Presidium of its Executive Committee, with headquarters in Moscow. All these administrative bodies, from the lowest to the Presidium of the Executive Committee, are elective.

The efforts of the Soviet Red Cross are directed toward drawing the widest sections of the population into first-aid work. This principle, which determines the working methods of the Soviet Red Cross, has given very effective results.

The Soviet Red Cross trains medical and attendant personnel for the Red Army and Navy, and renders important assistance to the blood donor service of the Red Army and public health bodies. Hundreds of thousands of members of

Field Nurse Nina Kurganova dressing the wounds of a Red Army man. In recognition of her services throughout the war, she has been awarded the "For Valor" Medal



the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are active donors.

To provide the population with first-aid service in conditions of enemy air raids, in the first years of the war the Soviet Red Cross initiated a mass campaign for teaching people to render first aid to the wounded and victims of poison gas; it also organized, trained and equipped a huge network of first-aid posts and first-aid squads.

More than 19 million adults and five and one-half million schoolchildren took a special course of training during the great Patriotic War. Many thousands of first-aid squads and 210,000 first aid posts were created, forming a system of spontaneous first-aid service for the population.

The participation of Red Cross members in promoting prophylactic measures has played an important part in the system of Soviet public health service, designed to provide first-aid service to the battle and home fronts. Members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies who have special training daily assist in prophylactic measures in towns and villages of the USSR. They conduct sanitary investigations and help put into sanitary condition apartments, yards, dormitories, offices, industrial establishments and

schools. Many organizations of the Soviet Red Cross have established a large number of epidemic-prevention brigades, disinfection stations and nurses' medical centers on collective farms.

Several dozen well-equipped epidemic-prevention brigades of the Executive Committee of the Red Cross are effectively working in the liberated districts, helping the public health bodies to liquidate hotbeds of infection left by the Nazi invaders.

The Soviet Government and the entire Soviet people are giving extraordinary care to invalids of the Patriotic War, servicemen's families and war orphans. The organizations of the Soviet Red Cross have joined the nationwide effort to aid war victims. More than 250,000 active members of the Red Cross are systematically helping war invalids, servicemen's families and war orphans. Red Cross organizations have assumed guardianship over 628 children's homes and are rendering them material aid as well as assisting in supervising the children's education.

In 1944 the Soviet Red Cross collected more than 14 million rubles, 368 tons of products and about 600,000 articles of clothing for servicemen's families and war orphans.

BERLIN TODAY

By I. Lerov

We are having marvelous May weather here. The gardens are in full bloom and the air in the suburbs is fragrant with lilac. Warm spring showers water the long-neglected vegetable plots which are being industriously weeded and tidied up again.

I saw Berlin from a dive-bomber when Nazi guns still stood at the Brandenburg Gate. The German capital was enveloped in smoke and flame then. I was on its streets at the end of April and the beginning of May during the house-to-house fighting. The Katyushas stood on the Frankfurtalee and the traffic regulator stopped our jeep with a wave of her little red flag.

"You had better go the rest of the way on foot," she advised. "There is shooting around here. . . ."

In those days Berlin looked like a tropical jungle of brick and concrete. The streets were blocked by heaps of ruins and the twisted and charred remains of cars, tanks and guns. To drive from Alexanderplatz to the Reichstag, a five-minute walk, meant winding your way in and out of a maze to find a path through the ruins.

Not many days have passed since then, but the barricades have gone. Even the ruined buildings look better. With the help of sappers, the townsfolk have cleared up nearly all the main streets. Unter den Linden and Charlottenburg Chaussee seem dazzlingly clean. The Soviet girl traffic regulators standing at the Brandenburg Gate attract a great deal of attention. They twirl their little flags, swing neatly to right and left, and smartly salute passing Red Army officers.

The recently built triumphal arch at the entrance to the city and the tribune on Charlottenburg Chaussee are outstanding novelties in Berlin. The former structure has already been unofficially christened the Victory Arch. Crowned by the Order of Victory and decorated with the flags of the three Allied powers, it towers over the Frankfurtalee, along which the first units of the Red Army entered Berlin.

The tribune stands in the very center

of the city on a highway connecting the Brandenburg Gate with the Victory Column. Over the middle of the tribune stand portraits of Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt (the latter in a black frame), crowned with the three national flags. On either side are the emblems of 11 European states which were under German occupation.

The appearance of Berlin today is in harmony with the mood of the Soviet people in the German capital. It is in tune with the sentiments of some Berliners too. Soviet soldiers walk the streets with beaming faces. Sightseers move in an endless stream in the Reichstag, the Royal Palace and Hitler's Imperial Chancellery. The influx is so great that the commandant of this sector of the city has had to train a staff of guides. The latter lead Soviet fighting men through the ruined halls of the Reichstag and point out the huge underground premises and the three-lane subterranean highway.

The strangest encounters take place in Berlin. Just the other day, outside the Reichstag, I bumped into Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel Pusep, the famous flier who flew Molotov to the United States some time ago. Pusep is known to his fellow fliers as a "First Berliner" because he was one of the Soviet fliers who participated in the first raid on the city in 1941. We drove over to Charlottenburg together, where he showed me the district he had bombed four years ago. The local inhabitants added their reminiscences to his story. "Yes, that was pretty unexpected for us," they said. "Who would have thought at that time that the Russians would raid Berlin?"

And in Hitler's Chancellery I ran into Captain Kotlyar, a man I had met a few days before in the commandant's office in the center of the city. I thought it strange that he should be poring about in the heap of rubble and scrap iron, piddling in the yard instead of sightseeing.

"What are you looking for, Captain?" I asked casually.

My voice must have startled him, for he looked up at me with glassy eyes and

his answer was slow in coming.

"I am looking for some remembrance of my boy," he said at last, hollowly.

His son, an air lieutenant, bombed Berlin, while he, at the head of an infantry detachment, was storming the center of the city. The plane was shot down. The last that was heard from the boy was a radio message: "Hit, plane is on fire. Diving onto Hitler's Chancellery."

And now the father, who has been appointed commandant of this same district, is roaming about, looking for some fragment of the plane in which his son crashed. Returning later to his office, he will listen patiently to the Germans who come to him with their troubles. "What can I do?" he asks. "After all, I am a soldier. You don't expect me to take revenge on women and children for the death of my son, do you?"

He and his officers hunted all over the district in search of locations for bakeries. Before the city surrendered, the people had starved for weeks.

Never will I forget the crowd of women who ran up to our car on Alexanderplatz before the Germans had stopped firing, and begged for bread. How they pounced on the loaf we gave them! Some were the wives of doctors and engineers, some were actresses. Even today the hungry women and children of Berlin beg bread and sugar from our officers and soldiers. True, their number is diminishing from day to day as new bakeries and groceries open up. The district commandants' offices are making strenuous efforts to improve the food supply to the population.

A remarkable thing about it all is that while Berlin starved, underground warehouses were packed with food. Every day the personnel of the commandants' offices brings to light new hidden stocks. Several years' supply of provisions were found in the secret cellars under Hitler's Chancellery.

"How could you let women and children starve with all that food hidden away?" I asked the people.

One of the women told me that this

food was earmarked for the SS and Nazi chieftains. Everybody had known of its existence, but no one had said a word about it for fear of the Gestapo.

In the commandant's office in downtown Berlin I met a number of merchants and manufacturers who told me that free trade in consumers' goods had been prohibited during the war in Germany. All the markets were closed and the people had to get along with what was issued to them on ration cards. Hans Schliping, the proprietor of a haberdashery shop, asked the commandant whether he would be allowed to open up his shop.

"Not only may you, but you ought to," replied the commandant. "The Army Command wishes to encourage private trade in consumers' goods, but without speculation."

Any borough commandant's office in Berlin is exceedingly interesting these days. Hundreds of Germans who realize how fantastic the Nazi tales were that the Russians would gouge out eyes and cut off ears, now come to see the Soviet authorities about practically everything under the sun. While I was in one borough, a report was brought in that a group of SS men had barricaded themselves in a cellar. A group of Germans delivered the keys to some factory warehouses. Engineer Kritzer appeared with a project for the rehabilitation of a small electric power plant. With him were a number of skilled workers who said they could lay the narrow-gauge track quickly to supply coal to the station. Doctor Eberts, formerly a professor of philosophy at Leipzig University, whom the Hitlerites ousted from his position because of his views, came to offer his services as a university teacher.

One borough burgomaster, a teacher by profession, told me that a number of the local people offered to help him. Some of them were acting as food distribution controllers, others were engaged in repairing the war damage, and still others were opening shoe repair, tailor and barber shops. In this borough four hospitals already function, and private doctors are seeing patients.

A few days ago a memorable event in the life of Berlin took place when the first meeting of the municipal administration, consisting of representatives of vari-

ous groups, was held. The meeting was presided over by Oberburgomeister Arthur Werner, an architect by profession. Next to him sat his first deputy, worker Karl Moran.

Every seat in the packed hall was occupied by representatives of business and industrial circles, workers, scientists and actors. They all joined in heartily welcoming Colonel General Berzarin, the Soviet Military Commandant of Berlin. General Berzarin, in turn, greeted the new self-government of Berlin.

Berlin today is witnessing the beginning of a deep-felt change in the psychology of the people in whom the venom of fascist propaganda had acted so long. Berliners look around in sheer amazement at the things happening around them today. There is so much—first and foremost, the Soviet principle of justice—that they can barely grasp.

During the first days after the surrender of Berlin, I had an opportunity to talk with some actors and artists in the borough of Karlshorst, which is inhabited mainly by intellectuals. One of them was an emaciated, decrepit old man who introduced himself as Wilhelm Weitzer, a violinist in the Berlin Opera House Orchestra. In 1917 he had been with the German army in Russia, and he knew enough Russian to make himself understood. He was deeply moved by the turn events had taken, and with some difficulty managed to give expression to what was uppermost in his mind.

"There was a time when the world spoke of my country as the Germany of Goethe and Wagner," he said, "the Germany that had given the world X-ray and diphtheria antitoxin. Now my country has the reputation of murderers and looters. This is very hard to bear, and we don't know what awaits us intellectuals in the future. Are we to answer for all this too? And will the Berlin Opera never reopen?"

I told him that the Soviet people love Wagner and Goethe more, perhaps, than many Germans do. I reminded him that in Berlin the memorial to Goethe had been tucked away in an out-of-the-way corner of the Tiergarten and that Schiller's name had been given to a park on the

outskirts of the city. The man stood silent and with bowed head.

More than two weeks have passed since then. I happened to be in Karlshorst district again and had another chat with intellectuals residing there. They told me that a group of prominent people in the Berlin art world had been invited to see Colonel General Berzarin. The General had lengthy talks with them, discussing the details of the job of reviving theaters, cinemas and clubs. The actors, artists and theater managers were astonished that the Commandant was concerning himself with the problems of the German theater and of German museums so soon after the war. They were equally surprised and pleased that they would not only be allowed to work at their former jobs, but that their work was highly appreciated by the military authorities, who would see to it that their food rations would equal those of workers in heavy industry.

Three days later I attended the opening of the Variety Theater, the first to resume performances after Berlin's surrender. The hall was packed. Wehl, a film star, acted as master of ceremonies. Opposite the theater I saw Berliners lined up at the cinema where the Soviet picture *Professor Mamlock* was being shown.

Berlin is awakening to a new life. Spring has come to the vanquished city.

Tapestry Weaving Resumed in Central Asia

Before the war the work of the Kovrovskitsa artel, in Alma-Ata, enjoyed wide renown. Colorful tapestries produced by its skilful women weavers decorated the vestibules of theaters and the Kazakhstan Pavilion at the All-Union Agricultural Exhibition in Moscow.

Interrupted by the war, this work is being resumed, with artist Insky Tsivch, a returned veteran, again as director. The original women weavers are now creating large tapestries of *Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill at the Crimea Conference; The 28 Panfilov Guardsmen; and Heroes of the Soviet Union*. A project for the future is to be called "Victory."

Notes on Soviet Life

The first prints of the documentary film *The Banner of Victory Is Hoisted Over Berlin* have been released in Moscow. Soviet cameramen, headed by the well-known Stalin Prize Winners Yuri Raizman and Vasili Belayev, recorded the fighting in the streets of the German capital and the events of the last day of war. They also filmed the unconditional surrender of Germany and her armed forces.

★

Sugar refineries in the Ukraine are proceeding successfully with their rehabilitation. During the first month of the program, 20,000 centners of sugar were produced by the refineries of the Kharkov Region. These refineries will give the country 250,000 centners of sugar this year.

★

A vivid example of the progress made by a Soviet village is the Dedinov Village Soviet in Lukovits district, Moscow Region. In this village of 3,000 people there are three collective farms; three elementary schools, and a secondary school; a music school, a children's home, a children's sanatorium, two nurseries, two clubs, two libraries, a hospital, a medical station, a drugstore, three bathhouses, three repair shops, a dairy and a veterinary station. The village Soviet takes greatest pride in the fact that universal literacy has been achieved.

★

The works of V. I. Lenin, read and studied by millions, have been published in the Soviet Union in 142,733,000 copies in the period between 1917 and the end of 1944. During the same years, 23,000,000 copies of Lenin's works were issued in 56 languages of the peoples of the USSR, including national groups which before the Revolution had no written language.

★

The cities and villages of the Stalino Region of the Donets Basin will have trees and bushes again this year. Over 660,000 of various kinds have been planted in gardens and parks, and along the squares and streets.

In appreciation of his outstanding services in the field of literature and on the occasion of his 50th birthday, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR recently awarded the Order of Lenin to the Ukrainian writer, Maxim Rylsky.

During the 35 years of his literary activity, Rylsky has written over 20 volumes of poetry, a number of translations from Pushkin and Mickiewicz, from Boileau, Corneille, Racine, Shakespeare and poets of Soviet Georgia—their first translation into Ukrainian. In the first year of the war Rylsky addressed the Ukrainians in the United States with a message in verse, explaining the aim of the Patriotic War of the Soviet people, and received in reply a letter of warm appreciation.

★

A scientific session to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the Kalinin Institute of Non-Ferrous Metals and Gold in Moscow opened on May 18. The conference discussed the problems of non-ferrous metals in the sphere of geology, mining concentration, metallurgy and metal-working. In the period of its existence, 2,428 engineers were graduated; 715 scientific research works were completed, and over 130 textbooks and monographs written.

★

PORGY AND BESS, an operetta by George Gershwin, had its premiere recently at the Actors' House in Moscow. The work was presented by the opera ensemble of the All-Russian Theatrical Society. Staged by Konstantin Popov, it was under the musical direction of Professor A. Khessin.

★

Suvorova Agadjanova, 69-year-old great granddaughter of the famous Russian General Suvorov, stayed in Leningrad throughout the blockade. On the occasion of the 145th anniversary of the death of her famous ancestor, a delegation of the district where she lives presented her with the "Leningrad Defense" Medal.

In Kerch, largest industrial center of the Crimea, ships are again being built, ore mined and lathes and machines manufactured. Prior to the war, Kerch had some 80 industrial enterprises, all of which were wrecked by the Germans. Forty have been restored, and the ship-repairing yards are already exceeding pre-war production. Medical and cultural institutions are again functioning, and 150,000 square meters of living space have been rebuilt. After restoration is completed, Kerch will be one of the most beautiful and modern cities in the Crimea.

★

The Krasny Stampovshchik plant and radio producers' cooperative has begun the output of an improved recording apparatus known as talking paper. The new phonograms are printed on ordinary lithograph machines. Already available are Tschaikevsky's opera *IOLANTHE*, concerts of the Red Army Song and Dance Ensemble, and other music, as well as speeches by Lenin, Stalin, Gorky, Molotov and Kirov.

★

More than 10 million hectares of new pastureland will be distributed this year to the collective farms of Uzbekistan for the extensive breeding of astrakhan sheep and camels in the vast areas near the Aral Sea.

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The Contribution of Soviet Women to Victory

By Grigori Volchek

On September 26, 1941, the Russian writer Vera Inber made the following entry in her *Leningrad Diary*: "A few days ago, seated on a stool in the middle of a hospital ward, I was reading aloud to the men. They were completely absorbed in the tale from Gorky. Suddenly the sirens began to howl, the bark of ack-ack guns filled the sky—coming nearer and nearer. Now it was directly above our second surgical ward. A crash followed, then the tinkle of glass. The wounded men, helpless in their beds, involuntarily turned their eyes to me, a healthy person, to see how I would react. And I summoned all my willpower, waited for the noise to die

down, and resumed reading, concentrating on one thing only—that my voice should not tremble."

The ack-ack guns no longer bark over Soviet land. Houses and factories no longer perish in flames. Soviet people will never more be driven by the whips of the Hitlerite slave-drivers along the roads leading to the hateful land of Germany. The war is over. The Red Army and the coalition of freedom-loving peoples have conquered. In this titanic struggle of nations the heroic exploits of Soviet women will never be forgotten. In the years of Soviet rule a new type of woman has grown up in the Soviet land—women patriots, well educated, efficient and politically conscious. They have demonstrated to the world their ability to bring up a worthy generation. Under the difficult conditions of the revolutionary struggle, during the strenuous years of the young Soviet State, and finally, during the years of the Hitlerite invasion, these Soviet women reared the children who became the glorious Red Army.

More than 1,700 women of various nationalities have been elected by secret ballot as deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Supreme Soviets of the Autonomous Republics. Almost half a million are deputies to local, regional, city and rural Soviets.

In 1940, there were 150,000 women engineers and technicians, and during the war the number increased still more. In our country you will find women holding the posts of directors of enterprises, managers of large institutions, and chairman of collective farms. There are women scientists, trade union workers and artists. It must be recalled that even as late as 1917, Russian women did not dream of sharing in a fraction of such activities.

The war against Germany brought many severe trials to Soviet women. Mothers, wives and sisters sent their near and dear ones to the front and took on themselves the brunt of the burden, caring for the family as well as doing the major part of the work in the rear.

In a speech made during the war, Maria Popova, captain of the Volga tugboat *Krasnoznamennets*, stated: "Maria Berdakova, a buoy-keeper who has been decorated with the 'For Meritorious Service' Medal, came to the river transport to replace her soldier husband. During an enemy raid the brave woman rowed scores of wounded Red Army men and officers



Darya Nikulina, who wears the high award of Hero of the Soviet Union



"Lumberjill" Nina Bespalova, a housewife, became a woodsman during the war



Field Nurse Olga Maslichenko, of the Guards, gives first aid to a wounded soldier. During her war-time service she carried 80 men from the battlefields

across the Volga. She dressed their wounds and shared her food and milk. Having brought over one party and made it comfortable, she would row back for the next group." That was during the days of the Battle of Stalingrad, and it was the same everywhere throughout the war—heroism, endurance, determination to win.

Here are a few facts illustrating the role of Soviet women in the rear. Thanks to their high efficiency and knowledge of modern technology, Busygina, Teterina and Glazova, women workers in a Urals plant, each manufactured 300,000 shells above the 1944 plan.

Ekaterina Seregina, engineer in a defense enterprise, developed a new type of armament for the Red Army. Natalia Yermenko, an engineer, invented and organized the production of a new explosive.

An Uzbek woman, Basharat Mirbabaeva, has become a noted personality on the Tashkent railway. She was the first woman of her Republic to drive a locomotive of a passenger train. And she was also the first to bail out with a parachute.

Before 1941, women had already played a part in agriculture, but during the war their work became a decisive factor. Out of a total of 1,857,000 combine and tractor drivers and mechanics trained in the course of three years of warfare, over one million were women who fully replaced men.

The Darya Garmash tractor brigade of the Rybnov machine and tractor station in Ryazan Region is a good example of women's efforts for the front. In 1942 the

brigade, working on three tractors bearing the trade mark of Kharkov tractor plant, plowed 3,252 hectares, that is, 1,084 hectares per tractor, and saved 6,148 kilograms of fuel. This was a 255 per cent fulfilment of the production plan. The brigade fulfilled its annual program 511 per cent. Each girl member of this brigade did the work of five tractor drivers. In the following year the group saved 10 tons of fuel and plowed about 1,866 hectares per tractor.

In this and every other way the women in the rear strove to assist the fighting men—as blood donor, nurse, worker, scientist or artist. Their achievements have won public acknowledgement and rewards from the Soviet Government.

Among the holders of the Stalin Prize there are 42 women scientists and inventors.

In 1944 the degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on 41 women, while 217 earned the title of Professor and Docent. A variety of penicillin and a number of other medical preparations manufactured according to the method of Professor Yermelayeva, have saved the lives of countless Soviet citizens. Architect Nadezhda Bykova made the design and supervised the construction of one of the stations of the Moscow subway. Some 3,951 women teachers were rewarded with Government orders last year for outstanding services in educating Soviet children.

In the actual battles for the Soviet homeland tens of thousands of women were members of partisan detachments. The Partisan of the Great Patriotic War Medal, First and Second Class, was awarded to 7,807 of them. Up to February 1, 1945, a total of 72,196 women won decorations for gallantry in action, and 44 received the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for outstanding valor and heroism.

The fame of Soviet women will not fade through the ages. To them we bring a share of our thanks for the freedom and peace that have been won and for the assurance that our lives will never again be darkened by a Maidanek.

Lake Baikal Natural Wealth Studied

Tapping of the natural wealth of the world's deepest fresh water lake—Lake Baikal in eastern Siberia—has been hastened by a research station set up in this locality by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Lake Baikal covers an area of 33,000 square kilometers and in places is more than 1,700 meters deep. Three hundred and thirty-six rivers empty into it.

Besides studying the fauna, which ranges from rainbow-colored fish to multi-colored eight-legged crabs, and the flora of the lake, the research station is investigating the local climatic and hydrological conditions.

To date, the station and its eight observation posts have worked out ice forecasts of much value to navigation and fishing. It has been established that the lake has a moderating effect on climate for over a 30-kilometer radius.

The recent practical discoveries of the station include the medicinal use of Burbot oil. It has also mapped the fishing area, and worked out an effective method of fishing. A cannery has been built in the vicinity of the best-stocked waters. Two fish hatcheries have been set up for transplanting Amur carp and Ladoga whitefish to Lake Baikal.

GERMAN LABOR REPARATIONS

By Professor A. Trainin

The German aggressors have left a monstrous heritage behind them: they have laid waste the fruits of generations of labor, the material wealth of nations.

The day of reckoning has come. The Crimea Conference of the leaders of the three great Allied powers decided to compel Germany to make compensation for the damage she has caused "in kind to the greatest extent possible."

From a legal aspect, the matter is beyond dispute. No advocate tarred with the appeasers' brush could throw even a shadow of a doubt on the right—internationally recognized—of the victors to compensation for damage caused by the enemy.

When, however, freedom-loving nations which have been the victims of predatory aggression are the victors, the right to demand reparations becomes a duty; for leniency toward the aggressor may give rise to new wars. The form of reparations—whether they shall be in money or in kind—is a question of military and economic expediency.

Speaking on February 10, 1919, at a meeting of the Reparations Commission of the Versailles Peace Conference, W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, said: "The right to reparation rests upon the principle of justice pure and simple, in this sense, that where damage or harm has been done, the doer should make it good to the extreme limit of his resources. This principle is universally recognized."

By unleashing war and transforming it into a system of militarized banditry, Germany caused enormous damage to the freedom-loving nations which became victims of her aggression. Naturally, Germany must draw upon all her resources for the purpose of compensating to the greatest possible extent for the damage she has done.

In the Versailles Treaty it was stated that the Allied and associated Governments recognized that the resources of Germany were not adequate to make complete reparation for all the loss and damage caused by Germany in the war of 1914-18 (Article 230). Consequently, in addition to considerable money repara-

tions, the Versailles Treaty provided for reparations in kind.

On account of reparations, Germany undertook to transfer to the Allies ships ("ton for ton and class for class all merchant ships or fishing boats lost or damaged owing to the war"—Article 236, Annex 3, Paragraph 1), coal, chemical products and livestock.

The damage caused by Hitler Germany in the war of 1939-45 is immeasurably greater than the damage the Germans caused in 1914-18. Germany must compensate for this damage to a considerable extent in kind.

Expedient and Just

Reparations must also take the form of labor power, which Germany must place at the Allies' disposal for the purpose of restoring property which the Germans have destroyed. In this connection, the following points must be borne in mind:

The German troops committed this damage methodically and systematically. They were not prompted by considerations of military necessity. This destruction of property was conducted as methodically and systematically as was the cold-blooded extermination of millions of civilians and prisoners of war in the Hitlerite death camps.

Hence labor reparations are not only an expedient but also an absolutely just form of compensation for damage. Those who destroy must restore what they have destroyed.

Lastly, it must not be forgotten that among the tasks facing the victor peoples, enormous importance attaches to the liquidating of Germany's military potential. The employment of Germans on restoration work in the countries they have devastated will naturally facilitate the effective economic disarmament of Germany.

The decision of the Crimea Conference on reparations in kind evoked favorable comment in the foreign press. Lord Winterton stated in the *Sunday Express* that certain quarters "openly complain of proposals to make German civilians work in Russian territory in order to repair the immense damage which their armies

caused. These complaints are untenable on either moral or practical grounds. Such labor will provide a reasonable form of reparation."

The idea of labor reparations is also supported by prominent public men and organs of the press in the United States. Raymond Moley, associate editor of *News-week*, wrote on March 26: "The argument for enforced labor by Germans outside Germany rests on sound practical and moral factors. . . . The Nazi armies destroyed far more than military conditions required. One-third of European Russia was devastated . . . the homes, workshops, farms and other property of sixty million people. Moreover, Nazi Germany forced about six million Russian men and women to work for Germany . . . over a period of years. It was even longer for millions of Poles, French, Belgians, Dutch, Yugoslavs and Norwegians."

Lowell Mellett, of the *New York Post*, expressed the view that labor reparations provide a "simple and sensible solution," and that "there is little difference between utilizing German war prisoners in the United States for agricultural work in regions of labor shortage, and employing Nazi ex-soldiers on postwar reconstruction in the Soviet Union. . . . The Germans, after deliberately estimating the risk, marched into Russia and laid waste cities and farms. What can be more appropriate than to march them back to rebuild what they destroyed?" [Retranslated from the Russian].

Joseph H. Baird, of the *Washington Star*, supporting the idea of labor reparations, wrote on March 18: "Because of Russia's Socialist economy . . . its State-directed programs for construction and the exploitation of natural resources, its internally controlled currency and its complete absence of private finance and business, the Soviet Union is able to create employment at will. . . ."

The United States Institute of Public Opinion recently conducted an inquiry to discover people's views on the question of employing Germans on restoration work in the Soviet Union. Their query was formulated as follows: "After the war, should three or four million German

men be required to spend two or three years to help in rebuilding Russian cities which they destroyed?" Seventy-one per cent of the Americans who were questioned said "Yes." Nine per cent refrained from answering, and only 20 per cent said "No."

The American journalist Quentin Reynolds, in *Collier's*, gave his readers his own first-hand impression of how labor reparations are regarded in the Soviet Union: "I remember standing with some Red Army officers in the total ruins of Vyazma, some 130 miles from Moscow. The Germans destroyed the city when they retreated from it. 'You can never rebuild this city,' I said, looking at the horrible rubble that a few days before had been a city of 80,000 inhabitants. 'It will be rebuilt,' a Red Army general said grimly. 'So will every other city they have destroyed be rebuilt. Believe me, my friend, there will be no unemployment in Germany for many a year after the war. We will keep them all busy rebuilding these cities of ours they have destroyed.'" [Retranslated from the Russian].

The voice of this Red Army general was the voice of law and justice.

Effect on World Trade

Although public opinion in Allied countries gives wide support to the idea of employing Germans to restore property they have destroyed, there are certain circles which oppose it. The main apprehension of the opponents of labor reparations is that such reparations will lead to the economic exhaustion, the "impoverishment" of Germany, and that this in turn will injure world trade.

This argument has been advanced repeatedly by the London *Economist*. The same apprehension was recently expressed by the *New Statesman and Nation*, which stated that if Germany's industrial productivity was not restored within prescribed limits, the ravages of war in Europe would not be made good during the life of this generation.

Such apprehensions are not new. Similar arguments were zealously disseminated from certain quarters after the First World War. As is well known, the upshot was that the Germans were generously provided with loans, with the aid of which "exhausted" Germany built up a gigantic war industry and prepared for

the Second World War. This lesson must not be forgotten.

The argument that labor reparations will injure world trade is unsound. The destruction of Germany's war economy does not in the least imply the liquidation of her world economy and her dropping out of world trade. It was her enormous armament program and her policy of economic autocracy, pursued for the purpose of preparing her economy for war, which diminished Germany's share in world trade.

The abandonment of this policy, and of the militarist trend of economic development which is its concomitant, will make Germany far more dependent on the world market than she was before, notwithstanding the fact that the general level of production in Germany will of course drop as a result of the payment of reparations in kind and in labor.

On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that this will be compensated, and more than compensated, by the growth of productive capacities in the countries which suffered from German aggression and which will receive reparations from Germany.

Under these circumstances, the argument that an impoverished Germany will disappear from the world market as a result of making labor reparations is merely a bogey raised by certain parties closely interested in the German market.

Other opponents of labor reparations advance no coherent objections, but confine themselves to uttering frightful words like "forced labor," "slavery," and so on. These people oppose labor reparations only because these will be imposed on Germany.

Von Wiegand, the notorious Hearst correspondent in Madrid, asserted that the proposal to employ German workers on restoration work implied that "the United States and Great Britain sanction a return of slavery in Europe." He was echoed by George N. Shuster, President of Hunter College, New York, who in a speech delivered before an audience of members of the Foreign Policy Association, said that labor reparations were tantamount to "enslavement."

To stick to metaphorical labels like "slavery" and "enslavement" is of course one of the easiest mental exercises. It takes neither knowledge nor brains. But

mere labels prove nothing.

One could as easily describe money reparations as "robbery," and the demilitarization of Germany's industry as her "ruination." It is the selfsame line of argument as that adopted by the German-fascist cannibals, who believe they have the right to commit any crime they please, but that to call them to book for their crimes is tyranny and injustice.

It will be shown that law and justice, for which the Allied troops fought, are not fleshless slogans and pious wishes, but political and military realities which have the power to insure not only the triumph of justice but also the security of the peoples against a recrudescence of German aggression.

The *Herrenvolk* will be deprived of their general staff. They will have to disband their army, disarm their industry, compensate for the damage they have done, and restore what they have so savagely destroyed.

They Destroyed, They Will Rebuild

Not long ago the *Deutsche Zeitung in Norwegen*, a German-fascist newspaper that was published in Norway, dropped into plaintive lyricism in discussing labor reparations. It wrote: "The German soldier has not been separated from his wife and children and kept away from his trade for six years in order, as a result of unconditional surrender, to receive from the Allies the right to be separated from his wife and children, and not to work at his trade for another ten years or for the rest of his life."

Of course, it was not for this that the German robbers went to war. On the other hand, the freedom-loving nations have not made their incalculable sacrifices in order to allow the unprecedented crimes of the Hitlerites to go unpunished.

Germany, naturally enough, is displeased at the outcome of the war, displeased at having to bear the consequences of her vandalism. This is understandable. That the defenders of the German aggressors in certain foreign quarters should feel disturbed is also understandable.

But nothing can now save either the one or the other. The ruins of Europe will be restored to the utmost possible extent, at Germany's expense, and to a large extent by German hands.

THE ROAD THROUGH THE SWAMPS

By Yuri Nagibin

The old man approached the colonel's dugout by way of a secret forest path. Many of the trees had been hit by shells, and were exuding resin and transparent sap through their wounds. He watched a soldier fit some cups to a stricken birch, saw them fill rapidly with the clear sap, and silently approved of the Red Army's thriftiness.

The colonel's dugout was lit by a sooty kerosene lamp. There were two men inside—the colonel and his aide-de-camp. The colonel was bent over some papers. The other was playing a gramophone—the record was "The Blue Scarf." He had stuffed the sleeve of his quilted jacket into the amplifier, so that the noise should not disturb the colonel.

But he was not even aware of the music. He was reading and re-reading the message that lay before him. It informed him that two truckloads of ammunition had got through to a group that had wedged its way far into the German lines. But the road was under fire. It was extremely doubtful how long it could be kept open.

The men, full of ardor after their successful break-through, were marking time and losing momentum. But the command could not supply enough sappers to lay another road. And in any case, where could another road be laid, when all

around was impassable, sedge-grown swamp?

There was only one last hope—the villagers of Lyubino Polye, a little marshland settlement recently liberated from the Germans. And that was why the colonel had sent for the old man, the chairman of the village Soviet.

The colonel had grown very fond of the sturdy, clean people who inhabited these northern places. Taken unawares in their village by the Germans, they had not remained in their homes for a single day. The very first night of the occupation they had picked off the German sentry and gone off to the woods with their wives and children.

Even the cripples had crawled off with their fellow-villagers. The only traitor among the lot—one mangy sheep from an otherwise sound flock—had his fate decided for him by the men of Lyubino Polye, who stole into the village under the noses of the Germans, and did away with him in their own way.

The people of Lyubino Polye were capable and industrious. They knew the swamps, knew how to fight them. They knew how to build a house in the fenlands, how to lay a road or plan a park. They knew every mood of the swamps.

Furthermore, from ancient times they had been known for their excellent woodwork. They were cabinet-makers, carpen-

ters, bridge-builders. It was said of them that they had stolen the soul of a tree, and that was how they knew all the secrets of wood.

It was part of the village tradition that the young men should specialize in carved cradles, things of wonder and delight. The wood they made those cradles from had a remarkable melodious quality, as though there were lute-strings in it, so that when the cradles rocked they sang of themselves and lulled the children to sleep.

In their later years, nearer to the twilight of their lives, the Lyubino Polye craftsmen turned to road-making and bridge-building, and in their old age, by tradition, they made only coffins. These coffins were dependable, solid affairs, which the people of the district ordered in advance.

* * *

The old man spoke deliberately: "We've talked the matter over, Colonel, and you needn't worry. You don't need your sappers. They'll come in handy somewhere else. This road-building job is a simple matter for us."

"But surely you can't manage without help?" the colonel asked, amazed. "Will you really be able to do it on your own?"

"Well, not like sappers would do it, of course," said the old man with a discreet smile. "We may even do it a little better."

The colonel thought. Then he sighed.



Heavy tanks lined up at the edge of a forest, in preparation for an attack



A front-line postman delivers mail from home to soldiers of the First Byelorussian Front

He stood up and spoke firmly. "Quite impossible, I'm afraid. The zone will be under fire, and enough of your folk have been killed already in the guerrilla detachments."

"My dear boy, people are like corn. You can grow a whole field from a single grain. And we are fighting for life."

"Grandpa, I can't let you."

"Now you leave it to us. We'll build it on the quiet."

"But how can you hide what you're doing?"

"Come, come," grinned Grandpa. "Don't ask a craftsman to give away his secrets."

"Well," said the colonel, sitting down again. "I'm acting against my better judgment. How long will it take you?"

"Thirteen days."

"Better make it three weeks."

"Thirteen days," insisted Grandpa. "The number thirteen is sacred in Lyubino Polye. We drive thirteen nails into each coffin lid. And the timber has to be treated for thirteen weeks before it can be used for ikons."

* * *

Next day five old men in white newly-washed homespun tunics set out along the road which led to the advanced group of Soviet forces, the vanguard that had wedged deep into the German lines. There was not a soul in sight. Only the wrecked trucks by the wayside belied the stillness.

To the left of the road there was a sniper-infested copse. To the left, also, the swamp was visible, an unhealthy bright green, with a bush here and there. The

old men moved along a river-bank skirting the swamp. After about a mile they branched off, and four of them kneeled down and inspected the grass. Then they reported the result of their inspection to the fifth, Grandpa Kondratenkov, the oldest and most experienced of the party.

He was so ancient that he had forgotten his own age, nor was there anyone in the village who could enlighten him, for the oldest person remembered him first as a full-grown man with a tinge of gray in his beard.

"A likely spot," Makar Savelyich suggested.

"Mark it out, Makarushka," said Grandpa. "Mitrofanich, you hurry back to the village. Tell the men to say good-bye to their womenfolk. Tell 'em they're going to live a military life from now on."

Four old men moved across the bright swamp toward the forest. In the forest they pulled their belts tighter and, hatchets in hand, strode off through the thickets to mark off trees, those that were straightest, and with the cleanest trunks.

"Don't take 'em too close together, boys," Grandpa warned. "Or the Germans in those tree-tops will notice the gaps."

By noon, the other old men of the village had reached the spot, and work proceeded apace.

After marking the necessary number of trees, the old men removed their padded jackets and lay down for a nap until the protective darkness fell. Then, when the moon appeared from behind the clouds, there was a dull tapping in the swampy

wood by the river, as though huge woodpeckers with metal bills were pecking away at the trees.

Each tree was felled with three strokes: the first was an oblique one, and tore off a long strip of bark, as though preparing the tree for pain and death. The second stroke penetrated the tree to the very core. The third, dealt with the butt-end of the axe, severed the tree from its life-giving roots. The tree toppled to the ground, its leaves swishing sorrowfully through the branches of its neighbors.

Each tree was trimmed of its lower branches. Then the old men lashed the logs together in rafts.

* * *

A week later the colonel sent his aide to see how the work was progressing, and to ask if the old men needed any help. But all he could get out of them were barely perceptible, sly smiles. "Do you know what goes on top of the sub-flooring?" they asked. The aide looked blank. So they dismissed him politely. "Well, you really can't help us much, in that case."

"What goes on top of the sub-flooring!" shouted the colonel, when informed what they had said. "Why, man, the floor, of course! Oh, well, if they feel like joking, I suppose I needn't worry. Things must be getting along all right."

"Perhaps they are, perhaps they aren't," said the aide, rather stiffly. "All I can say is I've never seen anyone build a road like that before."

* * *

Next day the colonel himself rode down to the site. It was nothing like any road-building job he had ever seen. The swamp showed no mark of pickaxe or spade. Indeed, what could axe or spade have done in that spongy morass?

He began to wonder whether he had come to the right spot. Yes, it must be right. There, out of the forest, appeared the stately figure of Makar Savelyich, walking toward him across the swamp. The colonel had an impulse to give a warning shout, but checked himself when he saw how confidently the old man moved over the treacherous surface.

Makar Savelyich was as lean as a wolf in early spring, and the colonel asked him anxiously: "Are you getting anything to eat out here?"

"Two meals a day, and good hot food, too. What brings you along ahead of time, Colonel?"

"Why, I just wanted to see if there was anything you wanted," the colonel answered, afraid of offending the old man, "and to have a look around."

"You won't see anything here. The road is being laid through the forest. Look—there goes part of it now."

Eight old men had come out of the forest, carrying a wooden raft suspended on ropes. They looked rather like pallbearers with a hearse. They lowered the raft to the ground, and were followed by eight more old men with a similar contraption. The rafts were laid end to end. Then two of the men began to lash them together with some kind of cloth.

"Why, Makar Savelyich, they'll be sucked in by the swamp," the colonel said, distressed. "There are quagmires here you'd never get out of alive."

"Aye, aye, boy, so there are. Only not where we're laying the road. Just turn round and take a look over there, over the top of the grass, where it's longest. What can you see?"

"Grass, only green grass," the colonel replied, staring at the gently tossing surface.

"Have another look. Is it all green, or can you see a bit of yellow, as well?"

The colonel strained his eyes until he saw, or thought he saw, a sort of thin, yellowish stripe threading the lush greenery.

"Yes, I see," he said.

"Well, that yellow tells you it's not real swamp. The tips of the grass are scorched by the sun. That means they get less moisture. Now real swamp grass is never like that. In a real swamp the sun never scorches the grass, no matter how hot it is, because the roots are resting in water below the surface. But here the roots are in firm ground, and there's less moisture. At first glance it looks just like real swamp grass. But actually the soil is only damp near the surface, where the rain wets it. Underneath, it's quite hard and dry. You can rest supports on it. Let's have a look at the planks."

They moved toward the forest. In spite of the old man's reassurances, the colonel stepped along very gingerly, the

ground beneath him swaying and bobbing as he moved.

Five or six rafts were lying on the ground, and the colonel noticed that the road they formed had begun to curve, following the direction of the yellow-tipped grass.

The logs were nailed together on a cross-beam, and the finished rafts were laid on thick, transverse logs which held them clear of the ground. Makar Savelyich singled out a blade of grass with a dark brown tip from its hiding place between two sorry shoots of wild pea. Then he probed about in the soil for its root, and pulled it up. The root looked like a long, white worm. It was dry, and forked at the end. He held the root against one of the transverse logs. The thickness of the log and the length of the root were the same.

"Now, do you see? With these for sleepers, the road's as firm as a rock."

"I understand," replied the colonel respectfully.

"Aye, that's it," said the old man proudly. "Everything in nature's topsyturvy with us."

"Take cover!" A ringing boyish voice broke the silence. The shout came from above, as if from a tree.

"My little grandson," explained the old man. "He's our spotter." A pulsating roar burst on them from over the forest, and a Menschel dived low over the trees, almost grazing their crests. Then it soared above the swamp.

• • •

The old men had already thrown a net of green grass over the rafts. The bomb fell about 300 yards from where they stood. A green fountain of grass and water, shaped like a poplar, spurted up and fell in a shower of spray.

"Restless devil, that one," observed Makar Savelyich. "Comes over every day. He seems to smell a rat, but he doesn't know quite where it is."

The plane dropped another bomb and vanished behind the trees. Over the forest it released a third. A tree toppled over, splintered by the blast. A confused noise of shouts and curses followed. One of the old men ran out of the forest with a birch-bark pail, and hurried down to the river.

"What's happened, Danilych?"

The colonel and Makar Savelyich rushed into the forest. Near the stricken tree lay Grandpa Kondratenkov, his face dark and dour. His friends stood around him in a circle.

"Almost knocked the wind out of me," Grandpa gasped. "I feel quite empty inside, and as light as a feather."

"Eat a bit of the soil, and you'll feel heavier," Makar Savelyich advised him.

They turned Grandpa over on his stomach. He pressed his mouth to the dark, moist ground, churned up by the explosion.

"No good, boys," he groaned. "Makarushka, I didn't fasten the rope at the fifth lap. See you don't forget it. Keep a bit more to the right of the stream, when you get deeper into the forest. The ground's firmer."

"Don't you worry about that, Grandpa," soothed Makar Savelyich.

"I know, I know, Makarushka," sighed the ancient. "But folk are so young, so spoiled . . ." His voice was barely a whisper. Then he suddenly sat up. "I can't die with everything in such a mess. Give me some water."

They gave him some cold water from the stream. After swallowing some of it with difficulty, noisily, he got up. He swayed. Then, leaning forward slightly, he steadied himself on his wide-spread bandy legs, planted so firmly on the ground that he looked as if he had taken root in it.

"Hand over that brace, Danilych," he said, breathing heavily.

• • •

On the thirteenth day, when the sun was well up in the sky, the chairman of the village Soviet appeared at the colonel's dugout and reported, military fashion, that the job was done. That evening there was a meeting, at which the colonel expressed the gratitude of the Red Army units which, thanks to the labors of Lyubino Polye, were able to launch an offensive against the enemy.

Next morning the first column of loaded trucks drove over the new road. The planks sighed heavily and sank to the level of the ground, squeezing moisture between the edges, and then settled down firmly for all time.

Patriarch Alexius Visits the Ukraine

By Antonina Shapovalova

For the first time in the history of the Orthodox Church, the Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia has paid an official visit to Kiev, capital of the Ukraine.

The Liturgy and the Service of Thanksgiving was conducted by His Beatitude Alexius in the Great St. Vladimir's Cathedral. Noted for paintings by Vasnetsov, Nesterov and other prominent Russian artists, the edifice has an awe-inspiring beauty and grandeur.

The windows were broken and the roof torn off during the German occupation of Kiev, so that the paintings were damaged by exposure to the cold weather. Yet now when the spring sunlight floods the interior and plays over the tender green foliage visible through the windows and open door, the Cathedral seems to embody the creative strength of a great people.

Georgi Karpov, Chairman of the Council on Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church, under the Council of People's Commissars, and Pavel Hodchenko, representative of the Council in the Ukraine, attended the service.

The Patriarch was assisted by the Exarch of the Ukraine, Metropolitan Ioann of Kiev and Galicia, Bishop Antony of Zhitomir and Bishop Stefan of Poltava. During the Liturgy the consecration of Varlaam, Bishop of Vinnitza, took place.

Many members of the Kiev clergy were present. The nuns of the Pokrov and Florov Convents in Kiev stood in two lines stretching from the altar to the throne.

At the close of the service Presbyter Reverend Nikolai Kolchitsky, who accompanied the Patriarch, expressed his Easter greetings, congratulated the congregation on the successful, victorious end of the war and read the Patriarch's message to the pastors and congregation of the Orthodox Church:

"If our unshakeable faith in the ultimate triumph of our just cause enabled us during the war to overcome all the difficulties, hardships and burdens of the battlefield and home front, with what redoubled strength we shall set to work in the reconstruction of our cities and our dear and sacred monuments—all created by the mighty will and power of our great people."

There was probably no member of the congregation who did not respond in thought to these words. Since the liberation of the Ukraine, people have been working their hardest to restore their land. Many factories, plants and power stations are working. The fields have been sown; cattle breeding shows progress. The Stakhanovites of industry and agricul-

ture are making splendid records again. The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences has extended its work; universities, institutes and technical schools are reopening. Children's cheerful voices are heard in schools, kindergartens and nurseries.

But the gaps left by the blasted houses are still a depressing waste, and the tears are not yet dried of the orphaned children who still hope in vain to find their parents. Many Kiev women wept on Victory Day, knowing that their dear ones would never return. When the *In Memoriam*, a hymn to the everlasting remembrance of those who fell on the battlefield, was sung, stifled sobbing came from various parts of the Cathedral.

As the service drew to a close, the Patriarch addressed the congregation with particular warmth and kindness:

"I greet you, my dear brethren and sisters, and rejoice that I have been enabled to pray with you, to offer up thanks to the Lord for the victory He granted our country and our Allies. I rejoice that I am in a city which was the cradle of our country's Christianity, where Vladimir, peer of the Apostles, made the gray Dnieper River the Jordan of the Russian people. May the Lord bless and keep this bright, good and beautiful Ukraine; may the Lord send speedy healing for the wounds inflicted by her enemies."

New Aluminum Plant in the Urals

The ancient settlement of Bogoslavsk, in the north Urals, is in the remote taiga. Here the reindeer-drawn sledge is a common sight. On May 9—Victory Day—the silence of the taiga was broken by the shrill whistle of a factory siren. A double celebration was held—on that day a newly-built plant had yielded its first output of aluminum.

At one time Bogoslavsk was known for its copper refinery and machine works. Large deposits of coal, copper, gold and platinum were found many years ago. The recently constructed Bogoslavsk-Sosvinsk railway conveys metal, coal, timber and other products from this area to the interior of the USSR.

During the Five-Year Plans the Bogoslavsk region achieved real prosperity: it was not copper that was so important, but aluminum.

Although these copper mines were now exhausted, other deposits more favorable for exploitation were found in the Urals. At the same time geologists discovered tremendous deposits of fine quality bauxite, raw material for aluminum. When millions of tons were found under a thin layer of iron ore, the construction of a large aluminum works was undertaken, and a large power station was built, utilizing the surface coal available in this region.

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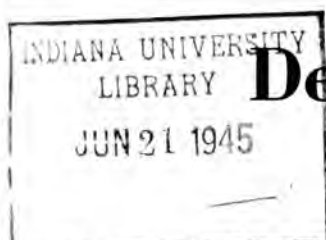
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Declaration Regarding the Defeat of Germany

And the Assumption of Supreme Authority With Respect to Germany by the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and the Provisional Government of the French Republic

The German armed forces on land, at sea and in the air have been completely defeated and have surrendered unconditionally, and Germany, which bears responsibility for the war, is no longer capable of resisting the will of the victorious powers. The unconditional surrender of Germany has thereby been effected, and Germany has become subject

to such requirements as may now or hereafter be imposed upon her.

There is no central government or authority in Germany capable of accepting responsibility for the maintenance of order, the administration of the country and compliance with the requirements of the victorious powers.

It is in these circumstances necessary,

without prejudice to any subsequent decisions that may be taken respecting Germany, to make provision for the cessation of any further hostilities on the part of the German armed forces, for the maintenance of order in Germany and for the administration of the country, and to announce the immediate requirements with which Germany must comply.

The representatives of the Supreme Commands of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the French Republic, hereinafter called the "Allied representatives," acting by authority of their respective Governments and in the interests of the United Nations, accordingly make the following Declaration:

The Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and the Provisional Government of the French Republic, hereby assume supreme authority with respect to Germany, including all the powers possessed by the German Government, the High Command and any state, municipal or local government or authority. The assumption, for the purposes stated above, of the said authority and powers does not effect the annexation of Germany.

The Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and the Provisional Government of the French Republic, will hereafter determine



Radiophoto

The four generals who represent the victorious Allies in Berlin: (left to right) Field Marshal Bernard L. Montgomery; General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower; Marshal of the Soviet Union G. K. Zhukov; General DeLattre de Tassigny

the boundaries of Germany or any part thereof and the status of Germany or of any area at present being part of German territory.

In virtue of the supreme authority and powers thus assumed by the four Governments, the Allied representatives announce the following requirements arising from the complete defeat and unconditional surrender of Germany with which Germany must comply:

Article 1

Germany, and all German military, naval and air authorities and all forces under German control shall immediately cease hostilities in all theaters of war against the forces of the United Nations on land, at sea and in the air.

Article 2

(a) All armed forces of Germany or under German control, wherever they may be situated, including land, air, anti-aircraft and naval forces, the SS, SA and Gestapo, and all other forces or auxiliary organizations equipped with weapons, shall be completely disarmed, handing over their weapons and equipment to local Allied Commanders or to officers designated by the Allied representatives.

(b) The personnel of the formations and units of all the forces referred to in paragraph (a) above shall, at the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Allied State concerned, be declared to be prisoners of war, pending further decisions, and shall be subject to such conditions and directions as may be prescribed by the respective Allied representatives.

(c) All forces referred to in paragraph (a) above, wherever they may be, will remain in their present positions pending instructions from the Allied representatives.

(d) Evacuation by the said forces of all territories outside the frontiers of Germany as they existed on December 31, 1937, will proceed according to instructions to be given by the Allied representatives.

(e) Detachments of civil police to be armed with small arms only, for the

maintenance of order and for guard duties, will be designated by the Allied representatives.

Article 3

(a) All aircraft of any kind or nationality in Germany or German-occupied or controlled territories or waters, military, naval or civil, other than aircraft in the service of the Allies, will remain on the ground, on the water or aboard ships pending further instructions.

(b) All German or German-controlled aircraft in or over territories or waters not occupied or controlled by Germany will proceed to Germany or to such other place or places as may be specified by the Allied representatives.

Article 4

(a) All German or German-controlled naval vessels, surface and submarine, auxiliary naval craft, and merchant and other shipping, wherever such vessels may be at the time of this Declaration, and all other merchant ships of whatever nationality in German ports, will remain in or proceed immediately to ports and bases as specified by the Allied representatives. The crews of such vessels will remain on board pending further instructions.

(b) All ships and vessels of the United Nations, whether or not title has been transferred as the result of prize-court or other proceedings, which are at the disposal of Germany or under German control at the time of this Declaration, will proceed at the dates and to the ports or bases specified by the Allied representatives.

Article 5

(a) All or any of the following articles in the possession of the German armed forces or under German control or at German disposal will be held intact and in good condition at the disposal of the Allied representatives, for such purposes and at such times and places as they may prescribe:

(1) all arms, ammunition, explosives, military equipment, stores and

supplies and other implements of war of all kinds and all other war material;

(II) all naval vessels of all classes, both surface and submarine, auxiliary naval craft and all merchant shipping, whether afloat, under repair or construction, built or building;

(III) all aircraft of all kinds, aviation and anti-aircraft equipment and devices;

(IV) all transportation and communications facilities and equipment, by land, water or air;

(V) all military installations and establishments, including airfields, sea-plane bases, ports and naval bases, storage depots, permanent and temporary land and coast fortifications, fortresses and other fortified areas, together with plans and drawings of all such fortifications, installations and establishments;

(VI) all factories, plants, shops, research institutions, laboratories, testing stations, technical data, patents, plans, drawings and inventions, designed or intended to produce or to facilitate the production or use of the articles, materials and facilities referred to in subparagraphs I, II, III, IV and V above or otherwise to further the conduct of war.

(b) At the demand of the Allied representatives the following will be furnished:

(I) the labor, services and plant required for the maintenance or operation of any of the six categories mentioned in paragraph (a) above; and

(II) any information or records that may be required by the Allied representatives in connection with the same.

(c) At the demand of the Allied representatives all facilities will be provided for the movement of Allied troops and agencies, their equipment and supplies, on the railways, roads and other land communications or by sea, river or air. All means of transportation will be main-

tained in good order and repair, and the labor, services and plant necessary therefor will be furnished.

Article 6

(a) The German authorities will release to the Allied representatives, in accordance with the procedure to be laid down by them, all prisoners of war at present in their power, belonging to the forces of the United Nations, and will furnish full lists of these persons, indicating the places of their detention in Germany or territory occupied by Germany. Pending the release of such prisoners of war, the German authorities and people will protect them in their persons and property and provide them with adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical attention and money in accordance with their rank or official position.

(b) The German authorities and people will in like manner provide for and release all other nationals of the United Nations who are confined, interned or otherwise under restraint, and all other persons who may be confined, interned or otherwise under restraint for political reasons or as a result of any Nazi action, law or regulation which discriminates on the ground of race, color, creed or political belief.

(c) The German authorities will, at the demand of the Allied representatives, hand over control of places of detention to such officers as may be designated for the purpose by the Allied representatives.

Article 7

The German authorities concerned will furnish to the Allied representatives:

- (a) full information regarding the forces referred to in Article 2 (a), and, in particular, will furnish forthwith all information which the Allied representatives may require concerning the numbers, locations and dispositions of such forces, whether located inside or outside Germany;
- (b) complete and detailed information concerning mines, minefields and other obstacles to movement by land, sea or air, and the safety

lanes in connection therewith. All such safety lanes will be kept open and clearly marked; all mines, minefields and other dangerous obstacles will as far as possible be rendered safe, and all aids to navigation will be reinstated. Unarmed German military and civilian personnel with the necessary equipment will be made available and utilized for the above purposes and for the removal of mines, minefields and other obstacles as directed by the Allied representatives.

Article 8

There shall be no destruction, removal, concealment, transfer or scuttling of, or damage to, any military, naval, air, shipping, port, industrial and other like property and facilities and all records and archives, wherever they may be situated, except as may be directed by the Allied representatives.

Article 9

Pending the institution of control by the Allied representatives over all means of communication, all radio and telecommunication installations and other forms of wire or wireless communications, whether ashore or afloat, under German control, will cease transmission except as directed by the Allied representatives.

Article 10

The forces, nationals, ships, aircraft, military equipment, and other property in Germany or in German control or service or at German disposal, of any other country at war with any of the Allies, will be subject to the provisions of this Declaration and of any proclamations, orders, ordinances or instructions issued thereunder.

Article 11

(a) The principal Nazi leaders as specified by the Allied representatives, and all persons from time to time named or designated by rank, office or employ-

ment by the Allied representatives as being suspected of having committed, ordered or abetted war crimes or analogous offenses, will be apprehended and surrendered to the Allied representatives.

(b) The same will apply in the case of any national of any of the United Nations who is alleged to have committed an offense against his national law, and who may at any time be named or designated by rank, office or employment by the Allied representatives.

(c) The German authorities and people will comply with any instructions given by the Allied representatives for the apprehension and surrender of such persons.

Article 12

The Allied representatives will station forces and civil agencies in any or all parts of Germany as they may determine.

Article 13

(a) In the exercise of the supreme authority with respect to Germany assumed by the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and the Provisional Government of the French Republic, the four Allied Governments will take such steps, including the complete disarmament and demilitarization of Germany, as they deem requisite for future peace and security.

(b) The Allied representatives will impose on Germany additional political, administrative, economic, financial, military and other requirements arising from the complete defeat of Germany. The Allied representatives, or persons or agencies duly designated to act on their authority, will issue proclamations, orders, ordinances and instructions for the purpose of laying down such additional requirements, and of giving effect to the other provisions of this Declaration. All German authorities and the German people shall carry out unconditionally the requirements of the Allied representatives, and shall fully comply with all such

proclamations, orders, ordinances and instructions.

Article 14

This Declaration enters into force and effect at the date and hour set forth below. In the event of failure on the part of the German authorities or people promptly and completely to fulfil their obligations hereby or hereafter imposed,

the Allied representatives will take whatever action may be deemed by them to be appropriate under the circumstances.

Article 15

This Declaration is drawn up in the Russian, English, French and German languages. The Russian, English and French are the only authentic texts.

Signed by the Allied Representatives:

On behalf of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:
Marshal of the Soviet Union ZHUKOV, Commander-in-Chief of Soviet occupation troops in Germany

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America:
General EISENHOWER, Commander-in-Chief of the occupation troops of the United States of America in Germany

On behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom:
Field Marshal MONTGOMERY, Commander-in-Chief of British occupation troops in Germany

On behalf of the Provisional Government of the French Republic:
General DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY, Commander-in-Chief of French occupation troops in Germany

Berlin, June 5, 1945

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ON CONTROL MACHINERY IN GERMANY

1. In the period when Germany is carrying out the basic requirements of unconditional surrender, supreme authority in Germany will be exercised, on instructions from their Governments, by the Soviet, British, United States and French Commanders-in-Chief, each in his own zone of occupation, and also jointly, in matters affecting Germany as a whole. The four Commanders-in-Chief will together constitute the Control Council. Each Commander-in-Chief will be assisted by a political adviser.

2. The Control Council, whose decisions shall be unanimous, will ensure appropriate uniformity of action by the Commanders-in-Chief in their respective zones of occupation and will reach agreed decisions on the chief questions affecting Germany as a whole.

3. Under the Control Council, there will be a permanent coordinating com-

mittee composed of one representative of each of the four Commanders-in-Chief, and a control staff organized in the following divisions (which are subject to adjustment in the light of experience): military; naval; air; transport; political; economic; finance; reparation, deliveries and restitution; internal affairs and communications; legal; prisoners of war and displaced persons; manpower.

There will be four heads of each division, one designated by each power. The staffs of the division may include civilian as well as military personnel, and may also in special cases include nationals of other United Nations appointed in a personal capacity.

4. The functions of the coordinating committee and of the control staff will be to advise the Control Council, to carry out the Council's decisions and to transmit them to the appropriate German organs,

A Historic Ceremony

The Declaration of Germany's defeat and the assumption of supreme authority by the victor powers is signed in turn by the representatives of the four Allied Governments



Marshal Zhukov



General Eisenhower



Field Marshal Montgomery



General De Tassigny

Radiophoto

and to supervise and control the day-to-day activities of the latter.

5. Liaison with the other United Nations Governments chiefly interested will be established through the appointment by such Governments of military missions (which may include civilian members) to the Control Council. These missions will have access through the appropriate channels to the organs of control.

6. United Nations organizations will,

if admitted by the Control Council to operate in Germany, be subordinate to the Allied control machinery and answerable to it.

7. The administration of the "Greater Berlin" area will be directed by an Inter-Allied Governing Authority, which will operate under the general direction of the Control Council, and will consist of four Commandants, each of whom will serve in rotation as Chief Commandant.

They will be assisted by a technical staff which will supervise and control the activities of the local German organs.

8. The arrangements outlined above will operate during the period of occupation following German surrender, when Germany is carrying out the basic requirements of unconditional surrender. Arrangements for the subsequent period will be the subject of a separate agreement.

June 5, 1945

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ON THE ZONES OF OCCUPATION IN GERMANY

1. Germany, within her frontiers as they were on December 31, 1937, will, for the purposes of occupation, be divided into four zones, one to be allotted to each power as follows:

An eastern zone to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

A northwestern zone to the United Kingdom;

A southwestern zone to the United

States of America;

A western zone to France.

The occupying forces in each zone will be under a Commander-in-Chief designated by the responsible power. Each of the four powers may, at its discretion, include among the forces assigned to occupation duties under the command of its Commander-in-Chief, auxiliary contingents from the forces of any other Allied

power which has actively participated in military operations against Germany.

2. The area of "Greater Berlin" will be occupied by forces of each of the four powers. An Inter-Allied Governing Authority (in Russian, *Komendatura*) consisting of four Commandants, appointed by their respective Commanders-in-Chief, will be established to direct jointly its administration.

June 5, 1945

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ON CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER UNITED NATIONS

By the Declaration regarding the defeat of Germany issued at Berlin on June 5, 1945, the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of Amer-

ica, and the Provisional Government of the French Republic have assumed supreme authority with respect to Germany. The Governments of the four powers hereby announce that it is their intention

to consult with the Governments of other United Nations in connection with the exercise of this authority.

June 5, 1945



March of the Guard of Honor at Tempelhof Airdrome in Berlin, June 5, for the arriving Allied military leaders



Radiophotos

Hero of the Soviet Union Guards Major Demchenko, Commander of the Guard of Honor, reports to General Eisenhower

Soviet Government Honors Allied Military Leaders



Radiophotos

The Order of the Patriotic War, instituted during the Patriotic War and the highest Soviet distinction, was conferred on General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery. The awards and citations were made by Marshal Georgi Zhukov, representing the Government of the USSR, in a ceremony at Frankfurt on the Main, Germany. The emblem is a five-pointed ruby star bordered with diamonds. Between the points of the star are diverging rays studded with diamonds. In the center of the star is a circle covered with enamel, bordered with a wreath of laurel and oak leaves. In this circle is a miniature of the Kremlin Wall with Lenin's mausoleum and the Spasskaya Tower

BERLIN MAPS MADE DURING LENINGRAD SIEGE

By Alexander Viktorov

The Leningrad Department of Military Cartography makes maps for the Red Army. The work is directed by a lieutenant colonel who has been a cartographer for more than 25 years. When I visited his office he showed me a black photograph album compiled by one of the staff from his own amateur snapshots, portraying the processes involved in making maps, and the people who work in the department. While we were looking at the photos, the colonel told us about the work.

"We are proud that our maps, printed in many thousands, were in the hands of all officers during the operations on the Leningrad Front and in the Baltic Republics, as well as in Czechoslovakia, Austria and Germany. In 1944 alone we produced hundreds of different maps. It meant hard work and many sleepless nights for our cartographers."

We visited the various shops of the plant. In the drafting room we saw map-makers bent over their drawing boards, filling in details from German maps, often dirty and ragged, which had been captured by Soviet reconnaissance troops. Beside

them were stacks of small photos taken by Soviet reconnaissance aircraft. All of these details, carefully studied, form the basis of new military maps.

In the next room a number of cartographers—Red Army officers—were studying drawings of new maps.

"You might call this a historic room," said our guide. "When Leningrad was still beleaguered and enemy shells were whistling overhead, the factory received an order which revealed the confidence of our Supreme Command in the early defeat of the Germans. I remember that when I opened the sealed packet and glanced at its contents, I involuntarily glanced out of the window. The German lines were no more than nine or ten kilometers away. A shell burst nearby, sending a pillar of gray smoke upward. I sent for Bulkin, the young fellow sitting at the second table. 'We have been ordered to prepare a plan of Berlin,' I said.

"The entire staff soon learned of the unusual task that had been set us at this time—when we were cold and starving,

when our cartographers were sharing with the rest of the Leningrad population all the horrors of the siege. Everyone envied the specialists working under Bulkin's command.

"The material for the map of Berlin was collected from all possible sources. You could find representatives of the cartographical department in the cold, unheated rooms of the public library where they examined archives and by every available means located important military objectives—Berlin factories, government buildings, etc. Naturally, we also used information brought in by reconnaissance."

The map was ready on the date ordered—which coincided with the great day when the troops of the Leningrad Front broke through what had appeared to be impregnable German fortifications and drove the enemy far from the walls of Leningrad.

Today the cartographers of Leningrad may well be proud that the plan of Berlin and its suburbs which they compiled is in the map case of every officer in that city.

Jubilee Session of Academy of Sciences of USSR

The Academy of Sciences of the USSR is holding a Jubilee Session in Moscow and Leningrad from June 15-28, to observe its 220th Anniversary. The Academy was founded in 1725 by Peter I in St. Petersburg, and was transferred to Moscow in 1934.

On this occasion representatives of foreign scientific institutions and universities have been asked to take part in the celebrations. Invitations have been issued to the following American scientists:

Dr. Walter S. ADAMS, Mt. Wilson Observatory, Pasadena, California; Professor James W. ALEXANDER, Princeton, N. J.; Professor Carl ANDERSON, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California; Professor Charles BERKEY, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.; Professor V. BUSH, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.; Professor William CAMPBELL, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Dr. Walter B. CANNON, Department of Physiology, Harvard Medical School; Professor Charles CHILD, Stanford University, California; Professor James Edward CHURCH, Reno, Nevada; Professor George CLARK, University of Illinois; Professor Arthur COMPTON, University of Chicago; Professor William COOLIDGE, General Electric Co.; Professor Albert EINSTEIN, Princeton, N. J.; Professor P. S. EPSTEIN, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology; Professor Henry FIELD, Washington, D. C.; Professor Frank JAMES, University of Chicago; Dr. Herbert S. JENNINGS, Department of Zoology, University of California, Los Angeles; Professor C. E. KELLOG, Experimental Station, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md.; Professor I. N. KOLTHOFF, School of Chemistry, University of Minnesota; Professor Irving LENGMIER, General Electric Co.; Professor Ernest O. LAWRENCE, Radiation Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, California; Professor Gilbert N. LEWIS, Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, California; Professor Leonard LOEB, St. Louis, Missouri; Professor James W. MCBAIN, Stanford University, California; Professor D. A. MCINNES, Rockefeller Institute, New

York City; Professor Wesley MITCHELL, New York City; Dr. Thomas H. MORGAN, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California; Professor Arnold NADAI, Westinghouse Electric Co., East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Professor L. C. PAULING, Gates Greling Chemical Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California; Mr. Arthur U. POPE, American Institute for Iranian Art and Archeology, New York City; Professor Peter PRINGSHEIM, University of Chicago; Dr. F. W. REICHELDERFER, Washington, D. C.; Professor S. ROSSELAND, Harvard University; Professor Carl Gustav ROSSBY, University of Chicago; Professor S. A. WAXMAN, Agricultural Experimental Station, New Brunswick, N. J.; Dr. Robert W. WOOD, John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Professor Theodore von KARMAN, Pasadena, California; Dr. Wolfgang PAULI, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J.

American institutions to whom invitations were sent are: American Academy of Arts and Science, Boston, Mass.; American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D. C.; American Institute of Physics, New York City; Science Committee of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, New York City; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.; Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.; Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa.; Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York City; National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C.; The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; the American-Soviet Medical Society, New York City.

* * *

One of the Academy's first members was the celebrated Russian scientist, Mikhail Lomonosov. The son of an Archangel fisherman, he rose to the summits of the world of science. His genius was so versatile that for a long time it was believed abroad there were two Lomonosovs—scientist and poet.

Lomonosov was the embodiment of the best features of the Russian Academy. He made valuable contributions to chemistry, physics, geography, astronomy, ge-

ology, metallurgy, philology and literature. He anticipated the modern ideas of the atomic theory, the law of the conservation of matter and energy, suggested a consistent geologic theory of the structure of the globe, explained the origin of mineral and coal, compiled the first Russian grammar and besides all this was an outstanding poet.

In the 18th Century the Russian Academy of Sciences engaged chiefly in the exploration of the country's natural resources, the study of population and geography, and research in mathematics and natural science. Expeditions of the Academy discovered the northwestern shore of America, described the Kuriles and northern Japan, discovered the Laptev Sea, and explored and described Kamchatka.

The 19th Century was marked by a considerable widening of the scope of the Academy's work. In that period world renown was won by Russian Academicians, mathematician Chebyshev, astronomer Bredikhin, chemist Butlerov, physicist Petrov and many others.

The Academy of Sciences blossomed out gloriously after the October Revolution. The following figures, according to Academician Secretary Nikolai Bruyevich, supply evidence of the extraordinary scale of its scientific activities:

Before the Revolution the Academy had 47 members, a staff of 212 research workers engaged in five laboratories, five museums, and 15 committees. At present there are three honorary Academicians—microbiologist Nikolai Gamaleya, astronomer Nikolai Morozov and Marshal Joseph Stalin—137 regular members, 200 corresponding members and a staff of over 4,000 research workers. The Academy unites 53 research institutes, 16 laboratories, 35 stations, 31 committees, 15 museums, and 6 observatories. During the past decade, the Academy organized six independent Academies in the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Georgia, Armenia, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. Since the Revolution, 500 expeditions equipped by the Academy explored the expanses of the Union far and wide and discovered gigantic deposits of useful minerals and tremendous power resources.

FORECASTING THE WEATHER FOR THE RED ARMY

By Major General E. Fedorov

Hero of the Soviet Union and Member of Red Army Engineering and Technical Service

The author is an Arctic explorer who took part in the expedition to the North Pole led by Ivan Papanin. During the Great Patriotic War Major General Fedorov directed the chief hydro-meteorological board of the Red Army.

The operations of all the fighting services are largely governed by hydro-meteorological conditions. We have to know whether advancing troops are likely to be hampered by snow, thaw, ice or blizzard. We have to know the climatic conditions peculiar to the various theaters of war, and the nature of their rivers and lakes, so that the troops can be suitably equipped for their job. We have to foresee weather changes, to forecast when the ice will set in or loosen its hold on the rivers.

Though modern hydro-meteorological science is not yet able to predict weather changes with perfect precision, our forecasts proved of value to the Army Command. Our short-range forecasts (several hours to two days ahead) were 80-90 per cent correct. Our longer forecasts (several days, a week or more) showed a lower percentage correct. But they too conveyed a fairly good idea of weather prospects—better, at any rate, than could be obtained from reference to the climatic records of the previous year.

In autumn, 1920, an outstanding Soviet general, Mikhail Frunze, made use of hydro-meteorological data against the whiteguard troops of Baron Wrangel. At that time the Red Army was detained at the approaches to the Perekop Isthmus. Learning that when the wind blew in a certain direction the waters in the bay would ebb, Frunze chose his moment and led his men across the shallows against the flank and rear of Wrangel's forces.

In Caucasus and Don Battles

The Patriotic War was rich in such examples. At the beginning of the winter of 1942 the temperature was relatively high in the Northern Caucasus. Rain made the roads impassable. The Soviet forces were, however, preparing an offensive against the German invaders.

Our meteorologists predicted a brief but intensely cold spell. Sure enough the ground froze, and our tanks were able to crash down on the enemy with great effect.

On another occasion the Red Army hydro-meteorologists were able to furnish the command with a correct forecast of ice conditions on the Don. Thanks to their correct estimate of the thickness of the ice at various points, Soviet tanks were able to cross just where the enemy least expected and this factor decided the outcome of the battle.

Meteorological data proved of inestimable value to the artillery. As is well known, the course of the shell depends upon the density of the atmosphere, temperature and wind. A thorough consideration of these factors heightens the accuracy of fire.

Commanders responsible for troop movements across frozen lakes and rivers follow the weather anxiously, particularly when the ice is just about to move. Accurate weather forecasts and a thorough knowledge of Lake Ladoga's ice surface enabled Soviet authorities to make the maximum use of the ice road which in the winter of 1941-2 supplied the Leningrad Front and the besieged population of the city.

Of course, I do not mean to suggest that hydro-meteorological conditions decide the outcome of war operations. The Red Army routed the enemy in all weathers and climates. The point is that the Soviet Command gave due consideration to weather factors, and made use of them, while its unsuccessful opponents blamed everything on the weather.

In 1812 Napoleon blamed the Russian frosts for the failure of his plans. He began his campaign with 600,000 men, and returned from Moscow with 100,000. The French regiments marched from Moscow in relatively warm autumn weather. It was only slightly colder when they passed Smolensk. The really cold weather of the winter of 1812 began in December, when only some thousands were left of Napoleon's Grand Army. Beyond the

Berezina, a 20 to 30-degree frost merely completed the demoralization of the roving remnants of the French forces.

Coming to our own times, we are not likely to forget Hitler's boast in 1941 when, donning Napoleon's mantle, he promised the German army that the Russians would be beaten before the cold weather set in. When in December, 1941, the Red Army threw the invaders back from our Capital, Hitler and his generals declared: "The sudden onset of a hard winter interfered with our plans for the seizure of Moscow."

Like all Hitler's statements and promises, this was false. The winter of 1941-42 was not marked by any extraordinary degree of cold. Similar temperatures had been recorded in central Russia on several occasions in the past 30 years, and the German meteorologists must have been well aware of this.

But the generals echoed their Fuehrer. They would defeat the Russians in the spring. But the spring was too wet. And the summer was too hot. And all the time they were vilifying the Russian seasons, the Red Army was pushing steadily along the road to Berlin.

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Science and Labor

By Vladimir Komarov

Hero of Socialist Labor; President, Academy of Sciences of the USSR

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There is deep historical meaning in the fact that the title of Hero of Socialist Labor has been conferred upon 13 Soviet scientists. For ages the tragedy of science was its divorce from labor. The synthesis of science and labor is one of the most remarkable achievements of the Soviet Union, where science fully serves the cause of Socialist development and the labor of scientists is free Socialist labor—for country, for people. The Government rewards scientists with the country's highest distinctions, and the people value their achievements and efforts.

The life of Academician A. N. BACH, one of the oldest Russian revolutionaries and at the same time the coryphaeus of modern biochemistry, is highly instructive. Bach was active in the revolutionary movement of the 1870's. In enforced exile abroad, he built up a laboratory where he made a number of discoveries which gained him world renown. In 1917 Bach returned to Russia and became one of the first and most prominent organizers of Soviet science. He is the author of the classical investigations on the assimilation of carbon dioxide by green plants, investigations into the phenomena of slow oxidation and into the problems of ferments. Bach's contributions are closely linked with questions of industrialization.

Bach's activity in the Soviet period provides an example of the harmonious relationship of social and scientific interests. In the past there was a contradiction between the aspirations of the revolutionary and the ideas of the scientist. "When I passed by a laboratory and saw test tubes with chemical reagents," recalls Bach, "I could not help becoming agitated. How I longed to work for science at these times! When I was work-

ing in the underground I yearned for scientific work, and when I sat in my laboratory I craved social and political activity. Only the October Revolution resolved these contradictions, only under a Soviet system could I find inspiration in scientific work, for I obtained the opportunity of devoting it to Socialist development."

The struggles for Socialism and scientific truth are combined in Bach's activity today.

Academician V. A. OBRUCHEV has studied the bowels of the earth in Russia for 60 years. Since the 1880's, he has taken part in numerous remarkable expeditions in Altai, in areas across the Caspian, in the Baikal Region, Eastern Siberia, Ussuri Region, Chukotsk Peninsula, etc. He has also covered many thousands of kilometers during his investigations in Central Asia, many of them in areas where no European scientist had ever set foot before.

On the basis of his own investigations and a very detailed study of all previous geological and geographical studies of Asia, Obruchev has propounded a classical theory explaining the geology and geography of the Asiatic continent.

Obruchev's industry is scarcely equaled in the history of science. His work comprises about 21,000 pages. Obruchev is tireless, and he is always creative. Acquaintance with his activity shows how much one can give to mankind and one's country by selfless labor enhanced by profound knowledge and powerful scientific thought. Daring scientific ideas, persistence in the collection of factual material, the desire to make maximum use of the country's natural resources—these are the sources of the monumental scientific

achievements of the greatest Soviet geologist.

Academician N. D. ZELINSKY, an outstanding Soviet expert in organic chemistry, has had 60 years of fruitful scientific activity. As early as the 1880's, he was the first to obtain the substance now known as mustard gas. He discovered a large number of new chemical compounds. For over 50 years Zelinsky has been a professor at the University of Moscow. In 1911 he resigned from the University, along with other progressive scientists, in protest against police measures employed by Minister Kasso.

During the First World War, Zelinsky used activated coal for the first gas mask, which saved hundreds of thousands of lives. The invention was the result of his profound theoretical investigations in the field of absorption. Zelinsky is the author of authoritative works on organic catalysis. He has made remarkable investigations into the genesis of petroleum, and into a number of highly important technological processes in the chemical industry. A notable service was his introduction of the most up-to-date technical tendencies of modern chemistry into Soviet industry. Thousands of chemists received their training under the eminent professor.

Another outstanding Soviet expert in organic chemistry is Academician A. E. FAVORSKY. For 60 years discoveries have come from the laboratory of this famous scientist. He is successor to the work of the great Russian chemist, A. M. Butlerov. The science of chemistry is indebted to him for valuable material contributing to the study of chemical molecular mechanics and the development of the theory of the structure of organic compounds. His investigations provided a

foundation for the widespread development of heavy organic synthesis in industry. This includes the production of synthetic rubber, artificial fibers, plastics, insulating materials, anti-corrosion compounds, etc. Academician Lebedev, who built up the first technically materialized synthesis of rubber, studied under Favorsky and followed the lines laid out by his teacher in much of his work. Favorsky's further studies in the synthetic rubber field and his work to obtain simple vinylic ethers are of great theoretical interest, and at the same time of the utmost practical value. His investigations are highly valued by Soviet science and industry.

Academician I. A. ORBELI, eminent pupil of the great Russian physiologist Pavlov, is now heading his own school in physiology. His early investigations in the vegetative nervous system won him renown in European physiological laboratories back in the '90's of the past century. It is due to the activity of Orbeli and his school that the physiology of the vegetative nervous system has come to represent an important trend in science. Orbeli's experiments in the 1920's established the fact that irritation of the sympathetic nerves deeply affects the central nervous system. Orbeli is also author of *General Theory of the Functions of the Sympathetic Nervous System*. He has produced classical works dealing with the physiology of the sensory organs and with questions relating to the central nervous system. His discoveries are widely applied in medicine, and his profound and creative thought, his exceptional talent as an experimenter and his forceful theoretical ideas, have greatly stimulated the development of Soviet medicine. During the Patriotic War, Orbeli was one of the heads of the Army Medical Service, which saved the lives of so many Red Army soldiers. The scientist, to whom modern medicine is indebted for some of its most essential principles, has made great contributions to the struggle against disease and premature death.

The achievements of the Soviet people in the Stalin Five-Year Plans will forever remain in the history of science and technology, as well as in the history of labor. One of the largest industrial projects, embodying Stalin's idea of industrialization, was the giant Kuznetsk iron and steel

plant. The construction job was directed by I. P. BARDIN, an outstanding Soviet iron and steel expert. After the completion of the Kuznetsk works, Academician Bardin supervised the blueprinting of a number of other big industrial projects, and is today indubitably one of the chief representatives of Soviet scientific and technical thought. Everyone who has come into contact with him is amazed at his encyclopaedic knowledge in the fields of technology, power, resources, transport and economics, his profound understanding of industrial changes arising from contemporary scientific discoveries, and the daring of his technical and economic ideas. Bardin is one of the scientific directors of the greatest labor achievement in the history of humanity—the construction of the material and technical base of Socialism. He has also rendered distinguished services in the mobilization of productive resources for the country's defense in the years of the Great Patriotic War.

Academician A. A. BAIKOV is a prominent expert in metallurgy and chemical technology. His numerous discoveries have been of utmost importance for the development of chemical science and for the technical expansion of Soviet metallurgy. For more than half a century, Baikov has been engaged in productive research and pedagogical activity and has trained thousands of experts for our industries.

Academician M. A. PAVLOV, one of the oldest contemporary Russian metallurgists, a brilliant expert in blast furnaces and other branches of the iron and steel industry and an eminent technologist, has enriched science and technology by works of great theoretical and practical value. His name is widely known to Soviet engineers and industrial workers and his findings have won him recognition abroad.

Academician D. N. PRYANISHNIKOV, the closest pupil of the great Russian botanist K. A. Timiryazev, is the founder of Soviet agrochemistry. Forty years ago he proved that the phosphorites mined in Russia provided good raw material for fertilizer and, as a result of his exploration, vast deposits of Russian phosphorites were found. After the Revolution, Pryanishnikov elaborated the system of

fertilizer involving the use of peat, ash, lime, phosphorite flour and green fertilizer. He has published about 400 scientific works. The classical principles of modern physiological agrochemistry, making the labor of Soviet farmers more productive, were the work of this scientist. His activity furnishes a brilliant example of the combination of theory and practice, an example of genuine Soviet science inseparably connected with Socialist labor.

Academician T. D. LYSENKO's work is very closely related to the labor of millions of collective farmers. His agronomical discoveries are now applied in vast areas. In 1931, yarovization—Lysenko's most widely known discovery—was applied on an area of 43 hectares, and in 1939 it was applied on 15 million hectares. Other discoveries of his, such as the summer planting of potatoes and the pruning of cotton, are also applied on vast areas. Lysenko's name is widely known in the Soviet Union and the Soviet people will be happy to learn that he has been awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor. Socialist labor in agriculture is based on the comprehensive application of scientific methods; it is productive, creative and free. The scientist who has helped to advance once-backward farming and transform it into a progressive industry utilizing scientific advances, is truly a hero.

The science of language is of utmost importance for the development of national culture. Academician I. I. MESHCHANINOV, a student of Marr, founder of the new school in the science of language, is today one of the most outstanding scholars in this field. His work dealing with the North Caucasian languages, the languages of the Far North and of little known tongues of the peoples of the USSR, has been of immense value for the development of the languages and literature of many nationalities of our multinational State. Meshchaninov's investigations have given many nationalities new opportunities for the development of their cultures, and his name is therefore known in all parts of the Soviet Union. Meshchaninov's studies have cast a new light on the remarkably rich language of the

great Russian people—the powerful and beautiful Russian language.

Exactly 200 years ago the famous mathematician Goldbach, in a letter addressed to the St. Petersburg Academician Euler, formulated one of the most important problems of the theory of numbers. The object was to find the exact proof of a certain proposition. For two centuries the greatest mathematicians of the world had sought in vain for that solution. In the end it was found by Academician I. M. VINOGRADOV. His discovery became the starting point for new trends in mathe-

matics. Even prior to that, he had gained worldwide fame for his findings in the analytical theory of numbers. Vinogradov's investigations are a source of pride to Soviet science.

N. I. MUSKHELISHVILI, President of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, is also a mathematician of world renown. He has devoted his efforts to the problems of mechanics. The modern theory of resilience includes some of the important results obtained by Muskhelishvili. His brilliant investigations have laid the foundations for a new progressive trend in me-

chanics and have contributed to the solution of some technological problems of Soviet industry, building activities, transport and defense. The peoples of all Soviet Republics value the theoretical and practical achievements of this remarkable Soviet scientist.

The honor accorded these distinguished scientists causes great rejoicing in the world of science. It reminds all Soviet scientists for what exceptional achievements and victories they are indebted to the Soviet people and to our leader, Comrade Stalin.

SOVIET CHEMISTRY

The following is based on an interview with Academician A. N. Bach, head of the Chemistry Department of the Academy of Sciences and one of the 13 scientists just awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor. The award includes the Order of Lenin and the Hammer and Sickle Gold Medal:

Russian chemistry has long held a place of honor in the world. The work of Lomonosov, Mendeleyev and other Russian chemists are as well known as the works of Pushkin, Tolstoy, Tchaikowsky or Repin.

Lomonosov was not only the founder of the science of chemistry in Russia, but was also a genius who gained worldwide fame by his discoveries and work in the natural sciences, technology, literature and painting. The great Russian chemist Zinin, who invented a synthetic process for obtaining aniline dyes, was the father of the dyeing industry of the world. Modern organic chemistry owes to Butlerov the theory of organic compounds which had such a tremendous influence on the development of chemistry and its technology. Mendeleyev's discovery of the periodic law was epoch-making, not only for chemistry but for all allied sciences. Of great importance to science are other chemists who founded their own schools—Academicians Konovalov, Zaitsev, Kurnakov, Favorsky, Zelinsky and many more.

Before the October Revolution, the Russian Academy of Sciences owned only one small chemical laboratory, built in



Academician A. N. Bach

1867, on Vassiliev Island in St. Petersburg. Chemistry was represented in the Academy by three members. Today there are 17 Academicians and 25 Corresponding Members in the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, specialists in various branches of chemistry.

After the October Revolution, the following institutions were organized as part of the Academy of Sciences: the Institute of Physico-chemical Analysis, the Institute of Precious Metals, a high-pressure laboratory, and a colloido-electrochemical laboratory which has since become an institute. In 1939 the Department of Chemistry of the Academy was formed;

today it includes the following well-known institutes: the Kurnakov Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry, headed by Academician I. I. Chernayev; the Institute of Organic Chemistry, headed by Academician A. N. Nesmeyanov; the Radium Institute, headed by Academician V. G. Khlopin; the Colloido-electrochemical Institute, headed by Academician A. N. Frumkin; the Institute of Chemical Physics, headed by Academician N. N. Semenov-Vernadsky; the Laboratory of Geochemistry, headed by Professor A. N. Vinogradov, Corresponding Member of the Academy; and the Hydrochemical Institute, headed by Professor P. A. Kashinsky.

There are about one thousand workers, including 80 Doctors of Science and 200 Masters of Science. The Department of Chemistry has six Commissions: analytical chemistry, high-molecular compounds, isotopes, mineral waters, the history of chemistry, and a commission for work on papers left by D. I. Mendeleyev. The Department publishes five journals.

It must also be remembered that chemical research is carried on in a number of other institutes of the Academy which are not part of the Department of Chemistry, as, for example, the Institute of Mineral Fuels, the Institute of Metallurgy, the Institute of Biochemistry and others.

In Tsarist times, chemistry was represented by only a few schools in some of the universities and technical institutes; no more than two or three hundred Rus-

sian chemists had higher educational qualifications. During the years of Soviet power, several dozen research institutions and higher schools specializing in chemistry were founded, so that today there are tens of thousands of chemists with higher educational qualifications.

The powerful chemical industry of the USSR is developing at an unparalleled speed. Discoveries of new sources of raw material supply—mineral, vegetable and animal—are constantly being made. On the basis of research, a large synthetic rubber, tin, and natural rubber industry has been built up, based on the work of Academician S. V. Lebedev. Mineral fertilizers, dyes, chemico-pharmaceutical products and a number of other products are manufactured on a large scale.

Simultaneous with the growth of the industry, there have arisen a number of new tendencies and schools in physical,

organic and inorganic chemistry, in geochemistry, biochemistry, agrochemistry and other branches of theoretical and applied chemistry—of whose achievements our country has every right to be proud. Articles by Soviet chemists often appear in foreign journals, and their work is highly appreciated.

In some branches, Soviet chemistry occupies a leading place in the world—organic synthesis, physico-chemical analysis of the chemistry of precious metals, the chemistry of colloids, surface phenomena, electrochemistry, kinetics catalysis, etc.

In addition to the old, world-famous schools of chemists headed by Academicians Kurnakov, Favorsky, Zelinsky and others, many new schools have come to the fore during the period of Soviet power—those of Arbousov, Poraikoshitza, Khlopin, Kistyakovskiy, Nametkin, Rodionov, Cheryav, Urazov, Izgaryshev, Duman'sky; as well as those headed by the younger generation of chemists: Semenov, Nesmeyanov, Frumkin, Terenin, Dubinin, Rebinder, Grinberg, Brodsky, Kapustinsky, Balandin, Vinogradov, Roginsky, Kazansky, Ushakov, Medvedev, Kondratiev and others.

During the Great Patriotic War, Soviet chemists, and in particular the Chemical Institute of the Academy of Sciences, did extensive research to strengthen the defense potential of the country, increase the output of munitions and various types of weapons, and mobilize the natural and industrial resources.

Now that our country is returning to peaceful constructive labor, Soviet chemists will try to raise their work to an even higher level for the benefit of the Soviet Union.

ALEXANDER FERSMAN

The following remarks are by Professor A. N. Vinogradov, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR:

Alexander Fersman, Russian scholar noted for his work in mineralogy and geochemistry, died on May 20 at the age of 62.

A student of Professor V. Vernadsky, in whose laboratory he worked after graduating from Moscow University in 1907, Fersman was interested in the problem of pegmatites, the origin of precious stones, and questions of geochemistry, upon which he continued to work throughout his life.

His first important monograph was *Der Diamant*, written in conjunction with V. M. Goldschmidt in 1911. The following year Fersman was appointed professor of mineralogy and curator of the Museum of Mineralogy of the Academy of Sciences.

In his study of minerals and his expeditions over the country, Professor Fersman won recognition at home and abroad as a foremost expert on stones. His mono-

graph *Precious and Semi-Precious Stones in Russia* was published soon after he was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences in 1919. The famous monograph *Pegmatites* was first published in 1932. A third edition came out in 1939.

An organizer as well as scientist, Fersman arranged expeditions to the Urals, Central Asia, Siberia and the Kola Peninsula for the study of the mineral wealth of those regions, the findings of which became the basis for industrial exploitation of new areas.

Later studies shed light on the genesis of rocks and minerals in the Khibini and Lovozera tundras of the Kola Peninsula. This research led to the use of new raw materials in the industry of the USSR, such as zirconium, niobite, tantalite and others. A recent work was *The Stone and Its Part in the History of Mankind*.

In the course of the past ten years, the scientist had engaged in a monumental study entitled *Geochemistry*. This four-volume work included a nomenclature,

which Fersman helped to evolve, and the great syntheses of geochemistry of the earth and cosmos.

Professor Fersman was a member of many Soviet and foreign scientific associations. The Government of the USSR awarded him the Stalin Prize and the Order of the Red Banner of Labor.

In 1944, he was presented the Wollaston Medal by the British Geological Society. For many years he was the director of the Geological Institute of the Academy of Sciences, director of the Northern Scientific Station on Kola sidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

He took an active part in public life. The author of about 500 scientific books and papers, Fersman also had a gift for exposition of scientific knowledge in popular form. He wrote more than 200 brilliant popular articles on natural wealth.

Professor Fersman was a gifted scientist and a great man, in whom were combined energy, scholarship and a noble heart.

THE NORMANDIE-NIEMAN REGIMENT

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From IZVESTIA, June 9:

We are bidding farewell to the French fliers. Let us, as the custom goes, sit silently for a while and recall the past—the woes and joys, our fallen friends and our victories in the great war.

Near Pillau, on the Baltic coast, the Germans had shot down a plane of the Normandie Regiment. Pilot Lieutenant Francois de Joffre bailed out and fell into the sea—while the battle still raged. Shells and bullets seethed in the water around him. Close by was the shore, but it was held by the Germans. Lieutenant de Joffre knew that the Russians were far away on the opposite shore of the bay. He decided to swim to the Russians. His body froze in the icy water and he suffered from pain in his right leg. The wind buffeted him about and hindered his progress. But he kept on swimming. He found two planks—only a slim and insecure support. Then Germans noticed him, and many a time he had to dive to escape them. It was ten kilometers to the Russian side.

The long and lonely night of early spring passed slowly. For fourteen hours the French airman swam. When he had almost reached his goal, his strength gave out. But there in sight was a Russian soldier, and the Lieutenant cried out, "*Tovarich!*" He was safe.

The story of Francois de Joffre is the story of the Normandie Regiment. We have plenty of friends now in the days of our victory. But let us recall other times. The summer of 1942 was a black summer for the Soviet Union and for all Europe. The Germans were pushing to the Volga and had reached the Caucasus. Birds of ill-omen abroad croaked: "It is all up in Russia." France lay bound hand and foot. There were still no partisans in the mountains of Savoy. The grim silence was shattered by rifle shots as Von Stulpnagel celebrated the 150th anniversary of Valmy by shooting 116 French patriots.

It was in that black and bitter summer that the Normandie Regiment was born. A score of French airmen who had succeeded in escaping from fascist captivity

At a special ceremony honoring the Normandie fliers, Chief Air Marshal Novikov presents the Order of Lenin and the Gold Star Medal of Hero of the Soviet Union to Jacques Andre

Radiophoto



signified their willingness to fight on the Soviet-German front. They chose the distant path—through the turmoil of war, through shot and shell. They came when things were going hard with us, and that we shall not forget: we are able to distinguish true friends from those who love to feast on other people's banquets.

We have a saying that you have to eat a pood of salt with a man before you know him. The French say you have to eat a *minot* of salt with him. Pood or *minot*, it is all one—friendship does not come easy. There was a time when many took it for granted that France was dead, and they chose as heavy a tombstone as possible for her lest she rise from the grave.

But the Soviet people knew that France was still alive. The Red Army did not mourn over the French, did not send messages of condolence to the French women—but day in and day out fought the common enemy. And on the Volga, thousands of miles from the Seine, the fate of Paris was decided. Our people did not wash their hands of the French people, did not forsake them in their hour of anguish; and that the French will not forget.

At the beginning of the winter of 1942-43, not far from Ivanovo, I saw amid snowdrifts the first Normandie fliers. They had flown to us from Africa and Syria. They were freezing, and gazed with envy and admiration at our felt boots and sheepskin coats. Not many of those first arrivals survived to see victory.

There was Major Tulasne, as slender as if he had been carved out of ivory,

sagacious and bold, a true son of Touraine, which is the heart of France. There was silent Littolf who had double grief and double wrath—for his native Lorraine had been incorporated into the Reich. There was the impulsive southerner Risso, who lived to see victory. There were three friends who had been dubbed "The Three Musketeers": Lefevre of Normandy, Albert of Paris and Durant of Marseilles. They had flown together from North Africa and Gibraltar, and together had come to our country. There was shy De la Pouape who looked like a Russian lad. There were men who had known the jails of Hitler, Petain and Franco. We remember them all, and as we now bid farewell to our friends who are flying home to France, we know that they are leaving precious graves behind them here in our land.

It was in the sultry days of July. The battle for Orel was raging. I was told I would find the Normandie fliers in a small wood. I was astonished at the silence, for usually in the evening the French airmen were laughing and merry. "Today Major Tulasne did not return from combat," I learned . . . Littolf, too, had been shot down. We recalled them when Moscow's sky was lighted by the rockets of the first salute; the Normandie had also fought for Orel. Soon replacements arrived from North Africa.

I saw them too in Byelorussia when the Red Army, having broken through the enemy's defenses at Orsha and Vitebsk, was swiftly advancing toward the Nieman. The French pilots fought in many

a battle in that memorable summer. The Nieman had already been left behind, and the Normandie was now the Nieman Regiment. Normandie pilots were among the first to fight over Prussia, covering our bombers for the battle for Koenigsberg and Pillau.

The Regiment was mentioned 11 times in Orders of the Day of the Soviet Supreme Command. Of the Three Musketeers, only Marcel Albert was alive. On his breast he wore the Gold Star of a Hero of the Soviet Union. Marcel Lefevre, also a Hero of the Soviet Union, did not live to see his star. I was present when they buried him; it was June 6, 1944, the day the Allies landed on the Normandy Coast. Marcel Lefevre, a native of Normandy who had dearly loved his native region, did not know: he had died the day before. But his courage and the courage of all the soldiers who fought on our front helped the Allies to make their landing, and in the tiny village of Normandy the folk recall with gratitude the name of their fellow villager Marcel. He was a fine fellow with an upright and pure spirit. He had not only learned to understand the Russian language; he had learned to understand the Russian heart. He was a passionate French patriot and had a strong love for the Soviet people.

One might mention that the Normandie fliers fought in 869 air combats and shot down 270 enemy aircraft. But the language of figures is dry. It would be better to say that from Orel to Koenigsberg, French airmen shared life with the Russians; together with them they fought and together with them they won. We are saying farewell not to observers who sighed and sympathized and applauded, but to comrades-in-arms.

The Normandie-Nieman Regiment is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Louis Delfino, a swarthy southerner from Nice, an intelligent and brave commander. There are natives of all parts of France in the regiment—Parisians, Gascons, Normandians. They are men with different life histories: one a student, the second a regular officer, the third a worker, the fourth a viscount. They are welded together by their soldier's life and their soldier's loyalty. At the hour of trial they all sailed for a distant shore. And the Russians supported them.

The Normandie fliers will return to France on combat aircraft. They cannot speak of Yakovlev-3's without emotion—the Soviet Command presented them with our finest machines: it is not our custom to seat our friends at the end of the table.

Paris will soon be greeting the Normandie men. It will see on the breasts of the victors Soviet distinctions side by side with French; they will see on the famous aircraft the tricolor cockade side by side with the red star.

Years will pass and wounds will heal—the wounds of the land and of the heart. Peace will become unbroken and profound, like the silence of an August night. But the fellowship-in-arms will never be forgotten. Wherever the Normandie fliers may be, whether in noisy Paris, on the cliffs of Bretagne or beneath the olive trees of Provence—they will recall distant Russia, the meadows of Orel, the forests of Smolensk, quiet Byelorussia, the broad Nieman, the mill girls of Ivanovo, the armorers of Tula, the stars of the Kremlin and the word *Tovarich*. They will not forget our grief—our ashes, our ruins and our graves. They will not forget our

fortitude, our surging spirit and our triumph. Nor will we forget Normandie. A woman's hand will tend the grave of Marcel Lefevre. And many years hence our airmen will tell their children that side by side with men from the Urals and Siberia fought the sons of distant France.

Soviet pilot Yakubov wears a French decoration on his breast: he saved Lieutenant Eymonnet. They both bailed out. The Frenchman was badly wounded, he could not move and the Germans were close at hand. Yakubov lifted his French comrade onto his back and brought him safely to our lines. I know there are people of France who continue to slander our country: they are the enemies of the Soviet Union and the enemies of the French people. But what avails the ink of the slanderer against the blood of heroes? And how can Eymonnet, Eymonnet's children, his friends, his fellow townsmen or fellow countrymen forget the exploit of Yakubov, the exploits of the Red Army, the exploits of the USSR?

Goodbye, friends! You fought honestly, and the name of the Nieman Regiment will figure gloriously in the history of the French Republic. May the sky of France be bright for you!

Railway Rehabilitation Progresses

The fascist invaders were utterly savage in their destruction of Soviet railways. They made extensive use of a device known as a tie-splitter—a huge metal hook attached to a flatcar—which smashed the oak ties to splinters. With small explosive charges the retreating Germans shattered the rails.

On the Baranovichi-Brest sector of the railway, for example, for 176 kilometers the double-track line was completely wrecked. About 50,000 ties were destroyed and 47 bridges blown up. The line was rendered useless. The junction station of Baranovichi was reduced to a heap of ruins.

Railway rehabilitation is now proceeding, with the crews displaying unsparing energy. In appreciation for their services, the Government of the USSR has awarded decorations to 27,000 members of railway units.



Chief Air Marshal Novikov (second from left) with officers of the Normandie-Nieman Regiment who have been awarded medals and orders for their participation in the Patriotic War

Radiophoto

INDICTMENT

By Elena Kuznetsova

Oswiecim! The name of this small town in Polish Silesia will be a synonym for inferno in the minds of men. Here the Hitlerites built up their largest and most efficient death camp. The fascists killed at least four million people of various nationalities in Oswiecim—at the rate of ten to twelve thousand a day.

After the liberation of Polish Silesia by Soviet troops, the crimes of the Germans in the Oswiecim camp were carefully investigated by the prosecuting authorities of the First Ukrainian Front and representatives of the Extraordinary State Committee for the Investigation of Crimes Committed by the German-fascist Invaders and Their Associates.

The entire course of the Committee's work, and everything they saw in Oswiecim, was filmed in detail by five cameramen from the Central Studio of Documentary Films. I was present at a showing of this film, beside which the scenes of Dante's *Inferno* pale.

Prior to their retreat the Germans blew up the furnaces and destroyed a number of documents. But it is not easy to erase the traces of the destruction of four million people. The very soil of Oswiecim cries for vengeance. Every article here is a tombstone. The Germans succeeded in burning 29 out of 35 warehouses where the belongings of Oswiecim victims were sorted and packed for shipment. The other warehouses which remained intact were filmed.

Here are sights in one of these warehouses: children's shirts and knickers, tiny blouses, rassed caps. Yes, these things. Children—from tiny infants to boys and girls of 16 years—were killed by the Hitlerites in Oswiecim. Many were killed by inhuman labor; a number were thrown into the flames alive; others had all their blood drained from their veins, or were killed by injecting carbolic acid into their hearts.

In another warehouse the cameramen took shots of sacks full of women's hair. The Germans cut the hair from the heads of 140,000 women whom they had killed. Each of these had friends and relatives who now weep for her.

Committee documents German war crimes: 7,700 kilograms of hair shorn from the heads of 140,000 women murdered by the Nazis



Tortured victims of the Oswiecim death camp in Poland



Radiophotos

There were warehouses filled with suitcases, toothbrushes, clothes brushes, piles of spectacles. The German hangmen tore false teeth and crowns from the mouths of their victims.

The dead have arisen on the screen in order to accuse. Soviet experts undertook the opening of the mass graves and the exhuming of corpses. The screen shows huge ditches filled with charred corpses. Through the ages these mouths twisted in a last cry and the unclosed eyes fixed in death agony will call for vengeance. We saw the corpses of tiny, evidently new-born, babies.

So far, I have only told you about the mute and dead witnesses to the crimes of Oswiecim. Let us pass on to the living ones. The Red Army freed 2,819 survivors of the prisoners of Oswiecim. Long

rows of them passing before the Soviet Forensic Medical Commission are flashed on the screen.

Before the doctors stands an incredibly thin, emaciated woman. She was brought to the camp young and healthy, she leaves it a cripple. In the name of fascist "science" the Hitlerites subjected her to an operation which deprived her forever of the joy of motherhood.

The doctors are examining a strange group of men; knowing as we do the regime of starvation which reigned in the camp, we are surprised by their fat, flabby appearance. They fell into the hands of these human monsters at the prime of life, now they will never be husbands or fathers: the Hitlerites subjected them to castration.

These are followed by a group of

young, strong men who will never be able to walk without the aid of crutches: the camp doctors made hypodermic injections into their skin of kerosene and other irritants which caused terrible ulcers and phlegmons.

A living skeleton is carried in on a stretcher, a man dying of pellagra. He is included in the list of survivors, but it would have been more correct to list him with those already dead.

Of those persons saved by the Red Army, 91 per cent are in a condition of extreme exhaustion; 223 are suffering from tuberculosis, and a large number suffer from severe nervous disorders.

Among those saved by the Red Army are 180 children. When they were photographed, all of them drew back their sleeves, raised their arms and showed the brand burned into the skin below the elbow. With this brand of the Hitlerite slave, those who have enough strength left to survive will go through life. Of the

180 children, 72 are tubercular, 49 suffer from dystrophy and 31 from frostbite. It is doubtful whether this child of six with the large head, swollen stomach and thin, distorted limbs will live. It neither walks nor speaks, only whines pitifully and gazes at the world with the eyes of a hunted animal in which all the sorrow of mankind seems concentrated. What sort of life lies before this pretty little girl who has lost both her feet from frostbite? She was not strong enough to do the work demanded by the fascist slavedrivers, and as punishment she was left barefooted in the frost for a whole night.

The film also shows us a barracks full of old women. Cots in three tiers line the walls, placed so closely above each other that the occupants cannot sit down without bending their heads. Like creatures of a nightmare or delirium are these figures, with their wrinkled old faces, masses of tangled gray hair, and bony, twisted hands. One need not be a doctor

to perceive that many of these unfortunate old women have lost their reason from terror and suffering.

Like the cycles of Dante's hell, the film rolls on before us; one article is not long enough to describe all the scenes taken by the Soviet cameramen in Oswiecim. Part of this material will be included in a film to be released by the Central Studio of Documentary Films. It will be hard to sit through this picture, but in the name of humanity and justice, do not turn your eyes from the screen. He who sees even a small part of these horrors will never again dare raise his voice for any mitigation of the punishment of Hitlerite criminals.

Mankind is now living through wonderful days of victory and rebirth. The hour of the trial of the Hitlerite criminals is approaching. At this trial the films made by Soviet cameramen in Oswiecim will be among the sternest and most irrefutable indictments.

PEDIATRICS INSTITUTE RENDERS PUBLIC SERVICE

The Pediatrics Institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, located in Moscow, is the center for scientific research work for child health protection.

Professor G. Speransky, head of the Institute, and a group of the country's best pediatricians, have been working for the past few years on the problems of child care.

The Institute has directed the construction and equipment of nurseries, milk kitchens, consultation centers and lying-in

homes. It has also worked out methods of medical service for the children's institutions.

The scientific research work of the Institute has produced many effective means for combating child mortality, infectious diseases and the consequences of incorrect feeding. The Department of Infectious Diseases of the Institute is now engaged in seeking ways to prevent and cure whooping cough and measles.

Master of Medical Sciences E. Kravetz has worked out a system for the care,

feeding and treatment of premature infants. New methods of curing tuberculosis in children have been discovered. The scientific findings and methods of Professor N. M. Tselofanov on the care of infants are also of outstanding value.

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Famous Frigate to be Salvaged

Work has been started on hoisting the famous frigate Pallada from the bottom of the sea in the Soviet harbor of Vladivostok. The 44-cannon ship, built in the St. Petersburg dockyard in 1833, had as its first commander Pavel Nakhimov, hero of the Sevastopol defense of 1854.

Among those who participated in the expeditions of the Pallada in 1852 and

1854 was the famous Russian writer J. A. Goncharov, author of the well-known novels *An Ordinary Story*, *Oblomov*, *The Precipice*, and *The Frigate Pallada*.

Divers have estimated that the vessel lies not far off the coast, at a depth of 14 meters. It is covered with a thick layer of seaweed, and the brasswork is well preserved.

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The Air Arm of the Red Navy

By Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Zhuk

During the war the Air Arm of the Red Navy was engaged chiefly in three theaters—the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea and the Arctic Ocean. In order to spare their vessels, the Germans attempted to solve their naval tasks by the use of aircraft. Out of the 10,000 planes concentrated on the Soviet-German front at the outbreak of the war, Hitler detailed some 2,000, many of which were bombers, for operations in the naval theaters. The number allocated to the three zones were: the Black Sea, 800, of which 430 were bombers; the Baltic Sea, 870, of which 370 were bombers; and the Arctic Ocean, 500, of which 250 were bombers.

Naturally this strength was not maintained constantly but increased and decreased in accordance with the plans of the German Supreme Command. There were times, for example, when the Germans held 700 and more airships in the North to attack Allied convoys approaching the USSR.

During the first period of the war, the

Air Arm of the Red Navy was numerically weaker than that of the Germans and in some cases out of date and poorer in performance. Even in this period, however, the Germans did not gain air superiority in the naval theaters of war. True, there was one occasion when the Germans did succeed in gaining superiority for a short time—that was during the defense of Sevastopol in 1942.

The numerical superiority of the Germans was opposed by the courage and dauntless skill of Soviet naval fliers. They never refused battle with the fascist airmen and fought fearlessly even when the odds were against them. Once seven Soviet fighters engaged 52 German aircraft in the North. The German armada crossed the front line and a flight of seven Soviet fighters, led by Safonov (now twice Hero of the Soviet Union), struck straight into their midst. In this battle the Germans lost 10 planes and they sent out radio messages that they were surrounded by Soviet fighters. The remaining 42 fight-

ers and bombers dropped their bombs harmlessly in the hills, some of them even on their own troops, and fled from the Soviet fighters. The Soviet fliers returned home without loss.

Many times small groups of three to five Soviet fighters gave battle to as many as 15 or 20 enemy machines, and emerged victorious. Soviet naval airmen fought until the last shell and last cartridge were exhausted and then rammed the enemy machines. In the Black Sea area Pilot Ivanov rammed three German planes, and in the Baltic theater pilots Brinko and Antonenko rammed two each.

The Red Navy Air Arm not only protected Soviet naval bases and vessels from enemy attack, but themselves struck a number of blows behind the enemy's lines.

The Air Arm of the Black Sea Fleet made a number of raids on military and industrial targets in Rumania. They set fire to three oil refineries at Ploesti, de-

Mikhail Kalinin (left) presents the Order of the Red Banner to Chief Marshal of Aviation A. Golovanov

Ground crews of the Black Sea Fleet Air Arm bring up torpedoes to waiting aircraft





A group of Soviet fliers after a mission over Budapest during operations in Hungary

stroyed 26 oil tanks, smashed about 60 per cent of the warehouses, elevators and railway workshops at Constanza, and put a large war factory in Bucharest out of action. In 1941, Black Sea airmen smashed the Chernovod bridge across the Danube, over which ran a pipeline to Constanza.

The first Soviet air raids on Berlin were made by the men of the Fleet Air Arm. They were carried out in August and September of 1941 by the Baltic Fleet. Many attacks were made, dropping thousands of bombs. Bad weather conditions prevailed at the time, keeping the men airbound for many hours at altitudes of 20-25 thousand feet. These raids on Berlin showed the strength of the Red Navy Air Arm and the skill of its personnel.

In the North, despite its adverse climatic conditions, long polar nights, constantly changing meteorological data, bare rocky coasts and small number of airdromes, the Fleet Air Arm was able to make raids on important enemy bases, such as Petsamo, Kirkenes and Vardo. The Germans made every effort to capture Murmansk and cut off the Soviet Union from the North. In March, 1942, Gross Admiral Reder, former Commander-in-Chief of German Naval Air Forces, announced that he had adopted all possible measures to prevent sea communications between Great Britain and the Soviet Union, measures which guaranteed the complete blockade of Murmansk and Archangel.

The following figures give some idea of the intensity of German air activity on the lines of communications in the Barents Sea. In 1942 the Germans made an average of 1,700 flights a month. One

of the Allied convoys was attacked by German aircraft 20 times on its journey to the USSR, with 120 aircraft participating in the attacks. Another convoy of 40 merchant vessels en route from Scotland to Murmansk was attacked almost continuously; 100 enemy bombers and 60 torpedo carriers took part in the raids. One hundred and eight torpedoes alone were launched.

The sea routes were protected by the ships and aircraft of the Northern Fleet; convoys between British and Soviet ports continued the whole time, despite all enemy efforts to stop them.

Offensive Operations

When the Red Army assumed the offensive, the Naval Air Arm, cooperating with surface craft and Red Army units, struck one blow after another. At this time the Red Navy was supplied with new aircraft which greatly surpassed those of the Germans in performance and showed their quality in their attacks on enemy shipping and naval bases.

The Air Arm of the Black Sea Fleet was especially active during the liberation of the Crimea from the Germans. Between April 8 and May 12, Black Sea airmen sank 147 enemy craft with a total displacement of 170,290 tons; damaged 96 vessels with a total tonnage of 92,390; and shot down 81 aircraft.

During the period of operations against the German-fascist troops in Rumania, Black Sea airmen concentrated on enemy shipping, ports and naval bases. A raid on August 20, 1944, sank 64, and damaged 22 vessels.

As the Soviet offensive in the Baltic and East Prussia developed, aircraft of

the Baltic Sea Fleet made continuous raids on German naval bases at Gdansk, Pillau, Gdynia and Swinemuende. From January 1 to May 1, 1945, Baltic Sea airmen sank 294 enemy vessels with a total displacement of 785,500 tons and damaged 138 boats with a displacement of 316,500 tons.

Throughout the war the Red Navy Air Arm relentlessly attacked enemy sea communications. The Germans, especially in the later period of the war, greatly strengthened their escorts. Convoys of three or four transports were often escorted by 15 to 18 naval vessels and by 12 to 16 aircraft. German transport vessels sailed only at night, and in bad weather they made up dummy convoys to delude Soviet airmen, and followed longer but safer courses than usual. These measures, however, did not save them. Soviet naval airmen surmounted all these obstacles, found the German transports and sank them. Flaunting death, pilots Kashtanin, Mitin, Bashyrkov and Tromanov emulated the famous deed of Captain Gastello, and at the cost of their own lives sent their burning aircraft into enemy tank columns.

During the war Soviet naval airmen developed new fighting methods and introduced new techniques into fighting in the naval arenas. The figures of the losses suffered by the enemy are sufficient proof of this.

Scientific Institute Projects Varied Studies

Since 1931, the year it was founded, the Institute of Chemical Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR has published over 1,000 scientific works. Professor N. N. Semyonov, member of the Academy of Sciences, has made a notable contribution to the development of the universally recognized chain theory of chemical processes. The Institute has carried out numerous experiments on this theory.

During the past 10 years the laboratories of the Institute have been studying the conditions of chemical change in explosives. During the Patriotic War the Institute worked on scientific and technical problems of the country's defense.

SOVIET BIOLOGY

By Academician Leon A. Orbeli

Hero of Socialist Labor

The years of Soviet power have seen tremendous progress in all fields of science. With the considerable attention and support received from the Government, the Academy of Sciences has flourished, and the Department of Biology has taken a leading position.

There were no important biological laboratories in the pre-Revolutionary Russian Academy. The science developed, for the most part, in universities and other higher educational establishments. The Tsarist government provided only very miserly for the development of science. One man worked in a laboratory—a scientist of world-wide fame, the physiologist Ivan Pavlov.

Today, while the Jubilee Session of the Academy is in progress, one recalls the words of Pavlov at the 15th International Congress of Physiologists; he said that no other government in the world had done so much to support and develop science as our Soviet Government.

During the Soviet period biology has made tremendous progress. Dozens of institutes and laboratories have been incorporated into the Biological Department of the Academy of Sciences. The Zoological Museum has developed into an important research institute. The Botanical Gardens have become the Komarov Botanical Institute. The small physiological laboratory is now the huge Pavlov Institute of Physiology. New institutions have been founded—of biochemistry, paleontology, genetics, plant physiology, histology, embryology, evolutionary morphology, microbiology, a laboratory of biophysics and even others. These numerous institutes and laboratories have not only done research that has become known abroad, but they have also put their discoveries to practical use for the national economy.

Never before have science and its application been so closely associated as in the Soviet Union today. This is one of the greatest services that has been rendered by the Academy of Sciences. The



L. A. Orbeli

effect of the close contact between scientists and industrialists was clearly demonstrated during the war. Together with the whole people, scientific workers placed all their energy and knowledge at the country's disposal to defeat the enemy.

The Komarov Botanical Institute, which made an extensive study of the vegetable resources of the country in pre-war days, continued this work and, in particular, during the siege of Leningrad, helped very considerably to increase the food supply.

The Pavlov Physiological Institute in Leningrad, working in close contact with the Institute of Evolutionary Physiology and the Pavlov Institute of Pathology of Higher Nervous Activity, in Koltuchi (now Pavlovo), in addition to continuing the work begun by the great physiologist, found ways of applying theoretical discoveries to medical practice. During the war the Institute obtained very important results in studying the after-effect of wounds and concussions and in finding methods for early diagnosis of septic infections.

The Moscow Institute of Physiology concentrated on methods for combating shock. The Institute of Genetics, headed by Academician T. D. Lysenko, did re-

search aimed at increasing the country's harvests. The Institute of Plant Physiology developed, among other things, methods of accelerating the ripening of fruits and vegetables. The Biochemical Institute studied the vitamin content of plants, found new methods for enriching foods with vitamins and developed new techniques for preserving the vitamins.

The Institute of Microbiology worked successfully on the industrial uses of microorganisms; the Institute of Evolutionary Morphology studied water deposits and the exploitation of fishing grounds; the Institute of Zoology studied the dissemination of infectious diseases; the Institute of Cytology, Histology and Embryology sought active methods of treating wounds, etc.

The war years clearly brought out the great strength which the union of theoretical and applied science produces. Now that the war has ended in victory, thousands of scientific workers in the Academy's institutes and laboratories are working with redoubled energy for the benefit of Soviet science and of their country.

The high award of Hero of Socialist Labor conferred on my colleagues and me is further evidence of the way science is appreciated in our country, and of the great effort made by the Soviet Government to develop science. Even during the war, when the resources of the State were mobilized for the war effort, all the Republics carried out measures for the extension and development of the various branches of science.

We see in this award an obligation to work still better, in the way Stalin teaches us, to put even greater energy into the strengthening of the bonds of science and its use, and everywhere and at all times to place the achievements of science at the disposal of the national economy.

Thanks to the exceptional help received from the Soviet Government, the Academy of Sciences of the USSR has become an institution which has no equal anywhere in the world in the scale and scope of its work.

An Outstanding Byelorussian Scientist

Anton Zhebrak, a member of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences, spent his childhood and youth in the village of Zblyanin, not far from the city of Grodno. As he worked in his father's vegetable patch he dreamed of making Byelorussia's land yield a richer harvest—a vision he cherished all through the hard years he fought in the ranks of the Red Army defending the young Soviet State.

In 1921, Zhebrak was enrolled as a student of the Timiryazev Agricultural Academy in Moscow. On completion of the course he became a post graduate student, and in 1936 presented his thesis and received the title of Doctor of Science in biology.

There are more than 30 scientific works by this scientist. A follower of the American botanist Morgan, in whose laboratory at the California Institute of Technology he worked for two years, Zhebrak specializes in the genetics of wheat. In his investigations of wheat varieties he came to the conclusion that those best suited to chang-

ing climatic conditions, and therefore most prevalent, are the hexaploid types containing the greatest number of chromosomes. He decided that "Nature has succeeded in multiplying the chromosomes in the course of centuries through the process of natural selection, and science can achieve the same result in a shorter period." In 1938 he began crossing wheat varieties, experiments tried in the past by many geneticists, but usually producing barren plants. Good results in overcoming this sterility are achieved by doubling the number of chromosomes in hybrids of the first generation. Zhebrak achieves this by employing a solution of colchicine, whose action was discovered by the American scientists Blakeslee and Avery.

In 1940 Anton Zhebrak was elected a member of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences, and in addition to his experimental work at the Timiryazev seed selection station in Moscow, assumed the management of the biology department of the Academy in Minsk. The department

began work on the development of high yield varieties of wheat and other cultures in Byelorussia. The treacherous attack of the Germans on the USSR and the seizure of Minsk interrupted this work for a time. But Zhebrak succeeded in saving the seed stores of the Academy and transporting them from the razed capital of Byelorussia to Moscow.

Zhebrak continued his work throughout the war. On the experimental plots of the Timiryazev Academy he succeeded in 1942-43 in developing and multiplying seven types of Byelorussian winter wheat. After the liberation of Byelorussia, the strains were accepted by the Commissariat of Agriculture for large-scale use.

The scientist was in close contact with the Byelorussian guerrillas throughout the years of occupation. He worked enthusiastically with the scientists of the Anti-fascist Committee in Moscow. One of the Soviet delegation of scientists who visited Bulgaria recently, his lectures in Sofia on the culture and agriculture of Byelorussia attracted large audiences.

THE WORLD TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

By I. Nikolayev

The World Trade Union Conference which was held in London last February was a factor of cardinal importance for the unity and solidarity of the organized workers of the democratic countries. The representatives of 60 million organized workers of 35 countries decided that it was necessary to create a single efficient world trade union federation, and defined its aims and objectives. For the purpose of carrying its decisions into effect, the conference elected a representative body which, in its turn, set up an Administrative Committee.

One of the first duties of the Administrative Committee arose out of the decision of the World Conference that it was essential for the trade union movement to be represented in all organizations, at all conferences and on all com-

missions and committees engaged in peace arrangement problems and post-war reconstruction. This applied first and foremost to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco. In pursuance of that decision, representatives of the Administrative Committee, as soon as the Trade Union Conference was over, called upon the British Foreign Secretary and the Ambassadors of the Soviet Union, the United States, France and China, in London, informed them of the conference decisions and requested them to convey this information to their respective governments and to support its demands.

The World Trade Union Conference took no definite decision as to the precise manner in which representatives of the trade union organization were to participate in the United Nations Conference.

However, as V. Kuznetsov, Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union, stated at a press conference in San Francisco, such participation was conceived in one of two forms: first, each government might include representatives of trade union organizations in its delegation; second, the Administrative Committee might be invited to the conference as the directing body of the World Trade Union Organization.

The Soviet Government, after examining the request of the Soviet trade unions, decided that it would be useful and expedient to include Kuznetsov in its delegation. Furthermore, at the San Francisco Conference the Soviet delegation supported the request of the Administrative Committee to be invited to the confer-

ence with a consultative voice. This request, however, met with stubborn resistance in San Francisco.

The first stage of the discussion of this question in the Executive Committee of the conference became known from the statement of V. M. Molotov, head of the Soviet delegation, at a press conference, when he said that the Soviet delegation through Kuznetsov had made a declaration specially requesting that the representative of the World Trade Union Organization, formed in London in February, 1945, be admitted to the conference with a consultative voice. Molotov stated that in moving this proposal the Soviet delegation was guided by analogy. The International Labor Office, on which not all trade unions were represented, was to have a consultative voice at the United Nations Conference. On the other hand, a conference had been held in London of the trade unions of all the United Nations—including the Soviet trade unions—which had elected its directing body. The Soviet delegation considered that, besides the representatives of the international organization on which not all trade unions were represented, it would not be amiss to give representation to the trade union organization on which all trade unions were represented. Since, however, there was ground for believing that there were difficulties in the way of adopting a decision on this question, declared Molotov, the Soviet delegation did not insist on its proposal being put to vote in the Executive Committee, but adhered to its opinion.

Several days later, on May 30, the Administrative Committee of the World Trade Union Organization addressed a letter on this subject signed by Philip Murray, Walter Citrine, Louis Saillant and Mikhail Tarasov to U. S. Secretary of State Stettinius as one of the chairmen of the conference. To this letter was appended a statement giving the chief reasons why the World Trade Union Conference deemed it necessary to demand representation at the United Nations Conference in San Francisco.

The second phase of discussion of this question within the conference bodies in San Francisco began when Committee No. 3 of Commission No. 2, which deals with economic and social cooperation, de-

cided on May 8 to invite observers from the World Trade Union Organization. The Committee was clearly acting in conformity with the power granted it to invite representatives from any international organization whose presence it might deem likely to promote its labors. However, the Steering Committee of the conference intervened and virtually annulled the decision of Committee No. 3 of Commission No. 2. This became known from a statement made by Stettinius at the press conference of May 10, that the meeting of the Steering Committee held that day had decided to invite to the conference only observers from inter-governmental bodies and not to admit an observer from the World Trade Union Organization. Stettinius refused to say how the Steering Committee was divided on this question. Journalists reported that at the meeting of the Steering Committee, the admission of an observer from the World Trade Union Organization was opposed by Stettinius and Eden, and that the decision not to admit one was adopted by a vote of 33 to 10. It was stated that the minority included the Soviet Union, France, Yugoslavia and New Zealand.

Since the members of the delegations who voted against the admission of the representative of the World Trade Union Organization to the conference did not publicly state their reasons for doing so, their refusal to hear the voice of so powerful an international labor organization as one which embraces nearly every trade union in the world, is difficult to explain.

Could they have thought that the 60 million organized workers representing all the United Nations were not deserving of a consultative voice in the formulation of decisions upon which the stability of the peace and security of the freedom-loving nations will depend? It is hard to believe that they could have so underestimated the immense contribution which these workers and their trade union organizations have made in the fight against Hitlerism.

Or was there fear that the representatives of the World Trade Union Organization would not, at the conference, support the principles which underlie the decisions of the Dumbarton Oaks and the Crimea Conferences? No, there could

have been no such fear, of course. Everyone knows that the World Trade Union Conference declared its full support of the principles of the Dumbarton Oaks and Crimea Conferences, and that it laid special emphasis on the paramount principle that peace must be based upon friendship and lasting cooperation among the United Nations, and especially among the great powers which were capable of defeating Hitler Germany. The aim of the World Trade Union Conference decisions was to assist the governments and the peoples of the United Nations in every way in speeding the defeat of the common enemy and insuring lasting peace.

It was therefore clear that in demanding representation at the San Francisco Conference, the World Trade Union Organization was only seeking for an opportunity to assist in the building of a reliable and just system of general security. In its letter to Stettinius, the Administrative Committee drew particular attention to this aspect of the question by stating: "We ask for such simple representation [consultative status] not only as an act of simple justice to the heroic working people of the United Nations, but because we are firmly convinced that the granting of our request would be of material assistance in assuring the realization of the great goal shared by all men of good will—a just and enduring peace for the peoples of the world."

But perhaps the delegations which objected to the admission of the representatives of the World Trade Union Organization did so because they considered their participation in the conference superfluous on the assumption that, anyhow they would not say anything new, anything differing from the opinion of the majority of the delegations? No, this cannot be the explanation either. For everyone knew that the representatives of the World Trade Union Organization wanted not only to express their reasons for supporting the general principles of the Dumbarton Oaks and Crimea Conferences, but also to urge the expediency of certain amendments to the Charter of the International Security Organization, which evidently did not conform to the preconceived notions of the majority of the delegations. The substance of these amend-

ments was that the Charter should provide for the participation of the World Trade Union Organization in the work of the Economic and Social Council and also for its participation in a consultative capacity in the work of the General Assembly. These proposals were brought to the attention of the United States delegation, both in the letter of the Administrative Committee of April 30 and in written statements made by Philip Murray, chairman of that committee, on May 4 and 7. There would have been nothing surprising, of course, if the members of the United States, British and other delegations were not convinced of the correctness of the proposals of the Administrative Committee; but precisely for that reason one would have thought it would have been expedient at least to hear the views of the representatives of the World Trade Union Organization. The trade union leaders were undoubtedly right when they said in their letter to Stettinius:

"We believe it of vital importance that our Administrative Committee be given full opportunity for the effective presentation to your conference of its views on this most important question and for discussion, in the appropriate commissions and committees, of the methods by which the foregoing decisions can best be implemented—whether by amendment to the Charter itself, which now makes no provision for labor representation whatsoever, or by administrative action of the International Security Organization, when established."

It is difficult to imagine that the members of the British and United States delegations were incapable of appreciating the weight of these arguments in favor of inviting the World Trade Union Organization to the conference. And if they decided nevertheless not to invite it, one can only conclude that they had even weightier reasons for not admitting it to the conference. What were these reasons? Unfortunately, they preferred to keep silent on this score.

Only one member of the British delegation, Clement R. Attlee, as we learn from a statement made in San Francisco by Walter Citrine, head of the British trade unionists, expressed his opinion (or rather his sentiments) in the petulant words: "The United Nations Conference

is not the concern of the trade unions but exclusively of the governments." This verbal slap in the face to the trade unions at once disclosed not only the profound injustice but also the political unsoundness of the position of those opposed to admitting trade union representatives to the San Francisco Conference. War questions were the concern of the trade unions, their very close concern, but peace and security questions are "not their concern." Every government that fought Hitler Germany highly appreciated and in every way encouraged the participation of the workers and their organizations in the war effort of the United Nations. But now that the workers and their organizations have assisted the United Nations in vanquishing the dangerous foe and in proceeding to tackle the peace arrangement problems, certain politicians are already inclined to consider that "the Moor has done his work, the Moor may go."

If anyone really thinks that the extremely important problems of organizing the peace and general security now facing the United Nations, concern only the governments and not labor organizations, he is, of course, grossly mistaken. This applies in particular to the main questions on which the San Francisco Conference has to make decisions. For obviously these decisions will impose great and weighty responsibilities on the working class and the working population generally. We need cite only one example: if by decision of the Security Council economic sanctions are taken against an aggressor, upon whom will the chief burden arising out of the application of these sanctions fall? Upon the workers, of course. How then can it be asserted that even this question "is not the concern of the trade unions"?

Generally speaking, active support of the trade unions would be of immense importance for the work of the International Security Organization. The World Trade Union Federation would be in a position to mobilize the tens of millions of workers it represents in support of the International Security Organization; and it would be able to do so much more effectively if it were in a position to assure the workers, in whose name it acts, that their representatives had been consulted at the San Francisco Conference, and that their point of view had been effectively

presented when the Charter of the International Security Organization was drawn up. One cannot help asking whether it was wise to ignore such powerful support.

But the fact remains that the doors of the San Francisco Conference were shut tight to the World Trade Union Organization and no hesitation was even shown in annulling the decision to invite it already adopted by Committee No. 3. Why this fear? No one explained. But some explanation is to be found in the fact that at the same time observers were invited from a number of other organizations which no one feared: from the defunct League of Nations and its International Labor Office, from UNRRA, from the United Nations Commission on Food and Agriculture, and from the International Court. These were called "official" organizations in contradistinction to the "unofficial" World Trade Union Organization. This is a purely formal distinction, not the underlying one. The real distinction is that the first five organizations are not independent—their representatives are directly dependent on their governments; the World Trade Union Organization, on the other hand, is an independent organization whose representatives are not in the service of any government but are connected with their trade unions. This is the crux of the matter.

While, as we have said, there may be no ground for fearing that the representatives of the World Trade Union Organization would not have supported the principles of the Dumbarton Oaks and Crimea Conferences, there was always the possibility that they might, on the contrary, champion these principles more consistently than would have been to the liking of certain of the delegations. Perhaps some were moved to fear this possibility by the unambiguous decisions of the London Trade Union Conference and by the utterances of influential trade union leaders, who vigorously advocated a close and lasting cooperation between their countries and the Soviet Union as well as the realization of other progressive ideas of the Crimea Conference.

Quite naturally this negative attitude of the majority in the Steering Committee of the United Nations Conference toward the World Trade Union Organization has caused disappointment and dissatisfaction

among trade unionists of all democratic countries.

In a joint declaration, British trade union leaders Walter Citrine and Ebby Edwards publicly criticized the position of the British delegation at San Francisco, and especially the position of its labor members.

"The Government's attitude," the statement says, "will cause not only widespread dissatisfaction among the millions of organized workers . . . it will be interpreted as implying that in the Government's view the close collaboration between it and the trade unions is no longer necessary."

The leaders of the American C.I.O. likewise criticized the position of the majority of the Steering Committee of the San Francisco Conference, and expressed disappointment with the attitude toward them of the officials at the conference.

Lombardo Toledano, head of the Latin American Confederation of Labor, declar-

ed at a press conference on May 11, that the decision of the Steering Committee to deny the World Trade Union Organization a seat at the San Francisco Conference was a blow to world unity. He expressed his gratitude to the 10 nations which had supported the proposal to invite the representatives of the World Trade Union Conference.

The standpoint of the trade unions is widely supported by progressive men and women, and in some countries by official circles as well. The French A.F.P. agency, for example, reports from London that Henri Hauck, representative of the French Government in San Francisco, declared: "The French support the World Trade Union Federation because it is the most important international organization of workers. France regrets that the Steering Committee of the conference decided not to invite the World Trade Union Federation, and considers that the cooperation of this organization is essential."

Some of the members of those delegations which in San Francisco voted in support of the decision of the Steering Committee not to admit the representatives of the World Trade Union Organization to the conference, may have believed that this would dispose of the question of the World Trade Union Organization's participation in the work of the future International Security Organization. Obviously, the majority of trade unionists will not agree with this. The World Trade Union Organization cannot abandon its struggle for the right to have a share in the discussion of peace problems which are of cardinal importance to the working class; the struggle to have the doors of the future International Security Organization opened to the representatives of the trade unions.

This is one of the important and urgent tasks of the trade union movement in the effort to democratize international institutions and international policy.

SOVIET STENOGRAPHERS

By Olga Russanova

There were few stenographers in old Russia; it would probably be no exaggeration to say that in 1917 there were not more than 18 or 20 in the whole of Moscow. Between 1920-25 their numbers showed a marked increase, and by 1941 there was hardly a Soviet office that did not employ stenographers.

There is no unemployment in the Soviet Union, and business college graduates find no difficulty in getting jobs. They do not have to pay fees to employment agencies—offices and institutions send in applications for personnel to the business colleges, and the graduates have a wide choice.

Stenographers are employed in the industrial commissariats, in newspaper offices, and in colleges to take verbatim reports of lectures. Before the war Moscow had a stenographers' bureau which provided reporters for conferences and congresses. The skilled women registered at this bureau were among the highest-paid workers in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet stenographer belongs to the trade union which unites all the workers in the factory or office where she is employed, and there are special union

regulations protecting her working conditions. For example, when the six-hour day was in force, the dictation period was limited to one hour and five minutes, and later raised to one hour and twelve minutes. She receives a fixed salary for her regular working day, and overtime is paid at the rate of 150 per cent and 200 per cent. Before the war stenographers taking notes at conferences, meetings, etc., were paid at the rate of 20 to 30 rubles per hour.

The Soviet stenographer is entitled to one month's annual vacation with full pay, and enjoys all the benefits of labor legislation. Her wartime food rations are the same as those of industrial workers.

Nadezhda Novikova is secretary of the Central Committee of the Civil Service Workers Union in the central regions of the USSR. This union has the greatest number of stenographers among its members. Novikova introduced me to Anna Gavrilova, a stenographer of 20 years' experience employed in the trade union office. Gavrilova is an expert verbatim shorthand-reporter who has spent many years in Central Asia.

"I was associated for a number of years

with the Central Asian Stenographers' Bureau," she told me, "and for some time I was chairman of the trade union committee there. My work took me to all the Republics of Central Asia. It was rather difficult at first, because sometimes we had to take down speeches delivered in very poor Russian. Later some of us learned the local language. One of our Russian stenographers, helped by two of her pupils—a Tajik and an Uzbek—worked out a system of shorthand for the Tajik and Uzbek languages. The Central Asian Republics now have their own systems."

Stenographers, she told us, are still among the highest-paid categories of Soviet workers. Many went to the front as volunteers to work in unit headquarters and in the editorial offices of front-line newspapers. Among them is Maria Odintsova, a stenographer of 25 years' experience, who has taken down the speeches of Lenin, Stalin and other outstanding statesmen.

Valentina Vasilieva, a stenographer in an Army headquarters, was cited for salvaging important documents during an enemy raid.

POPULAR SOVIET BAND LEADER

By Mikhail Dolgoplov

Leonid Utesov is the most popular music hall artist in the Soviet Union. In recognition of his achievements in this field, the Soviet Government recently awarded him the Order of the Red Banner of Labor.

Utesov, who celebrated his fiftieth birthday recently, began his musical career thirty-five years ago, quite by accident, as a result of a ruse by one of his friends, Skavronsky, a provincial actor who was appearing at the time at the Miniature Theater, in Kremenchug.

Utesov needed a job, so Skavronsky introduced him to his manager as an experienced actor. This was a misrepresentation, to put it mildly. The manager gave young Utesov the role of an eighty-year-old count in a one-act operetta, *The Toy*.

Utesov, to his own astonishment, was a popular favorite within a week. Soon he was dancing and singing, as well as playing "straight" roles. As a child he had studied the violin. Now he renewed his acquaintance with the instrument, and discovered another talent.

His versatility became a legend. Soon managers were competing for his services. But success did not turn his head. He worked hard to polish his style. His debut at Kremenchug was followed by engagements in Odessa, Kharkov and Kiev.

In 1920 he came to Moscow, where he

joined the company of the Satire Theater. Later he went to the Operetta Theater, where his gifts as a comedian were fully revealed.

In Leningrad, he proved himself equal to serious dramatic roles. His performance as Raskolnikov in *Crime and Punishment* is still remembered.

Actor-Musicians

But he had still not found his true vocation. At last he hit on the idea of creating a jazz orchestra of musicians who could also sing, dance and give musical interpretation of dramatic themes. To collect such a group of actor-musicians was not easy. Utesov's band has now been in existence for sixteen years, and has won recognition as a first-class musical ensemble.

At first he imitated American jazz, which naturally influenced his repertoire and style. But at the same time he made great progress in dramatizing his own musical material. A gifted and meticulous director, he demanded from his musicians not only dramatic but also ironical and emotional expression, and at times a novel, eccentric interpretation of music. Gradually the program evolved into jazz revues. *Music Shop* was a typical example.

In 1943, Utesov and his orchestra appeared in the film *Jolly Fellows*, directed by Grigori Alexandrov. This brought

them tremendous popularity. They were booked for tours all over the USSR. They were in great demand among Red Army and Red Navy audiences. Utesov has a special flair for Army songs and songs about love of country, which have universal appeal.

Altogether he and his orchestra have performed in ten full-length dramatized revues. They have over 500 songs in their repertoire. Though Utesov himself is not outstanding as a singer, no one knows better than he how to put a song across.

During the war his songs were nearly all about the Red Army. His wartime revue *Salute* was a great hit. He introduces it with the statement that it "salutes the valiant invincible Red Army with twenty-four musical instruments!"

His daughter Edith is now a member of the orchestra. Song-hits from *Salute* are whistled and hummed and sung all over the USSR. *My Country is Victorious*; *Sacred War*; *Parting Song*; *Goodbye, City and Village*; *Play, My Accordion*; *Evening on the Water*, and *I Have Come Back to Friends* are some of the best popular tunes of the century.

Utesov and his ensemble were well known on the war fronts. He and his musicians bought two fighter planes and presented them to a Guards air unit.

New Army Engineering Exhibits

Preparations are now under way for the opening of the Military Engineering Historical Museum, which has received 1,400 new exhibits on the experience of the Red Army engineering troops. A number of these depict the techniques used in crossing the Volga, Don, Dnieper, Bug, Danube, Vistula and other water barriers.

At the same time the old displays—10,000 examples of the development of Russian Army engineering—which had been moved into the interior of the country during the war, are being returned. There are models of the Battle of Poltava, June 27, 1709; the defense and siege of

Sevastopol, 1854-5, and others. In addition there are more than 50 battle scenes painted by outstanding Russian artists—Vereschagin, Aivazovsky, Kotsebu and many more.

Correction

On page 4 of the May Special Supplement of the INFORMATION BULLETIN, under the subhead on agriculture, the figure for the land area of the Ukraine should read 55,825,300 hectares, including 36,124,700 hectares of fields, arable and vegetable garden land.

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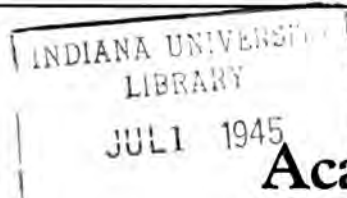
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Jubilee Session of Academy of Sciences of USSR

The Jubilee Session in honor of the 220th Anniversary of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR opened in Moscow on June 16, at the Bolshoi Theater.

There were guests from 17 countries—eminent scientists of Europe, America, Australia and Asia whose contributions are well known throughout the world and whose war efforts toward the destruction of Hitlerism are recognized.

The huge stage of the Bolshoi Theater, decorated with flowers, was occupied by the Presidium of the Jubilee Session. Seated next to the outstanding Soviet and foreign scientists were prominent public figures, famous Red Army leaders, and engineers and workers of Moscow factories. Among them were Heroes of Socialist Labor: the biologist Abrikosov; the physicist Kapitsa; the physiologist Orbeli; the chemist Zelinsky; the mathematician Vinogradov; the metallurgist Bardin; the historian Volgin; Bogomollets, President of the Ukrainian Academy and noted patho-physiologist; and members of the USSR Academy of Sciences, doctors of science and professors of all the 16 Union Republics.

Among the foreign guests attending the Anniversary Session were Irving Lengmuir, eminent American chemist and member of the National Academy of Sciences; Doctor James William McBain, Professor of Chemistry at Stanford University, California; Theodore Karman, the well-known mechanical engineer; as well as prominent British doctors of science in their colorful gowns of famous universities; the well-known professors and doctors of science of Poland, Yugoslavia, Australia, India and Iran; a group of French scientists headed by Irene

Curie and Pierre Joliot-Curie, and scientists from Canada, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania and other countries.

* * *

One thousand Soviet scientists and nearly 150 of their colleagues from abroad filled the theater when President Komarov delivered his opening address:

There are some jubilees which only serve to mark the years that have passed since the occurrence of an historical event. Others in themselves become memorable events, to be retained forever. The Anniversary Meeting of the Academy is of the second kind—one which will stand out in history.

There were three distinct periods in the development of our Academy of Sciences. First, the 18th Century, associ-

ated with the names of Peter I and Lomonosov. The second period, embracing the 19th Century and the beginning of the 20th, produced a number of distinguished workers in astronomy, mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology, history and other fields. The third period began a little over a quarter of a century ago, when the Academy adapted its efforts to meet the various needs of Socialist construction.

The Academy of Sciences was founded by Peter I as the instrument of his gigantic scheme for the reconstruction of Russia. Peter developed the Army and Navy, built shipyards, and developed industry and commerce. This required a better knowledge of the natural resources of the country, a task entrusted to the Academy. Lomonosov took an outstand-



Radiophoto

The Moscow Bolshoi Theater, on Sverdlov Square, where the Jubilee Session of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR is being held

ing part in this phase—in fact, it may be called the Lomonosov Period.

Its distinguishing feature was that research bore an encyclopedic character. It was a time of search for a scientific outlook. In all the diversified fields in which the members of the Academy were active, they strove for rational interpretation of the facts. The human mind, freed from medieval scholasticism, refused to acknowledge the supremacy of any authority other than its own. In natural science this tendency found expression in a mechanical interpretation of Nature.

While the 18th Century was distinguished by the search of the encyclopedists for a rational outlook, the 19th Century, or second period of the Academy, was marked by positive achievements in individual branches of science.

Science, in its process of differentiation, accumulated a vast store of knowledge in every domain, and as a result laid a deep impress on every phase of man's life. This differentiation created the conditions for the further progress of science. Several new branches were initiated by the Academy, most of them by scientists of Russian nationality.

During this period Russian science was not confined to the Academy, but was promoted as well in the universities and other scientific centers. A powerful drive came from such social upheavals as the Patriotic War of 1812, the Decembrist movement and the revolutionary movement of the '60's. The world-famous names of Mendeleyev, Mechnikov and Sechenov are associated with this period. Other eminent members of the Academy during the 19th Century were Chebyshev and Ostrogradsky, mathematicians and Butlerov, author of *The Theory of Chemi-*

cal Structure. The 20th Century produced the outstanding scientists, Pavlov, Karpinsky, Vernadsky and Marr.

The 18th Century may be described as the century of reason, the 19th as the century of science; the present, or third, is the period of the universal penetration of science into the activities of man.

Ours is a century in which the tools of industry, the social forms and even Nature itself, are being remodeled on the principles of reason and science. Our country has advanced a long way along this road. We have harmonized the forms of life and of production. Science has become the foundation for social development.

The most advanced of scientific theories, the doctrines of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, serve as a guide to the practical activities of the Soviet people.

The Party of scientific Socialism is guiding the people along the path of progress. The founders and leaders of our State were two eminent men of science, Lenin and Stalin. Our Academy is proud to count among its honorary members the brilliant thinker, statesman and soldier, Joseph Stalin.

The chief reason for the success of science in the USSR lies in the Soviet system of government. In the short space of 25 years Russia has been transformed into a great power, based upon Socialist industry and the collectivization of land. This form of government made possible the cultural revolution which enabled the people so rapidly to master the modern tools of industry. This was vividly demonstrated by the Red Army, millions of whose men proved themselves proficient tank fighters, artillerymen and fliers. Now when the fruits of reforms inaugurated

by the USSR are fully realized, it is fitting to turn our thoughts to the man who created the Soviet State and who was one of the greatest scientists of all ages, Vladimir Lenin, whose 75th birthday anniversary we celebrated last April. On the basis of his study of human history, and especially of his analysis of the revolutionary struggle of our people, Lenin formulated the Soviet system as a new type of state. No such form of government had been known before.

Lenin not only provided the theoretical foundation for this idea, but gave it shape and form, and put it into practice. He laid the foundations of the Soviet system which was later consolidated and adapted to new conditions by his friend and successor, Joseph Stalin. There is no major aspect of the life of the Soviet Union which is not stamped with Stalin's genius.

In an astonishingly short period the Soviet Union built up an industry which advanced it to first place in Europe. This is all the more striking when we bear in mind the fact that old Russia was economically 100 years behind her times.

Since agriculture is the field with which I, as a scientist, am most closely associated, I shall speak of the development of a large-scale Socialist agriculture in a period of 10 or 15 years. This is a gigantic accomplishment, which for its importance is rightly compared to the Great October Revolution. It was possible because it was based on conclusions derived from the science of Marxism-Leninism.

In the third period the "complex method" of tackling scientific problems was adopted. An example was the work of the Committee for the Mobilization of the Resources of the Urals. This Committee urgently recommended that measures be taken for developing the steel and non-ferrous industries, power resources, building material industry, transportation and agriculture of the Urals.

The third period was also marked by Kapitza's discovery of superfluidity in helium. Our chemists may well be proud of the theory of physico-chemical analysis of Kurnakov and of the works of Zelinsky and Favorsky, not to mention many others. Bach, a member of the Academy, is the author of some remark-



Members of the Jubilee Committee of the Academy: (left to right) Academicians Bardin, Volgin, Chernov, Orbeli, Komarov, an unidentified scientist, Bruyevich, Zelinsky and Zubov

Radiophoto

able ideas in biochemistry. Krylov and Vinogradov have made valuable contributions to mechanics and mathematics. The study of the earth's crust has been substantially advanced by the findings of Obruchev. Important work in physiology has been done by the pupils of Pavlov, headed by Orbeli.

I could go on enumerating the achievements of the Academy in the natural and technical sciences, in history, and so forth, but above all there is one thing I wish to emphasize: all these achievements are in one way or another due to the practice of Socialism in our country and to the participation of scientists in the economic development of the country; and it would never have been possible without the care and solicitude shown for the Academy by the Soviet Government, and in particular by Stalin's closest colleague, Vyacheslav Molotov.

The war was the supreme test of the effectiveness of the Academy as the scientific center of the Soviet Union. Like the Soviet people, the Academy dedicated all its energies to the defense of the country, and made a real contribution to the defeat of the enemy.

During the fifty years of my career as a scientist, I have never been so fully satisfied as since I have had the opportunity to devote my energies to mobilizing the inexhaustible resources of our great country.

Never have I seen our scientists work with so much enthusiasm. All branches of Soviet science were enlisted: physicists worked out theoretical and experimental data for designing new types of armament; mathematicians devised more rapid methods of computation for artillery, aircraft and warships; chemists found new processes for the manufacture of explosives, alloys and pharmaceutical preparations; biologists discovered new sources of food for the Armed Forces and the civilian population; and our medical scientists used new methods to save the precious lives of tens of thousands of our soldiers. We are proud of the knowledge that our efforts helped our heroic Red Army and Navy to vanquish the German-fascist invaders.

In the struggle against fascist Ger-

During an intermission of the Jubilee Session, Academician Tarle (second from left) converses with Andre Mason and Camille Bloch, of France, and Dmitri Mikhalev, President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Radiophoto



many, science in all the democratic countries was supported by its traditions and progressive ideals.

Liberty and democracy were the motivating force in England for the development of modern natural science, inspiring such brilliant men as Bacon, Newton, Faraday, Maxwell and Darwin.

Russian science is historically associated with English science. Darwin's work had broad scientific and social reverberations in Russia, and Darwin watched with keen interest the first steps of his Russian followers. In the Soviet Union Darwinism found a second home. The work of Mendeleev, Timiryazev, Pavlov, Lebedev and other outstanding Russian scientists was deeply appreciated by English scientists. During the Patriotic War Soviet scientists strove to strengthen and broaden their ties with their English confreres.

American natural science is likewise imbued with progressive ideas. Benjamin Franklin, the first great American naturalist, investigator of atmospheric electricity and inventor of the lightning rod, was a

champion of freedom. As an illustration of the scientific ties between Russia and the United States in the past, one might mention Lomonosov, who continued Franklin's researches in physics. The Academy of Sciences treasures these traditional ties and is anxious to extend its connection with American science.

We are bound by similar traditions of friendship with France. We recall the cordial reception given in that country to the work of Chebyshev, Mechnikov and Vernadsky.

A close bond links us also with the scientists of the Slav countries.

Friends, our Government, our people and our scientists constitute a single, closely-knit group, inspired by common aspirations, ideas and ideals. At the helm of our country stands Joseph Stalin, a man of genius and a great scientist. Our Academy and its scientists are constantly aware of his deep solicitude for their interests.

In conclusion, I should like to convey the warm greetings of the Academy of Sciences to our beloved leader, Joseph Stalin.

Michurin Institute Develops New Fruit Hybrids

New records have been set by Soviet fruitgrowers, disciples of the Russian Burbank, Ivan Michurin. They have produced the unprecedented crossbreeds of apple with pear, cherry with plum, and red with black currant.

More than 800 varieties of the plants Michurin gathered in America, Asia and Europe during the last years of his life are now cultivated in nurseries he founded.

The Michurin Research Institute conducts continuous studies, and is now at work on 1,500 types of fruit trees and berry shrubs.

A crowning achievement are the orchards in Siberia, where many Michurin varieties—apples, gooseberries, and even Siberian grapes—have adapted well to the severe climate.

The Department of Literature and Language of the Academy of Sciences

By Professor Ivan Meshchaninov

Secretary, Department of Literature and Language

The research work of the Department of Literature and Language of the Academy of Sciences is divided into five sections: the Russian Language Institute; the Marr Institute of Language and Thought; the Institute of Oriental Studies; Pushkin House; and the Maxim Gorky Institute of World Literature.

Until the outbreak of the war, these institutes were in Leningrad and Moscow, when it was found that an essential alteration was necessary for the study of language and literature and Slav and Oriental cultures.

The victorious Red Army whose ranks numbered citizens of the multilingual Soviet Union, which unites in one friendly family the nationalities of its territories, made new demands upon literary and language studies. Not only dictionaries of military terms in the languages of the various nationalities, but also pocket editions of the Russo-National dictionaries were urgently required. This task devolved upon the Institutes of the Academy of Sciences and its branches.

As the Red Army approached the borders of hostile states, special textbooks had to be prepared for soldiers who did not know foreign languages. Bilingual conversation books were needed, 23 of which were compiled in a short time.

Other important work during the war included the translation of documents, and consultations on creating maps of the border countries. The language Institutes took an active part in the pedagogical work of the military schools, training commanders who already had a background of languages.

Throughout these special activities, the regular research work of the Institutes was carried on. Evacuated from Leningrad and Moscow, they established contact with kindred scientific centers in the National Republics. In this way the Academy branches could increase their knowledge and in exchange give necessary assistance to the scientific research work-

ers of Central Asia. The Institute of Oriental Studies, the Gorky Institute of Literature and the Pushkin House were then in Tashkent; the Marr Institute of Language and Thought in Alma-Ata and Stalinabad.

As a result of close cooperation between the scientists from the Central Institutes and the local scientists, the compilation of academic grammar textbooks into the Uzbek, Kazakh and Marii languages was hastened. A series of Russo-National dictionaries (Kirghiz, Kazakh, Marii and Bashkir) were compiled. Work was begun on a Karakalpak dictionary; and the Azerbaijani, published in Baku, was in four volumes. Orientalists completed monumental dictionaries under the guidance of foremost scholars—Professor Alexeyev, on the Chinese dictionary; Professor Konrad, on Japanese hieroglyphics; Professor Kozin, the Mongolian tongue. Important contributions were made in Arabic philology by Professor Krachkovsky; in Chinese poetry, by Professor Alexeyev; Professor Barannikov is continuing his research in modern languages and the literature of India.

In the course of the last two years, a translation with a commentary has been completed of treatises on the military art of Sunzi and Wusi, two classics studied in special courses of the military academies of China and Japan. These are now published for the first time in a full, scientifically verified edition, edited by Professor Konrad.

An Outline of the History of the Russian Literary Language of an Earlier Period, by Professor Obnorsky, is the most outstanding book on the Russian and other Slav languages. Of considerable value in the study of Slav languages is Professor Derzhavin's introduction to Slav philology. The scope of his investigations has been considerably extended as a result of the strengthening of the contact with the Slav countries during the war. The comparative review of the principal syn-

tax structures of the series of language and their different systems may serve as a textbook both for language study and for the compilation of grammars of different languages.

The study of literature was not neglected during the war. Before the invasion Pushkin House was preparing to publish a ten-volume history of Russian literature from ancient times to the present day. It also undertook a compilation of the history of western European literatures—English, French, Italian, Spanish, German—and the literature of the United States. These are the work of a number of scholars. Not only do they review the merits of writers and their place in the development of a national and world culture, but they examine the relationship between the great masterpieces of creative art and the people's social struggle, and point out the significance of literature in the realization of humanity's high moral ideals.

Particular emphasis is laid on the history of Soviet literature—its evolution, links with the past and general development. The social aims of the people and their literature are shown to have a parallel growth. It is natural that the war should have brought to the fore in these studies patriotism, love for country, national consciousness and the unity of the various nationalities, as well as the relation between Russian and western European literature. This undertaking is nearing completion.

The monographs on writers, prepared at the same time, formed excellent supplementary material for the histories. Studies on the works of Pushkin, Lermontov, Leo Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Turgenev, Gorky, Chekhov, Shakespeare, Cervantes, Romain Rolland, Rabelais and others, are in the course of preparation.

Additional projects begun during the war were a history of Russian criticism in five volumes; a history of thought in Rus-

sian literature, in three volumes; a history of Russian folklore; and also a collection, arrangement, analysis, etc., of Soviet folklore in peace and war.

Monographs on Belinsky and Pisarev have been prepared; one on Chernyshevsky has not yet been completed. They were great Russian democrats, thinkers and critics of the 1860's. Histories of national literature were also prepared in the Academies of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and other Republics.

The war inevitably produced an enormous demand for books of a popular scientific nature. The Institutes have published a number of pamphlets on Russian writers who have become classics—on their love for country and their attitude to Prussianism. Much attention is devoted, of course, to Maxim Gorky and his views on fascism.

Now that the archives and large libraries have been returned to Moscow,

there is even greater scope and impetus to scientific work.

The study of languages and literature was not brought to a standstill by the war. On the contrary, there was greater effort and more interest. The victorious culmination of the war against the fascist invaders opens a prospect of more profound study of questions of literature and language to which the Academy of Sciences and Soviet scholars have always devoted themselves.

ACADEMICIAN IVAN MESHCHANINOV

By S. Barkhudarov

Member, Department of Literature and Language

Ivan Meshchaninov, one of the thirteen members of the Academy of Sciences upon whom the title of Hero of Socialist Labor has been conferred, is a recognized leader in the study of the theory of language in the USSR. He is the author of about 200 works, including scores of books dealing with special problems of philology and linguistics.

Meshchaninov is a scientist with a wide range of interests. He is an excellent linguist, possessing an ability for the most subtle analysis of facts relating to language. He quickly discerns the nuances of the most complex and little-known systems.

He is a prominent archeologist, a historian of material culture, and an expert philologist with a profound knowledge of the cuneiform inscriptions of Western Asia and the Transcaucasus. In his important two-volume investigation of the cuneiform inscriptions in the region of Lake Van, Meshchaninov reveals the system of language of the most ancient state culture in the territory of the USSR—the Urartu, or the Chaldean—and compares its structure with the living form used in the Caucasus.

Meshchaninov is a follower of the materialist theory of language developed by Marr, which is based on the inter-relationship of language and society. There



Ivan I. Meshchaninov

is special emphasis on the connection between language forms and categories of consciousness.

In his latest books, *A New Theory of Language* (1936), *General Linguistics* (1945), and *Elements of the Sentence and Parts of Speech* (1945), Meshchaninov seeks to reveal the general laws of the development of languages and to ascertain methods of expressing the categories of consciousness by various language means.

Meshchaninov has set himself the aim of providing a scientific foundation for a new trend in linguistics—a comparative grammar of various language systems. That is the purpose of his numerous essays on the typological comparison of individual languages, from the Paleo-Asiatic to the Indo-European. The unity of the main lines of development of all languages is the guiding idea of Meshchaninov's entire creative activity. The chief subject matter of his researches concerns the typical stages in the development of languages.

The study of language is of the utmost importance for the development of a national culture. Due to Meshchaninov's researches, peoples of many lands—the North Caucasus, the Far North, as well as Turkey and Iran—have obtained a firm scientific basis for the development of their national languages and culture. Meshchaninov played a direct part and provided guidance in composing alphabets for peoples having no written language; in drawing up rules of spelling; in the creation of scientific and practical grammars; and also in compiling dictionaries.

His work in building up the national culture of the formerly backward peoples of the Eastern sections of the Soviet Union will never be forgotten.

GERMANY SHALL ANSWER FOR BRYANSK

By Elizabeth Kingisepp

The Bryansk Region lies in the west of the Russian SFSR, bordering on the Smolensk and Orel Regions and adjoining Byelorussia and the Ukraine. Before the German invasion there was a highly developed industry in the area. There were about 70,000 inhabitants in the city of Bryansk itself, a large industrial town in the center of the region and an important railway junction.

The Krasny Profintern plant, the most important in the region, produced powerful locomotives, and large freight and tank cars. The Dyatkov glass works manufactured 10 per cent of the country's windowpanes; the match factories 20 per cent of the entire output of matches, and the Klinty mills 18 per cent of the fine cloth.

The area had many regional as well as cooperative industries. During the years of Soviet rule, local agriculture had scored great achievements: before the war the Bryansk Region was one of the foremost for the cultivation of hemp, potatoes, vegetables and cigar tobaccos, and its collective farms provided all the raw materials for local hemp, starch and molasses factories and for distilleries. The herds were prospering.

Collective farming insured a good life for its members. Before the war the average earnings of the collective farmer per workday unit equaled four kilograms of grain, and on some farms reached six to seven kilograms.

The reign of terror of the German-fascist invaders lasted for over two years in Bryansk Region. The inhabitants bore much suffering and grief. The Hitlerites shot or murdered in other ways 80,000 people and put some 200,000 into bondage in Germany. Before retreating, the Germans burned down entire districts. They wrecked the cities of Bryansk, Bezhitsa, Klivot, Karachek, Starodub, Novozybkov and Sevsk, and destroyed many towns and industrial settlements. They burned 81,000 dwellings, demolished 50,000 public buildings on collective farms and all the buildings of the machine and tractor stations and State farms.

A total of 5,900 industrial enterprises were ruined and all their valuable equipment shipped to Germany. The large railway junctions at Bryansk and Unecha were entirely destroyed.

During the years of the German occupation the number of tractors in the region decreased by 1,301, and combines by 300; the number of horses reduced by 139,000; cows by 147,000; hogs by 64,000; sheep and goats by 240,000.

Theaters and cinemas, schools, libraries and museums, hospitals and other medical institutions were razed to the ground. The total damages caused to the region by the fascists is estimated at over 23 billion rubles.

After the expulsion of the Germans, restoration was begun under the most difficult conditions. No equipment was left in the skeletons of factories and plants; the villages had no agricultural machinery or draft animals. With the help of the Soviet Government the population has already accomplished a great deal. Over 40 large industrial enterprises and more than 250 factories of the regional and cooperative industries are again functioning. Among these are the Krasny Profintern plant, the iron and steel works, two match and two rope factories, six plants making prefabricated parts for houses; a tannery and a shoe factory. The Klinty mills have already manufactured over 300,000 meters of cloth, and the Dyatkov glass works some 500,000 square meters of windowpanes.

In the course of a year the region restored 2,892 collective farms, 24 State farms, 47 machine and tractor stations, and 2,692 livestock farms.

Much has been done toward the restoration of housing. The citizens of Bryansk voluntarily repaired 30,000 square meters of dwellings in a short period of time, contributing over 350,000 man days in their free time. In the villages, 27,000 houses have been rebuilt.

Throughout the region, 67 hospitals, 96 clinics and outpatient departments, and 335 first aid stations have been reopened, as well as 1,580 schools, four institutes, 10 special higher schools, six peda-

gogical schools, 612 clubs and village libraries, and 68 libraries.

But this is only the beginning. Much still remains to be done to erase all traces of the ravages of the Germans—to restore the industry, transport, post and telegraph, housing, municipal economy, cultural institutions and public health protection services in the towns and villages.

The regional budget approved by the Government for 1945 exceeds that of last year by 39 per cent, appropriations for the national economy being raised 44 per cent, for education 41 per cent, and for health 35 per cent. Allocations for industrial enterprises have been more than doubled, compared with 1944.

With the end of the war and the victory gained over Hitlerite Germany, the time has come to present a reckoning to those guilty of this havoc. This was spoken of at the 11th Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR by Ksenia Shurshina, a deputy from the Bryansk Region.

Expressing the opinion of her electors, Shurshina said: "Germany must be made to pay for the burned cities and villages, to restore the housing and municipal economy of the urban and rural districts. The German-fascist invaders must be made to replace in full all that they destroyed.

"Germany must pay for the losses which she caused to the industry, transport and communications of our region.

"I think that reparation for the damage caused should be made in the following fashion: if they ruined a factory, let them build a similar one.

"If they stole equipment, let them return its equivalent.

"If they burned down houses and looted the property, let them build new houses and return the stolen property to the owner.

"And with regard to the bloodthirsty acts of depredation committed by the fascist vandals against the citizens of our region, the criminals responsible must be made to answer before a tribunal of the Soviet people and to bear severe punishment."

IN LIBERATED VIENNA

By F. Golubov

The liberation of Vienna was accomplished at a rapid pace, Austrian patriots and thousands of foreign workers helping to disorganize the system of German defenses. When the battle was over, the million and a half inhabitants of the city were faced with a number of serious problems: numerous buildings in the city had been destroyed, the city transport system was not functioning, and worst of all, Vienna, located as it is in one of the most fertile districts of Europe, was threatened with hunger. The Hitlerite government had been swept out of the city, and the government apparatus of the Austrian Republic had long since been destroyed—upon the occupation of the country by the Hitlerites in 1938. During the last months of the occupation, the municipal services of the city were completely disrupted.

The Red Army immediately took matters in hand. It was their task to drive the Nazis from Austria and to help the Austrian people to restore democracy, in the spirit of the Moscow Declaration on Austria.

Among the anti-Hitlerite forces, experienced and influential persons were found who were happy to begin the work of restoration. In spite of his advanced years, Doctor Karl Renner, one of the founders of the Austrian Republic, agreed to form a government. He was supported by people who had held government posts, among them Buchinger, one of the organizers of farmer cooperatives in Austria, and Heini, an experienced leader in industrial affairs, as well as newcomers, among them Honner, organizer of the Austrian units of the Yugoslav Army.

The government of the city of Vienna was placed under the leadership of the retired General Koerner, one of the founders of the militant anti-fascist *Schutz-bund*, and Speiser, a leading spirit in the important municipal enterprises of the city of Vienna. Liberated from a death cell in a Vienna prison, Weinberger, a trade

union leader, was given an important post in the government. But good intentions of the Vienna patriots were insufficient to rescue the city from its difficult position. The sources of Vienna's water supply were wrested from the Hitlerites in violent battles. The city had to have electric power. This was achieved with the help of the Red Army, which worked on the repair of transmission lines. Gas had to be brought into the city and this, too, was a job for the Red Army. Ruined bridges were replaced by temporary structures thrown across the rivers under the supervision of experienced Russian engineers.

The main problem was to feed a million and a half people. At first supplies were brought in from other parts of the country. The Red Army furnished the automotive transport. As a "May First" gift the Soviet Command presented the people of Vienna with 7,000 tons of bread, 800 tons of flour, 2,000 tons of beans, as well

as sugar, fats and other food products.

To supply the city until the new harvest, the Soviet Government on May 25 granted the request of the Austrian Provisional Government for 45,000 tons of grain, 4,000 tons of meat, 2,700 tons of sugar and 1,000 tons of fats. These provisions are being rationed to the people through the shops that have escaped destruction. The immediate needs of the population have been met but future problems remain to be solved.

The chief agricultural districts of Austria in the Danube plain have been most stricken by the war. In these farmlands where the Nazis put up their stiffest resistance, field work could not be carried out this spring. The Germans went beyond destroying railway stations and important buildings. They drove off draft animals, removed tractors and damaged agricultural machines. The Red Army was able to supply the peasants with transport, motor fuel and large quantities of feed for draft animals, to carry out the work in the fields.

For those inhabitants of Vienna who wish to take part in farming, the Red Army Command provides transportation. Buchinger, Minister of Agriculture in the Provisional Government, declared that the department, with the support of the Soviet Command, has taken all necessary measures to put agricultural enterprises on their feet.

Vienna, the musical city, is singing again. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, one of the finest in the world, is performing symphonies by Tchaikovsky and other great Russian composers. Russian military bands on the squares often perform the immortal works of Schubert, Strauss and other great Austrian composers. In the short period since the liberation of the city, a close relationship has been established between the Viennese people and the Soviet troops. In the Red Army the new democratic Austrian Republic has found a true and sincere friend.



Radiophoto

Vienna—A wreath is placed on the grave of Austrian composer Johann Strauss by Guards Major Kichayev and Guards Lieutenants Keibal and Kachenko

Notes on Soviet Life

The Lomonosov readings given every year at Moscow University in honor of the great Russian scientist have been concluded. Lomonosov prizes have been awarded to Professors V. V. Vinogradov and K. A. Rakhmatullin. The former, a specialist in the Russian language, has published 75 scientific works, among them the outstanding studies, *The Russian Language and Grammatical Study*. The other scientist, an Uzbek by nationality, has produced 20 scientific treatises on aerodynamics.

★

Athletic contests will be held this year in all districts, cities and regions of the Ukraine. One hundred and sixty thousand sportsmen will participate in the events. Finals will take place in Kiev.

★

To mark the liberation of Kirkenes in northern Norway from German occupation and in gratitude to their Russian Allies, the residents will erect a monument near the Soviet-Norwegian border. The entire population of northern Norway is taking part in the fund-raising drive for the construction of the edifice.

★

One of the greatest projects for irrigation in the Soviet Union is the dam under construction on the Syr-Darya River in Kazakhstan. It will be a source of power for the area and the means for irrigating 150,000 hectares of land along the lower streams of the river, where harvests are under constant threat of drought. With the new water supply, the region can develop into the Union's largest center for the cultivation of rice. From the various towns and villages of the Republic 12,000 workers came to assist on the project. Highways and railways have already been completed, and the preparatory earthwork has been laid on the site of the future dam.

Two Soviet fighting men were recently awarded with American decorations: Hero of the Soviet Union Major I. Grinko received the Bronze Star Medal, and Sergeant Major G. I. Drozdov, the Distinguished Flying Cross. Grinko, a Stormovik pilot with 180 operational flights to his credit, began his military career at Stalingrad in October, 1942. He fought in the Kuban, Crimea and Baltic battles. He rose from sergeant to major and became a squadron commander. The twenty-two-year-old hero holds the Order of Lenin and the Gold Star; two Orders of the Red Banner; the Order of Kutuzov, third class; two Orders of Alexander Nevsky; the Order of the Patriotic War, first class; the Order of the Red Star; the Stalingrad Defense Medal; and the Defense of the Caucasus Medal. Sergeant Major Drozdov, a gunner in Major Grinko's crew, made 126 operational flights.

★

The People's Commissariat of the Coal Industry of the USSR is conducting extensive training courses for technical personnel. With the number of students considerably greater than before the war, new schools and student dormitories are now under construction. More than 5,000 students are enrolled for the first semester.

★

The house of the Russian General Staff, on Winter Palace Square, one of the most magnificent edifices in Leningrad, which was damaged by fascist bombs and shells, is being repaired. The sculptural decorations of the unique facade, 1,600 feet in length, will be completely restored.

★

An exhibition of pictures devoted to the liberation of the Donets Basin from the occupationists and its rehabilitation has opened in Kiev. Over 300 works by the artists of Kiev, Kharkov and Voroshilovgrad are on display. There has been marked interest in three canvases by Yablonskaya, Bezugly and Otroshenko.

While attending the San Francisco Conference, Foreign Commissar Molotov received a letter from Emma Jordan of Newcastle, Pennsylvania, enclosing a watch and asking him to give it to a medical worker of a Soviet military hospital. The gift was presented to Lieutenant Natalia Ivanovna Morozova, one of the Red Army's finest nurses. The thirty-five-year-old former obstetrical nurse has served in an ambulance plane and seen front-line duty. She is today head nurse at the Chief Medical Hospital of the Red Army.

★

Soviet banks have shown a marked increase in the number and volume of deposits. In the first four months of 1945 deposits increased by 640 million rubles, more than in the first four months of any year during the war.

★

The new reading hall for young people, which was opened in the Moscow Lenin Library during the war, is used by 700 to 800 students daily. Seniors have consultations on physics, mathematics, geography, literature, the English language and other subjects.

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5

The Great Patriotic War

1941—1945

Four years ago—June 22, 1941—the German army suddenly and treacherously invaded the Soviet Union. Hitler and his gang had not the slightest doubt that their ruffian army would score a speedy victory, a belief shared by the minor aggressors: the Italians, Rumanians, Hungarians and Finns.

Even in the countries of the anti-Hitler bloc, not to mention the neutral countries, there were few who doubted that the Germans would win. Some said Germany would knock out the Soviet Union in a few weeks; others thought it would take several months. So firmly had the myth of the invincibility of Hitler's army taken hold in the West.

The world had seen how rapidly Germany's armored hordes disposed of the armies of Western Europe. Practically the entire continent lay prostrate under the heel of Germany. The armament and equipment of the European armies and all the economic resources of the Western European countries fell into the Germans' hands. The industries of France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Poland and other countries worked uninterruptedly to supply the German army.

The death furnaces of Maidanek, Tremblyanka and Oswiecim were set up. The fascists indulged in an orgy of violence and rapine; Europe groaned beneath the brown scourge.

It seemed that nothing could stand up before the cruel and powerful conquerors. In the West, Britain held her ground, courageously beating off the attacks of the Luftwaffe. But, as Anthony Eden admitted, after the defeat at Dunkirk, she no longer had a single battle-worthy division.

In the East, there was the Soviet Union. How many lies and calumnies had been spread about it! In what a distorted light this great and mighty land of liberty and democracy had been depicted! Today millions in all corners of the world bless the Soviet Government and people for having saved civilization from destruction and Europe from slavery and degradation. But can it be forgotten that the reactionaries did their best to conceal the truth about the Soviet Union and even slandered it? The war has broken down the wall erected against our country; this land of reason, liberty and progress, the liberator of

nations, has been revealed to the eyes of the world in all its might and nobility.

There were immense difficulties for the Soviet Union. The German army was fully mobilized and had already had two years of war experience; the Red Army had to build up its strength in the course of hostilities and had no experience in modern warfare.

The German army had enormous quantities of armament, several times more tanks, more aircraft, more mortars and automatic weapons than the Red Army. In addition, the German army was supplied by the industries not only of Germany but of nearly all of Europe.

More, at the beginning of the war the Germans, due to the surprise nature of their attack, were able to make deep incursions into Soviet territory and to seize important economic regions—the iron and steel of the South, the coal of the Donbas, the iron ore of Krivoi Rog, the manganese of Nikopol, and the large machine-building and power centers.

How amazing, therefore, are the staunchness, heroism and valor displayed by the Soviet people and their Red Army. They not only met and withstood the



German prisoners taken on the First Byelorussian Front



Tanks of the Red Army roll through Berlin

Radiophotos

assault of the German hordes with supreme courage, not only held firm in the face of a seemingly irresistible onslaught, but mauled and bled the fascist armies, turned the tide of war in favor of the USSR and its Allies, battered Hitler's war machine, and brought it to the brink of disaster.

Now that Hitler Germany has been vanquished, it becomes clearer than ever that only the USSR was equal to the gigantic task of smashing the most hated enemy of mankind. In no other country were the people so solidly welded, so united around their Government, or so conscious of their liberating mission.

The strength and might of the Red Army and the Soviet country were revealed in the first days of the war. Let us recall how heroically the Red Army repulsed the Germans' panzers, destroying them with guns, grenades and explosive fuel bottles. Let us also recall how the beleaguered garrisons fought to the last, and how immediately after the Germans occupied an area, guerrilla detachments sprang up to fight the enemy, fearless of the savage Nazi terror.

Even at the time of their temporary successes, when they were still advancing, the Germans sustained huge losses. The Red Army bitterly contested every town and village and made the Germans pay a heavy toll in lives and materiel.

In October, 1941, Hitler announced that he would soon be entering Moscow. But the Germans were stopped outside of Moscow.

The genius of Marshal Stalin precisely calculated the correct moment to pass to the offensive, the forces that would be required for it, the place at which

the enemy should be attacked, and his vulnerable points. In December, 1941, the Red Army launched its celebrated attack outside Moscow. The Soviet troops, after months of exhausting retreat, were still able to deal the enemy a staggering blow. The myth of the invincibility of the German army was at once dispelled to the wind. It was to the Red Army the credit for this belongs. It was the Red Army that proved the Germans could be beaten and vanquished.

We know why it was not able to complete the defeat of the Germans at that time. There was no second front in Europe. Hitler could readily transfer dozens of divisions from the West and hurl them and their armament against the Soviet Union. He carried out his first total mobilization. He imposed a severe tyranny on Europe and pumped out all it could give to reinforce his army. The absence of a second front is what saved Germany from disaster in the winter of 1941-42, and what enabled her to launch a new offensive against the USSR in the summer of 1942. But Stalingrad put an end to that. On the banks of the Volga the Red Army, directed by Marshal Stalin, dealt the German army so staggering a defeat that it was never able to recover.

The Red Army's victory at Stalingrad demonstrated the superiority of Stalin's strategy over the reckless strategy of the Germans. It revealed the inexhaustible strength of the Soviet State, whose might grew and augmented during the war, while the might of Germany declined.

After Stalingrad—at whose walls in February, 1943, the picked German army, 330,000-strong, was annihilated—the

wholesale ejection of the enemy from Soviet land began. The reverberations of Stalingrad were felt all over Europe, awakening hope and courage in millions.

Until the summer of 1944, the USSR fought Germany and her satellites singlehanded. It not only knocked the spirit out of Hitler's army; it also gave its Allies, Great Britain and the United States, time to prepare for the opening of the second front, for the invasion of France in the summer of 1944, and for offensive operations in the West.

In a message to Marshal Stalin on the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army, Prime Minister Winston Churchill said: "Future generations will acknowledge their debt to the Red Army as unreservedly as do we who have lived to witness these proud achievements."

Down to the last days of the war, the Germans maintained the greater part of their forces on the Eastern Front, rightly considering that this was the most dangerous one. The fascists were then aware that they were facing the most powerful of modern armies, competent to plant the flag of victory in Berlin and demolish their pirates' den.

The Red Army is inspired by the noble traditions of liberty, reason and progress, by the principle of the liberty, equality and independence of nations. It is the sentinel of peace and justice.

On June 22, the freedom-loving nations will pay homage to the Soviet soldiers who fell in the fighting for the liberty of mankind. In a spirit of admiration and gratitude the nations will honor the heroic Red Army, the great people that gave it birth, and the brilliant soldier Stalin, author of its glorious victories.



A victorious Soviet tank crew before the Brandenburg Gate



Red Army artillery passing through a Pomeranian city

Radsof

THE BUDGET OF THE RUSSIAN SFSR

The Sixth Session of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic opened in the Kremlin on June 5.

The Russian SFSR is rightly regarded as the first among the equal Republics of the Soviet commonwealth. It was around the Russian Federation that the other Republics rallied, uniting with it to form the single and mighty multi-national Soviet Union. The RSFSR is territorially the largest, economically the strongest and culturally the most advanced of the Soviet Republics.

Its political weight arises from the great role the Russian people played in the October Revolution, in the work of Socialist construction and in the Patriotic War. The Russian working class with its militant revolutionary traditions was the first to lead the attack on the old social order of slavery and oppression. Led by the great Party of Lenin and Stalin, the workers of Russia were the first to create a workers' and peasants' Republic, which served as a model for sister nations. The Russian people blazed the trail in Socialist construction, in industrialization and in collectivization of the country. Their culture, with its centuries of history, has exercised and is continuing to have a strong influence on the cultures of the other Soviet peoples.

The Russians made an inestimable contribution to the war against the German-fascist aggressors. They unfalteringly bore the main burden of the effort to defeat the enemy and rallied and inspired other nations of the Union of Soviet Republics. Marshal Stalin expressed his high appreciation of the role of the Russian nation in the Patriotic War when he said, "It is the most outstanding nation of all nations forming the Soviet Union . . . and it has won in this war universal recognition as the leading force in the Soviet Union among all the peoples of our country."

Nothing could shake their faith in the correctness of the policy of the Party of Lenin and Stalin and of their Government, and they willingly bore every sacrifice in order to vanquish the enemy.

Stalin further said: "This confidence of the Russian people in the Soviet Gov-



State Emblem, Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic

ernment proved to be that decisive force which insured a historic victory over the enemy of humanity—over fascism. Thanks to the Russian people for this confidence."

All regions, territories and autonomous republics of the Russian Federation contributed their share to our victory. The entire economy of the Republic and the efforts of millions of its inhabitants were directed to supplying the needs of the Armed Forces. This naturally had an effect on the budgets for the war years. Nevertheless, all through the war the Government of the Federation, despite incredible difficulties, devoted considerable attention to the material and cultural needs of the population. During the four war years, in the budget of the RSFSR 55½ billion rubles were appropriated for cultural services.

The budget for 1945 submitted by the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR to the Supreme Soviet of the Federation proposes adequate appropriations for rehabilitation work in the former German-occupied regions and for further development of the productive forces and culture of the Republic. As compared with last year, the revenue and expenditure are expected to increase by 4.5 billion rubles, and to reach 28.8 billion rubles. The major portion of the total appropriation is for cultural services.

One effect of the increased expenditures for cultural needs is that the number of pupils attending school in the RSFSR will increase by nearly two mil-

lion, and the number of students in technical colleges and universities, by over 100,000. About four billion rubles are assigned for the maintenance of kindergartens, creches, child medical centers, maternity homes and other mother and child welfare institutions. An increase for public health, science and art is provided for. It is a remarkable and significant fact that in the first postwar year a greater amount is actually being appropriated in the budget of the RSFSR for social and cultural services than was expended in 1940, the last prewar year.

The appropriations for financing the national economy of the Republic are considerably larger than last year. The four billion rubles allocated for this purpose will permit the reconstruction of the industrial, agricultural and municipal enterprises wrecked by the Germans, and the erection of new factories, dwelling houses, etc. Investments in municipal services and housing construction will increase by more than 40 per cent as compared with last year. This is understandable when it is remembered that a considerable part of the housing and municipal services were destroyed during the war in the areas occupied by the Germans. Even in the cities which did not suffer from fascist rapine, major repairs of housing and municipal services will be needed.

Local Government budgets, which constitute a component part of the budget of the Federation, are drawn up by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the various autonomous republics, territories, regions, districts, cities and villages. This is one of the manifestations of Soviet democracy. There are 45,000 local Government bodies in the RSFSR which have their own budgets. The disbursements of these local budgets directly depend on the initiative of the local authority and its resourcefulness in finding additional sources of revenue.

A short time has passed since the celebration of the historic victory over the enemy, but already all thoughts and energies of the Soviet people are dedicated to increasing the military and economic might of our country. This is the great aim of the 1945 budget of the RSFSR.

The Mining Institute of the Academy of Sciences

By Academician A. Skochinsky

Director, Mining Institute

The 220th anniversary of the founding of the Academy of Sciences coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Academy's Mining Institute.

In pre-Revolutionary Russia the Academy's geologists were engaged in an "all-mining science." The old Academy did not have a department of technology or a mining institute. Some of the mining engineers of the USSR Academy's Department of Technology formed a group which gradually grew into the Institute.

The USSR is a country with tremendous mineral resources; ever-growing mining industry offers a constant challenge to Soviet research workers.

What these problems are, and what the Institute does, will be of interest to the reader. The scope of the activity is quite wide, but particular attention is devoted to the protection of the lives and health of miners.

Explosions and fires in coal and ore mines are the chief disasters; it is the duty of the scientist to seek the causes of these accidents and to find the means of preventing them.

We have done considerable research into the problem of ventilation. During the past 10 years we have worked on methods for forecasting the amount of gas in the lower coal in the Donets Basin and in the new workings in the Kuznetsk Basin and at Karaganda. Gas in the mines is a major occupational hazard.

In some mines the quantity of gas increases to such an extent as workings are driven deeper into the earth, that it is extremely difficult to combat explosive gases by usual methods, i. e., by the injection of air into the mines in such quantities that explosive concentrations of gas are not formed. In a number of mines the presence of gas greatly limits the output of coal.

We experimented with forecasting gas concentrations and tried out methods of controlling the quantity of gas produced. We are now able to forecast concentrations at a depth of 3,000 feet where there are active workings at 1,500 to 2,000 feet. We already have a number of posi-

tive results in the effort to control the amount of gas given off; these are milestones in the world of mining.

Most countries use a process of ventilation in underground workings little different in principle from the old primitive methods used for hundreds of years: air is pumped into the mines in some quantity or other; the effect of the air stream is not studied in any way, nor is research done on the processes of dispersion and expulsion of dangerous gases by air-stream ventilation.

The work done in this field in the Soviet Union has to a great extent clarified the extremely complicated aerodynamic processes which take place.

We have raised and solved the problem of combating fires of endogenic origin in a new way. With the extensive working of large seams of coal in the USSR, the danger of fire from spontaneous combustion greatly increased. It is hard to eliminate fires of endogenic origin, but we found a method of employing antipyrogenics. These antipyrogenics, in the form of gases, liquids and mixtures, are introduced into the workings and they check the oxidization process taking place in the coal, that is, the process of spontaneous combustion.

Our researches resulted in effective methods for combating fires of endogenic origin, both in the mines, and on the surface in the coal warehouses and mine dumps.

In view of the urgency of this problem we have worked out a laboratory procedure of issuing certificates for coal seams and deposits of self-combustible ores, indicating their tendency to spontaneous combustion. This is extremely important.

Another scourge in the mining industry is methane (fire damp), the exact nature of which has not yet been established but which causes enormous damage. Sudden accumulations of methane are very difficult to combat. In order to find an explanation for this dangerous phenomenon, it is necessary to determine the volume of gas in the coal seam, the form

in which the methane is present in the coal, and the relationship between the gas and coal.

In Belgium and France, experiments were made to study the volume of gas in coal at pressures of 150 to 200 atmospheres. In our laboratory we made the same experiments at pressures of 800 to 1,000 atmospheres, and obtained valuable information.

In addition to research work, our scientists act as practical consultants to the mining industry (coal, ores and salts), and assisted in the building of the Moscow subway.

During the war we served on the Commission for the Mobilization of the Resources of the Urals, Siberia and Kazakhstan.

When the Germans still occupied the Donets Basin, a group of scientists under my direction worked out the fundamentals of the techniques for rebuilding the Donets coal mines which suffered from enemy action.

It has been a matter of great pride to Soviet mining engineers and research workers to know that their work has been of practical use in the restoration of the Donets coal basin.

Fireproof Smelter's Suit

A new fireproof suit for steel smelters has been invented, which weighs less than eight pounds, allows full freedom of motion and affords complete protection from heat. First to test the new suit was smelter Konstantin Pivovarov, of Leningrad, who stood in front of the open furnaces without dodging the heat, calmly carrying on his work for a whole hour. The perfected outfit, made of tinfoil covered with tiny scales, is the product of the staff of the Leningrad Physics Laboratory headed by Professor Galanin. Previously used canvas and asbestos, as well as metallic fabrics and aluminum foil, failed to give adequate protection.

THE JASSY-KISHINEV OPERATION

By Major General Nikolai Zamyatin

One of the Red Army's major operations in 1944 was its Jassy-Kishinev offensive.

Having successively inflicted defeat on the Germans of the northern and central army groups in 1944, the Red Army launched the offensive on the Jassy-Kishinev sector and shattered the Germans' southern strategical flank.

On the eve of this operation, the southern wing of the Soviet front represented a huge arc which followed the Paskani line, passed north of Jassy and Ungeni, ran on to Dubossari and thence to the Dniester and the Black Sea. From the north and east the arc enclosed the entire German group operating in this area, consisting of the German 6th and 8th Armies and a large force of Rumanians under the command of Colonel General Frissner.

The possession of the Jassy-Kishinev area enabled the Germans to maneuver in the northern sector in the event of a Soviet offensive near Lvov. It also covered the road into Rumania, Germany's chief satellite, and to the important Rumanian oilfields of Ploesti.

The fascists therefore strongly fortified this area and extended their defenses to a considerable depth. The strongest fortifications of all were in Tirgu, Frumos and Jassy, defense zones which barred the road to the Soviet advance between the Prut and Seret Rivers. When the Red Army eventually broke through, they found 350 large ferro-concrete fortified works and other minor constructions.

Strong defenses had likewise been erected on the western bank of the Dniester, especially facing the bridgeheads which the Red Army had established in its spring offensive. The Germans made desperate and costly, but futile, attempts to dislodge the Soviet forces from the western bank of the Dniester and to reduce the bridgeheads.

When planning the Jassy-Kishinev operation, the Soviet Command decided to derive the utmost advantage from the

configuration of the front, enveloping as it did the enemy's group, and from the relatively compact disposition of the latter.

The objective was to undertake a broad maneuver to surround the enemy's Jassy-Kishinev army group. Its execution was entrusted to the Third Ukrainian Army under General, now Marshal of the Soviet Union, Tolbukhin.

General Malinovsky was to attack from the north, in the area between the Prut and Seret, and after breaking through the enemy's fortified zones, to reach the Prut at Leovo, cut the Germans' western escape routes and effect a junction with the Third Ukrainian Army.

General Tolbukhin was to launch the offensive from bridgeheads on the western bank of the Dniester, to strike westward, sever the Germans' roads of retreat to the south and southwest, and to join up with the Second Ukrainian Army at Leovo, thus closing a ring around the entire German Jassy-Kishinev group.

In the areas of the main drives the Soviet Command organized assault groups supplied with abundant artillery, large armored and mounted formations and numerous aircraft. In those sectors Soviet artillery concentrations averaged 240 guns per kilometer of the front; on the first day of the offensive, the Soviet Air Force made about 3,500 sorties. The Germans' formidable defensive technique was therefore countered by the equally formidable weapons of the offense.

The Offensive Begins

The Soviet offensive on both sectors began on August 20. It had been prepared in such secrecy that it was a complete surprise to the Germans. So powerful were the attacks of the artillery and aircraft and so vigorous was the action of the infantry and armor, that the German defenses were pierced on the first day, and mobile formations poured into the breaches.

The enemy's efforts to stem the ad-

vance were unavailing. His counterattacks were foiled by Soviet aircraft and tanks.

On the fifth day, August 25, having fought their way forward 120 kilometers, Soviet troops completely accomplished their mission. The Second and Third Ukrainian Armies effected a junction on the Prut and surrounded the enemy group on all sides. Twenty-two divisions were trapped.

Part of the Soviet forces proceeded to mop up the surrounded enemy, while the mobile forces surged onward into the heart of Rumania. The advance attained a speed of 50 kilometers a day.

On August 27, the Red Army occupied Foksani, Rumnik, Ismail and Galatz.

On August 30, General Malinovsky seized Ploesti, and after routing the Germans in that area, entered Bucharest, the Rumanian capital.

By September 3, the liquidation of the enemy divisions was completed, part being annihilated and part taken prisoner.

The Jassy-Kishinev operation was thus brilliantly consummated.

* * *

From a purely military point of view, it was a model example of a modern offensive operation for the encirclement of a large enemy group, and will rank in history alongside the battles of Stalingrad, Korsun-Shevchenkivsky and Byelorussia.

The enemy sustained irreparable losses. The strategical results were stupendous. The Germans' southern flank was completely shattered, Germany's major satellite, Rumania, was put out of action and was soon followed by Bulgaria. Germany was deprived of an important source of oil and of other valuable Rumanian materials.

Lastly, the road was opened to the Red Army into Hungary and toward the Danube and Tisza, making it possible to plan a deep envelopment of the entire southern flank of the German armies.

ANNALS OF A UKRAINIAN VILLAGE

By Dmitri Rud

The Beginning

The war reached our village a month before the actual invasion. One late August day a flock of fascist planes appeared over Podgorodny. They were heading for Dnepropetrovsk and one of them, perhaps for the fun of the thing, dropped a demolition bomb in the center of the village. Two collective farmers were killed and six houses were wrecked. Subsequently the village was in the zone of German artillery fire. The invaders' work that month "netted" 60 people and 240 houses.

On September 29 German tanks approached the Red Partisan collective farm from the north side; under cover of the tanks, enemy infantry surrounded Podgorodny. A hurricane of fire immediately opened on the Soviet troops still in the village. The battle lasted a whole day and night. In hand-to-hand fighting 65 soldiers and officers of the Red Army died a heroic death; nine severely wounded men were burned alive by the Hitlerites.

That was the beginning of the German-occupation nightmare, which was to last two years. For the first few days the village was entirely in the hands of drunken German soldiery, wantonly looting the town. With women's despairing shrieks, children's wailing, the bellowing of cattle in their death agony, the random firing of the Hitlerites—it was hell on earth.

For more than a month the Gestapo hangmen, stationed in the village because it was suspected that we were in touch with the guerrillas, ran amok. Villagers had to be prepared to die at any moment: a careless word was sufficient to bring down the vengeance of the Gestapo. Fifty-six people were shot, hanged, or mutilated and murdered. Then the Gestapo left and other fascists came to hunt for slaves; they bagged 480 youths and girls.

A month later the village commandant, Bantel, who was from the SS, drove all the old men into the office of the administration. Holding a whip in his hand while he talked, he ordered them to drive a herd of cows to the railway station—the day before the cows had been taken

away from the women collective farmers, the wives of Red Army men. The herd was loaded onto freight cars.

The end of the Hitlerite tyranny came in September, 1943, when the Germans retreated, under pressure from the Red Army. But for 12 days before, they systematically destroyed and burned all remaining property in the village. Some cattle was herded off, some slaughtered. The schools and clubs, the village Soviet, hospital, mill, power station and buildings belonging to the five Podgorodny collective farms, were devastated. The population was forced across the Dnieper; those who refused were shot. Of 3,000 households, 2,400 were burned. For five days and nights the German incendiaries vent their will in Podgorodny. The village was one huge conflagration. All that had been earned in years of hard work was irrevocably lost.

The Itemized Account

The statements of the damage and losses inflicted by the German-fascist invaders on the collective farms and population of the village of Podgorodny fill two large volumes; there are nearly 2,500 of these accounts, one from each household that suffered—all very much alike. What sorrow and tears are behind this documentary evidence!

Consider a few facts from the statement of German pillage on the Red Partisan collective farm: 26 buildings burned that cost 634,000 rubles; crops valued at 1,367,000 rubles carted away; orchards worth 38,000 rubles hacked down; cattle stolen and slaughtered estimated at 1,130,000 rubles; seed, fodder, provisions and materials plundered or destroyed to the value of 1,147,000 rubles; machinery and agricultural implements costing 98,000 rubles; and the interruption and crippling of the work of the collective farm for two years deprived it of an income of 9,770,000 rubles.

Thus there is a total loss of 14 million rubles on only one farm, the Red Partisan; nearly 19 million rubles on another, the Red Field farm; and 96 million rubles on all five collective farms at Podgorodny.

The individual losses of collective farmer Anastasia Boiko are typical: 244,000 rubles. The German invaders took away her cow, calf and a six-month-old pig, stole and killed her fowl, and also burned her cottage, sheds, garden, all her movable possessions, provisions and clothing—a total of 244,000 rubles in property were gone.

Altogether, the German occupation inflicted losses of 290 million rubles on the population of Podgorodny: houses and sheds, 168 million rubles; cattle, 41 million rubles; provisions, 29 million rubles; household property, 28 million rubles; fruit trees, four million rubles. It will take at least 20 million rubles to replace the personal property alone of the population.

To this must be added the cost of the schoolbuildings, medical, cultural and educational institutions, flour mills and power stations. There was thus a total damage of 400 million rubles caused by the Germans.

This is the account to be presented to Germany for only one of the ruined villages of the Ukraine.

Rehabilitation

It was late autumn, the memorable time of liberation. The pale sunshine scarcely warmed the earth and was not sufficient to dry out the rough bricks the villagers were making for their new houses. But to wait for spring was out of the question; they had to get through the winter somehow. How was this to be done if four-fifths of Podgorodny's population were without shelter, fuel or bread?

The problem, which seemed impossible, was resolved by the resourcefulness of the people and the experience gained in the stern school of war. When work began there were only 600 cottages left standing. Five of the largest and brightest were assigned as temporary quarters for schools. About three-fourths of the people whose dwellings had been burned were lodged in the remaining houses, sheds and cellars, and they were grateful for even this extremely crowded shelter. Seven

hundred families remained completely homeless. Many settled into German dug-outs for the winter; the others lived in the 100 huts put up by local carpenters.

The matter of fuel proved much simpler. Haystacks, which miraculously survived, were still in the fields. Ordinarily the straw would have been used for litter or as fodder, but since the Germans had left no cattle, it was not needed. So it was used for fuel.

The third need, bread, could not be supplied entirely by the village population; the District Soviet had to be appealed to for aid. A delegation returned with three trucks of grain and a promise of 120 tons more—enough for a start. Help came not only from the State, but also from the collective farms of the Right Bank districts, which had been left by the Germans in pell-mell retreat, and had therefore suffered considerably less than Podgorodny. These farms sent 350 tons of grain, so that the Podgorodny people had sufficient to last until the next harvest.

The winter was spent in hard work and in preparing for the rebuilding period ahead in the first spring of liberation.

The village Soviet obtained permission in the fall from the Regional Soviet to fell the trees in the neighboring Novomoskovsky District. Each of the five Podgorodny collective farms sent out two brigades of woodcutters, 200 people altogether, who in a month prepared 2,000 cubic meters of building timber. The greatest task was to bring it to the village; the Germans had left not a single horse or cart. Again the Right Bank collective farmers came to the rescue with 80 horses and 15 carts, and by January all the timber had been hauled.

So the main things necessary for the restoration of the village were found; the other essentials for constructing cottages were all available—earth, clay, water, straw and labor.

The population of this village, which is very near to Dniepropetrovsk, has long been set up into two groups: one-fifth, about 600 households, engaged in farming; the rest, in industry. Before the war both farmers and industrial workers were prosperous.

The five collective farms were well

organized; the members cultivated their land in a modern, efficient way and raised good crops of grain and vegetables. They owned fine herds of excellent breeds of cattle, and their sheds, barns and other buildings were noted all over the region. Deliveries to the Government were always prompt, and the markets were well stocked with their fresh farm products. There were 10 motor trucks in the garages and 350 horses in the stables; 20 tractors worked in the fields.

The village had four schools, its own medical, educational and cultural institutions, and, of course, electricity and radios. All of these possessions were wiped from the face of the earth by the Hitlerite vandals.

When the villagers concluded the spring sowing, they set to work on construction. Many whose homes had been razed received loans from the village bank. At the beginning of May, the gardens and yards were cleared of the rubble left by the Germans. For three months after that, the village echoed with the

sound of hammer and saw. Twenty collective farm brigades worked simultaneously in different parts of the village. The carpenters were busy on the framework of houses; the old people fetched water; women and children mixed clay and made bricks. The teamwork was excellent and progress was rapid. This simple division of labor, this social-collective organization on each building, resulted in greater speed than had been known even in prewar days or could have been dreamed of in the days before the collective farms.

In no more than three months the village had completed 1,950 cottages and 40 public buildings, which included several schoolhouses, as well as 20 cattle-sheds, a granary, a forge and barns for the collective farms.

The last job was roofing the structures—and that was simple. Now that the harvest had been gathered in, there was plenty of fresh straw, and the buildings were all neatly thatched.

CINEMATOGRAPHY AT THE FRONT

By M. Dolgoplov

Dozens of full-length documentary films, hundreds of newsreels, numerous film reports from the front, and special cinema editions, such as *Soviet News Review*, *Soviet Art* and *Young Pioneers*, were produced by the Central Documentary Film Studio during the war. Every important event at the front and in the rear, every major operation of the Armed Forces, was duly recorded on film and shown to the country as a newsreel or full-length film.

Cameramen saw "action," perished at the front, and were decorated for exceptional bravery and devotion to duty. Medals for the Defense of Odessa, Sevastopol, Leningrad, Stalingrad and Moscow, and the Guerrilla of the Patriotic War Medal have been conferred upon many.

The cameramen's ranks were recently reinforced by a new group of film reporters, 35 Red Army scouts picked by the Command of the Third Byelorussian Front from the best sergeant scouts—those who had displayed the greatest initiative and

daring in combat assignments.

Director Alexander Madvedkin, head of the film reporters' group at the front, and cameraman N. Lytkin set up special courses in the war zone for these Red Army men. For six weeks they were trained in the professional use of the camera, after which they received the unusual title of Sergeant Cameraman.

Each is now armed with the special narrow-film camera known as the cinema machine gun; its operation is simple. The first fruits of their work were more than 300 meters of negative filmed in the thick of the fighting in East Prussia.

Engineer Gordeichuk devised a special apparatus in the studios which can quickly transfer material on narrow films to the usual wide film. Scenes recorded by the Sergeant Cameramen were in the film *The Lair of the Beast*.

All the 35 Sergeant Cameramen have been decorated, and all wear the Guards insignia. Sixteen of them have a total of 50 orders.

TEN YEARS OF THE MOSCOW SUBWAY

Ten years have passed since the great event of the opening of the Moscow Metro—the Soviet Union's first subway.

Everything in the Moscow Metro is designed to provide the utmost convenience—vast three-hall stations instead of the usual two-hall, a large central corridor between embarkation points, numerous communicating arches leading onto side platforms, wide escalators, and numerous exits and entrances. A bright and festive atmosphere belies the fact that this is deep under the earth; the walls are of multicolored Crimean and Urals marble, there are thousands of electric lights and concealed lights with bronze electric fixtures, and the balustrades are of polished nutwood.

By the beginning of the '30's Moscow's population numbered three and a half million. Streetcars, trolley buses, motor buses and taxis could not cope with the tremendous stream of passengers. In 1903 each Muscovite made an annual average of 56 intra-city trips; in 1938 the number was 700.

It was decided the best method for handling the congested traffic would be to construct a subway. The entire industry of the country, which had been set up during the Five-Year Plans, cooperated: Siberia supplied extra-durable rails, the Urals and the Crimea furnished decorative marble for the stations, Novorossisk shipped cement, Moscow and Leningrad factories built escalators, cars, equipment and machinery.

Moscow Young Communist League members took over the patronage of the project. An army of thousands of young people—workers from plants, mail carriers, salesgirls, typists, etc.—helped the experienced workers—Donbas miners, skilled concrete-layers who had worked on the construction of the Dnieper dam, and railway-tunnel builders. By day they worked in the tunnels, and evenings they attended vocational courses where experienced engineers and technicians lectured on specific features of the work in the Metro, on methods for increasing efficiency, etc.

Moscow's subsurfaces gave very little welcome to the builders. The subterranean rivers which flowed under Moscow

streets and squares burst into the borings and flooded the tunnels. Diverse means were used to fight these destructive adversaries. Several rivers were "captured" and encased in great tubes.

A particularly vicious foe were the underground quagmires—vast masses of waterlogged sand or clay which sometimes stretched 10 to 20 meters deep. They smashed not only wood, but also the metal props, pushing right through the pits and filling them up again. These quagmires were overcome by means of huge caissons lowered into the pits as the excavations proceeded.

At one especially dangerous point, where the quagmires formed a joint menace with the rivers, the tunneling was done with the aid of shields—huge mobile metal tubes with a diameter equal to that of the tunnel. The workers in the forward part of this shield excavated the earth and rocks with pneumatic drills. Powerful jacks pushed the shield forward—three-quarters of a meter each time. After each forward motion, concrete or cast-iron segments were fixed around the section of the tunnel thus formed, making a solid ring—and each time another three-quarters of a meter of the tunnel was finished.

Soviet engineers worked out a method for freezing the soil. A gigantic mass of floating quagmire was frozen solid and in this subterranean iceberg the excavation workers, dressed in warm quilted clothes, cut an inclined passage nine meters in diameter, encased in cast-iron rings, and three escalators were mounted in each such metal tube. Until then no escalators had been built in the Soviet Union.

Lazar Kaganovich, a leading public figure of the Soviet Union and at that time Secretary of the Moscow Committee of the Bolshevik Party, personally kept in touch with the work on the Metro construction. The construction of the first section of the Moscow Metro involved 90,000 tons of metal, 600,000 cubic meters of timber, 310,000 tons of cement, tens of thousands of square meters of marble slabs and a vast quantity of other material.

During the German air raids against Moscow, hundreds of thousands of wom-

en, children, sick and aged people found adequate shelter in the Metro stations and tunnels. A thousand cots were made specially for the children. The adults had the use of special planks with mattresses, laid crosswise on the rails in the tunnels.

Despite wartime difficulties, construction continued on new sections of the Metro, and in the war years another 14 kilometers were added. The densely populated industrial areas of the city are now linked with the center, from which six radial lines of the Metro run.

Metro trains carry a daily average of over one and a half million passengers.

In the words of members of a delegation of the British Empire who visited the Metro stations built in wartime, "the Moscow Metropolitan is the embodiment of a wholly new idea in artistic decoration of a public service enterprise, an idea of tremendous educational significance."

The construction of this magnificent edifice, built by the people and for the people, gave training to a splendid corps of workers. During wartime the Metro builders worked on the construction of vital military fortifications.

The Metro builders observed their 10th anniversary in intense work, constructing the fourth section—the "greater circle" (totaling 26 kilometers) which will link all of the six radial lines.

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Report of General Antonov to Twelfth Session of Supreme Soviet of USSR

Army General A. I. Antonov is Chief of the General Staff of the Red Army.

Comrades Deputies:

The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet people against the German imperialists who treacherously attacked the Soviet Union has ended in our complete victory. In the life and death struggle against a strong and perfidious enemy, the Soviet people and their Red Army upheld the honor, freedom and independence of their homeland.

Hitlerite Germany, the principal seat of aggression in Europe, has been utterly smashed. Her armed forces have been crushed by the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies. The Hitlerite armies have been wiped out or taken prisoner, and their armaments have been turned into heaps of scrap or taken by us or our Allies as trophies. As a result of the resolute offensive operations of the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies, all of the enemy's territory has been occupied. Germany has been deprived of all her war industry and sources of fuel and strategic raw materials. The German state and her military and administrative apparatus have been destroyed. The German war machine has been completely demolished. Deprived of every possibility for continuing resistance, Germany was compelled to surrender unconditionally.

On the historic Day of Victory, May 9, Stalin said in his address to the people: "The great sacrifices we have made in the name of freedom and our defense of our Motherland, the incalculable privations and sufferings experienced by our people in the course of the war, the strained work in the rear and at the front—placed on the altar of the Motherland—have not been in vain and have been crowned by

complete victory over the enemy. The age-long struggle of the Slav peoples for their existence and their independence has ended in victory over the German invaders and the German tyranny. Henceforth, the great banner of freedom of nations and peace among nations will fly over Europe."

Everyone knows that the main burden of the struggle against German imperialism lay on the shoulders of our homeland and the Red Army, and this makes our victory particularly magnificent.

Throughout the Great Patriotic War the Soviet-German front was the decisive front of the struggle. The German command kept its main forces, the greater and best part of its armaments on the Soviet-German front. Here the basic cadres of the German army were annihilated and the bulk of the enemy's armaments destroyed.

The great service performed by our State and the Red Army as the chief factor in the defeat of German imperialism will be a glorious page in the history of the world struggle for the liberation of enslaved Europe from the fascist yoke.

Wherein lie the reasons of our historic victories? They are founded on the insurmountable strength of our Socialist system, the patriotism and moral and political unity of our people, the invincible might of the Red Army, the great inspiring and organizing force of our Bolshevik Party, and the brilliant statesmanship and generalship of Marshal Stalin.

The battlefield on which the Red Army fought stretched from the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea and reached the Caucasian Range.

Under these conditions, in the name of the defense of the freedom and inde-



View of the Kremlin, Moscow

pendence of the Soviet people, with the aim of smashing the hated enemy our State was compelled to mobilize all our great resources of men and materials to build the Red Army into a mighty force. At the end of the war the Red Army numbered four times as many divisions as in peacetime.

But to win in modern war it is not enough to possess a numerically large army. The war now past was a war of engines, a war of masses of multiform technical armaments. The Red Army victoriously solved all the tasks placed before it by the Government and the Supreme Command, not only because it is a large army, but also because its technical equipment—both in quantity and quality—is fully commensurate to the demands of modern war.

The Red Army has a modern, numerically large and powerful artillery arm, which in the course of the Great Patriotic War grew more than five times, compared with peacetime.

The German-fascist forces, when they treacherously fell upon the Soviet Union, at first had a considerable numerical preponderance in tanks. Intensive work was demanded of our tank industry to eliminate this advantage.

In the course of the war the number of our tanks of modern type increased 15 times. This sharply altered the situation on the battlefields in our favor. The task set by Comrade Stalin, "to reduce to zero the German superiority in tanks, and in this way radically improve the position of our Army," was successfully solved. Moreover, during the war our industry of heavy and light self-propelled artillery was built up from the bottom. The second half of the war was marked by a preponderance of our tanks and self-propelled artillery on the fields of battle. This enabled us to effect operational maneuvers of tremendous scope, to trap large forces of the enemy and pursue him to his complete destruction.

The situation in the air during the first period of the war was likewise a difficult one. The enemy had a marked numerical superiority in aircraft. In the second half of the war, with the strengthening and development of our aircraft industry, we achieved a radical change in the situation in the air. The advantage in the air shifted

into the hands of our Air Force, which had grown five times by the end of the war, compared with the initial period.

At the same time the technical services were expanding, the infantry, the backbone of the Army, became stronger and better equipped. During the years of war the infantry received a vast number of automatic rifles, anti-tank weapons, anti-aircraft weapons, large-caliber machine guns, trench mortars and other types of arms. This technical equipment substantially enhanced the defensive and offensive powers of the infantry and enabled it to carry out its assignments with fewer men. Other arms of the service were similarly developed and technically equipped.

The creation of so huge and powerfully equipped an army put a great strain on our State. The country, which had given millions of able-bodied men for defense of the homeland, a considerable part of its draft power and transport, motor vehicles, tractors and horses, was obliged also to supply all the material needs of the front.

All this naturally involved tremendous difficulties for our national economy, and hardships and privations for our people.

It goes without saying that it would have been impossible to overcome these wartime obstacles and build up our powerful Red Army if our country had not possessed a war economy corresponding fully to the requirements of modern warfare, and if it had not had reserves of all kinds, without which it is impossible to wage war with any success.

In 1931, ten years before the Great Patriotic War broke out, Comrade Stalin, speaking at the First All-Union Conference of Workers in Socialist Industry, said: "We are 50 to 100 years behind the advanced countries. We must cover this distance in 10 years. Either we do this or we will be crushed."

We were not crushed. We beat Germany, one of the most powerful industrial countries, which utilized in the struggle against us all the resources of subjugated Europe. We won because the Stalin Five-Year Plans had transformed our country. The Soviet Union has become a mighty State, a fact convincingly proved by the course and results of the war. Under exceptionally trying conditions our Socialist

economy was capable of supplying armaments, complex machines and mechanisms, and a sufficient quantity of food stuffs and raw materials to the Army.

The great Soviet people—men and women workers, men and women collective farmers, and our intellectuals—by their valorous labor did everything to supply the Red Army with the fighting equipment and all the supplies needed for victory. The Red Army, its fighting men, officers and generals, proved worthy of their people, justified their trust and showed themselves capable of making the fullest and most efficient use of the material and resources supplied by the country for victory.

• • •

The war in Europe is over. For the Soviet Union a period of peaceful development has set in. New tasks face our Armed Forces. While constituting the armed might of the Soviet State, the paramount factor in the preservation of peace and universal security, our Armed Forces in the new situation must insure the homeland the possibility of proceeding calmly with the job of healing the wounds inflicted by war, of carrying on with the work of raising the living and cultural standards of our people.

Now that the war has ended victoriously, the tasks facing our Army can be accomplished with fewer forces and there is no need to maintain as large an army as we had during the period of hostilities. We can, and the country's interests demand it, reduce the numerical strength of the Red Army and send the older-age classes of fighting men home to their families and to peaceful constructive labor.

Accordingly, the Council of People's Commissars submits, for the consideration of the Twelfth Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, a bill concerning the demobilization of the older-age classes of personnel on active service. The bill provides for the demobilization primarily of 13 of the older-age classes.

It is proposed that the first stage of demobilization be effected during the second half of 1945. It is essential to carry out demobilization by stages so that it can be done in an organized and planned manner. Gradual demobilization is essential also to maintain the normal work of railway transport and to insure the most suc-

isfactory employment arrangements for the demobilized servicemen.

The demobilization of millions of men from the Army is a matter of great state importance. It involves a large amount of organization on the part of the Army Command working out the detailed plan for its realization, as well as extensive measures for the welfare of the demobilized men. At the same time, demobilization confronts Government and Party bodies with important political and economic tasks. The chief task is to accord paternal care to the valorous Soviet fighting men demobilized from the ranks of the Red Army.

An attentive and solicitous attitude to the demobilized servicemen is the very essence of the policy pursued by the Soviet Government as a genuine people's Government.

The concern of the Soviet Government and the Soviet people for their fighting men and their families was most evident during the Great Patriotic War.

Still more attention and care must now be devoted to those who will be demobilized.

Comrade Stalin has taught us that the people, the cadres, are the most precious and most decisive of all the precious capital the world possesses. The bill submitted for your consideration and approval is a striking expression of Stalin's solicitude for the people.

The bill provides for a number of measures to insure the welfare of demobilized servicemen. Under the bill all demobilized service men are to receive a complete outfit of clothing and shoes as well as rations while en route to their place of residence.

Notwithstanding the tremendous expenditures that our country has borne during the war, the Government finds it possible to give substantial financial assistance to all demobilized men. Under the bill a monetary grant for each year of service in the Army during the Great Patriotic War will be issued to all men demobilized from active service, in the following amounts:

One year's pay for each year of service to enlisted men of all the arms and services paid according to the regular army rates.

Six months' pay for each year of service

to enlisted men of special units and formations receiving higher rates of pay.

Six months' pay—no more than 900 rubles and no less than 300 rubles—for each year of service, to the sergeants of all arms of the service.

The demobilized officers who served during the Great Patriotic War are to receive two months' pay for one year of service, three months' pay for two years of service, four months' pay for three years of service, or five months' pay for four years of service.

The bill, moreover, makes it binding on the Councils of People's Commissars of the Union and Autonomous Republics, the Executive Committees of the Regional and Territorial Soviets of Working People's Deputies, and the managers of enterprises, institutions and organizations in the urban districts, to provide work for demobilized servicemen no later than within one month of the day of their arrival at their place of residence.

The bill sets forth that demobilized men will be given work in line with the experience and special training they have acquired during their service in the Red Army, and that the positions offered must not be inferior to their occupations prior to Army service.

The bill provides also for insuring living quarters and fuel to demobilized servicemen.

In rural localities the Soviets of Working People's Deputies and boards of the collective farms are obliged, in accordance with the bill, to render all possible aid to demobilized servicemen, both in work placement and in setting up a household.

Everyone knows what a tremendous loss the Germans caused our national economy in the districts they temporarily occupied. Many demobilized Red Army servicemen will find their homes damaged or ruined. Local authorities and collective farms are obliged by the bill to help the demobilized personnel restore their homes.

The Councils of People's Commissars of the Union and Autonomous Republics and the Executive Committees of the Territorial and Regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies in the districts that have suffered from German occupation, are obliged to set aside timber tracts, gratis, for the hewing of construction

lumber for demobilized servicemen who have to build or repair their homes.

According to the bill, the All-Union Bank for financing communal and housing construction is obliged to issue loans of from 5-10,000 rubles for a term of from five to ten years, to needy demobilized servicemen in the districts that suffered from German occupation, for the construction and restoration of homes.

These are the principal measures for the welfare of demobilized servicemen, provided by the bill submitted for your approval by the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR.

All these provisions are a striking testimony to the solicitude of the Soviet Government and Comrade Stalin himself for the fighting men of the Red Army, who conscientiously fulfilled their duty to the country in the Great Patriotic War and are now returning to peaceful labor.

The need for the measures provided for by the bill is clear, as they are for the benefit of our gallant fighting men who waged four years of arduous sanguinary battle against a cruel enemy; who in this struggle spared neither their strength nor their lives; who experienced unbelievable hardships and deprivations; who displayed unprecedented heroism; and who achieved full victory. By their deep devotion to our homeland, loyalty to their oath, their unparalleled courage and military skill, and with their blood, the fighting men of the Red Army saved our people from enslavement and annihilation.

With the approval of the bill on demobilization of the older-age classes of personnel on active service, our State will take a big step forward in the transition to peacetime footing. The numerical strength of the Red Army will decrease, but the Red Army will remain as heretofore the reliable bulwark of the freedom and independence of our Socialist country, a powerful weapon in defense of the peace and security of the freedom-loving peoples.

The task now and in the future is to maintain the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union on a level worthy of our great homeland, to continue in peacetime the conditions for developing and strengthening the military and economic might of

our State as the foundation of its invincible defense.

Having achieved victory, the Red Army cannot rest on its laurels. The generals and officers of the Red Army must make a profound study of the fighting experience of the victorious Great Patriotic War, comprehend it and further extend Soviet military science. In carrying out all our work, in combat training, and in the military and political training of the Red Army, we should take into account the new elements the Great Patriotic War has yielded.

Our fighting comrades who are being demobilized from the Red Army must give their maximum to help the country in its great constructive endeavor. We are convinced that they will prove equal to the task.

The great historic victory of the Soviet Union over Germany has made it possible for the Council of People's Commissars

of the USSR to submit for your consideration a bill concerning the demobilization of the first contingent of personnel on active service.

Conscious of the grandeur of this historic victory, the peoples of the Soviet Union pay tribute to their brilliant leader and great soldier, Marshal Stalin, who inspired and organized our victories.

Long before the war Stalin discerned the ominous contours of future battles and prepared the forces of the Soviet people to defend the country and the great gains of the Revolution from foreign encroachment.

In the most difficult days of the war, Comrade Stalin assumed the whole burden of military leadership. On all sectors of our struggle—in the sphere of strategy, operational skill and tactics; the organization and formation of the Armed Forces; the training of reserves and cadres of commanders; in arming and equipping

the Army with fighting machines; in the organization of the rear; as well as in all other fields of leadership—everywhere and at all times we saw the firm, guiding hand of Comrade Stalin.

Stalin rallied the gigantic forces of our State to the struggle against the enemy and led our country and the Soviet people to a great historic victory.

This victory has given the Soviet people new strength and the confidence that our country will rapidly efface the consequences of the war and proceed successfully along the path to further economic and cultural progress, remaining as before the unshakable bulwark of the peace and freedom of nations.

Comrades Deputies, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR submits for your consideration and approval a bill concerning the demobilization of older-age classes of personnel on active service.

Occupational Rehabilitation of War Invalids

By M. Karpov

There is no branch of the national economy in the USSR in which war invalids are not employed. Yesterday's Red Army men and officers are today's machine tool mechanics, office workers, farmers, shop superintendents, and factory directors. Many are chairmen of collective farms or heads of farm brigades. There are 40,000 veterans studying at vocational schools or in regular secondary or higher schools.

No unemployment problem exists for the disabled veteran. The law requires factory or office directors to hire the men sent by social welfare agencies, which check up to see if ex-servicemen are engaged in work suited to their skills and tastes and if proper working and living conditions have been provided.

An important part of the placement of veterans in jobs is undertaken by the Invalids-Producers Cooperatives, which operate about 15,000 small factories and workshops in various fields. The seriously disabled, who can work only at home, receive special consideration.

Various types of help are offered by the Government. War invalids receive pensions equal to 50-100 per cent of their earnings before induction. Every effort is made to fit them for a life of useful labor. The disabled are given the best accommodations of a large network of sanatoriums. They are allowed extra food and clothing rations, special housing facilities, etc. Social Welfare Departments set up in every city and village Soviet administer all the problems related to the rehabilitation of injured servicemen.

Two-thirds of all invalids are in the classification of limited working capacity, and are either working or studying and at the same time receiving pensions. More than half the seriously disabled have been fitted for useful work, and their morale has been greatly strengthened. Today 81 per cent of all disabled veterans are gainfully employed.

After the study of the individual case, the Social Welfare Department recom-

mends the job making the greatest use of the veteran's abilities without detriment to his health. All retraining courses are offered without charge at schools maintained by the Departments, at factory schools, or even on the job. The well-known Kirov tank works is a plant that operates such schools. It is found in the majority of cases that the veterans work as productively as other employees.

A survey of the income of several thousand war invalids shows that, including pensions, earnings are 22 per cent higher than before they entered the Armed Forces.

With the fighting over, the Soviet Union is able to devote more attention to the men disabled on the battlefields. In a radio address from San Francisco, May 8, Molotov declared: "... The memory of fallen soldiers and of the innumerable victims of German fascism will remain sacred to us forever. We shall honestly fulfil our great obligations to all disabled soldiers and orphaned families."

THE TWO-CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM OF THE USSR

By S. Osherov, Master of Law

One of the fundamental principles of the Soviet State is the equality of nationalities in all branches of economic, cultural, social and political life. The legal equality of the nationalities is supplemented by complete facilities for their economic and cultural development, and concern for the specific interests arising out of their national characteristics.

These specific interests, needs and demands are voiced through one of the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Soviet of Nationalities.

In the Soviet of Nationalities are represented not only the Union Republics—direct members of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, each comprising a separate nationality—but also the Autonomous Republics, Autonomous Regions and Autonomous Areas, each of which comprises a compact national minority within one of the Union Republics.

Needs of Nationalities

Each Union Republic, irrespective of the size of its population, is represented in the Soviet of Nationalities by 25 deputies, each Autonomous Republic by 11 deputies, each Autonomous Region by five, and each National Area by one.

Thus one chamber of the supreme Government authority of the Soviet Union is constituted exclusively on national lines. By this means it is possible to give audience to the needs of the various nationalities, and to take timely measures to satisfy them. This is one of the factors which have ensured mutual confidence and friendly cooperation among the nationalities of the Soviet Union.

The two chambers of the Supreme Soviet—the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities—are elected on identical democratic principles, by universal direct and equal suffrage, and secret ballot. Deputies to the Soviet of the Union are elected from electoral areas or constituencies on the basis of one deputy for every 300,000 of the population. Deputies to the Soviet of Nationalities are elected on the basis mentioned above.

The right to elect or be elected to the Supreme Soviet belongs to all citizens of

the USSR who have reached the age of 18, irrespective of race or nationality, religion, educational or residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities.

Women have the right to elect or be elected on equal terms with men. Citizens serving with the Armed Forces have the right to elect or be elected on equal terms with other citizens.

Only insane persons, and persons convicted by a law court, whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights, have no right to vote or be elected.

At elections to the Supreme Soviet each elector casts his vote for a deputy to the Soviet of the Union, and for a deputy to the Soviet of Nationalities. This guarantees the representation of the general interests of the people as citizens of the USSR through the Soviet of the Union, and of the specific interests of the various nationalities through the Soviet of Nationalities.

Equal Rights in Legislation

The basis of representation is so arranged as to guarantee an equal number of deputies in both chambers. The two chambers are elected simultaneously, for an equal term of four years. They enjoy equal rights in all respects.

They have an equal right to initiate legislation. A law is considered adopted if passed by both chambers by a simple majority vote. Neither house is the "lower" chamber, and neither is the "upper" chamber. They are complementary, not opposed to one another.

The Soviet of Nationalities reflects the specific interests and peculiarities of the customs and needs characteristic of each nationality, which have to be safeguarded in drafting, discussing and adopting laws.

Each chamber elects a chairman and two vice chairmen who preside over the sittings and direct procedure. Joint sittings, which are held by agreement of both chambers, are presided over by the chairmen of both chambers alternately.

Certain questions must, according to the Constitution of the USSR, be settled at joint sittings of both chambers, each chamber voting separately. In this way,

for example, are elected the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, the Supreme Court of the USSR, Special Courts, and the Procurator of the USSR.

All these authorities are responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, in other words, to both chambers.

Any member of either chamber is entitled to put questions to, and receive answers, from any People's Commissar.

Each chamber sets up its permanent legislative, foreign affairs and budget committees.

The equality of the two chambers is also guaranteed by Article 47 of the Soviet Constitution, which lays down procedure in the event of disagreement between the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities. In such cases the question at issue is referred to a conciliation commission formed on a parity basis.

If the conciliation commission fails to agree, or if its decision fails to satisfy one of the chambers, the question is considered a second time in both chambers. Failing agreement, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet must dissolve the Supreme Soviet and call for new elections. Such a case has never yet occurred.

Stalin's Idea

The two-chamber system was first introduced in 1924, soon after the formation of the USSR. Under the first Constitution, the Soviet of Nationalities was one of the two chambers of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR, the supreme Government authority which was elected by the All-Union Congress of Soviets. The originator of the idea of a Soviet of Nationalities was Stalin.

This two-chamber system, under which one of the chambers is constituted on national lines, and both are equal and elected on identical democratic principles, has contributed not a little to strengthening friendship and cooperation between the nations of the USSR, within a single federal State.

The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences

By Academician Alexander A. Bogomolets

President of the Academy

The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences played no small role in consolidating the Red Army's might in the great war of liberation.

Our Academy, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in September, 1944, has four Departments: Social Sciences; Physico-chemical and Mathematical Sciences; Biological Sciences; and Technical Sciences. A Department of Agricultural Sciences is to be opened soon. The library contains more than five million books.

The Academy embraces more than 30 scientific research institutes, the Karadag biological station in the Crimea, the Poltava Observatory, and others. There are 64 Members, 76 Corresponding Members and over 600 scientific workers on the staff.

When the Patriotic War broke out, the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences was evacuated to Ufa, capital of the Bashkirian Republic, west of the Urals. The Academy reorganized its work along new lines, adapting it as nearly as possible to the need for the fullest development of the country's productive forces. The construction of aircraft motors and tanks received particular attention.

In addition to the introduction of special subjects, the Chemical Institutes of the Academy worked out a number of chemical and physico-chemical methods for quality tests in defense industry; succeeded in combating corrosion; and aided oil production by improving the quality in cracking plants and utilizing waste material at refineries. The Institutes also obtained new kinds of industrial raw material, building supplies, etc.

Extensive and complex work was carried on by the Institutes of Geological Sciences, Energetics, Building Mechanics, Chemistry and Metallurgy, on problems concerning the development of the country's power resources, the erection of power bases in the Urals and the Bashkirian Autonomous SSR; the development of combined fuel and power bases, and the prospecting for strategic mineral resources and new types of construction materials, etc.



Radiophoto

Alexander A. Bogomolets

In the field of medicine, pathology and biochemistry, new effective methods for treating disease were discovered and introduced; valuable data were compiled in the sphere of the pathology and therapy of heart diseases; and a new method proposed for the early diagnosis of cancer, and prophylaxis against its recurrence after operation. Successful work is being done in connection with hypertonia. In the sphere of internal secretions, a new hormone of the cortex of the suprarenal gland has been discovered.

The Institute of Clinical Physiology, which has done so much for the introduction of blood transfusion into hospital practice, has produced an anti-reticular cytotoxic serum, widely used in Soviet hospitals and extremely useful in accelerating the knitting process of fractures and the healing of wounds, as well as in combating infectious diseases.

In the sphere of ophthalmology, we extensively practiced the transplantation of the cornea from the eyes of dead persons, and returned sight to many thousands of blind people.

The Shevchenko Institute of Ukrainian Literature and the well-known Institute of Linguistics jointly arranged academic editions of the Ukrainian classics, published manuals and dictionaries for higher schools, and studied the problems of Ukrainian dialectology, orthography, etc.

The Institute of Ukrainian History provided extensive literature on the victorious struggle of the Ukrainian people against various aggressors who have attempted to enslave them during the past centuries.

During the Great Patriotic War the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences closely cooperated with more than 300 defense plants in different parts of the USSR.

In the spring of 1944, after the liberation of the Ukrainian capital, the Academy returned to Kiev.

Everything that remained during its evacuation had been demolished by the Germans—the furniture, museum pieces, electric wiring, scientific equipment, and the libraries.

New buildings are to be added to the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences this year. Pursuant to a decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR, building has begun on a large astronomical laboratory and a cyclotron laboratory, as well as new experimental bases for problems in the metallurgy and technology of metals.

The Institute of Clinical Physiology is taking part in a renewed battle against cancer and hypertonia.

In Kiev, along a steep bank of the Dnieper, a new Botanical Gardens is being laid out. On the 300 acres the flora of the entire world will be represented and research work extensively carried on in the selection and acclimatization of useful plants.

The German barbarians destroyed the Kreschatik, Kiev's main thoroughfare. Large-scale work for the reconstruction of this historic avenue is now underway. Among other buildings, the imposing structure of the National Museum of the Ukraine will be erected on the Kreschatik.

A Ukrainian Encyclopedia in many volumes is soon to be published.

The smashing of German imperialism has opened wide vistas for the further development of the national economy, sciences and culture. We scientists of the freedom-loving countries now enjoy boundless possibilities for creative work for our own countries and the world.

MAXIM GORKY

By K. Zelinsky

The further the living Gorky, recedes into history, the greater the magnitude of this figure, a beacon to all mankind. He died nine years ago, on June 18, 1936. But he will never be effaced from memory by the passing of time nor will future generations forgive fascism and its agents for extinguishing Gorky's life. He perished like a true soldier, in battle for his beloved country.

In one of his articles Gorky wrote: "And should war break out against this class, by whose powers I live and labor, I too will join the ranks of its army. I shall go not because I know that it will win, but because the great and just cause of the working class of the Soviet Union is my legitimate work, my duty."

Now when the forces of good, of reason and culture have triumphed and the army of death—Hitler's army—is beaten to the dust and destroyed, we think of Gorky with particular feeling. Of all the world's writers, he carried on the struggle against fascism with the most discernment and consistency, and strove to avert the imminent catastrophe of the Second World War.

He was a writer of a very special type. His work reflected the highest stage of the people's liberation struggle in Russia, the proletarian stage. Inheritor of the noble traditions of Russian literature—the classic literature of Belinsky, Herzen and Tolstoy—Gorky said that it was in the main the "literature of questions": "what is to be done?" and "who is to blame?" He himself was the founder of a new literature which was developed and given scope only in the Soviet epoch. This is the literature of Soviet realism, which has its origin in the facts of the Socialist experience of building a new world, and is to a certain extent therefore the literature of answers. The trend is observed in Gorky's *The Mother*, Nikolai Ostrovsky's *How the Steel Was Tempered*, A. Makarenko's *Pedagogical Poem*, and Mikhail Sholokhov's *The Soil Upturned*.

"The strength of his influence on Russian literature places Gorky in the succession of giants like Pushkin, Gogol and



Maxim Gorky
(1868-1936)

Tolstoy, as the best follower of their great traditions in our time," said Molotov.

New types of Russians—powerful, vivid and liberty-loving—were introduced into literature by Gorky, who through his artistic talent made them live for us. As an innovator and creator of new characters and themes, Gorky gave Russian literature a vigorous, vital touch, which was a quality of the people's life. He wrote to Chekhov that realism alone, as formerly understood, was inadequate for the portrayal of Russian life in the process of fermentation.

Gorky felt a profound sense of responsibility to his calling. A man of wide knowledge and culture who had real learning in the fields of folklore and language, he gave much thought and painstaking labor to his writing before he sent it out into the world; and he instilled into the young generation of writers the same fervor and thoroughness for their work. "The literary man should remain a literary man," Gorky wrote in 1912. "This is the most responsible and difficult post in Russia."

But because he was a writer of a new

proletarian type, Gorky was able to merge his art with the life of this class, to become its heart and part of its biography.

Molotov said in his speech on Gorky on June 20, 1936: "We, his friends and countless readers, who are saying farewell to Alexei Maximovich Gorky today, feel that a very vivid fraction of our own lives is receding into the past forever. Millions of people feel this now, so spiritually profound and close he was to us, to the people of his time, to whom he gave so much—through the genius of his writing, through his boundless love for the workers and the struggle for free man, and through the example of his own remarkable and inimitable life."

His life itself forms a book full of his mind and the throb of his heart; a book on how to make life happy and worthy of man, how to understand and reject all that disfigures and degrades man's image. All his career was a reply to one of the most decisive and essential questions of our era—the question of the humane attitude. Millions of people the world over have found in his words the inspiration to eradicate fascism.

Leo Tolstoy often said that art is living only when it has newness of content. Gorky's art always had this freshness, and that is why his work was and will remain contemporary—a living book of history, instructive for the generations to come.

Gorky, one of the Russian people's great sons, had a boundless love for his countrymen. He once said, "One is stirred joyously and to a pitch of mad pride not only by the abundance of talents born in the 19th Century in Russia, but also by their astonishing diversity. We have the right to be proud of the variety, and of the beautiful glow of the Russian soul; may it strengthen our faith in the spiritual might of our country. Arising as it did in circumstances inexpressibly hard, this amazing creation was done with magic swiftness. In the field of art and the creative work of the heart, the Russian people revealed a marvelous strength; in the most terrible conditions they built up a splendid literature, an amazing

school of painting and an original music which evokes the admiration of the whole world. The people's lips were sealed, the wings of their soul were bound, but from the heart of the people came many, many artists of word, sound and color."

The Soviet people's great victory is also a victory for Gorky, a victory of the things by which he lived and breathed.

Gorky had an unlimited faith in his countrymen's strength. He knew that human labor could accomplish everything in this world. In one of his articles he wrote: "Work for me is a field in which my imagination knows no confines. I believe that all the secrets and tragedies of our life can be solved by work alone and that

this alone could bring to realization the tempting dream of the equality of men and of justice in life."

The war is over and the period of peace has begun. As a poet and artist of labor, Gorky is with us as before, sharing the life of the Soviet people, who have proved by their arms and their labor that "to the free—all heights are attainable."

Red Army Song and Dance Ensembles

By Major Yarustovsky

It is a red letter day when the concert troupe comes to perform for the Red Army soldiers and officers; greatly elated, the men rush around to rig up a stage in the shade of some leafy birch trees.

The usual setting for summer performances is a forest glade, where the thousands of soldiers and officers sit on the grass in amphitheater fashion.

But entertainment for the Army is afforded not only by visiting concert companies. Every military area has its professional group—a Red Army Song and Dance Ensemble.

The Song and Dance Ensemble in wartime was an artistic expression of the fighting feats of each unit. It carefully preserved the song treasures of the people and of their glorious fighting tradition. In song and dance it glorified heroes, sang of their daring, valor, boldness and brilliance. The group bolstered the spirits of the soldiers and evoked a greater hatred for the enemy.

Each ensemble tried to outdo the other in originality and versatility. The ensemble of the First Byelorussian Front, directed by Sheinin, took pride in its Red Army entertainers Galkin and Mochalkin. The backbone of the ensemble of the Third Byelorussian Front, with Usachev as art director, was its splendid chorus. The ensemble of the Second Byelorussian Front could boast of having a repertoire of the finest folk songs of the many peoples of the Soviet Union.

Some of the ensembles displayed real ingenuity in their programs. The so-called "garland suites" proved both entertaining and purposeful at the front.

One of these "garlands" illustrated springtime in Russia. The sweet, tender song by Lyadov filled the air like a gust of spring wind; its lovely familiar sounds seemed to paint the beautiful Russian landscapes. The vivid lines of the Turgenev story took on a new meaning. And as the words described the green foliage of the birches and the first trills of the lark, the song swelled to a crescendo . . . then the merry spring song swung into a spirited dance. The "garland" ended with the caustic feuilleton by Ehrenburg called *Our Spring* and its motif was like a war cry to advance.

The spring "garland" stirred the men and made them restless. Each thought of springtime back home; the words seared their hearts, and each gripped his rifle even tighter.

Many similar programs were presented during the war. There was one about a Ukrainian girl. The ancient Ukrainian *Maiden Song* and Shevchenko's lyric verses are heard. Yuri Yanovsky's sad tale is recited so graphically the audience can actually visualize the Poltava girl whose hands were chopped off by the accursed beasts—the proud girl aloft on a large Soviet tank appeals to the tankists to take revenge, ruthless revenge. Woven into the fabric of this picture is the *Song of Vengeance*, by the Leningrad composer Goltz; simply and forcefully it expresses the feeling of wrath for the enemy.

Many ensembles of military areas sing Western European and Russian classics. One of the ensembles had success with Lasso's *Echo*, and other ensembles with

the popular choruses from Verdi's and Tchaikovsky's operas.

The Red Banner Song and Dance Ensemble, a group of 250 people, the favorite of the whole Soviet nation, has won universal recognition. Professor Alexandrov, the distinguished conductor of the ensemble, enjoys wide popularity and esteem in the country. Simple Army songs or intricate scores by Lasso, Taneyev and Mendelssohn—all are in the wide range of this ensemble. The animation and strength of its dances thrill its audiences.

The Song and Dance Ensembles have become a valued part of the life of the Red Army. They have received the plaudits of the country, and their leaders and artists have been awarded Government decorations, medals and orders.

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The United Nations Security Organization

IZVESTIA wrote editorially, June 27:

After two months of work, the San Francisco Conference has drawn up the full text of the Charter of the United Nations International Organization for the maintenance of peace and security. With the adoption of this document, destined to play a paramount role in the life of the peace-loving nations, the work of the Conference ended successfully.

In spite of the efforts of overt and covert opponents of the creation of an international security organization, the will of the nations to maintain postwar peace successfully overcame numerous difficulties and created the Charter of the United Nations. The decisive factor in this was the cooperation of the democratic powers which sponsored the Conference. The consciousness of their responsibility to the nations for the future peace helped to promote the unanimity of the great powers; this unanimity is the cardinal principle and guarantee of the effectiveness of the new organization.

The United Nations Charter made public today is the keystone of the International Security Organization. It represents the solution of a great problem which heretofore had never been successfully solved. Perhaps to some this solution may not seem ideal. But so far it is the best possible solution.

It is not the objective of the new organization to establish perpetual peace among nations and immediately to eradicate the causes of conflicts and wars. Its aims are more realistic. It is intended to be an organization capable of averting aggression or of curbing an aggressor by the united efforts of the peaceful nations.

The creation of such an organization has long been the dream of the sincere supporters of the peaceful development of nations. But until now it was impos-

sible to establish such an organization. The League of Nations set up after the last war could not cope with the tasks for which it was formed. The hopes of those who believed in it were deceived; it proved bankrupt in the face of the first act of aggression. The deplorable experience of the League of Nations had a beneficial result, however, in that it made clear to the nations the primary requisites for the effective maintenance of peace, the very elements which the League of Nations lacked.

The problem was, as Marshal Stalin pointed out, "to establish a special organization made up of representatives of the peace-loving nations to uphold peace and safeguard security; to put the necessary minimum of armed forces required for the averting of aggression at the disposal of the directing body of this organization, and to obligate this organization to employ these armed forces without delay if it becomes necessary to avert or stop aggression and punish the culprits."

The indispensable requisite for the effectiveness of this organization is unanimous and concerted action of the great powers who are most responsible for the maintenance of peace.

The task, therefore, was to create an organization of international security of a new type, unlike the weak League of Nations, which had no powers and which was torn by antagonisms and corroded with empty talk. Only a strong and fully authorized international organization, capable of swift and determined action, can maintain peace. And, naturally, such an organization could be built only on the foundation laid by the United Nations in the war just concluded.

As we know, the preliminary draft of the new organization was drawn up at Dumbarton Oaks. It was published and submitted for the consideration of all the

United Nations. The leaders of the three great Allied powers at their historic conference in the Crimea submitted additions to the original draft, designed materially to strengthen the foundations of the new organization.

At the San Francisco Conference, as a result of the discussion of the numerous amendments proposed by countries large and small, the draft of the Charter of the International Organization was very much improved. It may confidently be said that the final text of the Charter of the United Nations Organization worked out at San Francisco is far superior to all the earlier drafts for the creation of a stable international organization.

The elaboration of such a Charter was a work of considerable difficulty. Numerous obstacles arose in the course of the San Francisco Conference. The delegations from the Soviet Union, the Soviet Ukraine and Soviet Byelorussia were among the most insistent champions of the best possible instrument of international security that could be created under the existing conditions, and exerted all their efforts, patience and persistence to facilitate the success of the Conference and to overcome the difficulties.

On many questions, opinions clashed; and the disputes over points of principle sometimes became acute. Such, for example, was the case in the discussion of "trusteeship," which revealed the moral superiority of the Soviet delegation. The latter firmly insisted on the peoples of the dependent "mandated" countries being assisted to achieve their independence.

This was also the case in the discussion of the powers of the Assembly and the composition of the Security Council, when certain delegates strove to widen the powers of the Assembly, which would have diluted it and drowned it in a flood

of eloquent chatter, to the detriment of the swift and vigorous action of the organization as a whole.

Not a few attempts were made to pour the old wine of the League of Nations into new bottles. Much effort had to be expended before the idea was firmly instilled that the guarantee of the peace and prosperity of all nations and countries, especially the small ones, lay in the unanimity of the peaceful great powers. Lastly, no little time was spent before the Conference itself finally defeated the attempts of reactionary politicians to attribute mysterious and malevolent intentions to the Soviet delegation. All this is now a thing of the past.

Speaking at the Plenary Session of the Conference on April 26, Vyacheslav Molotov, head of the Soviet delegation, said: "The Soviet Government is a sincere and firm champion of the establishment of a strong international organization of security. Whatever may depend upon it and its efforts in the common cause of the creation of such a postwar organization for the peace and security of nations, will readily be done by the Soviet Government. We will fully cooperate in the solution of this great problem with all the other governments which are genuinely devoted to this noble cause. In spite of all obstacles, we are confident this historic goal will be achieved by the joint effort of peace-loving nations."

Now that the problem has been solved, the whole world must recognize that the firm, forthright and consistent cooperation of the Soviet Union did much to fa-

cilitate the success of the Conference. The difficulties were overcome on account of the spirit of cooperation and the desire for unanimity displayed by the great Allied powers. The Anglo-Soviet-American coalition, which was born in the fire of the war, insured victory in that war. Maintained and consolidated in the cause of peace, this coalition will become the spirit of the new organization and will guarantee peace to the nations.

The chapters and articles of the published Charter lay down the political and juridical foundation for cooperation among the nations interested in preserving and maintaining peace. They outline concrete forms of cooperation which, given the unanimity of the permanent members of the Security Council, will guarantee swift and vigorous action to prevent aggression or to curb an aggressor. Imbued with the spirit of respect for the sovereign rights of nations, the Charter takes account of the specific regional interests of countries which may be interested in having additional means of guaranteeing their national security. Lastly, the Charter provides for international cooperation in economic and social fields, so vitally essential for the success of the international organization.

The heart and soul of the new organization is the Security Council, of which the United States, Great Britain, the USSR, China and France are the permanent members. These countries represent nearly half the population of the world, as well as the overwhelming military and economic potential. It is with them that

the chief responsibility for maintaining the peace lies. The powers with which they are invested under the Charter correspond to their actual weight and significance in safeguarding the security of all the United Nations. Their powers are duties rather than privileges. They arise from the obligation of the great powers to uphold peace in the interests of all peace-loving nations, with their confidence, cooperation and support.

The Soviet Union has assumed this obligation, fully conscious of its responsibility. The Soviet people appreciate the value of peace more than anyone else. They have paid a high price for it, having defended, in battle, the liberty and independence of their country. The Soviet people are now entering a new period of peaceful development. The maintenance of peace is vital to them.

And now that the San Francisco Conference has successfully completed its labors and the liberty-loving countries have been asked to subscribe to the Charter of the United Nations Organization, in the drawing up of which the Soviet representatives took so active a part, the Soviet people may repeat the words pronounced by Vyacheslav Molotov, their People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, when the Conference opened: "You ought to know that as far as safeguarding the peace and security of nations is concerned, the Soviet Union can be relied upon. This great cause is resolutely backed by our peace-loving people, by the Soviet Government and the Red Army, and by our great Marshal Stalin."



RED ARMY ENCIRCLEMENT OPERATIONS

One of the outstanding features of the Red Army's offensive was its wide-scale encirclement maneuvers.

The battle for Stalingrad was the beginning of a great offensive which ended in the encirclement and annihilation of an enemy group 330,000 strong.

In 1944 the Red Army surrounded 20 large enemy strategical and operational groups, among them the formidable Korsun-Shevchenkovsky, Byelorussian, Jassy-Kishinev and Kurland forces.

During 1945, 10 strong German groups were surrounded, including those in Prussia, in the areas of Grudziadz, Torun, Schneidemuehl, Poznan, Glogau, Breslau, a group southeast of Berlin and one in the German capital itself.

The experiences of recent wars, particularly the Patriotic War, show that when an army of a strong foe is able to establish itself quickly for prolonged defense, encirclement is one of the most arduous maneuvers and can be carried out effectively only by a master force.

The successful operations of the Red Army speak for the competence of the Soviet officers and generals. Victories were achieved because Soviet strategy and Soviet tactics are by far superior to anything the Germans could employ.

The grand scale and tempo of the Soviet offensive created favorable conditions for the encirclement. Dealing a number of simultaneous and crushing blows, Soviet troops split up the enemy and iso-

lated the German units. Strong mobile forces then penetrated through the gap and completed the process of isolation. This created the conditions for the attack on the enemy's flanks to complete the maneuver of encirclement.

One of the special features of the Soviet attacks is that they were never planned on hard and fast rules, but always with a view to the existing situation—the relation of forces, configuration of the front, etc.

Some operations—for example, the Stalingrad, Korsun-Shevchenkovsky and the Jassy-Kishinev campaigns—aimed at dealing the enemy powerful and concentrated blows on the flanks, with the final objective of emerging at the enemy's lines of communications and joining forces in the rear.

In other cases, the enemy's front was breached on a number of sectors, his defense system was cut up and a deep wedge driven into the zone, with the result that the Soviet mobile troops were able to penetrate deep into enemy positions.

This type of encirclement was carried out at some distance from the enemy's front line by delivering blows on the flanks and rear; by attacking the groups withdrawing from the breached positions; or by striking against the reserves.

In this fashion the enemy groups were destroyed in the areas of Razdelnoe, Proskurov, Brody and Lvov.

Successful encirclements were carried out in 1945 by the Third and Second

Byelorussian Fronts in East Prussia. These operations were carried out on sectors where the German defenses had been built for several years and were exceptionally deep and powerful.

As the result of a number of consecutive blows on a wide front, the whole East Prussian group was surrounded, split and pushed to the sea. Every attempt of the enemy to break through collapsed. Leaving the mopping-up operations to the second echelons, Soviet units continued the offensive westward.

During encirclement maneuvers, Soviet troops displayed their ability in the most complicated tactical and operational situations. When the German command made an attempt to relieve its surrounded units with strong counter-thrusts, the Soviet troops could not be dislodged. The attacks availed the enemy nothing but casualties.

The principal enemy concentration detailed to defend the approaches to Berlin on the Oder and the Neisse was sliced up. One group, comprising 13 divisions, was surrounded and eventually liquidated in the forests southeast of Berlin; the second, after a daring maneuver of right flank troops of the First Byelorussian Front and the dashing assault of tank units of the First Ukrainian Front, was surrounded in the Berlin area, where part was annihilated and the remainder capitulated on May 2.

Part of the thousands of German motor vehicles captured by Soviet troops in the Preussisch-Eylau area of East Prussia



Vladimir Komarov, President of USSR Academy of Sciences

Most popular of all the presidents of the Academy of Sciences in its 220 years of existence, is Vladimir Komarov. His work in the building up of the new life in our country has won him the profound admiration of millions of Soviet men and women. This eminent botanist has directed all his studies and researches toward a single goal: the utilization of every scientific achievement to satisfy the needs of man.

Komarov is considered one of the most active, talented and educated of our botanists in the sphere of the systematization and geographical distribution of plant life, and is unquestionably the greatest authority on the flora of Asia.

As Vice President in 1930 and as President of the Academy since 1936, he has led Soviet scientists in their struggle to harness Nature's wealth to the needs of the national economy. Under his leadership intrepid investigators climb the mountain slopes of the Urals and the Caucasus, descend craters of volcanoes, storm the summits of the Pamirs, brave the icy seas of the Northern Sea Route and hack their way through the impenetrable Siberian and Far Eastern forests, taking part in all phases of the creative work of the nation.

It was on Komarov's initiative that branches and bases of the USSR Academy of Sciences were set up in various Republics, making Russian science and culture truly multinational. The areas and regions that once were neglected colonial possessions of the Russian tsars now have their own institutions and scientists. The



Vladimir L. Komarov

latent talent and ability of the peoples who only recently had no written language of their own are being awakened, and the peripheral organizations of the Academy help to raise the culture of the less developed peoples to the level of the most advanced. They study the natural wealth of the various Republics and the history and literature of their peoples; they lay the theoretical foundations for their languages, and compile textbooks and scientific literature in these tongues. Outposts of Soviet science are to be found throughout the country, from the Kola Peninsula in the Far North to the Pamirs in the South.

A few months after the outbreak of the war the President of the Academy set up a Commission to study and tap the resources of the Urals. Never before in Russia's history have her men of

science rendered such inspired service. Employing a method of teamwork introduced into all branches of science by Komarov himself, the Commission made a thorough study of a number of areas—not only of the Urals, but of Kazakhstan and West Siberia as well.

It is Komarov who called the Urals "the Stalin line," an apt name for an area where so many industries, gigantic plants and power stations were built under Stalin's leadership during the Five-Year Plans. It was in the Urals that the Academy of Sciences rallied the miners and geologists, geographers and hydro-technicians, economists and engineers, physicists and astronomers, to the immediate solution of unprecedented problems.

Soviet scientists helped to speed the extraction of millions of tons of ore, coal and oil for war needs, and the construction of vast irrigation systems, making it possible to grow grain and industrial crops over large areas never before cultivated.

Last year the country honored Komarov on his 75th birthday. It is difficult for those who do not know him to imagine his tremendous energy and vitality—his tireless efforts to advance science and mobilize its forces for the speediest restoration of the territories formerly occupied by the Germans.

On the recent occasion of the Academy's Jubilee Session with its illustrious gathering of Soviet and foreign scientists, President Komarov and his colleagues had every reason to be proud of the scientific center of the country.

THE AZERBAIJAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

By Mir Kasimov, President of the Academy

The Soviet scientists who remained at home felt that they were mobilized for the war effort as much as the hundreds of thousands who fought for their country at the front. Like the workers and farmers of the country whose splendid work was a continual support to the Red Army, Soviet scientists immediately found their place in the nationwide struggle for victory.

It was natural for Azerbaijan scientists to direct their first attention to the chief natural wealth of their Republic—oil. Despite numerous difficulties, the search for new fields was continued throughout the war and several new oil deposits were discovered in various parts of Azerbaijan.

An important task was increasing the output of oil without extensive reconstruction of the old wells. The scientific

workers left their laboratories to work in the oilfields where, together with engineers, foremen and rank and file workers, they planned methods for maintaining the level of production even though few new wells were being drilled.

Azerbaijan is rich in minerals as well as in oil, an important factor in wartime when, on account of the German occupation of a number of Soviet districts, and

the general difficulty of transport, raw materials for Baku industry were less available. One entirely new industry set up with native resources was firebrick, a constant need for which exists in oil refineries.

Our scientists literally breathed life into most of the important branches of Azerbaijan's war industries. Large deposits of molybdenum, copper, sulphurous pyrites, zinc and lead were discovered—all made available by Azerbaijan geologists.

Power engineers turned their attention to wartime needs and gave valuable help to the industries manufacturing for the front. It was the power engineers who discovered that the expensive ammonia used for refrigerator installations could be replaced by propane obtainable from local oil refineries. Two other inventions of Azerbaijan power engineers during the war were the automatic control of compressor-worked wells and the adaptation of ordinary automobiles to the use of heavy fuel.

An extensive network of chemical research institutes, including the Institute of Chemistry, was devoted entirely to the war effort and aiding the national economy.

Of exceptional importance was the method developed by the laboratory of organic chemistry for synthesizing carbohydrates, which are added to ordinary motor fuel to raise its octane number.

The Institute of Botany made numerous contributions to applied science. Practical use was found for many of the wild flora of Azerbaijan, and plants containing essential oils were cultivated. Considerable work was also done on medicinal herbs culminating in an exhaustive treatise on the subject, *The Medicinal Resources of the Azerbaijan Regions*.

Throughout the war the workers of the various scientific institutes and museums organized lectures and exhibits and published a series of books on Azerbaijan's heroic past and her struggle against foreign invaders.

Now that victory over the enemy has been achieved, the scientists of Azerbaijan can say that they, too, have made a humble contribution to the cause of the destruction of fascism.

Mir Kasimov President of Azerbaijan Academy

During the 25 years since it was founded, almost 6,000 doctors have graduated from the Medical Institute in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan. Most of them have attended lectures in surgery by Mir Asadulla Kasimov, now President of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences.

Mir Asadulla's father, a teacher of Arabian philosophy at the Moslem Seminary in Baku, wanted his son to follow in his footsteps, and the lad gave early promise of doing so: he donned the cap and gown of the seminary pupil and plunged into the study of Arabian classics. In childhood he had learned to speak the Iranian language, and the ancient poets of Iran were his favorites.

But at the age of 13 he was seized by a new impulse: he wanted to get closer to life, to go over from the ancient sciences to the modern. Only one path led in this direction, the Russian gymnasium, as the secondary schools were then called.

The boy had a difficult time preparing for the entrance examinations, for besides new subjects, he had to learn the Russian language in which they were taught.

For several years Mir Asadulla attended both the Moslem school, which he could not leave out of respect for his father, and the gymnasium. The hours as well as the policies conflicted—he was obliged to wear the uniform of each school both in and out of class. In the mornings the boy would leave his home in a cap and gown, only to change into his gymnasium outfit when he reached a little shop on the other side of town. A few hours later, after his classes, he would reenter the shop as a Russian gymnasium pupil and leave it a Moslem seminary student. Fortunately, the seminary course ended three years sooner than the one at the gymnasium.

After graduating from the gymnasium he studied medicine in Odessa, and then returned to his native Baku, where he swelled the total number of doctors to five. There were that many Azerbaijan engineers in pre-Revolutionary Baku and only several more school-

teachers. There were a few scientists—without research facilities. Azerbaijan today has education and science in abundance—16 schools of higher learning and 50 research institutes, as well as the 17 Institutes of the new Academy of Sciences. There are numerous well-equipped and fully-staffed hospitals.

Mir Kasimov was sent abroad to study under prominent surgeons. He specialized in abdominal surgery and the surgery of the urinal tract, and wrote a number of monographs that attracted the attention of medical scientists throughout the Soviet Union.

In addition to his medical work, Mir Kasimov is an active participant in the development of health protection in Azerbaijan. The people have reciprocated his love: the Greater Khachmass District, where he took an active part in erecting a hospital, elected him Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

In the early '30's, the Academy of Sciences of the USSR took a major step in the promotion of Azerbaijan science by establishing a regional branch. Mir Kasimov also played an active role in the establishment of the branch. By the end of 1944 it had made sweeping progress in the study of oil—Azerbaijan's chief natural wealth—in geology, the physical and technical sciences, biology and the humanities.

The Azerbaijan branch of the Academy brought to the fore a large galaxy of gifted young scientists, and became the headquarters of Azerbaijan science.

With the transformation of the branch into an independent Academy of Sciences, Mir Kasimov was elected President.

Two new institutes are now in the process of organization: Experimental Medicine and Oil. Another large undertaking conceived by the President of the young Academy is a conference of the Soviet Union's Orientalists to be held in Baku.

Mir Kasimov enthusiastically stated: "We have so many valuable materials on the history of art, music and literature of the East, as well as on the history of Arabian medicine, that Baku is the ideal place for such a conference."

NO LEGAL LOOPHOLES FOR WAR CRIMINALS!

By Professor A. Trainin



IN PRISON CAMP NO. 344—This wagon was found laden with bodies of Red Army men who died of starvation. The man lying across the shaft had been forced to haul the wagon until he dropped

The defeat of Hitlerite Germany has brought to the fore the problem of the immediate execution of the Crimea Conference decision on swift punishment of fascist criminals.

Two principal categories of war crimes must be mentioned in this connection. One relates to encroachments on peaceful relations among nations: acts of aggression, the organization of Fifth Columns, terrorist acts aimed at the instigation of international conflicts, and so on. The other category relates to criminal violations of the laws and usages of war: the murder of non-combatants and prisoners of war, the organization of slave labor.

Main Category of War Criminals

Who must shoulder the responsibility for war crimes? The answer is perfectly clear. The German state and the German people must certainly bear, and will bear, the political and material consequences of Hitlerite aggression and the Hitlerite system of militarized banditry. But the responsibility for war crimes lies only with the individual persons who committed such crimes.

The principal group, the worst international criminals, are those German

fuehrers, living and dead, who instigated the World War, and made war an instrument for the extermination and plunder of nations. Then there are Hitler's provincial emissaries, his gauleiters, the Nazi Party leaders, the Army High Command, the Gestapo and SS men.

With this chief category of war criminals should also be classed the financial and industrial magnates who throughout a number of years took an active part in the preparations for military aggression, in the organization of destruction and plunder.

Lastly, the leading war criminals should include those who formulated and guided the policies of the satellite countries, people like Antonescu, who placed their countries and their peoples at Hitler's service.

The next legal question is the definition of cognizance of war crimes. According to the declaration of Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill, published in Moscow on November 2, 1943, the courts of the Soviet Union, Poland, France, Belgium and other countries will deal with the Hitlerites who committed crimes in those countries, according to their deserts.

But it should not be forgotten that not infrequently war crimes of the most seri-

ous kind, such as murder of prisoners of war, were committed on the territory of Germany proper. The experience of 1921 when the Leipzig Court tried war criminals, demonstrated to the world with perfect clarity that German home justice cannot under any circumstances be employed in the prosecution of German war criminals.

International Tribunal

There is today general acceptance of the right of every state to try the authors of all war crimes committed against its interests. A special international tribunal may be created to try leaders of the Hitlerite band whose crimes against Europe were on so tremendous a scale.

Thus the method of punishing war crimes, the method of justice, is perfectly clear. The path, however, is blocked here and there by accumulations of rubbish heaped up by critics, sceptics and quasi-champions of law, who in reality hinder the normal processes of law.

Among the enemies of justice are overt pro-fascists who are not too abashed to argue against justice, simply because justice is against the Hitlerites. Other "champions of law" hide their solicitude for the Hitlerites behind a legal smoke screen. They engage vigorously in legal research. But what they are after is not



While the Courtroom Waits

—Cartoon by Boris Efimov

law, but loopholes in the law, through which war criminals may escape.

Two such loopholes have already been demonstrated by the foreign press in the form of two contentions: first, prisoners of war are not to be tried; second, the executors of orders are not to be tried.

Prisoners of War Not Exempt

Under the provisions of the Hague Convention, prisoners of war may not be tried or punished for actions committed in battle—for example, inflicting wounds or causing death in action. The impunity of war prisoners cannot, however, be absolute and boundless. The road to captivity cannot and must not become a road of general forgiveness, a road of "total amnesty" for everything, without exception, committed by a soldier before his captivity.

The Hitlerites committed numerous most serious crimes. They were assassins when they were committing these crimes, and assassins they remained when taken prisoner. Nor can the executors of criminal orders escape responsibility. An order to hurl women and children into the flames, an order to poison non-combatant citizens in murder vans, is not a combat order, but an instigation to crime, for which both the instigator and the executor must bear responsibility. There is no doubt that the profoundly criminal nature of such Hitlerite orders was clear to German officers and men.

Questions of law are of enormous importance for the successful prosecution of war criminals, for the complete moral and political defeat of Hitlerism. But the facts show that the struggle against war criminals is not yet being waged everywhere on the proper scale, or at the proper speed.

In some places political groups in power, or others lurking behind the scenes—which is sometimes still more convenient—put spokes in the wheel of justice, in spite of the will of the peoples.

This sabotage of justice is achieved by the protracted compilation of lists of war criminals. The question of compiling lists of war criminals who are to be tried in court on the general demand of the Allied powers has for many months been receiv-

HOW THE GERMANS TREATED PRISONERS OF WAR



General view of Camp No. 344 for Soviet war prisoners near Lamsdorf

ing the consideration—the very ineffectual consideration—of the London Commission of the United Nations. Whenever and wherever did organs of state justice, before initiating a trial of murderers or traitors, think it necessary to compile beforehand lists of all murderers and all traitors?

Artificial "Funerals"

Such delayed-action justice has its roots in the propaganda of Hitlerite and pro-Hitlerite elements. Germany, prostrate and disarmed, has not yet been deprived of all means of resistance. At the beginning of 1945, when Germany was facing a disaster that could not be averted, many Nazi fuehrers began to "die" in an organized way. They wrote their own obituaries, they organized their own pompous funerals. They sought to take advantage of the immunity of the dead. Their strategy—striving, behind a screen of tombstones, to accumulate fresh forces for war and revenge—is not new.

One notes with satisfaction that two of the chief members of the German-fascist band of criminals, Doenitz and Goering, have finally ceased to administrate or to pose for photographers. One presumes that the photographers will soon give place to the judges.

To conduct the prosecution of war crimes in full conformity with the demands of law and justice, the freedom-loving peoples must act in accord. The world must learn that war criminals who infringe on the foundations of human existence, upon the foundations of the peaceful cooperation of states, will meet an organized crushing rebuff from the freedom-loving nations. That is the right of the peoples, and the duty of the Governments.



Red Army men who died from hunger



Victims of brutality and starvation



The dead were found inside the barracks



A few remained alive to be taken to a Red Army hospital

IVAN MICHURIN

Throughout the Soviet Union, June 7 was observed as the 10th anniversary of the death of Ivan Michurin, the noted horticulturist who worked 61 years in the same sphere as Luther Burbank. He created more than 300 varieties of fruits and berries and was the first to apply Darwin's theory to horticulture, finding ways to control the life of plants and to evolve new species and varieties.

Michurin's childhood interest in horticulture was engendered by his father, who came of a line of naturalists. His education ended in the Ryazan secondary school, after which he had to go to work to support himself.

While working as an electrician at a small railway station, he spent his leisure time in fruit tree selection. A gifted experimenter, he succeeded, despite his limited facilities, in creating plants of a kind never known before. In 1888 he produced three new varieties of apples and six hybrids of other fruits. Later he was able to leave his job and devote himself completely to his work.

In speaking of his aspirations he said: "The cherished dream of my life has always been to see people observe plants with the same interest, with the same bated breath, as they do a new locomotive, a perfected tractor-combine never seen before, an unfamiliar airplane, or a machine of unknown design." He made it his aim to give the people of the Northern regions the same benefits that Nature bestows on the South.

First Michurin resorted to acclimatization to create highly productive varieties of fruits and berries able to withstand the climate of Russia's Central and Northern regions. This method consisted of grafting delicate Southern varieties onto sturdy, wild local fruit trees that resisted the cold but did not yield good fruit.

But he discovered that this method was not reliable and abandoned it for hybridization. The lengthy experiments he conducted demonstrated that the best results are obtained by crossing a female of a wild variety with a male of a cultivated variety. It is one of the basic deductions drawn from Michurin's work.

It should be pointed out that the wild



Ivan Michurin
(1855-1935)

variety does not necessarily have to be aboriginal. Michurin's Russian Concord grape, for example, which grows well in the Central belt of Russia, was obtained by crossing the wild grape from the Far East with the Southern variety. The former was small and bitter; the latter, a fancy table variety. The hybrid has the size and taste of the Southern grape and the vigor of the wild type.

The Russian Concord is only one of 24 varieties of grape Michurin evolved. By 1941 they were being grown in 700 plots in Kursk, Voronezh, Tambov, Kuibyshev, Saratov and other regions. There is every reason to look forward to even greater cultivation in the next few years.

Similar work was done in producing select pears for the Central belt. Utilizing the sturdy qualities of wild fruits, Michurin opened a new page in selection. He developed a number of methods for guaranteeing success in hybridization. He had a creator's gift—seeming almost a sculptor, modeling the dozens of new varieties of apples, cherries, blackberries and plums.

In pre-Revolutionary Russia, Michurin enjoyed neither the encouragement nor the support of the Department of Agriculture. Only in Soviet years was his work properly appreciated and the facilities provided whereby he could devote all

his energies and talent to the realization of his daring ideas. In the town that now bears his name there are a college of horticulture, a research institute and a genetic laboratory splendidly equipped. In addition, there is a network of research centers distributed over the country.

During the Stalin Five-Year Plans of 1929-41, the fruit orchard area of the Soviet Union increased from 655,000 hectares to 1,292,000 hectares. It is a striking testimony to the application of Michurin's work by Soviet agriculture. One of the many examples is the growth of the area under orchards in the regions north of Michurinsk (formerly Kozlov, in the Tambov Region) from practically none to more than 12,000 hectares before the war.

A Michurin motto was, "We cannot wait for bounties from Nature; our job is to take them from her."

Michurin was decorated with the Order of the Red Banner of Labor and the Order of Lenin. He was a member of the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Honorary Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and the Czechoslovak Agricultural Academy.

In commemoration of Michurin's services, a monument was unveiled on June 7 in the town named for him.

Michurin's book, *A Summary of Sixty Years Work*, has been published in a deluxe edition.

Information Bulletin

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[Front cover: Soviet war poster by the Georgian artist Araklia Toidze, from Stalin's words, "Let the manly images of our great ancestors inspire you in this war!"]

[Back cover: Victory Salute in Red Square, Moscow. Photograph of the Spassky Tower of the Kremlin, with statue of Kuzma Minin and Dmitri Pozharsky, Russian heroes of the 17th Century, in foreground.]

Information Bulletin

*Embassy of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Washington 8, D. C.*

*Special Supplement
June, 1945*



From the painting by A. Gerasimov

MARSHAL J. V. STALIN

**Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**



From the painting by Vasily Yakovlev

Members of the State Committee of Defense of the USSR and Government officials—Standing, left to right, L. M. Kaganovich, L. P. Beria, K. E. Voroshilov, J. V. Stalin, V. M. Molotov, G. K. Zhukov, G. M. Malenkov, N. A. Voznessensky

★

JULY 3, 1941

This war with fascist Germany cannot be considered an ordinary war. It is not only a war between two armies; it is also a great war of the entire Soviet people against the German-fascist forces. The aim of this national war in defense of our country against the fascist oppressors is not only elimination of the danger hanging over our country, but also aid to all European peoples groaning under the yoke of German fascism. In this war of liberation we shall not be alone. . . .

J. STALIN

Order of the Day

May 9, 1945, No. 369: Moscow

ON May 8, 1945, in Berlin, the representatives of the German High Command signed the act of unconditional surrender of the forces of the German army.

The Great Patriotic War waged by the Soviet people against the German-fascist invaders has been victoriously concluded; Germany is utterly routed.

Comrades Red Army men, Red Navy men, sergeants, petty officers, officers of the Army and Navy, generals, admirals and marshals! I congratulate you upon the victorious termination of the Great Patriotic War.

To mark the complete victory over Germany, today, on May 9, the Day of Victory, at 10 P.M., the capital of our Motherland—Moscow—on behalf of the Motherland, will salute the gallant troops of the Red Army and the ships and units of the Navy which have won this brilliant victory, by firing 30 artillery salvos from 1,000 guns.

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

Long live the victorious Red Army and Navy!

(Signed) SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION STALIN

Stalin's Victory Address

COMRADES! Compatriots, men and women! The Great Day of Victory over Germany has come. Fascist Germany, forced to her knees by the Red Army and the troops of our Allies, has acknowledged her defeat and declared unconditional surrender.

On May 7, the preliminary protocol of surrender was signed in the city of Rheims. On May 8, representatives of the German High Command, in the presence of representatives of the Supreme Command of the Allied troops and of the Supreme Command of the Soviet troops, signed in Berlin the final act of surrender, the execution of which began at 24 hours, May 8.

Being aware of the wolfish habits of the German ringleaders, who regard treaties and agreements as an empty scrap of paper, we had no reason to believe their words. Since this morning, in pursuance of the act of surrender, German troops in mass have begun to lay down arms and surrender to our troops.

This is no longer an empty scrap of paper. This is the real surrender of Germany's armed forces.

True, one group of German troops in

the area of Czechoslovakia is still evading surrender. But I hope the Red Army will be able to bring it to its senses.

Now we can note with full satisfaction that the historical day of the final rout of Germany, the Day of the Great Victory of our people over German imperialism, has come. The great sacrifices we have made in the name of freedom and our defense of our Motherland, the incalculable privations and sufferings experienced by our people in the course of the war, the strained work in the rear and at the front—placed on the altar of the Motherland—have not been in vain and have been crowned by complete victory over the enemy.

The age long struggle of the Slav peoples for their existence and their independence has ended in victory over the German invaders and the German tyranny. Henceforth, the great banner of freedom of nations and peace among nations will fly over Europe.

Three years ago Hitler publicly stated that his aims included the dismemberment of the Soviet Union and the wresting of the Caucasus, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, the Baltic and other regions from

it. He declared bluntly: "We will destroy Russia, so that she will never be able to rise again." This happened three years ago. However, Hitler's crazy ideas were not fated to succeed. The course of the war scattered them to the winds. In actual fact, something directly opposite to the Hitlerites' ravings has taken place. Germany has been utterly defeated. The German troops are surrendering. The Soviet Union is celebrating victory, although it does not intend to dismember or destroy Germany.

Comrades! The Great Patriotic War has ended in our complete victory. The period of the war in Europe is over. The period of peaceful development has begun.

I congratulate you upon the victory, my dear compatriots, men and women!

Glory to our heroic Red Army which upheld the independence of our Motherland and won victory over the enemy!

Glory to our great people—the victor people!

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in the battles against the enemy and gave their lives for the freedom and happiness of our people!

The Greatest Victory In the History of Warfare

By Colonel Nikolai Akimov

THE mighty vise of the Red Army and its Allies have crushed Hitlerite Germany and ground her to dust. Her armed forces which six years ago began a war against the entire world have been utterly routed. Unconditional surrender has been signed in the very heart of Germany, in Soviet-occupied Berlin.

The history of wars records no defeat so shattering as this. The Armies of the great democratic powers have won one of the most spectacular military victories ever achieved.

In years to come, military historians will study in minutest detail the events of each day of this titanic war in Europe. Hundreds of books will be written, explaining the unparalleled defeat of Germany's armed forces. Yet even today it is clear to all who have attentively observed and studied the war that the chief reason for Germany's military debacle is that Hitler's entire strategic plan was nothing more than a gamble.

Any operation—be it tactical or strategic—which is launched without the necessary forces for its realization is usually classed as a military adventure. What was Hitler's main strategic plan when he started his war in Europe in the autumn of 1939? He and his generals set their armed forces no less than four major strategic objectives, and these were to be realized in a specific and definite order.

We now know that the first objective was the defeat of the armed forces of all the states of Western Europe and first of all, France and Great Britain. The second was the defeat of the Soviet Union. After capturing all of Europe's industry and its tremendous manpower reserves, Hitler planned to strike across the Caucasus and Iran to India—to join up with the armed forces of his ally, Japan. And the final stage of this truly fantastic undertaking was to be a thrust across the Atlantic into South America, with the aim of conquering the New World.

There is a sufficient number of convincing facts and documents proving that



Radiophoto
**Our Cause is Just
Victory is Ours**
(Inscription on new Soviet Medal
"For Victory over Germany in
the Great Patriotic War
of 1941-45")

these were the strategic plans of the Hitlerite clique when it set out on its war of world conquest. It is obvious that to carry out such a plan would require a gigantic army, an army greater than any present-day state, even the most powerful, could build. It is also obvious that even with such an army, the conquest of four continents would require not simply two or three campaigns, but hundreds of gigantic battles fought over a period of decades.

Strong though it was when it launched this bloodiest of all wars, Hitler's army was a mere Lilliputian compared to the tasks assigned to it by Hitler. But it was a Lilliputian infected with the germ of Nazism, intoxicated with its own delirious plans, obsessed with a zoological

hatred for all other nations, and—most important—absolutely confident not only of its military superiority, but of its freedom to put its aggressive schemes into effect with impunity.

The overestimation of its own forces and the underestimation of the strength of its opponents was the fatal weakness in the strategic plan of Hitler and his clique, which has now been smashed by the valorous armies of the Soviet Union and her Allies.

As we all remember, the early part of the Second World War took an unfavorable turn for the democratic countries of the world. Yet history will bear out that the reverses suffered by the Western European countries were not so much a result of the superiority of the Hitlerite military doctrine (if these mad plans of world conquest can be called a military doctrine) as of the unpreparedness, discord and—to some extent—the treachery that reigned in the camp of Hitler's opponents.

After marching through Poland, routing Holland, Belgium and France, and reaching the Atlantic, the Hitlerites came to a halt on the coast of the English Channel. It developed that the German army was not prepared for even such an operation as crossing that narrow body of water.

After the Balkan campaign, but before he realized his first strategic objective—this was put off until "better times"—Hitler turned his armies against the USSR.

The war in the East lasted 1,417 days. There is no need to dwell on events on this front. Here Hitlerite Germany finally came up against a great power which broke the backbone of the Wehrmacht, and which, after a brilliant march from the Volga to the Spree, smashed into Berlin, where the enemy was forced to sign the act of unconditional surrender.

Now, while the ink with which Field Marshal Keitel put his signature to the unconditional surrender of Hitlerite Germany is barely dry, it is difficult to sum

up the war properly. One can merely point to some of the more outstanding features that confirm the main thesis as to the adventurous nature of Hitler's strategic plans.

When the German General Staff launched the war against the Soviet Union, it had no clear idea of the strength of the Red Army. The notorious German intelligence service, and the fascist fifth column which had played such a fatal role in the battles of Poland, France and the Balkans, proved powerless in the war against the Soviet Union. This explains why, after every battle won by the Germans from the western frontiers of the Soviet Union to Moscow, they declared the main forces of the Red Army had been annihilated. Actually, however, they had not yet faced the main Soviet forces, but only the vanguard armies.

It was these armies that dealt the Wehrmacht the huge losses which undermined the blitz plan of the German General Staff, and at the same time enabled the Red Army to mobilize its main strength. Intensive effort was exerted in the Eastern districts of the country to build up the powerful forces that were soon to turn the tide at Moscow, and a year later at Stalingrad.

Hitler was forced to resort to a series of what came to be known as total mobilizations, to abandon altogether the idea of making a thrust across the English Channel, and of marching against Egypt; and later, when our Allies invaded the European Continent, was forced to strip his western and southern European fronts.

The result was that when the war in the East was at its height, Hitler had to alter not only the strategic objectives of his armies, but also his own strategy and tactics. After Stalingrad, Hitler, who had calculated on a blitz campaign against the Soviet Union, was forced to go over to protracted warfare. Dozens of defense lines and walls came into being; the Wehrmacht hurriedly switched over to the defensive—and the notorious theories of "elastic defense," "desert zones," and, toward the end of war, of the "wandering and brake kettles," were trotted out.

Thus, the strategy of the German General Staff, its military doctrine, could not stand up against the strategy and military

doctrine of the Supreme High Command of the Red Army. The entire course of the war after Stalingrad was marked by the decline of the German army.

This was the period in which the Red Army decimated the main forces of Hitlerite Germany in furious gigantic and bloody struggles. To foreign observers, it seemed at times that a pause or an equilibrium of forces had set in on the Soviet-German front. When this happened, "profound" prognostications of diverse kinds, by various military commentators, appeared. Theirs was not an enviable task in this war. Time after time the Red Army forced them to retreat from their untenable positions.

Most indicative in this respect was the final stage of the war, which lasted no more than three and a half months. It is not without interest today to recall Germany's position in the middle of January of this year. The Hitlerites still held a great deal of territory on their Eastern front, running along the lower reaches of the Niemen, Narew and Vistula Rivers, cutting across the Carpathians, and running through Budapest and farther, to the shores of Lake Balaton and the Drava River. In the West there were the Siegfried Line and the Rhine. At Hitler's disposal were about 300 divisions. Germany's armed forces even attempted to launch counter-offensives—in Hungary and Belgium, for example.

Recall the shattering impression made on many military reviewers abroad by Rundstedt's counterblow. Some of them even went so far as to speak of the revival of Germany's former military might. They predicted failure of General Eisenhower's offensive plans, and the prolongation of the war for another year, or perhaps two. But the Soviet press was

correct when it appraised the German counterblows in Hungary and Belgium as acts of desperation and bluff.

This myth of the revival of German armed might was quickly scattered to the winds by the Red Army's winter offensive, which demonstrated that the forces of the Germans were exhausted. It became obvious that the coordinated Allied blows from the East and West had completely deprived Hitlerite Germany of her ability to conduct a successful defense on two fronts and to maneuver with her forces.

It was then that military observers saw particularly clearly what the war on the Soviet-German front had cost Germany. In four years of fighting, the Red Army had wiped out the most battle-worthy contingents of the German army; it had made gaps in the ranks of the German army that no number of Volksturm could possibly fill.

At the beginning of the war, Marshal Stalin said that the country which would be able to come to the end of the war with the largest reserves would win. This prediction was borne out by the entire course of the war in Europe. Germany has been ground to dust because her mad rulers tried to carry out a plan beyond the powers of a single army in the world, a plan based on the most monstrous and misanthropic of ideas.

The defeat which the Armies of the great democratic powers have inflicted on Hitlerite Germany will be a stern warning to all aggressors. They should be convinced of the fact that the forces of the Red Army and its Allies are numberless—that now, after 1,417 days of war, the armed might of the Soviet Union is greater than on the day Hitler perfidiously attacked her.

ON TO BERLIN!
With boundless enthusiasm Soviet troops press forward on the historic march to the German capital



Radiophoto



A salvo of the famous Guards mortars, the "Katyushas"—one of the most powerful weapons of Soviet arms

The Battle for Berlin

THE great battle of Berlin began several days before the first volley of artillery preparation rang out on the Oder and the Neisse Rivers—the line which Soviet troops had reached after the victorious winter offensive from the Vistula. This is a region of marshes, forests and lakes connected by canals. There are fewer roads here than in other parts of Germany, and each road and causeway across the marshes could easily be swept with artillery and machine-gun fire. Here the Germans expected to hold out for a long time and to wear down our troops in positional warfare.

The Germans had also massed immense forces here, transferring divisions from the Western Front and other sectors which they considered less threatened. They concentrated large masses of infantry and artillery on lines along the rivers, and under its protection set out to complete the fortifications they had begun building in the winter and which were to form a series of belts covering the approaches to Berlin.

The first of these lines was on the Neisse, where the ramified system of defenses included the old towns of Guben, Forst and Muskau, which the Germans turned into powerful strongholds.

But while the Germans took every measure to build up powerful defenses on the Neisse, they did not expect Marshal Konev to strike in this region of forests,

marshes and lakes. This is confirmed by the statements of numerous German officers taken prisoner. Therefore the Germans made a special effort to fortify Goerlitz, a district on the left flank of the Soviet troops of the First Ukrainian Front, where flat country criss-crossed by numerous roads offered many advantages for the offensive.

The Command of the First Ukrainian Front did everything to confirm the Germans in their belief that Goerlitz would be the objective of the next attack. By night the Germans could see headlights of endless columns of motor vehicles passing in this direction. German aerial observers spotted the appearance of many new airfields and artillery positions without, of course, realizing that they were all dummies.

While the attention of the Germans was riveted on the Goerlitz direction, our troops were preparing to strike in the lower Neisse area.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the preparations for the tremendous blow was the secrecy with which the troops were massed on the marshy bank of the Neisse. Units were brought up at night in perfect silence. No one dared light a cigarette or talk loudly. Each night the roads near the river teemed with troops, trucks and tanks that moved without headlights and with muffled engines. During the day the German aerial scouts

could see nothing but the undisturbed calm of the forests. Even the traces of tank treads were carefully obliterated before dawn.

When the first volley of the tremendous artillery preparation was fired one morning, it struck the Germans as a bolt from the blue. This artillery preparation, with 250 to 300 guns to every kilometer of the sector, was designed for a breakthrough and marked the beginning of the great battle of Berlin. In the first few minutes all enemy fortifications along the river bank were swept away. Artillery fire was then shifted to the second, third and fourth lines of the German defenses.

Meanwhile, beneath a fiery arch of flying shells our infantry began to cross the river in boats, canoes and barges prepared beforehand. The volleys of artillery were still thundering when entire regiments gained a foothold on the opposite bank and proceeded immediately to push deeper into enemy defenses. Behind them the engineers laid bridges from parts previously prepared, and the tanks, emerging from their hiding places in the woods, rushed across.

On the first day of the offensive our troops advanced ten kilometers. Next day the speed of the advance increased to 20 kilometers, after the tank forces had crossed the Neisse over the new bridges. The armored advance continued at the rate of 30 to 45 kilometers a day. And all the way Soviet troops had to over-

come enemy resistance and fight for each village and town along the roads and for each forest entrance blocked with trees.

When our troops reached the Spree, the Germans made another desperate attempt to stem our advance. They massed two powerful forces on the flanks of our wedge, at Cottbus and Spremberg, in an effort to cut off the spearhead stabbing into the heart of Germany. A strong German armored force—hundreds of tanks and self-propelled guns—sallied forth from Spremberg along the Spree to intercept our troops. But our forces pushed westward at a swift pace, paying no attention to the battle which flared up at Spremberg in their rear.

It was a daring decision; the enemy was strong and fought fiercely. But it worked out the way the Soviet Command expected. Our troops on the left flank surrounded and wiped out the German force at Spremberg, capturing rich booty and thousands of prisoners. Meanwhile, our troops on the right flank captured Cottbus by a swift enveloping movement.

But the most effective stroke in this battle for Berlin was still ahead. Overcoming fierce resistance and numerous obstacles, our troops drove on due west. The spearhead of the wedge boring into the body of Germany was directed at Dresden. The Germans began hastily re-

BEFORE THE DECISIVE ASSAULT



Colonel General Katukov (right), commander of a tank formation which was the first to enter Berlin



The troops of Colonel Generals Kuznetsov (left) and Chuikov marched from Stalingrad to the German capital

Radiophotos

grouping their forces with the aim of protecting that city.

Precisely at that moment, a part of our mobile forces advancing to the west turned sharply to the north. The Germans did not expect this. A similar maneuver, but from north to south, was effected by mobile troops of the First Byelorussian Front. General Rybalko's tanks joined with General Katukov's tanks near the village of Bonsdorf and closed a ring behind the German troops defending Berlin from the east. These troops, which constituted the main force massed for the defense of Berlin, were cut off from the German capital and the ring around them quickly tightened.

The entire plan for the defense of Berlin was thus upset. To bolster up resistance in the capital, the German Command had to rush troops from the West.

A part of our advancing troops stayed behind to deal with the trapped German forces at the distant approaches to Berlin, while our main tank forces continued to drive westward in a pincer movement, the arms of which intercepted line after line of communications leading to Berlin. They intercepted and routed fresh

forces thrown in by the Germans, and overcoming line after line of enemy defenses reached the suburbs.

When Berlin was outflanked from the south and north, units of the First Byelorussian and First Ukrainian Fronts again changed the direction of their advance and suddenly turned to meet each other. General Lelyushenko's tanks made a dash northward and effected a junction with General Bogdanov's forward units. Thus they trapped the Germans in Berlin itself. The German capital was surrounded. The stage was set for the final assault.

Three Marches on Berlin

Three marches of the Russian Army on Berlin are reflected in trophies and relics collected in the Leningrad Artillery Museum of the Red Army. Among the exhibits are dozens of battle standards captured from the Germans by Russian troops during the seizure of Berlin in 1760, in the Seven Years' War. Other exhibits show the second entry of Russian troops into Berlin in 1813. Many cases of trophies taken when the Red Army made its entry into the German capital have been added to the collection.



TO BERLIN!—Tanya Alexandrova directs traffic to the west

The Secret Headquarters of the German General Staff

By Major B. Polevoi

EXTERNALLY this village looks no different from many others in the environs of Berlin: brick cottages, each resembling the other, an angular red brick church, sickly trees entwined with wild grape vines, and the inevitable pigeons nesting in the eaves. Only the unusual tidiness of the yards and the absence of paraphernalia outside sheds and barns might strike an observant individual.

The village stretches into a wood densely planted with trees and cleanly swept. Here the scene changes. In a clearing stand 24 concrete buildings camouflaged with paint of various colors and concealed by young pines. Concrete paths running between the structures are overhung with netting. The barbed-wire fence which enclosed this compound and through which a high-tension current could be run, and the pillboxes and foxholes at the sides of the roads and paths are all splashed with dull yellow paint and are almost invisible even at a short distance.

It was here in this tiny village, or rather here deep underground, that Hitler throughout the war had his thieves' kitchen. This was the headquarters of the German General Staff which, officially of course, was supposed to be located in the center of Berlin. Over the General Staff building there, a flag always waved and gorgeously attired porters noiselessly opened and shut doors. But here in the village of Zossen were neither porters nor flags. The men who had drenched all Europe in blood lived deep underground like moles.

Hans Beltow, a German engineer—an elderly man who had charge of the complex electrical installations of the General Staff and who had had no desire to retire with the German troops—willingly showed us over the establishment.

The elevators were not working and we descended by a spiral staircase which seemed endless. Finally we reached the bottom. Corridors diverged in all direc-

tions, lined with doors, each with a number.

Everything in this devil's kitchen testified to the fact that the Red Army's blow had been so staggering and unexpected it had caught even the German General Staff unprepared. The floors were littered with documents, maps and reference books. In the office of the Chief of Staff, a dressing gown was flung across a writing desk; on the floor lay a pair of bedroom slippers and in an adjoining room stood a rumpled, unmade bed. On a night table were a bottle of wine, half-filled glasses and a bowl of apples. From an open valise spilled linen, family photographs, and a picture of Hitler autographed in his own hand.

The panic which had seized the General Staff was also evident from the last records, the last telegraph messages. We found the telegraph room and its installations absolutely intact. There were endless lines of apparatus, and clocks which all registered 20 minutes to three. When the members of the General Staff fled, they left a telegrapher behind to answer calls. At his machine we found the last tapes, which revealed the state of mind in which this thieves' den was abandoned by its owners. Here are some quotations from these last messages.

"I have an urgent message for Oslo."

"Very sorry, but we are not transmitting anything more. We are retiring from Berlin. I am the last man here. I shall be cutting off communications in an hour or two."

"Is there nobody in Berlin who could send a messenger?"

"Alas, no."

"My God, what is happening? This is the end. . . ."

"Attention. I have an urgent message for Lieutenant General Wister, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Western Department."

"We are not accepting any more messages."

"Why?"

"I have told you we are not receiving, and that is enough for you. Everybody has skedaddled. I cannot repeat the whole story to everybody."

"I would like to know what is the situation where you are?"

"Splendid, as usual. If you could only see me. I am in full uniform with my automatic pistol. Everybody has gone. I am the last. I need not tell you what I feel like."

"Are they feeling any better in Berlin?"

"Oh, they are feeling splendid, as usual. I feel as if the noose is around my neck."

"Is there contact with Prague?"

"No, you idiot. I am the last man here. It is all up with Germany; Ivan is literally at the door. I am going to cut the wires in a minute."

However, at the last moment, when our men appeared at the door, the telegrapher thought better of it. He had not the heart to wreck the installations. He saw no sense in dying for generals who, having lost the war, had left him to his fate. He raised his hands.

But an even more curious detail struck me as I wandered through the subterranean offices of the German General Staff. On the more important telegraph installations hung notices written by hand in bad Russian. It was obvious no Russian had written them. They read: "Soldiers, don't touch or damage the apparatus. It will be valuable booty for the Red Army."

These notices were written by the engineers who serviced the electrical installations. Although the officers and auxiliary personnel of the General Staff were ordered on pain of death to leave immediately, the engineers rightly decided they had nothing to fear from the Red Army. They concealed themselves in the safe of the underground Time Bureau and came out only when the last automobiles of the General Staff had gone.

The Capitulation of Berlin

By I. Korobov

THIS is how the historic event occurred. Some cars were lined up in a dingy side street of a Berlin square. Soviet and German officers entered one of the cars and a Soviet lieutenant colonel took the wheel. The car sped off in a direction from which guns were still maintaining heavy fire. This was the first step toward the capitulation of Berlin.

Prior to that a delegation of the German Command had come to the command post of a Soviet division fighting at the approaches to the government district. Representatives of the German Command announced their consent to unconditional surrender.

The German delegation was permitted to return to their lines, accompanied by Major Belousov and followed by a Soviet signalman with the necessary wire to put up a connection between the two command posts.

But as soon as the car crossed the front

line and drove deeper into the German positions, enemy snipers concealed in one of the houses fired at Major Belousov, wounding him in the head. Fighting broke out with fresh force. Our troops, infuriated by the perfidy of the Germans, intensified their onslaught and our guns gave the center of Berlin a bombardment more terrific than any it had experienced before. Soviet units pressed forward, taking block after block, house after house.

On May 2 the thunder of guns again ceased. A delegation of the German Command once more crossed the front line. This time General Weidling of the artillery, chief of the garrison, personally came to Soviet headquarters and announced that the garrison was prepared to capitulate immediately.

Weidling signed the order to his troops to cease fire. Thus Berlin saw its garrison lay down arms. Thousands of German

officers and men, headed by their unit commanders, moved in columns down the streets leading from the center of the city. The Berlin population emerged from subterranean shelters. Gloomy crowds along the sidewalks watched the surrender of the garrison.

The German capital everywhere revealed signs of having borne the full burden of punishment. The famous Brandenburg Tor, symbol of German militarism, crowned by bronze horses now green with age, presented a far from impressive appearance. The horses had been broken by shell splinters; logs, stone and sand formed machine-gun embrasures between the columns, four of which had been shattered by shells.

Words cannot describe the tremendous enthusiasm of our officers and men. Spontaneous meetings were held everywhere, and Stalin's Order of the Day was read from tanks.



THE RED ARMY IN BERLIN—A young Soviet girl freed from German slavery greets a countryman; (right) Artillery rolling through the streets of the vanquished capital



Mortar crews in action in the heart of Berlin



Tankmen listen to Stalin's May First Order of the Day

Radiophotos



Radiophotos

THE COORDINATED SOVIET POWER THAT BROKE THE BACKBONE OF THE WEHRMACHT

Above, tanks drive to breach the Berlin defenses. At left, a cavalry charge; (center) Long-range guns fire on Berlin; (lower) Self-propelled artillery in the German capital. Right, bombers support the offensive; (lower) A Red Army man raises the Soviet Flag over a district in the outskirts of Berlin



Raising the Soviet Flag Over the Reichstag

By Captain O. Gekhman

HIGH over the shattered cupola of the Reichstag the scarlet banner floats in the wind.

The battle for Berlin reached its climax in the fighting for the Reichstag. With the fall of this symbol of Hitlerite power, all organized resistance in the remaining unoccupied area of the city collapsed.

It was only 150 meters across the Koenigsplatz to the Reichstag, but the entire area was swept by fire from all types of weapons.

Mortars hissed through the avenues of the Tiergarten, machine guns barked from the roof of the Lessing Theater, and a number of artillery batteries kept up a fierce barrage from Unter den Linden.

Through this whirlwind of fire and metal, four Soviet formations launched the onslaught on the Reichstag, with the support of hundreds of guns and mortars. Every meter had to be fought for. All doors were barricaded. It seemed that the assault would have to be halted and begun again after a new artillery barrage.

At that moment an enthusiastic company from a formation commanded by Zinchenko rushed forward. The men broke through one of the doors of the Reichstag and disappeared into the gloom. Other companies followed the example of these daring leaders and entered the breach. An hour later Zinchenko was able to move his command post into the building.

We still do not know exactly who was the first to hoist the Red Flag over the Reichstag. Each unit commander entrusted this honorable historic mission to his bravest fighters. The corridors and attics were full of Germans, and the passage to the roof was bitterly contested. The first to report that the mission had been accomplished was Red Army man Grigori Bulatov, famous for his daring and skill in battle.

Although our flag was already waving over the Reichstag, the Germans did not admit their defeat. First they attempted

The Soviet Banner of Victory flies above the German Reichstag



On May 20 the historic flag was removed, to be placed in a Moscow museum



Radiophotos

to cut off the Soviet formations; when this failed they still swept all approaches to the building with devastating fire. Meanwhile, Germans in the building asked for permission to send a truce emissary. In a trembling voice a tall, spectacled German officer announced that he had come to propose that the Russians surrender: "Not more than 100 of your men have broken through. There are over 1,000 of us. Also, we have large supplies of shells and hand grenades. Your position is hopeless."

Zinchenko replied calmly: "In the first place, your reckoning is at fault. But even if there were only 50 of us and 5,000 of you, it is you who would have to surrender. I must inform you that an hour ago I received a radio message appointing me Commandant of the Reichstag. I am authorized to demand your unconditional surrender."

Toward 5:00 P.M. the Germans began firing incendiary shells at the Reichstag, and the building caught fire. This was the second Reichstag fire. As we know, the Hitlerites marked the seizure of power in Germany by setting fire to the Reichstag. In the hour of their destruction, they again set fire to it. . . .

The fighting in the Reichstag went on until morning. Then Germans with white flags began to emerge from the cellars and remote corners. They numbered over 1,000, excluding several hundred wounded in the hospital in the basement, and hundreds of German men and women in mufti.

Numerous delegations from Soviet regiments and divisions made their way to the roof, to hoist the flags which they had carried victoriously from the Valdai forests, the Moscow Region and the walls of Stalingrad to the center of Berlin.

Marshals of the Soviet Union Who Have Bro the Brilliant Directives of the S



G. K. ZHUKOV

Commander of First Byelorussian Front, Twice Cavalier of the Order of Victory and Twice Hero of the Soviet Union; defender of Moscow and Leningrad; liberator of Warsaw; commander of troops which raised the victory banner over Berlin



K. K. ROKOSSOVSKY

Commander of the Second Byelorussian Front, Cavalier of the Order of Victory and Hero of the Soviet Union; directed troops at Stalingrad and in Byelorussia, and routed the Germans from Gdansk (Danzig) and Stettin



A. M. VASILEVSKY

Commander of Third Byelorussian Front, Twice Cavalier of the Order of Victory and Hero of the Soviet Union; directed the battles in East Prussia; commanded troops which seized Koenigsberg, citadel of Prussian militarism



K. E. VOROSHILOV

Veteran commanders of the Red Army and heroic defenders of the young Soviet State, who led the people's forces in the victorious battles during the years of the Civil War, and directed troops during the Great Patriotic War



S. M. BUDYONNY



S. K. TIMOSHENKO

Glory to Soviet Arms, Splendidly Executing the Command of the Red Army



I. S. KONEV

Commander of First Ukrainian Front, Cavalier of the Order of Victory and Hero of the Soviet Union; directed battles in the Ukraine; liberated Prague; commanded troops which broke into Berlin with those of Marshal Zhukov



R. Y. MALINOVSKY

Commander of Second Ukrainian Front, Cavalier of the Order of Victory; hero of the liberation of Rostov-on-Don; commander of the troops which liberated Budapest, capital of Hungary, from the German and Rumanian fascists



F. I. TOLBUKHIN

Commander of the Third Ukrainian Front, Cavalier of the Order of Victory; hero of the liberation of Bulgaria and its capital, Sofia; commander of the troops which expelled the Germans from Vienna, capital of Austria



L. A. GOVOROV

Commander of Leningrad Front, whose troops routed the Germans at Leningrad, liberated Tallinn, crushed the enemy's powerful defense in the Karelian Isthmus, and liberated Vyborg



K. A. MERETSKOV

Commander of the Northern Front, whose troops crushed the German 20th Lapland Army on the Kola Peninsula, reached the Norwegian frontier and liberated a part of Norway



N. N. VORONOV

Chief Marshal of Artillery; Member of the Supreme Command during the Battle of Stalingrad; directed the Orel-Bryansk break-through and the Yelnya-Smolensk operation

The Unconditional Surrender of Germany

AT 12:50 P.M. sharp, on May 8, Soviet fighter planes took off one after another from the Tempelhof Airdrome in Berlin, heading west to meet Allied aircraft. At 2 P.M. representatives of the Red Army, headed by Army General Sokolovsky, arrived at Tempelhof Airdrome. In the sky appeared planes with American and British identification signs. They landed smoothly on the airfield.

From the planes emerged Chief Air Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, General Carl Spaatz, Admiral Harold Burrough, officers of the American and British Armies and Navies, and Allied press correspondents.

Army General Sokolovsky shook hands with the head of the delegation and presented to him the Soviet Commandant of Berlin, Colonel General Berzarin. The American and British generals and officers shook hands warmly with the Soviet generals and officers. It was a meeting of Allies and victors.

From another plane came representatives of the Hitlerite Command with General Field Marshal Keitel at the head. They walked sullenly and in silence. They were in generals' uniforms with their orders and crosses. The tall, lanky Keitel turned around from time to time, looking at distant Berlin.

After taking a seat in a car, Field Marshal Keitel at once opened a briefcase and started reading some documents. The victorious Soviet, American, British and

French generals and officers passed by the Soviet Guard of Honor. The flags of the Allied powers rippled in the wind. A band played the anthems; Soviet soldiers passed by in ceremonial step.

Everyone felt the greatness of the moment. Chief Air Marshal Tedder stepped to the microphone and said that he was very glad to greet the Red Army officers and men, especially in Berlin.

"I have been given the great honor," Marshal Tedder concluded, "to convey the warmest greetings from the West to the East."

The Commander of the Guard of Honor conveyed these words to his men, and announced: "Hurrah for our Victory!" The powerful *hurrah* of the victors rolled over vanquished Berlin.

The road to the scene of the concluding act of the war lies across Berlin—across a Berlin demolished, conquered, taken by storm by our troops. Cars speed in a stream through the streets of the German capital. A passage has been cleared, but on the sidewalks lie heaps of smashed brick and rubble. Numerous ruins bear silent witness to the work done by Allied airmen and Soviet gunners.

Residents stand silently on the street corners. After the victors ride the vanquished German generals who brought the capitulation. Cars drive under the

Victory Arch built by Soviet soldiers. Three flags float proudly above it; on it is inscribed "Glory to the Red Army."

The cortege arrives in the Berlin suburb of Karlshorst. Today this suburb has become a part of history. Here is the grave of Hitler Germany; here is the end of the war.

The signing of the act of surrender takes place in the building of the former German School of Military Engineers, in the hall of the officers' mess. The four flags on the wall—Soviet, American, British and French—symbolize the companionship in arms.

Into the hall comes Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov, Chief Air Marshal of the Royal Air Force Tedder, General Spaatz, Admiral Burrough, General de Latre de Tassigny, and members of the Soviet, American, British and French delegations.

The historical proceedings begin. Everyone is present in the hall; few words are said. But behind these words lie the long years of war. Marshal Zhukov, followed by Chief Air Marshal Tedder, announces that the German plenipotentiaries have arrived.

"Invite the representatives of the German High Command," Marshal Zhukov says to the officer on duty.

The German generals enter the hall. General Field Marshal Keitel walks in front. He tries to preserve his dignity and even his pride. He raises his field marshal's baton in front of him and lowers it at once. He tries to be picturesque, but red spots appear on his face.

He is followed by General Admiral von Friedeburg and Colonel General Stumpf. They take their seats at the table assigned them. Behind them stand the aides.

Marshal Zhukov and Chief Air Marshal Tedder announce: "Now the act of unconditional surrender will be signed."

These words are translated to the Germans. Keitel nods, "Yes, yes, capitulation." Keitel presents the credentials of the German High Command to sign the act of capitulation. The document is signed by Grand Admiral Doenitz, empowering General Field Marshal Keitel to sign the act of unconditional surrender.

"Do they have the act of capitulation?"

(Continued on page 18)



BERLIN—Marshal G. K. Zhukov, Plenipotentiary of the Supreme Command of the Red Army (right), and Chief Air Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Plenipotentiary of the Supreme Command of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, sign the act of unconditional surrender of Germany

“... Leaders of the Allied Armies ... under whose talented and courageous leadership the Armed Forces of the anti-Hitler coalition won complete victory over the common enemy.”
(Soviet press, May 10).



General of the Army of the
United States
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
Supreme Commander of Allied
Forces in Europe



Field Marshal
of the British Army
SIR BERNARD L. MONTGOMERY
Commander-in-Chief of the 21st
Army Group of Allied Troops
in Northwestern Europe

Marshal Stalin's Broadcast on the Meeting of the Victorious Soviet and Allied Armies

The victorious Armies of the Allied powers, waging a war of liberation in Europe, have routed the German troops and linked up on the territory of Germany.

Our task and our duty is to finish off the enemy, to compel him to ground arms and surrender unconditionally. The Red Army will fulfil to the end this task and this duty to our people and to all freedom-loving nations.

We hail the gallant troops of our Allies now standing on the territory of Germany, shoulder to shoulder with Soviet troops, and filled with determination to discharge their duty to the end.



SOVIET AND ALLIED TROOPS MEET—A group of friends share their cigarettes; (right) War prisoners liberated from the German camp at Langerit surround Red Army and American soldiers

Radiophotos

SURRENDER

(Continued from page 16)

Have they read it? Do they agree to sign it?" ask Marshal Zhukov and Marshal Tedder.

"Yes, we agree," Keitel answers. He opens a briefcase containing documents, puts a monocle into his eye, and takes a pen, preparing to sign the act.

Marshal Zhukov stops him.

"I suggest that the representatives of the German High Command," Marshal Zhukov says slowly, "come over here to the table and sign the act here."

He points to the place where the Field Marshal must come. Keitel rises and goes to the table. Scarlet spots are burning on his face. His eyes are moist. He sits at the table and signs all the copies of the act of capitulation, one after the other. This lasts several minutes. Everyone is silent and only the cinema cameras grind away.

After signing the capitulation, Field Marshal Keitel rises and looks around. He has nothing to say and does not expect anything. Suddenly he smiles, a miserable ghost of a smile, removes the eyepiece and returns to his place at the table of the German delegation. But before sitting down, he again holds out his field marshal's baton and then places it on the table.

Then the act of capitulation is signed by General Admiral von Friedeburg and Colonel General Stumpf. All this takes place in silence, without any words.

After that the Plenipotentiary of the Supreme Command of the Red Army, Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov, and the Plenipotentiary of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, Chief Air Marshal Tedder, as well as witnesses General Spaatz and the representative of the French delegation General de Lattre de Tassigny, affix their signatures to the document.

The members of the German delegation are now instructed to leave the hall; the German generals rise and leave. All those present at this historic act joyfully congratulate each other upon the victory.

The war is over.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukov shakes hands with Chief Marshal of the Royal Air Force Tedder, General of the American Army Spaatz and the others.

Victory! Humanity can now breathe freely.

From Stalingrad to Berlin!



Marshal Zhukov (center) with a group of Soviet generals in the German capital



The strains of the Red Army's Victory March ring through Berlin streets



Banners of the heroic Guards Units are carried past the Brandenburg Tor

Moscow on the Day of Victory



THE CELEBRATION IN RED SQUARE

A hero is tossed
above the heads
of the enthusias-
tic crowd

In these radiant days of victory, we look back into the past and see the people we came to know during the war. Against the background of time they stand out bright and clear, free of all things trivial—granite figures of heroes, from beardless youths who rammed German planes over Moscow to veteran masters of iron and steel, tanned by the heat of their own furnaces.

Did we really see them, walk and talk with them? Or were they figments of imagination like the heroes of ancient myths and legends? Whence did they come—these geniuses who conquered the air and the depths of the sea, who mastered fire and metal, who fought fearlessly in the most terrible battles?

They are here today, all around us, no longer pictures in our memory, but living people. As they march arm in arm down the wide streets, their laughter and songs ringing from Sokolniki to Khimki, you can scarcely push your way past them; you cannot make your voice heard above theirs.

These are the heroes . . . who but they won this war?

They are here—thousands and tens of thousands of them—all familiar, such people as you see every day. But as you look at them you recall Sevastopol, Odessa, Stalingrad, Leningrad . . . you recall the evacuation of industry to the East, the cold emptiness of new places, the creation of a new industry in the snows of Siberia, in the Ural Mountains.

Here are two young colonels wearing

the Order of the Red Banner, keeping step and gazing about like men who have just come from afar; here are two girls—one with the Badge of Honor and the other with the Defense of Moscow Medal. But these are not the only heroes. Everyone in the crowd may be a hero, today or tomorrow, for of such stuff are our people—Soviet people—made. Never before have we felt this so deeply.

A sailor is dancing on the pavement and the ring of his heels has the rhythm of jazz; an old lady is smothering a lieutenant with kisses, from the dimple in his cheek to the stars on his epaulettes; a tall military doctor is handing out ice cream to the youngsters around him.

It seems there is no order in the spontaneous flow of the crowd . . . only joy and bubbling life. But a definite order exists in this movement of thousands. It carries us in one direction . . . to the Red Square, to the Kremlin.

No demonstration was announced, no one was prepared for it. No special decorations were put up. But how wonderful the Kremlin walls look, with their ancient towers and the dark, velvety firs along the wall. A fresh wind brings a breath of rivers and forests, flags flutter from the buildings—so many flags that the rippling of their folds in the strong breeze has the sound of applause.

Real applause breaks out from time to time, accompanied by songs and cheers. There is no one on the tribune of Lenin's tomb; nevertheless, streams of people carrying red flags pour across the Square in either direction. As they pass the

tribune, all hands are raised, hats and caps and girls' bright scarves fly into the air. All eyes are turned toward the Kremlin.

It is clear to all for whom the cheers, the applause and the flags are meant. The beloved name is in everyone's heart; it is inseparable from the word *Victory*, which is on everyone's lips.

And now Stalin speaks.

Through the streets and squares of Moscow, over the dark woods and fields where the young grass is growing—through the country, through the world—the radio carries his voice. But it seems to us who hear Stalin's voice in Red Square, that we are nearest of all to him. He is here beside us; he speaks to each of us, congratulating each one on the Victory—the great Day of our Victory over Germany.

We stand, great and small, shoulders touching, feeling the warmth spreading from shoulder to shoulder, united in a greater happiness than we have ever known. In the name of this happiness, we have suffered; we have traveled a long



Radiophotos
In front of the United States Embassy,
Mokhovaya street, Moscow



**Marshal of Armored Troops
P. A. Rotmistrov**



**Marshal of Armored Troops
Y. N. Fedorenko**



**Marshal of Artillery
N. D. Yakovlev**

DAY OF VICTORY

(Continued from page 19)

and bitter path to reach it. Each of us has worked for it, fought for it, paid for it in full measure; it belongs to us all, as a father's house belongs to all his children.

Stalin finishes his speech. With bared heads, in reverent silence, the people listen to the National Anthem.

Slowly, like miniature suns, the searchlights circle the sky, in flaming blue and red, then disappear as though frightened of their own light. A radio voice reads the Order of the Day of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. Thunderous applause greets the announcement that 30

artillery salvos will be fired from 1,000 guns in honor of Victory.

With the first salvo, a cluster of colored rockets flowers in the sky. Red, blue, yellow and green rays of light cross like swords, transforming the dark vault into a tent supported by colored spears. High overhead a huge red flag flames above Moscow. Rockets glitter in a pageant of color, fire and brilliance. And all the while—now distant, now near—the powerful guns roar. Over 30,000 shells and 100,000 rockets were fired into Moscow's skies in honor of the Victory.

The salute ends. More people stream into the Square. "What organization do you come from?" we ask one group. "The people," they answer in chorus.

And truly, these are not co-workers or students of any one organization, but strangers who have met and joined in the spontaneous procession. One feeling unites them. They are the people!

Two tall boys in American uniform are immediately surrounded and cheered, and flowers are thrust into their hands.

Army General Ivan Bagramyan, Commander of the First Baltic Front, whose troops completed the destruction of the Sammland German group



Army General A. I. Yeremenko, one of the heroes of Stalingrad. Troops under his command victoriously broke through the Carpathians





**AIR CHIEF MARSHAL
A. E. GOLOVANOV**



**AIR CHIEF MARSHAL
A. A. NOVIKOV**



The Soviet Air Force and the Great Victory

The following is by Colonel General N. Shimanov, of the Soviet Air Force:

MORE than three million flights have been made by Soviet pilots during the Great Patriotic War. In the Victory Orders of Marshal Stalin, air units of the Red Army have been cited 318 times for exemplary combat actions; 1,026 men have been honored with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union; 24 have received this honor twice, and Colonel Alexander Pokryshkin has received it three times. Pilots, navigators, engineers and mechanics of the Air Force have been awarded 109,000 battle decorations during the war. More than 30 per cent of all combat air units have been converted into Guards units, and 60 per cent have been decorated or awarded honorary titles.

The enemy hurled two-thirds of the Luftwaffe against the Soviet Union. Of Hitler Germany's five air fleets, four were active against the Soviet front. The Luftwaffe was reinforced by the Finnish, Rumanian, Hungarian and Italian air forces.

Soviet aviation entered the war with well-trained personnel, distinguished for great courage and readiness to sacrifice. In the Battle for Moscow, the myth of the "invincibility" of the Luftwaffe, as well as of the entire German war machine, was dispelled for the first time. This was followed by colossal ground and air battles throughout the four years of war.

In the Battle for Stalingrad, the Soviet Air Force effected a complete air blockade of the trapped German army. In the de-

fense of Leningrad, Sevastopol, Odessa, the Caucasus and the Arctic Regions, Soviet aviation played an important part.

After the furious battle over the Kuban in 1943, when from March to the middle of May no less than 100 air combats took place daily, Soviet aviation won a grand battle over the Kursk salient, insuring the success of the summer offensive.

Nineteen forty-three marked the turning point in the relative strength of the two air forces. The losses of Soviet aviation decreased by more than one-third, while the Luftwaffe's increased, 14,000 planes being lost by the Germans.

In 1944 the Soviet Air Force finally won complete supremacy.

The winter offensive of 1945 was launched by powerful blows of Soviet aviation and artillery against the solid German defenses. On some days—for example, March 25-6-7—Russian pilots made 11,000 flights each day over the small area between Koenigsberg and Gdansk. Within 72 hours of the final storming of Koenigsberg, Soviet pilots made 10,000 flights and poured 3,000 tons of bombs on this largest German fortress.

On April 16 the Armies under Marshals Zhukov and Konev launched the offensive against the capital of fascist Germany. It was begun with mass blows by Soviet aviation, which carried out over 17,000 flights in the first 24 hours—a record for intensity of air action in this war.

The large Luftwaffe concentration of

1,000 planes which the enemy mustered to defend Berlin was smashed by Soviet airmen. Unchallenged mastery of the skies over the German capital was held by pilots under Colonel Generals Rudenko and Krassovsky.

In April, the last month of the war, the Soviet Air Force carried out 216,000 flights and dropped 45,000 tons of bombs. In 5,500 furious air combats of the winter offensive, Soviet pilots downed 6,000 enemy aircraft, annihilated huge masses of enemy manpower, and destroyed enormous quantities of equipment.



Guards Colonel A. I. Pokryshkin (left), Thrice Hero of the Soviet Union and commander of a fighter plane unit, with his Chief of Staff, Guards Colonel B. Abramovich



**ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET
N. G. KUZNETSOV**

**ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET
I. S. ISAAKOV**



The Soviet Navy's Tactics of Offense in the Patriotic War

AT the outbreak of the Soviet-German war the Red Navy, according to Nazi plans, was to have played a purely defensive and passive role. The most important of the Soviet naval bases were to be blockaded by sea, and the ships contained within them either bombed to the bottom from the air or captured when their respective ports had been seized by the German army on land.

However, the Germans proved unable to blockade the Soviet naval bases. The minefields which they sowed at the entrances to Soviet ports, and the actions of their surface craft were formidable obstacles, but they failed to immobilize the Soviet fleet. Heavy raids by German aircraft over Sevastopol, Kronstadt, Tallinn and other naval bases at the outbreak of hostilities yielded no material results.

Nor did the Germans find it easy to reach Soviet bases overland, as was shown by the heroic defense of Sevastopol, Odessa, Leningrad, and the Arctic stations of the Navy. When the Nazis after prolonged and costly fighting seized a port, they found no ships. Down to the last tugboat, all vessels had sailed to other stations and were continuing the fight at sea.

The tactics of the Soviet fleet in the first half of the war can be defined as follows: offensive action for defense. Soviet tactics of offense were unfolded in the first months of hostilities. The "blockaded" Black Sea Fleet, for example, suddenly appeared before Constanza and

heavily shelled this key naval base of the enemy on the Black Sea. Soviet submarines in the north also became very active. Such submarine commanders as Stolbov, Fisanovich, Kotelnikov, Yegorov and others boldly assaulted enemy convoys, penetrated Petsamo and Kirkenes in broad daylight, and under the very noses of the Germans sank five transports and warships at their piers.

The tactics of the submarine commanders of the Northern Fleet were followed by those of the Baltic Fleet, who in the summer of 1942 broke through the minefields, ran the gauntlet of Nazi warships and aircraft, and emerged on the high seas. In a single patrol, Submarine Commander Grishchenko sank five transports with a total displacement of 42,000 tons. Others of the Baltic Fleet who reached the open sea were Submarine Commanders Osipov, Travkin, Kabo, Vishnevsky and Yunakov. Still others followed. By the autumn of 1942, the German fleet in the Baltic had lost more than 50 transports and warships with a total displacement of 500,000 tons.

The Red Navy's tactics of offense were best displayed during landing operations and the fight for communications. The Germans, who had not bargained for combat at sea, expected to settle with the Soviet Army and Navy so quickly there would be no need to supply their troops by sea. But the war dragged on. German

transports were compelled to sail month after month, year after year. In their first attempts to disrupt Soviet sea communications they relied chiefly on aircraft. Repelling attacks from the air, however, Soviet seamen worked out and successfully applied their own methods of striking the enemy along his routes. The Nazis were gradually forced to the defensive at sea; the fighting gravitated from Soviet to German sea routes.

Soviet naval aircraft played an important role. Stormoviks were hurled against the convoys; torpedo bombers grew in number and quality until they became one of the most effective arms of the Navy. Equally important were those naval aircraft which constantly extended operations in coordination with motor torpedo boats and submarines. Those formidable foes of the German convoys, the motor torpedo boats, were finally used for long-range action, not only by night but by day. This was most evident when the Germans were being driven from Sevastopol and Pechenga.

Soviet seamen during the war landed dozens of special task forces on the coasts and river banks. The landing party is obviously one of the most valuable devices for offensive operations, a method the Germans were unable to use to their advantage throughout the war.

Experience has taught Soviet seamen that the most effective form of combat is not passive defense, but determined and daring offense.

Soviet Guerrillas Fought in Germany

By Major B. Polevoi

CAPTAIN Alexei Kustov of the Engineering Corps, who participated in the forcing of three rivers, and Major Sergei Naumov of the Tank Forces, wounded three times and wearing four decorations, told the story of this unusual meeting with Russian people beyond the last river crossed by Soviet troops.

"It was a tough job," the Captain said in a hoarse voice. "I somehow managed to get my men across the river in boats and rafts during the night. We captured a tiny bridgehead on the opposite bank. And then Major Naumov's motorized infantry came up to help us.

"We were just about to stretch a ferry cable across the river when the Germans opened fire with artillery pieces, machine guns and six-barrelled mortars. You know how the Germans fortified the banks of rivers. Shells burst around us and the ground shook. But my men remained firm—they were accustomed to this kind of bombardment. We clung to the bridgehead, and Naumov's tanks and self-propelled guns on the other side helped us repel the enemy counter-attacks. But after each counter-attack the fire of my own men grew weaker and weaker. That meant losses. If we could only hold out till night, I thought, everything would be all right. Reinforcements would come and we would be able to widen the bridgehead. Then suddenly I heard . . ."

Major Naumov took up the story here: "You were in a foxhole by the river bank and could only hear, but I saw everything from my tank on a hill on the other side of the river. Suddenly I saw mortar shells bursting around the German artillery positions. I couldn't make out who was firing them—I didn't have any mortars. Very likely the Germans were also wondering who the devil was shelling them with mortars from their rear."

"The Germans stopped firing at us," the Captain interrupted. "I ordered my sappers to stretch the ferry cable across. Rising from my foxhole I saw people running out from the woods and splashing through the swamp water toward us. Some were in army uniform, others in

civilian clothes. There was also a group wearing blue overalls and another in striped suits. Who could they be? Anyway, I ordered my men not to shoot—these people had helped us out of a tight fix. They kept running toward us, waving their rifles and shouting 'hurrah!'

"Then I saw them embracing my sappers and I realized that they were our people. As I came up I heard them crying, 'So we've met at last, comrades!' They all had red armbands with the letters *USSR* on them. There were red ribbons pinned to their caps. 'Who are you? Where do you come from?' I asked.

"We are Soviet people," one of the men replied. 'We were deported by the Germans from different places and brought to Dresden to work in the chemical factories. When we heard the Red Army was advancing, we killed the German guards, ran away to the woods and formed a guerrilla detachment. We fought our way through to the front line.'

"His first question was, 'Will our whole detachment be accepted into the Red Army?' I answered, 'Certainly.'

"His comrades cheered, waved their

rifles and embraced us all. A Soviet man will always remain Soviet under all circumstances," Captain Kustov concluded.

Soon afterward I heard the story from Serafim Andreyevich Shumilin, leader of the *USSR Detachment*. Shumilin formerly worked at the Mariupol iron and steel works and later became slave No. 816 at the I. G. Farbenindustrie Chemical Plant near Dresden. Chest injuries sustained at the hands of the Germans kept him coughing, spitting blood as he spoke.

"There is no need to go into great detail about our life in accursed Germany," he said. "We did not live any better than the other slaves, forced to work 16 hours a day, beaten every week by the Nazi overseers and fed a liter of hogwash a day. People died of starvation. It became so that everyone was sorry he was alive. If a piece of newspaper was found in the pockets of a man searched by the Germans, that unfortunate fellow was immediately sent to Dachau or to Oswiecim. And still we found out that the Red Army was advancing. We waited and hoped, and little by little prepared for action.

"Back in January we already noticed



The oldest and the youngest tenant of the catacombs in Odessa, where guerrillas lived during the German occupation. The little boy was less than a year old when his father (right) and grandfather took him underground, where he remained until the city was liberated, coming up into the fresh air only at night

now nervous the Germans were. Thousands of refugees passed by our factory, heading for the railway station. Now was the time for us to act.

"One night when the Allied aircraft came to bomb the city, we Russians took advantage of the confusion and attacked our guards with bricks, stones and bare fists. We finished them off inside a half hour and then all of us, more than 1,000 men, ran away to the Dresden woods. That night we decided to organize a guerrilla detachment and to name it the *USSR Detachment*, after our country. Though poorly armed we determined to make our way through the densely populated districts of Saxony and lower Silesia to meet our advancing Armies.

"The detachment was formed on January 29. That day we raided a small freight station east of Dresden. Armed only with 18 rifles and three tommy guns, we shouted *burrab* at the top of our voices and attacked a German railway battalion guarding ammunition trains standing in the station. The Germans offered hardly any resistance and ran for their lives, leaving their rifles behind in the guardrooms.

"The *USSR Detachment* continued moving eastward through the woods, the men arming themselves as they pushed on. More Soviet people freed by the guerrillas joined. Endless columns of refugees were moving from the east to the heart of Germany. All roads, railways, towns and villages were filled with them. This was to the advantage of the guerrillas, who steadily moved in the opposite direction. We set fire to ammunition dumps near Kalau, blew up the highway bridge across the Spree, routed a column of German motor vehicles loaded with precision equipment evacuated from the Guben chemical factories, wrecked trains on the Dresden-Cottbus railway and carried out scores of other large and small operations.

"By the time the *USSR Detachment* reached the front line, it was well armed. Everyone had a rifle and grenades. They also had some mortars. And when finally the patriots heard the din of battle and the salvos of Soviet guns, they were rewarded for all their tears and torture in Germany. They came up in time to strike at the counter-attacking Germans from



R. Saker, one of the heroic guerrillas of the Lithuanian SSR

the rear; to help Captain Kustov's sappers hold their bridgehead."

* * *

I heard this story months ago on the bank of the Neisse. In Soviet-occupied Dresden I learned its sequel.

Despite all precaution taken by the Germans, news that a large group of Russians had managed to escape from the chemical plant and form a guerrilla detachment had spread through Dresden. Deported workers in all factories learned that the detachment was called the *USSR*, and that it was blowing up munition trains at railway stations and fighting its way through to the Red Army.

Workers of the camps were thrown into a fever. Each was determined to run away. During a raid by Allied planes on Dresden, a large group of Russian workers armed with stones overpowered the German guards, put the high-tension wires out of commission, flung coats and boards across the barbed-wire barriers and escaped. German machine gunners opened fire from the guard towers. More than a dozen people fell dead on the other side of the barrier, but the rest got away. While German police and soldiers were rushing about the city putting out fires, nearly 40 Russian workers escaped to the woods and stopped on the bank of the Elbe. There they formed another

guerrilla group, also named the *USSR*.

The formation of the second *USSR Detachment* took place on March 20, and although it operated only for a comparatively short time, its members wrecked three enemy troop trains and set fire to an ammunition dump. By the end of March, after several engagements with German *Volkssturm* soldiers and police, nearly everyone in the detachment had rifles, hand grenades and knives for hand-to-hand fighting.

In April, many people—Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Poles, Yugoslavs, Czechs and workers of other nationalities—were helped to escape from Dresden by the guerrillas. A large number of war prisoners and forcibly deported people were freed as they were being led to work.

Shamming penitence, some guerrillas of the second *USSR Detachment* returned to the camps to organize and lead the escape of a new group of workers. One of these fearless volunteers was Natasha Karkovkina, a former undergraduate of Kharkov Medical College who worked as a drill press hand. Three times this young girl, who looked very frail and timid, returned to the camps and came back to the woods with nearly seventy people.

Valentin Zhukov, a former tractor driver of the Dnepropetrovsk machine and tractor station, one of the most active partisans of the detachment, organized two escapes. He was caught the third time and tortured by the Germans in the basement of the Gestapo building. That night, after a beating, Zhukov pretended to be dead. When the German guard came in to make sure, Zhukov jumped up and grabbed him by the throat. Choking the man to death, the young tractor driver put on the guard's uniform and escaped.

The *USSR Detachment* grew rapidly. The woods literally swarmed with refugees. Day or night, the Germans preferred to keep away from the many roads running to the Elbe. Punitive expeditions, including cavalry squadrons, were sent out to round up the guerrillas.

"How did you manage to evade the Germans in such a small area?" I asked Zhukov. "It was very simple," he replied. "As soon as we wrecked a train, the German punitive forces headed for that spot. Meanwhile, we had slipped away to blow up an ammunition dump somewhere else."

Justice Shall Be Done

By Professor A. Trainin

From KRSNAYA ZVEZDA, May 17:

THE Red Army and the troops of the Allied countries have completed their great and noble work of crushing Hitler Germany. Europe, tormented and ruined by the Hitlerites, is free. Germany has been forced to her knees.

Germany's military defeat is the fundamental, the most important—but not the very last—stage in the heroic fight which the freedom-loving nations have taken upon themselves and are waging so successfully. If the just cause is to triumph to the end, Hitler's military defeat must be followed by the moral and political defeat of Hitlerism. For the accomplishment of this task, it is of the utmost importance to punish the war criminals.

At the very beginning of the war, Stalin, who always sees far into the future, spoke of the punishment of the Hitlerite criminals. His words found a response throughout the world. In August, 1942, President Roosevelt stated that justice demands that the Nazi aggressors should be warned that the time would come when they would have to face their judges in the very countries which they were oppressing at the moment. A month later, on September 8, 1942, Prime Minister Churchill said in the House of Commons that when the hour of liberation strikes in Europe, it will also be the hour

of retribution. Those guilty of Nazi crimes will face the tribunals of the countries where their atrocities were perpetrated, that this may serve as a stern warning for future centuries and that coming generations of men may say: Perish all who again commit anything like this.

The hour of liberation has arrived. It must become the hour of retribution. Under the blows of the Red Army and the Allied troops, the curtain which concealed the death camps in Poland and Germany has been removed. Before a world already aware of the horrors of the wholesale annihilation of people in Smolensk and Maidanek, new sinister pages have opened—Tremblyanka and Oswiecim, Buchenwald and Belsen: trains methodically and regularly supplying living human raw material for destruction; three million victims done to death in Tremblyanka; four million victims annihilated in Oswiecim.

Nor can anyone henceforward reproach the Hitlerites for being only hangmen and destroyers. In Tremblyanka and Oswiecim, Himmler's and Krupp's nurselings gave examples of fascist "constructive labor": the production of mattresses out of women's hair, soap out of human fat, and fertilizer from ground human bones. In its last hour, before its death on the scaffold of history, Hitler Germany was

revealed before the entire world in all its revolting nakedness.

Can justice be delayed any longer?

In 1939, when Hitler started the war, and in the succeeding years when he converted it into a state of brigandage, Hitler least of all thought of the coming reckoning. He was then busy drafting plans for the "new order" in Europe and throughout the world. But when the Red Army expelled the fascist hordes from Soviet territory, when the "walls" of the East and the West Atlantic—sung by Goebbels—fell, and Germany was confronted with the grim prospect of combined blows from the east, west, north and south, plans began to be hastily hatched in Germany to provide against the coming reckoning.

All the internal and external resources of the Hitler regime, forgeries, blackmail, bribes and murder, were mobilized in order to achieve the main and most tempting aim: a split among the Allies. When the splitting strategy failed, the aid of the strategy of mercy was invoked. The Hitlerites did not spare their looted funds, and the pro-Hitlerites their well-remunerated tears, to soften the hearts of future judges, to achieve a lenient peace, and to save the remnants of the fascist cadres.

Quite recently, when the world already knew of Oswiecim and Buchenwald, and

GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN MOSCOW—JULY 17, 1944

In silence the people of Moscow witness the march of 57,600 German prisoners, taken during the swift Soviet offensive on the Byelorussian Front. At left, high-ranking generals head the column; right, the prisoners cross the Krimsky Bridge



unctuous words calling for mercy for the executioners would sound as a shameless mockery of the victims, new variations on the theme of mercy made themselves heard in some foreign newspapers.

In the Turkish newspaper *Tanin*, Burhan Velge came out in defense of two equally precious and original theses. Burhan Velge's number one thesis asserts that "in the life of nations, the main weapon with which to counteract crime is conscience." The author's delicate gaze did not linger on executioners and prisons. Thesis number two, according to Velge, is that war criminals are sick persons who should be treated in hospitals and sanatoria. Hence, according to Velge, the technically elaborated and painstakingly organized extermination of millions of people is merely the chaotic activity of lunatics, the senseless motions of somnambulists needing medical aid.

Another Turkish newspaper, *Tavir*, is magnanimous enough not to object to the trial of the war criminals, but thinks that these criminals ought to be tried by neutral countries. According to this opinion, the freedom-loving nations which have made the greatest sacrifices for the sake of civilization, law and justice, are in urgent need of foreign law; it seems they need to borrow some judges in a hurry from other countries, and from whom do you think? From Spain, Argentina and similar "neutrals."

The Hitlerites, naturally, did not overestimate the prestige or intellect of their flunkies and appeasers. That is why on the grim eve of their unconditional surrender, when all roads were cut and all exits closed, the Hitlerites hastened to take measures of self-help.

There appeared in the press reports of the death of some very prominent fascist criminals. What can be said of these dead? They died too soon, before their trial and punishment. And they died too late, after ten years of appalling crimes. But then, even the dead are not always of the ordinary variety in the case of the Hitlerites, for the Hitlerites have managed to turn even death into a circus stunt, in the tradition of fascist acrobatics.

Early in 1945, when the imminent defeat of Germany was apparent, the government sponsored the "decease" of

the Nazi fuehrers. The Hitlerites "died" in an organized manner, arranged their own funerals, and thus, swallowed up by the waters of Lethe, secretly sailed away to neutral shores. Colonel Olaf, of the SS troops, moved to tears by the obituary on the occasion of his own death, departed for Portugal. Hedmunt, chief of staff of the Hitler Youth, after becoming the victim of an unfortunate accident, set out for a trip through Spain.

That was the road of Hitlerism: from victory fanfares, from plans of world domination through total mobilizations and countless crimes, to tragic burlesque and cowardly flight from the beloved Vaterland. "Nature's elite" and the "rulers of the world" crawled away like cockroaches to lie in the crevices of the neutral countries. But this certainly does not end the reckoning of history and the reckoning of mankind. Justice comes to the fore.

Pledge of Punishment

On the eve of the great victory, Marshal Stalin said in his May Day Order: "The United Nations will destroy fascism and German militarism, will severely punish the war criminals, and will compel the Germans to compensate the damage they caused to other countries." President Truman of the United States said in his message to Congress that nothing would shake the determination to punish the war criminals, "even though we must pursue them to the ends of the earth."

A number of dangerous war criminals—Goering, Papen, Dietrich, Rundstedt, Sperrle, Funk, Falkenhorst, and others—are in the hands of Allied troops. They are not prisoners of war, captured while fighting on the fields of battle. They are nabbed criminals, or criminals who find themselves in the hands of the Allied Armies as a result of the act of unconditional surrender. The trial of these and other captured war criminals is both justified and urgent. This trial, however, requires certain preliminaries. The Belgians insist that Rundstedt must answer to them for the looting of the Ardennes in December, 1944. The Netherlands accuse Sperrle of the destruction of Rotterdam. Both are accused of grave crimes by other nations, too. In view of these circumstances, it is essential to deal without de-

lay with a certain question of procedure: questions of jurisdiction, questions concerning the competence of national courts and mixed courts, or an international tribunal that may meet; questions of extradition, etc.

The Commission of the United Nations for the Investigation of War Crimes has been functioning in London for quite a long time. The USSR has not sent its representatives to this Commission. The work of this Commission has got stuck somewhere at the distant approaches to court law and to punishment. All the Commission has so far produced is seven lists of war criminals—four lists of German war criminals, one list of Italians, one of Japanese, and one mixed list of Albanians, Bulgarians, Hungarians and Rumanians. It took the Commission long months to draw up these first lists of war criminals. The question naturally arises: How long will it take the war criminals to make the journey from lists to courtroom?

The Armies have accomplished the greatest feat in the history of mankind. The enemy—a strong, stubborn and treacherous enemy—has been crushed. The criminals have been captured. "Heroes" when they fought against unarmed women, executioners of millions, they are now awaiting their hour with shaking knees, sniveling and pitiable. For six years the freedom-loving nations have been waiting for this hour to come. The peoples are waiting, but justice is tarrying. Justice is moving with the brake on.

The fascist crimes have lain like a heavy, bloody bar on mankind's road to progress and civilization. Now there opens up before the nations the grand vista of peaceful cooperation, safeguarded by an international security organization. Mankind is on its climb upward. The nations want no brakes, but wings.

The punishment of the war criminals is not merely a legal problem. It is a military and political problem. The punishment of the war criminals is a necessary link in the struggle for lasting peace and enduring democracy.

The nations have won the great battle against Hitler Germany. They will also win the battle for justice. The hour of retribution has come. Justice shall be done.

MAY 9, 1945

The Great Day of Victory over Germany has come. Fascist Germany, forced to her knees by the Red Army and the troops of our Allies, has acknowledged her defeat and declared unconditional surrender.

— From Marshal Stalin's Victory Address



Review of Soviet Armed Forces in Red Square, Moscow—May First, 1940





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