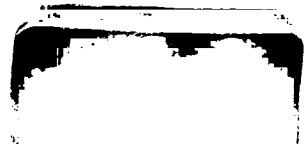
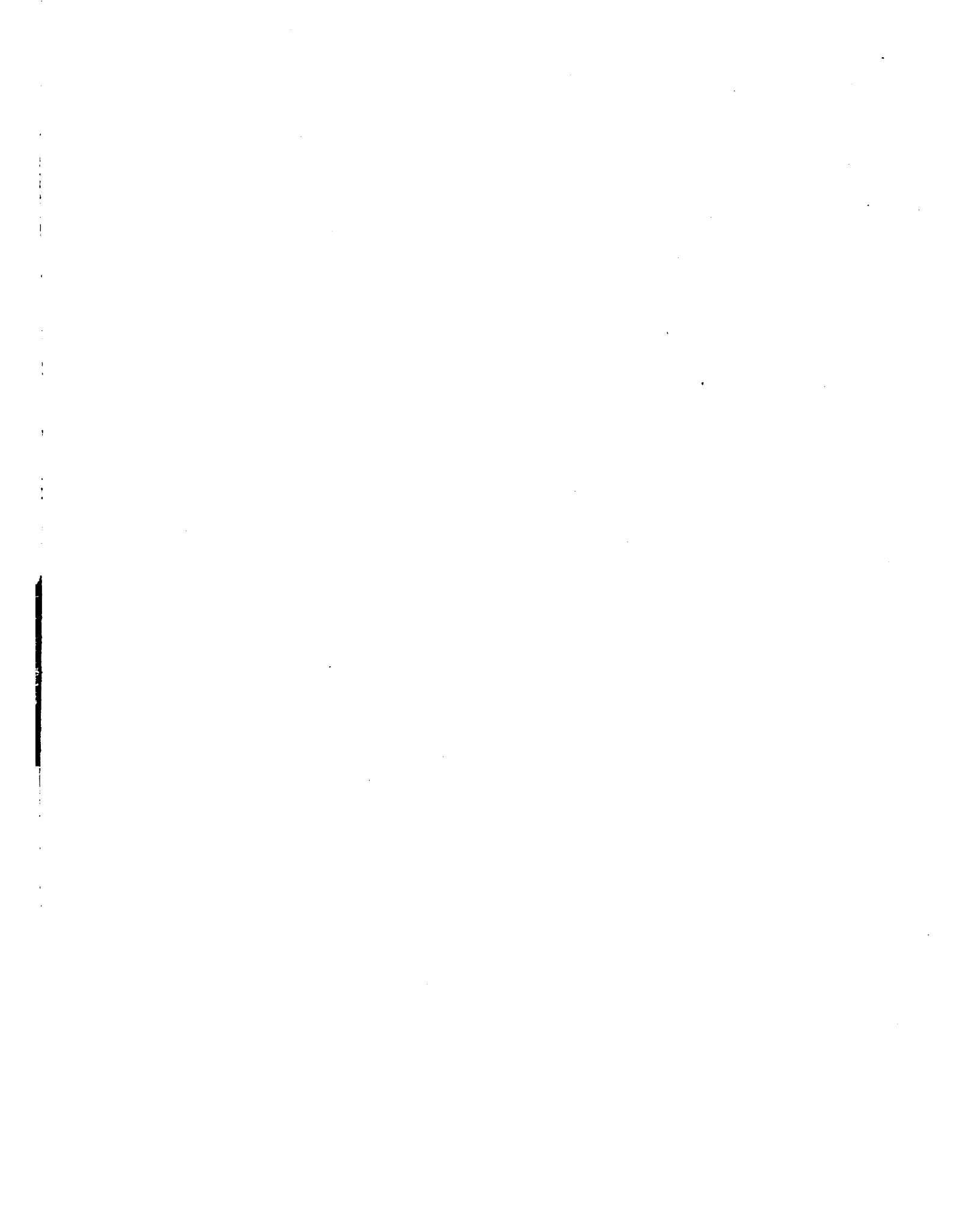




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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

MINNA UNIVERSITY
JUL 11 1944

Vol. IV, No. 75

Washington, D. C., July 1, 1944

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BATTLE FOR LIBERATION OF SOVIET BYELORUSSIA

The following editorial appeared in IZVESTIA, June 28:

The Byelorussian Fronts are on the move—the First, the Second and the Third. Together with troops of the First Baltic Front, the Soviet Armies on the Byelorussian Fronts have launched an offensive for the advance westward and the liberation of all Soviet Byelorussia.

At the front, the Red Army's summer offensive is widening with precipitate speed, and the powerful blows dealt the enemy are mounting irresistibly. The summer campaign started June 10 with the offensive on the Leningrad Front against the Karelian

Isthmus, and today the offensive is being pressed in the North beyond Medvezhegorsk and in the South beyond Zhlobin. Army after army, on one front after another, is joining in the active operations, and today the armies of six fronts are waging the offensive. Every swift advance is marked by major victories for the Red Army, and wherever it has attacked, German and Finnish defense lines have been pierced. Every day brings fresh triumphs to add to the jubilation of the Soviet people.

Vyborg was followed by Svir and Medvezhegorsk. A few days ago the Order of the Day of the Supreme Commander Stalin announced the liberation by the



Soviet Petlyakov-2 dive-bomber planes about to take off

Red Army of Vitebsk and Zhlobin, two large centers of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. Yesterday Moscow fired a salute in honor of the capture of the city and large railway center of Orsha by the gallant troops of the Third Byelorussian Front.

The ejection of the German invaders from Byelorussian soil began during the winter campaign. The Red Army liberated a number of Byelorussian cities and districts in the Gomel, Mogilev, Polesye and Vitebsk Regions. The fascist scum were cleared out of the regional centers of Gomel, Mogilev, Polesye and Vitebsk Regions. The fascist scum were cleared out of the regional centers Gomel and Mozyr, and from Rechitsa, Dobrush, Novobelitsa, Klimovich, Propoisk, Chechersk, Cherikov, Narovlya, Kalinkovich, Khoyniki, Krichev, Gorodok and other towns.

Hitler's army sustained a number of severe defeats on Byelorussian territory and reeled back to the Vitebsk-Orsha-Mogilev-Zhlobin line. While the Red Army was driving the Germans beyond the Dniester and the Prut and into the Carpathians, the Hitlerites were feverishly building powerful defenses in Byelorussia. The Germans attached the highest importance to this fortified zone because from here runs the direct route to German territory. Here the German command was determined to stem any further Red Army advance. But it was here that the Red Army struck its next crushing blow.

The troops of the First Baltic Front and the Third Byelorussian Front broke through the Vitebsk fortified zone, and an enveloping movement surrounded the enemy's Vitebsk group consisting of five divisions. Then, tightening the ring, the Red Army stormed and carried the town of Vitebsk, thereby liberating the third Byelorussian regional center. The surrounded German group has been crushed and liquidated. The dead number 20,000; over 10,000 have capitulated. Such is the end of the Germans' Vitebsk group.

The Red Army is now marching on Minsk.

At the same time the troops of the Second Byelorussian Front have forced their way into Mogilev and are fighting in its streets, while troops of the First Byelorussian Front, after capturing Zhlobin, have made a swift dash toward Bobruisk and have surrounded another group of five enemy divisions. The Germans' main communications with the rear have been cut and straddled by the Red Army. Our troops have forced the Dnieper near Mogilev. In the first few days of its offensive, the Red Army liberated and restored to the Byelorussian people thousands of towns, villages and hamlets. The complete ejection of the German invaders from Byelorussian land has begun.

It is impossible to speak without the deepest emotion of this new feat of the Red Army in restoring life and liberty to the long-suffering Byelorussian people. It is as if a purifying summer storm is sweeping Westward in the thunder of battles and the lightning of the Red Army's blows. It is a beneficent and refreshing storm. Its reverberations have been heard by the Byelorussian people. To them the glare of battle is the dawn of liberty. It has come, the long-awaited and hallowed hour.

Our sister Byelorussia has waited for this hour with a lofty and proud dignity. She rose staunchly to meet the hated invaders, the age-old enemy of the Byelorussian people. Soviet Byelorussia fought the invading German hordes with head unbowed and arms-in-hand. The Byelorussian people did not give the fascist marauders any moments of peace, fanning the fires of guerrilla warfare and causing the ground to burn under the feet of the invaders.

The fame of the guerrillas resounded more loudly through Byelorussia than anywhere else. Their movement was a scourge to the German intruders. The guerrilla detachments grew into a formidable force. Day in and day out, over 100,000 guerrillas waged an open fight with the Germans for life or death. We learn from published data that from the beginning of the Patriotic War to December 1, 1943, Byelorussian guerrillas annihilated over 289,000 Hitlerites, including 25 generals and about 500 other high-ranking officers. The number of Germans wounded in fighting the Byelorussian guerrillas amounts to over 52,000. The guerrillas derailed 5,910 military trains, blew up 3,785 bridges and wrecked 1,359 kilometers of railway tracks. In Minsk they have executed 1,600 Hitlerite military and civil officials in the intervening seven months.

The fight in Byelorussia is being waged all over her territory along the front, and west of it in the German rear. The Byelorussian people, tormented and plundered by the Germans, are devoting all their strength to clear the way for the Red Army, to help eject the German intruders, cut their roads of retreat and to wreak vengeance on the fascist robbers and assassins.

The defeat of the Germans in Vitebsk, the breakthrough of their defense zone along the whole of the Vitebsk-Orsha-Mogilev-Zhlobin line, the capture of the chief centers of this line surrounding the two German groups and, lastly, the Soviet march on Minsk—all this is a signal to Byelorussia that the hour of liberation has come.

Sweeping aside all obstacles in its path and breaking down the enemy's resistance, the Red Army under the leadership of our great Stalin is triumphantly marching Westward, performing its liberating mission with credit.

President Roosevelt Sends Honor Scrolls to Stalingrad and Leningrad

On June 26, in the Kremlin, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, Mr. Averell S. Harriman, presented to the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, Joseph V. Stalin, honor scrolls from President Roosevelt to be sent to the cities of Stalingrad and Leningrad in commemoration of the heroic defense of those cities. The scrolls were signed by President Roosevelt in the name of the people of the United States. The People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Vyacheslav M. Molotov, was present.

Following is the statement of the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, Joseph V. Stalin at the presentation to him by Ambassador Harriman of the scrolls from President Roosevelt:

"I accept the scrolls from President Roosevelt as a symbol of the fruitful cooperation between our States, which is being carried out in the name of the freedom of our peoples and the progress of humanity. The scrolls will be handed to the representatives of Leningrad and Stalingrad."

ON THE SECOND BYELORUSSIAN FRONT

Mogilev, which was situated in the center of the German defense line resting on the most important communication centers—the towns of Shklov, Mogilev and Bykhov—was converted by the enemy into a key strongpoint and main supply base of the whole group of enemy troops operating on the eastern bank of the Dnieper. German troops were ordered to defend to the last man the Dnieper and the Mogilev line, as the most important line of resistance. Nevertheless, as a result of the vigorous thrusts of our troops, the enemy's defense on the Pronya River was smashed and his divisions routed.

On the third day of the operation our attacking troops split the enemy forces and disrupted their control, and soon the Germans' retreat turned into a stampede. The Orsha-Mogilev highway running parallel to the front line was cut, and the enemy troops were split in two.

During the night several of our infantry units forced the Dnieper and captured the first bridgehead on its western bank, north of Mogilev. By dawn the pontoon bridges were already laid in this sector. In an effort to save the situation, the enemy hurled a fresh motorized division into the flanks of the bridgehead. Violent German counter-attacks were supported by tanks. For a time, our troops had to fight stiffly against superior enemy forces. But our main forces had already started crossing to the western bank of the Dnieper. Soon the counter-attacking German regiments, which suffered tremendous losses, were hurled back.

The emergence of our attacking troops on the right flank and the swift crossing of the Dnieper made the Germans' position at Mogilev even more

untenable. Our units were widening the breach every hour, never permitting the Germans to shake off the pursuit. Pressed from several directions, the enemy proved unable to make a stand on the intermediate lines. Finally, our troops reached the Dnieper nearly all along the front and established two new bridgeheads on its western bank, north of Mogilev.

Then followed the attacks of our troops east of Mogilev, just two or three kilometers from the town's eastern outskirts. One formation, relentlessly pursuing the Germans, broke into Lupolovo—a southern suburb of Mogilev, located on the eastern bank of the Dnieper. Under pressure of our troops, the Germans rushed over the bridge and in boats to the opposite bank. Following close on their heels, Red Army men also reached the bridge. Using both the bridge, which was not demolished, and other crossing means, they forced the Dnieper and broke into the southern and southeastern outskirts of Mogilev. Street engagements broke out in the town.

Meanwhile our mobile troops, which were advancing north of Mogilev to the west and southwest of it, vigorously forged ahead, threatening to cut the main communications running toward Minsk. Another unit created a menace to the German garrison directly from the north where it was widening a bridgehead several kilometers from the town.

The fate of Mogilev was sealed. The Germans began to retreat everywhere. Our Air Force continuously bombed the enemy and disorganized his columns, inflicting heavy losses upon them. Somewhat later Mogilev was completely liberated.

DESIGNERS OF



Major General Sergei V. Ilyushin, Hero of Socialist Labor, who designed the famous Stormovik IL-2 attack plane



Major General Alexander Yakovlev, Hero of Socialist Labor, designer of the fighter plane YAK-1, at work in his office

Heroes of Socialist Labor Alexander Yakovlev and Sergei Ilyushin, outstanding Soviet aircraft designers, are alike in having important achievements to their credit. But their careers and methods differ in some degree. For a long time Yakovlev concentrated on the building of light planes. Ilyushin had always designed bombers. The eye of an expert is able to discover certain common features in all of Yakovlev's designs. Ilyushin is more versatile. After building numerous bombers he suddenly turned to attack planes.

But the two designers have one trait in common—the ability to develop and perfect a plane until maximum performance is reached.

It had for many years been the desire of Russian designers to build a powerful bomber capable of flying a thousand miles with a heavy bomb-load. In 1935 such a plane was finally built. For the first time in the Soviet Union a corrugated covering was replaced by a smooth one and a retractable landing gear was introduced. The speed of bombers had formerly been increased on an average of from 15 to 20 kilometers yearly. This time the increase of speed was at least 70 kilometers.

The following year Ilyushin and his assistants designed a new type of bomber which represented a considerable improvement on the former model. Using an engine of approximately the same power as in the previous type, he designed a light and maneuverable plane. After the usual test flights Vladimir Kokkinaki, famous for his Moscow-American non-stop flight, flew the bomber non-stop from Moscow to Baku and back. The new plane had a higher speed than its predecessor, a maximum altitude of 1,000 to 1,500 meters higher and a loading capacity of 500 to 1,000 kilograms greater. The next year the Ilyushin bomber won the international long-distance and altitude records with load.

In the summer of 1936, during a talk with Soviet test pilots, Stalin spoke of the importance of the attack plane in modern warfare. He said that in 1920 he had observed the tremendous effect of low-flying attacks by Soviet planes on Wrangel's retreating whiteguards. Stalin expressed the opinion that an attack plane of a modern type would be a valuable addition to the Soviet Air Force.

Acting upon Stalin's instructions, Sergei Ilyushin designed the IL-2, a classical type of attack plane, popularly known abroad as the "Stormovik." The plane has proved an effective weapon against enemy tank and mechanized troops. It has a speed quit

SOVIET AIRCRAFT

sufficient for a machine of its type, is powerfully armed, equipped with bombs and heavily armored. The Stormoviks first saw action against the enemy in July, 1941. The Germans called it *Schwarzer Tod* (Black Death). "Our tank regiment," declared non-com Klaus, taken prisoner by the Soviet troops, "was ordered to break through a line of Russian defenses and capture Alexin. We set out at dawn and an hour later were attacked by swarms of long black Russian planes. When the aircraft flew away we realized that there was no point in going on, our losses in tanks were so great."

In analyzing the rout of armored German troops, the historians of the future will note the important part played by the IL-2. The numerous aerial combats fought by the Stormoviks proved they were not only powerful, but tough and dependable. Attack plane No. 422, for example, has been in continuous action for seven months. In that time Majors Kholobaev and Zub, who fly it, have destroyed 43 tanks, 234 motor vehicles and 41 aircraft.

Yakovlev's greatest achievement is the fighter of the YAK-1 type, which he designed after many years' experience as a builder of light planes. This fact enabled him to approach the task from a new angle. The performance of the YAK-1 was extraordinarily high. Being 300 kilograms lighter than other fighters of similar type, it proved extremely maneuverable and fast. It was in addition well armed, easy to control and easy to service.

Even after the fighter was approved and put in production, Yakovlev did not consider his task done. He was determined that the standard, factory-produced type of YAK would be as good as the test models, if not better. And he succeeded in achieving this. The YAK fighter proved able to defeat Messerschmitts and Heinkels. A case in point is the remarkable combat fought by seven YAKS against 25 German machines, a battle ending in the destruction of seven enemy aircraft.

Last year the foremost designers were awarded Stalin Prizes of 150,000 rubles each for the modernization and improvement of existing types.

Alexander Yakovlev, Sergei Ilyushin, Semyon Lavochkin, designer of the powerful LA-5 fighter; Pavel Sukhoy, builder of a new type of combat plane; Alexander Mikulin and Arkadi Shevtsov, builders of aircraft engines, as well as the veteran designers Nikolai Polikarpov and Andrei Tupolev, are all working indefatigably to equip the Red Army with the best planes possible.



Soviet Stormoviks, designed by Major General Ilyushin, flying over the Northern Caucasus



Major General A. Yakovlev in the cockpit of his plane



Lagg-3 fighters in flight

CHERBOURG AND VITEBSK

By Ilya Ehrenburg

A war correspondent from the London *Times* writes that among the German divisions in Cherbourg is the 17th Panzer Division, but that it does not count—in January it was in Russia on the Bug.

That is how our Allies evaluate the "preparation" which the German troops received in Russia.

Once upon a time the German 83rd Infantry Division was stationed in Cherbourg. Then it was transferred to the East. The majority of soldiers of this division now lie buried around Velizh and Novosokolniki. The survivors were yearning for the beach at Cherbourg. Now they have nothing to yearn for and nobody to envy.

News of the Allied landing in Normandy was greeted by the Germans on the Eastern front without any special enthusiasm. Emil Schneider says, "We learned about it from the Russian loudspeakers, and the news somehow had a soothing effect upon me. The nearer the end the better. Our men say: 'better a horrible end than horror without end.'" But Emil Schneider is a war prisoner, and war prisoners are not necessarily to be believed. This, however, is what Helmuth Rein wrote to his wife: "Yesterday we learned of the British and American invasion. Damn them, they have decided to make a foolhardy attack after all. Our officers say they will be hurled back into the sea. But it seems to me that it may not be long before they are met at the Rhine. It will be all up with us then. . . ."

Among the Germans there were optimists who thought that Cherbourg would strike Vitebsk off the account. Corporal Alfred Frommherz wrote to his wife: "There is a lull on our front and the Russians won't attack now since the Tommies and Americans are attacking. Everyone has his turn. Let our loafers who danced and drank French wine have a taste of what war is like, while we spend a quiet summer here. . . ."

Alfred Frommherz never sent this letter. He was killed on the first day of our offensive.

A Highly-Educated Lady

The newspaper *Nazionale Zeitung* writes: "An overwhelming majority of the population take the development of military events calmly, and preserve their faith in our ultimate victory, but there are grouches who behave unpardonably. We have time and again pointed out that Germans must keep foreign workers at a distance, and while not being unnecessarily rude must make them understand that we cannot regard them as equals, especially 'Eastern workers.'

"Yesterday we happened to be in one railway

station barracks and heard a highly-educated German woman talking humbly in the presence of French and Ukrainian girls, and saying that the Germans have always respected the French and Russians, that one could not conceive a world without foreigners, that we could learn something from the French and even from the Bolsheviks, etc. Germans who were present were deeply indignant. One of them said: 'Aren't you, a German woman, ashamed to kowtow to these foreigners?' . . ."

We do not know the name of this woman from Essen who in June, 1944 at last understood what is awaiting Germany. Of course it was not a matter of a University diploma, but it was that higher education which the Red Army, the armies of our Allies and heavy bombs have imparted to this lady. After the Russians set foot in Rumania, after the Allies landed in France and after Essen was reduced to ruins, the lady remembered that there are such things as Russian and French culture. She decided, as the German reporter puts it, to "kowtow" to the slaves. Perhaps, as she is a highly-educated lady, she is familiar with the proverb current in Zanzibar: "When you're crossing a river, don't say unkind things about the crocodile's mother."

Twelve million slaves of Germany are attentively following the course of the war. They will act when the hour comes. There was a time when the Germans used to say: "There are judges in Berlin." The Germans will see those judges—not in court rooms but on public squares!

Moscow's Newest Subway Station

Moscow has another new subway station. It is called "Electro-Zavodskaya" (Electrical Works), and lies on the Pokrovsky line between Bauman and Stalin stations.

The architects were Professor Gelfreich and Rozhin. The interior decoration is on the theme of industrial production for the front. Fourteen bas-reliefs by the sculptor Motovilov show aircraft and tank workers, metal and oilworkers.

The new station is flooded with light and sparkles with multi-colored marble. Under the ceiling near the entrance are sculptured portraits of scientists famous for their work in the field of electricity, including Lomonosov, Franklin, Faraday, Popov and Yablochkov.

The station was built under difficult geological conditions. Work had to be carried out in quick-sands.

Franklin Institute Medal Presented to Academician Peter Kapitza

In April, 1944 the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia awarded the Franklin Medal to Academician Peter Kapitza, Director of the Institute of Physical Problems of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. The Medal was accepted by the Soviet Ambassador to the United States, Andrei A. Gromyko, for transmission to Academician Kapitza, to whom it was recently presented in Moscow at a meeting held in the offices of VOKS (All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries). Following are excerpts from speeches made on this occasion:

Vladimir Kemenov, Director of VOKS:

On behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries has permitted me to open this meeting for the presentation of the Franklin Medal to Peter Kapitza, Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Academician Kapitza is the first Russian scientist to receive the Franklin Medal. It has been presented to him in recognition of his remarkable contributions to experimental physics and also to theoretical physics, especially in the fields of magnetism and low temperatures. . . .

Kapitza has developed new methods for making magnetic measurements of various kinds upon small pieces of matter exposed for a fraction of a second to extraordinarily high magnetic fields. For this purpose he has designed new electrical machines.

In 1939 his expansion turbine appeared, for which he was awarded a Stalin Prize in 1941. Kapitza's refrigerating turbine has found industrial application. He has created an entirely original oxygen machine which supplies the country with cheap oxygen necessary for the intensification of various technological processes.

Kapitza has also made investigations on the conductive properties of liquid helium. For this exceptional work, which introduces altogether new principles into modern physics, Kapitza was awarded a second Stalin Prize. He designed a machine for producing liquid helium. Experiments making use of this machine proved the exceptional fluidity of helium, and also that when subjected to a sufficiently low temperature helium loses its viscosity and becomes superfluid. Thus, an analogous phenomenon to super-conductivity was found in the field of fluidity.



Academician Peter Kapitza

Kapitza's investigations in the field of experimental and theoretic physics reveal new secrets of nature and arm man with powerful new weapons for its transformation.

At a meeting held in April, 1944 at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, the Franklin Medal awarded to Peter Kapitza was given to the Soviet Ambassador to the United States, Andrei A. Gromyko, by Mr. Charles Redding, President of the Franklin Institute. The Soviet Ambassador forwarded this Medal to the Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and it is now my great honor to present it personally to Academician Kapitza. Allow me to congratulate Kapitza on this occasion. This high honor is doubly dear to us, both as an acknowledgment of the contribution of this Soviet scientist to world science and as a witness to the growing friendship of two great peoples and two great civilizations—those of the Soviet Union and the United States.

Maxwell Hamilton, United States Charge d'Affaires in Moscow:

It gives me the greatest pleasure to be able to congratulate Academician Peter Kapitza on the award to him of the Medal of the Franklin Institute. The Institute, founded by the famous American statesman, writer and scientist Benjamin Franklin, is the oldest organization in the United States devoted to the study and promotion of science. As Mr. Kemenov has said, its annual awards have been granted to such world-famous scientists as the French physicist Charles Fabry, the Dutch physicist Peter Zeeman, Guglielmo Marconi, Albert Einstein, Orville Wright and Thomas Edison.

Academician Kapitza's studies in the field of magnetism and of temperatures approaching absolute zero have won him a deserved place among the Franklin Institute Medalists. I am sure that via the medium of the Institute of Physical Problems which Kapitza has organized here in the USSR, he will be able to carry on his work and add further discoveries

to the remarkable contribution he has already made toward scientific knowledge. The Medal which he is receiving today is an indication of the high esteem American institutions have for Russia's scientific achievements and of the friendship between American and Soviet scientists. And this also is a sign of the cordial friendship between the peoples of the United States and the USSR.

Academician Peter Kapitza:

A month ago in Philadelphia our Ambassador to the United States, Andrei A. Gromyko, at my request kindly accepted this award from the President of the Franklin Institute. I asked him to express my feelings and gratitude to the meeting of the Franklin Institute for the high honor which has been conferred upon me by the award of the Franklin Medal and my election to life membership in this oldest and leading scientific society of the United States. . . .

I regard this award as a token of the friendliness on the part of American scientific circles toward Soviet science, a recognition of its contribution to world science and of its efforts for the good of our common cause.

In these momentous days when our two great democracies are waging a joint struggle for their existence, for their freedom and civilization—in this great fight in which my country has been called upon to bear the heaviest strain and hardships—every manifestation of sincere friendship unflinchingly meets with the most cordial response. We scientists are first and foremost patriots and servants of our motherland, but at the same time we are filled with special pride when the fruits of our work influence the development of human civilization. In our joint struggle it is the aim of all of us to create a science which will serve humanity, ease the life of the people, give it more meaning, make it more interesting, fuller and happier.

But the days we are living through now are days of strife, and we are confronted with new problems. Our science is called upon to oppose the frenzied inhumanity of German ideology and its destructive application to life. We know that the manner in which the Germans twist and distort science and its achievements to serve their own ends would have brought world civilization to utter disaster if not for the joint and concerted efforts of the United Nations.

A dual responsibility falls upon scientists in the present struggle. War of itself is an age-old historic calamity. But it is to technique, which developed on the basis of laboratory discoveries made by scientists in the field of electricity, radio waves, chemical reactions, etc., that war owes the stupendous proportions and forms it has now assumed. While scientists strove to turn their work to aid mankind,

their achievements were misemployed by the adherents of Nazi ideology, to the detriment of humanity. And we scientists ought to do everything in our power to overcome the forces of evil and deprive them of the results of our work, which they have put to such base misuse. This is our immediate task.

But while participating in the defense of our country, we must also make ourselves heard so that the postwar world will be erected on a firm, enduring foundation, so that a wholesome and sound ideology predominates in it, so that its economic system rests on scientific grounds, so that humanity will at last be freed of the menace of calamities such as it has experienced during the past few years.

The community of our aspirations and ideals with those of our Allies is indisputable. The mutual understanding between our scientists in particular, their mutual esteem for each other, is one of the most important guarantees of our cooperation during the war, and still more after the war.

I feel certain that close observance of the objective logic of events, and the scientific analysis of the forms of our economic and social development, will help overcome all apparent barriers—even though they do frighten certain people—that may stand in the way of this collaboration.

In science, when the theorem is correct it is demonstrable in several different ways. So in life, too; if our ideals are the same, then even if we follow separate paths we can never find ourselves involved in any contradictions of great moment.

On this Medal, which I now have the honor and pleasure of accepting, I have been struck by the likeness of the great fighter for freedom and democracy and servitor of science—Benjamin Franklin. Approximately 200 years have elapsed since his day, and much has changed in this time in our way of life, in our state system, in our science and our mutual relations, but those great humanistic ideas which Franklin served stand as immutable for us as ever. . . .

The German people have allowed themselves to be inveigled into renouncing these ideas, and this has led to the grievous consequences of the present day. But it has also led toward greater unification of the democratic nations.

This is why I regard this Medal, bearing the likeness of this great scientist and democrat, as one of the symbols of the future unification of the efforts of scientists of the Soviet Union and the United States, both during the war and in the postwar period of reconstruction.

I feel certain that all my comrades—the scientists of our country—who all share my feelings and who are similarly striving for our common victory, feel as highly gratified as I do at this proof of the friendship of the scientists of the United States, which has occasioned our meeting here today.

Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 76

Washington, D. C., July 4, 1944



OFFENSIVE

By Ilya Ehrenburg

The striking thing about our offensive is its scope. Its glare is reflected in the skies of all Byelorussia. One front springs to life after another. Breaches are widening and the avalanche sweeps Westward. The battle is raging in Byelorussia from the Western Dvina to Polesye. In the first few days over 4,500 inhabited places were liberated. Vitebsk and Orsha, which were buried alive, have been resurrected. Mogilev and Bobruisk can hear the tread of life. Events are developing so swiftly as to throw not

only the German generals but also Goebbels into confusion; he cannot think fast enough of circumstances to extenuate the retreat of the Reichswehr.

Never have we seen a debut like this. Blow follows blow, and all hit the mark unerringly. Wherever the Red Army attacks, the Germans abandon everything—their ferro-concrete fortifications, their guns and Hitler's threatening orders of the day. It is as though a wizard had only to press a button for German pillboxes to collapse. Moscow ack-ack



Guards Major Krasnukhin, Hero of the Soviet Union (right), just returned from his 200th sortie, receives the congratulations of the squadron commander, Guards Major Matrossov, Hero of the Soviet Union

gunners are having a hot time as salute follows salute. This is so like the beginning of the denouement that the thunder of Moscow's guns seems like the beating of an immense heart.

How unlike this June is to July of last year. At that time the Germans were still making attempts at an offensive. But after Ponyri and Prokhorovka they clung frantically to every inch of ground. It took many weeks to capture Orel and Belgorod. But this past year the Germans were reeducated. We have taught them to take to their heels. We have knocked the last recollections of 1941 out of their heads. We have so weakened the German army that July, 1943 must seem to the German generals like prehistoric bliss. Donbas, Mius, Dnieper, Korsun, Gomel, Smolensk, Novgorod and Mga, and then Tarnopol, Dniester, Odessa and the Crimea—all these are the sunshine of the autumn, winter and spring in which the German divisions melted away.

Nor, as far as the climate of the world is concerned, does this summer resemble last summer. A year ago Hitler looked toward the West without misgivings. Normandy to the Fritzes was merely a peaceful beach. Hitler thought Sicily was all he would have to surrender. He was transferring divisions from France to Russia. He was still in a position to plan, to temporize, and to wriggle. But all that is over now. Our new offensive is noteworthy not only because of its scope and the successes scored; it is also noteworthy because this is the first Red Army offensive which is supported by operations of our Allies.

Hitler is no longer able to maneuver. All he can do is wonder where the next blow will come from. The butcher has turned into an ox which is being dragged to slaughter. There was a time when the world was poisoned by German lies. For many years Hitler was able to frighten nations with the myth of his invincibility. He was no strategist; he was not even a statesman. He was simply a mesmerist who hypnotized those who were willing to be hypnotized. But gradually everybody, even American isolationists and ever trustful lowbrows who lived in different European countries and declared in different languages that Hitler was not a menace to them, learned to know the nature of German lies. These ninnies have grown wise. German lies are like gas which poisons the troops which use it: the Germans try to deceive the world but only deceive themselves.

A couple of weeks ago a German newspaper argued profoundly that the Red Army would not attack because in the first place "the Russians have used up their reserves," and in the second place "the Russians will leave it to the Anglo-Saxons to carry on the campaign." These articles were written for the benefit of the British and Americans,

not the Germans. But the British and Americans only smiled. They knew that Russia was strong and that she would never cede to anyone her right to slaughter the invaders who are still tormenting Minsk, Pskov, Lvov, Tallin, Kaunas and Riga.

Who believed Goebbels? Not Churchill or Roosevelt. They knew very well that Cherbourg and Vitebsk are marked on the map with a Teheran pencil. The German lies were believed only by the Germans. The Fritzes in Vitebsk unbuckled their belts and said with a grin: "Let the fellows in Normandy do the fighting." When the Fritzes read Goebbels' report of Russian losses they blissfully dozed off to sleep. They were awakened by the thunder of our guns. The whole world now scoffs at the German lies.

Belgian patriots, parodying German military commentators, write in their underground newspaper: "The Bolsheviks, beginning with June, 1941, have at the most conservative estimate lost six and one-half times as many troops as they put into action in this period. That is a lot but it isn't enough. However, we may safely say that when, thanks to the elastic defense, the Red Army is destroyed for the 19th or 20th time we shall find that victory has fallen to one of the belligerent sides." The Fritzes in Byelorussia and Normandy are now paying for German lies.

"Russia is completely exhausted," the *Voelkischer Beobachter* wrote in May. I won't ask fleeing Fritzes to count the shells falling around them or to imagine how many soldiers are chasing after them. But the Germans' journalists would do well to ponder over the list of generals and colonels mentioned in the Orders of the Day of our Supreme Commander. However, these journalists are already penning wretched reports about "the incredible concentrations of Russians and the gigantic concentrations of Soviet armament."

"The Russians will attack the Finns but they will leave the Anglo-Saxons to pay, themselves, for their Normandy adventure," wrote the *Krakauer Zeitung*, June 16. I don't know what this newspaper is saying today. Vyborg is a long way from Cracow and Cherbourg is farther off still, but I fancy Zhlobin is causing the Fritzes a lot of uneasiness.

The Germans, of course, had splendid fortifications: they had slaves and long months of respite in which to build them. They erected another wall. But German walls are great migrants. What enabled the Red Army to throw down the walls in so short a time? In the first place, our artillery. We Russians have always been proud of our artillery men: even in the darkest times their courage and skill buoyed us up. We have raised the art to unprecedented heights. We appreciate well-aimed fire. What was Germany dreaming of this past winter

which may turn out to be her last? Of the pilotless bomb, that blind instrument of death which is turned against the civilian population. During the same winter we doubled and trebled the power of our artillery. We know whom we are aiming at, and we aim increasingly.

Before me lies the diary of a Soviet artilleryman, Sergeant Orlov. The entries are brief: "Fired at German tractor-drawn gun and registered direct hit; fired on the retreating enemy and destroyed an infantry platoon." I have called Hitler's "new weapon," his pilotless bomb, the blind sniper. But our artillerymen have very keen eyes. It used to be said of Russian gunners that they could hit a mosquito in the left eye. It isn't easy to hit an elephant; it is a big target, it's true, but its skin is tough and you must know where to aim. I may say that Soviet artillerymen can topple over an elephant with a single bound. The pilotless bomb and our artillery are symbols of two different worlds.

We have written much about the growth of our commanders. I only want to say that we have learned from our difficulties. Easy successes are corrupting; the German army is an illustration of that. Everybody knows how hard it was to beat the Germans from Stalingrad. Those were tough and self-confident Germans. The art of our generals and officers, as revealed in this new offensive, is the fruit of three war years—the fruit of defeats as well as victories. I know some Generals who are now conducting an offensive in Byelorussia. They are not rough nuggets; they are virtuosos. Their ardor is bound by strict form; their operations are daring but thoroughly thought out. I would compare these operations with Pushkin's iambics or Lenin-grad's embankments or with mathematical formulas or any manifestations of human genius in which a compass controls the imagination and inspiration animates seemingly lifeless laws. Generals Rokossovsky, Bagramyan and Chernyakhovsky began the war in a modest way. But now . . . I am not referring to the star on their shoulders or breasts, but to the "star" which naive persons identify with destiny or fate or chance but which is the star of talent and is leading our regiments Westward.

In a big battle every man's part is important. Sometimes the fate of a whole battalion or regiment may depend on the behavior of one man. Hundreds of thousands of heroes are in Byelorussia. But in all battles which have been fought in our land—from the defense of Moscow to Stalingrad, and from Stalingrad to the present offensive—lies the impress of one genius, one guiding hand, one inspirer. Military theoreticians in Britain and America are already writing books on Stalin's strategy. We cannot look upon our Supreme Commander with the eyes of an onlooker or historian: he is too near and

dear to us for that. To us he is the incarnation of our people. Nevertheless, in military operations we discern his style; we discern it in the painstaking, businesslike working out of every detail; in the fact that the country which was equally famed for its natural wealth and its chaos has created an army which is knocking off spots on German pedants; in the fact that the country which until very recently was shown as a green patch on maps, a country of knights without armor and Brussilov regiments without ammunition, is putting the fear



Field Nurse Votnova rendering first aid under fire

of God into the heart of the Reichswehr with its Essen, Saint Etienne and Pilsen; in the fact that the talented but formerly untaught people have produced Generals who can take a big handicap and still beat the vaunted successors of von Schliffen. Everything done by our soldiers, their feats and victories, are associated with Stalin, and Stalin is fighting for us all—contributing to the general effort his individual talent and creative ability.

I once overheard the following conversation. A

sergeant said: "If we go on like this we shall get to the frontier soon." To which his friend replied: "With Stalin's help we will go still further." . . . I think that when the heads of the three States discussed prospects for the summer in Teheran, Stalin might have said: "With the help of the Red Army we could go still further."

Let us turn away for a moment from the squares on the map upon which our eyes are riveted. Let us take a look at Europe. Never has Germany been threatened so drastically. The Allies in Cherbourg means that the gateway has been seized. The port is needed for the big battle. It is now open into the heart of France. To British forces which are containing Rommel's army will now be added American troops and those forces which were waiting in England until the big port was captured.

According to the American press, the French Army on the internal front is equivalent in value to 10 airborne divisions. As soon as the French receive arms, these 10 divisions will be augmented by scores of regular French divisions.

General Kesselring is imploring Hitler in vain to send reinforcements to Italy. This summer the Germans' ranks have been thinned on the shores of the Mediterranean, in the Norwegian fjords, in Holland and Denmark. What did the Finns get from Hitler? A few planes and many threats.

The end is obviously nearing. What does the average—not over-clever nor yet over-stupid—German hope for now? Major Rudolph Senkel recently published an article entitled "Traits of Russian Character." He says: "In military matters the Russians are astute and often discover the trap. But when they are not fighting they are extremely trustful. Their character is like a landscape where high mountains alternate with valleys and where flowers bloom with close proximity to the eternal snows. The Russians are forgetful and far from vindictive, like a child." The idea is clear: having failed to beat us they hope to outwit us. They are relying on the fact that we are not vindictive.

The Germans do not realize how much our people have changed. They cannot see that the fires of Byelorussia are reflected in the eyes of all of us. They forget that besides strategy and politics there is such a thing as the conscience of the people. I don't think the Fritzes have changed. Lieutenant Herd Schenk, adjutant to the Second Battalion of the 449th Infantry Regiment, writes in his diary: "We set fire to all the villages. Some villagers capable of bearing arms we carried away with us; the rest we shot. We destroyed cattle and provisions.

The enemy will find nothing but a vast desert. Today is my birthday. I have begun my 21st year as a capital incendiary. But then Russian villages burn so easily and so gorgeously. I have taken some very fine photographs. At nineteen o'clock we move on westward."

That is why the Red Army is advancing. Haven't enough heroes fallen these past few days? However through the work of our artillery and Air Force, a number of fine points always remain, and casualties among attacking infantry are inevitable. What is it that spurs on our Army? Wrath, indignation and hatred so burning that it ceases to be knowledge or feeling and becomes a terrific force which overrides all before it.

Our homes and our charming Byelorussian villages are fires for the amusement of the Germans. The madmen—they don't realize what a fire they've lit. It is reflected not only in the skies of Byelorussia but also in the heart of each of us. We will carry it to Germany. They will repent in the platoons and lament wholesale. They will weep copiously but no tears will quench that fire. It is spreading, and its glare is already lighting up the night in Germany.

Foreign observers are discussing the aim of our offensive: Minsk? Brest? Latvia? No. Everyone of our soldiers knows that we are marching on Berlin. In these three years our country has built up powerful armaments. We have learned to conduct offensives. We are fighting hand in hand with our Allies. It means that we can put an end to the Germans. And need we say how we long to put an end to them? Every soldier has an ache at heart for himself and his dear ones. It is not a brave marching song, but the tears of our children which lead our Army Westward.

We've got to like the art of war because we passionately love peace, and it is for peace we are fighting. Our way home lies through Berlin. That holds good for the Siberian as for the Muscovite for the Armenian as for the Lithuanian. We yearn to get to the German capital as though something splendid were awaiting us there. We shall only find vileness in the faces of the Germans and in the facades of Berlin's buildings. But we shall, indeed, see something splendid in Berlin: Victory. It is victory which will bring our soldier back to his home, his wife, his lamp and his tree.

I don't know when this new offensive will end but I know how it will end. I know that June, 1941 like June, 1941, will go down in history. We have set foot on the road about which we have been dreaming for three years. We will get there.

Red Army men entering the main street of another liberated town after the Germans were routed



Inhabitants of Stalino examine the devastation of student hostel buildings and the charred bodies of Soviet citizens burned by the German invaders



A family moving salvaged belongings from the ruined area of Mariupol to a less devastated section



V I T E B S K

By Evgeny Krieger

I was driving along the roads of Byelorussia to Vitebsk. On the way I learned from a communique radioed from another sector of the front that Chaussy had been taken. At once my memory evoked those grim months of the summer of 1941. It was in Byelorussia that the war began. Thousands of refugees were fleeing from burning Minsk. Children wailed frantically for their mothers from whom they had been separated. On the Byelorussian roads, Soviet artillerymen were setting up heavy howitzers with which to counter by point-blank fire the avalanche of German Panzers, which a little while before had flattened the fields and vineyards of France and plunged headlong to the East through a good half of Europe.

What made me recall this in June, 1944, was the road leading to the front of our advance. Long before we got to Vitebsk we were caught in the flood of iron and steel. Soviet motors were roaring on the ground and in the air. Endless columns of vehicles were dashing westward at a steady speed of 40 or 50 kilometers an hour. Our car tried to outstrip the columns, but got caught in the current.

We were stifled by dust, but it was the dust of our offensive and it was sweet and pleasant to the taste. I wished the Byelorussians could have seen this section of the road traversing their much-suffering land which three years ago knew poignant grief, tears and blood of the German offensive.

Metal of the Urals workers is flowing like scorching lava across Byelorussia, and in it German divisions are perishing. German steel is melting and the hope of salvation is withering in German hearts.

German prisoners were being interrogated at our staff headquarters. They declared they had been ordered to hold the left bank of the Western Dvina at all costs until June 26, on which day they were promised that "big reinforcements" would arrive for the relief of Vitebsk. These "big reinforcements" found themselves caught in the pocket west of Vitebsk, and on the morning of June 26 the Red flag was waiving over the city.

On the same day I was shown at our headquarters a list of the German regiments and divisions floundering in the Vitebsk sack. Some were still offering desperate resistance; others had dispersed through the forests.

The fate of Vitebsk was decided by a wide enveloping movement executed by our troops after

they had forced the Western Dvina, a movement which enclosed the shattered German divisions' supply columns, stores and scurrying commanders' cars, all in one general sack.

The assault of Vitebsk began at five in the morning. The Germans had taken up positions on a line strengthened by an intricate system of trenches, wire entanglements and minefields. But all this was pounded to smithereens by Soviet artillery, and it was still early morning when our troops broke into the outskirts of the city. Eight German batteries were active on the eastern side of the river, which divided Vitebsk in two. The Germans launched four counter-attacks. Thereupon Soviet artillerymen rushed their guns into a thick fight in the city's streets. The battle lasted 12 hours, and by evening our troops reached the river.

All the bridges had been destroyed by the Germans, except one which was already mined and which the Germans were preparing to blow up also. But our sappers dashed forward, and at the risk of their lives dispatched the German dynamiters in the nick of time. It was a good bridge, 200 meters long and 12 wide.

I crossed the bridge into the western part of the city and everywhere the same scenes of destruction and desolation met my eye. The Germans had dynamited the railway station, post office, hospitals, club houses, children's homes—in fact, every large building. Every house on Station avenue, Vitebsk's favorite promenade, is wrecked. The surviving inhabitants creep out of their cellars and hiding places and follow our troops, weeping with joy at their liberation and telling the horrors of the German occupation. The Germans hung Soviet citizens in the most prominent public places on Lenin street, in the market place, and on the square in front of the fire station. The dead bodies were thrown into a ditch. This took place two years ago, but last summer they dug up the corpses, drenched them with kerosene and burned them.

The wrecked and mutilated city is still filled with smoke from the last dying fires. Columns of troops are still marching through the city; the wheels of heavy guns rattle over the cobblestones; the last Germans are being ferreted out of cellars with grenades; in the distant outskirts the rat-at-at of tommy guns can still be heard and waves of bombers and Stormoviks sail overhead. But the first evening of peace wraps its soothing veil around the smoking ruins of the long-suffering city.

Wartime Industry in the Uzbek Republic

By Yuri Alferov

The author is one of the leading workers of the State Planning Commission of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic where he holds the post of Senior Engineer. He has spent many years working in Uzbekistan and has an excellent knowledge of the country and its economy.

The three years which have elapsed since Hitler's treacherous attack on the USSR have brought great changes in Uzbek industry, which principally supplies material required by the Army.

Many new branches of industry have been organized in Uzbekistan in this period. The Republic today turns out aircraft of all kinds, and armaments and munitions for the Red Army. Production of machine tools and electrical apparatus are two new branches organized since the war. Uzbekistan has become one of the most important industrial regions in the Soviet Union and a mighty arsenal for the Red Army.

The total output of industry in Uzbekistan has been increased 50 per cent during the past three years. Heavy industry, which in 1940 accounted for 14 per cent of the total output, in 1943 amounted to 48 per cent of Uzbekistan's total industrial output. This change in proportion is due to reconstruction of existing factories, but more than this to the many new plants that have been built during the war years. Several dozen large factories and mills have been built. The factories evacuated to Uzbekistan from the western districts of the USSR have played an important part in the development of industry. These factories are now working at full speed in their new homes, and many are producing more now than before the evacuation.

The great achievement for Uzbekistan has been the organization of its own iron and steel industry. An open hearth shop, the Republic's first iron and steel mill, recently began to function and has already produced several thousand tons of steel for use in defense factories. The construction of blast furnaces and mills is now well under way.

Before the war Uzbekistan used coal that was brought from other Republics of the USSR, but coal is now being mined in the Republic itself. The first coal mine opened in Uzbekistan was the Stalinogol pit near Tashkent, the capital of the Republic. This year the mine will produce 1,200 tons of coal a day. At the same time coal mines are being sunk in other parts of the Republic. The output of oil has been doubled since the war began.

A geological survey made in prewar days prepared the ground for the organization of an im-

portant center of the non-ferrous metal industry in Uzbekistan and the economically contiguous Republics in Central Asia; wolfram, molybdenum, antimony, mercury and several other metals of importance in the production of modern armaments are mined and refined. Many deposits of the rarer metals being mined in the Republic are the largest of their kind in the USSR.

The construction of hydro-electric power stations has been developed to a considerable extent to provide power for the existing and newly-built factories working for defense. The Farkhad hydro-electric station in the Valley of the Syr-Darya will soon start work. This station will have the second largest output of all Soviet power stations.

The reorganization of all work on a war footing affects every branch of Uzbek industry. Light industry and even homecraft have been considerably extended to meet war needs. The output of canned vegetables, fruits and meats has also been greatly increased to supply the needs of the Army. The refining of locally-grown sugarbeet has been organized; in this respect Uzbekistan has helped the country build up the sugar industry which formerly existed exclusively in the western districts of the USSR.

The successes achieved in developing Uzbek industry to meet war needs would have been impossible if the Uzbek people had not actively supported the carrying out of Government measures. The equipment of each new factory and each new power station met with the support of the whole population; thousands of town workers and collective farmers are giving their services voluntarily in the furtherance of the work and construction. Some 70,000 collective farmers took part in digging the foundations of the Farkhad power station; they traveled from all parts of the Republic to help with the work.

Women play a tremendous role in Uzbek defense industry. Because of old prejudices, women formerly played almost no part in the country's industry, but during the past few years in the city of Tashkent tens of thousands of women have come to the factories volunteering to replace their fathers, husbands, brothers and sons who are at the front. These women have learned some of the most difficult trades which were formerly followed exclusively by men.

Uzbekistan continues to build new industrial enterprises.



Red Army Officer Khavln playing against Mikhail Botvinnick in the chess contest

Radiophoto

Thirteenth Chess Championship in the USSR

Mikhail Botvinnik won his fifth national title by placing first in the 13th chess championship in the USSR which was brought to a close on June 19. The 33-year-old champion made his tournament debut not more than 15 years ago. In the recent championship he won 11 games, drew three, lost two and scored two more points than the runner-up, Vasili Smyslov. Several of his games were perfect, from the point of view of strategic playing and tactical execution.

Vasili Smyslov's brilliant running start was a pleasant surprise to many people, although he lacks the stamina and ability to recover from a setback. He scored six and one-half points in the first seven games and only four in the last nine.

Ukrainian champion Isaak Boleslavsky displayed fine form to place third, but was a half point behind Smyslov. Salo Flohr placed fourth with a score of nine and one-half points. The fifth prize was shared by V. Makogonov of Baku, and the Lithuanian champion V. Mikenas.

The tournament was a triumph of youth. Smyslov is but 23, Boleslavsky 24 and D. Bronstein, who won

the game from Botvinnik, not yet 20.

In discussing the results of the tournament Mikhail Botvinnik declared, "The first point to be made is that Soviet chess shows considerable progress. Despite wartime difficulties, Soviet players are constantly perfecting their game. This championship produced many games of great theoretical interest. Some endings deserve particular attention, including one in my long game with P. Ravinsky. I won on the 126th move after a struggle between the Queen and the Pawn against the Queen. It was a very instructive encounter due to the first-class defense put up by my opponent.

"It is extremely gratifying to us that players in America show interest in Soviet chess. An indication of this is an invitation received from the American Chess Federation for a radio match with a team representing the USSR. Some of us had, on several occasions, met Samuel Reshevsky and Reuben Fine. There is every reason to believe that the proposed match will be marked by an intensive struggle, and will produce many interesting games."

Material in this Bulletin may be quoted or reproduced

July

Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

INDIAN UNIVERSITY
JULI 7 1944

Vol. IV, No. 77

Washington, D. C., July 8, 1944

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MINSK IS FREE

By N. M. Nizhniky

The author is a Professor of History and Member of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences. He spent two years in German-occupied Minsk, and in August, 1943 escaped from the city with the help of guerrillas. He flew to Moscow in April, 1944 after living for several months in a guerrilla forest camp.

The long-awaited hour has come. The Soviet Red banner again flies over Minsk, capital of the Byelorussian Republic.

Minsk is an ancient city, a city that has seen and suffered much in the past eight centuries. It fell several times, only to rise again. But under the flag of the Soviets it grew and blossomed; from a shabby

provincial seat it became the administrative and cultural center of the Byelorussian Republic, with a population of 300,000. It became the proud possessor of the Academy of Sciences, a University, seven higher educational institutions, a museum, an art gallery, the Theater of Byelorussian Opera and Ballet, the Theater of Byelorussian Drama, a network of first-class medical institutions, hundreds of schools, scores of clubs and movies, an excellent stadium, and many factories and plants equipped with the most modern machinery—things the Byelorussian people did not dream of before.

Then the fascist birds of prey winged their way



Red Army men on a scouting expedition

Radiophoto

to Minsk and burned it. The wild horde of vandals and huns broke into the city and began to implant their "kultur." The Academy of Sciences and the Opera were turned into barracks, the University was given to the Gestapo, paintings were shipped off to Berlin, books were burned, laboratory equipment was smashed, scientists were forced to sweep streets, and actors and actresses had to entertain the "conquerors" in German cafes.

But Minsk refused to submit. Its best people made their way to the forests and became guerrillas. Those who stayed behind turned to sabotage and passive resistance. The people's avengers penetrated the city and did away with the hangmen sent by Hitler. Then the roar of Soviet guns in the East approached nearer and nearer. Soviet aircraft began to appear more and more often over the city, hurling death at the heads of the German killers and enslavers and reminding them that the hour of retribution was fast approaching. And now the tremendous tidal wave reached Minsk, smashing all obstacles to dust and sweeping the German filth from the city.

Hail, Soviet Minsk! Hail, capital of Byelorussia! Today you lie wrecked and devastated. But the Soviet people possess miraculous powers. Tomorrow you will rise from the ruins and ashes. You will regain your beauty and strength. Research work will be resumed in your laboratories. Byelorussian symphonies, operas and dramas will again be played on the stages of your theaters. Byelorussian artists and sculptors will create new and magnificent works for your museums. Young specialists will leave your colleges and universities in still greater numbers, and new factories and plants will flood Byelorussia with their products.

Good Day, Minsk!

The following article was written by Yakub Kolas, well-known Soviet Byelorussian poet.

Greetings to you, our dearest and most ancient city, Minsk, capital of Soviet Byelorussia.

In the clang of desperate conflicts with the age-long foes of the Slav peoples, the rusty chains of Hitlerite slavery have been flung off. For three wearying years they fettered and strangled you, Minsk. But in the thunder and lightning of our triumph-bearing storm your freedom was born anew and you were restored to the family of renowned Soviet cities. The hordes of German huns, marauders, violators and all the dark, slimy scum they brought with them are driven out. And once again the Red Soviet banner is waving over our capital like freedom's sun, like the symbol of the invincible might of the Soviet country and her peoples, united

and knit together into one family by Stalin's friendship.

Glorious Minsk, racked by suffering, you are sorely wounded. Your green gardens have been devoured by flames and your parks hacked down by the axes of stolid, dull-witted German soldiers. Your streets and squares ran red with our people's blood. The beautiful new buildings of which we were so proud because they were the work of Soviet hands are now reduced to ruins. But still magnificent in your wounded state, you are like a warrior who to the very last holds his head high and never lays down the weapons of struggle and revenge.

I remember those grievous June days in 1941 when hundreds of fascist vultures circled over our capital. Thousands of demolition and incendiary bombs were dropped upon streets and dwellings. The dry wind fanned and churned the flames till they resembled the waves of a fiery lake. Factories and plants were afire. Whole city blocks were plunged into flame and smoke. Struck by bombs, splintered trees flew into the air. Streets and lanes were thronged with endless processions of your civilian population departing for the fields and woods with a few possessions, forced to leave all to the devouring flames.

Grieved and pained we left you, capital of our Byelorussian Soviet land. We took with us not only the agony forced by parting with our native fields, but also our burning hatred of the enemy. Never for a moment did we cease to believe that we would return to the liberated land which some day was to become the grave of Hitlerite Germany and her dark hordes of invaders and thieves. We believed in our people and in their irresistible movement toward freedom and independence. We believed in our mighty Red Army founded by the genius of Lenin and Stalin and called upon to guard liberty and peaceful labor. We believed so deeply in our victory because Stalin, the strategist and leader of our people, has led and is leading us to our victories.

Every man who loves his countrymen and his country, no matter where he may be, has done all he could to bring the hour of victory nearer. Today this victory sweeps like a cleansing thunderstorm through our Byelorussian land with the heroic advance of the Red Army's regiments and divisions, men who have grown hardy in grim trials and victorious battles. Glory to you, our invincible Red Army! Glory to our soldiers and officers! Glory to our generals, marshals and leaders! Glory to Marshal Stalin, strategist and genius! Greetings to you, Byelorussian land! Greetings to you, liberated Minsk!

EXTRICATION

By P. Karpov

Military leaders have always accepted it as an axiom that the cardinal aim of the belligerent is to annihilate the army of his adversary, its troops, armaments and equipment. And that is natural. You may deprive the enemy of territory, demolish his bases and capture important defense lines, but if he manages to retain the main forces of his army he is still undefeated; he is still in a position to fight and is dangerous. But if the army sustains severe losses in lives and materiel, it loses its fighting ability and capacity for resistance and is bound to meet with disaster.

Such, roughly, is the position of the German army in Byelorussia as a result of the Red Army's week and one-half offensive. The Germans have lost all bastions of their defenses in Byelorussia. A large part of that Republic has already been liberated. The Germans have lost the majority of defense zones which covered the approaches to Poland. All these are severe and irreparable losses. But even more severe is the loss of a large number of other divisions. The havoc wrought to these divisions was so severe that they were no longer capable of holding their main positions or offering serious resistance, and were obliged to beat a retreat which is proceeding to this day.

At Bobruisk five more German divisions were trapped, and suffered a similar fate. And there, as in Vitebsk, a number of other divisions sustained severe defeat.

No less drastic were the Germans' losses in the area between Mogilev and Minsk. The Germans in the Mogilev group consisted of a large number of divisions. They too were virtually trapped. They lost tens of thousands of their men on the Dnieper and the Prut, and were again decimated on the Beresina.

It is still too early to say what the final outcome will be, but in the first 11 days of the Soviet offensive the German army in Byelorussia lost a good part of its forces. Their losses in dead and prisoners in this period, under the blows of three Byelorussian Armies and one Baltic Army exceed 200,000 and there is every reason to believe that in the next few days these figures will be considerably increased. Soviet troops are fired with the unanimous urge to destroy the hated enemy, to liberate the territory of Soviet Byelorussia and their Byelorussian brothers from German slavery. Their offensive is gaining speed. They are out to extirpate the enemy. And under the weight of their blows the German army in Byelorussia is melting away.

At the same time its morale is declining. True, never throughout the three years of war on the

Soviet-German front was the German army distinguished for high morale. An army which has no lofty aims and is imbued with vile motives, rapine and plunder cannot expect its troops to have high morale. This is true even when the army has discipline, fighting efficiency and a certain measure of staunchness. The German army is certainly disciplined and can fight. But it lacks the chief thing—namely, the consciousness that it is fighting for noble aims. Only that can explain why the German army is so rapidly falling to pieces under the blows of the Red Army.

The Germans sustained dire defeats in Stalingrad, the Kursk salient and in the Ukraine, west of the Dnieper. No less drastic are the defeats they are sustaining in Byelorussia now. And if we bear in mind the incredible speed with which events in Byelorussia are developing, it is obvious that the consequences will be still more disastrous to the German army. We may safely say this because the moral collapse of the German army is becoming manifest in Byelorussia as perhaps nowhere else. Here is one example. German divisions were surrounded at the Beresina; near Bobruisk one German division, together with technical units assigned to it, put up a stubborn defense. But the Red Army, by a swift advance, outflanked this division and threatened to surround it. As soon as the Germans perceived this their behavior changed, and from an efficient fighting unit the division soon collapsed into ruin. Not only isolated companies, but whole regiments proved unable to make any further stand. And when Soviet troops pressed their attack the German division and its augmenting forces began to scatter. Regiments discarded their artillery, tanks and rifles. Within two or three hours the division became a mob of unarmed men. Isolated groups tried to filter through to the west, but all roads were cut and they were waylaid by Soviet troops. Other groups dispersed through the forests where they were exterminated by the guerrillas. Thus this division which the Germans considered one of their best ceased to exist. It had been kept in reserve to be used for important operations; but its whole behavior demonstrated its moral poverty.

If we bear in mind that the speed of the Red Army's advance and the weight of its blows are gaining from day to day, we may safely predict that the moral disintegration of the German army and its material losses will grow more and more tragic.

THE RED ARMY IN



A familiar scene in the present war — tommy gunners move up behind tanks to attack Germans entrenched at the edge of a forest



"Tongue hunters" — intrepid scouts who penetrate the German positions and bring back prisoners for questioning. Each of the men here has captured more than 10 "tongues." Most of the group carry tommy guns taken from prisoners



Artillery, which Stalin called "the god of war," plays a powerful part in forest battles. Senior Sergeant Sizov's battery destroyed 13 enemy blockhouses and over 100 Fritzes in one engagement

FOREST BATTLES

Trench mortars are the simplest of all weapons in the present war, yet they demand great skill and agility for effective use. Sergeant N. Baranov's crew destroys enemy trench mortars and machine-gun nests, clearing the way for advancing infantry



During the day Soviet sappers demine the fields mined by the Germans in the night. In one sector of the front the crew shown here removed from 550 to 600 mines each in a single day



"A sapper makes only one mistake in a lifetime." Crawling silently ahead, ears strained for the buzz in the ear-phones indicating a hidden mine, these men clear a field for advancing tanks



LEAGUE OF BANKRUPTS

By K. Hofman

Soviet troops are administering blow after blow to the Germans' Finnish satellite. Finland is on the verge of military disaster. The hopelessness of the military situation in Finland is undoubtedly obvious to the German command, although the Hitlerites are trying to make us believe they still hold the Finnish card firmly in their hands.

Ribbentrop's visit to Helsinki and the publicity given it by the German press only testify to the weakening of Germany's position in the Baltic as a result of the demolition of German-Finnish defenses on the Karelian Isthmus. Powerless to avert Finland's complete military defeat, the German fascists are now making every effort to postpone the hour of Finland's withdrawal from the war.

The German press is widely advertising the aid which Ribbentrop has promised the Finns. But for three years Germany has rendered Finland all the support she could; and the potentialities of the Germans in this respect were far greater than they are now. Yet despite Germany's aid, Finland has lost the war.

The nature of the German-Finnish relations was never secret. Now the last fig leaf has been thrown off. From a German semi-occupied country Finland has become a fully occupied country. The threadbare myth that Finland was conducting an independent war has been discarded.

The atmosphere in which the German-Finnish negotiations were conducted bears witness to the instability of the German-fascist "fellowship-in-arms." It is a league of bankrupts. The Red Army's offensive has helped to aggravate the political confusion in Finland. The growing opposition insists upon the immediate resignations of the Finnish rulers who have sold themselves body and soul to Hitler, and by their policy led Finland into a blind alley. Ribbentrop's chief task in Helsinki was to bolster up the Finnish Hitlerites and prevent the formation of a new government. As soon as Ribbentrop returned to Berlin the spokesman of the German foreign ministry declared to foreign correspondents that "after Ribbentrop's meeting with Ryti, reconstruction of the Finnish government ceased to be a live issue."

The urgency of Ribbentrop's visit to Helsinki betrays the Hitlerites' fear of a new political situation arising in Finland and fear of a change of government. It was not a desire to help the Finns that guided Hitler's action, but grave misgivings as to the repercussions the Finnish disaster might have upon Germany herself and the entire Hitler bloc. The German fascists have ground for fearing that if Finland were to withdraw from the war it would

have a powerful influence on the rest of Germany's satellites. A drowning man clutches at a straw. Even a brief postponement in the inevitable development of events in Finland is salvation in the eyes of Hitler. He obviously intends to solve the Finnish problem after the Hungarian pattern.

Ribbentrop's visit confirmed the undeniable fact that the Finns have exhausted their resources in the war. Berlin is talking loudly of the big contingents which Hitler ostensibly has ready for shipment to Finland. But the Swedish *Aftontidningen* states that so far only two divisions are in question—the divisions which were withdrawn from the Narva front for reformation but which were hurriedly transferred to southern Finland because of political considerations. The arrival of these divisions is therefore only a political game of the Hitlerites played jointly with the Tanner-Linkomies clique. Hitler's Finnish underlings are trying to keep themselves in power with the support of German bayonets.

Also we learn that German troops, dispatched by sea from Estonia, began to disembark in ports in southern Finland a few days before Ribbentrop's arrival. At the moment of his appearance in Helsinki, German soldiers were already marching through the streets of the Finnish capital. Consequently, Tanner and company had come to the secret arrangement beforehand with the Hitlerites for the induction of German troops into southern Finland. Official negotiations with Ribbentrop were only the final chord.

The Hitlerites and their Finnish understrappers are trying hard to demonstrate how unshakable the German-Finnish fellowship-in-arms is, but the truth is that the base of this fellowship has been hopelessly undermined. The smashing of German-Finnish defenses on the Karelian Isthmus by the Red Army has definitely altered the relation of the forces, and weakened Germany's position. SS detachments and a few battered divisions which Germany is placing at the Finns' disposal cannot compensate for the loss of the Mannerheim line. Aid of this character cannot bolster up the fighting efficiency of the Finnish army or improve the morale on the Finnish home front. There are already many signs of a growing political crisis in Finland and the crisis will gain in intensity as the German occupation proceeds.

The blows struck at the Germans and Finns by the Red Army are so telling that the enemy will soon be forced to discard the illusions which Ge

(Continued on page 8)

Resolution of Union of Polish Patriots in USSR on National Council of Poland

The following resolution, adopted by the Executive Board of the Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR on June 23, appeared in the latest issue of the newspaper WOLNA POLSKA:

The Executive Board of the Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR extends its greetings to the delegation of the National Council of Poland (*Krajowa Rada Narodowa*) and to the Chief Command of the People's Army that arrived from Poland.

The Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR, uniting as it does in its ranks Poles of various social positions and different political views on a platform of struggle against the German invaders for the independent and democratic parliamentarism of Poland, has from the first day of its existence considered it its main task to contribute, by all efforts and means, to the liberation of Poland from the German yoke and give every assistance to our native land in its struggle against the German invaders.

The Union of Polish Patriots has worked tirelessly for the realization of this main task in spite of the intrigues of the reactionary emigre circles who have placed their own selfish interests above the interests of the nation, in spite of those who are continuing the ruinous policy that led Poland to the disaster of September, 1939, in spite of those who by interfering with the struggle against the invaders are injuring the cause of the United Nations.

On the initiative and with the active assistance of the Union of Polish Patriots there has been created the Polish Army in the USSR which, with its own blood, has proved its loyalty to our people in its struggle for the Polish land that is now trampled by the enemy. Splendidly armed, thanks to the friendly assistance of the Soviet Government, the Polish Army in the USSR has demonstrated its high fighting qualities and heroism in battles fought together with the Red Army.

The Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR has proved time and again on the basis of irrefutable facts that the reactionary command of General Sosnkowski's so-called *Armja Krajowa*, contrary to the desires of the majority of officers and men, not only holds aloof from the struggle of the Polish people against the German invaders, not only seeks to paralyze this struggle by its calls for passivity and waiting, but in fact plays into the hands of the invaders by its entire behavior, unleashes a fratricidal war among the Poles, and is preparing on the sly for a civil war in Poland.

The Union of Polish Patriots, defending as it

does the most vital interests of the Polish people, has from the very beginning of its existence refused to recognize the legality of the so-called Polish government-in-exile based on the illegal constitution of the 1935 government which, by its reactionary policy, interferes with the unity of all the live forces of the Polish people and by its consistently pursued anti-Soviet policy seeks to sow discord in the camp of the United Nations and undermines the confidence in Poland among our great friends, Great Britain, the USSR and the United States.

The Polish people has turned away from the handful of reactionary emigres, and set up on the territory of Poland itself a center of national unity for the struggle against the German invaders. This center is the National Council of Poland.

The Union of Polish Patriots recognizes in the National Council of Poland the true representation of our people and expresses its confidence that the National Council of Poland, formed by the most devoted patriotic elements of the Polish people, will rally round itself all Poles and mobilize them for the struggle in close alliance with the peoples of the USSR, Great Britain and the United States, and will lead them to victory over Hitlerite tyranny.

In the formation of the National Council of Poland and the People's Army and its High Command, the Union of Polish Patriots sees the beginning of the amalgamation of all Polish Armed Forces, both on the territory of Poland and beyond it.

The Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR is firmly convinced that the National Council of Poland, by rallying all the democratic Polish forces on the territory of Poland and abroad, lays the foundation for an independent, free, strong and democratic Poland. The Union of Polish Patriots is firmly convinced that the National Council of Poland will create the prerequisites for the formation of a provisional national government enjoying the confidence of the people, a government for Poland's liberation, a government which will guarantee victory over the enemy and pave the way for the flowering of the material and spiritual forces of the Polish people on the road to peaceful cooperation with all freedom-loving nations.

(Signed) The Executive Board of the Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR: Lieutenant General ZYGMUND BERLING, JAKOB BERMAN, DR. JULIA BRISTIGER, WANDA WASILEWSKA, ZENON WASILEWSKI, KAZIMIERZ WITASZEWSKI, ANDRZEJ WITOS, Engineer JAN GRUBIECKI; Dr. BOLESŁAW DROBNER, Dr. STE-

(Continued on page 8)

A Collective Farm in the Remote Taiga

By Vikenti Usarov

The small locomotive on the single-track railroad was hauling a long line of empty timber flatcars. From the train we caught glimpses of thorny stumps and tree trunks heaped up along the side of the road. Dense forests stretched for 100 kilometers on either side.

My destination was the Victory collective farm, tucked away among the trees on the border of the Chita and Amur Regions, 100 kilometers from the district center of Tygda. Nikita Tolstopyatov, chairman of the collective farm, a strong looking man of middle age, welcomed me warmly.

When I explained that I wanted to learn something of the life on this farm in the remote forests, he suggested a visit to the power station first. This was a new log structure with a tall iron chimney and a 50-horsepower dynamo which supplied light to the entire farm. The same motor runs two mills and serves the chaff-cutter and disk saw.

"We built the power station during the war," the chairman said. "A year ago we were still using kerosene lamps, but now every agricultural building and farmstead is supplied with electricity."

Maria Nikitichna, wife of the chairman and his able assistant, met us at the dairy. She is director of three cattle-breeding farms.

"This is my domain," she said. "Now I will be your guide." First we looked over the freshly white-washed cowshed where the most rigid zootechnic rules are observed. Each cow and calf had its sepa-

rate stall and there were special kitchens to prepare fodder for the milch cows. There was also a comfortable room for the milkmaid to rest in. We examined cattlesheds, hencoops and pigstys. Everywhere there was ideal order and cleanliness.

A large diagram on the wall of the office showed the growth of the collective farm during the war. In 1940 there were 500 acres under cultivation; in 1943 this was increased to 875 acres. In the last three years cattle-breeding increased by 219 per cent and the number of sheep doubled. The Government plan for cattle-breeding has been overfulfilled.

I looked over the well-stocked standard type granary, the bath-house, garage and a number of other buildings erected during the war. All this was the result of hard and persistent labor, the chairman explained. Naturally the collective farm system has played an important role.

In the carpenter shop I talked to an 85-year-old joiner, Ivan Zhuravlev. Retired for many years, the war brought him back to the shop. Last winter he repaired all carts and does all current repair of agricultural equipment.

"I wish you many years of good health," I said to the old man. "I do not need many," he answered smiling, "but I hope to live to see the day when we defeat Hitler and our sons come home." It was evident that the pulse of the country could be felt even on this distant collective farm.

BANKRUPTS

(Continued from page 6)

man-fascist propaganda is trying to foster around Ribbentrop's visit to Helsinki. The Finnish press is reporting with unconcealed alarm the new major defeats sustained by the Germans in Byelorussia, while the German press nervously followed the reaction in the United States to the German-Finnish negotiations.

The American Government's decision to break off all relations with Finland testifies to the solidarity of the Allies on the Finnish question. America has drawn its conclusions from the deal between the Finnish rulers and Ribbentrop, and from the German occupation of Finland. The German-Finnish "fellowship-in-arms" has sustained another severe political defeat.

Hitler Germany is doomed. The purpose of Ribbentrop's visit to Helsinki was to prolong the exist-

ence of the Hitler bloc by the complete occupation of Finland. But this will not help the Germans. The war has entered the stage of complete defeat of the armies of Germany and her European satellites. This is being facilitated by the Red Army powerful offensive, all the more in view of the blow being struck at the Germans in France and Italy.

RESOLUTION

(Continued from page 7)

FAN JEDRYCHOWSKI, Major General ALEKSANDR ZAWADZKI, HALINA ZAWADZKA, IGNAC KOWALSKI, WLADYSLAW KRASNOWIECKI, Reverend FRANCISZEK KUPSZ, ANTONI MICHALAK, Engineer MIECZYSLAW POPIEL, Porucznik EDMUND PSZCZOLKOWSKI, Colonel WLADYSLAW PUTRAMENT, STANISLAW RADKI WICZ, Dr. STANISLAW SKRZESZEWSKI, Major WLADYSLAW SOKOLOWSKI, WLODZIMIERZ SOKORSKI, I. EMIL SOMMERSTEIN and Dr. JERZY SZTACHELSKI.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 78

Washington, D. C., July 11, 1944

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THE GRAND ROBBER MIGRATION

By D. Zaslavsky

In the rear of the German armies in the East there are large numbers of Germans who do not know where to go or what to do. They are the ill-starred "colonizers" of Russia. There are about 150,000 of them from the Black Sea coast alone, and if one considers the whole Soviet-German front they will be found to number hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions. They are the personification of Nazi adventurism and a peculiar brand of doltish credulity.

We will not stop to inquire where the Nazi politicians, scientists and publicists got the idea that in the east of Europe—in Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, the Crimea and the Caucasus—there were immense, empty, little cultivated or badly cultivated areas which were only waiting for the arrival of the Germans to colonize them. Nazi literature gave cur-

rency to the phrase "living space in the East." It painted a fantastic picture of boundless territories inhabited by savage "natives" who were unable to govern themselves, to cultivate their land or to run industries. History allegedly condemned them to wait for the Germans to come and teach them how to live.

It was a fantastic picture indeed: and to it a fantastic history of the Russian people was invented. The Nazi Obersturm historians declared that the Russians from time immemorial, from the very dawn of their existence, had been governed by Germans. They passed off as Germans the first princes of the Russians and all her prominent savants, etc. Swindlers wrote whole tomes on the subject, and fools read and believed them.

Is it surprising, therefore, that when the German



Soviet tanks go into attack

Radiophoto

army invaded Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine millions of Germans believed that the long-desired and long-promised hour had come and now every German had the opportunity to grow rich with the help of Russian slave labor? Hitler promised to assign land, implements and workers to all Germans who desired them. He called upon German landowners to seize enormous territories and upon German officials to acquire and administer the property of the Russian people.

Hundreds of thousands of Germans swarmed like locusts into the Soviet Union in the wake of the German army. They wound up their affairs in Germany; some of them sold their estates and land with the idea of establishing themselves on a wider footing in Russia. They came from every corner of Germany and settled in every city and village in the occupied regions.

They were confident and arrogant. Although the war was by no means over they were convinced that the main thing had been accomplished: a place had been cleared for them and they were given power.

Every day trains from Germany brought and dumped onto Russian soil these greedy conquerors who had not the faintest idea of the nature of the country they were laying their claws upon; who knew only one thing—that they were given a free hand to rob, kill and devour. They were told to be brutal. It was instilled into their minds that they were the superior race, "*kulturtraeger*," whose mission it was to bring modern technique to the country of "Slav savages."

They spread over the Soviet land like dung beetles. They were haughty, insolent, cruel and obtuse. Town and countryside groaned under their rule. They robbed and stripped the Russian people. They regarded everything as theirs, they demanded slavish subordination, they violated women. And they did all this in the conviction that they would become the permanent masters of the country. They lived in a somber world created by their crude, rapacious imaginations. They had not the slightest capacity to estimate their surroundings critically. None of them had the least misgivings. It occurred to none of them to ask would it not be better to wait a little, to postpone settling in the conquered regions at least for a year, to first ascertain how secure the situation was.

The disillusionment was equal to the aberration. It began from the very first day of their arrival. They learned that the real Soviet people did not in the least resemble that oleograph picture of them that Hitler propaganda had painted. Their acquaintance with the Russian people not infrequently began with acquaintance with Soviet guerrillas; and there often enough their brief careers as colonizers ended. Their houses were burned down; bullets lurked in

wait for them. Every form of resistance was offered them. They could find no agricultural implements and the people refused to work for them.

Life was hard and dangerous for the Germans in the conquered regions. But they reconciled themselves to difficulties, believing it was only a temporary phase and that the German army would break the resistance of the Soviet people.

But then something happened which was altogether inconceivable to the German mind. The Red Army began beating the German army, and harder and harder as time went on. The front, which had moved forward as far as the Volga, began to retreat and to draw nearer and nearer first to the Don and the Northern Donets, then to the Dnieper, Bug, Dniester and Prut . . . Then trains began to run on all lines westward carrying disillusioned colonizers. Many of these would-be conquerors fled in panic along the roads, abandoning their stolen booty.

The Germans have already been ejected from three-quarters of the Soviet territory they have seized, and those of them who thought to settle forever on Soviet soil have become nomads. They do not know where to go, and the Nazi government does not know what to do with them. We learn from recent newspaper reports that the German authorities are warning migrant colonizers not to hope to find a new Eldorado but to return to their former homes and seek work as laborers on big estates. And that is how it will end. There is no other alternative for these deluded Germans. They all hoped to be landowners and slaveowners, but they will end up as farm laborers on the land of others. Such is the finale of the German Eldorado in the East.

But the reckoning has only begun. The colonizers plundered the Russian people and looted their hard-won property. They forced Russian peasants to work for them as unpaid laborers and treated them brutally besides. They flogged, tortured, hanged and raped. . . .

Now they will be made to pay for their misdeeds. Their names are known and they will be pursued by the hatred and vengeance of the Russians they mistreated. They cannot escape the wrath of the Russian people. They will learn the consequences of German "colonization" to their cost. That is necessary in order once and for all to knock out of their heads the nonsense of "living space in the East" and their mission as the "higher race" to dominate other nations.

The German robbers must be brought to repentance. But it is even more important that they serve as a warning to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren not to intrude into other countries with arms in their hands and the malice of bandits in their hearts.

HITLERITE DESTROYERS OF LITHUANIAN CULTURE

The following article was written by Professor I. Krischunas, prominent Lithuanian scientist.

The Hitlerites' profound hatred for the Lithuanian people goes back to ancient times when our people checked by force of arms the avalanche of crusaders rolling eastward. That is why the Nazis have, since the very outset of their domination in Germany, displayed such savage animosity toward Lithuanian culture. We Lithuanians observed this frenzied malice in 1939 when the Hitlerites wrested Klaipėdė from Lithuania. Storm troopers broke into the building of the Klaipėdė High School, named for Vitautas the Great. They riddled with bullets the portraits of our literary classics, Kudirkas, Maironis, Žemaitis and others, and burned our libraries.

It was a bad omen for the Lithuanian people.

In June, 1941 after their perfidious attack on the Soviet Union, the Germans invaded Soviet Lithuania and unleashed their barbaric fury. The Hitlerites exterminated the Lithuanian people with utmost ruthlessness, and at the same time launched upon a systematic and thorough destruction of Lithuanian culture, science and art in order to enslave the Lithuanian people.

Their first blow was directed against our intellectuals, our institutes of science and art and our student youth. Shortly after the occupation, great numbers of Lithuanian intellectuals were thrown into prison and concentration camps where many of them died or had their health seriously undermined.

Under the conditions of the German occupation premature death snatched from our midst Dr. Kuzma, prominent Lithuanian surgeon; Augustaitis, head of the Department of English Literature in Kaunas University; Professor Ramka, economist; Shimkus, prominent Lithuanian composer; Professor Didmoka, painter; Vinkis, author, and many others.

Many Lithuanian intellectuals who refused to bow their heads to the German invaders were deprived of work and food and forced to beg alms on the streets of Vilnius and Kaunas. Most Lithuanian college students and pupils of secondary schools were forcibly shipped to work in Germany and to "labor battalions" in the front-line zone.

After their defeat by the Red Army in Stalingrad, the Germans decided to carry out in Lithuania a total mobilization to include all college and high school students. But our intelligentsia offered determined resistance to this scheme. On March 17, 1943 the infuriated Germans closed all Lithuanian colleges, including both universities, deprived the stu-

dents of the right to take examinations and shipped most of them to hard labor in Germany.

The Hitlerites are arresting and sending to Germany our most active professors. Among those languishing in fascist bondage is Balis Sruoga, well-known Lithuanian writer and professor of Slav literature. Several Lithuanian academicians have been arrested and subjected to savage torture at the hands of the Germans.

Storm troop detachments break into university buildings, smash laboratories and carry off valuable scientific equipment, and destroy Lithuanian cultural treasures. The Germans have shut down both universities and almost all pedagogical institutes and teachers' schools in Vilnius and Kaunas. They have converted the best school buildings into German barracks.

With savage ferocity the German occupationists have hurled themselves upon Lithuanian libraries and museums. The plunder was directed by a group of vandals sent by Rosenberg and headed by a "Dr." Mueller. Only after the heroic Red Army liberates Soviet Lithuania from the yoke of German occupationists will it be possible to fully estimate the enormous losses inflicted by the Hitlerites on Lithuanian science and culture. The cultural life of Lithuania has come to a complete standstill.

The Lithuanian intellectuals prefer to lead a life of hunger and poverty, to endure the persecution of the Germans, rather than serve the fascists. The Lithuanian people are waging a mortal struggle against the occupationists, a struggle in which the Lithuanian intelligentsia is taking an active part. Despite their repeated attempts and tremendous efforts the occupationists have been unable to organize detachments of Hitlerite troops among the Lithuanians—a credit to the Lithuanian intelligentsia.

At the present time the Germans are busy drawing up lists of Lithuanian scientists and other intellectuals whom they are preparing to drive to Germany in order to carry out their plan for the destruction of the fundamentals of Lithuanian culture.

But this scheme, like all previous ones, is doomed to failure.

The Red Army is at the gates of our Republic. The day is not far off when the valiant Soviet troops led by the great Marshal of the Soviet Union, Stalin, will liberate the Lithuanian people from the German-fascist yoke and return it to its former free and happy life in the fraternal family of the peoples of the Soviet Union.

LITHUANIAN STATE ART



The group of brilliant performers known as the Lithuanian State Art Ensemble is happiest when at the front, entertaining the Lithuanian Units of the Red Army. Alexandra Stashkevichute, Merited Artist of the Lithuanian SSR, greets an audience of soldiers



The Ensemble performs in forest glades, with only grass and trees for settings. The play, recounting the history of the Lithuanian people and its struggle against the Germans, is highly realistic in these surroundings, with the sound of gunfire in the distance



For the soldiers, their native country lives again for a brief hour in the beauty and grace of the dancers. Lithuanian girls in colorful national costumes recreate the forest festivals of earlier days

ENSEMBLE AT THE FRONT

"We are headed for Lithuania," the soldiers say, "and here it has come to us." With enthusiasm they follow the story of old Lithuania



Thus the youth danced in Soviet Lithuania; thus they will dance when Lithuania is again free. After the performance, Colonel Mateka told the players, "Such art should be defended with life itself"



After the old Lithuanian dances, the national costumes, the old musical instruments — a modern note is introduced by the Lithuanian Jazz Band, highly popular with the men at the front



THE LESSON OF FINLAND

The following editorial appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 13:

The disastrous consequences of Finland's military adventure should be an instructive lesson not only to the people of that country but to all of Hitler Germany's vassals.

In 1941 Finland's rulers, in the blindness born of their anti-Soviet animosity, hurled their country into the maelstrom of fascist Germany's predatory war, hoping to secure a fairly large piece of booty in the shape of Soviet territory. As the war progressed, their hopes of victory for Hitler's marauding bloc receded. After the staggering blows dealt by the Red Army to Hitler's war machine, it became obvious that Finland could save herself only by breaking with the Germans and concluding a separate peace with the Soviet Union. But the Hitlerites were not anxious to allow Finland, which supplied them with cannon fodder and covered Germany's northern flank, to escape from their net; and the Finnish rulers, in deference to the Germans and in defiance of the vital interests of their own people, continued to fight in Hitler's war.

True, there is evidence that this suicidal policy was not pursued without a certain wavering even among Finland's ruling circles. This is borne out by the fact that several months ago the Finnish government deemed it necessary to apply to the Soviet Government to ascertain on what terms Finland could withdraw from the war. The Soviet Government's generous reply offered Finland the last and undeniably favorable opportunity to retire from the war without military disaster. By accepting the Soviet peace proposals, Finland could have fully preserved her independence, her army and her territory within the 1940 boundary. However, Finland's criminal ruling clique rejected the Soviet Union's magnanimous peace proposals. Why? Because they were loathe to break with Hitler Germany.

What could they hope for? Evidently Finland's ill-starred rulers believed that the Soviet Army would be preoccupied with the fight against the Germans' main forces for a long time and that Finland could calmly await the development of events. But this proved a cruel delusion.

The Red Army's powerful summer offensive was launched not only against the German but also against the Finnish aggressors. In 10 days Soviet troops on the Karelian Isthmus broke through all three of the Finns' fortified lines, and by the eleventh had carried Vyborg by storm and liberated it from the Finnish invaders. Just as rapidly the Finns' positions in the interior of Soviet Karelia collapsed under the blows of the Red Army. The fortified lines

erected here by the Finnish invaders as "Finland's new and safe strategical frontiers" proved, under the assault of the Red Army, to be very dangerous traps for the Finnish troops themselves. They are now fleeing from them and sustaining enormous losses in men and materiel. Petrozavodsk, capital of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Republic, which the Finnish government hurried to officially rename "Fort Onega," has now been liberated. The Finnish army is faced with the prospect of complete demolition.

It is not for nothing that leading social circles in Sweden, who have close connections with similar circles in Finland, have lately been manifesting their serious disturbance at the insensate and suicidal policy of the Finnish government. Since the beginning of our summer campaign, the Swedish press has been insistently advising Finland's ruling clique, for its own salvation, to reconstruct its bankrupt government without delay and take earnest measures for the conclusion of peace with the Soviet Union. But Finland's present rulers are utterly deaf to the warning voices of their Swedish friends. Their ears are open only to the voice of Berlin.

Fearing new vacillations on Finland's part, Hitler hastened to fasten his claws on Helsinki. And being unable at first to think of anything better, he sent Ribbentrop there. The *Morgontidningen*, organ of influential Swedish circles, expressed the following opinion of Ribbentrop's mission: "Formerly the Germans simply ordered their allies to come to Berlin for their instructions. Now the German foreign minister has himself flown to Helsinki to compel Germany's ally to continue to do what Germany wants. This indicates that Germany's position is very serious. Ribbentrop brought the promise of increased German military assistance. We should be surprised if the Finns take this promise seriously. The events on the Vitebsk front showed that the Germans have exceedingly limited opportunities of rendering the Finns effective aid. In any event, German assistance cannot affect the situation in Finland. What is more, Germany has no intention of saving Finland. The Germans were simply rendered desperate by the fact that Finland wants to get out of the war, since this would worsen their own chances."

But on the day this warning was published in Sweden, the German information bureau announced that "complete agreement on all points" had been reached in negotiations between Ribbentrop and Ryti in Helsinki. This meant that the Finnish government had pledged itself to go on fighting to the last on the side of Hitler Germany. At the same time German troops, sent as a spur to Finland to go on fighting in Germany's interests, entered Helsinki and

became virtual masters of the situation. As in the case of Hungary, so in the case of Finland—Hitlers' underlings who hold power have reduced their country to German-occupied land.

One cannot refrain from remarking that here again Finland's dubious friends played into the hands of the Hitlerites by disseminating false rumors in the American and Swedish press to the effect that the Soviet Union was demanding Finland's unconditional surrender. The Germans hastened to seize upon this "secret weapon" of deceit and utilize it to frighten the Finns and incite them against the Soviet Union. It was this apparently which facilitated the deal between the Germans and the Finnish government.

The whole meaning of this deal is not to render Finland military assistance, but under the guise of such assistance to keep Finland fighting in Hitler's piratical war in defense of Germany. Like Hungary and Rumania, Finland has been turned by the Hitlerites into a forefield of Germany's defenses in order to retard the shifting of hostilities to German territory. As the Swedish *Goteborg Handelstidningen* wrote: "The Finnish people are dying senselessly. They are shedding their blood in order that Hitlerism, which has been sentenced to death, may enjoy a short reprieve."

Thus Hitler Germany, whose position is desperate, has now forced her Finnish confederates to throw off the camouflage of a "separate war." It was not so long ago that members of the Helsinki government were trying to mislead the public in the neutral and Anglo-Saxon countries, by asserting that in the great European war Finland was fighting on nobody's side. They have now given themselves the lie and publicly shown that they have sold themselves to the German-fascist adventurers. It is not without reason that the *Voelkischer Beobachter* wrote in connection with the pact concluded between the German and Finnish governments that the "German-Finnish community of arms has grown in the past three years of joint operations into a community of fate." Indeed, the "community of fate" of the criminal ruling cliques of Germany and Finland is an undeniable fact.

The lesson of Finland is highly instructive. It is easy to see what Finland would have gained if three years ago she had not joined in the predatory adventure of the Hitler gang. But once Finland joined Hitler's piratical bloc, she began to be dragged down by the very logic of things into an abyss. For, as the old saying has it, give the devil a finger and he will seize the whole hand.

This logic of the predatory fascist war was evidently not understood by the Swedish and other friends of Finland's ruling clique who are now voicing their extreme surprise at the behavior of the Finnish rulers. The result of this hopeless political

blindness is a state of isolation which is fraught with direct consequences for the satellite countries. If certain American circles until very recently cherished the illusion that the Finnish government was anxious to cease following in the wake of the German pirates, the groundlessness of this illusion is now all too obvious. America has broken off relations with Finland. Finland is already paying a heavy price for her military confederacy with Hitler Germany. Is it not clear that the turn will soon come for the rest of Hitler's satellites?

Do the peoples of these countries realize that because of the reckless policy of their rulers; their fate now hangs in the balance? This the immediate future will show. Wherever the rulers have sold themselves to the Hitlerites, wherever they have betrayed the national interests of their country, the people must put a stop to the criminal activities of their treacherous government. It is a mistake to think that it is impossible for the people of these countries to wage an independent fight for their salvation, all the more since in such a fight they may reckon upon real support from the Armed Forces of the Allied powers. Backed by this powerful support they can, and should, drive from their countries both the German occupationists and their lackeys.

Only in this way can the peoples of Germany's satellite countries win the right to liberty.

Moscow Reconstruction Committee Resumes Work

The Moscow Reconstruction Committee, whose activities were interrupted by the outbreak of war, has resumed its work. Its chairman, Professor Terpigorev, states that its first task will be to study city transport problems, and to suggest a number of improvements.

It will also survey the wide variety of building and decorative materials found in abundance near Moscow.

It will suggest methods of improving the city's waterways and its lighting system, and make proposals for more open spaces. The Committee works under the auspices of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Tula Making Hunting Rifles

When the German invasion was launched, the famous Tula gunsmiths turned their skill to the production of war materials. They have now resumed the mass production of single-barreled hunting rifles, as well as of other types.

Study of Cosmic Rays

By Academician Abram Alikhanov

Abram Alikhanov is an Armenian, 43 years of age, who was graduated from the Leningrad Polytechnical Institute in 1930 and later did research work in the Physico-technical Institute directed by Academician Abram Joffe. He was awarded a Stalin Prize for research in the radioactivity of the atomic nucleus, and in 1943 was elected a Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

The study of cosmic rays is perhaps one branch of physics where research work is being done on no less a scale than before the war, especially in the United States and in the Soviet Union. Physicists all over the world have been working hard on the problem of imparting to particles huge charges of tens of millions of volts. Instruments devised by the Americans, Lawrence and Kester, are notable in this respect.

Cosmic rays are not studied in the laboratory. Physicists conducting research in this branch have to climb with their instruments to high mountain peaks or conduct their observations from airplanes and stratostats or descend into mines in search of cosmic rays of super-penetrability, etc.

We know of the splendid work done on cosmic rays by Compton, Milliken, Anderson and other American physicists. Among Soviet scientists we might mention Dmitri Skobel'tzin, who was the first to observe traces of cosmic rays in the cloud chamber and who thus provided one of the best methods of studying these rays.

In the USSR, in spite of all wartime difficulties and handicaps, a group of scientists is working on cosmic rays, headed by my brother, Artemy Alikhanov, of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, and myself. Twice, in 1942 and in 1943, my brother and I made expeditions to the tops of Mount Alagez in Armenia, which is about 10,000 feet high, for the purpose of studying the components of cosmic rays. We used two different instruments for our observations: the cloud chamber and the Geiger-Muerder counter.

It has long been known that cosmic rays fall into two parts, depending upon their capacity to penetrate lead. One part is completely absorbed by a layer of lead from six to ten centimeters thick, while the other part can freely pass through a layer of this thickness with very little effect as to its intensity. The former are known as soft rays and the latter as hard rays.

The object of our expeditions was to ascertain the numerical proportion between these soft and hard

rays. On our first expedition we unexpectedly discovered that this proportion varies, depending on the instrument used for observation, whether cloud chamber or counter. If the chamber is used, the proportion is roughly 1:1, and if the counter is used, it is 0.6:1. This would indicate that the soft rays consist not only of electrons as was formerly supposed, but of other particles as well, which in the cloud chamber give rise to more ions than electrons.

On our second expedition our observations were confirmed. Furthermore we ascertained that these other particles are not formed by electrons or by mezoons, but by some third agent. We were definitely convinced of this by the following experiment: On the top of Mount Alagez there is a small lake, Lake Karagel, in which we submerged the cloud chamber and counter enclosed in especially devised containers to various depths. We discovered that as the depth of submersion increased, the intensity of the soft rays diminished to different degrees depending on the instrument—cloud chamber or counter—by which they were measured.

Each of these expeditions lasted five months, and through them we learned that besides the hitherto known components of cosmic rays (electrons and mezoons) there was, at the altitude from which our observations were made, a third component whose distinguishing feature is that it manifests itself to a greater degree in the ionization chamber than in the counter.

We are now preparing for a third expedition this summer and contemplate making a special study of the third component. This will require new and more complex instruments. We have designed one such instrument, which we call the "telescope for proportional counters" and which is now being tested at the Moscow Institute of Physical Problems directed by Academician Peter Kapitza.

Orchards for the North

The Michurin Institute is experimenting with about 30,000 types of apple, pear, apricot and grape in order to develop new hardy types for cold climates. All 30,000 specimens have survived the severe winters of 1939-40 and 1941-42.

This year the Institute, its central laboratory, higher educational institution and State farm will provide Soviet fruit-growers with over 200,000 young fruit trees and a million berry seedlings.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 79

Washington, D. C., July 13, 1944



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Sizing up the Enemy

By Konstantin Simonov

Lieutenant Alf Freeman may have very little worthy of any considerable discussion. He got scared, tore off his epaulets, ran for his life, then raised his hands, was taken prisoner and gave testimony. Now all he has to do is wait meekly in a prisoners' camp for the war to end. The Lieutenant's personality, his appearance and his fate in the war are all too ordinary for many words.

Yet after I had had a two-hour talk with this lanky, light-haired Finnish lieutenant, I felt that a detailed portrait of him was important. And indeed he was ordinary to such an extent that he could well serve as an illustration of the standard type of Finnish officer.

Alf Freeman is 23 years old. He was born in the town of Pietersaari, Vasa Province. His father is a cellist in the orchestra of one of the city's exclusive restaurants. His mother owns a millinery shop. Being rather well-off, his people could afford to send

him to the Lyceum in Vasa where he studied for many years and was finally graduated in May, 1941.

What did they teach him in the Lyceum? Literature, mathematics, physics, geography, history, etc. His head was stuffed with a sizable number of reliable and unreliable historical dates and anecdotes snatched at random from different epochs and calculated in their sum total to give the impression that the Finns have every right to expansion, to more "lebensraum." Indeed it appears that former students of the Finnish Lyceums go on like parrots flaunting this favorite German word.

Alf Freeman's mentality bears a remarkable resemblance to that of Hitler youth. Talking to him one cannot help visualizing boys at the Lyceum studying the misanthropic Finnish pocket edition of *Mein Kampf* and having their own puny Finnish Rosenberg version of the "Myth of the 20th Century"—his own concoction with all its preposterous



Radiophoto

ON THE FIRST BYELORUSSIAN FRONT—A battalion of Soviet infantry goes into the attack

and hysterical, rather than historical, racial claims.

I am bringing in all this because my conversation with Freeman proves that the young Finnish fascist not only resembles a German in that he cold-bloodedly slays women and children and deliberately starves war prisoners to death, but that ideologically he is an actual counterpart of the Nazi. He has been brought up that way from the school desk. And his conception of life's problems is that of a ruthless aggressor, although he is only a 23-year-old beardless milksop and was in command of a platoon of not more than 30 soldiers.

According to Freeman, the Finnish boundary should pass from Lake Ladoga northeast to the White Sea and give Finland a whole slice of Karelia and the Kola Peninsula, including Murmansk.

This had been inculcated in him at school and he had learned it like a parrot.

One of the questions I asked him was whether he was aware of the peace negotiations conducted by Paasikivi and whether he personally would have liked the Finnish government to accept the Russian terms. He replied unhesitatingly—yes, he had known at the time that Paasikivi was in Moscow and that the Russians had proposed definite terms. As for him he would have liked to see the Finnish government at peace even on those terms.

"How is that?" I interposed. "You were just talking about annexing Murmansk and Karelia and now you try to tell me that you were eager for peace even if it meant accepting the Russian terms."

He was silent for a long time, then opened his mouth to speak, but not finding the right words remained inarticulate.

Finally the words came, slowly and forced, "I wanted to remain alive." And when he uttered them it seemed that he was really sincere in wanting peace. Probably he lied in saying that he was anxious for peace at the time when Paasikivi was in Moscow and there was a lull at the front. But he did undoubtedly hanker for peace when the Russian artillery came down suddenly with an avalanche of fire in the dugouts where he and his men were entrenched. In this way he betrayed his second self.

What was actually necessary to make him want peace was the downpour of heavy shells which killed half his platoon on the spot. It was then he leaped to his feet and ran for his life. And as he fled across the field under the hail of bullets he probably longed wildly for peace. On the run he tore the stars off his epaulets and yearned for peace even more wildly. As he sat shivering in the woods with the other seven survivors of his platoon, he heard the muffled roar of Russian guns far behind and wanted peace. And when with his soldiers he was surrounded by Red Army men, and shuffled out of the thick woods

with hands raised, he most sincerely regretted that the Finnish government had not accepted peace terms before he, Alf Freeman, was compelled to surrender.

These are two sides of the same face.

* * *

The vast majority of Finnish officers is made up of people like Alf Freeman. At school the fascist upbringing has something of the nature of a plague. It is not hereditary, but is definitely contagious and fatal. There is no occasion to talk of past or future generations, but the present generation of Finnish soldiery against whom we are fighting today is infected with the Finnish variety of the German fascist plague. Like the German fascists these people can be reformed only by bullets. There is only one way of knocking sense into the Alf Freemans afflicted with the mania of greatness, and that is to get them down on their backs.

A few words about Rej Pitkiemiaki, from the 58th Regiment, 10th Division, one of the soldiers of Freeman's platoon who fought and surrendered at the side of his lieutenant.

When I inquired of Private Pitkiemiaki what he knew and thought of the peace negotiations carried on with Russia by Paasikivi, he replied that he had hardly given them any thought.

"Why not?"

"Because what's the use of thinking of something that is done and past?"

"But at the time the negotiations were going on?"

Then he did not think of them either, for he knew nothing about them. Like the rest of the soldiers he found out only after they were over, and for this reason did not bother about them. Pitkiemiaki, a peasant from Jalas Jarvi, near Vasa, evidently gave up thinking much about anything once he became a soldier. He has, one might say, vested his rights to think in Alf Freeman, his immediate superior. Thus Pitkiemiaki and Freeman think—and what is more important, shoot—as one man. And we are compelled, despite the fact that the private and the lieutenant are by no means, subjectively speaking, guilty in the same measure, to use on both the argument of a gun.

Such is the inexorable logic of the war in which the Red Army is faced with such adversaries as the German and Finnish armies.

Marshal Rotmistrov Decorated

On June 6 the First Vice Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet presented the Badge of Honor and the Marshal's Star to Marshal of Tank Troops Pavel Rotmistrov.

GERMAN RULE IN LITHUANIAN CAPITAL

By S. Petronaitis

Along the same historic road which saw the retreat of Napoleon's army from Russia, broken remnants of Hitler's hordes are rolling back to the very borders of Germany.

For more than three years Vilnius has borne the yoke of the invaders, who brought death and destruction to the city. Within seven kilometers of Vilnius lies the railway station of Panyriai, near which the Germans shot some 100,000 citizens of the Lithuanian capital. They lie side by side with thousands of Russians brought here from Smolensk and Vitebsk to find their death. The Germans even went to the trouble of laying a branch railway line to this scene of mass murder, and trains brought the victims to the edge of the open grave.

At one time a trainload of children from Smolensk arrived at Panyriai. The children were to be executed, but local peasants ransomed them, paying five eggs for each child. The Germans then raised the price to 10 eggs.

The mass shooting of the population of Vilnius was organized by a German hangman and tinsmith from Nuremberg. In April, 1943 this monster announced: "There is still plenty of room in Panyriai, and there are still too many people in Vilnius."

Night and day detachments of drunken SS men scoured the town, searching houses, blocks and streets for victims. Thousands of people were arrested and shipped to servitude in Germany, and hundreds of Germans arrived in the city daily to take their places. The city gradually emptied of Lithuanians; entire streets and blocks were left tenantless. From a population of 300,000, barely 50,000 survived.

One day SS men surrounded all Vilnius theaters and movies. They arrested all young and pretty women and took them to brothels in Subocius street. In addition to his ration card every German in Vilnius received a certain number of coupons monthly permitting him to visit the brothels.

The Germans demolished and looted the cultural treasures of the city collected in the course of centuries. This was the particular job of a section of Rosenberg's staff quartered at 20 Sigismunei street and headed by "Dr." Mueller, assisted by Sporket, a dealer in hides. All books of the famous Zavadsky Publishing House in Vilnius were sold as waste to paper mills, "Dr." Mueller keeping the proceeds. The Lithuanian Museum and the excellent library of Vilnius University were plundered. The Friends of Science Museum was turned into barracks. The

Tomas Zona Polish Library, the Pushkin Museum and the Byelorussian Museum all were wrecked and demolished. All archives and exhibits of Ivo, the largest Jewish museum in the world, as well as the famous Strashun Library, were sold as scrap under the supervision of "Professor" Gerhart from Berlin. In May, 1943 the Smolensk Museum, containing a number of rare documents, was brought to Vilnius and handed over to Rosenberg's staff.

The Germans closed the University, the Lithuanian Philharmonic Hall, and the House of National Art opened under Soviet power. In the spring of this year all elementary and secondary schools in the city were shut down, while most of the teachers and senior pupils were carried off to slavery in Germany. Starvation stalked the streets of Vilnius. Long queues formed outside the shops daily, waiting in vain for the meager rations of Hitlerite "ersatz" bread.

But Vilnius, though enslaved, did not submit to the aggressors. Lithuanian patriots are waging unceasing war against the Nazis. They made an attempt on the life of the Vilnius regional chief, Wulff. They set fire to the Kailis furriery, containing a huge supply of furs intended for the German army. A group of Lithuanian guerrillas wearing German uniforms entered the town and freed a large number of arrested Lithuanians about to be dispatched to Germany. Corpses of Hitlerites killed during the night are found each morning on the banks of the Viliya.

Some time ago an order was issued under the signature of Hingst, the brutal and bloodthirsty chief of the city of Vilnius, reading: "In connection with the continual attacks and attempts on the life of German soldiers, officers and officials, I forbid the population of Vilnius to be out of doors after eight P.M. Persons found in the streets after the given time will be shot on sight."

Recently, with the approach of the Red Army, the Germans ordered the entire Lithuanian population of Vilnius to be evacuated.

First Newspaper in Liberated Minsk

Publication of the Byelorussian newspaper *Zvyazda* has been resumed in Minsk, the capital. The first issue is devoted to the liberation of the city from the German invaders. Some 70 newspapers are already being published on the liberated territory of the Republic.

THE ARMED STRUGGLE OF THE POLISH PEOPLE AGAINST THE HITLERITE INVADERS

The following article, which appeared in *WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS*, No. 13, is by T.—a representative of the National Council of Poland (KRAJOWA RADA NARODOWA)—who has been in the Soviet Union since May.

The disaster of September, 1939 strikingly demonstrated the rottenness of the foundations upon which the Polish army rested. The people learned the truth about their army. It was evident that the high command had not prepared it for war against the German aggressor and had not supplied it with modern armament; that it was ignorant of modern methods of warfare and that its theories and views were antiquated.

When the critical moment came, a number of high commanders, proteges of Rydz-Smigly, did not display even the necessary personal qualities. They betrayed cowardice and pusillanimity and lack of a sense of responsibility. Some of the army commanders abandoned their troops to their fate and fled by plane or automobile. An example was set by Commander-in-Chief Rydz-Smigly himself, who fled together with his staff. So did War Minister Kaspszicki and the Chief of the General Staff Stachewycz.

On the other hand, in this unequal war in which the enemy had an overwhelming superiority in numbers and armaments, the Polish soldiers, a large part of the officers and several high commanders revealed a fine fighting spirit. Fighting under the most difficult odds, they displayed heroism, staunchness and self-sacrifice. The defense of Warsaw and the battles of Kutno and the Westerplatte will always remain heroic pages in Poland's history.

At the end of 1939 and the beginning of 1940 the Polish people and soldiers were buoyed up by the hope of victory for the Western Allies. Before France's defeat we had guerrilla detachments consisting of remnants of the Polish army which fought the German occupation forces to the best of their ability. The commander of one of these detachments assumed the *nom de guerre* of "Major Kubala," after one of our flying officers who before the war had the courage to raise his voice against the backwardness of the Polish army, for which he was cashiered and thrown into prison. This detail is significant of the sentiments of that section of the regular officers of the Polish army who refused to lay down their arms after the 1939 disaster.

The defeat of France was another disaster for

us. The prospect and hope of Poland's early deliverance vanished. Nevertheless the people did not cease to resist the invader, and the armed struggle spread.

The German occupation forces strove methodically and systematically to smash the resistance of the Polish people and to crush their fighting spirit. They resorted to mass terror, designed to physically exterminate all recalcitrant elements. In these gloomy times a new expression became current in Poland—"Lapanka," from the word meaning "to grab." A brutal manhunt began. The Germans instituted wholesale roundups, seized people in the streets and shot and hanged them or threw them into concentration camps. All this was done in a manner calculated to strike terror into the hearts of the people. The German fiends daily murdered Poles in prisons and concentration camps and then sent telegrams informing their relatives of their death. They wanted to sow panic, to intimidate and break the spirit of the Polish people.

At the beginning of 1941 Poland was inundated with German troops. Endless columns of troops and armament streamed along the roads and through the streets of the cities. Sometimes pedestrians had to wait for hours on one side of a street, unable to cross. Hitler's hordes swept in an avalanche to the East.

In the face of this flood of German troops the struggle against the Germans in Poland temporarily subsided. Isolated armed actions and acts of sabotage did not cease, but they did not bear a systematic character.

After Germany's treacherous attack upon the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, the so-called *Sanacja* camp, which tended to place itself more and more in subordination to the Polish government in London, issued the slogan, "Two of our enemies have collided in the East. We must sit tight and wait." The Polish reactionaries who after the September disaster lay low like mice under a stove now began to stir again. Illegal meetings in military organizations of these elements called upon the officers to refrain from armed struggle on the grounds that it would "only complicate matters for the Germans." In their illegal press they recommended "passive waiting."

As we know, at that time there were two military organizations on Polish territory led by reactionary officers of the *Sanacja* camp: the Union of Armed Struggle (ZWZ) and the staff of the Defenders of Poland. Both had been "empowered" by the Polish

government-in-exile to recruit armed forces in Poland; both were sent money, arms and instructions to "sit tight and wait." The chief concern of these elements was to prevent the mass development of the armed struggle. The military reactionaries insistently asserted that the fate of France awaited the Soviet Union too.

Sikorski's agreement with the Soviet Union, which was taken by the people of Poland as a signal to coordinate our struggle with the action of the Red Army, was proclaimed a "diplomatic ruse" on the part of the government-in-exile. The Poles were fed on propaganda that the Soviet Union was the enemy of Poland. This propaganda hampered the development of the armed struggle of the Polish people. A turn of affairs came only with the defeat of the Germans before Moscow. The Red Army's first victories were hailed with profound relief by the Polish people, and gave a powerful fillip to the struggle against the Germans.

Meanwhile democratic parties formed their own armed detachments. In the rural districts, peasant battalions and peasant guards sprang up: there were the People's Militia, the Union of Liberation, etc. Guerrilla detachments at that time grew spontaneously all over the country. It was a general movement of the people. In January and February of 1942 guerrillas were already active in the Seidlitz and Lublin areas. We attempted to establish contact with them. The first guerrilla detachments appeared in Central Poland.

The Polish Workers Party was one of the first to systematically form its armed squads under the name of the People's Guard. A "guerrilla school" was started near Warsaw, at which a short course of instruction was given on how to blow up railway tracks and derail trains, in the use of arms and explosives, etc. Most of the students were youths.

We had very few arms. But this squad, which consisted of about 20 men, we tried to "arm to the teeth." With great difficulty we obtained grenades, explosives and wrenches with which to dismantle rails, shears for cutting telephone and telegraph wire, compasses and electric torches. It was a solemn and exciting day for us all when this squad, which we named the Stepan Czarnecki Detachment, left Warsaw to go into action. On May 3 we sent it by ordinary train to the Petrokow area. The guerrillas boarded the train with all their equipment, for at that time the Germans were not keeping a particular watch on trains.

In the first brush with the Germans the detachment commander, who went under the nickname of "Little Franek," was wounded. He returned to Warsaw. There we looked after him and when his wounds were healed we sent him out again, this time as commander of all the guerrillas.

After this, one detachment after another left Warsaw. We fitted out and sent off one and sometimes more per week, although it was getting more and more difficult to procure arms for them.

The Polish government-in-exile in London and its underground press in Poland continued to insist that it was premature to fight the Germans, and recommended "waiting with rifle at attention" until the "government," in whose hands all threads were focused, gave the signal for action. These people launched a campaign against the guerrilla detach-



Soviet Petiyakov-2 dive-bombers on a mission

ments and against all organizations which were resisting the Germans. They tried to intimidate the masses by warning them of German reprisals, and asserted that the "conditions" for guerrilla warfare such as existed in Yugoslavia and occupied Soviet territories did not exist in Poland.

However, the Polish people and Polish soldiers thought otherwise and acted accordingly. The agitation against the armed fight against the Germans naturally hampered the development of the guerrilla movement; nevertheless the Polish military reaction-

aries failed to compromise the movement and to isolate it from the people as they wanted to do. Nothing came of their efforts.

The Polish population actively supported the guerrillas and the idea of waging armed struggle against the Germans. The people had an opportunity to convince themselves in practice that the guerrilla movement and the fight against the Germans did not worsen their plight, but on the contrary improved it. When the Germans tried to plunder the peasants the guerrillas interfered, attacked food requisitioning stations, released prisoners and disrupted German rail and road traffic.

The Polish people eagerly followed the action of the heroic Red Army and in every way possible demonstrated their sympathy for the Soviet people in their fight against the common enemy. Poles, for example, concealed Red Army men who escaped from German captivity, shared their meager provisions with them and even furnished them with arms. It was evident that the Polish people were pinning their hopes mainly on the Red Army.

The Germans strove to crush the mounting resistance of the people and the growing guerrilla movement. A new wave of atrocities swept the country. Arrested persons were publicly hanged in the streets in groups and it was forbidden to remove the corpses. The terror was fiercest of all in Warsaw, heart of the patriotic movement.

In October, 1942, 50 members of democratic underground organizations were hanged in the capital.

It was decided to counter these attempts to crush the spirit of Warsaw. In retaliation for the executions, armed squads of the People's Guard made a number of bold and simultaneous raids on Germans in the center of the city: several cafes and restaurants where the German military were carousing were wrecked, as was also the printshop of the German newspaper *New Warsaw Courier*. A number of German officers were killed.

These blows at the Germans were carried out by very modest forces, poorly armed in addition. Nevertheless, the impression they created was immense and the whole country sympathized. The Germans did not dare to again erect gallows in Warsaw. But they imposed an indemnity of one million zloties on the city. We decided to again retaliate. No sooner had the indemnity been collected than we raided the KKO (Municipal Savings Bank) where it had been placed and confiscated all the cash we found there—about two million zloties. The effect was prodigious. The Germans did not dare wreak fresh reprisals.

Warsaw's example was widely followed. Attacks on the Germans began in Radom, Cracow, Lublin and Lodz.

In May, 1942 the command of the guerrilla detachments united in the People's Guard began to issue regular communiques on the course of hostilities. The Polish people were now waging incessant armed struggle against the Germans. In January, 1943 the united forces of the democratic military organizations came out in defense of the peasants of South Lubel, who had been evicted and ruined by the occupation authorities. In March and April of 1943 there were already whole districts through which a German motor vehicle or train did not dare to pass.

In May, 1943 when a temporary lull set in on the Soviet-German front, the Germans sent about eight divisions, including motorized regiments, to crush the guerrilla movement in Poland. At the same time attempts were made to sow dissension in the ranks of the Polish liberation movement, for which purpose the Hitlerites engineered the Katyn affair. We do not know whether the Germans and the Polish reactionaries had come to an agreement on the matter, but a section of the Polish press in London which is under the control of the Polish government, and the German press began simultaneously to raise a loud noise over the Katyn affair, and started a despicable campaign against the Soviet Union in connection with it.

In May, 1943 savage measures were also undertaken against the Jews: Jewish ghettos in Warsaw and other towns were brutally exterminated.

To a certain extent the Hitlerites and their Polish confederates succeeded in darkening the minds of the Polish officers. They managed to put a brake on the movement toward active armed struggle against the Germans that had already begun amongst the ZWZ detachments, which by that time had been brought under the control of the fascist General Sosnkowski. A profound ferment had begun among these military organizations. The success of the guerrilla movement stirred the rank and file of these organizations and they kept demanding more and more insistently of the commands of the ZWZ: why are we sitting with arms folded—why aren't we fighting the Germans when such a fight is necessary and possible?

This dissatisfaction and unrest became particularly acute after the death of Sikorski, when the Polish army came under the command of Sosnkowski, whom Polish officers considered responsible for the September disaster no less than Rydz-Smigly. I myself have been told by high commanders of detachments under Sosnkowski's control that they would never allow him to come back to Poland.

The Polish government-in-exile knew that the soldiers of the ZWZ were restless. They were aware

that they could keep the Polish soldiers under their control and influence only by changing their policy in one degree or another. They therefore issued a slogan for "restricted struggle," and a policy of feigned warfare was begun. Military organizations, for example, were given categorical instructions not to damage German communications, as this would be tantamount to helping the Soviet Union.

Seeing that they were unable to prevent the growth of the guerrilla movement, the Hitlerites started a new wave of terror. The Poles were given to understand they might expect the fate of the Jews. Five hundred members of underground military organizations belonging to the most diverse parties were shot in Paviak prison in Warsaw. Savage reprisals were taken all over Poland.

These reprisals only incensed the Poles all the more against the Germans. "Revenge Paviak!"—under this war-cry the democratic military organizations headed by the People's Guard decided to strike a blow at the Germans by their united efforts. One Sunday in Warsaw, in broad daylight, armed Polish detachments fell upon and demolished a company of picked storm troopers. This happened in the center of the city, on Ujazdowski avenue which the Germans had renamed Avenue of Victors. Simultaneously attacks were made upon German cafes and restaurants and German streetcars.

The Poles knew that the Red Army was overwhelming the Germans and sweeping irresistibly forward. The direct response to this in Poland was that the people fought the German invaders with increased vigor and organization. The German machinations proved futile. They not only failed to break up the guerrilla movement; they even failed to weaken the struggle. Nor did the Sosnkowski clique succeed in fanning fratricidal war in Poland; the piratical attacks on the guerrilla detachments engineered by their agents aroused the indignation of the people.

Our detachments destroyed many railway trains, wrecked a number of stations and interrupted railway traffic for thousands of hours. The guerrillas exterminated thousands of Germans, including several generals, liberated many thousands of prisoners and saved the lives of a large number of Polish patriots. They wrecked hundreds of police stations, rural administration offices and food requisitioning stations.

In their impotent fury the German occupation authorities intensified their reprisals, hanging people in the streets and burning down whole villages. In the face of this terror, a spontaneous and irresistible desire to unite all forces for the joint struggle against the enemy grew up within the ranks of the democratic military organizations. The militant

Polish people were unanimous in this demand; they awaited the creation of a center which would unite the country's action, and leadership which would be bound to the people by ties of struggle and blood. The fight against the Germans insistently demanded the creation of a single commanding staff for Poland's armed forces.

Another reason why central leadership was necessary was to solve the burning question of procuring arms. We dug up weapons which had been concealed after the defeat of the Polish army in September, 1939; we took arms from defeated German troops and from German depots; we purchased arms with money seized from the Germans. Lastly, some arms which the Polish government in London sent its organization fell into our possession when their detachments came over to our side. But this was all too little.

Preparations for the creation of a united leadership of Poland's armed forces lasted all through the second half of 1943. Correspondence and negotiations between the underground organizations began in the summer of that year. A People's Army was formed under the most difficult and trying conditions, without any outside help. It was born not on paper or in offices, but in the field, in the course of the struggle against the German tyrants. It was the direct antithesis of the army formed on Polish territory by Sosnkowski. By that time, when the idea of forming a People's Army was fully ripe, the government-in-exile rechristened its armed detachments *Armja Krajowa*. Its officers and staffs existed before it had any soldiers. But even when it had soldiers, officers and staffs it undertook no military action.

The People's Army was formed by the people, for the people and to fight for the people's liberty. Sosnkowski's army was formed as an army standing above the people, to keep the people in check.

A word must be said about the moral state of *Armja Krajowa*. The slogan "passive waiting" and the slogan "restricted warfare" which succeeded it, had a demoralizing and debilitating effect upon the officers and men of Sosnkowski's army. Even the feigned struggle undertaken lately under the pressure of events and the mood of the masses has not altered the situation. The army is being demoralized. It is doing no fighting and is not training fighting men. Actually speaking, only its staffs are active, as well as its underground newspapers, which are carrying on a disgusting campaign against the Soviet Union and against organized and effective struggle against the German forces of occupation.

The People's Guard, peasant battalions, Peasant Guard, People's Militia (military organization of

the Polish Socialist Workers Party) and even some of the detachments of *Armja Krajowa* simultaneously realized the necessity of uniting their armed detachments under a single command. Cooperation among these detachments arose in practice in the fire of struggle and sprang from experience. All realized that single leadership was essential.

The union of the armed detachments in Poland under a single command became possible thanks to the union of all democratic and anti-German forces in Poland under the National Council of Poland (*Krajowa Rada Narodowa*). On January 1, 1944, the day the Council was formed, a united leadership of the armed forces of the Polish people was created. A general staff and territorial staffs were set up.

The union of the armed forces of the Polish people and the formation of a People's Army were hailed with jubilation. The mood of soldiers and officers of our armed detachments became more militant than ever.

The fight against the forces of occupation has produced new commanders, sub-commanders and soldiers. Many of the officers and soldiers of *Armja Krajowa* have come over to our side—sometimes whole detachments with their commanders and arms. They had grown disgusted with inactivity, with calls to wait, and wanted to fight the invaders. One of the first high commanders to join our ranks was

General Rola. He began as a minor commander and now occupies the post of commander of the People's Army.

With the creation of the People's Army the armed struggle against the Germans has been put on a higher level. Since the beginning of this year a number of serious blows have been dealt the German communications in Poland. We have succeeded in coordinating the activities of the separate guerrilla detachments. We intend to create entire guerrilla regions from which the occupation forces have been completely ejected.

When we representatives of the National Council were on our way to cross the front line into the Soviet Union, in some districts we traveled by day under the escort of guerrillas fully armed and in Polish uniform.

The People's Army cannot accept into its ranks all who desire to join, owing to the lack of arms. If we had arms we could create an army several thousand strong. The Polish people through the National Council of Poland have appealed to all the Governments of the United Nations to help them with arms.

Our immediate task is to rouse and arm the Polish people to fight the German occupation forces for the liberation of Poland. This fight will be fully coordinated and concerted with the armed action of our Allies in the East and West.

Orchestra of National Instruments

By Boris Lunin

Nearly every Russian family has its accordion or balalaika, our favorite national instruments. And we have hundreds of amateur orchestras. We take our music everywhere with us—to forest clearings, on steamboats, on railway journeys, into frontline dugouts.

“What delightful things these balalaikas are,” wrote Tchaikovsky. “What striking effects they can create in an orchestra. For quality of sound they are not to be replaced by any other instrument.” Mikhail Glinka spoke with similar enthusiasm of Russian national instruments.

An orchestra of national instruments has just been assembled in the USSR. I attended its first concert, given in one of Moscow's largest halls. All the tickets were sold out three days in advance. In the intermission I had a conversation with the conductor, Nikolai Ossipov, who is himself a brilliant virtuoso on the balalaika. His orchestra is made up of balalaikas, dombras, psalteries and accordions. The repertoire consists mainly of Russian folk songs,

lyrical songs, rounds, dances and ceremonial songs.

Whole programs are devoted to special themes. One is in honor of the great Russian river, the Volga, and includes modern folk songs about famous Russians from the Volga—Lenin and Gorky, and the airman Valery Chkalov, who made the first flight from the USSR to the United States over the North Pole. Another program is dedicated to the Soviet village. The greatest Russian singers have been invited to appear with this orchestra.

In addition to the concert performances, the orchestra does a great deal of broadcasting of Soviet programs for the Red Army and the home front. The USSR Radio Committee gets a tremendous daily mail from soldiers, commanders and workers requesting more frequent broadcasts of Russian folk songs.

“Our job is to satisfy the demand of soldiers at the front and workers in the rear for the rich treasures of Russian folk music,” Nikolai Ossipov explained.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 80

Washington, D. C., July 15, 1944

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JUL 22 1944



In the Streets of Minsk

By Martin Merzhanov and Zolin

As we swooped over Nazi-torn and shell-pitted Byelorussia, we saw endless columns of tanks, heavy guns and troop carriers moving westward along the Moscow-Minsk highway. Toward the east thousands of war prisoners plodded, and the meeting of the disarmed Nazi men and officers with our advancing columns reflected the Red Army's triumphant offensive in Byelorussia.

When Smolensk and Orsha and still-smouldering Borisov faded from view, a cemetery with German crosses appeared on the horizon—a significant sight, symbolic of what the future holds in store for the enemy, and as convincing as the fields strewn with twisted German tanks, trucks and endless guns. Minsk met us with clouds of smoke rising from the

ruins and the torn-up airfield on which we landed, not without apprehension.

In the city, as on the road, the first thing that struck us was the host of tanks, guns and troop carriers that filled the streets, which still smelled of smoke and were strewn with debris. The fighting men looked very weary and dusty after the momentous battle in Byelorussia.

Distracted by the clatter of moving troops and the film of dust, we could not at first perceive the tremendous havoc wrought in the city. But a moment later with shrinking hearts we gazed on the wreckage of what were once beautiful apartment houses, modern factories and recreation palaces. Along Lenin street we did not see a single house left intact.



Field Nurse Nina Marukhno gives first aid to a wounded sailor

At the main entrances to the few buildings we found on Uritsky and Volodarsky streets we read, "Be ware of mines," chalked by a Soviet sapper.

In Minsk the Germans remained true to themselves. Losing on the battlefield, they burned and destroyed the peaceful quarters of the city. But the Soviet offensive was carried out with such lightning speed the enemy troops had no time to blow up their long supply trains stretching far on the railroads, nor their stores of food and army equipment. Worn out by many sleepless nights, the Soviet commandant of the city still had to take care of hundreds of reports informing him of locations and addresses where the retreating Germans had abandoned stores of grain, sugar, petroleum, vodka and flour. Some of the reports gave information on the capture of disguised Germans and enemy spies.



A Kuban Cossack girl

Such were the first signs of life in liberated Minsk, which had never bowed to the enemy but heroically carried on the struggle against the invaders in every possible way. All the world knows of the well-deserved punishment meted out by the Byelorussian guerrillas to Nazi Regional Commissar Ludwig Ehrenleitner, Gendarme Karl Karl, Agricultural Administrator Heinrich Klose and other important German officials. Byelorussian guerrillas also killed Wilhelm Kube, Commissar General of Byelorussia, the blood-thirsty hangman and organizer of mass slaughters of the population in Minsk and other parts of Byelorussia.

In Minsk one is astounded by the number of barbed wire enclosures in the streets. You find barbed wire

around the Gestapo building, the local prison, the warehouses, the city court, theaters, ordinary dwellings and even the beautiful evergreen garden near the station, a favorite haunt of German officers. Behind these barbed wire entanglements the enemy lived, or to be more exact, existed. Behind barbed wire they worked, traded and hanged innocent people.

Train after train of this wire was brought into Minsk. Barbed wire was like a sheet anchor to the enemy, but it did not stop the guerrillas. Soon the Germans began building bunkers in yards and making embrasures in homes. In the villages most of the wooden houses were turned into miniature fortresses. The Germans also took other precautions. We saw such signs as, "Those not heeding the first cry of 'Halt!' will be shot on the spot," or "Russian workers strictly forbidden to enter here," or "For Germans only."

All these measures, however, proved of little avail. In the streets of Minsk, in surrounding villages and on the railways the enemy was harassed by the shots of the guerrillas to the very day of the territory's liberation by the Red Army.

Today many citizens of Minsk are returning to their Nazi-wrecked city. Our attention was arrested by a group of young girls in convict clothes, with sandals woven from rope, carrying small bundles on their shoulders. We learned they were hostages, driven from Rzhev two years ago and convoyed to a convict labor camp near Orsha, where under the German slave-drivers' whip they were forced to dig the trenches with which much of Byelorussia is covered.

The Germans had no time to take the prisoners with them; their one desire was to run away as fast as they could from the land where they had made themselves hateful to everyone and where they might expect a bullet from behind every bush, mound or stone.

The soldiers of the German army have now learned to raise their hands high and to weep like that whiskered sergeant now passing before us. By thousands the Germans are being convoyed to the East while our troops in an endless column march to the West.

Leningrad Again Makes Fine Pottery

The State Lomonosov pottery works in Leningrad is celebrating its 200th birthday this year. It has now resumed production of the fine pottery for which it is famous. Three vases have already been sent to Moscow for exhibit—the "Defense of Leningrad," the "Liberation of the Ukraine" and "Leningrad in the Days of the Siege."

In honor of its birthday, the factory is designing a vase two meters high decorated with paintings of Red Army victories.

DAYS OF GREAT REJOICING

By Justas Paleckis

Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR

The capitals of the constituent Soviet Republics temporarily occupied by the German invaders are being liberated one after another. The valiant Soviet troops have entered the territory of Lithuania, reached the ancient capital, Vilnius, and are fighting the German invaders in its streets.

On the first day of the war the German invaders ruthlessly bombed the center of Vilnius. For three years they ransacked and pillaged, but the devastated, plundered and hungry city fought on.

The workers of Vilnius published underground newspapers and leaflets and organized anti-fascist committees. We know of a number of acts of sabotage carried out by workers of Vilnius. For several days they put the Vilnius electric power plant out of commission; they also put German planes in the airdrome out of action and removed percussion fuses from shells and aerial bombs, substituting for them notes with greetings to the Red Army.

The Vilnius ghetto has written a heroic page in the history of the struggle against the German invaders. The Jews did not go meekly to their death; they fought valiantly against the German invaders. Inside the ghetto a guerrilla detachment was formed, headed by worker Vittenberg. The Jewish guerrillas sallied forth from the ghetto and derailed a troop train which they blew up with mines produced in the ghetto. The guerrillas organized acts of sabotage

in munitions dumps and factories where they were employed. Risking their lives, they helped war prisoners and wives and children of Soviet soldiers and officers. On the day of final liquidation of the ghetto a group of Jewish guerrillas fought their way into the woods, joined their Lithuanian brothers and together continued the struggle.

The Vilnius region was one of the largest centers of the guerrilla movement in Lithuania. Even before the Red Army's arrival the guerrillas of the Vilnius region had seized power in a number of rural districts. Those were the first districts in which Soviet government was reestablished after three years of German occupation. Former commanders and men of guerrilla detachments, among whom are members of the Government of Soviet Lithuania, members of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, prominent party men and Soviet officials are already resuming their regular duties, organizing life anew in the liberated territory.

In July, 1943 soldiers of the Lithuanian division, fighting shoulder to shoulder with Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Uzbek and other Soviet soldiers, staunchly beat off the furious attacks of the Hitlerites and participated in the offensive in the Orel Region. In July, 1944 soldiers of all the peoples of the Soviet Union are liberating Soviet Lithuania.

The Fighting Inside Vilnius

A KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent reports from Vilnius on July 14:

The thunder of battle still rolls over the town. Soviet troops steadfastly continue to wipe out the split enemy groups. The Germans resist desperately but sustain heavy losses under our fire and surrender one position after another. Fierce duels are still fought by guns, tanks, tankettes and self-propelled artillery. The town is smothered in smoke from burning buildings.

The Germans stubbornly defend every house. Their tactics in these engagements are nothing new to our troops. Sappers, assault detachments of infantry, artillerymen and mortar gunners well know how to dislodge Hitlerites who have ensconced themselves in large buildings.

The enemy has already been ousted from many sections of the town, but still clings to buildings in the center. However, the position of the Germans here is as hopeless as in other sections. Our troops

have invested them in a close arc and pressed them to the river. The condition of the German garrison surrounded in the town is desperate.

For several days running, day and night, the Germans dropped groups of 200 to 300 men over the town from transport planes. As a rule one-fourth of this number had their arms and legs fractured or heads smashed against corners of buildings and street poles, or were stuck on belfries or roofs. More than half the parachutists were wiped out by our fire while still in the air. The rest were killed on the ground.

To fight offensive engagements in Vilnius is much more difficult than in any other city, since this is an ancient town with crooked, narrow streets. The walls of many brick buildings are as strong as the concrete pillboxes erected on the heights within the town and around it. It takes much effort and courage to gain an advance of even several yards. However, the Red Army men steadily forge ahead.

ESTONIAN UNITS OF THE RED ARMY

By K. Borisov

I returned recently from a visit to the Estonian Army Units which celebrated the second anniversary of their creation. In the past two years the Estonians, according to Red Army Command estimates, have smashed several German divisions and destroyed 134 artillery batteries and 99 individual artillery guns, 20 tanks, 274 forts, 580 fire nests and 43 observation points.

"Today when the Estonian Units are beginning their third year of action," said Lieutenant General Lembit Pern, commander, "I am happy to express deep satisfaction with the valor and peerless courage of our soldiers, officers and generals. We are proud to have participated in many of the Red Army's victorious battles, including the battle of Velikie Luki in January, 1943.

"This is a fitting occasion to recall the names of some of our heroes whose valor has become a symbol of the courage and military prowess of the Estonian people."

Albert Kariste, a young peasant from Sema Island, has been awarded the Order of Lenin by the Soviet Government, and the Distinguished Service Medal by the President of the United States. Beginning as an ordinary soldier, Kariste was soon promoted from the ranks. On one occasion he and a small group destroyed six German tanks escorting a company of tommy gunners. Infuriated by the staunchness of this handful of Estonians, the Germans began pelting them with grenades. Kariste caught six of the enemy missiles in flight and threw them back, but the seventh exploded in his hand. Wounded, he nevertheless continued to lead his men until the enemy gave up and withdrew.

Another name in which Estonian soldiers take pride is that of Lieutenant Tamm. With six riflemen the Lieutenant broke into a large inhabited point and took possession of the building. Some 30 Hitlerites attacked his group four times and finally retired after having lost 23 men.

In addition to the Velikie Luki operations, for which more than a thousand men and officers were decorated, the Estonian troops stormed the German fortified districts at Nevel, Narva and Novosokolniki. Now they are fighting on their native soil.

The Estonian Units include men from nearly all walks of life, united by the common desire to defeat the Germans. These Units, I learned, are made up of People's Guard detachments of Tallinn and Narva and destroyer battalions formed in Tallinn, Tartu, Narva, Pjarnu and Viljandi in the early days of the

war. The commanding personnel includes both Estonian generals and officers trained in the Red Army, and men who served in the old Estonian Army.

An open letter to the Estonian people published December 7, 1943 in the newspaper *Rahva Hääli* (*Voice of the People*) and signed by such renowned Estonian Army men as Generals I. Lukas, I. Lommbak, R. Tomberg, Colonels V. Kulaots, I. Maje, O. Jullas, Hero of the Soviet Union Lieutenant Colonel A. Meri and 374 other high officers pointed out that only thanks to the formation of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic had the Estonian people been able to overcome the intrigues of the reactionary fascist clique which sought to make the country a vassal of Hitlerite Germany. Only close alliance with the other Republics of the Soviet Union can guarantee the Estonian people freedom and State independence, the Estonian military leaders emphasized.

Estonian patriots evacuated from their temporarily occupied country took part in equipping their Army Units. They donated funds for a tank column and howitzer battery, and in May, 1944 with Estonian fighters collected additional funds for the purchase of an air squadron and another tank column named for Lembit, the national hero who fell in the battle with the German invaders in 1217.

The two years of almost unintermittent action against the German invaders are essentially a continuation of the old struggle of the Estonian people against German aggression. Hatred burns in the heart of every Estonian patriot for those who from ancient times to the present day have encroached upon Estonian freedom, national honor and wealth.

The occupationists headed by Baron Litzman, who are lording it in Estonia at the present time, are hated as intensely by the Estonian people today as the German invaders of the Livonian Order were hated by their ancestors seven centuries ago.

Every Estonian fighting man, from private to general, remembers and cherishes the injunction of the Government of Soviet Estonia: "Sons of Lembit and Tazui, the Estonian people enslaved by the Germans are awaiting you, the deliverers."

Gruenwald Battle Commemorated

On July 15, in Moscow, the All-Slav Committee and the Union of Polish Patriots will hold a meeting in the House of the Trade Unions, in commemoration of the anniversary of the Battle of Gruenwald.

Soviet infantry attack under cover of machine-gun fire



Sergeant Boldyrev and his crew repulsed four enemy counter-attacks in one day



Bringing in German prisoners



SOVIET INDUSTRY STANDS TEST OF WAR

Since the outbreak of war not a week has passed without the opening of a new industrial enterprise in the USSR. The power output provides a good clue to the rate of industrial construction. In 1943, steam-driven power stations in the USSR produced 20 per cent more power than in 1940-41 combined. Development has been particularly rapid in the Urals, where in 1942 power production was seven times greater than in the last prewar year.

Existing factories were enlarged, equipment used more rationally and labor productivity increased. The Soviet aircraft worker produced 42.8 per cent more in January, 1944, than in June, 1941, and the munitions worker turned out 65.3 per cent more.

The munitions industry as a whole has increased its output by eight times. This is an average figure. One of the largest plants, directed by Yelyan, a Hero of Socialist Labor, has increased its output by 16 times.

Stakhanov schools organized by the trade unions have played an outstanding part in improving the standard of industrial skill. In one ammunition factory, 278 Stakhanov courses were established in 1943. Over 1,000 workers learned a second and third trade in these courses.

In the Stalin automobile plant about 4,000 workers passed through Stakhanov schools during the war. In aircraft factories, 63,000 new workers completed Stakhanov courses in 1943. In all, several million workers have been trained in these schools since the outbreak of war.

As far back as the summer of 1942 Soviet war industry had produced more tanks, aircraft and guns than before the evacuation to the east. In 1943 it trebled the output of warplanes, increased the production of tanks by several times and multiplied the production of mortars, automatic firearms and ammunition by ten times. Although the first weeks of hostilities revealed the splendid quality of Soviet-built aircraft, tanks and artillery, our arms designers have tirelessly improved existing types and created new ones.

Russia emerged from the First World War with an exhausted, disorganized economy. In this war exactly the opposite is the case. In the tractor industry, for example, before the war the USSR had three main tractor plants—the Chelyabinsk, Stalingrad and Kharkov works. Another huge tractor plant has been built, and still another will begin work in the near future. The Stalingrad and Kharkov plants, wrecked by the Germans, are being repaired. Thus at the end of the war the USSR will have five mammoth tractor plants instead of three.

The blast furnaces of Kuznetsk, Uzbekistan and Zlatoust, the electric power plants of Chelyabinsk,

Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk, Sverdlovsk, Kemerovo, Omsk, Kazan, Barnaul, Stalinogorsk, Berezniki, Tomsk, Byeloretsk and Alapayevsk stand out like beacon lights marking the victorious progress of the Soviet rear during the war years.

A new milestone in this forward march is the re-opening of the Donbas mines, the pig iron turned out by the first four southern blast furnaces rehabilitated after the German rout, the dozens of trainloads of



Radiophoto
The Leningrad machine tool works has resumed production of turret and turning lathes. Young fitters examine a lathe they have just assembled

iron that have already pulled out of Krivoi Rog, and the celebration on June 20 of the first tractor to leave the conveyor belt of the Stalingrad tractor plant.

Soviet Russia's mighty fist is clenched. With her Allies she is preparing to deal the final decisive blow to the Germans.

ANTON CHEKHOV

(January 17, 1860—July 15, 1944)

The Russian writer, Anton Chekhov, one of the world's masters of the short story, was born on January 17, 1860, in the city of Taganrog. He died on July 15, 1904, of tuberculosis, from which he had suffered for many years.

During the 25 years of his literary career Chekhov produced a vast number of short stories and longer works in which he gave a true picture of his native land. He was also an indefatigable innovator in the field of drama; his plays, above any straining for external effects, simply and tellingly reveal the inner lives of the characters.

In the Soviet Union Chekhov's works have been published in 56 languages, in editions running to 15,330,000 copies. He is one of the most popular and beloved of Russian classical writers.

The house in Taganrog where Chekhov was born, and the house in Yalta where he lived and which had been turned into the splendid Chekhov Museum, were plundered and destroyed by the German vandals.

A young Taganrog writer, Ivan Bonorenko, was an eye-witness to the German desecration of the memory of Chekhov. From his notes Bonorenko wrote the following:

An "unteroffizier" of the SS regiments suddenly halted near a group of women shrinking timidly against the iron railings of a fence. Glancing up and down contemptuously, he kicked open the iron gate which bore in golden letters the words, "A. P. Chekhov's House."

The women watched with frightened eyes as the German proceeded pompously through the gay little yard and small garden with its neat flowerbeds. Suddenly he stopped.

Facing him, peering from the thick dusty leaves of the shrubbery, was a bust of Chekhov. Under the piercing and humorous glance of the marble countenance, the Nazi's face became even more snout-like and his eyes bulged. Pushing back his cap, adorned with the eagle of the Third Reich and the swastika, he raised himself on tiptoe and spat into the face of the statue.

A cry escaped from the lips of a little old woman standing behind him and she clasped her hands in agony, as though someone had struck her. She gazed about helplessly and then disappeared. Soon she returned carrying a pail of water, and running up to

the defiled monument attempted to wash its face.

But the infuriated Nazi struck the water from her hands and with another blow knocked out several of her teeth. . . . Then, with a smug and self-satisfied grin, the Hitlerite entered the house in which the great Russian Chekhov was born and reared.

"The chief thing," wrote Chekhov in 1903 in *The Bride*, "is to turn the tide of life." The dark powers of fascism could not forgive him for this daring thought. After capturing his home the fascists slandered his name—ironically they dedicated to him the printshop where the treacherous leaflet *Novoye Slovo* (New Word) was published. They selected for a Gestapo prison the high school attended by Chekhov and made its name a terror to the citizens.

The theater in which young Chekhov saw the vision of *The Seagull*, *The Cherry Orchard* and *Uncle Vanya*—the theater that was the pride of Taganrog—where is it now? What have they done to it?

★

On July 15 the Soviet Union will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the death of Anton Chekhov. Special editions of his novels and dramas, radio broadcasts and performances of his plays, and exhibits dealing with his life and works, will mark the occasion throughout the country.

The Kirghiz Republic will issue a new edition of selected works of the great Russian writer, with translations by Tiurelbai, Sedybekov, Kasymbek, Ishmambetov and others. In Azerbaijan a committee has been appointed by the Council of People's Commissars to arrange lectures and exhibits, and a booklet on "Chekhov and Azerbaijanian Literature" will be published.

The Union of Soviet Writers and the Regional Publishing House of Molotov are bringing out a collection of Chekhov's writings, and lectures and exhibits will also be held in schools and factories and on collective farms. In the Khabarovsk Region a "Chekhov cycle" is broadcast twice weekly, with listeners in far-off Chukotia, Kolyma, Kamchatka, Sakhalin and Komsomolsk-on-the-Amur.

Chekhov's plays, which are highly popular with Soviet audiences, are being presented in 93 theaters, in Russian, Ukrainian, Azerbaijan, Kazakh and other languages.

The Union of Soviet Writers has received many messages from abroad in connection with the Chekhov anniversary.

Notes from Front and Rear

When the city of Soroki was liberated, orders and medals were awarded to a group of Moldavian guerrillas who inflicted enormous losses on the German and Rumanian invaders. One detachment alone carried out over 150 operations, wrecking 278 military trains, wiping out more than 22,000 enemy officers and men, including one general, and taking 7,000 prisoners. The awards were made by F. Brovko, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian SSR.

★

Seven thousand boys and girls and some 3,000 adults are spending their spare time assisting in the restoration of the Kreshchatik, Kiev's famous main street. Andrei Sakharov, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine and member of the Supreme Court of the Republic, has already put in 15 Sundays at this work, exceeding his quota by 150 per cent. The wide pavements are now clean and free of debris, and on the ruined walls appear such notices as "Singers Wanted for the Dumka Choir" and "Dancers Required for the Ballet."

★

The Committee on Arts will hold an All-Union Art Exhibit in 1945, dealing with the Soviet country during the great Patriotic War. There will be exhibits of painting, sculpture, the graphic arts, folk handicrafts and decorative theatrical art.

★

Most of the shipping enterprises of the People's Commissariat of River Shipping have completed their assignments ahead of schedule and have considerably exceeded their June quotas for the transportation of basic cargoes of petroleum, coal, grain and salt, handling nine per cent more cargo than last year.

★

Work has begun on the construction of the fourth line of the Moscow subway. This line will be 20 kilometers in length and will traverse 16 districts of the Capital, populated by about 2,000,000 persons. The new line will have 12 stations, six of which will be transfer points. Workers will excavate 2,230,000 cubic meters of earth by tunneling, and 500,000 tons of tubing and 330,000 cubic meters of concrete will be laid.

The Soviet Government has set aside an additional ten million acres of pasture land for the collective and State farms of Kazakhstan, for the development of stock-raising. Eighty groups of experts are surveying this area and will arrange for reserves of fodder and medical and veterinary stations. Ten thousand portable dwellings are being prepared by local industrial cooperative workshops for the families who will care for the herds. Several "yurtas" (a tent-like Asian dwelling) are being sent out equipped as clubs, with radio, literature, refreshment and entertainment facilities. Folk singers and musicians will entertain in them.

★

The coal industry of the USSR has overfulfilled its plan for the past three months, its showing being 30 percent higher than that of the same period last year. The June plan has been filled or over-filled by all enterprises of the People's Commissariat of the Coal Industry.

★

A sports section has been set up by VOKS (All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries) to promote friendship with sports societies abroad. The new section, consisting of prominent Soviet sports figures, is headed by Rear Admiral Ivan Papanin, twice Hero of the Soviet Union.

★

Scientists working on the Sudzukhe State Reservation are selecting large numbers of animals for reservations destroyed by the Germans in the European part of the Soviet Union, at Askania Nova and in the Northern Caucasus. The Sudzukhe Reservation covers 350,000 acres of the Ussuri taiga, on the shores of the Sea of Japan. Its thickets abound in sables, squirrels, foxes, bears, lynxes, leopards and Ussuri tigers.

★

Worn and damaged tanks no longer of use at the front are serving industrial enterprises and agriculture in the rear. Simple conversion enables tank Diesel engines to be used for obtaining compressed air. A compressor of this kind can be made at any factory. Working at a speed of 750 revolutions per minute, it produces 24 cubic meters of air at a pressure of five atmospheres.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 81

Washington, D. C., July 18, 1944



VILNIUS, CRADLE OF LITHUANIAN CULTURE

By Ludas Gira

Lithuanian Poet, Deputy to Supreme Soviet of Lithuania

In every country there are towns that are shrines and about which people have from generation to generation woven legends and sung songs, towns that were the cradles of the nation and centers of national culture. To every Lithuanian patriot such a shrine is Vilnius, Lithuania's ancient capital, which tradition says was founded in 1322 by Grand Duke Gediminius. Its growth was rapid and it became a flourishing town.

The strongest of fortresses for those days, Vilnius never fell even to the German Crusaders, who were regarded as the best armed forces. There were occasions, however, when they got as far as its walls. Not only did wise Gediminius continually strengthen

and build up Vilnius Castle and the city itself, but he expended much thought and care on its growth and prosperity. To this end he invited merchants and artisans from other countries and developed trade relations with Pskov, Novgorod and other Russian cities.

From the days of Gediminius and his son Olgerd, the capital had foreign craftsmen as well as its own Lithuanian artisans, scholars and artists, many of whom received their education in western Europe. When the Lithuanian Grand Duke Jagaila departed for Cracow to ascend the Polish throne he took with him in his suite a Lithuanian artist who became one of the founders of Polish medieval painting. His



ON THE KARELIAN FRONT—Soviet troop-carrying tanks crush Finnish defenses

Radiophoto

works were to be seen in the beautiful Kremlin chapel and in some Catholic chapels in Poland. The remains of frescoes in Trok's Castle show that this form of painting had reached a high level in Lithuania.

The first of the classicists of Lithuanian literature, Dauksha Shirvidas and Gedraitis, lived and wrote in Vilnius; Simanas Daukantas, the famous historian, studied at Vilnius University; Bauzha Bogushas wrote here his remarkable work on the richness and beauty of the Lithuanian language. Stoka Gutuevicius, renowned sculptor of the 18th Century, built the Catholic Cathedral, a remarkably fine edifice with severe classical lines. The poems of Stradelis, the first truly national poet, were printed at the Vilnius Press in the 19th Century. Azhukalnis Zagurskis, a writer of exquisite Lithuanian lyrics, sent them here to be read and reviewed.

Jonas Basanavichius, founder of the Lithuanian Scientific Society of the National Museum and Archives, lived and worked in Vilnius in the present century. Here engineer Petras Vileishis published the first Lithuanian daily paper, *Vilniaus Zhinios*; Nikolai Churlianis, Lithuanian artist and composer of genius, held his first art exhibitions in the city.

GENERAL PLIEV'S COSSACKS

In the fighting for the towns of Vileika, Krasnoye, Stolbtsy, Gorodeya, Nesvizh and Minsk, special distinction was won by a formation of Kuban Cossacks under Lieutenant General Issa Pliev. The formation began its battles at Moscow, fought to the steppes of the Dniester Valley and is now driving the Germans from Byelorussia. General Pliev's formation of mounted Guards is composed of Cossacks of the Kuban and Terek Valleys. Entire detachments came to Pliev from the towns and inland villages, ready for action, riding their own mounts and armed with the sabers of their forefathers, passed down from generation to generation.

Forty-three-year-old Lieutenant General Issa Pliev is an Ossetian. A born horseman, Pliev skilfully combines rich practical experience with theoretical knowledge received first in the Leningrad Cavalry School and later in the Frunze Military Academy. The war found Pliev, who then held a colonel's rank, in the Academy of the General Staff of the Red Army. He insisted upon being sent to the front, and went by air to the town where the Cossack Division was being formed.

Late in the autumn of 1941 Pliev's horsemen stood as an impregnable wall before Moscow. Their Commander was always in the thick of the fighting, and his overcoat was riddled by bullets. For three days the cavalymen repulsed the furious attacks of the

When in 1920 the Poland of the "Pans" attacked ancient Vilnius and invaded it, this beautiful capital was reduced to the status of a provincial town. In 1939 Soviet power restored to Lithuania her ancient center. Under the Soviet regime it became once more the capital of Lithuania—capital of the free and independent Lithuanian Soviet Republic—and would soon have regained its fame as a disseminator of national culture.

For almost a year Vilnius was a Soviet city. Even in that short time, cultural and scientific institutions of which progressive Lithuanians had dreamed for centuries were founded. All these splendid beginnings were interrupted by the invasion of the German fascists, and Vilnius lived through the most difficult and grievous time in all its 600 years of existence. The treasures of the people's ancient culture and art were plundered. The city was depopulated and deserted.

The scarlet flag of the Republic once more waves proudly over Vilnius. New and more magnificent growth is in store, and Lithuania's capital, liberated today, will tomorrow begin its new work of construction, its triumphal march into the bright future.

enemy, and in this time some 10,000 fascists were cut down by them.

Pliev was promoted to the rank of general. In offensive operations in the south, where an enormous part was played by cavalry, special distinction was won by the horsemen commanded by him. The Cossacks battered the Sixth German army trapped in the Bereznegovataya area, and cavalymen under General Pliev performed miracles of courage in sallies into the enemy rear and in surprise raids on villages and towns held by the Germans. Like a whirlwind, soldiers wearing black Caucasian felt capes with flying scarlet Caucasian hoods and naked sabers would break into the enemy lairs.

At one time a group of Cossacks reached a German airdrome and captured 18 enemy planes and their crews. In one of the recent raids in the German rear, General Pliev's Cossacks wiped out more than 5,000 fascists, destroyed 18 tanks, 36 guns and 511 trucks, and seized 68 guns, over 1,000 trucks and five trains loaded with tanks and guns.

Nearly all the men of this formation have been awarded the Order for Valor in Action. The high title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred upon Lieutenant General Pliev, as well as two Orders of Lenin, the Gold Star Medal and the Order of Suvorov. He has also received the Order of the Polar Star from the Mongolian People's Republic.

THE NEW YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT

On July 13 IZVESTIA wrote:

On July 7 the Yugoslav statesman Doctor Ivan Subasic formed a new Yugoslav Government. It includes men well-known in the past as irreconcilable enemies of the pro-fascist governments of Prince Paul's period and of the reactionary Puric government which recently resigned.

The members of the Subasic Government are supporters (some are even direct participants) of the active struggle for the independence of Yugoslavia and for the ejection of the Hitlerite invaders from the country. A member of the Subasic Government, Isidor Tsankar—prominent Slovenian professor and member of the Slovenian Catholic Party—was Yugoslav Minister to Canada, but resigned as a protest against the policy of the Puric government. Sava Kossonovic, a Serb member of the Government and leader of the Independent Democratic Party, while in exile after the Hitlerite invasion of Yugoslavia waged an incessant struggle against the Yugoslav quislings and reactionary fascist elements which in the U. S. A. centered around the Yugoslav Ambassador, Fotic. Ministers Draga Marusic and Sreten Vukosavlevic are representatives of the National Committee of Liberation headed by Marshal Tito, and prominent political leaders and active participants of the armed struggle of the Yugoslav people against the German-fascist invaders.

The formation of the new Yugoslav Government, which is a direct result of the agreement of June 16 of this year concluded between Marshal Tito and Premier Subasic, is an important victory in the cause of the achievement of unity of all forces waging struggle against the Hitlerite invaders in Yugoslavia and beyond her borders.

The solution of the Yugoslav crisis which is now becoming evident, wrote the English newspaper *Reynolds News* recently, is a direct result of the Teheran Conference. This very significantly coincides with the realization of the military decisions adopted at Teheran and therefore shows what degree of cooperation is possible between the Allies. On the basis of the decisions adopted at the conference with Tito, Subasic in his declarations made after the formation of the new Government called upon all forces of the country to rally under the banner of the Army of National Liberation headed by Tito and to fight jointly for the creation of an independent, democratic federated Yugoslavia. At the same time Subasic condemned the "pseudo-patriots who directly or indirectly serve the enemy."

The Minister of the Interior of the Yugoslav Government, Sava Kossonovic, also came out publicly

with a detailed statement of the democratic program of the new Government.

Commenting on the results of the agreement, the English newspaper *News Chronicle* notes that Tito recognizes the Subasic Government as the representative of Yugoslavia abroad, while Subasic recognizes the National Committee of Liberation as the legitimate power within the country.

The strengthening of the unity of the Yugoslav people expressed in the creation of the Subasic Government naturally was not to the liking of the "pseudo-patriots who directly or indirectly serve the enemy." This was reflected in the malicious attack on the Subasic Government made by the Yugoslav ex-Ambassador of the former Puric government to the U. S. A., the pro-fascist Fotic, who pretends to be acting in defense of "Serbian interests." In his speech at a press conference in New York, Fotic lauded the traitor Mikhailovic and tried again to sow national discord by asserting that the Subasic Government does not represent the Serbs. In conclusion he made the ludicrous statement that he "does not recognize" the Subasic Government.

Along with the strengthening of the unity of the Yugoslav people, the ground is slipping from under the feet of the pro-German agents—Fotic and Mikhailovic—and of quislings of the Nedic and Pavelic type. This is one of the most important achievements of the Yugoslav people and of the camp of the United Nations as a whole. This also explains the fury and clamor raised by Fotic and his like.

Health "Theater"

The People's Commissariat of Health of the USSR has for the past 14 years conducted a Central Scientific Research Institute for Hygiene Propaganda. Its function is to develop methods of hygiene propaganda for various types of medical institutions, as well as for the general public. A year ago the Institute organized a "hygiene agitational theater," employing two companies of actors, one consisting of adults and the other of children who perform for nine to 14-year-old audiences. The adult actors play for hospitals, military units, factories and in the parks.

The Institute produces posters, lantern slides, photographs, newspapers, albums and films, literature for medical workers, for the general public and for children of school and pre-school age. It also supervises the work of hygiene propaganda centers, generalizing their experience and popularizing it throughout the country.

THE CRIMES OF GERMAN DOCTORS

By Professor N. I. Propper-Grashchenkov

Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR

The atrocities and crimes committed by German doctors do not fit in with our usual concepts, for we have been trained to regard the doctor as a representative of the highest form of humanity, and his work in aiding any sufferer or sick man as bringing great benefit to mankind. Crime and brutality on the part of a doctor are therefore something unnatural.

The innumerable crimes and atrocities committed against the citizens of our country by officers and men of the German army are often carried out with the direct participation of German doctors.

Well known are statements by German doctors on the benefit of the extensive practice of sterilization, the benefit of war as an expression of the struggle for existence of human society, and similar ravings. Extensive practice of sterilization was carried out by German doctors, both Nazis and their sympathizers. The system of propaganda and the execution of the sterilization campaign trained them for the perpetration of horrible crimes against the peoples of our country.

It has long been known that German doctors took part in such barbaric acts as branding war prisoners. German doctors participated in the wholesale massacre of all mental patients, both those in hospitals and those under the care of private persons in temporarily occupied territories.

Finally, our Soviet medical men have evidence of the worst crime the world has ever seen, a crime committed by German doctors—the draining of children's bodies of all their blood for transfusions to German wounded, which caused the death of the children.

The Extraordinary State Committee recently published a statement concerning the deliberate infection with typhus of the people of German-occupied districts, in order to erect an epidemic barrier between the Germans and the advancing Red Army.

The Soviet Scientists Anti-fascist Committee has in its possession another document giving evidence of a horrible crime committed by German doctors: the performing of experimental operations on healthy prisoners-of-war. A group of Soviet doctors recorded such a case in the town of Novozybkov in the Orel Region, where a medical battalion picked up a former war prisoner, Ivan Vassilievich Yatsukhno, age 39. He stated that a German doctor once came to a prisoner-of-war camp and picked out a dozen of the healthiest-looking Red Army men. After selection they were placed in an excellent hospital where only German doctors were working. This group of prisoners was given plenty of good food

and some time later all of them, including Red Army man I. V. Yatsukhno, were operated on. He was forcibly laid out on the operating table and given an anesthetic which sent him completely to sleep. Some time later he came to in a ward with a terrible pain in his stomach.

In the same ward were several other victims of the experiments. At various times operations were carried out on all of them, always on internal organs—the kidneys, the liver or the lungs. All operations were carried out without any medical indication of their necessity and were solely for the purpose of experiment on a live subject. After a few days, when the stitches were removed, the victims were exhibited to German doctors.

Yatsukhno was liberated from the Hitlerite barbarians thanks to the rapid advance of the Red Army, which gave the Germans no time to remove and kill him. Soviet doctors subjected him to an objective examination which took the form of X-rays of the alimentary system; the photographs showed that the pyloric end of the stomach and part of the duodenum are missing, and that the small intestine was pressed close to the wall of the stomach. In place of the missing parts there is a septic ulcer which causes the patient to suffer terribly. Soviet doctors have done what they can to relieve his suffering, but he cannot be completely cured on account of this experimental operation.

It has become clear to all that the cruelties perpetrated by German doctors are the result of their psychology having been warped by fascist demagoguery, due to which many German doctors, like the officers and men of the German army, have completely accepted the horrible cannibal ideology and are putting it to practice.

We Soviet doctors, theoreticians and practical workers are daily and hourly coming up against these horrible crimes and atrocities, and with all the passion in our hearts place the brand of disgrace on the 20th-Century barbarians, irrespective of whether they hold a doctor's diploma.

We are confident in the international tribunal which will try the German soldiers, generals and other officers for the crimes and atrocities they have committed and will also make German doctors who have committed similar crimes answer for them.

We are sure our friends in the United States and Great Britain fully share our contempt for these scoundrels with doctors' diplomas, and will also demand their punishment.

ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ESTABLISHED

With a view to the promotion of Soviet medical science, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR has decreed the setting up of an Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR under the auspices of the People's Commissariat of Health Protection. This will be the highest medical-scientific institution in the country, uniting the work of outstanding Soviet scientists.

The Organizational Bureau of the Academy is



Luisa Allen, Carmen Llanos and Amerika Fernandez, who were brought up in a Spanish children's home in the Soviet Union, prepare bandages for Red Army wounded

headed by Miterev, People's Commissar of Health Protection of the USSR. It includes Academicians Burdenko and Abrikossov, the latter Director of the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine, and Grashchenkov, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Academician Abrikossov writes in *Izvestia*: "Dur-

ing the past half century medicine has developed a number of various branches and specialties. Many scientific research institutions and special hospitals have been built up in our country, mainly under the Soviet Government, and every branch of medical science or specialty is effectively developed in these institutions. But specialists in each branch of medicine have worked to a considerable extent in isolation from other branches. We have long since felt the need for the creation of an organization which would unite our country's prominent scientists in the field of medicine. This is why the decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR on the establishment of an Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR has been received with great joy by the medical circles of our country.

"The Academy of Medical Sciences, whose members and corresponding members will be outstanding Soviet scientists, will become the highest medico-scientific institution in the USSR. The initial membership of the Academy of Medical Sciences is fixed by the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR at 56 persons. The Academy has three departments: the Department of Medical-Biological Sciences, the Department of Hygiene, Microbiology and Epidemiology, and the Department of Clinical Medicine. Every department has under its auspices a number of special scientific institutions. There are 25 of them altogether.

"Our country has a great number of outstanding medical workers enjoying world repute. These scientists will form the backbone of the Academy. All this inspires us with confidence that the Academy of Medical Sciences will justify the hopes placed in it, will raise our medicine to a still higher level, and will soon gain fame as a competent medical institution, not only in the USSR, but abroad."

Ostrovsky Drama Revived in Moscow

The Last Sacrifice, a play by the great Russian dramatist A. Ostrovsky, was recently revived with great success at the Moscow Art Theater. First presented at the Maly Theater on November 8, 1877, the play depicts the life and customs of the Russian merchants.

The present production was staged and directed by People's Artist of the USSR Nikolai Khmelev, with a cast of noted players headed by People's Artists of the USSR Alla Tarasova and Ivan Moskvina. Heroes of the Soviet Union, Red Army generals and prominent artists attended the opening.

THE SOVIET TRADE UNIONS

In Russia the trade unions as mass organizations began to develop during the Revolution of 1905. When the revolution was crushed the tsarist government drove them underground.

After the fall of tsarism in 1917 the trade unions developed their activity in all cities and industrial regions. From the outset they rejected the principle based on narrow trade union interests; they organized the workers by entire industries rather than along narrow craft lines. "One big industrial union" was their motto, with all the workers of the given enterprise in the same union.

The trade unions of the USSR unite in voluntary organizations the workers and office employees engaged in any profession, trade or branch of production. They accept workers and office employees irrespective of their nationality, race or religion. They are neither Party nor State organizations. Membership dues in all unions amount to one per cent of the wages or salary earned, and are payable each month.

Each trade union is headed by an elected central committee, while the work of all the unions is under the general direction of the elected All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. At each factory, mill, office, etc., there is a local trade union committee, elected at stated intervals by all the trade union members employed there.

Soviet trade unions pay profound attention to the everyday needs of their members and also give them legal aid and advice, and so on. They assist their members in acquiring a political education and in raising their professional qualifications. They organize competitions among the workers for the highest overfulfillment of production plans in each enterprise. In accordance with the Soviet Constitution, the trade unions nominate their candidates for the various Soviets of Working People's Deputies. Generally, they foster Soviet consciousness and patriotism among their members.

The main object of the trade unions is to organize the masses for the most rapid development of the national economy and the greatest improvement in the material conditions of everyday life and the cultural level of the working people. Wages and salaries are regulated by the conclusion of a collective agreement between the management of an enterprise and its workers. The trade unions insure the observance by the management of all labor legislation and safety regulations. They also have control over social insurance. They possess their own resorts, sanatoriums, rest homes and convalescent homes where their members may spend their annual two to four weeks' vacations. The funds accumulated from mem-

bership dues are used to build clubs, palaces and parks of culture and rest, and to maintain trade schools, study courses and other cultural and educational institutions in which millions of working people can spend their leisure time to raise their cultural and professional level. The trade unions have enormous cultural and educational facilities at their disposal: 6,000 palaces of culture and clubs, 15,000 libraries, 10,000 cinema theaters, etc.

Trade union members, particularly Stakhanovites and the best workers, are accorded first consideration in the enjoyment of all these privileges. The comparatively few non-union members receive secondary consideration. Non-union members receive only 50 per cent of the sick benefits paid to trade union members.

The development of the national economy following the industrialization of the country led to a tremendous numerical increase in the working class and made it necessary for the trade unions to bring their leadership in closer contact with the enterprises and to exercise greater solicitude for the well-being of the workers.

In 1934, therefore, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions passed a decision to divide up the growing unions, and at the same time move the central committees to the centers of their respective industries (Baku, Sverdlovsk, etc.). This facilitated the handling of questions dealing with the everyday needs of the vast bulk of the workers, as well as those concerning production and cultural matters.

Instead of the 22 trade unions which in 1924 had a total membership of 6,000,000 there were in 1935, after the division of the unions, 154 whose aggregate membership had grown to 20,000,000. The trade unions were empowered to exercise governmental control over the observance of the provisions of labor legislation, so that the People's Commissariat of Labor became superfluous and was abolished. All the functions of the Social Insurance Bureau as well as its funds were turned over to them. In addition they had the exercise of public control over the work of shops, their supply bases, etc.

The trade union membership has been increasing constantly. In 1938 the total membership was 24,000,000; in 1940, 25,500,000.

The Red Army has also been receiving much direct aid from the trade unions in the form of a vast network of hospitals which the unions have created from their sanatoriums, rest homes, clubs, etc. Thousands of ailing and recuperating Soviet officers and men are now accommodated there. Besides this the trade unions pay special attention to the needs of the families in the rear.

Scientific Life in Soviet Turkmenia

By Professor Eugene Steinberg

Before the Soviet era the Turkomans lived in their *auls* (villages) according to their ancient patriarchal tribal traditions and customs, following a very primitive form of economy. There were neither schools nor hospitals in the auls, and only .7 per cent of the people could read and write.

The October Revolution opened up a new era for the Turkomans. Turkmenia was granted her independence and became one of the 16 sister Republics which form the Soviet Union. The entire nature of the country has changed so much as to be unrecognizable. The basis of Eastern agriculture—artificial irrigation—has been completely reconstructed, thanks to the work of the Soviet Government. In place of the old auls with their semi-nomad population, numerous large and wealthy collective farms, State farms, machine and tractor stations and cattle ranches have been organized. Huge industrial enterprises have been built in the Turkmenian mountains.

Still more impressive are the changes in the cultural life of Turkmenia. Books and newspapers have now become available to the masses of the people. Besides the newspapers and magazines published in Ashkhabad, capital of the Republic, newspapers are issued in every district, regional center and even in the larger industrial enterprises and railway junctions, and on State farms. Almost everyone has learned to read and write. Before the Revolution there was not a single college in Turkmenia. There

are now in Ashkhabad four Institutes—Medical, Hydro-Meteorological, Agricultural and Pedagogical—which prepare specialists for various branches of the national economy. These institutes also do considerable valuable research.

The main scientific center of the Republic is the Turkmenian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, headed by the well-known Soviet scientist and public figure, Academician B. Keller. The Turkmenian Branch of the Academy has three Institutes—Biology, Geology and Soil Study, and History, Language and Literature, which work with the corresponding departments of the Ashkhabad Institutes, doing research and affording the Turkmenian Government able assistance in the solution of many practical problems.

The Institute of Biology has important achievements to show in the study of the flora and fauna of various districts of Turkmenia, in acclimatizing a number of cultivated plants and in developing and improving methods of cotton growing, fruit growing, and cattle-breeding. The Institute of Geology and Soil Study has sent out numerous expeditions and published valuable material on the study of the Karakum desert, on the struggle with the sands and on various seismological problems.

The Institute of History, Language and Literature has done interesting work in collecting material on Turkmenian folklore and in publishing and trans-

In the mountainous districts of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic, where transportation is difficult, patients suffering from serious illness or requiring special medical treatment are removed to cities by air ambulance



lating into Russian the works of the classical Turkmenian poets, Mahtum Quli, Zeleli, Mollah Nepes, Kemine and others. The same Institute has done valuable work in its investigations into the Turkmenian language. In conjunction with the Department of Turkmenian Language of the Pedagogical Institute it has compiled text-books in this language. A number of extremely important problems of Turkmenian lexicology and syntax have been worked out for the first time by several talented young Turkmenian men of letters.

The History Sector of the same Institute is studying the historic past of the Turkmenian people. Institute workers have equipped a number of archeological expeditions to study valuable ancient and medieval monuments. Excavations in the vicinity of Ashkhabad (near the aul of Bagir) produced very interesting results. Intensive excavation work has been carried out on the site of the ancient city of Merv, the ruins of which form one of the most interesting monuments to medieval Central Asia. At the close of 1941 valuable finds were made in the vicinity of the Murgab River by an expedition equipped by the Turkmenian Branch of the Academy. The finds date back to the Seljuk period. At present the Institute is preparing a two-volume History of the Turkomans in Turkmenia.

Since the war began the Institutes of Turkmenia and their scientific staffs have completely subordinated their work to the needs of the war. The slogan "Everything for the front, everything for victory!"—the keynote of Soviet life today—is as much an inspiration to the scientists of Turkmenia as it is to factory and office workers and collective farmers. The professors and faculty of the Medical Institute, working in their clinics and hospitals, are busy with

problems connected with new methods of field surgery, treatment of wounds and war medicine in general. They receive active assistance from physicists and chemists. A method of employing a local mineral, "bentonite," in the treatment of wounds has been developed by the scientists of Turkmenia.

The Turkmenian Branch of the Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with various People's Commissariats of the Turkmenian Republic, has successfully solved a number of important economic problems: the organization of production, use of substitutes, increasing the productivity of labor, improvement in quality of output of local industrial enterprises and the development of food and industrial crops essential for the supply of the people and of the Red Army.

In addition to intensive research and pedagogical work the scientists of Turkmenia play an active part in the social life of the Republic. Professors, lecturers and scientific workers of the various Institutes and of the Turkmenian Branch of the Academy of Sciences give public lectures on the most varied subjects in Army units, hospitals, at frontier outposts, in factories and on the railways.

At the beginning of 1943 the scientists of Turkmenia established an Anti-fascist Committee under the chairmanship of Academician B. Keller. Its activities include the publication of pamphlets, a cycle of popular scientific lectures, anti-fascist meetings and the establishment of relations with the democratic scientific world of Turkmenia's neighbor, Iran.

An extended plenary session of the Turkmenian Scientists Anti-fascist Committee was held last spring in Ashkhabad, at which Academician B. Keller, Professor E. Korovin, Professor Rosenthal and others spoke.

SONG OF THE MOUNTAINS

One of the most famous of the North Caucasian singers, Tatam Muradov, has got together a musical ensemble of thirty nationalities. He visited the most remote *auls* (villages), and enlisted gifted performers. Each of the 30 nationalities has its own vocal and choreographic group.

Among the performers is the inimitable comic dancer Ahmeddy Aliyev, who is 75 years of age. His specialty is Daghestan's fiery *lezginka*, in which he introduces comical acrobatic variations. The technique of the five-year-old Husein Hassanov is astonishing. He, too, gives a marvelous performance of the *lezginka*.

The ensemble includes many mountain girls who have become professional singers after strenuous

training. The best of these folk singers have been awarded the high title of Honored Artist of the Republic. The ensemble is a great favorite with the people of Daghestan. It is indispensable at all national festivals.

When the Germans were crawling into the Caucasus one of the front-line groups of this ensemble was visiting a remote *aul* on the borders of Daghestan and Chechnya. During a performance information was received that the Germans had landed a number of saboteurs by parachute. Members of the ensemble went into the mountains together with the guerrillas to round up the enemy. Several Germans were killed and the others were captured.

Material in this Bulletin may be quoted or reproduced

Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 82

Washington, D. C., July 20, 1944

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Red Army Approaches German Frontier

IZVESTIA writes editorially on July 18:

The fighting on the Soviet-German front is becoming ever more formidable and disastrous for the Germans. The offensive of the Red Army continues, amazing the world by its might and swiftness. The time has come when the issue is practically not only the ejection of the Germans from the Soviet land; the great mission of the Red Army is not limited to this—the fascist beast must be finished off in its own lair.

In the Soviet offensive the moment has arrived when the Red Army has closely approached the frontiers of Germany. By crossing the Niemen on a large stretch and by capturing the most important fortress of Grodno, the Red Army has opened for itself the road to Eastern Prussia.

It is quite obvious that the Hitlerites' desperate resistance will grow ever more stubborn. The German army does not surrender a single inch of seized territory uncontested. Only the might of the Red Army could hurl the Hitlerites across all Byelorussia to the gate of Germany in three weeks.

It is well known that Hitler transfers reserves to the Soviet-German front, removing them from other fronts. The Germans launch counter-attacks, hurling fresh tank, artillery and infantry troops into action to replace those routed by the Red Army. However, all efforts and counter-measures of the Hitlerite command fail to check the vigorous onslaught of Soviet troops. The inexorable advance of the Red Army to Brest, Kaunas and the German frontier continues. Nothing will save the Hitlerite army from a complete and final debacle.



In a rest between battles, members of Lithuanian Red Army Units recall the songs of their homeland

57,600 GERMAN PRISONERS PASS THROUGH MOSCOW

On the morning of July 17, endless columns of captured German officers and men moved along the Moscow streets. There were 57,600 of them. However, this was but a part of the enormous number of war prisoners taken in less than one month by the troops of the First, Second and Third Byelorussian Fronts. They passed through Moscow en route to the camps for war prisoners. Many of them only a month ago believed the ravings of Hitlerite propaganda on the "impregnability" of fortified lines, and intended to bide their time behind concrete and steel, under cover of numerous firepits. Among them were also those who had been in "pockets" at Vitebsk, Bobruisk and Minsk and who in impotent fury tossed from one side of the "pocket" to another, encountering everywhere an impassable curtain of fire, and finally—realizing the senselessness of further resistance—grounded arms and threw up their hands in surrender.

Side by side with typical "total" soldiers—60-year-old graybeards and 16-year-old youths—marched tall picked soldiers who thought war meant nothing but the plunder and extermination of peaceful populations.

Hundreds of thousands of Muscovites lined up along the Leningrad highway and Gorky, Sadovaya and other streets through which the columns of war prisoners marched. Among the spectators were many women who looked with hatred and scorn at this miserable and filthy scum.

"Here you are in Moscow!" ironically exclaimed the Muscovites.

These were the officers and soldiers of that same "invincible" German army which three years ago was tearing toward the Soviet Capital. Possibly among the war prisoners who marched here were some who had been appointed to the "sonderkommando" for the extermination of Muscovites—isn't it a fact that in the autumn of 1941 the Hitlerite command displayed particular energy in forming and giving special training to these squads of hangmen?

At the head of the column marched 19 German generals. Under the terms of surrender, uniforms, badges of distinction and decorations have been left to all of them. The generals marched with eyes fixed on the pavement on which they had intended to prance as conquerors! Behind the generals came the officers' column. Among them were senior officers, captains and lieutenants—all wearing their distinguishing marks and many wearing their decorations—old men and beardless youths, commanders of regiments and companies, representatives of the old German officers' caste who had survived three years of war, as well as briefly trained "total officers." From

their stripes it was evident that some were tankists, others infantrymen, still others artillerymen, signalmen, cavalrymen—all defeated German arms were represented in this huge officers' column. Following it in an endless stream came columns of soldiers. Characteristically, the majority had a contented expression, as if thinking: "We have had enough of fighting!" They threw up their hands in time and it is evident they are extremely glad of this.

This becomes especially clear when one hears statements of war prisoners about the desperate, hopeless plight in which they were placed by the vigorous offensive of Soviet troops. Lieutenant Colonel Lipman, who commanded a regiment, was taken prisoner in the Vitebsk area, and Sergeant Major Wonneberger near Bobruisk.

"Before the beginning of the Soviet offensive," stated Colonel Lipman, "my regiment numbered 2,000 men. By the time of the surrender not more than 500 remained. Our situation was hopeless, all liaison with the higher command was lost, all its promises 'to come to our rescue' proved to be a lie. Remnants of the defeated regiment wandered in the forests for seven days without food and rest, and I finally ordered them to cease resistance and surrender."

When the Lieutenant Colonel was told that German propaganda alleged that the German group surrounded in the Vitebsk area broke out of the encirclement and joined the main forces, he grinned and said: "This is absurd! Such a possibility was absolutely excluded. Not a single soldier could escape from the encirclement." This was also repeated verbatim by Sergeant Major Wonneberger about the Bobruisk group.

When the columns of war prisoners filed along the streets, numerous enthusiastic cheers in honor of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief and the generals and officers of the Red Army came from the population, with anti-fascist slogans such as "Death to Hitler," "Death to fascism," etc.

With suppressed hatred and deep scorn, the Muscovites looked at these ragged and filthy "conquerors." They knew that these were murderers of our brothers and sisters, plunderers, incendiary, ravishers. But here, too, the Soviet people demonstrated their organization and discipline—exceptional reserve and outward calm prevailed all along the columns' route; not a single excess took place, not a single attempt was made to give vent to the feeling of wrath and indignation which possessed everyone. The entraining was carried out in an organized manner and trains left for their destinations precisely on schedule.

SOVIET HONORS TO HEROES

The Soviet State highly values and honors heroism, valor, initiative and self-sacrificing labor for the good of the people, of the country and of mankind, and bestows Orders and other distinctions on those people who most merit it.

In 1918 the first Soviet Order, the Order of the Red Banner, was established—for “outstanding bravery and valor on the field of battle.” With the change to peaceful construction, another Order was instituted at the end of 1920, the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, for “outstanding selflessness, initiative, industriousness and discipline in the solution of economic problems.”

Later, as economic, cultural and defense construction developed, other awards were established: the highest award, the Order of Lenin, 1930; the Order of the Red Star, 1930; the Order of the Badge of Honor, 1935; and the Medals for Valor, for Meritorious Service in Action, for Valiant Labor, and for Distinguished Labor in 1938.

During the war of the Soviet people against Hitlerite Germany, special Orders were instituted: the Order of the Patriotic War, and the Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, Alexander Nevsky and Bogdan Khmel'nitsky—named for the great military leaders of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples, and also the Orders of Victory and Glory. Military medals were also struck in honor of the extraordinary staunchness and valor shown in the heroic defense of the cities of Leningrad, Stalingrad, Odessa, Sevastopol, Moscow and the Caucasus.

The highest distinctions in the Soviet Union are the titles of Hero of the Soviet Union and Hero of Socialist Labor. A Hero of the Soviet Union is decorated with the Order of Lenin and the Gold Star Medal, and receives a certificate of honor from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. A Hero of Socialist Labor is awarded the Order of Lenin, the Hammer and Sickle Gold Medal, and a certificate of honor from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

For a second outstanding feat, a Hero of the Soviet Union is awarded a second Gold Star Medal, and to mark his heroic feats a bronze bust of him is set up in his native city.

The title of Hero of Socialist Labor was first bestowed upon the leader of the peoples of the USSR, Stalin. The next to receive this title were V. Degtyarev, S. Ilyushin, A. Yakovlev, and other outstanding inventors and designers of new arms and aircraft.

On September 30, 1943 the title of Hero of So-

cialist Labor was bestowed on V. Molotov, L. Beria, G. Malenkov, A. Mikoyan and other prominent leaders of the Soviet State and the Bolshevik Party, Stalin's comrades-in-arms, who have rendered exceptional service in arming and equipping the Red Army under the difficult conditions of war.

The title of Hero of the Soviet Union was first bestowed in 1934 on the glorious fliers who saved and



Косовина

General Ivan Chernlakhovsky, Commander of the Troops of the Third Byelorussian Front, was raised to the rank of full Army General on June 26, 1944. Two years ago he was a Colonel

transported to the mainland the crew of the Chelyuskin after they had abandoned their sinking ship in the Arctic Basin and pitched camp on an ice floe.

One of the first Heroes of the Soviet Union was the great flier Valeri Chkalov, famous for his flight from Moscow to North America via the North Pole.

The title of Hero of the Soviet Union was given to the glorious conquerors of the Arctic, I. Papanin, E. Krenkel, P. Shirshov and E. Fedorov, who in

1937 landed on the North Pole and for 9 months lived in a tent on a drifting ice floe.

On September 24, 1938, three Soviet heroines—V. Grizodubova, P. Osipenko and M. Raskova—took off for a non-stop flight from Moscow to the Far East, covering a distance of 6,450 kilometers and breaking the record for both continuous and broken flight. They too were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The Patriotic War of the Soviet people against the Hitlerite invaders has brought to the foreground the unexampled heroism of the masses. The feat of Nikolai Gastello, who crashed his burning plane into an enemy column, is well known. He was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. The 28 Guardsmen of the Division of Major General I. Panfilov, who boldly withstood the savage onslaught of 50 fascist tanks and at the cost of their lives stopped the enemy near Moscow, are also on the glorious roll of Heroes of the Soviet Union.

Twice Hero of the Soviet Union A. Molodchy, Soviet ace and daring son of the Ukrainian people, who

has bombed Koenigsberg, Berlin, Budapest and Bucharest, has been striking at the Germans unerringly, destroying their vital military points, their troops, their bases and trains. Another Soviet ace, twice Hero of the Soviet Union Major A. Pokryshkin, has emerged victor in 53 single-handed combats with the enemy.

In December, 1941 the Germans executed the young guerrilla Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya in a village of the Moscow Region. The undying glory of Zoya has spread far and wide over the entire Soviet land. She was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

An outstanding example of loyalty to his country is Guardsman Alexander Matrosov, who, with his body closed an embrasure in a German-fascist fortification to insure the success of the operations of his Red Army unit. Matrosov was also posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The new successes of the Red Army have called forth further scores and hundreds of new Heroes of the Soviet Union.

WOMAN PILOT DISTINGUISHED IN BATTLES FOR BYELORUSSIA

One of the heroes of the Red Army's present offensive is a woman—Lieutenant Colonel Evdokia Bershanskaya, Commander of an Air Regiment which took part in the liberation of the Byelorussian towns of Mogilev, Shklov and Bykhov, receiving the commendation of Marshal Stalin.

Lieutenant Colonel Bershanskaya is only 31, but she wears four decorations, one of which was awarded her before the war. Born of a Cossack family in the Caucasus, she lost her parents in childhood and at the age of nine was placed in a children's home. After being graduated from secondary school she prepared to become a teacher. But at this time she grew interested in aviation and obtained permission to enter the flying school of the Civil Air Fleet. After several years she became a pilot instructor and was later appointed Flight Commander. It was at this time she met and married pilot Peter Bershansky.

When war broke out, Bershanskaya was an air navigator with the rank of major. Leaving their four-year-old son in the care of an uncle, the parents went to the front, Peter Bershansky being sent to the North and his wife to the South.

The fliers commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Bershanskaya have hammered the fascists at Taganrog,

Mineralnye Vody, Mozdok and Krasnodar, distinguishing themselves in the liberation of the Taman Peninsula on the Black Sea, where they made 10,539 sorties and blew up some 800 German military objectives, 83 oil dumps, nine military trains, three railway stations and other objectives.

One hundred and thirty-six fliers of Lieutenant Colonel Bershanskaya's regiment have been decorated for valor.

Rival For Central Asian Cotton Regions

Azerbaijan, famed for its fishing industry, has also a highly developed agriculture. Its fields are cultivated and reaped by thousands of tractors and combines concentrated in 100 stations.

Azerbaijan has developed the second largest cotton-growing area in the Soviet Union, exceeded only by the Central Asian Republics; it holds first place for output of long staple Egyptian cotton. It produces some 200,000 tons of raw cotton annually. During the war, while keeping up cotton production, the Republic has considerably increased its grain area.

It is also noted for its choice fruits, wines and tea. Before the Revolution tea was not grown in Azerbaijan. In 1939 the plantations totaled over 7,500 acres, and have since increased to 25,000 acres.



A shipment of tractors from Novosibirsk, with their drivers, arrives at Vyazma to aid in the restoration of collective farms devastated by the Germans

BYELORUSSIA SWIFTLY REBUILDS

By A. Shavrov

Assistant Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Byelorussian SSR

At the beginning of this year the Red Army had liberated 42 districts of the Gomel, Polessye, Mogilev and Vitebsk Regions. During fresh offensive operations the troops of the Byelorussian Front have already driven the enemy from thousands of additional villages and towns.

The Nazis destroyed Byelorussian cities, industries and cultural institutions, razed entire districts and set back the clock of Soviet agriculture by decades. In the previously liberated districts the German barbarians destroyed more than 100,000 houses and all machine and tractor stations, and removed or devoured two-thirds of the cattle. As for industry, in Gomel, for example, not a single industrial enterprise remained intact.

In the first months after liberation special industrial enterprises were established in all districts to

produce articles of general consumption. All prewar peat enterprises have been restored and this year the yield will be more than 100,000 tons of fuel. Twenty million bricks will leave the brickyards. Restoration of plants and factories is proceeding rapidly. The agricultural machinery and locomotive and car-building works, the Kirov machine tool plant, the cement works, the Dobrush paper mill, the Stalin glass works, a food and processing factory in Gomel and a number of large enterprises in Rechitsa are among those already being rebuilt. One hundred and sixty-eight million rubles were assigned this year for the restoration of industry in the 42 previously liberated districts.

Needless to say, all collective farms renewed their work immediately after liberation. From the State they received considerable aid in the form of seed

and in the restoration of machine and tractor stations, 90 of which are now in operation. This spring the collective farms of Byelorussia fulfilled and exceeded their sowing plans for winter wheat and tilled thousands of hectares above the plan. Livestock breeding was also resumed on a large scale.

During the spring sowing, as well as in the restoration of their entire economy, the Byelorussians received invaluable help from the Red Army. Entire units worked on hundreds of collective farms during lulls in the fighting.

Mention of the work being done in culture, education and public health should also be made. In 42 districts the Germans destroyed more than 1,250 schools. Over 1,500 schools have been restored, accommodating all children of school age.

The invaders did not limit themselves to the complete destruction of public health institutions, but deliberately unleashed epidemics to bring about the physical destruction of the peaceful population. Into camps set aside for sufferers from infectious diseases the Germans crowded healthy people who in turn became infected and, denied all medical aid, were left to die wretchedly.

While sending numerous doctors to the liberated districts, the Government of the Byelorussian SSR adopted measures providing that all buildings left more or less intact were to be set aside for medical use. Hundreds of hospitals, dispensaries and clinics are now functioning and the most important result of their work has been the stamping out of all epidemics left by the Germans.

The construction of dwellings and communal buildings is going ahead rapidly in cities and villages. By autumn it is expected that no one in cities or villages will be compelled to live in dugouts. In Gomel 50,000 square meters of dwelling space have already been restored, and electric lights and water are available. The city now has a large network of trade enterprises; 800 stores and shops and 133 dining rooms have been opened in the liberated area. Volunteer building workers of the Cherkassov movement play an increasing part in the rebuilding of the city.

Restoration could not proceed on such a scale without the aid of the Soviet Government. Trainloads of food, medicines, industrial goods and equipment sent by the State arrived immediately after liberation. A friendly hand was also extended by the working people of the Republics and regions of the Soviet rear, the most substantial aid coming from the Udmurtian Autonomous SSR. Recent reports from Izhevsk state that the working people of Udmurtia recently prepared for shipment 580 head of large cattle and horses, equipment for three small electric power stations, four 25-ton presses, 20 metal-cutting machine tools, 20 electric motors, 300 tons of metal, etc.

The unsubdued and liberty-loving Byelorussians, steeled in the fires of guerrilla warfare, will work as never before to heal the wounds inflicted by the German invaders. Soviet Byelorussia will rise from its ashes and ruins, and life will again resume its happy course.

LIBRARY OF BALL-BEARING PLANT WINS PRIZE

The Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions has been awarding prizes to the best trade union libraries in the Soviet Union. Ball-bearing plant No. 1 won the first prize of 10,000 rubles.

Nina Zolotareva, the head librarian, does not wait for the workers to come to the library; the library takes books to the workers. Over 50 assistants read aloud to groups during the lunch hour at the factory. The workers become interested in the books, and soon are coming regularly to the library for supplies.

The ball-bearing plant has 26,280 books and 132 helpers who collect and deliver volumes and advise on books in the readers' homes or at the factory. Nina Zolotareva has the collaboration of engineers who advise readers on technical study.

The library regularly holds exhibitions of the

latest fiction and technical literature, which is displayed in the corridor of the main factory building. Not long ago there was an exhibition of literature on trade union questions. Displays of appropriate literature are always arranged when there are conferences on technological matters. When the tool-makers meet, the library collects and exhibits the latest publications on subjects of special interest to them. It did the same for a conference of electricians.

It also arranges lectures and talks on social and political subjects. Not long ago Professor Eugene Tarle, the famous Soviet historian, spoke on the defeats of the German army and their historical significance. This lecture was arranged by the cultural commission of the factory committee, with the participation of the library.

STALINGRAD'S REPLY

By Evgeny Krieger

Just before the third anniversary of the Patriotic War I spent several days in the city which has come to symbolize all the greatness and horror of this conflict. I had been in Stalingrad in 1942 during its defense. The memory of those days is seared into my brain and still smolders in my consciousness. I stood on a precipice overlooking the Volga and gazed toward the city. It was completely obscured by the conflagration that had raged for months. Nothing was to be seen of the ruins converted into a fortress, or the stones reddened with the blood of fallen men—only the smoke from explosions thundering ceaselessly.

On this second visit I viewed Stalingrad from streets and squares that had been in the hands of the Germans, and from the highest elevations and tallest buildings of the city. From the latter I could see the entire district where street fighting had raged for many months. It was impossible not to feel that Russia's defense on the sandy banks of the Volga had been a miracle unknown in the history of war.

Now, as before, one cannot see the city in the full sense of the word, for there is no city. There are only charred heaps of ruins—48,200 buildings were razed to the ground; the waterworks, sewerage system, electric transmission lines, the trolley cars which carried 77,000,000 fares a year—everything was demolished by bombs and shells. A foreigner visiting Stalingrad said to Pigalev, Chairman of the Stalingrad Soviet, "You are monarch of a kingdom of ruins!"

But Stalingrad lives, for its people have returned and brought life with them. They have rebuilt plants that are now smelting metal and producing machines for the front.

I visited the Stalingrad tractor plant, one of the largest industrial enterprises of the USSR. Its workers and engineers were the first to face the assault of the German divisions on July 23, 1942. They manned the tanks standing on conveyors and on the floor, and drove them headlong into battle, holding the Germans back until reinforcements came. On the stone pedestals flanking the factory gates two tank turrets have been mounted, their guns pointing to the northwest, where the enemy onslaught was repulsed for the first time. When the first tractor leaves the conveyor in the rehabilitated factory, these guns will fire a salute. This salvo will be Stalingrad's reply!

A miracle, equaled only by the epic defense of Stalingrad, has happened here. On the day the Germans were driven out, the plant and its dozens of

huge departments were a twisted jungle of metal girders. Among the ruins of the collapsed buildings were buried thousands of expensive machines and an enormous amount of equipment. Not one wall was left standing. The factory was a veritable graveyard of industry, covered with snow.

Then came the workers, many of whom had been fighting for months in defense of the city. There was no place for them to live, so they moved into dugouts and bunkers in which soldiers had fought and died only a short while before. They were without lights or electric power. But they set to work. They cleared 4,500 German dead from the factory grounds; they removed 25,000 wagonloads of metal scrap.

Breaking through thick layers of ice and shattered walls and roof, the workers finally reached the lathes and equipment, to find them crushed, broken and rusty, mere skeletons of machines. Many were fit only to be smelted down. People wept when they saw the dead metal, once the fruit of the creative efforts of many men. But they remembered the war. They did not smelt down the ruined equipment. With the help of cranes and winches, they drew the heavy machines from their icy graves, took them apart, cleaned and reassembled them. It was a triumph of patience and perseverance. Soon these machines were working to repair the first tractors for the Army and the plundered farm districts.

Cities throughout the country, and the entire Soviet people, came to the aid of Stalingrad. To relieve the shortage of workers, village youth poured in from all parts of the Soviet land. The winter passed in unprecedented labor. Light and power were restored and the first dwellings for workers completed.

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Now in June, 1944, among the bomb-riddled walls, I saw the great plant, risen anew. Giant machines, presses and drop-hammers, as well as hundreds of the most complex lathes, were already operating in dozens of departments. Conveyors traversed the maze of iron, ready to carry the first tractors built among the ruins. I spent 12 hours in a tour of the plant, yet I did not see all its departments and sections. The rebuilt giant will be as extensive as before. A great deal remains to be done, but what has been accomplished is little short of a miracle. The people have breathed life into the dead plant, and on the soil steeped in blood it is now making its contribution to the struggle for world peace.

This is the reply of valiant Stalingrad! The city the Germans tried to kill has risen again. It lives—and works for victory!

The Right Hand Knew . . .

By Ovady Savich

Before the German invasion the little town of Olevsk in the Zhitomir Region had a small printshop. When the Nazis occupied the town they took over the shop and ordered the workers to get out a newspaper in the Ukrainian language. It was called the *Olevski Visti*—a single sheet with a small circulation, the villages of the Region receiving only one copy each. The newsprint was brought from Germany and issued to the printers under the strict supervision of the German editor.

The Gebietskommissar of Zhitomir reported to Hitler that the town was a "Bolshevik island." As a geographical concept the term was hardly correct—nevertheless Germans in the Zhitomir Region did feel they were on an island, and an extremely narrow one at that. In the forests guerrillas were active; the occupationists could not consider themselves masters of the roads—for masters do not travel under escort and are not frightened by every bush.

But aside from this the Germans had another cause for alarm. The *Olevski Visti* was used by the people only for wrapping paper or for lighting fires, but the communiqués of the Soviet Information Bureau were widely distributed and some of the guerrilla detachments had their own newspapers. The Region was flooded with guerrilla literature. It did not drop from the skies nor even from airplanes, and it was not smuggled across the front line.

What the Germans did not suspect was that all the workers of the Olevsk printshop were members of a secret patriotic organization led by Ivan Torgonsky, a young compositor. It might be said that with the right hand the Olevsk printers turned out literature for the guerrillas and with the left for the Germans. But in this case the right hand knew what the left was doing.

The printers often begged Torgonsky for permission to join the guerrillas, not because they feared discovery, but because they felt they were not doing enough. But Torgonsky insisted upon the importance of their work.

The Germans had fortified the town strongly, first against the guerrillas, and later against the impending Red Army offensive. And all the time the underground literature was being distributed from inside their own stronghold. The guerrillas even made a topographical survey of the German fortifications in Olevsk, and Torgonsky's workers printed detailed maps of them.

It happened that in November, 1943 one of the

largest Ukrainian guerrilla detachments was badly in need of ammunition, equipment and food, of which there were abundant stores in Olevsk. Torgonsky told his printers, "Your wishes will soon be granted—we'll all leave to join the guerrillas."

On November 15 the detachment launched an attack against Olevsk. At the same moment several ammunition dumps were blown up, a fire broke out in the barracks, soldiers rushing to man the fortifications were fired upon from the rear and grenades landed in the German staff headquarters. In the ensuing panic the detachment invaded the town practically without casualties, skirting the fortifications which the Germans had considered impregnable.

The enemy garrison was annihilated. The guerrillas, knowing they could not hold the town, left with a column of supplies, at the tail of which plodded several score of German prisoners and a herd of cattle which had been marked for consignment to Germany. With the Soviet patriots went some 100 members of the secret organization, including all the printshop workers.

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Later the Germans returned to Olevsk and to the printshop. But they did not find the machinery; the workers had hidden it. Instead they were greeted by a collection of specimens of all the literature printed during the two years of German occupation—including the last leaflet to the population, dated November 15, the day Olevsk was seized by the guerrillas. It read: "Comrades, we'll return. We'll return with the Red Army—and it won't be very long either."

One thing the enemy did not find—the map of their fortifications. The guerrillas guessed the Germans would not change the town's system of defense, and there was no point in letting them know of the map. The Red Army found it very useful when they attacked and liberated Olevsk.

Government Council For Religious Affairs

The Council of People's Commissars of the USSR has set up a Council for Religious Affairs to maintain contact between the Government and the Armenian, Georgian, Old-Believer, Greek, Catholic and Lutheran Churches, the Moslem, Jewish and Buddhist religious communities and the sectarian organizations on questions relating to these religious bodies on which the decision of the Government is required. I. Polyansky has been appointed Chairman of the Council.

Material in this Bulletin may be quoted or reproduced

Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 83

Washington, D. C., July 22, 1944

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Liberation of Soviet Latvia Nears

By Vilis Lacis

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Latvian SSR

In these days when the gallant Red Army has reached the frontiers of Latvia and the thunder of its guns proclaims to the Latvian people their early liberation from German tyranny, one recalls the happy days of July and August, 1940, when the mighty Soviet Union accepted the Latvian nation into its family.

At that time our people experienced a new accession of strength, knowing the great Soviet power had now taken the sovereign rights of the Latvian Soviet Republic under its protection.

Boundless prospects of economic and cultural development opened up for the young Republic. The specter of unemployment which had always haunted

our workers and intellectuals vanished. Idle and deserted factories hummed with activity; new industrial construction was begun; endless streams of raw materials and machinery began pouring in from the sister Republics. Latvia confidently took the path of industrial development. The utilization of its natural resources opened up bright prospects for the development of productive forces.

The agrarian problem was solved in favor of the actual tillers of the soil. To aid the peasants, 50 machine and tractor stations and 500 machinery and horse-renting stations were established. New horizons opened for the science, art and literature of the young Soviet Republic.



View of Riga, capital of the Latvian SSR, from the Western Dvina—before the German invasion

These vigorous constructive activities of the Latvian people were interrupted by Hitler Germany's treacherous attack upon the USSR. This was not the first time the Latvian people suffered from German aggression. From the 12th Century down to our times the Germans have never ceased the attempt—by fire and sword, by fraud and bribery—to impose their rule upon the Baltic countries and to Germanize the Latvian people.

They sometimes succeeded in seizing the lands of the Latvian tribes, but they never subjugated them. The Latvians have never bowed to the alien invader, and time after time, in alliance with their great Russian neighbor, they inflicted drastic defeats upon the aggressors.

The Teutonic robber-barons of the 20th Century far surpass their medieval ancestors in murder, rapine, violence and brutality. They have stripped Latvia bare, confiscating everything down to door handles, kitchen utensils and old clothes. They have destroyed its cultural centers and shrines and trampled upon its national dignity. Hundreds of thousands of Latvian citizens have been slaughtered or carried off to slavery in Germany. The Kharkov trial brought to light that in Riga the Germans used murder vans to exterminate the Latvian people.

The Germans expected to terrorize the Latvians with executions and atrocities and to crush their will to resist. They failed. From the first day of the piratical attack of Hitler's hordes, the Latvian people rose to the defense of their socialist motherland, shoulder to shoulder with all the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Latvian workers and peasants formed destroyer battalions and Workers' Guards. They abandoned their homes and possessions—everything that might hamper them in the fight. But they did not give up their rifles, disputing every foot of their native soil and drenching it with the blood of the enemy. We are proud that the finest sons of Latvia helped to defeat the Germans at Moscow, Demyansk and Staraya Russa and are now fighting in the ranks of the Red Army for the liberation of their native land. The Latvian regiments are returning to liberate Latvia, carrying the standard of the Guards—symbol of fortitude, courage and heroism.

The Latvian people are smiting the enemy from front and rear. It is still too early to name the heroes of the guerrilla rear, but soon all will know them. Fighting under the grimmest conditions in the swamps and forests of Latvia, they incessantly wage stern guerrilla warfare. The hundreds of enemy military trains dynamited and derailed, the thousands of German invaders killed, the scores of blown-up bridges and industrial plants producing for the Germans, figure in the fighting record of the Latvian guerrillas.

They do not avoid battle even against overwhelming odds. We know of one case when a punitive expedition of 400 Germans, armed with artillery, fell upon a group of 17 guerrillas, but was forced to retire with losses.

In Riga, the very center of Latvia, where large German forces are stationed and which is crowded with police and storm troopers, incidents occur which strike terror to the hearts of the invaders. The guerrillas have raided armament depots and removed rifles in trucks.

Sensing that his piratical rule in the Baltic States is coming to an end, the enemy has hurriedly begun to obliterate traces of his misdeeds. German soldiers in chains, evidently deserters from the army, have been put to work exhuming the bodies of slain Latvian citizens and burning them. But the Latvian people are keeping a strict account of the villainies of the German invaders. They will be tried by a stern court of the people and will not escape punishment.

The Hitlerites are fully aware that the "walls" and "lines" they so hastily erected in Latvia cannot halt the Red Army's advance. On the orders of the ringleader of the robbers—Hitler—the Germans are hastily shipping industrial machinery, machine tools, pedigreed cattle and entire railway shops to Germany. A meat tax for 1945 is being extorted from the peasants in advance. The Latvians are keeping an account of all this and they know the Red Army will compel the piratical Hitler gang to return the ill-gotten loot.

The Germans, lacking soldiers to replenish their losses at the front, are seizing young Latvians and sending them to the battle zone in closed cars under escort. But many of the forcibly mobilized Latvians escape on the way, joining the guerrillas in the forests, and the trains frequently arrive empty.

Tens of thousands of Latvian citizens evacuated to the sister Republics in the East are working tirelessly in the factories and on State and collective farms to help smash the German war machine. One of these famous toilers of the rear is J. Smagar, a blacksmith and member of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, who turns out ten to 12 times his daily quota in a munitions factory. There are hundreds like him; their work testifies to the ardent patriotism of the Latvians and their devotion to their Soviet motherland.

Not for a moment did the Latvian people lose faith in the ultimate victory of our just cause; we knew that the rule of the invaders in Latvia was transient. And now the sun of liberation is rising over our much-suffering country.

However great the damage and destruction done by the invaders to our Republic, it will flourish again under the sun of the Stalin Constitution.

THE POWER OF THE WORD

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Possibly you think this is no time for words: metal is settling the world's dispute. And yet, in the midst of the shattering din of the battlefield, the weak human voice sounds strangely forceful.

I do not want to speak now of books we have known from childhood. The years have proved their immortality. All the incendiaries in the world are powerless before them. I wish to speak about the frail newspaper page whose life-span is one day, about the power of the fleeting word which is like a breath, a light cloud on a frosty day.

In the years of peace the newspaper is part of life. It is read at leisure in the evening. It enlightens and entertains. But in wartime the newspaper is the private letter, the urgent personal communication on which the fate of everyone hangs.

The front can envisage the rear, but the rear cannot envisage the front: the rear does not see war. That is why our people in their millions anxiously scan the newspaper for the article which begins "From War Correspondent—." They want a comment on the laconic communique.

And the soldier, too, wants to look at himself, to understand the character of this war, the reason for success or failure, the nature of the enemy.

The Eyes of the People

The war correspondents are the eyes of our country. They are modest men, captains, majors or lieutenant colonels who share all the hardships of field life with the Army. During an engagement the war correspondent is at the command post. When the fighting is over, and everyone else is resting, he writes an article by the dim light of an improvised oil lamp. He struggles at night through impassable mud to get his dispatch through. It's hard work, like pushing a truck by hand through a railway junction in the pitch dark.

Sometimes his dispatch is out of date before it reaches his paper, his description of the storming of "X" has already lost its topicality, for "Y" is in our hands. What ungrateful work and what unostentatious valor!

I know that often the war correspondent lacks sufficient perspective: he is in the thick of the battle. Like the soldier, he sees only a certain sector and certain people.

By 1944 the reader has had enough of episodes. He craves for generalizations and emotional conclusions. But let us recall the first year of the war. Then, words were needed more than anything else, and words justified themselves.

Eugene Petrov helped the country to see the bat-

tle for Moscow. He understood the significance of the capture of Medyn and Yukhnov, and succeeded in expressing it. He died on the return journey from Sevastopol. This purest of men, this amusing writer and brave soldier, remains associated with the epic of that city. Boris Gorbatov, in his romantically agitated yet sincere prose, also helped to describe that time.

We newspapermen saw the tragedy of the South and the men who stood unto death. The North, symbol of unyielding and irreconcilable struggle, came alive in the dispatches of Konstantin Simonov.

Krieger's stories of the defense of Moscow fascinated Soviet newspaper readers. Vasili Grossmann stayed in Stalingrad throughout the defense of that city, and succeeded in depicting modest, simple people—yesterday's teachers, factory workers, engineers, agronomists and peasants—who became heroes and wrought deeds as prodigious as those celebrated in ancient myths.

Olender, the *Krasnaya Zvezda* correspondent, was passionately fond of poetry. I remember an evening in a village by the Dnieper, when he recited page after page to me. He was also a man of great military knowledge. He discerned creative talent in the conduct of war. He was always on the lookout for daring decisions. He hated routine tactics as much as he hated routine poetry. He was fanatically industrious. His articles, under the pen name of "Colonel Donskoy," helped many young commanders to understand the offensive. Olender marched with the Army from Stalingrad to the Western Ukraine, and fell like a soldier, killed by a German bullet.

Editor at Sevastopol

Levish was a most peaceable newspaperman. He edited articles written by others. One night in the autumn of 1941 a dispatch from Yelna was brought to his desk. In this dispatch Levish read his own name; the correspondent reported how the Germans had killed his father.

He could no longer edit articles. He demanded to be sent to the front, and found himself in besieged Sevastopol. He wrote well, but at the front he envied his soldier comrades, who could shoot at the enemy, "not once a month, but every day," as he wrote to a friend 10 days before his death.

He took to going out on reconnaissance. He fought on the Cape with the last heroes of Sevastopol. He died with a rifle in his hand.

The writer Gaidar was a giant with the soul of a child. He joined the guerrillas, died in their ranks, and was buried on the bank of the Dnieper.

War correspondent Krymov too died in battle, having fought to the last. A Ukrainian peasant preserved the final letter he wrote his wife. It dates from the autumn of 1941, and is full of faith in victory. Besides words, there is the blood of the writer-soldier on this piece of paper.

Kalashnikov, a newspaper photographer, has been reported killed near Sevastopol. He was modest and brave, always pushing ahead, not out of self-conceit, but because he wanted people to see, as vividly as he could show them, the heroism of the offensive.

Front Line's Own Press

It is a long way from Moscow to the steppes of Moldavia, to the swamps of Polesye. When the Moscow newspapers reach the firing line they are looked on as magazines. The front already knows the news. It has a press of its own.

A major writes the editorial under artillery fire. At night by the light of an oil lamp a captain writes a dispatch about the engagement just concluded. Communiques and telegrams are received over the radio. In the morning the newspaper *For the Motherland*, or *For the Defeat of the Enemy*, or *Son of the Motherland* will be read by all the men.

They will learn what has taken place on the huge front all the way from the Barents Sea to Rumania. They will also learn that the men under Major of the Guards So-and-So captured an unnamed height, and that Sergeant So-and-So killed nine Germans. They will learn of the aerial bombardment of Germany, of the restoration of the Donbas and the struggle of Tito's soldiers. They will read verse written by a well-known poet, or possibly by the girl radio-operator.

I brought an American journalist, Stowe, to the office of a certain Army newspaper. He had seen five years of war and traveled all over the world. He stood entranced in front of the girl typesetter. He had watched the production of newspapers with a circulation of millions, but he said to me: "This is the most astounding newspaper in the world."

I have watched pages made up and corrected under fire, with Focke-Wulfs circling overhead. And as for the contributors, they write standing up or lying down. They write as they fight. There has never been a press like it anywhere in the world.

And if our journalists are proud of the Red Army, our soldiers are entitled to be proud of the front-line journalists. The front has newspapers no smaller than *Pravda*, and it has tiny sheets a few inches square. On the besieged Leningrad Front, the newspaper came out on fine paper with photographs, with drawings and splendid literary material. And

when a division advances from the Dnieper to the Carpathians, its newspaper keeps up with it.

Journalists of countrywide repute write for the front-line press. Dolmatovsky has been working on one such newspaper for nearly three years. And I must not forget Horzenko, Hero of the Soviet Union, a journalist who knows how to write, and also how to handle a tommy gun.

But we have other writers besides the famous ones, the renowned names. I have on my desk a small divisional newspaper called *For Victory*. On the front page is an item headed "Cook's Routine of the Day," and underneath: "Cook Suss got away from his cooking for a short time. He killed four Germans in one day, and then returned to his work."

The reader may think that is an intolerable piece of naivete—what sort of "cook's routine of the day" is this? But in war the climate is different. In war the writer picks up a tommy gun and the cook forgets the porridge. War is life, but it is difficult to press war into the mold of life—it exceeds all limits.

Fascists are killed by metal, it is true. But it is not an abstract wind of history that fans anger in the heart of the soldier who wields the metal. It is weak human breath.

When he writes of purity and valor, the journalist, even the most helpless one, becomes a prophet who burns hearts. In these days of super-powerful tanks and many-ton bombs I still believe in you, the pen, the piece of wood with the metal point, and in you, the human word.

Uzbekistan's Garden Museum

Five miles from Tashkent the Uzbek Scientific Research Institute of Forestry is laying out a park. On an area of about 100 acres a protected zone has been planted with lanes of oaks and sycamores, poplars, walnut trees, chestnuts, limes, fruit trees and roses. There is a nursery containing 140 different types of trees and bushes. A meteorological station has been established to study the winds prevailing in the park.

The coming years will see growing in this park bushes from the Central Asian Republics, the Caucasus, Afghanistan, Persia, Italy, America and other places with climatic conditions similar to those prevailing in Uzbekistan. It is hoped to grow about 1,500 different kinds of bushes. The park will not only be a living museum of flora but the largest nursery in the Republic, from which State farms, collective farms and towns will be able to obtain specimens of new types of plants.

ESTONIA'S CULTURAL WEALTH LOOTED BY GERMANS

By Nicol Andresen

The author is a prominent Estonian statesman, Vice Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic and People's Commissar of Education.

As the downfall of the temporary German rule in Estonia grows more imminent, the Hitlerites are intensifying their campaign of terror against the Estonian people and its intellectuals, and are ruthlessly destroying the national wealth of our Republic—primarily her cultural treasures.

I have reliable information showing that the Hitlerites are doing everything possible to rob Estonia of her cultural wealth and to make short shrift of all progressive Estonians who attempt to protest against these ruthless measures. This information was given me by several Estonians who crossed the front and are now in the liberated regions of our Republic, and also by guerrillas operating in that part of the country still under the heel of the invaders.

Everything of any material value is being shipped to Germany. This applies not only to foodstuffs requisitioned from Estonian farmers or to valuable factory, plant and scientific equipment, but also to such masterpieces of art as the famous Mermaid Statue, work of the distinguished Estonian sculptor Amandus Adamson, in the Tallinn city park.

The splendid library of the Historical Museum of Tallinn, which contained over 100,000 volumes dealing mainly with the history of the Baltic States, was partially destroyed by the Germans during the first period of the occupation of Estonia. Recently everything in this library that survived the flames of fascist bonfires was shipped to Germany. The same fate befell the world-famous library of the old Estonian State University in Tartu; all the rarest books were shipped to Germany on the pretext of evacuation. Its 2,000,000 volumes included some rare manuscripts relating to various epochs.

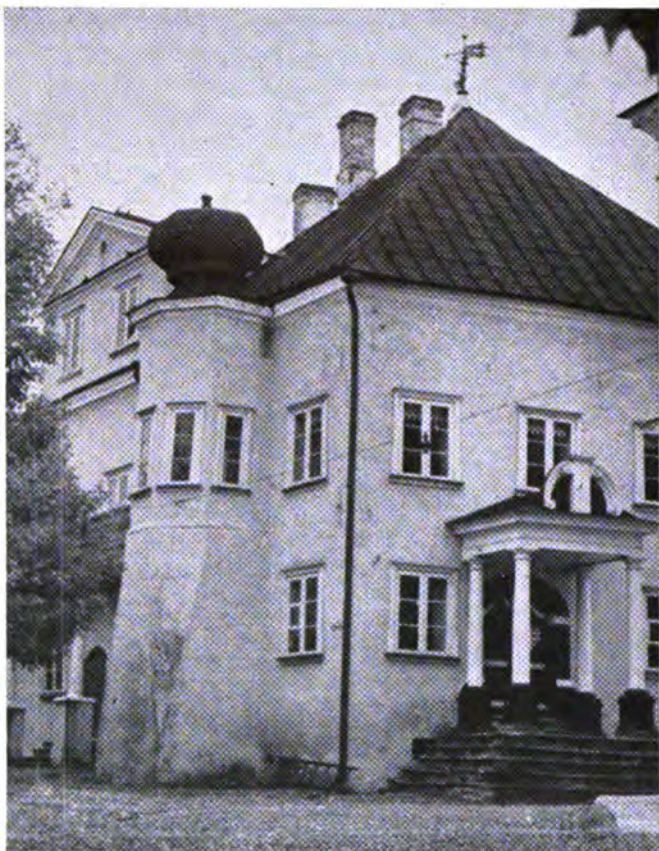
Forty-five thousand exhibits of the ethnographic collection in the Estonian National Museum, as well



Palace of the former President of Estonia, in Oru, which had been converted into a workers' sanatorium before the war

as the main collections of Estonian folklore and of the history of culture in the Literature Museum, have been looted. The folklore collections comprised 135,000 folk songs, 5,000 dances and games, 107,000 proverbs and sayings, 73,000 riddles and 56,000 tales. We considered Estonian folklore to be completely recorded, although it had been only partially published. This was one of the richest treasures of folk art in the world.

The Germans not only removed all this wealth but forbade the circulation of the national folklore of



House of Peter I in Narva, Estonian SSR

Estonia. The sole purpose of this was to eradicate all traces of the historical hatred of the Estonian people toward the Germans, a hatred expressed in martial songs, stories and legends, and dating back to those distant times when the forefathers of the modern fascists first encroached upon the lands and wealth of freedom-loving Estonia.

Despicable falsifiers of history, the Germans are trying to wipe out all recollection of the dark era of German domination in Estonia. On my desk lies the school program of Nazi-occupied Estonia approved by German pastor Pallon from Koenigsberg. Each section of the program devoted to the history of Estonia endeavors to instil in the minds of school-

children the idea that past attempts of the Germans to conquer Estonia were merely efforts to "unite Estonia with Germany and the Roman Empire."

Under threat of three years' imprisonment, the German occupationists ordered the population of Estonia to surrender all literature which "does not correspond to the spirit of the new order in Europe." And since by virtue of historical truth the works of both classic and modern writers of Estonia are filled with passionate appeals to fight German aggression, the fascists have banned and destroyed almost all Estonian literature.

It goes without saying that the barbarous destruction and looting of the cultural treasures of our Republic have aroused a storm of protest among the Estonian people.

Hostility to the occupationists is spreading among all strata of the population. In his recent public speeches Hjalmar Mae, leader of the German occupation authorities, has been complaining of sabotage, spreading of panicky rumors and activation of resistance among the masses. A good illustration of Mae's complaints is what happened at a recent meeting held in Tallinn. Out of thousands of Estonians present only 10 raised their hands to salute the German General Litzmann and his flunkey Mae when they entered the hall.

In the three years of war the hatred of the Estonian people for the Germans has become far stronger than that which they have carried in their hearts for seven centuries. Those who were able to do so joined the guerrilla movement, now spread throughout Estonia. But those who raised their voice in the defense of Estonian culture and were unable to escape the Gestapo have either perished or been jailed.

Shortly after the Stockholm newspaper *Morgentidningen* reported the arrest by the occupationists of a group of professors of Tartu University, the Germans rounded up another 120 Estonians from prominent fields of art and science. Arrests are continuing to this day.

I do not speak of those who openly expressed their sympathy with the Soviet Union and whom in consequence the Germans consider "Bolsheviks." But Professor Artur Toeleid Kliimann was never a communist. Why did the Germans execute him? Evidently his crime was similar to that of Professor Peter Tavel, who was thrown into prison for refusing to recognize the German falsification of Estonian history.

Thousands of the best sons of Estonia have perished and are perishing at the hand of the fascist occupationist. Their blood cries aloud for vengeance. The hour of retribution is at hand, and the avenging sword of the peoples will descend upon the heads of the Germans.



A volley-ball match between the Spartak and Medik Sports Societies at the Stalinets Stadium in Moscow

USSR Again Observes Physical Culture Day

Physical Culture Day — July 16 — was observed throughout the Soviet Union for the first time since the outbreak of war. Thousands of sportsmen celebrated the traditional event with parades and athletic events.

In Moscow the Sports Festival drew 60,000 spectators to the Dynamo Stadium, where as in prewar years young men and women athletes of the Soviet Capital marched past reviewing stands. First came the standard-bearers, then schoolchildren and students of the Moscow vocational schools, followed by columns of gymnasts of the Trade Union Athletic Societies, soccer players of leading city teams, tennis stars, oarsmen, wrestlers, weight-lifters, boxers, track and field performers, etc.

The mass gymnastic drills staged by the vocational schools, the trade union sports organizations, the Dynamo Club and the Moscow Institute of Physical Culture were highlights of the program. When 500 bronzed athletes headed by Nikolai Sery, gymnastic champion of the USSR, formed a perfect square on the field and proposed a cheer to Marshal Stalin, the stands rocked with applause.

The day ended with a soccer game between the Tbilisi Dynamo and the Moscow Torpedo teams, the former making its first appearance in the Soviet Capital since the beginning of the war. The Torpedo, leading in the present city title tournament, scored first when center forward A. Ponomaryov booted the last shot past the visitors' goalkeeper in the middle of the first half. Then the Dynamo players took the initiative to win the game two to one.

In Leningrad, men of the Leningrad Front and the Baltic Fleet participated with local athletes in the Sports Festival in the Northern metropolis. Here also a big parade preceded the sports meet, which featured tennis, wrestling and boxing matches, and soccer, basketball and volley ball games. A friendly soccer match between the Leningrad Dynamo Club and the Central Red Army Club ended in a three to two victory for the Army players.

Parades and sports meets were also held in Kiev, Kharkov, Stalingrad, Orel, Sverdlovsk, Omsk, Kazan, Alma-Ata, Stalinabad, Tashkent, Vladivostok and many other cities.

Notes from Front and Rear

Twenty-five thousand Leningrad children are spending the summer in camps on the shores of Lake Ladoga and the Gulf of Finland, and in other healthful and beautiful spots. Older children will assist in agricultural work, attending special lectures on soil cultivation, cattle-breeding and poultry-farming. Several thousand are working in victory gardens. The children's camps are equipped with libraries, games and playgrounds. Doctors and teachers supervise the health of the youngsters, and those who have not fully recovered from their experiences during the blockade will be cared for in special sanatoriums. All the camps are regularly visited by Heroes of the Patriotic War, actors, scientists and outstanding workers.

★

Twenty-five nationalities of the USSR are represented in one regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Borichevsky, a Byelorussian. Among those of its members who have received numerous orders and decorations are a Mordvinian, a Chuvash, a Georgian, a Mari, a Ukrainian, a Kazakh and an Uzbek.

★

Sixty-four soccer teams representing 17 sports societies are competing in 33 Soviet cities in the elimination tournament for the Soccer Cup of the All-Union Central Committee of the Trade Unions. The tournament is the first to be held since the outbreak of war. Games are being played in the cities liberated from the German invaders, including Stalingrad, Kiev, Taganrog, Stalino and Kharkov. The finals will take place August 4 in Moscow.

★

A new kind of summer wheat is being cultivated at the Novosibirsk Grain Research Institute. An enormous stretch of western Siberia, where the climate and soil are suitable, has been divided into a number of zones, and a special type of grain is grown in each. This method is expected to insure large and stable harvests.

★

Sniper Mishutochkin got hold of the horn of a German motor and picked off a number of enemy officers and soldiers by the simple device of crawling to within 50 meters of their positions and sounding the horn. The Germans, evidently thinking a commander had come to visit the unit, poked their heads out, and Mishutochkin's score of dead Hitlerites went up.

During the war, organizations under the People's Commissariat for Building have provided over 60 million square feet of floor space for the most important branches of the defense industry, according to a statement by Sokolov, Deputy People's Commissar for Building. Soviet builders have achieved high speed-up methods, completing many projects in one-half or even one-third of the time required before the war.

★

In the three years of the Soviet-German war, some 800 Soviet writers have been with the Red Army, sharing all the hardships of campaigning. Some are war correspondents of central newspapers, others editors of Army papers. A correspondent is not bound to take any direct part in attacks or in repulsing the enemy, but on many occasions writers have voluntarily become soldiers. The poet Sergei Vasiliev, author of the poem "Moscow is Behind Us," and Vadim Kozhevnikov, who wrote the popular novel and scenario *March-April*, flew as navigator-gunners on bombing missions over Germany. The Azerbaijan writer Abul Gassan led a company into attack at the approaches to Sevastopol. Fimbers, a Latvian writer, commanded a guerrilla unit.

★

At the beginning of the Soviet offensive on the Karelian Isthmus, more than 25,000 Leningrad citizens reported to the Institute of Blood Transfusion to give blood for the Red Army.

★

Academician Peter L. Kapitza was recently awarded the Order of Lenin by a decree of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The presentation was made on the 50th birthday of the noted Soviet scientist, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of physics.

★

During the offensive in Byelorussia, Soviet civilians delivered 160 German officers to the Red Army.

★

Patriarchal Incumbent Alexei has presented his summer residence with all its furnishings for the use of orphaned children of Red Army men. The large two-story house stands in a fine park in a picturesque Leningrad suburb.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 84

Washington, D. C., July 25, 1944

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EDICT OF SUPREME SOVIET OF USSR ON THE INCREASE OF STATE AID FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has issued an edict on the increasing of State aid to expectant mothers, mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, the protection of motherhood and childhood, and institution of the honorary title of Mother Heroine, the Order of Glory of Motherhood and the Motherhood Medal.

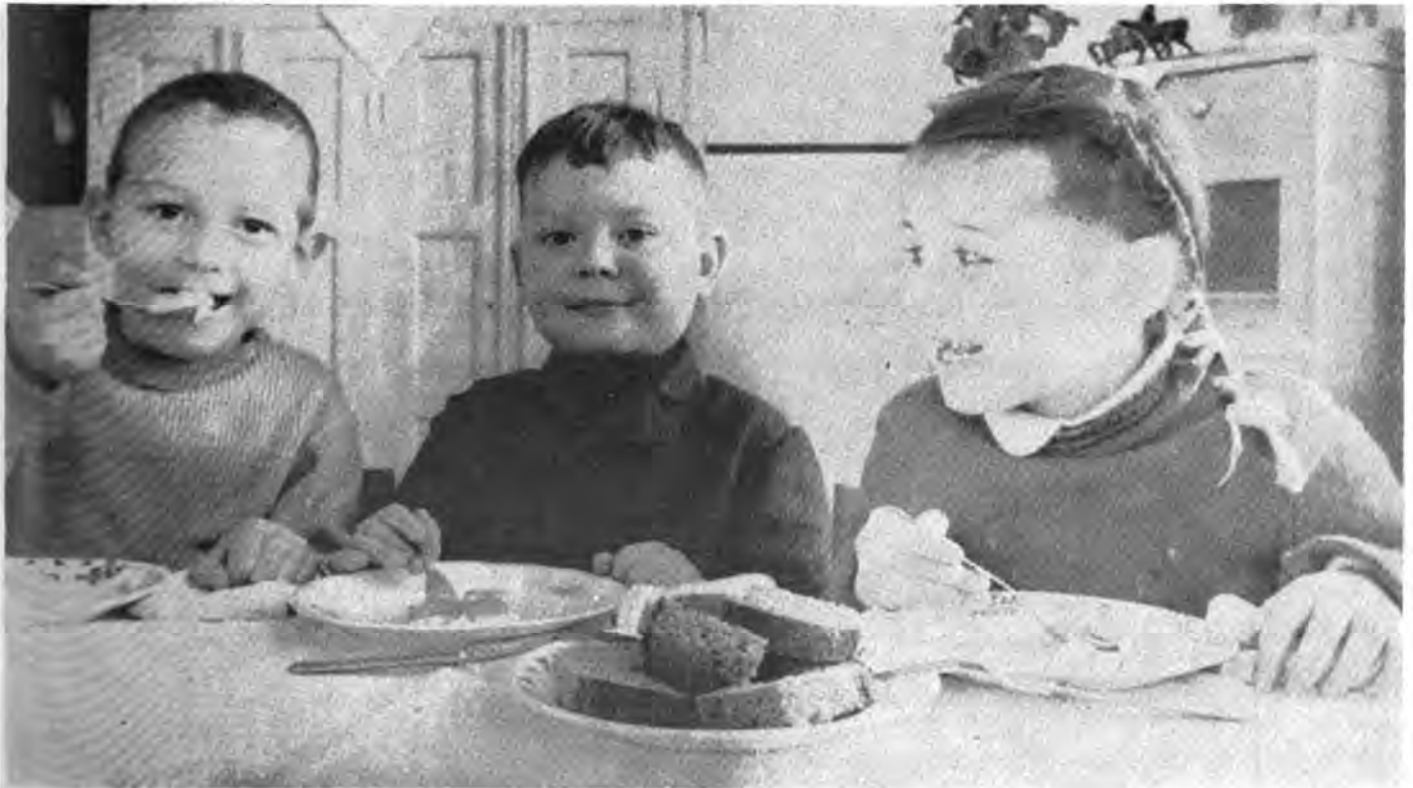
The welfare of children and mothers and the consolidation of the family has always been one of the major tasks of the Soviet State. Protecting the interests of mother and child, the State extends substantial material aid to expectant mothers and mothers for the maintenance and upbringing of children.

During the war and after the war, when considerable material difficulties exist for many families, State aid must necessarily be extended.

In order to increase material aid to expectant mothers, mothers of large families and unmarried mothers and to encourage large families and increase the protection of mother and child, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics resolves:

Firstly, on increasing State aid to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers.

1. To establish that State allowances are to be



Children evacuated to the Urals from Leningrad during the blockade

granted to mothers of large families (whether the husband is living or not) on the birth of the third child and of each subsequent child, instead of the existing procedure of granting State allowances to mothers of six children on the birth of the seventh and of each subsequent child.

2. Payment of State allowances to mothers of large families is to be effected as follows: On the birth of the third child to a mother with two children, a single grant of 400 rubles. On the birth of a fourth child to a mother with three children, a single grant of 1,300 rubles and a monthly allowance of 80 rubles. On the birth of a fifth child to a mother with four children, a single grant of 1,700 rubles and a monthly allowance of 120 rubles. On the birth of a sixth child to a mother with five children, a single grant of 2,000 rubles and a monthly allowance of 140 rubles. On the birth of a seventh child to a mother with six children, a single grant of 2,500 rubles and a monthly allowance of 200 rubles. On the birth of the eighth child to a mother with seven children, a single grant of 2,500 rubles and a monthly allowance of 200 rubles. On the birth of a ninth child to a mother with eight children, a single grant of 3,500 rubles and a monthly allowance of 250 rubles. On the birth of a tenth child to a mother with nine children, a single grant of 3,500 rubles and a monthly allowance of 250 rubles. On the birth of each subsequent child to a mother with ten children, a single grant of 5,000 rubles and a monthly allowance of 300 rubles.

Monthly allowances to mothers of large families are to be paid beginning with the second year of the child's life and continuing until the child reaches the age of five.

Mothers with families of three, four, five or six children at the date of issue of the present Edict will receive allowances under the present Article for every child born after the publication of the present Edict.

Mothers with families of seven or more children at the date of issue of the present Edict retain the right to receive large family allowances according to the procedure and in the amounts set forth in the decision of the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR of June 27, 1936, namely, for the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth child, 2,000 rubles each annually for five years from the day of the child's birth, and for each subsequent child 5,000 rubles in a single grant and 3,000 rubles each annually for four years, beginning with the child's second year. For every child born after the publication of the present Edict allowances will be paid in accordance with and in the amounts set forth in the present Article of the Edict.

In determining State allowances for large fam-

ilies, children killed or missing on the fronts of the Patriotic War are to be included.

3. To establish allowances for unmarried mothers for the maintenance and upbringing of children born after the publication of the present Edict in the following amounts: 100 rubles monthly for one child, 150 rubles for two children and 200 rubles for three or more children.

State allowances to unmarried mothers are paid until the children attain the age of 12.

Unmarried mothers with three or more children are entitled to allowances issued in accordance with Paragraph 2 of the present Article, in addition to the allowances provided for under the present Articles.

Upon her marriage an unmarried mother retains the right to the allowance provided for under the present Article.

The mother who received alimony for children born prior to the publication of the present Edict retains the right to receive alimony until the children come of age, but is not entitled to receive the allowance provided for under the present Article.

Mothers of children born in 1944, prior to the publication of the present Edict, who have not been receiving alimony are entitled to the allowance provided for under the present Article.

4. If an unmarried mother wishes to place her child in an institution for children, said institution is obligated to accept the child which will be maintained and brought up fully at the expense of the State.

The mother of the child has a right to reclaim it from the institution and to bring it up herself if she so desires.

While the child is in the institution, no State allowance is to be paid.

5. To increase single grants paid from the social insurance funds and the mutual aid funds of producers' cooperatives, for newborn infants, from 45 rubles to 120 rubles, facilities to be extended for the purchase by the mother of layettes for this amount.

Secondly, on increasing the privileges for expectant mothers and mothers, and on measures for extending the network of institutions for protecting mother and child.

6. To increase maternity leaves for women factory workers and office employees from 63 to 77 calendar days, 35 days before and 42 days after childbirth, with payment during this period of the State allowance in the amounts fixed heretofore. In the event of an abnormal birth or the birth of twins,

post-natal leave is to be extended to 56 calendar days.

Managers of enterprises and institutions must grant expectant mothers annual vacations, which must be timed to precede or follow maternity leave.

7. After four months' pregnancy, women are not to be given overtime work at enterprises and institutions, and women with infants are to be exempted from night work throughout the period of nursing.

8. To double additional food rations for expectant mothers beginning with the sixth month of pregnancy and for nursing mothers during four months of nursing.

9. Managers of enterprises and institutions must render aid to expectant mothers and nursing mothers by issuing additional food products from auxiliary farms.

10. To reduce by 50 per cent fees at kindergartens and nurseries for the accommodation of children of parents with three children and with monthly earnings up to 400 rubles, with four children and with monthly earnings up to 600 rubles, with five or more children regardless of earnings.

11. To instruct the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR:

(a) To approve the plan for the organization in Republics and Regions of additional mother and child centers, and also of special rest homes for needy unmarried expectant mothers, as well as for nursing mothers in ailing health; inmates of such rest homes to perform light tasks compatible with the state of their health.

(b) To approve the plan for the extension of the network of children's institutions under the People's Commissariats and other departments, to provide accommodations for all children in need of such service, at the same time to provide for the extension of the network of medical consultation centers for children, and of milk kitchens, of nurseries for infants and evening accommodations at kindergartens and maternity institutions in areas liberated from the German invaders.

(c) To provide for the obligatory organization at enterprises and institutions where women are employed in large numbers, of nurseries, kindergartens and special rest rooms for nursing mothers.

(d) To make it obligatory for the People's Commissariats in their plans for industrial construction to provide for the building of children's institutions (nurseries, kindergartens, mother and child rooms) with accommodations sufficient for all children of women employed at the given enterprise and in need of such services.

To approve measures for the considerable exten-

sion of the output of clothing and footwear for children, toilet accessories for children, and the like, both for children's institutions and for sale to the general public, as well as for the extension of the chain of workshops producing children's clothing and shops catering to mother and child.

Thirdly, on the institution of a Motherhood Medal and the Order of Glory of Motherhood, and on the establishment of the honorary title Mother Heroine.

12. To institute a Motherhood Medal, First and Second Class, for award to mothers who have given birth to and reared six and five children respectively.

13. To institute the Order of Glory of Motherhood, First, Second and Third Class, for award to mothers who have given birth to and reared nine, eight, and seven children respectively.

14. To establish that the title of Mother Heroine is to be conferred upon mothers who have given birth to and reared 10 children, this award being accompanied by the presentation of the Order of Mother Heroine and a scroll from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

15. The award of the Order of Glory of Motherhood and the Motherhood Medal, as well as the Mother Heroine title, comes into effect when the last child born reaches the age of one year, if the remaining children from the same mother are living.

Children killed or reported missing on fronts of the Patriotic War are to be included when these awards are made to mothers.

Fourthly, on the tax on single men and women and citizens with small families.

16. In modification of the Edict of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of November 21, 1941 "On the tax on single men and women and childless citizens of the USSR," the tax will henceforth be levied upon citizens who have no children and on citizens who have one or two children: for men over 20 and up to 50 years of age and for women over 20 and up to 45.

17. The tax is to be levied in the following amounts:

(a) Citizens paying income tax will be taxed to the extent of six per cent of their income in the absence of children, one per cent if they have one child and one-half per cent if they have two children.

(b) Collective farmers, individual farmers and other citizens of households subject to the agricultural tax will be taxed to the extent of 150 rubles annually in the absence of children, 50 rubles annually if they have one child and 25 rubles annually if they have two children.

(c) Other citizens having no children will be taxed 90 rubles annually, those with one child 30

rubles annually and those with two children 15 rubles annually.

18. To exempt from the tax:

(a) Servicemen of the rank and file, sergeants and petty officers.

(b) Army and Navy officers of units and organizations on active service.

(c) Wives of servicemen specified in points (a) and (b) of the present Article.

(d) Women receiving allowances or pensions by the State for the upkeep of children.

(e) Citizens whose children have been killed or reported missing on fronts of the Patriotic War.

(f) Men and women students of secondary and higher schools up to 25 years of age.

(g) Invalids belonging to the first and second categories of invalidity.

Fifthly, on changes in laws on marriage, family and guardianship.

19. To establish that rights and obligations of husband and wife provided for under the Code of Laws of the Union Republics on marriage and family, re guardianship, accrue from legally registered marriages only.

Persons who have been married de facto prior to publication of the present Edict may legalize their relations by registering the marriage and stating the actual period of their conjugal life.

20. To abolish the existing right of a mother to appeal to the court for the purpose of establishing fatherhood and claiming alimony for the upkeep of a child from a man to whom she is not legally married.

21. To establish that upon the registration of the birth of a child whose mother is not legally married, the child is given the mother's surname and any patronymic the mother might indicate.

22. The registration on passports of marriages, indicating surnames, names and patronymics and year of birth of the other party to a marriage, as well as the place and time of registration of marriage is obligatory.

23. To establish that divorces are to be effected publicly through the courts. At the request of husband or wife a divorce in certain cases on the decision of the court may be heard in camera.

24. The following procedure is to be followed when petitioning for dissolution of marriage.

(a) A petition for the dissolution of a marriage is to be submitted to the People's Court, giving reasons for the divorce as well as the full name, date of birth and address of the other party to the marriage; when filing the petition for divorce, the sum of 100 rubles is to be paid.

(b) The court summons the party against whom

the petition has been filed, to acquaint him or her with the contents of the petition, to ascertain the motives for the divorce, as well as to establish witnesses to be summoned during the court proceedings.

(c) Announcement of the filing of a petition for divorce is to be published in the local newspaper at the expense of the party filing the petition.

25. The People's Court is obliged to establish the motives for the filing of a petition for the dissolution of a marriage, and to take steps to reconcile the parties, for which purpose both parties must be summoned, and in case of necessity witnesses as well.

In the event of failure by the People's Court to reconcile the parties, the petitioner has the right to file a petition for the dissolution of the marriage with the higher court.

To establish that a decision regarding the dissolution of a marriage may be passed by the Regional and city courts or the Supreme Court of the Union or Autonomous Republic.

26. The Regional, territorial and city courts or the Supreme Court of the Union or Autonomous Republic which decide that the marriage should be annulled, must:

(a) Settle the question of the custody of the children between the parents and determine which of the parents is to defray expenses for the maintenance of the children and to what extent.

(b) Establish a procedure for the division of property whether in kind or in respective proportions between the parties.

(c) Restore to each of the divorced parties their original surnames if they so desire.

27. On the basis of the court decision, the civil registry office draws up the certificate of divorce, makes a corresponding entry in the passports of both parties and charges one or both parties, at the decision of the court, a sum ranging from 500 to 2,000 rubles.

28. To instruct the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics to make, in accordance with the present Edict, the necessary changes in the legislation of the Union Republics.

29. To instruct the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR to draw up statutes covering the procedure for the payment of allowances to expectant mothers, mothers of large families and unmarried mothers in accordance with the present Edict.

30. To instruct the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR to adopt measures regulating the procedure of registration of marriages, births, etc., providing for the introduction of a solemn procedure for which suitable premises properly furnished are to be set aside, and for the issue to citizens of certificates duly drawn up.

31. In accordance with criminal legislation in

force, the State prosecuting organs are to prosecute those guilty of performing illegal abortions, of forcing women to undergo abortions, of insulting and humiliating the dignity of mothers and of refusing to pay alimony for the upkeep of children.

32. To consider as null and void:

(a) Articles 5, 8, 10, 27 and 28 of the Decision of the Central Executive Committee and Council of People's Commissars of the USSR of June 27, 1936 "On prohibiting abortions, increasing material aid to mothers, establishing State aid for mothers of large families, extending the network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens, greater punishment for non-payment of alimony, and on certain amendments in legislation on divorce." (Code of Laws of the USSR, 1936, No. 34, Article 309).

(b) The Decision of the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR of November 14, 1936 "On the procedure

for the payment of allowances to mothers of large families." (Code of Laws of the USSR, 1936, No. 59, Article 448).

(c) Article 14 of the Decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of December 28, 1938, "On measures regulating labor discipline, improving the administration of State social insurance and combating abuses in this field." (Collection of Decisions of the Government of the USSR, 1939, No. 1, Article 1.).

(Signed) M. KALININ, Chairman of Presidium
of Supreme Soviet of USSR

A. GORKIN, Secretary of Presidium
of Supreme Soviet of USSR

Moscow, Kremlin, July 8, 1944



Red Army men in a liberated village. It is for the children and their future the Soviet people are fighting—are willing to make the greatest sacrifices

ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF GRUNEWALD

On July 15, in Moscow, representatives of the Slav peoples met to celebrate the 534th anniversary of the Battle of Grunewald.

Near Grunewald, a settlement in the southern part of East Prussia, on July 15, 1410, an army of the Slav peoples 100,000-strong, made up of Poles, Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Czechs and Lithuanians, inflicted a crushing defeat upon the German armed forces who attempted to capture Slav soil and to subjugate the Slav peoples.

Among those who spoke at the anniversary meeting were: Lieutenant General Alexander Gundorov, Chairman of the All-Slav Committee; Jan Sverma, Member of the Czechoslovak Parliament and Member of the All-Slav Committee; Lieutenant General Velimir Terzic of the People's Army of Yugoslavia; Major Stankewicz of the Polish Army in the USSR; Wikenti Rzymowski, Polish scientist; Justas Paleckis, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Lithuanian SSR; Colonel General Nikander Chibisov, Red Army, Hero of the Soviet Union; Lieutenant General Utvenko, of the Red Army, and Major General Georgi Isakov of the Red Army, Hero of the Soviet Union.

Messages from the representatives of the Slav peoples were addressed to Marshal of the Soviet Union Joseph Stalin; President of the United States Franklin D. Roosevelt; Prime Minister of Great Britain Winston Churchill; President of the Czechoslovak Republic Eduard Benes; Marshal Tito of the Yugoslavian Army of Liberation, and the Polish National Council and Polish People's Army.

APPEAL ADOPTED BY GRUNEWALD ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Brother Slavs:

Five hundred thirty-four years have elapsed since the Battle of Grunewald, since the day of the glorious victory of the united forces of the Slavs over their mortal enemy, the German aggressors.

In the Battle of Grunewald the German robbers were routed. Polish soldiers, Smolensk regiments, a Russian people's levy, Lithuanian horsemen, and Byelorussian, Ukrainian and Czech soldiers fought in that battle with self-sacrificing bravery, fought in unison, not sparing their blood and lives, for the sake of complete victory over the common mortal enemy. And they won the day!

Brother Slavs! The Hitlerite fiends, descendants of the robber Knights-Crusaders, are still tormenting the Slav and other oppressed peoples of Europe.

But the hour of final reckoning with the mortal enemy has arrived. Hitlerite Germany is heading for disaster. The Armed Forces of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States, successfully advancing from the East, West and South, are defeating the German invaders. The heroic Red Army—the Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Lithuanian soldiers whose glorious ancestors beat the Germans on the ice of Lake Peipus, fought at Grunewald and later beat the Germans at Kunersdorf and entered Berlin—today deal ever more crushing blows to the Hitlerite hordes. The Red Army has cleared the enemy from nearly the whole of the Ukraine; it has driven the German invaders from Byelorussia with truly lightning speed; it is liberating Lithuania and the other Soviet Baltic Republics, and has come close to the lands of fraternal Poland and Czechoslovakia enslaved by the German invaders.

True to the glorious traditions of Grunewald, the soldiers of the 100,000-strong Polish Army and the soldiers of the Czechoslovak Corps are fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Red Army.

The Red Army will finish off the fascist beast in his lair and will help the Slav and all other oppressed peoples of Europe to throw off the German-fascist yoke.

Soldiers of the Red Army, infantrymen, artillerymen, tankists, airmen, sappers! Increase your blows to the enemy, relentlessly pursue the Hitlerite bandits, ruthlessly destroy them, encircle and wipe out the German troops!

Forward to the aid of the Slav brothers languishing in German bondage, to the aid of all the oppressed peoples of Europe!

Brother Poles! The Red Army and the army of Polish patriots under the command of General Zygmund Berling are hastening to your assistance. So rally around the *Krajowa Rada Narodowa*, join the ranks of the People's Army of Poland and the guerrilla detachments set up in free guerrilla districts. Prepare for popular uprising!

Peoples of Yugoslavia! Brother Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Montenegrins, Macedonians! Consolidate and sacredly safeguard the unity of the peoples of Yugoslavia! Clear the country of the Hitlerite agents! Crown your roads of victories with the complete expulsion of the Germans from Yugoslav territory!

The Red Army and the Czech soldiers of the troops of General Svoboda and Lieutenant Colonel Prikrýl have already come close to the frontiers of Czechoslovakia. They bring the people liberation from the

Hitlerite yoke. So let the crushing blows of the Red Army merge with the blows of the Czech and Slovak patriots behind the enemy's lines!

Patriots of Czechoslovakia! Rouse the masses of the people to struggle, form and arm guerrilla detachments. Once again, as at Grunewald, let the example of Jan Zizka, great soldier and ardent Czech patriot, inspire you in battle!

Brother Bulgarians! Do not permit the German invaders and their lackeys to drag the Bulgarian people into the dull disaster toward which Hitlerite Germany is inexorably heading. It is high time to wash from Bulgaria the shameful stain of vassal of Hitler and gendarme in the Balkans. Or else it will be too late! Or else Bulgaria will bear full responsibility for the crimes of the cannibal Hitler as his accomplice. Drive the German invaders and their lackeys from Bulgaria! Exterminate them as mad dogs and rabid enemies of the Bulgarian people. Form guerrilla detachments! Rally around the fatherland front of struggle against the German invaders! Bulgarian soldiers of the occupying corps in Yugoslavia, boldly join the peoples of Yugoslavia in the struggle against the Hitlerite brigands.

Brother Slavs abroad! We call upon you to increase your aid to the Slav peoples and all the democratic countries fighting against German imperial-

ism! Strengthen the fighting unity of the Slav peoples, pledge our victory over the enemy! Denounce the Hitlerite agents who are sowing discord in the ranks of the Slavs! Multiply the war efforts of the United States and Great Britain! Let us hasten the victory of the forces of civilization and democracy over man-hating Hitlerism!

Friendship and solidarity of the Slav peoples is the principal condition for the utter and complete defeat of Hitlerism, the principal condition for gaining and preserving a state of independence, security and prosperity for all Slav peoples!

Honor and glory to the victorious Red Army and its great leader and friend of the Slav peoples, Marshal Stalin!

Long live the heroic People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia and its leader Marshal Tito!

Long live the Polish Army in the USSR and the People's Army of Poland! Greetings to all the Polish soldier patriots fighting for their country's liberation!

Long live the Czechoslovak troops in the USSR and the fighters of the underground in Czechoslovakia!

Long live the fighting unity of the Slav peoples!
Death to the German invaders!

ON THE PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION

The following is an editorial from WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, Number 14:

The Red Army's offensive on the Soviet-German front, begun three weeks ago, has materially changed the general military situation. The present Soviet offensive is distinguished by a number of features of first-rate importance from the point of view of the prospects of the war.

Firstly, notwithstanding the Germans' stubborn resistance and the efforts of the German command to stabilize the front, the Red Army is swiftly advancing westward. For its speed, the present Soviet offensive, as foreign observers remark, surpasses Hitler's blitzkrieg in Poland and France. The indisputable superiority of Stalin's wise strategy, the generalship of the Soviet high commanders and the increased military skill and heroic fighting spirit of Soviet officers and men lend perfection to the Red Army's actions which are unparalleled in the history of war.

Not only is the Red Army liberating its native land; it is also annihilating enemy troops and materiel on a hitherto unwitnessed scale. The fields and forests of Soviet Byelorussia and Soviet Lithuania have become a graveyard for scores of German di-

visions. Thousands upon thousands of Germans, including over 20 generals, have fallen prisoner, and even larger numbers, refusing to lay down their arms, have been exterminated. Neither Hitler's draconic orders nor the ferocious resistance of the German troops are able to stem the Soviet assault.

Secondly, carrying out its noble mission of clearing the Soviet land of the German-fascist invaders, the Red Army is already fighting in close proximity to Germany's borders. This year the fighting is raging not on the Don as in the summer of 1942, nor on the Mius, the Sejm and Vorskla as in the summer of 1943, but on the Western Dvina and the Niemen. It is scarcely possible to overrate the significance of the fact that for the first time since the fires of war were lighted by Hitler in Europe a direct menace of invasion threatens the lair of the fascist beast. The foreign press reports that the Germans are feverishly erecting fortifications in East Prussia as Soviet troops draw nearer and nearer to its borders. The day is not far off when Hitler Germany, which plunged the world into the bloody maelstrom of war, will feel all the burden of war on its own territory.

Thirdly, the Red Army's present offensive is tak-

ing place at a time when the Armies of our British and American Allies, having made a landing in Northern France, a landing unparalleled in the history of war, have secured a firm footing on the European continent. Now that Cherbourg and Caen have been taken, all the conditions exist for swift development of active operations by the Allied troops against Hitler's forces in Western Europe.

In the South the Allies are steadily driving back the Germans in Italy.

The action of our Allies marks the beginning of the realization of the Teheran decisions, which envisaged the delivery of relentless and increasing attacks at the common enemy from the West and South as well as from the East. The threat from the West and South makes it impossible for the German command to freely shift its forces with the object of filling the breaches in the East. And it need scarcely be said that the Red Army's powerful blows prevent Hitler from even contemplating the removal of forces from the Soviet-German front for transfer to the West or South of Europe.

These features of the present military situation justify us in saying that a new phase in the war has been reached. The enemy has been brought to the verge of the abyss; the task now is to send him toppling into it. . . .

There is only one way to reduce the number of victims to an unavoidable minimum and to avert the calamity and destruction which will inevitably accompany the protraction of the war. It is a well-known way, namely, to shorten the war, to take all timely measures for the swift and complete defeat of the enemy.

Soberly facing realities, the Soviet people see that victory over Hitler Germany is now nearer than ever, but that victory will have to be won; and it can be won only if a series of fierce and telling blows are struck at the enemy by the main forces of the Allied powers.

The Red Army by its attack upon the main forces of Hitler's army, which for over three years has been riveted to the Soviet-German front, is contributing enormously to the shortening of the war and achieving of the earliest defeat of the enemy. But the course of the war will to a large extent depend upon the kind of blows struck at Hitler's army from the West. Yet one cannot help agreeing with Captain Cyril Falls, the London *Times* military observer who, analyzing the war situation at a recent meeting of the Royal Empire Society, said that there were still no grounds for speaking of a Western front. When we have a front which can unreservedly be called a Western front, he said, we will feel that before us lies the direct road to victory. Germany, gripped in the vise of two fronts, cannot of course hold out long.

When blows fall upon the Germans in Western Europe similar to those struck at them in the East, it will not be long before they collapse.

The brilliant landing of large masses of British and American troops in Northern France revealed the real value of the Hitlerites' boast that they would never allow the Allies to land in Western Europe. It became manifest to all that the Germans are no longer in a condition to prevent the Allies from landing and establishing a bridgehead on the European Continent. And it is even more manifest that now that the Red Army has launched its mighty offensive, the Germans are powerless to prevent our British and American Allies from forming a genuine Western front. If the Nazi adventurers still assert that they intend to "seek an issue in the West," this stupid braggadocio can only deceive people who are willing to be deceived. Evidently there are still such people to be found in certain editorial offices both in the Allied as well as neutral countries, who still keep discussing whether the Germans will or will not "seek an issue."

The fact of the matter is that the one concern of the Nazi adventurers is how to get away with a whole skin. What they are now seeking is not an issue, but salvation. And they are seeking it on the well-known path of protraction of the war.

This is confirmed by all available information on the situation in the enemy's country. The Swedish writer Veingold, who recently returned after a stay of many years in Germany and whose powers of observation cannot be denied, declares that the German general staff has given up all hope of victory and defines the Hitlerites' calculations as follows:

"The Germans have had to alter radically their military plans. Their one endeavor now is to end the war in a draw. The Germans want to protract the war as long as possible. The German military are not even interested in holding the occupied countries in the West. But they will withdraw as slowly as possible. The German leaders hope that if they drag out the war several years, general war fatigue will result in the war ending in a draw."

Such are the vile calculations of the bankrupt Hitlerites. They still hope that procrastination and irresolution will prevent the Allies from rapidly defeating their adversary. They are banking on a "general war fatigue," which if the war is still further protracted will enable the German-fascist fiends to escape their merited punishment and secure respite in which to prepare for a new piratical war. These calculations must be foiled once and for all. They must be foiled by the main forces of the Allied powers, which must swiftly be brought into action so as to shorten the war and bring about the enemy's defeat as early as possible.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 85

Washington, D. C., July 27, 1944



What Happened Beyond Brody

By Major K. Bukovsky

The German grouping near Brody was one of the strongest in the Ukraine. It was entrenched in firm defense positions behind solid natural barriers, and to break through this defense area was a matter of extreme difficulty.

Let us look at the map. Just beyond Brody, to the right and left of the city, are dense green and blue spots with close markings in brown—forests, swamps, lakes, rivers, gullies and elevations. It is difficult to find a more intersected terrain throughout the Ukrainian theater of military operations. And through it, running in the direction of Lvov, are only two parallel roads, a highway and railway.

No locality could be more convenient for defense or more difficult for a break-through.

That is why German officers sat calmly in their restaurant in Brody while Russian artillery was already thundering all around. True, there was one circumstance that somewhat perplexed the Germans: Soviet cannons were firing at their flanks, whereas they were silent in front of the city. Silent the first day and silent the second.

Soviet troops skirted the city from two sides. While the Germans were parked in Brody, deep in the rear Soviet tanks and cavalry came together, somewhere near Kopynka in a frontal movement.



Red Army men pass through a recaptured railway junction

They drove a deep wedge into the German defenses north of Brody, between Gorokhovo and Radezkovo, and another farther south, along the Zolochiv-Krasnoye axis. From the very beginning of the offensive the entire German grouping at Brody fell into an enormous "sack," strongly seamed at the sides. And the Germans did not hear a single artillery salvo from the Russian positions.

It is difficult to say at this writing what the German command's calculations were when they let their divisions remain near Brody until the very last moment. Had they deliberately kept them in ignorance, concealing the deep seizure in the hope of liquidating it with the forces of another more southerly grouping? Or had control of the troops already got out of hand, and even the chief command did not realize the danger which hung over the Brody grouping?

In any event, orders to withdraw from the Brody line were received too late by the German divisions. They had hardly withdrawn to the forest when the narrow neck of the last road to the west snapped shut before them. The Brody sack was tied up tight by Soviet tanks and cavalry. And now the guns spoke up near Brody. Soviet artillerymen sent their shells in pursuit of the retreating Germans, whose escape had already been cut off.

From statements of German officers and men taken prisoner, we can get perhaps not a full but a sufficiently vivid picture of what went on in those days inside the sack. The first reports, greeted with distrust, that the road to the west was closed, were brought by German baggage troops who started out for the rear to get shells and came up against Soviet troops. As more of the frightened and battered baggage troops returned, the Germans saw more clearly the dilemma they were in.

Enemy units which broke through to Kamenka ahead of others and had evidently been cut off from the main body tried to break through the Soviet screen in scattered groups. Their attempts were senseless if for no other reason than that the front here had by this time moved more than 30 kilometers to the west and the entire zone was crowded with Soviet troops. The result was that two regiments of German infantry with artillery and other means of support were cut off from the main forces of the encircled grouping, blockaded and soon completely wiped out.

The failure to break through to Kamenka compelled the Germans to seek other directions. At the same time the commanders of the encircled units requested help from without. The German corps radio station in the village of Adamy kept sending one panicky message after another, until Soviet Tommy gunners finally broke into the village. Later, signals for help began to come from various places.

After each fresh blow from air and land, after each fresh attack of Soviet infantry formations, the sack in which the German divisions were caught shrank considerably.

North and east of Brody Soviet infantry and artillery dislodged the Germans from the villages, pressed them into the forests and drove them into the swamps. Soviet planes bombed the inside of the sack, wiping out enemy columns stuck on the roads. The roads at the Germans' disposal kept diminishing in number, and the possibilities for maneuvering within the ring grew less and less. German tanks were put out of action, some crippled and others stuck in swamps, while still others were abandoned for lack of fuel.

When Soviet units captured Kamenka and destroyed its garrison, the encircled German units lost all possibility of getting aid from the west.

Soviet units are mopping up the remnants of the encircled enemy. Entire groups of German officers and men, with their hands up, are already coming out to meet Soviet troops, giving up their useless resistance and surrendering.

An overpowering stench of rotting flesh emanates from the swamps, where lie thousands of German dead. Hundreds of smashed guns, cars and tanks are scattered along the forest roads. Here and there final clashes are still in progress.

The story of the encircled German troops in the forests beyond Brody is at first glance an ordinary one. The attackers pressed the enemy group in a pincers with two deep tank wedges and cut off its rear by mobile outposts. Similar kettles and sacks have become ordinary things in every big Soviet offensive. But the Brody operation has its singular features—namely, the swiftness of the maneuver and the daring of the wedges, fraught at times with the risk of themselves falling into an encirclement.

This bold maneuver was carried out by Soviet cavalry. But the laurels of victory may be equally shared by tankmen, artillerymen and infantrymen. The Brody kettle is the result of the daring and tempestuous advance of all types of arms in an offensive, an advance characteristic of the Red Army's present operations in the south.

Memorial to Crimean Heroes

A monument to the heroes of the battle for the Crimea was unveiled on May 21 on the battlefield of the Turkish Wall, near Perekop. The monument is 105 feet high and can be seen from a distance of many miles. It bears the words with which Stalin invariably concludes his Orders of the Day: *Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in the struggle for the freedom and independence of our motherland.*

PLOUGHMEN, BUILDERS, SINGERS, WARRIORS

By Ilya Ehrenburg

The first Red Army men had neither experience nor arms, neither boots nor bread. In those years it was a question of the most elementary thing of all: the right to exist. Russia was looked on as ownerless property—anybody's prey. But Russia had an owner—the people; and Russia found a defender—the Red Army. The call for brotherhood, which many foreigners interpreted as a sign of Russia's weakness and of her doom, was backed by bayonets.

Now we are beating the same enemy, but behind the Red Army are gigantic smithies and full corn bins. The first Red Army men upheld the idea of our State. Today the Red Army has affirmed its significance and won it the place it deserves.

The hordes which crossed our frontier on June 22, 1941 were a model army of conquest. Such an army is not created in one year, or in ten. It is the historical offspring of a nation which regards war as man's highest destiny.

Between Two Wars

"Look at the little fool blooming away there," a Red Army man said to me in a tender voice, pointing to a bluebell growing in between two shell craters. "Like you," I thought to myself. He was a gray-eyed, mild youth who had bloomed in between two wars.

War is a calamity to every nation on earth—except the Germans. To them it meant enrichment and revelry—an Eldorado, for which yearned clerks, bookkeepers, chemists, workers, waiters and masseurs of Halle and Karlsruhe who were caught in the slime of the bourgeois humdrum.

To all nations, except the Germans, the earth is a mother who bears wheat-ears and grape clusters, flowers and fruit. But to the Germans the earth is a colossal exercise ground for Pomeranian jaegers and Wurtemberg grenadiers.

Long ago, in my boyhood, I read a German story. It described the life of a mean and wicked German woman who starved her stepdaughter, nagged her husband, talked scandal of her neighbors and beat her maidservant. When she came to die she enumerated her sins to the priest. "Why did you live on earth?" the latter exclaimed. The woman was indignant. "Did I not rear three soldiers?" she asked.

I don't mean to say that the German is by nature warlike and brave. On the contrary, the individual German is cautious and timid. He is not a hero, he is a conscript. War to him is not a test of valor. It is a profession. Courage in him is replaced by drilling, which begins in the cradle. The German generals knew that their obedient and stupid country-

men would at the word of command march to the North Pole, without asking why or wherefore.

Everything had been thoroughly prepared. As early as 1939 the German staff had printed maps of the Volga, Tatar dictionaries for the occupation authorities, and orders to arrest hostages. The Ruhr had its eyes fixed on Nikopol. Munich brewers were worrying about how to grow barley in Bashkiria. Berlin architects were constructing models of Siberian farms.

The Tempering

Many of us did not at first understand what had happened on that brief summer night. The Germans, though timid and cautious, had been reared for conquest. Our people, who are impetuous and intrepid, dreamed of brotherhood.

"What the devil does this mean? Aren't there any working folk among them?" a young Russian lieutenant asked me naively in July, 1941. I shall never forget the astonished eyes of our workers, collective farmers and students. "How," they asked, "can people with a university education slaughter children? How can workers hang old women?"

Through Moscow's sultry streets marched the men of the popular militia. They looked like peaceful citizens proceeding to a meeting. They sang inharmoniously: "Give us the machine guns, it will be all the merrier!" There was little enough to be merry about then. Who would have thought that a year later the divisions which sprang from the popular militia would become Guards divisions?

People were too trustful, too carefree. "Can it be true they are already in Smolensk?" a girl asked in surprise. It took our commanders some time to see through the Germans' tactics. A few tanks, or 30 or so tommy gunners who managed to break through sometimes seemed an insuperable force. We are strong enough today to look back and admit past weaknesses. In those early days there was heroism in plenty, and there were plenty of intelligent and keen-sighted commanders. But the steel needed tempering.

When the Germans attacked us we were a big and strong State, and we had a big and strong Army. What then was lacking? Wrath? Experience? Spiritual maturity? Before the war we sang about the broadness of our land; we were inspired by its immensity. But the hour came when, though Russia is vast, there was nowhere to retreat to. Behind us lay Moscow. Russia, which had seemed too immense for the most gigantic map, found a place in every heart. A people of ploughmen, a people of builders, a people of singers became a people of warriors.

Courage does not explain the miracle; the Russian has always loved danger. Pushkin expressed it when he said: "There is a rapture in battle and on the verge of a gloomy abyss." That love is expressed in folk adages. It is confirmed by Russian history, which abounds in feats of martial valor. But courage was not enough to defeat the German army. What was needed was mastery and skill. And the Red Army acquired them.

War was not the favorite element of the Russian national genius. We have had military leaders of world-wide renown. We have had wonderful soldiers, who even in the darkest times of our history demonstrated our people's talent. We have fought daring campaigns and made heroic assaults. But our intrepid nation was famed as a peaceable nation.

Of course, the Russian soldier bravely stormed enemy cities; but he also stormed that "city of justice" for which the Russian people have yearned from time immemorial. Russian courage is symbolized by Stenka Razin, by Peter—and not only the Peter of Poltava, but also the Peter of the atlas and the carpenter's plane—by Chernyshevsky, by the indomitable youths in chains, by Lenin, by the October Revolution, by Stalin's vow, by Pushkin, Tolstoy, Sechenov, Lobachevsky, by the lumberjack with the logarithmic tables and the cowherd with the globe, by the Bolsheviks, by Mayakovsky, and by the builders of Magnitogorsk.

The Incarnation of Russia

It was not in conquest that Russia sought expression for her soul. Only when the enemy invaded our land and robbed us of our bread, and our children of their sleep, did our people lay aside everything for war. So it was at the time of the Battle of Kulikovo, so it was in the Troubled Times, so it was at the time of Napoleon's invasion.

And so it is today. The Red Army has become the incarnation of Russia, her passion. We are dedicating all our energies and thoughts to war not because we have come to love war. We hate it, and we are fighting to put an end to the fomentors of war.

Nobody will venture to say that the German army is serving Germany. On the contrary, Germany is serving the German army. The Reich is only an appendage to the Reichswehr. But the Red Army is a people at war.

To the German generals war is an exact science. But on the field of battle all the canons of the academies have to be revised. True, the poet should study the theory of iambs; but it is not enough to know all the shades of the iambic to be able to write *The Bronze Horseman*. And then comes along a Blok or a Mayakovsky, and it transpires that one can tear the iambic to pieces and still write poetry.

In war the creative faculty is needed, and in that

respect war is akin to art. Not only the army commander, even the platoon commander must know how to think, to weigh and to decide. The caste character of the German army explains the learning of its commanders, but it also explains their limitations. Narrow specialization withers the mind, robs it of daring. When you are solving an arithmetical problem you must not introduce the creative element; you either solve the problem or you don't.

But war is not a book of arithmetical problems. A thousand accidentals crop up. The commander must not only understand the peculiarities of a terrain; he must also understand the recesses of the human heart. A broad culture, and contact with the people and its protean life enable a commander to adhere to the field regulations even though he sometimes violates them; to observe the spirit of the regulations, even if at times he ignores their letter.

The strong point of the Red Army is that, while it has acquired experience and knowledge, it has remained a people's army, a human army. It differs from other armies of the world not only in armaments and numbers; it differs because it is an army of the Soviet State.

Foreigners have frequently stressed the democratic origin of our generals. The point is not that workers and peasants command our divisions and armies: the point is that those workers and peasants have not lost contact with the people. Many of them fought the Germans 30 years ago as privates and junior officers. Generals Rokossovsky, Govorov, Batov, Pukhov (I mention only those with whom I have discussed this question) learned to know the soul of the soldier in those remote days when the Russian regiments, betrayed by the St. Petersburg *camarilla*, gallantly fought the Kaiser's army. Afterwards they lived with the people, together with them fought for liberty, and grew up with them. Their biography is the history of Soviet Russia. They were stirred by the books, the constructive labors, the joys and sorrows of the people. This is the force which, together with acquired knowledge and native talent, helps them skilfully to fight the enemy.

Our generals and soldiers know that it is no easy matter to beat the Germans. But intractable material enhances the skill of the artisan. It is hard to beat the Germans, but they have been robbed of their famous "pincers," and the German generals' "kettle" is now in our kitchen. In this kettle we have boiled many German divisions.

The figure of our Supreme Commander defines the character of the Red Army. I have read many articles by foreign experts on Stalin's military genius. They recall how much spiritual strength, foresight and restraint it must have required to prepare our counter-offensive of December, 1941.

When Hitler thought he was storming the last



A. Bogomolov, A. Rubtsov and M. Ryabov—all Heroes of the Soviet Union and Majors of the Guards—rest between missions in a Red Army Officers' Club. Each has made more than 200 sorties against the enemy

streets of Stalingrad, actually he was destroying his last storm detachments. Stalin knew it would end with a blow on the Don and with von Paulus raising his handkerchief.

Last July, Stalin allowed the Germans to wear themselves out at Ponyri and Prokhorovka; then followed the liberation of the Ukraine east of the Dnieper. Stalin ordered the Dnieper to be forced when the Germans did not expect it. He wore down the Germans in Volynia. Through the clouds of smoke enveloping the counter-attacking Germans, he discerned the ring of Korsun. In this strategy there is much cold reason, but there is also much creative daring. One must have a thorough knowledge of life, of one's people and of the human soul to be a military leader of this caliber. One has to know not only history, but also Shakespeare and Chekhov, and the labor of the miner, and the tears of the mother.

It is vain for the calumniators, alarmed by our victories, to allege that we have exchanged the scythe for the sword. We are yearning for the wheat-ears. But we cannot live until justice triumphs. It used to be said that love is stronger than death. I would say that death is stronger than love. We are not vengeful or vindictive, but we want justice.

The Germans, in the ravine of Babi Yar, spent

three days slaughtering citizens of Kiev. They threw a little girl alive into the grave. She cried out: "Why are you throwing sand into my eyes?" It is the cry of the infant, the cry of the earth, the cry of conscience which does not allow us to sleep.

Justice Will March Through Berlin

I can see in my mind's eye Soviet troops marching through the subdued and silent streets of Berlin: farmers, gold miners and trappers from Siberia, steel-smelters from Leningrad, mechanics from Moscow, coal miners from the Donbas, foundrymen from the Urals, weavers from Ivanovo, collective farmers from the Volga, tractor drivers from the Ukraine, wine-growers from the Caucasus, lumberjacks from the North, shepherds from Kazakhstan, fishermen, poultry breeders, agronomists, explorers, dreamers, lovers of the muses, champions of truth.

They march in silence along the road which the Germans call the "Avenue of Victory," that long avenue which is punctuated with the ugly statues of conquerors. They march past stout and spiteful Valkyries, past thin and spiteful hausfraus, past squint-eyed Prussian eagles and the swastika spider which for years sucked the blood of Europe. Past evil and villainy they will march like justice—the first army of a deeply human victory.

TRADITIONS OF THE RUSSIAN NAVY

By Academician E. Tarle

An outstanding contemporary English historian, Professor William Ashley, has said that one of the astonishing features of Russia's history is the story of her Navy. Although she acquired her Navy only at the beginning of the 18th Century, Mr. Ashley noted, she has covered her naval flag with immortal glory since the moment it was hoisted on her newly-built ships.

Starting with the brilliant victory at Hango and continuing with the exploits of Admiral Ushakov—who many times defeated well-armed enemy fleets—and Senyavin's expeditions in the South Seas, the Russian Navy invariably displayed amazing operational skill and the ability to foster among its personnel, both commanders and rank and file, strong fighting and patriotic traditions.

The Navy has always rendered substantial aid to the Army and to Russian diplomacy. The brilliant victory of Chesme under Catherine, and the battles of Rymnik and Ismail, are recorded in letters of gold in the annals of Russian glory. Even under Nicholas I, when for many reasons defects in the command of the land forces assumed alarming proportions, the Navy scored a number of successes.

In 1827 a Russian squadron materially helped to defeat the Turkish fleet in the battle of Navarino, the battle that freed Greece. Extensive naval construction was carried on throughout the reign of Nicholas I, both in Kronstadt and in the southern shipyards.

When the Crimean War began, Nakhimov's squadron sank the entire Turkish fleet, which lay in the bay of Sinop under the protection of numerous coastal batteries. Nakhimov, the greatest Russian Admiral, and his friends and associates, Kornilov and Istomin, whose names are forever connected with the great defense of Sevastopol, were pupils and followers of Admiral Mikhail Lazarev. This galaxy of admirals maintained, augmented and spread the finest traditions of the Russian Navy.

The self-sacrificing bravery of the sailors whom Nakhimov transferred from ships to the bastions and redoubts of Sevastopol amazed even the foe. The 16,000 Russian sailors represented the soul and strength of Sevastopol. Years later, Admiral Makarov's sailors proved that the heroic traditions of the Russian Navy were alive and unimpaired.

These traditions are fully alive at the present time, when Russian sailors are dealing crushing blows to the infamous German hordes. Today the selfless bravery of Russian sailors yields more telling results than ever before.

Nakhimov or Makarov could never have envisioned the equipment, arms and training of the men of the Red Navy. But this is not the main reason for our successes—it lies in the strength of the human spirit. Our men are conscious of the justice of their cause; they are imbued with the noble



Rear Admiral Ivan Papanin, a former Black Sea sailor, now heads the Central Administration of the Northern Sea Route—the organization in charge of all Arctic affairs—which has played a large part in the delivery of lend-lease supplies through Murmansk and Archangelsk. Recently the title of Hero of the Soviet Union was conferred for the second time upon Rear Admiral Papanin

sentiments of Soviet patriotism, and boundless devotion to their country and their people.

Our sailors' share in our fast approaching victory and in the final rout of the barbarous German bands is truly enormous and will be forever remembered by coming generations.

NAZI CHARLATANRY

By Major General M. Galaktionov

The following appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 14:

The Red Army's mighty offensive in Soviet Byelorussia and Soviet Lithuania, the capture of Cherbourg and Caen by the American and British forces in Normandy and the successful Allied advance in Italy are facing German strategy with unsolvable problems and are revealing its obvious bankruptcy. The war is nearing Germany's frontiers, presaging Hitlerism's utter defeat.

In its search for a way out of the situation, Goebbels' department resorted to a piece of mystifying jugglery which is worthy of a place among the most eminent instances of circus clownery. This item on Goebbels' program bears the motto, "The worse the better." The Red Army is advancing, the Allies have landed in Normandy—well, all the better. The German-fascist charlatans are doing their utmost to prove that everything is going swimmingly and that the loss of territory which the German army seized at the cost of such immense sacrifice is all to the advantage of the Germans.

This is the leitmotiv of the German radio broadcasts. On June 28, for example, the German Information Bureau through its reviewer Hallensleben declared that the Germans had surrendered all too little—"It wouldn't be amiss to sacrifice more than Rome, Cherbourg or Vitebsk."

Since then it is true the German army has gone a long way in the direction of the meeting of this wish: On the Soviet-German front the Germans lost Orsha, Minsk, Polotsk, Baranovichi, Molodechno, Kovel, Lida, Slonim, Luninets, Vilnius, Pinsk, Volkovysk, Idritsa and so on and so forth, while in Normandy they have lost Caen.

In the early part of July a German-fascist newspaper published in Stuttgart assured its readers that Germany was ready to repel the Allies' converging attack and declared, "We have abandoned our positions situated far from our borders in order to inflict annihilating defeat on our enemies in the West." But it is obvious to anybody in his right mind that when the Germans are compelled under the Red Army blows to abandon Soviet territory and at the same time lose hundreds of thousands of their men, this is in no way calculated to strengthen their defenses in the West, still less to enable them to inflict "annihilating defeat" on their enemies there.

The aim of the Nazi counterfeiter is obvious. The first concern is to "explain" to the blockheaded Germans why the German army is sustaining defeat on the Soviet-German front. But at the same time it

is a subtle game intended to provoke certain circles in the Allied countries to start a discussion to the advantage of the Germans as to which European war theater is more important, the East or the West.

The Germans are anxiously trying to make out that the Eastern and Western theaters have very much the same relative significance in this war as in the First World War. They are obviously banking on the military ignorance of their auditors. The strategical significance of any particular theater is determined in the final count not by geography, but by the relative strength of the forces engaged in that theater. On the Western Front in the First World War operated the French Army—which remained the biggest force on that front right to the end of the war—and the British, American and Belgian Armies. Consequently, Germany maintained her main forces on the Western Front.

However, even in the First World War the view that the Western Front was the chief front was not held unanimously by the German command. Unlike Falkenhayn, his rivals Ludendorff and Hindenburg held the opinion that the Eastern Front was the chief front. The 10th volume of the German official history of the war criticizes Falkenhayn's strategy and supports the opinion of Ludendorff and Hindenburg concerning the relative values of the fronts. This conflict of opinion was a reflection of the fact that in a war on two fronts both fronts were fraught with mortal danger for Germany.

In this Second World War the strategical situation has shaped "differently" from the first. For three years the Soviet-German front has been not only the chief front but the only front against Germany on the European Continent. And it was on this front that Germany held and is still holding her main forces. The defeats inflicted by the Red Army on Germany were sustained not by minor forces, but by the main forces of the German army. And precisely for that reason they have brought Germany to the verge of disaster.

The Teheran decisions, as we know, envisaged relentless and concerted blows by the Allies from the West, East and South, designed to bring about the swift and complete defeat of Germany. How important it is that the blows should be concerted needs no emphasis. Only concerted blows delivered with every ounce of power will compel Germany to dissipate her troops, and predetermine her early and complete defeat in the final and most strenuous stage of the war.

It was in pursuance of this plan of concerted at-

tacks that the troops of our Allies carried out that admirable landing on the Normandy coast. Having firmly consolidated their beachhead they seized the large ocean port of Cherbourg and then the inland port of Caen, which makes it possible to expedite the landing of still larger forces capable of developing large-scale offensive operations in the West European theater. And when the Germans so zealously moot the question as to which theater is more important, the West or the East, they thereby only betray their fear of concerted blows by the powerful Allied forces in the main strategical areas.

It should be said that the artifices of the Nazi charlatans have so far borne little fruit. The Allied press speaks with the highest appreciation of the victories gained by the Red Army in its offensive in Byelorussia and Lithuania. All signs go to show that the public of the Allied countries is fully alive to the necessity of uniting and straining to the utmost the efforts of all the Armed Forces against the Hitler coalition for the defeat of Germany. . .

Only a few dissonant voices are to be heard in the general chorus of appreciation of the interdependence of the blows struck at Germany from different directions. Such dissonance is to be detected chiefly in those rare cases when newspapers believe or pretend to believe the Germans' assertions that the German troops are being transferred from the East to the West. An instance of such "credulity" is furnished by the *London Evening News* which in an editorial on July 3 wrote: "What can Hitler do? He denuded the Vaterland Line by transferring tanks from Russia to Normandy. He cannot send them back again." (Note: English quotations retranslated from the Russian).

Clearly such idle reflections on the supposed transfer of Germans to Normandy are little calculated to facilitate the clear realization of the tasks confronting the Allied Armies in the various theaters of Europe. That is just what the Hitlerites are after when they lyingly assert the Germans are transferring troops to the West and for that reason are surrendering Byelorussian and Lithuanian territory.

One meets with other statements in the press of the Allied countries which equally militate against the correct understanding of questions and are only calculated to play into the enemy's hands. For instance, one positively cannot agree with the opinion of the military reviewer of the *London Daily Telegraph* and *Morning Post* who on July 3 wrote that because of its dimensions and great opportunities for maneuvering, the Russian front was the dynamic front and in relation to it other fronts were only subsidiary.

It is not clear why the Soviet front should be the only dynamic front, and what there is to prevent

the other fronts from being so. If what is true is the extent of our war theater, there is plenty of space for large-scale maneuvering in the West as well. It is common knowledge that the abundance of first-class roads in the West European theater is even an advantage for broad maneuvering by armed forces of the modern type.

It is significant, now that the Allies have successfully invaded Northern France, that the Hitlerites' last hope is that hostilities in the West will develop in such a way as to make that front a "subsidiary" and "non-dynamic" front. Characteristic in this respect was the review of the situation broadcast on July 4 by Hallensleben, who betrayed the Germans' most cherished hopes when he said, "In the four weeks since the invasion the enemy has failed to create a really effective front against Germany in the West. This becomes clear when we consider what the situation of the German high command would have been in the summer of 1917, and how Germany's prospects would have been assessed then, if instead of a land front stretching from Switzerland to the North Sea there had been only a narrow Anglo-American beachhead in Normandy."

So that is what the Germans are dreaming of. But the hope is as groundless as all their earlier hopes, which have been completely exploded. The Allies in Normandy and Italy have already given some first-class examples of dynamic maneuvering. The capture of Rome and Cherbourg was the result of such maneuvering. There can be no doubt that when the main forces of the Army of invasion are brought into action, we will witness more outstanding examples of operational and strategical maneuvering in the West European theater, and the Hitlerites' last hope will then suffer a fiasco.

Powerful and concerted blows from the West, East and South are the only guarantees that the present culminating phase of the war will not be unduly protracted. Struck at the heart of Germany, these blows will rapidly lead to the victorious end of the war. The Hitlerite clique, fully aware of where their doom lies, are trying by miserable artifices to postpone the inevitable end. This will not save them from the stern retribution which is fast moving down upon them.

Repin Anniversary to be Celebrated

The Council of People's Commissars of the USSR has appointed an All-Union Committee to arrange for the celebration on August 5 of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian artist, Ilya Repin. Members of the Committee include 44 outstanding artists.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 86

Washington, D. C., July 29, 1944



STATEMENT ON THE SOVIET UNION'S RELATION TO POLAND

Following is the text of the statement of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, published on July 25:

The People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR has been entrusted by the Soviet Government to make the following statement:

The Red Army, successfully advancing, has reached the State frontier between the Soviet Union and Poland.

Pursuing the retreating German armies, Soviet troops, together with the Polish Army operating on the Soviet-German front, have crossed the Western Bug River, have crossed the Soviet-Polish frontier and have entered the limits of Poland. Thus a beginning of the liberation of our long-suffering brother Polish people from German occupation has been made.

Soviet troops have entered the limits of Poland filled with one determination: to rout the enemy German armies and to help the Polish people in the task of its liberation from the yoke of the German invaders and of the restoration of an independent, strong and democratic Poland.

The Soviet Government declares that it considers

the military operations of the Red Army on the territory of Poland as operations on the territory of a sovereign, friendly, allied state. In connection with this, the Soviet Government does not intend to establish on the territory of Poland organs of its own administration, considering this the task of the Polish people.

It has decided, in view of this, to conclude with the Polish Committee of National Liberation an agreement on relations between the Soviet Command and the Polish Administration.

The Soviet Government declares that it does not pursue aims of acquiring any part of Polish territory or of a change of social structure in Poland, and that the military operations of the Red Army on the territory of Poland are dictated solely by military necessity and by the striving to render the friendly Polish people aid in its liberation from German occupation.

The Soviet Government expresses its firm confidence that the fraternal people of the USSR and Poland will jointly bring to a conclusion the struggle of liberation against the German invaders and will lay a firm foundation for friendly Soviet-Polish collaboration.

Pravda Editorial on Statement

On July 26 PRAVDA wrote:

Soviet troops and the Polish Army which operates on the Soviet-German front have crossed the Soviet-Polish frontier, entered the territory of Poland and thus begun the liberation of the much-suffering fraternal Polish people from German occupation, from the oppressive rule of the Hitlerite fiends.

At this historic moment, on the eve of decisive battles for the expulsion of the German invaders from Poland, by a decree of the National Council of Poland issued in Warsaw, the Polish Committee of National Liberation has been formed. The creation of the Polish Committee of National Liberation signifies the combat rallying of all patriotic anti-fascist democratic forces of the Polish people in the struggle against the German-fascist oppressors, for the

restoration of a strong and independent Poland.

Under these conditions, the statement concerning Soviet-Polish relations made by the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR on behalf of the Soviet Government acquires special significance. This statement will go down in the history of the struggle of liberation against Hitlerite bandit imperialism, as a document of the greatest significance.

As far back as July 3, 1941, in his historic speech over the radio, Stalin, formulating the tasks facing the Soviet people, said: "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."

Stalin developed the same idea in more detail in his report on the 24th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, November 6, 1941. "We have not and cannot have such war aims," said Stalin, "as the seizure of foreign territories and the subjugation of foreign peoples—whether it be the peoples and territories of Europe or peoples and territories of Asia, including Iran. Our first aim is to liberate our territories and our people from the German-fascist yoke.

"We have not and cannot have such war aims as the imposition of our will and our regime on the Slavs and other enslaved peoples of Europe who are awaiting our aid. Our aim consists in assisting these peoples in their struggle for liberation from Hitler's tyranny, and then setting them free to rule on their own land as they desire. No intervention whatever in the internal affairs of other nations!"

All through the war the Soviet people helped to the best of its ability the fraternal Polish people in its struggle against the hateful Hitlerite occupationists. Prompted by these motives the Soviet Government permitted the formation of Polish units on the territory of the USSR, units which at present fight gallantly, side by side with the heroic Red Army, for the liberation of their native land. At the present historic moment, as a result of the Red Army's brilliant victories, it has become possible to help the Polish people by armed force to rid itself of enemy domination.

The Soviet Union is deeply interested in the existence of a strong and independent Poland. For ages the Slavic peoples of Eastern Europe lived under the menace of German invasion. The common struggle of the Slavic peoples against the German aggressors goes way back into history. German imperialism revived and extended the aggressive plans of its predecessors. Hitlerite bandit imperialism set as its aim the mass extermination of the Slavic peoples and the conversion of the survivors into mute slaves.

The present war has resulted in unity, in the rallying of the Slavic peoples against the mortal danger on the part of Hitlerite bandit imperialism. However, the "Drang nach Osten" was not the sole aim of the German-fascist invaders. The German imperialists saw and see the road to world domination in this "offensive on the East." That is why the struggle of the Slavic peoples has merged with the struggle of the other peoples of Europe, with the struggle of the peoples of America, against the unbridled German beast.

All freedom-loving peoples face the task: to rout Hitlerite imperialism, to prevent a repetition of Hitlerite aggression, to insure lasting, stable peace and security to the peoples, to insure them an independent sovereign existence.

On this basis arose and strengthened the powerful anti-Hitler coalition of the three great Allied powers, which raised the banner of irreconcilable struggle against Hitler Germany in the name of the liberation of mankind from the Hitlerite plague forever, in the name of the building of relations between peoples and states on a new foundation which would preclude wars of conquest, the enslavement of one people by another.

This also is the position of the Soviet Government, which stated that "it considers the military operations of the Red Army on the territory of Poland as operations on the territory of a sovereign, friendly, allied state."

Our enemies placed much hope in that this would bring about friction between the three great Allies as regards the problems following from the development of war, that insurmountable differences would arise between the small and great powers. At the same time our enemies followed with bitter apprehension and anxiety the growth of the anti-Hitler movement in the occupied countries, the consolidation of the patriotic anti-fascist democratic forces among the enslaved peoples of Europe. They put their stakes on those reactionary elements which undermined the struggle of the peoples against the occupationists, preaching fallacious, rotten "theories," tactics of "waiting," "expectancy," etc.

All these calculations of the Hitlerites collapsed. The Polish people drank to the bottom the cup of terrible suffering which the Hitlerite hangmen's rule brings with it. Filled with a holy, inextinguishable wrath against the German-fascist enslavers, it rallies its forces in the struggle against the occupationists, it welcomes the Red Army as a liberator army, side by side with which fight the glorious soldiers of the Polish Army.

The joy of delivery from the German-fascist yoke is deepened by the realization that since the moment Soviet troops entered Polish territory the Polish people feels itself master of its land.

Soviet public opinion unanimously welcomes the statement of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. This statement opens wide the prospects for a successful fighting partnership and fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Polish Republic. The Soviet people, together with the Soviet Government, express firm confidence that the fraternal peoples of the USSR and Poland will jointly bring to completion the struggle of liberation against the German invaders and will lay a stable foundation for friendly Soviet-Polish cooperation.

The historic hour of liberation of the Polish people from hateful fascist oppression, from Hitlerite domination, has struck. Long live free and independent, strong and democratic Poland!

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF USSR AND POLISH COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

Concerning Relations Between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Polish Administration after Entry of Soviet Troops to Territory of Poland

In the course of the past few days negotiations took place between the Government of the USSR and the Polish Committee of National Liberation on the conclusion of an agreement concerning relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Polish Administration after the entry of Soviet troops to the territory of Poland.

As a result of these negotiations, which took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendly mutual understanding, on July 26 an agreement was signed in Moscow between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Polish Committee of National Liberation concerning relations between the Polish Administration and the Soviet Commander-in-Chief after the entry of Soviet troops to the territory of Poland. The agreement was signed in the Kremlin on behalf of the Government of the USSR by the People's Commissar of Foreign

Affairs, Molotov, and on behalf of the Polish Committee of National Liberation by the President and Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Committee, Ossubka-Morawski.

Present at the signing of the agreement were:

On the part of the USSR—Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR STALIN; Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR VYSHINSKY; Member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR PAVLOV, and Marshal ZHUKOV.

On the part of the Polish Committee of National Liberation—Vice President and Director of the Department of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, WITOS; Director of the Department of National Defense, Colonel General ROLA-JIMERSKI; Director of the Department of Protection of Labor, Social Insurance and Health Protection, Doctor DROBNER.

TEXT OF AGREEMENT

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Polish Committee of National Liberation, desiring that relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Polish Administration on the territory of the Polish Republic after the entry of Soviet troops to the territory of Poland be resolved in a spirit of friendship, have concluded the present agreement to the following effect:

Article 1. In the zone of military operations on the territory of Poland after the entry of Soviet troops, supreme power and responsibility in all affairs relating to the conduct of the war for the time necessary for the execution of military operations shall be concentrated in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet troops.

Article 2. On Polish territory liberated from the enemy, the Polish Committee of National Liberation: (a) Sets up and directs in conformity with the laws of the Polish Republic administrative organs which the latter establishes; (b) Carries out measures for the further organization, formation and replenishment of the Polish Army; (c) Insures active assistance of organs of the Polish Administration to the Soviet Commander-in-Chief in the execution of military operations by the Red Army and

in meeting its requirements and needs during its stay on Polish territory.

Article 3. Polish military units which are formed on the territory of the USSR shall operate on the territory of Poland.

Article 4. Contact between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Polish Committee of National Liberation shall be maintained through the Polish Military Mission.

Article 5. In the zone of direct military operations, contact between Polish administrative organs and the Soviet Commander-in-Chief shall be maintained through the delegate of the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

Article 6. As soon as any part of the liberated territory of Poland ceases to be a zone of direct military operations, the Polish Committee of National Liberation shall fully assume the direction of all affairs of civil administration.

Article 7. All personnel of Soviet troops on the territory of Poland shall be under the jurisdiction of the Soviet Commander-in-Chief. All personnel of the Polish Armed Forces shall be subordinated to Polish military laws and regulations. The civilian population on Polish territory shall also be under

the latter jurisdiction, even in cases of crimes committed against Soviet troops, with the exception of crimes committed in the zone of military operations, which shall be under the jurisdiction of the Soviet Commander-in-Chief. In disputable cases the question of jurisdiction shall be decided by mutual agreement between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the delegate of the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

Article 8. For the entire duration of joint military operations of Soviet troops and the Polish Armed Forces, the latter shall be subordinated operationally to the Supreme Command of the USSR, and in matters relating to organization and personnel to the Chief Command of the Polish Armed Forces.

Article 9. A special agreement shall be concluded

as regards financial and economic problems relating to the stay of Soviet troops on the territory of Poland, also relating to Polish armed forces which are being formed on the territory of the USSR.

Article 10. The present agreement takes effect immediately after it is signed. The agreement is made in two copies, each in the Russian and Polish languages. Both texts are equally valid.

(Signed)

On behalf of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

MOLOTOV

On behalf of the Polish Committee of National Liberation

OSSUBKA-MORAWSKI

Moscow, July 26, 1944

Izvestia Editorial on Agreement

On July 27 IZVESTIA wrote:

Yesterday in Moscow the Soviet Government and the Polish Committee of National Liberation signed an agreement concerning relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Polish Administration after the entry of Soviet troops to Polish territory.

The agreement was achieved as a result of negotiations which took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendly mutual understanding. It constitutes an important milestone on the road of development of Soviet-Polish cooperation, and is based on the principle of respect of the Soviet people for the independence and sovereignty of fraternal Poland, with which we are bound by common interests and common aims in the war against the German invaders.

The agreement, which supplies clear evidence of the desire of the Soviet Government to help the people of Poland in its struggle of liberation, to render support to the Polish Army, and to create the conditions required for the earliest possible rout of the Hitlerite invaders, will doubtless be welcomed with deep satisfaction by the tormented Polish people which has suffered so much under the German yoke. It will inspire the Polish people to a still more intense struggle for the expulsion of the fascist enslavers. This friendship and cooperation, the foundation of which was laid by the brotherhood-in-arms of the Red Army and the Polish Army, will grow, develop and gain strength. This is in full accord with the vital interests of both countries.

Polish troops march side by side with the victorious Red Army to new battles for the happiness,

freedom and independence of their country. Following Chelm and Lublin came the liberation of Deblin. Fighting rages on the banks of the Vistula. Warsaw, Capital of Poland, eagerly listens to the distant rumble of guns and awaits its deliverance from German-fascist slavery.

The agreement signed in the days of violent battles is in complete accordance with the Red Army's great mission of liberation. In his May Day Order of 1944 Stalin pointed out that in pursuing the enemy, "We must deliver from German bondage our brothers, the Poles, Czechoslovaks and other peoples of Western Europe allied with us who are under the heel of Hitlerite Germany."

The Poles are already being delivered in the present epoch-making days. The Red Army and the Polish Army which fights by its side will wreak ruthless vengeance on the occupationists for the sufferings and privations of the Polish people, for the millions of ruined lives, for the tears of orphans, for the towns and villages burned by the Germans.

In its Manifesto to the Polish people, the National Council of Poland states: "On behalf of the National Council of Poland, the Polish Committee of National Liberation takes power in the liberated territories of Poland." The agreement signed yesterday in Moscow helps to create favorable conditions for the successful prosecution of the war against the German armies on the territory of Poland and at the same time will greatly aid the work of the Polish Administration. Each one of the ten Articles of the Agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Polish Committee of National Liberation expresses the unswerving determination of the peoples of the USSR and Poland

**UNITS OF THE
POLISH ARMY
IN THE USSR**

Soviet girls greet officers of the Polish Army in the USSR. The troops have just passed in review, preparatory to leaving for the front



Motorized units of the Polish Army, equipped and supplied with armaments from Soviet factories



Powerful guns of various calibers roll past the reviewing stand



to strengthen their cooperation in the struggle against the bitter enemy who still torments the greater part of Poland.

It was not without reason that the Hitlerites and their underlings received the news on the creation of the Committee of National Liberation and the statement of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR with bestial howls. For centuries Germany derived advantage from the conflicts between the Slav peoples. The radical turn in

relations between the USSR and Poland puts an end to this.

The agreement will help the Red Army and the Polish troops entering the territory of Poland in order to eject the Hitlerite bandits. The German war machine is falling to pieces under the powerful blows of the Red Army. Great battles rage on the banks of the Vistula. An independent, strong and democratic Poland is being reborn in the fire of fierce battles against the German-fascist invaders.

INSIDE GERMANY

By Ilya Ehrenburg

There was a smell of scorched wool in the Fuehrer's apartment. Hitler lay with a wet bandage around his head and dictated an order of the day to the army, "A small group of officers, bereft of all conscience, have made an attempt on my life." There was a time when Hitler boasted that he would raise up a breed of Germans who would have no conscience. But those happy days are over. The cannibal feels uncomfortable and he has begun to talk about conscience.

The day will come when Hitler and all Germany with him will learn to know what the outraged conscience of humanity means. That day is not far off. However, the generals and officers who made the attempt on Hitler's life were not guided by moral considerations, but by sheer calculation. They have no more conscience than the Fuehrer, but they have a larger measure of common sense. They see that the march on Baku has ended in the march on East Prussia. They see that the armies of their adversaries are nearing the borders of Germany from the East, South and West. And they are hastening to say "pass," like an experienced gambler after heavy losses. They want to emerge with a dry skin—not out of water but out of a blood bath.

The "mutinous" generals understand what the defeat of the German army in the East means. Their colleagues recently filed through the streets of Moscow. The "mutinous" generals tried to insure themselves against a similar fate. These are not Fritzes, they are experienced soldiers. What they know about Germany's situation is not derived from Goebbels' articles. They realize that the game is up and they decided to kill the Fuehrer in order to save their own caste.

Although Hitler assures us that the "mutineers" were few in number, his own fright is evidence of the size of the conspiracy. Goering and Doenitz appeal to the army not to obey the orders of the mutineers. It is evident that a large number of generals

and officers were involved in the plot. However, it would be a mistake to think that this is a popular movement. For a popular movement you need people, but what we have in Germany are millions of Fritzes and Gretchens, a greedy and stupid mass, some brazen, others timorous, but all incapable of thinking or feeling.

The German generals are not even a corporation: they are a breed. They were raised up to wars of conquest from their cradles. They were grateful to Hitler for having unleashed the war. But they wanted to fight without paying heed to the whims and caprices of the maniacal Fuehrer. Hitler dismissed them one after another. The list of generals in disfavor is the list of Germany's past victories.

Where is Field Marshal Brauchitsch, conqueror of many countries? Where is Bock, who captured Smolensk? Where is Leeb, who marched as far as Lake Ladoga? Where are the celebrated Kleist and Mannstein, the generals who fought in the South? Where is the patriarch of the breed, Field Marshal Rundstedt? Removed. Dismissed. Replaced by Fritzes in gold braid and epaulets, by oak-leaved upstarts, faithful courtiers of the maniacal Fuehrer.

And now after five years of war the gray-haired, baldheaded, toothless generals have revolted against Hitler, for they realize that the last hour has come: that Hitler is dismissing not only a general here and there, but military science in toto, and that the army is headed by dilettantes and Gestapo men, favorites of the self-willed Fuehrer.

Berlin vows that the conspirators have been crushed, but at the same time talks about a new "internal front." That is a useful acquisition: henceforth the Germans will have to fight not only in the Ukraine, Lithuania, Normandy and Italy, but in Germany itself. Berlin states that Himmler's agents are successfully rounding up generals and officers in German cities.

Evidently Hitler hopes to raise the fighting effi-

ciency of the German army by killing off the generals. We smile as we read that, but we don't forget to go on with our business: we are rounding up the German generals and officers in the forests and thickets. In one month we and our Allies have captured 35 German generals alive. The breed will soon become rare. . . .

When the scorched, bruised and frightened Fuehrer, after having been administered a soothing lotion, was handed the microphone, he wheezed, "I thank Providence for having saved me, not for my own sake but for the sake of my people."

But the Fritzes didn't thank Providence. They muttered to each other gloomily that refugees were streaming out of Koenigsberg, that the Russians had captured another five cities and that the night before another thousand American bombers had blitzed Germany.

It was in vain that the drunkard and thief Ley cried to the Germans, "We can stand bombs and grenades and anything but the loss of the Fuehrer." But the Germans would willingly exchange the Fuehrer for a home without bombs and for a life without grenades.

Conquering Europe is not a game of bowls—you can't say, "I've had enough," and go home. The Germans had a good time robbing and pillaging. Now they are paying the price.

We know where the burns and bruises on the Fuehrer's face came from: the burns came from the fire of the Red Army, which is nearing East Prussia, and the bruises from the defeat in Byelorussia,

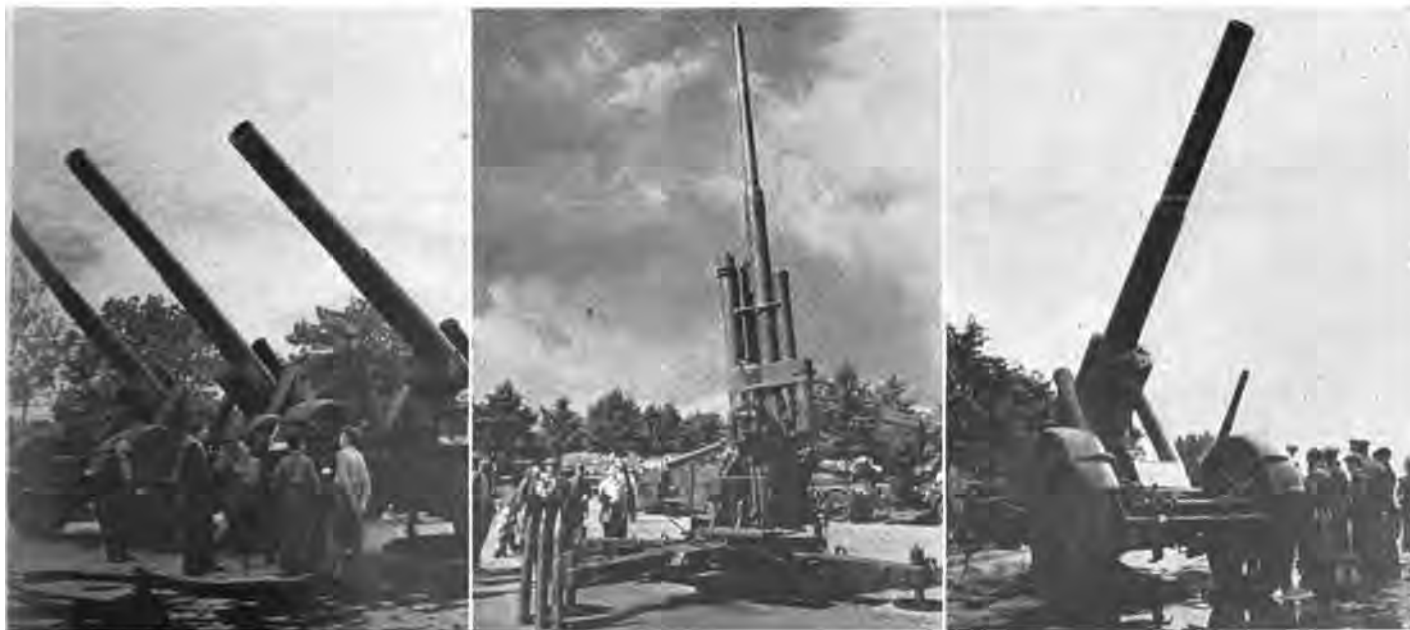
from the march on Lvov, from our tankmen and our infantry, from our Army. And we intend to carry on in the same spirit—it is not mutinous generals that will bring Hitler Germany to her knees, but we and our Allies. We don't rely on any Germans—whether stupid or clever, whether purblind or awakened. We rely on tanks and shells and grenades.

Of course the German army will now learn of impending disaster not from our leaflets but from the Berlin newspapers, and the Fritzes will realize that not only Russian journalists but also German generals are talking of Germany's early defeat.

But we know how doltish the Germans are. We won't wait until they come to their senses: our troops are moving faster than the Fritzes' minds. It is to be presumed that the Germans will understand everything when we reach Berlin. But very few will be interested then in what the Fritzes are thinking. . . .

I'll confess that I am glad von Stauffenberg's bomb didn't lay out the Fuehrer. The job has to be finished. And we have to finish with them once and for all, without any masquerade, without belated remorse and crocodile tears.

And as to the principal figure in the show—the cannibal-in-chief—it isn't a bomb he needs. That would be too easy a death for him. Even little children now understand that the Fuehrer isn't long for this world. In one way or another he will have to die soon. But a rope will be better. A halter around his neck is the thing for him.



Soviet citizens inspect German 211 mm. howitzers, a 105 mm. anti-aircraft gun, and another 211 mm. howitzer—on display at the Moscow Exhibit of Captured German Armament

Notes from Front and Rear

A Soviet war correspondent reports from liberated Pskov that the Germans razed whole sections of the ancient city. Only a few houses escaped destruction, and these were stuffed with mines. The Orthodox Churches and the Lutheran Church, a theater, hotels and numerous factories were destroyed. Relics of wonderful ancient architecture, preserved by the Russian people for many generations, were blown up, and the walls of the Kremlin dynamited in several places. The Chancery House was also burned down.

★

An English language study circle in one of the Moscow munitions plants has 62 pupils in the beginner's class, 26 in the intermediate and 18 in the advanced class.

★

When the Finns overran parts of Soviet Karelia during the first months of war, large quantities of newly felled timber had to be abandoned on the banks of rivers flowing toward territory still in Soviet hands. This spring a Soviet factory in this area, busy on urgent war work, was held up for lack of timber. The management contacted the Karelian Red Partisan Detachment. Although the rivers were swollen with spring floods, the guerrillas floated the timber across the front line under the very noses of the Finns, working with grenades handy and rifles slung across their shoulders, while scouts armed with tommy guns patrolled the woods. The operation is described in guerrilla records as the "20th Campaign of the Red Partisan Detachment."

★

New power stations to be put into operation in the Soviet Union in 1944 will have a total capacity almost equal to that of all power stations built during the first Five-Year Plan.

★

Special vocational schools for 1,400 young people who until recently were members of the guerrilla forces have been opened in the Leningrad Region. The youthful heroes will be trained in various building and industrial trades, as miners, etc. On completing their studies the builders will return to their native towns and villages, which they helped to liberate, to aid in the work of restoration.

A group of bicyclists who set out on a run from Stalingrad to Leningrad via Moscow recently arrived in the Capital after covering 1,200 kilometers in six days. Because of rain, 150 kilometers of this distance were traveled on foot.

★

Dmitri Shostakovich, composer of monumental symphonies, works in other genres as well. He recently completed a *Stalingrad Suite* for the short film of the great battle, and the song "Volga Glory" for orchestra and chorus. An ardent football fan. Shostakovich also wrote the music for the comic ballet *Football*, staged by the well-known ballet master Asaf Messerer. The music, with its grotesque combinations of drum and harp, of trombone and cello, was so amusing the audience broke into laughter before the dancers appeared. Musical circles now refer to the ballet as "Shostakovich's Frolic."

★

The champion mountain skier, Olga Firsova, has become a steeplejack. She is working on the spire of the Admiralty Building in Leningrad, where 600 people are busy restoring the damaged sculptures and bas reliefs depicting the development of the Russian Navy.

★

In the famed settlement of Gunib, located in the mountains of Daghestan, dwells the brave and war-like tribe of Avars, descendants of Shamil and Hadji Murat. When the Germans attacked the USSR, the mountaineers of Gunib mounted their horses and went to defend their country. They are now fighting in the forests of Karelia, in Byelorussia and beyond the Prut. Some 100 Gunibers have been awarded orders and medals, and the title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred upon Mohamed Gadjeiev, commander of a group of submariners, who sank 27 fascist ships in the Barents Sea; sniper Saidu Aliev, who killed 127 Hitlerites; Major of the Guards Mohamed Gambatov, whose battalion was the first to force the Kerch Strait, and Sergeant Sadula Musaev.

★

A sanatorium for guerrillas has been opened near Kiev, in one of the former health resorts. The buildings, damaged by the Germans, have been repaired with great speed, and the first group of guerrillas has already been accommodated. A second sanatorium will shortly be opened in the same location.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

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Vol. IV, No. 87

Washington, D. C., August 1, 1944

AUG 1 0 1944

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Five Salutes in Moscow!

IZVESTIA wrote on July 28:

Even in July, 1944—a month extremely rich in events—the day of five salutes will go down in the record as an extraordinary day. The Red Army is, so to say, gathering the harvest, reaping the fruit of the gigantic patient efforts of the entire Soviet people. That which has ripened, thanks to our efforts, now demands of the Red Army supreme labor and supreme skill. No one can claim that all difficulties have been left behind. On the contrary, Stalin warned

the Soviet people that the last stage of the war will be the most difficult one. Every day of fighting confirms this in actual fact. The enemy resists wherever he can, even when his resistance becomes senseless. However, the might and skill of Soviet troops successfully overcomes these difficulties, foreseen beforehand.

Great tasks are still ahead and the Red Army must accomplish them to the end. It is the sacred duty of the Red Army to completely clear the Soviet land of



Red Army men advancing on an enemy-held stronghold

the fascist invaders, to help in the liberation of the peoples languishing in Hitlerite slavery, and finally to rout and finish off the Hitlerite army. The whole world sees how brilliantly the Red Army fulfills this duty.

On the same date KRSNAYA ZVEZDA wrote:

Constantly increasing its offensive effort, the Red Army resolutely and persistently develops the offensive on a huge front of over 1,000 kilometers and routs the enemy everywhere. Hitlerite propaganda, which has hopelessly entangled itself in the web of its own lies, still continues to speak about some mysterious "retreating maneuvers" allegedly being effected by German troops. This is impotent and stupid prattle.

Everyone knows with what violence the Germans strained all their forces in the attempt to hold Lvov, Byelostok, Stanislaw, Dvinsk and Shaulyai. Everyone knows how often, during the last month Hitler ordered his troops to "hold out at any cost." But every time the Soviet troops crushed the enemy and repulsed him, thus demonstrating in practice the superiority of our arms, our tactics and our morale.

Despite the most stubborn enemy resistance, the Red Army continues its incessant advance in all sectors of the offensive. The entire course of present battles shows that the enemy is on the brink of the abyss. The Red Army, led by great Stalin, is moving confidently and steadfastly toward the complete triumph of our righteous and noble cause.

BALTIC SEAMEN

By Vsevolod Vishnevsky

Red Navy Captain of the Second Rank Vishnevsky, Chevalier of four Orders, is a well-known Soviet author. He took part in naval operations during the liberation of Vyborg and was subsequently stationed at Kronstadt during the heavy June and July fighting against the Germans and Finns. Upon his return to Leningrad he wrote the following impressions of these actions:

How can I describe Russia's naval actions? It is a strange kind of sea warfare, in which there have been no battles between big ships of the line or between large naval formations. It is a constant, stubborn, bloody struggle on the surface, underseas, in the air and on the coasts, a struggle that engages every means at the sailors' disposal and has only one objective—to defeat the Germans wherever they appear.

I would like to tell of certain incidents that occurred in June and July within 150 miles of Kronstadt.

★

Toward the end of June we landed a group on a little island off Vyborg. Two of our seamen, Ivan Vishnyak and Ivan Kushnir, badly wounded by enemy mines and unable to move, fell into the hands of the Finns. The others of the landing group heard savage cries coming from the direction in which their comrades had been taken; the Finns were slashing the wounded men with knives and bashing in their heads with shovels . . .

When the sailors recovered the bodies of their comrades, old seadogs who had seen men of all types in their time doffed their caps and stood for a moment in silence.

"We'll get them for this," they said, and the hatred and determination in their words found expression in subsequent deeds.

★

Another story of the "little ships." Our tiny motorboat sighted smoke on the horizon. The "standby" was sounded and all hands put on steel helmets and lifebelts. Then came the "full speed ahead," and we gave chase to a group of E-boats. Our small craft leaped from wave to wave like a seabird. Streams of cold water hit the men under the brims of their helmets and the wind-dried salt irritated the nose and throat. Conversation was by means of signs, for nothing could be heard in the howling wind even though you shouted at the top of your voice.

Shells burst alongside us and we felt the dull thud of masses of water striking the hull. Through the roar of the wind we heard a sharp crackling as our heavy machine gun went into action, pouring lead into the deck of an E-boat as though from a hose. The Germans drew closer and closer.

Our little vessel shuddered . . . the torpedoes were gone and we heeled over sharply as the boat turned in answer to the wheel. The firing grew fiercer; the Germans now had us in full view. There was a dull thud, followed by another. Men struggled through wind, spray and the hail of shell splinter to look over the compartments—to see whether our hull was holed. They reported the vessel sound, and the faces of the crew brightened.

The commander was in no hurry to write his log; it was our habit to check everything thoroughly and to await reports from our vessels at sea and the look-

outs on the air front. The reports came in later: we had sunk three E-boats and two Zeibel landing craft.



In the engagement following this, there was an explosion in the engine room . . . an enemy shell had pierced the condenser and the room filled with smoke and steam. The water ran out, the exhaust pipe became red-hot, and there was danger of the room filling up with poisonous gases.

"Don't stop the motors," came the order from the bridge. "Repair them as best you can, but keep them going."

The motorboat was under heavy fire. Petty Officer Klopovsky took a handful of tow and approached the red-hot pipe; the lurching of the boat threw him against it, burning his clothing and flesh. But he held his ground, stuffing the tow into one of the holes of the condenser. Tearing from his head the beret worn by the men of the Soviet Motorboat and Submarine Service, he stuffed it into the other hole and stood there—a "human caulk"—holding the two plugs till the end of the engagement. The condenser began to work again and the pipe cooled off . . .



There is the story of a midshipman, one of those youngsters who are getting a fine schooling in the present conflict.

A Soviet motorboat engaged six Finnish vessels. Surrounding the lone boat like a pack of hungry wolves, the Finns called upon it to surrender. In answer came a derisive whistle, expressing hate and contempt and offering a challenge . . .

"Russians do not surrender!" shouted a youthful voice from the surrounded boat. "Take that, you swine!" And the midshipman's machine gun began to spit angrily at the nearest Finnish vessel. On the horizon Soviet submarine chasers appeared. They hurried to the help of the valiant motorboat, whose pennant was still flying proudly in the breeze . . .



These incidents took place in June and July. On July 5, the newspaper of the Baltic Fleet, *Krasny Baltisky Flot*, carried a modest little item: "In June, ships of the Baltic Fleet sank 100 enemy vessels."

I have told only a small fraction of what is taking place on one sector of Russia's tremendous front. Our sailors will continue the struggle with increasing fierceness and determination.

We have a motto: *If you meet an enemy vessel weaker than yourself—attack! If it is as strong as you—attack! If it is stronger—attack!*



A squadron of the Red Navy in enemy waters



Naval anti-aircraft gunners on the alert



The task completed, sailors enjoy a concert on deck



NEWSPAPERMAN OZOLINSH (left) organized armed struggle against the Germans from the first day of the invasion of Soviet Latvia. As a guerrilla leader he directed fighting, created underground organizations and published illegal newspapers. In 1942 he was awarded the Order of the Red Star. Above Ozolinsh is shown with the Order of the Red Banner, admired by another guerrilla, Avdukevitch; (right) HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION KRUM, wearing his Gold Star Medal and a decoration for guerrilla activities, chats with two other members of the Latvian guerrilla forces who have just been decorated

THE GUERRILLAS OF SOVIET LATVIA

By Wilhens Leiwins

The following article, written by the commander of a detachment of guerrillas successfully routing the German occupationists in the Latvian SSR, was brought to Moscow across the front line.

Since 1942 guerrilla activity in Latvia has been spreading rapidly. It is now a country-wide movement. German occupation units are everywhere harassed and destroyed by guerrilla detachments composed mainly of workers, farmers and intellectuals, most of whom came straight from their homes and their work, driven by hatred of the invaders. Among them are also youngsters who deserted from Latvian military units which the Germans attempted to organize, men and women who evaded the compulsory labor battalions, and others who escaped from prisons and concentration camps. Often entire families join the guerrilla detachments.

Fighting stubbornly and incessantly, the Latvian patriots have done great damage to the invaders. They are of tremendous aid to the Red Army: to fight the guerrillas the Germans are forced to remove troops from the front lines, to keep large garrisons along railways and main highways and near every important military objective, and sometimes to divert entire divisions. In December, 1943, two German divisions were sent against detachments headed by commanders Zalums and B., but they did not succeed in halting the activities of the patriots.

The list of Latvian guerrilla victories is long. One detachment killed over 1,000 Hitlerites, including 53

officers, in the first half of 1943; derailed 75 troop trains, annihilating some 5,000 German soldiers, destroyed over 50 engines and 600 railway cars, blew up 25 kilometers of a railway line, demolished ten bridges, 21 automobiles, one tank and two armored cars, and brought down four enemy planes.

Liesma, a young girl, wrecked 12 Nazi troop trains. The unit commanded by Zalums, a former officer in the Latvian army, destroyed several strongly-fortified German garrisons and recaptured nearly 100 tons of grain requisitioned by the invaders.

The guerrilla movement is not the only method of organized struggle utilized by the Latvian people. Widespread underground organizations are also active throughout the country. These groups plan and carry out wrecking operations, halt Nazi plundering and hinder attempts to mobilize Latvians into the German army or to ship them to hard labor in Germany. Early in 1943, only one-half of 500 young men mobilized by the enemy turned up at the appointed place—the remainder escaped. In one village no one answered the German call to arms.

When the Germans called a meeting on November 13 of last year to protest the Moscow Conference, a mine exploded on the speakers' platform. The Gofak factory in Yelgava was entirely destroyed by fires lighted by patriots, a grain mill in Riga was also burned, and several "mysterious accidents" occurred on the rail line from Riga to Valka, destroying much German personnel and equipment.

LATVIAN GUERRILLA HEROES DECORATED



FARMER ZAMOMS joined the guerrillas in the summer of 1942 and a year later was commanding a detachment. His group blew up five German trains and three bridges and routed five garrisons. Professor Kirchenstein, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR, hands Zamoms the Order of the Red Banner and the "Guerrilla of the Patriotic War" Medal



FARMER AVDUKEVITCH, awarded the Order of the Patriotic War, First Class, was formerly chairman of a district industrial enterprise. He has taken part in numerous guerrilla operations as assistant commander of a detachment, set up underground organizations and organized demolition groups. Avdukevitch spoke at the ceremony in the Kremlin at which the Latvian patriots were decorated



FORMER STEVEDORE PETER BREDIS, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR and active since 1941 in organizing and leading guerrilla detachments in the German rear, is handed the Order of the Red Banner by Professor Kirchenstein, Chairman of the Presidium of the Latvian Supreme Soviet. All Latvian guerrillas repeat a sacred oath: "Latvia will soon be free, a Soviet state, and happy."



MILDA BIRKENFELD, FARMHAND and later a dressmaker, spent years in the prisons of former Latvia. Elected a Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR, she remained in the German rear when her country was occupied. A woman of great heart and iron will, Milda Birkenfeld traveled on foot through forests and villages, set up anti-fascist groups, exposed the lies of the occupationists, helped to train young guerrillas, organized medical and supply services and established an underground printshop. In the photograph on the left she receives the Order of the Red Banner from Professor Kirchenstein; on the right Colonel Strogis pins the decoration on her coat

LVOV

By Professor J. Parnas

Professor Parnas is a noted Polish biochemist.

After three years of slavery Lvov has regained its freedom. Soon we shall learn the details of its sufferings and losses, of the destruction of its cultural treasures and priceless monuments of the past. From reports reaching us, and from all we know of German crimes in Poland, Russia and the Ukraine, we are filled with foreboding. Nowhere have so many scientists and artists fallen victim to the fascists as in this relatively small city.

Lvov, founded in the 13th Century by the Russian princes as a stronghold against the Tatar invasions, became in the period of the Renaissance a large cultural center. It was also a great caravan city, a commercial center linking the Near East with the West. Through it passed goods from the East and South—wines from Crete and Mombasa, spices and Eastern fabrics, metal wares and arms.

Colonies of peoples whose states had been smashed by the Turks sprang up here—an Armenian colony, which has existed to the present time, and a Serbian colony of which only the name of the main street of its quarter has survived.

In the market square of Lvov stood the beautiful building of the Venetian Consulate, with the coat of arms of that Republic. Here were also churches built by the official patrons of the Eastern Church in Lvov, beautiful buildings erected by local masters from the plans of an Italian architect, magnificent stone buildings of the Roman Catholic churches, Greek Catholic churches, and a fine Armenian church of the 16th Century—a copy of the Transcaucasian Ani. Special memories are associated with the wonderful chapel of the Boim family, one of whose members, a Jesuit missionary in China, wrote the first book on Chinese flora, *Flora Sinica*.

In old Lvov poets were born and lived. Szimanowicz's *Sielanki* undoubtedly belongs to those works of the 17th Century which to this day stir us with their beauty and their social and historical subjects. In the 19th Century scientific forces flocked to Lvov from all three sections of the partitioned country. Fine institutes and libraries—the Museum of the Ossolinskis, the Library of Baworovis, the archives of ancient documents, the Stauropigjanski Collection—became places of historical research where Polish and Russian scientists studied Polish, Ukrainian and Russian history.

The Polish historians Balcer and Finkiel worked in Lvov, and also the Ukrainians Hrushevsky and Lignichenko; here lived the greatest Polish playwright, Fredo, the poet Ujejski, and later Jan Kas-

prowicz and the Ukrainian poet Ivan Franko. The first complete editions of the works of Mickiewicz and Slowacki appeared in Lvov, and here Shevchenko's works were printed in Ukrainian in the first half of the 19th Century.

The institutes of higher learning—the University, Polytechnic College, Veterinary Academy and Agricultural College—brought together professors, young scientists and students from all parts of Poland: the great physicist Smoluchowski, the plant physiologist Emil Godlewski the elder, the physiologist Beck, the histologist Izymonowicz, the surgeon Rydygier, and many others.

Again, for a brief period, Lvov became an asylum for scientists and representatives of culture fleeing before the German invasion of 1939. On September 12 of that year the Germans came close to Lvov, invested the city and began to bombard it. With its own forces the city resisted until September 21, when the Red Army arrived and the Germans withdrew.

Soviet authorities immediately took all measures to insure uninterrupted work of schools and institutes of higher learning. Exactly two weeks later we resumed our work. The Poles used the Polish language and the Ukrainians their native tongue. All Polish professors continued to lecture in Polish and students from even distant parts of Russia learned to understand us after a few weeks and to make notes on our lectures in Russian.

So far as I can recall, the numerous scientists who fled to Lvov from Warsaw and Cracow received the same posts they had held in their own universities, and even higher ones.

The great mathematicians of the Warsaw school who came to Lvov (Saks, Kanaster) received professorships in the Lvov Institute of Mathematics, while outstanding and world-renowned mathematicians who remained in Warsaw (Sierprinski, Mazurkiewicz, etc.) had to earn their living as petty officials, and one—Kwietniewski—literally died of starvation.

In June, 1941, when the Germans invaded the USSR, Lvov was so close to the frontier that many who wanted to leave before the German occupation were unable to escape. Some were not aware of what was in store for them; if they had known, they would have left even on foot. As soon as the Germans entered the city they organized a pogrom against the intelligentsia.

That was only the beginning. Later the persecutions and outrages became systematic. I know of



The burned-out shell of Kiev University, wrecked by the German vandals

shootings of hostages in the ghetto and of its liquidation by the murder of all the Jews, of the "scientific" plunder of all cultural and artistic treasures and the stamping out of all intellectual activity.

We know definitely of the murder of Kazimierz Bartel, professor of geometry; Tadeusz Boyzelenski, writer and literary scholar; Victor Reiss, ophthalmologist; Juljan Kleiner, philologist and literary scholar; Hugo Steinhaus, mathematician; Stanislaw Pilat, chemist, and Pawel Stern, biochemist. There are also reports that Adam Gruo and Stanislaw Dobrzaniecki, outstanding surgeons, were murdered.

The Germans had far-reaching plans for Lvov; it seems they intended it to serve as an "Eastern bastion" of Germanism. This dream has been shattered.

The city has suffered devastation and destruction, some of which is irreparable. Will we find Slowackis' manuscripts, the 24 drawings by Durer, the archives of ancient documents, the collection of Stauropigjanski? After what has perished at the hands of the enemy, after all that has been destroyed, there remain only deep sorrow and the desire for vengeance and retribution.

Agricultural Mission To Iran

A group of Soviet specialists in sub-tropical agriculture, headed by the director of the Soviet Sub-Tropical Scientific Research Institute, will visit Iran. Commenting on this visit, the director stated:

"Iran, a land of ancient agriculture, is the motherland of many plants now widely distributed throughout the world. The Soviet Union has received cotton, rice, cucumbers, watermelons and other plants from Iran. Soviet agriculture has surpassed that of Iran, but there is still much that we can learn from the patriarchs of world agriculture.

"For ten years we have been developing the sub-tropical agriculture of Tajikistan, southern Uzbekistan and Turkmenia, where we have successfully introduced the date palm, sugar cane, citrus and other sub-tropical plants. The climate and soil of these southern regions of Soviet Central Asia resemble the main agricultural area of Iran, but we have an insufficient variety of plants for development in these regions. Therefore the plant wealth of Iran is of particular interest to us."

Women Producers of Documentary Films

By Nina Kuznetsova

For outstanding production of documentary films during the war, and newsreels from the war zone, leading workers of the Central Kinokhronika Studios in Moscow have been awarded Government orders and medals.

The Badge of Honor has been conferred upon four women employees—directors Irina Setkina, Lydia Stepanova, Arsha Avenosova and camera operator Maria Sukhova. Although the careers of each of these women vary, all are alike in their devotion to their chosen profession. Three are married to men working in the studios.

Thirty years ago, as a little girl, Irina Setkina began work in the Pathe Brothers Studio. Later she was employed in the cutting department of the Kinokhronika Studios, where her industry and native talent led her into creative work. For a number of years she has been a director of Soyuzkinokhronika.

Hundreds of documentary films have passed through Setkina's hands. The eye and hand of the documentary director must be as skilled as those of the director of fiction and art films. From the enormous mass of material reaching the studio from all parts of the country, the director must select those bits most topical, vital and vivid. Each episode must be fitted into the general pattern; the spectator must be entertained and the meaning of the scenes made instantly clear to him. In Setkina's able hands, isolated episodes and scenes are arranged in logical sequence and merged into a harmonious whole.

Lydia Stepanova, director of many documentary films, brought to her work a restless, searching nature and a love of travel. She was not content with editing the material filmed by others, but wished to visit strange places herself and gather her own facts. This little woman of 50, agile, energetic and persistent, has traveled over the entire country by rail, by air, and by horse and camel. She crossed the wide rivers of Siberia in frail boats and visited the largest construction projects built during the First Five-Year Plan, which changed the face of the country. As director and head of a large film group, she spent an entire year at Magnitostroi.

Since the outbreak of war Stepanova has produced the documentary *Soviet Youth Defends Its Country*. With her husband, Raphael Gik, chief of a group of front-line cameramen, she also produced the remarkable documentary *The Battle of Orel*.

The youngest director to receive the Badge of Honor is Arsha Avenosova, responsible for the in-

comparable children's documentary film series, *Young Pioneers*. Avenosova came to the studios directly from her studies in the Cinema Institute and devoted herself to her work with youthful enthusiasm and energy. The popularity of her films among her young audience, which eagerly awaits each new episode of the *Young Pioneers*, is a tribute to their truth and timeliness. The film series tells most engagingly of the things that interest children—the war, new inventions, the activities of other children in all parts of the Soviet Union, etc.

Maria Sukhova is one of the few women camera operators in the Kinokhronika Studios. She began work there as a janitress. In her leisure she read a great deal and studied handbooks and textbooks, with the aim of becoming a camera operator. Her eager desire to learn attracted the attention of the administrators and trade union officials and she was soon given a job in the montage laboratory, where she became a skilled technician. She continued her studies and within a few years was working at the camera, first as an assistant and then as a full-fledged operator. Her documentary film *Iran* won her a Stalin Prize.

At present Sukhova is behind the German lines with the guerrillas. A woman of rare courage and endurance, she shares their rigorous life, goes into battle with them and records their brave deeds on film.

The names of these four outstanding women are widely known to Soviet film fans.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

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Vol. IV, No. 88

Washington, D. C., August 3, 1944

AUG 2 1944



The Liberation of Poland

Now that the Red Army has carried the fighting to Polish territory, the liberation of the long-suffering Polish people from German occupation has commenced. The very approach of the Red Army gave impetus to the Polish people's struggle against the German occupationists. All patriotic, anti-fascist and democratic elements hastened to join forces, for the Polish people have realized that the road to liberty and an independent existence lies through fierce and unremitting struggle, that the policy of "sitting tight" and playing a waiting game advocated by the emigre reactionaries will lead to no good.

Events of tremendous historical importance have occurred in the life of the Polish nation. In its decree published in Warsaw, *Krajowa Rada Narodowa* formed the Polish Committee of National Liberation

as the provisional executive power on liberated Polish territory. The Polish Committee of National Liberation addressed a Manifesto to the Polish people, calling upon all patriots actively to assist and collaborate with the Red Army. It urges the people to fight in the name of Poland's regeneration, in the name of a free, independent, strong and democratic Poland. It discards the fascist constitution of 1935 and upholds the democratic constitution of 1921, restoring sovereign power to the Polish people.

In its foreign policy, the Committee calls for close alliance and collaboration with the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, Poland's immediate neighbors. It urges the strengthening of friendly allied relations with Great Britain, the United States and other United Nations. The democratic aims of the Com-



Lieutenant Afanasiev's "tank-busters" change their gun position after putting two enemy tanks out of action

mittee are clearly and unequivocally outlined as befits honest political leaders and patriots.

The long years of Poland's bondage are drawing to a close. At this historical juncture the Soviet Union has clearly stated its position with regard to the fraternal Polish people. Bound to the Polish people by common interests throughout the centuries, the Soviet people, like the Polish and other Slavonic peoples, have been threatened for long years with German invasion. The peoples of the USSR are resolved to help the people of Poland in their struggle to free themselves from Hitlerite slavery.

At the same time the Soviet Union declares that it harbors no designs on Polish territory and, fully respecting the sovereign rights of the Polish people, adheres strictly to a position of complete non-interference in the internal affairs of that country. The principles proclaimed by the Soviet Union are set forth in the agreement signed on July 26 between the Soviet Government and the Polish Committee of National Liberation with regard to relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Polish Administration after the entry of Soviet troops into

Polish territory.

The agreement, which opens a new phase in the relations of the Soviet and Polish peoples, is founded on the principle of mutual respect of both contracting parties. It is the reflection of a new element in the relations of the two countries. The Polish people see in the Soviet Union a loyal friend. With the regeneration of a new Poland, democratic and friendly toward the Soviet Union, the historical traditions of common struggle against the age-old enemy of all the Slav peoples, against unbridled German imperialism, are being revived.

The agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Polish Committee of National Liberation is an illustrious landmark in the development of partnership-in-arms and friendship between the Soviet and Polish peoples, a landmark opening wide prospects for fruitful collaboration during the war and after it, between both countries, to their mutual advantage and to the benefit of universal peace and security. At the same time the agreement of July 26 strengthens the front of all freedom-loving peoples, hastening the defeat of the common enemy.

At the Approaches to Warsaw

A KRASNAYA ZVEZDA war correspondent reported on August 1:

Sedlets is a large highway and railway center on the road to Warsaw. Fine roads and railways radiate from here in various directions. Since Sedlets covers the approaches to Warsaw from the East, the Germans naturally prepared beforehand for its defense; they built a number of strongpoints in the area of the town and dug solid lines of trenches around it.

Our troops began the fighting for Sedlets under the following circumstances: Arriving at the distant approaches to the town, the X tank formation, acting together with a cavalry group, changed the direction of its movement and set out to the north, toward the town of Lukov. Violent engagements broke out. The enemy offered stubborn resistance, but by giving him no time to regroup his forces our troops continued to press him back to the north.

The high pace of the offensive of our mobile groups created certain difficulties for them. For quite obvious reasons the infantry could not keep up with the tanks, and therefore the cavalry fulfilled the part of the infantry. It moved in the wake of the tanks and consolidated the success achieved by the latter, finally crushing enemy resistance in the zone of the breakthrough. In places where the Germans' resistance was especially stiff, the cavalry dismounted and acted on foot.

A distance of 30 kilometers separates Lukov from Sedlets. Our tankmen covered this distance also com-

paratively rapidly, despite enemy resistance. By the close of the second day they reached the approaches to Sedlets from its southeastern side, cut the Warsaw highway and straddled the road leading to Sedlets from the large inhabited locality of Mordy.

At first our mobile groups approached Sedlets in a narrow wedge. Our vanguard units engaged the enemy on the outskirts of the town and gradually penetrated deeper into its streets, destroying pockets of German resistance one after another. The enemy launched a number of counter-attacks from the flanks, but the wedge driven into his dispositions by our attacking troops proved stable in all sectors, from its base to the apex.

The battle formations of our units were so arranged that no matter where German counter-attacking groups appeared, they encountered the organized fire of our tanks and dismounted cavalry. When the fighting in the streets and outskirts of Sedlets was at its height, our infantry appeared on the scene, after which a decisive assault on the town was launched.

By that time, the Germans had also brought up fresh forces and intensified their counter-attacks. The fighting grew in violence with every minute. Our assault parties had to take every street and in some places every house in hard fighting.

The enemy was compelled to beat a retreat, abandoning many killed and wounded, as well as armaments, on the field of action. The town of Sedlets was completely cleared of the Germans.

IN THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF POLAND

By Vasili Grossman

The roads through eastern Poland run past fields of ripening wheat and barley. In many places the peasants are already gathering the crops. Trees are loaded with apples, plums and pears, but the cherry is plainly the favorite fruit tree. And the cherry crop this year is magnificent; our troops march through village streets lined with crimson palisades of cherry trees.

From the dense forests and swamps, overgrown with luxuriant grass of an unnatural greenness, trail long lines—thousands and thousands of Polish peasants trudging on foot or riding in carts, carrying back to their villages property concealed from the Germans and driving cows, calves and horses before them. If one thinks of it, these peasants in their fur hats, coatless and shoeless, and these peasant women in their kerchiefs and aprons, loaded down with winter clothing, pillows, blankets, mirrors and home-made rugs, trudging forward to meet our advanced tanks, infantry and cavalry, are deeply expressive of the friendship of the Polish people for the Red Army and their confidence in it.

This oncoming stream of Polish peasants driving the cattle from the forests and lugging their property back to their homes to the sound of the thunder of Soviet artillery is expressive of the Polish peasants' recognition of the moral and political integrity of our troops; their confidence in the Red Army, in the finality of our military success and in our attitude toward the Polish people, based upon the principles of respect for their property and their independence.

Scarcely does the front line move forward 20 or 25 kilometers from the liberated Polish villages than the eye, which thirsts for sights of peace, notes with satisfaction idyllic scenes of rural life: a peasant reaping, his children climbing a haystack and teasing a shaggy little dog which tries in vain to clamber up its steep and slippery side; women busy in their vegetable patches and stopping to throw us a smile as we pass; girls at a village well coquetting with village lads, while others water flowers or gather cherries from the trees.

The German "Governor-Generalship"

How did these people live under the Germans? Of the countries of Europe which have been languishing under the military might of German fascism, Poland was subjugated longest of all. In September it will be five years since Poland was converted into a Governor-Generalship. We may well believe the Germans will never celebrate this an-

niversary; the date will presumably coincide with the resurrection of the Polish State, of a democratic, independent Poland.

We were particularly interested to learn from the Poles the regime and laws which the Germans established in the Governor-Generalship and the conditions in which the Poles lived under the iron heel of Hitlerism in those 50 months or more which were as long as five centuries. Of course the scenes we saw today by no means give the full picture of German rule in Poland. So far we have seen and talked only to people who live in the Chelm and Lublin areas, between the Bug and the Vistula. But even the sketchy and incomplete data we gathered here was eloquent enough.

When I stepped from the car in the hamlet of Lenchna, not far from Lublin, I was surrounded by a smiling throng. A heavily-built baldheaded man pushed his way forward as if he had some urgent business to discuss, shook my hand and with a nod and laugh said, "*Jaka mechanizacja!*" ("What mechanization!"), pointing to our tanks speeding along the road. Other voices took up the word "mechanization" and repeated it in all its declensions. I asked the man who had spoken first whether the population had been waiting for the Red Army.

"*Jak Boga,*" ("As if for God"), came the reply from several persons at once. This was the answer I had received to the same question from an old working woman in Lublin and from a Ukrainian peasant in a village near the Bug.

I asked an elderly peasant with sunken cheeks how the Germans had behaved in Poland. This man with the face of an ascetic suddenly burst into tears. The faces of the people around him grew stern and grim.

Truly the German regime in Poland was one of medieval horrors, of pillage and rapine. I have heard this from hundreds of people in town and countryside. I heard it again in Lenchna. The countryside groaned under the burden of taxation. No ordinary bandit could rob in this methodical and pedantic way. Only the German bandits were capable of it. If a peasant last year gathered 19 measures of wheat, he had to surrender 10 of them to the Germans. Vegetable patches were planted strictly to plan and in the autumn the peasants were robbed of practically the entire fruit of their labor. Everything a peasant had was registered. The Polish hens lived in the Polish countryside, but practically all their eggs were eaten in Germany. In the storehouses of Lublin I saw boxes of eggs ar-

ranged in phenomenal piles, waiting to be consigned to Germany. Every egg was stamped, and I must say they proved to be fresh. A strict account was likewise kept of milk, butter and other dairy produce, and it was all taxed and practically all taken away. It was the same with Polish cows as with Polish hens; they lived in the Polish countryside, but the greater bulk of their yields went to the Germans. The peasants were allowed the privilege of grazing and milking the cows; to the Germans fell the task of eating the butter and drinking the cream. A classic example of division of labor under Nazi economy.

Notorious "slaughtering laws" prevailed in the Polish countryside. The peasant who raised three pigs was forced to surrender two—the third he could slaughter for himself. The "slaughtering laws" applied to all other livestock and poultry. Punishment for infraction was unusually severe. No peasant dared to eat goose. True, in return for a goose the peasant received a coupon entitling him to buy a few "deca," or about a handful, of sugar. The owners of horses and carts were obliged to work for the Germans three times a week, from morning till night, carting goods confiscated from the population to storehouses, or timber and stone for road-making and bridge-building.

Feudal Serfdom

As the Poles say, all these years their country was a feudal serf of Germany. Under constant threat of the lash and imprisonment, Poland toiled for Germany in Polish fields; Poland grazed and milked cows for Germany; Poland bred horses for Germany; Poland gathered apples from her trees for Germany.

After having visited dozens of Polish villages I understood perfectly the tears of the peasant in Lenchna. I also understood the implacable hatred of the Polish guerrillas for the enemy. In the towns the exploitation was equally monstrous. In Lublin and Chelm I conversed with people in all walks of life: with workingmen and women, young and old; with traders, priests and servants.

It goes without saying that the burden weighed most heavily on the shoulders of the workers: endless working hours, wretched wages, beggarly rations, political terror and complete disfranchisement. I shall never forget the dark, miserable hovel where a gray-haired old fitter with black, twisted and calloused hands poured out to me as to a brother the tale of his sufferings under the Germans. That dark, poverty-stricken room of the Lublin proletarian seemed to grow darker as he told his story.

I listened, too, to the long complaints of an old

woman, Wassilewska, mother of two daughters who worked as factory hands. How was it possible to live on 100 or 120 zlotys a month, when nothing more than 500 grams of butter could be bought with this money?

However, it must be said that the plight of the Polish merchants and manufacturers was no better under the Nazis. Their misfortunes cannot be compared with the sufferings of the working people; but they too were robbed of all rights and privileges; many did not escape punishment or imprisonment; they were turned into salesmen and clerks and their businesses were taken over by Germans who had formerly worked for them. Many were driven to the poorer quarters of Lublin and their homes taken over by fascist *nouveaux riches*. Among this section of Polish society, as among priests and clergymen, hatred of the German new order is very bitter.

As to the Polish intelligentsia, the Germans regarded them simply as superfluous and harmful. Indeed, what could be more dangerous from the point of view of the German butchers than wise words, honest books, indomitable verses, and music that stirs and arouses—in a Poland which the Germans had doomed to slavery, to toil under the muzzle of the Gestapo tommy gun and the bludgeon of the *wojt, soltys* and policemen.

The very existence of gifted scientists, engineers, writers and musicians ran counter to the German view of Poland as a country of Slav cattle. The consequence of this view of the country which produced Copernicus, Chopin, Mickiewicz, Marie Curie and a galaxy of great revolutionaries, was that all these years the blood of the finest flowed in Poland. In old Lublin, a town of 50,000, the Germans closed the University, the theaters, libraries, museum and many schools.

"The Jews Are No More"

I have heard many groans and seen many tears in Poland. But no groans or tears of Jews. There are no Jews in Poland. They have all been slaughtered, from senile old men down to newborn infants. Their corpses have been burned to ashes. In Lublin, a town with the largest Jewish population in Poland, where over 40,000 Jews once lived, I did not see a single Jew—man, woman or child.

The fiendish nature of the fascist vampire is perhaps nowhere revealed so basely as in the national question. Wholesale mechanized murder of the Polish Jews was practiced for years. We had heard of the death factories in Poland. People were told they were being taken to labor camps, then freight trains loaded with the doomed unfortunates were switched by a spur line to a long, squat, specially-built barracks. The people were told to strip and

go to the bath-houses. There they were killed by carbon monoxide or electricity. The floor then opened and they dropped into underground cellars where their bones were crushed, after which a conveyor ran the mutilated bodies into a furnace. I was told there were more than a score-and-a-half of such death factories in eastern Poland and Silesia. There was one 10 kilometers from Lublin, another at the station of Sabibur in the same area, near Wladowa. A Pole who worked for a long time digging trenches with a man who had run away from the Sabibur death factory told me things I have not the heart to write about or even to think about. They surpass all human conception of crime and suffering.

This Pole also told me it was an almost daily occurrence for these doomed, unarmed and naked people to enter into battle with their guards on the threshold of the death factory and to die as warriors. We have heard of the gallant fight and doom of the Warsaw ghetto.

But now the great massacre is over and the Jews are no more.

The Sabibur death factory was removed to Chelm. The site where it stood was plowed up and planted to wheat, and the keenest investigator will be hard put to find any trace of this monstrous shambles. In Chelm, last year, malodorous smoke poured from the chimneys of the death factory. I was told this was oil smoke, which settled in the throat and made breathing difficult.

90,000 Russian War Prisoners Murdered

It took the Germans several days and nights to obliterate the traces of another monstrous crime perpetrated by them outside Chelm. When our offensive began in the spring of last year the Sabibur death factory was transferred to Chelm and began to burn the bodies of 90,000 Russian war prisoners whom the Germans had murdered in 1941-42. The bodies had been buried, but were dug up.

Last year the Germans resorted to their last diabolical intrigues when they began to incite the Poles against the Ukrainians and the Ukrainians against the Poles in the villages, hamlets and towns on the Bug—truly diabolical devices. In all the Polish villages punitive measures were entrusted to certain Ukrainian traitors, while in the Ukrainian villages the lash and Tommy gun were placed in the hands of traitor Poles. Germans disguised as peasants raided villages, robbing and burning, making themselves out to be Poles or Ukrainians or Byelorussians, as the nationality of the village warranted. The Germans practiced the vile and criminal system of depriving one nationality of privileges and granting them to others, and then shuffling these privileges around.

But the people, with their plain common sense and innate nobility, saw through these artifices and refused to be duped by them, with some exceptions.

Lastly, the Nazis resettled the Germans from poorer villages on the rich farms of Silesia, evicting the Poles from Silesia to sterile land and poorer villages.

This is a brief and incomplete account of the rule of the Germans in Poland. These facts helped me to understand why the haggard peasant of Lenchna wept when I asked what life was like under the Germans; why Polish guerrillas are so resolute and



Red Army men talk to farmers who have returned from the forests to find their villages burned by the Germans

implacable in their fight; why General Berling's soldiers are so anxious to come to grips with the Germans; why you are stirred to the depths of your being by the look on the faces of the Polish infantrymen, mortarmen, motorcyclists and artillerymen as they cross the Western Bug in the red glow of the setting sun; why when the battle was raging in Lublin the citizens, at the risk of their lives, came running toward us as toward brothers; why when you ask Poles, "Were you waiting for us?" they answer with trembling voices, "*Jak Boga.*"

THE HOUR OF ESTONIA'S LIBERATION

By J. Vares

Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Estonian SSR

From an article published in IZVESTIA July 27:

This is a day of rejoicing for the Estonian people. The Red Army has captured by storm the city and fortress of Narva, first large city of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic to be liberated.

The gallant city of Narva has seen many battles and many wars. Here on the banks of the Narva, Peter I fought for the great future of Russia, and in 1918 the Red Army smashed the German invaders under the walls of Narva. But never has this warrior city seen such an impetuous and inflexible offensive as today. The Estonian people are filled with gratitude toward the great Soviet Union, into whose fraternal family it entered in July, 1940.

The Estonian people know that in their country's most critical moments, from the 13th Century on, it repeatedly received aid and support from the friendly Russian people. Our ancestors often appealed for help to Pskov, Novgorod and Suzdal, to repulse the onslaught of the German vultures by our joint forces.

At the price of heavy losses the Hitlerites succeeded in capturing Estonia. Everyone remembers the battles between the enemy mopping-up battalions and the workers' regiments at the approaches to Tallinn and in defense of other Estonian cities. For three years the invaders ruled Estonia, but not for

a single day did the struggle of the people against the hated enemy abate. Neither brutal terror nor wholesale shipment of our people to hard labor in Germany could break the Estonians' will to resist.

Thousands of citizens of the Estonian SSR have already returned to the liberated territory of the Republic. The hour of liberation of the whole of Estonia is near.

We are living through the bright and joyous days of the liberation of the Baltic Soviet Republics. And now the chief task of every Estonian—worker, farmer, intellectual, young or advanced in age—is the struggle against the occupationists. The retreating Hitlerites are striving to destroy our towns and villages. The people can prevent this; they can save their land from havoc and ruin. Whoever loves his country and his people must take revenge upon the Germans for the sufferings they have inflicted upon our people.

Let every Estonian in these joyous days of liberation pledge to exert himself to the utmost for the final defeat of fascism; to do his part in the cause of the liberation of Soviet Estonia from the German invaders. And when that is done, we will bend every effort to revive the happy, peaceful life of our beloved country.

THE BATTLE OF NARVA

By D. Rudnyev

Strictly speaking the battle of Narva began in February of this year when the Red Army, after overwhelming the Germans at Leningrad, swept on to the Narva River. South of Narva our troops forced the river, smashed through the enemy defenses and established a large bridgehead on the west bank.

Narva is the northern gateway to East Prussia. "Along the Narva runs the frontier of Germany," Lindemann, commander of the German Baltic Army, proclaimed to his troops. Nevertheless the Germans were unable to reduce our bridgehead, and our troops retained a firm foothold on the western bank.

In the intervening months the Germans were busy erecting fortifications along the Narva-Tallinn railroad on which our bridgehead abutted. These fortifications rivaled the notorious Mannerheim Line in Finland. The Germans expected we would launch an offensive against Narva. They uneasily glued their eyes on our bridgehead, from which they were sure the decisive blow would come. Their left flank, protected by the sea, they considered invincible. But it

was precisely here the Red Army struck its main blows.

Their eyes were opened to the true state of affairs only when on the morning of July 25 an avalanche of death-dealing metal poured down upon them in this sector.

In this artillery preparation the batteries of the Estonian National Corps of the Red Army participated. It was a red-letter day for them. They had long cherished the dream of fighting the age-old enemy of the Estonian people on their native soil.

Simultaneously the Soviet Air Force struck at the enemy's trenches and pillboxes.

At eight on the morning of July 25 the eastern bank of the Narva sprang to life, as boats which had been concealed in bushes and trenches were lowered into the water and the men of Generals Romanenko and Burakovsky clambered down the steep, sandy bank, tumbled into the boats and pushed off. Twenty minutes after the first boat left the eastern bank, Soviet troops had already negotiated three lines of



Victory Square in Tallinn, Estonian SSR—before the Soviet Republic was invaded by the Germans

trenches and penetrated into the forest. The battle of Narva had begun, and with every hour the new bridgehead north of Narva widened. The enemy offered frantic opposition, but was unable to stem our assault and fell back upon the Narva-Tallinn highroad.

Meanwhile our troops at the old bridgehead established in the winter were likewise pressing the enemy back and approaching this same highroad from the south. The German garrison at Narva was threatened with complete encirclement and the enemy began to withdraw the remnants of his divisions from the town before it was too late. With every hour the corridor by which the Germans could retire in the direction of Tallinn narrowed.

Just as our forces moving toward each other were on the point of making contact, Colonel Kazunenko's men, who were stationed facing Narva, went into action and struck the enemy a frontal blow. They crossed the river under heavy enemy fire, landed near the old fortress and engaged the enemy's rearguard. The battle was brief, and in the first rays of the

morning sun the Red flag rose over the town.

I found Narva in ruins. Nothing was left of the town, built in 1683, of Peter I's house, of the high-gabled tiled 17th and 18th Century buildings. Some had been blown to bits; all that remained of others were stark walls, charred and with gaping holes. The enemy did not spare the Swedish fortress or the Russian fortress of Ivangorod, nor the churches.

It is hard to believe that Narva was once an orderly, flourishing and lovely city. Block after block of ruins lie enveloped in a pall of black smoke. The squares and narrow streets are littered with rubble. In many houses the Germans left delayed action mines and the walls collapsed before our eyes. I didn't find a single inhabitant in the city. Hundreds of persons slain by the Germans lie buried about the town; the rest were carried away.

Driving out to the Tallinn highway I saw our regiments marching westward into the heart of Soviet Estonia. On vehicles and guns were chalked the brief but eloquent words, "To Tallinn!"

SOVIET RAILWAYMEN REPORT

July 30 was All-Union Railwaymen's Day. Instituted nine years ago as an annual event to mark the memorable reception of the railwaymen by Joseph Stalin in the Kremlin, our transport workers observe the day by summing up their performance during the past year and, as it were, reporting on it to the country.

On this Railwaymen's Day the successful offensive of the Red Army is the best proof of the successes of the men and women who keep our trains running. Without clockwork precision in the operation of our transport system, the swift advance of our forces would be out of the question. Tremendous quantities of materiel and large masses of troops are required for modern warfare, and a considerable share of the transport problem falls to the lot of the railways.

The performance of the Soviet rail transport system under war conditions is one of those "puzzles" that proved too much not only for our enemies, but also for some of our friends.

The Germans managed to seize a number of Soviet railways during the first year of war, including some of the most important ones. The invaders gained short-lived possession of the Ukraine, where the rail network was most widely ramified. At the same time the principal lines along which supplies flowed to the front had to cope with the tremendous west to east traffic of evacuated industries and people, while the enemy air forces furiously attacked our rail communications during the first months of the war. All this caused the Germans to jump to the conclusion that the Soviet railway system had been put out of action.

But, happily, things did not work out that way. Soviet railways possessed sufficient resources to fall back upon under the strain of war. The previous investment in technical improvements told in wartime operation. At the time of the German invasion, carloadings had increased more than four and one-half times as compared with the beginning of the First World War, while freight traffic had increased six times. The railways were equipped with up-to-date rolling stock, powerful locomotives, automatic block signal systems, etc. New lines had been built, including such important ones as the Turkestan-Siberian, Magnitogorsk-Kartaly-Troitsk, Sverdlovsk-Kurgan, Petropavlovsk-Karaganda and Balkhash railways.

To the complex problem of feeding a front nearly 3,000 kilometers in length, the railways found a solution. In the early period of the war over 1,200,000 cars of people and freight were evacuated to the East, while enormous quantities of armaments and large numbers of troops were transported to the West.

When the Red Army went over to the offensive, rehabilitation of the retaken lines and extension of

traffic were added to the freight haulage. Our forces have liberated 21 railways, and in each case fascist damage to the lines has been appalling. But our railwaymen have learned to repair the tracks at high speed. During the war they have put into operation over 30,000 kilometers of main lines, over 2,500 railway stations and sidings and over 1,000 large and medium bridges. Almost all liberated lines have been opened to traffic.

Simultaneously with the restoration of enemy-wrecked railways, new lines have been built. Deep in the rear the Northern Pechora railway was constructed, hundreds of kilometers of track laid in Central Asia, Siberia and the Far East, and a number of new lines in the zone adjoining the front.

During the last few months carloadings have increased considerably. In a six-month period the daily loadings mounted by 13,352 cars. Last winter carloadings exceeded the level of the previous year by one-third—and winter is the period of greatest difficulties for transport workers.

During the war years nearly a million women augmented the army of railway workers. These fresh contingents had to be trained, but old railwaymen say they have never encountered greater eagerness to learn than among these newcomers.

The country highly honors the efforts of our railway workers, among whom are 127 Heroes of Socialist Labor, the largest group in any category of workers in the Soviet Union wearing this highest decoration in the field of labor.

Tirelessly aiding the Red Army in its offensive, the country's railwaymen are also bending every effort to heal quickly the wounds inflicted on the transport system by war and to assist in the rehabilitation of the economy of liberated areas.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

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Vol. IV, No. 89

Washington, D. C., August 5, 1944

AUG 12 1944



ON TO BERLIN!

By Ilya Ehrenburg

A German sergeant limped out of a forest, leaning on a stick. He silently gave himself up. His eyes were expressionless. When questioned he answered in monosyllables. The most expressive thing about him was his stick. On it were carved the names of the cities he had been in: Radom, Warsaw, Liege, Namur, Rheims, Paris, Salonika, Cracow, Lvov, Kiev, Gomel, Smolensk and Vyazma.

Observing that I was scrutinizing the stick he said, "We've been everywhere. But where have we got to?"

Everything is relative: among his countrymen,

who long lost the faculty of thinking, this sergeant might pass as a Kant. A month ago he was not given to pondering over the philosophical significance of his peregrinations. He began to cogitate after intimate acquaintance with our tanks and Stormoviks. He became a Kant after he spent a week in the forest, existing on marsh water and berries.

June 24, on the eve of our offensive, German General Jordan issued an order of the day stating: "Today the Bolsheviks' summer offensive began. . . . In France, thanks to the staunchness of our troops,



Advancing Soviet infantrymen dig in on a new line

the enemy gained some slight successes only at the cost of heavy losses. In Italy his vigorous offensive likewise failed. Upon us has been laid the duty of stemming the Asiatic onslaught and striking the enemy a blow which will quench his offensive ardor. I am convinced that the Ninth Army, which has never yet been beaten, will uphold its honor in this decisive engagement. Heil to our Fuehrer." Twenty-four hours later the Fritzes saw this army which had "never yet been beaten" taking to its heels.

We are knocking sense into the Germans by the weight of our fire. But they are very dull pupils; you can't teach them by a correspondence course. After Minsk and Bobruisk, the Germans at Vilnius and Brest resisted more fiercely than ever. The fire in Byelorussia taught the Germans in Warsaw nothing, and the fire in Poland will teach nothing to the Germans in Normandy. The Fritzes can only be taught by object lessons. And the Red Army is busy giving them such lessons from the Baltic to the Carpathians.

Our offensive strikes the world as extraordinary. In one month we traversed a stretch equal to the distance between Caen and Cologne. It is not a path to be measured in meters or yards. Foreign observers try to probe the secret of our offensive. Some of them, being rather naive or pretending to be so, assure us that the Germans are retiring of their own free will and declining battle. But the Germans themselves deny this. They talk in their communique of "heavy defensive fighting." They say "the biggest battle of this war is now in progress."

It is vain for foreign newspapers to try to read the soul of the fleeing Fritz through a telescope. The Fritzes have got nothing to do with it. The point is not that the Germans are swiftly retreating, but that we are swiftly advancing.

Was it so long ago the Germans thought they held a patent on pincer movements and enveloping movements? Was it so long ago they thought they held a monopoly in encircling maneuvers? But times have changed. The Germans try to make a stand; they counter-attack and throw their celebrated Tigers into action. But when they make a stand they get surrounded; when they counter-attack they dig their own grave. Their Tigers have ceased to interest even the photographers. It is we who are fighting now—the Germans are being fought.

Why are we speeding forward so swiftly? Because we have learned the art of war. If there is an Order of Victory on Stalin's breast, Stalin's name is on the lips of victory.

Our marshals and generals have become masters of the battlefield. Now the Germans propose, but the Russians dispose. In 1942 young General Cherniakhovsky fought the elderly General Hollwitzer. That was at Voronezh, when we were learning to

fight. Now General Hollwitzer was brought as a prisoner to Cherniakhovsky. We have learned to win.

The war is now being played according to our scenario, and the Germans are left guessing. They are bad guessers. In May the *Krakauer Zeitung* wrote: "While certain regions of Rumania are in a state of alarm, as the Russians are evidently proposing to break through to Jassy, the population of the Governor-Generalship are pursuing their tranquil occupations, for the Russians know that the road is barred to them there." They thought we would advance on Jassy, but we took Przemysl and marched to the Vistula. In June the *Danziger Vorposten* argued, "Estonia feels itself most threatened, whereas in Latvia and especially in Lithuania we see a picture of the deep rear." They thought we would begin with Estonia, but we began with Lithuania. We fight in the way that best suits us.

We forged weapons in order to fight, not to bluff. We didn't raise a din about Tigers and Panthers. We made good tanks that can smash Tigers. We don't advertise our weapons; we go on quietly making them. We were not out for sensational effects. We did not devise flying bombs which can kill a hundred women from afar. We did not reckon on paralyzing the imagination of the German rear. We preferred to demolish and pulverize the German divisions with Stormoviks. Psychological attacks are not in our line; we are interested not in the Fritzes' psychology but in their mortal flesh. And it is on their mortal flesh we are bringing our influence to bear. We know the Germans cannot be enlightened and we fight them with mortars, not declarations.

We are advancing so swiftly because we are fed up with the Germans. We want to have done with them. We want to live. That is a simple explanation of our offensive, but it is the truth. "This is the fourth summer," we say. "It is enough." And we are doing our utmost to prevent there being a fifth.

Our troops dash forward with the secret thought. "Perhaps there won't be a fourth winter." We are seized with a great impatience, and it is like wings at our backs. We are speeding forward because we are at the frontiers of Germany. We are on the threshold of the courthouse. We are in a hurry to meet the most beautiful of all damsels—Justice. A wounded mortarman said to me, "What bad luck. They tell me I'll be on my back for a month." I tried to console him and said we could get along without him. But he answered angrily, "I must get to Berlin. They burned my wife alive."

We are moving so swiftly because not only this mortarman but all of us are desperately anxious to get to Berlin. And it is now clear we'll be there soon.

MESSAGE OF SOVIET YOUTH TO YOUNG SOLDIERS OF THE ALLIED ARMIES

Adopted at a Plenum of the Soviet Youth Anti-fascist Committee in Moscow, July 26:

To the Young Soldiers of the Allied Armies Fighting on the European Continent:

On behalf of the young soldiers of the Red Army, the guerrillas and the workers in the rear, we are sending you, young officers and men of the Allied Armies, our sincere greetings and heartfelt wishes for success.

Our uniforms are different, we speak different languages and fight on different ends of the European Continent, but we are soldiers of one Army of liberation. On our fighting banners are inscribed the same words, equally dear to us all: *Freedom! Death to fascism!*



Lieutenant Vera Lebedeva, of Leningrad, wears the Order of the Red Banner and two Medals

Our rapprochement born in battle against the enemy has grown into a strong friendship based on mutual understanding and respect.

Friends, there is no need for us to dwell on the efforts and sacrifices made by Soviet youth for the coming victory. The youth of the Soviet Union will forever remember the feats of the Allied fighting men on the high seas, in the air, on the sands of Libya, in the Appennine Mountains, in Tunis and Algeria. We remember with gratitude the aid which England and America are rendering the Red Army.

The landing of Allied troops in northern France may justly be regarded as an outstanding exploit. An exhaustive appraisal of this action is found in the words of Marshal Joseph Stalin: "One cannot but acknowledge that the history of wars knows no other similar undertaking as regards breadth of design, vastness of scale and high skill of execution."

Soviet youth once again congratulates you, young soldiers of the Army of liberation, on the accomplishment of this operation and wishes you great success on the battlefields.

Friends in arms! You, soldiers of the Army of liberation, have set foot on the soil of long-suffering Western Europe. In hard engagements with the enemy you have consolidated the bridgehead in Normandy. Today a still more honorable and responsible task lies ahead of you, to rout the hordes of the German enslavers.

In Caen, in Cherbourg, in all the towns and villages liberated in France, you are welcomed by rejoicing Frenchmen. From thousands of lips you hear the same words, "We have waited for you so long."

Friends! Millions of people in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Normandy, are still waiting for us. Let us hasten to their rescue. Let us bring back to them life and sunshine; let us take revenge on the accursed Nazis for their sufferings and torments!

Ours is the same destination—Germany. You are marching on Berlin from the West, we from the East. The sooner we traverse this hard road the sooner will peace be established in the world and the more human lives we shall save.

The Red Army is rapidly advancing toward the frontiers of Hitlerite Germany. Let us inflict the last crushing blow on the Nazi beast in his own lair! Forward against Hitlerite Germany! Until we meet in Berlin!

VISITING LIBERATED KAUNAS

A PRAVDA correspondent reported on August 2:

To reach Kaunas, which had just been liberated, we had to retrace our steps from the front—during the fighting for the town our troops operating on the flanks had continued the advance to the west. The urge to be first to set foot on Prussian soil does not leave the Red Army men for a single moment. On a new road marker inscribed "To Kaunas," someone had chalked . . . "And to Koenigsberg and Berlin!"

Kaunas, sprawling on hills, is located at the confluence of the rapid and wide Niemen and Viliya Rivers. At the approaches to the city the Germans built two defensive belts; the first included nine powerful forts. An entire fortified area had been created during the First World War, and subsequently was continuously improved. The day our troops captured Vilnius, the entire population of Kaunas was driven to the walls of the fortress to build additional fortifications.

Especially fierce fighting broke out between the Viliya and the Niemen. The ground on which the Russians fought Prussian troops 30 years ago again became the scene of a violent battle. In the present fighting on this line, Soviet artillery had the first word; it crushed the German pillboxes and blindages. Soviet tanks accompanied by motorized infantry rolled over them and broke into the main street of the town.

Simultaneously, by a deep outflanking movement from the southwest, our other units cut the enemy group into two parts. South of Godlevo the Germans hurled a considerable number of tanks and self-propelled guns into a counter-attack in order to prevent the ring of encirclement from closing around them.

The street fighting was violent. The Germans resisted fiercely in isolated stone buildings, although they could not help knowing they were doomed. While retreating from Kaunas, the Hitlerites destroyed the station building, the iron and steel plant and the power station and blew up the railway and many kilometers of railway track. However, the enemy succeeded in inflicting only a few wounds on Kaunas; the town was saved from destruction by the vigorous offensive of the Red Army. The theater, the largest Government buildings and the library escaped.

In literally the first moments after our troops entered Kaunas, the residents came to meet them, although machine guns still rattled from lofts and grenades burst on the pavement. On the wall of a house from which a group of Germans had just been dislodged one Lithuanian wrote in big letters: "Hello, Comrade Stalin." The residents joyously

greeted the Red Army men and told them of the torments they had endured.

"We are young Soviet people," stated gray-haired Vitus Vichkas. "But, oh my God, how the Germans tortured us because we are Soviet citizens. I have no nails on my toes—they were torn out in the Gestapo because my son serves in the Red Army. They tortured my wife, almost cutting her in two by pulling a rubber cable tight across her stomach, demanding that she renounce her son through the newspaper. What a joy it is that you have come!"

On the outskirts of Kaunas one can see an enormous labyrinth of barbed wire with tall watchtowers at the corner. These are the concentration camps which covered an area of dozens of kilometers. Many thousands of people were tortured to death there by the fascist hangmen. Death was the constant companion of the Lithuanians; the Germans killed people daily with poison gas or machine guns installed in a narrow ditch in the quarry.

In many windows we saw portraits of Lenin, Stalin and Kalinin which had been hidden by the Lithuanians. There was a banner with the inscription: "Long Live the 23rd Anniversary of October!"—preserved and cherished by the people of Kaunas. We were present when Ionas Kostas, a former teacher, dug up the Soviet school library he had buried in the garden. The ardent love of the Lithuanians for their Soviet motherland, which has restored their freedom and liberated them from fascist captivity, found vivid expression in many such acts.

An Evening of Latvian Music

The music of the Baltic Republics has won an important place on Moscow concert programs. Capital audiences are familiar with the compositions of S. E. Kapp, Lepnurm and others. The Moscow Composers Club recently devoted an evening to the works of the Latvian composers I. N. Gruenfeld and A. Lepin. Included were excerpts from Gruenfeld's opera *Ruta*, based on the struggle of the Latvian guerrillas; fragments from his new *Cantata* in which the Latvian people's dream of freedom is reflected in the legendary figures of folklore, and a number of his arrangements of the folk songs of Latvia. Lepin was represented by his vivid and dramatic *Triumphant Symphony*.

The Latvian artists E. Pakul, R. Berzins, A. Dashkov, V. Krampe and pianist G. Braum added to the brilliance of the program with their splendid interpretations.



Soviet tanks carrying riflemen cover an infantry advance

STRATEGY OF ENCIRCLEMENT

By Major General N. Belayev

The idea of encircling and annihilating the enemy has attracted military leaders of all times and peoples, because of the decisiveness of the aims achievable by such an operation. Military history knows of many attempts made on a strategical scale to surround the adversary, but it knows practically no instances of complete encirclement; in other words, encirclement as a result of which the enemy is captured or annihilated to a man. The reason is the high demands which such an operation makes upon the troops and their commanders, and also the difficulties and contradictions that arise out of it.

Only an army which is far superior to its adversary can hope to succeed in such an operation. It must be capable of far greater and more sustained effort all through the operation than is the enemy. It must be better trained.

But even the best army can achieve the full aims of encirclement only if its commanders are infinitely superior to the commanders of the army to be encircled. This superiority must be maintained all through the operation and can only be so maintained by an unremitting effort to solve the countless contradictions that arise in the course of the operation.

This is borne out even by the examination of but one group of these contradictions, namely, that which relates to the speed of the operation.

The complexity and extreme diversity of the operation of encirclement calls for the most careful preparation. The time required for such prepara-

tion exceeds that of any other form of strategical art. Yet, as experience shows, this operation can succeed only if it takes the enemy by surprise, and that can be achieved only by rapidity of preparation. That is the first contradiction.

At the beginning of an operation the bodies of troops carrying out the enveloping movement must move toward each other at high speed in order to close the ring around the enemy as quickly as possible. If the enveloping groups delay in doing this, or if they allow themselves to be diverted by other actions, time is lost and the whole operation threatened with failure. On the other hand the adversary, as soon as he detects the enveloping movement, strives to retard it by striking at the flanks and the rear of the enveloping troops, with the purpose of forcing open the pincers. If the enveloping troops themselves halt to parry these blows, delays arise which may be fatal to the encircling operation. This is the second contradiction.

When encirclement has been completed there arises the problem of liquidating the surrounded adversary as quickly as possible, either by taking him prisoner or annihilating him. Experience, however, shows that if the adversary puts up a stubborn resistance the process of liquidation will require no little time, and in the interval the enemy may succeed in bringing up reserves for the rescue of his surrounded troops. That is the third, and by no means last, contradiction of the numerous groups

of contradictions characteristic of encirclement operations.

Not every army is capable of solving these contradictions.

The Germans, beginning with Schlieffen, declared that history knows only two encirclement operations which achieved their full aim—the complete capture or annihilation of the surrounded adversary. Only the operations at Sedan in 1870 and in East Prussia in 1914, according to them, can be regarded as approximating to Cannae, the exemplar and prototype of encirclement operations in classical times. Hence, they concluded, no other nation or army but the German possessed such historical and military experience in this form of operation.

Serious scientific criticism long ago refuted the German claim to the historical monopoly of the art of encirclement. Neither Sedan in 1870 nor East Prussia in 1914 is an instance of complete encirclement. And as to incomplete encirclement, military history knows of many instances of such operations. Suvorov's operation at Trebia and a number of similar operations by the Russian Army must be classed higher than those of Moltke and Hindenburg, if only because they were carried out under far more difficult conditions.

The attempts made by the Hitlerites to justify theoretically their claim that only the German army is capable of encirclement operations are, in the light of recent events, simply absurd. All these theories are based on the supposed invincibility of the German army.

However, one thing may be remarked: that all attempts of the Germans to carry out encirclement operations in the war on the Soviet Union have invariably failed. Even the attempts at Moscow in 1941 and at Kursk in 1943, which were undertaken by picked German troops equipped with the finest German weapons and fighting machines, failed ingloriously and ended not in the capture or annihilation of our troops, but in the rout and flight of the "invincible" German army.

The Red Army has won the right to regard encirclement as one of the forms of its own strategical art, and won it not by unsubstantiated claims but by immortal deeds.

★

Stalingrad, February 2, 1942! These words glow more brightly than Cannae, 216 B. C. History is indeed unfamiliar with an encirclement operation in which the surrounded adversary made such desperate but unsuccessful efforts to break the ring of encirclement from the outside as did the Germans at Stalingrad. History is unfamiliar with an encirclement operation so bold and original, but which nevertheless conformed so rigidly to all the demands of military art. The operation which ended

in the complete encirclement of the German army at Stalingrad enriched the art of strategy.

In the first place, it was a revelation in the use of large armored formations in coordination with aircraft, infantry and artillery in an encirclement operation. Prior to Stalingrad no one, not even the Germans, had succeeded in achieving such perfect coordination of these arms. In fact, one of the reasons for the failure of similar attempts at encirclement by the Germans was their inability to achieve such coordination.

A major contribution to strategical theory was the idea of creating an external ring of encirclement. This outer ring affords to the troops directly carrying out the encirclement effective protection from enemy reserves hastening to the rescue of his surrounded troops. It obviates the necessity for fighting on two fronts and enables the troops to concentrate their attention on liquidating the surrounded enemy. The external ring is an absolutely original method of insuring the success of an encirclement operation. At Stalingrad this idea found its fullest expression in the action of Soviet troops operating from the area of the middle Don and in the defeat of Field Marshal Mannstein's army.

Lastly, the Stalingrad operation made valuable contributions to the art of liquidating the surrounded adversary. The principle of splitting up the surrounded forces and annihilating them piecemeal, while at the same time constricting the ring of encirclement, is the only correct one. Never before has it been carried out with such fullness as at Stalingrad.

Stalingrad is not the only encirclement operation to the credit of the Red Army. Korsun-Shevchenkovsky, Bereznegovataya-Snegirevka, Arbutovka-on-Don and Razdelnaya, to mention only a few, are also examples of such operations successfully carried out by the Red Army in this war.

These operations demonstrate the Red Army's ability to practice encirclement as a means of achieving decisive victory. But the Red Army does not make a fetish of encirclement, or an end in itself; it regards it as only one form of strategical art, on an equal footing with other forms. It does not make it a routine to be applied under all conditions, but only when it is considered absolutely essential after a thorough and scientific analysis of circumstances.

The correct strategy and tactics of the Red Army, its high morale and offensive elan, its fine equipment and its skill and proficiency acquired in the course of heavy fighting, inspire confidence that under the wise guidance of its Commander-in-Chief the Red Army will display many another example of brilliantly executed encirclement operations.

How Soviet Workers Educate Themselves

By Grigori Almazov

Twenty-six years is only a moment in the history of mankind. But for our working class the 26 years of the existence of the Soviet State has meant a whole era. Not only has the political and economic scene been transformed in these years. A genuine cultural revolution has also taken place.

A foremost aim of Soviet power, on its inception 26 years ago, was to end illiteracy. According to the census of 1897, only 52.3 per cent of the urban population of Russia were literate. By 1926 the percentage had increased to 73.3, and by 1939 to 89 per cent. The trade unions gave great assistance to the State in abolishing illiteracy among workers. They organized thousands of schools and provided hundreds of thousands of teachers to instruct the illiterate, both individually and in groups.

New Generation of Intellectuals

There are now no illiterate persons among the organized workers of the Soviet Union. Millions of them have received secondary and higher education.

The introduction of universal compulsory secondary education and State measures for the enlightenment of the numerous minor nationalities have given birth to a new generation of intellectuals who are the people's own flesh and blood, linked to the working class by countless bonds.

Many university graduates holding scientific degrees are former industrial workers, some of whom have won recognition throughout the USSR and abroad for their contributions to the study of various scientific problems.

The professional education of workers is taken very seriously in the Soviet Union. Every worker, without exception, has to achieve a minimum technical standard. Millions acquire higher qualifications in Stakhanovite schools. The trade schools have places for 1,500,000 of the younger workers.

Of the students in the technical schools conducted by the building industry, 34.5 per cent are workers or the children of workers' families. The percentage for technical schools of all types in the USSR is 33.9. It would be hard to find a Soviet family without an engineer, a chemist, a doctor or an economist.

The great majority of these schools and courses include a certain amount of general education in the syllabus, as well as special technical training. The higher level of culture among the Soviet workers enables them to master the most modern equipment in a fraction of the time it used to take.

Within the working class the role of the Stakhanovites—mainly young or middle-aged men and

women who are first-rate masters of their respective trades—is becoming ever more prominent. Not only are the Stakhanovites fine workers in themselves; they are also the educators of the newcomers to industry. People like Stakhanov in the coal industry, Dudov in the machine tool industry, Smetanin in the shoemaking industry, Busygin in the automobile industry, Vinogradova in the textile industry and



Ivan Konyshin, Georgi Tikhomirov and Viktor Malkin, youthful fighters in the Patriotic War, are now studying in a Naval school

Krivosos in railway transport are living proof of the cultural and technical development of the Soviet working class.

The number of workers' clubs, houses of culture and libraries testifies better than words to the Soviet workers' high cultural level. On the eve of war the Soviet trade union libraries had over 6,000,000 regular readers, of whom 3,541,000 were factory workers, 515,000 were builders and 108,000 transport and communications workers. Before the war the trade unions had 6,490 clubs and palaces of culture. Hundreds and thousands of people visited them daily. The art circles and self-education groups run by the clubs had a total membership of 6,537,000.

Solovoyova, a girl who works at the Caoutchouc rubber factory, is a keen member of the dramatic circle at her club. Let her speak for herself: "When I was rehearsing the part of Katherine in Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* I did my best to acquaint myself with the epoch. I went to the museum, looked carefully through engravings and illustrations in Shakespearean editions, and read many books on Shakespeare." Solovoyova is not at all exceptional.

Notes from Front and Rear

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has decorated a large group of generals and officers of the Red Army and Navy with the Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, Nakhimov and Bogdan Khmelnitsky. The Order of Suvorov, First Class, has been conferred upon Colonel General Romanenko and Lieutenant General Luchinsky. Among those decorated with the Order of Kutuzov, First Class, are Colonel Generals Batov and Gorbатов, Lieutenant Generals Pliev, Kolganov and others.

★

The sixth session of the Academy of Architecture of the USSR recently opened in Moscow to discuss the rehabilitation of cities freed by the Red Army.

★

Animal blood is being used with great success in many Soviet hospitals. Injections of 100 to 200 centimeters at a time have a positive effect on badly wounded men, accelerating healing, raising vitality, improving appetite and sleep and curing avitaminosis. The hospitals have special herds of "donor" cows, fed chiefly on lucerne, which contains a high percentage of Vitamin A. In one hospital 1,000 liters of blood were obtained from cattle during the past year, each "donor" supplying three to four liters twice monthly. Experiments have shown that animals can safely give over 20 liters of blood per month.

★

Moscow athletes celebrated Red Navy Day, July 23, with a swimming meet, yacht and motorboat races and a polo match at the Dynamo Water Sports Stadium on the Moscow-Volga Canal. Nearly 10,000 people turned out for the occasion, which featured a colorful parade of swimmers and sailing craft. More than 300 sailors and naval officers, including Rear Admiral Frolov, participated in the 1,000-meter swimming event.

★

The first documentary stereo-film, *In the Wake of the Enemy*, has been completed by the well-known cameraman Surenski, who filmed the full-length three-dimensional picture *The Concert* over three years ago. The documentary records the barbarous destruction wrought by the Germans at Peterhof, Pulkovo and Pushkin.

Six large blast furnaces, several dozen open-hearth furnaces and a large number of rolling mills and coking batteries are already operating in the revived Donbas.

★

Captain of the Guards Grigori Retskalov has just placed the 53rd red star on his fighter plane—representing the total of enemy aircraft shot down by him. On July 1, the title of Hero of the Soviet Union was conferred for a second time upon Captain Retskalov, and a bronze bust of the hero will be set up in his native town.

★

BATTLE OF RUSSIA, NORTH STAR and other American films are playing to crowded houses in Novosibirsk, Tomsk, Stalinsk and other Siberian cities, as well as in rural theaters in the remotest parts of vast Siberia. Fifty thousand persons viewed NORTH STAR in 20 days in one theater alone. Siberian theaters will shortly show SUN VALLEY SERENADE.

★

One hundred and fifty medical service detachments have entered Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia with the liberating Red Army, to combat epidemics brought in by the German occupationists and to restore medical institutions. A staff of the People's Commissariat of Health Protection and 250 doctors have left for Lithuania with plans for restoring 120 hospitals. One hundred doctors have also gone to Latvia, and on July 31 three carloads of medicines and hospital equipment were dispatched to Lithuania, accompanied by a group of doctors.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 90

Washington, D. C., August 8, 1944

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AUG 15 1944

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Some Features of Modern Warfare

By Major General M. Galaktionov

The following article appeared in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA August 1:

Thirty years ago piratical German imperialism unleashed the First World War, with world domination as its aim. The rulers of imperial Germany and their general staff made long and careful preparations for that war and reckoned on terminating it swiftly by defeating France, Russia and England in quick succession. However, even in the first few months a fatal defect of German strategy was revealed, namely, crass overestimation of Germany's strength and underestimation of the strength of her opponents.

The Battle of the Marne and the Russian offensive in East Prussia led to the collapse of the Ger-

mans' plans and the protraction of the war. This, in turn, led to an increasing change in relative strength in favor of the Allies and to the detriment of Germany, which began to feel all the handicaps of a war on two fronts.

In 1918 the German army, large forces of which were contained in the East by Soviet Russia, was defeated by the combined armies of England, America and France. Germany was vanquished in the field, but the victors failed to reap the full fruits of their decisive triumph. The "appeasement" tendencies which at one time dominated West European policy enabled the Germans to prepare for and launch a second World War.

Hitler and his clique, whose aim was to bring all



Marshal of the Soviet Union Konstantin K. Rokossovsky, Commander of the First Byelorussian Front, and Lieutenant General Telegin (right), member of the Military Council of the Front

(Photo taken when Marshal Rokossovsky held the rank of Army General)

human society under German domination, first turned their war machine against the countries of Western Europe and registered a number of major successes. Then Hitler Germany treacherously attacked the Soviet Union. The Red Army administered a series of defeats to the German-fascist armies which radically changed the course of the war. By the combined blows of the Red Army and the Allied Armies, Nazi Germany has been brought to the brink of disaster.

The Second World War is nearing its end. In the past 30 years, we have known two world wars, the experience of which furnishes a foundation for the modern science of warfare. But the question arises: is it right to draw general conclusions from two wars that in many respects differ so radically? In other words, how instructive are the lessons of the First World War today?

The answer to this question was furnished in the course of this war. The Nazi adventurers, while they exploited for their criminal war a number of advances in armaments—advances which, incidentally, did not originate in Germany—actually speaking, had no scientifically grounded system for conducting operations.

Failure of Blitzkrieg

The Nazis rejected positional warfare in favor of blitzkrieg. But the German armies, attacking with the aim of inflicting lightning defeat on the Soviet Union, were beaten by the Red Army. Thereupon the Hitlerites changed their line, rejected blitzkrieg and espoused positional warfare. Again the Germans were defeated by the Red Army. These fluctuations, incidentally, show that Hitler and his clique crudely misinterpreted the lessons of the war of 1914-18.

But to show where they blundered, we will deal with some of the features of the First World War.

The first distinguishing feature, which manifested itself in the very early stages of the war, when it still bore a maneuvering character, was the fire power resulting from quantitative and qualitative development of artillery and firearms of all types. Most striking of all was the use of fire power as a means of defense, largely due to the development of automatic firearms. The heavy machine gun, with its faculty for creating a solid and impenetrable zone of fire, became the chief means of defense of fortified fronts. Flanking machine-gun nests in the forests of Caillet, on the heights dominating the approaches to Fort Veau, kept the Germans beseiging Verdun at bay for several months. The pillbox or concrete firepost likewise originated in Verdun. For many weeks German artillery was unable to locate and destroy these tiny points. Machine-gun fire was sup-

plemented by artillery barrage. The attacking infantry sustained immense losses and in many cases was unable to reach the enemy's first line of trenches.

War Assumes Positional Character

The effect was to create solid and stable fronts traversing the entire theater of hostilities and behind which the infantry and artillery were ensconced. The war assumed a positional character. Both belligerent sides sought persistently for a way of breaking through into the open and passing to the tactics of movement. An attempt was also made to adapt fire power for offensive purposes, especially the faculty of artillery for demolishing defenses and opening the road for the attacking infantry. Thus arose the tactics of break-through.

Considerable experience was accumulated in the war of 1914-18 in the art of preparing for the carrying out of break-throughs. The concentration of powerful artillery forces, artillery preparation, new methods of firing and creeping barrage were all evidences of the swift development of this powerful arm.

In the First World War considerable difficulty was encountered in developing tactical success into operational success. But here, too, the beginnings of a solution were found, the full development of which, however, remained a matter for the future. In 1916 the first tank appeared on the battlefield, and in 1918 the Allies launched their offensives with the help of hundreds of tanks and the support of "air divisions."

German war doctrine failed to understand these features of modern warfare. It was extremely one-sided. The Germans' conception of the difference between the First and Second World Wars is very primitive. They held that the first war was exclusively one of position, but that the second was a war of maneuver in which fortified fronts play only a secondary role. They overlooked the fact that a fortified front, and hence fire power, artillery and infantry, played an outstanding part in the first war and that these features would be inherited by the second. They believed that the decisive factor of this war would be mobile formations.

The Red Army drew the correct conclusions from the experience of the First World War. Stalin's school of strategy taught that the form of maneuver that arose in the First World War would be broadly developed; hence the place of honor assigned to tanks and aircraft in our Army. On the other hand, it taught that such features of the first war as fire power, fortified fronts and the necessity of breaking through these fronts would also play a prominent part in the coming war. This explains why mobility

and weight of numbers in fire power and maneuver are properly combined in the Red Army, why its artillery received such all-round development and why the fire power of the Army increased generally, and why such importance is attached to the infantry. The First World War was not exclusively a war of position; it originated the modern maneuver. The Second World War is principally a war of maneuver, but maneuver combined with powerful fortified fronts. This difference in the character of the two wars was properly appreciated by the Stalin school of strategy.

Now that we can look back on five years of the Second World War, we are able more deeply and correctly to appreciate the experience of the last war. Fire power, fortified fronts and the break-through—those three principal features of the war of 1914-18—have been preserved in this war. This war further developed these features which, in fact, are characteristic of modern warfare generally.

It was already held in the First World War that the break-through, when exploited and consummated, leads to the war of maneuver. This has been corroborated in the present war, not by the Germans, however—who gained their victories at a time when the features of the present war had not yet fully manifested themselves—but by the Red Army in its grand offensive in 1942-44 when fortified fronts already existed.

The tank owed its inception to the positional warfare of 1914-18. Its armor was designed to protect troops from machine guns and its tracks for movement over battlefields criss-crossed by trenches, pitted with shell craters and covered with barbed wire entanglements. The tank became the instrument of maneuver in its new and higher form. The development of tank and mechanized troops capable of exploiting a break-through and conducting maneuvering operations in depth is a new feature of this war as compared with the last.

Another new feature is the extremely rapid and far-reaching development of aviation which, being able to cross fortified lines, attack the adversary's deep rear and strafe installations and troops on the battlefield, is radically changing the methods of warfare.

The gigantic fortified front stretching from the Barents Sea to the Gulf of Finland, from the Baltic to the Carpathians and from the Carpathians to the Black Sea is in itself convincing evidence that the fortified line which appeared in the First World War retains all its significance today. Moreover, the front of the German defenses now pierced and demolished by the Red Army was constructed in accordance with all the rules of field fortification, which have made big strides as compared with the

First World War. Fire power has been increased many times over. Pillboxes and bunkers have been supplemented by anti-tank guns, minefields and obstacles of diverse types. Defense zones now measure scores of kilometers in depth instead of only a few kilometers as in the last war. Furthermore, strongpoints and fortified lines were prepared deep in the rear.



Radiophoto

Marshal of the Soviet Union Ivan S. Konev

This powerful defense system was smashed by the Red Army. Of the many achievements of the Soviet science of war, special mention should be made of the supreme skill of our troops in penetrating the enemy defenses. The prime part in this is played by the artillery. A new feature compared with the last war is the combination of fire power and mobility which enables the artillery to escort attacking troops into the depths of the enemy's defenses. Another new feature is the combination of massed artillery and air attacks. Soviet infantrymen armed with tommy guns and light machine guns and escorted by tanks, guns and mortars,



"BLACK DEATH"—the Germans' name for the Soviet IL-2 Stormoviks, designed by S. Ilyushin. Above, a group of these low-flying, heavily-armored planes are about to take off

solve with consummate skill the most difficult problems which arise in the course of attack and exploitation in depth. Penetrating a defense zone to a depth of 10 or 15 kilometers on the first day of an offensive has become the customary rate of advance of our gallant troops.

Brilliantly executed break-throughs on a number of sectors of the German front served as a prelude to that magnificent cascade of operations which has astonished the world. One's attention is baffled by the swiftness of the Red Army's westward march and is unable to register all the landmarks in the triumphant onward sweep. The mind therefore fails to appreciate the grandeur of the problems solved by Soviet troops in their great offensive.

And in connection with this anniversary it would be well to remember that the Red Army is accomplishing what no other army has hitherto succeeded in doing, namely, destroying a powerfully fortified front of a vast extent. This is a strategical, not a tactical, achievement, and by no means an easy one. Nor should it be forgotten that the main forces of the German army, equipped with all modern armament, are still stationed in our theater of hostilities.

As we have already said, the idea of exploiting a break-through in order to turn positional warfare into maneuvering warfare was already contemplated in the last war. But this was only a general idea, which failed to take account of the difficulties involved. For in order to shatter enormous enemy forces stationed along the whole front, an intricate combination of operations of diverse kinds is required, which will lead to the demolition of the enemy's entire front and to the defeat of his army formations both in the front and rear. And it is precisely such a combination of successful operations governed by a single strategical plan that

we observe in the Red Army's present offensive.

Let us generally and briefly enumerate these operations. They include break-through and its exploitation in depth by mobile forces simultaneously on a number of sectors; disruption of the enemy's rear communications and encirclement of his forces on the main front line and in the rear; demolition of neighboring sectors of the enemy's defenses by attacks from the front, flank and rear; successive development of operations in depth with the object of surmounting the enemy's rear defense lines and surrounding and destroying his forces.

The simultaneous development of powerful attacks along the front and in depth, drives in various directions, continuous harassing of the enemy's flanks and rear, tense fighting to overcome his fierce resistance—all demand high strategical skill on the part of the Command so as to lend the mobile operations spread over vast areas a systematic and organized character.

It is impossible to recount here even the most important details of the majestic picture of the Red Army's offensive operations in the summer of 1944. But one thing can be said, namely, that in this offensive are combined to perfection the advantages of tank and mechanized troops and aviation, adapted to the peculiarities of a war waged on wide fortified fronts and in powerful defense zones. Bold and impetuous maneuvering by mobile forces is combined with methodical and systematic demolition of the enemy's front and secure consolidation of the successes gained on lines carried far to the west.

Stalin's strategy is based on deep understanding of all features of modern warfare. It embodies—in the immortal victories of the Soviet regiments—the thoroughly digested and scientifically elaborated experience of the two World Wars.



A BOMBING MISSION TO THE ENEMY REAR—Soviet planes fuel and load up with bombs



The target is an airdrome; a direct hit is scored and enemy planes left ablaze



Back at the base the fliers strip off their heavy gear and exchange notes on the operation

The Moral Strength of the Soviet Soldier

By Colonel Y. Kokorev

There is one force among troops that cannot be measured in figures or plotted with colored pencils on a map. This unseen force is the moral spirit of the troops, which is in actual fact the foundation upon which everything else is built. In the final analysis it is the soldier who decides the issue. The moral spirit of the troops primarily determines victory on the battlefield.

The Red Army possesses soldiers of a special type. They do not think of themselves alone—in fact, they think less of themselves than of their unit as a whole. This special feature of the Soviet people arose long before the war; they were brought up on the idea that every individual must be able to run the State. This feeling became part of the flesh and blood of our people. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Red Army man soon begins to regard himself as responsible not only for his own affairs, but for those of his company, battalion or regiment.

The word "country" is something real to our victorious soldier. It is the Don carrying its waters lazily to Rostov. It is the Battle of Leningrad, watched by the whole world. It is the Donets Basin with its riches. It is Kiev, the ancient Russian city that rises over the blue stream of the Dnieper.

The land of the Soviets is a vast country. There are no bounds to its wide expanses. The soldier who is driving the Germans out of the Soviet country sees all this. The blood which the soldier spills in battles for the liberty and independence of his country makes this land dearer to him. The feeling—"This is my land"—becomes very strong in him. And as he moves farther west he entrusts the speedy rehabilitation of factories and land to the workers, farmers and intellectuals he has liberated.

The Germans, with their barbarity, savage destruction and mockery of the honor of the Soviet people, have aroused the wrath of the Russian soldier. "They have insulted us! We will never forget that! . . ." said the sapper Prokhodko. The insulted soldier is terrible in battle. He defends his national pride by wiping out the enemy. He not only fights: he executes the sentence of the people on the foreign invaders who have insulted them.

On Mount Sapun advancing Soviet soldiers found in a blockhouse the butt of an automatic with the following message scratched on it: "The sailor who died here is writing to you, comrades. Let whoever finds this butt never forget me when he is fighting the Germans. I have brought down quite a number of the skunks. I ask you to take vengeance for my life, which is ending in this blockhouse." The mes-

sage was signed, "Fyodor Lobov, Second Class Petty Officer."

The rifle-butt passed from hand to hand along the lines. Men read the message in silence and kissed the wood that had grown dark with age. And when rockets whistled through the air calling them to the attack, Captain Petanin cried, "For sailor Lobov, friends!"

All the peoples of our country know they are free and independent. In the Soviet Union we are a big family of nations, each of which feels itself to be a brother on equal footing with the others. The freedom and independence of the peoples of the Soviet Union do not give rise to a feeling of national self-isolation, but to unity, mutual respect and fraternal support. Friendship is a high and pure feeling. At the front friendship is crystal-clear and chaste. National equality is the source of the moral strength of the Soviet soldier.

The peoples of the Soviet Union stand still closer, shoulder to shoulder, in the mortal struggle against the savage enemy. They shake each other more firmly by the hand. Eternal is the law of the people, "Lay down your life for your friends."

For three years the Soviet people have been at war with the German invaders who treacherously attacked them. With each passing year the Red Army has grown stronger, has gathered new strength and has become richer in experience. The successes of the Red Army have been tremendous, and one of the chief reasons for these successes is the high moral spirit of Soviet officers and men.

A Siberian Hero

Colonel Nikolai Brozgol of the Guards Artillery who was decorated by King George VI as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, was recently awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Colonel Brozgol, a Siberian, is 31 and has been in action continuously for almost three years.

In offensive battles for Belgorod, Kharkov, Bogodukhov, Pereyaslav and Kiev, Brozgol's artillerymen, most of whom are also Siberians, fought with distinction. Brozgol himself, carrying a radio transmitter, was one of the first to cross to the west bank of the Dnieper, from which he corrected the massed fire of his artillery on the opposite bank. His men actually forced the Dnieper twice—after capturing and consolidating a bridgehead south of Kiev, they returned to the east bank with their guns and after a short march again forced the river, this time north of the city.

INCREASED POWER OF RED ARMY ARMAMENTS

By V. Novikov

Assistant People's Commissar of Armaments of USSR

The quality of Soviet armaments has been put to a searching test on the battlefield in the present war, and it may be confidently stated that never throughout the conflict has the Wehrmacht been able to surpass the Red Army in quality of weapons. Our armaments makers, following the advice of Marshal Stalin, carefully study the experience of the war and constantly perfect our fighting machines and weapons to keep pace with the demands of the Armed Forces.

During the war the quality of artillery and small arms has steadily improved. Plants are adapted in record time for the manufacture of new patterns. For example, only two months from the day the designs were received, one of our ordnance factories started production of a new and more powerful tank gun. Another plant was thoroughly reconstructed in six weeks for the manufacture of self-propelled guns.

More efficient designing and production methods have helped considerably to increase the output of armaments. We may cite the saving in time effected by the introduction of new and modernized types of

artillery: the gun of the 1939 pattern formerly required 1,313 hours of machining, but after improvements in design and technology only 400 hours are necessary. By the same method, machining time on a certain type of automatic gun was reduced from 767 hours to 260 hours. Eighty per cent of the types of artillery used by the Red Army are new patterns introduced during the war.

Automatic firearms are a cardinal factor in the Red Army's offensive power, as this war has shown. Careful comparison and tests reveal that our automatic weapons are in no way inferior and are in many cases superior to the enemy's. Our output of these weapons has increased greatly during the war. The cartridge output has increased enormously, the non-ferrous metals used in their manufacture being replaced by other materials.

Sixty per cent of the patterns of Red Army infantry and aircraft weapons are wartime innovations, while 40 per cent of the instruments used by the Armed Forces are of a new design and are manufactured on mass production lines.

Straight-line production methods have been a sub-



Radiophoto

Restoration of the Dnieprodzerzhinsk steel works, wrecked by the Germans, is under way. Some production has already begun, as evidenced by this consignment of ingots being delivered to the warehouse

stantial help in increasing the output of armaments. At one ordnance plant, for example, the introduction of straight-line production resulted not only in the increase of the output of guns, but also in the improvement of their quality. It is an interesting fact that before the introduction of straight-line production 15 per cent of the types of artillery needed a second test on proving grounds, but after its introduction the necessity for such additional tests has been practically eliminated.

Another factor expediting the production of new patterns of weapons is that most of the large plants of the People's Commissariat of Armaments make their own machine tools. This was also done before the war, but not on the same scale. One small-arms factory, for example, formerly made machine tools of not more than one ton in weight and one and one-half meters in length; it now makes machine tools up to 12 tons in weight and 14 meters in length, and in sufficient quantity to meet its own needs.

The high tribute paid by Marshal Stalin to the quality of Soviet armaments—especially artillery and self-propelled guns—has spurred our designers and workers to improve and modernize constantly the patterns of armaments turned out on mass production lines, and to increase their tactical and exploitative qualities. Substantial success in this respect has been achieved particularly in the case of anti-tank artillery and aircraft weapons.

A valuable means of improving the quality of our armaments is the close contact maintained by our designers with the Armed Forces. Our representatives visit the front regularly and discuss with Red Army men the merits and demerits of various weapon patterns; thus they are able to react swiftly to the needs and demands of the fighting forces. Similar contact is maintained with other People's Commissariats—such as the engineers and designers of the People's Commissariat of the Tank-Building Industry—in working out new patterns of self-propelled guns and the best methods of installing weapons on tanks; and also between our designers and those of the People's Commissariat of the Aircraft Industry.

Our designers are working indefatigably to improve the might of the Red Army, knowing that in wartime we must keep well ahead of the enemy in weapon technology and that this entails boldness, constructive thought and a keen eye for advances in tactics and for the demands of the Armed Forces. The Red Army's offensive calls for the ever-increasing mobility and maneuverability of our troops. Our designers answer this with new research and new inventions, aware that the time factor is all-important.

Five Schoolgirls and a Scherzo

By Aram Khachaturyan

I recently returned to Moscow from the Composers' Country House, where I completed my *Second Symphony*.

Last spring the Soviet Government placed a country mansion and small estate near the town of Ivanovo at the disposal of Soviet composers. Reinhold Gliere, Dmitri Shostakovich and I spent the summer of 1943 on this estate, and it proved a very creative period for all three of us.

Dmitri Shostakovich lived in a small hut on the fringe of a wood, and there he composed his *Eighth Symphony*. Reinhold Gliere, representative of our older, but never aging generation, wrote his *Fourth Quartet*, in honor of the Beethoven Quartet, one of the finest bodies of chamber musicians in our country.

Meanwhile, I worked on my *Second Symphony* (in C Major). While not program music, it nevertheless reflects my reactions as an artist and a citizen to the stern trials through which my country is passing.

The day I started work on the third movement, a *scherzo*, five schoolgirls from Ivanovo came to visit me in my secluded cottage and brought me a bouquet of field flowers they had gathered. They were shy and appealing, with their braids crowned by enormous wreaths of cornflowers and rye.

They had come to make the acquaintance of the composers, and, not quite knowing how to conduct themselves on so solemn an occasion, pushed the flowers into my hands and seated themselves demurely around the piano, gazing at me with expectation. I played them pieces from my works. They thanked me charmingly and disappeared into the sunlit fields.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 91

Washington, D. C., August 10, 1944

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SEP 11 1944



The Creative Spirit of Victory

By Vasili Grossman

The line of the Byelorussian Front before the beginning of the Soviet offensive resembled in form a bird in flight, with gigantic wings stretching north and south for several hundred kilometers. The world watched with strained attention the iron beat of the right wing in the latter part of June and the sudden flap of the left wing in the middle of July. In that interval the front sped forward hundreds of kilometers; the bird lost its form and the line straightened out as if answering the impact of a mighty impulse from within.

In those early days of the offensive I traveled by automobile and liaison plane from the extreme right to the extreme left flank of the front and was able to witness the attack on various sectors separated by a distance of nearly 1,000 kilometers.

The initial stage of an offensive is always the most interesting. In it are clearly revealed not only its style and distinguishing characteristics, not only its method and design, but also the temperament of the man or men who prepared the operation.

What I saw was so intricate, so varied and so unique that it is impossible to convey its essence in a mere objective description and photographic record of events. One feels impelled to give a general picture and general reflections on the nature of our tactics and the behavior of the enemy.

The disposition of the enemy's divisions, regiments and batteries as registered by our reconnaissance, almost perfectly coincided with the reality, down to the last detail of the junctions between his units and the ramifications of his fortifications.

That gave us an immeasurable superiority over the Germans and was the first pledge of our success.

It is extraordinary how consistently all along the front the Germans blundered in determining where our main and subsidiary blows would be struck. Where they massed to parry our tank assaults, only our containing troops were stationed. Where, as on General Batov's sector, the Germans did not expect large-scale activities owing to the swampy nature of the terrain, such swift and sudden blows were struck that the Germans gasped with amazement. Such was the case all along the front.

And this chain of minor blunders was worthily crowned by the supreme blunder of all the strategic miscalculations of Hitler's general headquarters. The Germans were certain that the main blow on the Russian front as a whole would be struck in the south and they prepared Modl to meet it. But

when it came it was received by Field Marshal von Busch in the center.

What was the reason for the Germans' mistakes? Apparently it was because their powers of prognosis



Drawing by B. Karpov

Supreme Commander-in-Chief
Marshal of the Soviet Union Stalin

were strictly circumscribed by superficial and stereotyped views relative to the convenience of the terrain and by arithmetical calculations of distances. They prognosticated an offensive where the front was most advanced to the west, where the ground was most passable or where road junctions were nearest. But the creative spirit of the men who planned our offensive chose a different course, unforeseen and unsuspected by the rudimentary thinking of the adversary. Marshes and forests proved to be passable, miles of road were laid across grass-covered swamps, and where it seemed that even a light-footed scout could not pass our heavy tanks and large-caliber guns crossed with ease.

The shortest distance to the borders of "fortress Europe" turned out to be not the geometrically straight line the Germans saw on the map, but a devious and fantastically serpentine curve conceived by the analytical geometry of war, a curve which ensnared the German central army in a threefold "kettle"—Vitebsk, Bobruisk and Minsk. In this preliminary contest the Germans were, to put it vulgarly, completely washed up.

The artillery preparation for the break-through was eminently successful all along the front, but on different sectors success was achieved in different ways. That is a highly significant fact. Bear in mind that the offensive did not begin simultaneously on all sectors, and one might have expected that the methods of break-through which had been successful on one sector would be faithfully copied on others. That would have been logical. With the Germans the stereotype is law. The totality of methods which led to one success they unthinkingly and mechanically copied in all similar operations. But such duplication and canonization of methods lead to no good: stagnation of creative thought in war, failure to take account of the peculiarities of a situation—which, of course, can never be twice alike—gives the adversary a chance to study your methods and to work out ways and means of countering them.

On the other hand, the creative faculty, the rich variety of methods and the complete rejection of a stereotyped pattern revealed by Soviet generals in the breaking through of the German defenses was something to wonder at and admire.

Varying Methods of Break-through

On one sector the break-through began with a mighty and devastating artillery preparation, systematically mounting in intensity and smoothly shifting from the first line of defenses to the next. This was preceded by air reconnaissance in force, of equal monumental dimensions, carried out by large forces of infantry and artillery. Many hours separated the reconnaissance from the artillery

preparation. After 150 minutes of a torrent of steel and explosive, masses of infantry were thrown into the attack.

On a neighboring sector the break-through was effected in an entirely different way. Powerful artillery concentrations pounded individual sections of the German defenses. The superiority of fire at these points over that of the enemy's was fantastic and was directed not at his first line of trenches but in depth, as it was assumed his troops had been withdrawn by communication trenches from the first moment artillery preparation began. Then, after a brief squall of fire, a sudden silence ensued. The enemy, according to established pattern, hastened to reoccupy the first line of trenches in expectation of an attack. Thereupon Soviet artillery opened up again, this time at the forward trenches. Again a brief silence and then, in defiance of all accepted ideas of time and space, a mighty "Hurrah!" was heard in the enemy trenches as the Russian infantry burst into them. But these were not the infantry the Germans expected; they were assault detachments, specially picked and trained and approved by the Military Council. They had massed secretly, under the very noses of the Germans, so near to the enemy trenches as to be endangered by fragments of their own shells.

Reconnaissance in Force Turns into Offensive

A few days later came another break-through which differed completely in style from the first and second. Fire is opened and the enemy thinks along the customary lines: This must be reconnaissance in force; the real attack won't come until tomorrow, hence there is no sense in disclosing the disposition of my batteries. But suddenly he finds the reconnaissance in force turned into a regular offensive, and an avalanche of Soviet infantrymen floods his trenches.

There you have three different methods of break-through. We will not attempt to analyze which is the most effective. All we wish to stress is the unity of aim and the different means of attaining it; the absence of a hard-and-fast pattern in achieving success—the creative spirit in the initial and most important stage of the offensive.

In maneuvering warfare, stubborn defensive fighting is combined with outflanking movements, attack and pursuit in an amazingly swift succession. At one moment the enemy is defending himself in a ramified network; he launches his forces in a fierce attack, breaks through and attempts to surround his opponent. The changes of forms in maneuvering warfare are sudden, swift and difficult to foresee. On a night when the enemy is beaten and scattered, a fresh division, rushed to the scene from

his deep rear in transport planes and motor vehicles, may suddenly counter-attack. These rallies of the routed enemy may for a few hours constitute a serious handicap to the attacking side, threatening his flank and rear services as they move up along the roads.

To succeed under such circumstances—to effect a break-through and then at unparalleled speed to pour troops into the breaches, pursue the enemy, surround and annihilate him—demands a high type of commander proficient in the art of combining offensive and defensive action. No adept in offensive fighting could cope with the intricate and exacting tasks of maneuvering warfare under such circumstances, if he is not at the same time adept in defensive fighting. This indeed is the essence of maneuvering warfare, and our generals, officers and men have passed with credit the test of creative synthesis of offensive and defensive operations.

Proficiency of Soviet Officers

I have witnessed many instances of this in the operations of General Chuikov, or “General Stubbornness” as he was called in Stalingrad, where his form seemed to be defensive fighting; in the operations of General Batov with his record of the Stalingrad break-through and the battles of Kursk and the Dnieper. Both proved equally proficient in offensive as well as in defensive action. It is from this creative synthesis of two modes of action which seem to be essentially antithetical that the Soviet victories of this summer sprang. And this creative spirit is to be found everywhere, from major operations of divisional commanders to minor actions of commanders of battalions, companies and batteries.

This art of synthesis of offense and defense invites comparison with the doctrine of elastic and firm defense. These two polar opposites of German defensive tactics were personified in two “polar” opposites—Field Marshal “elastic” Modl, and “firm” von Busch.

Modl “specialized” in elastic defense at the time of our Southern offensive. Von Busch gained a reputation with the Germans of being an adept in firm defense after the battles in the Northwest. Thus they were docketed at the German general headquarters—each an expert in his own line. But there came a time when the Red Army winded the specialty both of the Field Marshals and the troops they had trained—and both of them came to grief.

I happened to be present at the first interrogation of three captured German generals in a forest hut, when their uniforms were adorned not only with crosses and oak leaves but also with the withered oak leaves of the Byelorussian forests in which they had wandered for days under fire.

One of them was von Lutzow, who as a soldier was the most intelligent of them. It was already clear to him how fatal to the German army had been the narrow, rigid and dogmatic doctrine of von Busch as a specialist in firm defense. This mechanical principle, to which all synthesized action was alien, was applied with obtuse scholasticism and typically German obstinacy, without any regard for the peculiarities of the general strategical situation or the real relation of forces.

Here is a brief quotation from the thesis drawn up by the German command for a conference of divisional commanders of the German central army not long before our offensive began. “In the opinion of the Fuehrer the time has come when no further retreat can be tolerated. Accordingly, positions must be held at any price. The Fuehrer holds that the defeat on the southern sector of the Eastern front was due to inadequate maneuvering in the performance of defensive tasks. . . .” And further: “From all this only one conclusion can be drawn: the positions must be held!”

We know now how the Germans hold their positions. And one feels impelled to ask where, after the fiasco suffered by the “firm” von Busch, will the “elastic” Modl now exercise his second narrow specialty: between the eastern and western borders of Germany or between the Spree and the Rhine? For it is clear the Germans have lost the advantages of space.

Thus at various stages of the war the German army has promoted narrow and scholastic specialists—from specialists in blitzkrieg to specialists in elastic defense. Each of them failed and quit.

In our Army a superior type of officer and general has grown up, who is capable of synthesizing all the rich and varied methods and forms of warfare. The Germans have been unable to rise to similar heights.

Collective Will and Talented Efforts

The entire path of the Soviet Byelorussian Armies—from the initial break-through to the present swift and intensive battles on the Vistula and at the approaches to Warsaw—has been marked by this creative spirit of victory.

And our Army—our artillery, tanks and aircraft which sweep aside the Germans’ resistance as a people’s avalanche—is the supreme expression of the creative spirit of the entire Soviet people. Without this massive foundation of Soviet fire and Soviet steel, which overwhelm German fire and steel, victory would be out of the question. We have more aircraft and guns than the Germans. For that we have to thank the historic feats of Soviet workers,

(Continued on page 6)



A Messerschmitt-109, formerly flown by a German ace and brought down by Soviet airmen



United States Army officers examine heavy and medium German tanks on exhibit in Moscow



A few of the vast numbers of German trucks and traction vehicles taken by the Red Army

German Armaments in Moscow

By Lieutenant General R. Khmel'nitsky
Director of Exhibit of War Trophies

Sixty carloads of war trophies taken in 1944 recently reached the Moscow Exhibit of Captured German Armaments from the First, Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts. Especially interesting was a 300-mm. heavy mine-thrower, a 1942 model, which discharges a 127-kilogram rocket mine. Another new addition was a 170-mm. cannon mounted on a 210-mm. howitzer carriage. This gun fires 62 to 68-kilogram armor-piercing and fragmentation shells and has a range of 28 kilometers. Its neighbor is the 28 to 30-mm. parachutist cannon, with a bell-shaped muzzle and a firing speed of 12 shots per minute. Then there is a 105-mm. light field howitzer with a range of 12,300 meters and a 14-kilogram fragmentation shell. This gun has a muzzle airbrake.

Against the forces of the Second Baltic Front the Germans have begun to use the self-propelled torpedo built to combat Soviet tanks. This torpedo, attached to a two-kilometer length of wire, contains 30 to 40 kilograms of explosives, ignited electrically from a control board in a shelter. In the Ukraine and near Bratislav, Vinnitsa Region, the Germans had similar control boards in tanks, with the torpedoes preceding them, thus increasing their range. The forces of the Second Ukrainian Front smashed both the tanks and the torpedoes they controlled. Several of these torpedoes now form part of the Exhibit. Unlike previous torpedo models, they are not run by electric motors but are fitted with benzine-driven motorcycle engines and can travel at a speed of 12 kilometers per hour.

The aircraft trophies at the Exhibit include such late machines as the FW-109-A and the Messerschmitt 109-G-6.

The Exhibit now contains 4,000 odd exhibits of the enemy's various armaments. Military specialists have drawn the conclusion that though the exhibits come in greater numbers, they have not improved in quality. In 1943 the Germans were unable to devise anything basically new. Another striking fact is that since the end of last year there has been a marked change in the designing of German armaments—they have gradually ceased to be designed for offensive operations. Tanks daubed with special oils to protect them from magnetic mines; new types of heavy mine-throwers; 170-mm. cannon, formerly mounted on railway platforms but now on a howitzer carriage—these are not meant for offense but defense, to repel attacks and facilitate evacuation. The Exhibit also shows clearly the deterioration of the enemy's gun metal during the past year; non-ferrous metals are giving way to ferro-alloys and plastic compositions.

At the Moscow Exhibit of Captured German Armaments



Red Army officer explains technical points to visitors inspecting a group of German planes



The 75-mm. self-propelled gun—the "Artsturm"



United States Army officers at the tank exhibit



Soviet citizens of all ages visit the exhibit



Other models of captured motor vehicles

EHRENBURG SPEAKS ON 'PEOPLE AND WAR'

"I should like to show the moral causes of the downfall of German fascism and the moral causes of our victories. Our victory is the victory of man over the robot, of reason and conscience over the automatism of the subhuman, of good over evil."

These were the introductory remarks of Ilya Ehrenburg, noted Soviet writer, at a lecture delivered by him in Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow on August 1. The address was entitled "People and War," but as can be seen from the above he spoke on a variety of cognate topics.

Ehrenburg's terse, clear-cut words were a scathing indictment of German fascism. He showed how like a Frankenstein monster the indoctrination of chauvinism, contempt for other peoples and automatic discipline into the German people—brought to a head by the Nazis and their infamous racial theory—has during this war turned against the Germans themselves.

That fascism has converted the Germans into brutish automatons is in Ehrenburg's opinion most fully expressed in the German atrocities. "The Germans have turned the murder of human beings into a huge industry."

Reviewers abroad often ask the reason for the Germans' rapid retreat in Byelorussia. "The Germans are retreating so fast," Ehrenburg replies, "because the Red Army is advancing so fast. Our officers and men are spurred on by the unconquerable will to reach the German borders. This will brought the Russians from the banks of the Volga to the banks of the Niemen. It will bring them to the banks of the piddling river called the Spree. Under the blows of the Red Army the iron shackles

of discipline are bursting and the German soldier is becoming demoralized."

The epilogue to the tragedy the world is now living through, Ehrenburg said, dealing with some problems of postwar organization, should never be allowed to become the prologue to a new tragedy. The comedy of SS men recanting and beating their breasts in repentance must never happen. That the poison of fascism may never penetrate a single living soul, not a single snake with poisonous fangs must be left in Germany.

There are in Europe, however, "neo-appeasers" who view Munich not as a military objective but as a pleasant memory. Mr. Brailsford, Independent Laborite, has written a book in which he suggests that Hitler should not be hailed up for trial, that the Germans be left to put their own house in order, and similar things.

"Inhuman and stupid" is the brief qualification with which Ehrenburg dismissed this point of view. He added that he had no doubt that the British people wish to finish conclusively with German fascism, whose creatures are murdering British prisoners and whose flying bombs are killing British women and children.

It was with pungent sarcasm that the writer spoke of people in Allied countries who would consider Hitler's mutinous generals "virtuous Germans." By throwing Hitler overboard these generals wished to save the military caste in Germany.

"The world sees our people as a nation of warriors," Ehrenburg said in conclusion. "Our people will again amaze the world when they begin to build up a purposeful and happy life."

SPIRIT OF VICTORY

(Continued from page 3)

the talented efforts of their collective intelligence and collective will, and the creative spirit which derives its strength from the fact that it inspires all the peoples of the Soviet Union of all ages and all professions, from scientists to manual workers.

And when at the front you see, as I did, a young sapper running forward at the head of the troops toward a bridge set afire by the Germans with a splendid creative idea forming in his head of how he will save it—he hurls grenades into the river and the fountains of water raised by the explosions put out the flames; when months after the beginning of our offensive you see coming from the forest, as by the wave of a magic wand, super-powerful tanks and self-propelled guns which have not yet been in action and which were called into being by wise

foresight to feed the offensive and unflinchingly maintain the potential of victory; and when the grandeur of the general strategy begins to dawn upon you—then you realize that in the Army, too, this creative spirit of victory inspires everyone, from infantrymen to the grayhaired General Commander.

And this creative spirit—which is never content with past achievements, which always seeks for higher and more perfect forms and which gazes keenly and appraisingly into the future—this creative spirit, inspired by Stalin's strategy and unified by Stalin's will, is the guarantee of victory.

(Front-line correspondent Vasili Grossman, well-known Soviet writer, is author of the novels LIFE and THE PEOPLE ARE IMMORTAL, dealing with the present war, as well as numerous short stories and articles on the same theme).

ON THE LIBERATION OF POLAND

The following article appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 15:

In the course of its triumphant offensive the Red Army has forced the Western Bug and set foot on Polish territory. The liberation of Poland from the German-fascist bandits has begun.

Poland was the first country to fall victim to the armed attack of Hitler Germany. Now Poland is the first of the countries conquered by the Germans to be liberated. Warsaw, the first capital seized by German arms, will be the first capital to be delivered from the German yoke. And this notwithstanding the fact that at the time of the temporary successes and advances of Hitler's army, Poland was far deeper in the German rear than many another occupied country of Western Europe.

Deliverance from the German yoke is a great historic turn in the life of the Polish people. What adds particular significance to this event is that the national independence and liberty which the Polish people lost—owing to the fault of the pro-fascist clique of adventurers who held power in the country before the war—they are now recovering thanks to the defeat of Hitler's hordes by the liberation Armies of the Soviet Union. This simple and obvious fact thoroughly demolishes that edifice of lies and insinuations against the Soviet Union which was so zealously erected by Polish reactionaries of all shades and colors who are to this day spreading calumnies against the country whose Armies are bringing liberation to the much-suffering Polish people.

The nightmare of Nazi occupation has taught the Polish people much. They saw who were their friends, and who the foes that brought upon them countless misfortunes by their political blindness and ingrained selfishness. In the fire of the underground struggle against the German invaders new forces have been tempered and a new national consciousness has taken shape, enriched by historical experience and purged of fatal prejudice.

The constructive forces of fighting and reawakening Poland were united by the National Council of Poland which, at the crucial moment when Poland's liberation began, formed the Polish Committee of National Liberation as a provisional executive authority to lead the people's struggle for liberation and to insure their independence and the rehabilitation of the Polish State. At the same time the National Council of Poland decided to merge the Polish People's Army, which grew up in underground struggle against the invaders, with the Polish Army in the USSR, to form a single Polish Army.

The creation of a single anti-Hitler army and the

setting up of popular organs of government representing the genuinely democratic forces of Poland are supreme events in the life of the Polish nation.

The Manifesto to the Polish People issued by the Committee of National Liberation embodies the age-old hopes and aspirations of the broad masses. It is a program for the formation of a free, strong, independent, sovereign and democratic Poland, a Poland which will never again serve as a corridor for the German hordes in their Eastern drive. The road to the attainment of this goal is clear; it is the road leading to friendship among the Slav peoples, which will form an impregnable bulwark against German aggression.

Fighting Poland regards itself as a true member of the Slav family. The brotherhood-in-arms of Polish and Soviet soldiers has been cemented by the blood shed on the battlefield. The Slav defensive wall against German aggression must be founded upon Polish-Soviet-Czechoslovak concord. The pledge of Poland's prosperity after the war will be a stable alliance and neighborly cooperation with the Soviet Union, and friendship and alliance with Great Britain and the United States.

In proceeding to recreate the Polish State, the Committee of National Liberation solemnly proclaimed the restoration of all democratic liberties which were abolished in Poland by the fascist rulers long before the war, and far-reaching agrarian reform designed to satisfy the Polish peasants' age-old yearning for land. The Committee's program of home policy includes nothing which is incompatible with the preservation of the existing social and economic order in Poland.

In the light of this, what a wretched and stupid slander it is to assert that anybody wants to impose the Soviet system upon Poland, and how crass is the attempt of the Polish reactionaries and their advocates to present the Committee of National Liberation as a Communist body, when its membership—only three out of 15 of whom are Communists—reflects the union and cementing of all democratic and anti-fascist forces of the Polish people.

At the moment when the liberation of the Polish people from the German invaders began, the Soviet Government concluded with the Committee of National Liberation an agreement covering relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Polish Administration. This agreement will unquestionably constitute an important landmark in the development of Soviet-Polish friendship and cooperation.

The Polish Committee of National Liberation is a genuinely democratic body which is taking over the direction of all civilian administrative affairs

on Polish territory as it is liberated from the German invaders. The union of the anti-Hitler forces of the Polish people has made manifest a fact which advocates of the self-appointed Polish "government" in exile are doing their utmost to gloss over, namely, that this "government" does not represent the Polish people nor does it express their aspirations. We know that this "government" suffered complete political bankruptcy at the most crucial moment in the life of the Polish people. The Polish "government" in exile banked upon the Soviet Union being weakened in the war with Hitler Germany and upon rifts forming in the anti-Hitler coalition. It hoped to drive a wedge between the weakened Soviet Union and its Allies in order to realize its plans of aggrandizement at the expense of the Soviet Ukraine, Byelorussia and Lithuania. But these calculations have been cruelly deceived. The logic of the struggle against the common enemy—Hitler Germany—led to the union of the anti-Hitler and truly democratic and patriotic Polish forces, who were alive to the vital necessity of friendship and good neighborly relations between Poland and her Eastern neighbors.

The logic of the struggle against Hitlerism revealed the complete bankruptcy of the Polish "government" in exile. And this same logic will undoubtedly lead to the fact that those forces among the Polish emigration who have not yet completely severed their ties with the people will make common cause with the Polish Committee of National Liberation and take part in the liberation struggle of which it is the leader. This is corroborated by the fact that a number of progressive organizations among the Polish emigration in Britain and America, as well as a number of political leaders, hailed the formation of the Committee of National Liberation and acknowledged it as the sole lawful authority in the Polish Republic.

The Committee of National Liberation is directing the sacred fight of the Polish people for liberty and independence. No wonder its formation aroused the furious ire of the arrant reactionary landowners who constitute the support of the Polish "government" in exile. These "patriots of their estates" who have played so disastrous a role all through Poland's history, and especially in the fateful years preceding the war, cannot of course reconcile themselves to the fact that the Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Lithuanian peasants have liberated themselves forever from feudal oppression, just as they cannot stomach the fact that the Polish peasant will at last receive land. The motto of the feudal landowners is, "Let Poland perish, as long as we retain our latifundia."

Obviously the paths of these gentry and of the Polish people diverge. The Polish people have

declared their will. It is embodied in the activities of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, which unites all the democratic forces of the country in their fight against the foes of a free Poland.

It is now obvious that only those elements who are capable of rallying around the Polish Committee of National Liberation and marching shoulder to shoulder with it have a future. And it is in this light that we must regard the visit of Mikolajczyk to Moscow, which, as the foreign press remarks, is rather belated.

How foolish and absurd are the "fears" expressed by certain organs in the foreign press that civil war may break out in Poland between the supporters of the "government" in exile and the supporters of the Committee of National Liberation. These fears are groundless, to say the least, for the exile "government" enjoys no serious backing in Poland. As to military units abroad which are under the control of this "government," the true sons of Poland in their ranks will not go against the will of their own people, while the elements who have been especially trained by Sosnkowski and his clique for civil war cannot find their way back into Poland without outside help, and on such help they cannot count.

The unity of the Polish people was hammered out in the great fight for liberation from the Nazi invaders. In this fight the Polish people have the mighty support of the Soviet Union, whose Armies are battering and destroying Hitler's war machine. The day is not far off when much-suffering Poland will be completely liberated. The Soviet people share the firm confidence of their Government that the sister nations of the USSR and Poland will jointly carry the liberation struggle against the German invaders to the finish and will lay secure foundations for friendly Soviet-Polish cooperation.

Information Bulletin

EMBASSY OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

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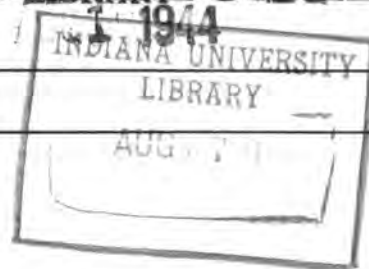
EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 92

Washington, D. C., August 12, 1944



On the Eve

By Ilya Ehrenburg

On the outskirts of Vilnius, when fighting was still in progress in its streets, I spoke to some German officers who had been taken prisoner. Among them was an Austrian, an army surgeon, a man of lively intelligence and keen powers of observation.

"The Germans still hope," he said to me.

"In what?" I asked. "In the V-1 robot bomb? In super-total mobilization?"

"No," the Austrian replied. "In the shortness of your memories. A year ago they used to say the Russians have a short reach. Now they say the Russians have short memories."

I want to speak once more, now that the Red Army has reached the frontiers of Germany, about the savagery and bestiality of the Hitlerites. Perhaps there are some who when they read about Germans surrendering to supply troops and even to children, say to themselves, "They've come to their senses at last." Perhaps some Muscovites who saw the dismal

procession of war prisoners asked themselves in surprise, "Can fellows like these have hanged innocent people?" Perhaps the reports of the mutiny of German generals prompt in the naive reader a hope that conscience has awakened in the Germans.

No! And again no! The Germans have not changed. They surrender not because they revolt against murdering innocent people; they surrender because they are afraid to die. It is not the children they pity, but themselves. A day, even an hour, before they surrendered they were still murdering defenseless people. It is not conscience that is awakening in them, but fear.

At the order of the Germans their slaves are digging up the corpses of the massacred and burning them. The criminals want to cover up their traces. For three years they slaughtered with an easy mind. Then they grew alarmed and began to destroy the dead bodies. That's all their "conscience" amounts



Soviet infantrymen board tanks which have taken up attack positions

to. They are preparing for the day when at the word of command they'll cry, "It wasn't we who murdered; it was Hitler."

Why did a certain colonel throw a bomb at the Fuehrer? Because he realized that Hitler is evidence.

Oberleutnant Filins, a war prisoner, told me that German officers now closely scrutinize the reports of the Extraordinary State Committee. They look to see whether their names are mentioned. They know justice is coming.

I was in Bolshoi Trostyanets shortly after the Germans ran away from there. Scorched corpses piled in stacks like firewood were still smoldering. The children had been neatly laid at the end of each row. . . . That was the last contingent and the Germans fled before they could burn them. All around I saw signs of excavations and fields of skulls. Since the spring the Germans had been burning the bodies of their victims buried earlier, but were unable to complete the job.

Bolshoi Trostyanets, near Minsk, was one of the "death factories." There the Germans killed Soviet war prisoners, Byelorussians, and Jews brought from Minsk, Vienna and Prague, using *G-Wagens*—gas wagons—for the purpose. A certain German engineer perfected these machines: they now have a tip-up body which automatically discharges the corpses of the slain. Over 100,000 innocent people died in Bolshoi Trostyanets.

There were death factories in Ponyari, near Vilnius, in Belzhetse, near Rava Russkaya, in Novy Dvor and in Sabibur. Trainloads of Jews arrived from France, Holland and Belgium. They were told they would be put to work. They were taken to barracks and ordered to strip naked for disinfection and baths. The heads of the women were shaved and the hair gathered in sacks. Then the doomed people were asphyxiated. Through a trapdoor in the "bath house" the dead bodies were conveyed into a furnace. The Germans declared that each of these death factories had a capacity of 2,000 persons per day.

In the death factories Jews and Soviet war prisoners, Russians, Byelorussians and Poles were killed. In Vilnius the inhabitants of entire streets were sent to Ponyari. The butchers had a timetable—one day they slaughtered Jews, another day Poles. There were also "Russian days."

It is hard to conceive: millions of people—neat, quiet old women; mothers with infants at the breast; beautiful young women and little girls with pigtailed—massacred in these death factories. Each of them lived his or her life; they were warm and alive. . . . And then some German in an office recorded in a book: so many units exterminated.

I will not attempt to paint these pictures of horror; mankind will return to them for centuries to

come, trying to realize the immensity of suffering.

Valya Komarova, a humorous, tender girl of 14 lived in Yalta. The Germans murdered her and outraged her body; they cut off her left breast. Marusya Ponomaryova was a Russian child of seven years. The Germans burned her alive and in her torment she shrieked, "Mama!" But her mother did not hear her; she had been killed the day before.

But there is a Mother Russia. She heard Marusya's cries and will never, never forget.

"Dr. L. Druskin, Children's Diseases"—the Germans killed the old man and buried hundreds of living children with him. And side by side with infants in this fraternal grave lie the mutilated bodies of sailors.

Here is the site of what was once the Russian village of Artyukhovo, on the Dukhnovo-Idritsa highroad. The Germans burned the village and all its inhabitants with it. Sergei Stepanov was 67 years old. The Germans beat him with rifle-butts and ordered him to dance. They snatched Matryona Leonova's infant from her arms and threw it into the flames before the mother's eyes. The list of burned is a terrible one. In it figure Vera Semyonova, an old woman; Maria Kuzmina, 10 months old, and Nikolai Ivanov, six months old. . . .

Whoever has even once in his life stroked the head of an infant, whoever has seen the tears of a mother, will not forget the ashes of Artyukhovo: they are human ashes.

The township of Ekaterinopol was inhabited by Jews. They were all slaughtered . . . all but a young girl, Sonya. She tells of the woes of the people. In Ekaterinopol lived an old barber, Azril Pritzman. He was 76, and had five sons at the front. The barber cried to the Germans, "Shoot. My sons will avenge me!" Golikov was a cooper, 80 years old. Rising wounded out of the pit he cried, "Shoot, you vipers. You can't kill me with one bullet." I don't know whether the barber's sons are alive. But every murdered old man has sons—the Soviet soldiers. They are already in Beskidi, near Warsaw and at the frontiers of Prussia. The butchers will be made to answer.

Pilot Andrei Kolomeyets received a letter from home, from his sister. He was surprised. "Why doesn't father write?" he asked. His sister replied. "Don't be angry with Papa, Andrei. He cannot write to you because the Germans burned out his eyes. He refused to work for them, so they took him to the Gestapo, kept him there for two days, and when they let him out his eyes were open wounds." Kolomeyets says, "Since then my own eyes are keener than ever when I am flying. No German can hide from me now. . . ."

Together with Junior Lieutenant Kolomeyets our whole Army is seeking the butchers. We can see the

old man with the empty eyeballs, and it is this sight that will remain with us to our dying day. Woe to the Germans!

Here is a letter from a 15-year-old lad, Senya Deresha: "Dear Uncle Misha—I am writing from our town of Izyaslavl, which you wouldn't recognize if you saw it. Only a pitiful half remains. It would be better if it had never existed. It would be better if I had never been born. I am not the Senya you used to know. I don't know myself what I am. In Izyaslavl, our neighbor Kiva and I are all that are left out of 8,000 inhabitants. My dear Mama, my Papa and all our relatives are no more. If I tried to tell you all I've been through I doubt whether you would understand me. Many a time I've looked death in the face. I joined the guerrillas, and the Fritzes' bullets knocked me out. But I am all right now; my leg is healed and I am going to look for the enemy, to take revenge for everything. Remember, Uncle Misha, that the fascist cannibal is our worst enemy. Kill him, hack him to pieces. This letter is very muddled, as my whole life is, but I am still alive and I mean to take revenge. It is as if I had returned from beyond the grave and am beginning a new life—the life of an orphan. Write to me often. Write to the old address, but wherever you write I'll get your letters, because there's nobody here besides me."

The boy is alone in the dead town. He hears voices from under the ground. The silence of boundless cemeteries bathed in a cold light breaks into our night. It calls us westward. And we are all marching—Senya and Uncle Misha and our whole Army.

I received a letter from a 12-year-old boy. He writes: "The young ones they killed at once, and the old men and us they drove into the forest. Then they drew a ring around us and began killing. The children were thrown into a pit. I ran away. A German chased me. I climbed a tree and he didn't find me. I saw them kill everyone, and for three long days blood gurgled in the ground. . . ."

What can one add to this? Words are drowned out by the gurgling of blood.

In the Pinetski forests, near Lvov, our scouts found 80 people. They had lived in the forest for two years. A three-year-old girl did not know what the word home meant, and when she saw a house she cried out in astonishment. But even this child expected our Army and used to say, "Father Stalin will come and take us home. . . ." The great hope never abandoned these unfortunates. Many of them did not hope to survive themselves, but they knew that Russia would survive. Shura Gorbunova, a Byelorussian collective farmwoman, cried to the butchers, "Kill me. That's easy. But you can't kill Russia! . . ."

In Yarkshev, in the Vinnitsa Region, Gita Yakovlevna, a teacher of mathematics, said to her doomed companions as she was led away with her six-year-

old boy to be killed, "There are our brothers at the front—they will return. There's the Soviet system—it cannot die. There's Stalin—he won't forget us." And she cried to the butchers in German, "Do you hear? Stalin won't forget this!"

Yes, Stalin is not only our Commander-in-Chief, not only our inspirer. Stalin is our conscience. And all of us, when we think of the man who in the autumn of 1941 knew that the Red Army would get to Berlin, who mentally shared all the sufferings of our people, who knew the grief of every mother and the



A family returns to a liberated Soviet town

tears of every child—when we think of this great and simple man, we know that he will not forget.

The *Catholic Herald* shamelessly writes: "The Germans in this war have behaved more decently than in the last war." I don't know what these gentlemen mean by decent: is it wells filled with dead children, or murder vans, or perhaps blinded old men? I would take them to Rakuv and introduce them to Priest Ganusevich, an incumbent of the Catholic church there, who said to me, "When I read books on the nature of evil I had no inkling that such heartless and bloodthirsty creatures could be walking the earth. . . ." Ganusevich saw a woman throwing a baby out of a house which the Germans had set on fire; a German picked it up and neatly



Captain Duzhi, commander of an Air Regiment, studies his maps for a new assignment

threw it back into the flames, like an ember. The Germans led away Lubenets, an old prelate in the village of Klebani, and put him to death. In Pershev they tortured two Catholic priests to death. They killed the oldest priest in Vilnius, Gosiorovsky. And in Dori they herded all Orthodox Christians into the church and set fire to it.

I know the Germans will say, "It was isolated criminals who did the killing. Seek for drops in the ocean." But before me lies a "summary report." It is signed by German Captain Sauer and is an account of the massacre of the inhabitants of Pinsk. Captain Sauer writes: "Fifteen thousand persons were driven to the place of assembly. The sick and children left at home were executed on the spot. In this way 1,200 persons were executed in the ghetto itself. . . . Detachments in charge of combing must in all cases be supplied with axes, hatchets and other tools, for it was found that nearly all the doors were locked. . . . Even where there were no cellars, large numbers of people hid under the floors. Police dogs should be used to scent them out. (In Pinsk a police dog named Asta did fine work). . . ."

We'll remember this in Berlin—not the dog but Captain Sauer and many other Germans. We'll remember the "death factories." We'll remember those

who gave orders to kill and those who obeyed them. We are not only at the frontiers of Germany—we are on the threshold of the courthouse.

Near Vilnius I spoke to some Red Army men who in the past 10 days had advanced 400 kilometers. They were covered with dust which had turned their hair silver. They had inflamed eyes and cracked lips. They said, "We are getting there!" They were excited by the proximity of the German frontier.

Some foreigners may think our advance is a pleasant promenade; actually it is a path of blood. Who can do justice to the exploits of the infantrymen who marched through the Pinsk marshes dragging their guns by main strength? In Vilnius the infantrymen stormed the ancient walls for five days and nights on end. In Western Byelorussia a general of tank troops dragged logs with his men to build bridges. A colonel helped to pull guns. The men were bathed in sweat—sweat and blood.

One colonel said to me, "Brest was fortified. The Germans thought they were safe there. We outflanked them and then hacked and mauled and cut them to pieces in the forts. I literally walked over the corpses of the fiends. I thought of my mother, brothers, sisters and children whom they killed. . . . Well, we'll soon be in Germany. . . ."

If they rely on our short memories the Germans are again stupidly deceiving themselves. Just as there are winters with no thaws, so there is a hatred which never relents. Every one of our men knows we must get to Berlin; it cannot be otherwise—our conscience would devour us if we did not. We can forgive our own injuries, but not what they did to the children. We can be lenient to the unenlightened, but not to the inventors of murder wagons. It is not the desire for vengeance that spurs us on, but the yearning for justice.

We want to destroy the vipers' nest. We want to wean the Germans from going to war—wean both the supporters of Hitler and those mutinous generals of the Reichswehr who reckon on correcting in 1964 the mistakes of 1944. We want to carry the sword through Germany, so as to kill the Germans' love of the sword forever. We want to go to their country so that they never again come to ours.

The shades of the slain are with us. They rise from graves, from ravines, wells and pits—old folk and suckling infants, Russians and Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Jews, Poles and Lithuanians. They all wanted to live; they loved sun and flowers. For the tortured and slaughtered they say to us, "Remember!"

And I know that soon we'll be on the Spree: I have seen our Army, filled with a great wrath. I know that justice will triumph. And when I, like all of us, am filled with intolerable grief, I support myself with the splendid, heartening words: *Stalin won't forget.*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE HARVEST

The harvest season is on in the USSR and a golden stream of grain is beginning to flow into the elevators. As usual, the harvest is the economic keynote of this period of the year.

Sowing this spring was carried out on a considerably larger area than in 1943. Farmers in many parts of the Southern and Western regions now liberated from the Germans put in their crops literally under fire—confident that by harvest time the fields would be far in the rear. Simultaneously some of the Central and Eastern Regions continued to expand the cultivated area. All this resulted in an increase of almost seven million hectares in the area under spring crops, which means millions of tons of extra grain.

This year the overwhelming majority of Republics, Regions and territories fulfilled the sowing plan. It is significant that all liberated areas met the State plans for sowing. The Ukraine, once the most important grain-producing area in the USSR, topped its program with fulfillment of the spring grain plan by 117 per cent, of sugar beet by over 106 per cent and of sunflowers by nearly 120 per cent.

Another factor making for a good harvest is the substantial improvement in cultivation registered this year. Grains, for example, were sown earlier, in line with scientific farming methods. During the German occupation, farming in general declined; rotation plans were not observed, weeds ran rampant, and the farmers—deliberately sabotaging German efforts—left a goodly portion of their lands uncultivated. Collective and State farms and machine and tractor stations were demolished and machinery and implements destroyed or carried away. After liberation of these areas, the fight against weeds and pests alone required tremendous effort. All this has now been overcome.

The Southern districts have begun harvesting and farmers say they have not seen such a good crop for a long time. Vasili Derkachev, chairman of a collective farm in the Kuban, states that crops in this area are better than in the bumper harvest year of 1937. He expects an average of about two tons of grain per hectare in his district. Reports from Dnepropetrovsk, Kherson, Zaporozhye, Nikolayev, Poltava, Kharkov and other Regions speak of harvests of over one and one-half tons per hectare.

The most important task now facing the farmers is to get in the harvest without losses. In this connection the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party have issued a special joint decision on the harvest and deliveries of farm produce this year; another object lesson in Soviet methods of guiding the agricultural effort.

The decision provides for State inspection of preparedness for the harvest in every rural area in the Soviet Union. Each farm will be given a clearcut harvest plan; all are instructed to complete repairs of harvesting equipment within the next few days, to provide adequate granary facilities, to put all transport means in order for haulage of grain, to stock up on fuel, etc.

Strict time limits are set for digging sugar beet and hauling it from the fields. For example, in Uzbekistan, Kirghizia and Kazakhstan the digging must be completed by November 15 and haulage of the crop by December 15. In the more northerly districts of the Ukraine and Kursk Regions, digging is to be done by October 20 and haulage by November 20.

The time schedule for harvesting cotton, tobacco, makhorka, flax and other crops is likewise outlined. Time schedules are based on the findings of both



A collective farmer of the Don Region, whose particular care is the melon patch

scientific and practical farming, and are recommended for use on all farms.

The decision also provides for a part of the urban population and school pupils to assist with the harvest, while factories are instructed to send skilled workers to collective and State farms and to machine and tractor stations to help in repairing harvesting machinery and equipment and to keep them in working order.

Observance of advanced farming methods during the harvest is another requirement of the decision. The State is interested in the collective farms bringing in as much grain as possible, fulfilling their produce delivery plans on time, and earning the maximum. By making universal application of the best working methods obligatory, the State extends a helping hand to the collective farmer. It is this kind of State control over agriculture that helped

the Soviet Union to surmount some of the greatest difficulties arising from the war.

The country is now bringing in a harvest popularly known as the "Victory Harvest." A sizable part of this has been gained as a result of the Red Army's victories at the front. And what we gained, the Germans lost. There was a moment when the Hitlerites had possession of some of the most important food-producing areas of the Soviet Union, which they counted on to aid in feeding their own people and army. Now that they no longer have these areas, they are forced to admit the seriousness of their loss. The Nazi agriculture chieftain, Minister Backe made the bitter admission that the loss of the "Eastern regions" hits Germany's food supplies hard and "is unquestionably bad for us."

But what is bad for the Germans is good for us—and the Soviet farmer knows it. That is why he works so hard.

A FAMOUS BASEMENT

By Alexander Sheinin

In the center of Stalingrad—on the Square of the Fallen Heroes where in May, 1943, Mr. Joseph E. Davies placed a wreath on the tomb of the valiant defenders of the city—stands a partly-destroyed building covering almost a block. Before the war it housed the largest department store in the city. Fancy neckties, dolls with eyes that opened and shut, radio sets, crockery and many other articles were sold there.

During the Stalingrad battle this square was a scene of fierce fighting. German bombs and shells destroyed or burned all the surrounding houses; only the walls and basement of the department store remained.

It was here that Field Marshal Paulus, then commander of the German Sixth Army, set up his headquarters. He had occupied other "quarters" in the city—and he did not leave them of his own free will. The ring of encirclement had closed tighter and tighter around him and Soviet tommy gunners kept a constant lookout for his headquarters.

The basement of the store was the last refuge of the ill-starred Field Marshal. Our tommy gunners tracked him to this spot, and three days before the last scattered groups of the German forces within the city were taken prisoner, a white flag appeared at the basement window. A veneered board on the facade of the store explains that Field Marshal Paulus surrendered there on January 31, 1943, at seven A. M.

The building is now being restored, and since the basement has been turned into a warehouse, one must have a permit to enter. When we presented our pass at the entrance gate, the old watchman who stands

there with a rifle grumbled, "Why was that Paulus born? Look at the trouble he's giving me . . . the place is crowded with visitors from morning till night. And what for? To see a basement—just like any ordinary basement."

Crossing the yard we followed a paved motor road lined on either side with offices. Paulus' staff officers and personal guard—the latter totaled 300 tommy gunners on the morning of the surrender—had occupied these offices. The Field Marshal himself had a corner room, small and narrow, barely holding a bed, a table and a few chairs. The walls were hung with rugs. These furnishings had now been removed and the room was being painted.

The basement windows are level with the ground. Through them we could see the large courtyard and the shell-torn roofless buildings where men were busy clearing away rubble and patching holes in the walls. Very soon the Stalingrad department store will again sell neckties, children's toys and lingerie. And salesgirls will casually remark to customers:

"By the way, you must visit our basement. A German Field Marshal by the name of Paulus surrendered there."

Russian Museum Reopens

The Russian Museum in Leningrad, closed throughout the war, reopened on July 2 with an exhibit of works of artists of the Leningrad Front, including paintings by 75 soldiers, sailors and officers, and posters, engravings and sculptures. After the opening the artists returned to their units at the front.

TURKEY'S RUPTURE OF RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

By N. Bodrov

From an article published in PRAVDA August 7:

The Turkish government's decision to break off diplomatic and economic relations with Germany continues to focus the attention of foreign political circles and the foreign press. However, opinions on the role and significance of the Turkish government's decision are by no means unanimous.

As we know, on October 19, 1939, after the outbreak of the war, Turkey concluded the Ankara Treaty of Alliance with Great Britain and France. This however did not prevent the Turkish government from concluding a Treaty of Friendship with Germany on June 18, 1941, nor from proclaiming for a definite period that its position was one of neutrality. Practically, however, as a reviewer of the *London Daily Telegraph* and *Morning Post* points out, down to very recently Turkey by her policy rendered inestimable assistance to Germany's war effort.

Turkey supplied Germany with valuable strategic raw materials and especially with chrome ore. Out of 100,000 tons of chrome ore mined in Turkey in 1943, 47,000 tons went to Germany. These consignments increased in 1944, totaling 25,000 tons in the first three months. Consignments to Germany of cotton, copper, oilseed, wool, leather, etc., likewise reached large proportions. The *Economiste D'Orient* in its issue of January 10 stated that "Germany acquires 90 per cent of Turkey's exports."

Quite recently, in the early part of June, instances were revealed of Turkish authorities permitting German war vessels to pass into the Aegean Sea through the Dardanelles.

Thus for quite a long period Turkey's rulers pursued a policy which in practice was tantamount to aiding Hitler Germany in the war. And even when the three Allied powers—Great Britain, the United States and the USSR—at the end of last year made insistent representations to Turkey on the necessity of putting an end to such a foreign policy, which was of benefit only to Germany, the Turks refused to do so. This refusal could only make for the protraction of the war. It is scarcely necessary to point out that this policy was to the detriment of Turkey's own interests, to the detriment of her political and economic relations with the democratic countries. Apparently, this line of Turkish foreign policy was to a large measure due, on the one hand, to the influence exercised on Turkish leaders by the thesis of German propaganda that a split in the Allied camp was inevitable; and on the other, by an overestimation of Germany's chances in this war.

Developments refuted the prognosis of the Turk-

ish politicians. The facts went to show that far from weakening as the war proceeded, the ties between the members of the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition grew considerably stronger. This was brilliantly demonstrated first by the Moscow Conference and then by the Teheran Conference. Nevertheless, Turkey continued to adhere to her former foreign policy.

And it is perfectly obvious that the present decision to break off diplomatic and economic relations with Germany was dictated first and foremost by the fear that Turkey would be politically isolated after the war. This uneasiness and anxiety are attested by, among other things, the controversy on Turkish foreign policy which recently arose in the Turkish press.

It is undeniable that the rupture of diplomatic and economic relations between Turkey and Germany cannot but cause additional concern and disappointment to the Hitler government. That is its advantageous side for the Allied countries. The complaints which are now appearing in the Nazi press against the Turkish government's decision are, therefore, not surprising.

All the same, it is pointed out in a number of foreign newspapers that now when the issue of the war has been predetermined in favor of the anti-Hitler coalition—thanks to the heroic efforts of the Red Army and the Allies, and without any part having been taken in these efforts by Turkey—the present change of Turkish policy is extremely belated and should not be overrated.

The New York Times, for example, writes that certain American official circles are of the opinion that Turkey should have broken off relations much earlier and that the importance of the break is now not very great. The English *New Statesman and Nation* rightly remarks that having waited for five years to see from which quarter the wind of war would blow, the Turkish government finally decided that it can now with relatively little risk bank on victory for the Allies. The English *Economist* holds that at this stage the Turkish government's decision will have no great influence on the course of the war.

In assessing Turkey's decision to break off diplomatic and trade relations with Germany, it should be borne in mind that even this decision does not mean that Turkey is joining the states which are waging a grim fight against Hitler Germany. Nor should it be forgotten that Turkey is preserving intact her close relations with Germany's satellites, especially with Hungary and Rumania, which in alliance with Hitler Germany are at war with the Soviet Union and other democratic countries.

The World's Most Northerly People

By Andrei Popov

The author is a member of the Institute of Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

The Institute of Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences is now completing its analysis of material gathered by an expedition organized shortly before the war to study in detail the life of the Nganasan—known in pre-revolutionary literature as the Tavgin people—a small tribe living in the extreme north of the USSR on the Taimyr Peninsula (Siberia) on the Arctic Ocean.

The Nganasan are the “most northerly people” in the world, if one may express it that way. In their wanderings they reach higher latitudes than any other tribe inhabiting the Arctic regions, going farther north than the Eskimos of North America.

I was entrusted with the leadership of the expedition and spent about two years among the Nganasan. In order to know them better, I lived for 12 months with the family of Okuo Urannik, sharing all the difficulties of a nomad life in the Far North and living on the produce of the hunt.

In 1917, at the time of the October Revolution, the Nganasan were still grouped in gentes, or clans. Until quite recently the home-made bow and arrow was their chief hunting weapon: hunting and reindeer breeding were the principal means of subsistence.

The Nganasan are now rapidly absorbing Soviet culture, flourishing and increasing in numbers. The Soviet State has supplied them with modern weapons for hunting and equipment for fishing. They have begun to organize cooperatives for reindeer-breeding and for hunting, which have considerably raised the output of these pursuits. The reindeer serves as a draft animal during the periods of wandering, and provides fresh meat. The frequent periods of scarcity and hunger formerly endured by the Nganasan are now a thing of the past.

Schools for children and for illiterate adults have been opened at the wintering camps and a number of medical centers have been set up. In their summer wanderings, the people are accompanied by medical workers.

During my stay among them, I wrote a detailed description of the entire cycle of activity of both men and women, and made a film record of various labor processes, hunting scenes, costumes of the people and their dances. I have an excellent collection of clothing, household utensils, hunting weapons and fishing equipment, and also managed to obtain a large number of ancient religious objects dating back to the time when the religion of the shamans was still widespread.

The Nganasan are skilled in the art of bone carving. I collected many examples of this folk art, including some unique pipes made from inlaid mammoth tusk and smoked by women.

One of the most interesting results of my trip is a collection of hitherto completely unknown Nganasan fairy-tales, legends, songs, stories and riddles. Twelve long epic poems, fruits of the unwritten literary art of the Nganasan people, which I managed to write down in full, are of great artistic value. The Nganasan legend of the creation of the world, which I heard from local storytellers and wrote down, is most interesting and original.

The high artistic level of Nganasan oral folklore and its content, which includes many elements of the heroic epic, lead us to suppose that the modern Nganasan comes from a people much more numerous than the present tribe; a people with a very high culture. A number of points in the material I collected confirm the fact that the distant ancestors of the Nganasan did not always live in the Far North, but inhabited a region of southern Siberia, in the Sayan foothills. When they migrated to the north they mingled with an aboriginal tribe of Paleo-Asiatic peoples, traces of whom still remain at many places in the northern part of the continent of Asia.

This mingling was the beginning of the modern Nganasan, whose culture, under the conditions which existed for them in Tsarist times, was on the decline, but which has now been revived as a result of the national policy of the Soviet Government and the support it gives to even the smallest people in the USSR.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 93

Washington, D. C., August 15, 1944



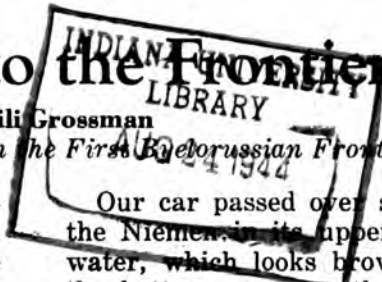
The Road to the Frontier

By Vasili Grossman

Special Correspondent on the First Belorussian Front

The movement of our troops outstrips the movement of words over telegraph wires. Events which in the morning seemed extremely important are overshadowed by events of the day, and the evening brings fresh reports of captured villages and towns, German generals and officers taken prisoner and the advance of Soviet troops. It seems only a few days since I wrote that we had left Bobruisk behind and were approaching Minsk. Now Minsk is far behind, and Negoreloye, burning Stolptsy and that charming town of Novogrudok.

Our car passed over squelching boards, crossing the Niemen in its upper reaches. The transparent water, which looks brown from the dark sand at the bottom, runs northward. Since the beginning of our offensive this is the first river we have met that runs from South to North, to the Baltic Sea. Now we are dozens of miles beyond the Niemen, driving along country roads and highways beneath the branches of roadside maples and limes, through smoking towns and villages set ablaze by the Germans. Ahead of us marches the great Russian in-



Army General Ivan Bagramyan (center) Commander of the First Baltic Front, in the communications office at his headquarters

(G. S. P. Photo)

fantry, cannons rumble and large-caliber machine guns clatter.

The tract of Soviet land still in the hands of the enemy grows ever narrower. The din of battle has returned to the places where we fought the German-fascist intruders in late June and early July, 1941. When we fought in the neighborhood of Kiev it was as if we had gone back to the September of 1941; when we liberated Gomel our troops seemed to have stepped into the August of 1941. Today's fighting takes us back to June and July, 1941. The Red Army is giving the people back the land which the enemy stole from them in the three years the Germans stole from history, from reason, from constructive labor, from humanity.

The Great Day Is Approaching

The great day is approaching when all Soviet territory will be free. The chiefs, burgomasters and traitors moving westward in the wake of the German army have already crawled across the frontiers of East Prussia—like a swarm of scorpions, snakes and locusts driven from our land. The bark of German propaganda is already coming from radio installations hastily removed to Germany. The number of kilometers separating our troops from East Prussia is expressed in two digits.

The great day of liberation of the Soviet peoples and Soviet lands will be followed by another historic day—when the Army of liberation, the Army of retribution, our great Red Army—begins to storm the German frontiers.

In these three weeks we have covered over 400 kilometers. The division with which I set out is now far beyond the Niemen. From the upper Dnieper to the upper Niemen the road led through thick pinewoods and deciduous forests, through rye, barley and wheat fields, over green hills and across shady vales, along rivers and streams glistening in sun or moonlight, through the streets of burning towns.

Never in all the three years of war have our troops seen so much dust on the roads. Not in the Ukraine in 1941 nor even on the Don and Stalingrad steppes in the summer of 1942 was the dust so thick. Sometimes motor vehicles have to halt because in the very midst of a bright sunny day a yellow darkness rises and nothing can be seen a few inches away. The dust runs down the windshields like water; it settles on the armor of the tanks, on the barrels of guns, on the faces and clothes of the men. The green woods have become gray from myriads of dust particles settling on the foliage. The dust rises in clouds, like the smoke of a huge conflagration. The earth, enveloped in these yellow clouds, seems on fire. And indeed the earth is ablaze. Dry forests set on fire by shells burn with a heavy red flame,

and the acrid blue and white smoke mixes with the yellow dust of the forest roads.

It is hard to breathe and the eyes become blood-shot from dust and smoke. In the blue sky the torrid sun reigns supreme. For several days nothing resembling a cloud appeared in the sky. During the winter offensive in the mud, many longed for that scourge of war—dust. Today they long for a cloud burst—let there be mud, they say, only to get rid of this dust.

At the start of the offensive, when the first volleys of artillery thundered, the crops were still green. Today the ears are heavy with grain and the stalks have grown yellow—painted copper and gold. It gives the men a marvelous feeling of elation. Only a month ago the crops were green and our troops were still on the Dnieper and the Prut . . .

It is hard to fight under a merciless sun in the smoke of burning forests and villages, in the dust of 16-hour marches. But the spirit of the men is high and cheerful. You often hear singing and the sound of accordions. Only when in motion do you begin to understand why an accordion is the true musical instrument of the soldier on the march—no other could be played by a man sitting on a motor truck jerking over rough roads, or in a cart jogging over cobbles. Only an accordion player can be indifferent to the jolting. The truck may hit a hole in the road and all its load bounce upward—iron, oil barrels, boxes of bread, bags and the men sitting on top of them—but the accordion will merely sound all the gayer, will emit a warble that causes everyone to smile and look about. And the men at the front love their fun; they welcome everything that brings a smile and they laugh heartily at a good joke.

In general, jokes, laughter and songs are important and indispensable to the men at the front. They are an evidence of the victorious spirit of the troops who endure enemy fire, exhausting heat, dust and long marches. But I have not met any dancers in this campaign and I think there has been no dancing—legs are too tired.

In these weeks I have visited many towns liberated in Byelorussia—Bobruisk, Minsk, Stolptsy, Novogradok and Baranovichi. I arrived on the day of their liberation or a day later. Last year during the offensive in the Ukraine I entered Glukhov, Bakhmach, Nezhin, Kozeletz, Chernigov, Yagotin, Korostyshev, Zhitomir and other towns immediately after their liberation. I saw Odessa, Orel and Elista in smoke and flames on the day the Red Army freed them. Weeks after their liberation I visited Voroshilovgrad, Kiev, Kharkov, Novograd-Volynsk, Rovno, Lutsk and Krivoi-Rog . . .

And everywhere, in the smoke and flames of Orel and Minsk, in the cold ruins and grass-covered

streets of Gomel, in the ashes of Voronezh, I read the horrible roll of German-fascist crimes. And the shorter the distance to the frontier, the vaster unfolds before the advancing Army the roll written in the blood of millions of children and old people, by the light of fires, to the groans and cries of people led to execution, to the death rattle of people buried alive.

For three years the Hitlerites in Byelorussia indulged in crimes and atrocities the like of which have never been known in the history of mankind.

Gruesome was the sight of Minsk, overhung by a pall of smoke. A city enmeshed in barbed-wire entanglements, concentration camps and prisons; a city fettered in fascist chains, a city of jails and torture chambers, a city half dead and destroyed—a city standing up to its breast in blood. In its streets one awful winter night the Germans shot thousands of defenseless prisoners of war. Thousands of guerrillas were tortured to death in the dungeons of the Gestapo, the gendarmerie and the *Sicherheitsdienst*.

German Executioners Spared No One

In two years the Germans in Minsk murdered over 100,000 Jews—women, children, old men, workers, engineers, physicians and office employees. The executioners spared no one, neither sick old women, women in childbed nor new-born infants. They slew people by streets, they slew them according to ages, they slew according to trades and professions—they exterminated them all.

And the gruesome roll keeps unfolding with each mile of our drive toward the frontier. There is no village or town in which the people do not mourn their near and dear ones executed by the Germans.

During an engagement for a village a 70-year-old Byelorussian asked our colonel to let him fight in the ranks. "They killed all my folks," he kept repeating. "They killed them all. Give me a rifle." In a forest in which some Germans were entrenched I met another old man with a grizzled beard and a rifle. His eyes were glassy with age. "Grandpa," I said, "You should be taking things easy at your age. Why do you want to lead the life of a guerrilla?"

"I must," he said mournfully. "The Germans killed my folk—my old woman, my daughter and two grandchildren, and they burned my house." And he plunged into a thicket from which came the sound of tommy-gun fire and machine-gun bursts.

From East to West, from the Volga and the Caucasus, flows the river of blood and tears. From each village and hamlet, from towns and large cities, flow bloody rivers and streams merging into a great river of the peoples' suffering and wrath. The sky is dark above this river—ashes and smoke keep the light from it—the rays of sun and stars do not pene-

trate this pall. Only the lurid flame of the conflagrations started by the enemy on the Volga lights its way across the steppes, the fields of Voronezh and Kursk, the floods of the Orel Region, the valleys of the Kiev Region and the expanses of Volhynia.

Only a few dozen kilometers now separate us from the frontier, and the river grows ever wider



Sea scouts setting out on a mission

and its fearful course ever swifter. It is a deep wrinkle in the broad forehead of the Soviet land. Stern and mighty is the nation that has passed through the crucible of great sufferings and great struggle.

The villain already hears the rumble of retribution . . . The groans of innocent victims, the gurgling blood of the slain, the tears of those crying over the fallen, have merged with the thunder of our cannon, with the din of the torrent of steel rushing toward the frontiers of the enemy's land. The night is drawing to its close.

The new-rising day is ours! Let the guilty tremble.

Ashes and Blood

By Ilya Ehrenburg

In the cities of the Byelostok Region, on the walls of buildings in which German authorities were quartered, one might see notices such as the following:

"There have lately been increasing cases in the Byelostok area of attacks upon Germans. On July 6, 1943, Dr. Mazur, district medical officer of Volkovysk, was killed on the road between Volkovysk and Piaski. July 7, 1943, in Byelostok, Hugo Berg, a German subject, was murdered by unknown miscreants in the performance of his duties. July 8, 1943, in Byelostok, unknown miscreants killed Stefania Koch. July 9, 1943, the district commissar of the town of Vasilkov was severely wounded. July 11, 1943, near Dabrovka, Lomza district, five soldiers and three gendarmes were killed from ambush and one soldier and one policeman severely wounded.

"In retaliation and for pacification of the Byelostok area the following measures have been taken: *Re Point 1:* On suspicion of implication in the attacks, the village of Shavlishche, Volkovysk district, was burned to the ground and all its inhabitants executed. *Re Point 2:* Fifty inhabitants of Byelostok suspected of complicity in or sympathy with the Polish resistance movement were shot. *Re Point 3:* Twenty-five inhabitants of Byelostok were shot. *Re Point 4:* Fifty inhabitants of the Vasilkov district were shot. *Re Point 5:* One thousand inhabitants of the Lomza district and 19 doctors, teach-

ers, lawyers and municipal employees belonging to the Polish resistance movement were shot, as well as all the members of their families, and their property confiscated. The population is emphatically reminded that the German authorities will deal ruthlessly with all violations of the order. In case of further attacks, even more stringent measures will be adopted. (*Signed*) Chief of Police and Security Service of Byelostok."

It would be well for foreign appeasers who consider reports of German atrocities exaggerated to familiarize themselves with this document. The chief of the Byelostok police is a rather loquacious individual. His is a unique price list: he values a certain German woman named Stefania Koch at 25 human lives and a German subject Hugo Berg at 50 lives. A particularly high value is laid on the heads of German soldiers and gendarmes. One thousand Byelorussians and Poles paid with their lives for eight Germans killed. The chief of police gloats over the murder of old men, women and children; he cold-bloodedly announces that all inhabitants of the village of Shavlishche were executed and that representatives of the Polish intelligentsia were exterminated together with their families.

No common crow is more likely to become a swan than a German human being. Soon we will be in Tilsit, Koenigsberg and Breslau. There we will recall the ashes of Shavlishche and the blood of Lomza.

FINNS MURDER WOUNDED RED ARMY MEN

By I. Adov

In Karelia, near the village of Puska Selga on the shore of a picturesque lake, Soviet troops routed a Finnish unit, captured a village and pushed ahead. Not far from the lake a group of wounded Red Army men were left in some bushes while stretcher-bearers and nurses went to look for ambulances. Suddenly remnants of the routed Finnish battalion appeared from the direction of the wood and attacked the helpless wounded.

This savage raid was described by two men who survived. One of them, Guards Sergeant I. Shuchka stated: "I was wounded in the leg and lay in the bushes near the road to Puska Selga. Suddenly the Finns rushed toward us from the direction of the village. Their officer came up to me and fired his tommy gun. The bullets smashed my wrists and scratched my temple and cheek. Apparently he thought I was dead. He went through my pockets and knapsack, took everything and then ran to Grishkin, who lay near me.

"I saw him pull out his hunting knife and lean over Grishkin, who screamed at the top of his lungs. The Finn merely laughed and said in broken Russian, 'You like Guards' badge? Well, you will carry it for the rest of your life!' I realized he was cutting the Guards' insignia on the chest of the wounded man, after which he stabbed him twice in the stomach."

Guards Senior Sergeant V. Kryuchkov made the following statement: "I was lying in the bushes, wounded, when the Finns dashed up to our group to finish us off. They fired their tommy guns straight into the eyes of one wounded man and beat up the rest with the butts of their rifles. One of the bullets scratched my side and I feigned death. After turning our pockets inside out and taking everything in our knapsacks, the Finns ran to Guards Private Rusinov, who had been wounded while helping us off the field. They soaked him with gasoline and burned him alive."



(Left) Red Army fliers watch a skirmish between a Sovlet and a German fighter; (center) Lieutenant Colonel of a Guards Fighter Regiment Vasili Zaitzev, twice Hero of the Soviet Union; (right) A German plane is brought down

A GOOD PAIR OF WINGS

By L. Ognev

I was driving to the Air Officers' Club through a heavy rain when the uplifted hand of a pedestrian dimly visible through the mist made me jam on my brakes. A small figure almost completely hidden by a raincoat climbed into the only vacant seat, murmuring his thanks.

"Been visiting your Dad?" I ventured, to make conversation.

"No, Uncle," he replied pertly. Before I could question him further we reached the Club. My diminutive companion followed me in, peeled off his dripping coat and stood revealed as a flying officer with a chest positively glittering with decorations, among which was the Gold Star of a Hero of the Soviet Union.

"Captain Gulyaev, at your service," he said, with a twinkle in his gray eyes.

I was amazed. From all I had heard of Gulyaev's exploits I had imagined him a young Hercules.

"Not your idea of a fighter pilot?" he asked with a smile. "They don't all come big. But give me a good pair of wings and you can keep your long legs."

The theory that every more or less distinguished flier has been irresistibly drawn to aviation from early childhood has been debunked by Mikhail Vodopyanov, a famous Russian ace, as a figment of journalistic imagination. Vodopyanov revealed that his

early childhood ambition was to be a shepherd.

Talking to Grigori Gulyaev that evening, I learned he was the son of a collective farmer and had intended to become a schoolteacher. He was graduated from a teachers' college and even taught for a while. But it happened that his school was next door to a local Air Club, and the roar of planes landing and taking off drowned out his voice and distracted the attention of his pupils. At first annoyed, he gradually became interested, and finally joined the Club.

Flying fascinated him. From the Club he was sent to a Military Flying School. But he has not given up teaching altogether; he is an excellent trainer of young pilots and has built up a first-class squadron which recently brought down 13 German planes.

During the war Gulyaev has fought six, eight and on one occasion 10, planes single-handed. In most cases he emerged the victor. He has shot down bombers, scouts, fighters and transport planes of both German and Italian makes. His first enemy plane was bagged near Moscow in July, 1941.

On some days Gulyaev fought several battles in succession. Once when his group had returned from a combat flight, a large number of Heinkels and Messerschmitts were reported approaching the air-drome. Gulyaev's machine was the only one with

gas enough to go up. He took off and fought a battle directly above the airfield, bringing down a Messerschmitt and a Heinkel.

Another time, patrolling with a group of Yakovlevs, he spotted 12 Messerschmitt 109s below. The Soviet pilots swooped down on the unsuspecting Germans and knocked out two in the first attack. Before Gulyaev had time to climb again, an enemy fighter dived straight for him.

"If I had turned I'd have got a spray of machine-gun bullets in my belly," the Captain said. "So I decided on a head-on attack, hoping the German's nerves wouldn't stand the strain. I soon saw I was mistaken . . . the Fritz kept coming straight at me. I didn't open fire until we were pretty close, then I let him have it. I was lucky. His engine caught fire and the plane dropped toward the earth. The pilot bailed out. He was a colonel, commander of a squadron of aces, with three iron crosses on his tunic."

Gulyaev has had his share of bad luck, too, and he talks about it freely. Once he and some other fighters were battling 10 Messerschmitts over a certain town. Gulyaev shot down two of them, when

a third opened fire at a distance of 70 meters and knocked out the little flier's controls. He tried to bail out, but his hood was jammed. There was nothing to do but try to land the plane.

He lost altitude rapidly. Directly below was a narrow city street. With terrific effort he straightened out his battered ship and brought her down. The wings hit telegraph poles along the street and broke off, but the fuselage finally bumped to a halt. The engine and cabin were smashed to pieces, but Gulyaev's luck held and he escaped with only slight injuries.

The diminutive Captain is now only 22 years old. He has been fighting since June, 1941, is a veteran of 623 missions, has fought 128 air battles and brought down 17 planes singly and another eight in group combat. Besides the Gold Star of Hero of the Soviet Union he wears the Orders of Lenin, the Red Banner and the Patriotic War (First and Second Class) and the Stalingrad Defense Medal.

"Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin called me Sonny when he pinned the Gold Star on my tunic," Gulyaev said with a smile. "But I didn't mind. Believe me, Sonny's going to get plenty more Germans before he grows up."

FREED AREAS OF MOLDAVIA REVIVE

By P. Ivanov

During the fascist occupation 70 per cent of the land in this war-ravaged Republic lay uncultivated and almost all the cattle were slaughtered or shipped to Germany. The equipment of 14 machine and tractor stations was stolen; extensive orchards, some of which stretched for 40 to 50 kilometers, were turned into a wilderness.

Now life is slowly returning to normal in the freed areas. This spring all arable land which the farmers were able to work was sown. The harvest of grain and fruit promises to be good; 20 per cent of the crops have already been gathered.

In Tiraspol and Beltsa several food factories and 25 smaller factories producing clothing and domestic utensils are functioning. House repairs and building construction are proceeding rapidly.

Special attention is given to the restoration of medical services completely disrupted by enemy occupation. Hospitals and polyclinics stripped bare by the retreating Germans are being re-equipped and staffed by personnel sent by the Soviet Government. A number of prominent specialists have already arrived, and urgently needed medicaments were rushed by plane as soon as the Germans had been ejected.

Newspapers are being published and radio systems are working. The State Conservatory of Music is presenting a well-known song and dance ensemble and a large number of cinemas are open. Many schools will be ready for the children this fall, and five thousand teachers are going through local refresher courses. Two institutes and a number of technical schools have resumed work.

Ninety-year-old Scientist Receives Order of Lenin

Ninety-year-old Honorary Academician Nikolai Morozov has been awarded the Order of Lenin for distinguished work in the natural sciences. Morozov is widely known for his investigations in astronomy and geophysics, on which he has written more than 150 papers.

A leading member of the Narodnaya Volya party, the scientist was arrested in 1881 and sentenced to solitary confinement for life in the Schluesselburg Fortress, from which he was released by the Revolution of 1905. During the past few years he has been living on the Borok estate in the Yaroslavl Region.

GENERAL SOSNKOWSKI'S BLACK HUNDREDS IN 'ACTION'

By E. Yavlensky

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA:

We browse through the underground Polish democratic newspapers published in Poland. They record every combat action of the Polish patriots. But considerable space is also devoted to the activity of General Sosnkowski's "home army" (*Armja Krajowa*) and the out-and-out fascist military organization NSZ (*Narodowe Sily Zbrojne*—National Armed Forces) which joined with it on March 7. The news agency *Wies* (Countryside) of the peasant party *Stronnictwo Ludowe* reports in the bulletin issued April 14, 1944:

"On the night of February 23-24 last, armed detachments of the NSZ, numbering about 60 persons wearing German uniforms, carried out punitive actions against the peasants in the rural districts of Niewierszyn, Opoczno-Powiat, Skotniki and Korzec-Powiat. In the Niewierszyn district they visited in turn the villages of Niewierszyn, Sieczka, Kawerczyn, Aleksandrow, Jankowice, Wladyslawow and in the Skotniki district the village of Szarpsko. In each village the people were herded into a square where their personal documents were examined. Persons on the black lists of the NSZ were detained. In this way they arrested 20 persons . . . of whom 10 were taken to an unknown destination and have not been heard of since. Among others they took along Kazimierz Krol of Wladyslawow, a farmer about 50 years of age. His body was found in the woods 10 days later. Of the others there is no trace.

"During the raids in the villages the people, thinking it was the Germans, tried to flee. The raiders opened fire on them from machine guns. They also pillaged the private property of the peasants . . . And the bandits, we read further in the bulletin, cooperate with the Gestapo . . . One of the NSZ men, Chrostowski of Opoczno, was once arrested in the woods by German gendarmes. He had arms on him. . . He was later released by the Gestapo.

"A certain Suwboj was also arrested with arms in hand by the gendarmes near Dombrowka, Skotniki rural district of Korzec-Powiat. That was last December. He explained that he was a member of a Polish nationalistic organization whose aim was to exterminate the Jews and Communists. After an examination which took two hours he was released. The same Suwboj later drew up a list for the Gestapo which led to the arrest of nine persons in the village of Szarpsko. . .

"One Polish policeman in Opoczno serves as a go-between supplying the above-named Polish bandits with automatic weapons borrowed from the gendarmerie."

"A very acute situation has developed," says the *Wies* agency further. "There is real danger that the peasants may take action against reactionaries of all stripes."

The *Wies* Agency, which reported the bandit activities of the NSZ detachments subordinated to General Sosnkowski, is the organ of the top leadership of *Stronnictwo Ludowe*, which supports the Polish "government" in exile and its "delegates" in Poland.

Nor are the reactionary ND organizations of the NSZ the only organizations subordinated to General Sosnkowski that have been guilty of banditry and cooperation with the German gendarmes and the Gestapo. The behavior of the reactionary detachments of the "home army" is not better. In a letter from Kelce Province printed in the underground newspaper *Wola Ludu*, No. 2, May 20, 1944, it is reported that "Reactionary detachments of the so-called 'home army' have slain a number of peasants and soldiers of the People's Army."

One of the commanders of the People's Army detachments attacked by the "home army" forces writes: "A suspicious flanking movement carried out by the detachments of the 'home army' caused us to sound an alert. Dense machine-gun fire opened on our positions drove home a fact which had hitherto seemed to me incredible. After an engagement lasting 20 minutes we escaped the ring of encirclement. During our retreat we were under fire for another 20 minutes. In this engagement our detachment lost 11 men killed. Three more died of their wounds later."

The propaganda of the Polish emigre "government" speaks a great deal about the help allegedly rendered Soviet troops by detachments of the so-called "home army." A letter from Podlassie entitled "At the Bug," printed in *Glos Warszawy* April 18, 1944, relates how this help and cooperation often look in reality. "The activity of the 'home army' in these parts," we read there, "is directed exclusively against so-called 'banditry,' and by 'bandits' they also mean political opponents."

Eyewitnesses relate that the "home army" most persistently persecutes and kills Soviet prisoners of war who have escaped from prison camps and try to make their way to our districts in order to join the guerrillas. Special patrols have been set up to track down prisoners of war singly or in groups. "This sort of behavior," we read further in this newspaper, "must be loudly condemned by all democratic public opinion . . . What the 'home army' is doing is cooperation with the invader and a crime

(Continued on page eight)

A Cup of Tea From the Kuban

By M. Makarov

Alexei Sinyavsky packed a towel, a toothbrush and a packet of tea, and set off for Moscow. On his arrival there, after having left the towel and toothbrush at a hotel, the Krasnodar agronomist went to the People's Commissariat of Agriculture with the packet of tea.

At the Commissariat, an electric kettle was plugged in and the tea from Krasnodar was brewed, tasted, held critically up to the light and sniffed. It seemed every bit as good as the famous Georgian type. Agronomist Sinyavsky spoke for some time about the afternoon tea. For it happened to be the first tea even grown in the Kuban. He left for home with a permit to continue cultivating this rare and capricious plant.

The cultivation of tea in the Krasnodar Region began just before the war. The Germans destroyed the plantations, but restoration has begun. Sinyavsky is an enthusiast. For years he was firmly convinced that good tea could be grown in the foothills of the Kuban; that only patience and experience were needed to make Kuban tea a rival of the famous Georgian brand.

True, there were difficulties. The foothills of the Kuban have exceedingly hot summers, while in winter the thermometer drops far below zero. But the trial plants at the First of May collective farm in the Byelorechensky district of the region took root and came safely through the winter. Beans and peas were planted alongside the tea, to shade the deli-

BLACK HUNDREDS

(Continued from page seven)

against the Allied nations."

Democratic Polish public opinion judges the "home army" by its deeds and the judgment is far from flattering. The underground newspaper, *Trybuna Wolnosci*, writes in its issue No. 57 June 1: "The spirit which once animated the Black Hundreds and today animates the divisions of Hitler's storm troopers, holds undivided sway in the detachments subordinated to General Sosnkowski. Anyone who deviates in the least from the views of the Pilsudskiites is pronounced a traitor who must be liquidated."

Honest patriots still in the ranks of the "home army" refuse to carry out Sosnkowski's treasonable orders and directives. Hundreds of soldiers of the "home army" establish cooperation with the People's Army and the Polish Army in the USSR, which have now been merged to form a single Polish Army. The latter is valiantly fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Red Army to build a free and independent Poland.

cate plants from the scorching rays of the Kuban sun, and to raise the humidity of the overdry air by their exhalations. In winter the snow blanket protected the plants from freezing.

The Krasnodar agronomists made great use of the experience of their Sochi colleagues, who had begun to cultivate tea somewhat earlier. The sub-tropical tea cultures had given birth to a new plant in the North Caucasus, which turned out to be hardier than its Georgian brother. It was the North Caucasian seedlings that the Kuban agronomists utilized. The plants began to adapt themselves to the new climate and soil of the Krasnodar region.

Success was not immediate. Many young seedlings perished, defeated in the struggle with an unusual natural environment. But science triumphed in the end; the agronomists succeeded in growing 250,000 good plants. Tea has now been planted in six foothill districts of the Kuban: the Byelorechensky, Admyansk, Apsheron, Goryache-Klyuchi, Seversk and Mostovsk districts.

As yet, Krasnodar tea is only winning for itself the right to existence. So far it cannot compete with Georgian tea. But one thing is certain: tea is growing and will grow in the Kuban.

Radium Salvaged During Leningrad Blockade

During the blockade of Leningrad there was a shortage of radium for the front. A building in which radium had been used for 20 years was thoroughly scraped, the plaster removed from walls and ceilings and a sufficient supply of radium extracted from the waste. The scientist responsible for this was awarded the Order of Red Banner of Labor.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

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Vol. IV, No. 94

Washington, D. C., August 15, 1944

AUG



The Soviet Air Force in the Patriotic War

By Lieutenant General of Aviation N. Zhuravlev

This year the Soviet people celebrate Aviation Day [August 18] amid the Red Army's powerful and increasing offensive. As a result of the severe defeats suffered on the Soviet-German front, Hitlerite Germany, passing through a military and political crisis, is on the brink of disaster.

For over two years our Air Force was engaged practically in single combat with the German air force reinforced by the Finnish, Hungarian, Rumanian and Italian air forces. Of the six German air fleets, four have been active on the Soviet-German front from the beginning of the war to this day. It is well known that after their attack on the Soviet Union the Germans had to discontinue their massed raids on England.

The struggle was hard and complicated, but in this contest our Air Force came out on top. It not only withstood the assaults of the German air armada, but inflicted on it irreparable losses.

In three years of war in the East the Hitlerite air force lost 60,000 planes, of which 80 per cent were downed by our fliers in air combat. Over 50 per cent of the aircraft lost by the Germans were bombers. During the same period the enemy lost about 120,000 fliers. These losses considerably reduced the strength of the German air force. In 1944 despite the fact that the German troops on our front are harder pressed than ever, the German air force makes four or five times fewer sorties than in 1941 and 1942.

The Soviet Air Force helped the Red Army foil Hitler's blitzkrieg plan. Our Air Force achieved outstanding successes in the struggle by supremacy in the air, thanks to the skilful maneuvering of our High Command, which secured numerical superiority in air craft on the decisive sectors at a time when the enemy had larger numbers of aircraft than we. Because of this we had a two to one superiority over the Germans in the air in the Battle for Moscow. The favorable relation of forces in the air on the decisive sectors enabled our Air Force to keep the enemy's planes from the field of battle and to inflict heavy losses on them. The enemy air force was unable to interfere with the Red Army's successful counter-offensive which led to the defeat of the Germans before Moscow in 1941.

The higher qualities of our airmen compared with German airmen proved of particularly great importance in the struggle of our Air Force against the Hitlerite air force. It was the Soviet fliers who decided the issue of the struggle for supremacy in the air. Numerous remarkable victories bear witness to the bravery and valor of Soviet aces. Our gallant airmen hate the enemy. When all their means of struggle are exhausted in air combat they do not quit, but ram the enemy's machines.

Many of our aces have become a terror to German pilots. The famed Soviet ace, Colonel Pokryshkin,



Guards Sergeant Vera Trostyanskaya, gunner of a Stormovik plane, wears the Order of the Red Star and the Medal for Valor

himself shot down 59 enemy aircraft. When Pokryshkin's airplane appears the Germans warn their fliers over the radio, "Attention. Attention! Pokryshkin in the air!" And there are many like Pokryshkin in the Soviet Air Force.

The quality and quantity of planes naturally play an important part in the struggle for air supremacy. Soviet designers, workers, engineers and technicians of the aircraft industry produce first-class fighting machines. Our Yakovlev and Lavochkin fighters are faster in flight and climb faster than the German Messerschmitts and Focke-Wulfs. Our Petlyakov bomber has greater speed than any German bomber; Ilyushin's Stormovik attack plane has no equal in the world.

For obvious reasons I cannot dwell on the relative numerical strength of our Air Force and the enemy's. But it has been proved in practice that numerically, too, our Air Force now exceeds the Hitlerite air force.

It was the combination of these factors that enabled our Air Force in 1943 to gain air superiority in all decisive sectors. In 1944 the relation of forces in the air is still more favorable for us. This is confirmed by the experience of the battles in the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Our Air Force now makes several times as many sorties as the enemy's.

The Soviet Air Force has also invariably taken a direct part in hostilities on the ground, dealing crushing blows to the enemy ground forces. On a number of occasions our Air Force had a decisive influence on the issue of engagements or entire operations. In 1941 our Air Force smashed the German 39th Panzer Corps in the Smolensk direction.

In the Battle of Stalingrad the Germans for the first time got a taste of the power of our then new Yakovlev-1 fighters. A regiment of gallant airmen commanded by Hero of the Soviet Union Kleschov, flying these planes, defended a crossing in the Don bend and in the course of one day downed 37 enemy planes without losing a single machine themselves.

When the Red Army took the offensive and began to drive the enemy westward our Air Force blasted a way for our ground troops to victory. It silenced enemy artillery and mortar batteries, smashed German tanks, strafed their manpower and demoralized their reserves. The victory in the Crimea was achieved with the active support of our Air Force. Our airmen cleared the way for our infantry and tanks through enemy fortifications on the Perekop and Sivash Isthmuses, at Kerch, Akmonay and Sevastopol, protected the crossings of the Sivash and the Kerch Strait and destroyed enemy planes on the ground.

The Air Force played an important part in the historic storming of Sevastopol. It helped the Red

Army break the three-tier defenses of Mount Sapun and other heights surrounding the city.

Our air attacks helped our infantry and tanks on the Karelian Isthmus. The Air Force played a decisive part in the fighting at Vitebsk and Bobruisk. Together with the artillery it beat down the German fire resources. A force of 500 planes attacked the German troops encircled in Bobruisk. It was after that blow that the enemy capitulated.

The power and successes of the Red Army's Air Force has been made possible by the entire development of our Soviet State. They are the product of the peoples' self-sacrificing labor of their great creative abilities, the wisdom of our great Marshal Stalin. The Soviet Air Force has a long and hard road of development behind it. Tsarist Russia had no aircraft industry of her own, 95 per cent of her airplanes were imported from abroad. As a matter of fact the Soviet Government had to build the country's Air Force from the bottom up.

At the cradle of our air fleet stood the great Russian scientists N. Zhukovsky, of whom Lenin said that he was the father of Russian aviation, and S. Chaplygin—both men of world renown. Their theoretical researches are widely used by our designers, and have influenced the brilliant galaxy of Soviet scientists who have devoted their energy and knowledge to the upbuilding of a powerful air fleet.

The creative thought of the Soviet scientists has been embodied in the splendid machines designed by Yakovlev, Lavochkin, Ilyushin, Petlyakov, Polikarpov, Mikulin, Klimov, Shvetsov and others.

The Soviet Government has shown high appreciation of the services of our Air Force. In the air arm of the Red Army 973 officers and men have been decorated with the Order of Lenin, 11,320 with the Order of the Red Banner, 1,289 with the Order of the Patriotic War, First Class, 1,976 with the Order of the Patriotic War, Second Class and 16,088 with the Order of the Red Star. Altogether 58,636 members of the Soviet Air Force have been awarded orders and medals since the beginning of the war to July 1, 1944.

The title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred on 710 members of the Air Force. On thirteen of the best airmen, Pokryshkin, Glinka, Pokryshev, Bondarenko, Rechkalov, Alelyukhin, Lugensky, Kamozin, Efremov, Lavrinenkov, Zaitsev, Gulyaev and Golubyov, this high title has been conferred twice.

The nature of the Red Army's present offensive and its high speed put special demands on the mobility of our Air Force. Air support for troops on the offensive is an intricate problem. It is being solved as effectively as the many other problems whose solution has contributed to the Red Army's great victories.

Soviet bomber pilots
report to their com-
mander



Two friends on a
front - line airdrome
share their rations



After returning from
a mission Soviet air-
men engage in a live-
ly discussion of the
operations



THE FATE OF THE FIRM OF PALM BROTHERS

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Before me lie several letters, copies of documents and a bundle of photographs. They tell the story of a German family, and the story is as edifying as a parable.

Otto Palm, aged 62, lives in Neukochen, near Stuttgart. Since the death of his brother Herman Palm he is the sole proprietor of the firm of Palm Brothers, paper manufacturers of Neukochen. Otto Palm had three children; two sons and a daughter. The older son, Sigurd, was the hope of his father. From the age of 10 he studied paper making and was ready to succeed to old Otto Palm.

But while studying paper making, especially the world market, Sigurd didn't forget that he was born a conqueror. Like others of his fellow-countrymen he wanted to subjugate the world for the greater prosperity of the Reich and of the firm of Palm Brothers. A corporal of the 258th Artillery Regiment, he cheerfully marched on Moscow. But a mishap occurred and on September 10, 1941, Sigurd was buried in Borisov. Over his grave was planted a cross and a swastika, ornate enough to testify to the importance of the firm of Palm Brothers.

Old Palm's daughter, Ingeborg, died suddenly of heart failure, and almost at the same time her year-old son died. As to the second heir of the firm, Wilfred Palm, he continued to conquer the world, first in France and then in the East.

After the loss of his older son Palm realized that the conquest of the world was not without unpleasantnesses. On January 15, 1942 he wrote an application to the high command of the German armed forces. He described the death of his first-born and the death of his daughter and her child. He pointed out that his late daughter was married to a native of Alsace and "my son-in-law cannot therefore become the head of the firm of Palm."

What did old man Palm want? "I request," he wrote, "that my second son, Wilfred, be released from military service as the sole heir of one of the oldest firms in Germany. Our firm is now working on war orders. If my son Wilfred is killed our old firm will pass into strange hands."

I have before me a photograph of old Palm. He is a corpulent German without a neck but with a starched collar. His breast is decorated with a military service cross. He ends his application with the words, "Heil Hitler." But being a German of the old school he obviously has his doubts about Corporal Hitler's military genius.

The high command at once replied to the esteemed manufacturer; Wilfred Palm could not be discharged, but in view of the services of the old firm

it was decided to assign him to a regiment "which was incurring minimal risk."

To judge by the photographs, Wilfred Palm was a typical Fritz, tall, pallid, with bulging expressionless eyes. As to his intellectual horizon, it may be judged by the following entry: "May 7, 1940—Wunder made a bet with Palm. If the war ends by Christmas, 1940, Wunder will pay Palm five marks." The son didn't possess the intelligence of the father and believed that Corporal Hitler would conquer Europe by Christmas, 1940.

So Wilfred Palm sat snugly in the rear. His father wrote him at length about the affairs of the firm. Wilfred examined postcards on which were printed pictures of the paper mills in Neukochen, and patiently waited for the conquest of the world. The war front drew somewhat nearer, but all the same Wilfred was in the rear. He amused himself with amateur photography.

The father was still worrying over the thought that the old firm might pass into strange hands. But he knew how to express himself diplomatically. On June 7, 1944 he wrote his son, "At long last the awaited invasion of the Anglo-Saxons has begun. It is still not clear what turn events will take, but let us hope we are nearing the decisive battles and that we shall see peace this year. As to myself, I have attended a conference in Vienna in the interests of the firm. I shall go there next week if it is possible to travel on the railways."

I don't know whether Otto Palm still believed in the conquest of the world, but he still believed in the future of his firm: he knew that his son was a long way behind the front line. Wilfred photographed Sigurd's ornate grave and sent the photograph to his father. The old man said to himself, "He's in Borisov and that's far enough from the front."

But something unforeseen happened: before Wilfred knew where he was, the Russians were nearby. Wilfred didn't go to the front, but the front came to him, and on July 1, 1944, Major Chebonenko's Guardsmen killed Wilfred Palm without the least thought for the fate of the old firm.

Old Palm has plenty to think about. He lost two sons in Borisov: one when the Germans invaded the city and the other when the Germans fled from the city. In Borisov the fate of Neukochen was decided, and it is likely that old Palm is now cautiously hinting that it is time to remove Corporal Hitler: the interests of the respectable old firm demand it. But no putsch can save the situation. I am convinced that the old firm will soon pass into strange hands. And they won't be German hands.

TASS STATEMENTS

1. In the foreign press, in particular in the London newspapers the *News Chronicle* and *Daily Telegraph and Morning Post*, appeared reports according to which the Government of the USSR allegedly addressed the Vatican with a proposal on the coordination of actions on decisions regarding post-war social and religious problems.

TASS is authorized to state that all these reports are devoid of foundation.

2. In the past days reports appeared in the foreign press with reference to the newspapers and radio of the Polish emigre government concerning uprisings and battles started in Warsaw on August 1 on the order of the Polish emigres in London and which are continuing up to the present time. The newspapers and radio of the Polish emigre govern-

ment in London in this connection insinuate that the insurgents in Warsaw allegedly were in contact with the Soviet Command and that the latter did not render necessary aid.

TASS is authorized to state that these assertions and insinuations of the foreign press are either the fruit of misunderstanding or a manifestation of slander against the Soviet Command.

It is known to TASS that no attempts were made on the part of the Polish London circles responsible for the happenings in Warsaw to inform beforehand and coordinate with the Soviet Military Command any uprisings in Warsaw.

In view of this, the responsibility for what is happening in Warsaw falls solely on the Polish emigrant circles in London.

MOSCOW, August 13, 1944

The Lublin 'Factory of Death'

PRAVADA writes editorially:

Humanity long ago perceived the danger of the bestial instincts fostered and cultivated by German imperialism. Senseless cruelty has long been the distinguishing feature of the methods and ways of war which the German imperialists impose upon neighboring peoples. However, the bandits and marauders who during the First World War gave over Belgian, French and Russian towns to their soldiery for plunder, who used dum-dum bullets and poison gas and who shelled Red Cross hospitals, seem but puppies compared with their descendants who organized the "factory of death" near Lublin in our days.

Only people who had lost the last human semblance could have launched the "devil's furnaces" in which hundreds of thousands of war prisoners, victims of fascist terror and old men, women and children were burned with accursed German precision. What monster can bestrew fields and vegetable gardens with the ashes of human bodies as fertilizer for cabbage!

It was not a wolf or a jackal, but Oberscharfuhrer Munfeld, who tore four-year-old children in two. Who will dare call Hitlerite Munfeld and similar monsters brought up by Hitlerite predatory imperialism, humans? The most wrathful expressions known to humanity are too weak to brand the black crimes which have been committed and are being committed by the Hitlerite cannibals.

The criminal codes of all countries could not an-

tipacitate the depth of crime into which the Hitlerite hangmen have sunk. What punishment will be meted out to them on the day of judgment? This day is already near. Our every victory on the front, every victory in the rear, brings nearer the hour of just and formidable vengeance.

Neither shootings and gallows, nor "murder vans" and "devil's furnaces" nor "factories of death" will help the Hitlerites in their base intention to intimidate humanity. The sanguinary orgies of the Hitlerite brigands yield quite the opposite result. Their atrocities fan still hotter the flames of hatred of the German invaders—they are hated by all freedom-loving peoples of the world. The villainies of the Hitlerite monsters long ago showed the whole world with whom we deal, and whom we must and will utterly defeat.

Anti-fascist Meeting of Soviet Women

On August 20 at 6:00 P.M. Moscow time [10 A.M. EWT] the fourth Anti-fascist Meeting of Soviet women will be held in Moscow. The proceedings will be broadcast.

The aim of the meeting is to demonstrate, in the decisive moment of the war, the solidarity of Soviet women and their will to render to the Red Army active aid at the rear as well as at the front for the speediest destruction of Hitlerite Germany and her satellites.

HISTORIC PLACES REVISITED

By D. Zaslavsky

Soviet troops are steadily battling their way toward Germany's frontiers. The citizens of East Prussian border towns and villages hear the booming of Soviet artillery. Many of these people had their finger in the pie and took part directly or indirectly in the plundering of the Russian people, in the brutal outrages perpetrated against war prisoners and Russian captives driven by force to Germany. Now, dreading the reckoning, many Germans are fleeing from the Eastern districts of Prussia. The German government is evacuating the towns there.

Elderly Germans who went through the First World War are haunted by recollections of August, 1914: Russian troops entering East Prussia, advancing and seizing one town after another. Insterburg, Allenstein—these and other German towns figured in the communiques. A great dread held the Germans in its grip, and not in East Prussia alone: all Germany quaked with terror.

They had not expected this. They had always been told that the Russians would not attack very soon, that they were slow in bringing their unwieldy mobilization system into motion, that the German army would have time to beat the French at the Marne, seize Paris and then turn their main forces against Russia. This was Schlieffen's wonderful strategic plan, put in practice by the organizer of the German offensive, General von Moltke. With his father's famous name he had inherited his title, but not his father's abilities.

The battles on the Marne which had brought the Germans success were going on at the time and the French trembled at the menace that hung over Paris. They appealed for aid. England could not help them, for she was still gathering her own forces. Russia was mobilizing.

Nevertheless, what happened was totally unexpected by the Germans. The Russians acted, and not according to the Germans' plan, but their own. They set an example of model strategy in coalition war. Helping a comrade in trouble is a sacred law for the Russian soldier. It is in the traditions of the Army founded by Suvorov. It has become a Russian national trait. No matter what the command of the army might be like in Tsarist Russia, it could not remain indifferent to the despairing appeals of the French. Then, too, it would have been unwise at a time like that to leave the Allies to rely on their own forces and merely to look after one's own narrow interest. Obviously, if the Germans got the better of the French, the Russians would suffer.

Without waiting for the Army's main forces to concentrate and expand, the Russian command flung into Prussia two comparatively small and not fully trained armies commanded by General Rennenkampf and General Samsonov. This was a diversionary move. No one could entertain the slightest doubt that the activities of these armies could be at most only of a limited nature. From the standpoint of Tsarist Russia's immediate, narrowly-conceived interests, the operation was foolhardy. But it should not have been looked at in that light. An experienced chess player sacrifices so that he may win a move.

Samsonov was a Russian general, Rennenkampf was of German origin. Their conceptions of their tasks differed. Rennenkampf realized that the entry into Prussia would bring him no medals, as it was merely an auxiliary operation. The sympathies of this reactionary German in the employ of Russia were with Germany. He despised and hated the Russian people. He had been brutally zealous in putting down the Revolution of 1905; he was the executioner of the Baltic. Consequently, when he received the assignment to enter East Prussia where his relatives, German barons like himself, owned an estate, he moved slowly and reluctantly—giving the German command to understand from his movements that there was nothing to fear, that he was not dangerous and they could proceed with their plans in the West in peace and quiet. The German generals would have proceeded in peace and quiet had it not been for the fact that their plans were foiled by General Samsonov. His move was swift and irresistible. Before the Germans had time to pull themselves together his cavalry had made raids on German villages and towns deep in the rear. His main forces advanced rapidly, breaking down the resistance of the German army that had been left as a screen against Russia.

The Russian Army was poorly armed and poorly supplied. Tsarist Russia's economic and cultural backwardness weighed on the Russian soldier like a heavy burden. Another thing that told then was the general level of military culture, which showed a marked decline under the incapable and reactionary guidance of War Minister General Sukhomlinov. Reconnaissance was very badly organized. On the other hand, the spies who surrounded Tsarist Russia's War Minister and Court kept the Germans informed of the Russian Army's every movement.

Nevertheless, under the able General Samsonov's command, the splendid Russian soldier did his job. He was in the heart of East Prussia. Berlin was

alarmed. The generals on the Marne turned their eyes to the East. In terror the German government demanded that East Prussia should be saved from the Russians at all costs. Not only Paris but also Berlin was menaced. This was more than General von Moltke could stand, under the circumstances. Scrapping the famous plan which envisaged consecutive defeat of the enemy, first in the West and then in the East, and yielding to pressure from Kaiser Wilhelm, von Moltke withdrew considerable forces from the French front and flung them into East Prussia. Hindenburg and his Chief of Staff, Ludendorff, were placed at the head of these German forces. Their stars were now in the ascendant in the German historical horizon. The consequences were immediate. The German advance to the Marne was checked, weakened and deprived of its menacing power.

The tragedy of France and Paris was averted. But now began the tragedy of Samsonov's army. Samsonov had penetrated far into a foreign country. Against him were ranged German forces superior to his own in numbers and equipment. His positions in the midst of bogs were disadvantageous. His rear was ill-provided for and supplies were badly organized. Even in these conditions Samsonov could have dealt with two German generals. But he had against him a third German general who was in the employ of Russia and in command of a Russian army.

Rennenkampf's attitude toward all of Samsonov's suggestions regarding coordination of action and bringing the armies into closer contact was characterized by a crass, obstinate, hostile stolidity. Rennenkampf was marking time, widening the breach between the two Russian armies and thinking only of retreat from Prussia with as few losses as possible.

This meant that Samsonov's doom was sealed. He could not guarantee his flanks with his own forces. He fought manfully and his soldiers were marvels of steadfastness. But he was surrounded, the ring was tightening around his army and it perished. Germany was victorious. East Prussia was free. Hindenburg became one of the German national heroes. Soon he was entrusted with the honor of bringing Germany to disaster. He won one battle and lost the whole war. The German victory at Tannenberg was a fatal tactical defeat.

General Samsonov, under the impression that he had brought disgrace to his country, shot himself. Yet perhaps no general inflicted such a defeat on the Germans during the First World War as General Samsonov, whose valor foiled the Germans' basic plan.

Thirty years later the Germans are again hearing the thunder of Soviet artillery at the borders of East Prussia. And once again the Junkers, as well as the

fascist gendarmes and all who have reason to fear the consequences of the German atrocities, are fleeing in panic to safe places. But what a radical change has taken place in the circumstances. This is not the same Germany; this is by no means the same Russia.

Germany is not taking the offensive anywhere now. She is only defending herself in all theaters of war in the West and in the East, and her defense is weakening daily. The flower of her army and a considerable proportion of her war materiel were buried by the crazy German command in the plains of the Soviet Union.

Germany has lost the war. She cannot withdraw her divisions from the interior because Hitler and his pack dread revolt there; they fear their own generals; they fear the millions of war prisoners and foreigners in their own country. Germany is on the eve of catastrophe.

The Red Army is coming—an Army that combines all the bravery, steadfastness and strength of the Russian soldier with the culture of the Soviet State and its might; the Red Army is coming, guided by Joseph Stalin, strategist, genius and commander, and by the brilliant Soviet generals. The Germans cannot avert the blow about to fall on Germany. One after another the barriers fall before the Red Army's onslaught—on the route to Germany's vital centers, on the way to Berlin.

East Prussia is the country that Hitler's predecessors stole from the Slav peoples. The Germans turned it into a robbers' den. This den will be destroyed. We shall witness a third Tannenberg, and it will mean the final victory of justice over German-fascist violence.

Pilot's Rescue

When pilot Sery's plane was shot down in an operation over the Narva Gulf, Soviet scouts sighted the flier in a rubber boat. With his left arm badly burned Sery was attempting to row out to sea with his right hand, but the current forced him toward the enemy coast. A hydroplane was sent to his rescue, but rough seas made it impossible to set the plane down. Cutters directed by radio from a plane then sailed out into the Gulf. Meanwhile Sery's raft was driven nearer the enemy shore. The Germans spotted it and opened heavy fire on the Soviet cutters and planes. Ilyushin Stormoviks took off to silence the enemy battery, while planes laid a smoke screen between shore and raft. When Sery was less than 400 meters from the coast, an enemy submarine surfaced about 100 meters off, but at sight of the approaching cutters hastily submerged. The Baltic sailors succeeded in reaching Sery and took him aboard, safely reaching their home base.

Notes from Front and Rear

The State budget for social insurance this year provides for an expenditure of 433,500,000 rubles for aid to pregnant women and mothers and children. Maternity benefits will be increased by 50 per cent, and the sum allotted for children's clubs, playgrounds, and exhibits of children's creative work will be five times greater than last year.

★

August 5 was the anniversary of Orel's liberation from the Germans. On that day, one year ago, Moscow's gun fired the first salute in honor of Red Army victories.

★

Forest tracts burned or cut down during the war are now being restored on a large scale. Tens of thousands of hectares of forests are now being planted in the liberated areas of central Russia, particularly near large cities and along railways. Some 10,000 hectares will be planted in the Orel, Voronezh, Tula and other Regions this year. Several large tree nurseries have also been established in the liberated regions.

★

Postgraduate students planning to enter Soviet higher institutes this year will be given 15 days leave from work to prepare for examinations.

★

The Khabarovsk cinema studio is completing a documentary film on Birobidjan, the Jewish Autonomous Region, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. Photographed on collective farms and machine and tractor stations and in factories, railway stations and coal mines, the documentary portrays the activities of farmers, industrial workers and miners who are helping to speed up victory over the German invaders. The natural wealth of Birobidjan—beds of iron ore, gold, manganese and other valuable minerals—is also shown.

★

Eleven mines are already in operation in the rich Krivoi-Rog district, devastated by the routed Germans. Output of iron ore is rapidly rising. June production was six times that of April, and the July output even higher. Hundreds of carloads of Krivoi-Rog ore is now reaching various iron and steel plants of the country.

Two chauffeurs of the Dalstroj trust in Kolyma, Boiko and his wife, wrote a letter to Marshal Stalin asking permission to man a tank which they had bought with their personal savings. Their request was granted and they recently left for the front.

★

A second gathering of tea from experimental plantations in the Moscow Region will be made this month. The first experiments, made in 1942 by the Timiryazev Agricultural Academy, proved that tea could be grown in the Moscow Region as an annual crop. The experiments were repeated in 1943 in the Moscow Botanical Gardens and again this year on the Kaganovich Collective Farm in the Mityshchi district.

★

On July 8 the first three-ton trucks came off the conveyor belt of a new automobile plant in the Southern Urals, near the site of the picturesque Almen preservation.

★

Major Lopushnoi, a Red Army officer who has contributed substantial sums from his savings for the education of children orphaned by the war, recently ordered 650 outfits of clothing for children of Stalino. The clothes were made in the Major's home town of Kemerovo, in Siberia. Inspired by his example, women of Kemerovo prepared 800 sets of clothing for children of the Donbas, doing the work after their regular day's occupation.

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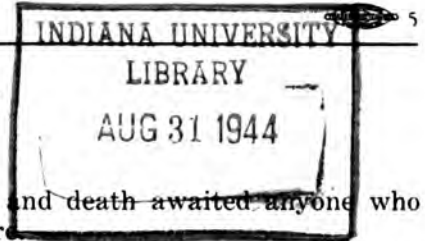
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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 95

Washington, D. C., August 22, 1944



IN LUBLIN TODAY

By E. Gabrilovich

Traces of recent battles are still apparent in Lublin's wrecked houses and offices. Mounds in public gardens and parks mark the graves of Soviet soldiers who fell storming the city. These low mounds with obelisks are always covered with flowers. Early in the morning Lublin people appear to keep the graves neat and to place fresh wreaths upon them. All day long women and children bring their offerings of summer flowers.

In these gardens the Germans dug trenches. Very typical of their rule is the square they named for Hitler: everything about it was reminiscent of Hitler—barbed wire around it, bunkers and dozens of machine-gun nests. The Poles were strictly forbidden

to enter this place and death awaited anyone who approached the wire.

Here as in other German trenches and bunkers in Lublin you may still find helmets half-buried in the earth, and German soldiers' mess cans, caps and tunics. But the wire is being taken away and hundreds of spades are leveling the trenches and bunkers. Gardeners are busy planting these places with flowers and grass, and the clear voices of children ring out among fresh flowerbeds and sanded paths which for five years knew the sign of the swastika and the reign of death.

White notices on the doors of buildings once occupied by the Germans proclaim that here a Polish



A wounded Red Army man receives first aid from a volunteer field nurse

culture center, a club, bank, school or store is to be opened. The screeching of saws and blows of hammers are heard all day in the streets. Shops are being put into repair; carpenters, glaziers and house painters are hard at work and each day sees the opening of fruit and grocery shops, dairies, bakeries and other stores. Under German rule the Poles were forbidden to engage in almost all forms of trade. Now the Polish authorities in town and village are interested in the development of trade, and counters and windows display goods the Poles had been accustomed to buy only at fabulous prices and in secret.

Factories and plants are being rehabilitated by their owners and will soon be launched again; banking and trading organizations are reopening, power stations and water mains are working.

Public gardens and streets are watered the first thing in the morning, and aproned yardmen appear with green and white watering cans. The cafes open and small tables are carried out to the ivy-grown terraces and sidewalks. Newsboys dart here and there, shouting the latest news and counting their change as they run. Two papers are already being published in Lublin and others are to come out very soon.

At this early hour there are very few passersby and these are mostly people going to market. They pass through the freshly-washed streets, past walls and fences that already display notices by official authorities and appeals by political parties; past wrecked buildings where broken bricks are being cleared away, past the magistrate's house burned down by the Germans, and down to the market square. The square is crowded; local peasants and truck gardeners have driven in with their wares on heavy country wagons with two horses, or light carts with one. The market is still a novelty to both buyers and sellers, whom the Germans deprived so long, taking all they could get of the products brought in by the peasants. But during the past five years it was rare for a peasant to take such a bold step as to trade in the market.

Two hours pass and the streets are busy, offices and shops are opening and a loudspeaker on a truck attracts a crowd eager to hear the communiques of the Soviet Supreme Command, the latest news from the fronts and what is going on in the city itself at cinemas and theaters and regarding recruiting of labor. Manual and office workers are needed everywhere. Industries require fitters and mechanics, shopowners need saleswomen, Polish high schools closed during the German rule need teachers.

The Catholic boys school and the girls school as well are preparing to open. Lublin University is also to be opened soon; it was closed by the Germans and the professors were forced to work as yardmen or

stevedores, while the students were put in German concentration camps.

When the day is well begun, the street in which the offices of the Committee of National Liberation are situated becomes crowded with vehicles of all kinds and with people from all parts of Poland freed by Soviet troops. Some are officials, some are ordinary civilians from villages and small towns who bring their affairs, their cares and sometimes their complaints to the Committee. They also bring declarations in which the population of a certain town or village sends greetings, welcomes the new Polish national authorities and expresses its desire to devote all its powers to the cause of victory. From distant places come large bodies of young people who declare they wish to join the Polish Army at once.

Representatives of widely differing Polish parties are here. Professors, workers, farmers, landowners, artisans, commanders of detachments of militia, factory owners, bankers, artists and writers come to the Committee headquarters.

Everyone is received, everyone is given an explanation of the state of affairs, everyone has an opportunity to talk business. The links of the new Polish National Administration are forged and strengthened in these offices and the people leave here for various parts of the country to found the Polish people's power and national order in places where the Germans stifled all that was Polish and trampled Polish culture in the dust.

In these corridors meet relatives and friends who fought the Germans in secret and thought their dear ones dead. There are few meetings more dramatic and joyful than these.

Cinemas and theaters are opening in the evenings. The Germans drove the Polish actors from one of the theaters and set up machine-gun nests in the vestibule. Now Lublin actors are playing there. Soviet, American and British films are shown in the movie theaters and the tickets are all sold out; also for the concert of the Song and Dance Ensemble of the First Byelorussian Front. Like other concerts, this is given in the building which the Germans called the "Lublin House of National Socialism." Poles were forbidden under pain of death to approach within a block of this house. Now its stage is decorated with Soviet and Polish flags.

Guerrilla Museum

A Museum devoted to the guerrilla movement in Polesye has been opened in Mozyr, Byelorussia. Exhibits include captured armaments, guerrilla battle clothes, leaflets and newspapers put out by underground printshops, etc.

ON LATVIAN SOIL

By A. Chakovsky

Ostrov, set ablaze by the Germans, was still burning and black columns of smoke rose to the sky. Delayed-action mines planted in houses were exploding.

The fighting had moved westward; many kilometers already separated our men from the city they had liberated. The Germans paused at a narrow but deep river and a fierce battle ensued. Battalion Commander Baryshev hurled the Germans into the river,



Liberty Square in Riga, Latvian SSR—before the war

dislodged them from the western bank and halted there for neighboring units to come up. Unshaven, black with soot, his clothes wet through, Baryshev sat on a small mound inside the German trenches, surrounded by other officers. He slipped a new map under the cellophane covering of his planchette, took off his boot, emptied the water from it and put it back on.

Rutted with trenches and craters, enmeshed in barbed wire, blackened by gunpowder, lay the mutilated land through which the enemy had passed. Among Baryshev's men were Latvians who had cov-

ered hundreds of kilometers from east to west before reaching their native land. They had seen the suffering on Russian soil. Now the Russians were looking on the sorrows of the Latvian soil. Thus does the friendship of the peoples of the Soviet land gain strength—a friendship proof against time and adversity and which the scheming enemy is powerless to break.

Villages, settlements and cities all bear the traces of the German beast.

There is a stupid sameness, a kind of pathological doggedness in the German destruction. They twist streetcar and train rails, they tear up the wooden floors of churches and strew the ground with fragments of ikons and pages of church books. On the highways they plant mines at intervals of exactly 50 meters. They don't cut down the telegraph poles, but blow them up. We see the stumps . . . entire forests of stumps. They cut down trees in the parks to build anti-tank obstacles. They do these things in all cities and villages. They treat Latvians and Russians in the same way.

"The Germans have always been the curse of Latvia," said Dr. Ostrovsky. "For many hundreds of years they menaced our people. But the worst periods in our history pale beside the sufferings of the past three years. It is not surprising that Hitler in one of his speeches expressed regret that in the past the Germans had not exterminated the Latvians as a nation.

"My son was thrown into prison. The Germans mocked and jeered at my pleadings. My friend Gailit and my neighbor Olya Bakova, a Russian girl, were shot with others, without trial or investigation. Old man Bravin was thrown alive into a grave. But the Germans were afraid of punishment . . . before retreating they dug up and burned the bodies of the Latvians they had murdered."

I met Jan M., a 26-year-old guerrilla who had a long thick beard and wore cartridge belts like those of the Baltic sailors in the Civil War. Jan had a German tommy gun which he wanted to exchange for a Russian one. "The war isn't over and a Russian tommy gun works much better than this thing," he said.

Jan's comrades had come out of the forest to join us. In 1941 they fought for Riga with the workers battalions, then escaped to the woods.

The dust rises thick on the roads of Latvia that lead to the sea. Tired, emaciated women drive their cows homeward; young and old come out to meet our boys; they are no longer afraid. They know that the Red Army, their brothers and liberators, has come.

RECENT EVENTS IN WARSAW

From IZVESTIA, August 17:

Materials published in the Soviet and foreign press expose the real nature of recent events in Warsaw. As details of these events come to light, ever more evident becomes the provocative part played by the Sosnkowski clique and the motives which prompted this clique and its agents in Poland in flinging the almost unarmed people of Warsaw into battle against German tanks and artillery.

As the British magazine *The Week* points out, the scenario drawn up by the Polish reactionary emigres in London was simple: If the entirely unprepared rebellion which had no chance of success should accidentally coincide with the capture of the city by the Red Army, then a hue and cry could be raised throughout the world that Warsaw had been liberated from the Germans not by the Red Army together with the Polish Army, but by Sosnkowski and the "mysterious" Warsaw commander-in-chief "Bor." Should there be no such coincidence and the rebellion prove a failure, a hue and cry could be raised concerning the "passive behavior of Soviet troops who abandoned the insurgents to their fate."

Now the adventurers from reactionary Polish emigre circles who have been exposed before the entire world are rendering the second version of their base game. But they will not succeed in deceiving public opinion and concealing their adventure by slander and deception. On August 15 the radio station *SWIT* of the Polish emigre government again declared that "without the help of the Allies and without the participation of Russian troops the battle for Warsaw will be brought to a successful end." Moreover, according to *SWIT*, General Bor issued the order to all detachments of the "national army" to "make their way into Warsaw in order to take an active part in fighting for the liberation of the capital." Those whom the *SWIT* radio station represents not only provoked many Warsaw residents to a premature armed uprising, but for their own provocative purposes are ready to sacrifice thousands more Polish lives in their country.

"Many brave Poles fell in the Warsaw rebellion," writes the British *Reynolds News*. "Members of the Sosnkowski gang who try to boost their political stocks at the price of the blood of honest Polish patriots are to blame." . . .

With the Lithuanian Guerrillas

By Jonas Marcinkevicius

The Traikai guerrilla unit was organized in 1942 with six members, three of whom shortly afterward lost their lives in action. But the group grew with great rapidity and it soon became necessary to divide it into four units, which called themselves: "For Country," "For a Free Lithuania," "Liberator" and "For Victory." Soon afterward these were converted into the Vytautas Didziojo brigade, under the leadership of Genya Zvirblis and Afoninas. I recently interviewed some members of this brigade.

"In what regions did you operate?" I asked the chief of staff.

"Vilnius, Gardians and Kaunas. We wrecked 45 army trains, destroyed 34 cars of German soldiers and officers, 45 cars of armaments and 35 ammunition cars, and killed 1,920 officers and men."

Another guerrilla told me, "We cut the cable connecting Hitler's staff with the front no less than 300 times. The less protected parts of the cable were guarded by companies and even battalions, but that didn't frighten us. Once we planted our own homemade mines at the approaches to the place where the cable had been cut, and the Germans pursuing us struck the mines and were blown up.

"The Vytautas Didziojo brigade blew up many

bridges, 346 kilometers of rail and destroyed a fascist garrison in the little town of Aleknisky Jara. When the Germans succeeded in arresting two girl guerrillas, about 20 of our men raided the Trakai prison and liberated all the prisoners, including the girls."

"After this the number of our sincere friends grew in every village," concluded the chief of staff.

The guerrillas rendered the advancing Red Army invaluable assistance by blowing up hundreds of kilometers of track and holding up traffic for five days.

In northern Lithuania the guerrilla movement was widely developed under the command of Kazimirus. The guerrilla units of "Zalgirs," "Vilnius," "Kostas Kalinauskas" and others operated under his leadership. All Lithuanian patriots knew and loved these units, which wrecked more than 130 German trains carrying men and materiel.

Kostas Kalinauskas, commander of the guerrilla unit bearing his name, himself derailed 17 military trains and has been recommended for a high Government award. Gay and lively Mateka, the young and shy guerrilla girl Survilaite, energetic Matis and a few others killed the Hitlerite commandant of Svenchioni Uezd in broad daylight.

SOVIET INDUSTRY IN JULY

By N. Alexandrov

Throughout July Soviet industry worked at an increasing tempo, achieving new successes in production.

The tank industry fulfilled its production plan for tanks, self-propelled guns, Diesel engines for tanks and spare parts for these engines. For outstanding work in the organization of production of tanks, self-propelled guns and new types of war equipment, People's Commissar of the Tank Industry Malyshev was awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor, while many factory and office workers, engineers and technicians of the tank industry were decorated for successful fulfilment of tasks set by the State Defense Committee.

The Soviet aircraft industry exceeded its July plan for plane production, with special emphasis on increased production of improved types of planes which now insure the Soviet Air Force domination in the skies.

Ordnance and mortar plants, shell, cartridge and other war industries of the country also met their assignments in splendid fashion. Many workers of these enterprises were awarded Government decorations.

The iron, steel, non-ferrous metal and fuel indus-

tries increased their output during July. Compared with the same month last year, the output of pig iron increased 34 per cent, steel 28 per cent, rolled metal 31 per cent, coke 34 per cent and ore 20 per cent. In July alone the iron and steel workers of Kuznetsk produced 12,500 tons of pig iron, 4,200 tons of steel, and 7,200 tons of rolled metal above the State plan.

Even more remarkable is the fact that much metal above the plan was turned out by iron and steel workers of the recently liberated cities of Stalino, Konstantinovka, Makeyevka, Dneprodzerzhinsk and Taganrog.

The non-ferrous metals industry also achieved considerable success. Compared with June, the country's output of crude copper in July increased three per cent; antimony, three per cent, and alumina (semi-finished product for the aluminum industry) 4.5 per cent. Production plans for aluminum, cadmium, cobalt and the principal products of the electrode industry were also exceeded.

Exceptional enthusiasm marked the work of the fuel industry. At the end of July Soviet coal miners again stepped up the production of coal, considerably

(Continued on page eight)



Radiophoto

The young workers of a Moscow factory honor the successes of the Allied troops with a fresh increase in production. The "lightning" bulletin reports achievements of leading workers

THE CHAMPION

By G. Smolich

"Submarine-tanker," of course, was a somewhat pretentious name. The thing itself was really much simpler. The Germans had built an airdrome on a spit of land jutting out into the sea.

They could not bury their oil tanks in the ground, for the promontory was solid granite; so they decided to lower their fuel tanks down to the sea bed. They filled a huge gasometer with oil and sank it in the bay, laying a pipe line under the sea from the tank to the airdrome.

Soviet bombers appeared over the sea every night. They plastered the bay with depth charges, but under the airmen there was nothing but a desert of water. They were unable to locate the tiny buoy, the only indication of the place where the wretched submarine-tanker lay.

The commander of a guerrilla column decided to place a signal light on the water above the gasometer. It was no easy matter to fix up a light at sea, six miles from the coast held by the guerrillas and 500 yards from the Germans' coast defenses. The light had to be kept burning right under the Germans' noses until the Soviet bombers arrived.

Someone suggested a way of doing it by placing an ordinary five-watt electric lamp on the buoy, lit up by a motor-car accumulator supported on floats alongside. So that the Germans would not see it from the coast, the lamp was fixed inside a lightproof cone; the ray of light would then only be visible from above. Under these circumstances the affair was quite simple; one had only to swim to the German coast, put the accumulator in position and light the lamp. And who would do it? Sashko, of course, Sashko the Champion.

The Champion's natural element was the water, his trade swimming: crawl or breast stroke, distance, time, sprint or endurance.

The name on his passport was Alexander Karpovich Golubenko, but even his own mother called him only Champion.

"How far can you swim, Champion?"

The Champion blushed.

"I've swum eight miles. Six miles are nothing to me."

"You'll have to swim 12—six there and six back."

"Tell them to issue me," ordered the Champion in a deep bass, "some kind of fat, enough to smear me with from head to foot; a good layer of grease warms you up in the water like a fur coat. And let them fasten a thermos flask of hot wine to my belt. And some chocolate would be useful, about half a pound."

The guerrillas, crowding around him, recommended pickled cucumbers, sauerkraut, goat's-milk cheese.

"They're no use," objected the Champion authoritatively. "The food must be nourishing, contain calories and vitamins, and be not too heavy to carry."

"Would fresh butter suit you?" asked the Old Man. "The lads brought some from the shore yesterday."

"The very thing!" said the Champion joyfully. "Fresh butter is not a heavy food, it's nourishing, and contains calories and vitamins."

* * *

It was early on a summer's night. Little waves softly lapped the shore. It was still a long time till three o'clock.

The Champion undressed. The Old Man himself smeared him with porpoise fat. The lamp and the motor-car accumulator were brought from the cave.

"That's no good!" exclaimed the Champion, looking at the accumulator, his voice rising to a youthful soprano. "I'll drown after a mile with that thing. . . . A motor-car accumulator weighs much too much."

The discouragement was general. The wavelets whispered faintly as they lapped the shore. The Champion took a dynamo flash light.

"Won't this do?" he asked.

"The light's too weak," sighed one guerrilla. "They may not see it from above. . . . And what's more, it only burns when it's in your hands, when you press it. No use at all!"

"What do you mean, they won't see it?" asked the owner of the flashlight indignantly. "They flashed a signal from Ai-Petri to Yayla! A half a mile as the crow flies. In Sevastapol they sent Morse signals across the bay."

"Quite true," put in the Old Man. "I can guarantee it at 500 yards. Only you need an ordinary flashlight with a battery. It's a weak light, but you light it and then get well out of the way."

An ordinary pocket flashlight was produced and carefully wrapped in a fish bladder.

"Now then, Sashko!" The Old Man embraced the Champion tenderly, smothering himself in porpoise oil. "I'll see you off."

The Champion sighed deeply. Then he took the dynamo flashlight and stuck it under a belt that already had a knife, a thermos flask of wine and a pot of fresh butter dangling from it.

"I'll take this as well, just in case. . . ."

* * *

In the final analysis, this was not bad training.

He had swum across Sevastopol Bay before. Now he could boldly set out across the Gelenjik Strait. And then the stretch from Kerch to Taman.

By the time the thermos flask was half empty, the Champion had a clear view of the broken line of cliffs in the east. It was now not more than half a mile to the German coast. Another 500 yards and he should be somewhere near the buoy.

He lay on his back for about three minutes, swallowed about half a pound of butter and half a glass of wine and swam on with a swift breast stroke: his coat of porpoise fat did not keep him very warm.

The Champion turned a little to the right, a little to the left, turned back, again swam eastward—that devil of a buoy should be around somewhere!

Suddenly the buoy popped up right in front of his nose. Now all he had to do was light the flash, wrap it round with the fish bladder so that the battery would not get wet, fix it in the black cone between the two floats and then get away as quickly as possible before the Soviet bombers arrived to plaster the bay with depth bombs.

The Champion lifted his head. The outline of the cliffs in the east was already lighting up. He had to hurry. Suddenly he stopped. The waves would betray him. The Champion drew himself up as tense as a violin string, then lay on the water, dead still.

There could be no doubt about it: the outline of the cliffs came into sight and then disappeared again. The swell increased, and from far out at sea huge rollers were coming in with great black gulfs between them. The buoy disappeared in those gulfs and was then raised again on the crest of a wave. . . . If the floats with the black cone were fastened alongside the buoy, the cone would tip over at the moment when a roller passed, and the Germans on shore would see the rays of the torch. The light must not be lit too soon!

Just at that very moment the wind carried sounds of a distant tense whine. Soviet aircraft flying toward their target!

There was now no time for reflection: the Champion must either light the torch and get away immediately, or get away immediately without lighting it and without giving the bombers their target.

The searchlights opened the battle. Short, sharp barks, brief spurts of flame rising from the earth, and guns got into action.

The Champion threw aside the cone and seized his dynamo-anti-aircraft flash. Choosing a moment immediately after the anti-aircraft batteries had fired, he began, with all his strength, pressing, releasing, pressing, releasing the lever of the dynamo. The point of light sent its little ray upwards, and there in the black waters, lower than the rays of the searchlights, it showed a tiny but unexpectedly brilliant light.

At that moment a black silhouette, lit up in the crossed rays of the searchlight, hung in the heavens. The searchlights had caught an airplane. That lasted but a second, however. The aircraft dropped like a stone, rushing away from the point where the searchlights had fixed it. A furious howl made itself heard through the gunfire. A bomber was diving.

The Champion kept on pressing the lever of the torch. A tiny spot of light glowed amidst the stormy, black waves.

. . . A huge column of water shot up suddenly out of the sea. Then a second column arose, a column of roaring, raging, brilliant flame.

That was the end of the submarine oil tank.

The Champion had established a world record that will never be broken.



The Soviet submarine fleet has played an important part in patrolling convoy routes in the Baltic, Arctic and Black Seas. Above, a submarine returns from a mission

A Meal and a Bath

By a Moscow Correspondent

One of the most remarkable features of the Soviet offensives is the success of field kitchens in keeping up with armored spearheads. Their service is at the peak of efficiency while the offensive is at its height.

The commander of a Red Army tank battalion has been telling me about Pervunin, the battalion cook.

"There were days during the spring offensive when none of us ever imagined the field kitchen would be able to follow us. We gave up all idea of breakfast, lunch or dinner. Yet every time we stopped at one or another line a hot meal appeared as if by magic."

In this battalion Sergeant-Major Krutavtsev has charge of the mess. He prepares for each offensive battle as minutely as any of the men who take part in the fighting. After studying the route to be taken by the tanks, he knows exactly where the field kitchen must be to deliver breakfast, lunch or supper. And he always sends along insulated containers in case the kitchen cannot get close enough to the tanks. It is his boast that whatever the circumstances, whatever the weather, his tankmen will get their meals hot and on time. And he has never failed.

Pervunin, the cook, collaborates to perfection. He is an artist of a cook, and an immense believer in the virtues of fried onions. A meal, he considers, is not a meal without fried onions. They are an invariable accompaniment, as essential as salt. Here is one of Pervunin's daily menus:

Breakfast: Meat soup, bread, tea with sugar.

Lunch: Ukrainian borshch, meat and buckwheat porridge.

Supper: Potato puree with fat bacon, tea with sugar.

Even at the height of the fighting he turned out three hot meals a day.

SOVIET INDUSTRY

(Continued from page five)

exceeding the June output. Compared with July, 1943, the output of coal in the same month this year increased 31 per cent. Especially noteworthy is the overfulfilment of the State plan for the coal mines of the Donbas, which are gradually resuming production.

In July the Soviet oil industry exceeded the June output by 5.2 per cent.

The secret of these successes of our industry lies in the desire of the Soviet people to achieve victory over fascist Germany in the shortest possible time. To this end the workers of our country are straining every effort to step up labor productivity and improve the functioning of their enterprises.

One of the Red Army's most famous "bath trains"—the one presented by the Soviet trade unions—was decorated with the Order of the Red Star when it halted for repairs in Moscow. It is managed by a woman, Captain Anastasya Sharipo. Its official title is "Bath, Laundry and Disinfectant Train."

I visited this train not long ago when it was on service a mile or so behind the front line. I was accompanied by Major Markov, commanding officer of a dive bomber regiment, who wanted to arrange a "wash and brush up" for his men. We found the long train hidden in the woods among sunlit silver birches.

A noise like the pounding of breakers came from a large car in the middle of the train. As we waited a group of soldiers emerged, their faces red and steaming, and bundles of clothing under their arms.

After making an appointment for the major's dive bomber crews, Captain Sharipo showed us around. In addition to the bath wagons, there is a mechanized laundry and disinfecting station, a cloakroom, a barber's shop and a "cultural service car" where the men can relax, listen to the radio, see a film, read papers and magazines and play a game of chess.

During 1943 this particular train provided baths for 170,000 Red Army officers and men, laundered 800,000 sets of underwear and entertained 100,000 men in its "cultural service car."

Kindergartens for Donbas

Women workers of Karaganda, in Kazakhstan, recently wired the Stalino City Soviet they had collected nearly two million rubles for the construction of kindergartens in the Donbas.

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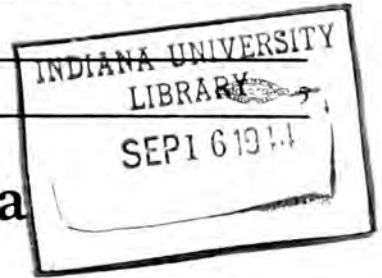
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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 96

Washington, D. C., August 25, 1944



The Battle Across the Vistula

By B. Polevoi

I recently talked with a scout-plane pilot who had just returned from a long reconnaissance mission over enemy roads leading to our bridgehead on the western bank of the Vistula. He had painstakingly reconnoitered all enemy communication lines running from north and west, and practically everywhere he saw tanks, motor vehicles and artillery and infantry columns moving toward the battle line around our bridgehead. The air photographs confirmed the reports of ground reconnaissance, which also revealed that the Germans were increasing their forces

around the bridgehead on the Vistula.

Today I was shown an interesting German document which fell into the hands of our troops. It is an order of the day issued by a commander newly arrived at the German 16th Panzer Division. Our tank killers found it in the commander's tank. It is dated August 10. Referring to an order of the Fuehrer, the commander tells his men they are part of the forces whose duty it is to liquidate the threat impending against the German Reich from the south; to liquidate the bridgehead on the Vistula bank, which is the gateway to

southern Germany, and to hurl Soviet troops back across the Vistula.

Photos of the air reconnaissance, the above order of the day and numerous statements of German officers and men taken prisoner in the recent fighting reveal the plans of the German command and explain the ferocity with which the Germans have for days been attacking our bridgehead, the persistence with which they have been throwing into this battle division after division which they brought up from Italy, from the Balkans and from Germany.



Soviet mortar gunners support advancing infantry

"This bridgehead of yours west of the Vistula is a pistol aimed at the neck of our Reich. We were ordered to wrest this pistol from your hands before it was discharged," stated non-com Ernst Schumann, commander of a tank of the 16th Division, and son of a prominent Hamburg manufacturer.

The Germans sustained enormous losses in those attacks, which followed one after another. These losses swelled to such proportions that reinforcements cannot make them good.

I spoke to a German top corporal, Rudolf Uprat, of a Motorized Grenadier Battalion of the 16th Panzer Division, taken prisoner in his damaged tank after a fierce engagement in the neighborhood of Rakcw. He is not one of the "total" Germans who get hysterical after the first artillery volleys. He's an old Hitlerite wolf and has been in the war five years. But he too recalls the battle on the Vistula with a shudder.

"On the way to the Vistula I met a column of wounded in Cracow, coming from here," he said. "I asked them about their experiences. One wounded man said, 'It's the devil's own mortar there, damn it!' I called him a sniveller. But when our battalion came back from the first attack missing about a third of our strength, and after three days our battalion was reduced to a company, I said, 'Yes, it's the devil's

own mortar.' Our forces are melting here like lard on a frying pan."

"The devil's own mortar"—this image has been suggested to the Germans by the power and withering fire of our artillery, by the stubbornness and might of our infantry, by the wonderful work of our Air Force—particularly the Stormoviks, which hardly ever disappear from the sky in the daylight, constantly strafing enemy concentrations and roads—and lastly by the irresistible force of our powerful tank thrusts. All these arms, supplementing and reinforcing one another, deal such powerful blows to the German troops that the latter, sustaining heavy casualties, reel backward and our forces dislodge them from their positions and keep extending the bridgehead west of the Vistula.

The battle goes on day and night. The Germans have lately employed two new weapons about which German propaganda boasted a great deal in an effort to bolster up the morale of the Hitlerite army and home front. The 16th Panzer Division has new tanks called "Royal Tigers." Not only the German burghers but the crews of these tanks were persuaded that they were insuperable and absolutely invulnerable machines. It was one of those weapons which in the opinion of faithful Germans was going to bring a turn in the war and save Germany.

In the very first engagement our tankmen and artillerymen hit two Royal Tigers and set them afire. Another one stuck in the mud and abandoned by its crew fell into our hands alive, as it were. The Royal Tiger is a sort of cross between the old Tiger and the Panther. But it too has proved no match for the skill of our tankmen and artillerymen. It has not changed the course of the war.

The Germans pinned great hopes on a new type of aerial bombs which our infantry have ironically dubbed "suitcases." The Germans first employed them in fighting for the crossings of the Vistula and now use them in the fighting on the bridgehead. The new weapon is a large cigar-like tin box filled with small mines. When dropped from a plane the box breaks open at a given altitude and the mines are scattered fanwise, their splinters covering a large area.

This German "surprise" has not had the effect its authors expected. It has not affected the determination of our soldiers.

The battle west of the Vistula is unfolding. And no matter how much the Germans resist they can achieve nothing except mounting losses. If the Germans refer to our bridgehead across the Vistula as the gateway to southern Germany, our soldiers of the First Ukrainian Front are entitled to state proudly that they are forcing this gateway ever wider open.

BOOKS BY SOVIET FIGHTERS

Dozens of books written by fliers, artillerymen, snipers, tankists, submarine sailors, etc., have been published in the USSR. Mostly in the form of diaries, they tell of actual events and are read with great interest.

One of the most popular works is that of submarine Commander Hero of the Soviet Union Israel Fisanovich, who describes the adventures of his "baby" sub, which sank 13 German ships.

The diary of Nikolai Bantysh, chief of staff of a guerrilla detachment which operated in the Kerch area, tells of how 55 men and five women hid for six weeks in underground caves in a Kerch quarry. In this period the Germans kept over a regi-

ment of infantry stationed about the quarry, expended tons of dynamite and attempted to wall up all exits, but still failed to capture the daring patriots. The guerrillas lived during the siege in absolute darkness receiving two glasses of water daily. In the black and damp tunnels they fought a victorious battle with the Hitlerites and finally escaped.

A new book by Hero of the Soviet Union Lieutenant Colonel Shtepenکو, formerly an Arctic navigator who made long-distance reconnaissance flights in the Arctic Region, has just come out. Colonel Shtepenکو reveals that on the first day of the war he took off from the Arctic for the front with his pilots, Heroes of the

Soviet Union Mikhail Vodopyanov and Endel Pusep. This crew has bombed Berlin, Stettin, Koenigsberg and other German cities. The fliers were repeatedly forced to land deep in the enemy rear and to make their way to our lines across forests and marshes.

Gift for Marshal Konev

A tank column to be named "The Podosinov Farmer" will be presented to the front commanded by Marshal of the Soviet Union Konev, who was born in the Podosinov district, Kirov Region. The tanks are a gift from local farmers to their distinguished fellow-countryman.

AS THE SOVIET WRITER SEES THE RED ARMY MAN

By V. Kirpotin

In the work of sensitive writers there are little details and touches that sometimes express better than long descriptions the true spirit of the reality they reproduce.

Vasili Grossman and Konstantin Simonov are of different ages and different literary schools. Both have written books on the Patriotic War. The subject chosen by Grossman in *The People Are Immortal* is the retreats of 1941. Simonov's book, *Days and Nights*, is about the great Stalingrad conflict, the turning point in the struggle of the freedom-loving nations against the Germans.

Each of these writers has spent much time at the front; each knows Red Army soldiers and officers well. And each, without knowledge of the other's work, has introduced similar conversations overheard among Red Army men.

When the heavy fighting of the summer of 1941 was at its height and the suddenness of the savage German attacks left the Red Army no course but to retreat, one of the soldiers in Grossman's book asks:

"Tell me what you think . . . are we going to leave Germany alone after the war, or what are we going to do with her?"

"Who knows?" another replies. "We will see when the time comes."

"That's the right kind of talk during a retreat," the commander exclaims cheerfully. And it *was* right. It put heart into people. At that time, when there was no lack of doubters in every country; no lack of people who thought the Germans could not be beaten, Red Army soldiers and officers never ceased to believe the world's fate would be decided not by the Hitlerite pirates but by the free nations, inspired by the deathless deeds of the Red Army.

* * *

In besieged Stalingrad, during the days when the German staff thought the invincible city was already in its hands, Simonov's Red Army men voiced opinions very like those of Grossman's soldiers.

"You're asking when the war is going to be over?" Petya repeated, in that good-humored and at the same time instructive tone he generally used in speaking to

people. It was obvious he thought he knew everything. 'How can I tell? I don't know when it's going to be over. It will be over when we beat the Germans, I expect . . . Oh, and we'll chase them a long way yet,' the young signalman said, staring at the smoke ring he was blowing toward the ceiling. 'A very long way,' he repeated, with an expression that admitted no doubt this would be so."

* * *

And so it was! The hour is at hand when the entire territory of the USSR will be completely cleared. What was the source of this confidence in victory—now fully realized—this offensive spirit that has never deserted and will never desert the Soviet Army?

The first source was love of country, the fiery patriotism that is an unbroken tradition of the Russian Army . . . sung by Derzhavin, Pushkin, Leo Tolstoy and Gorky. In Soviet times this patriotism has acquired a strength hitherto unknown, because love for a liberated mother country, a happy mother country, evokes a passionate desire to preserve and guard her dignity, her happiness and her honor.

The officer and soldier heroes of the novels of Alexei Tolstoy, Sholokhov and Tikhonov—and in fact of all Soviet novels—are first and foremost Soviet patriots. They hate with an implacable hatred the German murderers and thieves who

long to become slaveowners. The nature of this hatred has been described by Ehrenburg: "Our hatred for the Hitlerites is dictated by love—love of our country, love for man, love for humanity. And in this is the force of our hatred. In this is its justification. Coming to grips with the Hitlerites we see how blind hatred has destroyed Germany's soul. We are far from such hatred. We hate each and every Hitlerite because he is a representative of a misanthropic principle, because he is a convinced murderer, a robber on principle; we hate every one of them for everything they have singly and jointly

(Continued on page six)



This ground technician is popular with the pilots—he plays their favorite tunes



WITH THE VOROSHILOV GUERRILLA DETACHMENT, oldest in Byelorussia. (Left) To the ceaseless rat-a-tat of machine-gun fire the guerrillas have advanced to the edge of the forest—one of their number has been wounded by a shell fragment and a nurse pauses to give him first aid, while enemy bullets whistle above them; (center) This young recruit is learning to handle a heavy machine gun entrusted to him by an old guerrilla fighter who instructs the youth in the value and care of the precious weapon; (right) Before the ranks of pine trees, under the clear Byelorussian sky, the heroes are decorated with the "Guerrilla of the Patriotic War" Medal

THOUSANDS OF BYELORUSSIAN GUERRILLAS AWARDED GOVERNMENT DECORATIONS

During the entire three years of German occupation, the Byelorussian people incessantly fought the enemy in the German rear. Hundreds of guerrilla formations, detachments and groups operated on the temporarily occupied territory. Large reserves of guerrilla detachments acted covertly in towns and villages, and these reserves played an important part in combat operations.

Simultaneously the underground Regional and District Committees of the Communist Party of Byelorussia were active in the enemy rear, connected by thousands of threads with the population. The Byelorussian guerrillas were equipped with up-to-date arms and communications facilities. Steeled in guerrilla warfare, they fought large-scale engagements with the enemy's regular formations and continuously expanded their area of operations.

On the eve of the Red Army's June of-

fensive the guerrillas held and controlled about 60 per cent of the entire occupied territory of Byelorussia, with thousands of inhabited localities and more than 20 district centers. According to the most conservative preliminary estimates, the Byelorussian guerrillas killed in all over a half million German officers and men. In fighting the enemy they freed tens of thousands of Soviet civilians and took hundreds of thousands under their protection.

The guerrillas derailed thousands of German trains, destroyed tens of thousands of rail cars and trucks, dozens of armored trains, hundreds of aircraft and guns, thousands of tanks and armored cars and numerous stores of arms, ammunition and equipment. The blows dealt to enemy communications everywhere according to a single plan, by methods of the so-called "rail war," serve as a vivid example of the fine organization of the guerrilla movement in Byelorussia. Hun-

dreds of thousands of pieces of rail were blown up simultaneously over the entire network of enemy railways. A mass "rail attack" was carried out by Byelorussian guerrillas on the eve of the Red Army's June offensive. By disrupting the enemy's communications they rendered important assistance to our troops.

The motherland highly appreciates the services of the Byelorussian men and women guerrillas. The high title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred upon 57 Byelorussian men and women guerrillas. Some 20,000 guerrillas have been honored by the Government with orders and medals.

The guerrilla movement in Byelorussia has brought forth remarkable organizers of guerrilla warfare who have mastered the science of the leading of troops and who splendidly direct the work of the underground organizations. Nine guerrilla commanders have been promoted to the rank of general.

Soviet Guerrillas Fight the Enemy in the Swamps and Forests of Byelorussia



(1) Guerrillas battling in open terrain; (2) Overcoming swamps and thick forests, a group advances for a lightning raid on the enemy; (3) Young recruits learning to shoot; (4) An arsenal in the woods; (5) Repairing weapons captured from the Germans; (6) The People's Avengers return to their "homes" in the forest after a battle

SOVIET SOLDIERS

(Continued from page three)

done in our country and in other countries, for the tears of widows, for the blighted children's lives, for the dreary caravans of refugees, for the fields trampled underfoot, for the millions of lives and the fruits of long years of highly creative labor they have destroyed."

* * *

The Russian soldier's courage and humanity are described in Alexei Tolstoy's series of stories—*Told by Ivan Sudarev*. The hero of one is Yegor Dremov, whose unusual good looks and strength single him out among his fellows.

"You would look at him sometimes when he climbed out of a gun turret and think—the god of war—" said Ivan Sudarev. Yegor Dremov was a tankman and his tank did actually fight as though the war god himself was driving it.

Then misfortune came; Dremov's tank caught fire and blew up. He survived, but was badly burned. After a long course of treatment and numerous plastic surgery operations, he was ready to return to active service. But his face had been so disfigured that even the nurse, at her first sight of him after the bandages were removed, broke down and wept.

It must be explained that Yegor Dremov had a girl. She was the village belle, and they had vowed to be faithful to each other forever. When he left the hospital he was given leave to return to his home village.

But nobody knew him. Even his voice had changed, was unrecognizable. He had taken another name—because he could not make up his mind to disclose his identity to the girl he loved. Finally he came to a decision . . . she must never link her fate with a disfigured creature like himself.

In spite of this, the girl was strangely attracted to the wounded officer. She was puzzled by something mysterious and secretive in his conversation, and when he returned to his unit she followed him. There she learned the truth.

"Katya, why did you come? It was a different man you promised to wait for . . . not this."

But Katya told him firmly, "Yegor, I meant to be yours always. I will love you truly. I will love you very dearly . . . don't send me away . . ."

These are Russian characters! Alexei Tolstoy concludes: "Man seems simple and ordinary enough, but when stern misfortune in great or small things comes to him, there arises within him a great strength that is human beauty."

It is this splendid inner strength, combined with the modern technique entrusted to him by Soviet power, that has made the Russian soldier victorious over the German tyrants. It is this splendid inner human strength that explains why the Poles, Czechs and other nations oppressed by the Germans impatiently await the Russian soldier as their liberator.

The soldiers and officers of the Red

Army are the sons of the people and are indissolubly linked with the people. In Grossman's story *The Soviet Frontier* there is a character, General Meshcheriakov, who led his regiments to the frontiers of their native land. He had behind him dozens of hard-fought battles; he had made profound study of the enemy; he knew his junior officers, their characters, inclinations, passions, experience and skill. To the lessons he had learned in the Military Academy were added his experience in unusually difficult warfare, his inspiration, talent, and bold and creative thinking.

He proved that the leading of regiments and divisions into battle was not only a science, but an art in the highest and most inspired sense of the word. He showed all respect for tradition, and for creativeness in war, and contempt for the cut-and-dried. He was not afraid of grueling work, deprivations and dangers.

This general, a peasant's son, fought on this same frontier in 1914—in the ranks. A people who can produce from their ranks an inexhaustible supply of outstanding commanders and leaders can create a powerful Army.

The Red Army generals, officers and men have come from the people and are ready to give everything for the people—to lay down their lives for them. They will not rest nor put aside their arms until the entire world is freed from the fascist plague.

Siberian Scientists Toughen Crops

If the Narym territory, despite its rigorous climate and location north of the 60th parallel can boast of yields creditable to many more temperate sections, this is due in great measure to seven years of work by four young agronomists.

Headed by Kuzma Litvinchuk, scientists working at the Narym State selection station have developed dozens of hardy varieties of grains, vegetables and potatoes and made it possible to extend agriculture in this Siberian area situated approximately in the latitude of southern Alaska and Hudson Bay. Its climate, with

long cold winters and short chilly summers, resembles that of southern Alaska.

New varieties of crops and a regime for tilling the soil developed by the experimental station have upset old ideas as to what can be grown under these conditions. Although a grain crop of 600 to 700 kilograms per hectare was considered good until recently, the experimental station has raised the average crop to 2,700 kilograms. The average achieved for vegetables is 38 tons per hectare and for potatoes 15 tons.

The Narym collective farms now have

over 5,000 hectares sown to over 20 new varieties of wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat and other crops adapted to local conditions. Hardy tomatoes, watermelons and muskmelons never grown here before are other contributions made to Northern farming. Onions have also been added to the list of cultivated crops with the discovery that growth can be speeded up by soaking the seeds for 18 minutes in water heated to 50 degrees Centigrade before planting. This causes them to sprout 10 times faster and fits them into the short vegetation period of the Narym summer.

THE GERMANS DREAM OF A PLAN

By D. Zaslavsky

In admitting the loss of Lvov, Byelostok, Dvinsk and Brest, the Berlin radio tried to sweeten the pill by references to some new plan of the German high command. Listen and don't laugh too loudly.

"The German high command has decided to pass over from positional warfare to warfare of movements on a large scale, in the course of which the Soviet offensive will be stemmed and halted by means of counter-thrusts, withdrawal maneuvers, blows at flanks and threats to flanks. Thus the German high command goes back to the tactic of the big battles of movement in the first years of the war. Lvov, Byelostok, Dvinsk and Brest have been left by us in strict conformity to plan."

So the German high command "decides to gain victories." The Germans are expected to believe that if the German army is being beaten in all theaters of war it is only because there has been no decision to beat the adversaries. On the contrary, there has apparently been a decision to be beaten.

The Germans are supposed to believe that everything in the world proceeds exactly as Hitler decides. He decided to advance and he advanced. He decided to seize Lvov, Byelostok, Dvinsk and Brest and he seized them in 1941. Now he has decided to leave them and—lo and behold—he leaves them according to plan!

This silly fable, which takes it for granted that the Germans have grown utterly and hopelessly stupid, betrays its authors' yearning for a plan. The Germans have to be persuaded that the Hitlerite command is still capable of maneuvering and of shaping events according to its wishes. If Hitler still has a plan, then everything is not yet lost. German fascism has trained the Germans that thinking is unnecessary; that they needn't try to grasp the meaning of events. The Fuehrer does the thinking for them.

Now that the Germans are beginning to realize that the game is up, the fascist swindlers, playing the part of medicine men in the service of the idol Hitler, try to lead the Germans to believe that it only seems to them that the game is up. Actually, they insist, some design of Hit-

ler's which is beyond the comprehension of mere mortals is at work. For some reason known to himself Hitler wanted the Germans to be beaten positionally. That was his plan. Now he has "decided" differently, so a new plan will be put into effect—not a war of positions but mobile war.

It is absolutely essential for the Germans to have faith in Hitler's plan and in some profound reason for the present retreat of the German army, because the German generals have stated, and it has become known in Germany, that it is senseless and hopeless to continue the war. This position of Germany's oldest generals was announced by the bomb explosion in headquarters. And the fables of Hitlerite propaganda about some plan of the German high command are designed to neutralize the effect of the generals' action.

A plan! That's what the Germans yearn for. But Hitler lost his plan even before he lost all the cities he had seized in the Soviet Union. Hitler has no plan nor can he have one. Therein lies his defeat. The German army has lost the initiative, and without the initiative there can be no real plan. The plans of the German high command are buried at Stalingrad and Kursk. The last abortive planning was made by the Germans in the summer of 1943, when they tried to launch an offensive in the Orel-Kursk direction. The plan lasted exactly one week. Since then the Germans have no plan. Their efforts to hold and cling to towns cannot be regarded as a plan.

The Germans wanted to stay where they were. They wanted it with all their might and they did everything to hold on. But nothing came of their efforts. The Red Army, executing its own plans, is delivering blows to the Germans at precisely the points it chooses. And everywhere it sends the Germans flying.

It sounds awfully silly when the Germans say they have now resolved to go back to big battles of movement as in the first years of the war. Apparently they relish the recollection of those years. But when did the German command deem it

at all necessary, as they claim, to pass over to a war of positions? The answer is obvious. The big battles of movement ended for the Germans in the big defeats at Moscow and the annihilation of the encircled German divisions at Stalingrad.

But did the German army in the East really pass over to a war of positions after those defeats? Nothing of the sort. There has never been any war of positions in the East. There were at first offensive battles launched by the Germans. Then the Red Army assumed the offensive and is continuing it to this day in extensive mobile operations. These operations are increasing in force and the Germans cannot stem or halt the Red Army's offensive. The Germans can offer resistance. That's what they are doing and will do. But they can no longer "decide" anything.

In this respect the situation of Hitlerite Germany is much worse than the situation of Germany under Kaiser Wilhelm in 1918. Then Ludendorff was still in a position to take the only decision open to Germany: to discontinue resistance and ask for terms from the adversaries—Great Britain, the United States and France. The German generals had come to the conclusion that further resistance was senseless. They no longer had any plan for war and all that remained to them was to conclude peace.

But the Hitlerite command today cannot take even such a decision. It cannot and will not end the war as Ludendorff did. Hitler has neither a plan for war nor a plan for peace. He hangs German generals who say that further resistance is senseless. He knows that no one will conclude peace with him, and taking advantage of his power over the Germans he compels them to go on fighting, even though they have no more strength left to cope with their adversaries.

Of course, the Hitlerites, as is the wont of all gangsters, are trying a last ditch maneuver. They still have divisions and they'll go on throwing them into the fire of war. It is the strategy of the losing gambler. He knows that he has lost, that he hasn't the means to go on with the game. He knows the crash is bound to

come at any moment. But he throws his last money on the table on the slender chance that a miracle may perhaps save him.

But war is not a game. Maps showing the line of the front are not sharpers' marked cards. The front line is already close to one German frontier and is relentlessly approaching other German frontiers, in full conformity with the strategic plan of the Red Army leadership, which

is inexorably and consistently being put into effect. Events are obedient to this plan because on its side are strength, wisdom and right.

The stupid and dishonest Hitlerite politicians and strategists are impotent in the face of this plan. They now assert that they have hitherto waged a war of position. Indeed, they are in the position of one who has been given a merciless beating. It is a rather wretched position. Hit-

ler, lying on his belly, assures the Germans that he can make a maneuver . . . turn over and expose to the Red Army's blows not his backside but his belly. . . . Empty boast! Even this sort of maneuver is beyond the capacity of the Hitlerites.

If their plan consists in withdrawing from city after city, then it is a plan which the Germans are indeed capable of carrying out—all the way to their withdrawal from Berlin.

River Freight Lines Top Cargo Plan

By D. Petrov

With the plan for cargo tonnage as a whole exceeded by 7.7 per cent during the first seven months of the year and a still larger overfulfillment for grain and timber traffic, the Soviet River Fleet topped last year's showing for the same period by a full 10 per cent, according to a statement of Z. A. Shashkov, People's Commissar of the River Fleet of USSR.

Besides a considerable increase in the total volume of cargo on inland waterways, the share of oil and dry cargoes is greater this year than last, and this requires more self-powered river craft, the People's Commissar pointed out. To take care of this the rivermen had to speed up the runs of this category of vessel. The amount of oil products, for example, increased from 16 to 24 per cent.

This year new lines have been opened on the navigable tributaries of the Volga, Kama, Irtysh, Ob and Yenisei Rivers, which are the leading inland shipping arteries. This extension of water transport to greater distances than ever before considerably lightens the load of rail transport.

Commissar Shashkov stressed that the increase of cargo haulage by the country's river routes is chiefly the result of better utilization of existing bottoms. Repairing and overhauling of the vessels added greatly to their carrying capacity. Last winter more than 1,000 barges and power-driven vessels reduced to a state of limited seaworthiness were rejuvenated by overhauling or capital repairs, despite wartime shortage of materials and other difficulties.

Technical improvement of river ports and loading and unloading facilities has been another important factor making for a better showing during the present navigation season. In Moscow's western port, for example, almost four times as much cargo was handled by machinery; in Gorky, 20 per cent more, in Kotlas, almost 50 per cent more, etc.

The People's Commissar had high praise for the initiative of the crew of the Moscow-Volga Canal steamer "Pasha Angelina," which undertook to do current repairs themselves while the ship was in operation. Hundreds of crews followed their example, thus saving materials, labor power and time. Shashkov also spoke highly of the personnel of the Volga oil tanker fleet and a number of Siberian shipping lines.

Discussing the work of rivermen of the northwestern river basin, Shashkov stated that besides handling large shipments of fuel, building materials and food for Leningrad and other industrial centers now being rehabilitated, the personnel of the shipping lines in this area are taking a direct part in operations of the Red Army. They performed invaluable services during the taking of key enemy positions on the Svir River and in the liberation of Petrozavodsk, capital of the Karelian-Finnish Soviet Republic, and other towns in this Republic.

While repairing shipping facilities in liberated areas, Soviet rivermen are also gradually inaugurating cargo sailings, which are having a direct effect on the rehabilitation of industry and agricul-

ture in zones devastated by the Nazis.

Hundreds of vessels sunk during the fighting and the German occupation of the Don, Kuban, Dnieper, Western Dvina and other rivers have been raised and a considerable number repaired and put into service. In the Don and Kuban Basin, 75 per cent of the fleet has been restored, and in the Dnieper Basin more than one-third.

Restoration crews which push forward with the advancing units of the Red Army have been sent to districts now liberated in the basins of the Niemen and Western Dvina Rivers, the Dnieper-Bug Canal, Lake Peipus and other areas.

At present the River Fleet is preparing to handle this year's farm produce, and large number of vessels recently repaired are being assigned for this purpose.

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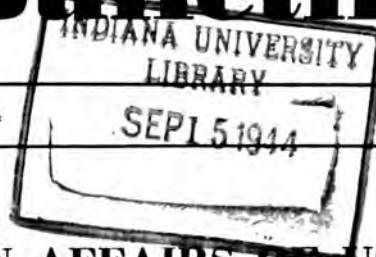
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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 97

Washington, D. C., August 29, 1944



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STATEMENT OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF USSR

In connection with the events in Rumania, the Soviet Government considers it again necessary to confirm its statement made in April of this year that the Soviet Union does not have any intention of acquiring any part of Rumanian territory or of changing the existing social order in Rumania or of infringing in any way the independence of Rumania.

On the contrary, the Soviet Government considers it necessary to establish, together with the Rumanians, the independence of Rumania by liberating Rumania from the German-fascist yoke.

The Soviet Supreme Command considers that if the Rumanian troops will cease military action against the Red Army and if they will pledge, hand in hand with the Red Army, to carry on the liberation war against the Germans for the independence of Rumania, or against the Hungarians for the liberation of Transylvania, then the Red Army will not disarm them and will preserve fully to them all armaments, and with all means will help them to fulfil this honorable task.

However, the Red Army may cease military action on the territory of Rumania only after the German troops in Rumania, which are carriers of suppression and slavery for the Rumanian people, will be liquidated.

The aid of Rumanian troops to the troops of the Red Army in the matter of the liquidation of German troops is the only means to the speedy cessation of military action on the territory of Rumania and to the conclusion of an armistice between Rumania and the Allied coalition.



Ivan Dmitrov and his family return home after the invaders were driven from their town

IN JASSY

By Major Z. Khiren

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA War Correspondent

On a hot and dusty August day we crossed the last height and drove down a wood-paved highway. To our right lay a radio station and before us Jassy. We could still hear the roar of guns; somewhere ahead fierce fighting was going on. But Jassy was ours and Soviet troops were moving through its streets.

We passed the city gardens, opposite which stood a memorial to the war of 1916-1919. Rumanian prisoners in pea-green uniforms were filing past, trudging along with their heads bent. On King street was a tall building with windows shaded with woven straw blinds; this was the hospital to which wounded Rumanians and Germans were brought after their forces had been defeated by the Red Army in the Caucasus, in the Crimea and in Odessa. The present Red Army break-through has been so tempestuous that the Germans and Rumanians had no time to pick up their wounded, but left them lying in the trenches, to be gathered up later by the Soviet medical personnel.

Pokural, Petsoneru and Lapushinnu streets form the center of the town of

Jassy. There were few people about. Many were still hiding in their cellars, where they had been for the past 48 hours. Many others had been herded off by the Germans.

We turned back to King street. Near the University we heard a Russian voice and saw an elderly-appearing woman dressed in rags. It was Maria Petlyakova, a 19-year-old girl. In June, 1941 she had been living in Odessa, attending the eighth grade of a secondary school. The Rumanians shipped her to slavery in Jassy. There were many thousands of such slaves, men and women, who had been driven here from the Soviet Union.

We drove farther along. Exhausted people came crawling out of their hovels, with tears in their eyes. Interrupting one another they told us their home addresses and asked us to inform their relatives in Odessa, Sevastopol and Novorossisk that they are still alive.

Gunnery officer Dmitri Moroz had already been appointed Soviet Commandant of the town. He told us that during the first few hours after fighting ceased life

had begun to return to normal. Endless streams of troops pass along the roads, and Soviet tanks, guns and infantry.

We found all important buildings, factories and municipal installations intact. The Soviet troops had advanced with such whirlwind rapidity that the enemy had no time to destroy the buildings or carry anything away. The only building burned down was that which housed the headquarters of the Army Corps. We visited the city power station; everything was intact, all the equipment in place. The three Diesel generators, each of 500 watts, would be started up after an examination. The water mains and drainage system were in working order.

On the railway track stood a train of 147 cars loaded with munitions, food and other stores. A Soviet guard had been posted on the train. At the station everything was in perfect order; telephone books and bundles of railway tickets lay on the tables in the station building. The engine house and warehouses presented the same picture. The Jassy-Tyrgu-Frutos line was open.

Rostov Region Theaters Restored

By Irina Slezina

Before the war the Rostov Region had nine drama theaters and many cinemas attended annually by 145,000 workers, collective farmers, students and others. The plays of Schiller, Shakespeare and Goldoni; the Russian classics of Ostrovsky, Gogol and Griboyedov and the works of the Soviet dramatists Simonov, Korneichuk and many others were produced.

The magnificent theater in Rostov dedicated to Maxim Gorky had a seating capacity of 2,000 and the largest stage in the Soviet Union. It was under the direction of Yuri Zavadsky.

On the initiative of the well-known Soviet writer Mikhail Sholokhov, a collective and State farm theater was built in his native Cossack village, Veshenskaya. In Rostov, Taganrog and other large cities of the Rostov Region there

were eight music institutes and numerous drama schools, art schools and sculpture studios, with a student body of 3,000 youths.

With pedantic consistency and bestial brutality the Germans attempted to destroy every institution of Russian culture and science. After the Nazis were routed it was found that of the nine theaters in the Rostov Region only one remained intact; the others were reduced to heaps of rubble. Not a single cinema theater survived and nothing remained of the entire film library. The damages to film studios alone amounted to more than 15 million rubles.

After their liberation the people began literally to extricate all museum objects which could be salvaged from the ruins.

The Rostov Region was freed from the Germans one and one-half years ago. In this short period six dramatic theaters, two musical comedy theaters, the Red Army theater and the Children's Puppet Theater have been restored. The Regional Philharmonic Variety is again performing. Kio, Honored Artist of the Republic, plays to large and enthusiastic audiences on the summer circus grounds. One hundred and forty cinema theaters are serving the towns and large agricultural centers. By the end of the year there will be 170 more.

Splendid progress was revealed by the pupils of the Music Institute and four music schools at the end of their school year. In September new students will be enrolled at a drama studio and an additional music school.

ALLIED VICTORIES IN FRANCE

By Colonel M. Tolchenov

From PRAVDA August 24:

The offensive of the forces of our Allies in France is assuming an ever wider scope. The salient fact is that the Anglo-American and French troops outnumber the enemy and have superiority in armaments. Making the most of this advantage the Allied Command firmly maintains the initiative and confidently imposes its will on the enemy. As a result of the well-prepared and masterfully executed successive thrusts of the Allied Forces the situation of the German troops in France has become critical.

The focal point of hostilities in France is, as hitherto, in the north. The issue of the operation launched by General Montgomery, with the object of surrounding and wiping out the main forces of the German Seventh Army in the area west of Falaise and Argentan, is of extreme importance for the course of the entire campaign.

Judging by reports in the foreign press, part of the German forces, particularly their armored divisions, managed to extricate themselves and withdraw to the northeast.

The formations of the German Seventh Army that have managed to slip out of the ring will find their retreat in the direction of the Seine and to its right bank an extremely difficult task. Allied troops, thanks to the high degree of motorization, are much more mobile than the German troops. Besides, the continuous powerful blows which the Anglo-American Air Forces are delivering day and night make it practically impossible for the Germans to break contact with the pursuing troops.

It is also known that nearly all the bridges over the Seine, all the way from Paris to its mouth, were destroyed by Allied Air Forces in the period that preceded the invasion. And since the Allies are sure to take the utmost advantage of their still further increased superiority in the air, the Germans will hardly manage to withdraw to the right bank of the Seine without heavy losses.

Armored spearheads have driven for-

ward to outflank Paris and are threatening to cut the lines of communications leading to the northeast. The issue of the fight for Paris was predetermined by the successes of the Allies in Normandy and Brittany.

Apart from its enormous political and military significance the logical development of the liberation of Paris will be the advance of the Allies to the area of the Oise and Marne Rivers. This will, on the one hand, open the road for them through the northeastern provinces of France to the frontiers of Germany and, on the other hand, it will enable them to turn the flank of the German 15th Army which is defending the Channel coast in the Pas de Calais area. The events in northern France testify to the perplexity of the German command. The Germans expected the main blow of the Allied Forces to fall in the area of Caen and therefore weakened their left flank, which enabled the American formations to effect the break-through in Brittany. Even then the Germans failed to grasp the real meaning of the situation, and instead of withdrawing their troops from the area south of Caen launched a counter-attack in the direction of Avranches.

Nor did the Germans guess at the plans of the Allied Command when the front-line reached Chartres and Dreux. They took comfort in the fact that they managed to slow down the advance of the American troops toward Paris in the area of Rambouillet at the very time when General Patton's armored columns were flanking the French Capital from the north and south.

The following fact is also characteristic: On August 7 an official spokesman of the German high command told foreign correspondents that to all appearances Germany did not need to fear another landing by the Allies. As we know, a week after that statement, large Allied forces landed on the southern coast of France, and the landing was supported by the action of the largest formation of airborne troops ever employed.

In choosing points for the landing, the

Allied Command apparently took into consideration such favorable factors as the proximity of Anglo-American bases and French naval forces, the weakness of the enemy's coastal defenses and the opportunity to threaten France's major ports—Marseilles and Toulon. There was, furthermore, the desire to obtain the help of the French Armed Forces of the Interior that are particularly active in the southeastern provinces.

Nevertheless, the offensive from the Mediterranean coast, owing to the great distance of that front from Germany, could not have promised quick success unless it was supplementary to the large-scale operations in northern France. As it is, the operations in southern France make the job for General Montgomery's troops easier by tying up part of the German forces.

In southern France, Allied troops met with much feebleness of opposition from German troops than was the case in northern France.

In their effort to foil the landing operation of the Allies in Normandy the Germans rushed there troops from their other armies in France—for one thing, from the 19th Army which was to defend the Mediterranean coast. This enabled the Allied Forces in southern France to quickly get a sufficiently wide grip for the drive farther inland.

The German front in France has been slashed up, and several enemy armies have lost contact with each other. The hostilities are spreading to ever wider sections of France, thus blasting every hope which Hitler's Field Marshal Kluge may have entertained of using his available forces to create a stable front and to stem the Allied advance even if only for a time.

The scarcity of German forces in the West is the main strategic factor which determines the further prospects of the hostilities in France. The situation is auspicious for the Allied troops to act in line with General Eisenhower's statement of August 15 that when the enemy is stunned—that is the time to deal him ever heavier blows. That time has arrived.

On the Organization of Agriculture in Polish Liberated Territories

Mr. Andrzej Witos, Vice President and Director of the Department of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, has made the following statement:

One of the main tasks of the newly formed State Administration in the liberated territories of the Polish Republic is to organize the harvesting of this year's crop and the supply of food to towns and other urban settlements, as well as to the Polish Army and the troops of the Allied Red Army fighting for the liberation of Poland.

The prospects for this year's crop in the hitherto liberated territories of Poland are very good. Thanks to the speed of the offensive of the Soviet and Polish troops, many fields have not been damaged in the least by the hostilities. The Polish peasants have also managed to save their farm implements and livestock. The larger estates, both Polish and under German

management, have for the most part likewise preserved their farming machinery and livestock. In their hasty retreat the Germans simply had no time to destroy or evacuate grain stocks and agricultural implements and machines.

One of the first steps of the Department of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform was to establish State control over most of the estates and over peasant farms abandoned by the lawful owners. Here and there Polish peasants, without waiting for orders from the Central authorities, have organized such control on their own initiative, in order to prevent the misuse of State and private property. When the lawful owners return, their farms will be given back to them, provided they did not work with the Germans against the interests of their country.

The peasants are working with a will, gathering in the crops, fully realizing the

importance of producing food for the country. It goes without saying that we are meeting with difficulties, for there is a keenly felt shortage of hands and traction power in the countryside. To deal with this difficulty we are forming special groups of workers whom we are sending to the countryside to help the peasants gather in the harvest.

We have also come to an understanding whereby the Polish Army and the Allied Red Army will provide a sufficient number of horses and vehicles to meet current needs, as well as assign soldiers to help the farmers.

At present we are drawing up decrees and in a few days we will issue decisions providing for the organization of the land departments, appointment of district agronomists, etc. These measures are expected to normalize relations in the countryside and to contribute to the better organization of our agriculture.

ONE HUNDRED BROTHERS

By N. Zemskaya

Inna Bintege is one of the little girls being brought up in Kindergarten No. 26, sponsored by the Trekhgornaya textile mill of Moscow, where I am a teacher.

Inna's father, a textile worker, died fighting the German invaders. Her mother fell seriously ill and the little girl began to brood and would often give way to fits of sobbing. Last year as Red Army Day approached the children wrote special letters to their fathers at the front.

"I have no Daddy and no one to write to," Inna said sadly. I suggested we send a letter in her name to a soldier and that he would surely reply.

Soon a letter arrived from Lieutenant Alexander Kuksenok. "Don't you cry, Inna," he wrote, "from now on I am your brother, and as your brother I am sending your teacher money to buy holiday gifts for you. Be a good girl. Your loving brother, Alexander."

Thus began a regular flow of letters from Lieutenant Kuksenok. You should have seen how delighted Inna was with every postcard from the front.

Suddenly the letters ceased. Then, after a long time, another letter came for Inna. It was signed by some 100 soldiers and officers. They wrote that Lieutenant Kuksenok, her brother, had died a hero and that they, fulfilling his last wish, had all decided to be her brothers, as their fallen comrade had been. "Now you have many brothers, Inna," they concluded.

I have told little Inna's story in detail to illustrate how our people take the fate of our children to heart and how anxious they are to make them happy. Men who are complete strangers to Inna, who have never seen her in their lives, have become her adopted kin, eager to take the place of her father who gave his life at the front.

The gifts which the fighting men send to the children come from their hearts. To

us the children are our dearest possession. To be frank, only a short while ago my profession as kindergarten teacher seemed far too peaceful for me. I thought: everyone is fighting—some at the battlefield, others at their machines producing shells, planes and tanks for the front—while I am still doing what I did before the war. I was on the verge of abandoning the kindergarten and going to work at a war plant, where I thought I would be of greater service to the fighting men or would have something to show for my work.

What happened to little Inna, however, made me reconsider. I began to see how dear the children are to our men at the front. Are they not fighting so that Inna and other children like her may be happy, may be spared the griefs and hardships of war? All work is honorable in our country, and I have become deeply attached to my profession.

LUBLIN ANNIHILATION CAMP

By Konstantin Simonov

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA August 10, 11 and 12.

What I am now about to relate is too enormous and too gruesome to be fully conceived. There can be no doubt that jurists, physicians, historians and politicians will devote long studies to these terrible facts. And some time in the future, after a thorough and painstaking inquiry, the full immensity of this crime committed by the Germans against humanity will come to light. I myself am at present in possession of only a fraction of the facts; I have spoken to perhaps only 100 witnesses and maybe have seen only one-tenth of the traces of the crime. But a man who has seen what I have cannot hold his peace and cannot wait to speak. I want to tell today of the first discovered traces of the crime, from what I have heard these days and what I have seen with my own eyes.

* * *

At the end of 1940 several officers of the SS troops and some surveyors with their measuring chains came to a vast open space stretching to the right of the Chelm highway, two kilometers from the town of Lublin. A few days later practically the whole of the field, a huge area of 25 square kilometers, had been measured off. According to plans drawn up in the offices of the Gestapo, this area was divided into 16 large squares, in each of which 20 identical rectangles were indicated. The rectangles represented hutments, the squares were called fields or sectors, surrounded on all sides by barbed wire. The first of the plans bore a title which was subsequently obliterated, "Camp Dachau No. 2." The Gestapo had undertaken the construction near Lublin of a concentration camp of unprecedented dimensions, which as far as its system was concerned was the exact replica of the notorious camp at Dachau in Germany, but which exceeded it several times over in size.

Construction work began in the early months of 1941. At first the services of several Polish engineers and laborers were enlisted; they were later augmented by Polish and Jewish war prisoners captured

in the German-Polish war of 1939. These constituted the principal labor power. In August, 1941 the first thousand Russian war prisoners and civilians arrived to serve as laborers. By this time the first field or "first block," as the Germans called it, was already half built up, 10 of the hutments being completed.

The number of workers grew steadily. In the wake of the Russians arrived large contingents of Czech and Polish political prisoners and groups transferred from other camps where for the most part they had been confined since 1933. In the autumn of 1941 the first 2,000 Jews rounded up in the Lublin ghetto arrived. These were followed in December, 1941 by 700 Poles from the Lublin Castle. Then came 400 Polish peasants who had fallen behind in payment of taxes to the Germans. In April, 1942, 12,000 persons arrived. Jews and political prisoners arrived from Slovakia. All through May contingent after contingent was brought in from Czechia, Austria and Germany. All this time construction work proceeded at a high pitch of intensity and by May 1 the second, third and fourth hutments were completed. They were calculated to accommodate 40,000 persons.

May, 1942, marked the completion of the first stage in the history of the camp. It was a period of feverish building, aim-

ing at increasing the total accommodation. Now that hutments for 40,000 persons and main, subsidiary and special buildings had been erected, now that everything had been surrounded by double rows of barbed wire, most of it electrified, the Gestapo decided the camp could start operation. It continued to be enlarged further—and would have expanded endlessly if Lublin had not been captured by the Red Army—but the rate of progress was now slowed.

From May onward building operations proceeded gradually and unhurriedly and all sorts of perfections were introduced. In May too this camp, which was named in official documents the "Lublin concentration camp of the SS troops" began to be referred to in unofficial documents and letters and orally as the "Fernichtungslager (annihilation) camp."

Two kilometers outside of Lublin in an open field lying to the right of the Chelm highway, the Germans had built the largest "death factory" in Europe, the purpose of which was to annihilate the largest number of war prisoners and political prisoners as simply, expeditiously and economically as possible. Its organization was exemplary in all respects, and while all the elements forming a part of the system of the Lublin annihilation camp might be found in other German



Radiophoto

AT THE LUBLIN ANNIHILATION CAMP—Citizens mourn beside a huge pit filled with bodies of victims slain by the Germans

death factories, nowhere were these inventions of German fiendishness represented so fully and completely.

We are familiar with the institutions in Sabibur and Bezhetsa, where the doomed victims were brought by a narrow gauge railway to a deserted field in a remote spot, and there shot and cremated. We are familiar with the camps in Dachau and Oswecim and the "Gross Lazaret" in Slavuta where war prisoners and political prisoners were gradually exterminated by maltreatment, starvation and disease.

All these elements were combined in the Lublin annihilation camp. Here in the hutments lived tens of thousands of prisoners who were constantly building, rebuilding and perfecting their prison. Here there were thousands of war prisoners who from the autumn of 1942 were not allowed to work and were put on an even smaller ration than the other prisoners and who died at a terrible rate from hunger and disease. Here there were fields where thousands and tens of thousands of persons were burned on funeral pyres or in furnaces after having been kept in the camp for only a few hours or days, depending on the size of the contingent—just long enough to be searched and stripped naked. Here there were types of "murder vans," as well as solidly built concrete casemates where victims were asphyxiated by "cyclone" gas. Here bodies were burned in the most primitive method of ancient India; a row of logs and a row of corpses, then another row of logs and another row of corpses, but also in simply constructed furnaces shaped like large cauldrons, as well as in perfected furnaces for blitz cremation. Here people were shot in ditches or killed with a blow of an iron rod which broke their necks. Here people were drowned in artificial ponds or hanged on gallows of different types, from a simple gibbet with a crossbar to an up-to-date portable scaffold furnished with pulleys and a flywheel. This was a regular death factory where the size of the daily slaughterings was regulated by two factors: by the number of people entering the camp and by the amount of labor power needed for the never-ending construction work.

Precise figures will no doubt be ascer-

tained later. But certain preliminary data can be computed now. Altogether the camp functioned for over three years. When the Red Army came to Lublin it found in the camp only a few hundred Russians. According to statements of witnesses, when the Red Army was approaching Kovel the Germans evacuated from the camp 12,000 to 16,000 prisoners. Even if we take the higher figure of 16,000, the total number of prisoners in the camp when it terminated its existence was less than 17,000. On the other hand, the average number of prisoners in the camp in 1943 as revealed by the daily records of the administration was about 40,000, with fluctuations of only a few thousand above and below that figure.

However, if we take the total number of persons who entered the camp in the three years and more of its existence and compare it with the 17,000 who were there at the end, we get a difference of several hundred thousand. This, roughly, corresponds to the number of persons slaughtered in the camp itself, not counting those who passed through it on their way to death without being registered as prisoners. These figures are taken from official reports of the camp administration throughout the period of its existence.

* * *

When I spoke of the arrivals of prisoners in the early stages of the building of the camp, I stopped at May, 1942. In April and May, 1942 large contingents of Jews from Lublin and the surrounding ghettos began to arrive. During that summer another 18,000 were brought in from Slovakia and Czechia. In July, 1942 the first party of Poles accused of guerrilla activities arrived. There were 1,500 in this first batch alone. That same month a large contingent of political prisoners came from Germany. In December, 1942 several thousand Jews and Greeks were transferred to the Lublin camp from the camp in Oswecim near Cracow. On January 17, 1943, 1,500 Polish men and 400 Polish women arrived from Warsaw. On February 2, 950 Poles came from Lvov and 4,000 Poles and Ukrainians from Taloma and Tarnopol. In May, 1943 a contingent of 60,000 arrived from the Warsaw ghetto.

All through the summer and autumn

of 1943, at intervals of a few days, fresh transports—not one of them consisting of less than a thousand persons—poured in from all the principal German camps: Achsenhausen, Dachau, Flossenburg, Neuhammer, Grossenrosen and Buchenwald. It was at once recognizable where the newcomers were from; each camp had its own distinguishing marks. At Oswecim, for example, it was the custom to shave the heads of all prisoners including women and not to hang their identification number from their necks, but to cauterize it on their hands. Arrivals from Buchenwald could not stand sunlight. In a branch of that camp called "Dora" there was an underground factory where the notorious secret weapon, the V-1 robot bomb, was made. Only Slavs, chiefly Poles and Russians, were employed there. They were never allowed up to the surface, and after six months of work underground their sight became so feeble that the Germans sent them in batches to the annihilation camp in Lublin.

I have enumerated only a few figures and named only a few camps. I have not attempted to make a full computation of the number of persons killed, but only to paint part, at least, of the picture. To this a few words should be added regarding the national composition of prisoners. The largest proportion of those who met their death in the camp were Poles. They included hostages, guerrillas (real or imaginary), and relatives of guerrillas and a huge number of peasants—largely peasants evicted from areas which were being colonized by Germans.

Next to the Poles came large numbers of Russians and Ukrainians. Equally immense was the number of Jews who were brought to the camp to be exterminated, literally from all countries of Europe—from Poland to Holland. Then come impressive figures of Frenchmen, Italians, Dutch and Greeks, each numbering several thousand. Less, but nevertheless substantial, were the numbers of Belgians, Serbs, Croats, Hungarians and Spaniards (the latter evidently from among the Republicans who were seized in France). Furthermore, among the personal papers of the victims were found some belonging to the most varied nationalities: Norwegians, Swiss, Turks and even Chinese.

A Gruesome Pile of Documents

In one of the rooms of the camp offices—the floor of which is literally carpeted with documents, passports and identification papers of the victims—in the course of ten minutes I picked up at random papers belonging to the nationals of practically every country in Europe. There was the passport of Sofia Dusevich, of the village of Konstantinovka, Kiev Region, a Ukrainian working woman born in 1917; a passport stamped "Republique Francaise," Eugene Durame, French metal worker, born in Havre, September 22, 1888; a certificate issued by an elementary school in Banja, Luka Adralo Zunic, Moslem, with the mark "Dobar" (good) for "conduct in natural science and penmanship;" a passport issued January 2, 1941 in Croatia to Jatiranovik, born in Zagreb; a passport of Jakob Borghardt, born in Rotterdam, November 10, 1918; identification paper of Eduard Allredsak, born 1914, in Milan at No. 29 Via Plimo, "height 175 centimeters, stout build, no distinguishing marks;" identification paper No. 8544 issued to a Greek named Savaranti, of Crete; a German passport issued to Ferdinand Lotmann, an engineer from Berlin, born August 19, 1872; a labor book stamped "General Government" belonging to Zygmunt Remak, a Polish worker born March 20, 1924 in Cracow; a Chinese document with a photograph and hieroglyphics which I could not decipher.

Here were documents smeared with blood and stained by water, torn in halves and trampled underfoot. This gruesome pile of documents was a grave mound of the whole of Europe compressed within four walls.

It is hard even to foretell what a nightmare of details will be revealed by a thorough study of these documents and examination of numerous witnesses. Maybe the fate will be elucidated of some of the greatest men in Europe who have disappeared during the years of German rule.

I spent only a few days in the camp and spoke to only a small fraction of the witnesses which are available. But even in this short period I hit upon a staggering fact. Two Lublin engineers who were employed in the camp as hired civilian experts when the drainage system was being

installed, a Russian named Pyotr Denisov and a Pole named Claudius Jelinski, told me among other things that at the end of April or the beginning of May, 1943, they met in the building yard of the camp of Lublin a Jew whom they both knew.

The prisoner worked carrying planks. He pointed out to them a decrepit old man who was also carrying planks and asked, "Do you know who that old fellow is? That's Leon Blum."

Seeing there were no SS men nearby the two engineers approached the old man and the following conversation took place:

"Are you Leon Blum?" Denisov asked. "Yes, I am." "Prime Minister of France?" "Yes." "How did you get here?" "I was brought here with the last batch of French prisoners." "Why didn't you try to escape in France? Surely you could have done so, couldn't you?" asked Denisov.

"Perhaps I could, I don't know; but I decided to share the fate of my people," Leon Blum replied and his eyes filled with tears.

At this juncture some SS men appeared on the scene. Blum and another man hastily lifted a heavy plank and moved away. After taking a few paces he stumbled and fell. One of the prisoners helped him rise to his feet. He lifted the plank again and tottered away.

A week elapsed before Denisov and Jelinski visited the building yard again. They again saw the man who had pointed out Leon Blum to them and asked him where he was now. He replied laconically, "Where I'll be myself soon," and pointed to the sky.

This is only one fact about this death camp, a stubborn fact corroborated in all details by the two witnesses who are today in Lublin. What awful discoveries affecting the fate of people from all walks of life and from all corners of Europe will come to light when all the evidence is delved into and all living witnesses interrogated?

* * *

As you drive along the highway from Chelm, on the right, about 300 meters from the road, loom the outlines of a regular city: hundreds of low gray-roofed buildings arranged in precise rows and divided by barbed-wire fences. It is a largish town which could accommodate tens of thousands of people. You turn off



Radiophoto

Rows of bodies of prisoners shot by the Germans. Many of the corpses were dug up and burned in furnaces before the Red Army reached Lublin

the road and drive through a gateway in a barbed-wire fence, past rows of neat huts with trim front gardens in which stand rustic armchairs and benches. These were the quarters of the SS Guards and officers. There too is the "Soldatenheim," a smallish hut which served as a brothel for the guards. Women were selected exclusively from the prisoners and as soon as any one of them became pregnant she was sent to be annihilated.

Then come the sheds in which the clothing taken from prisoners was disinfected. The disinfecting substance was introduced into them through pipes which run through the roofs and ceilings. These pipes were then stopped up and the doors hermetically sealed. The sheds, with their walls of rough planks and doors without reinforcement, are built too flimsily to suggest that they might have been used for any other purpose than to disinfect clothes.

But we open a door and find ourselves in another disinfecting chamber which is

built on an entirely different principle. It is a square room, a little over two meters high and roughly six meters long and as many wide. The walls, ceiling and floor are all built of solid gray concrete. There are no shelves for clothes here such as we saw in the other chamber. The room is absolutely bare. A single large steel door hermetically closes the entrance to the chamber. It can be fastened from the outside by an impressive steel bar. In the walls of this concrete vault are three apertures. In two of them pipes are fitted which lead out into the open. The third aperture is a spy hole, a small square window barred on the inside by a stout steel grid fitted into the concrete. A thick panel of glass covers the outer side of the aperture so that it cannot be reached through the grid.

What is on the other side of this spy hole? To answer this question we leave the chamber and find that next to it is another and smaller room, also built of concrete. It is into this room that the spy hole leads. Here there is an electric switch. And here too, on the floor, stand several hermetically sealed cylindrical tins on which is inscribed the word "cyclone" and in smaller letters "for special use in Eastern regions." It was the contents of these tins which was poured through the pipes into the chamber next door after it had been filled with people.

Prisoners Gassed by Trained Operators

The people were stripped naked before they were pushed into the room and they were packed so tight they occupied little space. In these 40 square meters or so 250 persons were jammed at one time. The steel door was closed upon them and its edges sealed with clay. Then specially trained operators wearing gas masks poured the "cyclone" out of the cylindrical tins into the chamber. The small bluish innocent-looking crystals, on contact with the oxygen of the air, immediately began to generate poisonous gases which simultaneously affect all centers of the human organism.

An SS man of the commanding squad turned on a switch in the next room illuminating the poison chamber and through the spy hole watched all stages of the asphyxiation, which according to

various witnesses lasted from two to 10 minutes. He could safely watch the action of the gases and the faces of the dying. The spy hole was set into the wall at roughly the height of a human face. He had no need to look down, for the people were packed so close they did not fall as they died, but continued in an upright position.

Incidentally, "cyclone" really is a disinfecting substance. It was actually used for the disinfection of clothes in neighboring sheds. Everything seemed fair and above-board. It all depended on the dose which was poured into the chambers.

We move on a few hundred paces and come to a vacant site where, judging by all the signs, some sort of structure once stood. And indeed, until the autumn of last year there was a crematorium here. That autumn another and more highly perfected crematorium which I shall describe later was completed and this one was dismantled. Built primitively, its capacity was too small and in fact far below the capacity of the well-conceived and perfected gas chamber.

This crematorium was nothing but a large shed with a cement floor, where on brick foundations were erected two huge steel boilers arranged longitudinally. They cremated the bodies far too slowly. True, it was not expected that they could completely reduce the corpses to ashes, but it took at least two hours for the bodies to fall apart into charred bones. Two furnaces could handle 14 bodies simultaneously.

In other words, the crematorium could not incinerate more than 150 bodies per day, whereas the gas chamber could dispose of about 300 persons per day, even with one "gassing," as they call it here.

Consequently, before the new crematorium was built, on days when large numbers of persons were exterminated, part of the bodies were removed in trucks to a field outside the camp and there buried.

The fence surrounding the camp consists of two rows of posts four meters high, strung with barbed wire which on the top juts out to form a horizontal screen. Between the two rows there is a two-meter space in which a third row of wire is strung diagonally from the top of the first row to the bottom of the other. The wires are fitted with insulators and

carried a current powerful enough to kill a man, thus precluding all possibility of escape.

Originally the fence was built as it is now, with an intermediate row of wire, but it was not electrified. What induced the Germans to electrify it was the following episode: In May, 1942 a party of 17 Russian war prisoners, who had been sent to the Krembrecki forest near the camp to bury persons who had been shot, killed seven of the German guards with spades and ran away. Two of them were caught and the other 15 escaped. Thereupon 130 war prisoners remaining in the camp (all that were left of 1,000 brought here in August, 1942) were transferred to the block where other prisoners were confined.

One evening toward the end of June some of the Russian war prisoners, seeing they would inevitably perish if they stayed, decided to escape.

Collecting all available blankets and laying five of them one on top of each other they formed a sort of bridge across the barbed wire and got away. The night was dark and only four of them were shot; the rest managed to escape. The 50 Russians who remained in the camp were immediately led out and laid on the ground and shot with tommy guns. The Germans did not stop there. They hastily electrified the fences of four out of the five blocks. In the fifth women were confined and it was hardly to be expected that they could escape, and this block was not electrified.

(To be concluded in next issue)

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

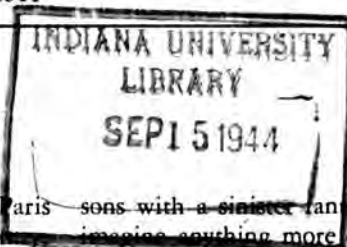
Vol. IV, No. 98

Washington, D. C., September 1, 1944

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PARIS

By Ilya Ehrenburg



It has come to pass! The banner of freedom is again waving over smoke-colored Paris. The city which like a ship was wafted through the centuries has broken through the ice to re-enter history.

It is beloved by all the peoples; and pronouncing the soft-sounding name . . . Paris . . . each in his own way, the people of far-off regions see the stones of the Bastille, the chestnuts in blossom, the skilled workwomen, the street vendors as colorful as birds and eloquent as Cicero, the hall of the Louvre with its armless goddess, the blue blouses of the *ouvriers* . . . the proletarians who gave unstintingly of their blood on the barricades of two centuries . . . the Egyptian Obelisk, the bronze statue of Voltaire, the terraces of cafés where before pale blue syphons people indulge in dreams . . . young wine in pitchers and old liberty, paper lanterns and the face of dear Margot in an attic window amid thrushes and stars, singing dreamily . . . "Paris my village" . . . village of the world, granary of the centuries, hive of the muses, nest of freedom . . . Paris, you breathe freely once again!

Paris is more than Paris. Not in vain were Hitler's hordes reveling that day in June when with a clatter of boots, with roaring laughter and noise they swept down the Champs Elysees. They extinguished the lights of Paris as lights are extinguished in the night. They clutched the heart of France as a callous murderer grips a singing bird.

Having broken into Paris they took it for granted that the black delirium of the Berlin beershops, the fanaticism of the Nuremberg executioners and the fitful ravings of the Fuehrer were coming true. "What is Europe without Paris?" they were asking at that time.

Indeed, it is more than Paris, this ancient Paris. Like a tree which has over-

grown the fence around the orchard, Paris has outgrown the borders of the country, and it is not only the French who are rejoicing today.

Paris is free! This phrase is today on the lips of the people of Mexico and China, of Oslo and Lubljany. Endless miles away from the plane trees of the Parc Monceau a girl student of the city of Tomsk, where autumn is already shaking the leaves from the trees, says "Paris is free!" Preserved in the library of Tomsk are rare books and manuscripts, annals of the great city.

Fifteen hundred days without laughter and fifteen hundred nights without sleep. . . . Four times the chestnut trees blossomed and shed their blossoms on the boulevards of Paris . . . but no one delighted in it. The moon was born and died fifty times, but no one admired it. Even for per-

sons with a sinister fantasy, it is hard to imagine anything more cruel and savage than the presence of the Germans in Paris.

In the hall where the Convention sessions were held, where the lofty words, "You are a citizen of the world!" rang for the first time, the evil and superstitious Rosenberg raved about the superiority of the German skull. The Sorbonne, city of medieval scholars, refuge of science, home of Lavoisier, Arago and Pasteur, resounded with the neighing, barking and croaking of Goebbels' charges.

In the place where the great Rachel recited the Marseillaise in the days of civil storms, morose beer brewers, their stomachs swollen from boiled potatoes and their hearts from haughtiness, yelled "Heil Hitler!" Heine and Uspensky once shed tears of happiness before the Venus de Milo. And now the slobbering hyenas,



Cinema actress Zoya Fedorova, known for her work in *The Girl From Leningrad*, visits Red Army men at the front

the *fraus* of the *rotenfuehrers* and mistresses of the *gauleiters*, fought over a pair of stockings or a piece of lipstick.

Even before the fall of Paris I always received a shock at the sight of Hitler's face; it looked disgraceful to me; I couldn't understand the absent-mindedness of nature, which alone could explain this paltry and at the same time disgusting mask of the self-satisfied murderer with his mustache and forelock.

But it was only in Paris where the vistas of the city, the stony cypresses of Notre Dame, the shining surface of the Seine dotted with lights, the sunsets and statues, the twilight and the streets where the paintings of De la Croix, Courbet, Manet and Renoir conveyed to everyone the fullness, color and beauty of the world, the sweetness and softness of granite and pink warm flesh . . . only in this city, when I saw Hitler's portraits on the walls, did I realize how disgusting his face is. It is a mask with which she-baboons should frighten their entirely shameless offspring.

And he dared to come to Paris . . . this reptile; he promenaded through the streets, posed for photographers, scratched himself and giggled. The streets of Moscow were washed with water after the German prisoners were convoyed through them. How much blood is needed to wash away from the streets of Paris the traces of Hitler, Himmler, Stuepnagel, Rosenberg and hundreds of thousands of other perfumed and ill-smelling creatures, all this greasy carrion? . . .

The Paris of the "Declaration of the Rights of Man" was invaded by a people who think that a blond has a right to poison the swarthy-complexioned with gas, that love means the mating of individuals with similar chins, that the roses of the Ile de France were meant for the boots of a *Herr Stabfeldwebel*, that books were created to be burned and justice to be humiliated.

Was it for this that Robespierre spoke of reason? Was it for this that Racine's harmony was meant? Was it for this that the *sans culottes* proclaimed "Liberty or Death!" . . . was it for this that tyrants trembled before Hugo's poems? For this that Belinsky and Herzen admired the magnanimity of the people of Paris? For this that the martyrs of the Commune,

those scouts of mankind, laid down their lives? For this that France and the world created Paris?

I remember how as a lad I was walking through the quiet street of Marie-Rose to see Lenin. I want to recall Lenin's love for Paris. Lenin knew that it was not enough to calculate and organize, but that there must be fiery hearts and daring. When the Germans came to Paris I wandered into Marie-Rose. I saw there one reptile—I don't remember his rank; *feldwebel* or corporal; he walked down the street smiling contentedly.

No! Paris was not meant for his kind! Bound arm and leg, the city did not reconcile itself; half-dead, it was not silenced.

I wrote a novel, *The Fall of Paris*. I now envision another book, "The Revival of Paris" . . . the author will begin it not with the day when Paris is rejoicing in its triumph; he will begin it with that day in June when the disgusting invaders entered the deserted city which was so unlike itself. He will tell about the cellars where barrels of fragrant wine were once kept and where the people printed leaflets, assembled grenades and produced mines. He will tell about the narrow streets of Belleville and Menil Montant, where frail Parisian women killed Prussian grenadiers. He will tell about the backyards where the pale dawn found the lifeless bodies of the conquerors.

He will tell about the prisons of Sante, Fresnes and Roquette, about the dungeons of the Gestapo and the secret police, where the fascists torturers drove nails into the bodies of their victims, gouged out their eyes; he will tell about the executions on vacant lots in the Orleans and Vincennes suburbs, in the dim light of the rising day; about the young men and women who bade good-bye to life and Paris. He will tell about the Deputy Gabriel Peri who before his execution gave his blessing to liberty, and about 12-year-old Hamel, who when put against the wall by the Germans cried out, "You can kill me, but you can't kill Paris!"

He will tell about that scorching day in August when Paris emerged from the underground, from the cellars and backyards.

On Friday, August 18, clashes began between the patriots and the Germans. The Allied Armies were approaching the Cap-

ital from the west and south. Paris did not wait. It did not want liberty to be presented to it as a gift; it wrested freedom from the hands of the jailers.

Who knows how hard it is to die on the threshold of happiness, on the day or hour before liberation? But Paris plunged into battle. Saturday, August 19, the Committee of Resistance issued the order for the uprising. The workers declared a general strike. An unprecedented battle began between the people of Paris and the German army.

The battle lasted a week; it was a severe battle. Its faint echo reached beyond the borders. Guns already roared a salute in Beirut and flags waved in London, but fighting still raged violently in Paris. It shifted from one district to another, from the center to the outskirts and again to the center. The blood of Paris was flowing—but Paris was not discouraged, again and again storming the buildings held by the Germans.

The first reports from Paris speak of places which were scenes of the most violent fighting. I know every house there, every stone, and it seems to me I can see those battles. German tanks clattered down the broad avenues from the Orleans gates to Sevastopol Boulevard. A battle was fought on Denfert-Rochereau, near the monument to the defense of Belfort: the stone-hewn lion there, wrathful and proud, recalls the courage of the French who did not surrender to the Prussians. There was heavy fighting in the center of the Latin Quarter on the Boulevard Saint Michel. In one day the insurgents crippled eleven German tanks.

Battles were fought in the Place de Republique, and the Place de Bastille, where Parisians built barricades just as their grandfathers and their fathers had done before them. On the outskirts, railwaymen tore up the tracks. Women showered the Germans with stones. There was one hour when the soul of the city found itself in its most ancient part, on the Isle de la Cite, near Notre Dame de Paris, where angels rub shoulders with chimeras.

On the last day fighting was still in progress in the center of the city, at the Opera, the Avenue Matin and the Tuileries Gardens. A French Tank Division under the command of General le Clerc entered Paris from the south. The tank-

men joined the insurgents. Finally the Germans yielded: General Wlaskowitz, commander of the German troops, surrendered to General de Gaulle, General le Clerc and Colonel Rol, commander of the insurgents. This happened at the railway station of Montparnasse, the artists' quarter.

Paris had won the victory!

It was one of the greatest events of our era; the people of Paris liberated themselves. Thereby they raised the importance of France and affirmed the grandeur of her people. Let all those who want to humiliate people, who think that the people is a babe, remember these days of August. Paris did not wait for international tribunals; it meted out justice to the German executioners in its streets.

The Germans resisted for a long time, determined to hold Paris at all costs. Threats emanated from Berlin: "The unwise action of the Parisians will lead to the destruction of the city." But the uprising swelled like the surf of the sea; hundreds of thousands of insurgents marched to the attack on the second Bastille.

Will we ever forget how the Germans surrendered to Paris? These super-motorized hereditary conquerors were ousted by the workers of Renault and Citroen, by girl students and milliners, steel workers, florists and housewives, the most peaceful French citizens who at one time indulged in fishing, sports and card games.

The liberation of Paris is the liberation of France. Soon after the liberation of the Capital the weavers of Lyon liberated their native city. Allied troops are advancing toward Nancy. They have reached the Swiss border. Isolated German units and stragglers have been encircled by the French patriots.

For four years the Germans have been referring to France as a "restful place." France has become for them a place of eternal rest.

Laval and his gang hid in Belfort. This choice was determined not by heroic reminiscences but by geography. Belfort is within a stone's throw of both Switzerland and Germany. It is hardly worth while spending fuel: the French people will find traitors even on the summits of the Alps and in the drainage pipes of Berlin.

On August 26 the world heard Paris: the Paris radio broadcast France's first communique. The silence had lasted fifty months, and mankind painfully hearkened to this silence. Paris regained its voice.

I don't know whether I will have the fortune to write "The Revival of Paris." At present I want to recall something else: The battle for Paris was in progress not only in the streets of the Capital, not only in Savoy and Normandy . . . Paris was freed by the good will of all people, all soldiers of freedom. And filing through the streets of liberated Paris today, along with the insurgents, with the regiments of the Allied Armies, are the shadows of the fighters of great battles—from the soldiers of Bir-Hakeim to the soldiers of Stalingrad.

Yes, those Germans who four years ago reached the Seine, met their death on the Volga and on the Dnieper, the Dniester and the Niemen. Russia does not like to pay lip service to love, but Russia can love. Fighting for the freedom of its country the Red Army saved the freedom of the world. And the people who had long ago learned to love Paris, helped Paris to become Paris again. Many of our men once breathed the air of Paris: Karamzin and the Decembrists, Belinsky and Herzen, Turgenev, Saltykov-Shchedrin and Uspensky, revolutionaries and scientists, Mechnikov, the poets Bryusov and Mayakovsky, the Bolsheviks . . . Lenin.

For three years we have been destroying the reptiles who dared encroach upon the honor of Russia and who desecrated France. Should my French friends ask me whether I can picture the battles of Paris I will reply: "I have seen those battles in Rzhev and Kastornaya, in Byelorussia and Lithuania."

The French know that the battles in the East were also battles for France. It is no accident that French airmen are fighting on our front. Their courage was commended in an Order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief issued in connection with the crossing of the Niemen. They will read the news of the liberation of Paris in the interim between two battles. Their hearts are now in Paris and that is why they are smashing the Germans over East Prussia. They know that Paris does not stand still. Paris is marching . . . Paris is marching on Berlin.

The "wine of honor"—this is how the French call the wine served in honor of welcome guests. But it is not wine that liberty wants—but the blood of the *boches*—not flowers but grenades. In 1940 General de Gaulle said, "France has lost a battle, but France has not lost the war."

"The battle is won," says Paris today. "We must win the war." The time is past when France was compared with the sleeping beauty which must be awakened with a kiss. Marianne has no time for kisses now: she is fighting, bloodstained from head to toe. Her armies are advancing in the provinces and on the Ile de France. Her guerrillas are taking city after city by storm. France is marching like a soldier. France understands that if she does not go to Berlin, the Germans will again come to Paris.

In the north of France miners' wives are singing the lullaby, "Sleep, My Little Bird." Must every generation hear the melody of this cradle song broken by the yelping of Prussian soldiers? Can the vines of Alsace never ripen? Is the Meuse flowing especially for the Germans to cross it?

Ancient Arras was destroyed in 1916; I was amid its ruins at that time. It was restored just before the new invasion . . . and in 1940 I saw the ruins of the new Arras. Is it to be restored again, to become a target for new "Berthas" or super-fraus? No, Paris wants to live and Paris is marching against Berlin.

The liberation of Paris will resound like a death knell in Germany. The Germans see that they cannot hold out anywhere. Losing Byelorussia and Lithuania they said, "We will retain France." Losing Brittany they said, "We will hold out in Lithuania." But the Red Army is on the border of Prussia. "We will retain Jassy," they shouted. But they lost Rumania as well.

When the Germans broke into Paris Hitler ordered all the bells set a-ringing; Germany resounded with a triumphant ringing of bells. "For whom are the bells tolling today?" the Germans ask one another. For the generals? For the regiments in Normandy? For the divisions in Poland?

No, the bells are tolling today for Germany, for Cologne, for Koenigsberg, for Berlin.

MESSAGE OF SOVIET WOMEN'S ANTI-FASCIST MEETING

The Fourth Soviet Women's Anti-fascist Meeting was held in Moscow on August 20. Among those participating were Sonya Aarteje, Estonian guerrilla; Podporucik Madalinska, on behalf of the Polish women soldiers; Irina Bulygina, a foreman of the Kirov plant, Leningrad; Alexandra Boiko, woman tankist from the formation commanded by Major General of Tank Troops Sakhno; Alexandra N. Zakharova, of the guerrillas of Byelorussia; Major Evdokia Bershanskaya, of the Soviet Air Force; Natalia Uzhvii, People's Actress of the USSR; Maria A. Kopeikina, Chairman of the Path of Lenin collective farm; Anastasia Kuzmina, an engineer of the Stalin works; Davoryanka Paunovic, Yugoslav girl guerrilla; Anna Shubina, a weaver from Ivanovo; Nadezhda F. Ryazanova, a mechanical engineer from the Urals machine-building works, Sverdlovsk, and Colonel Valentina Grizodubova, of the Soviet Air Force. Following are excerpts from the message addressed by the meeting to the women of all freedom-loving countries:

Women of the freedom-loving countries! The war still continues, the blood of peaceful people is still being spilled, the German butchers still hold a knife to the throats of our children, the crematorium ovens in which their bodies will be burned are still kept going.

Women, mothers, sisters! Devote all your strength to the sacred war against Hitlerism!

Women of Great Britain! We have great respect for your self-sacrificing labor and the courage with which you are bearing the results of the barbaric attack of the German flying bombs. For the sake of the safety of your hearth and home, for the sake of the security of the world, increase the help you are giving your husbands, fathers and brothers fighting in France, Italy and on other fronts.

Women of the United States of America! Relatives and friends of many of you are fighting in Europe. Far across the ocean under the banners of the United Nations they are defending the liberty and independence of their country—your liberty, your life. It is your duty, day by day, to increase and extend the part you are playing in the war.

Women of Yugoslavia! Comrades-in-arms! We admire your magnificent deeds in the great struggle which you are waging under the leadership of your famous Marshal Tito. May the ranks of the People's Army of Liberation grow. Deal ruthlessly with the Hitlerites. Destroy them like mad wolves. Behind every boulder in your mountains, on every road, every path, in every house, let the German find nothing but death!

Women of Poland! The day of your complete liberation is approaching. The Red Army together with the Polish troops has already driven the Germans

from a large part of your country. Follow the glorious example of your Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Yugoslav sisters in the guerrilla columns. Annihilate the Germans wherever you find them; blow up their stores, railways and trains. Disrupt their communications; do not let them drive the civilians away from their homes. Fan the menacing flames of guerrilla warfare. Your self-sacrificing struggle is being led by the Polish National Council and the Polish Committee of National Liberation! Flock to their banner, which bears the slogan for a strong, independent, democratic Poland.

Women of Czechoslovakia! The threatening tread of the Red Army, the

fraternal army of liberation, can already be heard in the Carpathians! Side by side with the soldiers of the Red Army your husbands and brothers who are fighting gallantly in the Czechoslovak National Units are coming to you. Our peoples are bound together by ties of blood and ties of eternal friendship! Help the heroic fighters of your people to take vengeance for Lidice. Wipe out the invaders; prepare for the last decisive battle for the liberty and happiness of Czechoslovakia!

Women of France! At all times in the fight for the liberty and happiness of your people you have marched boldly side by side with your brothers and fathers, and today we speak with pride of the great deeds of the patriotic French women. France, unsubjugated, will arise out of the fires of battles. Increase the Army of the Interior! Give every help to the advancing Anglo-American troops!

Women of Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Holland and Greece! Arise in active struggle against the fascist oppressors. The day is drawing near when your countries will be rid of slavery and torment. Sabotage the work of the war industries and transport. Reply to oppression by subversive activity, by further development of guerrilla warfare.

Women of all liberty-loving countries! Since the war began the number of women anti-fascists in all countries has increased; our solidarity has grown greater. In the united anti-fascist front we go forward confidently to victory. Let us muster all our forces for the final rout and destruction of the enemy.

Long live the fighting unity of the women of all liberty-loving countries in the struggle against the enemy of all mankind—against German fascism!

Death to the fascist invaders!



Lieutenant Anna Yegorova, famous Stormovik pilot, has been at the front since the beginning of the war. She has been decorated with two Orders of the Red Star and the Medal for Valor

LUBLIN ANNIHILATION CAMP—Part II

By Konstantin Simonov

We reached another auxiliary block. It is less carefully fenced off than the living blocks. That is not surprising, for only dead or semi-dead were brought here, or persons who were to be killed here, and they were escorted by a heavy guard. Behind this fence nobody but the SS men and the crematorium operators lived more than an hour. In the middle of an empty field we see a tall square brick smokestack rising from a low rectangular brick building. This is the crematorium. It has been preserved intact, just as it was built.

A little farther on are the remains of a large brick structure. In the few hours that elapsed from the time the news was received that the Red Army had broken through and the time our troops arrived, the German camp personnel tried to obliterate the traces of their crimes. They had no time to blow up the crematorium, but they set fire to the auxiliary building. Nevertheless, all evidences remain. The air is filled with an overpowering stench of decaying bodies.

The auxiliary building of the crematorium consists of three principal chambers. One of them is filled with semi-charred clothing. These were clothes belonging to the last contingent of victims and had not yet been removed. Of the next chamber, only part of one wall remains standing. Into this wall are fitted several pipes smaller in diameter than those we saw in the gas chamber. This was also a gas chamber in which asphyxiation was also practiced (whether with "cyclone" or some other gas has not yet been ascertained). On days when the slaughter was unusually heavy and the main gas chamber could not cope with the job, a proportion of the victims were brought here to be gassed. The third and largest chamber was evidently where the corpses were stacked, awaiting their turn to be incinerated. The entire floor is covered with charred skeletons, skulls and bones. This was not the result of deliberate cremation, but of the fire; when the Germans set fire to the third chamber the bodies lying in it were burned. There may have been scores of them, or hundreds, it is hard to say—for it is impossible to

count this inextricable mixture of charred bones and fragments of scorched flesh.

It is only a few steps to the crematorium itself. It is a large rectangular building, built of highly resistant firebrick. It contains five brick furnaces arranged one alongside the other, with round, hermetically-closing iron doors which now stand open. The deep furnaces are half-filled with incinerated vertebrae and ashes. In a space in front of each furnace lie skeletons which were made ready by the Germans for cremation. Those in front of three of the furnaces are skeletons of men and women; those in front of the other two the skeletons of children of 10 and 12, to judge by their size. There are five or six skeletons in front of each furnace. This indicates their capacity. Each furnace was built to accommodate six bodies. If the six bodies would not fit into the crematorium the operators hacked off the protruding parts of the body, an arm, a leg or a head, and then hermetically closed the door.

There are five furnaces in all. They could handle a large number of bodies daily. Originally they incinerated a corpse in 45 minutes, but gradually by raising the temperature in the furnaces the Germans doubled the handling capacity of the crematorium and incinerating process; instead of 45 minutes they took 25 and even less. Experts have already examined the fireproof brick from which the furnaces are built and conclude from the deformations and changes to which it has been subjected that the temperature in the furnaces exceeded 1,500 degrees Centigrade. Additional evidence is furnished by the cast-iron dampers, which have also been deformed and have slightly melted.

If we reckon on an average that each batch of bodies took half an hour to cremate, and if we bear in mind, as is generally testified, that since the autumn of 1943 smoke poured from the crematorium chimney-stack incessantly, day and night, we may conclude that the total capacity of the crematorium was 1,400 bodies per day.

The need for the crematorium was

largely determined by the Katyn forest affair. Fearing further exposure from the excavation of pits in which they buried their victims, the Germans in the autumn of 1943 undertook extensive exhumations on the territory of the Lublin camp. They dug up the semi-decayed bodies of people they had shot from an enormous number of pits around the camp and burned them in the crematorium so as to obliterate all traces of the slaughter. Ashes and incinerated bones from the furnaces were poured into the same pits from which the bodies were exhumed. One of these pits has been opened and a layer of cinders and ashes one meter thick was discovered in it.

Beyond the camp there is another block which had not yet been built up. Inside the barbed-wire fence which surrounds it there are only brick foundations on which walls have not been erected. Only one shed was completed, in which no bunks were fitted. Nobody lived in it, but it remains perhaps the most gruesome evidence of what went on in the camp. This shed, several meters long and wide, is half filled to a height of over two meters throughout its length and breadth with the footwear of people who were executed here in these three years. How many pairs of footwear are here it is hard to say. There may be a million, there may be more. They spill over out of the hut through the windows and doors. In one spot the weight of them pushed out part of the wall, which fell outwards together with piles of shoes.

Every kind of footwear can be found here: torn Russian military top-boots, boots of Polish soldiers, men's shoes, women's slippers, rubber overshoes, and what is grimmest of all, thousands upon thousands of pairs of children's footwear—boots, shoes and sandals of children ten years old, eight years old and even of babies. It is hard to imagine anything more gruesome than this sight, a silent witness of the destruction of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children. If one climbs over the mountain of shoes to the rear of the shed, one will realize the meaning and significance

of this monstrous storehouse. Here are stacked in separate piles tens of thousands of soles, heels, vamps and leather clippings. Here were cut out and sorted parts of shoes which as a whole were already unfit for wear; soles, heels and vamps all separately. Like everything else in the death camp, this storehouse was built for utilitarian purposes; nothing belonging to the slaughtered victims was to be wasted, neither clothes, shoes, bones nor ashes.

The last department of the camp is housed in a large building in the town of Lublin. In its dozens of rooms, large and small, was instituted a sorting warehouse of everything removed from the massacred people. In one room you may see tens of thousands of women's dresses, in another tens of thousands of pairs of men's trousers, in a third tens of thousands of sets of underlinen, in a fourth thousands of women's bags, in a fifth tens of thousands of sets of children's clothing, in a sixth shaving sets, in a seventh hats and caps.

I spoke to German prisoners who passed by the crematorium and the ditches filled with corpses. They denied having had any hand in the matter. They declared it was the work of SS troops. But when I later questioned one of the SS men who had worked in the camp he assured me that the wholesale slaughter was the work not of the SS but of the Security Service; in other words, of the Gestapo. The Gestapo men, on the other hand, declare that it was the work of the SS.

I don't know which of them did the killing, which of them did the cremation, who stripped the shoes from the victims and who sorted the women's dresses and children's clothes. But when I gaze at this warehouse it seems to me that the nation which produced those whose handiwork this is must bear full responsibility and all imprecations for what its representatives have done.

* * *

I have related the history of the Lublin annihilation camp, and I have told what it looks like now. It only remains to recount the evidence of witnesses with whom I spoke. This is perhaps only a

hundredth part of the evidence which will eventually become available for the Investigating Committee. I have talked with the Russian war prisoner Dr. Barychev, who was head doctor of the camp's infirmary for war prisoners; also with the Doctor's assistant in the infirmary, with civilian engineers and workers who were employed in the building of the camp, with people who were in the camp either as war prisoners or ordinary prisoners, as well as with SS men who had served in the camp guard.

From all of these conversations I got a general picture of life in the annihilation camp, which must be told here.

The primary premise which governed the actions of the SS men who ruled the camp was that all persons who were brought to the camp, whether war prisoners or ordinary prisoners, whether Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Byelorussians, Jews, Frenchmen or Greeks—sooner or later would be annihilated and would never leave the camp alive to tell what was going on there. This basic premise determined both the conduct of the guards and the methods of annihilation employed in the camp. Dead men tell no tales. They cannot relate details or support those details with documentary proof. Therefore, no proofs would be available, and that to the Germans was the main thing.

Naturally, rumors about the death camp might reach the ears of the surrounding population, but that did not worry the Germans. They felt themselves masters in Poland. The "Polish Governor-Generalship" was in their opinion territory which had been conquered forever. Those who remained alive within its borders were to live in terror of the Germans, and therefore the gruesome rumors that spread all over Poland about the Lublin camp were from the Germans' viewpoint even desirable. The stench of corpses, which on days when the slaughter was heavy permeated the environs of the camp and compelled the people even in Lublin to cover their faces with handkerchiefs, helped to terrify the surrounding inhabitants. This would impress all Poland with the strength of the German rule and with the horrors in store for everybody who dared to resist. The pillar of smoke that for weeks and months on

end rose from the tall chimney-stack of the main crematorium was visible from afar. But neither did this worry the Germans. Like the stench of corpses this smoke was a means of inspiring terror. Long columns, sometimes thousands of people were marched in sight of all along the Chelm highway and entered the gates of the Lublin camp, never to emerge again. That, too, was proof of the power of the Germans and showed that they could do what they liked and nobody could call them to account.

* * *

I should like to begin my account with the most "humane" institution in the camp, the infirmary. It was a strict rule that all prisoners brought to the camp, before being assigned to the general huts, had to pass through a 21-day quarantine in the infirmary. This was assuredly a sound medical principle. However, one detail must be added: on orders of the commander of the camp all war prisoners sent to the infirmary for quarantine were assigned to huts where there were patients in the active stage of tuberculosis. In every frightfully overcrowded hut where there were 200 consumptives, 200 other prisoners were packed to undergo quarantine. If we bear this detail in mind it will not be surprising that 70 to 80 per cent of those who died in camp of a so-called natural death died of tuberculosis.

Essentially speaking, the infirmary was only another section of the annihilation camp. The methods of slaughter employed by the Germans there were sometimes more expeditious than those practiced in the general huts. Generally speaking, the methods of slaughter were many and varied, and progressively increased as the camp grew.

The first slaughterhouse was a wooden booth built between two rows of barbed wire in the early days of the camp's construction. From one end of the hut to the other, just beneath the ceiling, stretched a long beam from which hung eight leather nooses. Here all who became enfeebled were hanged. In the early days there was a shortage of labor power and the SS men did not destroy healthy people simply for their amusement. They only hanged those who had been weakened by hunger and disease. Only ordinary prison-

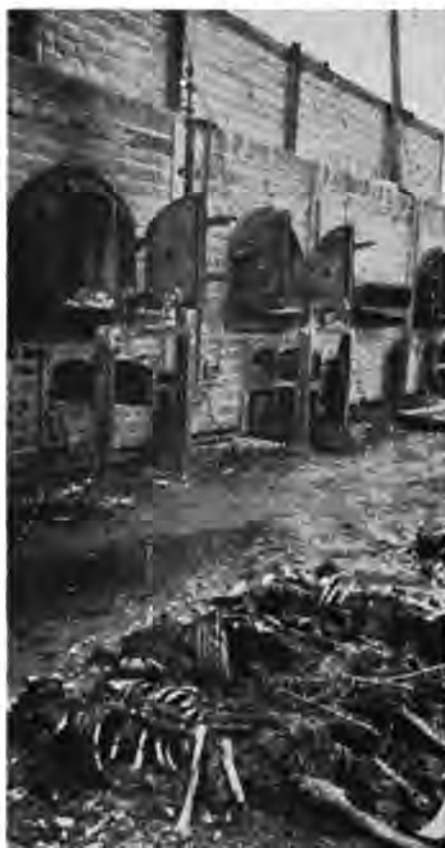
ers were hanged in this booth. War prisoners enjoyed a privilege; when they became too enfeebled to be able to work they were led in groups outside the camp and shot. War prisoners were hanged only when there were too few to form a party. It wasn't worth while to send one or two under escort into the forest. They were hanged together with the ordinary prisoners.

Soon the first primitive crematorium with two furnaces, described above, was built. There was, however, some delay with the gas chamber and in this period the chief method of slaughtering the feeble and sick was the following: A small room was built onto the crematorium with a door so narrow and low that when a man was pushed into it he naturally had to bow his head. On the other side of the entrance stood two SS men, one on each side of the door, armed with short, heavy iron rods. When the victim squeezed through the door with his head bent he was clubbed with the iron bar on the nape of the neck. If one missed, the other struck. Usually this was enough to kill a victim, but if he fell only stunned it made no difference. He was counted for dead and was put into the furnace.

It should be said that it was a general rule in the camp to consider any prisoner who fell and could not rise as dead.

Sometimes people in the last stage of exhaustion were killed by being kept out in the cold for hours on end. To this should be added what was called evening exercise. People who had been exhausted by the day's work were compelled after evening inspection to run for an hour and a half knee-deep in the mud or snow of winter or in the heat of summer around the block, which is considerably more than a kilometer in circumference. In the morning the dead bodies lying along the fence were gathered up.

These were, so to speak, ordinary everyday methods of killing. But the beasts who had once tasted human blood were not satisfied with this. Killing became not only their job but entertainment. I shall not dwell on the amusements common to all German camps, such as picking off a man with a rifle from a watchtower or beating to death hundreds of starving people who fling themselves upon bones thrown to them. I shall only men-



Radiophoto

The cremation ovens of the Lublin death factory, where the Germans burned the bodies of victims of all nationalities after torturing them to death

tion certain amusements peculiar to the Lublin camp.

One of the "practical jokes" was as follows: an SS man would pick on one of the prisoners and accuse him of violating the rules of the camp and tell him he was going to be shot. The prisoner was put against the wall and the SS man would put a revolver to his forehead. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the victim, expecting to be shot instantly, would close his eyes. The SS man then fired into the air and at that instant another SS man who had crept up to the prisoner unperceived would strike him over the head with a piece of heavy board. The prisoner would drop senseless. When he came to and opened his eyes the SS men standing over him would say jeeringly, "Here you are in the next world. As you see, here are the Germans in the next world too, and you can't escape them anywhere." And since the victim was

usually unable to rise, the SS men, having had their fun, would finally shoot him.

"Practical joke" number two was played in a big pool located in one section of the camp. The victim would be made to strip and would be pushed into the pool. When he tried to climb out of the water the SS men standing on the edge would kick him back into it. If he managed to evade their blows he was given the right to climb out. He was given exactly three seconds to dress. His tormentors would time him and if he was not dressed within the prescribed limit—and of course no one managed to get dressed in three seconds—he would be thrown back and tortured over and over again until he would drown from sheer exhaustion.

"Practical joke" number three invariably ended with the death of the butt of the joke. Before a prisoner guilty of some misdemeanor was killed he would be led over to a large sparkling white wringer used by the camp laundry and made to place his fingers between the heavy rubber rollers. Then an SS man or perhaps another prisoner forced into their service would turn the handle. The victim's arms would be literally mangled up to the shoulders. The agonizing screams of the tortured prisoner would afford great entertainment to the tormentors. Naturally a man with mangled arms, as any other person unable to work, would be subjected to destruction.

I would like to say a few words about the women. In the same month there were as many as 10,000 of them in camp. They were kept exactly as were the men, the only difference being that they were guarded by women of the SS.

I shall tell you about one of these furies who had the rank of non-commissioned officer and was senior wardress of the women's barracks. Her name has, unfortunately, not yet been ascertained because everyone called her by her German title which was "*lagerseer*." She never appeared without her whip, consisting of a piece of thick wire two meters long wound round with rubber and covered with leather.

A gaunt ugly creature, she was noted for her sadism, the result of some sexual abnormality. She was half insane. At morning or evening roll call she would inspect the rows of thin wretched women and selecting one who had retained some

faint semblance of beauty would raise her whip and strike the woman on the breast. When her victim dropped to the ground she would deal her a blow between the legs and finish up with a savage kick in the same place with her hob-nailed boot. After the same thing happened once or twice the woman would be crippled and would soon die. We can only hope that this female monster and thousands like her will be found and executed; that is, that they should be made to suffer if only a hundredth part of the punishment they deserve.

So far I have spoken of the sufferings and death of those who had been in camp for some time. But the Lublin camp was a veritable death factory and many perished as soon as they came there. Hundreds of thousands in this category passed through the camp during the three years it existed. They were herded into the death field nearly every day.

In the night tractor motors were set running inside the camp to drown out the sound of machine guns and the cries of the victims. As soon as the tractors began roaring everyone in the camp knew the last hour had arrived for thousands of people. I shall say a few words about only one of these executions, the largest which took place on November 3, 1943.

Early in the morning all the guards were roused and a double cordon of Gestapo men was stationed around the camp. Into the camp from the Chelm highway poured an endless stream of people. They walked hand in hand, five in a row. Altogether 18,000 passed through that day. Half this number were men, the other half women and children. Children up to eight walked with women, while older children marched in a separate column.

Two hours after the head column had entered, music began to play over the whole camp and surrounding country and from several dozen loudspeakers came the deafening strains of foxtrots and tangoes. The radio played all morning, all afternoon, all evening, all night.

These 18,000 were shot in the open field near the new crematory. Several ditches two meters wide and several hundred meters long had been dug. Before

execution all victims were stripped naked and were made to lie flat in the ditches. As soon as one row had lain down they were shot from above with machine guns. The next row was laid down and shot in the same way. And so on until the ditch was full.

Then those in the next batch filled in the ditch with earth and went over to the next ditch to be shot themselves. The Gestapo men themselves filled in the last ditch. The ditches were only lightly covered with earth and the following day the corpses were taken out and burned at a high speed in the new crematory. The Germans thus murdered 18,000 people in one day.

In conclusion, mention should be made of two Germans, a man and a woman whom we have taken prisoner. The man was directly involved in what happened in the death camp, the woman indirectly.

The man's name is Theodor Scholen. He has not yet met with the punishment he deserves; he is still alive. He is 41 and a native of Duesseldorf. In 1937 he joined the National Socialist Party and was enrolled in an SS detachment. In July, 1942 he arrived in the Lublin camp where he became SS company commander. By occupation he is a butcher from a Berlin meat-packing plant. In the camp he worked as a warehouseman. His job was to search prisoners upon their arrival in camp and strip them before they were sent to the gas chamber.

Theodor Scholen calls himself a warehouseman and says that he joined the SS by mistake, while intoxicated. He says that he was extremely kind to the prisoners. He weeps when witnesses who passed through his hands remind him how he pulled out teeth with a pair of pliers in search of diamonds hidden in cavities and gold crowns, which did not have to be included in the official list of property and could be kept by himself.

He swears he is only a non-commissioned SS officer and that the murders were done by the SD, that is, the Gestapo. Pressed to the wall, he lies and weeps such copious tears that at first a naive person might believe him.

So much for the man. Now, the woman. Her name is Edith Schostek, 21, a native

of central Germany. She came to Lublin two years ago in accordance with the law under which German girls over 19 are obliged to work for the good of the state. She came here for a year and remained for two. She did not kill nor did she strike women in the breast with a whip. She was only a stenographer for the German director of the Lublin power station and her hands are not stained with blood.

When you question her more closely, you discover an interesting detail: she and her sister, who also worked in Lublin, received as added compensation from the warehouse clothing that had been taken from executed women. She and her sister received lace and shoes. Others received perhaps underwear and dresses. Still others, who had children, got children's dresses and shoes taken from murdered children.

And so the ring closes around the whole of Germany. At one end stands the butcher, Theodor Scholen, who tore gold teeth out of his victims' mouths and who pushed them into "murder wagons," and at the other end stands Edith Schostek who did nothing worse than to take as payment for her work the clothing of murdered people. They are at different ends of the ring, but it is one and the same ring. They will all be made to answer, some more, others less. They need not try to shift the blame onto one another. They may as well realize once and for all: they will all be brought to book.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 99

Washington, D. C., September 6, 1944

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IN BUCHAREST

In dispatches from Bucharest, Soviet correspondents describe the triumphant entry of Soviet troops into the Rumanian Capital. The streets were crowded. Rumanian police tried to regulate the street traffic, but succeeded in doing so only before the Soviet troops appeared. Then the people thronged the streets, leaving only a passageway for our tanks, trucks, infantry and cavalry columns.

The Red Army fighting equipment evoked not only admiration but surprise from the Rumanians. For many years the Germans and their Rumanian puppets, Antonescu and his kind, tried to convince the Rumanians that in general the Red Army never had such equipment. One Bucharest resident said to a *Pravda* correspondent: "Our newspapers used to write that only Germans had self-propelled guns."

A Rumanian soldier captured in one sector stated on interrogation: "Our officer affirmed that there was only one rifle for three Russians. When we arrived at the front we saw that he was right: three Russians had indeed only one rifle, but in addition they had two tommy guns."

A *Krasnaya Zvezda* correspondent reports that Rumanian comment heard on the day of the Red Army's entry into Bucharest boils down to the following phrases: "It is good that the Red Army has ousted the Germans and that they will never return" or "It is good that you have such a strong army and that we sued for peace." To the correspondent's question, "And what is bad?" the men answered, "It is bad that we did not sue for peace earlier." Rumanian Major Jona Marinescu told Soviet journalists, "I cannot understand how my country could be so blind as to join the war against the USSR; how we could venture to oppose

your strength." This is the opinion not only of the average officer.

The Assistant Chief of the Rumanian General Staff, General Arhip, said to Soviet journalists, "I am a soldier, but I was depressed by the swift maneuver of your troops. Of course, we adopted our decision rather late, but even formerly many of us frequently realized that the Red Army would compel Rumania to surrender. Did we not learn the strength of your troops not only here in Bucharest, but much earlier?"

General Arhip then related to Soviet correspondents what had taken place in Bucharest in the past few days, and in particular described the following incident: A few days ago when he was informed that German aircraft were heading for Bucharest he decided not to sound the air alarm, because he thought it impossible for yesterday's allies to bomb the city. This, however, proved possible.

The General added, "Their game is lost. I know that and they realize it as well as I do. Why then did they bomb our Bucharest—in this way they could not

cause damage to your army. This is meanness! I fought together with the Germans against you, but I have only now seen through them. They are savage destroyers, malicious people—this is my sincere opinion."

Two men, one a watchmaker and another a salesman, said to the *Krasnaya Zvezda* correspondents, "We are ashamed



Guns of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet blast enemy shore installations

of the Rumanian Army. Our effeminate officers must have been crazy when they started out to the East. Did they shout, did they ring their spurs! Antonescu deprived them of reason. Was Rumania able to fight against the Soviet Union, against your Army? You have so many tanks that one hundred Ploestis are probably needed to supply them with fuel." Streets are crowded, newsboys sell

fresh newspapers, handbills of democratic parties are pasted on the walls and next to them one sees theater advertisements.

In the afternoon, when the main body of our troops had already passed Bucharest on their way farther west, the streets took on their usual appearance. Full order reigns in Bucharest.

The Moscow newspaper correspondents met in Bucharest several American fliers

of crews of heavy bombers who had bombed Ploesti and were shot down. The Germans placed them in concentration camps or jails and the Red Army freed them. Thus an *Izvestia* correspondent met W. Hagen, George Young and Bardell Rich—two of them natives of Illinois and one from Ohio. A *Krasnaya Zvezda* correspondent met fliers Walter Hughes of New York and Paul Black of Cincinnati

Izvestia ON RUMANIA

IZVESTIA wrote editorially on September 1:

Yesterday Red Army troops entered Bucharest. The Red Army's offensive in the southern sector of the Soviet-German front began on August 20. In 11 days the troops of the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts made a fighting advance from Jassy to Constanta and Bucharest. In 11 days the offensive of the Red Army in the south captured over 188,000 German officers and men. This alone shows that the Soviet troops routed very large Hitlerite forces.

The path to Bucharest was blazed in fighting, and this became possible only because the entire Hitlerite defense in the Rumanian place d'armes was smashed. It was due to the manifest smash-up of the enemy that the well-known events took place in Rumania.

Five months ago the Red Army reached the Prut River, and pursuing the German and Rumanian armies entered Rumania. At that time, in a statement of April 2, the Soviet Government pointed out that "the Supreme Command of the Red Army has ordered the advancing Soviet troops to pursue the enemy until he is routed and surrenders." In August this rout became an actual fact and the Rumanians saw themselves on the verge of national disaster.

For a number of years Rumania, ruled by Hitlerite underlings, was an object of unscrupulous German exploitation. The Germans laid a hand on every branch of the political and economic life of the country. The Hitlerites inveigled Rumania into their bandit campaign against the USSR, made her a source of cannon fodder and an appendage of their war economy.

When the Red Army reached the Prut

River and Soviet troops entered Rumanian territory, many Rumanians were compelled to sit up and think about the fate of their country. The Germans increased their pressure on Rumania. And in order to reassure the Rumanians it was declared that Germany "will defend Rumania like her own territory." There is probably no satellite in the Hitlerite camp who was not given the same promise.

But the Germans' actual intentions were entirely different. As far back as November, 1943, Stalin pointed out that "Hitlerite Germany does not even think of defending her vassal countries, but intends to convert them into an arena of devastating war only to put off the hour of her own rout." The further course of events showed how farsighted and precise Stalin's analysis was.

Rumania became the forward edge of the defense of Germany. The Germans could no longer cope with the situation on the fronts. Under Red Army blows Hitler irresistibly slid toward the abyss, dragging his vassals along. Rumania at last realized that she could still save herself by jumping out of the Hitlerite cart rushing toward the abyss.

And now the Red Army, continuing its swift offensive in the south, finishes off the Hitlerites in the Rumanian place d'armes. It is the speed of the Red Army operations, the speed with which enemy centers of resistance are crushed, that saves Rumania from the fate prepared for her by Hitler—that of becoming an arena of devastating war in order to postpone the rout of Germany—and brings nearer this inevitable rout.

The Rumanians are given an opportunity to take part in the liberation of their own country from the German enslavers. As a result of wide experience the

Rumanians have satisfied themselves of the insurmountable might of the Red Army. They see with what strength and skill Soviet troops deal overwhelming, crushing blows to Hitlerite Germany.

Yesterday the residents of the Rumanian Capital saw the Red Army troops entering Bucharest—their powerful armament, their exemplary order and discipline, their efficient, precise organization. They saw the mighty Soviet Army which brings death to the entire bandit Hitlerite gang. The population of the Rumanian Capital met the Red Army troops with respect and trust. These were victors who marched through the streets of the city. These were the troops that eliminated the German threat to the Rumanian Capital from the north.

The Soviet Union does not claim Rumanian territory, does not strive to alter the Rumanian social system. The presence of the Red Army in Rumania is the only guarantee of the restoration of the national independence of the country.

The stay of the Red Army in Bucharest, as in other towns and villages of Rumania, is dictated by the interests of the earliest possible rout of Hitlerite Germany. The Red Army's victorious offensive in the southern sector of the Soviet-German front is an inalienable part of the planned offensive of Soviet troops along the entire front. Everywhere the Hitlerites lose battle after battle, suffer enormous losses and toss about in vain attempts to avert their final defeat.

The entry of Soviet troops into the Rumanian Capital once more proves that, as Stalin pointed out, "the cause of German fascism is lost, and the sanguinary 'new order' they created is approaching disaster."

Statement of Extraordinary State Committee

For the ascertaining and investigation of crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders and their associates, and the damages caused by them to citizens, collective farms, public organizations, State enterprises and institutions of the USSR

On the basis of materials of the investigation, testimony of eyewitnesses, photographs and documents, the Extraordinary State Committee has ascertained that on the instructions of the German military command the Hitlerite bandits converted into ruins and destroyed the cultural historical monuments of the Russian people associated with the life and work of the great Russian poet, Alexander Sergeyeovich Pushkin. The Extraordinary State Committee publishes the following protocol on the destruction and villainies committed by the German-fascist barbarians on the Pushkin Reservation of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR:

In order to preserve the cultural historical monuments of the Russian people associated with the life and work of the great Russian poet, Alexander Sergeyeovich Pushkin, on March 17, 1922 the Soviet Government created a State Reservation on the site of the poet's estate in Mikhailovskoye, including his grave in the Svyatogorsky Monastery, and neighboring localities—Trigorskoye, Gorodishche and the village of Voronich. The Pushkin Reservation and especially the poet's estate in Mikhailovskoye are precious to the Russian people. Here Pushkin completed the third and wrote the fourth, fifth and sixth chapters of *Eugene Onegin*, completed the poem *Gypsies*, wrote the tragedy of *Boris Godunov* and a large number of poems and lyric verse.

On July 19, 1941 the Hitlerites broke into the Pushkin Reservation. For three years they lorded it here, reducing it to ruins and destroying the Pushkin monuments. From July 26 to August 1, 1944 the Committee, composed of: President of the Union of Soviet Writers TIKHONOV, Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR BOITSOV, writer LEONOV, writer FEDIN, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Professor LEBEDEV-POLYANSKY, Doctor of Philology Professor BLAGOY, Doctor of Philology Professor GUDZII, senior scientific worker SHAPOSHNIKOV and Representative of the Extraordinary State Committee SAVCHUK, thoroughly investigated the destruction and crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders on the Pushkin Reservation and ascertained that the

German-fascist invaders deliberately destroyed the Pushkin Reservation of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Destruction of the Poet's Estate in Mikhailovskoye

At the beginning of the Patriotic War part of the treasures of the Pushkin Museum in Mikhailovskoye, while being evacuated, was intercepted by the Germans in the village of Zharki, Novorzhev district. A second part of the treasures was packed into cases and buried. At first the Germans, acting as "defenders of culture," opened the Museum to visitors. As it transpired later, the Germans opened the Museum in order to collect all the hidden Museum treasures and then carry them away to Germany. When the Museum treasures were again collected the Germans dismissed the former employees of the Museum and arrested some of them.

Thus in 1942 they arrested the Vice Director of the Pushkin Reservation, Aksenov. On April 25, 1942, Ekaterina Ivanova who had worked in the library of the Museum was driven to German slavery, together with 700 other persons. She was sent to Kreis-Torgau, where for an attempt to flee to the Soviet Union she was jailed. The Germans appointed sylviculturist Afanasyev, who had nothing to do with literature, as Museum Director. The occupationists sent a German woman, Schiller, to act as a guide.

Ransacking of the Museum's treasures began in August, 1941. A representative of the German military kommandantur, Obersergeant Major Vossfinckel, re-

peatedly came to the Museum and carried away everything he liked—pictures, furniture and books.

In the autumn of 1943 the military commandant of Pushkinskie Gory, Treibholtz, ordered Afanasyev to prepare all the Museum treasures for evacuation. Treibholtz stated that this was a measure designed for the preservation of these treasures in view of the approaching front. All the treasures of the Museum were packed and then the German authorities loaded them on trucks and carried them away to Germany.

The fact of the carrying away by the Germans of the Museum treasures is confirmed by the testimony of Vasiliev, Dyakonov, Ivanova, Belkova and Ekaterina Shendel. The latter, who resided on the territory of the Reservation, stated:

"In the autumn of 1943 I saw 10 trucks near the Museum. Onto these trucks Russian war prisoners were loading cases under the supervision of German soldiers. The car drivers were Germans. I learned that those cases contained Museum property which prior to this was being packed during the course of a month under the supervision of the German Vinger, and the German woman Schiller. Schiller was sent to the Museum by the Germans and said that she was a relative of the German poet, Schiller."

In Pushkinskie Gory the Hitlerites did not restrict themselves to ransacking the treasures of Pushkin Reservation. Likewise, they ransacked the local population, humiliated the Russian people and murdered them. The German military com-

mandant, Major Sanger, himself hanged and shot Soviet citizens in Pushkinskie Gory. With especial sadism and brutality the German military commandant's office shot gypsies, including women and children, residing in the Vyborg, Pushkinskie Gory and Novorzhev districts. They were shot only because they were gypsies.

In the winter of 1943 the Germans sent engineer Joseph Amel to Pushkinskie Gory, and he embarked upon the devastation of the forests of Pushkinskie Gory and Novorzhev districts. In the spring of 1943 he proceeded to chop down the ancient forest of the Pushkin Reservation. In protest, the local population, indignant at the desecration of the Pushkin Reservation, burned all the stored timber. After that, engineer Joseph Amel, who directed the felling and storing of timber, stated that he would chop down the entire Reservation. In all, about 30,000 cubic meters of wood were chopped down on Pushkin Reservation.

At the end of February, 1944 the Germans converted Mikhailovskoye into one of their strongpoints. The territory of the park was honeycombed with trenches, communication trenches and dugouts. The cottage of the poet's nurse was pulled down by the Germans and alongside it and even partially in its place they built a big blindage covered with five layers of timber. Another such blindage was built by the Germans near the former building of the Sumum.

Before their retreat from Mikhailovskoye the Germans completed the destruction and desecration of the Pushkin estate. The Museum built over the foundation of the house where Pushkin lived was burned down by the Germans and nothing but a pile of ruins remained of it. A marble slab for a monument to Pushkin was broken and thrown into the conflagration site. Of the two other houses of the Pushkin Reservation at the entrance to the Mikhailovskoye estate, the Germans burned down one and gravely damaged the other. The German vandals shot three bullet holes through a large portrait of Pushkin which hung on the arch at the entrance of Mikhailovskoye Park, and destroyed the arch itself.

After the retreat from Mikhailovskoye the Hitlerites shelled it with mortars and artillery. The stairways leading to the

Sorot River was destroyed by German mines; the old lime trees on the circular alley which led to the house were mutilated; the elm tree standing in the center in front of the house was damaged by shells and splinters. The largest fir trees of the famous Pushkin Alley were chopped down.

Destruction Wrought in Trigor-skoye, Gorodishche and the Village of Voronich

Many years of the poet's life and work are associated with Trigor-skoye—the estate of Pushkin's friends, the Ossipov-Wulfs. The German-fascist invaders devastated and befouled the park in Trigor-skoye, mutilated it with trenches, entwined it with barbed wire entanglements and mined it. Under the enormous age-old "Pushkin" oak of which, as people say, Pushkin was extremely fond, the Germans built a blindage. The most picturesque spot in the park—the sloping bank of the Sorot River where the so-called "Onegin's bench" stood—was mutilated by the Germans. Many trees in the park were chopped down and the greater part of the park was mined.

The neighboring village of Voronich, associated with the writing of *Boris Godunov*, was destroyed to a considerable degree. The "House of the Tourist" and a number of other buildings were burned down; the school was demolished. The wooden church which remained from Pushkin's time and in which, on April 7, 1825 he had a mass served for the great English poet Byron, was burned down. The cemetery near the church where were buried Hannibal, one of Pushkin's relatives, and a close acquaintance of the poet, the priest Raevsky, was mined, honeycombed with trenches and laid waste.

The graves of members of the Ossipov-Wulf family, located on Gorodishche Hill near Voronich, were also desecrated by the Germans. The marble slab over the grave of the owner of Trigor-skoye, Ossipova, was smashed; the marble cross over the grave of her son, Pushkin's friend Wulf, was damaged. The historical appearance of the Reservation, which to the Russian people was replete with Pushkin characters, was mutilated by the Germans beyond recognition.

Desecration of Pushkin's Grave and Destruction of Svyatiye Gory Monastery

The Germans' sacrilegious attitude toward the national sanctuaries of the Russian people was most clearly manifested in the outraging and desecration of Pushkin's grave. Striving to protect the Pushkin Reservation from the danger of destruction, Red Army units evacuated this district without fighting and retreated toward Novorzhev. Despite this, on July 2, 1941 the Germans bombed the Svyatiye Gory Monastery, at whose wall Pushkin was buried.

On March 9, 1943, long before the front line approached Pushkinskie Gory, the Germans embarked upon the systematic demolition of the Svyatiye Gory Monastery which they were "protecting". According to the testimony of priest Dmitriev, the Germans twice blew up the main church of the Monastery—the Cathedral of the Assumption—built in the 16th Century by order of Ivan the Terrible. As a result of the second explosion the Cathedral, at whose wall Pushkin's grave is situated, was reduced to ruins; the belfry crumbled down, while the ancient 200-year-old large bell was smashed to small pieces which lie scattered in the rubble on the slopes of the hill; in the cathedral the dome was blown off; the western part of the dome was pierced by a shell; the roof over the chapels collapsed.

The St. Nicholas Church of the Monastery, the mess hall, the monks' cells, the Monastery hostel and other buildings of the Monastery were burned down and completely destroyed. The gate of the Monastery was damaged by a shell; the ikon was torn off the western gate.

Before their retreat the Germans burned down almost all buildings in the district center of Pushkinskie Gory and completed the savage and wanton destruction of the Cathedral of the Assumption. The ground around it is covered with heaps of bricks, iron and smashed boards; the ikonostasis is badly damaged, all the ikons are torn out of it and scattered on the floor; some are riddled with bullets.

For example, the large ikon of Peter the Apostle on the outer door was riddled



The Market Hall in Vyazma, an 18th Century structure, blown up by the German vandals

with several bullets at close range. Fragments of church utensils are scattered everywhere; the floor is littered with leaves torn out of church prayer books and genuine documents relating to the history of the Svyatiye Gory Monastery.

The poet's grave was found to be wholly covered with rubbish. Both stairways leading to the grave were destroyed; the ground surrounding Pushkin's grave was bestrewn with rubbish and rubble, fragments of ikon, boards and pieces of sheet iron.

The slabs on the graves of the poet's grandfather and grandmother (Ossip Abramovich and Maria Alexeyevna Hannibal) were completely buried under rubbish and earth. The tablets with inscriptions were broken and thrown into a heap of debris. The iron trellis around the monument was damaged, bent and crumpled in a number of places, the metal tips at its corners were knocked off. The marble balustrade around the grounds was also damaged in several places by shell splinters and bullets. The monument itself leans toward the east by 10 to 12 degrees, owing to the sliding of the hill after the bombings and explosions of fougasses planted by the Germans.

At the close of February, 1944 the watchman of Pushkin's grave, Kharitonov, was also evicted from the Pushkin Reservation. Some time later, when he managed to obtain permission to visit Pushkinskie Gory for one day, he saw that the monument over Pushkin's grave was crudely and hastily boarded up. It has been ascertained that the Germans boarded up the monument in order to conceal that it had been mined.

As it transpired subsequently, when all the Russians were evicted from the area of the Pushkin Reservation, the Germans prepared to blow up Pushkin's grave, Svyatiye Gory Monastery and the very hill on which the poet's grave is situated. A high explosive charge was planted under the road which passes along the northern wall of the Monastery and its explosion destroyed the Monastery wall for a stretch of 20 meters. A second high explosive, a charge of enormous force, was planted on the road on the eastern side at the foot of Pushkin's grave. The Germans dug especially carefully and camouflaged a tunnel 20 meters long, in which they planted special mines and 10 air bombs of 120 kilograms each. The swift offensive of the Red Army prevented the Germans from

blowing it up.

The occupationists realized perfectly well that on entry to Pushkinskie Gory Red Army officers and men would, in the first place, visit the poet's grave, and therefore the Germans converted it into a trap for the patriots. About 3,000 mines were discovered and extracted by Soviet sappers of units under Smirnov and Skchkevius on the territory of the Monastery and in its vicinity. The territory of the Pushkin Reservation was heavily mined.

The sapper units which passed were unable to clear all the places of mines, and during the stay of the Committee, Soviet citizens were daily blown up by the German mines.

Thus, according to incomplete data, the Committee learned that on July 26 three persons perished from the mines—Dmitri Andreyev, Anatoli Alexeyev and Alexei Vasiliev; on July 27, Peter Mikhailov, Praskovya Bogdanova, Klavdia Petrova and Sergei Andreyev struck mines; on July 28—Evgeny Evstyugin and Ivan Prokofiev.

The ascertained facts of the destruction and devastation of the Pushkin Reservation by the Hitlerite plunderers supply

new evidence of the unheard-of crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders.

The Extraordinary State Committee considers that the responsibility for all crimes

committed by the German-fascist invaders on the Pushkin Reservation rests with the German government and its military command, also the direct executors: Commandant Treib-

holtz, Major Sanger, Captain Singer, Obersergeant Major Vossfinckel, engineer Joseph Amel and Schiller. All of them must bear severe punishment for their villainous crimes.

SOVIET SCIENTIST THWARTS DEATH

By N. Militayna

Red Army man Valentin Cherepanov died March 3, 1944. There was no doubt that life had ceased. The surgeon at the mobile field hospital who treated him for a serious hip wound certified the fact: death due to shock and loss of blood. Respiration had ceased, the heart action stopped and other unmistakable signs appeared.

Yet several months later Valentin Cherepanov was alive and recovering from his wound at the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine in Moscow. Cherepanov and 11 other gravely wounded Red Army men owe their lives to Dr. Vladimir Negovsky, a 35-year-old Moscow scientist who has done extensive research with the aim of thwarting death.

Eight years ago Dr. Negovsky launched his offensive against premature death. He began his tests with dogs, painstakingly experimenting on 250 animals. He then applied his method to newborn infants who had died of asphyxiation. The results were satisfactory. Last winter the scientist spent several months in front-line hospitals seeking to restore to life men whom medicine had hitherto been forced to give up as dead.

In eight years of experimenting Dr. Negovsky had worked out the basic principles of his method—a combination of artificial respiration with blood transfusions—and the instruments making it applicable in practice: a bellows-like respirator and a simple apparatus for setting in motion the bloodstream that had come to a standstill.

Dr. Negovsky did not, of course, invent artificial respiration nor the injection of blood into a faltering organism—his contribution is the simultaneous employment of both methods. As he states, "here and abroad much stress is laid on

blood transfusion and artificial respiration in reviving a dying organism, but insufficient attention has hitherto been given to simultaneous combined action on both the bloodstream and breathing. These basic vital functions are so closely connected that isolated attempts to restore either are insufficient."

Dr. Negovsky's method is amazing in its simplicity. In his work at the front under enemy shell-fire he has simplified his apparatus still more in order to make it accessible to surgeons in any field hospital. His respiratory apparatus is almost as simple as a pair of ordinary blacksmith's bellows. An air tube is inserted directly into the windpipe through the mouth and is intended to force air into the sagging lungs by pressure and not by the usual method of expansion and compression of the chest. As the air forces the lungs to expand it also excites the nerve impulses that telegraph themselves to the brain and help the brain cells governing the respiratory function to throw off the stupor setting in. This, Dr. Negovsky has discovered, has a beneficent effect on the restoration of heart action as well; excitation of the respiratory brain center conveys itself to the centers governing the pulsations of the heart.

Dr. Negovsky's blood injector is not more complicated. His method calls for the injection of blood into an artery against the bloodstream and not into a vein as is ordinarily done. This sends the blood directly into the vessels feeding the cardiac muscle, whose revival must be effected at the utmost speed. Only after the heart has begun functioning is ordinary blood transfusion done.

Positive as are the results obtained to date, the effectiveness of the method hinges on a breakneck race against time.

To thwart death, the intervention must take place within a margin of five or six minutes, before the disintegration of the most highly differentiated and complex brain cells gives the decision to death. What allows the fighter against death more leeway, however, is the fact that the death agony sometimes sets in before the actual cessation of vital functions. The employment of Dr. Negovsky's method at this stage, when the ordinary weapons at the disposal of the medical practitioner have already lost their effectiveness, provides added opportunities for saving otherwise doomed lives.

Doctor Negovsky is certain that science will find a way to extend the border zone between life and death where medical interference may still score a last-second victory. To do so necessitates retarding the disintegration of tissues. Although researchers in this field are still groping in the dark, there are already a few glimmers of light—glimmers so faint no one will yet venture to predict a solution. It may be narcotization, it may be chilling to induce something like an anabiotic state, or it may be something else.

It is to the probing of this secret—the secret of life and death—that Dr. Negovsky and his co-workers at the Laboratory of Experimental Physiology of the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine have dedicated themselves.

"We want to establish exactly which tissues die sooner and which hold out longer, and why they behave in their own peculiar ways," the scientists state. "We want to find out everything that can be known about the mechanics of death, so as to be able to fight it. Our work at the front and the young lives we have so far saved are the best spurs to further research."

Armaments from Urals and West Siberia

By P. Stepanov

A year ago when the Red Army upset the German offensive on the Kursk bulge the *Voelkischer Beobachter* said: "It looks as if some giant magician in the Urals and beyond were sending endless quantities of men and arms."

This admission appeared in the semi-official Hitlerite paper at a time when the Germans still harbored some hope

of the war. Finally, tank production in these six months equaled that of all the 12 months of 1942.

These are the figures at which one must look for the source of the Red Army's technical might and the high pace of its unprecedented offensive.

It would be worth while to glance at the recent history of the Urals and the

Kuznetsk Basin. Until the 1930's, the Soviet Union had only one large coal, iron and steel area, located in the Donbas and Dnieper Region. When Stalin drew up his great plan for the economic transformation of the country, a prominent place was assigned to the creation of a second major iron, steel and coal producing base in the East—the Urals, the Kuznetsk Basin and Siberia.

In working out this plan Stalin took into account the wealth of raw materials available in these areas. The coal wealth of the Kuznetsk Basin alone is twice that of all the coal resources of Germany. Further, the plan for development of the Eastern districts foresaw the possibility of invasion by hostile states; this prompted the accelerated promotion of industry in these areas beyond the reach of the enemy. Thus Stalin's plan combined the economic development and prosperity of the vast expanses in the East with the creation of a powerful foundation for the country's defense.

Kuznetsk Basin Productive Capacity

Some idea of the achievements in the East prior to the war may be gained from the fact that the productive capacity of the Kuznetsk Basin mines rose 15 times between 1928 and the beginning of the war. When the Donbas and the South were occupied by the Germans, the Urals

and the Kuznetsk Basin were prepared for the load that fell upon them. During the three Five-Year Plans preceding the war a large number of modern enterprises had been established in these areas. Without them the Soviet Union would have been threatened by disaster.

Evacuated Plants Re-established

The Urals and the Kuznetsk Basin became mighty producers, insuring an uninterrupted supply of essential war engines. Plants evacuated from the Western part of the country were re-established and producing in short order, old local plants were expanded and new ones built.

The Kuznetsk Basin area has overfulfilled its semi-annual plan for the output of coal, metal and chemical products. Possessing its own coal and metal supply, the Basin has rapidly advanced arms and ammunition production since the outbreak of the war. In the first half of this year it has turned out twice the amount of armaments and 50 per cent more ammunition than in the corresponding period last year. Only recently a new plant in this area launched the production of fighting machines.

It can readily be seen that the pace attained in industrial development during the critical war years is worthy of the pace now reached by the Red Army at the front. That is what the "giant magician" somewhere in the Urals and beyond them is like. It is the product of the devotion and enthusiasm of the Soviet people and the statesmanship of their leaders.

TASS STATEMENT

Rumors are being spread in the foreign press that the Soviet Government allegedly recognized the neutrality declared by the Bulgarian government and approved it.

TASS is authorized to state that these reports do not correspond to reality, as Soviet authoritative circles consider the neutrality declared by the Bulgarian government entirely insufficient in the conditions of the now-existing situation.



Unloading bombs hauled by reindeer to bases of the Northern Fleet Air Arm

of being able to even the score after Stalingrad. Today, however, both Stalingrad and Orel are in the past; hopes of revenge are quenched for good and the Hitlerite sheet could repeat its words about the Urals magician with even greater reason than before.

The world has been astounded by the high pace struck by the Red Army in its present offensive. But the secret of this pace is to be sought not only in the skill and heroism of the fighting men and the ability of Soviet generals and officers, but in the powerful support rendered by the rear.

A recent Urals report to Marshal Stalin helps to explain the performance of the Soviet rear. During the first six months of 1944 as much iron ore was mined, pig iron turned out and rolled metal and tubing produced as during the whole of 1940. The coal output was 50 per cent above the level of that year. Production of guns and ammunition was several times greater than in the entire first year

Notes from Front and Rear

Colonel of the Guards Alexander Pokryshkin, 31-year-old Soviet ace who has brought down 59 German planes, made 550 combat flights and participated in 137 air battles, was recently named Hero of the Soviet Union for the third time. A third Gold Star Medal has been presented to him. A bronze bust of the hero will be set up in the Palace of Soviets in Moscow. Pokryshkin is the first citizen of the USSR to receive this honor.

★

Fifty-two new institutions of higher learning, including industrial, agricultural and medical colleges, have been opened in the USSR during the war.

★

According to preliminary data the Germans burned down over 120,000 farms in Byelorussia and inflicted enormous damage to the drainage system created in the period of the Five-Year Plans, which had converted enormous areas of the marshy lowlands into fertile fields. The invaders blew up pumping stations, and destroyed surface and underground canals. Within the three years the collective farm fields reverted to marshland. Plans for reconstruction are now being drafted by representatives of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture of the USSR.

★

Schools of the Minsk Region are busy preparing for the fall term. Building brigades composed of teachers, pupils and their parents have repaired and rebuilt 1,374 schools.

★

Workers of the Moscow subway submitted within a short period 5,540 rationalization proposals and inventions. The most remarkable labor-saving device introduced was a machine invented by a mechanic, which while cleaning and sweeping the stations at the same time purifies the air.

Concerts of Polish music arranged by the Moscow Philharmonic Society and the All-Union Radio Committee are being given in Moscow, to acquaint the Soviet people with the best works of Polish composers. Included are compositions of Chopin, Moniuszko, Noskoviski, Oginski and others.

★

Two hundred and twenty-eight million rubles have been allocated this year for the building of 120 new rest homes and sanatoriums for workers of leading Soviet industries. The rest homes will be situated near industrial cities, oil fields and coal basins. A large rest home for miners was recently opened in the Moscow coal basin. Baku has a new sanatorium for workers, and three rest homes for vocational school students have been opened in Sverdlovsk, center of Urals industry.

★

Nina Dumbadze, Honored Master of Sports, of the Dynamo Sports Society of Tbilisi, made a remarkable showing in recent athletic contests—hurling the discus 49 meters and 88 centimeters, a new All-Union record.

★

The coal miners of the Vorkuta Basin in the Arctic recently sent 10,000 tons of coal as a gift to Leningrad. For the past three years the Vorkuta miners have sent the Neva city all coal mined in excess of their planned output. The Vorkuta Basin, in the extreme north of the Urals, covered with ice and snow for eight months of the year, also supplies fuel to the entire north of the European USSR. Its output in the past few years has increased by 250 per cent.

★

A badge—"Honorary Blood Donor of the USSR"—has been instituted by the Supreme Soviet for donors who give their blood to save the lives of wounded Red Army men and civilians.

Senior Sergeant Alexander Passar, a heroic scout of the Nanai nationality, has been honored with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Passar comes from a famous Far Eastern family of bear hunters living in the Naikhen settlement. His brother Maxim, a renowned sniper, fell at Stalingrad after killing 236 Germans. Two other brothers are now fighting in the Red Army. Sergeant Passar is the best scout on the Byelorussian Front. Recently with two comrades he penetrated deep into enemy lines and attacked a group of 12 Germans headed by an officer. The scouts killed 11 of them and Passar captured the officer alive—the 26th prisoner taken by him in similar hazardous raids.

★

Monuments to Chekhov are to be set up in Moscow and Taganrog, by a decree of the Council of People's Commissars. A Chekhov Museum will be opened in Moscow and Malaya Dmitrovka street will be renamed for the writer. A new edition of the complete works of Chekhov will also be published, and his name will be given to the Drama Theater in Taganrog, the district hospital in Zvenigorod and a school in Alexandrovsk-on-Sakhalin. Chekhov scholarships will be established in a number of institutes.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 100

Washington, D. C., September 8, 1944



NOTE OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO BULGARIA

On September 5, 1944, at 7 P.M., the People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Molotov, on instructions of the Soviet Government, handed to the Minister of Bulgaria to the USSR, Stamenoff, a Note of the following content:

For more than three years Bulgaria has actually aided Germany in the war against the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government took into consideration the fact that the small country of Bulgaria was not in a position to resist the powerful armed forces of Germany at a time when Germany held in her hands almost the whole of Europe. The Soviet Government tolerated that position. The Soviet Government tolerated it also when Bulgarian ruling circles aided the Germans in evacuating themselves from the Crimea and saving the remnants of beaten German troops in the south of the Soviet Union.

But in the summer of this year a strong crisis arose in the position of the armed forces of Germany. Held in a vise by Soviet troops from the East and by Allied troops from the West who had landed in France, Germany found herself in a catas-

trophic situation and her armed forces, heavily routed, were forced to retreat on all fronts.

Germany has finally lost Italy. Germany has lost France. After that Rumania fell away from Germany. Such a small country as Finland, seeing that the continuation of friendly relations with Germany is leading the country to its ruin, is falling away from Germany. The fate of Germany is decided. The war is finally lost by Germany.

As affairs had taken such a turn, it could be expected that Bulgaria would decide to use the favorable moment and, following Rumania and Finland, would give up the pro-German policy, would break with Germany and would join the anti-Hitlerite coalition of democratic countries. In spite of this, the Bulgarian government even now refuses to break with Germany, and follows a policy of so-called neutrality, in accordance with which it continues to give direct help to Germany against the Soviet Union, rescuing her retreating forces from pursuit by the Red Army and providing them with a base on Bulgarian territory for the creation of a new center

of resistance on the part of Germany to the forces of the anti-German coalition on land as well as on sea.

The Soviet Government cannot regard this policy of Bulgaria otherwise than as an actual waging of war in the camp of Germany against the Soviet Union—a policy which is now carried out in spite of the fundamental deterioration of the military situation for Germany and in spite of the fact that Bulgaria has now full possibility, without fearing Germany, to break with Germany and by this to save the country from disaster.

In view of this, the Soviet Government considers it no longer possible to maintain relations with Bulgaria, breaks all relations with Bulgaria and declares that not only is Bulgaria in a state of war with the USSR, as it had actually been previously in a state of war with the USSR, but that the Soviet Union will be from now on in a state of war with Bulgaria.

Moscow

September 5, 1944, 7:00 P.M.



A squadron of the Soviet Northern Fleet puts out to sea on a mission

BULGARIAN UNDERLINGS OF HITLER SHALL BE BROUGHT TO ANSWER!

On September 5 PRAVDA wrote editorially:

The Note of the Soviet Government addressed to the Bulgarian government, which is published today in PRAVDA, cannot but evoke the complete satisfaction of all friends of our just cause, all participants of the great struggle of liberation against Hitlerite Germany and her accomplices.

Contrary to the will of the Bulgarian people, the ruling circles of Bulgaria embroiled their country in the criminal war started by Hitlerite Germany against the democratic countries of the world. For more than three years Bulgaria has been rendering every assistance to Germany in the war against the Soviet Union.

For more than three years Bulgarian territory has served as a place d'armes for Hitlerite troops, and Bulgarian ports on the Black Sea and on the Danube as shelters for the Hitlerite fleet, and Bulgarian airdromes as bases for the Hitlerite air force. The presence of Bulgarian occupation troops in Yugoslavia and Greece enabled the Germans to withdraw quite a few divisions to hurl them against the Soviet Union.

Since the outbreak of the war, Bulgarian economy has been wholly placed at the service of Germany's war economy. Bulgaria's rulers doomed the country to starvation and privations by giving to the Germans foodstuffs and raw materials needed by the Bulgarian people for itself. When the Germans fled from the Crimea they found refuge in Bulgaria. At present, when the Red Army is pursuing the German troops routed in Rumania, Bulgaria strives by every means to save them from the pursuit of Soviet troops. Bulgaria continues to remain a place d'armes for Hitlerite brigades hastening to the relief of the defeated German units.

This is testified in particular by the communique of the Soviet Information Bureau on operations of September 4, which mentions a large number of German officers and men taken prisoner in the Kalarasi area, who had been transferred by the Germans from Bulgaria to

Rumanian territory.

All this means that Bulgaria has actually long since been at war with the Soviet Union. Already early in March, 1941, when the Bulgarian government agreed to admit Hitlerite troops into the country, hypocritically vindicating its position by the "desire to preserve peace in the Balkans," the Soviet Government warned Bulgaria that her policy leads not to the strengthening of peace but to the expansion of the sphere of war and the embroilment of Bulgaria in it.

Afterward the Soviet Government more than once warned Bulgaria's rulers of the ruinous consequences of their participation in the criminal Hitlerite adventure. If the Soviet Union has tolerated up to the present time this connivance with the enemy on the part of a state which maintained diplomatic relations with us, it is to be explained by the fact that the Soviet Government considered the difficulty of the situation of Bulgaria—this small country—under conditions when Germany had temporarily seized almost the whole of Europe.

However, as time went on a change took place in Germany's war situation. The heavy defeats which have pursued the Germans since the days of Stalingrad, where the victorious Red Army dispelled the myth of the invincibility of the German armies, have weakened and loosened the German war machine. The whole world learned that "the devil is not so terrible as he is painted," and that it is possible and necessary in the interests of one's own country to put the earliest end to German friendship. Such a possibility has existed, especially of late.

However, the Bulgarian ruling circles failed to avail themselves of this opportunity. Likewise they have failed to avail themselves of this opportunity even at the present, when Hitlerite Germany has lost her most important positions in Europe, when her might has been radically undermined by the powerful blows of the Red Army from the East and by the troops of our Allies from the West, when France is already being liberated from the Hitler-

ite chains, when Hitlerite Germany stands on the verge of collapse.

Other Hitler vassals, although very belatedly, are coming to their senses. Following Italy, Rumania dropped out of the predatory Hitlerite bloc and Rumanian troops are already beginning to take part in the military operations against the German invaders. Even such an obstinate Hitler satellite as Finland is leaving him.

In this radically altered situation the Bulgarian rulers no longer can refer to the fact that the Germans compel them to participate in the criminal Hitlerite adventure almost by force. At present Bulgaria had every opportunity to throw off the German yoke and take the path of independent policy. However, Bulgarian ruling circles do not desire this by any means, and try to get away with repainting the facade, with the changing of scenery, continuing at the same time the policy of direct assistance to the Germans in the war against the Soviet Union and its Allies.

Now the masks have been torn off. It is now clear that the Bulgarian ruling clique does not wish to break with the Germans. It does not want to permit Bulgaria to join the camp of democratic countries in their struggle of liberation against Germany. It does not wish to permit the liberation of the Bulgarian people from the German-fascist yoke, which all these Bozhiloffs, Bagryanoffs and Muravieffs cannot throw off. However, in such case the present Bulgarian rulers alone will be to blame. Inevitable retribution is in store for them.

The decision of the Soviet Government makes the situation absolutely clear. Inasmuch as the Bulgarian rulers actually embroiled their country in war against the Soviet Union and obviously do not wish to abandon this criminal policy even at the present moment, which is extremely favorable for this, the Soviet Government has stated that it breaks all relations with Bulgaria and that from now on the Soviet Union will be in a state of war with her.

The criminal policy of the anti-national fascist clique which at present holds in its

hands the destinies of Bulgaria is by no means accidental. During the past three decades the ruling circles of Bulgaria have already for the second time embroiled their country in an unfortunate and ruinous war for her, on Germany's side against the great Slav power—Russia—and her Allies.

Participation in the First World War on the side of and in the interests of the worst enemy of Slavdom—German imperialism—has brought Bulgaria nothing but disgrace and misfortune. The Soviet people has by no means forgotten that in the spring of 1918, in Brest-Litovsk, alongside the German plunderers who imposed an unheard-of predatory peace upon the young Soviet Republic, sat their Bulgarian accomplices. However, the war of 1914-18 ended in the collapse of Germany and her Allies. The German nurslings, who by deceit and violence seized power in Bulgaria then, placed the country on the verge of disaster.

However, then the German pestilence was not completely wiped out, its deep roots were not completely eradicated. In the course of preparation for a new, still more sanguinary war of German imperialism Hitler again found numerous and various agents in the ruling camp of Bulgaria, who zealously work for the silver pieces of Judas which they receive from the German fascists.

As a matter of fact, the tune in the

upper quarters of Bulgaria is set by the leaders of openly fascist organizations, such as Tsankoff and Gabrovsky and the former commander-in-chief of the Bulgarian army in the First World War, General Zhekoff. In the Bulgarian press the tune is set by the mercenary German agents of the Kozhukharoff and Krapcheff sort, with all their hangers-on.

When Hitler scored temporary successes, his Bulgarian agents openly called for war against the Soviet Union. Now, for safety's sake, they keep silence on this score, continuing to serve the Germans by hook or by crook.

We know that it is not the first time that German nurslings in Bulgaria have betrayed the Bulgarian people. As in the years of the First World War, the Bulgarian people views with hostility the adventures of the ruling clique. Sympathy and desire for friendship with the great Russian people—their liberator from ages of foreign oppression—are great in the Bulgarian people. They live in the Bulgarian people despite the base machinations of the Bulgarian accomplices of the German imperialists.

The base anti-Soviet provocations of Hitler's Bulgarian hirelings, their frenzied anti-Soviet slander, never found support among the wide masses of the Bulgarian people. Being under the double pressure of Bulgarian fascist authorities and the German Gestapo, the national masses of

Bulgaria did not discontinue the struggle for their liberation. True Bulgarian patriots are conducting a selfless struggle in the Partisan detachments against the pro-German Bulgarian rulers in Sofia. The time of retribution has come for Hitler's Bulgarian underlings.

Bulgaria must free herself from the clique of her rulers who are underlings of the German masters. The Bulgarian people must take its destiny, its future, into its own hands—in this it will be assisted by all freedom-loving peoples fighting for the defeat of Hitlerite Germany, for their independence and freedom.

Order of Suvorov Awarded Marshal Tito

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has awarded the Order of Suvorov, First Class, to Marshal Josip Broz-Tito, Commander-in-Chief of the National Army of Liberation of Yugoslavia, for outstanding successes in directing troops and in conducting military operations against the common enemy of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia—Hitlerite Germany.

Twenty generals and 26 officers of the National Army of Liberation of Yugoslavia have been decorated with Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, the Red Banner and the Patriotic War, for outstanding military activities and for valor and courage.

Designer of New Diesel Engine

A Russian engineer, Hero of Socialist Labor Dmitri Kochetkov, designer of a new Diesel engine for tanks and organizer of the mass production of new engines, was recently appointed Deputy People's Commissar of the Tank Industry of the USSR.

In three and one-half years Kochetkov built and launched two of the largest Diesel engine-building plants. The first was built in Kharkov in 1940 and Kochetkov was appointed director. During the war, overcoming great difficulties, he organized a second plant in the East and started the serial production of engines.

Kochetkov, who is now 39, was born in the Saratov Region on the Volga. His father was a fitter, and at the age of 15

Kochetkov took up this trade. In 1927 he was graduated from the Leningrad Technical School. The young engineer worked for two years in the United States at Ford's and other plants studying modern technology and improving his practical knowledge. Upon his return from abroad he became shop manager of the Stalin automobile works in Moscow.



The Commander of the Guards Cruiser "Red Caucasus" pins the Sevastopol Defense Medal on Lieutenant Commander Peter Korovkin

BELGIUM

By Iya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA September 5:

Before the war Brussels was one of the gayest cities in Europe, a city where a Walloon wit mingled with the Flemish joy of life. Late into the night laughter and song could be heard at the Namur Gate and in the narrow little streets of the old quarters. In hundreds of cafes and taverns, people ate mussels and fried potatoes and drank aerated beer which made the nose tingle.

I said farewell to Brussels in those grim days when the Germans had occupied the Capital of Belgium. In Brussels there is a square of amazing beauty where the old town hall stands. Before the war this square was a flower market. Tame pigeons came for tidbits; the Brouxellais used to tempt them with grain. I saw Germans in this square. They behaved as only Germans can: they doltishly and arrogantly guffawed. A Belgian woman said to me, "Tell them in Moscow that we shall never reconcile ourselves to them."

They did not. Tiny but courageous Belgium fought the Germans for four years. And now the British and Belgian flags wave again.

* * *

A tiny but beautiful country. You can drive through it in a few hours. It is very densely populated: between Brussels and Antwerp there are no open spaces—one town passes into another.

In the south, Belgian towns merge into French: one side of the streets is Belgium, but the other side is already France. But this tiny country is a country of many aspects. There is the coast, with its storms, its sand dunes and its juniper trees, deer and wild boar and swift mountain streams. There is the coal-mining district, the Borinage, where men's faces are lined with blue veins, where miners are accustomed to strikes and a stern struggle, where villages are blackened with smoke and a glow fills the sky in the night.

There are the quiet poplar-lined canals of Flanders with their water lilies . . . the old Bruges museum city, a city of lace and belfries. Its bell-ringers used to

give carillon concerts. Its lacemakers made lace as mysterious as a windowpane covered with winter frost. In the summer tourists came and the town sprang to life, and then returned again to its profound quiet. Once upon a time Bruges was a big port town. It was built by the finest architects of Europe; it was adorned by artists of world fame, Van Eyck and Memlinc. But the sea receded and Bruges withered away like a faithful wife deserted by a beloved husband. Noisy, merry Liege . . . a city of students and mechanics, a city of toil and fun. The large port of Antwerp with its odors of tar, sea and tropics, and its polyglot throngs.

This tiny country has given a lot to the world. Its antiquities are justly famous: the belfries of the cathedrals of Tournais and the Ghent museums with paintings by Rubens, Breughel and Van Eyck. It gave birth to splendid writers. I will mention only one of them. Emile Verhaeren. He passionately loved his country and when in 1914 the Germans set foot on Belgium's throat, Verhaeren found words to express his wrath and indignation.

Germany, thou weaver of outermost darkness.

Thou smith of death and assassin of thought.

*We may die but we will not forget
Thy hordes on the Scheldt and the Vistula.*

Belgians Did Not Bow

Little industrious Belgium, what was her fault? In 1914 the Germans snarled, "Belgium is a corridor." The heroes of Liege tried in vain to halt the invaders. The Germans burned down the Louvain, obliterated ancient Ypres and shot tens of thousands of patriots. Scarcely had Belgium recovered from her deep wounds when in May, 1940, she was again invaded. The Germans set fire to Tournais. When I was in Brussels that scoundrel Rosenberg arrived. He reviewed the German parade. The Belgians choked with indignation.

This little country did not bow to the victor. In darkened cafes where formerly dreamers smoked long clay pipes and

listened to the ringing of muted bells, patriots vowed revenge. Dozens of underground newspapers carried words of hope. Once the patriots printed an imitation of the *Soir*, a newspaper published by the Germans in Brussels. This fake *Soir* was sold under the noses of the German police and in it uncompromising journalists jeered at the invaders.

Raids, dynamiting and sabotage became rife. A powerful underground organization of resistance was formed. The Germans shot workers and priests, teachers and students, but all in vain. The Belgians would not be pacified. General von Falkenhausen said, "These Belgians are as annoying as flies, but the danger must not be minimized. They are as venomous as flies." And the *Brussels Zeitung* wrote, "We warn the well-intentioned Belgians that terroristic acts will only lead to severer reprisals." Among the victims in the Maidanek death factory in Lublin there were not a few Belgian patriots.

* * *

But the storm did not subside. Guerrilla detachments appeared in the forests of Ardennes and in Limburg. The Germans had their work cut out, shooting hostages. Sixty thousand Belgians were sent to death camps in Auschwitz and Birkenau. But the Belgians did not give in. After the Allies landed in Normandy attacks on German garrisons became frequent. Guerrillas blew up railway trains. The Belgians made their contribution to the cause of victory.

Of course, it is the most peaceable of countries. Military campaigns were far from its thoughts. The Belgians are very crowded in their country, much more crowded than the Germans in theirs, but they did not cry for "living space." They worked persistently, built garden cities, laid canals, were skilled textile and metal workers. But on the day of trial, this small nation showed that it had a great heart. And all nations are now rejoicing that Brussels has been liberated.

Belgium was seized in 1940 by the German Sixth Army, and the word "Stalin



Russian families returning to their native districts, recently liberated from the Germans

grad" has special significance to the Belgians: on the banks of the Volga sentence was passed on the ravishers of Brussels. The Red Army is true to its lofty mission: by annihilating the Germans it is bringing liberty to the world. The Germans who might have tried to retain Brussels are now far away from it on the borders of East Prussia and Warsaw. The Belgians know what they owe to Russia. When the Germans once conceived the idea of parading shattered Soviet tanks through the streets of Brussels, women adorned the tanks with flowers. When the Germans brought Soviet war prisoners—bread, cheese and tobacco were put into the hands of the Russians. That we shall not forget.

We shall not forget anything. I recall

the words of Verhaeren. We shall not forget the German hordes on the Scheldt and the Vistula, the Seine and the Dnieper. No one will forget it, neither the Belgians nor the French . . . the Czechoslovaks, the Poles nor the Yugoslavs.

When I visited Brussels after the First World War, shops and even private houses bore signs, "The Germans are requested not to enter." At that time the Belgians still remembered 1914. Later they forgot much. Later the world allowed Germany to prepare for new crimes.

We Won't Forget

It will not be so this time. It is we who will have the say now. And we won't forget. Victors are notoriously magnanimous, but magnanimity is not benignity.

Benignity means indifference to the graves and cradles. This time we will bring Germany to her knees.

To the trial, among others, will come Belgium, that most peaceable of countries which the Germans outraged. She will tell of the shootings, of the ruined cities and the asphyxiation camps of upper Silesia. The butchers must get their deserts.

That is why, even in these days of victory, we still think of one thing: retribution. Paris has risen. Brussels is liberated. Rumania has been knocked out of the running. Finland has sued for an armistice.

But in the minds of all of us, there is only one thought . . . Berlin.

A HEROIC YEAR FOR KHARKOV

By A. Eventov

August 23 was the first anniversary of Kharkov's liberation from the German invaders.

Today, sitting in the comfortable office of the Chairman of the Kharkov City Soviet, I remembered how this office looked one year ago, after the Red Army had routed the enemy. That evening the dim room was lit by an oil lamp; its only furniture was a plain table, some chairs,

a sofa and a few charts on the wall.

Alexander Selivanov, Chairman of the City Soviet, came in from a trip through the city, which had been wrecked by the routed enemy. He had seen sappers removing mines cunningly hidden in dwellings; he had talked with Red Army men and townspeople rebuilding the blown-up bridges; he had visited the ruins of the tractor works, the pride of Kharkov.

Through the office windows in those days we saw only the skeletons of splendid buildings burned down by the Germans. Today one sees rebuilt houses, the paved square, the new blue trolley-buses and street cars and the crowded sidewalks—all evidence of the great changes wrought in one year.

"It has been a year of heroism on the part of all young and old," said Alexander Selivanov. "Who cleared the debris from the streets? Who started the street cars after they had stood idle for over two years? Who repaired the factories, the shops, the turbines and the power station? Who worked without rest, without regard for time or their own health and strength? Only the self-sacrificing labor of the Kharkov people has enabled us to rebuild the city to such an extent. Thousands of housewives who once busied themselves only with their homes became bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and mechanics.

"When the Germans

retreated they razed dozens of factories to the ground; they completely destroyed the power station, sewer system and steam heating system and burned and wrecked the power supply network. The loss due to German wreckage in Kharkov amounts to several thousand million rubles.

"Reconstruction began with the power system. Without electricity we could not establish even the most elementary life in the city or start rebuilding our factories. I remember how sappers went ahead of our workers at the power stations and removed the German mines; then came bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and power engineers. The danger of explosions had scarcely been overcome before the rebuilding of factories began.

"No one in the city will ever forget the evening when the first lights from the rebuilt turbine of the Kharkov tractor plant flashed on, nor how the second turbine was repaired in the half-wrecked electricians' shop at the turbo-generator plant.

"Can you imagine what a festival it was for the Kharkov people when they saw street cars running for the first time in two years? When they saw the first trolley-bus? They were equally overjoyed by every new report from the various districts telling of more factories in operation or shops restored.

The iron foundry at the electro-mechanical plant is again in operation! The first steel furnace of the rebuilt locomotive works is producing metal! The conveyor at the tractor plant has been started up! A train loaded with miners' lamps and other mining equipment has been dispatched to the Donets Basin!

"All these items were passed from lip to lip, from house to house.

"During the past year a large number of dwelling houses have been rebuilt. We have also rebuilt hospitals, schools and clubs and repaired theaters. Considerable municipal construction has been undertaken, roads and bridges repaired, trees planted and parks, gardens and sports stadiums put in good order. The factories of our industrial city are regaining their former fame."



Tatyana Baidina, a nurse, has been decorated for valor in action



Pilot Alexander Molodchy, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, and Merited Master of Sports Pugachevsky, meet in Moscow after the annual relay race for the cup presented by the Moscow newspaper *Vechernaya Moskva*

Soviet Sports Review

By Eugene Petrovsky

The USSR Association Football Cup has gone to Leningrad for the first time in the history of the Cup play. A capacity crowd of some 70,000 spectators packed the stands of the Moscow Dynamo Stadium on Sunday afternoon, September 3, to watch the Leningrad Zeniths, the best trade union eleven in the northern metropolis, make up a first half deficit of one goal and then forge ahead to beat the Moscow Central Red Army Club two to one in the finals of the 1944 Cup Tourney, played for the first time since the outbreak of the war.

Tickets for this major sports event of

the summer season were sold out well in advance, but ticketless football fans remained outside the stadium to listen to a running commentary on the game through a loudspeaker rigged up for the great occasion.

A few minutes before five P. M. referee E. Saar of Estonia whistled both teams onto the field. The Zenith team appeared in blue jerseys, while the Army players trotted out in their red uniforms.

The high-g geared group of Army players swept on to the Zenith net time after time in the first half hour of the game. The Leningraders, however, were demons on

defense. Nevertheless Grinin, outside right of the Central Red Army Club, feinted the Zenith fullback out of position and netted the first tally after 35 minutes of play. After that it was a see-saw battle until the whistle blew for the half.

The Zenith machine started hitting on all cylinders immediately after the resumption of play. Paced by Salnikov, the nimble-footed forward who has not yet celebrated his 18th birthday, the Leningrad eleven bore down on the Red Army net. The Army backs were forced to kick behind their own goal line on a number of occasions. Salnikov made corner kicks

that eventually led to equalizing the point. Chuchelov, Zenith center forward, headed a corner kick beautifully served by Salnikov past the Army goalie to tie a score of one all, with twenty minutes' playing time to go.

The Zeniths continued to press the rival team consistently, and seven minutes before the final whistle Salnikov again booted a corner shot. The Army back jumped high to head the curving ball from the net, but it landed at the feet of Salnikov, who had run in fast from the corner field. Two seconds later the stands rocked with cheers and stormy applause: Salnikov had planted the ball on top of the left-hand corner of the Army net, to put his team in front two to one.

The Army team tried desperately to stave off defeat in the waning minutes of the game, but the Leningrad defense was unbreakable. The Zenith team is known as a smasher of old and established crowns; it did the almost impossible when it beat the Moscow Dynamo, the country's outstanding team, and the Moscow Dynamo's second eleven, composed principally of Minsk Dynamo players, also a formidable opponent; the Baku Dynamo, who knocked out the Tbilisi Dynamo in the first round of Cup play, and the Moscow

Spartak team, twice winner of the coveted Cup.

A curious sidelight on the Zenith eleven is that when playing the Moscow Dynamo it scored all four goals, three into its opponent's net and one by accident into its own. The next game, against the Moscow Dynamo's second team, had to be continued the second day for a total playing time of 210 minutes before a single goal was scored. This picture was repeated in the battle against the Spartaks, only this match went 240 minutes before the Leningraders rang up the winning goal.

The "Lieutenant" team, as the Central Red Army Club group is called, which saved its main stars, Grigori Fedotov and Alexander Vinogradov, for the decisive games, had won each encounter this season with a leeway of at least three goals, with the exception of the tussle against the Moscow Torpedoes in the semi-final round, which the Army eleven won by an odd goal.

This is the 14th year of association football competition for the Cup winners. Organized in 1930, at the same time as the Moscow Torpedo and the Krylya Sovetov, two outstanding trade union teams, the Zeniths finished either in second or third place in the city league com-

petition up till 1936. It was included with other A Division teams in the 1938 Cup Tourney.

Like Salnikov, most of the Zenith players are young. Georgi Shorets, goalie; Boris Ivin, fullback; Victor Shelagin and Grigori Lasin, forwards, and several other players of the former Zenith eleven, were killed in action on the Leningrad Front during the defense of their native city.

★

The Trade Union cup tourney is rapidly drawing to a close. Semi-finalists are the Moscow and Gorky Torpedoes, the Stalingrad Tractor and the Krylya Sovetov of Moscow. The finals will take place in early September.

First place in the Junior track and field championships went to Georgia. Moscow was second and Leningrad third. Fifteen-year-old Borodin of Moscow won the four firsts: the shot put—8.5 meters, the ball throw—32.6 meters, the discus throw—28 meters, and the running high jump of 1.3 meters.

Ozerov and Zikmund, both of Moscow, will meet in the men's singles finals of the USSR tennis championship tournament. Zikmund scored a sensational victory by defeating Boris Novikov, 1943 USSR singles champion, in the semi-finals.

JAZZ MUSIC STILL POPULAR

Leonid Utyosov's jazz band is one of the most popular musical ensembles in the Soviet Union. Ivan Papanin took some of his records along to the North Pole, and wrote in his diary: "Thanks, Utyosov. Your records have amused us and lent color to our grim life."

When the Moscow Cinema Studio was preparing its film *Concert for the Front* thousands of Red Army men were asked to nominate their favorite performers. Utyosov's name was an easy first.

Leonid Utyosov is a gifted actor and talented conductor. Most of his programs are purely lyrical. Before the war this lyricism expressed itself in songs about love, fun and contentment. Now he and his band specialize in stormy lyrics that breathe of courage, wrath, caustic and pointed derision of the enemy, and gentle fun poked at fighting comrades.

Klavdia Shulzhenko and Vladimir Koralli conduct a permanent jazz band at the

Red Army House in Leningrad. Talented young Boris Smit conducts a band on the Northern Front. The outstanding Soviet composer Vano Muradeli has expressed a high opinion of this group. He writes: "Rarely have I heard such a temperamental performance."

In spite of the grim times, Soviet audiences have not lost their taste for spirited, cheerful music. Most musical and cultural organizations have their jazz bands. The Georgian State Philharmonic has one, conducted by the young composer Rezo Gabichvadze. The Restaurant Workers' Club has one, called "The Jolly Cook." Georgian jazz skillfully adapts Georgian melodies to its needs.

Red Army military bands have the independent jazz ensembles. The People's War Commissariat has one, conducted by the well-known composer Semyon Chernetzky. Red Army men appear as soloists with this ensemble.

New Port on Caspian

A new port is now being built on the Caspian Sea. It will be used chiefly for exporting salt to the fishing industry of the Caspian coast.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin*(Issued Twice Weekly)*

VOL. IV, No. 101

Washington, D. C., September 12, 1944

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**COMMUNIQUE OF INFORMATION BUREAU
OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF USSR**

On September 5 the Soviet Union broke relations with Bulgaria and declared a state of war between the USSR and Bulgaria. This decision was adopted by the Soviet Government as a consequence of the fact that Bulgaria, in spite of the deteriorated military situation of Germany which gave her the full possibility to break her relations with Germany and to end thus her pro-German policy, continued to support relations with Germany, sheltering the Germans on Bulgarian territory and giving them the possibility to create a new place d'armes for resistance to the forces of the Allies.

After the publication of the Soviet Note, representatives of the Bulgarian Government—the Secretary-General of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sarafov, and the Director of the Political

Department of this Ministry, Altynov—on the night of September 6 visited the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia, Yakovlev, and on behalf of the Bulgarian Government, asked him to inform the Soviet Government that Bulgaria had broken her relations with Germany and that the Bulgarian Government asks the Soviet Government for an armistice.

In spite of these formal declarations, the Bulgarian Government on September 6 declared only that it had appealed to the Soviet Government with the request for an armistice, but said nothing about breaking with Germany.

Thus a contradiction was disclosed between the statement of the Bulgarian Government made to the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia, and between the statement of the Bulgarian Government made

public. Such a contradiction could not but cause mistrust on the part of the Soviet Government as to the position of the Bulgarian Government.

In view of this, the Soviet Government could not enter upon consideration of the request of the Bulgarian Government for an armistice.

Only on September 7 did the Bulgarian Government declare that it had broken relations with Germany. On September 8 the Bulgarian Government declared war on Germany. At the present time the Soviet Government has found it possible to accept for consideration the request of the Bulgarian Government regarding negotiations for an armistice.

Moscow

September 8, 1944

FIVE YEARS OF WAR IN EUROPE

The following is an editorial from WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 17:

Five years ago the criminal hand of the German aggressor lit the fires of war in Europe, which soon enveloped practically the whole world. The situation on this anniversary of the war's outbreak is that the black forces of predatory German imperialism are nearer to defeat than ever before.

Lately the tempo of the war has increased immensely. Now not only from two fronts, but from many directions, the victorious armies of the freedom-loving nations are nearing the lair of the fascist beast. The edifice erected by the piratical, aggressive bloc on the promise of rapid victory and easy spoils is definitely collapsing. The dawn of liberation has risen

over the occupied countries of Europe, and their tormented but uncowed peoples are rising with ever-increasing determination to fight the German invaders.

The enemy is still offering desperate resistance; many difficult and bloody battles are still to be fought. But it is already clear that the complete defeat of Hitler Germany is a matter of the near future.

When they launched into their bloody adventure, Hitler and his gang counted on a blitzkrieg. Their bandit imaginations conjured up illusive prospects of the subjugation of Europe and then of the whole world by means of short, rapid blows at the disunited adversaries. These fantastic plans were based upon the Germans' defective political and military strategy, with its penchant for vainglori-

ously overrating their own strength and arrogantly underrating the strength of their opponent.

In the Soviet Union, Hitler's blitzkrieg machine first encountered an insuperable wall of resistance built by the self-sacrifice and determination of the Soviet people and the valor and heroism of the Red Army. In the fire of struggle against the mortal enemy of the peace-loving peoples was forged and tempered the anti-Hitler coalition headed by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States, whose united strength foreshadowed the death sentence to Hitler tyranny.

However, much time was needed by the foes of piratical Germany, not only to bring about the collapse of the Germans' plans for world domination, but



Visitors inspect German medium tanks at the Moscow Exhibit of War Trophies

also to bring the enemy to the brink of disaster. Such was the heavy price of the grim and protracted struggle, involving unparalleled sacrifices and privations, which the freedom-loving nations had to pay for the fatal blunders of the prewar period, when the narrow and shortsighted policy of the leaders of the Western powers fostered and nurtured the German aggressor and then prevented the forces of peace from uniting to avert his piratical enterprise.

After their blitzkrieg plans had failed the Nazi bandits banked upon protracting the war. They declared they were prepared to fight for 30 years if necessary, their idea being to sow dissension in the camp of the anti-Hitler powers and to exploit the growing war fatigue in order to attain a compromise peace which would afford Germany respite in which to prepare for a new and bloodier act of aggression.

These calculations of the German-fascist bandits were also foiled, thanks to the determination of the freedom-loving nations to effectively eradicate the Nazi scourge and not to allow it to persist or to be revived in any shape or form.

Five years of war have entailed the severest trials and sacrifices for the freedom-loving nations. The awful typhoon of war has wrecked millions of lives and colossal material values. The Nazi miscreants condemned to inhuman suffering and frightful death millions of peaceful civilians, women, children and old folk. In their savage fury of destruction the

German vandals have destroyed the fruits of the labor of many generations, have delivered to fire and destruction priceless monuments of culture, and reduced flourishing countries to desert zones.

The peoples who sustained the full weight of the struggle against Hitler aggression have stood with credit trials without precedent or parallel. And now, when the end is al-

ready near, they are deeply concerned that when the enemy has been vanquished this war shall be crowned by a stable and durable peace.

Of all the fruits of the long-expected victory, the most longed-for is a stable peace and security in the relations between nations. This fruit will not fall ripe from the tree. There are many difficulties and obstacles in the way to its attainment. But these obstacles must be surmounted, for the peace-loving nations which have lived through the trials of this war do not want to return to the state of permanent alarm and instability in which, as on a volcano, Europe and the whole world lived during the two decades which separated the First and Second World Wars.

In the course of the present war a coalition of mighty powers arose to fight German imperialism and its predatory partners. A basis was found which made it possible to plan and carry out, within the framework of coalition war, joint actions on a gigantic scale. What furnished the basis for the cooperation of the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain was the identity underlying the vital interests of these powers, to which Germany's bid for world domination spelled mortal danger.

The task is to create, when the war is over, a no less solid union of peace-loving states for the protection of the world from fresh attempts on the part of German imperialism.

All true supporters of peace are anxious to find a reliable foundation for such post-

war cooperation between the Soviet Union, Great Britain, the United States and all other peace-loving countries. We know that the German imperialists are basing their schemes for revenge after their inevitable defeat in this war on the difficulties involved in creating such a foundation for postwar cooperation.

The German imperialists hope that the freedom-loving powers will fail to find a new basis for cooperation after the war, with the result that Germany will be in a position to prepare for a new and even more frightful war. This hope of the German bandits must be foiled at all costs. The result of the war must be to cement the postwar union of peace-loving states, big and small, and at the same time to create maximum hindrances to the revival of the aggressive forces. A solid basis for postwar cooperation must be created in the interests of peace between the nations for the longest possible period.

On the threshold of the sixth year of the war in Europe, the Soviet people are firmly confident not only of victory, which is now undoubtedly near, but also of the full possibility of insuring a stable peace and world security. No little remains to be done to convert this possibility into reality, but the people of the Soviet Union, a power which has always been a consistent champion of peaceful and friendly relations between peoples and of preventing all aggressive attempts to forcibly re-divide the world, firmly hope that this grand and noble task will be successfully accomplished as a result of the concerted efforts of all true champions of international security.

Geologists Help Red Army

Over 300 Soviet geologists and hydrogeologists organized in special detachments are accompanying the Red Army's advance. Mapping groups supply the Command with maps showing localities convenient for passage of tanks; field reconnoitering groups arrange for water supply for the troops and prospect for local buildings and camouflage materials. The field geological detachments are trained at a special center, the staff of which includes such prominent scientists as Professor Shchegolev, Altrovsky and Semikhatov.

THE HARVEST

By D. Zaslavsky

The attention of the Soviet people is riveted on the frontiers of the country as the Red Army pushes its way toward them. But their attention is also riveted on what is going on inside the country. This does not, however, mean that their attention is divided. Rather, it is doubled.

The Soviet people are fighting on the frontiers for the liberation of their country; they are ejecting and annihilating the Germans. They are working for victory. At the same time they are working strenuously in the rear, and just now the harvest is in the minds of all. One does not contradict the other, but rather supplements it. The better things go on the battlefields, the better they go on the farm fields.

The news of the liberation of one city after another and the Red Army's westward advance enlivens, rejoices and encourages the reapers in the fields, and the new rich harvest now being gathered re-

joices and encourages the soldiers at the front.

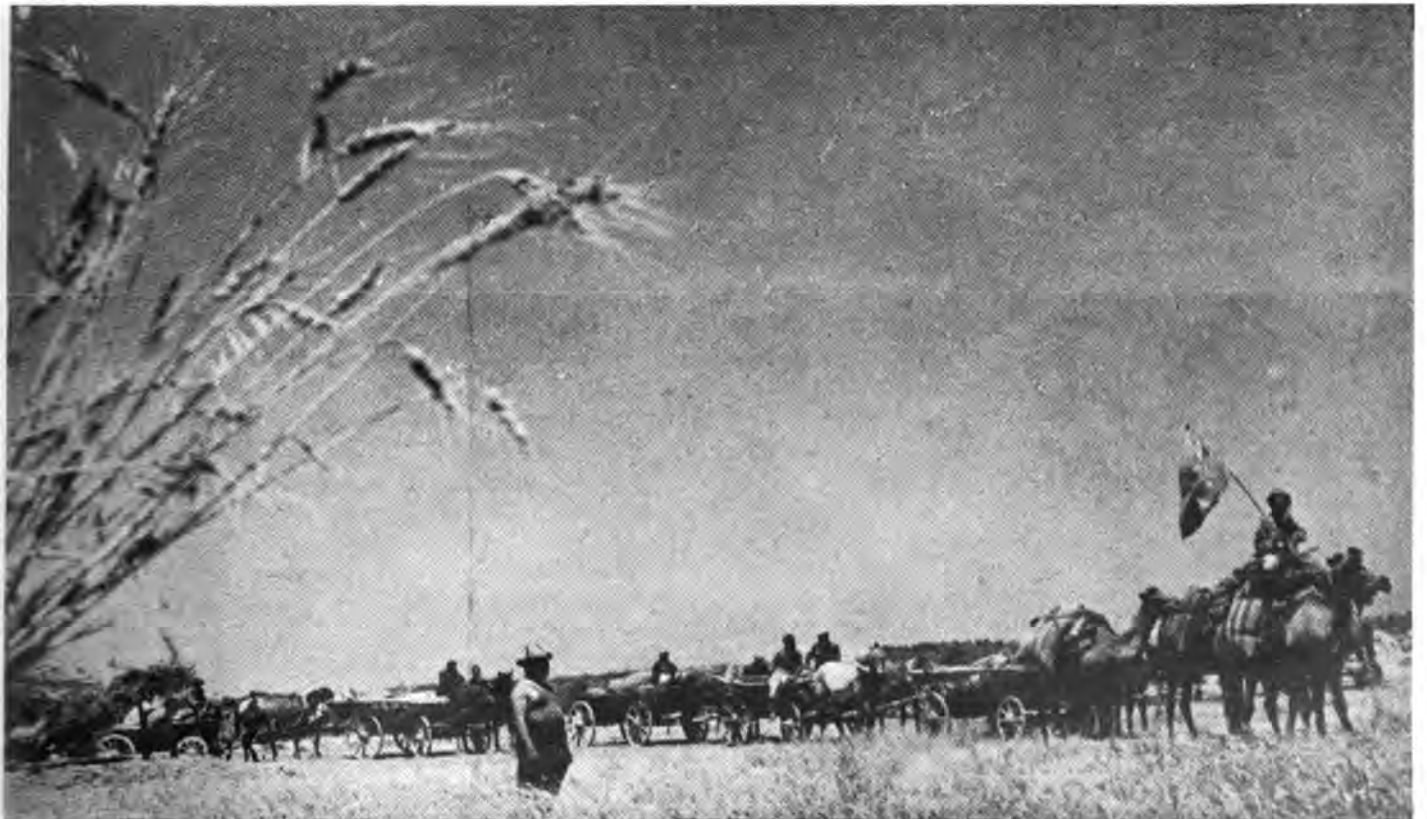
And the harvest is indeed a rich one. There has been nothing like it for years. The golden ears are swelling in the fields of the Ukraine and Byelorussia. Last year the eyes of the Germans were turned greedily on Ukrainian wheat. They counted the acres beyond the Dnieper. They still held sway over these acres as they drew up their food estimates for 1944. And Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Russian grain played a prominent part in these estimates. The mouths of the hungry Germans watered at the sight of the captured Soviet fields.

True, the harvesting wasn't much of a success for the Germans in the two previous years, when they piratically seized the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the western regions of Russia. A poor harvest could not have yielded smaller results. Threats and brutal treatment had no effect on the

peasants, who could not be cowed. The policy of abolishing the collective farms and returning to individual farming was a failure . . . as a matter of fact, although the Germans abolished collective farms they did not introduce private small-peasant farming in their place, but rather serfdom and slavery.

The peasants retaliated with universal sabotage. The crop, which was meager enough owing to poor and negligent cultivation, became more meager still when gathered under lash and club. The Germans made no attempt to hide their fury and disappointment. They complained that Russians could not and would not work.

And it was true: they would not work—not for the Germans. And what they did, they did slowly and negligently, unenthusiastically. What was more, the methods of cultivation under the Germans deteriorated—reverted to what they



On the collective farms of the Pakhta-Arel district in Kazakhstan—cart trains carry grain to the elevator

were 30 years ago. There was a shortage of machines, implements, draft animals and fertilizer. The Germans came like hungry wolves; they took all they could from the peasants and gave nothing in return.

Today the harvest is proceeding with the liveliest animation in all Soviet fields, while in the regions liberated from the Germans miracles are being performed. The collective farmers are showing how they can work when they want to. Reports from all parts of the country indicate that a wave of enthusiasm has swept the agricultural districts. Everything is being pressed into service to gather a bumper harvest without loss, and there is every reason to believe that the harvest will be large and the losses small and that the Soviet Union will start the new agricultural year with enough cereal to meet the current needs of the Red Army and urban population, with a surplus for the future.

This is a victory, and a big one. The successes on the Soviet farms deserve a salute all by themselves. To understand the full significance of the present agricultural season we have to recall what happened 26 years ago. The Russian Army then, too, held a vast front. It was still capable of fighting for some time, although its fighting power had been thoroughly undermined by the incompetence of many of the Tsar's generals and by the treacherous policy of the Tsarist government.

The Army still held on, but the country could hold on no longer. Disaster loomed. It came from the neglected and deserted fields and the idle factories, and from the collapsing railway system. The Socialist Revolution of 1917 saved Russia from complete economic and political chaos and preserved the country's integrity and independence. The fields were sterile, millions of farms were abandoned, help could be expected from nowhere, and the threat of famine was inexorably moving down upon the country . . .

Economic disruption everywhere followed the war. It is an ancient law of war. We find the same thing today in various countries and in Germany in particular. If it were not for the plunder of occupied countries, starvation would have already brought Germany to her knees.

But the Germans postponed the inevitable by compelling other countries to feed them. Last year peasant children in the Ukraine were dying of starvation while German children were feeding on Ukrainian grain.

But today something is taking place in the Soviet Union which has hitherto been unknown in the history of war. In the fourth year of a gruelling and devastating war, its agriculture, far from declining, has in some respects shown definite progress. Naturally, war has left its imprint on Soviet agriculture. As far as technical equipment is concerned, it is poorer. There is no prewar abundance of machines, draft animals and fertilizer. But there are no signs of deterioration. It is strong and healthy and it is excellently standing the burdens and handicaps of wartime.

This fact is a remarkable fact, worthy of study by economists, historians and agricultural scientists.

There is nothing fortuitous in this year's bumper harvest. It is not a whim of nature or a caprice of fortune. One of the chief reasons is the thorough way in which the land was cultivated last fall and this spring. Every help possible in wartime was given by the authorities. Manpower and machinery were skilfully maneuvered.

But ahead of all was the consciousness that the Red Army was winning, that it was driving back the enemy and liberating Soviet soil. Millions of men and women on the collective farms were fired by the thought that the national economy must not lag behind the achievements of the Red Army; that the front must be backed up by efforts in the rear, that the toilers of the country must be worthy of the heroic exploits of Soviet soldiers.

The Soviet farmers worked like Trojans last year and the rich harvest this year is their legitimate victory. There are fewer people in the countryside, it is true, and for that reason each is doing the work of two. This fine historical victory would have been impossible if agriculture had not become a common national cause and if each had been seeking only his own advantage on his own patch of ground.

This was felt most keenly of all by the farmers of the liberated regions. In many

places nothing but ashes remained in the deserted fields. Everything—houses, barns, livestock and machinery—had been destroyed by the vile and ruthless enemy. He had pillaged the seed stocks, and worst of all, he had depopulated the countryside. Hundreds of thousands of the healthiest and sturdiest men and women had been carried off to Germany, and how many had been slaughtered, maimed or crippled is past counting.

What would these ruined people have done if they had been left to their own devices, each to look after himself? But they had been accustomed to working in common, cooperatively, on the collective farms, each helping the other. They eagerly set to work. Under the Germans they had been starved for the free labor of free men. Collective farming was now more precious to them than ever.

No one could feel forlorn and abandoned on the collective farm. All knew that the Soviet Government would come to their aid and that collective farms which had not experienced the horrors of German occupation would share with them all they could.

The collective farm system proved its merits in wartime. It made it possible to put combines and tractors to the most effective use.

The golden harvest raised by the farmers is now being gathered. They are being aided by the urban population, and the children are seeing to it that no single ear of grain is lost.

To bring in a big harvest has become a matter of honor for the entire Soviet people. Collective farms are vying with each other. The newspapers report the progress on the farms just as they report the progress on the battlefield. City dwellers who have never worked on farms are showing the liveliest interest in the harvest.

And it could not be otherwise, for the harvest is a national affair. And that force of national solidarity which has performed miracles on the fighting front is also performing miracles on the home front. That is the style of Soviet life—and he who would understand the Soviet people should ponder over these miracles, which are so commonplace and natural in Soviet society.



A GIRLS' SCHOOL IN MOSCOW—(Upper left) A junior class in natural sciences; (lower left) A sewing shop sponsored by the school; (upper right) Lunch is served to the pupils at school; (lower right) Writing a collective letter to the front

Revival of Public Education in the Ukraine

By Dmitri Lober

Assistant People's Commissar of Education, Ukrainian SSR

Before the war the Ukrainian Republic had achieved brilliant successes in the field of public education. There were 29,314 schools, attended by 6,054,314 children, with a veritable army of some 238,000 teachers. Classes were conducted in the Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, Jewish, Moldavian and Czech languages. The schools had extensive laboratory facilities for physics, biology and chemistry, libraries containing more than 19 million volumes and 40 million copies of textbooks.

In the temporarily occupied Ukrainian cities and villages the Germans wrecked and destroyed 7,616 school buildings with all their equipment, and burned textbooks, children's palaces of culture and clubs. They destroyed 886 schools in the Kharkov Region, 525 in the Zaporozhye

Region and more than 700 in the Stalino Region. The schools in Stalino proper were converted into stables, stores and gambling houses.

For nearly two years, with typical German thoroughness, the Hitlerite gangs pillaged and burned the treasures created by the efforts of the Ukrainian people. The Nazis intended to enslave our freedom-loving people not only physically but spiritually. In the few schools that led a miserable existence in some of the occupied cities—for example, under the Germans there were two schools in Poltava with a total of 150 pupils whereas before the war the city had more than 12,000 schoolchildren—the Germans did their utmost to make the Ukrainian children forget the history of their country. The German language was declared the basic

language in those so-called "public" schools, which lacked the most elementary school supplies and were housed in unheated buildings.

The following is characteristic: In the Odessa Region the German-Rumanian occupation authorities published a textbook on geography which attempted to prove that the territory of this region had belonged to Rumania from time immemorial, with "Moldavo-Rumanians" as the overwhelming majority of the population. The Germans tried to ram these delirious inventions into the heads of the Ukrainian children.

On the day after the liberation of a town, in most cases, teachers, students and townspeople immediately began to restore their schools. In the liberated regions of the Ukraine 22,186 were restored, and

during the past school year were attended by 2,759,900 pupils. Volunteer labor played a decisive role in this restoration work.

In the Staroversk district, Kharkov Region, 17 school buildings were repaired by volunteers in 10 days. Collective farmers made desks and blackboards. Through the combined efforts of local teachers, students and parents, 49 schools were restored in Krasnodon district, Voroshilovgrad Region and 20 schools in the city of Voroshilovgrad. Many groups are engaged in preparing school equipment.

Local boards of education have had considerable success in providing food, clothing and shoes for school pupils, and especially for the children of front-line fighters. Some 100,000 pupils in the Kharkov Region were served free hot lunches and more than 30,000 schools in the Region received clothing and footwear.

The Ukrainian schools had many odds to overcome in the past year. There was a shortage of textbooks and readers; some districts had none at all. There was a

shortage of teachers; many had been shot or starved to death by the Germans (150 teachers died from starvation in Kharkov alone), and many more had been deported to Germany for slave labor. Schools lacked desks, blackboards and supplies.

Yet, despite these exceptional hardships, normal studies were conducted in the Ukrainian schools. Great credit for this success is due to the enthusiasm of both teachers and pupils, eager to study in the Ukrainian language, which was banned under German rule.

Apart from their zeal in the study of Ukrainian, the pupils took an active part in the restoration of the economic and cultural life. In Voroshilovgrad Region, 35,000 schoolchildren and 1,075 teachers contributed a total of 675,000 work days, while the schoolchildren of Kiev put in a total of 15,000 work days to help restore the Kreshchatik, Kiev's principal thoroughfare. Schoolchildren of eight districts of Kharkov collected 1,418 kilograms of medicinal herbs.

In their tremendous task the educa-

tional authorities of the Ukraine were assisted by the country's youth, who understood that the restoration of the schools was a task of paramount State importance and exerted every effort to speed it up.

At present the youth are cooperating with educational authorities in preparations for the coming term. They help to store fuel for winter, establish boarding schools for orphans, cultivate school gardens and allotments and collect books for their libraries. Training of teachers is well under way, with thousands enrolled in special postgraduate courses and many more in correspondence courses.

The criminal Hitlerite bandits tried to destroy Ukrainian culture, to substitute German for the Ukrainian language, to reduce to ashes all our schools and libraries, museums and universities. They did not succeed. Cultural life in the Ukraine is rapidly coming into its own, together with the restoration of cities and villages ruined by the enemy.

MOSCOW GIRLS' SCHOOL NO. 29

By Maria Levina

Public School No. 29, on Smolensk Boulevard in Moscow, is a three-story building with well-lighted rooms and flowers on the window sill. It is an ordinary public school, but since the introduction of separate education for boys and girls its pupils are all girls.

The director, Honored Teacher Ekaterina Martyanova, has devoted 40 years of her life to children. Since 1926 she has been head of School No. 29. Many of her former pupils are now fighting at the front, while their children remain in her care.

The curriculum of the school is the same as in prewar days, except that military training has been added. All the children are instructed in civilian defense and first aid. And since this is a girls' school, lessons in needlework and domestic science have been added.

Much attention is paid to the home life of the children. The fathers of many of the pupils are at the front and the mothers are working in industry; therefore the school takes upon itself certain added duties. When the junior grade

pupils finish classes at 12 o'clock, they go for a walk under the guidance of a teacher or a pupil of the higher grades. At two they return to school for dinner, after which they prepare their lessons for the next day. Usually the children do this independently, but in special cases the seniors help the younger pupils.

Afterward the children go to the playroom. Some bring their own toys, but many are provided by the school. Films are shown, with explanations. Then there is reading aloud, to which much importance is attached. The children share their impressions and discuss their favorite heroes. The Red Army and the guerrillas are popular topics.

Rhythmical gymnastics and embroidery, knitting and handicrafts are part of the curriculum. At six o'clock the children return to their homes.

To help the Red Army and the country, the children knit scarves and mittens for fighters, and senior grade girls make dresses for children orphaned by the war. On Saturdays the girls clean the school, since most of the janitresses are working

in war plants. Many girls spend their Sundays mending linen for Red Army men, and others help to collect scrap iron.

During the summer the youngsters helped to gather wood for winter, repaired classrooms, and visited hospitals to do errands for the wounded. Tenth grade pupils worked on the newest subway line. Many worked on collective farms, doing an excellent job.

None of these added duties have interfered with the children's studies, in which they have made splendid progress.

Azerbaijan Agricultural Air Force Aids Ukraine

A squadron of the Agricultural Air Force of Azerbaijan is assisting collective farmers of the liberated Ukraine to deal with agricultural pests. The Azerbaijan Agricultural Institute has successfully completed a campaign against locusts in Azerbaijan, over 45,000 acres having been sprayed. Anti-malarial measures are also being carried out on a huge scale.



MOSCOW GIRLS' SCHOOL NO. 29—(Upper) A needlework class; (center) Junior graders in the classroom; (lower) Toys and games for the smaller pupils

(Upper) Honored Teacher Ekaterina Martyanova, director of School 29; (center) Helping a junior with her lessons; (lower) Making up the wall newspaper

Soviet Film News

By Oleg Leonidov

With the return of the Kiev Studios from Ashkhabad, Central Asia, where they were evacuated in 1941, film production is being resumed in the Ukrainian capital. Documentary films head the list, and the first newsreels deal with the rehabilitation of Ukrainian industry and agriculture. The second part of the documentary, *Battle of the Soviet Ukraine*, is being completed by Julia Solntseva.

The Byelorussian film studio has returned from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to Minsk. Among its first productions will be a feature-length documentary showing the struggle of the Byelorussian people against the German invaders. For six months a group of Byelorussian cameramen has been working behind the German lines, shooting scenes of guerrilla-occupied areas, guerrilla battles, the defeat of a German garrison, wrecking of railways, bridges and enemy military stores, etc. These will be included in the

documentary. There are also impressive shots of food trains being sent secretly to the "mainland" as gifts for the Red Army.

The film industry of Leningrad is rapidly reviving. The Kinap factory for cinema equipment, closed throughout the blockade, has reopened. Liberated towns and villages will have first call on equipment turned out by Kinap. The Leningrad film laboratories, now working at top speed, are making prints of numerous pictures for the front, including *North Star* and *Battle of Russia*. Prints of Solntseva's *Battle of the Soviet Ukraine* and Pudovkin's *In the Name of Our Country* are being turned out for the towns and villages of the liberated Ukraine.

After a three-year stay in Kazakhstan, the Lenfilm studios are at home again. Their damaged buildings have been repaired and production resumed. Alexander Finezimmer, of Lenfilm, is direct-

ing *Forward! Men of the Baltic*, which reveals the part played by the Baltic Fleet in the defense of Leningrad.

The motion picture industry is developing in all Republics of the multi-national Soviet Union. In Kazakhstan Russian screen workers have helped the people to begin production of films on local topics. The first full-length Kazakh historical film is being made in Alma-Ata by Grigori Roshal. It was written by the well-known author Mukhtar Auezov and will be released on the 100th anniversary of the birth of the famous Kazakh poet and philosopher, Abay.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of Anton Chekhov's death, Vladimir Petrov has made a screen version of Chekhov's *Vaudeville, Marriage and the Order of St. Anne*, with the principal parts played by actors of the Moscow Art Theater.

CENTRAL ASIAN FOLKLORE

A conference on the folklore and ethnography of the Central Asian peoples was held in Tashkent recently under the joint auspices of the Soviet and Uzbek Academies of Sciences.

The peoples of Central Asia possess a rich heritage of ancient unrecorded epic folktales that have been handed down by word of mouth by many generations of folk bards. Professor Viktor Zhirmunsky, head of the folklore section of the Uzbek Academy, states that for beauty of language and depth of content they compare with the greatest epics of the ancient and medieval European peoples.

Since the outbreak of war he and his colleagues have recorded a major work, *The Forty Titans*. It runs to nearly 150,000 lines, and consists of a large collection of Kazakh poems and ballads dedicated to national heroes.

Soviet folklore specialists working in Kirghizia have also recorded from the words of local bards and minstrels two complete versions of *Manas*, a famous Kirghiz national epic poem. Each ver-

sion contains some 200,000 stanzas. This poem originated in the Seventh and Eighth Centuries A.D.—the "Golden Age" of the nomad Kirghiz State existing at that epoch in the Altai. A new complete de luxe edition of *Manas* is being prepared for publication.

The work of collecting Uzbek folklore has been most fruitful. Some 80 hitherto unknown ballads have been noted. These are important discoveries, since it used to be assumed that with the development of the rich classical literature of Uzbekistan, Uzbek folk poetry decayed. One of the most remarkable of these ballads describes the exploits of Alpamysh, a national hero. The marked similarity between this work and Homer's *Odyssey* suggests that close cultural ties existed between the ancient world and Central Asia.

A Kara-Kalpakian folk epic, *Kirk-Kiz*, deals with the struggle against foreign invaders. Apart from the heroic nature of the subject, this work is notable for the charm and beauty of its style. In Tad-

jikistan yet another version of the *Ker-Ogly* epic, so popular among the peoples of the Near and Middle East, has been recorded. The Tajik version differs from hitherto existing texts both in the development of the subject and in poetic form.

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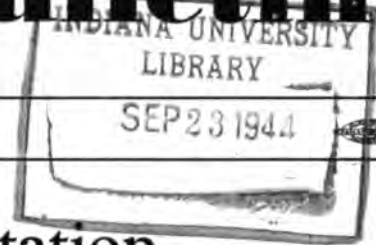
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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 102

Washington, D. C., September 15, 1944



A Year of Great Rehabilitation

By E. Stepanov

On August 21, 1943, the Soviet Government issued a Decision on urgent measures for rehabilitation of the economy of the liberated districts. On that date almost all of the Ukraine and the whole of Byelorussia was still in enemy hands. In the summer of 1943 the Red Army was engaged in a titanic struggle with the German armies. Regardless of all this, the Soviet Government found it not only necessary but possible to under-

take a sweeping program of restoration work in the areas cleared of the enemy.

At that time the rehabilitation of the Kalinin, Smolensk, Orel, Kursk, Voronezh, Rostov and Stalingrad Regions and the Stavropol territory was mainly in question.

The aid to be given to these areas was exceedingly great in scope, and it seemed that a long time would be required to carry out the program. For example, the plan called for the return of some 600,000

head of cattle from the more easterly areas where they had been evacuated and for the distribution of this stock among the rehabilitated collective farms. Moreover, more than a million head of cattle were to be bought and handed over to these farms, to put livestock breeding in the liberated areas on its feet. About 300,000 dwelling houses were to be repaired or built anew, dozens of railway stations restored, homes for orphans opened, fac-



ALMA-ATA, KAZAKHSTAN—Pupils of School No. 36 have collected three tons of scrap metal for war plants

ories for the output of building materials established and machine and tractor stations rehabilitated.

Great as the program was, only four months were required to overfulfill it. As early as January 1 of this year, the committee set up to supervise the rehabilitation of the economy of liberated districts disclosed in its report on the fulfillment of the Government Decision that the collective farms of these areas had been provided with 1,723,000 head of cattle and that over 326,000 houses had been repaired or built anew, providing housing accommodations for 1,813,614 collective farmers, workers and office employees who prior to that time had lived in dugouts or houses damaged by the invaders.

When the Soviet Union observed the first anniversary of the Government Decision, the scale of rehabilitation work extended far beyond the bounds of the regions originally enumerated. During the past year a sizable area of Soviet territory was redeemed by the Red Army, including such important industrial areas as the Donbas, the Dnieper Valley and Kharkov. Since their liberation, a good deal has been accomplished in putting the latter also on their feet.

It is enough to mention that in the iron and steel districts of the south, eight blast furnaces, 34 open hearth furnaces and 18 rolling mills had been restored by August 20. The iron and steel mills in Mariupol, Dniepropetrovsk and Dnieprodzerzhinsk

expect to blow in additional blast furnaces shortly.

In Kharkov, which marked the first anniversary of its liberation on August 23, the rehabilitation of such large enterprises as the tractor plant, the locomotive works, the thresher factory and the turbo-generator and electrical equipment works is under way. Kharkov is already producing threshers, and by the end of the year its first tractors are expected.

The generation that worked to repair the damage wrought in Russia during World War I and the intervention well remember how difficult it was to get started. At that time everything had to be begun from scratch. Blast furnaces were dead and mines flooded. Railways were in a state of utter ruin and agriculture had collapsed. The country was starving. Rehabilitation could be attempted only after the war was over, for there was no economic foundation which would have permitted the country to fight and build simultaneously.

Today things are quite different.

The explanation for the rapid pace struck in the present rehabilitation, despite the unprecedented scale of damage wreaked by the Germans, is to be found in the Soviet Union's highly developed Eastern districts, located so deep in the rear they were not touched by the enemy. In the course of the war the economy of

the Soviet Union has grown stronger so much so that plants that yesterday were compelled to work exclusively on order for the armed forces, today are already able to devote some of their productive capacity to the output of equipment and building materials for rehabilitation of ravaged towns and villages.

The collective farms of the Eastern regions of the USSR set aside part of their farm machinery, livestock and seed supplies for the areas that suffered from the German occupation.

The entire country has wholeheartedly pitched in to help the population of the liberated areas return to a normal life. State grants for rehabilitation have been augmented by voluntary subscriptions. The Eastern regions have taken patronage over the Western. Plants in the Urals, for example, have sent both industrial equipment and skilled workers to the Donbas.

Rehabilitation work has been given every assistance by the State. Thousands of tractors, harvester combines and other agricultural machinery and implements, as well as machine tools, turbines and other industrial equipment, have been shipped to the liberated districts. State aid has also taken the form of sending industrial executives and organizers, engineers, agronomists, veterinarians and building experts to help local people in the restoration of industry, agriculture and public utilities.

The experience gained to date augurs well for the further progress of rehabilitation in the Nazi-devastated regions.

Soviet Units Advance in Carpathians

Neither high passes, narrow mountain paths, fortifications in decisive sectors nor the incessant transfer of fresh Hungarian and German formations trained in Hungary can deter the advance of Soviet units in the Carpathians.

North of Brasov, on the Transylvanian frontier, the Hungarians built strong, permanent defensive positions with pillboxes, blockhouses, minefields and barbed-wire entanglements. This defense was built long before the entry of Soviet troops into Rumania. But it failed to check the Soviet troops, who after several days of stubborn fighting broke through the Hungarian fortified line. Over 1,000 war prisoners

were taken in one day. German and Hungarian prisoners speak only of their enormous losses and the unheard-of firepower of the Soviet troops.

By fire and counter-attacks the enemy strives to check the advance of Red Army troops, but all attempts bring only new defeats. Soviet units forge steadfastly ahead in the northwestern direction. The German-Hungarian command hurls considerable infantry and tank forces into action.

Stiff fighting is in progress in the mountains north and south of the town of Kypmulung. Roads are scarce there and they wind along the steep banks of rapid

mountain streams. As a rule there are a few small highland villages on the mountain slopes in the proximity of these roads. Every such village constitutes a German-Hungarian strongpoint, and on the whole the entire road forms a system of fortifications intended to defy passage from east to west. But here, too, the Red Army men advance, dislodging the enemy from one strongpoint after another.

The coordination of attacks of ground forces and aircraft is invariably very effective. Under cover of Yakovlev and Lavochkin planes, our cavalrymen effect daring raids deep into the rear of the German-Hungarian troops.



The fast, powerfully armed Lavochkin fighter, designed by Hero of Socialist Labor S. A. Lavochkin



The armored IL-2 "Stormovik" attack plane, designed by Hero of Socialist Labor S. V. Ilyushin



Lightest of all fighter planes, the YAK-3, designed by Hero of Socialist Labor A. S. Yakovlev

ATTACK PLANES

By S. Ilyushin

The author is a leading Soviet aircraft designer, creator of the IL-2 plane, known as the Stormovik.

When the human mind first conceived the airplane, the general staffs of armies all over the world began to think of ways of employing this new weapon for future battles. The Wright brothers made their first successful flight in December, 1903, and eight or nine years later the airplane was already being utilized in the war in Tripoli between Turkey and Italy, and also in the war in the Balkan States against Turkey.

In the First World War, aircraft played a notable part in the operations of ground forces. Aircraft were used in reconnaissance and bombing operations. Fighter machines came into being to combat the reconnaissance and bomber craft. With the swift development of aviation technique and the numerical growth of air forces after the First World War, the idea arose that aviation would be the decisive factor in war in the future. Some military experts—for example, the Italian General Douhet—advanced the theory as early as 1921 that the air force would play an independent part in a future war and that by raiding towns and vital centers in the enemy rear would decide the issue of the war.

This theory was rejected in the Soviet Union as erroneous and unfounded. We were of the opinion that the air force in a war in the near future would be an important arm of the land forces and would accomplish independent bombing of vital centers in the enemy rear, but that it could by no means determine the outcome of war.

The experience of the Second World War has proved the truth of this. The issue of the war is being determined by armies of millions of men equipped with all modern weapons, including aircraft. The experience of this war shows that the air force is able to accomplish independent operations, that it can deal telling blows at the enemy rear and shake his war potential, but that such operations do not decide the outcome of war. Despite this, however, there are still a number of aircraft experts, among them the American designer Seversky, who consider that the air forces, by bombing towns of the Axis powers, can decide the war in favor of the Allies.

We, however, have never doubted that the air force would mainly be employed for cooperation with other arms of the army and navy. Therefore, Soviet designers directed their efforts toward constructing aircraft which would prove most effective in aiding operations of the ground forces of the Red Army.

I visualized the conditions under which a machine would operate and the targets it would have to destroy—infantry, tanks, motor trucks, guns of various calibers, machine-gun nests, fortifications, etc. This required that the plane be equipped with various armament: machine guns, cannon (of various calibers) bombs and rocket shells. To spot and strike effectively such small land targets as men, tanks, motor trucks, single guns and machine-gun crews, which very often are camouflaged, the plane must be able to fly at altitudes of from 10 to 500 meters. From greater heights these small targets would be difficult to locate and hit.

But in flying low over enemy territory a machine is bound to encounter heavy fire. This led to the idea of protecting the plane with armor—making it invulnerable to rifle and machine-gun fire and partly to fire from guns of small caliber. Thus the attack plane IL-2 came into being.

In designing the IL-2, I took every precaution to make it easy for mass production and mass exploitation under battle conditions. The difficulty lay not alone in the organization of mass production, but also in the manufacture of the complicated armor covering the body. Despite doubts expressed by many, the Ordzhonikidze plant overcame all technical difficulties and swiftly organized mass production of the armored bodies.

Four months after the receipt of blueprints the Voroshilov factory began mass production of the IL-2. In 1941 the plants had to be evacuated to the Eastern regions. Severe frosts, heavy snowstorms and blizzards were common companions of the builders, but within two months after evacuation the IL-2s again went to the front. The foe will soon feel the blows of our new Stormoviks, highly improved models.

Kuban Oil Output Increases

Daily output of the Kuban oilfields, which are being successfully rehabilitated, has increased four times as compared with January of this year. The powerful electric plant will soon be fully restored, which will mean a further increase in production.

SOVIET NAVAL WARFARE

By Vice Admiral Y. Panteleyev

Throughout the war the Soviet Navy has fully coordinated its operations with those of the land forces. In the past three years of fighting the enemy has not been able to attack or bypass by sea a single flank of the Red Army, despite repeated efforts in the Northern waters, the Baltic, Lake Ladoga and the Azov and Black Seas.

Combining its operations with those of the Army, the Soviet Fleet played a prominent part in the defense of Hango, Tallinn, Leningrad, Odessa, Sevastopol and Novorossisk. Great aid was also given by the Fleet to Red Army land forces when they went over to the offensive.

The Battle of Leningrad and the struggle for Novorossisk and Sevastopol were a salient feature of this fighting. As the Red Army pushed ever farther westward, this aid acquired increasing significance. By undertaking landing operations, the Navy not only speeded up the land advance but on numerous occasions carried the fighting deep behind the enemy's forward lines.

Some of these operations, such as the landings in the North, were undertaken for the purpose of reconnaissance and the seizure and destruction of enemy key points. In the Azov Sea they were in the nature of tactical flanking thrusts. Still others, like those at Feodosia, Novorossisk and Kerch, exercised a decisive influence on the development of the entire offensive operations undertaken by the Red Army.

Tribute must be paid to the Soviet marines, those fearless heroes who have dealt the Germans painful defeats not only in the coastal areas but at Moscow and Stalingrad.

Great aid has also been rendered the Red Army by the Coastal Artillery, which played a large part in the defense of Leningrad, and by the Soviet River Flotillas, particularly the Volga and Dnieper flotillas.

Naval warfare in the East has cost the Germans heavily. The figures I have at hand on losses inflicted upon the Hitlerites by all our fleets give an idea of the magnitude of the defeat suffered by the enemy in the past three years in the North, in the Baltic and in the Azov and Black Seas.

Soviet submarines alone have sent to the bottom some 440 transports and other vessels with a total displacement of over two million tons. Altogether, during 36 months of war Soviet Naval Forces sank over 680 enemy warships and about 1,900 auxiliary vessels, among them an armored auxiliary cruiser of the coastal defense, 35 destroyers, 49 submarines, 270 patrol launches, 126 patrol boats and 77 motor torpedo boats.

In the same period 355 enemy warships and 876 auxiliary vessels were damaged, including 36 destroyers and 10 submarines. Many damaged ships suffered too greatly to return to service.

In addition, the Fleet and its Air Arm

destroyed over 6,600 enemy aircraft.

These are figures, but behind them are the men who chalked them up—sailors, officers and admirals. Only because of their valor and skill has our Fleet been able to withstand the gruelling test of the war with honor and to carry out its duty.

The sea is not a new element for the Russians. From the time of Peter I, when the Russian Fleet first came into being, generations of tried and tested sailors have grown up in our country, and in this war men and officers of the Soviet Navy have carried on in the best traditions of these generations of seafarers.

In modern war, valor alone is insufficient. Today sailor and seldier alike must know how to fight, to make the fullest use of weapons, to anticipate the enemy's plans. The promotion of 44 ship and naval units to the status of Guards, the awarding of the title of Hero of the Soviet Union to 211 Navy men and of orders and medals to some 50,000, is evidence that the men who man our ships and naval aircraft have mastered the science of warfare.

During these three years of war the Soviet Navy has grown stronger and has accumulated a wealth of battle experience. It enters the decisive phase of the war against Hitler, mightier than at the outbreak of hostilities. This is the guarantee that our Fleet will continue to add to the impact of its blows, to help mankind rid itself of the horrors of this war which the Hitlerites loosed upon the world.



A returning submarine moors to a tender



Submarine Commander Lunin, Hero of the Soviet Union, reports a new victory to the Northern Fleet command

GERMAN DEATH FACTORY IN SOBIBUR

By Major A. Rutman and Senior Lieutenant
of the Guards S. Krasilshchik

World public opinion already knows of the Lublin camp of destruction. We saw the huge incinerators with charred human remains, the ditches where many thousands of people lie buried, the gardens fertilized with human ashes, the storehouse packed with hundreds of thousands of pairs of shoes removed from the feet of men, women and children.

But the Lublin camp had many counterparts. Factories for the wholesale extermination of human beings existed also in Sobibur, Tremblinka, Belzica, Oswen-cima and near Chelm. In Chelm we met survivors of the Sobibur camp who told us about their horrible experiences behind the barbed-wire fence of the German concentration camp at the station of Sobibur in Lublin Province.

The following story was told us by B. Freiberg, from Warsaw, who escaped by a miracle:

Destruction Conveyor

"I was brought to Sobibur in May, 1942. The camp was opened on May 15, 1942. Actually there were three camps situated on the vast grounds. The first had various workshops where the prisoners made shoes, clothing and furniture for the Germans. There were about a hundred people working there. I was put to work in the second camp, where the stores and warehouses were situated. There were 200 of us working in that camp; 120 men and 80 women. Whenever a fresh party of prisoners was brought the Germans lined them up on the grounds in front of our camp and ordered them to undress.

"You will be sent to the Ukraine to work,' Oberscharfuehrer Michel would tell them. 'You must now go to the bathhouse before proceeding on your journey. You may leave your clothes here and will get them back half an hour later.'

"The people undressed. Three barracks were built for the women, one for removing their shoes, the second for their clothing, while in the third their hair was cut and packed in sacks for shipment to some factories in Germany. From the second camp the people were taken to a

third one. Entrance to this camp was strictly forbidden to the prisoners of the first two camps, but we knew what was happening there. None of the people taken there ever returned. A brick building with heavy iron gates was situated there. Oberscharfuehrer Getdinger was always stationed at the gate to see that order was maintained. As soon as about 800 people passed into the building the doors were locked.

"An electric engine in an adjoining wing pumped poison gas into the building, and as a rule all the people inside perished in 15 minutes. There were no windows in the building with the exception of a tiny window on the top through which the German known as the bathhouse superintendent watched the people suffocating to death.

"At a signal from him the flow of gas was stopped, the floor in the building slid apart automatically and the bodies dropped into the basement, where special carts were kept. Dozens of doomed people loaded the bodies into the carts, which took them to the woods on the grounds of the third camp where they were buried in a huge pit. Then and there the Germans shot the people who had removed the bodies from the basement.

"As soon as the doomed people undressed in the second camp we gathered all their clothes and sorted and stored them separately. They were later packed for shipment to Germany.

"Every day some eight to ten trains arrived at Sobibur, bringing 800 to 1,000 people each, yet the number of prisoners in the camp did not increase. All the newcomers were undressed and taken to the third camp to die in agony.

"I saw a train pull in from Byelostok packed with nude people. Some were completely exhausted and others dead. En route the people were given neither food nor water. Lime was poured over the dead and the living, causing the latter horrible torture. This was in June, 1943.

"I saw the Germans lift children, throw them on the ground and kick them with

their boots. I saw hungry dogs set upon defenseless people and tear them to bits.

"There was in our camp a brutal executioner, a German boxer from Berlin by the name of Gomerski, who could kill a man with one blow of a stick, and always boasted of it. Another German chauffeur by the name of Paul acquired skill in chopping off heads, arms and legs with one blow of an axe.

'Production' of the Death Factory

"At the end of 1942 the cremation of corpses began in the third camp. Rails were laid and fires were constantly kept burning under them. The Germans brought a special dredge for digging up the huge graves, and the bodies were heaped up on top of the rails. Thousands were burned every day; the fires were kept burning day and night, the flames rising very high. The stench was nauseating and suffocating.

"Bodies removed from the basement gas chamber were no longer buried but cremated at once. Special containers were fitted to the rails for collecting human fat. The furnaces were manned by a special crew of 150 prisoners. The ashes were collected in sacks and sent to Germany for use as fertilizer. The fat was packed in barrels, also for shipment to Germany. The Germans said that it made good soap. There was also a mill in the third camp for grinding human bones.

"Sometimes people were burned at the stake. One day I heard terrible screams from the direction of the third camp and later learned that women and children were thrown into the fire alive.

"I spent 17 months at Sobibur and fled with other prisoners when a rebellion broke out in the camp in October, 1943."

The lad who told us this story had a tired look in his eyes—the eyes of an old man. They had seen too much suffering to retain their youthful luster.

* * *

The death factory in Sobibur was kept going day and night for 18 months. Trains rattled over Europe's railways, bringing

hundreds of thousands of people to Sobibur to be gassed and burned by the Germans, while trains leaving Sobibur for Germany carried the ghastly products of the death factory—cases filled with ashes, barrels of human fat, sacks of women's hair, carloads of clothing and shoes.

A Girl from Holland

Zelma Weinberg, from the Dutch town Zvolle, told us, "All that I have seen and experienced cannot be described in words. At any rate, I cannot find adequate words for it." Zelma saw a German, Wolf, from Lind, approach naked children as they were driven to the brick gas chamber, hand out cheap German candy and pat their little heads, saying, "You'll soon get well here, children." The children were led off to their death of torture and Wolf watched them go, very pleased with his own sense of humor.

Zelma Weinberg knew a Dutchman who worked in the clothing storehouse of the second camp. One day he saw familiar clothing among a new heap received. He ran to the yard and among the crowd of nude people saw his whole family. He rushed toward them, but they were barely able to recognize him, so terribly had his appearance changed in the death camp. He pleaded with the Germans to kill him together with his dear ones, but it is too simple for Germans to kill a man. They like to see him suffer.

The Dutchman later recalled that he himself had written a postcard to his relatives, inviting them to come to Poland.

Zelma had seen such postcards in Holland—one of the treacherous provocations of the executioners. Germans with maps in their hands went through the trains pointing out to the victims the places allegedly designated for Dutch settlers, and suggested that they write to their relatives in Holland to induce them to come to Poland. They took the bait and wrote. How many of them, realizing later that they were doomed, recalled with horror that they had themselves helped to lure their dear ones, their children, into the trap.

The girl from Holland spoke with great difficulty. She could find no words to express all that was plainly written in her face. Zelma Weinberg was brought to Sobibur in April, 1943. After six months'

work in the second camp she fled during the uprising on October 14, 1943.

The Uprising in the Camp

The prisoners in Sobibur resisted the Hitlerites. A few survivors will remember to their dying day the beautiful girl from Wodlawa who, before her execution, threw into the face of the Germans, "We will be avenged! There will be no mercy for you bandits!" The girl was brutally beaten with rifle butts and then shot.

Escape from Sobibur was almost impossible. The camp was fenced off with three rows of barbed wire. Rising above the wire were sentry towers and beyond it was a ditch three meters wide, after which there were minefields.

Nevertheless, many attempts were made. In June, 1943 a Dutch journalist organized the escape of 72 prisoners. Nearly all the fugitives were caught and murdered by the Germans. Prisoners working near the infernal furnaces began to dig an underground tunnel in preparation for escape. When a 30-meter passage was already dug, the initiators were caught and shot by Oberscharfuehrer Neuman personally.

Many such attempts were made, but only Soviet citizens were capable of preparing and organizing a real uprising, as soon as they were brought to this camp. Here is the story as told by H. Powroznik, a carpenter from the village of Luboml:

"In August, 1943, 600 Red Army officers and soldiers taken prisoner were brought to Sobibur from Minsk. Eighty were assigned to work and the rest were gassed and burned. Among the 80 left behind was a young officer. No one ever learned his surname. We called him Sashko and he said he came from Rostov.

"Immediately upon arrival at the camp Sashko began to prepare for an uprising and mass escape. Very scrupulously he selected assistants to help him carry through his plan of cutting the camp's system of communications and signals, killing the German guards and setting all the prisoners free. Knives and small axes which could easily be hidden were forged secretly at night in the prison shop.

"The uprising was scheduled for October 14, 1943. Many tailors and shoemakers of the first camp had asked their German clients to come for fittings at the

appointed hour, 5:00 P.M. At that very hour the prisoners cut the camp's communications. When Oberscharfuehrer Greuschut, chief of the prison guards, came to the shoemaker, the latter killed him with an axe as soon as he opened the door. Klatt, a guard, was also killed in the same shop. The tailor likewise killed his client by striking him on the head with an axe and hid his body under the bed.

"The same thing also happened in the second camp. Unterscharfuehrer Wolf and his brother were killed in the clothing storeroom. Unterscharfuehrer Beckman fired back, but he was killed by Henrich Engekl, a young man from Lodz.

"Armed with weapons taken from the dead Germans the prisoners opened fire at the sentry towers. Those who had no arms were taught by Sashko to fill their pockets with sand and throw it into the eyes of the Germans. The blinded executioners were finished off with stones and sticks.

"After killing all the Germans we could find we made for the fence, tearing the barbed wire with everything we could lay hands on. We got across the ditch, but many perished on their way through the minefields. Then we began to drag boards from the camp to lay a passage through the minefields. Four hundred came through alive.

"When we reached the forest Sashko ordered us to break up into small groups and to try to get through to the guerrillas. The Germans organized pursuit and even planes were called in to shell the forest. Fifty fugitives from Sobibur survived."

"Most of us fought in the ranks of the guerrilla detachments before the Red Army came, but I was never able to learn what happened to our Sashko."

* * *

The executioners will not succeed in hiding the traces of their crimes. The uprising and mass flight from Sobibur frustrated the plans of the Hitlerite cannibals. According to the German scheme, the prisoners were to be destroyed to a man. After the uprising, afraid that their crimes would be brought to light, the Germans burned the barracks at Sobibur, blew up the brick gas chamber, leveled the ditches with earth and planted pines over the vast territory of the death factory, where some two million people perished according to



Through flaming villages ravaged by the German invaders, Soviet tanks roll ahead

the estimates of the prisoners themselves.

The executioners took much pains to cover the traces of their unparalleled crimes. In vain. Living witnesses who escaped death are here to tell the world the terrible truth about Sobibur. They will name the executioners in front of the judges. They will lead the judges to the site of the death factory, and under the layer of sand spread there by the Germans will find the charred earth, the gas-smelling brick and the milled human bones.

Europe, liberated from the fascist scum, will compile lists of the people shipped by the Germans to Poland and destroyed there. On the day of judgment the peoples of the world will present these lists to the Germans as incriminating evidence. This day is not far off.

Soviet Red Cross Aids Freed Polish Areas

The Polish Committee of National Liberation addressed the Soviet Red Cross with a request for medicines and medical equipment. The Soviet Red Cross has dispatched a large consignment of needed medical supplies to Polish liberated areas.

LETTER FROM DONBAS

A letter recently addressed by the workers of Stalino to Marshal Stalin on the first anniversary of liberation of the Donbas from the German invaders bore the signatures of over 710,000 persons. The letter states, in part:

"Within one year after the liberation of our region we have restored 858 industrial enterprises, including 51 large mines. The Donets miners have already extracted six million tons of coal. Mines are not only being restored in record time, but are also being reconstructed.

"Plants manufacturing mining machinery in Gorlovka, Stalino and Torets have been restored and recommissioned and are serving as the main base for future mechanization of the coal mines.

"Metallurgists of the Stalino Region have already restored and recommissioned seven blast furnaces, 23 open-hearth furnaces, 17 rolling mills and 42 coking batteries. The iron and steel works of the Donets Basin have turned out 200,000 tons of pig iron, 430,000 tons of steel and 220,000 tons of rolled metal.

"Metallurgists of Makeyevka, directed

by the renowned foreman Ivan Korobov, achieved prewar output capacity within 10 days after a blast furnace was blown in and continue to exceed their quotas daily in the Stalin iron smelting works.

"The Kirov works in Makeyevka, and also the iron and steel works in Mariupol, Yenakievo and Konstaninovka have been restored. The hour is near when this largest works in the south will reach the prewar level of production.

"Builders keep pace with the miners and metallurgists. The building trusts have created a powerful base for the earliest restoration of industry. In a short space of time they restored two turbines of the power station in Zuevo, with a total output capacity of 100,000 kilowatt hours. Seven other power stations and dozens of substations have begun functioning.

"In the days of the glorious anniversary of the liberation of the Donets Basin, the Novokramatorskaya machine building works will start production of machines. New installations are being set up in chemical and coking plants. The plants are continuing to increase production."

Notes from Front and Rear

Sergeant of the Guards Maria Oktyabrskaya, of Tomsk, Siberia, is the first woman member of a tank crew to receive the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. When her husband, a regimental commissar, was killed in action, Maria contributed 5,000 rubles toward building a tank and asked permission to drive it herself. The request was granted and in 1943 she joined a Guards brigade as driver-mechanic. In her first battle her tank crushed an anti-tank gun and killed 30 Germans. Maria was wounded and the tank disabled, but she repaired it under fire. For her bravery she received the Order of the Patriotic War, First Class. In January of this year her tank was again damaged and she again repaired it under artillery and mortar fire. Seriously wounded, she is now in a hospital.

★

One million copies of textbooks in the Uzbek and Russian languages have been issued by the State Publishing House of the Uzbek Soviet Republic. An English grammar is also being published.

★

Councils of Servicemen's Wives active in Moscow and throughout the USSR have rendered substantial aid to the families of Red Army men, supplementing the aid provided by the Government. Through these Councils over 16,000 members of Red Army men's families in Moscow have been trained in new trades. One of the Moscow Councils, chaired by the wife of Marshal Rokossovsky, has aided 1,700 wives and mothers of Red Army men to master various industrial trades. During the summer 18,000 children of Red Army men were placed in special sanatoriums or were cared for in play centers.

★

The Moldavian National and Russian Theaters and the State Jazz Orchestra, of Moldavia, which were evacuated when the Germans temporarily occupied the Republic, have returned to their home and resumed activities.

Marshal Semyon Timoshenko has been awarded the Order of Suvorov, First Class, for successful execution of military assignments of the Supreme Command.

★

A group of scientists from the Physics Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR are planning an expedition to the Pamir Mountains to conduct research in cosmic rays. The group will be headed by Corresponding Member of the Academy D. Skobeltsin, who led a similar expedition to Mount Elbrus. The scientists will be equipped with improved instruments.

★

The Kamchatka canneries and fisheries have completed and exceeded their annual production program four months ahead of the specified time.

★

Aircraft factories throughout the Soviet Union fulfilled or exceeded their production assignments for July. The plant directed by Hero of Socialist Labor Tretyakov recently launched six new assembly lines which are producing the new model of the Ilyushin attack plane in a continuous stream. Production time of each plane has been cut by 130 hours this year. The Chkalov plant, which manufactures YAK fighters, has increased production sixfold in the past two years. A powerful new engine which will considerably enhance the fighting qualities of Soviet attack planes is now being produced.

★

Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe," a perennial favorite with young Soviet readers, has been issued in a new edition of 150,000 copies.

★

A research institute for the study of the history of architecture has been opened in Moscow under the direction of Professor Nikolai Kollit. The institute plan to issue shortly a "General History of Architecture," a richly illustrated monograph on "20th Century Architecture in the West" and a "Brief History of Russian Architecture."

Estonian guerrillas made their way to a large railway station in an occupied area and under the very noses of the Germans re-switched a trainload of troops and supplies, causing it to collide with another train. Hundreds of Germans, a large quantity of material, dozens of cars and a locomotive were destroyed.

★

Four new front-line theaters of opera, drama and comedy are being established by the Arts Committee of the Soviet Government. There are now 27 of these theaters, which have given some 10,000 performances.

★

The Restoration Worker Patriot, a new Soviet book, gives first mention to a group of workers of a Soviet railway junction who pledged themselves to contribute 50 hours each of their leisure time for restoration work. By their own efforts, without aid from State funds, they rebuilt two depots, two stations and several cultural and municipal institutions.

★

Konstantin Simonov has completed a new play, "The Return," a story of Soviet people in 1944.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 103

Washington, D. C., September 19, 1944



Armistice with Rumania

An editorial from IZVESTIA, September 14:

As a result of negotiations in Moscow, an Armistice Agreement with Rumania was signed on September 12. The Rumanian Government and High Command accepted the armistice terms presented by the Governments of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States. Today we publish the text of *this Agreement*, a document of major international political significance.

The armistice terms were preliminarily discussed by the Allies with great care and full agreement was reached on their definitions. The Agreement was signed by Marshal of the Soviet Union Rodion Y. Malinovsky on behalf of the three Allied powers, who acted in the interests of all the United Nations for the furtherance of the success of their common struggle against Germany and her satellites.

The Armistice Agreement with Rumania is the result of the outstanding victories of the Red Army.

The Agreement begins by stating that Rumania acknowledges her defeat in the war against the USSR, Great Britain, the United States and the other United Nations. The defeat sustained by Rumania on the battlefield was inflicted by Soviet arms. Many Rumanian divisions were shattered at Odessa, Stalingrad and in the Crimea, and the Red Army scored brilliant victories over Rumanian and German forces on the territory of Rumania herself.

The character and scale of this victory may be judged by the report published yesterday by the Soviet Information Bureau on the results of the Jassy-Kishinev operation. In this, one of the biggest and from a strategical and military-political standpoint most outstanding operations in the present war, 15

German divisions, not counting Rumanian troops, were surrounded and annihilated.

The Jassy-Kishinev operation crowned a series of telling blows which brought Rumania to defeat. The Red Army's victory on the Rumanian place d'armes signified a major success for the common cause of the Allies, hastened the disintegration of the fascist bloc and is expediting the hour of complete defeat of all Germany's forces.

Rumania has not only withdrawn from the war against the United Nations, but has turned her arms against Germany and her Hungarian vassal. Rumania has joined the war against Germany and Hungary, with the purpose of recovering her independence and sovereignty, and will fight on the side of the Allied powers.

The armistice terms presented to Rumania were based upon two considerations: first, Rumania's military defeat, and second, the fact that Rumania will

henceforward take part in the war on the side of the Allied powers.

The Soviet people with the strength of their arms saved their sacred land and ejected from its borders the troops of the Rumanian invader. Article 4 of the Armistice Agreement reads: "The State boundaries between the USSR and Rumania established by the Soviet-Rumanian Agreement of June 28, 1940 are restored. This Article is a stake in the grave of the insensate adventure of the Rumanian imperialists who cherished the dream of seizing Soviet territory, of a "Rumanian Odessa," of a "Rumanian Transdnistria," of Rumanian villas on the Crimean coast.

Soviet frontier posts are again occupying their lawful place on the banks of the Prut and the Danube. The frontiers of the USSR are now and henceforward inviolable.

The Rumanian invaders caused severe damage to our country and wrecked many cities, villages and farms. The Soviet people cannot forget that Rumania bears responsibility for the damage done to Soviet land. Under the terms of the Armistice Agreement Rumania undertakes to restore all valuables and materials carried away from the territory of the USSR.

The thousands of Soviet citizens, war prisoners and civilians, interned or forcibly carried off to Rumania will be liberated and restored to their homeland.

Furthermore, Rumania has undertaken to compensate for the losses caused the Soviet Union by military actions and by the occupation of Soviet territory by Rumanian troops. In defining the amount of reparations for losses caused, account was taken of the fact that Rumania has not only withdrawn from the war against the United Nations, but is also now fighting on the side of the Allied powers



Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky, who signed the Armistice Agreement with Rumania on behalf of the USSR, Great Britain and the United States

against Germany and Hungary. The clearly-expressed desire of Rumania to act in the interests of the Allies, and the military obligations she has assumed, had their influence.

Rumania is displaying the desire to atone for the ill she has done humanity and to obliterate from the memory of nations the deplorable page in her recent past, with which she has now resolutely broken.

The Allies no doubt also took into account Rumania's dire economic condition, resulting from the ravages of Hitler Germany. The Soviet Union has displayed its characteristic magnanimity with regard to Rumania, who having received a cruel lesson was wise enough, although belatedly, to draw a saving conclusion from it.

The USSR consented to Rumania making not full but partial reparation. Rumania is to pay to the Soviet Union \$300,000,000 in goods over a period of six years.

The armistice terms also provide for compensation for losses inflicted upon our Allies.

The interests of the further prosecution of the war dictated a number of purely military conditions which are subordinate to the chief and fundamental object of achieving the earliest possible victory over Hitler Germany. Rumania, which was formerly a strategical place d'armes for Germany in the Balkans, now becomes a place d'armes for military operations of the Allied forces, aiming at the complete elimination of Hitler's domination in the Balkans and the restoration of the independence and sovereignty of the Balkan peoples.

Rumania undertakes to put into the field not less than 12 infantry divisions

for action against Germany and Hungary. The operations of Rumania's armed forces will come under the general direction of the Allied (Soviet) Command. All war and economic resources with which Rumania formerly nourished Germany will now be utilized against Germany and Hungary with a view to shortening the war.

For this purpose, an Allied Control Commission will be set up, functioning under the general direction of the Allied (Soviet) Command, which will exercise supervision over the observance of armistice terms.

In fighting Germany and Hungary, Rumania is fighting for the restoration of her independence and sovereignty. The armistice terms open the road to Rumania for the restoration of her sovereign rights. The Agreement is drawn up in the spirit of respect for the independence and national interests of the Rumanian State. From beginning to end its terms fully harmonize with the principles proclaimed by the Soviet Government on April 2 of this year, when the Red Army following in the pursuit of the enemy entered Rumanian territory. In its declaration at that time, the Soviet Government stated that it had no intention of acquiring any part of Rumania's territory or of changing the existing social order in Rumania, or in any way limiting her independence. Rumania will have to defend her territory and her independence not against the Soviet Union but against Germany and her Hungarian accomplices.

A piratical gang sold Rumania's national interests to Hitler. As an "ally" of Rumania, Hitler ravaged her by turning over part of her territory to Hungary. It is a noteworthy fact that the Allied

powers are restoring to vanquished Rumania what was wrested from her by her former ally. The Allied powers, in deference to Rumania's national interests, have repudiated the so-called "Viennese arbitration," which gave Rumanian Transylvania to Hungary. Rumania has now come out to fight for the recovery of her Transylvanian lands. The Soviet Union is aiding and will aid her in this. The armistice terms are fair and generous. The significance of the Agreement is determined not only by its Articles, but also by the influence it will exercise upon the future course of events. The Armistice Agreement testifies to the disintegration of Hitler's piratical bloc. Rumania has broken with Germany and turned her weapons against her.

Following upon Rumania, Finland and Bulgaria have also broken with Germany. Only Hungary still remains in the Hitler camp and is continuing the criminal war under Germany's command. The Agreement with Rumania substantially changes the situation in the Balkans and will facilitate the early liberation of the Balkan countries from the German yoke.

The armistice terms create conditions for the future establishment of normal relations between the Soviet Union and Rumania. Rumania is our neighbor and the Soviet Union wants to have good relations with its neighbors. The armistice terms reflect this general policy of the Soviet Union and its concern for the future peaceful intercourse among nations in the interests of general peace.

The Soviet people will greet the armistice agreement with Rumania with satisfaction. They will see in it a wise, far-sighted, dignified and just expression of their victory.

Woman Tankist Awarded Third Decoration

Lieutenant Raissa Potanina, one of the very few women fighting with Red Army tank troops, was recently decorated for the third time for valor in action. In the fighting for the liberation of Byelorussia and Lithuania, 25-year-old Lieutenant Potanina destroyed 37 German tanks and 20 guns and wiped out several hundred Hitlerite officers and men.

Fighting at Stalingrad and at Kursk,

Lieutenant Potanina was awarded two decorations. In a recent engagement, four Soviet tanks, including that of the woman commander, were ordered to destroy two fascist screens in a forest. Piercing the enemy defenses, Potanina crushed two guns and two blockhouses and set fire to three enemy tanks, machine-gunning or crushing 80 Germans.

Her tank was hit and burst into flames,

killing all the crew except Lieutenant Potanina, whose leg was broken. She crawled five hours through enemy territory. When she finally reached the Soviet trenches she fell unconscious with 17 shell-splinter wounds in her body.

While in the hospital, the heroic young woman received her third decoration. Now, fully recovered, she has again gone to the front.

COMMUNIQUE OF SOVIET INFORMATION BUREAU ON RESULTS OF JASSY-KISHINEV OPERATION OF RED ARMY FOR ENCIRCLEMENT OF GERMAN TROOPS

On September 2 and 3 of this year, in the Bacau area, our troops annihilated the last group of German-fascist troops surrounded as a result of the Jassy-Kishinev operation. The annihilation of this enemy group formed the concluding stage of the Jassy-Kishinev operation of our troops.

As a result of offensive operations conducted in the south from August 20 to September 3, the troops of the Second Ukrainian Front under the command of Army General (now Marshal of the Soviet Union) Malinovsky and troops of the Third Ukrainian Front under the command of Army General Tolbukhin, completely surrounded and annihilated the Sixth and Eighth German Armies, which formed part of the group of German troops of the "Southern Ukraine," under the command of Colonel General Frissner.

Thereby was fully completed the Jassy-Kishinev operation for the encirclement of the German troops—one of the largest and most outstanding for its strategic and military-political significance in the present war.

In the progress of the successful offensive, the troops of the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts surrounded and annihilated (Rumanian troops not included): the 62d, 79th, 106th, 161st, 257th, 258th, 282d, 294th, 302d, 320th, 335th, 370th, 376th and 384th German Infantry Divisions; the First German Anti-Aircraft Division, the 228th, 243d, 286th, 325th, 259th, 278th, 732d and 911th, Brigades of Assault Guns; the 40th, 46th, 52d, 70th, 77th, 127th, 140th, 149th, 612th, 792d and 818th Artillery Regiments of the Reserve of the High Command; the 721st, 1,007th, 1,009th and 1,160th Independent Anti-Tank Battalions; the 40th, 86th, 194th, 732d, 735th, 737th and 906th Independent Artillery Battalions of the Reserve of the High Command; the 52d Trench Mortar Regiment, the 278th, 300th and 707th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalions of the Reserve of the High Command; the Fourth Bicycle Regiment, the 999th

Fortress Regiment; the Grenadier Regiment "Neuhamer," an Independent Regiment of Signal Troops, the 52d, 112th, 130th, 152d, 154th and 602d Building Battalions, two Signal Battalions, the 318th and 522d Security Battalions; the 7th, 17th, 500th and 506th Disciplinary Battalions; the 27th, 219th, 246th, 541st and 651st Sapper Battalions of the Reserve of the High Command; the 472d Battalion of Tank Destroyers and the 794th Battalion "Osnas."

Furthermore, the troops of the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts routed the 15th, 46th, 76th, 153rd and 306th German Infantry Divisions and the 10th Motorized and 13th Tank Divisions.

In the course of offensive engagements from August 20 to September 3, the troops of the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts inflicted upon the German-fascist troops the following losses in manpower and equipment:

They destroyed 298 planes, 490 tanks and self-propelled guns, 1,500 guns of various calibers and 15,000 trucks.

The Germans left on the battlefield over 150,000 bodies of their officers and men. Among those killed were found the bodies of the commander of the Fourth German Army Corps, Infantry General Miet; commander of the 44th German Army Corps, Infantry General Mueller; commander of the 384th German Infantry Division, Lieutenant General de Salengie-Drabbe; commander of the 294th German Infantry Division, Major General Eichstedt; commander of the 15th German Infantry Division, Major General Sperl; commander of the 320th German Infantry Division, Colonel Schiel and the commander of the 306th German Infantry Division, Colonel Blumke.

During the same period the troops of the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts seized from the Germans the following trophies: 40 planes, 340 tanks and self-propelled guns, over 2,000 guns of various calibers and about 18,000 trucks.

The troops of the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts took prisoner 106,600 German officers and men. Among those



Marshal Semyon Timoshenko

taken prisoner are: the commander of the Seventh German Army Corps, Artillery General Hell; commander of the 30th German Army Corps, Lieutenant General Postel; assistant commander of the Sixth Army for the Rear, Lieutenant General Burckhardt; commander of the 62d German Infantry Division, Major General Tronier; commander of the 79th German Infantry Division, Lieutenant General Weinknecht; commander of the 282d German Infantry Division, Major General Frenking; commander of the 302d German Infantry Division, Major General von Bogen; commander of the 370th German Infantry Division, Major General von Guelson; the town commandant of Kishinev, Major General von Devitz; the town commandant of Jassy, Major General Stingel; commander of the 376th German Infantry Division, Lieutenant General Schwartz; commander of 106th German Infantry Division, Colonel Ringenberg; commander of 258th German Infantry Division, Colonel Gilcher Rudolf; commander of the 76th German Infantry Division, Colonel von Bissing; commander of First German Anti-Aircraft Division, Colonel Simon.

Besides, our troops took prisoner the commander of the 13th German Tank Division, Lieutenant General Treger and the commander of the 153rd German

(Continued on page seven)

SOVIET WOMEN AIR ACES

To a Russian there is nothing unusual in the fact that women fly bombers and fighter planes and bring down Goering's sky bandits. The Soviet Union has many women war fliers, most of whom formerly worked in civil aviation. Today they are flying communication planes, ambulance planes and battle planes.

One of the most famous of women fliers is Colonel Valentina Grizodubova, Hero of the Soviet Union, who is also a Member of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR from the Central Asian Republic of Kirghizia, and Chairman of the Women's Anti-fascist Committee in Moscow.

Grizodubova is 30 years old, is married and has a son. She learned to fly at the age of 19. Her father, a mechanic, was an aviation enthusiast; in 1907 with his own savings he constructed a plane similar to that of the Wright Brothers.

In the 1930's Grizodubova broke three speed records established by American women fliers. Soon afterward she attained an altitude of 3,267 meters in a light hydroplane, breaking the altitude record held by America. In 1937 with two friends, Polina Osipenko and Marina Ras-



A navigator and bombardier of the Red Army Air Force

kova, she flew from Moscow to the Soviet Far East, establishing a women's world record for non-stop flying. Colonel Grizodubova has been in the Red Army Air Force since the beginning of the war.

Another famous woman flier in the Soviet Union was Grizodubova's close friend, Major Marina Raskova, who died on active service in January, 1943. She joined the Air Force long before the war, first as an assistant in the laboratory of the Air Force Academy and later as a pupil in an academy for long-distance pilots. She became commander of an air regiment and was twice awarded the Order of Lenin, as well as the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Aircraft units trained under her leadership are today playing an important part in the war on the Soviet front.

When Major Raskova died she was mourned by the whole country. Her obituary was signed by Marshal Stalin and other Soviet statesmen. Her body lay in state at the Moscow House of Culture, and representatives of the Soviet High Command, Deputies to the Supreme Soviet and Moscow aircraft workers were among those who came to pay a last tribute to her.

A young Soviet girl, Lilya Litvak, who flew a night fighter plane, also died on active service. Before the war she was a pilot in a flying club. Shortly after joining her unit at the front she brought down three Germans—a Messerschmitt, a Heinkel and a Junkers. Her men comrades still speak of her daring.

Lieutenant Valeria Khomyakova, another fighter pilot, distinguished herself earlier in the war by destroying a Junkers-88 bomber. Yevdokia Nosal, also a Hero of the Soviet Union, flies a night bomber. Before the war she was a schoolmistress.

Many other girls have followed the example of these famous airwomen. As long ago as November, 1942, for example, the Soviet press reported that 14 girl students of the Lomonosov University in Moscow had qualified as navigators of bomber planes and that three had already distinguished themselves at the front.

Valentina Grizodubova said of one of her friends, a bomber pilot: "The Ger-

mans killed her mother, father and one child. Only her younger son survived. And her hatred for our enemies is as great as her tenderness for her surviving child. None of her bombs misses its aim."

Aircraft Scientific Center

An important part in the steady improvement of Soviet aircraft during the war is played by the Central Aero-Hydrodynamics Institute, center of the science of aerodynamics in the USSR. The laboratories of this Institute make up an entire town, located far from the front. A large number of scientists and designers headed by Professor Shishkin, one of the most outstanding experts in aircraft construction, are at present working there.

Soviet plans are subjected to the most varied tests at the Institute, with actual combat conditions reproduced in the testing hall. Among scientists who have won Stalin Prizes during the war are Professor Ushakov, expert on ventilators and propeller aerodynamics, and young Academician Khristianovich, responsible for the theory of highspeed flights.

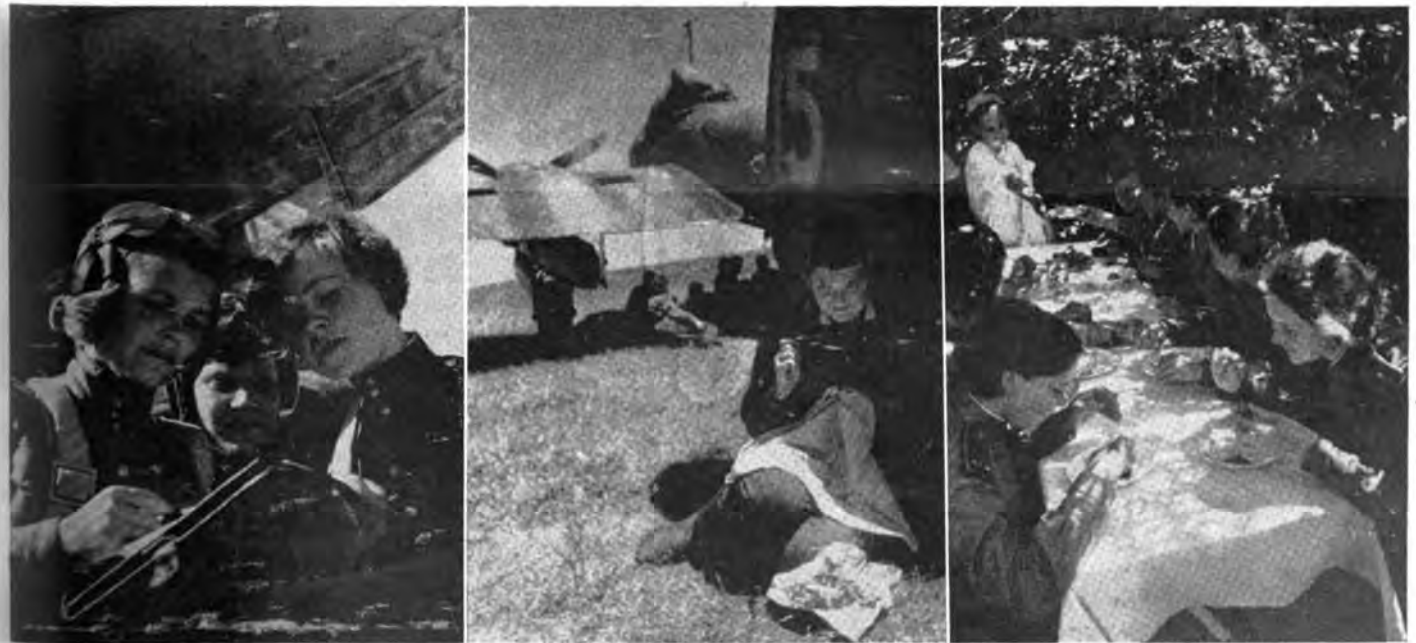


Pilot of a fighter plane of the Red Army Air Force

WOMEN OF THE RED ARMY AIR FORCE



(left) First aid for a slight wound—the young pilot refused to go to a hospital; (center) A fighter plane pilot about to take off on a mission; (right) This young woman flies a night light bomber



(left) Studying a new assignment; (center) Still completely feminine, this skilled airwoman does embroidery in her leisure time; (right) Mess at the airdrome

JEWISH GUERRILLAS

By A. Sutzkever

The author is a well-known Lithuanian poet who was a member of the guerrilla detachment formed in the Vilnius ghetto during the German occupation of that city.

One evening Itzik Vittenberg, Commander of the guerrilla detachment of the Vilnius ghetto, asked me to come to his garret room to discuss the question of a Soviet officer, a friend of mine, who took shelter in the ghetto and wanted to be put in touch with the guerrillas outside the city. When we had finished with this matter, the door opened and Abe, a member of our staff, entered with gunsmith Borukh. Vittenberg asked the latter to sit down next to him on the bed.

"I know, Borukh, that you are a good and faithful guerrilla," the Commander said. "And I know you're clever at fixing all sorts of weapons. The pistols you repaired worked excellently. So it is not a question of confidence. But I must be sure that the mine you've contrived will explode. You see, it's our first act of sabotage. We'll send our best comrades; they will be risking their lives. If the train isn't blown up, we'll all lose more than if we had done nothing—some comrades may suffer, and the rails will be guarded so strictly it will be impossible to make another attempt. That's why I ask you again—are you sure your mine will explode?"

"Yes—I am sure," said Borukh.

Abe added, "If Borukh says he's sure, I'm sure. All we have to do now is to hurry up with the job. We have information from Comrade G. that loaded trains are expected to pass through Novo-Vileika all tomorrow night. We mustn't miss this chance."

Suddenly heartrending cries were heard outside. Itzik jumped up and opened the window. A dozen Jewish women were running through the street, wringing their hands and crying, "Our children . . . what have they done to our children?"

We learned that the children, driven to forced labor in Novo-Vileika, had not returned. On the way home they had been searched and some potatoes and

two pints of milk found on them. Now they were in Lukishki prison awaiting execution. Tomorrow other Jews would be sent to work in Novo-Vileika.

"So . . . it will be Novo-Vileika," said Commander Vittenberg. "And now . . ."

"And now," interrupted Borukh, "I beg you to let me take part in the sabotage, if only because I contrived the mine and I know its mechanism."

Vittenberg exchanged glances with Abe and a smile lit his wrinkled face. He was sorry he had asked Borukh so many times whether the mine was sure to explode. Of course Borukh could be trusted! For a month he had been working in a basement, weighing and sorting gunpowder he had smuggled in from the labor camp in his boots. He had poured it into the long copper casing of an anti-aircraft shell, mixing it with a yellow dust of his own invention, filing, sawing, fitting the percussion cap—glancing every now and then at a ruled sheet of paper with formulas and mathematical symbols—until one day he had rushed in excitedly to report that the mine was ready.

Now he stood with a grave face, the yellow patch (the badge the Germans forced all Jews to wear) over his excitedly-beating heart—and he had only one request: to be permitted to take part in the first act of sabotage.

"I'm sorry, but I

can't allow it," said Vittenberg, patting him on the back. "You know yourself that so far we have no one else to repair our weapons. And besides, you're in charge of a group of grenade-throwers. It would be a crime to send you."

A tall slender girl with a boyish bob and freckles on her sunken cheeks came in. She was Vitke Kempner, liaison worker between the ghetto organization and the Party in the city. Handing Vittenberg the latest bulletin of political news received over the secret radio, she said, "I know what this is all about . . . I didn't sleep a wink all night. Now, I



Captain of the Medical Service of the Red Army Cecelia Liederman has been awarded the Order of the Red Star, the Medal for Valor and the Stalingrad Defense Medal

want you to know my name isn't Vitke if I don't get a chance to wreck that train."

The guerrillas burst into laughter. Vitenberg interrupted, "All right, I agree. Whom do you want to go with you?"

While Vitke thought, Abe suggested, "Iske Matskievich and Moses Brause."

* * *

On a night in July, 1942, a boy and a girl slipped out of the ghetto through a secret passage. Neither wore the yellow patch. They walked slowly in the direction of the city, the boy holding the girl's arm and speaking loudly in German so as not to arouse the suspicion of passersby.

It was 9:30 and they had to hurry, since Aryans were permitted in the streets only until 10 o'clock. Before that hour they must be out of the city. Through Backsht and by the Vilenka Bridge they hurried to Polotsk street. It was a quiet evening and only the swastikas on fences and posters showing "how Jews dominate the world" reminded them the Germans were about. They left Polotsk street behind and turned into the Batory highway—the road to their destination.

To avoid passing automobiles they left the road and took to by-paths. At 11:30 they were to meet Moses Brause at an old oak tree near the paper mill.

Brause had gone to the meeting-place that morning with Jews from the Vilnius ghetto who worked there, carrying bricks and repairing the road. He had the mine with him.

As they neared the spot they heard a rustling—in the distance they saw the oak tree and from beneath it Brause emerged.

"I had just decided not to wait any longer," he said, as he joined them. "If you hadn't come, I was going to plant the mine myself."

At two in the morning they entered a little wood near the track. Vitke and Iske crept up to the rails. Brause kept watch. Iske produced a small shovel and dug a little hole beneath one rail. Vitke handed him pebbles, which he heaped up around the edge of the hole. Borukh had told them to do that to prevent the mine from being pressed into the ground by the train. Iske placed the mine in the hole and covered it with sand. The three then immediately withdrew toward Vileika, crossing a stream and waiting among the willows for the arrival of the train. Soon they heard a puffing in the woods that merged with the horizon. The puffing came nearer and smoke showed above the treetops.

Now they could distinctly see the engine creeping out of the depths of the woods and behind it a string of cars—ten, twenty, thirty, forty! The sound of

German songs reached them from the distance.

It seemed to Vitke that the locomotive passed over the mine without exploding it. She closed her eyes, afraid to voice her misgivings. But Iske was cool and confident—his eyes were riveted to a definite spot; he knew exactly where he had placed the mine. The engine hadn't reached it yet . . . but it was coming closer, closer. . . .

Then the three friends hugged each other as earth and metal shot into the air. . . .

* * *

Thirteen carloads of ammunition and many German soldiers en route to Polotsk were blown to bits. It was one of the first acts of sabotage in the Vilnius district, and to this day no one except a few members of the underground organization in Vilnius knows that it was carried out by three youngsters of the Vilnius ghetto with a mine produced in a basement at No. 31 German street.

From the peasants summoned next morning to collect the dead, we learned they had counted about 200 German soldiers killed in the wreck. They had also picked up many pistols and rifles and large quantities of ammunition. In the fall the guerrillas got all these weapons from the peasants and used them against the Germans.

COMMUNIQUE ON RED ARMY'S JASSY-KISHINEV OPERATION

(Continued from page three)

Infantry Division, Lieutenant General Bauer, who abandoned their troops and fled to the territory of Bulgaria.

As a result of offensive operations carried out in the close interaction of the troops of the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts, which ended in the rout of the group of German-fascist troops in the south, German losses in the main items of war equipment constituted: 338 planes, 830 tanks and self-propelled guns, 3,500 guns of various calibers and 33,000 trucks. German officers and men killed or taken prisoner number 256,600.

Thus the Red Army operation for the encirclement and annihilation of the

Jassy-Kishinev group of the German army, daringly and skilfully accomplished by the troops of the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts, in conformity with the plan of the Supreme Command of the Red Army, resulted in the complete annihilation of 15 German divisions, of which not a single element was able to escape from the encirclement.

* * *

The coordination of actions of the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts was effected by representative of the Headquarters of the Supreme Command, Marshal of the Soviet Union Timoshenko.

Milk Paste Effective for Wounds

Soviet microbiologists have developed acidophilus milk paste which is extremely effective in healing wounds. In a Novosibirsk hospital there was a group of men whose wounds healed very slowly; neither novocaine blocking, ultra violet ray treatment, antiseptics or permanganate baths helped them. The doctors tried the acidophilus milk paste and within a short time the wounded were quite well.

The new paste is made of pressed acidophilus milk. During the Leningrad blockade microbiologists Khlebnikova and Gibshman made a paste of the same milk, which was used in all Leningrad hospitals. In almost all cases it brought about a rapid healing of the most difficult wounds. The paste is now widely used in all Soviet hospitals.

THE DONBAS OF THE ARCTIC

By Alexander Karpov

Coal mines, power stations, railways, engineering shops, farms, boom towns that remind you of the American northwest in the last century—that is the Soviet Arctic in 1944. This new center of industry lies on the very fringe of the Arctic Circle northeast of the Siberian Pechora River which empties its turbulent waters into the Arctic Ocean.

Known in Russia as the Donets Basin of the Arctic, the Pechora industrial development is a product of wartime necessity. Its coal deposits are estimated at 100 billion tons. Although mining began only in recent years, the annual output is already substantial.

This Arctic Donbas completely eliminates a number of difficulties which formerly interfered with the development of the Soviet North. To fuel the ice-breakers and shipping plying the Northern Sea Route from Archangelsk to Vladivostok, Soviet Arctic pioneers were until recently dependent partly on coal from Spitzbergen and partly on coal hauled over 600 miles by rail from the Donets Basin to Leningrad and thence by barge via the Baltic-White Sea Canal.

The temporary enemy occupation of Spitzbergen and the Ukraine cut off the Northern Sea Route and Leningrad from all sources of coal. At the same time the

war speeded up industrial development in the towns of the northern Urals, where coal is hard to get. But in the Pechora Basin, under a blanket of snow, lay rich deposits far beyond the reach of invaders and within relatively easy access of the Arctic coast, Leningrad and the northern Urals.

Geologists, mining engineers and miners, forced by the enemy occupation to leave their work in the Donets Basin, came to develop the Arctic seams. While the shafts were being sunk, homes, factories and the first power stations were built. An army of workmen was busy laying hundreds of miles of railway that runs, straight as an arrow, from the little Komi town of Ust-Kojva northeast to Vorkuta, the heart of the new coal basin. The completion of the railway made possible the opening up of the Pechora region, just as the Canadian Pacific railways were the preliminary to the opening up of western Canada and the northwestern territory of the United States.

Vorkuta, with its pine log dwellings, its schools, hospital, public library and club, is the largest of the new towns that have sprung up mushroom-fashion during the past three years. Its biggest buildings are the power station and the splendidly equipped factory producing mining ma-

chinery. The waters of the Vorkuta River have been harnessed to provide light and energy for domestic and industrial use. Month by month coal from new shafts swells the output from mines already in operation.

Trainloads of coal flow west to Leningrad and south to the northern end of the Urals, while in summer barges and river steamers ply north along the Pechora to the Arctic Coast.

An interesting fact about this northern coalfield is that although snows and frosts last for eight months of the year, considerable dairy produce and fresh vegetables are available locally. Most of the vegetables are grown in hothouses, but three months of almost perpetual summer sunlight help to compensate for the long winter and enable a good deal of outdoor farming to be done. Under Government auspices a large network of State farms well equipped with agricultural machines has been created. Cultivated by farmers thoroughly familiar with the vagaries of the climate, they provide milk, eggs, potatoes and fresh vegetables for the miners and their families.

The Donbas of the Arctic is little known as yet. But its opening up and development will rank as one of the outstanding achievements of Soviet wartime industrialization.

RECONSTRUCTION OF SEA PORTS

A conference on problems of restoration and reconstruction of Soviet seaports was recently held in Moscow. In an opening address the People's Commissar of Merchant Marine of the USSR, Hero of the Soviet Union Peter Shirshov, stated that during the war Soviet seaports have successfully coped with a volume of traffic much greater than in prewar days. He stressed that the part played by sea transport in the postwar period will grow enormously, with the extension of trade relations with the United States, Great Britain and other countries.

The Red Army has liberated the principal Soviet ports. Badly damaged dur-

ing the German occupation, they will be reconstructed in accordance with modern technical requirements. Drafts for the restoration and reconstruction of the ports of Odessa, Novorossisk and others were presented at the conference.

Medal "For Defense of Caucasus"

The Leningrad mint, established 220 years ago by Peter I, is striking a new medal "For the Defense of the Caucasus," and for the first time since the war has resumed minting of small silver coins.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 104

Washington, D. C., September 22, 1944

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The Fate of the Wheat Ears

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Autumn: the woods have not forgotten to don their russet array; cartwheels creak and youngsters open a magic casket—their first book.

Our country is still in travail. The war has seared both the earth and the faces of our women. On the borders of our motherland the Red Army is breaking the enemy's resistance. A glance at the fighting men around the campfire, at everyday Moscow, at the inside pages of newspapers, and you would not guess the grandeur of the hour.

Yet about this autumn men will write for generations to come.

Was it long since Europe languished in the underworld? In defiance of the calendar, Proserpina has emerged from the subterranean kingdom, not in spring but in autumn. The *Marseillaise* is raising the hoary flagstones of Paris. The belfries of Belgium are humming.

Marshal Tito's heroes greet the Red Army. The storm has swept the Balkans clean. The peasants of Slovakia and the workers of Bohemia have passed to the offensive. Shots, tears of joy, bombs, flowers, flags, speeches everywhere . . . dear old Europe, she's still alive. A great new day awaits her.

I recall another September. It was six years ago. Europe thought then of buying herself off, of lying low and feigning dead. Her statesmen talked of "future generations"—blind men making a pretext at perspicacity.

Paris was blacked out for one evening, and when the lights went on the duped Parisians rejoiced: they did not realize that ahead lay the darkness of an awful blackout—the "new order." Cities now devastated still stood intact, youths who are now dead still laughed, danced and studied. And Proserpina was betrayed to the king of the underworld.

I will take the liberty of quoting from

one of my old articles in which I told of a schoolmaster in the Urals who, having read a novel by the French writer, Drieu la Rochelle, wrote to me in indignation: "Ask Drieu la Rochelle what evil spirit suggests such absurdities to him as the following? 'What was once life is now absolutely of no interest. The mind has become impossible, for there is nothing to know.' Tell him, while you're about it, that one of the inhabitants of our country can honestly assure him that life is full of absolute interest, and that besides his sick mind there are the still unexplored strata of the minds of millions."

I showed this letter to Drieu la Rochelle. He read it and smiled. I wrote at the time, "There's something in this

letter of which we have a right to be proud, namely, the profound interest in the fate of human culture. It turns out that it is not we who are the Scythians. It is not we who spit on 'what was once life.'

"Who then will rise in defense of what was best in this old world, in defense of Balzac and Notre Dame and the great gayety of the Parisians—writers of the type of Drieu la Rochelle or the Urals schoolmasters?" The answer has now been given. Drieu la Rochelle was arrested the other day by French patriots as a traitor.

As to the Urals schoolmasters, is it not to them that are addressed the words of the Paris Committee of Liberation when it greets the



Drawing by Nikolai Zhukov

Morning in a guerrilla camp in the forest

Red Army as a liberating Army?

Europe and the world know what they owe the Soviet people. I have no desire to depreciate the gallantry of our Allies who have now invaded the fascist den. All honor and glory to them. But will it be depreciating them to say that they were able to land in Normandy and advance so swiftly from Cherbourg to Trier because for three years prior to that, day and night, from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea, in the marshes and on the steppes, up to their waists in mud or snow, in winter blizzards and summer heat, the Red Army annihilated the Germans? Stalingrad cannot be obliterated from the history of Europe. These days are illumined by its glow.

I think those people in the West who did not love our people did not love Europe either; they did not love anything—they were loveless and dead—like Drieu la Rochelle; and when they became traitors they did not betray themselves.

Of course they did not all speak so frankly as this cynical French writer; many hid their thoughts with florid phrases and assured us that by fraternizing with Hitler, the Duce or with Franco they were defending culture.

Some feared the cannibals, and thought to satiate them with the flesh of others: "turn the fiend to the East," they said, as it were. Others reckoned, with the help of ruffians, incendiaries and thugs, to destroy the country where the human mind was held in honor.

Whether this was folly or cunning it is hard to say. But the price was paid by Europe, by her orchards and her children. And now all people think with revulsion of the time when not only the factories of Germany but also the corrupt pens of Europe worked for Hitler.

It is with deep grief that Proserpina has paid for her awakening. Why probe old wounds?—it will be asked. Why, indeed? A fighting friendship has bound us with Britain, America and France, and all the conquered but unsubdued nations. If I have recalled the years of "appeasement," it is because the last of the Mohicans of calumny are still rampant: it is suddenly whispered that Russia is not quite European, or that we want to injure someone, or that we have few traditions, or that we have too many traditions but not the right ones.

In a word, the devil is still alive; there are still incorrigible Munichites about. Maybe there will still be Munichites when Munich itself is bombed out of existence. They are few and they now talk cautiously and delicately; nevertheless the breed still exists and is still active.

That is why it is worthwhile mentioning again the deep and unbreakable alliance of the nations who hate fascism.

The Russian people were never inclined toward nationalism. While loving what was our own, we valued what belonged to others. We loved whatever was fine in other nations and loved it sincerely and unselfishly. Perhaps Dobroliubov best of all defined the nature of Russian patriotism when he wrote: "What distinguishes lively and active patriotism is that it precludes all international enmity, and a man inspired by such patriotism is prepared to labor for the good of mankind."

Dostoevsky stressed the Russians' profound interest in the culture of other peoples and pointed out that Shakespeare, Byron and Dickens were nearer and more comprehensible to the Russians than to the Germans. The Russian never set himself up against other nations. The sense of our own strength and a yearning for justice made us peaceable. Most likely certain purblind individuals took this peaceableness for weakness.

Even now we are not intoxicated with victory; we are glad that the strength of our people has been of help to others. When the Red Army man liberates a city he sees smiles and hears tender words. Then he goes on. That city and its flowers and the women who said to him, "At last you are here," are already far away. But something indelible has remained in his heart. I don't know how best to define this feeling—is it pride or satisfaction or simply joy for others' sake?

It is a long way, an infinite way, from Lithuania, where men are now fighting and dying, to the feverish, excited crowds in the streets of Paris, Lyon, Brussels and Liege. But across the thousands of miles the quiver of liberty can be felt and our fighting men are glad. They write in their letters, "Paris is free! That's great . . ."

These years of war have made us more keenly aware than ever of our ties with other nations, and it is vain for our ill-wishers to try to depict us as egoists and isolationists. People get to know one an-

other not at banquets, but in toil and grief. They say, "You must eat a peck of salt with a man before you get to know him." And salt is bitter . . .

And prewar days London was to the Soviet people a huge city, with its fogs and parks, its old Westminster, the lights of Piccadilly, the slums of which Dickens wrote, colonial goods and bewigged judges . . . But that black winter when the bombs blasted London, the soul of that city was revealed to us. We realized the stalwartness of the Englishman; we understood why England has a Magna Charta, why Englishmen do not jostle one another when they board motorbuses, why in the Dunkirk disaster they rescued their comrades.

And now we are glad that London is rid of flying bombs and that the English are liberating Belgium. Across many miles we beam on the Americans; they are doing a fine job and it is a good thing their jeeps are already rattling over German soil. Time and again our affinity with America has been referred to: our youth, our scale, the breadth of our fields and of our dreams make us kin.

I will not expatiate on our love for France. When Paris liberated itself, when the *francs-tireurs* and guerrillas covered themselves with glory, we were not surprised: we remembered what France is, we knew from books about the *sans culottes*, insurgents and Communards; we see them now, they are our contemporaries.

We suffered the woe of the Czechs and Serbs as though it were our own. We are as proud of Tito's soldiers as we are of ours, and of the courage of the Czechoslovaks, who are now freeing their country. All this is a long way from the old Slavophilism. We do not set up one part of humanity against another. We are no race fanatics, but we see in the Slav peoples much that is akin to us. We are stirred by their language, which we comprehend by the familiar melodies of their folksongs, by the embroidered towels in a Slovak hut, and a tale told by a Montenegrin grandmother.

Our enemies assert that we are out for conquest. This is said by the Germans who dreamed of conquering the world, or by political *cocottes* who yearn for the caresses of a von Papen. It is a calumny, a vile calumny.

We have crossed our frontier as judges of the oppressors and liberators of the oppressed. That is why all nations now speak with love of the Red Army and look toward Moscow with hope. Our might is terrible only to the jailers, and even little Luxembourg knows that the strength of Moscow is a bulwark of the independence of its land.

All look toward us with hope except those who have demonstrated there is nothing human in them. Our cold and seasoned hatred of the Nazis, our firm determination to eradicate fascism and not to allow it to mask or disguise itself, is what wins for us the hearts of all freedom-loving peoples.

I attentively read various projects for eradicating fascism. I have come across a number of suggestions in American newspapers which would be amusing if it were possible to laugh after Maidanek or Lublin, after Babi Yar Ravine and after Trostyanets.

One crank assures us that the Germans are cruel because they don't get enough vitamins, another that the Germans can be reformed by good films, a third, discussing what fate should be meted out

to the leaders of Hitler's party, suggests placing at their disposal an island near California with comfortable homes.

No, this is not funny—it is terrifying. The millions of slaughtered people have enjoined us to see that justice is done; we speak on behalf of the dead. The criminals must be punished; they must expiate with their blood and sweat the devastation of Europe and the deaths of the innocent.

Humaneness will not renounce the sword; justice will bring her scales. It is not a low fury which brings us to Germany, but concern for the future, for the children, the wheat ears, and culture. Can we forget the loss of Novgorod, Rouen and Perugia? But even the most sacred stones are nothing; even the frescoes of Ghirlandajo, which perished in flames, pale before the children's shoes of Maidanek. What mother can nurse her infant, knowing that the fascists are alive; that, supplied with new passports, they are singing psalms and swallowing Transatlantic vitamins?

For the sake of Europe . . . her orchards cultivated for generations, her ancient cities and her future, the children who

are now playing on Gogol Boulevard in Moscow or in the Summer Garden in Leningrad or in the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris or in Hyde Park in London—for the sake of all children, fair and dark, we must show no mercy to the fascists and must excise this malignant cancer in the very heart of Europe.

And we shall—that is why the widows of London and the mothers of Paris are now looking toward us with hope. That is why we are being calumniated by overt and covert protectors of the child slayers.

The foreign press may discuss whether the fascist ringleaders will find an asylum in the neutral countries, but for us and for all humanity the question is wider and more profound. We don't want fascism to find an asylum in the hearts of nations and individuals. There must be no place for it, either in the boudoir of von Papen or in the barracks of Madrid or in the Argentine prairies.

Let the mother who has lost the most precious thing she had—her son—say on the day of victory, which is now near: *Not in vain did my boy shed his blood. There will be no more Maidaneks.*

AT THE FRONTIER OF YUGOSLAVIA

By *Izvestia* Correspondent P. Nikitin

A motorcyclist dashed through the streets of Turnu Severin, reached the bank of the Danube and opened fire on Germans trying to get away across the river. Several figures dropped into the water from a raft being towed by a motorboat.

Motorcyclist Kalushin and his men were the first to break into the town on the border of Yugoslavia. The former collective farm chauffeur had heard a great deal about that country. He knew of the heroic fight waged by the forces of Marshal Tito.

And now, here it was—Yugoslavia! Hills and mountains, valleys and rivers, dense forests, impassable brushwood, ancient oaks bending their gnarled branches over the water. And the Danube, blue in the dusk.

Kalushin was assigned the task of reconnoitering a village and intercepting the roads of escape from it. He and

his men set out at full speed. They reach the village square. From a window an old man leans out; he shouts and points to the belfry. A shot rings out. A machine gun has opened up from the belfry.

The motorcyclists dash out of the village and take up positions on the highway. The Germans have a small force to hold the village, while a larger group sets out to outflank the Soviet motorcyclists. Very few Germans survived that engagement. Officer Kurt Holtz, who was taken prisoner, tries to explain, "I surrendered because there was no way of escape. Only I cannot understand how such a big Russian detachment managed to get so far ahead."

"German nerves must be on edge if a German officer mistook a dozen of my motorcyclists for a large detachment," says Kalushin.

They stayed all night in the village.

The old man who had warned Kalushin of the ambush listens to the singing of the Russian tommy gunners. "I am waiting," he says. "You have brought us hope. I have a son in Tito's Army. I am sure he must be coming to meet you."

Relics Discovered Near Smolensk

During excavation work on the outskirts of Smolensk a cast iron slab was unearthed bearing the imprint of the hand of Peter I. The reverse of the slab bore the inscription: "Taken from an impression of the hand of Peter I, made by him on sand in the foundry he created in 1707 in the city of Lipetsk." Further excavations revealed the ruins of an ancient church.



LENINGRAD CHILDREN IN THE URALS—(Left) Many women of the Urals spent their leisure time at the homes for children evacuated from Leningrad during the blockade; (right) Toys, stories and games helped to erase the horrors of war from the minds of the little ones

STATE AID FOR SOVIET MOTHERS

By P. Petrov

Regulations governing the procedure for granting State aid and privileges to expectant mothers, mothers of large families and unmarried mothers have been confirmed by the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR. Following are some salient features of these regulations made public on August 19 in pursuance of the Edict of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of July 8, 1944, on increasing State aid to mothers.

Section One of the regulations deals with the payment of State allowances to married or widowed mothers of large families. The scale, ranging from a single grant of 400 rubles to a mother

with two children on the birth of a third child, to 5,000 rubles to a mother with 10 children on the birth of each subsequent child, is confirmed.

Monthly allowances begin with 80 rubles on the birth of the fourth child, and increases to 300 rubles on the birth of each subsequent child to the mother with 10 children. Monthly allowances are paid at the beginning of the child's first birthday and continue until it is five.

In determining the size of the single grants and monthly allowances, all living children are included (as well as children killed or missing at the front), regardless of age, place of residence, or whether

they are of the same father. Adopted children are also included, as well as children under 12 from a former marriage of the husband. If the mother dies the allowance is paid to the father or guardian.

Section Two outlines the procedure for granting allowances to unmarried mothers. For the maintenance and bringing up of children born after July 8, 1944 (or between January 1 and July 8, 1944, if the mother is not receiving alimony), a monthly allowance of 100 rubles is paid for one child, 150 rubles for two children and 200 rubles for three or more children, until they reach the age of 12. In addition, unmarried mothers with three or more children receive corresponding single grants and monthly allowances fixed for married or widowed mothers.

These allowances continue if the mother marries, but not for the child or children she places in an institution where it will be maintained and brought up fully at the expense of the State.

If an unmarried mother dies, the allowance is paid to the guardian of her child or children.

Sections Three and Four of the regulations deal in detail with the drawing up and filing of applications for State allowances and with the procedure of payment.

Section Five, the final one, concerns privileges for expectant mothers and for mothers. A maternity leave of 77 calendar days (in place of the 63 before the July 8 Edict) is granted to women factory work-



By an Edict of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the title and medal of Mother Heroine (left) is to be conferred upon mothers of 10 children; the Order of Glory of Motherhood, three classes, (center) upon mothers of nine, eight and seven children; and the Motherhood Medal, two classes, (right) upon mothers of six and five children



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(1) Vera Shokh, a hospital nurse, turns her baby over to a Leningrad nursery before leaving for work; (2) Games for the older infants; (3) This baby is unafraid — its father is a sniper; (4) Dancing lessons; (5) Seven-months-old Nina Anikina, whose father is at the front, gets a physical check-up; (6) Nelya Gavrilova is a war victim — she saw her aunt's arm torn off by a shell—now, while other children sleep, she talks of shells

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ers and office employees—35 days before childbirth and 42 days after. In the event of an abnormal birth or the birth of twins, postnatal leave is extended to 56 calendar days.

The managers of enterprises and offices must grant expectant mothers their annual vacations, which must be timed to precede or follow maternity leave.

Women are not to be given overtime work beginning with the fourth month of pregnancy, and women with infants

are exempt from night work throughout the period of nursing.

An additional monthly ration of 800 grams of butter, 600 grams of sugar, 1,200 grams of cereals and 12 liters of milk is provided for expectant mothers beginning with the sixth month of pregnancy and for nursing mothers during the four months of nursing.

Reductions of 50 per cent in kindergarten and nursery fees are provided for parents in the low income bracket who

have three to four children. Parents with five or more children receive a reduction regardless of income.

Further outlined in detail is the procedure according to which an unmarried mother may place her child in an institution where it will be maintained and brought up fully at the expense of the State and according to which she may at any time reclaim the child from the institution and bring it up herself if she so desires.

A VERY ORDINARY FELLOW

By Major G. Ponomarev

There was nothing of the hero about this fair-haired, freckled young fellow whose blue eyes looked as though they had faded in the strong sunlight. Not once had he ever been mentioned in the papers or over the radio. Even now it is doubtful if anyone would have noticed Senior Lieutenant Ivan Bobkov, if Colonel Nikolai Parfenov, commander of an artillery regiment, had not happened to speak of him.

The Colonel and I were sitting on the sandy bank of the Vistula an hour or so before sunset, a time when the broad reaches of the river are placid. Not far away a young Polish woman appeared on the bank. She looked terribly worn and carried a child in her arms. The baby was crying; he wanted a drink. The mother bent down to the river to scoop up some clear water in her hand. At that moment the young Senior Lieutenant went up and spoke to her, patting the baby's cheek. Then he fumbled in his pockets for some candy for the child.

"Do you know Ivan Bobkov?" the Colonel asked, and added, "The Senior Lieutenant over there."

I said I knew nothing about him—nobody had mentioned him to me as a hero.

"Well, he isn't a hero either. He's just a very ordinary fellow. He used to be a gunlayer sergeant. Now he's commanding a battery. But that's a very ordinary story too. In July, 1942 our brigade was at a crossing on the Don. We were ordered to dig ourselves in on the eastern bank, not far from a pontoon bridge. Our guns supported the rearguard.

which was covering the crossing.

"Troops, vehicles, guns and infantry were moving in several lines across the bridge. Thousands of cars crowded the bank, awaiting their turn. Near the water's edge, old people and women and children from the Don villages were waiting to cross.

"Every now and then German planes would dive over the bridge, firing and dropping bombs. But cars and people continued steadily to cross.

"At last the bridge was clear, and I ordered Ivan Bobkov to take six Tommy gunners and blow it up. We watched from a distance as he laid the explosive, unrolled the fuse, lighted it and then . . . it all happened in a fraction of a second . . . a woman carrying a baby, just like that woman talking to him now, ran onto the bridge. . . .

"The fuse was burning rapidly. The woman slipped on the wet planks, fell, got up again and ran, but she was clearly at the end of her strength. Through my field-glasses I saw Bobkov signal his men to go. They went reluctantly, slowly, glancing back at their commander.

"He himself ran to meet the woman. It was more like leaping than running. Reaching her, he grabbed the baby and supporting the woman with one arm dragged them both to our side.

"When the smoke of the explosion cleared, I searched for Bobkov and the woman for some time through my field-glasses, and finally saw them crawling across the road. German tanks were shelling this road, and black columns of smoke again obscured them from view.

But soon I caught another glimpse of them.

"The woman was now lying prostrate with the child clutching convulsively at her torn, bleeding body. Bobkov picked him up and crossed a potato field. The child's pale face, his arms and blue-and-white dress were smeared with his mother's blood, and as he clung to Bobkov he stained the youth's hair and tunic with that blood."

The Colonel paused and drew deeply on his pipe. It was evident he was stirred and excited at living over again the happenings of that day.

"And what became of the little boy?" I could not help asking.

"Oh, the child . . . he lived in my dug-out for a couple of weeks; things were so hot we couldn't think of sending him anywhere in the rear. But afterward I took him to an ambulance battalion. Now he's being brought up with my family. He's four years old, and a fine fellow."

As he was filling his pipe the Colonel added: "Those few weeks the boy was with us Bobkov got awfully fond of him. He would come to see him every spare minute he had, bringing candy.

"He wrote my wife that he wants to adopt the boy. But what would he do with a small boy? He's so young, and he's not married yet. And I regard Valeri—that's the child's name—as my fourth son. Look what my wife sent . . ."

He drew out a letter. On the back of one page was an outline of a plump childish hand, drawn in pencil, and below some sprawling characters, evidently the work of this same small hand.



LENINGRAD CHILDREN IN THE URALS—(left) In the homes, everything was made as gay and charming as possible—there was even a toy samovar for tea parties; (right) The children enjoy the party as much as the dolls

Nursery Schools for 1,837,840 Children

About two-thirds of all nursery schools in the USSR are administered by industrial, trading and other enterprises under the various People's Commissariats. The rest are run by the People's Commissariats of Education of the various Soviet Republics, which also exercise general supervision over the training of nursery schoolteachers.

This year's Budget allocated 108,600,000 rubles for the construction of still more nursery schools. In 1944 the Soviet nursery schools will care for 1,837,840 children. Furniture especially designed for the use of children, and toys, linen and household articles are made to careful specification. Potemkin, People's Commissar of Education for the Russian SFSR, is chairman of a special committee on children's toys.

The increase in the number of nursery schools demands further contingents of

trained teachers. This year, in the Russian SFSR alone, one-year courses in pre-school education will be provided for 2,000 persons, and three-month courses for 6,000 persons. In September, 20 nursery school training centers will be opened, accommodating 1,860 students. Six teachers training schools are opening pre-school departments, with places for 240 students. Departments of pre-school education have been established at the Kazan, Gorky and Molotov Pedagogical Institutes. In addition, there are many bureaus, correspondence courses and evening courses where nursery schoolteachers receive instruction in the latest methods of nursery school education.

Special wartime post-graduate courses are provided for Soviet nursery school directors. When so many of the parents are fully occupied in work of national importance, the teachers have a special

responsibility for safeguarding the children's health and inculcating proper habits and behavior. There is very close parent-teacher cooperation. The children work in their vegetable gardens, keep the paths neat and clean, take care of the flowerbeds, wash their dolls' linen, help to set the tables for breakfast and dinner and to clear away the dishes.

Many Soviet kindergartens now arrange for the children's clothes to be washed and darned at the kindergarten.

The war has obliged pre-school teachers to recognize more sharply their responsibility toward the child, and has forced them to display a high degree of initiative and ingenuity. In the regions liberated from the Germans, as well as in reception areas, they must create normal conditions for children in the most unusual and difficult situations.



A FACTORY NURSERY—(left) Washing up for lunch; (right) While the mothers are at work and the fathers at the front, the children receive the best of care

Notes from Front and Rear

A large exhibit of paintings by soldier-artists opened recently in Moscow. Most of the 800 works, sent directly from the battlefield, are portraits of heroes, battle scenes, or everyday life at the front. Lieutenant Sergei Rybalchenko, a former Leningrad electrician, has 40 works on exhibition. Rybalchenko devoted himself to the depiction of German atrocities. His paintings, especially "The Germans Were Here" and "Road to Slavery," are deeply impressive.

★

An "inventions campaign" lasting one month recently ended in factories under the People's Commissariat of Ammunition. Of the 8,500 proposals received, some 4,000 have already been put into effect. The resultant annual saving will exceed 100,000,000 rubles.

★

To rescue a comrade from another squadron, naval flier Major Aparin recently made a daring landing on a narrow strip of water hemmed in by three enemy ships. The two squadrons had attacked a group of German minesweepers and patrol boats in the Barents Sea. Kuznetsov's plane was crippled and he was forced to set it down close to the Germans, who did not even fire, confident they would capture plane and flier. German machine gunners merely put up a fire screen behind the plane to prevent Kuznetsov from taking off. Major Aparin plunged straight into the ring of fire, and before the Germans recovered from their surprise, Kuznetsov and his crew boarded the plane. Aparin took off and got away with only a few machine-gun holes in his wings; then with a few machine-guns bursts he sank Kuznetsov's plane.

★

The Novosibirsk Regional Department of Architecture has invited architects to submit designs for small dwellings suitable for living conditions in Siberia. In addition to convenience and other qualifications, the houses must capture the spirit of the local architecture.

Two mobile electric power stations, or energo-trains, will be sent to the Lithuanian SSR by the People's Commissariat of Electric Power of the USSR.

These trains will supply sufficient electricity to meet the initial requirements of liberated Lithuanian towns. Their first stops will be at Vilnius and Kaunas.

★

The Department of Military Relics of the Institute of Material Culture (under the Academy of Sciences) has sent out a number of expeditions to examine Russian Kremlins in Novgorod, Smolensk and Tula, and the remains of ancient fortifications in the Crimea—particularly the fortress walls of Kherones. A special expedition will go to Tarutino to examine remains of Russian fortifications of 1812. Most of the relics are in districts which only recently were arenas of battles against the Nazi invaders.

★

The Kirov plant, which turns out tanks that have outclassed the German Tigers and Panthers, is using seven per cent less metal per tank than a year ago, and 28 per cent less non-ferrous metals. The cost of production is 13.5 per cent less than in 1943.

★

Composer Vissarion Shebalin, Stalin Prize Winner and a director of the Moscow Conservatory of Music, reports that some 100 students were graduated from the Conservatory this year. Classes were held in 22 departments, and also in the Bashkirian and North Ossetian departments. Two new departments—folklore and quartettes—are being established, and classes in the Tatar, Tajik and Turkmenian sections will be resumed this autumn. A large number of applications have been received for fall enrollment, including many for the conductors, chorus and composers departments.

The All-Union Committee of Cinematography has produced a "Screen Concert" to be presented to the Hollywood film people in response to a similar film by Hollywood.

The film opens with a greeting by an AP correspondent, who presents the Soviet actors to the American audience; then follow greetings from Sergei Eisenstein, director of *Alexander Nevsky*, and Grigori Alexandrov, director of *The Circus and Volga-Volga*. Sergei Lemeshev, well-known opera singer, presents a group of Russian folk songs; Marina Ladygina sings several numbers from *Tractor Drivers* and *The Rich Bride*, in which she played. Zoya Fedorova, of *The Girl from Leningrad*, sings English songs. The Red Army Song and Dance Ensemble, directed by Professor A. V. Alexandrov, composer of the national anthem of the USSR, also participates in the concert.

★

The Chernovitsy State Ukrainian Theater, under the direction of People's Artist of the USSR V. Vasilenko, will shortly return to its home, from which it was evacuated three years ago. During these three years the theater visited many cities of the Soviet Union and everywhere enjoyed great success.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

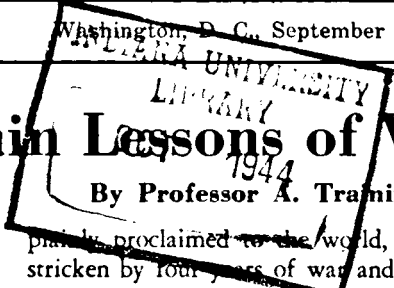
Vol. IV, No. 105

Washington, D. C., September 26, 1944



Certain Lessons of Versailles

By Professor A. Trainin



From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, September 19:

Now that the hour of Hitler Germany's utter defeat is drawing near, the question of punishing the war criminals—the instigators and executors of abominable atrocities—is more and more assuming practical significance. The nations demand that these criminals suffer the punishment they deserve. However, here and there in the foreign press voices are raised advocating leniency toward the war criminals. Essentially speaking, these voices are calling for a repetition of the mistakes of Versailles and for leaving in Germany the dangerous seeds of new wars and new atrocities.

Yet of all the lessons furnished by the Versailles Peace Treaty, not the least deserving of attention is the instructive history of how the Germans guilty of crimes in 1914-1918 became, with the connivance of the victors, their own judges and tried themselves for their own crimes.

The crimes perpetrated by the Germans in the war of 1914-1918 were very considerable. The investigation commissions which were set up at the time in France, Britain, Belgium and Russia established numerous cases of the slaughter by Germans of unarmed civilians, the shooting of war prisoners and the destruction of towns and villages.

When Germany was defeated and the time came to conclude the peace treaty, the Germans' crimes were not forgotten. A special section of the Versailles Treaty (Seven. "Sanctions") proclaimed the criminal responsibility of Kaiser Wilhelm and his confederates. Article 227 of the Treaty publicly accused Wilhelm Hohenzollern of grave outrages against international morality and the sanctity of treaties, and declared that a special court would be set up to try him.

Thus the Versailles Treaty bluntly and

publicly proclaimed to the world, horrified by four years of war and by the German atrocities, that the guilty would be tried and punished. But things turned out otherwise.

The question of trying Wilhelm was decided simply and swiftly, without prolonged diplomatic correspondence. On January 15, 1919 the Allied powers addressed a note to Holland, to which Wilhelm had fled, demanding the surrender of the ex-Kaiser as a violator of the sacred principles of international morality and law. Holland refused. The mighty, victorious powers which brought Germany to her knees and dictated their will to a large part of Europe could not find the means of compelling Holland to submit to the demands of justice and surrender Wilhelm. The Germans realized that the victorious powers were not particularly anxious to find those means. The upshot was that the trial of Wilhelm, solemnly proclaimed by the Versailles Treaty, went no farther than the pages of that treaty.

Equally futile proved the efforts to secure the triumph of justice in the case of Wilhelm's confederates who were guilty of war crimes.

Article 228 of the Versailles Treaty reserved for the Allied powers the right to demand the surrender of Wilhelm's accomplices guilty of violation of the rules and laws of war. In pursuance of this Article, on February 3, 1920 Millerand presented a note to the German representative in Paris, Baron Lensner, enumerating the persons who were to be surrendered as war criminals. In all, the Allied powers demanded 89 persons, including Hindenburg, Ludendorff, Mackensen, Admiral Tirpitz and the former Reichskanzler Bethmann-Hollweg.

Baron Lensner refused to transmit this note to the German government and re-

signed. In Germany itself an organized movement of protest was started against the surrender of these persons to the Allies. The German government sent one note and memorandum after another to Paris, asserting that the surrender of the war criminals was "impracticable," and left no stone unturned to prove its assertion.

The Germany which had disgraced herself with crimes against the laws and customs of warfare now talked of her "national honor" and "national dignity." "The honor and dignity of the German people"—the German government wrote in the memorandum—"cannot reconcile itself to the surrender to foreign courts of their countrymen accused of the crimes of war."

Taking her cue from the attitude of certain leading circles in the victor countries, Germany strenuously tried to frighten the authors of the Versailles Treaty with the bogey of political and social complications.

"The German government"—one of the notes said—"must particularly point out that the demand to surrender the accused will undoubtedly cause the severest disturbances in political and economic spheres."

Germany's juridical position was absolutely unsound: Germany had not only signed the Versailles Peace Treaty, but by a special national act had endowed it with the force of German internal law. The German Constituent Assembly of July 16, 1919 endorsed and published the Versailles Treaty. But the decision of the question did not lie in judicial argumentation; it was not a doubt as to the legality of the demand to surrender the criminals, but fear of the danger of political and social upheavals—a danger deliberately exaggerated by Germany—that softened

the hearts of the victors.

The German government was not slow to take advantage of the changed situation and proposed a compromise: "The German government declares that it is prepared to institute criminal proceedings in Germany against those persons whose surrender the Allied powers intend to demand." Germany vowed that "the prosecution would be conducted with all desirable rigor and impartiality."

The German government sweetened the pill for the Allied powers by declaring that any government interested would be given the right to take a direct part in the trial. Germany's proposal was accepted, and in violation of Article 228 of the Versailles Treaty a German court was set up in Leipzig for the trial of the German war criminals. Here are a few illustrations of the character of this German-engineered "trial":

In May, 1921 the Leipzig court tried the case of Unteroffizier Heinen, accused of cruelty to French war prisoners. He was found guilty and sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment. Another war

criminal, Mueller, was sentenced to five months' imprisonment.

On June 29, 1921 the Leipzig court heard the case of General Stenger, charged with having issued on August 16, 1914 an order to his troops to shoot wounded French soldiers. "From today on," the order read, "no more prisoners are to be taken. All prisoners, wounded and not wounded, are to be killed. . . . We must not leave a single living enemy behind us." Notwithstanding the fact that the order was fully authenticated at the trial, the Leipzig court exonerated General Stenger on the grounds that the written order was not filed in the records of the trial.

That is the way the trial went off in Leipzig. That is the way Germany kept her promise to try the war criminals with "all desirable rigor and impartiality." That is the way Germans tried Germans.

While agreeing to the Leipzig trials, the Allies in one of their notes warned Germany that they reserved to themselves the right to decide whether the procedure proposed by the Germans would not in the long run result in the accused escaping

just punishment for all their misdeeds in which case—the authors of the Versailles Treaty threatened—the Allies would exercise their right to resort to their own courts. But these threats, too, remained on paper: no one of the persons liable to be surrendered to the Allies was tried by the latter in their "own courts." The Leipzig trials were a travesty of justice, as the Soviet press bluntly called it at the time.

If these facts are considered in the proper light, it may definitely be said that one of the reasons for the monstrous orgy of Nazi crimes in this war is the fact that the Germans escaped punishment for their crimes in the war of 1914-1918.

The role played by the Soviet Union in the war against Hitler Germany guarantees it a due influence in the settlement—together with the Allies—of all post-war problems. And this in its turn is the best guarantee that the history of 1919-1921 in the matter of the responsibility for war crimes will not be repeated. Hitler, his clique and all persons guilty of heinous crimes will suffer the full punishment they merit.

THE FIGHTING IN LATVIA

At a crossing of narrow Latvian roads beyond the pierced forward edge of the German defense stands a striped milepost with the inscription "Riga" in Gothic script. One of our Guardsmen produced a red pencil from his pouch and wrote in Russian above the black Gothic letters, "was and will be a Soviet city."

Red Army men under the command of Major Dashevsky, heroes of the assault on the German defenses, are exploiting the success of the offensive and have again joined action. In front of them the Latvian town of Ietsava, set on fire by the Germans, was swept by flames.

Major Dashevsky speaks about Platoon Commander Baimagambetov, of whom he is proud. The company in which Baimagambetov serves held a section along the Lielupe River, where the crossing was especially difficult. On the eve of the battle the General inspected the trenches at the forward edge. He asked the soldiers, "What is your opinion, boys? Shall we be able to cross the river?"

"Yes, Comrade General—we certainly will!" Baimagambetov replied.

"I know we will, but see that everyone remains quiet and that the Germans do not observe us, and that they don't remain on the other bank. Think it over and I shall visit you again."

The General left and the soldiers thought it over. Then Platoon Commander Junior Lieutenant Baimagambetov, a Kazakh by nationality, reported his plan to the commander. The soldiers would fell trees and bushes, dig earth from the hills near the lake, and harnessing themselves to carts would haul the materials to the river and build a dam, over which the infantry could cross.

The General approved the plan, thanked the officers and men, then found Baimagambetov and congratulated him.

On the morning of the offensive the dam, built during the nights, spanned the Lielupe. Soviet infantry marched across the river, carrying their guns on their backs and pulling trucks. The Ger-

man defense was broken through and Ietsava was captured.

The smoke of conflagration fills the streets of the quiet Latvian town. The panic-stricken German pogrom-makers saving their hides, even here remained true to themselves and tried to take away everything. Women's hats, footwear, table silver and cucumbers are scattered along the road. Bodies of Hitlerite officers and men, broken or burned-out tanks, carts of war equipment, trucks, motorcycles and arms litter the highway.

In the forest where the Hitlerites made their last stand and where they intended to remain a long time, their headquarters, stores and blindages were solidly built. They had prepared for winter with new stoves, plank floors and stacks of firewood. Mirrors gleam in frames of hazel-wood; there are soft armchairs, carpets and household utensils looted from towns of Soviet Byelorussia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. But the bandits were not fated to enjoy these comforts for long.

ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WITH FINLAND

On September 21 PRAVDA wrote editorially, on the Armistice Agreement with Finland:

On September 19 an agreement was signed in Moscow between the Soviet Union and Great Britain, on the one hand, and Finland on the other. Representatives of the Soviet Union and Great Britain conducted the negotiations with representatives of Finland on behalf of all the United Nations at war with Finland.

The Agreement was signed, by authorization of the Governments of the USSR and Great Britain, by Colonel General Zhdanov, and by representatives of the Government of Finland. Finland's withdrawal from the war and the conclusion of an Armistice Agreement with her is a new big military and political defeat for Hitlerite Germany and an important success for the policy of the Soviet Union and all the United Nations.

One after another Hitlerite Germany's allies of yesterday are breaking with her. Following Rumania, which served as the southern flank of the German front against the USSR and a place d'armes of the German offensive on the Balkans and the Middle East, Finland—which played the part of the other flank of the German offensive on the Soviet Union and the most important strategic place d'armes in the entire North and in the Baltic area—has broken with Germany.

In the person of her ruling circles, Finland was one of the most malicious and obstinate allies of Hitlerite Germany. Despite the fact that the alliance with the latter brought Finland to the verge of disaster, Finnish ruling circles did not wish to break relations with fascist Germany, and tried in every way to drag out the war, in the hope that the war situation would change in Germany's favor.

Finland thwarted the negotiations for an armistice which were begun upon the request of the Finnish government itself in February, 1944. Moreover, in June, 1944, the Finnish rulers, with President Ryti at their head, concluded a new military agreement with Hitlerite Germany aimed at increasing Finland's

activity in the war against the United Nations.

The so-called Ryti-Ribbentrop agreement, however, proved to be stillborn, and as is well known existed for only one month. Events which developed on the Soviet-German front, including its Finnish sector, and also on the Western front, have demonstrated with the utmost clarity that Hitlerite Germany is on the eve of utter defeat and that consequently all calculations and hopes which the Finnish and other politicians placed upon Germany have finally fallen through.

In his broadcast speech of September 3, Prime Minister Hackzell admitted that the "military and political situation in Finland has sharply changed for the worse."

After long procrastinations, the government of Finland again posed the question concerning an armistice and accepted the preliminary condition of the Soviet Government to break with Germany, and that not a single German should remain on the territory of Finland who would not be disarmed and turned over to the Allies. On this basis, the possibility was opened to conclude an Armistice Agreement.

This Agreement meets the interests of all the United Nations and constitutes another proof of their growing cooperation and fighting unity. It goes without saying that when concluding the Armistice Agreement with Finland, the Governments of the Soviet Union and Great Britain paid great attention to insuring the necessary conditions for dealing further blows to Hitlerite Germany, so as to hasten her defeat.

The Agreement binds Finland to make available at the request of the Allied (Soviet) High Command, airdromes on the southern and southwestern coast of Finland during the period necessary for air operations against the German forces in Estonia and against the German navy in the northern part of the Baltic Sea. Until the end of the war, Allied naval vessels and merchant ships shall have the right to make use of the territorial waters of the ports of Finland.

Under the Agreement, German land, naval and air forces which have remained in Finland after September 15, 1944, must be disarmed and their personnel handed over to the Allied (Soviet) High Command as war prisoners. The Government of the Soviet Union undertook to render the necessary assistance in disarming the German forces in Finland.

The basic interests of the war of the United Nations against Hitlerite Germany require that Finland actually cease to serve as Germany's base, and that the Hitlerite influence in Finland be entirely eliminated.

Of essential importance are those terms of the Armistice Agreement which bind Finland to break all relations with Germany's satellites; to dissolve immediately pro-Hitler organizations (or of a fascist type) as well as other organizations conducting propaganda hostile to the United Nations, in particular to the Soviet Union, and not to permit in the future the existence of organizations of that nature; to collaborate with the Allied powers in the apprehension of persons accused of war crimes and in their trial.

Finland undertakes immediately to release all persons, irrespective of citizenship or nationality, held in prison on account of their activities in favor of the United Nations or because of their sympathies with the cause of the United Nations.

The Armistice Agreement solves a number of problems which directly concern the Soviet Union and Finland. In the course of 25 years, the ruling circles of the Finnish bourgeoisie were steadfastly and consistently pursuing an anti-Soviet policy. Instead of insuring truly good neighborly relations with the great Soviet Union, which granted a state of independence to Finland in 1917, the Finnish rulers converted Finland into a horbed of constant anti-Soviet provocations and military adventures.

Within a quarter of a century, Finland has three times conducted hostilities against the peoples of the Soviet Union. The whole world is well aware of the part played by Finland in the present

war. She not only placed the most important strategical bases at Germany's disposal, which the Germans used both against the USSR and other United Nations, but the Finns took an active part in military operations against the Soviet Union, established a brutal occupation regime on temporarily occupied Soviet territory, and participated in the criminal blockade of Leningrad.

From the experience of the policy pursued by Finland's ruling circles for more than 25 years, from the experience of the war of 1939-1940 and especially the war of 1941-1944, the Soviet people draws the decisive conclusion that the firm, stable security of the northwestern frontiers of the USSR, and that of Leningrad in the first place, must be insured forever as a result of the present war.

The effect of the peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Finland concluded in Moscow on March 12, 1940, is restored under the Armistice Agreement with certain changes. Finland undertakes immediately to withdraw her troops behind the line of the Soviet-Finnish frontier of 1940 and to place her army on a peace footing within two and one-half months. The Petsamo Region, which was twice (in 1920 and in 1940) voluntarily and generously ceded to Finland by the Soviet Union, and which was used by the Finns in the war against the USSR, will be returned to the Soviet Union. In the area of Porkkala-Udd, that is, the

narrowest part of the Gulf of Finland, the Soviet Union will establish its own naval base. On its part, the Soviet Union renounces its rights to the lease of the Peninsula of Hango. The effect of the Agreement concerning the Aaland Islands, concluded on October 11, 1940, is completely restored.

Finland has caused tremendous damage to the Soviet Union. The Armistice Agreement provides for indemnification of part of the losses caused to the USSR, and that indemnification is restricted to \$300,000,000, which goes to prove once again exceptional generosity on the part of the Soviet Union.

At the same time, Finland is bound to return to the Soviet Union within a fixed period, in completely good condition, all valuables and materials removed from Soviet territory to Finland, belonging to State, public and cooperative organizations or individual citizens.

The conditions of the Armistice Agreement emphasize once again the fact that the Soviet Union, true to its international policy, has never threatened and does not intend to threaten Finland's state sovereignty and independence. It is natural that, in the interests of the further prosecution of the war against Hitlerite Germany, the Allied powers must pay special attention to complete and strict observance by Finland of all the conditions of the Armistice Agreement. With this purpose, an Allied Control Commis-

sion will be established which will carry out its responsible and great tasks under the general direction and instructions of the Allied (Soviet) High Command.

However, the imperative question in this is the immediate execution by Finland of the Allies' preliminary condition. Indeed, nearly one week has passed since Finland was to start disarming German troops on Finnish territory and handing them over to the Allies as war prisoners. So far, not a single German soldier in Finland has been disarmed or handed over to the Allies. Meanwhile, the Hitlerite radio in Germany keeps broadcasting for all the world to hear that German troops are retreating over Finnish territory with the obliging assistance of the Finnish authorities.

Thus, it is necessary as yet to insure the execution of the above preliminary condition without permitting any further delay in this matter.

The freedom-loving peoples will be satisfied with the conclusion of the armistice with Finland, which signifies an actual reduction of the sphere of war. The Agreement helps the Soviet Union in the achievement of its aims in this war of liberation against German fascism. The freedom-loving peoples will see in this act of the Soviet Union and the United Nations a new step toward the final and early defeat of the hateful enemy of all freedom-loving peoples—Hitlerite Germany.

Statement of Extraordinary State Committee

For the ascertaining and investigation of crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders and their associates, and the damages caused by them to citizens, collective farms, public organizations, State enterprises and institutions of the USSR

On the Crimes Committed by the Finnish-fascist Invaders on the Territory of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic

The following Statement was issued in August, 1944:

On temporarily occupied territory of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic, the government and Supreme Military Command of Finland, carrying into effect their imperialistic plans, sought to enslave Soviet people, to destroy the people's culture and convert the Karelo-

Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic into a colony.

Instructions issued by the so-called "East Karelian Educational Department" of the Finnish General Staff, and seized by the Red Army in the headquarters of the 13th Coastal Artillery Regiment routed in June, 1944, point out to army units the necessity of capturing the territory of

the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic and other regions of the Soviet Union.

It is said in these instructions: "Whereas as Finland is now short of timber for building purposes, the rich forests of Eastern Karelia wait to be converted into capital . . . the forests in Eastern Karelia are mostly old and mature, whereas in

Finland they are still young and little suited as material for construction. At the same time export of timber from Eastern Karelia requires small expenditure as the country abounds in rivers and lakes. The economic advantages of such export are very great."

The Finnish government with unexampled impudence proclaimed the whole Soviet population on occupied territory prisoners, and confined men, women, old people and children in special concentration camps, in which they instituted a regime of famine, torture and exhausting labor beyond human strength, for the purpose of the deliberate extermination of Soviet people.

* * *

A Committee consisting of the Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Major General KUPRIANOV, the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic, PROKKONEN, and Colonel NIKITIN, with participation of the representative of the Extraordinary State Committee MAKAROV and medico-legal experts, has investigated and ascertained the unparalleled crimes committed by the Finnish-fascist occupationists on the territory of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic they had temporarily seized.

Destruction of Towns and Villages of Soviet Karelia

The town of Petrozavodsk, founded in 1703 by Peter I on the western bank of Lake Onega, became a large industrial and cultural center of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic under the Soviet Government. During the occupation, and especially before their retreat, the Finnish-fascist invaders subjected the capital of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic to fire, plunder and destruction.

In their implacable hatred of Soviet culture the Finns burned down and ransacked Petrozavodsk University, the scientific research institute of culture, the public library, the State Philharmonic Society, the palace of pioneers, the theater, the music school, two normal schools, the industrial school, five general education schools, nine kindergartens, a cinema, the Physico-Therapeutic hospital and the Psycho-Neurology Out-Patients hospital, ransacked the State museum, and blew up

or burned down all bridges and over 485 residential houses including the house where the famous poet of the eighteenth century, Derzhavin, lived. They barbarously demolished the monuments to Lenin and Kirov.

They totally destroyed the industry of the town, demolished the railway junction, buildings and fleet of the White Sea and Lake Onega State Steamship Administration, and all communication services. Before their retreat from Petrozavodsk the Finns blew up, burned down or demolished seven power stations, three dams, a feeder sub-station and transformer booths, and shipped to Finland the valuable electrical equipment.

Equipment of Industrial Works Carried Away

The Finnish invaders blew up and demolished the power station, dam, dwelling houses and auxiliary enterprises of the oldest Onega iron and steel and machine-building works, the equipment of which had been created in the course of centuries and especially under the Soviet Government. The invaders carried away to Finland the equipment of the whole 20 departments of this works.

The Finns demolished the Petrozavodsk ski factory, the largest in the Soviet Union, which before the war turned out over 500,000 first-rate skis a year. They burned down the saw-mills; demolished the refrigerating plant, printshop, liquor and vodka distillery and brewery, and mechanized bakeries; they blew up waterfront installations and departments of the shipyards.

In the occupied district of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic the fascist invaders destroyed all mechanized enterprises and installations for timber storing and timber floating; they burned down four saw-mills and a furniture factory, the cellulose mill in Kondopoga, blew up the spillway at the Kondopoga State power station, the Medvezhyegorsk power station, the Povenets shipyards and the Kondopoga pegmarite plant, as well as many other factories.

The Finnish occupationists caused tremendous damage to structures of the Stalin White Sea-Baltic Canal; they blew up seven sluice gates, breakdown gates, the stockade walls of sluice chambers,

dams, dykes, spillways, ferro-concrete piers.

The Finnish bandits wrought similar destruction in all towns and in most of the villages of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic.

Finns Make Slaves of Civilians

Directly after the invasion of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic the fascist invaders proclaimed the Soviet people war-prisoners and confined them to special concentration camps. Six such camps were set up in Petrozavodsk, with about 25,000 women, children and old people confined in them. Concentration camps for civilians were also set up in Medvezhyegorsk, near the town of Olonets, on the Ilyinskoye State farm and in other parts of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic.

A most brutal regime of humiliation, exhausting labor beyond human strength, torture and violence was instituted by the Finns for the inmates of all camps. The camps were surrounded with high fences and barbed-wire entanglements. At 7 A.M. the "prisoners," irrespective of sex, age or state of health, were driven under escort to heavy, exhausting work. The "prisoner" Soviet citizens confined in the camps were issued 100 or 200 grams of bad-quality bread, and once in a while 200 grams of frozen potatoes or rotten horse-flesh sausage.

The guards of the camp headed by Colonel Rolf Schield subjected to torture all confined Soviet citizens, without exception. The Finnish slave-owners beat up the prisoners for failure to fulfil their quotas of work, for incorrect stacking of firewood or for failure to display sufficient respect for the guards, or they were beaten or tortured without any pretext at all. As a measure of punishment prisoners were given no food for two or three days, or placed in solitary cells.

The Finnish hangmen subjected Soviet civilian "prisoners" to incredible torture. The Petrozavodsk resident Novikov, who testified before the Investigation Committee, witnessed how, in Camp No. 2, the Finns selected 30 inmates, allegedly war-prisoners. They drove them to Leo Tolstoy street and subjected them there to excruciating torture. They burned the heels of the "prisoners" with a red-hot iron, beat them with rubber clubs and

then shot 15 of them. The remaining 15 persons were sent back to Camp No. 2 after 25 days.

The Finnish war-prisoner Private Vilho Kurgila, of the 1st Company, 2nd Battalion of the Bicycle Brigade of the La-gussa Armored Tank Division, stated at his interrogation:

"When we entered the town of Petrozavodsk in autumn, 1941, we found no residents there. All of them had scattered in the neighboring forests. The Finnish authorities issued an order demanding of the population that they immediately return to the town under pain of death. Special detachments were formed to apprehend the residents and drive them back to Petrozavodsk. Thus they gathered the population and confined it in camps. One camp was set up in Kukovka, another in a place known as 'The road to Solomenchugi,' and a third camp was built behind the radio-station mast.

"All people, old and young, were driven under escort to perform hard work. The appearance of these people was terrible—they looked entirely wretched and harassed. Very many of them could not stand such a life, and died. While the local residents languished in the camps, we Finnish soldiers had a good time in Petrozavodsk as well as in the neighboring villages. The entire property of the local population and large food stocks remained in their houses. All this property was proclaimed ownerless, and of course we did not waste time and took everything we liked. We sent many things to our relatives in Finland. Especially active in these doings were soldiers of the 3rd Company of our battalion, but others did not lag behind them either."

In the camps the Finns tortured not only adults but even children, who were also considered "war-prisoners." The Finnish war-prisoner Private Toivo Arvid Laine, of the 13th Company, 20th Infantry Brigade, stated at his interrogation:

"Early in June, 1944 I was in Petrozavodsk. At Petrozavodsk railway station I saw a camp for Soviet children. Children from five to 15 years of age were confined there. Their appearance was terrible.

"These were little living skeletons, wearing rags which defied description. The children were so exhausted that they had

even forgotten how to cry, and looked at everything with indifferent eyes."

Child Prisoners Forced To Work

The Finnish slave-owners forced the "prisoner" children along with the adults to do work beyond their strength. The Finnish Private Aho Sulo Johannes, of the 2nd Independent Battalion of Coastal Defense witnessed how "during summer, 1943, over 200 persons, chiefly adolescents, were driven from neighboring villages to the area of Tolbui and the Schitiki wharf for construction of roads. All these persons worked as prisoners guarded by Finnish soldiers."

In September, 1943, the 10-year-old boy Lenya Zuyev, who was kept in Camp No. 2, tried to climb the wire fence. A Finnish sentry noticed Zuyev, fired at him without warning and wounded the boy in the leg. When Lenya fell down the Finn fired at him a second time. The wounded Zuyev with great difficulty crawled to the territory of the camp.

The witness Lakhina, who was confined in Camp No. 5, informed the Committee about the appalling living conditions of the camp inmates.

"Six or seven families lived in rooms of 15 to 20 square meters each. There was no bath-house or laundry in the camp. People took water from a ditch in which human corpses lay about. Soap was not issued at all. The 'prisoners' were lice-infested. The inhuman living conditions in the camp resulted in the development of epidemic diseases such as scurvy, dysentery and typhus."

Hunger and mass epidemics caused an extremely high mortality in all concentration camps: dozens of people died daily, and their bodies were taken to a cemetery two or three times a week. Here is what a witness told about this. The eye-witness Alexei Prokofyevich Kolomensky, who was kept in Camp No. 5 in Petrozavodsk from December 1, 1941, to June 28, 1944, testified:

"I worked as a cart-driver, and had to carry dead from the camp to the 'Peski' cemetery located five kilometers from Petrozavodsk. The dead were carried there every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. According to my records 170 men died in May, 1942, 171 in June, 164 in July and

152 in August. Altogether 1,014 inmates died in our camp from May to December 31, 1942. At the beginning of 1942 there were about 7,500 prisoners in the camp, and at the moment of our liberation by the Red Army 4,500 remained there."

* * *

The Committee received a letter from former inmates of Petrozavodsk concentration camps. They wrote: "For nearly three years we were surrounded with two rows of barbed-wire entanglements and watch-towers and guarded by armed sentries. We were starved and beaten with lashes for the slightest fault. The Commandant of Camp No. 2, Lieutenant Salavaara, also the Commandant of the Vilki Camp Lakoonen, displayed particular brutality.

"Special camps were set up in Kutizhma, Vilga and Kindosovo for 'law-breakers,' chiefly children, young people and women. Living conditions here were no better than in medieval dungeons. Here Soviet people were starved, in winter they were driven to work in the forest wearing only torn rubber galoshes on bare feet. Here the camp inmates ate mice, frogs and dog carrion, thousands of prisoners died of dysentery, typhus fever and pneumonia, receiving no medical assistance. The doctor-beast Kolyhmainen, instead of treating the prisoners, beat them with a stick and fists, and threw typhus patients out into the frost."

This letter is signed by 146 Soviet citizens, former inmates of Petrozavodsk concentration camps.

Over 7,000 Soviet Citizens Exterminated at Petrozavodsk

Evidence of the inhuman brutality with which the Finnish scoundrels treated Soviet civilians confined in concentration camps is provided by the following far from solitary instance. A letter of the ex-student of Helsinki University, Private Salminen of the 2nd Frontier Chasseurs Battalion, fell into the hands of the Committee. In this letter he wrote: "Yesterday two Russians were shot because they refused to greet us. We shall give it to these Russians!"

As a result of forced labor, disease, torture and shootings over 7,000 Soviet citizens were exterminated in the Petro-

zavodsk camps. A Committee presided over by the Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR DILDENKIN, the Chairman of the Petrozavodsk City Soviet, STEPANOV, Professor of Petrozavodsk University, BAZANOV, with participation of medico-legal experts—Chief Medico-Legal Expert of the Karelian Front, Major of Medical Service, PETROPAVLOVSKY; Chief Pathologist of the Karelian Front, Lieutenant Colonel of Medical Service, Doctor of Medical Science, ARIEL; and others—having examined the "Peski" cemetery in Petrozavodsk, discovered 39 group graves and ascertained that no less than 7,000 bodies were buried in all these graves.

As a result of examination of exhumed bodies, the medico-legal experts ascertained that the majority of the buried persons died of exhaustion. Some bodies had wounds through their skulls inflicted by firearms.

In September, 1941, the fascist command set up Camp No. 17 in the town of Olonets of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic, and confined there Red Army men and junior officers taken prisoner in the Svir sector of the front. The territory of this camp was surrounded by two rows of barbed-wire fences up to two meters high. Each barrack in the camp was also fenced off from the rest by barbed wire. The number of war-prisoners kept in the camp varied from 600 to 1,000.

The Camp Commandant, Lieutenant Soininen Toivo, used to come to the barracks while drunk and beat up the war-prisoners himself, and also ordered his subordinates to beat them. The Commandant's Assistants Ingman and Salmelo, also the examining Magistrate of the camp, Lieutenant Schepalis and Military Official Schmidt, without any pretext, systematically and brutally beat up Soviet war-prisoners with clubs and lashes.

Soviet war-prisoners who in the opinion of the Finnish-fascist hangmen worked badly were placed on a high tree stump with their hands stretched out, and forced to maintain this posture for 30 to 90 minutes. In winter this kind of torture of war-prisoners resulted in the freezing of their extremities and in grave diseases.

The administrative personnel and guards of the camp not only tortured, tor-

mented and starved Soviet war-prisoners, but also shot them for the slightest "offense." The former Soviet war-prisoner Belan stated that one of the Finnish guards shot a war-prisoner with a tommy-gun burst because he approached the barbed-wire entanglement. For this murder the camp Commandant Alapies promoted the murderer to corporal.

According to the eye-witness Feklistov, in summer, 1943, the war-prisoner Bykov on his way back from work began to pick mushrooms and fell behind his group. The Commandant Soininen and the guard Hervonen met Bykov on the road on his way back to the camp, and shot him with pistols.

When the Olonets district was captured by Red Army troops, a registration file for sick war-prisoners was found at the hospital of the Olonets war-prisoners camp. This file supplies a vivid picture of extermination of Soviet war-prisoners by the Finns. Entries in the file show that in the first six months of 1942 alone, out of a total of 1,888 registered patients, 588 died in hospital as a result of general weakness, exhaustion and oedomata. The bodies of war-prisoners who died or were tortured to death were buried in a common trench dug specially for this purpose 100 meters from the camp.

The Committee of medico-legal experts exhumed and examined bodies which had been discovered in the cemetery near Olonets Camp No. 17. Medico-legal examination of the bodies revealed that the subcutaneous fatty cellular tissue, as well as the cellular tissue of the internal organs, was exhausted or completely absent, which testified to extreme exhaustion caused by protracted starvation. Some of the bodies had traces of shot-wounds in the head or thorax.

Finnish Fascists Murder Wounded Red Army Men

As a result of examination of the bodies and the testimony of witnesses, it has been established that the Finnish-fascist hangmen starved Soviet war-prisoners, subjected them to torture, and also shot them.

Finnish-fascist scoundrels finish off wounded Soviet officers and men who fall into captivity. Below is cited part of the documents and testimony of witnesses in

the possession of the Extraordinary State Committee which prove the unparalleled crimes committed by the Finnish White Guards against Soviet officers and men:

"PROTOCOL: We the undersigned—Military Surgeon of Third Rank GOLYNSKY, Military Surgeon of Third Rank PEDARAN, Junior Political Instructor BISTOLOV, Sergeant Major BOCHKAREV, Stretcher-Bearer ZHUKOV, Red Army Man BOSSENKO, Surgeon's Assistant RYABOV—having examined the bodies of Red Army men who were brutally done to death by the Finnish White Guard bandits, have noted the following:—

"First. The body of Red Navy man KULESHOV has the right ear cut off, the face bears traces of bruises inflicted with a rifle-butt and a number of bayonet wounds, the right leg is dislocated at the knee joint and pelvic joint. Second. On the body of Red Navy man Ziv: face, skin, moustache and beard singed, large bruise in area of right eye, wound on left temple. Third. On the body of Red Army man Krivulin: wound inflicted by cold steel in the proximity of the right carotid, carotid opened up, collarbone broken and a number of wounds on the right shoulder, upper eye-lid of left eye cut out and eye injured. Fourth. The body of Red Army man Baranov: over six bayonet wounds in the thorax, cross-shaped wounds on both heels inflicted with cold steel."

On June 28, 1944, in the course of an engagement for the village of Pusko-Selga, the Finns broke through to a place where over 70 wounded Red Army officers and men were concentrated. The fascist fiends brutally massacred the Soviet wounded, finishing them off with tommy-gun bursts, bayonets, knives and rifle-butts. Three men—Sergeant Markov, Red Army men Krivoruchko and Kryuchkov—escaped this brutal massacre by feigning death.

"When the firing ceased," Sergeant Markov said, "the Finnish officers and men began to search our killed and wounded. Sergeant Shchuchka, wounded in the leg, lay within several meters of me. Four Finns came over to him, tore off the Guardsman's badge from his tunic and shot him. Another group of Finns bayoneted and slashed with knives the wounded Second Lieutenant Baranov. The

groans of men being killed were heard all around. Several wounded men tried to escape, and began to crawl away, but the Finnish officers and men overtook them and brutally finished them off."

* * *

On July 11 and 12, 1944, Major of Medical Service, Professor of Pathological Anatomy, Doctor of Medical Science BRAUL made a post-mortem examination of bodies of officers and men of the Red Army brutally tortured to death by the Finns in the area of Lake Kotojarvi. The post-mortem examination revealed that wounded men had been killed after the engagement by Finnish officers and men: 34 men were killed with single shots or tommy-gun bursts, one man had his skull-bones smashed with a heavy blunt weapon, six men were shot and simultaneously their skulls were smashed with a blunt weapon.

Deliberate extermination of wounded Red Army officers and men by Finnish troops has been confirmed by the testimony of numerous Finnish war-prisoners. Private Heiskanen Juho, of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, stated at his interrogation:

"In Petrozavodsk we met on our way captured Red Army men. They were driven on by blows with rifle-butts. I saw a wounded Red Army man. One of our men took a tommy gun and shot him outright." Private Vaine Nevaranta, of the 21st Independent Battalion of the Finnish army, stated:

"Our battalion launched an offensive north of Medvezhyegorsk. During this engagement about 100 Red Army men were taken prisoner. They were escorted to the rear. Lieutenant Niemi guarded the wounded Red Army men himself, saying they would be brought along later in carts. When the rest of the prisoners were at a sufficient distance from this place, Niemi began to shoot the wounded Red Army men with his pistol. He personally shot eight men, and ordered one tommy gunner to finish off the rest. All the men of our platoon witnessed this."

Instructions for Marauding

Similar testimony was given to the Committee by Private Niemi Leopold, orderly of the Chief of the Rear Establishments of the 27th Infantry Regiment, 18th Division. He said:

"I know of many instances when Finnish officers and men shot Russian war prisoners. In March, 1942, during the capture of Hcglund Island, we took prisoner over 30 Russian sailors. I saw men of our 1st Battalion shooting three of them near the road, and the rest of them were shot after interrogation. The officers said that Russian sailors were inveterate Bolsheviks and they must not be left alive. Major General Pojari directed the operation for the capture of the island."

A confidential directive, No. 511, issued by the headquarters of the 7th Finnish Infantry Division, instructs army units to engage in the most brazen marauding: "under all circumstances, whenever the situation permits, all clothing and equipment are to be stripped off the killed enemy men. In case of need war-prisoners may be used for this work. (Reference: cabled order of the headquarters of the Finnish Karelian Army)."

Pelkonen, former Assistant Chief of the Olonets war-prisoners Camp No. 17, captured by Red Army troops, stated at his interrogation:

"I fully agreed with Finnish-fascist propaganda. In the Russian nation I saw the old enemies of my country. With this opinion I went to fight the Russians. In Camp No. 17 for Soviet war-prisoners the administrative personnel of the camp, in particular my chief, Lieutenant Soininen, said that the Russians remained enemies of the Finns even in captivity and were not amenable to education, and that they would observe the camp regime only after physical measures of influence. For this reason I regarded Soviet war-prisoners as nonentities, felt my superiority over them and, taking advantage of their helplessness, vented my anger on them at every opportunity."

* * *

The Extraordinary State Committee has ascertained that along with the Finnish government and army command the following persons are responsible for all the crimes committed by the Finnish-fascist invaders on the territory of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic:

The Chief of the Administration of Eastern Karelia, Lieutenant Colonel Kotelainen; the Chief of Staff of the Administration of Eastern Karelia, Major Gen-

eral Arrajuri; the Commander of the 8th Division of the Finnish Army, Major General Polojarvi; the Commander of the 4th Finnish Infantry Regiment, 8th Division, Colonel Vistora; Major General Pojari; Colonel Rolf Schield; the Military Commandant of Petrozavodsk, Captain Laurikainen; the Assistant Commandant, Lieutenant Elomoa; the Commandants of concentration camps in Petrozavodsk Vilko Lakoonen; Lieutenant Salavaara, Major Kuurema, Lieutenant Kallio, Lieutenant Tolonen Pentti, Lieutenant Nuotto Jussi, Errikainen, Kangas, the Assistant Commandants of camp: Ingman, Airola and Seppela; Chief of the camp office, Saraioki; the Commandants of Olonets Camp No. 17, Lieutenant Alapiet, Lieutenant Soininen Toivo; Assistants of the camp commandant, Salmelo, Pelkonen; the examining magistrate, Lieutenant Schepalis; the Military Official Schmidt; the Interpreters Karpelainen and Pistilainen; the Chief of Kindosovo jail, Captain Toivonen; his assistants, Kovala and Sihvonen; the Commandant of Kindosovo Camp, Sergeant Vikhula; Assistant Commandants of Camp No. 2, Sergeants Lindholm Veikko, Allagonen Pentti, Sivonen Emil, Julililuomma Mati, Vuori Arvo, Kassimaki Tukio, Lamber Veikko; the guard, Heronon, Corporal Inkel Koivosala, the guard, Jullimanola Edverd, Lieutenant Niemi.

All of them must appear before the court of the Soviet people and bear severe punishment for the crimes which they have committed.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 106

Washington, D. C., September 29, 1944



Hitler Germany Attacked from East and West

By Major General M. Galaktionov

From WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 18:

On the threshold of the sixth year of war, events at the fronts are moving with breakneck acceleration. The Red Army has by lightning and powerful blows destroyed the German place d'armes in the Balkans. Our troops have crossed the Danube and reached the Yugoslav border, and surmounted the Transylvanian Alps. The Red Army is at the borders of East Prussia.

In the West the Anglo-American Armies, completing the liberation of France and Belgium, have reached the German frontier, and in a number of places have crossed it.

Wickham Steed, London radio commentator, on September 8 described events as follows—Retranslated from the Russian): "The Germans invented the term blitzkrieg, which means lightning war. That's what they called their advance through Belgium and France in June, 1940. As regards speed, the German blitzkrieg, compared with the Allies' present advance, seems slow and clumsy . . . What has taken place in Rumania and the Balkans is no less unpleasant for the Germans than their debacle in France and the liberation of Brussels. . . . For the first time in this war the Allies can advance along a single front."

Comparisons between the campaign of

1944 in France and Belgium and the campaign of 1940 are often to be met in the British and American press. That is understandable. Now that Paris, Sedan and Verdun have flashed past in the kaleidoscope, one's thoughts involuntarily revert to the days when the Hitlerites celebrated their blitz victory in the Western European theater.

In May, 1940 the German panzers, having pierced the front at Sedan, reached the Channel Coast four days later, and in June, 1940 were speeding west of Paris, while another group reached Belfort in the rear of the Maginot Line. But now the hour of retribution has struck. In this year, 1944, American tanks, having broken

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Under cover of a hill, Soviet tanks move up to strike at the enemy's flank

through in Normandy, executed a swift march, forced the Marne east of Paris and reached the area of Sedan, Verdun and Metz.

Thoughts of a military theoretician again return to the oft-discussed theme of blitzkrieg. The Germans seek consolation in the thought that although they are being beaten, they are being beaten with the weapon they themselves invented at the beginning of the war. But even this wretched consolation of the Nazi mountebanks is utterly false.

What was the essence of Hitler's blitzkrieg in 1940? The eruption of masses of tanks into the heart of France led to the surrender of her government, which consisted of traitors to the country. We can now examine these events, enriched with the experience of five years of war. The war has brought the power of the tank arm into such sharp relief as to put the campaign of 1940 in the shade. But it is also revealed that tank formations can lead to success only if the proper advantage is taken of their characteristic features, and that they have their limitations.

How then are we to explain the decisive success of the blitzkrieg in 1940? Firstly, by the weakness of defense, or rather the absence of all serious resistance to the advance of the German panzers. Secondly, by the peculiarities of the Franco-Belgian theater of hostilities.

A comparison of present events with the events of 1940 brings out the fact that today the Germans in the West are the weaker side. They did not even have enough forces to create an unbroken front on the territory of France and Belgium such as the Allies had in 1940. The German command had to content itself with forming a front on a narrow sector in Normandy, where the Allied forces landed. The Germans evidently reckoned, by putting up a stubborn resistance in this sector, on delaying indefinitely the advance of the Allies into the heart of France.

However, the splendid organization of the landing operations by the Allied Command and the bold maneuver for the encirclement of the Germans of the Normandy group completely upset Hitler's plans. Our Allies were evidently perfectly informed and knew that the Germans had not the reserves with which to organize

a defense on rear lines, and they boldly launched armored forces to outflank the German armies in Normandy and on the Channel Coast.

And sure enough, the Allied armored forces met with practically no resistance. Correspondents who accompanied these forces report that they came across whole fortified areas prepared for defense, but in which not a single German soldier was to be seen. The tank formations moved forward from the Normandy beachheads nearly 400 miles. One American column, after capturing Verdun, advanced 55 miles in one day. British motorized forces seized Brussels after a march of 60 miles executed in one day. German resistance began to stiffen only on the Moselle and the Albert Canal.

The swift onward march of our Allies' tank forces led to results as decisive as those attained by the Germans in 1940, namely, seizure of the entire territory of France and Belgium. One must bear in mind the peculiarities of this theater, whose limited area makes it possible for armored forces, once they have broken through, to reach borders by an unbroken march. This is facilitated by the abundance of excellent roads.

Naturally, under these conditions, an uninterrupted march is possible only provided the enemy does not put up a stubborn resistance on intermediate lines.

To what are we to attribute the absence of such resistance on the part of the Germans? The American radio commentator Steel, in a broadcast of September 6, drew attention to the difference in German strategy on the Eastern and Western fronts. In the West, after having suffered a defeat in Normandy, the Germans, or at least the local German command, put up slight resistance. On the Eastern Front, on the other hand, especially in the Warsaw area, the Germans stiffened their resistance. This, Steel says, is Hitler's last stake in the attempt to win the war politically and to destroy the unity of the Allies.

Some day we shall learn exactly what insensate plans were hatched in the minds of the Nazi adventurers when they found themselves on the brink of the abyss. But the American commentator is unquestionably right to the extent that events in the West European theater cannot be

considered in isolation from what is going on in the East. It is undeniable that Germany's main forces continue to remain on the Soviet-German front.

Hawkins, London correspondent of the Associated Press, believes that the German army on the Soviet-German front is five times stronger than the German army in the West, and that the Germans even now are transferring reinforcements from West to East. This, of course, is the real explanation of what at first glance seems an astonishing fact, namely, that the Germans had not enough forces to put up a resistance on delaying lines in France and Belgium.

In order to draw correct conclusions from the operations in various theaters of this war, one should always bear in mind not only the strength of modern means of offense, such as tanks and aircraft, but also the power of defense, whose potentialities, as the war has shown, are very great. The German blitzkrieg ended in a fiasco in the East when it encountered the might of Soviet defense. The German panzers, as they sped into the heart of Soviet territory, lost their kinetic energy when they encountered the stubborn resistance of the Red Army, and were stopped and smashed without having gained any decisive results.

The Red Army's offensive operations in the past two years were conducted in the face of powerful defensive lines, where the Germans offered fierce resistance. In the summer offensive of 1944 our troops advanced from the Dnieper to the Vistula, a distance of nearly 700 kilometers, after having broken through the enemy's front and overcome a series of strongly fortified enemy lines. This is roughly the depth of the French theater from west to east. This, of course, could only be achieved with the help of mobile armored and motorized forces acting in coordination with other arms. When they reached the border of East Prussia and the Vistula, our troops encountered new fortified lines where the enemy had concentrated large forces transferred from Germany and other theaters.

From this brief review three conclusions may be drawn which explain the course of hostilities in the main theaters of war.

First of all, in the culminating phase

of the war the outstanding part played by armored and motorized forces in modern operations perhaps stands out in greater relief than ever before. The march of the Red Army tank formations in Byelorussia and Rumania and of the Anglo-American forces in France and Belgium vividly bears this out. Tank and motorized formations are a means of exploiting tactical successes after a breakthrough to a depth of several hundred kilometers.

To this should be added another important reason for the indicated victories: the mastery in the air won by Soviet and Anglo-American forces in all European theaters.

Secondly, we must also bear in mind the power of modern defense. It is highly

important, if we want to understand the significance of present operations, to remember that Germany has her main forces in the East, where the Germans are able as a result to maintain an unbroken fortified front. Our forces in their advance have had to overcome the enemy's fierce resistance in a number of sectors, as for example the Warsaw area.

In the West the further course of events will largely depend upon whether the Germans have enough forces to create a front on Germany's western border.

And a last and important conclusion to be drawn from the recent campaigns is that joint blows of the Armies of the anti-Hitler coalition have brought Germany to the brink of disaster.

From the West and the East Germany is held in a vise. The advance of the Allied Armies in all directions into the heart of Germany and the territories still under her sway makes it possible not only to strike at the Germans where their defense is still strong, but also to take the fullest advantage of the weakness of those sectors where the enemy is no longer able to create a strong defense owing to lack of forces.

Concerted and vigorous offensive operations by all the Armies of the anti-Hitler coalition was one of the major reasons for the brilliant victories already gained. Therein, too, lies the guarantee of the swift and final defeat of Hitler Germany—hated enemy of freedom-loving nations.

ON THE VISTULA

By Major P. Troyanovsky

It is midday. The sun shines warmly and the waters of the Vistula sparkle in the bright light. Across the river a sandy bank stretches, 250 to 300 meters away. Warsaw begins there, with the Kosciuszko Embankment.

A number of Soviet artillery and infantry officers are gathered at an observation point. Before them stand stereoscopic telescopes; and some have field-glasses in their hands. A sound-registering battery has been set up nearby; it registers every shot fired by the German artillery, and experts then determine from where the firing comes, so as to enter it upon the map.

The Kosciuszko Embankment, as indeed the whole of Warsaw, is clearly visible. Houses, squares and yards can be seen with the naked eye, without the help of telescopes or field-glasses. There lie the ruins of the Warsaw gas works. A little to the right are the railway bridge and the Poniatowski bridge, both of which have been destroyed. The spans nearest to Praga are intact, but the middle ones have collapsed.

To the left of the gas works everything is hidden under a thick blanket of smoke: there houses, trees and whole streets are burning. The Germans are forming a smoke screen, mercilessly setting fire to Poland's Capital.

However, it is not a matter of a smoke

screen. The Germans have remained true to their base nature. They feel that their days in Warsaw are numbered, and they are therefore destroying this large and beautiful city. It was so in Orel, in Bryansk and in Gomel!

To the right of the Poniatowski bridge, on the Kosciuszko Embankment, stand tall white houses. Rather, tall white houses once stood there, and very likely they were beautiful buildings, but today the entire Embankment is one huge, burned-out ruin. Only the walls are left, white, gray and black.

In the remains of the Warsaw power station can be discerned the high iron stacks, pieces of walls, piles of brick and metal. Beyond that again, lie demolished dwellings, squares in which the trees have been felled or burned. Still farther to the west, Krulewska street is burning, Napoleon Square is on fire. Above the conflagration looms the skeleton of the 16-story building of the Warsaw Telegraph. Nowi Siezd street is clearly visible: it leads from the center of the city to the Embankment. German cars rush along it, infantrymen hurry to the Vistula, and in the opposite direction the wounded are being hauled or carried.

Through the glasses the Hotel Europe can be discerned. It has no walls left and from the cellar protrude the barrels of machine guns and cannon. Farther

to the right we see the walls of Krulewski Castle, where once upon a time the Polish kings lived. In modern days it was the residence of the presidents of Poland. In 1939 the Germans blitzed the palace, and when they entered Warsaw they finished it off by fire.

All the streets to the right of the castle are heaps of ruins.

Warsaw is in flames. But on the banks of the Vistula, in Praga, life is returning, a peaceful life closely bound up with the life and fight of the units of the Red Army and the Polish National Army.

The people of Praga are helping the soldiers with everything in their power. Some days ago two Poles captured three German signalers. On Torgowaya street a Polish woman discovered a German radio operator with a radio set, and he was brought to our unit. Polish women frequently give blood for transfusions for wounded Polish and Soviet soldiers. Here are two recent facts: Wanda Pawliuk, a Polish girl, gave 450 grams of blood for a Polish officer, Mark Dedninsky; Sylvia Walczewskaya, also Polish, gave her blood for a seriously wounded Soviet tankist, Sergeant Mikhail Ruchkin. Considerable supplies of medicines were found in one of the Praga districts, and on their own initiative the people of the district organized a hospital, which is staffed by Polish civilian doctors and nurses.



CAPTURED GERMAN TANKS—Red Army men look over a grassy area.

THE FIREWORKS THAT FAILED

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Among the archives left by the Germans in Lublin was found a folder with a mysterious title, "The Fall of Moscow." One might think it was a Utopian novel, but nothing of the kind. The folder contained orders, circulars and telephone messages.

It appears that the Germans in Poland were very anxious that Moscow might fall before they were ready for the event. Examination of the documents in the folder reveals what the Nazis were thinking about in the autumn of 1941.

As we know, the Germans call Poland a "government-general." In 1941 the administration of the government-general had its headquarters in Cracow. The chief of the propaganda department was a certain state councillor, Ohlenbusch. He was the first to raise the alarm. We know not only the date but even the historical hour when Herr Ohlenbusch informed his subordinates in Warsaw, Radom and Lublin of the coming fall of Moscow. It was July 30, 1941, at 13 hours and 30 minutes o'clock.

Here is a translation of his order: "Strictly Confidential. Re: Fall of Moscow. The day the capture of the Soviet Russian Capital is reported, celebrations are to be held in all towns where German troops are stationed, in order that the brilliant successes of the German army may be specially marked. Celebrations wherever possible should be held in the open air.

It goes without saying that all Germans must take part in them.

"It is extremely desirable that as large a number of Poles as possible attend the celebrations as spectators. The precise date of the celebrations will be duly communicated to you. In Cracow the governor general will deliver an address on the occasion. In the evening a fireworks display will be given on the banks of the Vistula opposite the Castle. You must at once proceed to make preliminary arrangements for celebrations. In particular, orators chosen at your own discretion should be invited. Local orators should be engaged immediately, as for technical reasons only brief notice will be given of the date of the celebrations. (Signed) Ohlenbusch."

But that wasn't all. Ohlenbusch most likely kept awake all night, working out the details of the coming celebrations, for the next day he delivered himself of another order. He was even more precise this time in marking the exact historical minute he signed the document. It was on July 31, 1941, at 11 hours and eight minutes o'clock.

"Confidential. Re: Changes of names in connection with celebration of fall of Moscow. In pursuance of 'campaign five' carried out in the occupied regions, large streets, especially those bearing foreign names in towns in this area as well as in the protectorate, especially in Prague,

should be changed to 'Viktoriastrasse'. This also applies to cafes and hotels. Various celebrations are contemplated in the government-general in connection with the fall of Moscow. This will offer a suitable occasion to make certain changes in names which were decided upon long ago, but which were not carried out owing to lack of a fitting excuse. In view of the fact that thanks to the victory of German arms the population of the government-general are saved heavy war expenses, this will be a sufficient excuse for changing the names of streets to 'Viktoriastrasse,' etc. The governor-general has given his consent to the above. I request you to duly inform your chiefs of districts. (Signed) Ohlenbusch."

Herr Vandrey, chief of the Lublin department of propaganda, informed his subordinates on August 2 of the forthcoming celebrations. He drew up a detailed plan for the ceremony and dictated the text of a display poster. Here is Herr Vandrey's effusion:

"Where Adolf Hitler commands, there victory is certain! Moscow is captured. In celebration of the event, on (space for date) a colossal fireworks display will be given. Between the railway station and the town (on Pilsudski avenue). Speaker: Globotschnik. At 17 o'clock sharp. (Signed) Schaeffer. Stands reserved for Germans on Pilsudski avenue."

That same day Herr Vandrey very nat-



tanks, to determine to what extent they have been damaged

urally sent a letter to Warsaw requesting all requisites pertaining to the colossal fireworks display. Impressed with the consciousness that Moscow might be taken any minute, he marked his letter "Very Urgent." The letter reads: "Re: Fall of M. Kindly let me know immediately whether you can send me all requisites for fireworks display to the value of 10,000 zlotys. (Signed) Vandrey, Propaganda, Lublin."

Requisites for the fireworks display duly arrived. But a little *contretemps* arose over the poster. This occurred much later, October 28, at nine hours and five minutes o'clock. Herr Vandrey suddenly noticed that the text of the printed poster wasn't altogether satisfactory. He sent a telephone message to Herr Ohlenbusch in Cracow:

"Re: Fall of M. Attention has been called to the fact that the word Moscow (Moskau) in the poster is spelled in the German way, whereas the rest of the poster is in Polish. As a result the poster naturally loses in effectiveness. I propose that gummed slips be printed with the Polish word 'Moskwa' in red ink, and request an urgent reply. Vandrey, Propaganda, Lublin."

Thus the last obstacle to the capture of Moscow was removed.

Sure enough on October 29, 1941, Herr Vandrey dictated the following circular to his subordinates in Chelm, Bialu, Januw, Grubiszow, Radzyn, Zamestje, Bilgorai and other towns: "Official. Confidential. Re: Fall of M. You will receive (*space for number*) posters, which should be a graphic demonstration to the Polish popu-

lation of the significance of the fall of the capital of the Bolshevik world conspiracy. I request you to see to it that the posters are properly displayed. Vandrey."

A blank receipt for the posters was enclosed with the circular. Nine hundred posters were sent to Radzyn, 1,200 to Chelm, 1,000 to Grubiszow and 1,300 to Lublin. Herr Vandrey's subordinates, Wenaler Scheller, Walzer Ganef, Funk and others ordered buckets of paste.

Everything was now ready for the fireworks: posters, red-gummed slips, stands for the German colonists, signplates with the name "Viktoriastrasse," and the speech of SS Obergruppenfuehrer Globotschnik.

The delay was not due to lack of paste or orators. The Red Army had its say and the German plans went agley. The celebrations had to be called off.

Of course, that was very rude on our part. After all, the Germans had prepared so long for the solemn day, they had squandered so much on posters and fireworks, they had put their *rotenfuehrers* to so much trouble composing their fiery speeches. But if they had only stopped to think, if they had asked any Russian country lad, they would have realized that Moscow would not surrender.

So the celebrations in the "government-general" and the "protectorate" had to be canceled. True, they did rename some cafes "Victory Cafe," but the "fitting excuse" for it, as Ohlenbusch so charmingly expressed it, was lacking: there was no victory. Instead of Bengal lights they began setting a light to the towns and villages.

Lublin got no celebrations; it got Maidanek instead. Obergruppenfuehrer Globotschnik devoted his leisure to asphyxiating defenseless people with gases and distributing shoes stripped from the feet of executed children. His is one of the first names to figure in the list of the Maidanek criminals and I am certain that this "candidate" will be accepted for the gallows.

Much has changed since the time when the greedy and stupid Germans made their plans for celebrating the capture of Moscow.

Time and again Moscow's sky has been lit up with rockets in celebration of the liberation of towns and whole Republics. The would-be conquerors of those days are rotting in their graves. Lublin has been liberated. Oberbutcher Globotschnik and Oberbraggart Vandrey fled, forgetting to remove the files and folders with their strictly confidential documents.

The Red Army is at the gates of Warsaw. The day is not far off when the flag of liberty will wave over the mutilated but proud Capital of Poland.

Nor is the day far off when Germany will answer for the evil she has done. Our Allies have surrounded Aachen, they are threatening the Ruhr; they are 530 kilometers from Berlin. The heroic Red Army which is now annihilating Hitler's last forces is 510 kilometers from the German capital.

Even the most stupid Germans have forgotten about "the fall of M." The time has come for another event: *the fall of B!*

ON THE QUESTION OF POLAND'S FUTURE WESTERN BORDER

By Eugene Tarle

From WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS,
No. 18:

I once read, in an English newspaper which was commenting on one of Lord Vansittart's articles, the following words—(Retranslated from the Russian):

"We Englishmen have preferred twice in the course of one generation to shed our blood and sacrifice millions of our people, rather than look truth in the face and rather than recognize the beast of prey in the beast of prey. The first time this happened to us was in 1914, the second time in the years of Mr. Neville Chamberlain's rule. Let us not repeat this tragic mistake a third time. Let us recognize at last that Germans are Germans, just as wolves are wolves."

One involuntarily recalls these words (which were written long before the Germans began to kill London children and destroy London hospitals with flying bombs), not only when one reads Brailsford's disgraceful book in which he says that Europe must help Germany recover as quickly as possible from this war and that foreign excursions should be arranged for German youths, but also when one peruses other propaganda publications which are not quite so frankly pro-German. For after all, not all betray themselves so naively as Brailsford.

We Soviet people are at present following with profound curiosity the energetic efforts of open and covert, paid and "unselfish," pro-German publicists in certain sections of the press of neutral and Allied countries who are displaying feverish activity aiming (and very purposefully) to protect the inviolability of Germany's frontiers after the German robber den is at last destroyed.

It is true that the German miscreants reduced to charred and blood-stained deserts a number of countries whose only fault was that the Germans thought they could successfully fall upon and plunder them. It is true that the German beasts for many long years tortured and killed Russians, Poles, Czechs, Serbs, Greeks, Frenchmen, Norwegians and others and

sent stolen property (down to children's shoes and slippers from which the blood had been hastily wiped) to Germany in neatly packed parcels. It is true that the German press, from the *Voelkischer Zeitung* to the minor reptile newspapers of the quislings, et al, wrote jubilant articles to the effect that "the war is feeding Germany not only at the front, but also at the rear, because this is a total war." It is true that Germany today represents a huge thieves' store which is fearfully waiting to be raided.

All this may be true and the Germans themselves do not deny it, but no sooner is it suggested that stolen property must be found and restored to whom it belonged, that territories seized by the Germans in their marauding raids must be returned to their former owners, and that the robbers' den in the heart of Europe must be rendered innocuous once and for all, than the whole picture changes. Certain German exiles who fled from Hitler and found refuge in Britain, America, Sweden and Switzerland begin to talk exactly in the style of Goebbels' liars who lately have been ordered to write about the enemy's "criminal" intention of encroaching upon the sacred inviolability of the German Vaterland.

What worries them most is the question of the future of the Polish-Prussian frontier.

The most curious thing about this suspicious anxiety about the future Polish-Prussian border is the fact that the Raczkiewiczzes and the Sosnkowskis and their intimate friends are also taking an active part in the agitation on behalf of Germany. The Swedish pro-German newspaper *Aftonbladet*, in an article on August 26 entitled "The Polish Government in London and the Allies of the Allies," wrote:

"It is realized in Polish circles that the result of the Russian proposal to compensate Poland for the regions she lost in the East with East Prussia, Pomerania and Polish Silesia will be that the Germans will cherish dreams of revenge. Conse-

quently, such a Poland will be able to exist only under the protection of Russian arms and will be a vassal of the USSR."

This is not the first time, let us observe in passing, that the hopelessly bankrupt gang of Raczkiewiczzes and Sosnkowskis are betraying a fatal misunderstanding of the situation. It would not even occur to the Soviet Union that, having recovered the lands seized by the Pilsudskiites in their marauding raids, it has to offer "compensation" to anyone. There is no "problem," nor can there be any "problem" about these Ukrainian and Byelorussian lands as far as we are concerned. The question at issue is an entirely different one, namely, whether the Red Army ought to help Poland—which was semi-stifled by the Nazi ruffians and is now rising from ashes—to recover Polish lands which were torn by the Germans from the Polish people.

Of course the genuine representative of the interests and aspirations of the Polish people—the Polish Committee of National Liberation—considers this both unquestionably desirable and absolutely necessary. But the exile clique fears this no less than the Hitlerites, whose victory in Russia was so passionately hoped for, so sweetly dreamed of and so often publicly prophesied by the Anderses, Sosnkowskis and Matuszewskis.

A London correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune*, writing on August 21, said that in the opinion of the exile government the "incorporation of German territory would lead to immense difficulties and that Poland would need the help of the Soviet Union against Germany."

The political thinking of this group of adventurers is so wretched that they cannot understand to what extent, under any circumstances, Poland will "need the help of the Soviet Union against Germany," even if she were to hearken to these treacherous counsels and leave Germany in possession of the Polish lands which she now at last can and should recover.

But naturally, the criminal band of

Polish fascists—who did not hesitate to instigate the unhappy inhabitants of Warsaw to manifest a hopeless revolt only in order to put a spoke in the wheel of the Polish National Council, which they detest so heartily—are not in the least interested in the future security of their country; after all, their only policy is and always has been the policy of Colonel Beck. Did not their press in New York write in December, 1943, on the day following Teheran: "The Germans should not be hindered in their providential work of extirpating the Russian tribes."

No wonder, therefore, that even now their concern is that the Germans should be assured of similar freedom of action in the performance of their "providential work" in the future, too. Regarded from this point of view, the Anderses and Sosnkowskis are logical and consistent when they, in discussing the future of the Polish-German border, are far more interested in there being a strong Germany after the war than a strong Poland, for a Poland which does not want the Sosnkowski gentry even to cross her threshold will never consent to consider it her "providential work" to wage a war of extermination on the Russian people.

The purpose of all this London propaganda of "Poles versus Poland" is perfectly clear. The only pity is that not all sections of the American and English public have as yet seen through it.

One must therefore recognize as extremely timely the publication in London of a brochure in English written by Winiewicz, well-known Polish journalist and editor of one of the oldest newspapers in Poland, *Dziennik Poznanski*, a man who had close affiliations with Polish ruling circles.

The brochure is entitled "The Polish-German Border," and represents a rich collection of historical and factual material on the subject. Its theme is the border between Poland and Prussia, that Prussia which savagely dismembered Poland and founded its power on these acts of rapine.

And what this power of Prussia which Prussianized Germany and led the German people into the highway of wholesale robbery and violence led to, we know very well.

Field Marshal Moltke, who fully rea-

lized that the Prussians had never succeeded in Germanizing the territories seized from the Poles, wrote: "Either Prussia must become Polish, or Poland become Prussian."

This old German marauder was quite right. Winiewicz's brochure makes it convincingly clear that Poland remained Polish and that the territories robbed from her also remained Polish. The barbaric methods of Germanization practiced were a complete failure. Thereupon (this was already under the Hitler regime) the question of *austrohung*, or the physical extermination of Poland, was put on a practical as well as a theoretical footing, and no sooner had Marshal Rydz-Smigly, President Moscicki, Minister Joseph Beck and other Pilsudskiites handed over Poland to Hitler and fled, some to Rumania and others to the Swiss watering-places, than even the name of Poland was officially abolished, and in its place a "government general" arose.

A fiat was issued in Berlin to kill all Poles who behaved suspiciously, while the rest—youths from the age of 16, not all, but "a certain percentage," were to be "sterilized"—in other words, castrated. The "percentage" varied in different localities. . . .

What the Polish author relates in this brochure is not in point of fact denied even by Nazi economists and historians. On the contrary, the Germans justify their most savage atrocities, murder and castration of Poles precisely on the grounds that "there are too many Poles in Prussia," and that this is "the Poles' chief shortcoming."

Scarcely had Bismarck started on his independent political career than he declared, in 1862, in one of his first statements issued in his capacity of Prussian premier, that "Poles should be beaten as long as there is any breath in their bodies. All we can do is to completely exterminate them."

Nevertheless Poland, seized by the Prussians, remained Polish, and the German beast which even before Hitler—but especially under Hitler—was trained in the tradition of ruthlessly exterminating the Poles, is only dreaming of the time when after the war (even though a lost war) it can set about again, and this time

systematically and thoroughly, to extirpate the Poles.

But there was one thing the German beast did not even dream of before, and that is that there might be people among the Poles themselves who would plead with the victors who had vanquished Germany not to offend the poor "superior Nordic race," and not to take away from the Germans the old Polish lands they had robbed. . . .

And these traitors have the insolence to continue their usurpation and to talk in the name of Poland.

Like us, our Anglo-Saxon Allies (I am referring to serious political circles) realize full well that there is only one way really to render Germany harmless and that is to weaken Prussia, which has always played the part of a robber chieftain, and which organized and led the rest of Germany in rapine. And Prussia, again, can be weakened in only one way, namely, by tearing from its clutches those dismembered parts of Poland which have so long suffered cruelty and indignity at the hands of generation after generation of Prussian butchers, from Frederick II to Bismarck and from Bismarck to Hitler, and which notwithstanding everything remained Polish.

The interests of Poland, the Soviet Union, our Allies Czechoslovakia and the Balkans, and the security of France and all Europe imperatively demand the triumph of historical justice when a new border between Prussia and Poland comes to be defined.

The bloody jaws of the Prussian wolf, which are turned both toward the East and the West, must cease once and for all to be a menace, a nightmare of Europe.

Exchange Volumes of Lenin Library

This year the Lenin State Library received 15,000 books from abroad under exchange arrangements. Many volumes of biographies of British statesmen have been received from the British Museum. Books on English music, the history of dancing and the history of stage costumes have also recently been received. Visitors to the Lenin Library, who number about 2,000 daily, are greatly interested in the exchange volumes.

Notes from Front and Rear

The Chairman of the Armenian Writers Union, the well-known poet and playwright Nairi Zaryan, reports that over 400 literary works on war themes were published in Armenia during the past two years. The Armenian National Division, which won glory in the Kuban Valley, has 50 writers in its ranks. During the war years the oldest Armenian poet, Avetik Issakyan, has published two collections of verse celebrating the heroic exploits of his countrymen.

★

To mark the anniversary of the liberation of the Donbas, young miners of the Kadiev district presented the Stalin Defense Fund with hundreds of tons of coal mined after regular working hours.

★

The title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been posthumously conferred upon Peter Buiko, well-known Professor of the Kiev Medical Institute, who was burned at the stake by the German Gestapo on September 15, 1943, in Yaroshivki village, Fastov district. Professor Buiko, who served at the beginning of the war in a front-line hospital, was wounded and captured by the Germans. He escaped, organized other patriot doctors for underground work, headed the guerrilla intelligence service in his area, gave medical aid to the wounded and saved over a thousand young men and women from slave labor in Germany by issuing them certificates of ill health. He also fought in the guerrilla ranks, carrying out the most hazardous missions. Again, wounded and captured, he endured the entire gamut of Gestapo torture without revealing a word of the guerrilla activities.

★

The State Philharmonic Orchestra has returned to Leningrad from Novosibirsk. During the war, some 9,000 concerts were given by the Philharmonic and the Glazunov Quartet in Novosibirsk and other Siberian cities.

Soviet architects and painters in Moscow have undertaken the restoration of the building of the Soviet Pavilion which was set up at the New York World's Fair in 1939 and was later dismantled and returned to the USSR.

Even before the war it was decided to restore the Pavilion to house a permanent exhibit of the achievements of Soviet building technique. The Pavilion is being set up on the bank of the Moscow River near the Park of Culture and Rest. Certain changes are now being made, to give it a permanent character. The 12,000 square meters of the facade are being faced with light-colored marble; the socle will be of red granite; the bas-reliefs, emblems of the Union Republics and the sculpture groups decorating the exterior, which were formerly of concrete, will be done in marble and granite.

★

Deposits in savings banks of the USSR have been mounting steadily in the past few months. Since the first of the year they have increased by 372 million rubles. Funds deposited in July and August total nearly one and one-half times more than those for the entire second quarter of the year.

★

After an interval of six years a cross-country motorcycle race was recently held near Moscow. Two hundred and fifty contestants, most of them sportsmen who are now officers in the Red Army, participated. The distance for the men's race was 100 kilometers and for women, 50. The track ran through a thickly intersected area, with exceptionally difficult terrain filled with natural obstacles. Each contestant had to pass through five control points, cover part of the way in gas masks and throw three hand grenades into a dugout.

★

In the Soviet Far East, a fishing expedition of over 30 large vessels caught some 50,000 tons of fish during the summer.

Young collective farmers of the Tartar Republic decided to mark the brilliant victories of the Red Army by contributing a Sunday of voluntary labor, devoted to carting grain to delivery stations. All that day endless lines of carts, gay with posters and slogans, wound their way to the delivery points.

★

An Art Council charged with the task of improving the quality of motion pictures has been formed under the Committee of Cinematography, by a decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR. Chairman is Ivan Bolshakov, and members include directors Eisenstein, Vasiliev, Pudovkin, Romm, Gerasimov and Puryev; actors Moskvina, Okhlopkov, Babochkin and Chirkov; writers Tikhonov, Simonov and Sobolev, and composers Shostakovich, Khrennikov and Shaporin.

★

On September 13, Moscow sportsmen held a meeting to summarize results of the third Sports Festival held in the Capital, which lasted for more than two months and included all varieties of sports. Seven hundred and sixty-nine sports groups and some 50,000 athletes participated—almost three times the number taking part last year.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 107

Washington, D. C., October 3, 1944

OCT 15 1944



Our People Will Guarantee That

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA:

Every day brings us nearer the goal. Neutral observers long ago stopped weighing the chances of the belligerents. The world is now concerned with another question: How will Germany answer for her unparalleled crimes? This is what is being discussed in dugouts and in clubs, in Lithuania and in Holland. Only one feeling clouds the dawn of victory—namely, anxiety that the child slayers may not get the punishment they deserve.

In the West the Germans were far more cautious. They did not institute Maidaneks in Biarritz or Ostend. They strove to preserve a semblance of legality, an illusion of law. Here is an incident which shows up German hypocrisy very neatly:

On April 1, 1944 German military train No. 649,355 was derailed near the village of Ascq in northern France. No lives were lost. However, reprisals were taken; the Germans scattered through the village, dragging men out of their homes. Eighty-six Frenchmen were shot on the spot, among them an old man of 72 and four boys aged 13 to 15.

France was outraged by the massacre. The case came before the *Hauptsturmfuehrer* of the Paris Gestapo, who was appointed to investigate. This is what this German stickler for law wrote in his report: "The officer who gave orders for the shooting of 86 inhabitants of Ascq guided himself by instructions issued by the German authorities in Russia. These instructions, which were submitted by the officer, authorize officers in case of attack upon a military train to shoot on the spot all males of the nearest village. These instructions were valid only for Soviet territory, but the officer in question was not aware of this and applied

the instructions in French occupied territory."

Every honest individual in any part of the world must be outraged when he peruses these lines. The lives of all human beings are equal, wherever they may live, whatever language they may speak. There may be black earth zones, clay zones, sycamore zones and birch zones. But there are no zones where innocent human beings may be slaughtered.

We recall the indignation which was aroused in America by the destruction of the Czech village of Lidice. We shared that indignation. But America should know that there have been thousands of Lidices in our country; that the Germans laid waste large and flourishing cities; that they created "desert zones" hundreds of kilometers wide; that everywhere they slew civilians, including women, aged folk and babies.

The Germans reckoned that Russia was far enough away from America, and in Russia they made no attempt at camouflage. They made no attempt at camouflage in Poland, either, where they set up "annihilation camps" in Maidanek, Sobibur, Belzhetse and Tremblyanka, and slaughtered millions . . . I repeat, millions . . . of defenseless people.

The world is familiar with the name of Lidice. But who besides the inhabitants of the Pskov Region is familiar with the name of Dobrovidki? There on November 27, 1943 the Germans herded peasants into the church and blew it up. Who is familiar with the names of Zabolotye, Pustoshki, Vasilki, Losna, Zamoshye, Yamskovitsi, Vyazovaya, Gornostavka, Terekhovka, Shelkanovo and Sklayevo?

In those places, too, women gave birth, children grew up and old folk beguiled their leisure. The Germans came, threw



Radiophoto

The oldest Russian pilot, Boris Rossinsky, who made his first solo flight in a glider in 1908, was recently decorated with the Order of Lenin on his 60th birthday. Rossinsky is shown above in the dark uniform. With him (left to right) are Guards Air Majors Lugansky, Lavrinenkov and Alelyukhin, all twice Heroes of the Soviet Union

babies into wells, burned girls alive, tied old women to horses' tails.

Before me lies an order issued by Strauch, Chief of the German Security Police in Latvia. There it is stated in black on white: "The village of Audrini is to be obliterated from the face of the earth. Inhabitants of Audrini are to be arrested. Thirty male inhabitants are to be publicly shot on January 4, 1942, in the market square of the town of Rezhsetse."

The butchers, incidentally, did not stick to the letter of the order: they killed all the arrested villagers, including the children. How many other villages suffered the same fate?

There are no two measures of justice. If the Germans killed millions of Jews, it is only a matter of importance to "racists" that they were Jews; to human beings the important thing is that the victims were human beings. In a forest near Guta Buino the Germans killed Russians because they were Russians, Jews because they were Jews, Poles because they were Poles, and Gypsies because they were Gypsies. So the Germans said.

But we know that the Nazis killed human beings because they were human beings.

When the Germans in Khmelinka ordered their victims to strip, a little girl of four who did not understand what it was all about asked one of the Germans, "Do I have to take off my stockings, too?" "Decidedly," replied the butcher, and threw the child into the pit.

Maybe the father of the little girl did not study at the Sorbonne, and her grandfather was not a baronet, but she was a child, a tiny human being, and the Germans killed her as they killed millions of others.

The Germans in the West tried to do their killing with white gloves. But whom will those gloves deceive? Certainly not the French, Belgians or Hollanders. There is a Frenchman who happened to survive Maidanek. He knows how the Germans carried off his fellow-countrymen to the East.

The German train conductor would politely say, "Take your seats, please." Meanwhile the furnaces were being heated in Maidanek. Another Frenchman survived in Vilnius; he managed to run away. He knows what Ponyri means, how people

with life still in their bodies were buried there.

There is a young Dutch woman named Zelma Weinberg living in Chelm at this moment. She was brought there by the Germans, together with others. They were told they were to work in a button factory. On the way the German nurses distributed hot broth and aspirin to the sick. Then the train stopped near Sobibur. The "button factory" turned out to be a gas chamber. The Netherlanders were stripped naked and asphyxiated. The women first had their hair cut off, to be used for stuffing mattresses. Zelma, one out of many thousands, succeeded in running away.

Those white gloves stained with blood will deceive nobody.

For some reason or other the names of Hitler, Goering, Himmler and Hess do not figure in the list of war criminals drawn up in London. They didn't kill anybody, it is argued. Of course, Hitler did not stoke the furnaces in Maidanek; Goering did not cut off the hair of women in Sobibur. But Himmler directed all of Germany's thugs; the sonnets which Hess writes are redolent of the blood of Warsaw; the fat-bellied Goering, favorite of neo-appeasers, wrote the orders which went into the "green dossier"; Hitler is the initiator and inspirer of all the crimes of the German army and the German authorities.

I am inclined to think that the names of the Nazi ringleaders are missing from the list of war criminals owing to a misunderstanding. Who would think of justifying these all-too-conspicuous cannibals?

True, here too justice will have to fight. I recall a book by a certain Englishman, in which he suggests that an island be placed at the disposal of Hitler and his friends. Enough joking! There are no more cannibals on islands; they are extinct. Mankind will not allow the breed to be revived.

But there is something far more dangerous than this. I refer to those idle "humanitarians" who argue that the only culprits are Hitler and Himmler; the rest only obeyed orders. Oh, of course they'll lay the whole blame on their Fuehrer. We saw that in the Kharkov trial. But we know with what eagerness they carried

out orders. Hundreds of thousands are guilty of crimes and millions are guilty of complicity.

I ask, what do you propose to do with Hitlerites who will declare, "We cast living children into the grave because such were our orders?" The *unterscharfuhrer* will lay the blame on the *ober-scharfuhrer*. They are all guilty. They must all be called to account. It is not retaliation or vengeance we want, but stern retribution.

Why this anxiety which is clouding our victory? We are not afraid of the fortifications in East Prussia, or the Siegfried Line, or the Rhine or the Oder. We know that the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies will surmount all barriers.

What we do fear is a tragic farce.

English war correspondents who reported the battle for a village near Aachen say that its inhabitants poured boiling water on American soldiers. But when the Americans drove out the Germans, these same inhabitants came out with beaming faces and vociferously cried, "Hitler's kaput!" "We're against Hitler!" "Welcome!" First boiling water, then "kaput" and bouquets. This was only a modest rehearsal for the farcical donning of disguises.

They have bouquets all ready in Cologne. They are already practicing hymns in Duisburg. They want to fool the world again.

Meanwhile the ringleaders are not idle. The foreign press says that the Nazi party is all ready to "go underground." What does that mean? It means that Herr Strauch, who slaughtered children in Audrini, will become Herr Mueller. If he lived in Dresden before the war, Germany's surrender will find him in Dusseldorf. They are "going underground" not to cry "Heil Hitler." Oh, no, they will pretend to be sufferers; they will say they were thrown into concentration camps, they'll hail "liberation," they'll weep tears of joy and wipe their eyes with pocket handkerchiefs that come from Maidanek.

I can see Germany after her defeat. She will pretend to be sick. She will lie languid and weak in a chemise tied with pink ribbons. She will murmur about brotherhood, beg for help, for Canadian cereal, Chicago pork, for consumers' goods and credits, for indulgence and amnesty.

Is it possible that this "invalid" will not be dragged from her bed? Remember that the mattress she is lying on is stuffed with women's hair from Sobibur, Maidanek and Tremblyanka.

No, common justice must triumph, and it will triumph. However the laws, customs and views of nations may differ, there is something that unites them all: the elementary rudiments of morality, the axioms of justice. It may be hard for a New York clerk to understand the life of a Polish peasant, but there is one thing on which they both agree: that there is no room on this earth for child slayers.

There will be peace, there will be life, and the normal tenor of life. But how can we live if the ghastly miscreants are not punished? How can we bring up our children? Why, a child will scoff at good and evil if the butchers of Maidanek, having donned a disguise, become pedagogues in Jena or preceptors in Trier.

We will not kill children—as everybody knows: we are human beings. We will not asphyxiate people with gases or bury them alive or cut off girls' breasts. We will not yield to the instinct of re-

venge. But we want to know that all the prisoners are going to be punished. We want to know that Smolensk, Warsaw Rouen and Belgrade are rebuilt before the Germans are allowed to rebuild Lubeck or Cologne. We want to know that justice will cast eyes into the "underground," drag all the disguised butchers into the daylight. We want that. Silence, cold hatred and contempt—that must govern our attitude toward Germany.

We want them to be tried. They will be tried. Our country, our people, are a guarantee of that. It is not without reason that other nations look toward us with hope.

We value the human being too much, we have too much faith in humanity, to



Marine anti-aircraft gunners of a Guards ship of the Northern Fleet

permit the crimes of the Nazis to go unpunished. I respect American decency and British justice. But one must have suffered a lot to understand. When I think of justice I see her not in a judge's wig or a diplomat's frock coat, but in a faded, rain-bleached tunic, with wound-stripes and thirst-parched lips, marching together with our fighting men—westward.

IN THE RIGA DIRECTION

Red Army units are steadily approaching Riga. The German command constantly brings up fresh reserves, but despite this the advance of our troops successfully continues. The soldiers are fired with one desire: to free Soviet Latvia as soon as possible.

Not many kilometers remain before Riga is reached; the thunder of Soviet guns can be heard in the Latvian capital. The Germans there are feeling the full force of the blows of the Soviet Air Force against the city, the port and beaches and the Gulf. Thousands of infantry carriers are rushing toward the city, and Soviet troops under cover of powerful air formations have reached the shores of the Gulf of Riga.

In one district the advance of our units was threatened by a German defense point offering exceptionally stubborn resistance. Three groups of Tupolev bombers went to the aid of the land troops and with one blow silenced 10 enemy batteries, annihilating almost a regiment of German

infantry and demolishing their defenses. Our land troops then advanced five kilometers.

A fliers' formation commanded by Guards Colonel Stalin particularly distinguished itself at the approaches to Riga; since September 15 this group has brought down over 100 enemy aircraft.

Twisted and wrecked German planes are scattered over all the roads leading to Riga, and on the banks of the Western Dvina. Air battles rage incessantly, night and day. With the dawn grim Ilyushin and Petlyakov planes appear, striking terror to the foe. Tons of bombs rain upon his artillery and troops. The Red Army is victoriously advancing.

* * *

The Gulf of Riga with its large, well-equipped ports has always occupied a prominent place in the plans of the German command. The sea lanes passing through this Gulf insured supplies to the whole German "Nord" group in the Baltic.

The importance of the Gulf of Riga for the Germans was further increased when, as a result of Finland's withdrawal from the war and the Red Army's liberation of northern Estonia, they lost the Gulf of Finland. This explains the stubbornness with which the Germans defended Parnu and other Estonian ports.

The Red Army has brought its victorious banners to the shores of the Gulf of Riga.

The Soviet advance toward the Gulf of Riga was so sweeping as to upset all enemy calculations for the prolonged defense of the approaches to the shore.

Swamps and large and small rivers hampered the progress of the Red Army's equipment, and numerous settlements in the area had been converted into strong-points by the Germans. The roads were covered by tanks and self-propelled guns. Our tankmen set the tone of the offensive, keeping on the enemy's heels and giving him no chance to disengage or to recover and entrench on intermediary lines.



The Kotovsky detachment of Byelorussian People's Avengers hold a solemn ceremony—young guerrillas receive arms and take the oath to fight for the motherland to the last drop of their blood; (right) A guerrilla unit sets out through the swamps to surprise a German column

GUERRILLAS OF THE UKRAINE

By Major General Sidor Kovpak, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union

The guerrillas of the Ukraine had reason to be envious of their comrades in Byelorussia who were fighting the invaders. The vast forests and impassable swamps of Byelorussia were favorable arenas for partisan warfare. Every detachment and unit of the guerrillas there had its zone of action and a more or less stable base in the forests, to which it returned after an operation.

Steppes predominate in the Ukraine. Facilities for shelter are rare or non-existent. A blind emulation of the tactics used by the Byelorussian guerrillas would lead to futile losses. Other tactics had to be worked out. We discovered that the most effective method for us was a swift and complex maneuver, and we formed our

striking units accordingly. Safety lay in the suddenness of our appearance, the brevity of blows dealt, and our swift withdrawal to great distances.

September 10, 1941 was a memorable day in my life. A peaceful civilian chairman of the City Soviet of Workers Deputies in the town of Putivl, Sumy Region, I made a decision to remain in the territory occupied by the Germans and to organize a guerrilla force.

My group at first included 13 people with whom I had worked at various times and whom I could trust. Two months passed in minor acts of diversion, a study of the enemy's tactics, and most of all in establishing contact with the popula-

In guerrilla warfare the sympathy of the people and reliable and constant contact with them are everything. Such warfare is inconceivable without the support of the people; if the population is with you, then you are invincible, no matter how strong and well-armed the enemy may be. He who fails to understand this cannot understand the essence of our strength.

Certain of finding supporters everywhere, and having established close contact with reliable people in the towns and villages, our detachment grew rapidly. Without difficulty I increased the number of my fighting men to 2,500. More could have been added, but I did not consider this expedient. The larger the



At the risk of her life an old farmwoman brings bread to the guerrillas; (right) Antonina Adamovich and her three children live in a mud hut in an ancient forest. The entire Lenin district of the Pinsk Region lived in similar huts after the Germans burned down their villages



Guerrillas have mounted a machine gun on a farm cart; (right) Mining a bridge

striking units, the more difficult it would be to maneuver, and the greater the tendency to diminish the pace of action.

Constantly in action against the enemy beyond his lines and in his hinterland, our detachment covered some 15,000 kilometers and several times forced such rivers as the Desna, Dnieper, Pripet, Pnut and Dniester. We moved on an average of 25 kilometers daily. This is no mean distance when one remembers that our men advanced only by night and on foot; our horses carried only the wounded and sick, ammunition and food.

We were well armed with tommy guns and machine guns, trench mortars and light cannon, including several 76-mm. guns. Like all guerrillas, we acquired our arms at the expense of the enemy.

I can say without exaggeration that we grew to be a terror to the Germans. After striking a sudden blow and routing one of the enemy garrisons, we would vanish as abruptly as we had appeared, burning the bridges behind us. The Germans

would strike out in all directions, but within a short time we would hit them again, some 200 to 300 and even 500 kilometers from the former place.

Having acquired considerable battle experience in the war zone, we began operations in the remote rear of the enemy. Here are some examples:

In June, 1943, when the Red Army was fighting its historic battle at the Kursk bulge, we were engaged in an operation in the Rovensk Region, some 800 kilometers from the front. The Germans never expected us here. They had placed a price on my head long before, but now displayed incredible generosity. In their newspapers they published a notice that for my head they would pay 100,000 rubles in gold or bullion, as the murderer desired. This was a lot of money and I couldn't help feeling a bit flattered. Not once, however, did the Germans catch me.

Finally they combed the Rovensk forests in grand style. We had had similar

experiences on no less than 30 previous occasions—and this time too we broke out of the encirclement. Pushing westward to surprise the Germans we penetrated to the oilfields of Drogobych, in the Carpathians. This was in July, 1943. While the Red Army was crushing the enemy's defenses at Sumy and Belgorod, we were destroying oilwells, cracking plants and pipe-lines in the Carpathians, a thousand kilometers from the front.

"*Wieder Kovpak!*" (Kovpak again!) screamed the German newspapers, and this time the enemy sent eight of his picked regiments and five battalions to intercept us at Drogobych. They planned to force us against the Carpathian heights. By a complex maneuver we evaded them and got away in an easterly direction to the Sluch River. True to our rules, our partisan units on their way inflicted heavy losses on the Germans. We approached our rendezvous in seven groups along a front of 200 kilometers.

All that could prove of value to the



Priest Evgeny K. tells guerrilla scouts which way the Germans have gone; (right) This close guerrilla family includes a Byelorussian, a Russian, a Ukrainian and a Kazakh

enemy was burned and destroyed.

There are some who say the successes of my detachment were gained by sheer luck. Luck has been with us at times, of course, but it is impossible to beat the enemy again and again by luck alone. Miracles don't happen in war. Those who are unable to fight well are soon abandoned by fortune. Guerrilla actions require creative skill. I remember one occasion when fortune seemed to smile exclusively upon the enemy. Pursuing us, the Germans closed in between the Dnieper and Pripet Rivers. Here they massed six infantry divisions and two tank regiments.

Superior in armaments, the enemy also outnumbered us 20 to one. We were pressed against the Pripet and harried from its surface by five armored tugs and 10 other well-armed ships. It seemed they had us—and the Germans no doubt anticipated the pleasure of an easy victory. Fierce fighting began, lasting for two days. The situation became puzzling: we were beating the Germans, instead of their beating us.

They were never given a chance to beat us. The trick was simple. Filtering through to the woods, we arose on the enemy's flanks, struck suddenly, annihilated as many as we could, and vanished. While our tommy guns mowed the Germans down, now here and now there, our artillerymen gave their attention to the enemy boats, and our sappers built a floating bridge 240 meters long. Destroying the flotilla, we crossed the river and got away.

This engagement cost the Germans 1,100 dead officers and men. Our losses were one man killed and four wounded. This could scarcely be termed luck. The entire operation was well conceived and skilfully carried out.

My detachment during its period of action annihilated 18,000 German soldiers and officers—including three generals. We also burned 55,000 tons of oil cached by the Nazis, derailed many of their trains and wrecked many trucks loaded with war materials. Our losses have been comparatively small.

Still in action in the Carpathians, my

men are adding to their list of victories day by day.

The following figures may give an idea of the scale of guerrilla actions in the Ukraine: The main detachments in the Ukraine, exclusive of communications groups and scouts in towns and villages, numbered 115,000 men. In all, this force annihilated 310,000 German soldiers and officers, wrecked 4,060 locomotives and 39,700 freight cars, and blew up or burned 6,693 trucks, 810 tanks and armored cars, 324 guns and 108 aircraft.

The German conquerors hoped to establish themselves firmly on the steppes of the Ukraine. They dreamed of colonizing this country of lush pastures where Ukrainian shepherd slaves would tend the splendid herds for them; of fertile fields where people would gather great harvests of wheat for them; of mines where subjugated people would dig coal and ores for their enslavers.

Things turned out differently, and this was due in a measure to the part played by the comrades-in-arms of the Red Army—the Ukrainian guerrillas.

Town Planning of Novorossisk

By Boris Iofan

The author is one of the architects entrusted with the replanning of Novorossisk.

It is scarcely correct to write of the restoration of Novorossisk. This thriving Black Sea port and manufacturing town, which had a prewar population of over 100,000, was utterly destroyed by the Germans and will have to be completely rebuilt.

Plans for the new Novorossisk are now complete. The bay and the Tsemes Valley cut the city into parts. This has made it easy for us to isolate the residential sections from the industrial districts. The cement quarries, warehouses, factories, quays and wharves are concentrated in the northern part of the town.

The southern part will contain the Government offices and cultural institutions. There will also be blocks of apartments for people who like to live near their work. These buildings will be not more than two to four stories high.

A monument commemorating the war will dominate the central square. Several other memorials will record episodes in the battle for the liberation of Novorossisk, such as the landings at the port and the cement quarries.

The central part of Novorossisk will gradually merge into a garden city of one-story cottages immersed in greenery, where people employed in local industrial enterprises will live. Novorossisk is the fortunate possessor of a world-famous cement works, often mentioned in military dispatches during the battle for the city, as well as of a rich variety of local building materials, including several kinds of stone.

The city will be able to breathe deeply, for we intend to be generous with open spaces planted with thousands of acacias and Crimean trees. They will be useful as well as beautiful, protecting the city from the parching winds of summer and the cold northeasters of winter.

A green esplanade will stretch along the embankment, cutting across the center of the city and merging into a park in the Tsemes Valley.

Novorossisk should look very beautiful, built in pale stone, well-planned, sheltered in green gardens and boulevards and gay with the brilliance of the southern sun. It will house 150,000 people—the present population is no more than 20,000. When the Red Army entered Novorossisk they found only one family which had survived the German occupation.

Playgrounds for Collective Farm Children

Last year 1,800,000 children of collective farmers were taken care of in summer playgrounds, under the supervision of teachers and nurses, while their parents were at work in the fields. This year the number of such playgrounds has been greatly increased.

DNIEPROSTROI

By I. Kandalov

Chief Engineer of the Dnieper Power Station

In August, 1941 when the Soviet Supreme Command ordered our troops to withdraw from Zaporozhye, the upper part of the Dnieper Dam was blown up and communication cut between the river banks. Gaps were blown in the dam and the level of water up-river was lowered. Thus the Germans were deprived of the Lenin power station on the Dnieper, the favorite child of the Soviet people.

When the Germans occupied the Ukraine they were conceited enough to believe themselves masters of the Soviet land. Intending to exploit all the Ukraine's

natural resources and industry, they spent over a year repairing the Dnieper Dam and eventually got the power station running in the first part of 1943.

But their plans were upset when in the autumn of 1943 the Red Army drove them out of that part of the Ukraine lying east of the Dnieper. With all the savage malice they could muster the Germans began a systematic destruction of the power station and dam. They blew in the eastern gateway which led to the inside gallery of the dam, affording communication between the river banks. They blew up the road bridge and service bridge and the buttresses which supported them. They blew up the section of the dam containing the sluice gates and damaged a number of buttresses at the western end of the structure.

In the foundations of the most massive section of the dam the Germans buried a charge of a hundred 500-kilogram air bombs and several tons of explosives. The wire leading to the detonator on the western bank was intended to set off the charge and shatter the dam to its foundations. They could not explode the charge, however, as long as their troops were in the lower reaches of the Dnieper and were using every available means of crossing the river: the huge wave that would have followed such an explosion would have swept away all the bridges

below the dam and prevented crossings.

At that time we did not know definitely that the charge had been laid, but we had reason to suspect it. This suspicion was confirmed as soon as we discovered that a cable ran from the center of the dam to the right bank. This cable had to be cut. There was bitter fighting for the section known as Buttress No. Zero, from which the cable ran to the right bank. Our troops were on one side of this section and the Germans on the other. Under cover of darkness Soviet troops cut the cable, but the Germans repaired it.

The occupation of Buttress No. Zero became an important objective, as the safety of the whole dam depended on it. After a long struggle during which that section of the dam changed hands several times, Soviet troops occupied it and the explosion was prevented.

The German-fascist bandits then concentrated on destroying the power station itself. Inside the station building they blew up two traveling cranes and with huge charges of explosives destroyed the remaining turbines and generators. The explosions were so terrific that all the walls of the engine room were blown out and the solid steel skeleton of the building was badly twisted and torn.

This was not all. By laying a heavy charge of explosives in the spiral chamber of one of the turbines, they destroyed that part of the station which is built under water. Such barbaric destruction had only one object—to do the greatest material damage to the Soviet Union.

At the end of 1943 the Germans blew up the sluice gates which held back the upper water. Of all the damage done to the power station, this was the worst and most barbaric. In rebuilding the station this will not affect the time required for the work, but the cost of rebuilding this section will be enormous.

The malice of the German action may be judged from the fact that they left mines behind in each of the transformers and these were removed in time only by the skill and vigilance of Soviet sappers.



Radiofoto

Workers rebuilding the Red October plant in Stalingrad, destroyed by the Germans

A tremendous amount of work must be done to repair the Dnieper Dam and power station. We shall have to dismantle 100,000 cubic meters of concrete and ferro-concrete, several thousand tons of metal structure and equipment, and then lay about 175,000 cubic meters of concrete and build and erect 20,000 tons of various kinds of equipment.

The position was made more difficult by the fact that water was flowing through the damaged part of the dam and power station. Before we could even begin dismantling, the river had to be harnessed. It was necessary to pierce openings in the surviving lower part of the dam so that the whole of the stream flowed through them at a minimum pressure, thus enabling us to dry out all the damaged part of the structure.

Some parts of the damaged power station lie at such low levels that a shield will have to be built to keep out the water. At flood times the flow of water is so great that it cannot all pass through the openings. At such times the water will rise over the level of the dam and pour through the water pipe into the station, and as the sluice gates will not be restored by next spring, a shield at least 30 meters high will have to be built to keep the water out.

In March of this year the People's Commissariat of Power Stations set up a special board to direct the work of rehabilitation at the Dnieper power sta-

tion, or Dnieprostoi (Dnieper construction) as it is called in Russian. In the short time that has elapsed, this board has made considerable progress.

Ten large openings have been made in the base of the dam through which the water will flow and not interfere with work on top of the dam. This was a tricky undertaking, for there is tremendous pressure against the dam, but it has been successfully accomplished.

Another important job finished by the first of July was the clearing away of all concrete blocks and rubble that blocked the gallery through the dam. This opened the motor road between the two banks of the river and permitted a constant stream of goods and traffic to pass over it. Prior to this we had only a ferry and a light suspension bridge for pedestrians.

We have begun building a number of auxiliary plants for cement and stone-breaking, compressor stations, etc., without which large-scale construction work would be impossible. The engineering plant has been reconstructed, dwelling houses with a total floor space over 270,000 square feet have been repaired and tens of thousands of damaged ferro-concrete blocks have been cleared away.

On July 7 an important event took place—the first cubic meter of new concrete was laid on the dam. With this, the reconstruction of the Dnieper Dam was begun.

Thousands of workers and hundreds

of engineers and technicians are already employed at Dnieprostoi, among them many workers who helped build the first dam. They have revived the glorious traditions of old Dnieprostoi.

The whole country is helping to rebuild the Dnieper power station. Building materials come from the Urals and oil from Azerbaijan, while Armenia is hewing beautiful tuff-blocks to build the walls of the new power station.

When German bandits wrought their senseless destructions of one of the world's greatest hydroelectric works, they expected to deprive us of the Dnieper power supply for many years to come. But they were sadly mistaken.

However difficult the task, the Soviet people will completely rebuild the child of the First Five-Year Plan, the Lenin power station. The lights will once more burn brightly on the Dnieper, telling the world of the mighty creative energy of the Soviet people, the strength and durability of the Soviet State.

State Aid for War Invalids

Pensions amounting to almost three billion rubles have been paid to war invalids in the Russian SFSR during the three years of war. In addition large sums have been expended for construction of sanatoriums and rest homes. More than 15,000 invalids of the Patriotic War will be accommodated in health resorts.

THIRD VOLUME OF *Peter I*

The Moscow literary magazine *New World* and the Red Army newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* recently published excerpts from the third volume of Alexei Tolstoi's historical novel *Peter I*. In this epic work the author has vividly recreated the Russia of the great reformer, Peter I, who broke up the old modes of life.

The first two volumes, for which Tolstoi has been awarded the Stalin Prize, are among the most popular of recent books in the USSR. They have gone through 46 editions with a total printing of about one and one-half million copies. A screen adaptation made under the direction of Vladimir Petrov was shown

with great success in the USSR and abroad. The novels were also dramatized and have played in many Soviet theaters. Discussing the forthcoming volume, Tolstoi stated: "The third volume is the main part of the novel, depicting the most interesting period of Tsar Peter's life, from the capture of Narva until his death. It reveals Peter's legislative activity, his reforms of Russian everyday life, his trip abroad and the society of his epoch, as well as the life of Europe—France, Poland and Holland—in that period.

"The principal aims which I set myself when I began the work will be mainly achieved in this volume."

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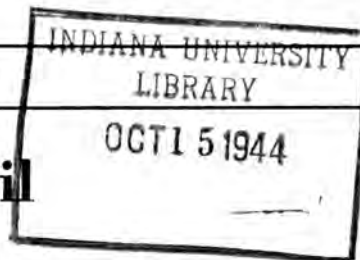
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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 108

Washington, D. C., October 6, 1944



The Chain of Evil

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From PRAVDA, October 2:

A purifying storm is sweeping through Europe; its flashes light up the old squares of Paris, its reverberations roll over the waters of the Danube.

The peoples liberated or in the course of liberation from the German invaders are not content with flags and flowers. They are purging their countries of the baneful atmosphere in which the microbes of treason breed.

Most instructive of all, perhaps, is the wrath of France. Her partisans are thirsting to march eastward in order, together with the other Allies, to put an end to Hitler Germany. In the rear the French are exterminating traitors.

Certain foreign journalists were surprised by the fate of Maurice Chevalier. Was it so long ago that he was the favorite of the Paris crowd? But in the days when France was silent, Chevalier was not silent: he entertained the musically inclined butchers with his ditties. His name was placed on the blacklist and he was reported executed by the insurgent patriots. Foreign correspondents attribute the execution to the excitement of those August days.

But take Monsieur Renault: he is not a singer, but one of the biggest industrialists. Moreover, this is not August, with its street fighting—but September, with its officers of justice. However, Monsieur Renault has not escaped punishment: he is in prison awaiting trial. It has been established that he supplied the invaders with war materiel to the value of six billion francs. If Chevalier's popularity did not save him, Monsieur Renault's billions will not save him, either.

The people can be fooled by lies for an hour or a year—but terrible is the wrath of an awakened people.

"Let's forget the past," say the crafty ones, with an air of naivete. But Europe has suffered too much because of short memory. In the days of Munich the French forgot Valmy and Verdun. It is only natural that they should remember Munich now. This is not vindictiveness, nor the desire to punish some cretin or other, but the endeavor of the people to protect themselves from fresh blows.

If Munich or "non-intervention" had only been a folly, a mistake, a miscalculation, they might have been left to the historian. But "non-intervention" and Munich were a renunciation of national dignity in favor of "order" (which proved to be Hitler's "new order"); the desire, by preserving fascism, to direct the Reich's motorized divisions against the Soviet Union and thus to change the course of history.

Thus arose the "fifth columns". Munich was a rehearsal for Montoir. Is that history? No, the air of Europe is still impregnated with Munich microbes. The spirit of "non-intervention" is still alive.

Under cover, the Munichites are now

anxious to save the last hotbeds of fascism. They cannot keep their admiring eyes off little Franco, who having outlived Antonescu and Philoff, is obviously hoping to outlive the Fuehrer. And Franco meanwhile is fitting out a refuge for his bosom friends—the rulers of the Third Reich.

That doesn't worry the Munichites; they themselves are not averse to protect-



A battleship of the Soviet Northern Fleet shells enemy shore installations

ing the butchers of Maidanek. If we were to delve into the past of the defenders of the "poor Germans," we would find that these gentry once upon a time protected the German navy from the fishermen of Almeria, and the SS troops from the children of Brno.

It is not surprising that these chronic appeasers are very belligerent-minded toward the Soviet Union. It's all the same to them whose backing they obtain: whether that of Mikhailovich, the Bashibuzuks or the dashing Sosnkowski with his "we won't allow it"; or the German "Social Democrats" who by sheer chance missed their way into the Greater Germany and Death's Head Divisions.

The Munichites are shedding tears over the traitors arrested or shot by the French people. There are all sorts of societies in the world. In Holland before the war there was a society for the protection of windmills. Why should not the Munichites now form a society for the protection of traitors. . . .

* * *

But this is 1944, not 1939. The two dates are separated by rivers of blood, by the heroism of London in the winter bombing, by Stalingrad, by the *Francs Tireurs* and by Tito. The entry of the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies into Berlin will scarcely resemble the supper in Munich.

You can tell a speculator or prostitute from afar. It is more difficult to distinguish the poets of appeasement, for they clothe their vile ideas in exalted phrases. They enjoy the immunity of fame; they possess skill in spiritual corruption.

I want to speak of one of them, the well-known French writer Andre Gide.

Among the literary men of Europe there were heroes and apostates. The Czechs will never forget the gallantry of their writer Vanchur, who was killed by the Germans. The Yugoslavs are justly proud of their soldier-poet Nator. The French writer Andre Malraux fought in the rank of the partisans. The Norwegian writer Nordel Grieg died in action.

The list of the finest could be continued, but I want to recall some of the worst. Knut Hamsun in his old age became the trivial henchman of Goebbels. Drieu la

Rochelle, Giono and Montherlant became troubadours of the Gestapo. In some French towns the patriots stripped women who had lived with the Germans and rolled them in the mire. The writers I have mentioned resemble these naked bawds.

Andre Gide was more cautious. True, he too began by "collaborating": he contributed to a magazine published by a Parisian under the Germans. However, he got out to North Africa in time and there waited for the invasion.

The Munichites in their time had two masks: one for high society and the other for the common people. In society salons the Munichites argued without beating around the bush, "Hitler is preferable to the people's front. A war will strengthen the left trends. Russia must be strangled, because Russia means Communism."

When addressing the unemployed, the workers, their wives and naive youngsters, the Munichites cooed: "War is a calamity. Slavery is preferable to death. A war will strengthen reaction. Why should we worry about Russia? Russia means reaction." . . .

Andre Gide played the second role. He wrote for the newspaper *Fleche*, published by the professional turncoat Bergery, who was later Laval's ambassador. Now Andre Gide is publishing a magazine entitled *The Ark*. He wants to assure France and the world that no flood is capable of washing the world clean of the poisonous mold.

* * *

Andre Gide is publishing "Pages From My Diary." That they were written in 1940 is not important; the important thing is that Andre Gide is offering them to the public in 1944. He comes out with a justification of treachery, with an apology for immorality. This is how he depicts France and himself:

"If the German rule were to bring us prosperity, nine Frenchmen out of ten would accept it; and three or four of them, moreover, with joy. . . . People who are capable of suffering for spiritual reasons are extremely rare. . . . To the majority defeat only means food difficulties. . . . Try to talk to them of France's cultural values! . . . Generally speaking the pa-

triotic sentiment is no more permanent than our other attachments, which, if the truth were told, are very insignificant and rarely acknowledged, so small a place do they hold in our hearts. . . .

"I am reading German. I learn the words by heart, note them down and repeat them while out walking. . . . Undoubtedly the wisest thing is to submit, since there is no alternative. As for myself, I am not in the least inclined to revolt. . . . I feel I have an unlimited capacity for submission; it does not affect essentials. It will mean curtailing one's amusements and comforts. I am willing. To be frank, my aging body is not afraid of that."

Rather a revolting picture. Frenchmen, he claims, have renounced France. They are all preoccupied with rations. And wise Andre Gide learns German verbs by heart and says, "I am old; I can get along without certain amusements." . . .

Meanwhile French patriots fought, revolted and died. Now they've won. But Andre Gide, at the graveside of the fallen, shamelessly strips himself naked and mutters, "I feel I have an unlimited capacity for submission."

In story books there are fairies who have only to touch ugliness with their magic wand and ugliness becomes beauty. Andre Gide has only to touch nobility, heroism and courage, and grandeur becomes vile. Not long before the war he published two books on the Soviet Union. He blackened and vulgarized everything he saw. This was part of the prewar operations of the Munichites. Now this same Andre Gide is blackening and vulgarizing the image of France.

He is unable to conceal his admiration for the fascists. When he speaks of Hitler he passes from elegy to fervor: "In a certain sense he [Hitler] behaves like a genius. I particularly admire the diversity of his methods. Since the beginning of the war (nay, even before), everything is turning out as he foresaw and as he wished, even without delay and on the day appointed. . . . Soon even those he vanquishes will feel compelled, while cursing him, to admire him."

That is how this 70-year-old "sage," whose books were once translated into many languages, extolled the demoniacal Fuehrer. He falls on his knees before the

Fuehrer: "They talk about remaking France. As if we can remake it according to our taste; as if we are not at his [Hitler's] mercy. Undoubtedly we must set to work, but of the fruits of our work we will only receive what he, Hitler, sees fit to leave us. It is not we, but Hitler, who is remaking France."

That sounds funny enough in the autumn of 1944, when the French really are "remaking" France and purging it of the spiders and slugs of appeasement.

There is no need to strip Andre Gide naked: he has bared himself, and it is revolting to look at this Narcissus who revels in his own moral ugliness. If I have dilated on the case of Andre Gide, it is because it is not the fate of one writer but the fate of European culture that is at issue.

* * *

Not only soldiers but also writers must play their part in destroying fascism. The German invaders may be driven out with tanks, but the microbes which poisoned Europe and made it possible for it to fall under Hitler's yoke will not perish by artillery fire.

A most difficult task faces the liberated nations—namely, ridding themselves of their internal ulcers. Of course, even Andre Gide is now murmuring, "down with Hitler," but at the same time he is paving the way for the return of the brown, black or blue fever.

In France the finest thinkers, like the scientists Joliot-Curie and Langevin, the writers Louis Aragon, Andre Malraux, Mauriac and Duhamel, are now united in

their efforts to destroy the spirit of violence and darkness. But certain "sages" under cover of talk about tolerance and "freedom of thought" are trying to protect the treason-mongers from the wrath of the people.

These defenders have their own defenders abroad. And so we get a chain of evil: traitors are defended by appeasers, butchers by "humanitarians," and bandits by "peace-lovers."

Of course, now even the microbes are adopting a disguise and the plague is passing itself off as a cold in the head. But we are familiar with the symptoms of the dreadful disease.

In Paris, for example, members of the Academy are trying to persuade themselves and others that Marshal Petain is not a traitor but a complex phenomenon, and ought not to be injured. In London, Polish fascists declare in their new magazine that Russia stands outside European culture. In a German town occupied by the Allies the new burgomaster proves to be an old fascist. An American newspaper bewails the arrest of traitors in France.

All these are trifles, but we see shadows grimacing in the background: the supper in Munich. . . .

Our people are vitally interested in the destiny of European culture: we are not onlookers and not consumers of this culture—we are one of its creators. Rich as is the fauna of our country, it does not breed isolationists. Our contribution to European culture is so extensive that a mere enumeration of proper names would fill a whole newspaper page.

But I would mention another contribution: blood. If the savants, writers and artists of Europe are now in a position to speak of the future at all, it is only because there was Stalingrad, the Dnieper and the battle of Byelorussia. We saved European culture from the "Tigers," and we don't want it to be infected by plague fleas.

We writers of the Soviet Union expect words of truth and goodness from the writers of the West. Suffering mankind needs affirmation of the high moral values. Woe to the poet who is a jester at the banquet of the impious. Woe to the artist who is an interior decorator in the house of evil. Andre Gide is logical when he lauds amorality in literature. He writes, "It seems to me an indisputable truth that fine sentiments make for bad literature. . . . It is a mistake to judge art by its moral effect."

That is true as far as the writing of Andre Gide and his ilk is concerned. They began with spiritual dallying and ended by adoring Hitler. But great art has always served the good, the beautiful and the true—from the Psalms to Shostakovich, from Aphrodite to Courbet, from Isaiah to Mayakovsky.

Now after the awful blackout brought by fascism, after the burning of libraries and children's corpses, mankind stands in dire need of the ennobling and enlightening influence of art. The day of Andre Gide, that literary Petain, is over. The day of the champions of good and justice is dawning. Nations now know that if the "fine words" of Andre Gide presage Munich, Munich presages Maidanek.

UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS DECORATED

Eighty-one members and workers of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR have been decorated by the Soviet Government for notable services in various branches of science.

The highest decoration, the Order of Lenin, has been conferred upon Academician Vladimir Filatov, famous oculist, whose method of cornea transplanting has helped to restore sight to thousands of wounded men during the war. Academician Filatov has also scored important suc-

cesses in the field of tissue therapy. In a number of diseases, even those entirely unconnected with the eyes, Filatov transplants tissues into the human body, thus hastening the process of recovery.

The Order of the Red Banner of Labor was awarded the President of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Alexander Bogomolets. His well-known researches in the field of endocrinology, the physiology of blood circulation and the problem of longevity have shed light upon a number

of problems of modern medicine.

Academician Bogomolets has also carried on extensive studies in the problem of the connective tissues. Famous as a teacher, he heads the School of Soviet Pathologists and is author of a study on pathological physiology for which he was awarded a Stalin Prize.

The Order of the Patriotic War, First Class, was conferred upon 74-year-old Academician Evgeny Paton, for his services to the Soviet tank-building industry.

RESTORATION

From an article by D. Zaslavsky:

Every time the Germans were compelled by the Red Army to abandon a Soviet city, they invariably boasted in their communiques that they had destroyed the particular city so thoroughly as to make its restoration impossible for many years. The Germans revenged themselves for their defeats by ruthlessly blowing up buildings, wrecking factories, putting mines out of commission, blasting dams and reducing turbines to heaps of scrap.

The Germans have indeed done a thorough job of destroying everything they could. They have revealed themselves before the world as destroyers having no equal in history. They have applied the most up-to-date technique to the work of destruction. They have mechanized it.

When the Germans abandoned cities reduced to ruins, their spite was mingled with self-satisfaction as they bragged: "That's German work." They were indeed convinced that not only would the grass never grow again where they had passed, but that no civilized life would ever return there.

The Hitlerites miscalculated in this respect, too. They thought they had enfeebled the Soviet Union by their work of destruction, that they had wiped out Soviet industry, if not forever, as they would have liked to do, at least for a long time.

But just as they failed in their strategy, they have failed in their work of destruction. The Soviet regions which suffered from temporary German occupation will be restored sooner than the Germans expected. As a matter of fact, they are already being restored at a pace unprecedented and amazing. This is another defeat inflicted upon Hitlerite Germany.

The German robber attack has inflicted deep wounds on the Soviet national economy. Perhaps the worst wound was the destruction of the Donets Basin and the metallurgical industries of the south. When the Germans seized the Ukraine they asserted that the Soviet Union had lost its industries and was no longer able to supply its army and industry with raw materials, fuel and metals.

We used to call the Donets Basin the

stokehold of the Union. Huge plants of the Soviet iron and steel industry were located in the Donbas and neighboring regions. . . . And all this was dead when the Germans were expelled from the Ukraine. It all lay in ruins, and it seemed that no power on earth could call back to life these vast areas which had not only been decivilized, but depopulated. . . .

Recently the entire country marked the first anniversary of the liberation of the Donbas from the Germans.

An inventory has been taken of the work already accomplished and the results have proved to be amazing indeed. Figures may perhaps mean nothing to the reader who is unacquainted with the Donbas. We need only mention that over 50 large coal mines which the Germans barbarously demolished, flooded and sentenced to death, are operating again. . . .

Of course this is only the beginning of the vast work of restoration. It will be in full swing only after victory, which is now close at hand, and when millions of Soviet people return from the battlefields. When that day comes the Germans will again be reminded of the Donbas and other places which they overran.

They will be presented with lists of factories, houses and railroads which they demolished. They will study the bills and pay for the Soviet property which they destroyed. The Germans have bragged about doing a good job of destruction. But the more they have destroyed, the more they will have to restore.

The Soviet people is not waiting for that time. It has tackled the huge job of rehabilitation while the war is still on. Those who judge by the experience of the First World War may wonder how the Soviet people manages to wage a hard war requiring the exertion of all forces, and at the same time rehabilitates cities and villages, starts new factories, organizes production and restores cultural activities.

It is the Soviet system that makes this possible. It possesses powerful sources of labor productivity. It inspires the people to heroism in work. Seeing the ruins, Soviet people do not lose heart. They have refused to be baffled by difficulties, even when the latter seemed insuperable. Be-

fore the smoke of gunpowder had cleared over a city destroyed by the Germans. The Soviet people had already planned its rehabilitation and set to work to put the plans into execution. . . .

It may already be stated with certainty that the Soviet land will emerge from the ruins of the war not only restored, but renovated. Soviet architects have their hands full now. The most prominent among them are doing a lot of traveling. They are not only designing new houses to replace those demolished—they are designing new cities. The Germans destroyed the main street of Kiev, the ancient Kreshchatik, one of the finest streets in the country. The Kreshchatik is now being rebuilt, and it will be finer, broader and more beautiful than before. All the people of Kiev are taking part in its rebuilding. They are doing it with a will, with enthusiasm. Its wounds have made them love their city more than ever before.

The work of restoration is proceeding under trying conditions, in the face of an acute scarcity of building materials. It would hardly be possible for any country to undertake this job in wartime. But here the entire country is pitching in. The Donets Basin is receiving building materials from 18 regions.

The difficulties attending the work of restoration give rise to widespread enterprise and stimulate technological thought to devise new methods and means for greater efficiency. It would take too long to go into the details of new methods introduced into construction technology in one year of restoration work. This work has become a school of new experience, a laboratory of building technology.

The work of restoration has just begun. Although its scope is wide, it is only an introduction to the big job ahead, after the war. But what is being done today gives us an idea of what will be done in the immediate postwar period. It goes without saying that the Soviet people who fought so well for their country's freedom and independence will work just as well for its prosperity and happiness.



Among the students of Trade School No. 3, which trains youth for work in metallurgical plants, are many boys who participated in the Patriotic War. Shown above (center) is the director of the school, N. P. Marchenko, and (left to right) a 13-year-old Guardsman of the Red Army, V. Khrabrov; a wearer of the Order of the Patriotic War, N. Gotsov; 16-year-old N. Sorokin, awarded the Order of the Red Star; Ivan Vasilkov, also wearing the Order of the Patriotic War, and 17-year-old M. Streltsov with the Order of the Red Star

Labor Reserve Schools Enrolling 350,000

By P. Ivanov

The Assistant Chief of the Central Administration of Labor Reserves, P. Morenov, reports that 350,000 youths will be enrolled in the vocational and trade schools of the Administration this fall. These include contingents from the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Moldavia and other liberated areas. Of the total number, 280,000 will enter the six-months' industrial training schools. The remainder will attend the two-year courses in the trade and railway schools.

Morenov stressed the importance of the Labor Reserve schools, which provide skilled workers for the country's war industries and for rebuilding the liberated areas.

"Although the system of vocational training established shortly before the outbreak of war met only a part of the country's labor requirements," said Morenov, "it has played an important role in the development of industry since the war.

"From May, 1941 to July, 1944, a total of 1,880,000 young workers were graduated from vocational and trade schools

and placed in industrial work. Included were some 940,000 metal workers, 120,000 miners, 50,000 iron and steel workers, 165,000 railway employees and scores of thousands of workers of the oil and chemical industries and electrical communications.

"The great advantage of a centralized system for training industrial workers is that the required number of workers can be directed into leading branches of the national economy according to the latter's requirements. An illuminating example is the 20,000 youths of vocational schools who went through a special course of training for rehabilitation work in the Donets Basin. Graduates of these schools make up a good proportion of the repair gangs that closely followed the advancing Red Army.

"Youth trained in vocational and trade schools are highly appreciated by the factories, plants and mines. The boys and girls come to the factories with an excellent background of technical training,

and many exceed the norms set for adult workers.

"Proof of the quality of the training is the fact that, since the war began, some 1,000 students of vocational schools have been decorated by the Government.

"There are now about 2,000 vocational schools in the country. Nearly three billion rubles are expended yearly for their maintenance. The students are provided with food, lodging, clothing and all necessary text-books and supplies without charge. Thousands of the most promising trainees go on to technical colleges or remain in the schools as assistant instructors.

"Most of the young people enrolled come from farms. Their ages range from 15 to 17 for boys and 16 to 18 for girls—for those entering the six-months' industrial training schools. In the case of railway and trade schools, the ages are 14 to 15 and 15 to 16, respectively. Preference is given to boys in schools training contingents for the iron, steel and mining industries."

Actors and Sailors

Senior Lieutenant Alexander Trusov is an old sea-dog. Once a mechanic on a battleship, he is now an Honored Artist of the Republic who plays leading roles in the theater of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet.

Most members of this group are such men as Trusov. Founded 14 years ago, the theater at first comprised the most gifted amateurs among the ships' crews and shore units of the Baltic Fleet. Year after year the group was enlarged by naval service men from the Leningrad and Moscow drama schools. The actors perfected their performances while carrying out their regular duties in the Navy.

When Germany attacked our country the theater was in Tallinn. On the second day of the war eleven of the artists departed for various shore units and ships.

During the defense of Tallinn the actors helped erect fortifications under enemy fire. On the islands of Ezel and Dago many artists in the Marine units defended their country with rifles, grenades and machine guns. On the Hango Peninsula a group of actors participated in the landing operation as privates.

On scant rations during Leningrad's bitter winter siege, the actors walked many weary miles in 40 below zero weather to perform for soldiers and civilians. They rehearsed new plays and concerts. Throughout the blockade their songs and plays were broadcast to the city, cheering the workers in the icy factories.

While presenting Russian classics and the works of Soviet playwrights, the actors did not neglect Shakespeare, scor-

ing a great success among the fighting men and citizens with *The Comedy of Errors*. A number of new works by Leningrad playwrights were also rehearsed including *Meeting of the Squadron*, by Mikhail Tevelev, Vsevolod Vishnevsky's *At the Walls of Leningrad*, and Alexander Kron's *Officer of the Fleet*.

The Government has expressed its appreciation of the wartime work of the theater by conferring orders and medals upon 25 of the actors. Every member of the group has received the Leningrad Defense Medal.

The actresses of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet theater portray the finest types of Soviet women and are such women themselves, rendering first aid to the wounded and sharing all the hardships of the sailors in the battles against the enemy.



BETWEEN MISSIONS—Mechanic Churiltsev rehearses with his string orchestra on the deck of a warship

POKRYSHKIN IN MOSCOW

By N. K. Nepomnyashchy

Colonel Alexander Pokryshkin, Soviet ace who has brought down 59 enemy planes, had flown to Moscow from the front to receive his third award of the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Immediately, relatives, friends, acquaintances—seemingly everyone who had heard the news—rushed to welcome and congratulate the hero. Reporters, cameramen, schoolchildren, painters, sculptors and innumerable others besieged his apartment. The phone never stopped ringing and a stream of telegrams poured in from all parts of the country, particularly from Novosibirsk, where this leading Soviet flier was born and grew up.

On this particular evening, two hours had been set aside for a reunion of the flier's air comrades and students. Rechka-lov and Bulayev, twice Heroes of the Soviet Union; Trut, former commissar of "Pokryshkin's Regiment of Aces," also a Hero of the Soviet Union; Lieutenant Colonel Pogrebnoi, and Hero of the Soviet Union Victor Karpovich were among the old friends present.

Warm handclaps, exclamations and embraces marked the meeting of these men whose friendship had been tested under fire. After the first excitement of greetings, they settled down to reminiscences.

They recalled the battles over the Kuban, Melitopol and the Mius. They spoke of Kinburnskaya Kosa, where they brought down scores of enemy transports attempting to escape from the Crimea. They spoke of Lvov and the Vistula.

Again and again, as the stories went on, one or another flier turned to Pokryshkin for his opinion or judgment. He was their teacher, and he was also remarkable in that he had fought throughout the entire war without receiving a single wound. Only once had a bullet pierced his plane.

"Everyone was convinced you had some magic talisman," said Pogrebnoi. "But when we began to watch you, we



Radiophoto

Guards Air Colonel Alexander I. Pokryshkin, recently awarded a third Gold Star Medal of Hero of the Soviet Union for exemplary fulfillment of combat assignments and heroism at the front. He is the first Soviet citizen to receive the Gold Star Medal for the third time. Colonel Pokryshkin is shown leaving for his airdrome

learned what this talisman was. Skill . . . that's all."

"Fighting is becoming more difficult nowadays," Pokryshkin observed. "We used to take off and find our man immediately. Now there are days when looking for a German plane is like hunting a needle in a haystack."

Pokryshkin worked as an aviation technician for several years. Twice each year he applied for permission to enter a flying school, but was considered so valuable a technician he could not be spared. But his persistence won out and he was finally enrolled as a flight student. The instructors quickly recognized his talent and soon permitted him to make his first solo flight. After 15 solos he took his examination for a pilot's certificate, passing it brilliantly.

Since that time Pokryshkin has kept an album of his flights, making a careful study of each figure in stunt flying and plotting them. An interesting book of 59 chapters might be written from this

album—one for each of the planes brought down by the ace in this war. Every one of these victories is a new and brilliant achievement.

Asked to tell about his visit to the Kremlin for his third Gold Star Medal of Hero of the Soviet Union, Pokryshkin admitted that he had been very nervous. He would not talk about himself, but of the thousands of young fliers who had become skilled aces, who had learned to win battles because there was nothing more sacred for them than the motherland, or more important than the cause they were fighting for. He talked of his comrades-in-arms who had become masters of the sky over all the fronts of the great Patriotic War.

Finally we all rose to go to the theater. As the group of Heroes of the Soviet Union walked down Okhotny Ryad, Pokryshkin was recognized by many Muscovites, who shouted his name warmly. And little boys tried to run in front of him to count the medals on his chest.

Development of North Ossetian Republic

The North Ossetian Autonomous Region was formed 20 years ago. It subsequently became an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Formerly a backward borderland country of Tsarist Russia, the Republic now has an advanced industry and large-scale mechanized agriculture.

Between 1924 and 1941, over three hundred million rubles were invested in Ossetian industry. The number of large industrial enterprises increased by more than six times and the volume of industrial production rose by 25 times, as compared with 1913.

Under the Five-Year Plans an electro-zinc plant was built near the Sadon mines, which supply it with ore; at present this plant holds one of the leading places in the non-ferrous metallurgy of the USSR. Another new and important industrial enterprise is the Beslan maize mill, largest of its kind in Europe.

Dzaujdikau, capital of the Republic, has a highly developed industry, with canning factories, railway car repairing works, a clothing factory, etc. The highest hydroelectric station in the Soviet Union is situated in the Koban Gorge.

The achievements of the Republic in agriculture are no less important. The cultivated area has almost doubled; 99½ per cent of the farmers have joined collective farms, and over 20,000 farmers from highland districts have moved to the plains, where they have been given fertile land. At the outbreak of war the Republic had nine machine and tractor stations with hundreds of tractors and numerous other agricultural machines.

Before the October Revolution scarcely one-tenth of the Ossetians could read; during the Five-Year Plans illiteracy was completely abolished. In Dzaujdikau there

are four higher institutes and a number of special schools. Talented actors, painters, sculptors, composers, writers and scientists have risen from the Ossetian youth.

The sons of Northern Ossetia, fighting beside the other peoples of the Soviet Union, have distinguished themselves in the Patriotic War. Many Ossetian generals are famed for brilliant strategical art—among them Hero of the Soviet Union and Lieutenant General of the Guards Issa Pliev, commander of a formation of Kuban Cossacks; Hero of the Soviet Union, Major General of Artillery Kazbek Karsanov, and Major Generals Mamsurov, Khetagurov and Slanov. Over 4,000 Ossetians have been decorated for bravery, and the title of Hero of the Soviet Union conferred upon 21. In the rear, the entire population works self-sacrificingly to aid the Red Army in its struggle against the hated enemy.

INFORMATION FOR MUSCOVITES

The information booth in Sverdlov Square, in the heart of Moscow, serves 600 inquirers daily. Young people look in to ask the addresses of libraries and museums or to find out about current sports events. Lost articles can be reported here and traced for their owners through Moscow's "lost and found" office.

At this booth they can give you the address of anybody living in Moscow. They can tell you all about train services and the cost of tickets to any place in the USSR.

The Sverdlov Square office is only one of 75 in Moscow; 26 more will open soon. There are booths in the suburbs, at all railway stations, in the parks of culture and rest, at the Central House of the Red Army, the People's Commissariats and in hotels. They are managed by *Mosgorspravka*, or Moscow City Information Service, supervised by the executive committee of the Moscow Soviet.

The Sverdlov Square booth has been managed by Ekaterina Petrova for 10 years. She knows by heart the names and locations of hundreds of streets and by-streets. About 80 per cent of her present

customers are Red Army men visiting Moscow for the first time. They want to know the addresses of their acquaintances, how to get to places, the street car routes, the location of museums, reading rooms, exhibitions, theaters and concerts. Many ask her how they can trace relatives who formerly lived in towns invaded by the enemy.

Mosgorspravka was first organized in 1924, and it recently marked its 20th anniversary. It answers 35,000 inquiries daily from individuals and organizations, and gives information by telephone and telegraph. Monthly inquiries include about 10,000 from remote parts of the USSR, as well as from the war fronts.

Many Red Army men ask for new books to be sent them. Others want the bureau to subscribe to magazines for them, or to send them news of relatives evacuated from temporarily occupied regions.

Besides its regular information work, *Mosgorspravka* also supplies newspaper clippings. It scans 235 daily newspapers issued in all large centers of the country

and sends out over 8,000 clippings a day. This service is subscribed to by the People's Commissariats, libraries, scientific institutions, publishing houses and theaters, and by private individuals, including the writers Ilya Ehrenburg, Alexei Tolstoy, Leonid Leonov and Mikhail Sholokhov, and the composers Shostakovich and Prokofiev.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 109

Washington, D. C., October 10, 1944



Liberated Tallinn Begins New Life

By Kiril Brodovsky

The Estonian capital is rapidly recovering from the effects of German occupation. So swift was the Soviet advance that the Germans did not have time to destroy the main public utilities. The port, however, was severely damaged by fire, as were several buildings in the city proper; the telephone station was wrecked and all industrial enterprises plundered. The latter were ransacked over a period of three years, during which all machinery and equipment were shipped to Germany.

Tallinn was virtually saved by Soviet tanks, which broke through to the city, overtaking a number of retreating German units.

Approaching Tallinn, I saw along the roads hundreds of trucks and passenger cars loaded with all kinds of civilian goods. Cars lay overturned in ditches, with bolts of cloth, suits of clothing and rugs scattered all about. On one truck was a grand piano and two radios. When the Soviet tanks appeared German officers and officials abandoned the loot and ran for their lives. Several transports loaded with goods were still standing in the harbor when our tanks arrived; two had been sunk by the fire of tank guns. The whole area of the port was littered with abandoned German loot.

It is interesting to note the order in which the Germans rid themselves of their loads. The first thing abandoned was the heavy materiel, chiefly artillery and tanks; machine guns went next, and by the time they reached the port they were dropping their valises and suitcases.

Red Army sapper units and Tallinn fire brigades at once began to put out fires in the harbor district. Soldiers of the Estonian National Corps are patrol-

ing the streets. The advent of the Estonian Units was a big surprise for the local population and there was great excitement as hundreds of families began searching for missing brothers, sons and fathers among the soldiers.

Representatives of the Estonian Government entered Tallinn with the Red Army. The Government itself returned the following day. Tallinn was liberated on September 22, and on September 23, by order of the City Soviet, all workers, office employees and engineers reported to their former jobs. On September 24 the power station was functioning again and the water mains working. By this time janitors had cleared all broken glass, brick and rubble from the streets and Tallinn again looked its neat self.

Hundreds of people are busy cleaning the premises formerly occupied by the German authorities. The Germans left in such haste they did not even have

time to destroy the police headquarters. The Government House and many theaters and concert halls also survived, although their interiors were stripped bare by the Germans. Thousands of inhabitants from various Russian towns and villages transported to Tallinn for forced labor are now free.

There were several camps for war prisoners in the environs. A few hours before Soviet troops entered the town, the inmates of these camps revolted. Arming themselves with anything they could lay hands on—boards, spikes, stones—they built a garrison and held out until the Soviet tanks arrived.

The people of Tallinn have good reason to recall the period of German occupation with horror and loathing. A commission for the investigation of German crimes has been set up to ascertain the extent of damage and to help the victims. The site of mass shootings of



Radiophoto

TALLINN, ESTONIAN SSR—Citizens of the liberated capital greet Red Army officers and men

peaceful inhabitants has already been located, as have the common graves of the victims of fascism.

Judging by the stories of citizens I talked with, the occupation regime in

Tallinn differed in no way from the regime established by the Germans in the other Baltic Republics. Everything Estonian was banned. The Germans commandeered the best houses, squares, shops

and restaurants for their own use. Some German officials who went into hiding are now being tracked down by the Tallinn population and handed over to the authorities.

Red Army and Yugoslav People's Army of Liberation Meet

By Major R. Tokarev

Soviet troops operating on Yugoslav territory south of the Rumanian town of Turnu-Severin have united with the Yugoslav People's Army of Liberation.

German Mountain Rifle units in this sector, taking advantage of the facilities for defense afforded by the locality, are putting up stiff resistance fire. They counter-attack frequently. Nevertheless, Soviet units developing their success are dislodging the Germans from their positions, forcing them to retreat and pursuing and destroying them.

In the first days of the offensive a German Mountain Rifle Division was cut up and heavy losses inflicted on an Alpine Division and other enemy units. Inevitably the offensive in these wooded mountain areas, where passage is difficult, must be carried on simultaneously in several directions and parallel with the main roads.

The first thrust of Soviet troops resulted in a clearing of the northern and eastern bends of the Danube. But decisive events developed further to the south, where a wide mountain valley, through which a railroad and highroad pass to the city of Nish, extends westward. The passes leading into this valley were furiously defended by the Germans. Batteries of mountain artillery and mortars kept the roads and the mountain trails under fire; many machine-gun pits barred the advance of Soviet troops.

A counter-battery struggle was carried on, aircraft were called out and destroyer groups sent to the German firing positions. Desperate fighting took place in the mountain defiles and in each populated place. Finally a pincer maneuver was employed by the Soviet units to dislodge the enemy from his positions. His support points were destroyed by attacks from various directions.

Attentive scrutiny of a map of this sector will give a hint of the difficulties

to be met with in undertaking flanking maneuvers on the wooded slopes surrounding the valley. In some cases rifle units had to move in small, lightly-armed groups. Very often heavy traction transport trucks and cars could not be used, since there were no roads. Horses were widely used, and when horses were not available, mules and buffaloes were utilized.

The German troops were now in grave danger and began to retreat under pressure of the Soviet units from front and flanks. This retreat was not made in order.

An important event occurred when Soviet attacking units advancing through the Danube Valley in a northwesterly direction, engaged the Germans on the eastern outskirts of a certain inhabited place. At that juncture, units of the Yugoslav People's Army of Liberation were pushing ahead from the west to join the Red Army. The Yugoslavs descended into the valley, got in touch with the Soviet units and attacked on the western outskirts of the same inhabited place. Harassed from both sides, the German garrison attempted to retreat southward, but its retreat was cut off and it was almost wholly destroyed.

* * *

Soviet war correspondents with Red Army troops in Yugoslavia report the enthusiastic welcomes accorded Soviet officers and men. In all the towns and villages they are joyous and excitedly greeted by Serbs, Croats and Slovenians.

People come from their vineyards and fields, where they had hidden from the firing, bringing large jars of wine, and grapes and watermelons for the Red Army men. In many villages, tables are spread before the houses and the Serbs invite our men to partake of refreshments.

"There are probably no flowers left in the entire district," the soldiers say, smiling.

"At first we moved as if in a garden. Flowers were everywhere—on guns, trucks and tanks, and every one of us had flowers in every buttonhole. The local population receives us well. Everybody invites us to be his guest."

When the offensive of Soviet troops began south of the Rumanian frontier town of Turnu-Severin, Croats and Serbs living in the riverside villages—skilled Danube fishermen—brought their fishing boats to our vanguard posts at night and tirelessly helped the troops to cross the Danube. When a dilapidated bridge broke down near the village of Kaldova at a hairpin bend on the very brink of the river, Serbian peasants of a neighboring village at once began to repair it. Nobody called upon them, but when they learned the bridge had broken the entire population came out of its own accord.

When the Germans captured and held for several days one large village in the area of which fierce fighting was in progress, the whole population left its homes, and by all kinds of hidden paths through the maize fields, set out for the north toward the Soviet lines. Only the continued offensive of Soviet troops which dislodged the Germans from the village put an end to the exodus of the peasants who refused to remain for a single hour in occupied territory.

Everywhere on the roads, washed out by recent rains, one comes across groups of residents of neighboring villages. Whenever some passing truck or tank is stalled in the mud, the peasants hurry to assist. Working silently, rapidly, without unnecessary words, they pull it out. Only when the machine is on firm ground do they smile in reply to the Red Army men's thanks, and for a long time wave their hands and their peasant hats and caps after them.



A Soviet submarine puts out to sea; (right) These officers and men of the Northern Fleet have just been decorated for carrying out a hazardous assignment

The Landing on Hiiuma (Dago) Island

By I. Glagov, *Krasnaya Zvezda* Correspondent

Preparations for landing troops on Hiiuma (Dago) Island began as soon as Soviet units reached the Baltic Coast. The capture of the islands of Vormsi, Sar and Mukhu was in fact part of the preparation for the leap toward Hiiuma. At daybreak on October 2, infantry was put aboard the ships of the Baltic Fleet. The pioneer landing detachments were armed with tommy guns, light machine guns and anti-tank rifles.

At the approaches to the landing point, our armored cutters encountered artillery and machine-gun fire from the enemy coast. Safely maneuvering out of range of enemy fire they opened fire in turn, the infantry firing from machine guns and anti-tank rifles, and the seamen from cannon and machine guns mounted aboard the cutters.

Pinning the Germans to the ground the cutters, firing constantly, reached the shore and the landing began. In water reaching to their waists the infantrymen rapidly waded across the more than 50-meter stretch separating them from the island, and attacking straight from the march dislodged the Germans from a number of support points.

The success of the landing was greatly facilitated by Soviet aircraft. Before the landing, a massed blow by Stormoviks and bombers demolished some of the German fortifications and destroyed many firepoints on the eastern coast.

Recovering from the first blows the enemy attempted to counter-attack from the Kjardla area, with the object of pushing the landing troops back into the sea. With the help of aircraft the counter-attack was repulsed. Getting across on pontoons in the nick of time, our light artillery also helped to repel the counter-blow.

Hiiuma (Dago) is one of the larger islands in the Baltic Sea. Its convenient location lends it great tactical importance. It is part of a group of islands whose possession enabled the enemy to control entrance to and egress from the Gulf of Riga and to harass navigation in the Gulf of Finland.

Naturally the Germans had taken every step to fortify the big islands at the entrance to the Riga Gulf. Ever since the autumn of 1943 they have been feverishly building fortifications along the eastern coast of Hiiuma. Soviet air scouts established the presence of pillboxes and trenches there. The enemy had a permanent garrison on the island, consisting mainly of marines. Lately this garrison was reinforced by remnants of divisions battered in Estonia. German soldiers who at the last moment succeeded in fleeing by light craft from Tallinn and Hapsalu reached the island. Hiiuma is sparsely populated, with a poor network of roads, due to the impassable marshes and forests in the center of the island. A highway

skirts the entire coast. Fighting centered mainly around this highway and the inhabited points along it. German resistance was strongest in the Kjardla area, where the fighting lasted several hours, until the German defense began to crack. Kjardla was captured by a decisive assault. Forging ahead, the Soviet units gave the enemy no chance to entrench. The Germans were constantly under fire of Soviet infantry, the blow of our troops growing stronger as they advanced. Our reinforcements arrived in a steady stream aboard cutters and landing ships.

During the first day of battle Soviet units crushed German resistance on the eastern and southern coasts and liquidated enemy points in Jejna and Kjardla. Pursuit of the retreating Germans continued through the night. The brunt of this attack was shouldered by Soviet mobile detachments formed soon after the southern coast had been cleared.

On October 3 the Germans made another attempt at organized resistance in the area of the inhabited points, where the circular highway converges. But this was the last attempt of the doomed enemy. With a combined blow our mobile detachments and infantry reinforcements beat the Germans back and occupied the inhabited points. Soviet troops then proceeded to clear the island of straggling enemy groups, and by midday Hiiuma was completely liberated.

KRASNODAR YOUTH REBUILDS HOMELAND

By O. Savich

In the summer of 1943, the first summer of liberation from the German yoke, 5,175 youth brigades of over 25,000 persons worked in the fields of the Krasnodar Region. They restored 820 dairy farms, 420 hog farms, 520 poultry yards and 360 sheep farms wrecked or burned by the Germans. They also repaired a total of 1,560 cattle sheds and prepared 45,000 tons of ensilage and 420,000 tons of other fodder.

In October of the same year over 2,600 of the young volunteers set about repairing wrecked railways and stations of the region. Two branch lines of major importance, the Krymskaya-Novorossisk and Krymskaya-Starotatarovka lines, were restored first. More than 10 large stations were completely rebuilt anew, including the Krasnodar, Tikhoretskaya, Kavkazskaya and Timashevskaya.

At present about 6,000 youth brigades comprising some 30,000 persons are busy in the Krasnodar Region. All heads of these brigades attended a special course of lectures on agriculture given by prominent experts. Other members attended a number of lectures by local agronomists.

Special guidebooks were published, with answers to all questions that might arise in the course of field work. In addition, 300 volunteer tractor brigades went into the fields, including 140 women's brigades. The tractor drivers also took training courses, and special guidebooks were published for them.

The schoolchildren were not to be outdone by their elders in the rehabilitation of agriculture. The pupils of vocational schools voluntarily manufactured 2,000 various agricultural implements.

Before the war certain districts of the Krasnodar Region were famed for their orchards; fruit from Anapa, Krymsky, Armyansky, Varenikovsky and the Seversky districts was sent to all parts of the Soviet Union and also exported. The Germans used these trees to heat their houses. When they retreated from the region the enemy cut down and burned all that were left. Every schoolchild of this region has made a pledge to plant and cultivate from three to five fruit trees this year.

The children are also helping to rid the trees of various pests, mostly cater-

pillars, that attack them. Professionals and agronomists are giving special lectures for children on this subject.

All over the Soviet Union you see birdhouses attached to high poles in front of farmhouses. In his care of birds the Russian farmer combines his inherent love for nature with profit, for the starlings both sing and eat insects. The Germans destroyed these birdhouses; they evidently wished to deprive the Russian people of the pleasure of the birds' songs and to make sure the young crops would be ruined by pests. While pledging to plant fruit trees, the collective farm children will also restore the birdhouses.

The young people have laid out a new park in place of one burned and befouled by the Germans. They have also made a pledge to complete the construction of a new Children's Palace by November 7 of this year. It must be said that the construction of this palace is not a matter of restoration: the palace blown up by the Germans was much smaller than the new one—planned before the war—will be. Here, as always, our first care is for the children.

POLAR VEGETABLE GARDENS

By Ivan Yerofeyev

The author is Chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Workers of the Northern Sea Route.

I recently made an air-tour of some of our Soviet Polar settlements. The people of these regions are noted for their hospitality, but I admit I was astonished when in a little township on the Yan River not far from Verkhoyansk, in the frigid zone, I was served with fresh lettuce, radishes, new potatoes and cauliflower.

The average temperature in this area is 16 degrees below zero Centigrade. In winter the sun disappears completely for six weeks and the mercury drops to 70 below Centigrade. In summer the sun shines day and night for six weeks. Alto-

gether, there are only 70 warm days a year.

Last year, for the first time, the Yan River farmers tried growing vegetables in the open. The experimental area was only 12½ acres. It gave an excellent yield of cabbage, turnips, spinach, lettuce, radishes and potatoes. This year the planted area was increased to 30 acres. The spot chosen is well protected from the cold north winds. Organic and mineral fertilizers were used to prepare the ground; the manure, besides serving as a fertilizer, isolated the plants from the cold rising from the frozen ground.

Only quick-ripening varieties were planted; cabbage, for instance, ripens in 100 to 110 days, but for 45 days of this period the plants are kept in hothouses.

The sprout method is used with potatoes, which gives them a good start in hothouses.

Similar methods have been tried out on farms at Tixie Bay, Cape Dixon and other points on the Arctic Coast, where cucumbers, tomatoes and other vegetables are successfully grown. Hothouse vegetables, milk and milk products, and fresh meat received from local dairies and big farms in the Far North satisfy the requirements of nurseries, kindergartens and hospitals.

The Union of Workers of the Northern Sea Route supplies all gardens in the Polar regions with seed, textbooks and pamphlets on vegetable growing, and broadcasts regular information on gardening in the Far North.

AID FOR THE LIBERATED REGIONS



(1) Blacksmith M. Zhikov repairs a reaping machine smashed by the Germans on a collective farm in the Smolensk Region; (2) Evacuated herds are returned to the Pogoreloe-Gorodyshe District, Kalinin Region; (3) A caravan of carts brings a gift of selected hemp seed from the Kirghiz Republic to the liberated regions; (4) Agricultural machines for the devastated areas—a thresher at work in the Orel Region; (5) The poultry yard of the Alexandrovskoye collective farm, Moscow Region, has a new flock; (6) The manager and a shepherd of the Kirov collective sheep farm, in the Khakass Autonomous Region, select thoroughbred sheep to be presented to regions plundered of livestock by the Germans

P O N Y R I

By S. Kocerginskis

In October, 1943 Paul Gaberis, secretary of the Vilnius Gestapo, and Fidler, chief of a special detachment, brought 27 young men to Ponyri.

"We won't shoot you for the time being," the Gestapo agents told the prisoners. "You'll work here."

In January, 1944, 50 prisoners of war were brought to the same place. Yuri Moskovsky, a Moscow engineer who was among the second group, made the following statement:

"We entered the kingdom of death and stopped near carts loaded with huge stones about 70 centimeters high. Climbing onto these stones we saw a ditch six meters deep and 20 meters wide. With the exception of one-third of the ditch the rest was covered with boards, logs, bits of roofing and other rubbish. Martin Weiss, 'King of Ponyri,' ordered us to descend the ladder into the hole. There our legs were shackled to make fast walking impossible.

"Then the *sturmfuehrer* came down a specially-built and beautifully-finished stairway. He inspected our shackles and made a speech: 'You'll work in an important government job,' he said, 'and must therefore be shackled. You'd better drop all ideas of fleeing, right from the start. No one has ever escaped from Ponyri. Chains will be inspected, and at the slightest disorder the guilty will be shot. You must work well. Sabotage and laziness are punishable by shooting. All orders must be carried out at once. We must hear the chains clanking when you walk.'"

The new arrivals had no idea what work they would be called upon to perform. But soon four German officers appeared to convoy them to work.

"We were given spades and iron rods," Konstantin Potanin, another prisoner, testified, "and led toward a hole. From afar we saw shackled people digging something.

"At the edge of the hole the *sturmfuehrer* with his assistants, Fidler among them, shouted to the people below: 'Hurry. Hurry up.'

"We were all lined up near the hole

and ordered to dig. I did not understand as yet what was happening. I tried to drive my spade into the sand, but it struck some solid object. I looked and felt a chill creeping down my spine—it was a corpse! The workers said, 'This place is one big graveyard.'

"Then I was told that every corpse found in the sand must be cleaned. In the meantime the *sturmfuehrer* was shouting and swearing in every language—in German, Russian, Lithuanian and Polish.

"The overseer told us that we must not call the executed people corpses, but 'bodies.' He divided us into the following groups:

"1. The diggers (Ozuras, Ovsiecikas, Seiniukas, Dogimas, Seniroy, Brazas and others) removed sand from the hole.

"2. The exhumers (Dogimas, Jr., Zaidelis and Goldenbergas)—drove hooks into the corpses and dragged them up and piled them in one place.

"3. The dentist (Wisiskas) had to examine the teeth of the corpses. Every gold tooth was extracted and handed over to the Germans.

"4. The stretcher-bearers (Seinedelis, Lio, Tas, Ringas and others) carried the bodies to a bonfire.

"5. The fire-feeders (Mackinas and Kuperstohas) removed the bodies from stretchers and piled them up in accordance with the instructions of the overseer.

"6. The cremators (Fenermeister, Golis, Ruvinas, etc.). When a sufficient number of bodies were piled up (their number was always 3,500) the cremators poured oil or gasoline over them and setting them alight with the aid of incendiary bombs saw to it that the corpses were completely burned.

"7. The gold-seekers (Portnojus, Magunas, Novogrudskis and Kozlovskis) gathered ashes, sifted and mixed them with sand to obliterate all traces. Any gold remaining in the sifts was turned over to the *sturmfuehrer*.

"8. The bonfire-builders (Potaninas, Rudenskis and Belickas) were ordered to build the bonfire so as to make it possible

to climb to the top, add fuel, pour on gasoline, etc.

"Why were the corpses burned?

"On February 2, 1944, 80 shackled inhabitants of the above-mentioned hole heard a shot, followed by the *sturmfuehrer's* order to climb out of the hole.

"It's come to my attention,' the drunken *sturmfuehrer* said, 'that some of you, especially the Aryans, are planning to escape. You had better give up the idea. The roads are mined; we have guards posted everywhere, and then my revolver (he waved and fired it) is also working. . . . I want you to know that only Lithuanians did all the killing in Ponyri. We Germans had no part in it. To scatter all doubt we must destroy it all. We are burning "bodies" to leave no trace. And should any commission ever come to this place, it can see that nothing ever occurred here.'

"The *sturmfuehrer* laughed oddly and ordered the inhabitants of the hole to go to sleep."

* * *

But the Hitlerites did not succeed in covering up the traces of their crimes. The names of both the organizers and executors of the Ponyri murders are now known.

Who are they—these modern cannibals, baby killers and murderers of women?

1. Martin Weiss. He had a wife and three children in Darmstadt. Every day he sent them parcels of gold gathered by the cremators. A man over 30, of medium height, with glasses on the bridge of his beak-like nose, he was director of the graveyard. Weiss knew where every group of victims was buried, their number and date of murder. A tinsmith by trade, he always claimed to have the soul of an artist. He discussed art. He could distinguish an optimistic drawing and understood sculpture.

He was a "noble" man and rarely lost his balance. His "heart ached" when he saw Cherne, an extremely beautiful girl and daughter of a Vilnius professor, barely able, because of fatigue, to drag her feet on the way to Ponyri. Leading her out of the crowd and patting her black curls, he asked, "Are you tired, child?" And before

she had time to reply, Weiss' bullet went through her skull.

One of the prisoners jumped from a train bound for Ponyri. "What have you done?" Weiss scolded him, "You might have broken your leg. Such a fine young man. You have a lifetime before you." Five minutes later Weiss shot him.

2. Murer, a barber by trade. He could look anyone straight in the eyes. He had a very rich imagination, very resourceful in finding new methods of torture.

He ordered his workers to crawl under a table and shout, "*Deutschland, Deutschland uber alles.*" Then he drove them outside and ordered them to lie in the snow as long as he remained in the street. It thrilled him to see women stripped nude and shot. On his orders a woman wireless operator Zublevickaite, was stripped nude, flogged, taken to Lukis prison and later shot at Ponyri.

3. Kietel. A dark, handsome man, a screen actor by profession, he arrived in Vilnius with rich experience in liquidating Jewish ghettos in Riga, Lepaja and other cities, to continue this work in Vilnius and Kaunas.

I never saw Kietel on the screen and don't know what he looks like on the stage, but in real practice as a murderer he surpassed everything conceivable by the wildest imagination.

Breaking into the ghetto at midnight he would cry, "Arrange a concert for me. Something to amuse me." And if displeased by some performance he would seize a saxophone, violin or flute to demonstrate his own skill as a musician.

One day he brought a present to the musicians, two musical instruments, and right afterward sent thousands of people to Maidanek, Lublin and Ponyri. On Sundays Kietel discarded his murderer's uniform and dressed up in mufti—no doubt he recited Schiller or Goethe.

One wintry day Kietel convoyed a party of doomed prisoners to Ponyri. As usual he ordered them all to undress. In a moment of forgetfulness one of the prisoners, a certain Henech, cried out, "But we'll freeze to death." Kietel was so pleased with these words he ordered Henech to dress and go back. The following day he was killed. Such was the "mercy" of the murderer.

4-5. District Commissioner and drug-

gist Hinger and Area Commissioner Dr. Wulf. Both were intellectuals. Hinger even considered himself a poet and wrote verse about green pastures and blue eyes. There was a constant undercurrent of struggle between them and the Gestapo, each trying to show Berlin that he was responsible for law and order prevailing in the occupied regions. Therefore each tried to send the greatest possible number of victims to Ponyri, to concentration camps or to Germany.

6. The *sturmfuehrer*—the overseer in charge of the work designed to conceal traces of "Lithuanian" atrocities in Ponyri. No one knew his name. He was tall and thin, with blond hair combed a la Himmler and a bald crown. He had two gold front teeth and on the right side of his forehead was a barely noticeable triangular scar. In winter he wore the fur jacket and cap of a German officer, shining boots and white gloves. During conversations with the slaves, he bore himself with dignity, his hands folded behind his back. There was always a smile at the corner of his lips.

* * *

All these executioners supervised the burning of "bodies" in Ponyri. They drove and beat the workers, to speed destruction of the corpses.

They organized a celebration one day when the workers had exhumed 800 bodies. The murderers distributed cigarettes to the shackled prisoners, made speeches and promised them a transfer to a different place when the work was completed.

The Germans frequently brought new parties of prisoners. The cremators were ordered to their hole. Returning to their jobs half an hour later, after the heavy shooting was over, they found new piles of fresh, still-warm bodies. One day they

found several dozen bodies of Lithuanian police officers and officials who had been working for the Germans.

This was not the first group of Lithuanians shot at Ponyri. During the exhumations the prisoners found many documents belonging to Lithuanian intellectuals, factory and office workers. A great number of murdered Poles was also found. In the most recent period scores of railwaymen were found among the victims.

Among the exhumed bodies were hundreds of murdered Catholic priests and nuns, with crucifixes on their breasts. Some were in cassocks, others completely nude, only crucifixes and prayer books in their hands.

At first some of the workers complained to their chief that they were ill. "I'll send you to the hospital," he answered, in a voice filled with compassion.

On the following day they were summoned to the "hospital." A few minutes later the prisoners heard shots. They later learned they must not complain about their health. Furthermore, after this event the *sturmfuehrer* personally kept an eye on the weaker people and those who worked with insufficient speed were quickly sent to the "hospital."

Every cremator tried to work with the greatest possible speed. There were no more sick. Nevertheless, from time to time the *sturmfuehrer* continued to send to the "hospital" those who in his opinion were ill or weak.

Such "tenderness" was lavished by the chiefs primarily on the intellectuals. Thus, Engineer Gutkin from Moscow, a Leningrad citizen, Kostya (his surname is unknown) and Venckus, a Lithuanian official, were ordered to be shot.

That is why Engineer Moskovsky declared he was a peasant and Potanin concealed the fact that he was a technician.

FOOD AND MEDICINES FOR PRAGA

The Soviet Government has sent 10,000 tons of flour and a large quantity of medical supplies to the populace of Praga, a suburb of Warsaw.

Praga, divided from Warsaw by the Vistula River, lives the life of the front; cars rush through the streets under enemy fire; almost every house has its first-aid station. The Hitlerites keep up a con-

tinuous bombardment.

Worn out by five years of the German yoke, the townspeople bear all hardships bravely. In these five years the Germans have robbed the population of everything; in their retreat they plundered all warehouses, shops, drugstores and hospitals. Thousands of Poles were left without bread, provisions or medical supplies.

HYDRO-METEOROLOGY IN WARTIME

By Major General Eugene Fedorov, Hero of the Soviet Union

The author is an Arctic explorer who took part in the Papanin Expedition to the North Pole. During the past four years Major General Fedorov has directed the chief hydro-meteorological board whose work is especially important in wartime.

Weather conditions and the state of rivers play an important part in military operations. In foggy weather with low clouds, aircraft cannot fly. The sudden flooding of a river may hold up the movements of large army formations. During thaws even tanks and tractors get stuck in the mud.

A hydro-meteorological service, which studies conditions prevailing in combat areas and is able to foresee future conditions so that they may be taken into account when planning operations, exists in some form in every army.

Naturally, weather conditions do not determine the success or failure of an operation, and only those strategists who fail blame their defeats on natural causes. Napoleon in particular said that the defeat of his army in Russia was not due to the bravery of the Russian troops and the people's hostile attitude to the occupationists, but to the heavy frosts. The German Supreme Command, headed by Hitler himself, consistently blame their defeats on the weather.

When Napoleon set out on his campaign he knew full well what frosts were customary in Russia. The heavy cold did not set in until after the defeat of his troops by Russian soldiers and guerrillas. It is still more foolish for Hitler to blame the weather for his defeats when everyone knows the Red Army has beaten the Germans in summer as well as in winter.

Nevertheless one must have a thorough knowledge of meteorological conditions and be able to forecast them, in order to operate successfully under varying circumstances. The present state of scientific knowledge enables us to make weather forecasts a day and more ahead. To compile the necessary data, observation points must be maintained throughout the area for which forecasts are being made. This is more difficult in war-

time as it is impossible to obtain weather reports from enemy-held territory. These difficulties must be overcome by various means. We have successfully accomplished this task and have been able to make regular weather reports available for the ground and air forces of the Red Army.

Hydrological data, which predicts the future condition of rivers, is extremely important for the army: the beginning of a thaw or the freezing of a river, the level of water during spring floods, the length of time a flood will last, and many other data, are all factors that may have great significance in planning an operation.

Our hydrologists are able to give these forecasts for several days and even for a week. In addition, they make calculations which assist in determining the areas which may be flooded by the construction of dams, and what will be the effect of the destruction of dams and other hydrotechnical installations.

Our hydrologists had their first experience in this type of work during the war with Finland in 1939-1940. By letting the water out of a reservoir, the Finns caused the artificial flooding of a river in order to hold up the advance of our troops. The calculations of our hydrologists showed that the supply of water available was insufficient to break the ice all along the river, and those sections of the river on which the ice would remain firm were pointed out. The Red Army boldly crossed the river at these points, ignoring the fact that there was a sheet of water covering the ice.

Our experts are able to estimate the durability of ice which will be encountered on rivers in the path of the advance of our troops. When the Northern Donets was being crossed, a correct estimate of the strength of the ice enabled the Red Army to send heavy tanks across at a point where the Germans least expected them.

In the autumn of 1942, at the beginning of our offensive in the North Caucasus, there was a heavy rainfall which caused serious floods. Meteorologists

were able to warn the Red Army Command there would soon be a short cold spell. On the basis of this forecast, officers worked out a plan of operation which called for the extensive use of tanks. The forecast proved correct, and the operation was a great success.

In the raising of the siege of Leningrad in January, 1943, hydrologists assisted Soviet troops in finding a passage through the Sinyavino swamps. The coating of ice was extremely uneven, varying from two to 20 centimeters in different places. A correct prediction of the thickness of the ice enabled light and medium tanks to cross the swamps.

In the battle of Poltava in September, 1943, a correct weather forecast enabled the Red Army Command to select the most favorable time to begin the attack. During a misty night Soviet troops unexpectedly crossed the river, and launched a surprise attack against the German positions.

To provide the Supreme Command with such accurate weather forecasts, specialists of the hydro-meteorological service frequently conduct their surveys from forward positions. A large number of the hydro-meteorologists working with the Red Army have been awarded medals and orders for their work, which has often insured the success of operations.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 110

Washington, D. C., October 13, 1944



On the Problem of International Organization of Security

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On October 10, IZVESTIA wrote editorially:

Today we are publishing the tentative proposals which are the result of the Washington negotiations. This document shows that in the course of the negotiations, concurrence of views on a very wide range of problems has been achieved between the three leading powers of the anti-Hitler coalition, whose cooperation and coordinated actions serve as a guarantee not only of the achievement of victory over Hitlerite Germany but also of insuring peace and security for the great and small peace-loving nations.

This document is of great interest and will undoubtedly attract the attention of the Soviet public and of all sincere friends of international security in the entire world.

The nations which have shouldered the hardest trials of the present war are vitally interested in the creation of such a postwar world order as would insure the possibility of bringing about the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, would prevent a menace to peace, and would guarantee the suppression of acts of aggression through the collective efforts of the peace-loving nations.

The tremendous toll of victims taken by this war, during which mortal danger confronted the freedom-loving peoples, will prove futile unless, after the enemy's defeat, effective collective measures are taken to prevent and remove the threat to peace and to suppress any new attempt of German bandit imperialism.

The present war created a threat to the very existence of peace-loving peoples. There can be no doubt that were the Ger-

man aggressor given the possibility to unleash a third war, it would prove to be even more destructive for all humanity.

The Washington negotiations were based on the well-known decisions of the Moscow and Teheran Conferences, which have played a tremendous part in strengthening the mutual understanding and accord between the great powers which form the only possible firm foundation for the whole system of international security.

At the Moscow Conference the representatives of the great powers acknowledged the "necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organization based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving states, and open to membership by all such states, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security."

The historical decision of the Teheran Conference said: "And as to the peace—we are sure that our concord will make it an enduring peace." Such is the only principle which can serve as a basis for further elaboration of the problem of the creation of an international organization of security.

One must not forget the historical lessons of the period which followed the First World War. Then, too, the peoples expected a durable and lasting peace. However, the League of Nations, which was advertised by its founders as a bulwark of peace and an effective means of insuring the security of the peoples, failed to stand the historical test. There is no need to dwell on the causes of the League's bankruptcy—there were quite a few such causes. Suffice it only to recall the un-

doubtedly most important lesson which follows from its collapse.

This lesson consists in that without the firm accord and joint actions of the leading peace-loving powers, the preservation of peace and prevention of aggression—and all the more, the suppression of aggression—remain an illusion which can bring nothing but harm to the peace-loving peoples by dulling their vigilance in the face of the ominous danger of aggression, as was the case in the years which preceded the present war.

This lesson is expressed in an incontrovertible truth, confirmed by numerous examples from the history of all these 20-odd years between the First and Second World Wars—namely, that only complete harmony in the actions of the leading world powers, resting upon mutual trust and desire for close cooperation, can serve as a firm guarantee of international security for great and small countries.

The proposals worked out in Washington testify to the serious desire to draw upon the lessons of the recent past. In this connection it is important to note the part which the published document attributes to the Security Council, which is the most important organ of the projected international organization—the United Nations.

According to the draft, the Security Council should consist of representatives of 11 states, members of the organization—permanent seats in the Council being given to the Soviet Union, the United States of America, Great Britain and China, and in the future, as the draft says, also to France. As is evident from the draft, non-permanent seats will be filled by other states elected by the Gen-

eral Assembly for a term of two years.

The document points out that the future international organization should confer by charter on the Security Council the prime responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security, and that in carrying out these duties under this responsibility it should act on behalf of all members of the organization.

All members of the organization should obligate themselves to accept the decisions of the Security Council and to carry them out in accordance with the provisions of the charter. Not only the responsibility but also the functions, rights and duties of the Security Council are such that there remains no room for doubt concerning the extremely serious importance which is attached to the Council in insuring international security.

It is quite natural that the Security Council will be able to fulfil its role only provided that certain conditions exist and, vice versa, that without these conditions it would be unable to accomplish the tasks set for it. In the definition of these conditions, it is necessary to bear in mind the experience of the present war, which has proved that in an effective struggle against acts of aggression and against aggressors, a decisive part can be played only by the states which possess sufficiently real means for such a struggle—strong armies, substantial material and technical resources—and also, if they act harmoniously and in unanimity.

It is just these conditions that determine the success of the struggle against the aggressor. All those who in deeds and not in words seek the creation of such an international organization must, above all, see that these conditions be insured in the course of the activities of the future international security organization.

The entire experience, both of the League of Nations and of this war, emphatically proves that it would be useless to speak of the lofty aims and tasks of such an organization, embodying in articles and clauses the duties of various institutions of the security organization and its individual member states, if the above conditions are not insured in a real and practical way: namely, coordination and true harmony between the leading

powers, both in the adoption of the decisions necessitated by the interests of security of great and small powers, and in the implementing of these decisions.

It is not accidental that the draft of the charter of the future international organization allots such a prominent place in this matter to the Security Council. It is not accidental that in its turn, within the Security Council itself, permanent seats are given to the leading world powers which have assumed the brunt of the struggle against the aggressor and the main responsibility for its success.

One must admit outright that in this respect the four leading powers are placed by the charter in a special position. This is a special position not in virtue of any privileges or exemptions which would give an advantage to these powers, but in virtue of those exceptional duties placed upon them by their very importance from the viewpoint of the means and possibilities which they have at their disposal, as well as the responsibility which falls upon them accordingly.

These circumstances cause the necessity of insuring actual accord and unanimity between the leading powers—the permanent members of the Security Council—in the settlement of all problems which come within the competence of the Council. Hence the natural conclusion concerning the necessity of the establishment of such a procedure of deciding of questions by the Security Council, under which no decisions can pass without the consent of all its permanent members.

Therefore it is quite clear that the principle of unanimity and coordinated decisions of the leading powers, forged in the conflagration of the struggle for liberation, for the independence and security of peoples, found recognition during the Washington negotiations also in regard to the voting procedure in the Security Council.

In the course of these negotiations, however, it was moved that the application of this principle be renounced in a case when the subject in dispute affects a permanent member of the Council. In such cases it has been proposed that such a member of the Council be excluded from voting.

The adoption of this proposal, however, would essentially mean the renouncing of the principle of harmony and unanimity in the settlement of problems concerning one of the leading powers—a permanent member of the Council—and the attempt to solve such problems behind the back of this power.

Moreover, such a presentation of the problem is obviously inconsistent. Indeed, if the unanimity of permanent members of the Security Council is required for the settlement of all problems in general which are being considered by the Council—which does not meet with any objection—it would seem that such unanimity is the more necessary in cases of solution of important problems affecting the very existence and activity of the security organization, even should these problems affect the permanent members of the Council.

The right of a permanent member of the Council to participate in the voting in the above cases also is but an expression of the consistent application of the principle of harmony and unanimity between the leading powers, which is the cornerstone of the whole international organization and from which no exception can be made if this organization is to be built as a strong and effective weapon in the struggle for international security.

As evident from the published document, consideration of this problem, which remained unsolved in Washington, will continue.

Soviet public opinion, with calm confidence, is waiting for the subsequent steps in the cause of the organization of a system of universal security. Both before and during the war the Soviet Union has demonstrated to the whole world that it is the truest bulwark of peaceful and friendly relations between peoples and countries, an impregnable barrier on the aggressor's road.

The foreign policy of the Soviet Union is invariably determined not only by the interests of its own security, but by the desire to curb the aggressor who threatens the security of all other peace-loving peoples—great or small.

SUCCESSSES ON THE BALTIC FRONT

PRAVDA wrote editorially on October 9:

The victory of the troops of the First Baltic Front has once more demonstrated the skill of our generals, the unflagging offensive spirit of Soviet soldiers and the unsurpassed quality of the Red Army's equipment.

Military experts and theoreticians have long held that 10 to 15 kilometers a day is almost the limit for a fighting advance. The Red Army has greatly surpassed this limit. During the most difficult operation of the break-through our troops developed an unprecedentedly swift offensive pace, making a fighting advance of 25 kilometers a day.

The victory in the Baltic is remarkable for the fact that it has been scored in an area where the Germans intended not only to check us, but even to reverse the course of events in their own favor. It

was exactly here, in the Shaulyai and Jelgava area, that some two months ago they launched their counter-attacks, concentrating several tank divisions for this purpose. When they lost such an important road center as Shaulyai, they hurled there some 800 tanks and 200 self-propelled guns. The German counter-attacks petered out. The Red Army decimated the enemy forces and simultaneously prepared for the powerful offensive whose impact the German defense failed to withstand.

The offensive of the troops of the First Baltic Front is dealing crushing blows to the Hitlerites' plans. Stationed in the Baltic area, the enemy created a menace to the flank of our troops acting farther south, and strove to slow down our advance to the west. The new powerful blow of the Red Army, in combination with

the successful offensive in the Riga direction and the landing operation on Sar Island, finally knocks the ground from under the fascists' feet.

Clinging to the Baltic area, the Germans counted on being able to keep the gates to the Baltic Sea closed to our Navy. But they miscalculated. The battle standards of our Navy are already flying over the Baltic. Soviet cutters and monitors already operate in the Gulf of Riga, helping to clear the Baltic islands.

The day is not distant when the fighting will be carried to the territory of Hitlerite Germany. The enemy clearly realizes this and his resistance grows in violence. The Red Army must exert its strength in fighting the wounded fascist beast. The stronger our blows, the nearer the coveted hour of the final defeat of Hitlerite Germany.

SOVIET TROOPS IN HUNGARY

The Red Army has crossed the Rumanian-Hungarian border, broken the resistance of German and Hungarian troops and captured over 100 localities in Hungary. This major event was preceded by heavy and fierce fighting at the approaches to the Rumanian-Hungarian border.

In the second half of September our troops, having overcome the Transylvanian Alps, captured the town and railway junction of Timisoara, an important stronghold of the enemy defenses in western Rumania. The enemy bent every effort to restore the status quo, massing large forces, including armored units and SS detachments hastily transferred from Greece, and launching desperate attempts to recover their lost positions. Thrusting from three sides, they hoped to quickly recapture Timisoara. Red Army divisions hastened to help the Rumanian troops operating in that area; the enemy's thrust was met with a powerful counter-thrust, and the German and Hungarian troops sustained heavy casualties and fell back.

Without giving the enemy respite, Soviet troops pressed on to the north. As the result of a vigorous maneuver they captured the town and large railway junction of Arad, 16 kilometers from the

Hungarian border. Rumanian troops took part in this operation.

The loss of Arad created a serious threat to the large enemy forces south of that area. To paralyze our further advance the Germans attacked on the flank, with the object of cutting the Timisoara-Arad railway line, but this attempt failed. Our troops hurled the enemy back and

continued to push on north and northwest of Arad.

Fierce fighting flared up on the Rumanian-Hungarian border. The enemy threw in fresh armored and infantry divisions, in which German and Hungarian troops alternated.

The Red Army inflicted blow after blow. The enemy defenses began to crack. Hard-pressed by our troops, the German and Hungarian divisions were compelled to abandon one line after another of their defenses. Breaching the enemy defenses on the Battonya-Ketegyhaza sector, Soviet divisions gradually widened the gap and captured the town and large railway junction of Ketegyhaza, the towns and railway stations of Mako Battonya, Gyula and other places. Mako, Gyula and Ketegyhaza are important points from which direct routes lead to Budapest and the Central Carpathians. Through Mako runs one of the main railway lines connecting Hungary with the Balkan countries.

But most important, Soviet troops in this area have now left the ranges of the Southern Carpathians behind them and have entered the Hungarian plain, which offers wider opportunities for the operation of mechanized forces.



Marshal of Artillery Mikhail N. Chistyakov

IN THE YUGOSLAV VILLAGES

By Konstantin Simonov

A part of the Yugoslav bank had already been cleared of the Germans, and the little tug towing the heavy flat-bottomed barge quietly crosses the Danube, muddy-gray with the incessant down-pour. Our mud-spattered Willys rocks slightly over the water's edge.

We descend the gangway to the low, eroded bank, and after driving a few yards find ourselves in the main street of Kladov, the first inhabited place on the Yugoslav side of the Danube. A battle recently took place here, as evidenced by the gaping holes in the houses and the shattered glass under the walls. It is the usual war picture; this village resembles thousands of others through which the battle is passing.

When we turn a corner we see a long two-story building resembling a school. Across the whole side of the building, at the height of a man, two legends have been inscribed in enormous letters: "Long Live Marshal Stalin!" "Long Live Marshal Tito!" At the entrance there is a knot of partisans in civilian clothes, but with broad army belts and army caps—and, in almost every case, German tommy guns slung over their shoulders.

Two old, exhausted-looking women are leaning from the glassless window in a neighboring house and one addresses us in a loud voice. Though the Serbian language differs from ours in general structure, it has many familiar or almost familiar words, and when the woman illustrates them with gestures we can easily grasp what she is trying to say. She is vexed because she cannot treat us to anything. The chagrin on her face is sincere. She points to the room, which is bare and battered, and repeats the word "Germans." The Germans have taken everything—clothes, food, and all possessions—and left nothing but bare walls.

We ask when this was done . . . in the last few days before retreat, or much earlier? We are told it was done day by day all these three years. The Germans hoped to bring the unsubjected country to despair by robbing the poor of their clothing and taking the bread from the mouths of the hungry.

The stamp of ruin and poverty appears all around us in this big village. Nevertheless, these faces are calm and proud, and though they are very weary, they look happy. Involuntarily one recalls the Byelorussian villages and the proud and weary faces that greeted the Red Army there.

As we leave Kladov the passersby touch their caps to us or wave them after us. At what seems to be almost the only glass window in the place, an old man is standing with a curly-headed year-old child in his arms. He holds her tiny plump hand in his withered one and waves it to us. Thus he and his granddaughter salute us.

* * *

Our troops have made a big advance in this sector and we are striving to overtake them—no easy matter because recent rains have turned the roads into black pools so deep the ruts are not visible. Our car now plunges, now rears over the stones with a roar. The river's bends are curious and unexpected: every few kilometers it appears in front of us or on our left.

The winding mountain road makes dizzying turns. It is evident a battle must have been fought around this sole highway. Shells and empty cartridges lie in the deep gullies and light-caliber German automatic guns are scattered here and there along the roadside. A baggage train clatters past with cases of ammunition for the front line.

The artillery sergeant on the cart in front is an audacious-looking young fellow with a snub nose. His cap has slipped to one side, his tommy gun is slung around his neck and a cigarette is stuck in one corner of his mouth. As he sits there calmly urging his horse on, there is an air of imperturbable confidence in his whole figure, face and manner. It was thus he drove through the Donets steppes, the Ukraine, Bessarabia and Rumania. Now he has just crossed the Danube and is driving through Yugoslavia with his shells. Nothing surprises him any more; everything is as it should be. With his cigarette in his mouth and his tommy

gun slung around his neck he'll soon be going into Hungary, then Austria and from there to Germany.

At one sharp bend near the river bank a dilapidated bridge has broken and Serbian peasants from a neighboring village are repairing it. But we have no time to wait; we drive along by the water's edge, emerge from a gully and try to climb the bank. The wheels are hub-deep in mud and for some time the car cannot manage to climb out. The peasants drag up a coil of telegraph wire, wind it several times around a fender and climb the slope, hauling up first one and then the other car, as a towing boat hauls barges. When we acknowledge their help gratefully, the people wave their broad-brimmed peasant hats after us.

* * *

At midday we reach Brza Palanka, a populated place. Traces of hard fighting are seen everywhere: abandoned guns, slaughtered horses and dead Germans by the roadside.

We found the unit's headquarters on the southern outskirts of the village. The signalmen were just putting up wires, there were several cars on the footpaths near the houses, and the staff was in a tiny cottage with a broken window.

The unit commander hadn't a moment to spare; the battle being fought only two kilometers further on was still at its height. But the commander found a few words to describe the general situation.

The battles fought yesterday and today were unusually fierce. Our troops had against them fresh German Mountain Jaeger Divisions, which were forcing their way northward from Greece and Macedonia. Evidently they were trying to break through at all costs to the north to the Danube, and after forcing it to reach Hungary. Brza Palanka passed back and forth twice, and only this morning were the Germans finally dislodged.

One is struck by the unusual uniform worn by some of the dead Germans. They are sailors. It appears that among the troops the Germans are bringing up are detachments of marines from Greece. One



Sergeant Morozov and a member of his machine-gun crew—which wiped out almost a company of Germans in one advance—listen to front-line entertainers in a pause between battles

of these detachments attacked Brza Palanka several times yesterday and was almost entirely wiped out.

The German stubbornness is accounted for by the hopelessness of their situation. On this sector Soviet troops straddled the only road along which it is possible to move the artillery, cars and tanks which the Germans still preserved. If they leave the road for the mountain trails it means they will have to abandon all this and fall into the hands of Marshal Tito, who is operating not far from us.

Artillery is booming outside the village at this moment; our battalions are storming a commanding height two kilometers from here. With its capture the predicament of the Germans will become still worse. They will have to retire further southward and relinquish their last hopes of a break-through along this road.

Judging by reports from below and the sounds of battle, the Germans are fighting hard. Sometimes loud explosions are interspersed with dull splashes. German artillerymen are sending shells over our heads into the Danube.

The streets are somewhat deserted, which is natural enough while the village is in the zone of direct operations. The people keep within doors, but all

that takes place is of vital interest to them. The commander tells us that yesterday when the Germans managed to get the village in their hands for a few hours, the entire population started moving and set out along the mountain trails and across the maize fields for the north, where our troops were. Only the development of our offensive checked the exodus of the peasants, who did not wish to remain in a village occupied by the Germans.

In the peasant's cottage where we have our sleeping quarters the master of the house gives us the best room, furnished with two big plank-beds resembling Russian stove-beds. The boards are spread with clean straw-filled mattresses covered with homespun fabric. The room reflects poverty and scrupulous cleanliness, a life of hardship and privation.

There is a large lithograph of St. George and the Dragon in a dark wooden frame on the wall. Pictures like these are to be seen in most of the peasant cottages. And though the ancient symbolism of the warrior slaying the dragon may seem merely naive nowadays, it unexpectedly harmonizes with the feelings of the people who are waging the present struggle against the Germans.

At daybreak we depart for the next village. The height has been captured and the troops have moved on.

* * *

In the village where the neighboring staff is stationed we are told that four partisans from a Yugoslav Division operating nearby arrived last night, bringing with them two Germans. They handed over their prisoners and remained in the village to get warm and rest awhile. We tried to see them, but our search proved fruitless. They had allowed themselves no more than two hours of rest and then went away into the mountains by paths known only to themselves.

Soon we, too, are on the move. We are about to cross the bridge when our attention is attracted by an unusual sight. Beside a Soviet tommy gunner stands a man, hatless, wearing a black leather jacket with a red rosette, and with a tommy gun slung over his shoulder. Thinking he must be a partisan, I halt the car. When I question him he says a few words in a language we cannot place. The tommy gunner replies for him, "No, he isn't a partisan . . . he's a man from my platoon."

"How can he be from your platoon?"

"Well, he is. He's been fighting alongside me right from the Danube, for I don't know how many days."

A few moments later the question is cleared up. The man in the leather coat is a Slovak from Bratislav. The Germans put him in a labor battalion, but he swam the chill autumn waters of the Danube just before the offensive, joined our unit and fought with it.

A Slovak from Bratislav is fighting in a Russian platoon of tommy gunners on liberated Yugoslav soil. Thus in daily fighting, naturally and without high-flown talk, flourishes the Slav brotherhood which the best people of the Slav world dreamed and thought and wrote of for centuries.

Planes to Pokryshkin Air Unit

The workers of Novosibirsk recently presented a number of latest-model Lavochkin fighter planes to their townsman, Thrice Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel Alexander Pokryshkin, and representatives of the Air Unit commanded by him.

25th Anniversary of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences

By Academician A. Bogomolets

Hero of Socialist Labor and President of Academy of Sciences, Ukrainian SSR

The Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, which held a special session to mark the 25th anniversary of its founding, has taken a leading part in the creative activity of the Soviet Ukraine which followed the October Revolution.

The Academy has become one of the largest aggregates of scientific research institutes in the world. It consists of four sections: Social Sciences; Physical, Chemical and Mathematical Sciences; Biological Sciences and Technological Sciences. Its library contains over five million volumes, and its members are widely known abroad as well as in the USSR.

During the Patriotic War against fascist Germany our scientists have engaged primarily in research, with the aim of increasing in every way the fighting efficiency of the Red Army. In the first days of war the Academy was evacuated with most of its equipment far to the rear—partly to Ufa, capital of the fraternal Bashkir Republic, and to some industrial centers in the Urals.

The Academy reviewed its plans with a view to bringing its work more into line with the requirements of our war industries, the need for utmost expansion of our productive forces, extension of the power and raw material bases for industry, and raising of the productivity of our national economy.

Problems of the manufacture of aircraft motors and tanks were given special consideration in researches by the Institutes of Mathematics and Physics, Building Mechanics, Power Engineering and Electric Welding.

Workers of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences have solved numerous technological problems of prime importance for the war industries. The institute headed by Academician E. Paton evolved new methods of electric welding which made it possible to strengthen considerably the bodies of our tanks and at the same time reduce their weight. One plant received substantial assistance in the production of high-grade armor steel. A young scientist

attached to the Academy produced a new kind of pig iron which replaces steel in some types of war materiel.

The Chemical Institutes of the Academy helped our oil industry and developed new types of industrial raw materials, building materials, etc.

Comprehensive research in important problems of the national economy has been carried out by the Institutes of Geology, Power Engineering, Building Mechanics, Chemistry, Zoology and Botany. The Institutes of Organic Chemistry, Chemical Technology and Biochemistry have improved the methods of obtaining vitamins.

The Institute of Clinical Physiology produced the anti-reticular cytotoxic serum which is now widely used in our hospitals, and which has proved highly effective in accelerating the knitting together of fractures and healing of wounds, and also in combating infectious diseases.

In the years of the great Patriotic War the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences has established close contact with numerous defense institutions and factories. Over 300 such enterprises have received effective assistance, as evidenced by numerous expressions of gratitude and appreciation, the decoration of many Academy members and workers and the awarding of Stalin Prizes to some.

In the spring of 1944 the Academy returned to Kiev. The Germans had inflicted great damage to the Ukrainian Republic, but in their hasty retreat they did not succeed in blowing up the splendid buildings of the Academy's institutes.

Inside, however, everything that had not been evacuated was destroyed—laboratory furnishings, electrical wiring, scientific equipment, and a museum of the extensive research work planned by all the institutes. These plans envisioned the study of a number of important problems of physics, mathematics, geology, social and economic sciences, biology and technology.

In addition to restoring the laboratories

that previously existed, the Academy has begun the organization of a number of new research institutions. In pursuance of a Government decision, work has commenced on the construction of a large astronomical observatory. We also intend to set up a cyclotron laboratory and new experimental bases for the study of urgent problems of metallurgy and the technology of metals. A number of investigations of first importance are planned by the Institutes of Technological Sciences.

On a high picturesque bank of the Dnieper in Kiev, a new and extensive botanical garden is being laid out, which will also be used for experiments in selection and acclimatization. A base is being established for experiments with oak silkworms, which are expected not only to yield interesting scientific results, but to be helpful in the development of our silk industry.

The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences marks its 25th anniversary at a time when nearly all the territory of the Ukraine has been forever liberated from the German invaders, thanks to the valor and heroism of our great Red Army, led by our great Marshal Stalin. The final victory over the hated enemy, which is now close at hand, will open to the peoples of the Soviet Union, among them the Ukrainian people, limitless opportunities for further cultural and economic development. The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences will continue to devote all its efforts to the service of the country, to increasing the economic and cultural weight of the Soviet Union.

Odessa Library Reopens

The Odessa Public Library, founded in 1829, has reopened after a lapse of three years. Before the war the library possessed over two million volumes, rare manuscripts and old editions. A large part of the books were saved by the heroism of two library workers, Kudlach and Korchin.

200,000 SPECIALISTS TRAINED DURING WAR

By S. V. Kaftanov

Chairman, Committee on Higher Schools, Council of People's Commissars of USSR

In the autumn of 1941, Soviet higher schools rearranged their curricula to include new subjects. Courses in field surgery became a prominent feature in medical schools; war transport and the repair of railways and bridges were introduced into the transport institutes, and in construction schools the building of defense works, fortification of buildings and methods of camouflage were stressed. In many institutions entirely new courses, such as the chemistry of explosives, etc., made their appearance.

During the war years Soviet higher schools have graduated over 200,000 engineers, doctors, agronomists, geologists, economists, teachers, lawyers and others. Lecture halls, classrooms, laboratories and workshops are crowded with young students eager to acquire knowledge that will help in their country's defense. Students often take examinations or present graduation theses or projects far ahead of the usual time, with no detriment to their studies. During vacations these youth work on collective farms, in lumber camps, in industry—wherever they can be of greatest service.

Scientists Worked and Taught

Fifty thousand professors, assistants and lecturers concentrated their efforts on researches connected with war problems, and at the same time continued to teach and prepare new scientists.

Leningrad University, working under incredible difficulties, solved more than 70 important problems relating to defense. Among its achievements are Professor Ambartsumyan's work on photometry, Professor Brown's researches in combustible compounds, and Academician Fok's methods of increasing the accuracy of gunfire. The Leningrad Physico-Technical Institute produced a number of new instruments now used in the war industry.

In Tomsk University, Siberia, over 200 scientists devoted themselves to the solution of defense problems, and geologists of the Tomsk Industrial Institute discovered a new deposit of manganese. The faculty of the University of Azerbaijan

did splendid work in solving questions relating to motor fuel. Professors of physics of Moscow University evolved methods for increasing the effectiveness of anti-aircraft fire. Scientists of the Academy of Agriculture introduced a number of new ideas for increasing the harvests.

In 1943 more than 100 scientists of the higher schools were awarded Stalin Prizes, among them Professor Rubtsov of the Moscow Institute of Mechanics and Machine Building, who developed new methods for the manufacture of ammunition; Professor Alexandrov of Moscow University, producer of new mathematical theories, and Academician Speransky, well known in the field of medicine.

Professors and students alike unhesitatingly volunteered for service at the front. During the siege of Leningrad and the German advance on Moscow, many professors and students saw active service. Professor Boris Panchenko, of the Stalin-grad Institute of Mechanics, organized a tank destroyer battalion from among his students and fought with them throughout the battle for the Volga city.

Many students and teachers became famous as guerrilla fighters. A professor of the Kirovgrad Agricultural Institute organized a students' guerrilla column which carried out a number of brilliant operations against the invaders. The

raids carried out behind the German lines by student guerrillas of the Leningrad Institute of Physical Culture are well known; 90 per cent of the student body of this school volunteered for active service.

Professors and students who could not go to the front during the critical days, built fortifications and took part in other defense work.

The Germans made every effort to destroy all educational and scientific institutes in the temporarily occupied regions. Tremendous work and huge funds will be necessary for their complete restoration.



Maria Titova at work in the laboratory of a factory polyclinic

Notes from Front and Rear

The Arts Committee recently reviewed the work of front-line theaters for the past 38 months. In this period 2,550 groups including 32,000 singers, musicians, dramatic actors and circus performers were sent to the front, and 150 directors, ballet masters, chorus conductors, composers, poets, artists and lecturers participated in the creative work of Red Army and Navy amateur groups at the front. Since January 1 of this year about 1,000 art groups have toured the front, giving more than 65,000 concerts.

★

Over 8,000 citizens of Irkutsk, Siberia, recently volunteered to help State and collective farms with the harvesting. The city workers turned their industrial experience to excellent account, organizing harvest work on the conveyor principle and achieving an even higher productivity than the experienced farmers. Their example will doubtless be followed on many farms.

★

After being wounded in action three times, Seaman Sergei Panteleyev of the Baltic Fleet was transferred to the coastal service as driver of an ammunition truck. Recently he lost his way and emerged on a highroad held by the Germans. It was too late to turn back. He decided to continue along the highway until he reached a dirt road and then make a dash for the Soviet positions. Driving at top speed he overtook a German infantry column with a number of heavy field guns. The Germans paid no attention to the approaching truck, evidently thinking it one of their own. Not daring to slow down lest he be identified, the Baltic sailor drove straight into the column, knocking the guns off the road and plowing through the infantry. The Hitlerites were so astounded they even failed to shoot at the tires of the vanishing truck. Panteleyev safely reached the Soviet lines. A few hours later Red Army troops captured the sector where the event occurred, and German prisoners stated that a Russian truck had passed and crushed 50 of their men. Panteleyev was awarded the Order of Glory.

Civil aviation is playing an ever-increasing role in the struggle against the malaria mosquito. In the past year alone planes have cleaned up more than 1,000,000 hectares of marshland.

★

First place among trade union libraries of the USSR was won by the library of the Magnitogorsk metallurgical works, which contains 130,000 volumes. In the past three months 120,000 books have circulated among its readers. Branches are set up in various shops and in dormitories, and lectures and exhibits are arranged for workers. A prize of 10,000 rubles and the Challenge Banner of the State Defense Committee have been awarded the library.

★

Using "cinemachineguns"—small motion picture cameras installed in airplane wings and synchronized with the machine guns—special cinema groups set up under the Red Army Air Force are making documentaries of important air actions. Already completed are AIR FORCE OVER RUMANIA and MASTER OF THE SKY, the latter dealing with the work of Thrice Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel Alexander Pokryshkin.

★

High quality oil deposits have been found north of the Caspian Sea, at Kashkara. Oil fountains have gushed from the first five wells, only 750 feet in depth. On the area already investigated as many as 50 wells can be drilled. An oil reservoir is under construction in Kashkara, 10 miles of pipe line are being completed and a workers' settlement erected. This year the Kashkara field will produce hundreds of tons of oil daily.

★

D. Mugamlinova, biologist, is the first Azerbaijani woman to receive the title of Doctor of Sciences. Before 1917 almost the entire population of Azerbaijan was illiterate.

Many special rest homes are being established for young workers, and a total of 5,400,000 rubles have been allotted for maintenance of these homes. Trade unions exercise strict control over observance of regulations on the employment of youth in industry. Overtime and night work are forbidden by Government decision. Recently special staffs for controlling labor conditions of young workers were set up in 98 trade union committees.

★

A new industrial institute, the 670th in the USSR, is being established in Nizhny Tagil, with two departments, mining and metallurgy. Courses will be arranged for workers in their free time.

★

Colored drawings by primitive men, reminiscent of the famous drawings in Spanish caves, have been discovered in the remote mountains of Uzbekistan, Central Asia. A special expedition of archeologists copied the drawings and made sketches of the area where people of a prehistoric period lived. Scientists believe these drawings were made 20 to 30 thousand years before our era. The Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences is sending special expeditions for further exploration.

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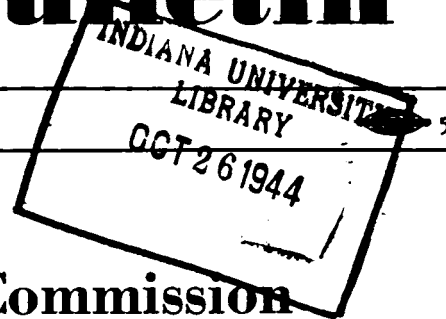
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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 111

Washington, D. C., October 17, 1944



Statement of Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission

**For the Investigation of Crimes Committed by the Germans
in the Extermination Camp of Maidanek
in the Town of Lublin**

CRIMES committed by the Germans in Lublin have been investigated by a Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission for the investigation of crimes committed by the Germans in the town of Lublin, consisting of: (**Poland**)—the Vice President of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, WITOS (Chairman of the Commission); Prelate of Lublin Catholic Cathedral, the Priest Doctor KRUSZINSKI; Doctor SOMMERSTEIN, member of the Polish Committee of National Liberation; the President of the Lublin Red Cross, the lawyer CHRISTIANS; Professor BIALKOWSKI of Lublin Catholic University; Professor POPLAWSKI of

Lublin University; the prosecutor of the Lublin Court of Appeal, BALCEZAK; the President of the Lublin District Court, SZCZEPANSKI; (U. S. S. R.)—KUDRYAVTSEV (Assistant Chairman of the Commission); Professor PROZOROVSKY, and Professor GRASHCHENKOV.

The Hitlerites set up an extensive system of concentration camps on the territory of Poland: in Lublin, Demblin, Oswechim, Chelm, Sobibur, Biala Podlaska, Tremblyanka and other places. To those camps they brought for extermination hundreds of thousands of people from the occupied European countries—from France, Belgium, Holland, Italy,

Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Greece, Denmark, Norway and other countries.

The criminal Hitlerite government established in these camps a system of mass extermination of groups of people it held to be undesirable, in the first place, intellectuals from the occupied European countries, Soviet and Polish war prisoners and Jews. All that was found by the Commission for the investigation of German crimes in the town of Lublin leaves far behind, in its brutality and barbarity, all facts relating to the monstrous crimes of the German-fascist invaders already known to world public opinion.

1. THE MAIDANEK EXTERMINATION CAMP, LUBLIN

The Hitlerite hangmen set up a huge death factory at Maidanek in Lublin. They named it "Vernichtungslager" (Extermination Camp). Germans who had served in this camp and were taken prisoner testified before the Commission. SS Rottenfuehrer Theodor Scholen stated: "This camp was called the 'Extermination Camp' — 'Vernichtungslager' — just because a tremendous number of people were exterminated there."

Heinz Stalbe, a member of the Kampfpolizei, stated: "The main purpose of this camp was to exterminate the greatest possible number of people, and for

this reason it was named the 'Vernichtungslager,' i.e. 'Extermination Camp.'"

The Maidanek Camp, located a mile and a quarter from the town of Lublin, covered 675 acres. Its construction began at the close of 1940. By the beginning of 1943 six sections of this camp were complete. There were 24 barracks in each section, 144 barracks in all (excluding all kinds of structures used as storehouses, workshops, etc.) each housing up to 300 persons and more. The camp was fenced off with two rows of barbed wire. In addition all six sections were divided

within the camp by a system of barbed wire fences with a separate guardroom at the entrance to every section.

All the barbed wire fences were electrified with high tension current. The whole territory of the camp was studded with tall towers on which sentries with machine guns were permanently stationed. The camp was heavily guarded by SS troops, and in addition there were 200 Alsatian dogs—a very important element in the guarding of the camp—as well as auxiliary Kampfpolizei formed of criminal elements.

2. CONTINGENT OF CAMP PRISONERS

Twenty-five to forty thousand prisoners could be housed in the camp at a time.

At some periods up to 45,000 prisoners were confined there. The camp population

was not stable. Incoming contingents were systematically destroyed and new

transports of prisoners arrived to take their place. Thus, for most persons sent there, the camp was only a temporary stage on the road to death. In the camp were confined prisoners of war from the former Polish army, captured as far back as 1939, Soviet prisoners of war, citizens of Poland, France, Belgium, Italy, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Yugoslavia, Denmark, Norway and other countries.

This was ascertained through:

(a) The large quantity of passports and other identification papers found on the territory of the camp belonging to citizens of various European countries who perished in the camp. For instance, there were the passports of Maria Timofeyevna Goryunova, Nikolai Frantzevich Mazurkevich and other citizens of the USSR; identification papers of Polish citizens—Czeslaw Sedlecki, Wladislaw Soniczni, Stanislaw Jankewicz and others; identification papers of French citizens—Gabriel Labrouge, Emile Montagne, Lucien Rois, Auguste Chirol, Andre Prinson and others; identification papers of citizens of Czechoslovakia—Josef Glucze,

Rudolf Feldinger and others; identification papers of Italian citizens—Gustav Muolo, Guiseppe Musich, Pio Tinosi and others; identification papers of Dutch citizens—Bertus van der Palm, Andertinus van der Irimi, Petrus Jansen and others; identification papers of Yugoslav citizens—Stepan Stepanovic, Rano Junit and others; identification papers of Belgian citizens—Leon Lazeot, Theofile van Hausran and others; identification papers of Greek citizens—Ean Zuren and others, as well as identification papers of persons of other nationalities.

(b) The book with records of those who died in the so-called "camp-hospital," but who had in fact been exterminated, contains evidence concerning a considerable number of persons of various nationalities who perished. In March, 1944, of 1,654 prisoners who died, 615 were Russian, 247 Polish, 108 French and 74 Yugoslav; the rest were members of other nationalities of Western Europe.

(c) By the testimony of numerous witnesses—former inmates of the camp

and German war prisoners who had served previously in the camp, as well as by the testimony of former inmates of the camp—Le du Corantin, a Frenchman; Tomasek, a Czech; Benen, a Dutchman and others. The number of those exterminated in the camp was constantly swelled by new victims: Soviet war prisoners, various population groups brought from the occupied European countries, various population groups seized by the Gestapo in the streets, at railway stations and in houses during systematic round-ups and searches which were constantly conducted by the Hitlerites in Poland and in other European countries, as well as by Jews brought from various ghettos set up by the Gestapo in Poland and various cities in Western Europe.

There were many women, children and old people among the prisoners. Sometimes whole families were confined there. The children were of various ages, including babies. Thus the camp was a place for the mass extermination of various European nationalities.

3. TORTURE AND BLOODY MASSACRES IN THE EXTERMINATION CAMP

The regime in the Extermination Camp was subordinated to the main task: mass extermination. The prisoners dragged out a hungry existence. The standard ration per prisoner was coffee made of burned turnips once a day, soup of grass twice a day, and from 180 to 270 grams of bread made with an admixture of fifty per cent of sawdust or chestnut flour, which resulted in complete exhaustion, widespread tuberculosis and other diseases, and in mass extinction of the prisoners.

For the smallest "offense" prisoners were deprived even of this scanty food for several days, which in fact was tantamount to death from starvation.

A former inmate of the camp, the Czech Tomasek, informed the Commission that people were always hungry to starvation. There was a state of general exhaustion among the prisoners, to which many succumbed. The prisoners ate carrion, cats and dogs. Most of them were either walking skeletons covered with skin or unnaturally obese as a result of edema and swelling caused by hunger.

A former inmate of the camp, prisoner

of war Corporal Reznik of the Polish army, stated: "The war prisoners were given hardly any food at all. They reached a state of extreme exhaustion, were swollen and even unable to speak. Crowds of them died."

The starvation regime in the camp was an essential factor in the general system for the extermination of the inmates.

Sadism at Roll Call

The working day began at four in the morning. The Germans broke into the barracks and whipped people up from the bunks, and the roll call began, at which all had to be present, whether well or ill; those who had died during the night were carried out by their neighbors on the bunk to the camp ground for check-up. The roll call lasted two hours and more, and was accompanied by beatings and humiliation of prisoners. If a prisoner fell unconscious and did not respond at roll call, he was put on the list of dead and then finished off with clubs.

At six in the morning the prisoners were led out to work. The work they had

to do was exceptionally hard and exhausting. It was accompanied by severe beatings, outrages and murders. Prisoners' squads which returned at 11 o'clock for the so-called dinner brought along the beaten and maimed people and the bodies of those who had been killed.

At evening roll call the SS trooper on duty read out a list of prisoners who had worked "poorly" and these were lashed, clubbed or flogged on a special bench. The number of strokes ranged from 25 upwards. Often people were flogged to death. An assistant professor of Warsaw University, Zelent, who had been confined in the camp, stated: "I knew a lawyer called Nosek, from Radom, who was given 100 strokes; he died three days later."

Sufferings of Intellectuals

Intellectuals and prominent persons confined in the camp were subjected to especially refined humiliation. The outstanding 72-year-old pediatricist Professor Mihalowicz, 60-year-old Professor Pomi-

rowski of the Warsaw Polytechnicum, Wonsowicz, a member of the Polish Supreme Court (aged 75), and many others were compelled by the Germans to do heavy work and were humiliated in every possible way.

A former Polish inmate of the camp, Tadeusz Budzin, a Master of Chemistry, stated: "A large group of professors, doctors, engineers and other specialists—1,200 persons in all—brought from Greece, were assigned by the Germans to work beyond their strength, carrying heavy stones. Those of the scientists who became exhausted and collapsed under the strain of this hard work were beaten to death by SS troopers. By a combined system of starvation, exhausting labor, beatings and murders this entire group of Greek scientists was destroyed within five weeks."

The methods of torturing and tormenting were extremely varied. Many were in the nature of so-called "jokes," which often ended in the murder of prisoners. They included sham shootings combined with the stunning of the victim by a blow on the head, dealt with a board or some blunt object, and sham drownings in the camp pond which often ended in real drowning. Among the German executioners were specialists in certain methods of torture and murder. People were killed by a blow with a club at the back of the head, by a kick in the stomach or groin, etc.

The SS torturers drowned their victims in the filthy water which flowed in the small ditch from the bathhouse: the vic-

tim's head was submerged in this filthy water and held down by an SS trooper's boot until death occurred. A favorite method of the Hitlerite SS troopers was to suspend prisoners by their hands tied at the back. The Frenchman Le du Corantin, who experienced this punishment, stated that a prisoner thus suspended quickly lost consciousness, after which suspension was stopped; when he regained consciousness he was suspended again—this was repeated many times.

Hangings in Yard

For the least offense, especially on suspicion of an attempt to escape, the camp inmates were hanged by the German fiends. In the center of every section there stood a pole with an arm fastened to it at a height of about 6 feet, on which people were hanged.

"I saw from my barracks," stated one witness, Domashev, former camp inmate and Soviet war prisoner, "how people were hanged on the pole in the center of the section."

Near the laundry in the space between the first and second sections there was a special shed with beams near the ceiling on which people were hanged in groups.

The women imprisoned in the camp were subjected to no less humiliation and tortures: the same system of roll calls, labor beyond human strength, beatings and humiliation applied to them. Particular cruelty was displayed by the women SS troopers: chief wardress Erich and wardresses Braunstein, Ani Devid, Web-

er, Knoblic, Ellert and Redli. The Commission ascertained many facts relating to absolutely unparalleled atrocities perpetrated by the women executioners in the camp.

Victims Burned Alive

Heinz Stalbe, of the German Kampfpolizei, stated at a plenary session of the Commission that he himself saw the director of the crematorium, Oberscharfuhrer Mussfeld, tie a Polish woman hand and foot and throw her alive into the furnace. Witnesses Jelinski and Oleh, who worked in the camp, also tell of the burning of living people in the crematorium furnaces.

"They took away a baby from its mother's breast and killed it before her eyes by smashing it against the barrack wall," said witness Atrokhov.

"I myself," said witness Edward Baran, "saw how babies were taken from their mothers and killed before their eyes: they would take a baby by one foot and step on the other, and so tear the baby apart."

Exceptionally odious was the assistant chief of the camp, SS Obersturmfuhrer Tumann. He put groups of inmates on their knees in a row and killed them by blows with a club on the head; he set Alsatian dogs on prisoners. He took a most active part in all executions.

Thus hunger, unbearable labor, torture, torments, humiliation and murder accompanied by unheard-of sadism were employed as a means for the mass extermination of the camp inmates.

4. MASS SHOOTINGS OF WAR PRISONERS AND CIVILIANS

The mass extermination of the civilian population of European countries, including Poland and occupied regions of the USSR, was the policy of Hitlerite Germany, which planned the enslavement and extermination of the leading and active part of the Slav peoples. The fact that camps for the mass extermination of European peoples and war prisoners were set up in enslaved Poland was due to the desire of the Hitlerite ruling clique to camouflage and conceal these crimes as thoroughly as possible. These camps, including the Maidanek Extermination

Camp, were also places for the wholesale extermination of the Jewish population.

One of the methods of exterminating huge masses of people considered undesirable by Hitlerite Germany was by large-scale shootings, which were widely practiced in the Lublin Extermination Camp. The sanguinary history of this camp begins with the mass shootings of Soviet war prisoners, organized by SS troopers in November-December, 1941. Of a party of over 2,000 Soviet war prisoners only 80 persons were left—all the rest were shot, while a few were put

to death by torture and violence. Between January and April, 1942, more parties of Soviet war prisoners were brought to the camp and shot there.

The Polish witness Jan Nedzialek, who worked in the camp as a hired truck driver, testified: "The Germans killed about 5,000 Russian war prisoners in the winter of 1942 in the following manner: they were driven in trucks from the barracks to the pits at the former stone quarry and shot in these pits."

War prisoners from the former Polish army, taken prisoner as far back as 1939

and kept in various camps in Germany, already by 1940 were assembled in the Lublin camp in Lipovaya street, and soon afterwards were brought in groups to the Extermination Camp in Maidanek and there met the same fate: systematic torture, murder, mass shootings, etc. The witness Reznik testified: "In January, 1941 about 4,000 of us Jewish war prisoners were put on trains and sent east. . . . We were brought to Lublin, detrained there, and turned over to SS troopers. Approximately in September or October, 1942 it was decided to leave in Camp No. 7 in Lipovaya street only men who knew some industrial trade and were needed in the town; all the rest, including myself, were sent to the Maidanek Camp. All of us knew too well that the Maidanek Camp meant death." Of this party of 4,000 war prisoners only a few individuals, who escaped while at work outside the camp, remained alive.

Mass Shootings in Forest

In summer, 1943, 300 Soviet officers, of whom two were colonels, four majors and all the rest captains or senior lieutenants, were brought to Maidanek. All of them were shot in the camp. Throughout 1942 mass shootings both of camp inmates and of civilians brought from outside took place. Tadeusz Drabik, a Pole living in the village of Krempec (five miles from Lublin), testified that one day an SS trooper brought 88 truckloads of people of various nationalities and ages, men, women and children, to Krempec Forest. These people were taken out of the trucks, all their belongings and valuables were taken away and then they were shot over pits dug earlier. Throughout 1942, the Germans systematically practiced mass shootings in Krempec Forest.

In spring, 1942, 6,000 persons were brought to the camp at once and shot in the course of two days. On November 3, 1943, 18,400 persons were shot in the camp. Eight thousand four hundred persons were taken from the camp itself, while 10,000 were driven there from the town and from other camps. Three days before this mass shooting huge pits were

dug on the territory of the camp beyond the crematorium.

'Rationalized' Murder

The shooting began in the morning and ended late at night. SS troopers brought out the people—stripped naked—in groups of 50 to 100 to the pits, laid them on the bottom of the pits face downwards and shot them from tommy guns. Another group of live people was then laid upon the dead bodies and shot in the same manner, and so on until the pits were filled. Then the bodies were covered with a thin layer of earth and two or three days later removed and burned in the crematorium or on bonfires.

So as to drown the shrieks of the victims and the sound of the shots, during the shootings the Germans installed powerful loudspeakers near the crematorium and on the territory of the camp and broadcast lively music all day long. This procedure became common talk among the people of Lublin. Hermann Vogel, an SS trooper who worked in the camp, stated: "Besides people brought from the town, 8,400 persons were taken on that day from Lublin Camp and shot. I know this figure exactly, because next day an official report on the extermination of 8,400 persons was presented to the clothing storehouse where I worked, as we had to write off their clothing."

Stanislawski, a Polish prisoner, who worked in the camp office, testified about the shooting on November 3, 1943: "The Germans called this shooting a 'special measure,' and a report under this title was sent to Berlin. The report said literally: 'The difference between the number of prisoners confined in the camp in the morning and in the evening is the result of a special annihilation of 18,000 persons.'"

Residents of the village of Desenta often witnessed shootings during 1944 as well. Between March and July 22 (inclusive) Gestapo men used to bring large numbers of Polish people in trucks and carts; there were men, women and children among them. They were brought to the crematorium, near which they were stripped naked, and then shot in ditches.

"On some days," states the witness

Nedzialek, an eyewitness of these mass shootings of Polish people, "from 200 to 300 and more persons were shot."

Pyre of Children's Bodies

Kanunnikov, a Soviet war prisoner, was an eyewitness to the shooting of 40 women with little children in the first section in July, 1943. Early in the morning the bodies of those who had been shot were brought to the crematorium to be burned. In the latter half of May, 1943, SS troopers brought two tractor-drawn open trucks and one truck containing the bodies of Polish children to Krempec Forest. The witness Gangoi testified: "I vividly remember another instance, which I personally witnessed and today confirm absolutely:

"In the latter half of May, 1943, SS troopers brought in two tractor-drawn open trucks and one truck containing the stark naked bodies of Polish children to Krempec Forest. All the bodies of these children were stacked up in the forest and burned."

Witness Krassowskaya reported to the Commission the shooting of 300 women brought from Greece in April, 1943.

These above instances of mass shootings are only an insignificant part of the facts collected by the Commission. The Board of Medico-Legal Experts, presided over by Professor SZILLING-SINGALIEWICZ, a professor of forensic medicine of Lublin Catholic University, and consisting of Doctor of Medicine RUPNEWESKI, Senior Doctor of Lublin Municipality; the Chief Medico-Legal Expert of the Front, Lieutenant Colonel of Medical Service SZKARABSKY; the Chief Pathological Anatomist of the Front, Doctor of Medical Science, Lieutenant Colonel of Medical Service KRAEWSKI; the Chief Toxicologist of the Front, Colonel of Medical Service BLOKHIN; and Medico-Legal Expert of the First Polish Army Captain GRAFINSKA, established:

Evidence of Exhumation

"During the examination of 467 bodies and 266 skulls, traces of bullet wounds were found in 342 cases, indicating that shooting of the prisoners by firing, chiefly at the back of the head at close range from a firearm of 0.9 caliber, was widely

practiced in the camp."

Thus by numerous statements of eyewitnesses, as well as by a number of other proofs (obtained after subsequent exhu-

mations effected by the medico-legal experts), it has been established that throughout the existence of the Lublin Camp the Germans conducted mass

shootings of men, women and children, persons of various nationalities, some of whom were shot in Krempec Forest, five miles from Maidanek.

5. ASPHYXIATION WITH GAS

One of the methods most widely used for the mass extermination of people in Maidanek Camp was asphyxiation with gas. A board of technico-legal and chemical experts—presided over by the architect engineer of the town of Lublin, KELLES-KRAUSE, and consisting of Major Engineer, Assistant Professor TELANER, Master of Technical Science GRIGORYEV and Master of Technical Science PELKIS, established that cells built on the territory of the camp had been used chiefly for the mass extermination of human beings.

There were six such cells. Some had been used for killing people with "S.O." gas, others for killing with the poisonous chemical substance called "cyclone." On the camp territory there were discovered 535 drums of "Cyclone-B2" preparation and several steel cylinders containing carbon monoxide. Chemical analysis revealed:

"The contents of the drums have been tested for the presence of hydrocyanic (prussic) acid with the reaction of the formation of Berlin ultramarine; benzidine acinate indicator and sodium picrate. Samples were taken from 18 drums, and 48 separate reactions were made. All the tests gave positive results, showing the presence of hydrocyanic acid with the above-mentioned reagents. . . . Thus the examined contents of drums represent 'Cyclone-B' preparation, consisting of specially prepared kieselguhr in a size of up to one centimeter saturated with liquid sterilized hydrocyanic acid. The contents of the drums discovered in the camp in large quantities and labelled 'Cyclone' are identical with 'Cyclone-B'. . . . Samples of gas taken from five steel cylinders have been tested for the presence of carbon monoxide by means of pentaiodide and chloropalladic indicator. In all, 18 reactions have been made with pentaiodide and 10 with chloropalladic paper. All the tests with the above-mentioned reagents gave positive reactions, showing the presence of carbon monoxide."

On the basis of precise calculation used in the technical examination of the gas cells, chemical analysis of the carbon monoxide and "cyclone," the experts have ascertained: "Technical and sanitary-chemical analysis of the gas cells in Maidanek Concentration Camp fully confirms that all these cells, especially cells Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, were destined and used for the large-scale systematic extermination of people by poisoning with general poison gases such as hydrocyanic acid (the 'cyclone' preparation) and carbon monoxide."

Gas Cells Had Room for 1,914

When all the cells equipped for poisoning were in action simultaneously, it was possible to kill 1,914 people at a time. It has been ascertained that in these gas cells were poisoned all who were exhausted by hunger, weakened by unendurable labor and the brutal regime, prisoners unfit for manual labor, all typhus cases and all others whom the Germans thought it necessary to murder.

In the course of investigation there has been collected a large number of instances of mass poisoning of prisoners in the gas cells in Maidanek Camp. The witness Stanislawski stated to the Commission: "In March, 1943, 300 Poles were murdered in a gas cell. On June 20, 1943, 350 people were stripped of their clothes in the first section and were driven naked to the bathhouse and thence to the gas cell, where they were asphyxiated; on October 14, 1943, 270 people were murdered in the same way." Witness Zelent cites the fact of the asphyxiation of 87 Poles with gas on March 15, 1944.

The eyewitness Jan Wolski, a Pole, a former inmate of the camp, gave the following testimony concerning mass poisoning with gas: "In October, 1942 a great number of women and children were brought to the camp. Those in good health were picked out for work, while the exhausted and sick women as well as children

were asphyxiated in a gas cell. In March, 1943, 250 more women and children were murdered with gas in the same cell, and several days later 300 more persons of various nationalities were asphyxiated. On May 16 or 17, 1943, 158 children of two to ten years of age were brought to the camp in trucks. These children were murdered in a gas cell. In June, 1943 the camp administration gathered all sick war prisoners and camp inmates—about 600 in all—and murdered all of them in the gas cells."

At a session of the Commission German SS men who had served in the camp related the following about the large-scale gassing of people: SS Rottenfuehrer Haensche stated that on September 15, 1942, 350 people, including women and children, were killed in a gas cell. SS Oberscharfuehrer Ternes told the Commission about the asphyxiation of 500 people, including many women and children, in the gas cells on October 16, 1943.

The selection of people for asphyxiation was done systematically by the German camp doctors Blanke and Rindfleisch. The same Ternes stated: "On the evening of October 21, 1943, Camp Doctor SS Untersturmfuehrer Rindfleisch told me that on that very day 300 children of three to 10 years of age had been asphyxiated with the 'cyclone' preparation in a gas cell."

Bodies were regularly removed from the gas cells to be burned in the crematorium or on bonfires. The bodies were transported on trucks or on special platforms hauled by tractors. Many eyewitnesses gave evidence on this point. The German prisoner of war SS Rottenfuehrer Theodor Scholen, who had worked in the camp, stated: "I often saw this truck, with a trailer attached, running from the gas cell to the crematorium and back. It took the dead bodies from the gas cell, and then returned empty."

Murder Vans

The Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission has ascertained that at Lublin, besides the gas cells, the Germans used a specially equipped truck, a so-called "murder van." Two witnesses, a former soldier of the Polish army, Stetdiner, and a Soviet prisoner of war, Atrokhov, described in detail this machine in which the German fiends asphyxiated their victims with exhaust gases from the engine.

The discovery on the territory of the

camp of a certain number of bodies with characteristic indications of asphyxiation with carbon monoxide confirms that the Germans used carbon monoxide for murdering the inmates.

The Board of Medico-Legal Experts, in the above-mentioned composition, considers that "extermination of inmates in the concentration camp was effected by various methods. At the early period of existence of the camp the Hitlerites chiefly practiced mass shootings. Later on, along with this, they applied the mass

poisoning of people in specially built and equipped gas cells by means of potent poisons—hydrocyanic acid ('cyclone' preparation) and carbon monoxide."

Thus the testimony of numerous eye-witnesses, given before the medico-legal, technical and chemical experts, establishes that in the course of nearly three years the Hitlerite hangmen in Maidanek Camp systematically asphyxiated with gas hundreds of thousands of absolutely guiltless persons, including old people, women and children.

6. GERMAN HANGMEN TRIED TO COVER TRACES OF THEIR GRAVEST CRIMES

At the Maidanek Camp the Germans at first used to bury the bodies of all the people they shot or tortured to death. Subsequently, especially in 1943 and 1944, they began to burn the bodies, and exhumed the bodies of people who had been shot from the pits where they had been buried. Early in 1942 two furnaces for burning bodies were built on the territory of the camp. As there were a great many bodies, in 1942 the Germans started building a huge new crematorium with five furnaces, which they completed in autumn, 1943. These furnaces burned continuously. The temperature in them could be raised to 1,500 degrees Centigrade. So as to be able to place more bodies in each furnace, the Germans dismembered the bodies, hacking off the extremities.

Furnaces Worked Round the Clock

The technical experts who thoroughly examined the structure of the furnaces came to the following conclusion: "The furnaces were intended for burning bodies and designed to function uninterruptedly. Four bodies with hacked off extremities could be placed in one furnace at a time. It took 15 minutes to burn four bodies, and so with all furnaces working round the clock it was possible to burn 1,920 bodies in 24 hours. Taking into account the great quantity of bones discovered all over the camp (in pits, in vegetable gardens and manure heaps), the Committee of Experts believes that bones were taken out of the furnaces before they could be completely consumed, and that therefore, in fact, many more

than 1,920 bodies were burned in 24 hours."

The Commission has established that over a long period, especially in the past two years, besides burning bodies in the special furnaces the Germans frequently burned bodies on bonfires, both on the territory of the camp and in Krempec Forest. Planks were placed across pieces of railing or automobile chassis, which served as fire bars, and corpses were put on the planks, then another layer of planks and another layer of corpses; from 500 to 1,000 corpses were placed on each bonfire. Inflammable liquid was poured over all, and the pile was set on fire. Every such bonfire burned for two days.

Witnesses Gospodarek and Matysek, from the village of Desenta near Maidanek Camp and the village of Krempec, confirmed that they saw gigantic bonfires on the territory of the camp and in Krempec Forest, on which bodies of people shot or tortured to death by the Germans were burned. On the territory of the Extermination Camp and in Krempec Forest a large number of sites where bodies were burned have been discovered. A truck frame on which bodies have been burned was discovered in a pit on the territory of the camp.

After the exposure of the German atrocities in Katyn Forest the Hitlerites became particularly zealous in exhuming bodies from pits and ditches and burning them. The medico-legal experts have opened 20 such pits, including 18 at Maidanek and two in Krempec Forest. In some pits there have been discovered considerable numbers of bodies which the Germans had no time to burn. For in-

stance, as a result of excavations 42 bodies were discovered in Pit No. 1 near the crematorium, 368 bodies of men, women and children in pit No. 19 in Krempec Forest; considerable numbers of completely decayed bodies and skeletons were discovered in other pits. Immense quantities of bones have been discovered in a number of pits.

Bones Ground in Mill

In order to conceal the gigantic scale of their mass extermination of people the Hitlerite fiends buried the ashes in pits and ditches, scattered them over the large territory of the camp vegetable plots, mixed the ashes with manure and used them as fertilizer. On the territory of the Extermination Camp the Commission has discovered over 1,350 cubic meters of compost consisting of manure, ashes of burned bodies and small human bones. The Hitlerites resorted to grinding small bones in a special "mill." This mill and its design have been described in detail by witness Stetdiner, a Diesel mechanic whom the Germans forced to work at this mill.

The former military commandant of the town of Lublin, Lieutenant General Hilmar Moser of the German army, stated: "I have no reason to keep silent on Hitler's grave crimes or to cover them up, and I consider it my duty to tell the whole truth about the so-called Extermination Camp set up by the Hitlerites near the town of Lublin along the Chelm highway. . . ."

"In the winter of 1943-1944 a great number of those interned were exterminated, including, to my great indignation,

women and children. The number of murdered people ran into hundreds of thousands. The unfortunate people were shot or killed by gas. I was told many times that in the Extermination Camp the doomed people were forced to perform extremely hard work beyond their strength, and were urged on by brutal beatings. I learned with indignation that prisoners in that camp were also tortured before they were killed.

"In the spring of the current year an immense number of bodies were exhumed and burned in specially erected furnaces, evidently in order to cover up traces of the crimes perpetrated on Hitler's order. Gigantic furnaces were built of brick and iron and formed a crema-

torium with a large capacity. The stench of corpses often penetrated the town, at least its eastern part. It was clear, even to less well-informed persons, what was going on in that horrible place. . . . Himmler himself visited the camp when he arrived in Lublin in the summer of 1943, which confirms that its activities were directed by Hitler's government."

1,380,000 Corpses Burned

The Commission established that over 600,000 bodies had been burned in the crematorium furnaces alone, over 300,000 on gigantic bonfires in Krempec Forest, over 80,000 in two old furnaces and not less than 400,000 in the camp itself near the crematorium.

In order to cover up the traces of their crimes the Germans exterminated those of the camp inmates who had worked in the gas cells and crematorium.

The Board of Medico-Legal Experts, in the above-mentioned composition under the direction of Professor of Forensic Medicine Szilling-Singaliewicz, of Lublin Catholic University, as a result of examination of numerous medico-legal findings and material evidence, ascertained:

"In Maidanek Camp, during all four years of its existence, there was carried out a deliberate, carefully considered and consistent system of mass extermination of people, both of those confined in the camp and those brought to the camp to be destroyed."

7. HITLERITES PLUNDERED VALUABLES AND PROPERTY OF CAMP INMATES

The Hitlerites systematically robbed the camp inmates and those tortured to death. Material evidence discovered by the Commission in the camp—a storehouse filled with the footwear of people who had been shot or who had died, a storehouse filled with various articles belonging to the inmates, as well as a storehouse which belonged to the Gestapo and was located in Chopin street in Lublin—proves that all the stolen articles and prisoners' belongings were carefully sorted and sent to Germany.

Enormous storehouses filled with footwear, discovered in the sixth section of the camp, contain footwear with the trademarks of firms in Paris, Vienna, Brussels, Warsaw, Trieste, Prague, Riga, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Kiev, Krakow, Lublin, Lvov and other towns, footwear of various styles, footwear of men, women, adolescents, children of preschool age, soldiers' boots and shoes and peasants' boots. Together with the footwear there was discovered in the storehouse a large quantity of parts of footwear (soles, inner soles, heels), sorted, packed, stacked and prepared for dispatch to Germany.

820,000 Pairs of Footwear

The Commission established that in the Extermination Camp alone there are more than 820,000 pairs of various kinds of children's, men's and women's footwear, which belonged to prisoners who were tortured to death or died. In the huge Gestapo storehouse in Chopin street

in Lublin the Commission discovered large stores of men's, women's and children's underwear, as well as all sorts of articles of personal use, for example, several shelves with balls of knitting wool, thousands of spectacles, tens of thousands of pairs of men's, women's and children's footwear, tens of thousands of men's ties with trademarks of firms in various cities—Paris, Prague, Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam and Brussels—tens of thousands of ladies' belts, some of which had been packed and prepared for dispatch, bathrobes, pajamas, bed-slippers, a large number of children's toys, nipples for babies' feeding bottles, shaving brushes, scissors, knives, and a huge quantity of other household articles.

A large number of suitcases which had belonged to Soviet citizens, Poles, French, Czechs, Belgians, Dutch, Greeks, Croats, Italians, Norwegians, Danes and Jews of various countries were also discovered there.

Instructions to Camp Commandants

In this storehouse the Commission discovered part of the office files, which show that the storehouse in Chopin street had been a base where articles were sorted and made ready for dispatch to Germany. Concerning the dispatch of articles which had belonged to persons shot in the camp there existed the following special instructions: "SS—Central Commissary Administration. Chief of Administration

D-concentration camps. D—1 AC: 14 DZ. Oranienburg, July 11, 1942. To all commandants of concentration camps. According to a statement of the Central Administration of State Security, packages of clothing were sent from concentration camps chiefly to the Gestapo Administration in Bruenn, and on several occasions these articles had bullet holes in them or were stained with blood. Some of these packages were damaged, and thus outsiders were able to learn what the packages contained. Insofar as the Central Administration of State Security will shortly issue regulations concerning the disposal of articles left after the death of prisoners, immediately discontinue sending articles pending final clarification of the question of the disposal of articles left after the execution of prisoners. (Signed) Glicks, SS Brigade Commander and Major General of SS troops."

The testimony of captured SS troopers who formerly worked in the Extermination Camp reveals that it was a matter of routine for the personal belongings and property of prisoners to be plundered, and for various officials to use the property of persons tortured to death and shot. The German war prisoner Rottenfuehrer SS trooper Vogel stated at a plenary session of the Commission: "I was assistant chief of the clothing storehouse at Maidanek Camp. The clothing and footwear of exterminated prisoners were sorted there, and the best articles

were sent to Germany. I myself in 1944 dispatched over 18 truckloads of clothing and footwear to Germany. I cannot say exactly how much footwear and clothing was sent away, but I affirm that there was a very large quantity. What I dispatched was only part of what was sent to Germany. Everything was sent to the address: Platzensee — Berlin, Straf-Anstalt."

War prisoner SS Obersturmfuehrer Ternes, a German army officer, who was financial inspector of the camp, testified: "I personally know that money and valuables taken from prisoners were sent to Berlin. Gold taken from prisoners was sent to Berlin by weight. All this loot was a source of income for the German state. A great amount of gold and valuables was sent to Berlin. I know all this because I worked in the financial inspection in this camp. I wish to emphasize that large amounts of money and valuables were not registered at all, as they were stolen by the Germans who took them from the prisoners."

FINDINGS OF COMMISSION

Thus the plundering of persons tortured to death in Maidanek Camp, as well as in other camps, was a definite source of income for Hitlerite plunderers of various ranks. On the basis of documentary material, the interrogation of witnesses of German crimes in the town of Lublin, in Maidanek Concentration Camp, in Lublin prison and in Krempec Forest, as well as on the basis of abundant material evidence discovered by the Commission and the findings of the medico-legal, technical and chemical experts, the Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission has established:

1. The Maidanek Concentration Camp, which the Germans called "Vernichtungslager," i.e., Extermination Camp, was a place for the mass extermination of Soviet war prisoners, war prisoners from the former Polish army and civilians from various countries of Europe occupied by Hitlerite Germany, as well as temporarily occupied regions of Poland and the USSR.

2. At Maidanek, the inmates were subjected to an atrocious regime. Methods of mass extermination of inmates were single and mass shootings and murders,

mass and single killings in gas cells, hanging, torture, violence and organized starvation. In this camp SS and Gestapo hangmen engaged in the mass extermination of Poles, French, Dutch, Italians, Serbs, Croats and persons of other nationalities, as well as of Soviet war prisoners and war prisoners from the former Polish army—both persons confined in this camp and others specially brought to this camp from other places to be destroyed.

3. In order to cover up the traces of their criminal activities, the Hitlerite hangmen devised a whole system of measures, such as burning the bodies of prisoners on huge bonfires in Krempec Forest and in the camp, burning in a specially constructed crematorium, grinding of small bones, scattering ashes in the fields and vegetable gardens belonging to the Hitlerite administration of the camp, preparation of huge piles of fertilizer consisting of human ashes mixed with manure. The Hitlerite bandits, as a matter of routine, robbed the people they had tortured to death, so enriching rank and file SS troopers and Gestapo men as well as those at the top of the gang. Robbery of the inmates of this camp was a source of considerable income for the Hitlerite state.

The Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission has established that in the four years' existence of the Maidanek Camp the Hitlerite hangmen, on the direct orders of their criminal government, exterminated by mass shootings and mass murder in gas cells about 1,500,000 persons—Soviet war prisoners, war prisoners from the former Polish army, persons of various nationalities: Poles, French, Italians, Belgians, Dutch, Czechs, Serbs, Greeks, Croats and a huge number of Jews.

NAMES OF THE CRIMINALS

The Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission for the Investigation of German Atrocities in Lublin has established that the main responsibility for these crimes is borne by the Hitlerite government, the superhangman Himmler and their SS and SD henchmen on the territory of Lublin province.

The main executors of these atrocities were: Obergruppenfuehrer Globot-schnik, leader of SS and SD in Lublin;

ex-governor of Lublin province Wender; leader of SS and SD in Lublin, Sturmbannfuehrer Dominnik; chief of war prisoners camps in Poland, Sturmbannfuehrer Liski; camp chiefs Standartenfuehrer Koch and Obersturmfuehrer Kegel, Assistant Camp Commandant Hauptsturmfuehrer Meltzer, Hauptsturmfuehrer Kloppmann, Obersturmfuehrer Tumann, Oberscharfuehrer Mussfeld, Oberscharfuehrer Kostial, camp doctors Hauptscharfuehrer Erich Gruen, Hauptscharfuehrer Rindfleisch, Hauptsturmfuehrer Blanke, chief of the crematorium Untersturmfuehrer Wende and all other persons who acted as hangmen and are guilty of exterminating guiltless people.

(Signed)

Chairman of the Polish-Soviet Extraordinary Commission, Vice-President of the Polish National Liberation Committee, WITOS;

Assistant Chairman of the Commission KUDRYAVTSEV (USSR);

Members of the Commission: Member of the Polish National Liberation Committee SOMMERSTEIN, Professor GRASHCHENKOV (USSR), Professor PROZOROVSKY (USSR), Prelate of Lublin Catholic Cathedral the Priest Doctor KRUSZINSKI, President of the Lublin Red Cross CHRISTIANS, Professor of Lublin Catholic University BIALKOWSKI, Professor of Lublin University POPLAWSKI, Attorney of Lublin Court of Appeal BALCEZAK, President of Lublin District Court SZCZEPANSKI.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 112

Washington, D. C., October 20, 1944



Liberation of Riga ^{ww II}

By *Izvestia* Correspondent A. Sofronov

Perhaps to no other city in the Baltic area did the Germans attach so much importance as to Riga. Here was their most powerful stronghold on the Northern Front sector. According to the plan of the Hitlerites, Riga was to tie up large Soviet forces for a long time. In addition to the divisions previously concentrated in the Baltic area, the Germans brought up fresh troops by sea and land during recent weeks. They made desperate attempts to stem the Soviet offensive.

Toward the end of August and the beginning of September the Germans massed large tank forces at several sectors and

launched a counter-offensive southwest and west of Jelgava. But Soviet troops foiled all the enemy's attempts to breach the front, and inflicted irreparable losses on the Germans. Some 500 enemy tanks were damaged or destroyed in a few days. The fame of the heroes who repelled the fierce enemy onslaught spread throughout the front. The German counter-offensive was smashed.

The Germans had hoped to avert the danger that threatened them in the Riga area and at the same time to make secure the approaches to East Prussia. But it turned out the other way. The blows of

Soviet troops of the Second and Third Baltic Fronts at German defenses in the Riga area coincided with the thrust of troops of the First Baltic Front at the borders of East Prussia.

The troops of Generals Romanovsky, Belov and Zakhvatayev persistently forged ahead. The front around Riga steadily narrowed. Our troops formed an arc enveloping the Germans. They slashed the enemy forces and encircled separate groups of them. Remnants of routed enemy units wandered in the forests. Ragged and dishevelled Germans kept coming out of the woods with hands raised.



Theater of Opera and Ballet in Riga, capital of the Latvian SSR—before the German invasion

The German command continued to rush up reinforcements. Fresh troops hastily detained in Riga and were immediately thrown into battle. The Hitlerites had strict orders not to retreat; violation was punished with shooting.

Not so long ago Colonel Ivanovich's tankmen sent their commander a symbolic gift of several bottles of water from the Gulf of Riga. It was a pledge that the tankmen cooperating with the infantry would soon breach the last lines of the Germans and enter Riga. A large part in the liberation of Riga was played by the tank formations of Generals Kolosov, Shaposhnikov and Sakhno. In the face of opposition they pushed ahead through the forests, across marshes, over anti-tank ditches. They could be seen at little towns on the banks of the Western Dvina, in forest lanes cleared overnight, and lastly, in the suburbs of Riga.

Our Air Force also splendidly supported the drive on Riga. On one occasion an Air General was heard talking over

the telephone with an infantry commander who informed him of the action of his airmen. At the end of the conversation the Air General said: "Do you need more planes? Let us know the targets and I'll send 300, 400, 500 planes."

Step by step our troops fought their way through the deeply-echeloned German defenses. Every stream, every ravine, every fold in the terrain, had been fortified by the enemy. The spearheads of our offensive advanced on Riga from several sides. Brilliant coordination of all arms enabled the Soviet Command to mass forces at the main directions. The Germans were kept guessing all the time; they never knew where the next blow would fall.

By a swift thrust the Germans were sent flying across the Gauja River. They retreated in such haste they did not even manage to blow up the bridges behind them. Our troops between the Maza Jugla River and the Western Dvina approached the suburbs of Riga. The men under the

command of Heroes of the Soviet Union Malkov and Gorishny, marching in full kit, waded waist-deep through the ice-cold waters of the Maza Jugla. Sappers soon laid a bridge for the tanks.

On October 13 the troops of the Third Baltic Front, with the direct cooperation of the troops of the Second Baltic Front, took the capital of the Latvian SSR by storm.

* * *

What our troops beheld in Riga, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, filled their hearts with anger. In City Hall Square the Germans had looted and then blown up the old Riga Library; they had set fire to the post office, wrecked the health resorts on the seashore and blown up the grain elevator. In the last days they had invaded homes and pillaged everything of value. They had forcibly deported the citizens of Riga and killed hundreds of innocent civilians. The Latvian people will never forget the bloody German rule.

Third Session of Supreme Soviet of Latvian SSR

The third session of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR (since its first convocation) was recently held in Daugavpils. In his opening speech Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Bredis moved that the audience rise to its feet in honor of the memory of the 12 Deputies who perished on the fronts of the Patriotic War or were tortured to death by the fascists.

Over 500,000 war prisoners and civilians were killed or tortured to death in Daugavpils and its suburbs, in Rezekne, Ludza, the Salaspils concentration camp and the Riga suburbs. In addition the Germans deported to slavery about 40 per cent of the Latvian people.

All Latvian towns, including Rezekne, Daugavpils and Jelgava, have been demolished. All railway stations and many schools, hospitals and power stations were burned down.

Deputy Kalnberzin spoke on the first item of the agenda—elimination of the consequences of German occupation in Latvian agriculture. The fascists inflicted tremendous damage to the agriculture of

the Republic, and carried away to Germany about 60 per cent of the sheep.

One-fourth of the farm buildings have been razed to the ground. The Germans confiscated the land, cattle and crops from the peasants; they converted the Latvians into farmhands and forced them to work for the landowners. Now the people are receiving land again. Every farmstead is granted a loan of 10,000 rubles, repayable in seven years. The session unanimously adopted a law on the restoration to peasants of land confiscated by the German invaders.

The President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian Republic, Deputy Kirchenstein, spoke on the liberation of Soviet Latvia and the further tasks of the Latvian people in the struggle against the Germans. In a resolution on his report, which was unanimously adopted, the session approved the Government's policy.

Following this the session heard a report by Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Republic, Deputy

Lacis, on the formation of the Union-Republican People's Commissariats of Defense and of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, and passed the appropriate laws.

The session also approved the decrees of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Latvia, which had been promulgated between sessions, and amendments to certain articles of the Latvian Constitution.

Russian Clergy Decorated

Metropolitan Nikolai and a group of Moscow and Tula clergymen of the Russian Orthodox Church have been awarded "Defense of Moscow" medals by the Moscow Soviet, on behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. In the grimmest days of the Patriotic War the clergymen of these cities displayed personal valor in air-raid defense work and the construction of fortifications, and also helped to collect money for armaments and gifts for the Red Army.

PETSAMO FREED

By Colonel B. Pavlov

During the last three years the Germans have made strenuous efforts to strengthen their defenses in the Arctic. They built formidable defenses on the heights, surrounded them with a dense network of wire fences and minefields, and erected works rendering the heights inaccessible.

This feverish activity of the German Jaegers, who constituted the backbone of the notorious 20th Lapland Army, was not fortuitous. Fear of the Russians gave them no peace; they still remembered the lesson the Red Army taught them in the autumn of 1941. In those grim days for our country, when the brutal enemy marched along the Smolensk road, heading full speed for Moscow, the Nazi cutthroats—"heroes" of Narvik—already looked forward to victory over the Soviet units defending our Arctic regions.

The then commander-in-chief of the 20th Lapland Army, General Dietl, hastened to announce in September, 1941, that before winter set in the Jaegers would march victoriously through the streets of Murmansk, capital of the Soviet Arctic.

Their hopes and ambitions were in vain. Soviet soldiers in the North checked the advance of Hitler's Jaegers far from Murmansk—and not only checked it, but left many Germans to rot in the hills and swamps. The Germans called the valley on the Western Litsa, where they suffered such a crushing defeat in the autumn of 1941, the "valley of death." And no wonder, for they lost nearly 12,000 men there, and the survivors never saw Murmansk.

General Dietl has since been wiped off the list by the well-aimed bullet of a Soviet sniper, and many other veterans and "heroes" of Narvik have met a similar end.

After this defeat the 20th Lapland Army prepared for defense. The Germans built strongpoints on all favorable tactical heights, each of which was prepared for all-round defense, for coordination with neighboring strongpoints and, in case of an emergency, for independent resistance. The German defense line stretched for dozens of kilometers, and the approaches to it were covered by numerous firing

points. Flanking firing points posted on mountain spurs were to have secured the Germans from any surprise action, and a complicated system of machine-gun and Tommy-gun fire (disposed step-like, vertically and horizontally, on slopes facing Soviet positions) was to have served as an adequate shield.

Nature itself created insurmountable barriers on the path to the enemy fortifications: mountain heights, muddy swamps, endless stretches of tundra with no roads, and rain and snow. This theater of military operations, it must be remembered, is located many dozens of kilometers beyond the Arctic Circle.

* * *

A few days ago the silence of early morning was broken by the roar of gunfire. Soviet artillery—dozens of guns for every kilometer—began the task of reducing the enemy fortifications. Tons of deadly metal were discharged on the German positions. After the artillery, the Air Force began its pounding. For nearly three hours the German defense line was subjected to terrific bombardment. No sooner had the gunners moved their fire deeper into the enemy defenses than the Soviet infantry rose to the attack.

A fierce frontal attack was ably combined with an outflanking maneuver. A number of units penetrated to the rear of the enemy strongpoints, delivering surprise attacks at their weakest points, while other units advanced to the front.

This operation, launched on a comparatively narrow sector, was soon developed in scope and range. With every passing hour the situation for the enemy became more critical. The garrisons of his first-line strongpoints were gradually worn down and surrounded. The Germans resisted fiercely, utilizing all their fire power to stall the advance, but the issue of the



SOVIET FAR NORTH—Bombs brought by reindeer sleigh are loaded into planes

battle was already predetermined. Many Soviet units had in the first few hours of the engagement penetrated west of the strongpoints, cutting the enemy's road of retreat and annihilating his garrisons.

The fierce enemy fire was not the only obstacle lying in the path of the Soviet infantrymen. Arctic cold, snow-covered cliffs and muddy swamps also had to be overcome. In three days of fighting Soviet troops blasted the strong enemy defense line and captured three very important positions.

The offensive spirit of the Soviet fighters was so great that not even the cold night, rain or wind could stop them.

Developing the offensive, the troops of the Karelian Front, supported by ships and landing parties of the Northern Fleet, captured Petsamo, a very important naval base and a strong enemy point of resistance in the North.

Flier's Record

A 23-year-old flier, Captain of the Guards Ivan Tsapov, Hero of the Soviet Union, has a record of 600 operational flights, over 200 air battles and strafing flights, and 23 destroyed enemy planes. In addition to the Gold Star of Hero of the Soviet Union, Tsapov wears the Order of Lenin, three Orders of the Red Banner and the Order of Alexander Nevsky.

GERMANY LOSES THE BALKANS

By Y. Viktorov

The Balkans have dropped out of the Germans' new order. They have ceased to be a military base and a source of food and strategic materials for Hitler Germany, and no longer will furnish cannon fodder for Hitler's hordes. The Balkan States are again acquiring their political independence.

Such are a few of the results of the defeats administered to Hitler Germany by the Red Army in the Balkans.

The Balkans have long enjoyed the reputation of being the powder magazine of Europe. The Germans had no little hand in creating and perpetuating this reputation. It was their constant policy, in pursuit of their own imperialist aims, to incite the Balkan nations one against another and to sow dissension and conflict among them.

The Germans obstinately strove to strengthen their influence in the Balkans, upon which they always set the highest importance. To them the Balkans were not only a nearby source of raw materials, food and manpower, but also an important base which was later to play one of the leading parts in the schemes of aggrandizement of the German-fascist bandits.

The celebrated Berlin-Bagdad railway, the project to which Wilhelm Hohenzollern II devoted so much energy and attention, was to pass through the Balkans. The German imperialists looked upon the Balkans as the road to the Near East, to Iraq and Iran and to far India, and as a springboard for the leap into Africa. Were not Rommel's reserves stationed in Greece and Crete?

And it goes without saying that the Balkans were regarded and were actually utilized by the Germans as the initial point for the attacks upon the southern regions of the USSR. The Balkans were an integral factor in the notorious *Drang nach Osten* policy which, as its authors conceived it, was to lead to the establishment of the domination of German imperialism over the whole world.

The Germans enmeshed the Balkans in a web of intrigue. They incited the Bulgarians against the Greeks; they set the Rumanians at loggerheads with the

Hungarians, and promising Transylvania first to one then to the other, they supported and created fascist organizations in the Balkans and inundated these countries with their agents. They penetrated to the Balkans economically as well as politically.

Their growing economic influence strengthened the political influence of the Germans in the Balkans. The voice of the mass of the people, who were anti-German and anti-fascist and in favor of friendship with the Soviet Union, was suppressed by the arbitrary measures of Hitler's puppets.

The defeat of Poland and then of France, Belgium and Holland, and the seizure of nearly the whole of Western Europe, opened the road to the Balkans for Hitler. His armored divisions crushed Yugoslavia and Greece, notwithstanding their heroic resistance. Hitler proceeded to embody the Balkans in the "new order," either by occupation of some of the countries or by affiliation of others to his predatory bloc.

Rumanian oil, wheat, corn and timber; Bulgarian tobacco, cotton and grain—in short, all raw materials of the Balkans flowed into Germany in a broad stream.

Hitler's hordes were augmented by scores of divisions of the satellite countries. Labor power was pumped out of the Balkans for Germany. The Balkans came completely under the control of the German military command, which, relying on the betrayers of national interests, did whatever it saw fit and ruthlessly suppressed every manifestation of dissatisfaction with the fascist regime on the part of the people.

But as the Red Army advanced westward and the operations of the Allies developed in Italy, the ground began to burn under the feet of the Germans. The Balkans became a "powder magazine"—this time for the Germans.

Tito's operations, the Greek partisans and the Bulgarian patriots all served as a reminder to the Germans that their rule was coming to an end. And, sure enough, it did.

Now a stop has been put to all this. A whole period in history has come to

an end. German domination in the Balkans is no more, and will never be revived. The threat to the southern regions of the Soviet Union has been removed; so has the threat to Egypt and the Near East. The southern flank of Germany's defense has been destroyed. The Balkan peoples have ceased to be Hitler's slaves. All this was effected by the mighty blows of the Red Army, by its brilliant victories.

The regimes of Antonescu, Philoff and their ilk have collapsed. The Balkan peoples are extending the hand of friendship to one another. For the first time in 30 years Bulgaria and Yugoslavia have exchanged a message of friendship. Friendly ties between the Slav peoples are strengthening. Forgetting the enmity fostered by the Germans, the Balkan peoples are proceeding to take an active part in the fight against Hitler.

This opens to them a broad road to a bright future, when the Balkans will cease to be the powder magazine of Europe. At the same time, the German debacle in the Balkans will considerably accelerate the hour of final defeat of Hitlerism, the enemy of all freedom-loving mankind. This is being strikingly borne out by events at the front.

'Golovaty I' Retires

The plane bought 18 months ago by Tambov collective farmer Ferapont Golovaty for the Red Army Air Force is worn out, though still intact. Golovaty has given another 100,000 rubles from his personal savings to buy a new one for Major Yeremin, the pilot, and the original machine will be turned over to a museum. A few days ago Yeremin flew from the front to his parents' home, where he met Golovaty, and together they will travel to an aircraft factory to receive the plane. While piloting the "Golovaty I," Yeremin was decorated with the "Defense of Stalingrad" Medal, the Order of Lenin and the Order of the Red Banner. During the Crimean campaign alone he flew 32 combat sorties.

SOVIET FINANCES

By Professor Mikhail Bogolepov

The structure of the finances of the USSR naturally reflects the major distinguishing features of the Soviet economic system; its functions reflect the basic aims and objects of the Soviet State. These distinguishing features are so considerable that although the financial terminology employed is often the same, a superficial comparison of the finances of the USSR with that of other countries might easily lead to serious misunderstandings.

One might cite an example which rather strikingly illustrates the difference between the finances of the USSR and other countries. In other countries the State budget absorbs 50 or 60 per cent of the national income only in time of supreme national effort, when the country is engaged in a big war, for example. In order to attain such a record absorption of the national income, the country in question has to increase taxation considerably and to float loans which virtually exhaust the capital market.

The Soviet budget, on the other hand, even in peacetime normally absorbs a good half of the national income. Moreover, it borrows not from the capital market, which is non-existent in the USSR, but from the citizens in general, whose savings from their earnings in field, factory and workshop, although modest individually, in the aggregate total a quite considerable sum.

However, while the Soviet budget annually absorbs roughly half of the national income, the direct revenue from general taxation and loans does not exceed 10 per cent of the total. Consequently, 90 per cent of the budget revenues were derived from another source. This source is mainly the State-owned industries, State farms and machine and tractor stations, State trade and transport and other forms of socialist enterprise.

Inasmuch as the implements and means of production in the USSR may not be privately owned, it will be clear how vast is the direct economic basis of Soviet finances.

Earnings of the State-owned enterprises come under the disposal of the State finances. On the eve of the war 90 per

cent of these earnings passed directly into the budget, while the remaining 10 per cent were left at the disposal of various branches of industry whose finances, in their turn, constitute an organic part of the general State finances.

As to cooperative bodies, only a small part of their earnings is extracted for State revenue, as the policy is to allow the greater bulk of these earnings to be reinvested by the cooperatives in their own enterprises, collective farms, producing societies, etc.

From this it will be seen that funds which in other countries go to replenish the loan market, in the USSR constitute current revenue of the State. Balances to the account of State enterprises with banks, all of which are also State-owned, run into billions of rubles, but they do not and cannot include any free funds of enterprises derived from their earnings, except for their daily cash balances. Enterprises are obliged to conduct all their accounts with their clients and budget through the State bank, which for this purpose has thousands of branches all over the country. The bank also handles the revenue and expenditure budget.

* * *

Earnings of State enterprises are defined as the difference between the cost of production of their products (factory cost) and the prices which are fixed by the Government. It will therefore be clear that the financial policy of the State, of whose revenues the earnings of State enterprises comprise an overwhelming part, is organically bound up with the Government's price policy.

In the interests of stability of currency and of economic relations generally, sales prices are kept firm and as a rule are rarely changed. However, the annual national economic plan always provides for a definite reduction in the cost of production. This is made possible by a steady rise in the productivity of labor, due in its turn to continuous improvement of production technique, training of skilled workers, and traditional socialist competition among the working bodies of the factory, mine, collective farm, etc.

The manager of every enterprise has a special fund at his disposal for the encouragement and reward of achievements in socialist competition.

Reduction in the cost of production results annually in an immense increase in financial revenue. In time the reduced production costs lead to a reduction in sale prices, particularly of goods intended for industrial use, which in the end is tantamount to a reduction of State investments in industry. The improved efficiency of the defense industries in wartime has made it possible to considerably lower the price of armaments and thus to reduce the war expenditure.

The fact that all earnings of the national economy pass into the State budget largely predetermines the character of State expenditure. In fact, the major part of budget expenditures go to financing the national economy, and is an item varying from 50 to 65 per cent of the total expenditure from year to year. These funds are employed to increase the basic and working capital, to build new enterprises and reconstruct old ones, etc.

The remaining part of the budget expenditure goes to social and cultural needs, administration and defense.

Expenditure for social and cultural measures, schools, hospitals, social security, health resorts, child welfare institutions, etc., exceeds the budget revenue derived from the general public in the shape of taxation and loans. For example, in 1940 the expenditure for social and cultural measures totaled 40,900 million rubles, while revenue from general taxation and loans totaled only 19,500 million rubles. The difference is covered by revenue derived from State enterprises.

* * *

Another distinguishing feature of the Soviet budget should be noted. While called the budget of the USSR, it represents the consolidated budget of the Union, as such, of the 16 constituent Republics and of the local government bodies (Soviets). Each of these budgets is independent and is indorsed by the government body concerned. If any of

these budgets, however, cannot be balanced, it does not mean that the item of expenditure considered necessary under the government national economic plan is excluded from it. In such cases the necessary funds are provided out of the budget of the Union.

It is this policy that has made possible the steady economic and cultural development of the formerly backward eastern and southeastern regions of the country. When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union and industrial enterprises had to evacuate from the western and central parts of the country, this policy compensated the Soviet people a hundredfold.

* * *

War has not introduced any substantial changes in the structure of Soviet finances and on its expenditure side in particular. The earnings of State enterprises continue to comprise the bulk of State revenues. But the growing need for funds for the conduct of the war, and the financial damage caused by enemy occupation of extensive and economically important regions, have made it necessary to seek additional sources of revenue.

One of these sources was increased productivity of labor and reduced cost of the production of war goods. This has made it possible to lower the prices of munitions, which has affected an economy during the war of roughly 35,000 million rubles, and to increase the earnings

of the war industry and hence the contributions to the budget.

Another source was mobilization through the credit system of the free resources of the national economy, which yielded over 20,000 million rubles. The third source was contributions from the public, and especially voluntary contributions, expressive of the ardent patriotism of the broad mass of the people. This includes subscriptions to war loans, which in 1944 reached 28,000 million rubles, subscribed by some 50,000,000 citizens, and voluntary contributions to the Defense Fund and the Red Army Fund, which in 1942-43 exceeded 13,000 million rubles.

The war with Germany began under unfavorable conditions for the Soviet Union, and this could not but affect the State's finances. The budget revenue of 1940 amounted to 180,200 million rubles. The budget of 1941 was planned for 216,800 rubles, but because of the war yielded only 191,400 million rubles. The most unfavorable year was 1942, when the budget dropped to 182,800 million rubles.

After that the revenue showed a rapid increase: 1943—209,700 million rubles, interim report; 1944—249,600 million rubles planned.

The dynamics of war expenditure from year to year, including only operational expenditure, was as follows: 1941—56,000 million rubles; 1942—108,400 million rubles; 1943—124,700 million rubles; 1944—128,400 million rubles.

Figures show that after providing for war expenditure a considerable sum was still left over for financing the national economy and social and cultural measures. Naturally, however, expenditure for defense, which was formerly only the third largest item in budget expenditure, has during the war come to occupy first place.

The chief items of expenditure estimated for 1944 are as follows: war—128,400 million rubles; social and cultural measures—51,400 million rubles; financing of national economy—44,700 million rubles.

Expenditure for financing the national economy is naturally directed during wartime mainly to those branches of enterprise which serve the Armed Forces. This item, however, excludes 16 billion rubles for the rehabilitation of towns and villages destroyed by the enemy. The damage done our country by the Nazi vandals is so extensive that this item of expenditure will undoubtedly increase in subsequent years.

Another feature of the Soviet wartime budget is the large assignment for cultural purposes.

The heroic Russian people are vanquishing their dangerous and unscrupulous enemy thanks to the strength of their industry and culture. It is to the fostering of industry and culture that Soviet finances have been directing the financial resources of the country for 27 years.

STUDIES BEGIN IN SOVIET SCHOOLS

Classes began on October 2 in the higher educational institutes and the senior grades of secondary schools throughout the USSR. Over 1,500 students were enrolled at Moscow State University. Hundreds of new students filled the buildings of the Moscow Bauman Engineering School. The newly-built physics and chemistry departments of the Molotov Energetics Institute have also opened.

About 2,400 youths and girls began their studies in 12 departments of the Leningrad State University. Sessions also commenced in two new Departments, Law and Oriental Studies.

In Kuibyshev, 8,700 students entered institutes, technical schools and senior grades of secondary schools. In Kazan, one of the country's oldest universities, which now bears the name of Lenin, opened its doors for the 140th time. A course in the Tatar language and literature has been added this year in the Department of History and Philology.

In the Ukraine, 113 institutes have resumed work, with an enrollment of over 80,000 students, 50 per cent of whom are freshmen. Many of the new students have taken part in the Patriotic War.

Over 100,000 children filled the classrooms of the liberated towns and villages

of Latvia, where 700 Latvian and Russian schools have been restored.

Sixty-one high schools, 100 secondary schools and 2,000 elementary schools have opened in the liberated districts of Lithuania.

Twenty-four institutes and 65 technical schools have been restored in the Byelorussian Republic. The Minsk Normal School has enrolled over 700 youth. Lower schools have also reopened, and some 600,000 textbooks in Byelorussian, Russian and Polish, as well as numerous visual teaching aids, have been supplied to the children.

75th BIRTHDAY OF VLADIMIR KOMAROV

On October 14 Soviet scientists and their colleagues in other fields celebrated the 75th birthday of the President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Vladimir Komarov, and the 50th anniversary of his activities as scientist and educator.

Komarov, whom Pavlov described in 1920 as the most distinguished research worker in his chosen sphere, is also Chairman of the Council for Study of the Production Potentialities of the USSR, of the Soviet Botanical Society and of the All-Russian Society for the Conservation of Natural Resources. He heads the Department of Geography in the Botanical Institute of the Academy of Sciences, and the Botanical Department of Leningrad University.

In addition, he is editor of leading Soviet periodicals on biology and author of more than 200 published works, including a number of lengthy monographs, textbooks and other material relating to botany.

Komarov has organized, directed and participated in nine large research expeditions to Central Asia, the Far East and Kamchatka. Eastern Asia is famed as one of the richest areas in the world in its diversity of botanical species. Both Arctic and sub-tropical flora are met with in this vast territory, which explains why at the beginning of his career Komarov chose it as a field for research. He has become the world's leading authority on the flora of Asia and particularly of the Far East. More than 50 plant species have been named for him.

The Flora of Manchuria, published in three volumes, 1901-07, was Komarov's first major work. It contains a description of 1,682 species found in the Soviet Far East and in Manchuria, of which 84 were described for the first time. A second large work is *An Introduction to the Flora of China and Mongolia*, published in 1908. In this investigation the author applied every known scientific method in a brilliant study of the problems of evolution. His third great contribution is the *Flora of Kamchatka Peninsula*, in three volumes, 1927-31, which describe 825 species of plants—74 for the first time. This work is a basic author-



Academician V. Komarov

ity in all questions in this field relating to Kamchatka.

For his exceptionally interesting *Theory of Species*, published in 1939, Komarov received the Stalin Prize. Several generations of research workers have been nurtured on his *Origin of Plants* and *Origin of Cultivated Plants*. In the past 25 years he has developed and enriched Darwin's theory.

Komarov has also published a description of his travels in Kamchatka and a number of essays on the botany and geography of the Far East. Publication of the many-volumed *Flora of the USSR* was begun in 1934 under his direct supervision.

Before 1917 Komarov's revolutionary ideas had brought him into disfavor with the Tsarist government, which did all in its power to hamper his scientific work. His activities as a scientist and teacher attained full scope only after the October Revolution.

In 1920 Komarov was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences; in 1930 he became Vice President, and in 1936—on the death of President Karpinsky—he was elected President. He is a member of the National Geographic Society of the United States and has been a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences since 1938. He is an impassioned advocate of a science free of all scholastics.

Despite his age, Komarov is a man

of indefatigable energy and vitality. In addition to his scientific work, he serves as a Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, member of the Leningrad City Soviet, and member of the Far East Territorial Executive Committee. His activity in public affairs in the past several years has been as intensive as his scientific work.

In 1941, when the armies of Nazi Germany and its satellites invaded Soviet territory, Komarov appealed to all progressive scientists of the world to unite in the struggle against Hitlerism. During the war he has tirelessly directed all efforts toward organizing the struggle against German fascism, mortal enemy of humanity.

Working in Sverdlovsk since 1941, Komarov organized a commission for mobilizing the resources of the Urals, West Siberia and Kazakhstan for the war needs. He enlisted the aid of the country's leading scientists and so successful was the work of the commission that in 1942 it was honored with a Stalin Prize.

The Soviet Government has shown its recognition of Komarov's exceptional services to science by conferring upon him the country's highest decoration, the Order of Lenin.

New Book on Tank Warfare

A booklet, "Tank Troops in Modern War," which draws extensively from recent experience on the Soviet front, is being issued in the USSR. The booklet reveals that the blitzkrieg plan of the German command ignored artillery and put its main hope, after the air force, in tanks. This theory was exploded on the Soviet front. In the first year of war against the USSR the Germans lost 24,000 tanks, in the second year 18,400. Losses in the summer campaign of 1943 amounted to 17,700 tanks.

The author emphasizes that during this war the output of the Soviet tank industry surpassed not only the tank industry of Germany, but the industry of all European countries occupied by the Germans as well. In this period tank production in the USSR has increased by several times.

Notes from Front and Rear

Major Nikolai F. Ostrogorsky, fighting with the First Baltic Army, has been decorated with the Silver Star by the United States Government. The 29-year-old Major is the son of a Ukrainian worker. Formerly foreman in a machine-building factory, he left this work in 1939 to enter the Red Army Regimental School. Major Ostrogorsky, whose battalion has never known defeat, has also received the Order of Alexander Nevsky and the Order of the Patriotic War, First Class.

★

The Lithuanian railway has won the Challenge Banner of the State Defense Committee for exemplary work during the month of August.

★

A special exhibit devoted to the work of the famous Russian flier, P. Nesterov, is being held in the Moscow House of Aviation. On September 9, 1913, Nesterov, a master of the technique of piloting, was the first to "loop the loop." The Kiev Aeronautics Society awarded him a gold medal.

A year later, on the same date, Captain Nesterov executed the first "ramming" operation. Three enemy planes appeared over the Russian positions and one attempted to set fire to the hangars. Nesterov took off, put the well-known Austrian flier Rosenthal to flight, pursued him and rammed his machine. This was the first air battle in history. Nesterov destroyed the enemy, but at the cost of his own life.

★

Mountaineers of Daghestan, who collected over four million rubles for the restoration of heroic Sevastopol, are also sending gifts of food to the population.

★

The Teacher's Newspaper, organ of Soviet schoolteachers, recently celebrated its 20th birthday. In these years the paper has played an important role in improving educational and teaching methods.

Leningrad citizens are restoring clubs, houses and palaces of culture destroyed by enemy shells and bombs. Before the war there were 72 such institutions in the city, of which 32 have been restored. Houses of culture belonging to factories and textile mills have been rebuilt by the workers.

★

In Tallinn, Estonian SSR, the Union tannery works has resumed production. The Germans attempted to carry away the equipment of the tannery, but were prevented by the workers.

★

The State Jewish Theater began its new season in Moscow on October 3 with the premiere of THE CAPRICIOUS BRIDE.

★

One of the largest textile enterprises of the USSR, the Barnaul textile mills, is located in the Altai Region in Siberia. During the war the Altai weavers produced more than 100 million meters of cloth for the Red Army and the people in the rear.

★

Four thousand Soviet youth have been admitted to Physical Culture Institutes and secondary schools this year. More than half of these young men and women are from Red Army units or guerrilla detachments.

★

A three-day All-Union Conference on the Protection of Mother and Child was recently held in Moscow. Public health workers and representatives of the industrial Commissariats and trade unions attended. G. Miterev, People's Commissar of Public Health of the USSR, reported on the extension of maternity hospitals, nurseries and children's clinics in towns and villages. The State social insurance budget has allotted 433 million rubles for aid to mothers and children in 1944, of which 60 million will be expended for aid to children of Red Army men at the front and of invalids of the Patriotic War.

Two books by Soviet guerrilla commanders—*The Campaign in the Carpathians*, by Major General Sidor Kovpak, and *The Ignatov Family*, by P. Ignatov—have recently been published. Kovpak's book deals mainly with the collective farm guerrillas, while Ignatov depicts the workers and intellectuals of the towns who became dynamiters and daring scouts. In the latter volume, the death of Ignatov's two sons is movingly recorded. Both books are magnificent chronicles of the glorious battles of the guerrillas.

★

Appollinaria Agadzhanova, great-granddaughter and only living descendant of the great Russian General Suworov, recently presented a collection of family heirlooms to the Red Army Historical Museum. Included were rare documents and manuscripts and a tobacco pouch which belonged to Suworov.

★

After completing grain deliveries to the State, the Ukrainian collective farmers made a gift of two and one-half million centners of grain to the heroic Red Army, and called upon all collective farms to follow their example. Farmers of the Kuban, the Rostov Region, the Volga valley, the central regions, Byelorussia, the Baltic Republics and Siberia responded to the appeal.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 113

Washington, D. C., October 28, 1944



On German Soil

By K. Taradankin

IZVESTIA War Correspondent

A small bridge has been thrown across a narrow stream, about five meters wide. Near it stands a signpost put up by the soldiers—on a large white-painted board are the huge red letters: *USSR*. On the opposite bank stands another signpost—white letters on a black background spell: *Germany*.

The front line has crossed the State border. At the crossroads stands a Russian soldier with his rifle on his shoulder. He is regulating the stream of motor vehicles pouring across the border into East Prussia.

The frontier line that had separated the Red Army from the lair of the fascist beast was marked by pillboxes, trenches, barriers sunk into the earth, anti-tank obstacles, rails and endless rows of barbed-wire entanglements. All this has now been smashed, twisted and torn. Everywhere notices put up by Soviet sappers warn: *Mines!*

This part of the so-called Stalluponen defense boundary was built by the Germans at the threshold of East Prussia.

The boundary stretches for many kilometers and covered the approaches to the German cities of Stalluponen and Pillal-len. The towns lie near large railway junctions which connected two strong enemy groupings defending the border.

Deep trenches run in an endless chain, linked by communication trenches. In one small sector the enemy built 18 pillboxes, with iron and concrete walls 2.5 to three meters thick. Some of the pillboxes have revolving armored turrets facilitating circular fire. Near the town of Schirwindt, captured by Soviet troops, a three-story pillbox was taken with a garrison of 69 soldiers. This pillbox fortress even had a drinking-water well. In seven of its embrasures the Germans had placed ma-

chine guns; in the eighth a 75-mm gun.

The soil is filled with mines and high-explosive shells; minefields form an unbroken chain along the border, reaching a kilometer and more in depth. Picked Prussian units were stationed here and Hitler ordered them not to retreat—one step. Each soldier and officer was warned that retreat would be punished by death.

Such were the defenses erected by the Germans in East Prussia. Such were the boundaries smashed by the valiant troops of General Chernyakhovsky.

On that October morning when the battle for East Prussia began, Soviet artillery once more showed its power and might. With each volley the earth shook for scores of kilometers around. During the first few minutes the German positions were flooded with an avalanche of burning metal.

One of the first prisoners taken on Prussian soil was Captain Otawa, Commander of the Second Battalion, 22nd Regiment, First East Prussian Division. "How many men are in your battalion?" he was asked.

"Eight."

"And how many were there?"

"Five hundred."

"Where are the rest?"

"The Russian artillery mowed them down."

Giant columns of smoke and dust rose to the skies, reaching an altitude of over 1,000 meters and making it difficult for Soviet fliers to continue the work begun by the artillery. Aircraft supported the infantry which had rushed to storm the German frontier and also gave valuable assistance to tankists. A Guards Air Squadron commanded by Hero of the Soviet



Radiophoto

AT THE BORDER OF EAST PRUSSIA — Red Army scouts reconnoiter in force

Union Major Smilsky made 108 storming flights in six hours.

The superiority of the Soviet Air Force is evident. In these days of the offensive it holds the enemy front line under control and bombs his rear and communication lines despite frantic German anti-aircraft fire. Bursting ack-ack shells form clouds of black smoke, but as a rule this fire has little effect.

The lurid glare of flames lights up the sky over German soil. It seems as if the entire mighty Soviet nation has let its heavy avenging hand fall upon criminal Germany. The airmen have asked us to send their greetings and thanks to the people who collected funds for the construction of the fighting planes, to the people who built these wonderful machines.

The fires are raging on Prussian soil, and great enthusiasm inspires the hearts of the Soviet soldiers. In a thicket of mine-fields, where every step threatened instant death, Guards Junior Sergeant Kireyev, holder of the Order of Glory, cleared nine paths for infantrymen and tanks. The Prussians are resisting insanely, but they cannot stem the mighty avalanche of Soviet troops.

After breaching defense lines, Soviet units entered the town of Schirwindt,

where they fought for each block, each house. The Germans were defending a two-story house which it was impossible to take by a frontal attack. Sergeant Major Petrov gave the command:

"Crawl one by one along the ditch and throw grenades in at the windows!"

Furious explosions shook the house to its foundations, and the Red Army men rushed into it. The surviving Germans tried vainly to save themselves by flight.

* * *

Soviet self-propelled guns rolled down the central streets of Eydtkuhnen, smashing enemy fortifications to bits at short range. One after another the German machine-gun nests fell silent, and the enemy garrison was pressed into a corner.

Eydtkuhnen fell. In the morning the Germans threw 150 tanks into a counter-attack. They were repelled by the men of Colonel Donets, who pressed into the city. An acrid smell of burning spread through the ruined town; tractors dragging long-range guns to the front line rumbled through the streets. Over the porch of a surviving Gothic house a Soviet fighter has carefully nailed up a notice: *Headquarters of De-mining Unit.*

There are no inhabitants. Some have

fled; the remainder were forced to evacuate to the interior of Germany.

Sappers patrol the pavements with long rods in their hands. Eydtkuhnen is full of mines and it is not easy to move. The streets are piled up with wreckage and corpses in gray uniforms. Suddenly two ragged, gaunt girls appear in the midst of this chaos.

"Where did you come from?"

"From a cellar. We are Russians."

They are two Russian girls whom the Germans had carried off in 1942. They had been forced to work as servants for the owner of a haberdashery store. When he ran away, the girls hid and waited for the Red Army.

"Where will you go now?"

"Home!" And what happiness shone in their eyes as they pronounced this brief word.

In Schirwindt, which suffered considerably when the Germans put up fierce resistance, Soviet soldiers freed a group of Lithuanian citizens whom the Germans had driven there to build fortifications.

Soviet troops have stepped firmly onto Prussian soil. They have penetrated into the lair of the fascist beast to finish him off and bring peace and freedom to the world. Nothing can stop them on the road to victory.

LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA NEARS

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes editorially:

Another powerful blow has been dealt the enemy! Another wonderful success of Soviet arms—arms of liberation! The glorious troops of the Fourth Ukrainian Front have fought their way across the Carpathian range and advanced deep into Czechoslovakia. Liberation of the long-suffering Czechoslovakian land, which has been groaning under the German-Hungarian yoke for over five years, has begun!

After fulfilling their first task of defending the honor and independence of our country, after returning life and freedom to tens of millions of Soviet citizens, our soldiers have begun to render direct help to other European peoples enslaved by the Hitlerites.

After fulfilling its great and noble mis-

sion of liberation with honor and glory, the Red Army has already cleared the Germans from many districts of Poland. Our troops are advancing successfully on Yugoslav territory. Now the Red Army has stretched a helping, fraternal hand to the Czechoslovakian people and begun the expulsion of the Hitlerites from the Czechoslovakian land.

For years Czechoslovakia languished in the chains of German-fascist slavery. Her people, who refused to reconcile themselves to the Hitlerite rule, learned the depths of misery.

Mankind will never forget the tragedy of Lidice. The world was shaken by the terrible fate of the village of Malin, in which all Czech inhabitants were exterminated by the Germans. But with all their terror the base German-fascist hang-

men failed to bring Czechoslovakia to her knees. They failed to extinguish freedom and the faith of the Czechoslovak people in the coming liberation.

Now this hour of liberation has struck! The alliance of friendship between the Soviet people and Czechoslovakia yields its fruit. The victorious Red Army, like the giant Palfadin of ancient lore, has stepped over the Carpathians and, battering the enemy, has advanced deep into Czechoslovak territory, carrying on its bayonets retribution and death to the Hitlerite scoundrels, carrying freedom and life to the fraternal people of Czechoslovakia. The victory of the troops of the Fourth Ukrainian Front is another step forward on the road to the utter defeat of the Hitlerite enslavers and hangmen.

BELGRADE

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, October 21:

This is a great holiday both for Yugoslavia and for us, as well as for honest people everywhere: Belgrade has been liberated.

Before the war Yugoslavia was treated as a child: sometimes it was given a piece of gingerbread, sometimes it was put in a corner. "Oh, those Yugoslavs!" Europe sighed, when Croatian fascists armed with Italian bombs staged a show in Marseilles, or when Serbian fascists turned the Parliament into a shooting gallery.

To the words "minor king" some were all too ready to add "minor nation"—and there was no lack of would-be guardians. The blind couldn't see the people for the fascists.

The war was a test of everything and everybody: many a reputed hero proved to be a deserter, while modest, inconspicuous people turned out to be heroes. Yugoslavia, which was classed somewhere between Rumania and Hungary, has come to the forefront of history and attracted the admiring eyes of the world.

The Germans fell upon Yugoslavia at a time when the Wehrmacht did not yet know what a reverse meant. They gloated over the fires of Belgrade. They seized with ease the country which for many years had been ruled by idlers, fools and traitors. Pavelic and Nedic greeted them with servile bows. The Germans thought the war in Yugoslavia was over; they merrily drank Dalmatian wine and smoked Macedonian tobacco.

But the war in Yugoslavia had only just begun, for the people rose up against the invaders. The story of the People's Army of Liberation is one of the great epics of our times. The Serbs have an old song about Janko, the champion who vanquished two hundred foes. Shepherds, grape-growers, miners and students, armed with muskets and ancient pistols, went out to meet the enemy. The Yugoslavs' first partisans went into battle like Janko, thinking of a glorious death.

The song tells of how Janko won, how he deprived the enemy of his sharp-

est sword and single-handed slew two hundred foes. That is only an old song, a legend, a dream. But let us laud and extol the truth of our days: the People's Army of Liberation in Belgrade! Janko has won.

The lies and villainies of fascism were countered with a high ideal of brotherhood by the builders of the new Yugoslavia. In the Balkans, as everywhere else, the Germans tried to incite one people against another. They slew the Serbs with the hand of the Ustachis; they murdered the inhabitants of Bosnia with the hand of the Serbs; they tried to intimidate Croats with Mikhailovic and Serbs with the bloodthirsty Pavelic.

But around Marshal Tito rallied five nationalities: Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Macedonians and Montenegrins. Macedonia, that apple of discord, a country rent to pieces, was for the first time called to fight and labor as an equal. In the grim era of blackout, of savage and unbridled nationalism, in that part of Europe which has always been called a powder magazine, triumphed that splendid principle which saved our country: friendship among nations.

Victory did not come easily to Yugoslavia. She paid for it with the blood of her finest. It is easy to take a town when you have thousands of aircraft and gigantic stores of food and you have prepared for it for years. That is not the way Tito's soldiers fought. With them bravery had to make up for iron and bread. But let us say now that they won in spite of everything; that they won only because justice, invisible but omnipresent, fought on their side.

It was justice which brought Yugoslavia's great ally, the Red Army, from the far-off Volga to the Danube. How good it is that our troops have entered Belgrade together with the Yugoslavs. In our darkest day of trial we were fighting for their freedom and even in those days, when the sinister shadow of Mikhailovic loomed in the West, and when some newspapers called the heroic partisans bandits, we knew that the day of triumph would come and that the Red Army would meet

the army of Marshal Tito. We are not casual visitors in Belgrade, but comrades-in-arms and comrades-in-heart.

Deep pride fills the heart of every Red Army man: he is bringing liberty to the world, and there is no gift more precious. When you glance at those dusty topboots which have marched hundreds of miles, you understand what history means, history with a capital H. We are making that history. The whole world now knows what sacrifices we have made and what we are worth. I know that even in the past Russian soldiers aroused astonishment by their courage, hardiness and geniality; but for the first time Russian arms are bringing the world freedom, without fear of Tsarist dignitaries, by the elemental force of the people and without prejudice or arrogance.

All that is now left of Hitler's "new Europe" are the doss houses in Fuschl and Vienna, where his puppets have taken refuge. In a Vienna doss house Nedic, Tsankov and Sima are spending their last days, waiting for Pavelic and that caliph for an hour, Szalasi, to join them.

It is hardly likely that Hitler feels happy today: Paris, Brussels and Athens have been followed by Belgrade. The cannibal doesn't know what doors to bar and barricade: the Germans are fleeing from Dusseldorf and no "Hungarians" can save the cannibal. Soviet tanks are far more eloquent than Budapest coups d'etats.

But the cannibal is still alive. The thought persecutes us night and day. One day we shall celebrate with peaceful jollity—with music, dance and laughter. But now we are celebrating with the muzzles of guns. We are in a hurry: it is as though wings have sprouted from the shoulders of each of us. For after all, even Belgrade is only a milestone and Hungary only a corridor.

There is one place which we think about night and day. It is there we are going. And when we get there—and it will not be long now—we shall of course not say we have liberated Berlin. But what we will say is that at last we have rid ourselves and the world of a shame which was called Berlin.

LETTER OF AMBASSADOR ANDREI A. GROMYKO TO REPRESENTATIVE EMANUEL CELLER

Following is the text of the letter of Ambassador Andrei A. Gromyko in answer to the letter of Representative Emanuel Celler referred to in THE NEW YORK TIMES, October 12, 1944:

October 20, 1944

Hon. Emanuel Celler
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In your letter of October 11th, addressed to me, you expressed perplexity with regard to some special support supposedly rendered to King Michael and Queen Helen by the Soviet Union.

I cannot understand on what basis your supposition is founded since neither the actions of the Soviet Union or the Allied Control Commission in Roumania, nor

even statements in the Soviet press give any ground for such a supposition. My Government certainly maintains relations with King Michael as the head of Roumania, with whom the Armistice Agreement was signed, just as it maintains the same relations with a similar purpose with the present President of Finland, Field-Marshal Mannerheim. As regards ex-King Carol, towards whom, according to your letter, the Soviet Union seems to have changed its attitude, I may inform you that my Government did not, and does not have any relations at all with him.

Your supposition in regard to the preservation of anti-Jewish laws in Roumania expressed in the same letter has absolutely no basis. If you will acquaint yourself with the Armistice with Roumania published in the press you will be convinced

that there is an article there VI which binds the Roumanian Government "to revoke any discriminatory legislation and all restrictions resulting from there."

There is no doubt that the above-mentioned Allied Control Commission is watching over the fulfillment of this article as well as the other articles of the Armistice Agreement.

I may, for your information, notify you that all anti-Jewish laws have been annulled in Roumania in accordance with article VI of the Armistice Agreement.

I firmly trust that since you considered it necessary to make public your letter to me you will not fail to take similar action regarding my present reply.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

A. GROMYKO
Ambassador

THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION

By E. Rubinin

The published communique on the results of the preliminary negotiations of the delegations of the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Kingdom on the creation of an international security organization, has aroused the deepest and most sympathetic interest among the Soviet public. The attitude of the Soviet public toward the creation of an international security organization is well expressed in a leading article which the newspaper *Pravda* devoted to the subject in its Oct. 11 issue.

Carefully analyzing the communique, *Pravda* says that the basis for the negotiations in Washington was laid at the Moscow Conference of October, 1943, at which the Foreign Secretaries of the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain recognized the "necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organization based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving states and open to membership by all such states, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security."

At the same time *Pravda* notes with satisfaction that the results of the negotiations at Dumbarton Oaks represent a new step toward postwar cooperation of peace-loving nations in the interest of general peace and security.

The Soviet public hails with satisfaction this progress toward the insurance of effective postwar international cooperation for the prevention of fresh acts of aggression and for insuring the peace and security which are indispensable conditions for economic and cultural progress. The ideas underlying the proposals advanced in the course of the Washington negotiations fully correspond with the aspirations of the Soviet people, who have always striven to promote peace and cooperation in international relations.

For many years preceding the present sanguinary and destructive war the Soviet Union exerted every effort to bring about such close cooperation between the peace-loving countries as would make aggression impossible. Unfortunately the efforts of the Soviet Union did not at that time

meet with proper support, and it required the drastic lessons of the present war for the necessity of such cooperation to receive universal recognition.

True, even before the Second World War there was no lack of declarations paying lip service to peace and to the necessity for peaceful cooperation. The Versailles Treaty which put an end to the First World War even set up an organization whose function it was, according to its Covenant, to insure peace and security by the joint efforts of all countries. But from its very inception the League of Nations suffered from certain very serious defects which, far from diminishing, in the course of time became more marked and rendered it absolutely sterile and ineffective.

The chief defect of the League of Nations was the crying contradiction between its words and its deeds. "As we know," the *Pravda* editorial says, "this luckless international organization, which was created for the maintenance of enduring peace, did nothing of any value to prevent or to suppress gross acts of

aggression. . . . As a matter of fact the League of Nations constantly hampered the struggle of peace-loving nations against aggression, and finally ended its inglorious history in the storm of a terrific, destructive war instigated by the aggressor which the League of Nations consistently refused to bridle."

The chief reasons for the passivity and impotence of the League of Nations are generally well known. From the very first it did not include two such great powers as the Soviet Union and the United States. This alone was enough to prevent the League from exercising the functions set forth in its Covenant in any way authoritatively and effectively.

Furthermore, there was no lack of politicians who did everything in their power to utilize the League of Nations as a weapon of struggle and intrigue against the Soviet Union. The short-sighted politicians succeeded in turning the League of Nations against the USSR, which could not but discredit it and lead to its disintegration and decease.

Now the great powers—which in the course of the war against Hitlerite Germany and her satellites have by their fellowship-in-arms and their immense efforts insured the success of the struggle—are striving to create an international security organization which will take account of the lessons of the past and be exempt

from the defects of the League of Nations.

This war and the events which preceded it have convincingly proved that an effective concord among the leading peace-loving powers is a force against which the most dangerous and formidable acts of aggression are bound to come to grief. This war and all that preceded it show that there is a way of insuring in the future lasting peace and security. That way is to preserve and to strengthen the concord and cooperation among the leading peace-loving powers.

This principle was formulated in the historic declaration of the Teheran Conference, in which the leaders of the three leading peace-loving powers stated: "As to the peace—we are sure that our concord will make it an enduring peace."

For many years Hitler Germany was very successful in preparing for the war by taking advantage of the lack of solidarity among the great powers. There is no more important task, from the point of view of peace and security, than to consolidate the principle of concord and harmony among the leading world powers.

The document drawn up in Washington sketches the outlines of a future international security organization. All its members—in other words, all peace-loving states—will be represented on its General Assembly. The Security Council,

which will function in the name of all members of the organization and consist of representatives of 11 states, is to be answerable to the Assembly. Permanent seats on the Security Council are to be assigned to four world powers: the Soviet Union, the United States, the United Kingdom and China, and, in due course, to France as well.

This emphasizes the fact that upon the world powers as permanent members of the Security Council is imposed the responsibility for proper exercise of the functions of the international security organization. All members of the organization are to obligate themselves to accept the decisions of the Security Council and to carry them out in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. The purpose of the Security Council is to insure prompt and effective action for the maintenance of peace and security.

In the light of what has been said, the principle that any decision of the Security Council must have the unanimous support of all its permanent members acquires supreme importance.

The Soviet public hopes that further discussion of the problems of the international security organization will lead to consistent promotion of the principle of unanimity, a unanimity in which all peace-loving nations, large and small, are vitally interested.

THE STRATEGY OF 'MERCY'

By Academician A. Trainin

The following is from WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 19:

The nearer and more inescapable the defeat of Hitler Germany becomes, and with it retribution for the atrocities perpetrated by the Hitlerites, the more frequently are unctuous voices raised, pleading mercy for the butchers. The poisoned and asphyxiated victims of the Germans are still writhing in their agony; the earth is still heaving over the unfortunates buried alive; mankind still stands appalled at the awful fate of the innocents of Maidanek; yet the obliging commiserators of the miscreants are abundantly shedding well-paid tears, striving to avert the threatening retribution, and

whining that the butchers are being treated hard.

Some of these appeasers of butchers and advocates of mercy are supposedly not opposed to the criminals being tried—they are only, so to speak, arguing which is the proper court to try them. Some—religious appeasers—plead that it should be left to the court of God; others—temporal appeasers—would leave it to the court of history. And both are appalled only by the inevitable reality and growing proximity of the mundane court of man.

Unfortunately, these efforts to lighten the blow of justice have found a certain "basis" in a statement made recently at

a press conference in London by Sir Cecil Hurst, Chairman of the United Nations Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes.

Sir Cecil Hurst spoke as a jurist, and his words naturally breathed the spirit of legality. But his legality is of a rather dubious quality: in the majestic temple of justice which he erects, he provides extensive bomb-shelters, dugouts and trenches into which the indicted criminals may creep to escape the hand of justice.

Hurst, the British Ministry of Information reports, was asked whether Hitler had been included in the list of war criminals. We do not know who put the question—nor his age or intellectual ca-

pacities—but at any rate his inquisitiveness, for its innocent candor, is touching.

Everyone knows that Hitler, the head and fount of militarized banditry, has included himself in the list of war criminals by his heinous war crimes. All the more surprising is the reply: Sir Cecil Hurst said that he was obliged to refrain from answering questions concerning individual war criminals. By this reply Hurst demoted the chieftain of the band of international criminals to the rank of an ordinary bandit by classing him among the "individual war criminals." Moreover, Sir Cecil Hurst, to do him justice, made no secret of the motives for his enforced silence: if he were to give the names of the persons liable to trial, he explained, it would afford them the opportunity to escape and hide from justice.

It appears, therefore, that to speak of the culpability of Hitler, Himmler, Goebbels and their ilk is to divulge a profound state and, perhaps, even an international secret, and might be attended by grave complications. Upon hearing, in the sixth year of their crimes, that they were being looked upon as criminals, Hitler, Himmler, Goebbels and the rest might run away and hide from justice. Sir Cecil Hurst was accordingly forced by the circumstances of the case to keep silent in order that justice might triumph.

However, Sir Cecil Hurst did not faithfully adhere to his vow of silence. He found it possible to reveal something about the possible fate of two of the "individual war criminals"—Hitler and Mussolini. He said that their fate would be decided by the United Nations, a statement which is indisputable.

* * *

The Declaration of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, published in Moscow on November 2, 1943, stated that "the major criminals will be punished by a joint decision of the Governments of the Allies." It would seem then that in the case of Hitler and Mussolini there is no need to run ahead and hazard one's own guesses as to the future decision of the Governments of the United Nations.

Sir Cecil Hurst thought otherwise. Restrained, reserved, fearing publicly to include Hitler and his accomplices in the

list of war criminals, he nevertheless revealed on this subject unexpected loquacity. "The United Nations," he said, "might decide to bring them [Hitler and Mussolini] to trial or to deal with them as Napoleon was dealt with." Only just now when he was talking of trials he demoted Hitler to the ranks; now when it comes to the question of punishment, he promotes him to the rank of Napoleon. More, it appears that there are a couple of these Napoleons. Accordingly, the decision of the Governments of the United Nations, in Hurst's opinion, might be to seek out a suitable place of residence on islands for the two friends, perhaps the Isle of Elba for Mussolini and (more strictly!) Saint Helena for Hitler . . .

Having thus outlined the decision as to the fate of the major criminals, Sir Cecil Hurst is now able easily and without any mental effort to decide the fate of all other war criminals. And it must be frankly stated that here the passion for "legality," a "cautious" investigation and lenience toward the war criminals comes perilously near to deliberately allowing many thousands of Nazi miscreants to go unpunished.

* * *

Hurst deemed it necessary to state that "there were many misconceptions and misunderstandings on the subject of war crimes." One would think, quite to the contrary, that there were countless numbers of definitely established war crimes and numerous names of culprits of these crimes. Of course, a careful investigation and a well-founded verdict are essential if justice is really to triumph over evil. But this is precisely what the procedure of the investigation outlined by Hurst does not provide for; on the contrary it promises a rich harvest of "misunderstandings and misconceptions."

Sir Cecil Hurst says (Note: All quotations from the English in this article retranslated from the Russian): "The investigation must, in the first place, be carried out by the various Governments and not by the Commission. The procedure is as follows: The authoritative bodies of each Government submit to the Commission the cases of war crimes of the culprits which, in their opinion, merit punishment, as well as the evidence on which the charge is based. The Commis-

sion submits cases to the Investigation Committee, which examines, in the first place, three questions: Firstly, whether the commission of a war crime or war crimes is borne out by the evidence; secondly, whether there is sufficient evidence to establish the identity of the criminal; thirdly, whether this is his only crime."

This scheme cannot be denied a certain harmoniousness. It reads easily and can be grasped without difficulty. Authoritative bodies investigate, investigation committees examine, and the Commission decides. But one essential thing remains unclear: Does this scheme really guarantee the trial and punishment of war criminals?

* * *

Very disputable, in the first place, is the fundamental principle. According to Hurst, the right to hand over war prisoners belongs to the Commission of the United Nations. The question naturally arises: Why should the Governments which have the right to demand the handing over of criminals, lose that right in the case of grave offenders? It may be that, on the contrary, the decisions which will be adopted at the end of the war will specially provide that it is the duty of all countries to hand over war criminals upon the motivated demand of the countries which have suffered from their acts. This question is all the more appropriate as certain parts of Hurst's scheme for the investigation and handing over of criminals resemble less a road to justice than barbed-wire obstacles to the punishment of the offenders.

According to Hurst's scheme, before the United Nations Commission can decide to hand over the criminals it must decide whether the criminal "is guilty of only one crime." The question of recidivism thus acquires extreme importance, according to him. The advocates of leniency toward criminals eagerly cite the law on this subject. But we should like to hear where, in what international conventions or declarations of the United Nations Governments, was recidivism made a condition for the punishment of war criminals.

Further, if some Nazi miscreants only once threw children into a fire or asphyxi-

ated civilians in murder wagons, does the demand that they should be handed over lose its validity?

Hurst is not content with this. He goes further: "Not all war criminals can be considered equally culpable . . . Some of them may have committed ordinary crimes. We must limit ourselves to persons who are really responsible for major atrocities." Preparations are only being made to try war criminals, yet "limitations" are already recommended, and answerability only for "major atrocities" is set up as a corrective criterion.

What atrocities then deserve to be called major—Smolensk, Kiev, Lublin? Are whole villages together with their inhabitants undeserving of the attention of justice?

Sir Cecil Hurst is not worried by such questions. He is in a hurry to introduce further limitations on the answerability for war crimes. He deems it necessary to exclude from the category of war criminals all quislings and persons guilty of wholesale extermination of their citizens on racial, political or religious grounds.

* * *

Acquaintance with Sir Cecil Hurst's arguments involuntarily leads to the presumption that if limitations on the investigation of war criminals were to develop on the scale he indicates, capitulation of justice to war criminals would follow very soon after the capitulation of Germany to the Allies.

It should be borne in mind that the turning over of war criminals, in which the will of all peoples to eradicate Hitlerism should be and will be expressed, is conceived by Hurst as something in the nature of an act of international courtesy. He says: "If the United Nations find that existing treaties providing for the handing over of war criminals do not meet the case, new measures will be adopted. . . . However, a neutral state is a neutral state, and there are bounds which even all the United Nations together cannot transgress in their attitude toward neutrals."

The Declaration of Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill quite clearly stated that the war criminals would be pursued by the three Allied powers to the uttermost ends of the earth. Yet the Chairman of



Radiophoto

Soviet self-propelled gun in action on the Czechoslovak frontier

the United Nations Investigation Commission, despite the Declaration of the Allied powers, despite the great historical changes of our era, and despite the new relations among states in combating international crime, consoles the criminals and "neutrals" with the assurance that even all the United Nations together "cannot always secure the delivery of war criminals."

* * *

The situation is complicated by the fact that Hurst is not alone in his strange concept of the answerability and non-answerability of war criminals. It has been stated in the foreign press that on the United Nations Commission there are other advocates of justice with brakes on, of justice which would be sympathetic to the bandits and indifferent to their victims. Not burdened by the responsible position of their Chairman, these members of the Commission display absolutely unbridled recklessness in devising methods of saving the Hitlerites from answerability.

The newspaper *PM* states that experts insist that Hitler is to be regarded as the head of a state, the Nazi gangsters as a government and the Gestapo as a state police.

According to this legal algebra, one bandit is a bandit, two bandits are bandits, but a whole gang of bandits who employ the machinery of government for rapine and murder are merely "state police." The newspaper considers that the source of these arguments is excessive devotion to

jurisprudence on the part of members of the Commission whose noses, it says, are buried in legal tracts.

This is a libel on jurisprudence. Since when and under what laws is a bandit who dons the uniform of a police official immune from criminal prosecution? All this so-called jurisprudence is a poorly concealed attempt to protect the war criminals from the law, from justice and from punishment.

* * *

And so we find mingled in one chorus the unctuous sermons of the opponents of trial for the criminals, and the voices of certain official guardians of justice.

The strategy of "mercy" is not a problem of ethics, nor even a problem of trial and punishment; it is essentially a problem of war policy. The strategy of "mercy" is only one of the links in the campaign for a lenient peace launched by the Hitlerites and certain circles which support them. Accordingly, a plea for mercy to the butchers is a plea for a compromise peace, a plea to leave in Germany the hotbed of future wars and future atrocities.

The united efforts of the freedom-loving nations have foiled all of Germany's maneuvers and artifices of strategy: blitzkrieg strategy, protracted war, and the strategy of dividing the Allies. This inspires us with confidence that the last card of defeated Germany will also be beaten—namely, the strategy of "mercy" which is directed against peace and mankind.

REVIVAL OF LITHUANIAN ART

By Jozas Banaitis

Chairman of Arts Committee, Lithuanian SSR

When Hitler launched his treacherous attack against the Soviet Union, we had only one day in which to organize the evacuation of Lithuanian artists. Consequently a large number were unable to get away.

Now, after three years of German occupation of our country, the returned artists are happy to find they are at one with the views and outlook of their Lithuanian colleagues. The overwhelming majority of Lithuania's intellectuals remained loyal to their people and to the Soviet system, regarding the Germans as age-old enemies and temporary usurpers. Under the Nazi terror the spirit of resistance could not always assume an active form, but sabotage was the general rule.

It will be remembered that when in 1943 the enemy tried to enforce mobilization in Lithuania, the people opposed it so vigorously the Germans were compelled to drop it. The severe repressive measures the Germans subsequently took against the Lithuanian intelligentsia is the best proof of its important role in the national protest.

The Vilnius and Kaunas Universities, the Arts Academy, the Conservatory, and naturally the Philharmonic—child of the Soviet regime—were all closed by the Germans. When the Nazis attempted to turn the National Philharmonic Ensemble into variety troupes, its members preferred penury.

Many Lithuanian intellectuals and art workers suffered personally from Nazi terror. Professor Balis Sruoga, the well-known dramatist, poet, theater critic and authority on Russian literature, was sent to the horrible concentration camp in Dachau, and we have had no news from him since. We know of many who were

thrust into this camp, but we do not know of any who left it alive.

In the streets of Vilnius today you may see professors, college students and others carrying to the University the books which they concealed from the Germans. Most of the volumes preserved were those in greatest danger of being destroyed by the Germans, such as the Russian classics, works by Soviet writers and books in the Yiddish language. Scores of Lithuanians conducted themselves as nobly as the poet Sutzkever, who at the risk of his life concealed letters and a manuscript of world importance.

The same attitude existed in regard to pictures, sculptures and other objects of art value. While Nazi Gebietskommissar Hingst stuffed his rooms with museum pieces—from paintings and antique furniture to invaluable knickknacks—Jodegalis, a member of the museum staff, hid the paintings of Jewish artists, knowing that should they fall into the hands of the Germans they would be slashed to pieces. Pictures of Soviet leaders were also hidden. The day after my arrival in Vilnius I found a picture of Stalin, brought by local people, on the wall above my desk.

In Vilnius most of the theater buildings are intact; the Germans had no time to blow them up. But all properties and costumes have been looted, so that putting on a costume play now is very difficult.

We are all looking forward to a complete revival of the arts. In the autumn both Universities will open, and many libraries and reading halls are already serving the populace. The museums are expected to reopen shortly.

Tschaikowsky's and Karnavicius' oper-

will be given at the Opera House, and classic Lithuanian plays, modern Russian dramas such as Konstantin Simonov's *The Russian People*, and works by living Lithuanian playwrights, will be presented. Baltusis is writing a play on the life of the Lithuanians under the occupation. Marcinkjavicius on the men of the Lithuanian formation of the Red Army—where he himself served for a long time—and Gričius on the people in the rear in Lithuania.

Naturally we are doing our utmost to re-integrate the Conservatory and Philharmonic with its National Ensemble. At the same time we are restoring the Actors and Ballet Schools and the Arts Academy. Such celebrated singers as Honored Artist of the Republic Stackeviciute, and Alexandravicius, Komontaite and Soboleurskaite, who toured the Soviet Union with great success, are now returning to their homeland. The choir and jazz band formed during the evacuation period are expected home shortly.

Our greatest desire is to see the wounds inflicted on our art by the Germans healed in the briefest possible time. A great task has fallen to art: to immortalize the noble deeds of the people and its leaders. Lithuanian art workers will spare no effort to prove themselves worthy of this task.

ATTENTION

The New York Times in its issue of October 17, in a dispatch from Washington, referred to "an article 'Russia and Germany' printed in a new publication *Russian Affairs*," and alleged that it was

"made available through the Soviet Embassy here."

The INFORMATION BULLETIN wishes to inform its readers that the Soviet Embassy released no such article or publication.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 114

Washington, D. C., October 31, 1944



The Great Day

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, October 24:

For forty months our country has been waiting for this. For forty months, as we gazed at the ruins of our cities and the ashes of our villages, we thought with a pang in our hearts, "How long?"

And now that day has come—the Red Army has entered Germany.

The German rulers vowed that never would they admit us into their lair. They pinned their hopes on their fortifications. But there is a wrath before which rocks crumble. There is a fury which melts steel. Who can recount what we have suffered? There is grief in the hearts of all of us. For forty months the enemy rent the living body of Russia. For forty months the butchers maltreated our dear ones. We had to get there. And now we are there. We were not stopped by their fortifications.

Hitler counted in vain on the staunchness of his Fritzes. You cannot rear bandits and expect them to be ascetics. They may be experienced and cunning bandits, but they don't breed Joans of Arc and Zoya Kosmodemyanskayas.

The other day Gauleiter Erich Koch bawled at a meeting of the Hitlerites, "We will not surrender a foot of Prussian land. We will cling to it; we will take root in it." Who said that? We know this Erich Koch, ex-Reichskommissar of the Ukraine. We know him well. His profession is looting and he will not succeed in palming himself off as a knight. Both he and his Fritzes ravaged the Ukraine. Let them not talk now about the German land. A debt is honored by its payment. The Fritzes did not cling to the land of Eydtkuhnen nor the land of Stalluponen nor to the land of Goldap. And if they have taken root in the ground it is as dead men, and it wasn't the Prussian gauleiter but Russian lead that took

care of that. Let Erich Koch not cling to Koenigsberg. Let him not count on luck. If he succeeded in escaping from Royno in time, that doesn't mean that he is elusive. We will catch Koch, rod . . .

The Germans used to adore blitzes in every form. Bloating burghers, commercial councillors with bellies swollen with beer and hearts swollen with pride, they wanted to hasten the clock of history. These loads with doctors' degrees, these thieves with their race theories, these house-breaking Nietzscheans, were evidently afraid of arriving late at the "feast of heaven dwellers." They wanted blitzes. Now they've got them wholesale without ration coupons — enough blitzes to drive them crazy.

Every day the Germans lose either a town or a fortress or a fortified line or a country or an ally. In the West, Aachen, coronation city of German emperors, has

fallen. In the East our troops have invaded the breeding-ground of Prussian militarism—the den of cattle-breeders and horse-knackers, the land from which came the old field marshals and the young sturmfuehrers. The jackals have either been caught and confined in cages or are hiding. The tiger is now alone. He's wounded but he still roars and shows his fangs. But his roaring has ceased to frighten even Swedish Social Democrats, and as to his fangs—they, too, aren't what they used to be.

The Fritzes of the *Volksturm* don't resemble the former grenadiers.

Accursed breed! Everybody hates them. I am referring not only to the honest and irreconcilable nations which for so many years have been fighting a stern fight. The Germans are hated by their yesterday's allies. There has been nothing like it in history. Why, the Germans are being



Radiophoto

Soviet infantry attacking on the East Prussian frontier

fought by armies which only recently were fighting on their side—by Rumanians, Italians, Bulgarians and Finns. Who is with Germany? Only a handful of Hungarians and they are on a leash until the first turn of a corner.

We are on German soil. Here, until so recently, German landowners harnessed Russian prisoners in place of oxen. Here, until so recently, the spouses of *geheimrats* slapped the faces of Russian girls. Here, until only so recently, German dignitaries discussed how best to utilize the hair of the martyrs of Maidanek, Tremblyanka and Sobibur, whether for rope or pillows or saddles or sofas. Here, until only so recently, common or garden German men and women with hands sweating with impatience tore open parcels of honest and modest goods filched from Russian homes.

Now justice has come to this land. We are in the land of Erich Koch, Reichskommissar of the Ukraine. And when we have said that, we have said everything. This is something more than the end of a military campaign or the issue of a gigantic battle—it is the triumph of simple justice. Many a time we have said, "The court is coming." The court has come.

I say again, we come not for vengeance, but for justice. We will not hurt German children; we are not child slavers. But woe to them who slew children; woe to the instigators, executioners and their abettors. They will not escape retribution. Our Army will not delegate the cause of conscience to anybody.

We are on German soil, and these words express all our hope. It is not enough to defeat Germany. She must be crushed. They are already dreaming of a new war. Oh, of course, in captivity or in the towns taken by our Allies or by us, they'll simulate remorse. They are blitz experts at that. They are already shedding "kolossal" tears—tears by the gallon.

But hearken to what they say among themselves. The *Koelnische Zeitung* writes, "We were too magnanimous to the peoples we subjugated. We were too mild, and these mistakes will be hard to correct." They are filled with remorse for not having killed all the Russians, all the Poles and Frenchmen. They were too magnanimous at Maidanek.

But they are going to correct these mistakes. If not now, then ten or twenty years hence they will exterminate everyone. A German officer, von Wolke, who was recently killed in Hungary, wrote before his death, "We committed a blunder. These Russians have proved to be so numerous that they have the power not only to defend themselves but, as we have learned to our cost, to attack as well. Our mistake was that we killed all too few of them when we were in Russia. And now they are marching on our country . . . It is my will that my son Wilhelm shall be less humane."

Do you hear? Von Wolke was of the opinion that the furnaces of Maidanek were too slow, that they handled only two thousand corpses a day. Von Wolke was indignant at the humaneness of the SS troops for having allowed so many to escape without hanging or shooting them. Wilhelm von Wolke, when he grows up, must correct this mistake.

We know what they feel. And we know what we feel. We are on German soil. That means that we will wear them of their German "trade" that Wilhelm von Wolke will cut ears of wheat and not children's throats, that he will burn dung and not cities. It means that Germany will think with horror of her campaign against the Soviet Union and the world.

We are coming to them, and in our hearts is the woe of these forty months—the mutilated bodies of the infants of the Babi Yar ravine, the "desert zone," the famine victims of the siege of Leningrad, our near ones and friends, the first gallows in Volokolamsk, and the still warm

bodies of the victims slaughtered as a last act of vengeance in the Kloog camps, our slain brethren, the homes of our fathers, the guerrilla region in Byelorussia where the Germans filled the wells with children. And Pushkin's grave, the "ghettos" with millions of defenseless men and women massacred, and blown-up Novgorod, our insulted old folk and youth stained with blood. All this we harbor in our hearts.

And we have only to look at the fields of Prussia to see other fields over which the Germans strode. Since June 22, 1941—since that Sunday when the loudspeakers spoke and mothers and wives wept, down to this day . . . for forty months, for one thousand and two hundred days and as many nights . . . retreating, advancing, in Kalmykia, on the Volga, past Pavlov's House, swimming the Dnieper on stuffed tent-capes, in the Carpathians, in Petsamo—wherever we were, we at all times waited for this day.

And now it has come. We are on German soil.

And now, farther and deeper! We are still only on the threshold, in the vestibule. Next comes Koenigsberg. That is where Erich Koch is. That is where the scum is. We must get there. And we must go on to Berlin. The tiger still has fangs. They may be artificial fangs, worn-out fangs, but fangs just the same. They still have tanks and guns and soldiers.

The road is still a hard one. But we will get there. A second pair of wings has sprouted from the shoulders of each of us. For we are in Germany. The frontier is behind us.

GOERING'S HUNTING LODGE CAPTURED

A KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent reports the following details on the capture of Hermann Goering's hunting lodge in the Rominten Woods, East Prussia:

Goering's estate has been captured intact by our troops. All of its two-story pinewood houses, painted in bronze color, escaped destruction. Everywhere one sees traces of the hasty flight of the guards who failed even to evacuate some of Goering's personal belongings.

A pile of topographical maps remains on the desk in Goering's study. Many of the maps are marked with arrows and various notes. Similar maps also cover the walls. Various articles prepared for evacuation are lying about in the rooms.

At present, Rominten Woods is completely cleared of the enemy. Only the German dead can be seen on the roads, glades and lanes.

RESULTS OF THE MOSCOW CONVERSATIONS

PRAVDA wrote editorially, October 21:

The visit to Moscow of the British Premier, Winston Churchill, and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, and their parleys with the head of the Soviet Government, Joseph Stalin, and People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs V. Molotov, are events of major international importance.

These meetings represent a new step in the promotion of Anglo-Soviet cooperation, thereby contributing to the further strengthening of the anti-Hitler coalition of freedom-loving nations headed by the three great Allied powers—the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States.

As will be seen from the Anglo-Soviet communique we publish today, in the course of the conversations a very wide circle of both military and political problems was discussed.

As regards the war in Europe, as a result of the effectuation of military plans agreed upon at Teheran a considerable advance has been made toward complete victory over the common enemy—Hitler Germany. The military operations of the Red Army, which has administered decisive blows to Hitler's war machine, and of the British and American Armies in Western Europe, have created the prerequisites for the accomplishment at an early date of the Allies' chief and most important task.

Discussion of the military question at the Moscow meeting, following as it does after the Quebec conference of the leaders of Great Britain and the United States, will undoubtedly have a beneficial effect on the future development of Allied operations on all fronts where the freedom-loving nations are fighting the German-fascist bandits.

In this connection it should be noted that the nearer the moment of final victory approaches, the stronger is the determination of the Allied nations and their Governments to take every necessary measure to draw the fangs of the German beast and to deprive it of the possibility of repeating its piratical aggression. The growing unanimity of the Allies on this question is naturally the cardinal factor for a future stable peace in Europe.

As regards political questions, a mere enumeration of the subjects mentioned in the Anglo-Soviet communique indicates the significance of the Moscow conversations. First of all, the importance of the Polish question is no secret. There is no necessity to recall what role this question has played in long periods of European history and what obstacles stood in the way of its successful settlement. The rise, in place of Tsarist Russia, of the Soviet Union, which has pursued a consistent policy of peace and friendship among nations, has created all necessary conditions for a favorable settlement of the Polish question.

However, the chief obstacle to this for a quarter of a century was the narrow-minded and adventurist policy of the Polish reactionaries who held a dominating position in the Polish State and determined its line of policy.

The Soviet public will learn with satisfaction that as a result of comprehensive discussions in Moscow, considerable progress has been made toward settlement of the Polish question. The peoples of the Soviet Union remember only too well that over a long period of history Poland repeatedly served as a corridor through which alien aggressors invaded our land. In the life of one generation the German bandits twice invaded our country from the west. Naturally it is to the vital interest of the peoples of the Soviet Union that in future, Poland, as well as our other western neighbors should cease to be a corridor for any new attempts at German aggression. Our neighbor must be a free, strong, democratic Poland, which has once and for all renounced aggressive designs against the Ukrainian and Byelorussian peoples.

At the same time only a Poland in which persons called to power make it their aim to build the life of the State on democratic principles is capable of the emancipation of the people from the oppression of feudal landlords, and of giving land to the Polish peasantry—only such a Poland will cease to be a seat of disturbance and a military danger on the western borders of our country, and will become one of the buttresses of a stable peace in Europe.

It was with the purpose of creating such a Poland that negotiations were conducted both with the representatives of the Polish exile government and with the representatives of the Polish National Council and the Committee of National Liberation acting on the liberated territories of Poland. As will be seen from the communique published today, conversations on the outstanding points are continuing.

In this connection one cannot refrain from mentioning a fact to which attention was drawn by the Lublin newspaper *Reecz Polspolita*, namely, that Mikolajczyk's visits to Moscow coincided the first time with the Warsaw revolt, and the second time with the series of terroristic outbreaks on Polish liberated territories. It should be clear to every man of intelligence that the Polish exile government is scarcely likely to obtain the realization of its claims by such "methods of influence"; that if it does not renounce them it will have only itself to blame for the consequences.

Another important complex of questions which formed a subject of the Moscow conversations is connected with the march of events in Southeast Europe, where as a result of the glorious victories of the Red Army, which eliminated Hitler Germany's bases in the Balkans and converted them into a base for an offensive against Germany from the south, a number of serious questions face the Allies. The settlement of these questions in a spirit of mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and Great Britain is a fact of no little political importance.

The Balkans, as we know, have long been regarded as the "powder magazine" of Europe. The much-suffering Peninsula has acquired this deplorable reputation in the course of many decades, chiefly owing to the aggressive machinations of the German bandits and their numerous agents in the Balkan countries. Today's communique will be hailed with satisfaction by all true friends of lasting peace and security in the Balkans.

In the course of the Moscow conversations, agreement was reached on the points of the Bulgarian armistice terms. Further, the Soviet Union and Great Bri-

tain agreed to pursue a joint policy in Yugoslavia, where coordinated operations are developing so successfully between Soviet troops, the Yugoslav People's Liberation Army led by Marshal Tito, and the Bulgarian Army, against Hitler's hordes, which are now being driven out of the Balkans.

Yesterday the world learned, from the Order of the Day of Supreme Commander Marshal Stalin, of the big victory won by the Red Army in conjunction with the troops of the Yugoslav People's Liberation Army in liberating from the German invaders the Yugoslav capital—Belgrade. There can be no doubt that a joint policy by the great Allied powers in Yugoslavia will yield its fruits in furthering the fight against the German invaders and in solving the difficulties inside the country by means of a wider union of the national forces of Yugoslavia.

The question of Yugoslavia's future constitution will of course be decided by the Yugoslav peoples themselves, and this inalienable right is recognized by the Allied powers.

Thus the successful and fruitful Moscow conversations were another blow to the calculations of the Nazi adventurers,

whom the concerted actions of the great Allied powers robbed of all hope of salvation from complete defeat and from the stern and just punishment which will follow it. Concerted action by the great Allied powers has already yielded fruit in the conclusion of the armistices with Rumania and Finland.

The Moscow conversations, which embraced so comprehensive a circle of questions, once again demonstrated the growing unity of the Allied powers who have united their efforts for the defeat of Germany and the attainment of a lasting peace after the war.

This concluding phase of the great struggle of the democratic countries for emancipation from German-fascist rapine and barbarity is at the same time an important stage in the laying of the foundation of a prolonged and stable peace among nations after the defeat of the common enemy.

It is quite natural that the chief responsibility for laying the foundations of future peace and general security should fall upon the leading powers of the anti-Hitler coalition. Those are right who call the Anglo-Soviet treaty, buttressed by the close cooperation between those two countries and the United States, the corner-

stone not only of the common fight against Hitler Germany but also of future durable peace in Europe.

The significance of the Moscow meeting lies in the fact that it was the embodiment of the Anglo-Soviet treaty in action. It revealed the growing mutual understanding between the Allied powers and their ability to solve problems as they arise by concerting their points of view.

There is no sense in minimizing the complexity and difficulties of the problems which have already arisen or of those which will arise in the future. However, the historical experience of cooperation among the Allied powers, the experience of the Moscow Conference of October, 1943, of the Teheran Conference of the leaders of the three Allied powers, and of the present Moscow meeting, demonstrates in the sober light of facts that there are no difficulties in the relations among the Allied powers which cannot be successfully overcome, given mutual understanding, goodwill and respect for one another's interests. And the concerted policy of the leading peace-loving powers, the principle of unanimity and concord in their actions and decisions, is the guarantee of a lasting and stable peace and security for all peace-loving nations, large and small.

THE BATTLE FOR KIRKENES

After the loss of Petsamo the Germans increased their fortifications at the approaches to Kirkenes. Natural conditions enabled them to speedily set up powerful strongpoints here. Kirkenes is protected from the east by three fjords which jut far into the land and are girdled by steep, high mountain ridges. The Germans destroyed the only highway, erected booms and planted many mines in the narrow mountain passes. Thus our troops had to operate on trackless terrain and negotiate mountains intersected by fjords.

After the defeat sustained by the Germans in the Nikel, Ahmalahti and Salmijarvi area, they made use of frontier fortifications created earlier. But our troops rapidly smashed this line of defenses. Mobile groups entered the breach and rushed ahead. Tanks advanced at such speed they reached the first fjord

before the Germans, seizing the crossing.

Simultaneously the offensive on the left flank developed successfully. Soviet infantry completed a three-day march across mountain country to the southern point of Jarfjorden. The enemy's powerful fortified line was crushed and soon the entire western shore of Jarfjorden fell into our hands.

Our other units acting farther south effected a turning maneuver and emerged upon and cut the Kirkenes-Kolujaarvi road, thus barring overland communication between Kirkenes and the rear. One of our units repulsed a number of enemy counter-attacks and set out toward Kirkenes from the south.

By the time our troops approached Kirkenes from the south and east, other Soviet forces effected a surprise landing

on the cape of the fjord. Since the fjord was tightly blocked from the sea by German cutters and ships, our Marines landed on the cape on a dark night and began the advance on Kirkenes from the north-east.

In a brief time the Marines by a vigorous thrust captured the first fishermen's settlements and seized the coastal batteries. By morning they captured the power station serving the entire Kirkenes area. This blow, combined with attacks in other sectors, resulted in the rapid fall of Kirkenes on the following day.

In Kirkenes the Germans had a base for the entire Lapland army. Three huge stores with one year's stocks of ammunition, military equipment and provisions fell almost entirely into the hands of our troops, who seized many dozens of smaller stores.



Gita Kazarnovskaya (left), head of the weaving department of the Kalinin textile mill in Moscow, instructs a new employee. Kazarnovskaya was graduated from the Textile Institute while working in the mills

Workers Increase Production in Honor of 27th Anniversary of Soviet State

In the latter part of September, the workers of the Stalin automobile plant in Moscow initiated a drive to increase production by November 7, the Twenty-Seventh Anniversary of the October Revolution. When the drive was announced, other plants, from tank and aircraft factories to textile mills, enthusiastically began to compete for leadership in raising production standards.

Such drives are not new to Soviet industry. They may be compared with the repeated offensives which make up the grand westward sweep of the Red Army. Like the men in the Army, the soldiers of Soviet industry have been storming at one production objective after another and, having attained them, have dug in and prepared for the next. Since each objective is far in advance of the previous one, the graph of production takes on a step-like upward course.

Each plant sets itself its own objective,

depending upon specific conditions. The Stalin automobile plant workers, for example, have pledged themselves to fulfill the 10 months' plan ahead of schedule with a surplus output valued at 58 million rubles; to overfulfill the plan for motor vehicles by 3 per cent; to increase the productivity of labor by 10 per cent in the third quarter of the year; to conserve electricity, oil and fuel, and to give technical instruction to 2,500 workers.

When objectives like these are sought by all industries, and even by machine and tractor stations, there can be no doubt that tremendous achievements will have been made by November 7 not only in total production but also in increased productivity of labor and in reduced production costs. In addition, thousands of workers will be trained for both war and postwar jobs.

These factors have been instrumental in keeping the output of Soviet plants

soaring since the outbreak of the war. They have involved not only the workers themselves, but also all engineers and executives. All the links in the production process have been directed at improving the efficiency and methods of production, increasing the output of machines, and utilizing every minute of the working day. Quotas have been exceeded as much as 10 times because of improved methods of work. It is obvious that added physical exertion alone could not have produced such a pace of production.

The workers and engineers of Soviet industry have taken advantage of the practically unlimited opportunities for technical progress. Their aim is not to hit a fleeting peak in production but to elevate industry as a whole. The eager response to the call of the automobile plant workers proves that the men and women on the production line will achieve that end and firmly dig in by November 7.

SOVIET DEMOCRACY IN THE PATRIOTIC WAR

By Academician A. Trainin

The Patriotic War has brought to the fore the mass heroism of the sons and daughters of the Soviet Union, both at the front and in the rear areas. The fountainhead of this heroism is the Soviet people's consciousness of the democratic gains they have won, and which were threatened by the enemy.

The State structure of the USSR is an outstanding example of this democracy. Its chief characteristic is the voluntary union of the Soviet peoples, whose sovereign rights are guaranteed by the constituent Republics which make up the Union, and by their Constitutions. The voluntary nature and complete equality of the National Republics making up the Union have forged moral and political unity among all the peoples of the USSR. The enemy failed to sow national discord among the peoples of the USSR and so to weaken her as a State.

The strength of the Soviet State lies in its democratic form: the Soviet people are complete masters in their own country. The Constitution of the USSR states that every citizen who has reached the age of 18 shall participate in the election of Government bodies and that he has full electoral rights and may be elected to all Soviets without exception, from the Supreme Soviet of the Union to the local municipal Soviets.

Soviet democracy insures that every citizen of the USSR enjoys those rights which are most essential to man and which serve to raise his dignity. These fundamental rights are the right to work, to enjoy leisure, to education and to a secure old age; men and women have equal rights in all spheres of State, economic, cultural and social life, irrespective of the nationality or race of the person concerned.

These and other democratic liberties are recorded in the Constitution of the USSR, which the people affectionately call their "Stalin Constitution."

Soviet democracy insures the people complete sovereignty in economic as well as State matters. The basis for this is in the Soviet social system, which makes all means of production the property of the working people.

During the period covered by the Five-Year Plans, the whole country was re-equipped technically by the labor and capital accumulation of the people of the USSR. This alone shows the great creative potential possessed by Soviet democracy.

German fascism tried to rob the Soviet people of all they had achieved in the sphere of national economy, in order to satisfy the appetites of the Krupps, Goerings and other industrial concerns.

The Patriotic War became a war of the whole people. The Red Army, which personifies the militant unity of the peoples of the USSR, hurled back the invaders and is now striking hammer blows at the enemy beyond the borders of our country.

The victories won at the front were insured by the work done in the rear areas. It was a great honor for a factory to receive an order for supplies for the front. "It's needed at the front! We'll make it!" became the prevailing slogan of the factories in besieged Leningrad and in the factories of the entire country.

The war years have given rise to new forms of democratic initiative among the body of workers in the factories, an initiative motivated by patriotism. Entire staffs employed by large industrial concerns are competing with one another for greater output. The Stakhanov movement has been extended to include factory workers, collective farmers, engineers, technicians and professional workers.

Not only have the people toiled ceaselessly in the factories, but, as has often happened in districts near the front, have left their factories to take their places in the firing line. The working people of Leningrad who, after a full day's work under regular front-line conditions, went out to build defenses around the city, have earned undying glory. The same is true of Stalingrad and other Soviet cities that were threatened by the enemy.

The beneficial results of the democratic policy of the Soviet State in the sphere of national economy has become particularly apparent in wartime. The economic plan has become a powerful means of

scientifically organizing manpower and material resources.

The democratic principle on which Soviet economy has always been based is expressed in the fact that it serves the interests of the people and is not for profit. In old Tsarist Russia nobody thought it worth while to build industrial concerns in the more distant provinces. The organization of non-Russian Soviet Republics and regions undertaken in Soviet times was accompanied by the transfer of industry to the East. This new industry brought about an improvement in the material and cultural well-being of many peoples of the East who in the past had been backward, both economically and culturally. This new industry led to the growth of contingents of skilled workers, strengthened the friendship between the Soviet peoples and gave greater strength to Soviet democracy.

Since the present war began, the Eastern regions of the Soviet Union have become arsenals supplying the Red Army. The patriotism of the people of these regions—people of intensely patriotic feelings, who in Tsarist times were not even permitted to serve in the army—has provided the Red Army with new weapons and with reserves of manpower.

Soviet democracy also grew and developed as a result of the tremendous cultural and educational work carried out by the Soviet State. The war has not checked the progress of Soviet culture. The 1944 budget, which was confirmed by the recent Tenth Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, assigned 51,400 million rubles for social and cultural needs, as compared with 37,200 million rubles in 1943. This is an increase of 38.2 per cent in one year.

Soviet democracy has brought forth many talented leaders from among the people. They are people who have been brought up under Soviet democracy, which has given them faith in their own strength, given them knowledge, and inculcated courage and valor in them.

It is the patriotic, militant, creative enthusiasm of these people during the whole period of the Patriotic War that has insured complete victory over fascism.

ALL FOR OUR NATIVE KIEV

By Fedor Mokienko
Chairman of the Kiev City Soviet

I met Major General Donald Connolly, Commander of the American Forces in the Persian Gulf, at a banquet given in his honor when he arrived in Kiev from Iran last December. Major General Connolly was responsible for the transportation of arms, automobiles and provisions to the Soviet Union and was interested in questions concerning the Ukrainian Front.

The General had crossed the Dnieper at Kiev by a floating bridge, parallel to which a high railway bridge was being built on piles. Over a glass of vodka the American said to me with soldierly bluntness that the thing was sheer fantasy—it was impossible to build a railway bridge a kilometer-and-a-half long in 13 days—nothing like it had ever been heard of in the history of military engineering.

I suggested that he test these opinions on the spot. He talked to many of the bridgebuilders and found that this huge structure had actually been built under conditions of the utmost difficulty during a wartime winter.

What surprised the American still more was that the heavy piles were driven into the Dnieper's bed by 2,000 Kiev citizens who had never done such work before. They did not know the work, but they knew well that this bridge was as necessary as air to Kiev and the front. The people who toiled on the bridge in November were ill-clad, ill-nourished and had no proper tools. But life in Kiev—their own personal life—began with the building of this bridge over the river, so they toiled at it desperately.

When the American had seen for himself that we were right, and when he had gained an insight into the spirit of our people, he admitted that if our men and women could work like that, the Americans would soon be able to transport their goods into Russia straight across Europe, instead of through Iran.

I must add here that the Soviet Government has awarded medals and orders to 27 Kiev civilians for their work on the bridge. They were all delighted to learn that the American General Connolly had also been decorated for his brilliant organization in military affairs in Iran, and

that his services were regarded as meriting the Order of Suvorov, one of the highest military orders of the Soviet Union.

* * *

To be frank, I was not offended by the General's skepticism; I could understand him.

I remembered when as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Red Army Engineers I walked among the corpses that strewed Kiev's gloomy streets, odorous with the smoke of recent fires. In my briefcase I had a paper ordering my return from the Army to civil employment as Chairman of the Kiev City Soviet.

My thoughts were far from cheerful. I saw a deserted, devastated Kiev, left without water, fuel, light, bread or people.

Then, by degrees, these gloomy prospects melted like clouds in the rays of the springtime sun. The people who had taken refuge from German Tommy guns and German penal servitude in cellars, woods and surrounding villages, began to return to the city. But there were fewer than 50,000—where in prewar days there had been about one million. The fate of 200,000 of my fellow-citizens is known for certain—they were shot in Babi Yar and suffocated in gas vans. The fate of 107,000 others is not less tragic: they have been taken to captivity in Germany—to hunger, tuberculosis, spotted typhus.

But those who survived set to work with such heroism, such thirst for vengeance, that their spades and crowbars were as effective as weapons. They had the task of reviving what had once been Kiev. They had to raise Kiev from its ruins despite all the Germans had done. Volunteers of every profession, status and age initiated this immense creative task.

And after nine months, Kiev has bread, water, light, transport, fuel and people. Houses for 106,000 people have been repaired. The State helps us in every possible way in this terribly difficult time when every nail, every kilogram of cement, every piece of glass must be taken into account. Realizing these difficulties, the people rely first and foremost on their own abilities and energies.

Working in their leisure time, a volunteer brigade of postal and telegraph employees headed by Victor Kolos is rebuilding a six-story building burned down by the Germans. Students and teachers of the Medical Institute have restored one of their schools and are completing the construction of dormitories for students. They found their own means and labor for this. Professors worked beside students, collecting usable building materials from piles of wreckage, and plastering walls, hanging doors and glazing windows.

A most important work was done by volunteers in the restoration of the Kreshchatik, Kiev's main thoroughfare, where the Germans burned and blew up hundreds of fine buildings. The people of Kiev worked tirelessly, sorting and salvaging brick and stone from the ruins, collecting in all 500,000 tons. The volunteer builders have already worked more than 250,000 shifts, and this work has not cost the City Soviet one penny.

The energy and enthusiasm of Kiev knows no bounds. The population has already reached 500,000. Ninety secondary schools, 19 colleges, 62 libraries, 10 cinemas, three theaters and nine churches have been opened.

We have many plans and projects, one of which is to rebuild the Kreshchatik in three years. The architectural designs, for which competitions will soon be announced, will decide the question of how the main thoroughfare of the Ukrainian capital will appear in future. We know perfectly well what we want—our city must be beautiful, with splendid palaces and gardens worthy of our heroic times.

Kiev Observatory Returns

In November the Kiev Astronomical Observatory will celebrate its 100th anniversary at home. At the outbreak of the war the staff of the Observatory was evacuated to Sverdlovsk with all the equipment which could be removed. Much of what remained was looted by the Germans. The staff has begun the task of repairing the partially-wrecked building and restoring the equipment.

Notes from Front and Rear

The Panfilov Eighth Guards Division, composed of Kazakhs and Kirghizians, has won special distinction for its part in the liberation of the Latvian SSR. Founded by Major General Ivan Panfilov in Central Asia at the beginning of the war, the Division won glory in the Battle for Moscow, where 28 of its soldiers barred the way to 54 German tanks. All the Guardsmen perished, but the tanks were stopped. General Panfilov was later killed in action, but his Division fought all the way from Moscow to Riga, pierced strong German defenses and opened the Baltic area for the entire Second Baltic Front. Over 2,000 square kilometers of Soviet soil and some 900 localities were liberated by the Kazakhs and Kirghizians. Decorations have been awarded to more than 2,000 officers and men of the Division.

★

Many new sanatoriums and rest homes have been opened in the Soviet Far Eastern areas during the war. Radio-active hot springs in formerly inaccessible mountain districts are now reached by good roads.

★

In the Moscow coal basin the experimental station for subterranean gasification of coal, wrecked by the Germans, has been fully restored. The problem of subterranean coal gasification without the usual pits or galleries has been successfully solved at this station, thus eliminating underground labor. Preparation for ignition and gasification is carried out from the surface through shafts with only a small crew of workers required to operate the machinery.

★

The First State Drama Theater of Byelorussia, evacuated to Tomsk, Siberia, during the war, has returned to Minsk.

★

In the five months since the liberation of the Crimea the health resorts of Yalta, Feodosia and Yevpatoria have been the scene of tremendous reconstruction. Railway, postal and telegraph communications between the Crimea and all cities of the USSR have been restored.

Bakhry Altybaeva, a young woman who helped to develop the textile industry of Turkmenia, has been appointed People's Commissar of Light Industry of the Republic. Another young woman, Nuri Karadszhaeva, a former lawyer, member of the Regional Court and later Attorney General of Turkmenia, has been named People's Commissar of Justice.

★

A new volume of translations of short stories by 19th Century American writers will be issued shortly by the Moscow State Fiction Publishing House. Thirteen authors, from Washington Irving to Stephen Crane, will be represented in the collection. Many of the stories, including those by Hamlin Garland and Frank Norris, are being translated into Russian for the first time. The book will be illustrated by outstanding Soviet artists.

★

On November 21 Leningrad will mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of the great French writer Voltaire. A series of lectures will be given by the Institute of Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and a general commemorative session will be held.

★

Six hundred and fifty reindeer skins, 120 sables and about 55,000 other valuable furs have been presented to the Red Army by the small northern population of Evenok, located in the highlands of Kamchatka. Before the war the Evenki, skilled hunters and reindeer breeders, were chiefly nomads. When military needs taxed the transport of the country, they began to grow their own vegetables, grain and a special variety of tobacco which withstands the northern climate. The Evenkis have already contributed one million rubles to the Special Red Army Fund.

★

Trade union locals have resumed activities in all liberated industrial centers of Latvia. In many cities the trade union clubs have also reopened.

The Order of Mother Heroine has been conferred upon Anna Belyaeva, a farm-woman of Lobkova village, Ivanovo Region, who has reared ten sons and seven daughters. Five sons are fighting at the front and the others are working on collective farms and in war plants. Anna Belyaeva, who has 50 grandchildren, is in vigorous health. During the war she insisted upon returning to work on the farm, putting in hours amounting to over 200 workdays in the first half of the year.

★

"Sharu Kau"—sour stone—is the name of a mountain in Azerbaijan where deposits of the valuable mineral known as alunite have been found. Alunite contains aluminum oxide, which after a special refining process yields excellent aluminum. A survey of the alunite deposits in this area indicates that it will prove one of the world's largest fields.

★

In one small German town entered by Soviet troops, Red Army men found a shop with the sign "Hans Stemme Trading House." The proprietor had fled, abandoning everything including the money in the cash drawer. The shop was filled with empty beer barrels, rusty bicycles from Denmark, Belgian steel files, ancient engraving from Holland, French hats, Polish perfume, saccharine and axle grease.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vcl. IV, No. 115

Washington, D. C., November 2, 1944



TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT OCTOBER REVOLUTION

The Soviet people feel a particular pride in the celebration of this—the 27th—Anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution; pride in the victories of their Red Army, which have changed the whole course of the war. The reverberations of these victories are world-wide; one can say definitely that but for them the present stage of the war and position of the opposing forces would have been a matter of the distant and problematical future.

A comparison of the map of the front line in November, 1942, and today will give some idea of the magnitude of the Red Army successes. But that is only the "geographical" side. It should be borne in mind that as the Germans retreated under the blows of the Red Army, they sustained gigantic losses in lives and materiel which no total mobilization can repair.

Of course these three years and more of war have demanded no small sacrifice on the part of the Soviet Union. But the final effect has been to strengthen rather than weaken the might of the Red Army. What are the sources from which this might is derived?

First, the war which the Red Army is waging against Germany is a just war, a war of liberation. The men of the Red Army, like all the Soviet people, know their cause is a righteous one—that they are fighting unscrupulous and bloodthirsty invaders, that it is a fight for the liberty and independence of their Soviet country, a fight to rid the Soviet people and the people of other nations of the threat of fascist enslavement. This helps to multiply the strength of the Red Army, fosters heroism in battle and revises all our ordinary concepts of the moral and physical tenacity of the soldier. Hence the inflex-



**Unbreakable Union of freeborn Republics,
Great Russia has welded forever to stand;
Created in struggle by will of the peoples,
United and mighty, our Soviet Land!**

—From the Soviet National Anthem

ible will to victory and high morale of the Red Army.

Another underlying source of the might of the Red Army is the strength of its rear. The rear of the Red Army is the Soviet land, a vast territory with an industrious and gifted population, with immense and diverse natural resources, a highly developed industry and highly productive agriculture. The country's resources are not exploited wastefully, but in planned fashion for the benefit of the whole country.

This, of course, does not eliminate the need of aid from other countries, as the demands of modern warfare are immense and the development of the home industry requires time, while the needs of the front as a rule admit no delay.

But it is not only its natural wealth

that determines the strength of the Soviet Union. That strength is mainly determined by the people themselves, by the firm friendship binding the nations inhabiting the USSR, by the high morale and patriotism of Soviet citizens.

Even a blind man can now see how egregiously the Nazis blundered when they treacherously attacked the Soviet Union in the expectation that the Soviet rear would collapse morally and politically and that the nations inhabiting it would come to blows. But war and its perils served only to unite the Soviet people more closely and to cement the bonds between the nations of the Soviet Union.

This unbreakable friendship of the Soviet peoples, their realization of their common interest and destiny, and the moral and political unity of all Soviet citizens, constitute the first remarkable feature of the Soviet rear which communicates invincible strength, inflexible staunchness and high moral stability to the Red Army.

And wherever the Nazi invaders appeared on Soviet soil, all inhabitants—workers, clerks and collective farmers—rose up to help the Red Army defend the country. It was a genuine people's war. Never will the Germans forget the People's Avengers—the Soviet guerrillas.

This noble and lofty patriotism, this hatred of the vile Nazi invader, this inflexible determination to annihilate the enemy and to defend the happiness, liberty and independence of the country, constitute the second remarkable feature of the Soviet rear from which the Red Army derives its fighting strength and moral fortitude.

The Soviet people did not want war. In response to the wishes of the people, the Soviet Government did its utmost to prevent the conflagration. But when the



Radiophoto

Red Army Sergeants Pukhov, Uzhvi and Nikolsky were among the troops which liberated Riga, capital of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic

enemy forced the war upon them, the Soviet people raised the slogan: *Everything for the war! Everything for victory!* and made it the law of their lives, their thoughts and efforts.

The Soviet rear performed heroic feats of labor with the aim of supplying the Armed Forces with all they needed to wage the war and to win it. The results are obvious. At the beginning of the war the Germans had an overwhelming superiority in tanks, aircraft, weapons and machines. But where is that superiority now? The Germans lost it two years ago and it has now definitely passed to the Red Army.

Without such heroism the task which faced the Soviet rear could not have been carried out. Never before had such a task been accomplished. To realize the truth of this, it should be borne in mind that the Soviet rear not only had to organize mass production of guns, ammunition, tanks and aircraft—this had to be done in record time and in the midst of war. Add to this the loss of the country's principal industrial centers and the necessity of transferring thousands of industrial plants from the war zone deep into the interior at a time when a huge proportion of workers in the country was diverted to the battlefields. Soviet labor overcame all these difficulties.

During the siege of Leningrad, Zad-

vornoy, a brigade leader at one of the war factories, fell seriously ill. The young members of his brigade were still too inexperienced to work without supervision. Ill and exhausted to the point where he was no longer able to stand, Zadvornoy had himself carried to the factory and suspended in a sort of cradle over a tank which was being repaired. From this position he directed the work. Zadvornoy's son died at this time, but he refused to leave the shop until the job was completed.

This heroism in labor, this readiness to bear any privation and sacrifice for the good of the country, constitute the third remarkable feature of the Soviet rear which helped to strengthen the might of the Red Army.

There is one other factor which explains the influence of the Soviet rear on the fighting efficiency of the Red Army. The Army and the rear enjoy the esteem and confidence of each other. They constitute one indivisible whole. The rear says, "What my Army demands must be done." The Army says: "What my people demand I cannot fail to do." From this identity of the Army and the rear springs the military strength of the Soviet Union which has astonished the world.

It is not enough to want to fight and have the possibility to fight in order to win; one must know how to fight. In

other words, one must be proficient in the science and art of war. It may be said without fear of bias that in this respect too the Red Army is now superior to the Germans. The war has been a splendid school in which the Army has developed and perfected its fighting qualities, and from private to general it has grown into a first-class military force. Its deeds are eloquent and convincing proof of this.

The maturity of all ranks of the Red Army today—privates, officers and generals—can best be summed up in the words: they have mastered the science of victory. The privates have mastered perfectly the use of their weapons and combine courage and heroism with intelligence and initiative. Officers and generals have learned to organize modern battles and to direct them even in the most swiftly changing situations. They have mastered the art of maneuver and the coordination of all arms on the battlefield, and combine swiftness of action with calculated audacity. In other words, the Red Army has during the war mastered the most advanced and up-to-date modern strategy and tactics.

At the beginning of the war the Germans had the advantage of experience in modern warfare. They boasted of their military talents and these talents were acknowledged not only by their well-wishers. As to the talents of the Red Army, some people preferred at best to keep silent on the subject. Now, however, nobody talks of the superiority of the German science of war; that would be ridiculous. But the superiority of the Soviet science of war is generally acknowledged.

Soviet military science and the military maturity of the Soviet fighting men and commanders constitute one of the chief sources of the Red Army's victories.

In enumerating the sources of the Red Army's achievements one cannot refrain from mentioning its leader, its Supreme Commander, Marshal Stalin. To do this is not merely a tribute of respect. Stalin is the soul and brain of the Red Army, the author of its victories. The Red Army owes its strength and brilliance to Stalin's strategical and tactical leadership, to his amazing gift for organization and his remarkable military and political perspicacity.

THE SOVIET BLACK SEA FLEET IN ACTION



On a quiet evening, vessels prepare for a new mission



A submarine is the first to leave the base



Daybreak finds the ships on their course



A battleship opens fire on the enemy coast



While the battle goes on above decks, surgeons care for the wounded below



Bombardment of the enemy coast over, the ships are homeward bound

Soviet Pilots Dominate the Sky

By Lieutenant Colonel N. Denisov

Soviet pilots hail the 27th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution as complete masters of the sky on the Soviet-German front — a mastery won many months ago.

The road to victory was hard. When the Germans perfidiously crossed the Soviet border their air force was at its full strength and completely mobilized, with thousands of combat machines which had played a most significant part in the German blitzkrieg plan. Besides being numerically superior, the German aircraft were somewhat better in performance.

The Soviet Air Force could not at that time modernize its machines, since it was necessary to remove a considerable part of the aircraft industry to the interior of the country and reorganize production in the new areas. Soviet pilots fought under adverse conditions, displaying mass

heroism and self-sacrifice. In many cases our fliers used their propellers to chop off the wings and tails of enemy bombers, or rammed the German machines.

While this heroic struggle raged at the front, Soviet aircraft designers carefully studied the strong and weak points of the Luftwaffe. An army of thousands of engineers and factory workers exerted all efforts to overcome the handicaps of production. Before the war had reached its 100th day a new and powerful machine appeared on the front—the Stormovik, designed by Ilyushin. Soon our bomber pilots were being adequately supplied with splendid planes for near and long-range action. The Soviet Air Force grew in quality and quantity.

In the grandiose battles for Stalingrad the Air Force took the initiative, paving the way to air mastery. Throughout the spring and summer of 1943 fierce battles raged, particularly over the Kuban and the Kursk salient. Soviet pilots in the Kuban, each making as many as seven and eight flights daily, thwarted the attempts of the German fighter pilots to regain air supremacy. Pokryshkin, now a Colonel and thrice Hero of the Soviet Union, was among these bold airmen.

In the Kuban sky our fighters employed the formula they had elaborated for air combat: altitude, speed, maneuver and fire. Effectively applying parts of the formula or ably combining them, Soviet pilots destroyed enormous numbers of enemy aircraft, thus predetermining the outcome of another no less important air operation which developed soon after over the Kursk salient. The scope of this operation was also on a grand scale: it is enough to say that nearly 1,000 enemy aircraft were destroyed in a few days—three times the number lost by the Germans in the first year of the present war. After Kursk, the Soviet Air Force went over to a determined offensive.

Last year the anniversary of the Soviet State was marked by the victories of the Red Army on the Dnieper and the liberation of Kiev, the Ukrainian capital. Since that time Soviet troops have crossed the borders of East Prussia and Hungary, and



Between flights Soviet aviators relax in an improvised dance hall under the wing of their plane

are fighting in Poland and Yugoslavia. In these offensives the Air Force has played a most important role. Officers and generals and the flight and ground personnel have developed and perfected new operational and tactical methods of combating the Luftwaffe and cooperating with land troops.

Undoubtedly one of the most significant events of the past year is the employment of concentrated mass action by the Soviet Air Force. This is an air offensive of the highest order—the main form of cooperation with ground forces. A few examples from the past summer's operations illustrate this point. In one sector 15 kilometers long, 550 Stormoviks and bombers covered by several hundred fighters took to the air to blast the enemy defenses. Within a few moments, more than 60 Soviet planes were operating on each kilometer of this front. But even that was exceeded: simultaneously, on a smaller but more important operational sector nearby, 1,288 Soviet machines pounded the enemy for 40 minutes.

The Soviet Air Force employs concentrated action not only to break the enemy front, but also in repelling counter-thrusts. When the Germans counter-attacked on the Vistula, for example, 1,040 Soviet bombers and Stormoviks operated for two hours over one battlefield.

The fact that Soviet pilots now dominate the skies above the battlefields is a guarantee of further Red Army successes and the final rout of the enemy.



Isuliophoto

Among Soviet fliers breaking records in American Airacobras and Soviet Stormoviks are the Glinka brothers. Guards Major Dmitri Glinka, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union (left), has brought down 39 planes. Guards Major Boris Glinka, Hero of the Soviet Union, had a score of 31 at the last report

THE URALS—ARSENAL OF THE USSR

By Professor S. Strumilin

The Urals have always been rich in natural resources. Even in the days of Peter the First, their metal production exceeded that of England, which boasted the most highly developed iron industry of the time. Under the Tsars, however, the rich resources of the Urals remained untapped and the area was one of the most backward in the country.

When the Stalin Five-Year Plans introduced planned economy into the area, industry began to make such unprecedented strides that on the eve of the present war the industrial output of the region was ten times greater than the highest pre-revolutionary level. At the same time the machine-building industry increased its production more than 25 times. This output becomes all the more striking when it is remembered that Soviet industry developed at three times the rate of the Russia of Tsarist days.

Stalin's majestic plan for the country's industrialization wisely foresaw the need of shifting industry to the Urals and beyond them as an essential of national defense. Industrialization of the Urals, therefore, proceeded at a faster pace than it did anywhere else in the country.

This was particularly true in the case of iron and steel production. While the output of pig iron in the USSR increased nearly three and a half times between 1927 and 1937, in the Urals, including the Kuzbas, it increased nearly 18 times.

Before the war broke out, over 200 large plants had been erected in the area. These included 12 power stations which supplied about 20 times the amount of electricity previously available; iron and steel mills among which is the Magnitogorsk giant plant producing more iron than all the 90 pre-revolutionary blast furnaces of the Urals; a new copper refinery with an annual output of 40,000 tons and a number of others which increased the copper output of the region sixfold; 11 new machine-building plants; the Nizhny Tagil railway-car works, one of the largest in the world; the giant Chelyabinsk tractor plant; and six chemical plants, one of which was the largest in Europe.

Geological exploration of the region revealed deposits of about 800 minerals and almost every element in the Mendeleev table. The amount of iron ore alone has been estimated at 1,625 million tons as compared with an estimate of 285 million tons in Tsarist days. Rich deposits of oil, potassium, bauxite, chromium, manganese and magnetite were discovered. In addition, there are gold, platinum, emeralds, beryl and other precious and semi-precious stones for which the Urals have long been famous.

The towns of the Urals had been growing at a fabulous pace even before the war. When the Soviet Union was invaded, however, hundreds of essential plants and their personnel were transferred there from the war zones. At the same time, the existing plants were placed on a war footing and a number of new plants sprang up. All these plants are steadily increasing their output of weapons by perfecting the methods of production and increasing the productivity of labor.

It is still too soon to give a detailed account of the strides made by the Urals industries during the war. But it is known

that the industrial capacity of the region had been more than trebled by the end of 1942. When this greatly increased production capacity was turned to the service of the Armed Forces, the Urals became a vast arsenal for the country, in which the patriots of the Urals day and night have forged the weapons which are defeating the invading enemy.

During the war I have made frequent visits to the industrial plants of the Urals and have been able to familiarize myself with their amazing productivity. From this forge of weapons comes a never-ending stream of trains loaded with guns and mortars, mines and airplanes of all types, formidable KV tanks and Katyushas which spread panic and destruction among the ranks of the enemy, and all sorts of other weapons.

These visits also impressed me with the fact that this vast arsenal does not owe its achievements only to the natural wealth of the Urals and the high level of Soviet engineering. It owes them also, above all, to the men and women on the production line. They forge the weapons on the home front for the cause of victory on the battle front.



Radiophoto

Young factory workers spend the evening in an over-night sanatorium

HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE SOVIET UNION

By **Sergei Kaftanov**

Chairman, All-Union Committee for Higher Schools

The higher educational institutions of the USSR have made constant progress during the past 27 years. Immediately after the Revolution in 1917, the Soviet Government was faced not only with the task of drastically revising the educational system it had inherited but also with rebuilding it along entirely new lines.

The first decrees on higher education issued by the Council of People's Commissars abolished all racial, class and other barriers to admission to higher schools. Tuition fees were eliminated and all nationalities granted the right to teach their native tongues in the schools of their respective Autonomous Republics.

Another decree of August 2, 1918, gave priority in admission to students of worker and peasant origin, and granted them Government scholarships.

So numerous were the applications for admission that the network of 90 higher schools which accommodated 111,000 in 1917 had to be extended immediately. The University of Moscow alone had 20,000 students enrolled in 1918, five times more than in 1913. By 1927 the network had been expanded to 150 schools with 176,000 students.

Despite this large increase, the number of specialists graduated was still inadequate to meet the needs of the country's growing economy. The First Five-Year Plan had just been formulated and specialists were urgently needed for industry. As a result, the higher schools were reorganized to provide a greater degree of specialization within a comparatively short time. While only about 26,000 licensed engineers were employed in basic industries on September 1, 1929, in the following six years more than 80,000 were graduated from the higher technical schools of heavy industry. By the end of the First Five-Year Plan, the Soviet higher schools had a total enrollment of 563,000 students.

Realization of the Second Five-Year Plan opened a new era in the growth of higher schools. By May, 1938 there were 700 colleges and universities with 550,000 students in the USSR. In addition there were 3,400 technicums (special voca-

tional higher schools), so that the entire higher school enrollment may be estimated at 1,250,000 students, one million of whom received Government scholarships.

These schools graduated 198,000 specialists between 1928 and 1932; 323,000 between 1933 and 1937, and 477,000 between 1938 and 1942. The training given these young specialists was not interrupted during the war and between 1941 and 1944 about 250,000 specialists were graduated.

As the schools expanded and the enrollment increased, the teaching staff also grew. Where there had been 26,432 faculty members on the staffs of higher schools in 1937, there were over 49,000 at the outbreak of the war. During the war itself, from 1941 to 1944, 1,719 doctorate degrees were awarded and there were over 4,600 candidates for the degree.

Postgraduate work is open to the most talented and promising young graduates. On the eve of the war there were 13,000 graduate students in the higher schools of the USSR, 11,500 of them full-time students. The war, of course, affected many of them; some were drafted, others sought employment in essential war industries. At present, postgraduate work is being resumed and over 5,500 graduates are expected to study during the academic year of 1944-1945.

The budget of the higher schools has also increased proportionately—from 160 million rubles in 1925-1926 to five billion rubles in 1937. This budget does not include special Government grants for scientific research, which were increased from 28 million to one billion rubles during the same period. Nor does it include such additional appropriations as the 4.4 billion rubles allotted in 1944 for the restoration of some of the higher schools which had been looted or completely demolished by the invaders. In 1943, 52 new higher schools were opened in the liberated areas.

In the National Republics a network of higher educational institutions was created where none had previously existed. Of the 16 constituent Republics,

only five had had higher schools before the Revolution, yet today there are about 400 higher schools in the Russian SFSR, 18 in the Kazak SSR, 14 in Azerbaijan and 31 in the Uzbek SSR.

The student body of these higher schools is composed of many nationalities. At the Tbilisi University in Georgia, for example, there were 4,025 Georgians among the students in 1938, 173 Armenians, 78 Russians, 58 Jews, 19 Ossetians and nine Greeks.

The proportion of women to the rest of the student body is also noteworthy. There were only 17,000 women, about 15 per cent of the entire student body, enrolled in the higher schools of Russia in 1914, as compared with 43 per cent in 1940. As a result of this increase, more women specialists found places in industry. Although there had been no women engineers engaged in industry in 1925, by 1937 about 8 per cent of the engineers were women and this figure was more than doubled during the war.

The colleges and universities of the Soviet Union have made important scientific contributions to the war effort. The research workers of the Moscow Higher Technical School, for example, have designed several new types of weapons while those of the Central Asia Industrial Institute designed a large Uzbek metallurgical combine which is now operating in the Tashkent area.

Soviet youth are making excellent use of the ample opportunities available to them. In 1943, 160,000 male and female students were admitted to various higher schools and the following year saw 173,000 students enrolled. The demand for higher education is so great, however, that many had to be rejected, despite the fact that almost the entire network of prewar schools has been restored and many new schools have been opened.

The Soviet higher educational system has been given a firm basis for its work and development. It enjoys the permanent and unflinching support of the Government, thus insuring the most promising prospects for the future.

COLLECTIVE FARMS IN WARTIME

By Academician V. S. Nemchinov

Director, All-Union Timiryazev Agricultural Academy

The collective farms, next to socialist industry, have been the firm bulwark of the Soviet Union during the great Patriotic War. They have insured a greater flow of foodstuffs and agricultural products than ever before and have so consistently supplied the needs of both the home front and the fighting forces that they have definitely proved to be the finest form of agricultural organization for wartime.

The transformation of Soviet agriculture from a system of small, isolated farms into collective farms has proved to be the country's salvation. During the brief period from 1930 to 1934, the country's 25 million scattered peasant households gave way to 250,000 collective farms equipped with tractors, harvester combines and the most modern agricultural implements. Agriculture was run on the largest scale in the world and became the most mechanized.

In the First World War the peasants were forced to reduce the area under cultivation by 10 million hectares. In the third year of this war the collective farms cultivated several million hectares more land than in any prewar year and 40 per cent more than in 1916. This was done despite the fact that at the beginning of the invasion the Germans overran that part of the country which normally produced 87 per cent of the sugar beet crop, 54 per

cent of the vegetables, 49 per cent of the sunflower crop, 44 per cent of the flax, and 37 per cent of the grain. This area had also raised 57 per cent of the hogs and 37 per cent of the cattle.

In the third year of the war the area planted to potatoes was increased by 400 per cent, to sunflowers by 240 per cent, to long-fibered flax by 30 per cent, to cotton by 70 per cent and to grain by 20 per cent.

These achievements may be attributed in part to the successful solution of the manpower problem. The war naturally made heavy drains on the personnel of the collective and State farms. Many of the men were inducted into the Army or into the air and tank forces. The year before the war there had been 970,000 tractor drivers, 255,000 combine operators and 125,000 mechanics employed by the machine and tractor stations of the collective and State farms. Before they were inducted into the Army, the men managed to train replacements to do their work.

The fact that the collective farm system has given women economic equality has also made it possible for them to play an active part in collective farm production in wartime. During the war the number of collective farmers actually increased rather than decreased. There has been an average of 238 persons per 100 collective farm households engaged in agriculture

as compared with 233 persons in 1940.

Mechanization has also made it possible for women to take the place of men. In the last World War the women, youngsters and old men also constituted the overwhelming majority of agricultural labor power, but they could not be used effectively because agriculture was so poorly mechanized.

They have, however, been used to advantage in this war, as some of the figures on grain production for the market show. Grain for the market had been increased by 13.3 per cent in relation to gross production in 1926-1927 and by 40 per cent in 1940. This increase has been maintained.

In addition to maintaining the country's fighting strength and keeping the front and home forces supplied with foodstuffs, the collective farms have played an enormous part in speeding the restoration of agriculture in the areas liberated from the German invaders. At the beginning of 1944, work had been resumed by 1,698 machine and tractor stations in the liberated areas and over 24,000 collective farm homes had been rebuilt or repaired.

The selflessness displayed by collective farmers both at work and on the battlefields is testimony of the profound patriotism of the collective farm peasantry.



On a Jewish collective farm in Uzbekistan, in Central Asia—Istam Iskhakov and his two daughters and son at work in the fields



On the same farm, Abram Grossman (right) talks with the cattle supervisor, Makhmadamin Suleimanov, who has been invalided home from the war

THE NOBLE HEART

By Konstantin Simonov

The following is a review of the new Soviet film ZOYA, directed by L. Arnstam:

Soviet boys and girls are urged to be "like Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya." And they do their best to be like her. The life and death of this young guerrilla heroine who endured the most brutal tortures at the hands of the German executioners stirs the hearts of our youth. All the noble qualities fostered in the new Soviet generation during the present war have perhaps found their fullest expression in Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya.

Zoya was a champion of light and good—an enemy of darkness and evil. She died for the Soviet country—for Russia. The film reviews her life from the day of her birth through her childhood, schooldays and young womanhood. Her parents, ordinary Soviet people, inculcated in her the traits of kindness and justice. With splendid fidelity the film traces the wisdom and selflessness fostered in the child by Soviet education.

Zoya was born on the day of Lenin's funeral. She grew up during the heroic period of the construction of the great Dnieper dam. As a child she read of Soviet pilots making a daring flight to the stratosphere, and she questioned her mother as to the meaning of this. In the streets of Moscow she met Chkalov and Gromov, just back from their transpolar flight. They were not accidental dates in Zoya's biography—they are landmarks in her life.

Thus one is not astonished to find Zoya—still scarcely more than a child—capable of performing heroic deeds, of setting out without a shadow of fear on a difficult and dangerous assignment in enemy-occupied territory.

It is hard to tell what is most stirring in this picture of Zoya's life. The film brings back a host of memories. During the hour and a half of its running time I felt a lump in my throat many times—tears both of happiness and sorrow. The whole of our life flashed before me on the screen—the life for which millions of Soviet people have been tirelessly fighting for more than three years. I saw many officers and soldiers leaving the theater



Crowds flock to the October Theater in Leningrad to see the film Zoya

with tears in their eyes, and they were not ashamed of these tears.

It is the story of a Russian girl in whom was combined all the traits inherent in the national character, with the new and splendid qualities fostered by the Soviet regime. The story brings home to us with special vividness the realization that the first time the word "Russian" resounded through the world with such tremendous force was precisely the time the Russian became a Soviet man.

During the film the moment comes when Zoya is caught—as she was in life—in an attempt to set fire to enemy stores in a village, and is led to the German commandant's office. The fiends begin to torture her. Exhausted, she falls against a wall covered with old newspapers, on one of which there is a picture of Lenin's funeral procession.

There is deep meaning in this device of the director. We are agitated. The question of how this young girl will withstand the torture is uppermost in our minds. The answer is given in her life. The girl educated by the Soviet country will act worthily and proudly in all circumstances, as befits a Soviet citizen. We can be concerned for her fate, but we need not doubt her fortitude. We know that

she will perish, but that in dying she will triumph, for she is infinitely stronger than her torturers.

In the film the part of Zoya is played by Galina Vodjanitskaya, a youthful actress making her first appearance on the screen. With the aid of the talented director she gives a portrayal remarkable for its nobility and integrity.

Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya had a noble heart. The picture is as noble and pure as was the heart of Zoya.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Twice Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 116

Washington, D. C., November 8, 1944



Long live the gallant Red Army which is battering the Hitlerite invaders on the territory of Germany! Warriors of the great Soviet power! Forward to the West! Let us finish off the fascist beast in its lair!

—From the Slogans of the Twenty-Seventh Anniversary of the Great October Revolution

IN EAST PRUSSIA

By Martin Merzhanov
PRAVDA War Correspondent

We crossed the German border near the village of Galkemen, picturesquely situated on a hill against a background of yellow birches. It was a typical Prussian village, with peaked Gothic roofs of slate painted a dull red. Wooden fences sharply defined the property of each farmer with its barns, cattlesheds and tiny vegetable garden. As we entered Galkemen we saw a placard on which had been written in ink: *Here, at 10 A.M. Tolstikov's Guardsmen entered Germany.*

The Guardsmen had taken these hills by storm, routed the Germans from their trenches and driven them through the fields, vegetable gardens and ravines to the west—to the interior of Germany.

The entire face of the Prussian land is pitted with trenches. Near these small villages the Germans were unable to build strong engineering fortifications such as those defending Schirwindt, Eydtkuhnen, Stalluponen and Goldap; they had no time to drive iron stakes and plant steel obstacles, but they surrounded the fields and houses with barbed wire, minefields and trenches.

All roads leading into Prussia are crowded with our troops. If you stand on a hilltop and look about, a magnificent panorama of the invasion meets your eye. Over the vast expanse of yellow-brown fields, over the hills and along the narrow twisting lanes, winds the gray line of our infantry. Tanks roar past, plowing up the frozen soil. Men help to push uphill the heavy guns drawn by three horses abreast. Studebaker trucks

loaded with ammunition nose through, their sirens sounding incessantly. Carts loaded with hay and other materials creep along, followed by field kitchens. Agile jeeps scurry about, trying to forge ahead. Planes roar above, flying west toward the line where the yellow fields meet a wall of smoke and flame.

In this stream of men, machines, guns and tanks our car finds a place for itself with difficulty. We drive slowly to the small town of Pillupenen, passing the village of Akominen, where our infantry is bivouacked. Thousands of men have made themselves comfortable on the ground.

Pillupenen greets us with a number of burned-out houses and a huge black sign on which is inscribed in white: *This is accursed Germany.*

The town is surrounded by farmsteads, for which it was the center. Here are the *kirche*, several shops, a filling station, brick houses with slate roofs and a glass advertisement case with announcements of the Nazi party. The glass frames are broken, the announcements torn down, and in the dry yellow leaves on the ground lies the wooden fascist eagle crowned with the swastika.

A signboard covering almost the entire length of one building announces: *Hans*



Soviet artillery crossing the river at Schirwindt, East Prussia

Radiophoto

Zauppichler, Kolonialwaren. A list of goods follows: *Building Materials, Wine, Tobacco, Coal.* The store is undamaged. It contains only ersatz coffee, ersatz tea and toothpowder in paper bags.

Farther along the road is a German farmstead, also deserted. There is a dairy, hayshed, stables and cartsheds. Alfalfa is scattered over the yard, and at the entrance to the trench which completely surrounds the place is an old striped mattress. The cattle have been driven away, but an open plush-upholstered carriage, as well as old furniture, pictures, letters and kitchen utensils were left behind.

We take to the road again. Columns of troops, guns, tanks and storming planes continue to pass. As far as the eye can see, Russian soldiers are marching over Prussian soil.

Now we begin to meet ordinary citizens. They are coming toward us; first only one or two, then groups, and finally a stream. These are Soviet people who were driven into Germany from Lithuania. They are going home. Exhausted, with parchment-yellow faces, bowed shoulders and torn garments, they stagger along, the women carrying children, the old

men hobbling with the aid of sticks.

Weeping, they tell us how brutally and inhumanly the Germans drove them from their homes to Gumbinnen and beyond, forced them to dig trenches and ditches, and robbed, beat and tortured them. During the preceding night they had heard the rumble of our tanks. Then the Germans fled, leaving them behind. This was a moment of supreme happiness: they took the road to the East, toward the Red Army and home.

In this meeting of liberated people with the advancing Red Army units lies the great meaning of our struggle. Here on Prussian soil, on the outskirts of the village of Laukepenen, we saw the furious invasion of the hated country mingle with the joy of people freed from slavery.

The Red Army is pressing on. In the village of Podjemen, at the headquarters of one formation the staff's baggage is being unloaded. A shout is heard: "Don't unload! We're going on!" Silently the men replace the baggage and drive out into the busy highway.

Inside the headquarters, in a room furnished with plush sofas and chairs, a So-

viet general surrounded by officers stands at a table. "Well, it's just like last summer," he says, smiling. "We don't spend a day in one place. I can't start the bakery working—we're moving again."

Podjemen looks like other Prussian villages. There are no people: they have either fled or been driven away. The houses show traces of hurried departure—unfinished plates of food, dark-gray noodles, a towel dropped on the floor, pots and pans left on the stove. And from every wall a smiling Prussian face looks out of a frame.

Now, in carts and wheelbarrows and in their smart phaetons, they are fleeing deeper into Germany; the earth burns under them, bombs fall upon them and shells explode in their path.

On the road of our advance, village after village and farmstead after farmstead with their slate roofs flash past. Here is the line of the front. Our wonderful assault planes pull out of a dive without a whine, and beneath them German dugouts explode into the air.

A Lithuanian peasant taking the road homeward looks about him with wide eyes. Waving his hand to the tankmen, he cries after them, "God bless you!"

THE ARMISTICE WITH BULGARIA

From a PRAVDA editorial, October 30:

Today we publish the text of the Armistice Agreement concluded between the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, on the one hand, and the Government of Bulgaria, on the other hand.

The agreement was signed for the Governments of the Allied powers by the representative of the Soviet High Command, Marshal Fedor I. Tolbukhin, and the representative of the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean area, Lieutenant General J. A. H. Gammell.

After Rumania and Finland, Bulgaria is the third country to sign an armistice with the Allied powers. This is still another illustration of the brilliant victories scored by the Allies.

Bulgaria's break with Germany and her declaration of war on the Germans has struck a heavy blow at Hitlerite Germany.

The armistice signed between the Allied powers and Bulgaria once again emphasizes the extent of Germany's complete military and political defeat.

Hitlerite Germany attached very great importance to Bulgaria's participation in the war against the United Nations and based her strategic plans in the Balkans and the Black Sea area on it. As the difficulties arising from the defeats sustained by her armies on the Soviet-German front grew greater and as it became apparent that the Red Army would enter the Balkans, the Hitlerites began to fortify the Bulgarian places d'armes more stubbornly and to draw the noose of Bulgaria's vassalage more tightly.

In the present war unleashed by the German-fascist bandits, it was imperative for Bulgaria to protect the vital interests of the Bulgarian people and their historic traditions by fighting firmly and irreconcilably against the fascist barbarians, to-

gether with the USSR and all freedom-loving peoples. The criminal clique of German-fascist agents, who were in power in Bulgaria, however, turned the country into a tool of German imperialism.

The Hitlerite caliphs declared war on Great Britain and the United States. They did not dare openly declare war on the Soviet Union because they were aware of the sentiments of the Bulgarian people toward Russia—the liberator of Bulgaria from alien domination. In actual fact, however, they waged war against the USSR. When they hitched Bulgaria's fate to that of Germany, Hitler's Bulgarian hirelings doomed the country to national disaster.

The Red Army's victories opened to the Bulgarian people the road to salvation, to a national revival and the restoration of Bulgaria's independence. To take this road, Bulgaria had to make a resolute and complete break with the German-

fascist invaders, overthrow and punish the Bulgarian quislings, and come over to the side of the United Nations.

In his Order of the Day of May 1, 1944, Stalin wrote: "Rumania, Hungary, Finland and Bulgaria have only one possibility for escaping disaster: to break with the Germans and to withdraw from the war. However, it is difficult to expect that the present governments of these countries will prove capable of breaking with the Germans. One should think that the peoples of these countries will have to take the cause of their liberation from the German yoke into their own hands."

Subsequent developments brilliantly substantiated Stalin's words. The desire for this solution of their country's destiny matured among the Bulgarian people but Bulgaria's rulers, having sold themselves to Berlin, resorted to the most abominable and cynical methods of "maneuvering" and blackmail in order to continue the war on Hitlerite Germany's side.

The Soviet Union tore the mask from these criminals and put an end to their foul game. On September 5, 1944, the Soviet Government declared in its Note to the Bulgarian Government that it "considers it no longer possible to maintain relations with Bulgaria, breaks all relations with Bulgaria and declares that not only is Bulgaria in a state of war with the USSR, as it had actually been previously in a state of war with the USSR, but that the Soviet Union will be from now on in a state of war with Bulgaria."

The Red Army crossed the Rumanian-Bulgarian frontier, started to fight the German invaders on Bulgarian territory and began its campaign for the complete liberation of Bulgaria.

The resolute actions of the Soviet Union roused the broad masses of Bulgarian patriots organized in a powerful anti-Hitler movement, the Patriotic Front. The Government of the Patriotic Front came to power, broke relations with Germany and her satellites, declared war on Germany and proceeded to purge the country of German agents and of fascist and pro-fascist organizations. It requested an armistice of the Allied powers and accepted their preliminary conditions, undertaking to withdraw all Bul-

garian troops and officials from Greek and Yugoslav territories.

The new Bulgarian Government has resolutely broken with the past. It has launched military operations against the Germans on Bulgarian territory. It has at the same time placed the Bulgarian troops in Yugoslavia at the disposal of the Command of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation, in the person of Marshal Tito.

The Bulgarian Government fully realizes the tremendous responsibility which rests on the country and the people for the monstrous crimes committed by Bulgaria's former rulers. The head of the Bulgarian delegation to the armistice conference, Minister of Foreign Affairs Stainoff, declared at the first meeting: "The grave crime committed by the Bulgarian Government burdens the conscience of the entire Bulgarian people."

The Armistice Agreement defines Bulgaria's obligations arising from her responsibility for participation in the war against the United Nations on Hitlerite Germany's side. The agreement also defines the obligations with which Bulgaria is charged for her participation in the war against Hitlerite Germany.

According to the preliminary condition set, Bulgaria was to withdraw all her armed forces and her officials from the territories of Greece and Yugoslavia. She undertakes to "maintain and make available such land, sea and air forces as may be specified for service under the general direction of the Allied (Soviet) High Command."

At present, Bulgarian divisions are fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Armies on Yugoslav territory and with the troops of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation.

The terms of the armistice specify that the Allied Control Commission is to supervise the demobilization of the Bulgarian army and place it on a peacetime footing at the "conclusion of hostilities against Germany." The agreement further specifies that Bulgaria must insure Soviet and other Allied troops free movement on Bulgarian territory and render them all possible assistance.

No definite reparations are set by the agreement for the loss and damage caused by Bulgaria to the United Nations, in-

cluding Greece and Yugoslavia. This sum will be determined at a future date. Naturally, all valuables and materials removed by Germany and Bulgaria from the territories of the Soviet Union, Greece, Yugoslavia and other Allied Nations must be returned to them by specified dates. Bulgaria also undertakes to restore all expropriated property to the United Nations and their nationals.

Several articles of the agreement provide for complete elimination of the vestiges of the fascist regime in Bulgaria. They include the release of all persons held in confinement in connection with their activities in favor of the United Nations or for racial or religious reasons, and the dissolution of all pro-Hitlerite or other fascist organizations.

The conclusion of the armistice with Bulgaria is the result of a concerted policy of the three great Allied powers—the USSR, Great Britain and the United States of America. For the whole period of the armistice there will be established in Bulgaria an Allied Control Commission which "will regulate and supervise the execution of the armistice terms under the chairmanship of the representative of the Allied (Soviet) High Command and with the participation of representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States."

All freedom-loving peoples will receive with satisfaction the news of the conclusion of an armistice with Bulgaria. This agreement will serve to speed the total defeat of Hitlerite Germany and will improve the complex political situation in the Balkans. The armistice with Bulgaria will be an important and useful adjunct to the common cause of peace.

The Soviet people welcome the armistice with Bulgaria. They view with great satisfaction the fact that the Bulgarian people have put an end to the 30-year criminal, fratricidal policy pursued by Bulgaria's pro-German rulers towards other Slav peoples, including the liberator of Bulgaria. Bulgaria now has every opportunity to establish her relations with the great Soviet Union on the basis of a stable and inviolable friendship that would correspond not only with the historical traditions and interests of the two countries but also with the interests of all freedom-loving peoples.

ADDRESS OF SOVIET DELEGATE BEFORE THE 76th CONGRESS OF BRITISH TRADE UNIONS

At the 76th Congress of British Trade Unions held in Blackpool on October 18, the Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and head of the Soviet trade union delegation, Kuznetsov, delivered the following address:

Comrades, permit me in the name of the working men and women, engineers and office employees of the Soviet Union, to greet you warmly and through you the entire working class of Great Britain. Permit me also to express our thanks to the General Council of Trade Unions for the cordial invitation extended to the Soviet Union delegation to attend your deliberations. The participation of the Soviet trade union delegation in your work is not simply a polite gesture, but a testimony to the growing fraternal solidarity between the working class of Great Britain and the working class of the Soviet Union.

Your Congress is meeting now in order to sum up the results of the great and fruitful work of British trade unions during the past year and to discuss the most important problems of the postwar period. The present Congress is an outstanding event not only for the working class of Britain, but for the workers of all democratic countries. The working class of the Soviet Union therefore displays the keenest interest in its work. The working class of our country has always been interested in the life and struggle of the British working class, just as the working class of Great Britain has always manifested the keenest interest in the life and struggle of the working class of the Soviet Union, particularly during the days of war against Hitlerite Germany.

The 76th British Trade Union Congress meets at a historic time for freedom-loving peoples. Today the valiant Red Army and the valiant Allied forces are fighting the German invaders on German territory. The pincers in which Hitlerite Germany is being enclosed from the East, West and South grow tighter with every passing day. Having brilliantly carried out landing operations in northern France and having shattered the myth of the

impregnability of the so-called "Atlantic fortress," the Allied troops are liberating France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland from the Hitlerite yoke. The heroic Red Army has liberated a huge section of the territory of the Soviet Union and tens of thousands of cities and villages, and has delivered millions of Soviet people from German slavery. The Red Army has liberated the Ukraine, Byelorussia, the Crimea, Bessarabia, Karelia and nearly the whole of the territory of the Baltic Republics.

During the summer of 1944 the Red Army advanced from the Dnieper to the Vistula, a distance of close to 700 kilometers. In liberating Soviet soil, the Red Army is at the same time successfully helping to liberate the Polish, Czechoslovak, Yugoslav and other peoples of the democratic countries from fascist slavery. Under the smashing blows of the Red Army the Hitlerites and Germany's allies—Rumania, Finland, Bulgaria—have left the fascist bloc. The same is going to happen to Hungary.

Though severe struggle still lies ahead, we are fully confident today that Hitlerite Germany has lost the war and is on the brink of final defeat. Hitlerite Germany's aggressive march against the peace-loving Soviet Union has cost her tremendous losses in manpower and materiel. In only three years of fighting on the Soviet-German front, the German-fascist forces lost more than 7,800,000 soldiers and officers in killed and prisoners, almost 70,000 tanks, 60,000 planes and more than 90,000 guns.

In addition, in recent months in Byelorussia, the Baltics, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Hungary, the Germans lost hundreds of thousands of men and officers in killed and prisoners, including several generals, and a tremendous amount of war materiel. The Red Army was able to break down the main forces of the German army and inflict irreparable losses on fascist war materiel, and in this way created the prerequisites for the successful offensive operations conducted in 1944 by the Red Army and the Allied Armies in the East, West and South of Europe.

The victories of the Red Army have resulted from the manner in which the wise plan of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union, Marshal Stalin, has been skilfully accomplished, and from the triumph of the brilliant Stalin strategy. The victories of the Red Army were possible because of the selfless help rendered it in the rear by our men and women workers, engineers and employees, from the very first days of the war.

In the brilliant victories of the Red Army considerable assistance was rendered by our Allies, Great Britain and the United States of America, who supplied the Soviet Union with strategic raw materials, arms and provisions of a very valuable nature. The peoples of the Soviet Union highly value the fraternal assistance of their great Allies and admire the heroism of the English, American, Canadian, Australian and other seamen who have been delivering supplies to the Soviet Union.

We wish to express special thanks to the men and women workers, engineers and employees of Great Britain, whose production efforts in the war years have played a decisive part in equipping the British Armed Forces and in helping the Soviet Union. We also express our heartfelt thanks to the British Trade Union General Council and its leaders for the help rendered in the way of medicines and medical instruments purchased with funds collected by British men and women workers.

The Soviet people, and the working class especially, welcome every powerful blow against the German-fascist forces inflicted by the Armies of the Allies, for these blows together with the blows of the Red Army bring nearer the end of the war and deliver the people from the terrible yoke of Hitlerism. But the victories over Hitlerite Germany were achieved by the Soviet people at the cost of tremendous efforts and exceptional self-sacrifice.

The war has demanded and still demands a colossal amount of arms, tanks, planes, machine guns, tommy guns, mu-

nitions and other materiel for the struggle against the German invaders. The Soviet people in the rear have worked selflessly to supply the Red Army with all the necessary materiel.

"It can be stated without fear of contradiction," said Comrade Stalin, "that the selfless labor of the Soviet people will go down in history along with the heroic struggle of the Red Army as an unexampled exploit in defense of the motherland."

While constantly attending to the vital and pressing needs of the men and women workers, engineers and employees, the Soviet trade unions at the same time do everything in their power to increase the military might of the Red Army. They have organized men and women workers for a further rise in industrial capacity and for an increase in the output of arms and ammunition.

In all plants and factories and also on farms, the Soviet people are doing everything to increase their industrial capacity and to improve the quality of their work, and are trying to come out winners in socialist competition. All-Union socialist competition has been practised during this period on a much larger scale. Trade unions, together with State management, sum up the results of these competitions every month at every enterprise and in all branches of industry, make note of and widely popularize the names of winners in the press, on the radio, etc.

The winning enterprises in socialist competition are given the Challenge Red Banner and monetary prizes. The winning of the Challenge Red Banner is the highest recognition of the work of an enterprise and its manager. When the results of the competition are summed up, all the work of the enterprise is discussed in detail at a public meeting.

The All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the Central Committees of Trade Unions demand from managers of enterprises not only the fulfillment of their pledges for raising industrial capacity, cutting costs, economizing on raw materials and electric power, but also the fulfillment of urgent demands of the workers and employees. It sometimes happens that the plant is a leading one, as far as production is concerned, but the canteens, children's

nurseries, etc., are in bad shape. In such cases, the enterprise is not considered a leading one and does not get the honorable name of victor and does not receive the Challenge Red Banner.

It should be noted that competition between two enterprises never results in their interfering with each other or in one remaining behind because of it. On the contrary, competition in the first place means comradesly assistance to each other. An increase of industrial capacity does not only mean honor and respect for the men and women workers. Men and women workers who fulfill their norm and consequently increase their industrial capacity get higher wages, extra food and a larger ration of consumer goods.

* * *

Still, no matter how great our victories might be, however much we may enjoy our successes, we must not forget the essential thing: the war has not yet ended and the enemy has not yet been defeated. An intense and fierce struggle still lies ahead. Not for a minute do we forget that until Hitlerite Germany is fully defeated we must work tirelessly for victory. Our task consists in not only defeating the enemy, but also in defeating him as quickly as possible.

Our men and women workers, engineers and employees, realize all the responsibility of this period and the tasks that confront them; and on their own initiative they undertake measures aimed at increasing their assistance to the front. Only a few weeks ago the men and women workers of the Stalin Moscow automobile plant appealed to all the workers, engineers and employees of the Soviet Union to develop socialist competition on an even wider scale for the further increase of industrial capacity, the maximum economy of materials, fuel, electric power, and for cutting cost prices.

Here is what they wrote in their appeal to all the workers, engineers and employees of the Soviet Union: "Dear Comrades, we appeal to you to strive before the October socialist competition to achieve new successes in our socialist industry, to achieve exemplary work in every plant, factory and enterprise. Let every worker, no matter on what sector of the labor front he be—at the blast or open-hearth furnace, at the electric fur-

nace or cupola, at the assembly conveyor line for military machines, at the workbench or work unit—do everything in his power to increase the output above the scheduled production essential to the country and the front, for the speediest defeat of the German-fascist invaders."

The men and women workers in all enterprises responded to this appeal by a pledge, and now they are striving to meet the coming 27th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution with new victories in industry, and in this way to be of even greater assistance to their valiant Red Army in the speediest defeat of the enemy.

In the fight for increasing industrial capacity, great initiative of men and women workers, engineers and employees is being widely developed. A girl group leader, Katya Baryshnikova, working at the Moscow ball-bearing plant, rearranged the work of her group so that slack periods were eliminated and production was increased one and one-half times.

Alexander Shashkov, a youthful group leader at a lathe plant, proposed that the assembly of lathe tops be divided into several operations by putting a few operations under the supervision of each assembler. Before this proposal these lathe tops had been assembled from beginning to end by one worker. As a result of the introduction of Shashkov's proposal, the lathe output increased six times—instead of six lathes a month his group produced 36 lathes.

Milling machine operator Alexei Fedosseyev works at an artillery plant. He has 150 inventions to his credit in the three years of the war; all of them have been accepted and used in production. Fedosseyev's inventions have resulted in an economy of one million rubles in his factory.

There are many such people in our country, all of them very popular with their fellow countrymen. Taking them as an example, millions of Soviet workers improve their work, increase their production output and in this way help keep the Red Army supplied with everything it needs for the final storming of fascist Germany.

Along with their work in organizing men and women workers in the struggle for increasing industrial capacity, the So-

viet trade unions have devoted much attention to the question of satisfying the everyday needs of the men and women workers, engineers and employees. Very recently, on trade union initiative, factory rest homes have been established in many enterprises where men and women workers rest after working hours for two to four weeks and receive special food and special medical attention without a break in employment. Recently the trade unions also opened a network of rest homes and sanatoriums in various parts of the country. All-out measures have been undertaken for the restoration of destroyed rest homes and sanatoriums on the Black Sea Coast, in the Crimea and at Leningrad. They will be entirely at the disposal of workers and employees for rest and treatment.

Soviet trade unions devote a great deal of attention to supplying the workers and employees of cities and industrial centers with food. The fascist invaders have ravaged the most fertile districts of the Ukraine, the Kuban, Moldavia and other regions. After their rule it will take a long time to fully restore agriculture in these districts. These districts give far less food now than before the war. Therefore, the trade unions are participating actively in developing individual and collective gardening by workers and employees and also in organizing auxiliary farms, which are an important factor in the establishment of additional sources of food supply and consequently in the improvement of the food supply situation.

The Soviet delegation deem it their duty to express their sincere gratitude for the supplies of food delivered by our Allies to our country. Undoubtedly these food and armament supplies have rendered valuable help in the historical victories of the Red Army over the German-fascist forces. There is no doubt that the food supplies as well as the supplies of armament and valuable strategic raw materials will be of great importance in achieving the speediest victory.

The trade unions' solicitude for children, particularly for the children of the men at the fronts and of those killed on the fronts of the Patriotic War, is unceasing. Every year the number of children in Pioneer camps and in children's playgrounds has increased. In the sum-

mer of 1942, 400,000 children enjoyed the camps and playgrounds. In 1944 this number increased to two and one-half million.

The Soviet trade unions are confronted by another vital task, that of organizing workers, engineers and employees for the speediest reconstruction of property destroyed by the German occupationists. The German-fascist invaders caused tremendous damage to the property of the Soviet Union. The destructive character of this war is known to everyone. Nevertheless the destruction inflicted on the territory of the Soviet Union where the Germans temporarily reigned surpasses even the worst expectations. The greatest industrial and cultural centers of the Soviet Union—Stalingrad, Kiev, Kharkov, Rostov-on-Don, Sevastopol and many other large and small cities—have been razed to the ground by the fascists.

* * *

Let us take, for example, our happy and bright Ukraine. Before the war it was a rich, flourishing and free country with fertile, overflowing fields and tremendous herds of cattle. It was a district that boasted of advanced coal-mining, metallurgy, machine-building and other branches of industry. Its mechanized mines daily yielded 280,000 tons of coal; its metallurgical plants annually yielded nine million tons of pig iron and eight and one-half million tons of steel. Its machine-building factories produced the most up-to-date machinery.

Six and one-half million children studied in the elementary and secondary schools of the Ukraine, and 127,000 students in the 166 institutes and universities in 1941. This is twice the number of students in the whole of Germany, the same fascist Germany that wanted to establish its barbaric "new order" for the Ukrainian people.

The fascist bandits destroyed all the coal mines, the metallurgical, coke-producing, machine-building and other factories. In the Stalin district of the Donbas there were 152 modern mechanized coal mines. The fascists destroyed 140 of them. Of 268 pit heads they burned 241. In the same district the Germans destroyed and hurled into the mineshafts 1,900 drilling machines, 800 electric mo-

tors and a tremendous amount of other mining equipment.

Besides destroying the industrial enterprises, they ruined homes, museums, theaters, libraries, clubs, institutes, sport stadiums, etc. The German invaders destroyed all homes of two or more stories, and more than half the other houses. The bearers of the "new culture" shut down all schools, universities, museums and libraries.

They burned one-third of the villages and ravaged our agriculture. This one-time flourishing district has been ravaged. Weeds hide the factories. In place of beautiful buildings, factories and cities, nothing but waste remains. The fascists wanted to put an end to the life of millions of freedom-loving Ukrainian people. They failed.

The chains of fascist slavery have been broken. Once again there is life in the factories, cities, villages and the countryside. The same picture can be observed in all other Soviet districts and regions where the German-fascist invaders ruled.

The Soviet trade unions have their own account to settle with the fascist bandits. The Germans were especially fierce in their destruction of our trade-union property, our clubs and other cultural institutions and sports stadiums, built with the trade-union contributions of our workers and employees.

Before the war the trade unions had a large network of rest homes and sanatoriums on the Black Sea Coast and in the Caucasus. The Crimea was rightly considered a health resort of the highest order. Every year trade unions sent nearly two million workers and employees to rest homes and sanatoriums. The fascist barbarians destroyed hundreds of rest homes and first-class sanatoriums in the Crimea, Odessa, Leningrad and other places.

This is only a small part of the barbaric destruction and atrocities perpetrated by the enemy on our Soviet soil. The fascist invaders were especially savage in their attitude toward the Soviet people. The Hitlerite bandits wanted to decimate the Soviet people and to turn the survivors into slaves of the German barons and estate owners. There is not a single village or city without traces of the Hitlerites' sanguinary crimes.

The inhabitants of a city or village that has felt the "new order" of the Hitlerites cannot speak about the nightmares they have suffered without shuddering. Every inhabited point has its common graves in which hundreds of thousands of tortured and murdered innocent Soviet people lie buried. In every village there are horrible torture and death chambers which those who entered never left alive.

The Hitlerite cutthroats have been drenched with the blood of innocent women, children and old people. Millions and millions of Soviet people have been the victims of Hitlerite terror. In Kiev alone the Germans exterminated almost 200,000 people. The investigation of German-fascist atrocities recently carried out in Minsk has shown that nearly 300,000 people were butchered in the city and its suburbs.

In their methods of murdering people the Hitlerite fiends have surpassed anything known to mankind about the blackest period of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages. People by the thousands died in prison camps from hunger and cold, people were asphyxiated in "gas wagons," people were burned alive in specially constructed furnaces, people were shot by the thousands only because they were free and Soviet. The Hitlerite slave dealers drove no less than two million Soviet people, girls and youths in the main, into German slavery. Soviet people died in fascist slavery but did not surrender. They fought, deeply convinced that the hour of mankind's liberation from the Hitlerite yoke would come.

The whole world shuddered when it learned of the German death factory of Maidanek, the annihilation camp near Lublin where more than one and one-half million innocent people of all the nationalities of Europe were murdered in cold blood. The most warped imagination could never have invented a more terrible torture than was inflicted on the unhappy victims of this hell on earth. The German-fascist invaders must answer for all these fiendish atrocities, for the death and sufferings of millions of innocent people, for the tears of old men, women and children, and for all their savage destruction in the USSR, Great Britain and other countries.

We have seen the great destruction in

London and we know that many other cities in your country, such as Coventry, also suffered terribly. There can be no mercy for those who have showed no mercy for women and children, who have ignored the tears of mothers and who have not heard the cries of children.

In addition to other questions, the crimes perpetrated by the Hitlerites and their responsibility, as well as the responsibility of the German people for these crimes, have been discussed recently by the Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee. You already know about the decisions of the Committee. The Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee unanimously and strongly opposed the "appeasement" policy of those who endeavor to mitigate the punishment of the Hitlerite criminals, and called upon organized workers to resist the permeation of the trade union movement and public opinion with such misguided views. The working class of all liberty-loving countries must demand the severest punishment for the instigators of this criminal war, for all violators and plunderers.

The Soviet Union's sufferings at the hands of the German vandals have been especially great. Men and women workers, engineers and employees are exerting heroic efforts to wipe out the after-effects of German occupation. The Soviet trade unions must stress the fact that the Soviet Union will need considerable help in the reconstruction of the destroyed districts. The German invaders must be forced to restore everything they have destroyed.

The Soviet trade unions hope that in this lawful and just demand they will meet with the full support of the trade unions of Great Britain and also of the workers of the whole world. Together with the British trade unions and the trade unions of other democratic countries, the Soviet trade unions are ready to wage a decisive struggle against all overt and covert pro-fascist sentiments aimed at making the position of fascist Germany less difficult and of not demanding from the fascists full compensation for all the destruction they have caused mankind. It would be a good idea if all those infected with leniency for the fascists were sent for a short time to the territory the German invaders had ruled. And

if these people are honest, their "soft" hearts will without doubt become as hard as stone.

The criminals who disregarded all military considerations and destroyed homes, unique, age-old monuments and—far worse—destroyed innocent people, children, women and old folk, have earned and should receive their deserved punishment. In the course of the last 25 years nearly all the peoples of the world have been drawn into a war twice. Millions of people have become the victims of war. Can we, as the representatives of organized workers, be indifferent to the future of mankind and particularly to that of the working class after this war? Of course not.

It is therefore essential to further strengthen the friendship of the peoples of Great Britain, the Soviet Union, the United States of America and other democratic countries, and the close collaboration of these three great powers. Only by developing and strengthening the friendship of the peoples of these great powers can the defeat of Hitlerite Germany be hastened, a stable and lasting peace established and the conditions created in which the wounds inflicted by the war can be speedily healed.

Our efforts in this direction can be very effective if the organized workers of all the democratic countries are united in a single, powerful international organization. An international trade union organization must be a militant body, capable of defending the demands of the working class.

In this connection we warmly greet the initiative displayed by the 75th British Trade Union Congress in calling a world trade union conference as the first step in establishing collaboration between the trade unions of all countries. Unfortunately, the world trade union conference, for very legitimate reasons, could not meet at the appointed time. The question of calling and preparing the world trade union conference was discussed by the Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee. In an atmosphere of mutual understanding, both delegations discussed in detail the conditions of calling a world trade union conference.

In this connection I want to make clear to the Congress and the fraternal delega-

tions the position of the Soviet delegation on one particular question, that is, the question of the participation of American trade union organizations in the world conference. It is our considered opinion, strongly supported by Soviet trade unions, that all American trade union organizations must be invited to participate in the conference and in the preparatory work. Of course, trade union organizations from the other democratic countries also are welcome.

When we learned that the American Federation of Labor refused to send its delegates to the world conference we were sorry, and we are sorry now. We hope that the American Federation of Labor will reconsider this question and accept the invitation. We would be very glad indeed to meet with its delegation in the preparatory committee and at the world conference.

The Committee unanimously decided to recommend for the approval of the British General Council and the Soviet All-Union Central Council the following proposals: 1) that the conference be held on or about January 8, 1945; 2) that prior to the conference there be ap-

pointed a preparatory committee for the purpose of considering the procedure of the conference; 3) that the preparatory committee consist of representatives of the British Trade Union Congress, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR and the trade unions of the United States of America; and 4) that the meetings of the preparatory committee begin no later than December 4, 1944.

I am glad that these proposals of the Committee have been approved by the General Council of British Trade Unions and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR. I also hope that the decision of the British General Council will be approved by your Congress.

There is no doubt that the calling of the conference on January 8, 1945, and the setting up of the preparatory committee will meet with the approval of the trade union organizations of all the democratic countries.

Comrades, permit me to assure you that the Soviet trade unions, which participated actively in the war against Hitlerite

Germany, will do everything necessary for the most speedy and complete defeat of the enemy and the victorious conclusion of the war.

The Soviet trade unions are fully determined to do everything necessary to insure a stable, lasting peace and a radical improvement in the conditions of working people. We call on the trade unions of Great Britain, the United States and the other democratic countries to struggle actively for the speediest defeat of the enemy and the establishment of a stable, lasting peace.

Permit me to express our confidence in the fact that the friendship between the working class of Great Britain and the Soviet Union, born in the days of the great struggle against our common enemy, will grow and develop and in every way help in the speediest establishment of close collaboration between the working class of all democratic countries.

Long live the victory of the United Nations over Hitlerite tyranny! Long live the British working class! Long live the working class of the Soviet Union! Long live the fraternal solidarity of the working class of the whole world!

FRIENDSHIP OF RUSSIAN AND ARMENIAN PEOPLES

By A. Arsharuni

Armenians have fought many times in the ranks of Russian troops. The Russian Tsar Peter the First promoted two Armenians to the rank of general.

In 1812 some 20 Armenian generals and officers distinguished themselves in battles for Russia. In the 19th Century a number of gifted Armenian soldiers added luster to Russian arms.

The acme of this fighting fellowship between our peoples has been reached in the period of the great Patriotic War. By tremendous effort the Red Army successfully defended the Caucasus, hurled back the enemy from our distant borders, and saved our sacred land from devastation and our people from extermination.

It is impossible to overestimate the role of the Russian people in this life and death struggle. All the peoples of Europe speak of this role with thankfulness. We Armenians speak of it with feelings of deep admiration and gratitude.

But the Armenians have repaid their debt to the Russians. Cemented with blood, the age-old friendship of the two people has grown still stronger during the present war, to which Soviet Armenia has contributed some 40 generals, 30 Heroes of the Soviet Union, many glorious officers and a large number of brave soldiers.

Nelson Stepanyan was among the fearless Stalin eagles who guarded Leningrad. The poet and soldier Tatul Guryan perished heroically in the defense of Sevastopol. In Stalingrad the Armenians, with other peoples, distinguished themselves in the battle for the unconquerable city. Armenian divisions in the ranks of the Red Army fought from Mozdok to Poland.

Armenians also distinguished themselves in the battles for the liberation of the Ukraine and Crimea. They are now multiplying their glorious deeds in the

ranks of the troops commanded by Army General Bagramyan, who is completing the liberation of the Soviet Baltic from the enemy.

Information Bulletin

EMBASSY OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Washington 8, D. C.



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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

IV, No. 118

Washington, D. C., November 16, 1944



Speed of the Red Army Offensive

By Colonel N. Zamyatin

During the present war against Nazi Germany the Red Army has carried out a number of brilliant offensive operations which will go down in the history of war as classical examples for future generations. These operations demonstrate the high level reached by Soviet strategy and degree of skill attained by Red Army troops.

An outstanding feature of Red Army offensive operations is the great speed at which they are carried out. As a rule, Red Army troops have succeeded in effecting a breach in the enemy's tactical defenses during the first two days of any major operation; in some cases this has been effected on the first day. In following days the fighting spreads over the entire operative width of the enemy's defenses, as far as to 100 kilometers.

Here are a few examples:

At Stalingrad the German front was breached during the first 24 hours of the offensive. During the next two days the enemy's main operative reserves brought forward from the rear were routed. On the fifth day of the operation, advanced mobile units of the Southwestern and Stalingrad Fronts met at Kalach-on-Don after having fought their way forward over 120 kilometers; thus they surrounded the enemy's main forces.

At Orel a gap was torn in the enemy's main line of defense during the first day; the seventh day Soviet forces reached the Orel-Bryansk railway line, 100 kilometers from their starting point.

During the battle of Kharkov a breach was made in the enemy's main line on the first day of fighting. By the end of the third day many enemy strongpoints on the road to Kharkov had fallen; on the third day Soviet mobile units had penetrated 120 kilometers into the depth of enemy defenses, slashed across the

Kharkov-Poltava railway and cut into two isolated parts the German Fourth Panzer Army defending the Belgorod-Kharkov area.

In the battle of Byelorussia in June and July, 1944, German defenses were broken through along the whole front during the first two days of the offensive. On the fifth day of this operation the Red Army, having fought its way forward a distance of 400 kilometers, was attacking the new German defenses along the Wilno, Lida and Baranovich line.

During the mopping-up operations against enemy forces in the Jassy-Kishinev area in August, 1944, the enemy defenses were breached on the first day, August 20. By the end of the sixth day, the chief objective of the troops of the Second and Third Ukrainian Fronts—encirclement of the main enemy forces southwest of Kishinev—was achieved.

What is behind such tremendous speed? In the breaking down of enemy defenses Soviet artillery has played a very great part. Our guns knocked huge holes in the enemy defenses, and when the attacking infantry poured through, gave it the necessary support for further advances. The Air Forces contributed by adding their weight to that of the artillery.

The attacks were made on wide fronts of from 300-500 kilometers and in several directions simultaneously. This prevented the enemy from concentrating his attention and compelled him to spread his reserves.

As soon as a breach in the enemy defenses had been effected, cavalry and motorized units rushed through. These groups, with their great striking power and extreme mobility, soon widened the lanes cut in the enemy's lines and gave



Radiophoto

Marshal Stalin receives the Order of Victory, awarded him by Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, from Chairman of the Presidium Mikhail Kallnin

strategical significance to the tactical successes.

During each operation the close collaboration of all arms was maintained from beginning to end, merging the activity of all into one combined drive against the enemy.

In addition to these purely military factors, the high morale of Soviet troops, expressed in their splendid offensive spirit, played an important part. Officers and men of all arms of the service mustered every ounce of strength they possessed. Their indomitable will to victory helped them to surmount all obstacles and to cope with any contingencies.

In numerous cases individual soldiers deliberately sacrificed themselves to help achieve victory. They used their bodies to cover embrasures through which enemy

machine guns were firing; they voluntarily went out to meet certain death in order that their units might advance.

The high speed of Soviet offensive operations disorganized the enemy and prevented his digging in at intermediate points and bringing up his reserves in time. The German command was frequently unable to carry out necessary maneuvers and to withdraw troops in good time. This led to the Red Army offensive operations taking the form of a series of encirclements of isolated bodies of the enemy, which were quickly mopped up.

How many groups of German troops were surrounded and exterminated during the Red Army's 1944 summer offensive alone! Enemy forces were surrounded

at Vitebsk, Bobruisk, southeast of Minsk, Wilno and Brest, and southwest of Kishinev. At Vitebsk and Bobruisk the bodies of troops surrounded numbered five divisions each, at Minsk about 10 divisions and southwest of Kishinev, about 15 divisions.

The tempestuous nature and the depth of the drives, and the tremendous scope of the Red Army offensive operations, finally led to the complete collapse of the Germans' defense strategy. Neither their brilliant engineering works nor their ferocious counter-attacks were of any help on Soviet territory.

The Red Army has already invaded the enemy's lair and is now fighting inside East Prussia. It will continue to batter the German defenses until final victory has been won.

IN NORWAY

By S. Morozov

IZVESTIA Special Correspondent

Soviet troops are marching along the narrow roads of northern Norway; as they advance, local inhabitants who have been hiding from the Germans come out from the woods to welcome them. Everywhere one feels and sees clearly that the Norwegian people have not been broken by the years of German occupation and are ready to join their liberators in the fight for freedom.

Every day brings happy, touching meetings. For example, near the village of Stornbukdy, scouts from a unit commanded by Grebenkin were busy helping a Norwegian family return to their home. Harald Torgensen, an old fisherman who had been wounded in the leg by a splinter from a German mine, limped along on the arm of a Ukrainian, Captain Ivan Kornienko. Tommy gunner Migunov carried the old man's five-year-old granddaughter, while the company sergeant major, a businesslike Siberian, helped several women unload the few goods and chattels saved from the flames from a Red Army cart.

Turalf Merke, who worked in the coal mines on Spitzbergen, led the soldiers to a shelter in a deep granite tunnel near the port. In a cave lit by gas flares the Red

Army men were eagerly surrounded by a group of young people. Seventeen-year-old Jar Pejarsen and Alge Stockowitz, and 16-year-old Mol Spurre pulled a red banner embroidered with a blue cross out of their suitcase. When the war broke out, they were still children. Under the German masters, they had experienced heart-breaking toil, without food or rest. They had grown up in slavery, but they had remained Norwegians. As a symbol of faith in their country they had preserved this flag. On the following day the flag of Free Norway fluttered in the wind over the temporary headquarters of the municipality in the little village of Bjornevann.

In the tunnels of the iron mines, which extend several kilometers under the earth of this village, some 4,000 Norwegians—refugees from Kirkenes and the surrounding villages—are living to this day. Svarra Delvik, a teacher by profession, who had been Mayor of Kirkenes before the coming of the Germans, has resumed his post; he told us about the tragedy of his city. Cold-blooded, planned destruction—such was the work of the Hitlerites and their quisling lackeys.

In the middle of October the quisling "Minister of Police" Jonas Lee (nick-

named by the people Judas Lee) came to Kirkenes and Bjornevann. He ordered the inhabitants to evacuate the towns and cynically warned them that all buildings and houses would be burned down. The Norwegian patriots, however, preferred to remain in their own homes, even without roofs over their heads, and await the arrival of the Red Army which would bring them liberation.

Svarra Delvik told us of the joy of the Norwegians at being able to breathe freely at last, after the long years of slavery, of their gratitude to the Red Army and the great Russian people.

On the way back from Bjornevann familiar scenes met our eyes: on all roads Norwegians were returning to their homes on bicycles and carts, carrying knapsacks and suitcases. Life is gradually returning to normal in liberated Kirkenes. The German batteries in Beckfjord have been silenced forever by Soviet bombers.

The Soviet Commandant of the city, assisted by the Municipality and the Norwegian Red Cross, is supervising the last fire-fighting units and the distribution of provisions supplied for the inhabitants by the Soviet Command.

The flag of the Soviet Navy flies proudly over the prow of the destroyer *Thunderous*, which guards the convoy routes. Sergeant Major N. Lapin (with the binoculars) heads the anti-aircraft crew



Submarine Commander Promoted to Rank of Rear Admiral

The Soviet Government has promoted Captain of the First Rank Ivan Kolyshkin, Hero of the Soviet Union, to the rank of Rear Admiral.

Kolyshkin, who now commands a large submarine formation in the Far North, was born on the banks of the Volga. His parents were peasants. In early youth he worked on river boats, gaining experience as a helmsman. Twenty years ago he entered the Red Navy as a rank-and-file sailor and was appointed to serve on a submarine of the Baltic Fleet. Three years later he attended an officers school and obtained his commission, returning to the submarine.

The submarine in which Kolyshkin served was one of the ships which in 1933 was transferred from the Baltic to the Barents Sea through the newly-opened canal connecting the Baltic with the White Sea. In Belomorsk, terminal point of the canal on the White Sea, pioneers of the new Soviet Fleet created in the North were greeted by Stalin, who visited all the ships, including Kolyshkin's submarine.

Kolyshkin was promoted to the rank of submarine commander, and when the war broke out he was already in command of a squadron of subs.

At this time he understood better than anyone else the peculiar features of navigation in the grim Barents Sea, and became instructor of practically all the young officers serving in those waters. In the early months of the war he scarcely ever went ashore, returning from one voyage only to put out to sea on another.

He was aboard the submarine commanded by Israel Fisanovich, a future Hero of the Soviet Union, when the latter penetrated into Petsamo Harbor and sank a German transport at the pier. He was also godfather to the famous submarine seamen, Starikov and Lunin.

During the first year of war alone, Kolyshkin had a hand in the sinking of 18 enemy transports, and was the first submarine seaman to receive the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Submarine crews of the Northern Fleet are convinced that this good-natured

and always cool officer, who never raises his voice, knows how to find a way out of any situation. More than once Kolyshkin has found a way of saving a ship and crew when it seemed to others that nothing remained but to die with honor.

On one occasion a submarine under Kolyshkin's command lost its screws and was immobilized. Without losing his calm, Kolyshkin ordered the crew to make a sail from some canvas cases and mount it on the conning tower. It was a dark night, and under the improvised sail the boat succeeded in getting within a few miles of its home shore, where it was rescued. This is perhaps the only instance of a modern submarine being converted into a sailboat.

During the war Rear Admiral Kolyshkin has been decorated with five orders, including the Order of Admiral Ushakov, an honor highly coveted by Russian sailors. A formation of submarines under his command, which has sent over 200 German ships to the bottom, has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner.

Orders and Medals of the Union



ORDER OF NAKHIMOV—awarded to Navy officers for repulsing the enemy without loss to our main forces



ORDER OF THE RED STAR—to enlisted men and officers of the Red Army and Navy for distinguished service both in peace and war



ORDER OF USHAKOV—awarded to Navy officers for outstanding success against a numerically superior enemy



MEDAL OF NAKHIMOV—to Navy officers for outstanding success in planning and executing naval operations, which repulse the enemy and inflict heavy losses; (right) Reverse side of Medal



MEDAL OF USHAKOV—awarded to Navy officers for outstanding success in planning and executing naval operations against a numerically superior enemy; (right) Reverse side of Medal



HAMMER AND SICKLE MEDAL—awarded together with the Order of Lenin to a Hero of Socialist Labor



ORDER OF RED BANNER OF LABOR—for outstanding achievements in production, science, or State or public service



BADGE OF HONOR—awarded for high production records, scientific and cultural achievements or inventions



MEDAL "FOR VALOR"—awarded to enlisted men and officers for personal courage and valor in battle

of Soviet Socialist Republics



ORDER OF THE RED BANNER—awarded to Red Army men for outstanding courage and achievements, and to civilians for aid rendered in Red Army operations



ORDER OF LENIN—awarded to men of the Red Army and Navy, as well as to civilians, for outstanding achievements on the battle and labor fronts



GOLD STAR MEDAL—to a Hero of the Soviet Union together with the Order of Lenin



ORDER OF THE PATRIOTIC WAR—awarded to Red Army and Navy men and to guerrillas for actions which contribute to the success of operations



ORDER OF SUVOROV—awarded to Red Army officers for leading their troops to victory by encircling and routing a numerically superior enemy



ORDER OF VICTORY—the highest military decoration, awarded to Red Army officers for operations which swing the tide in favor of the Red Army



ORDER OF KUTUZOV—awarded to Red Army officers for successful resistance against attacks of a numerically superior enemy and for inflicting heavy losses on the enemy



ORDER OF ALEXANDER NEVSKY—awarded to Red Army officers for personal valor and successful leadership in battle



ORDER OF GLORY—awarded to enlisted men and non-commissioned officers and to junior lieutenants in the Air Force for distinguished service



ORDER OF BOGDAN KHMELNITSKY—awarded to enlisted men and officers of the Red Army and Navy, and to guerrillas for distinguished service in battles for liberation of Soviet territory

Medals of the USSR



PARTISAN OF THE PATRIOTIC WAR MEDAL—awarded to participants in guerrilla warfare for valor and fortitude in action behind the enemy lines



FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL—awarded to Red Army men and officers and to civilians for aid in developing military operations



FOR THE DEFENSE OF MOSCOW MEDAL—awarded to Red Army and Navy men and to civilians who participated directly in the defense of Moscow



FOR THE DEFENSE OF STALINGRAD MEDAL—awarded to Red Army and Navy men and to civilians who participated directly in the defense of Stalingrad



FOR THE DEFENSE OF LENINGRAD MEDAL—awarded to Red Army and Navy men and to civilians who participated directly in the defense of Leningrad



FOR THE DEFENSE OF SEVASTOPOL MEDAL—awarded to Red Army and Navy men and to civilians who participated directly in the defense of Sevastopol



FOR THE DEFENSE OF ODESSA MEDAL—awarded to Red Army and Navy men and to civilians who participated directly in the defense of Odessa



FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE CAUCASUS MEDAL—awarded to Red Army and Navy men and to civilians who participated directly in the defense of the Caucasus



The reverse side of these Medals reads: "For our Soviet Motherland"

Stakhanov Helps Plan Trade School Curricula

Boys and girls wearing the uniforms and insignia of the Vocational and Railway Schools are a familiar sight in Soviet cities. The providing of 45,000 instructors for these students was one of the many problems successfully solved when the schools were opened just before the war.

The students, who are entirely supported by the Government, learn their future trade from a practical and theoretical standpoint. They study such subjects as the technology of metals, drawing, the fundamentals of physics and chemistry, mathematics and the Russian language. Their curricula were drawn up by leading professors and engineers in collaboration with such outstanding workers as Alexei Stakhanov, initiator of the Stakhanov movement for improved methods of work.

Electric Railway In Kuibyshev

During the war Kuibyshev has become a large industrial center. In addition to many enterprises evacuated to this city on the Volga from Moscow and the western regions, new factories have sprung up, called to life by the needs of the front. The industry of Kuibyshev and the city itself is expanding rapidly.

Each day tens of thousands of men and women workers travel to and from the industrial districts. This enormous volume of traffic has overtaxed the city's transport system. Reconstruction of suburban passenger service between the city and industrial districts has become a necessity. In view of this need, the construction of a suburban electric railway has been undertaken despite the difficult wartime conditions. The population is actively participating in the work and the factories are also lending a hand.

The completion of the electric line will relieve nearly one-half the suburban trains running between the city and factory districts, and at the same time will accommodate two and one-half times as many passengers.

SUVOROV SCHOOL FOR CADETS IN KALININ



1) Major General Vizhillin, the school director, at his daily staff conference. 2) After reveille, the boys make their beds. 3) Ready for breakfast. 4) A lesson in rifle construction. 5) A biology class. Lazar Burstein (at the microscope) wears the Medal for Valor for his guerrilla activity. 6) Major General Vizhillin talks with the cadets, his arm around Lazar Burstein

ALPINE SPORTS IN THE USSR

The movement for alpine climbing was initiated in the Soviet Union in 1923, when 19 Georgian athletes under the leadership of Georgi Nikoladze reached the summit of Kazbek. The Alpine Club in one of the parks of Tbilisi, capital of Soviet Georgia, still preserves the portrait of Professor Nikoladze, first Soviet alpinist.

Alpine sports among the Soviet people also serve science. Professor A. M. Letovet has conducted a number of successful expeditions to the Tian-Shan Mountains. Another, headed by Professor Nemytsky, reached the summit of the Zeravsham Range. Moscow alpinists led by Abalakov prospected for tin at an altitude of 5,600 meters. The discovery of molybdenum on Mayakovsky Peak by Salanov's expedition was an important contribution to the iron and steel industry of the country.

A few years ago the Soviet mountain climbers Gvalits, Gusev, Korzun and Gusak, under bitter weather conditions, conducted high altitude observations at the meteorological stations on Mount Elbrus and Mount Kazbek.

Soviet mountain sculders have perfected their technique in the past 20 years, but they have never gone in for sensational stunts. Before the war the USSR boasted tens of thousands of skilled alpinists. Four years after Nikoladze and his Georgian friends topped Kazbek, the first Ukrainian expedition scaled the peaks of

Tian-Shan. The first school for instructors was established in 1929, and in the same year a group of athletes headed by Honored Master of Sports Pogrebetsky stormed Khan Tengri, highest peak of the Tian-Shan range.

"Camp 11" was set up on Mount Elbrus in 1932. The following year Eugene Abalakov ascended Stalin Peak, highest in the USSR. The first Red Army Alpiniade took place at this time.

The 20th anniversary of alpine climbing was marked by a circular expedition across the mountain passes in Georgia, with climbers representing 12 sports societies. The expedition, which lasted several months, started from Nauka Camp, Teberda, in the Caucasus.



In the Khibinogorsk Mountains, beyond the Arctic Circle, skiers pause for a wash and a rest

Guerrillas of Karelian Front Honored in Petrozavodsk

On October 8, the capital of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Republic, Petrozavodsk welcomed the returning guerrilla detachments of the Karelian Front. At a great meeting held in the central square of the city, Major General Vershinin read a citation to the guerrillas, and Prokonen, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Republic, congratulated them upon their victory.

In three years these detachments routed 52 enemy garrisons, wiped out over 15,000 enemy officers and men, destroyed 146 railway and highway bridges and dozens of kilometers of track.

River Shipping Improves

During the war the Central Scientific Research Institute of the USSR River Fleet has completed 175 important studies which have rendered great service to the Red Army.

On the Volga alone 100 million rubles are spent annually for dredging. A special mud pump has been designed which will save hundreds of millions of rubles in dredging the rivers of the USSR.

High-speed construction of a large number of wooden ships has begun. Soviet river shipyards, and methods worked out in the Institute will reduce the time necessary to build them to one-quarter of that required before the war.

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Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 119

Washington, D. C., November 18, 1944

INDIANA UN

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LIBERATION

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From TRUD, newspaper of the All-Union Council of Soviet Trade Unions, November 12:

We have been reading numerous reports of celebrations and meetings, numerous messages of greetings and felicitations. Among those who congratulated us we find not only old friends, but former ill-wishers as well. Some of those who have now come to their senses are trying to justify themselves, not so much to us as to their own people, by declaring that the reason they have changed their attitude toward us is that we have changed.

It is true we have changed. Only stones do not change. But while we have changed, we have not betrayed our principles.

When we talked about the brotherhood of nations we were jeered at and our peaceableness was interpreted as weakness. We were assigned to the nursery and our warnings and appeals for solidarity were looked upon by many as childish folly. Surely no grown person can believe these tales about cannibalism, they said. After all, there were luncheons in Locarno, a Four-Power Pact, a "gentlemen's agreement," and even guarantees of peace for a whole generation.

I happened to be in Geneva when the representative of the Soviet Union warned the delegates of various countries that the "promises of a truculent citizen to spare some quarters of a city and confine his actions and his weapons to the rest can scarcely be taken seriously." The delegates looked as if this didn't concern them; they, after all, inhabited "quarters" which Hitler had promised to spare.

But five years had not elapsed before bombs were falling precisely on these "quarters."

When Hitler burned books, engineered pogroms and drilled his SS men, he was condemned in public and encouraged on the quiet. One amiable gentleman even carried his partiality so far as to declare that the obstreperous Czechs were persecuting the meek Germans, while another lover of Tokay wine vowed that the Slovak peasants were ill-treating the Hungarian magnates.

When German aircraft set fire to Guernica, the "appeasers" declared unabashed that "national Spain in the person of Franco was destroying anarchism." When the Duce's submarines sank peaceful merchantmen, these same gentry announced that the identity of the pirates had not been established. Not only the big gamblers but also the small ones were carried away by this dishonest game. Pilsudski invited Goering to elaborate and gorgous hunts, evidently suspecting what sort of hunt their guest was scheming. The Regent of Yugoslavia and the Social Democrats of Denmark were equally fervent in their admiration of the Fuehrer.

Long before the German hordes invaded Athens, the German Kudendorf was virtual master there.

All this is now past history, but it should not be forgotten, for Europe has paid a heavy price for its blindness and folly, and memory is a good antidote.

If today we are being felicitated by people of different countries, classes and beliefs, it is not only because we have marched from Elista to Budapest and are liberating four countries; it is also because we have a clean conscience. We don't impose our convictions upon anybody and we have no designs against anybody's independence. We were hailed by English Bishops and by the King of Norway and by the Paris Committee of Resistance. But you don't find and won't find us being hailed by fascists, for they know that we have firmly decided to rid the world of their presence.

It is sometimes argued abroad whether this is an ideological war. We are fighting because the enemy attacked our land and insulted our dignity. You can call this



Radiophoto

Senior Lieutenant N. F. Kisselev, fighter pilot, decorated with three Orders of the Red Banner, examines the ninth German plane brought down by him—a Heinkel-3

an ideological war if you like—that is, if you regard cannibalism as an ideology. In our eyes fascism is a dangerous plague and we want to put an end to the contagion. Furthermore, we know that a plague cannot be confined to one quarter of a city. Disease spreads rapidly. We have to put an end to militant Germany, for it is the medium in which various microbes flourish, and we have to put an end to the microbes of fascism wherever and in whatever quantity they may still be preserved.

We are certain that this is what all the Allied nations want, too, and for which all mankind is yearning.

The curtain has risen on the last act of the tragedy: the war has set foot on German soil. Already we hear the voices of lachrymose advocates imploring that the "poor Germans" should not be punished too severely. As to the cannibals themselves, if they regret anything at all, it is that the furnaces of Maidanek and Tremblyanka were not big enough.

That cannibal Ley writes, "Maybe we now regret our proverbial German kindheartedness." It is a pity the miscreants cannot be hanged twice. Ley certainly deserves to be—once for what he did, and the second time for what he said.

Maidanek, the "desert zone," Babi Yar ravine, Trostyanets, mattresses stuffed with women's hair—is that German kindheartedness? Very well, we'll soon be having something to say about this "kindheartedness"—in Berlin.

Although the Germans have lost Kiev, Belgrade, Paris and Athens, they may still do no little harm. They still hold sway over a large territory and 10 million slaves. They promise to surpass themselves in "kindheartedness." The *Voelkischer Beobachter* recently wrote, "All the means you did not avail yourself of hitherto, because you were too kindhearted, are good means now. The blood of the enemy must flow in torrents."

We do not know of any means of execution and torture to which the Germans have not yet resorted. They have shed rivers of blood. Who, then, will be scared by talks about "torrents"?

The Germans pass from threats to tears with astonishing ease. Gerhard Wilk, commandant of Aachen, wanted to shoot

those inhabitants of the town who began to talk of surrender when they learned the explosive power of American shells. But next morning Gerhard Wilk meekly hung out the white flag. Evidently a shell fell too close to his residence. And it is possible that Ley, too, is keeping in reserve a handkerchief of immaculate whiteness.

But this time the performance of the German quick-change artists will not draw a full house: the nations have grown wiser.

How popular the disguise act is among the fascists may be judged from the recent pirouettes of General Franco. Seeing that the affairs of his German masters were in a bad way, this Don Quisling hastened to declare to an American correspondent that, firstly, he is not a fascist at all, and secondly that the "Blue Division" wrecked the suburbs of Leningrad not because Franco wanted to help Germany, but purely from philosophical considerations, because Franco does not agree with the Communist outlook. One might think that this "Blue Division" was a dissertation.

But meanwhile the German Informa-



Red Army men push forward in East Prussia under cover of artillery

tion Bureau declared, "General Franco's movement was a general rehearsal for the present world conflict." If, after this, Franco is classed with "democrats," we shall be entitled to say that the "appeasers" are still alive and kicking. Seemingly, it will be easier to carry Munich itself by storm than to rid the atmosphere of Europe of the "Munich" stench. . . .

The Fifth Column obviously hopes to survive all the columns of the German army. In Paris in the spring of 1940 I heard many a person with a large fortune and little self-respect say, "Better Hitler than the Popular Front." Millions have paid for the treachery of thousands. Flourishing France was laid waste. When the Allies routed the Germans in Normandy, the French people rose. Then came their liberation.

But now a correspondent of a Chicago newspaper reports from Paris that the Fifth Column has not been destroyed. According to this correspondent, people with large fortunes and little self-respect are saying, "We prefer the German invaders to the French people." It's the old story over again. Neither France nor Europe has time for it just now.

But the people have suffered too much to risk a return of the fascist disease. Now, when the boundaries of night have already been crossed, we can see the Europe of the ruins and shadows. Not only stones, but souls, have been mutilated. People laugh and weep to hear a living voice after the years of numbness. They blink at the sight of life, like people emerging from a dark cellar. Not only cities, but man himself, his dignity and spiritual multiformity, have to be rehabilitated. The time is coming for the masons, gardeners and teachers.

We will not betray the dead. We will not forsake the children. We will finish off Germany. There will be no Leipzig trial, neither will there be hypocritical remorse, putsches and that mixture of tears, blood and sordidness which struck the visitor to Germany in the time of Noske.

Strasbourg, Kaunas, Liege, Cracow, Riga and Amsterdam must be saved from periodic invasion. The Germans themselves violated all borders; they over-

turned the frontier posts, laughing boisterously as they did so, and deported Alsatians to Poland and Netherlanders to the Ukraine.

It will not be the Germans who will set up the new frontier posts; not they who will do the "transplanting." Some of them will be transplanted themselves. They will not manufacture V-101's under the guise of sewing machines and seed drills. They will have to change their customs and pursuits; they will even have to plant potatoes.

Naturally, they would prefer to be air-men, but they'll soon learn how heavy stones are and how hard it is to rebuild towns which it was so easy to destroy.

The tiger will willy-nilly become a vegetarian. And the hangmen will have to be hanged.

I know that with the exception of the Fifth Column all freedom-loving nations share our irreconcilability. Need it be said how the English, who have experienced the year 1940 and the flying bombs, hate the despicable enemy? Not in the French nor in the Poles or Czechs will the Germans find defenders. Even Luxembourg will not forgive the Reich. America is far off, but truth crosses even oceans. The face of Germany is becoming clearer to the Americans every day.

It is vain for the Germans to count on dissension among nations; we will

come to an understanding. Germany's crime was committed against all and the verdict will be passed by all.

Fascism is not confined to Germany nor even to fascists—it is something wider and more dangerous. It knows how to adopt good disguises and to assume an air of gentle breeding. But we have learned to sense it from afar. We know what racial hatred, arrogance, the cult of brute force and amorality lead to. We know that fascism begins with seemingly innocent prejudices and ends with Maidaneks.

Over the cradles of the world we swear to rid the earth both of fascists and fascism.

STATEMENT OF COLONEL GENERAL F. GOLIKOV ON REPATRIATION OF SOVIET CITIZENS

In view of the great interest aroused in Soviet circles by reports that many Soviet citizens who had been in German slavery were found in the liberated territories of the West, a Tass correspondent interviewed the repatriation representative of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, Colonel General F. Golikov, concerning the plans for repatriating these citizens. In reply to the correspondent's question, Colonel General Golikov made the following statement:

As a result of the great victories of the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies, many thousands of Soviet people have escaped from enemy captivity. Scattered on the territory of France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Egypt, French North Africa and even in the United States of America they are waiting to be returned to the Soviet motherland.

The Soviet Government is taking every measure for the earliest possible realization of this ardent desire of our citizens. Tens of thousands of them have already returned home from Finland, Rumania and Poland. The first ten thousand have arrived from Great Britain. Extensive preparation for the repatriation of Soviet citizens is under way in France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.

In organizing the return of Soviet

citizens to their homes, we have to begin with the most elementary things—locating, informing and gathering our citizens. This work is not as simple as might be supposed at first glance, since many of our people, after finding themselves on territory liberated by Allied troops, still remain in war prisoners' camps, sometimes together with German war prisoners.

Instances are known in which our people in these camps were and still are dependent on the Germans. The conditions in which they are kept are frequently extremely unsatisfactory: they are poorly clothed, poorly fed and given no medical aid, and are being persecuted. I shall cite one example.

A group of 72 Soviet war prisoners who fled from a German camp to Italy started a guerrilla struggle against the Germans in the Prado area, joined Allied troops in fighting and delivered to them a great number of German war prisoners they had taken. Instead of providing suitable conditions for the guerrilla detachment and helping the guerrillas to return home, the local military administration confined them in a concentration camp together with the Germans and kept them there for 10 days. They were liberated only after an organized protest.

In a number of instances, on liberated

territory, obstacles have been raised to the earliest gathering of our people and their repatriation. All these abnormalities in the treatment of liberated Soviet citizens evidently were caused by a lack of understanding of their duty toward citizens of an Allied power by certain representatives of the Allied authorities.

The Soviet Government is taking energetic measures to eliminate these abnormalities. There is every reason to believe that they will be discontinued in the near future.

There are also quite a few instances of people hostile to the Soviet State, who have tried by deceit, provocation, etc. to poison the minds of our citizens and make them believe the monstrous lie that the Soviet motherland has forgotten them, renounced them and no longer considered them her citizens. These people have intimidated our countrymen by telling them that they would allegedly suffer reprisals should they return home.

There is no need to refute such absurdities. The Soviet country remembers and takes care of its citizens who fell into German slavery. They will be accepted at home as sons of the motherland.

Soviet circles consider that even those Soviet citizens who submitted to German violence and terror and committed acts against the interests of the USSR will

not be prosecuted if, upon their return home, they will honestly discharge their duties.

There are many facts showing that thousands of Soviet people, while in German captivity, heroically fought the enemy. Thus, it is well known that on the territory of France, large numbers of Russians, Georgians, Armenians, Tajiks, Tatars, Ukrainians, Byelorussians—former officers and men of the Red Army who had been imprisoned by the Germans and were driven by them to France—revolted against the German command and, arms in hand, in whole groups and units, joined the French guerrillas and actively participated in the liberation of France and Belgium from the Germans. The motherland may be justly proud of such sons.

All returning Soviet citizens are accorded the full possibility of immediately taking an active part in routing the enemy and achieving victory, some with arms

in hand, others in industry and still others in the realm of agriculture. All of them will receive the necessary material aid and assistance in securing proper living conditions, medical treatment, education, etc.

Children, many thousands of whom were stolen by the Germans from their parents, will be returned to their parents, while others will be accommodated in children's homes and sanatoria. Here is one of many examples:

The other day near the town of Vmukacevo on the territory of the Carpathian Ukraine, Red Army troops recaptured from the Germans about 200 Soviet children ranging in age from two and a half to 15 years. For two months the Germans had been hauling them by rail, endeavoring to take them to Germany. Many children died on the way from disease and emaciation, the sick children having been murdered by the Germans. At present, these children have been saved, supplied with clothes, given

medical treatment and good nourishment and have been returned to their parents.

Representatives of the Commission for Repatriation of Soviet Citizens of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR are either already on the spot in a number of countries or are ready to depart. Our main work is ahead. The majority of Soviet people who fell into slavery have not yet been liberated and are on the territory of Germany.

The day of final and utter defeat of the enemy is near. It will be a joyous day of liberation for our Soviet brothers and sisters. All of them will find their place at home—among the soldiers fighting the enemy at the front, among the builders of our mighty State. Wide possibilities of returning to their native parts and to their families, of engaging in their usual occupations and selflessly serving their people and their motherland are opening up before the Soviet people liberated from German slavery.

A GERMAN CAMP FOR CIVILIAN PRISONERS AT KIRKENES

By Senior Lieutenant G. Novogradsky, *Red Fleet* Special Correspondent

In May of last year the people of Kirkenes witnessed a terrible sight, a sad procession passing through the streets of their town. Under heavy guard, long columns of Russians—women, children and a sprinkling of older men—marched along the road to the port. Ragged, their faces bloated with hunger, they supported each other as they walked.

The whole town looked on silently. Only the groans of the prisoners and the rude shouts of their German escort broke the silence. The columns were marched down to the sea where they turned toward a promontory which was cut off from the outside world by barbed wire.

"You know, I shall never be able to forget that procession," Jaar Stockvol, a Norwegian teacher, told me. "It was then I realized what the Germans and their new order in Europe really are."

We went down to the camp for civilian prisoners. It was like a terrible nightmare. Imagine a rocky cape completely bare of all vegetation, jutting out into the fjord, with water on three sides and barbed wire on the fourth. Day and night the whole year round the cape is swept by cold

north winds. There is no soil anywhere, only boulders. Among them are a few structures, not even the usual huts, but structures of plywood with stones piled up as high as the window on the outside buildings. They are absolutely unsuitable for human habitation in a northern climate.

Here, at the very edge of the world, the Germans drove the Russian people. Here Russian children wandered among rocks behind barbed wire. Here old men sat and thought of their native land and their approaching death. There were hundreds of civilians in the camp—people from the Leningrad Region, mostly from the Tosno District.

Vera Vladimirovna Nikitina used to live in the town of Soltsi in the Leningrad Region. She had been a bookkeeper and had worked in the Sovtrud cooperative. Her daughter attended school and her old mother took care of the house. At the end of 1941, the Hitlerite authorities took Vera Nikitina, her 12-year-old daughter Zoya and her 72-year-old mother, loaded them into freight cars with hundreds of other people and sent them

to Lithuania, where they were made to work for a German colonist living in the village of Markune in the Mushkovich Region. For two years they lived in a cubby-hole of a room, worked from dawn to dusk and had only scraps to eat. The master did what he liked with them and often beat them.

In the spring of this year when the front was being rapidly extended toward the village of Markune, the Germans hurriedly began to remove all food supplies, cattle and the civilian prisoners. Because of the shortage of transport facilities, the Germans selected only those most capable of working. They drove off with Vera Nikitina and her daughter and left the old woman to die among strangers.

In the same camp in which I saw Nikitina I also found the three Saulina sisters—Tosya, Zoya and Nina—from the village of Turovo in the Tosno District, Leningrad Region. In Lithuania they had had with them their old grandmother and a baby sister of four. The Germans left baby Tamara and the old woman behind

when they went on to Kirkenes. They took along with them only those people who were fit for work.

The prisoners did not know where they were being taken; they only knew that each day brought them to wilder and sterner country. Once they halted at Rovaniemi in Finland. Then, half naked in their rags, they were herded into trucks and driven 500 kilometers to Petsamo in the Arctic Circle. The snow still lay on the ground and many of them froze to death. The Germans threw the corpses out of the trucks and left them by the roadside. The road from Rovaniemi to Petsamo was a road of death for many Russians.

In Kirkenes the prisoners were made servants of the German officers and had to do all the rough and dirty work. Girls were forced to clean out the soldiers' latrines, carry stones for road repairs and load tons of goods in the harbor. Fifteen-year-old Zoya Nikitina was forced to work with the adults although she was a weak and sickly child; her thin face had such transparent coloring that it was almost blue.

The prisoners were allowed out of camp only during working hours and then only under armed guard. When the children went with their elders to work in the port or in town, however, they found ways of dodging the guards in order to rake about in the dustbins for scraps of food.

Contact was soon established between the Russian children and the townspeople. In the years spent in captivity the Russian children had developed a faultless sixth sense which told them who was a friend and who an enemy. Friends, and they were many among the Norwegians, brought food and clothing to the children without the Germans' knowledge. It was from these friends that the prisoners learned the Red Army was near and that the Russians would soon be there.

Then the day of liberation came. The Germans fled and with them Major Walter, the commandant of the camp. The prisoners opened gates that were no longer guarded and went out to meet some of the Russian signal corps men coming their way. Men, women and children crowded about the Red Army soldiers and greeted them with joy.

Refresher Courses for Physicians

By Vera Lebedeva, M.D.

Director of Central Refresher Courses for Doctors

Soviet public health organizations have always striven to improve and extend expert medical aid to the population. Toward this end special refresher courses have been established for physicians. About 125,000 men and women have attended these courses in the past 25 years.

Many medical workers, particularly in the rural districts, are unable to follow thoroughly the rapid strides made by modern medicine. Physicians and surgeons at the front are also cut off from scientific centers and need the opportunity of catching up with the latest developments.

During the war the majority of physicians in the armed forces were given rapid review courses in field surgery, traumatology, neurosurgery and ophthalmology. In the past three years over 15,000 physicians completed refresher courses in Moscow.

Long before the outbreak of the war the Soviet Government passed a law granting three months' special leave every three years to all rural doctors for the purpose of bringing their knowledge up to date.

Those attending the courses receive their full wages, plus a stipend of 300 rubles. All traveling expenses, textbooks, and board and lodging are free. Preference is given to doctors working in or near villages and at the front.

During their training period the physicians are assigned to a specific medical institute or research laboratory. They spend much of their time examining patients. In the oper-

ating rooms they work under such well-known surgeons as Academician Burdenko, founder of Soviet neurosurgery, and Honored Worker of Science Professor Priorov, eminent specialist in restorative surgery.

Medical conferences, reports on important questions of medicine and lectures for doctors in large industrial centers are also arranged.

Forty-one departments, staffed with 50 professors and numerous assistant professors, are offering refresher courses this year. A consultation bureau is always ready to aid physicians practicing in remote regions with advice and literature on questionable cases.



Senior Nurse Valentina Mayorova reads Lermontov's poetry to wounded men in a field hospital

WARTIME CONTRIBUTION OF STATE LABOR RESERVES

By P. Moskatov

*Chief of Main Administration of Labor Reserves,
Council of People's Commissars of USSR*

The war has shown how far-sighted the Soviet Government was in 1940 when it provided special trade and factory schools to train labor reserves. About two million young men and women have been graduated from these schools and have replaced their fathers and brothers who were called to the colors.

These schools have supplied the front with essential materials and supplies. During the war the students in training have produced industrial products valued at over four billion rubles. In 1942-1943 they mined over three million tons of coal and shale, one million tons of iron, copper and manganese ore, extracted over 100,000 tons of oil, and repaired over 600 oil wells, 60,000 railway cars, 6,000 locomotives and 7,500 tractors, combines and agricultural machines. Students of the construction schools erected hundreds of buildings, built 300 river and sea-going vessels, laid over two billion bricks and over one-half million cubic meters of concrete.

While in the trade schools the pupils are fully provided with food, clothing and footwear at the expense of the State. Between 1940-1943 about six and one-half billion rubles were appropriated for the training of labor reserves. In 1944 appropriations for trade, railway and factory schools amounted to over three billion rubles. Before the war there were 1,550 labor reserve schools in the USSR; the number has now grown to about 2,500.

Students Rehabilitate Liberated Areas

All the students are active in the work of rehabilitating liberated areas. Twenty thousand honor students from Moscow, Gorky, Tbilisi, Kuibyshev, Chelyabinsk and Sverdlovsk are helping to restore the Donets Basin. Many of them arrived there in the wake of the advancing Red Army.

The youth of Stalingrad is working heroically to rehabilitate its city. Young men and women of factory school No. 12 restored their dormitory, set up a res-

taurant in the basement of the house next door, rebuilt the school's workshops, assembled the lathes and repaired the tools. All the 28 trade schools of the famed city and region were similarly restored, and by October 1943, normal work was in progress.

The trade schools of Leningrad went on with their work all through the siege, filling important orders for the front. The students courageously endured hunger, cold and all the hardships suffered by the people of Leningrad, but they never lost heart. To help the city meet the fuel shortage, they pulled down decrepit wooden houses in the outskirts. During air-raids they did fire duty on the roofs. In one night three trade school pupils—Gavrilov, Dubakon and Puchkov—put out 340 incendiary bombs on the Nevsky Prospekt.

The Kirov railroad runs beyond the Arctic Circle to the ice-free ports of the Northern seas. Time and again Goebbels has reported either that the railway was seized or put out of commission. But all these years the trains have been running day and night and have carried supplies produced for the USSR in the factories of England and America and delivered by convoys to Soviet ports.

The telegraph operators on many stations of this railroad are graduates of School No. 15 of the Ivanovo Region. When the girls asked to be sent to the front they were assigned to this front-line railroad. It was difficult for these 16-year-olds to stay on duty when swastika-marked planes circled over the stations and the buildings shook with bomb explosions. But not a single one of the telegraph operators ever abandoned her post.

Many trade school graduates have distinguished themselves in battle. Six former trade school pupils have received the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, among them Yuri Smirnov, graduate of trade school No. 11 of Makaryevo, who displayed amazing fortitude in the face of the enemy.

Trade school graduates have also distinguished themselves at work in factories. They are among the best Stakhanovites and many have been promoted to the position of foreman.

Trade Schools for War Orphans

Special trade schools have been set up for children who have been orphaned during the war. In the Stavropol region, for example, 980 children completely orphaned by the Germans and 1,200 children who had lost one parent were enrolled last spring. The destitute children found new homes in the trade schools.

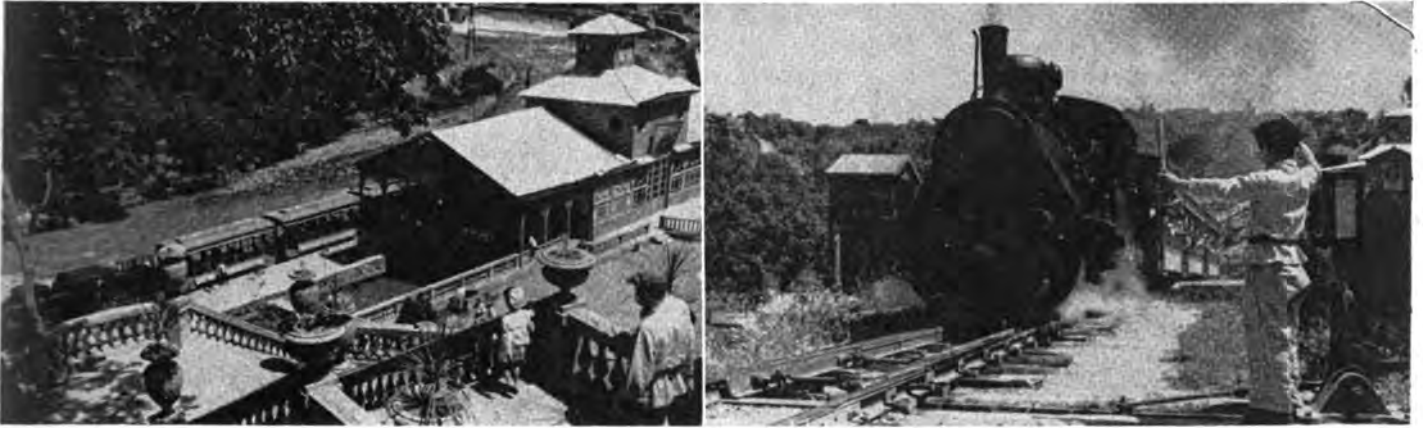
There are separate schools for boys and girls. Students receive a general education in addition to their vocational training and are given every opportunity to acquire general culture. They engage in varied social activities. Sports, amateur theatricals and art classes are part of the school life. Outstanding actors, writers and scientists often visit the schools.

An exhibit of the work of students is now being held in Moscow. Water colors, oil paintings and handicraft work are on display. The young fitters, turners, milling-machine operators, electricians and builders of warships, tanks and aircraft are also presenting a number of plays and several concerts featuring the music of Tchaikowsky, Glinka, Chopin, Verdi and Rossini.

On November 1 of this year 350,000 young men and women students were enrolled in the labor reserve schools. Young people are eager to enter the schools. In the Karelo-Finnish and Tajik Republics, in the Bryansk region and other parts of the USSR all vacancies were filled within a few days. After these students have completed special courses given in the labor reserve schools, they will help the country to restore rapidly the factories demolished by the Germans.

Six of the best trade and railroad schools have been decorated with Orders of the Soviet Union for having successfully trained skilled workers for war industries and transport.

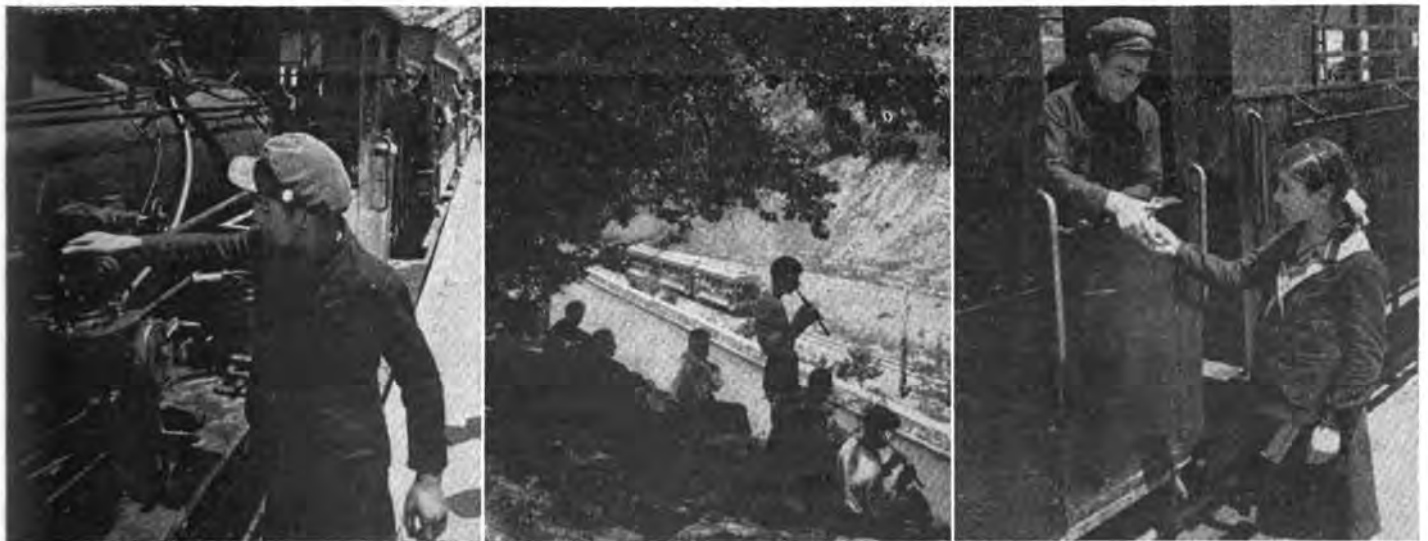
A RAILWAY IN SOVIET ARMENIA RUN BY CHILDREN



Left, one of the stations on the children's railway, which is several miles long, with locomotives and cars smaller but otherwise exactly like those of an ordinary train. Children direct and operate the railway, acquiring valuable technical experience for future use. Right, a signalman starts the engine on its way



Left, the dispatcher receives reports from intermediate stations—the road is clear. Right, the train pulls out with a capacity load



Left, inspecting the engine at a way station. Center, the train winds along the picturesque Zanga River. Right, the engineer receives the route sheet

Notes from Front and Rear

In the fighting in the Cracow direction, tankman Senior Lieutenant Ivan Turchenko, a Ukrainian, has brought the score of Germans he has personally killed to 1,170. His notebook records 50 tank attacks, 16 fascist tanks burned and 34 guns destroyed. Before the war Turchenko was a bookkeeper; at the front he preserves his habit of precise accounting. His notebook is in two parts: in one is recorded destruction wreaked by the enemy in Dniepropetrovsk, Kiev and Poltava, and the number of Soviet citizens executed by the fascists in death camps near Dembice and elsewhere—in the other part the tankman registers the Germans killed by him and damage done to the enemy. During the war Turchenko has been wounded four times and his tank set on fire by enemy shells 11 times.

★

The first merchant vessels recently arrived at the restored port of Novorossisk on the Black Sea, bringing great cargoes of building materials for the rebuilding of the city, wrecked by the Germans.

★

Among the thousands of men and women voluntarily working on the restoration of the Kreschatik—main thoroughfare of Kiev—is architect Semyon Tutuchenko, a Hero of the Soviet Union. At the outbreak of war Tutuchenko joined the guerrillas. Under commander Sidor Kovpak, now a General, he took part in the famous raid across 13 Regions of the Ukraine, which wiped out 39 German garrisons. The architect's professional knowledge was of great value in the mining of buildings and bridges. Tutuchenko has now returned to his peacetime occupation—the planning of cities.

★

Ten escalators will be installed in the central section of Kiev on five steeply-inclined streets where there is considerable pedestrian traffic. Plans for the escalators, which will cover a total distance of 300 yards, were drawn up by two of the architects of the Moscow subway.

A group of planes contributed by actors of the Maly Theater—oldest in Russia—is now fighting over East Prussia.

★

Twenty-five officers of the French Normandie Air Unit, which is fighting over East Prussia, have been decorated by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The Order of the Red Banner was awarded Lieutenant Colonel Pierre Pouyade, Captains Yves Mourier and Rene Chale, Senior Lieutenant Marcel Albert and Lieutenant Joseph Rissot. In six days—from October 16 to 22—the Normandie fliers shot down 83 and disabled 12 enemy aircraft. The Unit also took part in the battles for Orel and Smolensk and in Byelorussia.

★

The winter alpine sports season has opened in the mountains of Central Asia. Snow is more than three feet deep in the glacier zone, where Red Army men and officers are training in skiing. The trainees recently scaled a mountain in full pack, crossing three passes. Vasili Khromtsov, Vadim Nashenko, Vladimir Stankevich and other well-known skiers are in charge of training.

★

Boris Yefremov, a designer working in a Moscow factory, has invented a new type of artificial leg which greatly eases walking. A few years ago Yefremov lost both legs in an accident and since then has been working on the design of artificial legs which would not tire the wearer nor require the support of crutches or a cane. The new type of artificial leg is very resilient; the wearer does not suffer from jolts even when walking over rough terrain. Yefremov tested out his invention by walking from Moscow into the country, covering a distance of seven miles in two hours and 23 minutes. He suffered no fatigue, although he crossed steep hills and fields. Mass production of the new artificial leg is being launched.

★

The Leningrad Literary Fund recently sent 84,000 books to liberated areas.

A United Association of Evangelical Christians and Baptists has been formed in the USSR, by a decision adopted at a conference of 45 delegates from communities of Evangelical Christians and Baptists of Moscow, Leningrad, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, the Caucasus, Siberia, the Volga Valley, the Crimea and Kazakhstan. The conference elected a Council whose jurisdiction will extend to all Evangelical and Baptist communities in the country, and which will function in Moscow. Chairman Zhidkov, Vice Chairmen Golyaev and Orlov, Secretary Karev and members Levinandto, Patkovsky, Andreyev and Malinin, of the Council, are outstanding popular leaders of the Evangelical Christians and Baptists in the Soviet Union.

★

Three new theaters, one at the Farkhad dam construction works, were opened in Uzbekistan on the 27th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution.

★

The State Publishing House of Art Literature is bringing out a volume of material on the art of the great Russian writer of fables, Ivan A. Krylov. The collection is the work of the Gorky Institute of World Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Information Bulletin

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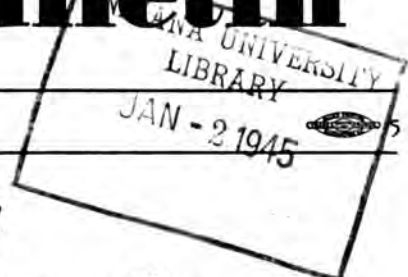
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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 120

Washington, D. C., November 21, 1944



The Strengthening of Soviet-American Fighting Cooperation

PRAVDA writes editorially:

November 16 is a significant date in the history of Soviet-American relations. On that day, 11 years ago, diplomatic relations were established between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the USA was the result of negotiations begun on the initiative of the Roosevelt Administration, which repudiated the notorious "non-recognition" policy which reactionary circles of the USA had pursued for many years, to the detriment both of the national interests of their own country and the interests of international security.

President Roosevelt recalled this fact

quite recently at the height of the election campaign. In an address before the Foreign Policy Association 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."

It is highly significant that President Roosevelt considered it necessary to recall this during the most acute period of the election campaign—acute not only because the election date was close but also because the elections were held in the midst of a grim and cruel war.

The years which have elapsed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the USA have

shown to what extent the establishment of such relations have proved mutually beneficial and fruitful. The war particularly strikingly revealed the significance of Soviet-American fighting cooperation, both from the standpoint of the interests of the two countries and peoples and from the standpoint of the interests of all freedom-loving mankind.

Soviet-American cooperation has stood the hard test of the present great war of liberation. In the crucible of war it has become tempered and stronger. In the joint struggle against Hitler Germany the fighting alliance of the three great democratic powers—the Soviet Union, the United States of America, and Great Bri-



Alexander Molodchy, famous long-range bomber pilot and twice Hero of the Soviet Union, once reported two rings of ack-ack fire around Berlin—a gun-fire ring directed by Goering and an inkwell ring directed by Goebbels



Fighter pilot Captain Pavel Kamazin, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, has brought down 33 enemy planes in single combat and 13 in group battles. Kamazin also wears two Orders of the Red Banner and the Order of the Patriotic War



Major of the Guards Pavel Taran, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, has made 368 operational flights and has 1,200 hours of bombing to his credit. He has also been decorated with the Order of the Patriotic War and of the Red Banner



Major of the Guards Peter Pokrishev, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, is one of the leading aces of the Red Army Air Force. Besides two orders of the Red Banner, he has received the Order of the Patriotic War and of the Red Star

tain—developed and became consolidated.

The anti-Hitler coalition has been confronted by a strong and treacherous enemy. The difficulties of the fight against this enemy, far from weakening the fighting alliance of the three great powers, has strengthened it. The great Allied powers have achieved remarkable coordination in their military action. In his historic address on the 27th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, Stalin said, "The Teheran Conference decision on joint actions against Germany and the brilliant realization of that decision are one of the striking indications of the consolidation of the anti-Hitlerite coalition front. There are few instances in history of plans for large-scale military operations undertaken in joint actions against a common enemy being carried out so fully and with such precision as the plan for a joint blow against Germany drawn up at the Teheran Conference."

The turn in the war brought about by the heroic efforts of the Soviet people, enjoying the assistance of its mighty Allies, and the subsequent victories achieved by the Armies of all the Allied powers on all fronts in the war against Hitler Germany, have led to the fascist beast being cornered in its lair, invested on all sides by the Allied Armies.

The years of war have been marked not only by increased fighting cooperation among the members of the anti-Hitler coalition, but also by the successful development of fruitful cooperation in settling the most important questions arising from the progress of the war. Fur-

thermore, a firm foundation has already been laid for successful cooperation in the postwar period, with the aim of organizing and preserving lasting and enduring peace among nations. That is clearly and cogently proved by the results of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference held on the initiative of the United States.

It is very important to note the spirit of unanimity and desire for mutual understanding that reigned at Dumbarton Oaks; for on the three great Allied powers that are now bearing the brunt of the fight against Hitler Germany also devolves the greatest responsibility for the organization and maintenance of enduring peace after the war.

It need hardly be argued that such close cooperation among the three great powers would be impossible if there existed no friendly relations between the USSR and the USA. This friendship and its durability have been tested by grim experience. And life has shown that despite the different political and social structures of the two countries there are no insurmountable differences, no differences which could not be resolved so long as there is good will and desire for mutual understanding. Life has shown that Soviet-American friendship is of benefit to both nations; accords with the vital interests of both countries. The coming victorious consummation of the war opens still wider prospects of mutually beneficial cooperation between the USSR and the USA.

The Soviet people highly appreciate the help which the United States rendered our country in the hard years when the Red Army fought single-handed and beat off

the attacks of the fierce enemy. The Soviet people note with respect the military valor of the American Army, which has already scored a number of brilliant victories over the enemy. The Soviet people know that the American people also understand and appreciate the great military feats of the Red Army.

The war, which has so firmly strengthened the fighting cooperation of the great Allies, has dealt a smashing blow to the prejudices and false ideas about the Soviet Union, with the aid of which elements in the USA hostile to the USSR sought to estrange the two nations. The joint fight against the common enemy has drawn the great nations of the two countries closer together. The results of the recent presidential elections in the United States have shown that the American people want to achieve a speedy victory over the enemy and to establish an enduring peace after the war on the basis of close cooperation among the USSR, the USA and Great Britain.

We mark the eleventh anniversary of the establishment of Soviet-American diplomatic relations at an important historic juncture, when the armies of the Allied nations are poised for the decisive assault on Hitlerite Germany. The further development of Soviet-American friendship will find expression in joint military efforts to achieve speedy victory. It will find its further fruitful development in the cooperation of the two nations for the organization of a lasting and enduring peace, to the benefit of the Soviet Union and the United States, to the benefit of all freedom-loving mankind.

BEST WISHES

By Mikhail Ushkalov

Mikhail Ushkalov, wearer of the Order of Lenin and Deputy to the Moscow Soviet, is foreman of the forge and press shop of the Stalin automobile plant in Moscow.

I have never been to America. But that doesn't keep me from following with profound interest and respect all that happens in this great friendly country. Modern American technique and organization of production has long held our attention. American efficiency, the capacity to value the time factor and the desire

to rationalize production processes—all these are qualities worthy of imitation. They have been put into effect under the new conditions of Soviet Russia, where labor has become a matter of creative effort, a "matter of honor, valor and heroism" to each of us.

In the years of war my interest and that of my fellow-workers in the American people has grown considerably. We have become brothers-in-arms in the greatest struggle in history—the fight of progressive humanity against the Hitler-

ite vandals. Russian and American soldiers are fighting at the fronts. Russian and American workers are producing the armaments without which victory would be impossible.

On the eleventh anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the United States of America I wish to express the sincere wish that our friendship in the postwar period may be strong and lasting, based on ever-growing and strengthening interest in each other.

ADDRESS OF AMBASSADOR ANDREI GROMYKO

Delivered at the American-Soviet Friendship Rally at Madison Square Garden
in New York, November 16, 1944

It gives me great pleasure to be present for the second time at a great meeting in Madison Square Garden, dedicated to the date of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. This year our countries are marking the eleventh anniversary of the reestablishment of these relations. It is sufficient to give a quick glance at the period since 1933 to convince oneself that the resumption of normal relations between the two countries is really a factor of great political and historic importance.

The past 11 years were filled with events that have left their mark on the life of many countries and peoples. The culminating point in the development of these events is the Second World War, which has now been waged for over five years and which has directly or indirectly affected nearly all the countries of the world.

The peoples of the United States and the Soviet Union, our mutual Ally Great Britain, and other peace-loving countries are waging a hard and stubborn struggle against Nazi Germany, who unleashed this war. Millions of our people, those in the ranks of our valiant troops at the fronts as well as those working on the home front, are straining all their efforts for the speediest achievement of victory. It is known to all that these efforts in the struggle against the common foe have already brought him to the verge of catastrophe.

A year ago, when in this very hall we marked the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, it was already clear that as a result of the tremendous successes of the Red Army on the Eastern Front and the successful military operations of British-American troops in North Africa, the correlation of forces between the belligerent sides had basically changed in favor of the Allies. However, at that time the Nazi-German troops, supported by troops of Germany's satellites, still held in their hands all of Western Europe and a con-

siderable part, in the territorial sense, of the western regions of the Soviet Union.

During the past year Nazi Germany has suffered further military and political reverses and defeats. The winter offensive of the Red Army on the Eastern Front, the ensuing powerful offensive in the summer of this year, and the landing operations of the Allied troops in Normandy, unprecedented of its kind in scope and precision of execution, have brought Nazi Germany to the edge of catastrophe, have made her vital centers the immediate target of the victorious troops of the Allies. What Germany dreaded most has happened. She is forced to wage war on two fronts.

As a result of the successes of the Red Army on the Eastern Front, at the present time all Soviet regions previously occupied by the enemy have been liberated and the Soviet State border, violated by the Nazi invaders on June 22, 1941, has been reestablished along its entire length from the Black to the Barents Seas.

As a result of the successes of the Allied forces in Western Europe, France, Belgium and Luxembourg, whose people suffered for over four years under the Nazi yoke, have been liberated from enemy occupation. Following the collapse of the German front in the Balkans, Greece, whose people had to endure great sufferings caused by the Nazi invaders, was also liberated. The troops of the Allies are now waging battles for the liberation from the Nazi yoke of the Poles, Czechs, Dutch, Norwegians, Serbs and other peoples enslaved by the Hitlerites.

Military operations of the Allied troops against Germany on both fronts, as well as the fronts themselves, are becoming more and more interdependent. Successes of the Allies on one front facilitate the offensive actions on the other.

As a result of the defeats inflicted upon her, Nazi Germany has lost most of her satellites. The moment is not far off when the last accomplice of the criminal Hitler gang—Hungary—will be knocked out.

But the most striking fact, revealing

the hopeless situation in which Nazi Germany finds herself today, is that the battles have already been shifted to German territory. The Nazi beast has been driven into its own lair. The iron ring forged by the Armies of the Allies around this lair is inexorably tightening. It will keep on tightening until the monster with the swastika is crushed under the blows of many thousands of planes, tens of thousands of tanks, the multi-millioned Allied Armies. The final goal of the march of the Allied Armies, which are inflicting concentric blows upon the enemy from the East, South, West and North, will be the heart of Nazi Germany, the breeding ground of the Nazi plague—Berlin.

However, it would be unwise to suppose that from this time on the struggle against the enemy will be easy. The facts do not confirm such a supposition. The enemy is straining all his efforts and, it seems, will continue to do so for a certain period, in the attempt to postpone his final defeat.

From the military point of view the situation of Hitlerite Germany is hopeless. Further resistance will lead only to the senseless increase of human and material destruction. But did the fascist vandals ever stop at destruction? Was it difficult to understand that the unleashing of this war by Nazi Germany, especially its adventure in the East, would mean mountains of corpses and rivers of blood not only for the countries—victims of Nazi aggression—but for Germany itself? This was not difficult to understand, even for a lunatic who lives not by reason but by intuition. Nevertheless, this perspective did not stop the Nazi invaders in their attempt to conquer the world and reduce whole nations to slavery.

The resistance carried on by the Nazi troops, in spite of the hopelessness of their situation, find its explanation in the striving of the Nazi leaders to postpone the hour of retribution for the crimes they have committed, for the millions of innocent civilians killed and tortured—men and women, old men and little children—

for the hundreds of thousands and millions of victims who have perished at the hands of the Nazi henchmen.

The crimes of the Hitlerites, those committed or now being committed on the orders of the Nazi leaders, have become known to the whole world. Can it be doubted even for a moment that such Nazi leaders as the principal and most dangerous criminals deserve to be on the list of war criminals? They say that there are people who have such doubts. Unfortunately, such people—people who, by the way, make a pretense of preparing proper lists of war criminals—can be found among certain circles of lawyers dealing with this question.

To inflict the final mortal blow on the Nazi troops will require the exertion of all efforts on the part of the Allies. The greater these efforts, the sooner will the mortal blow be inflicted upon the enemy, and thus, in the final reckoning, the smaller will be the losses involved in the achievement of victory. The basis of further successful operations against Germany is the coordinated actions of the Allies, agreed upon in the military and political sense. The successful concerted actions of the Allies and their unity presuppose constant alertness and struggle against propaganda sowing seeds of doubt in the ranks of the Allies, no matter from whence it emanates and what camouflage it wears. Often such propaganda, after careful consideration, reveals in embryo its Nazi origin, nourished consciously with the intent of introducing disunity into the ranks of the Allies, weakening their will and determination in the struggle. Nourished unconsciously, it is not less harmful.

The necessity of coordinated actions by the Allies is dictated by their fundamental national interests. That is why the ties among them are growing stronger in the course of the present war against the common foe. Excellent examples of the growing military and political cooperation among the Allies are such events as the Moscow Conference, the meeting of the heads of the three Governments at Teheran, the conversations at Dumbarton Oaks and the recent visit of the British Prime Minister and Mr. Eden to Moscow for conferences.

The unity and coordination of action of the Allies will predetermine not only the further success of the Allies in their struggle against the common foe, but will also predetermine how successful will be the postwar efforts of the peace-loving peoples, directed toward the maintenance of peace, toward the prevention of the unleashing by the greedy German militarists of a third World War still more cruel, more bloody and more costly than the present one.

There are now many discussions as to what kind of peace should be imposed upon Germany. A "severe" peace and a "soft" peace are spoken of. Would it not be better, instead of these abstract definitions "severe" and "soft," to speak of the kind of peace that would deprive the German militarists of the possibility of unleashing a new war and inflicting upon the peace-loving countries still more severe wounds. Would it not be better to talk of the kind of peace which Nazi Germany deserves and which would correspond to the degree of her crimes.

The peoples who are bearing the sufferings and sacrifices of this war cannot be indifferent to their future. That is why they are displaying such intense interest in the plans for the establishment of an international security organization. That is why the widest circles of the population of all peace-loving countries of the world are displaying such keen interest in the proposals worked out at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference for the establishment of an international security organization.

It is a pleasure for me that among the speakers at this meeting are such distinguished participants of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference as Acting Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. and the Earl of Halifax, who so ably represented their Governments at the Conference.

The freedom-loving peoples of the world are placing great hopes in an international organization which would be an efficient and effective instrument for the preservation of peace and the suppression of aggression, in case it should develop. Its effectiveness and efficiency will be directly dependent upon the extent of coordination of actions among the most powerful peace-loving nations who have at their disposal the necessary means

for the prevention and suppression of aggression.

The aforesaid is the condition for the establishment of an effective international organization as well as the condition for its effective functioning in the future as an instrument capable of providing peace and security for the peoples.

It is not necessary to speak at length of the fact that unity and mutual trust among the great Allied nations correspond to the interests of all freedom-loving countries, big and small. The latter cannot but weigh the importance for their own security of unity among the great powers. The foregoing is confirmed by the experience accumulated since the end of the First World War, experience of the preparation by Nazi Germany of the present war, which shows that the small countries cannot feel secure when there is a lack of unity and mutual understanding among the great nations.

It is also unnecessary to speak extensively of the tremendous importance which successful cooperation between two such great countries of the world as the United States and the Soviet Union has and will have in the future. Our countries have still greater potential possibilities of strengthening the ties of friendship, strengthening political cooperation and the developing and broadening of commercial relations between them. There are reasons to believe that the cooperation between our countries, which has grown stronger during this war, will represent a solid basis for more durable bonds between them in the future, in the interests of the preservation of general peace and the prosperity of the peoples.

Scientist Greets Memorable Date

Yakov Terletsy, M.S. and Research Fellow at Moscow State University, expresses the feelings of scientists of the Soviet Union in a greeting to their colleagues in the United States on the memorable date of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Terletsy voices the hope that this friendship, sealed in the blood of men fighting in the common battle, may after the war develop more fully in the mutual striving for scientific progress.

MARSHAL MERETSKOV OF THE NORTH

By Lieutenant Colonel L. Vysokostrovsky

One frosty morning during the Christmas season five years ago, several motor cars drew up close to the forward positions of Red Army forces stationed opposite the Mannerheim line on the Karelian Isthmus. Officers wearing sheepskin jackets and felt boots stepped out and, escorted by Tommy-gunners, went through communication trenches leading to the forward lines. At their head was a sturdily built General. As he went on, word of his coming preceded him all along the line. "Meretskov is here."

General, now Marshal, Meretskov chatted with Red Army men and inspected enemy positions through his field glasses. He spent four hours in the forward lines.

"Orders for an assault will be coming in soon," the officers said among themselves as soon as the General had left. "You can be sure that he didn't decide to do some reconnoitering himself for nothing." Two days later the orders came—not to launch an assault, however, but to leave only field patrols and machine gunners in the front lines and to send the rest of the troops to the rear for further training.

The General ordered that fortifications identical with those of the Finns be erected behind our lines. Deep in the forests, troops felled fir trees, set up wooden pillboxes, surrounded them with barbed wire entanglements and marked out sham mine fields. Then they stormed these positions as if they were real military objectives.

The maneuvers went on for several weeks. Artillerymen learned to roll out their heavy field pieces quickly and open fire immediately. Tankmen learned to jockey their machines among granite obstacles and to avoid snowed-under tank traps. The armored infantry drew up within striking distance of the enemy's positions and then deployed to storm them. All the time planes roared overhead, skirted treetops and practised bombing the enemy's forward lines.

It was sub-zero weather but the maneuvers went on. Kirill Meretskov was putting into effect Stalin's directive on mastering the art of warfare.

Throughout the Soviet-Finnish war and



Marshal Kirill A. Meretskov

thus far through this one, Marshal Meretskov has been in the North. He is considered one of the Red Army's best generals for this difficult terrain. The fighting in the North, particularly on the most northerly flank of the front, differs in many respects from action on other sectors of the Soviet-German front.

The major difference lies in the climate and terrain. Only a soldier specially trained for these conditions and in superb physical shape can meet the stringent requirements. All the operations in the North conducted by Meretskov, as well as by other Soviet generals, therefore, have been based as much on thorough preliminary training of the troops as on a careful study of the enemy and resolute execution of combat plans.

Beyond the 69th Parallel

My second meeting with Kirill Meretskov took place not so long ago beyond the sixty-ninth parallel. He had not changed much during the five years that had elapsed. He still looked no older than 45. He was still simple, informal and exceedingly affable and, as always, readier to listen than to talk.

We met on the eve of the Soviet offensive which crushed the German Twentieth Lapland Army. It was a period of great activity for the Red Army troops on the Karelian Front. The artillery was massing in forward positions. Heavy and

medium guns and Katyushas crawled frontward over the tundra. Tanks and self-propelled guns rumbled along and powerful tractors hauled huge loads of ammunition. Thousands of trucks carried troops, ammunition and food. Every now and then the heavy machines mired in the boggy terrain and infantrymen helped them to regain solid ground.

Meretskov's headquarters worked day and night. Every little detail had to be planned and provisions made for every possible contingency. Reconnaissance information kept pouring in from scouting parties in the enemy rear; prisoners were brought in for interrogation. Liaison officers changed their jeeps for horses and then their horses for reindeer. Sometimes they had to abandon their reindeer also and make their way on foot through granite crags to regimental and divisional headquarters.

I was present during a conversation Meretskov had with an officer who suggested taking several hills before the offensive proper in order to make it easier for assault troops to lunge forward.

"There is no need for us to alarm the enemy," Meretskov told the officer. "He has all these hills fortified and if you drive him off one, he will cling to the next. You could spend ten years taking them all that way. We have to effect the operation so fast that we will knock the wind out of him."

Meretskov himself made reconnaissance tours of the front, gave personal instructions to unit commanders, checked on the fulfillment of orders and directives, and above all demanded that the enemy be kept under constant observation.

During one of his visits to forward positions, he questioned officers about the most minute details concerning the opposing German command: who were the commanders of regiments and battalions, what was their daily routine, what did they do after breakfast and until dinner time, when did they usually retire for the night, etc.

The need for such a wealth of detail became clear when the order to launch the offensive was given. The assault was

set for eight o'clock in the morning. At this hour the enemy was least prepared to repel our attack. It was known that the Germans were most alert from four until six in the morning when our reconnaissance patrols ordinarily made their raids. During these hours the Germans had all their men on their toes. By seven or eight o'clock, however, they usually began to relax and allowed their troops some rest.

The blow fell at eight sharp. It took the Germans by surprise, both in its timing and its direction. The Germans had expected the offensive to come from the valley of the Titovka River and had set up firm defenses on the hills. The thrust, however, was delivered at the right flank which was buttressed by practically impassable rundra bogs. The Germans had felt quite secure here, particularly since our reconnaissance patrols had been far more active on the left than on the right flank for several days preceding the offensive.

Several hours before zero hour Meretskov arrived at the headquarters of the division that was scheduled to deliver the initial blow. For an hour he talked with the most experienced officers and men.

"When you return to your units," he said, "tell your men that our task is to

penetrate behind the enemy's lines as rapidly as possible, straddle his roads and cut off his retreat. If we succeed in doing that, the way will be open for further advances."

Meretskov's observation post on the shore of the lake near an enemy-held mountain provided a good view of the enemy's positions. When I arrived there, the German lines were enveloped in flame. Explosions spouted up from the earth. Clouds of gray-black smoke and the white tracks of Katyusha shells described arcs that ended in the enemy's trenches. The artillery pounded away without pause and overhead our aircraft planted bomb-load after bomb-load in the enemy's lines.

Suddenly the thunder of guns and explosions ceased and the infantry went over the top. A haze of fog rising from the smoldering mass and the explosion of uprooted soil hung over the mountain side, and through it we could see the dark outlines of infantrymen climbing upward until they covered the entire slope as far as the eye could see.

We could see them distinctly as they dashed from the shelter of one rock to another, threw grenades to silence the remaining nests of resistance and fell flat when the mortar shells whistled overhead.

Behind this vanguard of tommy gunners went machine gunners, anti-tank riflemen with their long-barrelled weapons, and light mortar crews. At the very foot of the hill came more artillerymen with light field guns.

The Germans offered fierce resistance despite the heavy losses they suffered under artillery and air barrage. Their remaining machine-guns barked furiously and reports came in that hand-to-hand fighting was going on in the trenches.

All at once German reserves appeared on top of the ridge. They had apparently taken cover during the barrage and were now being moved into action. The remaining German guns suddenly opened up. Explosions of artillery and mortar shells grew more frequent in the vicinity of the command post.

"That's nothing," said Meretskov when officers reported to him that enemy batteries were coming to life and that reserves had been sent in. "It's always good to have the enemy in sight." He ordered all our guns and Katyushas to open fire on the German reserves.

After the barrage, our infantry again rose to attack and soon disappeared beyond the ridge. "It's time for us to move forward too," Meretskov said. "We've got to see what's happening."

For three days the earth and sky of the Kola Peninsula reverberated and during those days everything the Germans had built up during three years was demolished. Meretskov's troops reached the nickel mine area and the Norwegian frontier and then pushed on to carry freedom to Norwegian territory.

The entire German Nineteenth Alpine Corps and a large part of another army corps were wiped out on the Barents Sea coast and the front lines were immediately moved dozens of kilometers forward.

"What other outcome could there have been?" Meretskov asked when a war correspondent expressed his admiration at the speed of the advance. "After all, our troops trained all summer. They didn't simply throw themselves at the enemy. They used their heads—knowing the enemy, possessing splendid equipment and throwing in a little bit of good stratagem besides."



German equipment disabled by the Red Army in recent battles

SOVIET ARTILLERY—A MASTER WEAPON

By Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers P. Zverev

Soviet artillery has covered itself with glory and has been greatly instrumental in achieving the outstanding victories of the present war. This branch of the Red Army has reduced German fortifications and has vigorously supported the splendid Red Army offensives of the summer and autumn of 1944.

Russian artillery has a history of 500 years. It has long been famous as a fighting force. Soviet artillerymen have carried on these great traditions and have multiplied their glory. As yet the artillery of no army in the world has achieved as much as has the artillery of the Red Army in the war against Nazi Germany.

Marshal Stalin, who has devoted so much time and care to the development of Soviet artillery, long ago foresaw its great role in wartime, calling it the "god of war." This remarkable foresight was fully substantiated in this war. At every stage, Soviet artillery has proved itself a most powerful force. In the early phase of the war, when the Red Army was on the defensive, the artillery checked the drive of enemy tanks and destroyed great numbers of them. When the Red Army took the offensive, the artillery swept aside everything in its path and paved the way for the advancing troops.

It is interesting to note that during the First World War about 60 to 100 guns per kilometer of front line were employed to breach the enemy defense line. Throughout that entire war this average was exceeded only three times: at Verdun, in Flanders and near Malmaison where 137, 153 and 161 guns, respectively, were massed per kilometer of front line.

When the Red Army took the offensive, this picture was changed. About 250 guns were concentrated on every kilometer of the front and sometimes as many as 350. These figures do not include large-caliber mortars.

Artillery Leads Offensives

At present the function of Soviet artillery is not limited only to bombardments or to supporting tank assaults, as was formerly the case. Today the artillery

leads the offensives of the infantry and tank divisions and then joins them to increase the striking power of the attacking forces. A recent operation will illustrate this point.

It was the 20th of August, 1944 and Red Army forces were grouped on the Dniester south of the town of Bendery. The Soviet troops were confronted with the task of blasting a strong line of enemy defenses which guarded the approaches to the central regions of Rumania. At 9 A.M. several thousand Soviet guns and mortars began to pound at the enemy. This was the first time in this area that a concentrated attack had been directed against the enemy's lines. The object of the maneuver was to take the Germans by surprise and thereby inflict heavy casualties.

For fifteen minutes the guns fired with maximum speed and then gradually slowed down. This indicated that the batteries had moved their fire to definite targets which had been charted previously. While the heavy batteries concentrated on reducing the more formidable emplacements, the light batteries moved out to open positions. They fired point blank at the front-line pillboxes and trenches of the enemy. Long-range divisional guns

dealt with the enemy's artillery staffs, communication junctions and assembly points for reserves. Mass raids by Soviet aircraft added further weight to the blows of the artillery.

Toward the end of the second hour of the barrage, the artillery again trained its guns on the enemy trenches while the tanks and infantry prepared for action. When the infantry was ready for the attack and had approached to within 150-200 meters of the bursts, a number of guns directed against the trenches shifted their fire deeper into the defenses. As the troops advanced, the artillery fire moved forward.

Thus, the further the infantry and the tanks penetrated, the fiercer became the barrage. The artillery blasted nearly all the enemy fortifications, burying a great number of Germans in the wreckage. The morale of the few survivors was so thoroughly shaken that they presented no serious obstacle to our advance.

After two hours of bombardment, a wide gap was made in the enemy lines. This caused such havoc that advancing units succeeded within a few hours in spreading over 12 kilometers of territory in depth with only slight casualties in their own ranks. By blasting gaps



Soviet artillery rolling through a village in East Prussia



Hero of the Soviet Union Nikolai N. Orishchenko, 22, gunner in a Guards Artillery Unit

in the defenses and silencing enemy fire, the artillery saves the lives of thousands of troops.

It was once believed that the attacker was bound to suffer heavier losses in battle than the defender. The French, for example, lost 200,000 soldiers and officers during the siege of German fortifications on the Aisne River in April, 1917. Now, due to the weight, precision and skillful control of our fire, results are very different. Many Soviet operations have proved that the defending German troops, when subjected to concentrated and precise fire, sustained much higher losses both in men and in materiel than the attacking Soviet units. When the Red Army broke through the strongly-fortified Finnish defenses on the Karelian Isthmus, the Finns sustained 70 per cent of all their casualties in the front line during the first day of artillery bombardment. The loss in manpower was so heavy that the Finns had practically no men to withdraw to their second or third lines of defense.

The Germans know only too well the crushing force of Soviet artillery. This strength does not depend only upon su-

periority in numbers and quality. The men who handle the guns are the most important contributing factor.

Soviet gunners are not only masters of their skill but they are also ardent patriots. They know no obstacles on the field of action and are always able to use their gunfire most effectively. Their unbounded love for the Soviet motherland in-

spires them to self-sacrifice, heroism and undaunted valor. I could cite innumerable examples of Soviet gunners who continued to man their guns when the rest of the crew was put out of action. The gun continues to fire even when only one gunner remains to man it. This is what makes Soviet artillery so powerful a force.

NOVEMBER 19 NAMED ARTILLERY DAY

The Soviet Government has issued a Decree instituting Artillery Day, which is to be celebrated annually on November 19. It was on this date the Red Army launched its offensive at the approaches to Stalingrad. A mighty cannonade heralded the beginning of the battle which was to be the turning point of the war.

In the Stalingrad battle, between 160 and 240 guns were massed along each half mile of front. At the beginning of the war a concentration of several dozen guns per half mile was considered an achievement. Now it is not unusual for 250 or more guns to be massed along each half mile during a break-through. Over 20,000 guns have been employed in some of the Red Army's operations.

Soviet artillery has decisively triumphed over German armor. During the enemy counter-offensive west of Shauliai, the gunners of one formation alone disabled or destroyed 414 German tanks in seven days. In the spring of 1944, in six

days' fighting at the approaches to Jassy the Soviet guns knocked out 315 enemy machines. In the Jassy-Kishinev operation there were 175 guns and heavy mortars to every half-mile of the front in the main direction of the Soviet offensive.

Soviet shells smash blockhouses with walls up to six feet thick; Soviet anti-tank guns knock out panzers with a frontal armor 100-mm. thick.

The services of Soviet gunners in the cause of victory are immeasurable. On the plains of Poland and in the Carpathian mountain gorges, on the German frontier and south of Belgrade, they pound the enemy, blasting steel and concrete fortifications to rubble.

The Germans have no answer to "Stalin's artillery." Long before the war, Marshal Stalin realized the potentialities of artillery. His foresight has made it possible to equip the Red Army with first-rate ordnance. During the war the output of guns has increased six or seven-fold.

Soviet Youth Contacts

Soviet young people, through the Antifascist Committee of Soviet Youth organized at the beginning of the war, have established friendly contacts with 100 youth groups in various countries, including the United States, Canada, South American Republics, Great Britain, China, Australia, South Africa and other freedom-loving nations.

Contacts with American youth have become especially close since the visit to the United States of the Soviet student delegation—Nikolai Krasavchenko and Heroes of the Soviet Union Ludmila Pavlichenko and Lieutenant Vladimir Pchelintsev. Since that time 7,000 letters have been received from American youth.

Information Bulletin

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W.C.T.

Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 121

Washington, D. C., November 24, 1944



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DEC 1 1944
By N. Lenin

Gunners of the Red Navy

The men behind the guns on the vessels of the Red Navy are held in as high esteem as their colleagues in the Red Army. Wielders of the chief weapon in naval warfare, they have scored many victories over the Germans.

Modern naval armaments vary in size and function no less than the vessels themselves, ranging from small submarine cannon to the bristling battleship turret. But size alone does not determine effectiveness. For example, submarine Captain of the Second Rank Mahomet Gajiev, a mountaineer of Daghestan, once engaged three enemy patrol boats, sinking two and routing the third.

The accuracy of Russian naval artillery has become a byword, and this refers equally to guns of all calibers. I remember a day in August, 1941, when the battleship October Revolution, anchored in the Neva River, was given orders to check German forces that had broken through our defenses in one sector and were advancing on Leningrad.

The Hitlerites marched confidently along a highway behind a big brass band. From a long distance Soviet artillery observers spotted the glint on the band instruments and reported the coordinates to the battleship. Our first 12-inch salvo dropped squarely into the band. Soviet reinforcements took advantage of the confusion among the enemy and launched a counter-attack supported by naval guns.

During the war Soviet sailors have rendered great aid to Red Army land forces operating on the seacoasts. Naval artillerymen have also fought on land, demonstrating the accuracy of their weapons under any and all conditions. The enemy himself has testified to this.

I was once present at the interrogation of a German flier, an oberleutnant, who

had bailed out of his damaged Junkers into blockaded Leningrad. The flier stated that the German command had received information regarding a new secret Russian weapon called the "Barbakadze." At these words everyone present burst out laughing. We were all well acquainted with the jovial Georgian Major Grigori Barbakadze, son of a school-teacher of Kutaisi, who was commanding a naval battery mounted on railway cars, which was hauled up and down the front by three locomotives. This was actually a gun turret from a heavy cruiser. It would open fire from totally unexpected positions, wipe out a German headquarters previously spotted by scouts, or blast a panzer column, then make a quick getaway.

The strange-sounding Georgian name of the Major had somehow reached the Germans, who assumed it stood for a new weapon.

Red Navy artillery has been in action in many other areas. I shall never forget how the Red Army men threw their caps into the air and cheered when they first saw the withering fire launched by naval guns mounted on Volga passenger steamers. The same welcome was given the sailors by the defenders of Odessa, Sevastopol and other seacoast cities.

Coastal Batteries

In the Far North I often ran into Captain Fedor Ponochevny, a calm, slow-moving Ukrainian in command of a battery on the rockbound shore at the entrance to the Gulf of Pechenga. His task was to sink enemy vessels entering or leaving the port. In the 40 months from the beginning of the war to the capture of Pechenga, Captain Ponochevny's battery sent 34 enemy craft to the bottom: the first on the afternoon of



Radiophoto

A sailor of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet and a cadet of the Nakhimov Naval School stand watch

June 22, 1941—and the last on the day preceding the fall of the port. For over three years the Germans tried to destroy this battery by air bombing and intensive shelling from nine batteries on the opposite shore of the Gulf, but they failed to silence it even for a moment.

The Germans never openly engaged our forces at sea unless they had a big numerical superiority. I happen to know what occurred in one such engagement, directed on the Soviet side by Senior Lieutenant Igor Chernyshev, a 24-year-

old Muscovite who wore a large mustache to make him look older. Chernyshev's two patrol launches were cruising in the Gulf of Finland when they were attacked by a group of enemy vessels of the same type. The enemy attempted to surround and capture the Soviet boats.

Lieutenant Chernyshev is something of an amateur boxer and in this engagement he used two-fisted tactics. Before the enemy had a chance to open concerted fire he struck at the rear of the group and closed in to knock out first

one launch and then a second. His own launches were damaged but they did not slacken fire. The remaining enemy boats, however, changed their minds about attacking and fled under cover of their coastal batteries.

I mention Lieutenant Chernyshev because the modest artillerymen of cutters armed with small cannon—which in case of need can be operated by one man—deserve equal honors with those accorded their colleagues on battleships and cruisers.

Forerunners of the Advance

By Captain of the Guards A. Kibizov

On the sector where my unit was operating, the Germans recently brought up tanks, artillery and several composite motorized battalions in the hope of stalling our advance.

The Soviet Command decided to strike at their rear communications. A mobile group consisting of two tanks, two self-propelled guns, eight armored vehicles carrying tommy gunners, a mortar platoon, a platoon of machine gunners and 25 motorcyclists, was detailed for the job.

Village Is Objective

The group was ordered to make an overnight forced march of 30 miles by remote forest paths and through swamps, and to concentrate by morning near a large enemy-held village where a number of important highways converged. The route was complicated and each man learned it by heart before he set out.

A reconnaissance party on motorcycles led the way. Following them came the advanced detachment with one of the tanks and a jeep armed with a machine gun. In the rear, the column was covered by the second tank and another jeep with a machine gun.

The motorcyclists had a very bad time of it. Long stretches of the route lay across sandy soil over which they had to carry their machines, and of course they could not use their headlights.

The detachment finally assembled about half a mile from the objective. An infantry reconnaissance group found that the village was garrisoned by a battalion of German infantry. There were block-

houses at all street crossings, and on the second floors of many of the houses were machine guns pointing eastward.

The detachment commander made his plans. The village was intersected by three highways, from the northwest, southwest and east. A number of tommy gunners and a platoon of mortar gunners were assigned to guard the roads from the northwest and southwest. Two jeeps armed with heavy machine guns were stationed on the highway running from the east, as a protection against any German units which might happen to be coming up to the locality from the front.

Having gained control of the roads, the group attacked the village with two assault detachments operating from two directions. The first party, consisting of a tank, a self-propelled gun, two jeeps equipped with machine guns and a company of tommy gunners, began a breakthrough from the northwest. A similar detachment attacked simultaneously from the southwest. After crushing several blockhouses and firing-points in the basements of houses, the Soviet tanks and self-propelled guns advanced rapidly. The Germans, having lost their favorable positions on the outskirts, began to mass in the center of the village.

Ignoring a number of firing-points in their rear—which were later mopped up by the tommy gunners—the two Soviet tanks and two self-propelled guns rushed the enemy, crushing about a score of the garrison. The rest escaped into houses and tried to resist from there, but were put out of action by our tommy gunners.

At this point a company of German engineers arrived from the direction of the railway station to relieve the routed garrison. Our tommy gunners waited until they had gathered in the main street, then surrounded and annihilated them. Immediately following this a tank, a self-propelled gun and about a platoon of motorcyclists by-passed the railway station from the forest, attacked it in the rear and seized two ammunition trains—one of which was about to pull out of the station—and a few dumps.

Thirty-Mile Advance

The battle for the village lasted about three hours and ended in the complete rout of the garrison. Soviet machine gunners lying in ambush on the highway east of the village destroyed nine trucks carrying infantry and ammunition, several infantry columns marching from the front, and three passenger cars. Altogether the Germans lost 200 men, two guns and five heavy machine guns.

The significance of the operation was apparent a few hours later. The German command sent several detachments from the front to restore the situation, but all were routed. Then our units at the front passed to the offensive. The Germans, demoralized by the loss of the road junction in their immediate rear, were unable to put up any serious resistance to our attack. Many were killed and the remainder took cover in the forest.

The Red Army advanced into the gap and moved forward over 30 miles in the first lap.

AUTUMN NAZIS

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Rosenberg's Professors

"To the good thief everything is beef," they say, and never were there such universal thieves as Hitler's soldiers. They filched Sevres porcelain and Orel felt boots, states and homespun, gold watches and threadbare blankets, statues and eggs, toys and railway cars. They stole Paris monuments, Dutch cheeses, Brussels lace, door-handles, gravestones, frying pans, spittoons and crutches.

And the Thief of Thieves, the Master Burglar, the Professor of Robbers, the Academician of Rapine, was Alfred Rosenberg.

He pillaged Smolensk Museum; he plundered the palaces of Leningrad; he stole the icons of Novgorod. He had a regular business called the "Rosenberg Commission." For the first time in history a gang of thieves had its own letterhead, its rubber stamp and registered offices.

The British press reports that in Florence Rosenberg swiped 45 masterpieces, including the Medici Venus, Donatello's St. George, and paintings by Botticelli and Ghirlandaio. One of the pictures was abandoned by the fleeing thieves. It appears that one learned member of the "Rosenberg Commission," while cutting up the bread and sausage on a Ghirlandaio painting, damaged the canvas with his knife. He decided that the picture was spoiled and threw it away with the sausage skins.

If seven towns disputed the right to consider themselves Homer's birthplace, 77 towns will dispute the right to erect gallows to Rosenberg, the international thief.

People often ask how the Germans can compensate for the damage they have done to memorials of art. The cathedrals of Novgorod and Pskov cannot be rebuilt, nor can Pushkin and Gatchina, Rouen and Perugia and other old towns. I think something will have to be taken away from the Germans. Dresden is no place for the Sistine Madonna.

The Germans will restore what they

have stolen; they will pay for what they have destroyed, and not in paper marks either.

The Piety of Dr. Goebbels

Goebbels writes in his latest article: "*Vanity of vanities . . .*" Club-foot, squatting in his air-raid shelter, has assumed the mantle of Ecclesiastes.

In 1942 he wrote, "We National Socialists have shown that one minute can eclipse eternity, that world glory is being made by our grenadiers, that by scaling the summits of Elbrus we have made the commonplace immortal, and that henceforth Germany is a thing intransitory and unshakable."

And now he is writing about the vanity of this world. I can suggest a few other texts for his meditation:

"To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die . . . A time to get and a time to lose."

"The wind goeth toward the south and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually and the wind returneth again according to its circuits."

"He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it, and whoso breaketh an hedge a serpent shall bite him."

After a little meditation on these texts, Goebbels will be able to explain to his readers why Germany, having got as far as Egypt, has lost Aachen, and why she has returned from the Volga to Eydtkuhen.

She Will Work for Three

Corporal Michel Mueller, of the 44th Sapper Battalion, who was taken prisoner recently, relates: "We hadn't any horses, so we harnessed Russian prisoners to carts and they lugged our picks, spades and other digging tools."

A certain Gertrude Schwalbach wrote from Frankenthal on July 19, 1944, to her husband, "I'm told they mean to take away my Russian maid. It will be terrible. You cannot imagine what it means to have a good servant in the house. Before the war only the rich could afford that

luxury, so the war has done some good. I don't even feel the absence of you and Martha, as this Russian woman literally does the work of three, so that I can lie in bed and think of you, my dear little hubby."

But Gertrude will have to get up soon. Serious unpleasantness awaits her. Gertrude Schwalbach, of Frankenthal, like millions of other German men and women, will have to work in compensation for the burned-down cities, for the fact that her husband or brother harnessed Russian soldiers to carts, and for the fact that she herself tyrannized over a Russian girl.

Gertrude will have to do the work of three.

A Nice Rug for the Winter

We are so used to the expression "The Beast's Lair" that it has come to sound like a proper name. I would never be surprised if I saw "Beast's Lair" written on the map, instead of "Germany." But we never say precisely what beast we mean, evidently out of deference to the quadrupeds.

Let me protest at once that the Germans are nothing like lions. Brem in his *Animal Life* writes, "The lion does not like to make long marches. Arabs say that when he issues forth he roars three times as a warning to all. All naturalists admit that the lion has many noble features. One can love and respect the lion."

The Germans attack by stealth. They go to the ends of the earth in search of prey.

But there is another beast of prey as big as the lion, and that is the man-eating tiger. Brem describes him, too: "The man-eating tiger is cowardly and at the same time insolent; he will run away from an armed man and attack an unarmed man, being able to distinguish one from the other. He is cunning, perfidious and very bloodthirsty. What makes his attack so formidable is its stealth and suddenness."

The battle is proceeding very satisfactorily. I already seem to feel a good tiger-skin rug under my feet.

June 22, 1941—and the last on the day preceding the fall of the port. For over three years the Germans tried to destroy this battery by air bombing and intensive shelling from nine batteries on the opposite shore of the Gulf, but they failed to silence it even for a moment.

The Germans never openly engaged our forces at sea unless they had a big numerical superiority. I happen to know what occurred in one such engagement, directed on the Soviet side by Senior Lieutenant Igor Chernyshev, a 24-year-

old Muscovite who wore a large mustache to make him look older. Chernyshev's two patrol launches were cruising in the Gulf of Finland when they were attacked by a group of enemy vessels of the same type. The enemy attempted to surround and capture the Soviet boats.

Lieutenant Chernyshev is something of an amateur boxer and in this engagement he used two-fisted tactics. Before the enemy had a chance to open concerted fire he struck at the rear of the group and closed in to knock out first

one launch and then a second. His own launches were damaged but they did not slacken fire. The remaining enemy boats, however, changed their minds about attacking and fled under cover of their coastal batteries.

I mention Lieutenant Chernyshev because the modest artillerymen of cutters armed with small cannon—which in case of need can be operated by one man—deserve equal honors with those accorded their colleagues on battleships and cruisers.

Forerunners of the Advance

By Captain of the Guards A. Kibizov

On the sector where my unit was operating, the Germans recently brought up tanks, artillery and several composite motorized battalions in the hope of stalling our advance.

The Soviet Command decided to strike at their rear communications. A mobile group consisting of two tanks, two self-propelled guns, eight armored vehicles carrying tommy gunners, a mortar platoon, a platoon of machine gunners and 25 motorcyclists, was detailed for the job.

Village Is Objective

The group was ordered to make an overnight forced march of 30 miles by remote forest paths and through swamps, and to concentrate by morning near a large enemy-held village where a number of important highways converged. The route was complicated and each man learned it by heart before he set out.

A reconnaissance party on motorcycles led the way. Following them came the advanced detachment with one of the tanks and a jeep armed with a machine gun. In the rear, the column was covered by the second tank and another jeep with a machine gun.

The motorcyclists had a very bad time of it. Long stretches of the route lay across sandy soil over which they had to carry their machines, and of course they could not use their headlights.

The detachment finally assembled about half a mile from the objective. An infantry reconnaissance group found that the village was garrisoned by a battalion of German infantry. There were block-

houses at all street crossings, and on the second floors of many of the houses were machine guns pointing eastward.

The detachment commander made his plans. The village was intersected by three highways, from the northwest, southwest and east. A number of tommy gunners and a platoon of mortar gunners were assigned to guard the roads from the northwest and southwest. Two jeeps armed with heavy machine guns were stationed on the highway running from the east, as a protection against any German units which might happen to be coming up to the locality from the front.

Having gained control of the roads, the group attacked the village with two assault detachments operating from two directions. The first party, consisting of a tank, a self-propelled gun, two jeeps equipped with machine guns and a company of tommy gunners, began a breakthrough from the northwest. A similar detachment attacked simultaneously from the southwest. After crushing several blockhouses and firing-points in the basements of houses, the Soviet tanks and self-propelled guns advanced rapidly. The Germans, having lost their favorable positions on the outskirts, began to mass in the center of the village.

Ignoring a number of firing-points in their rear—which were later mopped up by the tommy gunners—the two Soviet tanks and two self-propelled guns rushed the enemy, crushing about a score of the garrison. The rest escaped into houses and tried to resist from there, but were put out of action by our tommy gunners.

At this point a company of German engineers arrived from the direction of the railway station to relieve the routed garrison. Our tommy gunners waited until they had gathered in the main street, then surrounded and annihilated them. Immediately following this a tank, a self-propelled gun and about a platoon of motorcyclists by-passed the railway station from the forest, attacked it in the rear and seized two ammunition trains—one of which was about to pull out of the station—and a few dumps.

Thirty-Mile Advance

The battle for the village lasted about three hours and ended in the complete rout of the garrison. Soviet machine gunners lying in ambush on the highway east of the village destroyed nine trucks carrying infantry and ammunition, several infantry columns marching from the front, and three passenger cars. Altogether the Germans lost 200 men, two guns and five heavy machine guns.

The significance of the operation was apparent a few hours later. The German command sent several detachments from the front to restore the situation, but all were routed. Then our units at the front passed to the offensive. The Germans, demoralized by the loss of the road junction in their immediate rear, were unable to put up any serious resistance to our attack. Many were killed and the remainder took cover in the forest.

The Red Army advanced into the gap and moved forward over 30 miles in the first lap.

AUTUMN NAZIS

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Rosenberg's Professors

"To the good thief everything is beef," they say, and never were there such universal thieves as Hitler's soldiers. They filched Sevres porcelain and Orel felt boots, states and homespun, gold watches and threadbare blankets, statues and eggs, toys and railway cars. They stole Paris monuments, Dutch cheeses, Brussels lace, door-handles, gravestones, frying pans, spittoons and crutches.

And the Thief of Thieves, the Master Burglar, the Professor of Robbers, the Academician of Rapine, was Alfred Rosenberg.

He pillaged Smolensk Museum; he plundered the palaces of Leningrad; he stole the icons of Novgorod. He had a regular business called the "Rosenberg Commission." For the first time in history a gang of thieves had its own letterhead, its rubber stamp and registered offices.

The British press reports that in Florence Rosenberg swiped 45 masterpieces, including the Medici Venus, Donatello's St. George, and paintings by Botticelli and Ghirlandaio. One of the pictures was abandoned by the fleeing thieves. It appears that one learned member of the "Rosenberg Commission," while cutting up the bread and sausage on a Ghirlandaio painting, damaged the canvas with his knife. He decided that the picture was spoiled and threw it away with the sausage skins.

If seven towns disputed the right to consider themselves Homer's birthplace, 77 towns will dispute the right to erect gallows to Rosenberg, the international thief.

People often ask how the Germans can compensate for the damage they have done to memorials of art. The cathedrals of Novgorod and Pskov cannot be rebuilt, nor can Pushkin and Gatchina, Rouen and Perugia and other old towns. I think something will have to be taken away from the Germans. Dresden is no place for the Sistine Madonna.

The Germans will restore what they

have stolen; they will pay for what they have destroyed, and not in paper marks either.

The Piety of Dr. Goebbels

Goebbels writes in his latest article: "*Vanity of vanities . . .*" Club-foot, squatting in his air-raid shelter, has assumed the mantle of Ecclesiastes.

In 1942 he wrote, "We National Socialists have shown that one minute can eclipse eternity, that world glory is being made by our grenadiers, that by scaling the summits of Elbrus we have made the commonplace immortal, and that henceforth Germany is a thing intransitory and unshakable."

And now he is writing about the vanity of this world. I can suggest a few other texts for his meditation:

"To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die . . . A time to get and a time to lose."

"The wind goeth toward the south and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually and the wind returneth again according to its circuits."

"He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it, and whoso breaketh an hedge a serpent shall bite him."

After a little meditation on these texts, Goebbels will be able to explain to his readers why Germany, having got as far as Egypt, has lost Aachen, and why she has returned from the Volga to Eydtkuhnen.

She Will Work for Three

Corporal Michel Mueller, of the 44th Sapper Battalion, who was taken prisoner recently, relates: "We hadn't any horses, so we harnessed Russian prisoners to carts and they lugged our picks, spades and other digging tools."

A certain Gertrude Schwalbach wrote from Frankenthal on July 19, 1944, to her husband, "I'm told they mean to take away my Russian maid. It will be terrible. You cannot imagine what it means to have a good servant in the house. Before the war only the rich could afford that

luxury, so the war has done some good. I don't even feel the absence of you and Martha, as this Russian woman literally does the work of three, so that I can lie in bed and think of you, my dear little hubby."

But Gertrude will have to get up soon. Serious unpleasantness awaits her. Gertrude Schwalbach, of Frankenthal, like millions of other German men and women, will have to work in compensation for the burned-down cities, for the fact that her husband or brother harnessed Russian soldiers to carts, and for the fact that she herself tyrannized over a Russian girl.

Gertrude will have to do the work of three.

A Nice Rug for the Winter

We are so used to the expression "The Beast's Lair" that it has come to sound like a proper name. I would never be surprised if I saw "Beast's Lair" written on the map, instead of "Germany." But we never say precisely what beast we mean, evidently out of deference to the quadrupeds.

Let me protest at once that the Germans are nothing like lions. Brem in his *Animal Life* writes, "The lion does not like to make long marches. Arabs say that when he issues forth he roars three times as a warning to all. All naturalists admit that the lion has many noble features. One can love and respect the lion."

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Polish People Will Not Forget Aid of USSR

By Dr. Stepan Jedrychowski

Acting Representative of the Polish Committee of National Liberation in the USSR

During the five years of this war the Germans have slaughtered six million Poles. Before the Red Army came, the German death factories at Maidanek and Tremblyanka worked in three shifts. Now the Germans are hastening to fulfil their death program west of the Vistula, if nowhere else. As a result of the criminal policy of Bor-Komarowski and his clique, the population of Warsaw has already fallen victim to the barbarous German plans.

These facts are in themselves sufficient to explain the hearty welcome given by the population of Poland to the Red Army when it entered Polish towns and villages. The victories of the Red Army are saving the Polish people from the total annihilation with which it is threatened.

It is this that the cafe strategists abroad or the dyed-in-the-wool reactionaries cannot or will not understand. But the peasant who was driven out of Lubel Woiewodstwo, or the worker who miraculously escaped being rounded up for slave labor in Germany, understands it well enough; so does the intellectual who managed to escape Maidanek and Oswiecim, the

merchant from Poznan Woiewostwo who was robbed and evicted from his home, the priest thrown into prison for refusing to violate the secrecy of confession. Death threatened them all. The Red Army has given them life and liberty.

This was enough to dispel the prejudice and distrust on the part of the masses of the Polish people toward the Soviet Union which had been inspired by reaction throughout the 27 years of existence of the Soviet State. The eyes of the Poles have been opened; they have grasped the great truth that as a result of these 27 years a great force has come into being in the East and that this force serves the cause of freedom.

The Red Army, however, was not alone when it entered the territory of Poland. It crossed the Polish frontiers together with the Polish Army, 100,000-strong, built up in the USSR thanks to the aid rendered by the Soviet Union in arms and supplies. The USSR is continuing to arm the Polish Army and supply all its needs. What more convincing argument can there be that the Soviet Union wants to see a strong, independent and friendly Poland? What better proof is there of

confidence in a neighbor than to supply him with arms?

The Polish people will always remember with gratitude the help rendered them by their Eastern Ally. That the Soviet Union is not only freeing Poland from German occupation, but is also helping us to augment our own contribution to the cause of victory, is extremely gratifying to Poles.

The genuine friendship between both nations is manifested in great and small ways. It is demonstrated not only on festive occasions but in day-to-day relations. The three months of daily collaboration between the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Soviet military authorities and Soviet Government have seen our friendship grow steadily stronger. The Government of the Soviet Union is the first government of the United Nations to render large-scale assistance to liberated Polish territories.

During the first few weeks of the liberation Polish children received a large consignment of milk and 50,000 kilograms of rice from the Soviet Union. Immediately after the liberation of Praga the Soviet Government began deliveries of 10,000 tons of flour for the population of the long-suffering suburb of our Capital. Large transports of flour and various necessities for the countryside—kerosene, salt, soap, thread and matches—as well as coal and oil products needed to start industry are now on their way from the USSR to Poland. If individual enterprises of the iron and steel, textile, leather, oil and sugar industries that survived destruction were able to start producing at once, it is thanks to the constant technical and material assistance we have received from the Soviet Union.

The Polish people will be able to show its gratitude for this help rendered in its hour of need. The people of Poland, realizing that the population of the Soviet Union do not have an over-abundance of foodstuffs for themselves, appreciate this help all the more.

We shall never forget what the Soviet Union has done in this war for our freedom and for our future.



Radio photo

NORTHWEST OF PRAGA—Red Army officers discuss a coming operation with representatives of the First Polish Army

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE WARSAW UPRISING

By Engineer D.

(The author is a Polish reserve officer who participated in the Warsaw uprising. His name cannot be revealed because his family is still in German-occupied territory. Engineer D., with other participants of the Warsaw uprising, fought his way to the Vistula and got across to Praga.)

Great excitement reigned in Warsaw in July. Soviet troops had crossed the Bug. Reports of the capture of Chelm, Lublin, and other cities followed each other in quick succession. Marshal Rokossovsky's troops were approaching the Vistula. The Germans in Warsaw drew in their horns. They pretended not to notice the glad smiles of the Poles, not to hear their stinging remarks.

Naturally, in experienced military circles, among officers of the People's Army, the Security Corps and even among officers of the Home Army under General Bor, even the most optimistic were aware that the Germans would put up stubborn resistance at Warsaw, that Warsaw could not be taken in a frontal attack, that the Soviet troops which had advanced at such an unprecedented pace from the Bug to the Vistula needed some time to bring up their rear, put their supply lines in order and establish a firm base for forcing the Vistula.

Some of the officers who warned against excessive optimism recalled how the Dnieper was forced and Kiev captured. At that time, too, a considerable space of time had elapsed between the establishment of a bridgehead on the right bank of the Dnieper and the capture of the Ukrainian capital. They also pointed to the fact that the Germans had rushed new, large armored infantry formations to the Vistula line.

Unfortunately, the command of the Home Army group headed by General Bor gained the upper hand. That group was guided by political considerations which had nothing in common with the interests of the Polish people.

I do not want to create the impression that all the leading officers of the Home Army supported the venturesome plans of General Bor's group. By no means. A number of prominent officers of the Se-

curity Corps, which formed part of the Home Army, as well as officers of the Home Army formations and units, with whom I had conversations at the time, assessed the situation soberly and regarded an uprising as premature, in any event until the Red Army had established strong bridgeheads on the western bank of the Vistula, south and north of Warsaw. In our conversations we did not even discuss the question of coordination with the Allies and primarily with the Soviet Command. All of us officers, and not only the officers, regarded it as self-understood that the action of partisan organizations behind the enemy's line must be coordinated with the Allied Command.

But, as it turned out later, what seemed self-understood to us, was not regarded in the same way by General Bor and his associates in the command of the Home Army and by their patrons in London. Soon rumors drifted to us about preparations by the Home Army command for armed action. In the last days of July, detachments of the Home Army were put on the alert. We knew no details because General Bor did not keep either the People's Army command or the leadership of democratic organizations informed of his plans.

By August 1, the Germans had considerably increased their forces guarding the bridges over the Vistula and had begun to mine the latter. At about 3 or 4 P. M. a rather loud explosion was heard in the center of the city. Later I learned that the explosion had been caused by a bomb planted in the German commandant's office. Almost at the same time rifle and machine-gun firing began in various sections of the city.

Detachments of the Home Army successfully stormed the police stations, Government buildings and public utilities.

I hurried to the assembly point of my People's Army detachment. This was not so easy because firing was going on everywhere. At the assembly point, I found most of the members of our detachment and a number of volunteers. In accordance with the orders of the People's Army command, we immediately joined the fray to lend support to the Home Army units.

This was done by all People's Army detachments and other democratic combat organizations.

In the fight against the Germans, unity of action was achieved. A Warsaw defense staff was set up in which the People's Army was represented. Credit for that unity is due to representatives of the Polish Committee of National Liberation who remained in Warsaw to be in charge of the struggle and to command the People's Army. They objected to the uprising as premature. They criticized the organizers of the uprising for being actuated by considerations utterly alien to the true interests of the Polish people. But at the same time they did everything in their power to save the situation and secure victory over the Germans.

For the first three days the situation in Warsaw shaped up favorably for us. Most of the more or less strategic points were in the hands of the insurgents. The main centers of fighting were at Wola, Ochota, Old Town, Mokotow, Czerniakow, in the center of town, and at Zoliborz. The most important buildings in the center—the telephone station, post office, the tall building on Napoleon Square, the building of the Polytechnical Institute and the electric power plant—were in the hands of the rising Poles. The Germans held the gasworks and a few other points.

In Praga the situation was less favorable. There the poorly-armed insurgent detachments met with determined resistance from large units of picked German troops and suffered defeat. They proved unable to hold out. They could not manage to capture the bridges over the Vistula, which were guarded by picked German troops armed with artillery and automatic weapons. The insurgents were forced to retire and take up positions in neighboring houses from which they kept the bridges under fire for a fairly long time and impeded the movements of the Germans.

The consequence of these first reverses and the subsequent refusal of the Home Army command to launch determined offensive action proved disastrous.

Approximately the third day of the uprising the Germans recovered from their

surprise and concentrated large forces of tanks, heavy artillery, mortars, infantry, and aircraft, and launched a systematic offensive against Warsaw.

With their customary cruelty, the Hitlerite barbarians threw the entire weight of their armament against the population of our Capital. From heavy siege guns and heavy multi-barreled mortars the Germans opened fire on the city squares, wrecking apartment houses and destroying their inhabitants. German sappers clearing the way for their troops blasted house after house, causing death to adults, children, women and old men. German bombers circled like vultures over the defenseless city, pelting it with high explosives and incendiary bombs.

Fires started in all sections of the city. Clouds of black smoke blanketed the horizon. The Germans cut off the city's water supply and left it without water. This considerably impeded the struggle against fires and caused the population acute suffering. Low-flying German airmen strafed civilians who stood in line for water.

In the first engagements the Germans sustained heavy losses in tanks and manpower as a result of the determined action of the brave insurgents, who contended against the German Tigers and Panthers with nothing more than fire bottles in their hands.

Incensed by these losses, the Hitlerite barbarians protected their tanks by tying living Polish children to them. German grenadiers charging against barricades drove defenseless Polish women ahead of them.

The Germans blockaded the city in an effort to starve it into submission. Despite sufferings and privations, the people of Warsaw continued to fight. Volunteers continued to replenish the combat detachments. The population of the city displayed true self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of their country's liberation. Girls and women removed wounded fighters under fire. Youngsters acted as messengers and maintained contact between various detachments and headquarters.

In the first days of the uprising almost all believed that it had been coordinated with the Allied Command and especially with the Command of the Red Army. Soon, however, all illusions on that score were shattered. The people of Warsaw

realized that Generals Sosnkowski and Bor and the emigre ministers who were party to their nefarious designs had merely used the city's population as a tool in their dirty political game. Warsaw spoke with contempt and hatred of the clique of bankrupt adventurers who sought to profiteer on the blood and distress of the people.

In the unforgettable days of August and September when the city was being bled white, neither Bor, Sosnkowski, nor the ministers of the emigre government in London did anything to alleviate Warsaw's ordeal. Brave British, American, South African and Polish airmen made several hazardous flights in Lancasters and Flying Fortresses and dropped some food and arms. For reasons beyond their control, this help had little effect because most of the material dropped from parachutes was blown away by the wind far from our positions and only a small part of it got into our hands. Neither Bor, Sosnkowski nor the calumniators among the emigre government in London who hurled groundless accusations at the Red Army Command made the least effort either to inform the Soviet Command in good time of the exact location of the resistance centers of the insurgents, or to establish operational contact with the Soviet Command and the Command of the Polish forces fighting side by side with the Red Army.

Only on September 12, the 42nd day of the Warsaw uprising, did the Polish Army Command obtain that information! The very next night hundreds of Polish and Soviet airmen, flying low in U-2 planes in the face of German flak, delivered food, arms and ammunition to us. We got practically everything those planes brought because the material was dropped without parachutes from an altitude of a few dozen meters.

When the Germans, certain of their superiority in arms, took the offensive, our situation became extremely hard. The Germans attacked simultaneously in three directions: the Third of May Avenue, Jerosolimskie Aleje and Grojecka highway; then the Nowy Zjazd, Miodowa street, Senatorska Chlodna, Wolska Poznan highway; lastly, along the south-north artery of the Pulawska Marszalkowska Zoliborz. At the same time the Germans launched a number of auxiliary attacks

with the aim of isolating the various centers of the uprising. After a stubborn struggle the Hitlerites succeeded in defeating the detachments operating in the Wola and Ochota sections. The People's Army detachments that fought in those sections retreated over sewer mains to the old section of the town.

In the old town the streets were barricaded; every house had been turned into a fortress. German air bombings and artillery shelling reduced the entire district to a heap of ruins. But even after that, death lurked for the enemy behind practically every stone. That fortress of ours held out for three weeks. But in the end we ran out of ammunition; there was no longer any water or food left. Some of the defenders of the old town fought their way to Zoliborz, others to the center of the city where a strong group of insurgents still held out.

In the middle of September our situation improved somewhat. We received some food and ammunition by plane. The Red Army captured Praga; Soviet fighters chased German bombers from the sky over Warsaw, Soviet and Polish artillery began to lay down a barrage to protect the resistance centers of the insurgents. However, the Polish Army units that had crossed to the Warsaw bank of the Vistula, lacking as they did tank and artillery cover, could not gain a foothold on the exposed embankment. The Germans increased their pressure on the fighting Warsaw people. Our forces were exhausted. Mokotow fell.

The further course of events is well known. When the situation became hopeless for the insurgents, the Command of the Polish Army, jointly with the Soviet Command, suggested to the Home Army command the sole possible way out for the gallant defenders of Warsaw: to break through to the right bank of the Vistula under cover of Soviet artillery and aircraft. A time was set when the insurgents were to make their way through the German lines. They were supposed to take along the largest possible number of civilians, primarily women, children and old men, as well as the wounded and sick.

The Home Army command first agreed to this proposal. But later, on September 30, it refused to put it into effect. The pretexts they cited were obviously groundless. We were told that the Germans had

"intercepted the telegram" which contained the suggestion, and that the road to the Vistula was one solid minefield. Lastly, they explained that the Germans had promised to treat the rebels as war prisoners.

It was of course no easy matter to carry out the plan for a break-through to the right bank of the Vistula, but it was feasible, as proved by the fact that People's Army units which refused to surrender did make their way to the Vistula. When those units set out on their journey to the Vistula, Soviet artillery opened drumfire on German positions and on the positions of German artillery in the neighborhood of the Physical Culture Institute and the Citadel, thus keeping a passage open for the insurgents.

General Bor preferred to surrender. Thousands of gallant defenders of the

Warsaw barricades and hundreds of thousands of Warsaw's civilian population were handed over to the enemy.

The uprising in Warsaw has shown how intense is the hatred of the Poles for the Germans, how great is their readiness to make the largest sacrifice in the fight for their country's freedom and independence.

The uprising in Warsaw has also shown that the Raczkiewicz, the Sosnkowskis, the Bors and their ilk shrink from no infamy in their efforts to again subjugate the people, seize power and perpetuate the fascist constitution of 1935.

The uprising in Warsaw has shown how deep is the gulf that separates the Polish people from those gentlemen. Their petty ambitions, political intrigue and unbridled lust for power prompted them to

try a new adventure, for which the Polish people paid a heavy toll. To serve their own sordid ends they did not hesitate to gamble with the fate of Warsaw and its million population. There is no measure with which to gauge the guilt of these renegades.

The tragedy of Warsaw is complete. The Germans confined the gallant fighters of the Warsaw barricades in concentration camps. The starved population of the Capital they have deported to forced labor in Prussia.

It is painful and terrible to think of what has happened. But our thoughts look ahead to the future. I know, I believe, that we shall avenge Warsaw. We shall not stop until we have crushed the German beast, until we have got to its lair. In Berlin we shall remember our Warsaw.

A VISIT TO A GUERRILLA PRINT SHOP

By B. Yampolsky

For several months I traveled behind the German lines in Byelorussia, and all the way from Bobruisk to Brest I came across red, blue and yellow leaflets urging the people to collect weapons and kill the Germans. I saw these leaflets on telephone poles, along German military highways, on the walls of village flour mills, in forests and villages, and in the fields. At the bottom of each there was always the same inscription: "Guerrilla Printing Works."

As I passed through a dark and dreary forest one day, I saw a little log cabin tucked beneath a cluster of old oak trees. Attracted by the familiar smell of printer's ink, I went inside.

Near rough packing cases two women and a boy were setting type for a guerrilla newspaper, *People's Avenger*. Three rifles were propped against the cases.

They were setting news of a battle fought along a railway line the previous night. Guerrillas had riddled the engine of a German troop train with anti-tank rifle fire and had then attacked the train. More than 500 German soldiers and officers had been killed or wounded.

The report of the engagement had been written by the editor of the paper, Anisim, a former schoolteacher. While I was there, he rushed in from the scene

of the fighting. The copy he turned in was stained with blood from a wound in his hand.

I noticed that different type faces were being used. The type, the setters explained, had been collected from many print shops and smuggled out by compositors in their pockets, handkerchiefs and coat linings or inside loaves of bread and milk bottles. The capitals A and B had come from one town, the S and K from another, the punctuation marks from a third.

Olga Ivanovna and Tatyana Kirillovna, the two women typesetters and proofreaders, had taught in the same school as the editor. Olga Ivanovna had taught arithmetic, her friend physics. They had learned about printing in the forest. The boy, Vasya, was the pressman. While waiting for the editor to look over the corrected proofs, Vasya cut the paper for the issue.

That day the *People's Avenger* was to be printed on paper in which a consignment of dynamite had arrived. The dynamite had been used to blow up German trucks. Now its wrappings were about to be circulated among the people of the occupied towns to blow up the "new order."

The newspaper was not yet off the press when the sound of hoofs was heard: messengers had come from the various detachments and villages for the paper. The editor pointed out two boys who had come from town. They would take a bundle of papers each and smuggle them in under the cover of night. One of the boys, Arkasha, promised to put a copy on the desk of the German chief of police.

"Well," said Anisim when the messengers had gone, "now we can attend to the book publishing business."

I thought he was joking, but he took out of his desk the proofs of a small volume of verses by the Byelorussian guerrilla poet, Anatoli Ostreiko, entitled *The Slutsk Belt*. The book was a collection of 22 poems written by the camp fire, on the march and in intervals between battles.

The make-up was astonishingly good. The cover was illustrated and the large capital letter with which each verse began was of elaborate design. Anisim had designed and made the woodcut for the cover. A versatile chap, I thought, to be able to handle the jobs of editor, fighter, reporter, print-shop mechanic, artist and circulation manager.

The Mystery of the Khuf Valley

By Nikolai Elizov

In the very heart of Asia, not far from where the USSR borders Afghanistan and China, the swift and turbulent Panj has its source high in the mountains. An expedition sent out by the Tajik branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences recently visited this region, spending five months at the headwaters of the Panj, in the almost inaccessible valley of Khuf, so high above sea level that such trees as the wild apricot and mulberry common to the plains of Central Asia do not grow there.

The expedition was headed by Professor Mikhail Andreyev, well-known Russian orientalist and a corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, who has now returned to Tashkent.

"At one time I was the only European who had ever visited the Khuf Valley," Professor Andreyev told me. "That was in Tsarist days, when you could get there only along paths so narrow two horses could not pass each other.

"Things are very different now. Roads have been built over the mountains, airlines link many districts. There are telephones, schools and medical services for the mountaineers. But the Khuf Valley is still so much out of the world that its people, descendants of the Iranian colonists of Central Asia, have preserved many remnants of their ancient languages and customs, which are a key to the understanding of the culture of the Central Asiatic peoples.

"In the Khuf Valley survivals of the past are particularly abundant. The inhabitants of the valley still speak a dialect peculiar to the region, belonging to the Rushano-Shugnan group of the ancient Iranian languages. We wrote down the vocabulary of the dialect and materials on its grammar.

"The people of Khuf have preserved in their language a fine distinction between the masculine and feminine genders in designating objects. Such distinctions have mostly disappeared in the languages of Central Asia. The principles according to which this division is made are often most curious. As some of the

oldest inhabitants explained, the sky sends down rains as if to fertilize the earth, and therefore everything coming from the sky—snow, rain and hail—is of the masculine gender. It is interesting to note that one and the same word may be either masculine or feminine, according to circumstances. For example, the water in a river fed by snow from the sky which has melted in the mountains is masculine. But the water in a spring, which rises serenely from the earth, is feminine.

"Special grammatical forms have been preserved for each gender, reflected in pronouns and verb forms. Indeed, the language of the valley is very rich, particularly surprising in its abundance of verbs. Research into its structure will undoubtedly be of the greatest assistance in understanding the origin of various words and place names in the languages of Central Asia. Thus we have succeeded in tracing the hitherto unknown origin of the name of the Ferghana Valley. In the language of the population of Khuf and other districts of the Panj headwaters the word *ferghana* means a valley enclosed by mountains and possessing an outlet only at one end, which describes the Ferghana Valley perfectly.

"The remnants of ancient customs preserved through the medium of their language are no less interesting. The roots of many of these customs go back to the most distant past. Our expedition noted a number of ceremonies connected with various festivals and events within the clan: the beginning of work in the fields, the marriage of a member of the clan, the birth of a child, burial of the dead, etc.

"The people living near the Panj headwaters have preserved a kind of sundial marking the beginning of each new year. The rituals of the new-year festival coincide with the rituals we know in ancient Iran of the time of the Sassan

Professor Andreyev recorded a number of legends current in the mountain valley, among them a version of the famous myth of the "Golden Fleece." Analysis of the materials collected by the expedition will begin in the near future.

New Translation of Homer

By Alexander Yakovlev

A 77-year-old Russian writer, Vikenti Veresayev, recently finished a prodigious work: the first complete translation of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* into modern Russian.

The ancient Greek classics have always fascinated Veresayev. His translations of Sappho and Hesiod are considered the best Russian versions. Seven years ago he began his translation of Homer. The only Russian translations then available were Nikolai Gnedich's version of the *Iliad* and a rendering of the *Odyssey* by the poet Vasili Zhukovsky. Published at the beginning of the 19th Century, both suffer from several defects. Gnedich, for example, uses many Church Slavonic words and archaisms.

Veresayev decided to render Homer into modern Russian and was absorbed in this task when war broke out. The Soviet Government evacuated him from Moscow to the Caucasus, with a number of other older writers, artists, actors and composers. After five months in a Nalchik sanatorium, they were transferred to Tbilisi, capital of Georgia.

Veresayev has translated 27,000 lines of verse, and experts consider the work brilliant. For the first time Homer will be presented in full in modern Russian. The volume will appear this year under the imprint of the State Literary Publishing House.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 122

Washington, D. C., November 28, 1944



The Mission of the Red Army

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From PRAVDA, November 20:

The Hitlerites are now singing plaintive melodies to the theme, "We are on the defensive." But even people with the shortest memories have not forgotten that they once used to chant a different tune.

In 1942 Alfred Rosenberg wrote: "We will stop at nothing to achieve a new order based on the subordination of the inferior races to the superior."

We are now witnessing one of the most stirring events in history. The colossal attempt to establish a "new order" on the basis of anything-but-new slavery is ending in the moral and physical destruction of the "superior race."

Only two years ago, in just such late autumn days as these, the Germans still flattered themselves with the dream of world hegemony. They still talked of the Suez and Mesopotamia. But what are they talking about now? Gumbinnen and Duren.

They stirred up war for the whole world. There have been wars in which one country or another dropped out of a coalition, but that all of Germany's allies are turning against her, one after another, is unique in history. This cannot be attributed merely to the victories of the anti-Hitler coalition; the Germans themselves did their utmost to turn the whole of Europe against Germany. I am always surprised when I hear it said that some writer has kindled the hatred of one nation or another against Germany. It is not words that inflame genuine sentiment, but blood; and it was not the anti-fascist writers but the fascist hangmen that kindled the hatred against the land of the miscreants. By her "race hierarchy" and her contempt for the nations fighting on her side, Germany

repelled her friends and made them her enemies. Is it not astonishing that in Italy or Rumania the word German has become a term of abuse?

It may be objected that the southern nations are noted for their inconstancy. But what of the Finns? They are more open to the charge of stubbornness than flightiness. Yet even the Finns have turned their weapons against the arrogant Teutons. That is the penalty the Germans are paying for their talk about a "superior race"; for their self-conceit, for having placed a tiara on Pomeranian swine and turned the universities of Europe into pigsties.

It is the great fortune of mankind that the slaveowners are being fought by the champions of liberty; that fascist Germany collided with Soviet Russia. Among the voluntary and involuntary opponents of Germany there are people who do not like to recall the past; they would willingly burn certain recollections as one burns old letters.

But we may take a retrospective glance with a clear conscience. We never preached racial hatred. We were brought up to respect the different races of the world and the languages, culture and beliefs of other peoples. If a man is insolent in his own home, if he offends his younger brother or mocks at his father or sister, he is scarcely likely to make a chivalrous knight; as a "liberator" he will be greeted with legitimate

scepticism. There are many different peoples in our land and they all live in amity. Yet the Russian resembles the Uzbek less than the German the Netherlander. If there happen to be degenerates in our country who sink so low as to jeer at a man because his face differs from theirs, at a Jew or an Armenian or a Kazakh, we regard them as savages. That is why the eyes of the world are turned with such confidence toward the Red Army: all the world knows that our doctrine is brotherhood, not hatred. It was



Radiophoto

Red Army infantrymen storming enemy positions

not the size of our territory that placed us in the first rank of the anti-Hitler coalition, but the size of our hearts; it was not self-adoration but self-sacrifice, not contempt for weak nationalities but contempt for strong tyrants.

The Red Army changed the climate of the world. Its victories paved the way for our Allies and inspired the partisans of Europe. Let us recall the recent past, the years when man was held in contempt. The princes of the Roman Church made friendly gestures to the "prince of darkness," and in humiliated Vienna the Social-Democrat Tanner humbly extolled Hitler. Little butcher Franco grew insolent and sent hired assassins to the walls of Leningrad.

Nations were imprisoned in isolation, disarmed and dismayed. When the French sailors blew up their ships it seemed to the Germans the height of insolence. The Central States paid court to the cannibals; and Switzerland became a German highway. The French Academicians, in mortal terror, elevated Hitler's menials to the rank of "immortals." Every word, every roar and every yelp of the Fuehrer was discussed by diplomats and strategists of the old and new worlds. It seemed that the Gulf Stream had changed its course and Europe had been converted forever into a glacial wilderness.

But now the spring has come. Proud patriots stride through the streets of Europe's cities with arms. Words of hope are uttered at huge mass meetings. People are laughing and rejoicing, replacing windowpanes, printing books, trying traitors, and laying autumn asters on the graves of heroes. The oppressed have straightened their backs, the oppressors have grown meek. Even Tanner is dissociating himself from Hitler; even the French Academicians swear they've been with the Maquis these past four years and not "under the cupola"; butcher Franco lisps that he's a confirmed vegetarian, and as to Hitler, he is silent.

And indeed, what can he say, now that Cologne and Koenigsberg are in the cards? And Swedish newspapers—remembering now in the fifth year that fraternal Norway is oppressed—are writing about sending a corps of volunteers to her aid. Perhaps the only country which hasn't



Cartoon by Kukrinikeni
"The ring around Hitlerite Germany is closing. The den of the fascist beast has been invested on all sides, and no artifices of the enemy will save him from imminent complete defeat."

—From Stalin's Order of the Day, November 7, 1944

changed much is Switzerland—that petrification of time in the center of Europe, that land of clocks, where the people are insensitive to the march of time.

Is there anybody who doesn't realize that the Red Army has changed the aspect of Europe? The farther behind us we leave Stalingrad, the more clearly do we become aware of the significance of the battle which stained the waters of the Volga crimson. We now know that it was there Germany's criminal aspiration to world domination was shattered. The end of the First World War was only a semi-end; but people have an inherent tendency to flatter themselves with illusions, and the victors of the time set up a stone in Compiegne with an inscription saying that in that spot an end was put to Germany's marauding schemes. Hardly a quarter of a century had passed when the demoniacal Fuehrer set his foot on that stone.

Germany Will Hear the Verdict in Berlin

The end of this war will be different: Germany will hear the verdict not in a French or Polish forest, but in Berlin. But I can see a memorial in Stalingrad saying, *Here the Red Army saved the world.* Serbian shepherds and French

artists, Canadian farmers and Norwegian fishermen—all nations and all cities—will want to lay a stone in the wall which will tell posterity of the grandeur of the human spirit.

The Red Army is looked upon by the world as a liberator not only because it is scoring victories and steadily moving westward, but also because its aspirations are the aspirations of all honest nations. It does not impose its ideas upon anyone but its mere approach and its mere presence are as exhilarating as a fresh breeze and as sunlight. Ocean currents do not "interfere" in the life of gardens, but thanks to them roses bloom in Trondheim.

We saw how the soul of the Bulgarian people, which had been defiled by fascism, grew bright. For decades the Bulgarians served as unwilling gendarmes and incendiaries in the Balkans. And now, together with the Yugoslavs, they are liberating Macedonia. Isn't that a miracle? It became possible because the liberating Army came to the Balkans.

One cannot read without deep emotion how the inhabitants of the Arctic Kirkenes destroyed the gallows on which the Germans had executed gallant Norwegians. Isn't such a sight a supreme reward for our soldiers, who in taking the oath to their country take an oath to the liberty and brotherhood of nations? In Uzhgorod, Belgrade and Lublin the Red Army saw tears of joy, which are more splendid than precious stones.

The attempts of calumniators to incite the Poles against us were vain. We in this war are not out for foreign territory or for domination or for vain grandeur.

Herzen once wrote of his Polish friends, who were shy of everything Russian, "They want to resurrect the dead, but we want to bury ours as quickly as possible." Much has changed since then: the peoples of Russia have long ago buried their hangmen, who were also the hangmen of Poland. But the aurochs who have migrated from the Polish forests to Hampstead still yearn to resurrect the phantoms of the remote past.

But Poland and the world know that we are marching westward with only one aim: to liberate the nations from their oppressors. In one small Polish town:

girl showed our men a vial of poison which she had carried in her bosom during the German rule. "We called it 'life's happiness,'" she said, as she crushed the vial under her foot with a smile—her first in many years. Under the Germans it had seemed happiness to her to have the liberty to die by her own hand. The Red Army brought her another and greater happiness; liberty to live in her own way.

In far-off countries people now know the color of the Russian soldier's gray coat, and the star in his helmet is a guiding star. Paris realizes that the heroes of Byelorussia, Moldavia, Poland and Lithuania had a share in its liberation. The path of the nations is an uneasy one: the years of blackout have done their work; the Fifth Column has not laid down its arms. We find that in little Belgium, whose heroic resistance aroused our admiration, there are people who fear the Belgian patriots much more than the German hirelings. We find that in France, traitors, speculators and marauders, having hastily disguised themselves, meet in conference, pronounce noble speeches and try to camouflage their safes with wreaths of laurel. The tormented peoples are yearning for a grand purge, and the victories of the Red Army in lands remote from their cities are to them a well of life.

This Time We Shall Not Be Deceived

Of all Goebbels' dicta only one seems to me sensible, "1945 won't be like 1918." Yes, Soviet Russia was then in her cradle; now she is in the forward lines and the peoples this time will not be deceived. They will not be condemned to new frightful ordeals.

The world looks upon the Red Army as a liberator because we have firmly decided to end the tragedy not with a comma, but with a good and distinct full stop. We are not going to Berlin to give Hitler a pension, nor to put in his place some personable general or grandiloquent broker. We are firmly determined to put an end to the seat of contagion once and for all. Armchair discussions are not enough for that; what is needed is the just wrath which has accumulated in the hearts of our people.

The *London News Chronicle* recently published the story of an English schoolmaster who during the war taught the children of interned Nazis. It appears that the teachers decided to behave like supergentlemen: they let the children have textbooks sent from Germany and toys marked with the swastika. There were sixty children from the ages of five to fourteen in the school. The schoolmaster regretfully remarks that at drawing lessons the young Hitlerites drew nothing but pictures of English towns being bombed by German aircraft, and during recess played at shooting hostages.

This experience is edifying. Thanks to the incomprehensible politeness of the pedagogues, the English have in these four years reared sixty candidates for furnace operators in a future Maidanek, or as launching personnel for new V-weapons.

The world looks upon the Red Army as a liberator because it firmly knows that when the Red Army occupies Berlin or Dresden there will be no schools of that kind. German children will forget the amusements of their papas. We have no intention of physically exterminating all Germans; we are not cannibals. We will exterminate only the criminals who murdered children, hanged, ravaged and burned. The rest may expiate their complicity in the crimes by hard honest work.

Children have the right to entrance to a new life; they are not responsible for the sins of their parents. But we will not educate them as wolf cubs and thereby we will save the world from new wars. I am certain that even the English schoolmaster who for four years helped to bring up cannibals is now looking with hope toward the bayonets of the Red Army.

One hundred years ago Heine wrote that the German was like a slave from whom his master extorted obedience without the need of a rope or whip, but by a mere word and even a glance. He was a slave at heart. The spiritual slavery was worse than material slavery. The Germans must be liberated inwardly, or outward liberty would be of no use.

During this terrible war we have learned to know well the character of the German aggressors. We, of course, have not become champions of the "race theory." We are no more inclined than before to attribute the sins of a nation to its blood. But we want to rid the world of evil. Accordingly, we are not only releasing nations from the German yoke; we will also release the Germans from the abomination they have fostered in their own souls. We want neither slaveowners nor slaves. And we will cure Germany not with vitamins and valerian, but with the help of a surgical operation.



Radlophoto

A Soviet artillery battery on the Budapest sector between the Tisza and the Danube

RECEPTION OF WARSAW DELEGATION BY MARSHAL STALIN

In the following article Wyncent Cudny, member of a delegation from the city of Warsaw to Moscow, describes his impressions of the reception given the delegation by Marshal Joseph Stalin. The delegation, consisting of M. Szybalski, W. Cudny, N. Malcsinaki and I. Kowalska, came to Moscow on November 13, on behalf of the Warsaw RADA NARODOWA, to see Stalin and to present him with a symbolical gift of a bronze coat-of-arms of Poland, as a token of the gratitude of the Polish people for the assistance rendered them by the Soviet people and the Red Army.

November 15 was the most noteworthy day of our visit. At 7:30 in the evening we were received by Marshal Stalin. People's Commissar Molotov was present, and the reception lasted two and one-half hours. The atmosphere was extremely cordial throughout. After the gift was presented and speeches exchanged between Colonel Marian Szybalski and Marshal Stalin, we sat down to supper, and a friendly conversation ensued.

Marshal Stalin started it by saying that all official receptions were tedious, but he wanted to talk to us like friends and would therefore conduct the conversation unofficially and unceremoniously. He questioned us at length about Warsaw and the battle fought for it. A number of extremely important problems were touched upon in the course of the conversation. Marshal Stalin assured us that a strong, independent and democratic

Poland must be created and would be created. We already knew that this was Stalin's position. He also said that nobody in the Soviet Union thought of seizing possession of Poland, and that calumnies to this effect were invented by people who were anxious to sow dissension between Poland and the USSR.

Marshal Stalin spoke of the coming defeat of Germany and declared that Berlin must be occupied jointly by Soviet and Polish troops. "And let them call us occupiers of occupationists," he said.

Marshal Stalin made an extremely important statement on the subject of a close alliance in future among the Slav peoples. He distinctly stressed that this alliance must be based upon the principle of "equals with equals." No nation must have predominance over others, he said. If an alliance of all the Slav peoples concluded on this basis should prove firm, it will serve as the best pledge of future peace and a guarantee that the Germans would never again dare attack other nations.

Marshal Stalin also stressed the necessity of an alliance between Poland and the Western democracies. It was not enough to have an ally in the East; Poland must live in firm alliance with France, Britain and the United States, as well.

Marshal Stalin promised us assistance not only in rehabilitating our devastated territories but also in equipping any army which it was in the power of Poland to create. He also touched upon the im-

mense significance of the agrarian reform we were carrying out, and remarked that the distribution of land to the peasants in France at the end of the 18th Century did a lot to strengthen the French State.

Referring to the various disputes between the Slav nations, he said, "Why should we quarrel for the gratification of our enemies?"

Marshal Stalin proposed several toasts: one to a free and independent Poland, another to our brotherhood-in-arms, another to an alliance of all the Slav peoples. The reception was so sincere and cordial we were deeply touched. In one of his toasts Marshal Stalin remarked that the Soviet Union was one of those states which deemed it a matter of honor to carry out its promises. He then raised his glass to the health of each member of our delegation.

The very fact that the reception of so small a delegation as ours lasted two and one-half hours speaks eloquently of the warm and unaffected atmosphere in which it took place. Marshal Stalin was in excellent spirits and punctuated his remarks with witticisms which aroused general hilarity.

People's Commissar Molotov said that Marshal Stalin had expressed the views of the Soviet Government and of the entire Soviet Union.

We were not only moved and stirred by the reception; we came away in the full conviction that Marshal Stalin is a true and sincere friend of our people.

SOVIET-YUGOSLAV COMMUNIQUE ON CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN STALIN, MOLOTOV AND SUBASIC IN MOSCOW

In conversations which took place in Moscow from November 20 to 23 between the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, Doctor Subasic, also the Vice President of the National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia Kardel and the Ambassador of Yugoslavia Simic, on the one hand, and Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR Stalin, and the People's Commissar of Foreign

Affairs of the USSR Molotov, on the other, the principal Yugoslav problems were discussed in a friendly spirit with due regard to the position of Yugoslavia among the United Nations.

During this discussion there was noted the necessity of the formation of a united Yugoslav Government on the basis of agreements concluded between the President of the National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia, Marshal Josip

Broz-Tito, and the Prime Minister of the Royal Government, Doctor Subasic.

The Soviet Government welcomes the efforts of Marshal Tito and Prime Minister Subasic to unite all truly democratic national forces in the struggle against the common enemy and in the creation of a democratic federated Yugoslavia as positive and constructive factors in the achievement of victory and the organization of peace in Europe.

A YEAR OF DECISIVE VICTORIES

By Major General N. Zamyatin

The Red Army has traveled a long and glorious path in combat against the armies of fascist Germany and its satellites. The fourth year of the war has been a year of decisive victories for the Armies of the Soviet Union and its Allies over the troops of the Third Reich.

In 1944 the Red Army dealt the enemy ten devastating blows in gigantic battles extending all along the Soviet-German front from the Arctic districts of Scandinavia to the shores of the Black Sea.

The Germans strove hard to cling to Soviet territory and particularly to the place d'armes covering the approaches to East Prussia. But in vain. No defenses the Germans could erect have served to stem the advance of the Red Army.

All Soviet territories have been cleared of the German invaders. Soviet troops have gained the German frontier and penetrated the territory of East Prussia. Having routed the Germans in Rumania and driven them from Bulgaria, the Red Army is pounding the enemy in Hungary and has already reached the approaches of Budapest. Soviet troops are assisting the peoples of Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia to regain their liberty and independence.

During the fighting this year the German-fascist troops on the Soviet-German front sustained colossal losses which consumed the reinforcements derived from the "total" and "supertotal" mobilizations. Utterly routed and put out of action were as many as 120 divisions of the Germans and their satellites.

The mighty offensive operations of the Red Army in the summer of 1944 enabled the British and American troops to unfold their operations in the West. As a result of the combined blows, Germany is today wedged firmly between two fronts.

In addition to military reverses, fascist Germany sustained moral, political and economic defeat. The fascist bloc disintegrated under the blows of the Red Army. Germany lost her satellites—Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland. The last of her allies, Hungary, may be said to be parting at the seams. Fighting against

fascist Germany today are not only the enslaved peoples but also its former satellites: Finland, Rumania and Bulgaria have turned their forces against the Third Reich.

The combined blows of the Red Army and the Anglo-American forces against fascist Germany have hastened the hour of final victory. The Third Reich is being surrounded. The lair of the fascist beast is being shut off on all sides, and no stratagems of the enemy will save him from inevitable and final defeat.

The most important reason for the brilliant victories of the Red Army is to be found in the strategic leadership of Marshal Stalin.

Heavy blows descended upon the enemy on various sectors of the front. No sooner had the Red Army finished its July battles in Byelorussia, which culminated in the encirclement of 30 German divisions near Minsk and cleared the path for further advance upon the borders of East Prussia and Poland, than it launched a fresh drive in Western Ukraine. Soviet troops routed the Wehrmacht at Lvov, forced the Vistula and consolidated a huge place d'armes beyond the Vistula River in the district of Sandomir. Before these operations had been fully consummated, Soviet troops in August unleashed another devastating blow against the Germans in the region of Kishinev and Jassy. This blow culminated in the encirclement of 22 German divisions at Kishinev, in Rumania's and Bulgaria's exit from the war, and in clearing the way to Hungary and Yugoslavia.

Thus the operative reserves of the Germans were kept scurrying along the front, but were nowhere able to render timely assistance to their main forces. It is worthy of note that as a result of the winter and spring operations a large part of the German tank divisions, the main mobile reserves of the German command, were drawn into battle on the southern sector of the Soviet-German front south of the Pripet, while only two tank divisions remained north of the river.

The blow dealt by Soviet troops in Bye-

lorussia in June, 1944 prompted the German command to adopt the belated measure of transferring a large part of these divisions to the northern sector of the front to protect the borders of East Prussia. Therefore, when the next of the Soviet blows followed in the Jassy Kishinev direction, the tank reserves of the Germans were represented here by only two divisions.

The Supreme Command of the Red Army, on the other hand, has demonstrated its high skill in the application of strategic reserves. This secured the superiority of Soviet troops at crucial moments and in decisive directions. The realization of every major offensive operation of Soviet troops paved the way for new maneuvers forming part of the general strategic plans of the Supreme Command.

Daring large-scale maneuvers, swift development of offensive operations and relentless pursuit of the enemy enabled the Red Army to encircle a number of the largest Nazi concentrations. Thus the enemy was not driven from, but was largely annihilated upon, Soviet soil.

Encirclement of the enemy has become a routine maneuver of Soviet troops. Owing to such maneuvers in Byelorussia and at Jassy-Kishinev, more than 50 German divisions were encircled and eliminated.

Such daring large-scale operations were successfully carried out largely owing to the high degree of operative and tactical training of the Red Army's generals and officers and the fighting skill of their soldiers.

Soviet troops have brilliantly coped with the task of piercing strong, up-to-date defenses. This was achieved by the correct choice of direction for the main blow, the massing of superior forces, and the operations of artillery, tanks and aircraft in close coordination with infantry and other arms. Wherever a breach in the enemy's defenses was contemplated, it was carried out with paralyzing speed, at once nullifying the painstaking defense preparations of the Germans. The ramified defenses of the Nazis in the district of Jassy were breached in one day. The

breaching of German defenses in other directions never required more than four days.

The successes of the Red Army have been facilitated by the selfless war effort

of the Soviet rear. Thanks to the working people in the rear, the Red Army received everything necessary for prolonged operations, with no let-up.

The Red Army has grown to formid-

able proportions and is superior to the enemy in fighting skill and in armaments. Soviet troops today stand ready to deal new and annihilating blows to the Germans.

THE MORAL AND POLITICAL DEFEAT OF GERMAN FASCISM

By D. Zaslavsky

The economic, military and political disarmament of Germany cannot by itself insure the world against the new attempts of German imperialists to prepare for another robber campaign. Marshal Stalin has said, "It is common knowledge that the German rulers are already making preparations for another war." Foreseeing their inevitable defeat, they are already trying to preserve the moral and political prerequisites for such a war, especially their influence upon the German people. They want to preserve the fascist ideology.

The *Rheinisch-Westphalische Zeitung* stated in its issue of September 24: "If our antagonists defeat us but spare our lives, they will thereby give rise to a generation of German fanatics, to millions of youths like Horst Wessel." In the Hitlerite press we come across statements to the effect that, in case of defeat, the Fuehrers will go into hiding and continue their fascist propaganda.

In the course of this war the Hitlerites have suffered not only a military but also a moral and political defeat. The fascist ideology has actually been a source of weakness for Hitlerite Germany.

Hitler's party is the most predatory party of all the imperialists in the world. It is a party of the enemies of democratic liberties, a party of medieval reaction and pogroms.

The ideology of fascism is as criminal as its politics. It is one of savage nationalism which has found its "theoretical" expression in a misanthropic doctrine about the Germans being a "master race," called upon to own and rule all other races which are described as inferior. Race hatred is the substance of the ideology and policy of German fascism.

This reactionary theory of "racism" is the foundation for the fascist doctrine of

the Hitlerites. We call them cannibals. This is not just a term of abuse. It is a definition of a stage in the historic development of mankind to which the Hitlerites have tried to reduce Europe and the entire world. What they call their "new order" is an order of cannibalism.

In prehistoric days, relations among warring tribal hordes were expressed merely in the fact that the victors exterminated, slew and devoured the vanquished. Only one law existed at that stage—the right of might.

It is to that level that the Hitlerites, armed with modern weapons, tried to reduce modern mankind. Hence their doctrine that war is a natural state of mankind while peace is merely a period of preparation for war. Hitlerism extols war. Its cannibalism is expressed in the very theory and propaganda of total war, war for the extermination of nations, war in which no line is drawn between the armed forces and the civilian population, war in which victory means vanquishing and enslaving the defeated country. Fascism has legalized slavery.

Fascism throws the whole history of mankind overboard—not only the achievements of recent centuries, not only democracy, but the achievements of civilization which represent the result of many centuries of painful struggle, of mankind's aspirations toward knowledge and freedom. Both in their savage ideology and in their robber policy, the Hitlerites repudiated the ideas of human and national dignity, the idea of unity of the human race, the ideas of morality and honor, the ideas of the sciences and the arts.

For years the Hitlerite bandits planted the savage ideology in soil abundantly manured by German imperialists. The poisonous seeds sprouted within Germany and outside Germany. Generations of

murderers, robbers, hoodlums and executioners were raised. The fascist contagion permeated the schools, colleges and universities of Germany, to say nothing of special fascist institutions, such as Haushofer's Institute of Geopolitics. This criminal fascist ideology has been preached in all of Germany's educational institutions, in all the newspapers and magazines.

The whole world knows that Prussianism is one of the sources of German fascism. But Prussianism is not so much a geographical as a socio-political concept. Prussianism means the domination in Germany of definite circles—the landed, industrial and military aristocracy, the barons and counts, the big-wigs and reactionary generals. The fascist party is very closely intertwined with all these circles. And they all bear the responsibility for the crimes of the Hitlerite executioners.

Only the smashing of all the imperialist dens in Germany will cut the ground from under all the attempts at underground fascist propaganda, will make it hard for the German aggressors to prepare for a new war.

A United Nations' organization for the protection of peace and security will represent the triumph of peace over fascist aggression. Such an organization must possess the proper force to nip in the bud any fresh attempt to plunge mankind into the abyss of war, to nip it before the criminal arm is raised for the blow, to nip it while the fresh crime is being preached.

The task now facing the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies is to consummate the defeat of Hitler Germany, to finish off the fascist beast in its own lair and to hoist the flag of victory over Berlin.

SOVIET LITERATURE IN WARTIME

By Nikolai Tikhonov

Chairman of the Union of Soviet Writers

It is extremely difficult to write about history in the making. When one is in the midst of the swift-moving events of the greatest war mankind has known, one lacks the perspective to grasp their full scope. The task of the artist in wartime is to convey, with the most forceful media at his command, the essence of things; to paint the portraits of his contemporaries as he sees them in the heat of struggle, covered with the mud and blood of battle.

That is why, instead of the novel or short story, the dominant literary form in our country in the early stages of the war was the stinging political essay, the pungent article, the verses dashed off in trenches or dugouts with the din of battle raging in the author's ears.

Some of the writing of that period—articles by Alexei Tolstoy, Mikhail Sholokhov and Ilya Ehrenburg, for example—will go down in the history of the war. Ehrenburg from the beginning assumed the role of chief debunker of the German "superman," tearing from the Hitlerites the mask of "conquerors" and revealing them as murderers, thieves and ravishers.

The national pride which flared up with special force in the face of the menace of enslavement, the heroic exploits of the Red Army men, the valor of the guerrillas throughout the occupied districts, the tireless efforts in factory and field, the friendship of the peoples cemented in the common struggle, the new qualities of Soviet men and women brought out by ordeals and suffering: these are the basic subjects in these years of war.

Now that the Red Army has entered enemy territory we may look back on the path we have traveled and attempt to summarize what has been done in the realm of Soviet literature during the war. We shall find nothing all-embracing: the wealth of material is sufficient to keep several generations of writers busy. Nonetheless, dozens of books of considerable merit have been published and have won the approval of the reading public both at home and abroad.



Cadets of the Moscow Artillery Academy reading the latest news

These books were written under the first impact of events that today are becoming past history. In this category belong Mikhail Sholokhov's *They Fought for Their Country* (not yet completed), Vassili Grossman's *The People Are Immortal*, Boris Gorbатов's *Unbowed*, Wanda Wasilewska's *Rainbow*, Konstantin Simonov's *Days and Nights* and Arkady Perventsev's *Ordeal*.

It is interesting to note that however dissimilar these books may be, their main characters are ordinary folk.

These books are filled with examples of peerless courage; they reveal the indomitable spirit of the Soviet people. They attempt to portray the enemy as well, to show up the invaders as the misanthropic cutthroats and bandits they are. The spirit of the great Russian literature hovers over these works, for Soviet literature is the conscious development of the realistic principles of the Russian classics.

The short stories and reportage dealing with the war are as varied as they are numerous. They range from dry, unemotional reporting to passionate and moving tales such as Leonid Sobolev's *Soul of a*

Sailor, Vadim Kozhevnikov's *March and April*, and the stories of Vassili Ilyenkov and Andrei Platonov, which have earned well-deserved popularity.

The genre known in Russian as *ocherok*—a kind of feature article—has undergone notable change since the war began. The prewar feature was long and slow-moving. The wartime *ocherok*, which has come to occupy an important place in our literature, is intensely dynamic. Those by Simonov, Grossman and Ehrenburg; those on various cities liberated from the Germans and on Leningrad and Stalingrad; the reports jotted down by fliers, guerrillas, tankmen and sailors on the battles they fought; those on the Soviet rear by Marietta Shaginyan, Valentin Katayev, Alexei Surkov, Helen Kononenko, Anna Karavayeva and Fedor Gladkov, are a common and welcome feature in our newspapers and magazines. Some have been collected and published in book form, as the series by Alexander Fadayev on Leningrad, and Marietta Shaginyan's *The Urals' Defense Line*.

Since poetry is the most direct form of artistic expression for emotional experience it is perhaps natural that the war

should have evoked a rich harvest. You find verses in Army newspapers, in magazines and in books. Poems and texts for songs on the friendship of the peoples, on heroism, on struggle and vengeance, have been written in all languages of the Soviet peoples.

Among the best poetry of wartime is *The Standard of the Brigade* by Arkady Kuleshov, a Byelorussian poet—the story of a group of soldiers who save their standard and the honor of their brigade at the cost of incredible experiences and suffering. A poem by Margarita Aligher describes the heroic schoolgirl guerrilla, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya. Olga Bergholtz has written a moving diary in verse about the siege of Leningrad, and Alexander Prokoviev has also dedicated a poem to the defenders of that city.

Poems in Russian, Jewish, Uzbek, Kirghiz and other languages were written

about the exploit of the 28 Guardsmen who stopped a German tank attack near Moscow. Many fine poems in which the themes of war and love are interwoven have been produced during the past three years by Russian poets and poets of the fraternal Republics.

An outstanding Soviet poem is the new national anthem, written by Sergei Mikhailov and El Registan. Winner of a countrywide contest, the poem is notable for the simplicity and clarity of the ideas expressed. The classic severity of its phrases harmonizes well with the majestic music of the anthem.

Another literary form brought to the foreground by the war is the historical novel: the past viewed in the light of today's events has evoked universal interest. Novels dealing with the First World War and the Napoleonic Wars, the strug-

gle of the peoples of the Soviet Union for their independence in various stages of their history, as well as works dedicated to distinguished personages, have appeared during the war both in Moscow and in the capitals of the Union Republics.

It is a generally accepted fact that literature does not merely reflect life: it helps to give it direction by molding the minds of readers. Soviet writers know they can do much toward accomplishing this task, of which Vyacheslav M. Molotov once said, "The moral and political defeat of fascism must also be carried out to the finish."

With his pen the writer can help finish what the soldier with his rifle has begun. The crimes of the fascists and the judgment upon them must be recorded for posterity. This is the honorable duty of the writer.

MEETING IN GERMANY

By Captain P. Sinitsyn

It was so quiet in this German house on the edge of the town of Schirwindt that one could hear the needles of a pine branch scratching on the window-pane. . . .

Early that morning people had begun to arrive at the house; hungry, weary people in ragged clothing, returning from German bondage to Kursk, Gatchina, Pskov and Velikie Luki. They showed us their festering wounds and ugly scars. Some managed to give their addresses before they slumped to the floor; others fell to their knees because they could no longer stand on their blistered feet. There was one little girl of about 11 carrying a baby on her shoulders. Both children were barefoot. They had just come from across the frozen Sheshupa River.

Vassili Pavlovich Nabokov, a citizen of Vitebsk, told us he had seen many Soviet people buried alive in a pine grove on the bank of the Sheshupa. Pointing to a boy of about six and a girl slightly older, he said, "These are my children." Their names were Misha and Tamara.

Nabokov sank into a chair and covered his face with his hands. His hair was gray and his wooden leg was vivid

evidence of his sufferings in a German concentration camp. The children clung to him without a word.

"My own children disappeared while we were being driven from Vitebsk," he said. "My heart broke thinking about them. It seemed as if I could always hear them moaning. . . . Then I adopted Tamara and Misha. They were sick when I found them on the road."

Later two Red Army men came in to spend the night. They asked for a drink of water, lay down on the floor and were immediately asleep. The house was silent. . . .

About nine the next morning the Red Army men got up, said goodbye and started to leave. One of them had already crossed the threshold when little Tamara suddenly cried, "Papa!" She rushed to the soldier and threw her arms around his neck.

The Red Army man—Terenti Vlasov, from Streletskaia village in the Kursk Region—embraced and kissed Tamara and Misha, his children, whom he had given up as lost forever. They had been driven away to Germany with their mother.

Holding the children in his arms, Vlasov made his way to the far end of the

street where a column of Red Army men was preparing to move forward in East Prussia.

Nabokov hobbled along beside them. Suddenly Misha clutched the Order of Glory on his father's chest. "Papa," he said, "the Germans killed Mama."

Vlasov held the child closer to his breast and looked toward the West, where the thunder of battle grew steadily in volume.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 123

Washington, D. C., November 30, 1944

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DEC 7 1944



Germany in the Vise Between Two Fronts

By Major General N. Belayev

In his speech of November 6, 1944, Marshal Stalin summed up his review of the results of the joint operations of the Allies by saying, "The thing is to keep Germany gripped in this vise between the two fronts. That is the key to victory."

In all her aggressive actions, what Germany most feared was to find herself faced with the necessity of having to operate on two fronts. Bismarck, founder of the German Reich, built the whole system of his policy on the endeavor to prevent the formation of any coalition of states with which Germany, in armed conflict, would have to fight on two fronts.

All his life Bismarck was haunted by the nightmare of such a coalition. And he especially warned against a situation in which one of these fronts would be represented by Russia. That, he held, would be fatal to Germany. And he had good reason for thinking so. Bismarck had learned the lesson of the inglorious Russian campaigns of Charles XII and Napoleon. He shared the opinion of his colleague, the elder Moltke, with his warning, "Beware of Russia's strength of resistance."

The World War of 1914-18 was a striking example of the fatal consequences to Germany of war on two fronts. Our generation recalls the frantic but vain efforts of Germany to escape from the vise of the two fronts in which she was being strangled. No maneuvering of her forces could save her from eventual defeat. Strictly speaking, in the last year of the war Germany was opposed by only one front, by the forces of Britain, America and France. But her fate was already decided by the previous action on two fronts; that is, before Russia dropped out of the war. Germany had lost all hope of victory and the last year of the war was virtually a slow death agony.



Radiophoto

Soviet tanks in action in East Prussia

Incidentally, it should be noted that even after Russia withdrew from the war, Germany was obliged to maintain 50 divisions in the Ukraine as occupation troops. Badly as Germany needed these divisions in the West, where with her strength undermined by three years of war on two fronts she could barely retain her foothold, she did not venture to withdraw them, for the Ukrainian guerrillas were causing her considerable trouble. It was not without good reason that Général Grener, Minister of War in post-Versailles Germany, referred to the occupation of the Ukraine as a pyrrhic victory.

It is interesting to recall the opinion held by the enemy himself of the part played by Russia in that war. In February, 1941, at a press conference of foreign journalists, Bate, representing the German Ministry of War, said, in reference to the most critical moment of the battle of the Marne, when the Germans were forced to withdraw two army corps from the Western Front, that although

this resulted in the weakening of the German army in the West and robbing it of victory there, it nevertheless had to be done in view of the extremely dangerous situation which had arisen owing to Russia's invasion of East Prussia.

Bate went on to speak of the raising of the siege of Verdun, where the Germans tried to overwhelm the French in 1916, and again admitted that this had to be done in order to save Austria from the disaster which was threatening her owing to Brusilov's offensive on the Eastern Front. "What the Russian soldier, what Russia's million-strong armies did, has never been fully acknowledged," Bate said in conclusion.

The German General Staff learned a lesson from the bitter experience of the First World War and arrived at the conclusion that two conditions might avert the danger of Germany having to operate on two fronts in a future war. One was to defeat the enemies one after another, piecemeal; the other was to avoid a pro-

tracted war. It was from this point of view that the Germans discussed a future war and built their military plans and theories. And it is this that explains their theory of blitzkrieg.

Hitler demanded, on the one hand, the subjugation of France, undermining of the power of the United States, and the destruction of Great Britain—and on the other hand, a war on Russia in alliance with Great Britain. The Nazis planned to resolve this contradiction by lulling the vigilance of their adversaries with the help of lies, perfidy and deceit, thus making it possible to destroy them one by one.

Notwithstanding the warnings of the Soviet Union, the Nazi policy of lies and perfidy achieved its purpose in a number of democratic countries. With the assistance of the pro-fascist Fifth Columns in these countries the Nazis succeeded in lulling their vigilance and blunting their resistance. This enabled the German army to occupy a number of countries and then register rapid successes in their offensive operation on the European continent.

But such a policy was bound to be short-lived. Enlightened leaders and progressive forces in democratic Britain and America saw through it. The natural consequence was that when Hitler's hordes treacherously attacked the Soviet Union,

Prime Minister Churchill declared that Great Britain would give every assistance to the Soviet Union. President Roosevelt likewise announced that Lend-Lease would be extended to the USSR. Thus the foundation was laid for a potential war on two fronts which would be fatal to Nazi Germany.

But potentiality is not enough; stubborn effort is required to turn it into reality.

The Armies of Great Britain and America were not ready to open a second front immediately; these Armies had still to be built up. Meanwhile the Soviet Union was obliged to fight Hitler's army single-handed. That army was stronger than any German army in the past. The main forces of Germany and her allies were hurled against the Soviet Union; forces which had been thoroughly prepared in all respects and which were backed by the resources of the greater part of the European continent.

But what followed seemed in the eyes of many to be a miracle. One after another the hopes upon which Hitler's strategy was founded were thwarted by the heroic fight of the Soviet Union. In the first place the Soviet Union foiled the Nazis' plan for a blitzkrieg and involved them in a protracted war in which it

fought them single-handed for three years.

This robbed Germany of her chief chance for victory. By standing firm against fascist Germany the Soviet Union foiled Hitler's second chance of winning the war, namely, by defeating his adversaries one by one. The Red Army's heroic fight afforded Great Britain and America the time to build up and deploy their Armed Forces.

The colossal losses inflicted upon the enemy by the Red Army wore down his strength. Lastly, the Red Army's formidable offensive operations in the summer of 1944, by containing 200 German divisions, created the conditions in which the Anglo-American Armies could successfully develop their operations in the West.

The potentiality had now become a reality. The Nazis' hope of avoiding war on two fronts was definitely defeated. Hitler Germany is now in the vise between two fronts—which is what she feared most. She has not a single chance of salvation. The Red Army and the Anglo-American Armies have taken up positions for a decisive offensive against Germany's vital centers. What is now needed is a vigorous assault by the Armies of the United Nations to crush Hitler Germany with the shortest delay.

YUGOSLAV PEOPLE GREET RED ARMY

The Soviet troops which entered Yugoslavia on September 29 and joined forces with Marshal Tito's, came to liberate the peoples of Europe from the Hitlerite yoke and to annihilate the fascist army.

Fettering large German forces and making their stay in Yugoslavia intolerable, Marshal Tito's Army was nevertheless not in a position to completely oust the enemy from its territory unaided.

The Yugoslav people followed with the greatest interest the brilliant victories of the Red Army in the south. The thunder of Russian guns drew ever nearer to the Yugoslav frontiers. The people were waiting impatiently—they knew that the Red Army of the fraternal Slav people was bringing them liberation and aid in the struggle to eject the occupationists forever. And when Soviet troops, with the consent of the Committee of National Liberation

of Yugoslavia, crossed the frontier, it was a day of great rejoicing for the entire Yugoslav people.

This great occasion was described by the Yugoslav newspaper *Vestnik*, published in liberated territory: "The bells rang out and people embraced each other and wept with joy. In the Plaski area the bells of the Orthodox Church rang for two days on end. The Podkhum, Kumic and Plaski communities organized large mass meetings. The triumphant ringing of bells in the Catholic Churches in Slun mingled with the enthusiastic cheers and songs of the population. In every village of Krestinja, communities held torchlight processions and in Perjacica meetings were held around campfires. In Glin, the population, Army and youth held a demonstration to greet the Red Army. Joy ran so high people embraced in the streets."

The feelings of the people were expressed with profound eloquence by Doctor Svetozar Ritig, clergyman of Saint Mark's Church in Zagreb, whose message greeting the Red Army, published in *Vestnik*, read, "Your banners bear not slogans of war but mottoes of truth and peace among peoples. You deprive none of freedom; you do not trample upon truth; you do not violate peace. We admire your feats, for you are defending not only your own, but our freedom as well, our enslaved and tortured little peoples."

Yugoslav partisans and inhabitants of Belgrade pointed the way to Soviet troops in the fighting for the Capital. The people of Belgrade, filled with admiration and love for the soldiers of Soviet Russia, did all they could to aid them. Many young people of Belgrade perished aiding Soviet troops.

THE SOVIET UNION'S FIGHT AGAINST GERMAN AGGRESSION

From an editorial in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, Number 22:

The 27th Anniversary of the founding of the Soviet State was celebrated at a time when the great fight of the freedom-loving nations against Hitler Germany had entered its concluding phase. Stalin's speech on the occasion, a document of supreme international significance, produced a deep impression upon the democratic public of the world by its penetrating analysis of great historic events and its clear-cut formulation of the cardinal problems of the moment.

The fate of Hitler Germany, which has inflicted so much woe and suffering upon mankind, was predetermined by the unexampled resistance of the Soviet people and their Red Army which for three years fought the marauding hordes of Hitler and his satellites single-handed.

When the German aggressor launched his attack upon the Soviet Union, an attack unparalleled for its perfidy, he was at the zenith of his military power and was acting under the most favorable conditions. "And 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." (*Stalin*).

It was the Soviet Union, as disclosed in its duel with Hitler Germany, which played so important a part in the rise and consolidation of the anti-Hitler coalition and the extension of its front. The iron will and courageous spirit of the Soviet people, the heroism and military skill displayed by the Red Army on the battlefields, and the invincible strength of the Soviet system revealed amidst unprecedented trials, induced influential circles in the other democratic countries to look upon our country with different eyes, and to discard the false and ingrained view of it which had acquired the tenacity of a prejudice. The role of the Soviet Union, which had already been clear to the more progressive elements, was now revealed to broad and diverse sections of the foreign

public and to all to whom the fate of democracy and progress was not an empty word.

Historic Role of Soviet Union

"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." (*Stalin*).

The widespread admission by other democratic powers of the historic role of the Soviet Union foiled the Nazi adventurers' plans of sowing dissension in the ranks of the Allies. Whereas, in the course of the war, the anti-German coalition became steeled and strengthened, Hitler Germany sustained not only military but moral and political defeat as well. The German-fascist brigands failed to consolidate their hold on the territories they had seized and, what is more,

Germany's allies turned their weapons against her, thus completing the isolation of Hitler Germany and heralding her inevitable downfall.

Now, thanks to the carrying out of the historic decisions of the Teheran Conference, Hitler Germany finds herself gripped in the vise between two fronts, and complete victory over the enemy can be guaranteed if blows continue to be struck at the German-fascist army from all sides. The effect of the victories of the Soviet troops has been to rid our land of the Nazi pollution once and for all, and the task of the Red Army is, in conjunction with the Allied Armies, to complete the destruction of Hitler's war machine, to finish the fascist beast in its own lair and hoist the flag of victory over Berlin.

But besides the swift defeat of the common enemy, the most urgent task at this stage of the war is to insure a lasting peace and international security after victory. "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." (*Stalin*).

More than ever the big problem of international security is exercising the minds of millions all over the world. Nations passionately yearn for a stable and reliable peace after this war for as long as possible. They demand that the men at the helm of state in all peace-loving countries do everything humanly possible to achieve this lofty and noble aim. Without doubt this is by no means an easy problem, but it is equally without doubt that it is one that can be fully solved under existing conditions. For the way to do so is well known. It is to maintain, and continue to develop after the war, that close cooperation among the United Nations which was forged and tempered in the fires of this war, and which found graphic expression in the decisions of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference on the organization of postwar security. The way to solve the problem is, above all, to preserve and further strengthen the alliance of the three great powers, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States.



Radiophoto
BETWEEN THE TISZA AND THE DANUBE—A Soviet gun crew pouring shells into enemy lines

The firm fighting alliance of the three great powers was a major acquisition and achievement for the peace-loving nations in this war. It is a highly promising token that the disastrous mistakes which after Germany's defeat in 1918 opened up broad opportunities to her for preparing and carrying out a new act of aggression will not be repeated after the present war. At that time the course of history took a very fatal turn: having finished the war against Germany, the Entente undertook armed intervention against the young Soviet Republic. It has long been obvious that this policy, far from yielding any positive results, led to the most disastrous consequences.

But now, in the concluding phase of the Second World War, the international situation is shaping quite differently. It is the alliance of the three great democratic powers that is coming to the finishing post of this titanic struggle, an alliance which represents a firm union of nations resting upon a strong foundation, for this alliance is based "not on casual, short-lived considerations but on vital and lasting interests." (*Stalin*).

Of course, this identity of underlying interests will not disappear after the last shots in this war have ceased to echo. The very essence of the problem of international security, about which so much has been written, lies, as Stalin said, in a

very simple and incontrovertible truth: that this organization will prove effective if the three great powers continue to act in a spirit of unanimity and concord, but that it is doomed to failure if this indispensable condition is violated.

Spirit of Unanimity and Concord

The fact that the great Allied powers were able in the course of the war to solve major military-political problems in a spirit of unanimity and concord holds out bright prospects for the postwar period. The thing is that the disagreements and differences of opinion which are bound to rise over certain questions between representatives of various states should invariably be settled in a spirit of concord, in accordance with the underlying common interests of the freedom-loving nations.

Experience shows that the greatest danger to concerted action by the great democratic powers comes from those elements and trends who are trying to resurrect the policy of ignoring or inadequately considering the legitimate interests of the Soviet Union in the settlement of international questions. Yet it would seem that it should have long been realized that the time has passed when the existence of the Soviet Union can be ignored. It is now beyond dispute that Europe and the

world will emerge from the great ordeal of the war different from what they were before. During the war the international prestige of the Soviet Union, its weight in international relations, have deservedly increased. The Soviet Union has been revealed to all as a great progressive force, as a powerful bulwark of democracy in the fight against fascism, which barred the way to the war machine of Hitler Germany, before which other democratic countries proved powerless.

It may be taken as an axiom that the policy of isolating the Soviet Union, pursued by shortsighted, reactionary politicians in the Western countries in the period between the two wars, only played into the hands of the German aggressor. It is essential to remove from the path all the debris and survivals of this policy, which has suffered such obvious bankruptcy, if an international security organization is to be created, capable of promptly averting or putting an end to aggression and saving the freedom-loving nations from the horrors of a new war. The numerous responses aroused by Stalin's speech in the press and among the public of the democratic countries indicate that the will to insure lasting peace and security after the common enemy has been defeated is displayed by the broadest circles in the Allied countries. The thing is to make this will a reality.

Two French Pilots of Normandie Unit Named Heroes of Soviet Union

On the occasion of the conferring of the title of Hero of the Soviet Union upon Senior Lieutenants Marcel Albert and Roland de la Pouape, pilots of the French Normandie Air Unit fighting on the Soviet-German front, *Krasnaya Zvezda* writes:

"The Red Army soldiers congratulate their tried friends, heroes of France and now Heroes of the Soviet Union. If friendship is tested in fire, the friendship of the Soviet Republic and the French Republic has been tested both in sorrow and in joy.

"The Normandie pilots came to our

country in the autumn of 1942. While the Germans were still in the Caucasus, the French patriots realized that the battle of Russia was also the battle of France, that in Russian skies they could also fight for French soil.

"Marcel Albert and Roland de la Pouape were among the first. The former has shot down 23 German aircraft on the Soviet-German front, and the latter 16. They participated in the following operations, each of which opened a new chapter in the war: Orel, Smolensk, Orsha, the Niemen, and East Prussia. Not only

did they learn to understand the Russian language; they also learned to understand something which is not mentioned in dictionaries or grammars: they learned to understand the Russian heart, they learned love of our country.

"The conferring of the title of Hero of the Soviet Union upon the French pilots is a great joy to Frenchmen; it is also a joy to us. Two peoples devoted to freedom—the people of Valmy and Verdun, and the people of Perekop and Stalingrad—take equal pride in the gallant soldiers Marcel Albert and Roland de la Pouape."

The Sappers Have Passed Here

By Colonel A. Fedorov

"Sappers forward!" has long been a routine command in the Red Army. "The sappers passed here and we can move on," is often heard among the vanguard units. In every operation of every battle, it is to a great extent the sappers who secure the successful advance of our troops. Sappers accompany infantry, tanks, artillery and cavalry.

Soviet sappers have indeed acquired a world of experience in removing mines. They are able to take the sting out of the worst explosive obstructions left behind by the enemy. In one sector our advancing troops were faced with minefields containing about 300,000 charges and protected by ordnance of all calibers. The sappers cleared over 400 lanes through this field, removing 216,000 mines.

During their retreat from Stanislav the Germans mined the streets and many public and apartment houses. Booby traps were left everywhere. Five thousand mines were discovered on the grounds of the sawmill and in its garage. One pile of boxes contained over five tons of explosives and 12 aviation bombs of 50 kilograms each; a detonator from one of the bombs was connected to a box holding a firing-pin. The entire pile had been cunningly camouflaged and the whole thing would have exploded if anyone had attempted to move the boxes. But the sappers discovered the trap and rendered it harmless, along with many similar traps in the city.

In executing a by-passing maneuver in the Carpathians, our infantry unit reached a deep gorge, the bridge over which had been blown up by the enemy. Sapper Lieutenants Grigoriev and Lisnov were ordered to build a suspension bridge.

Scouts soon discovered a suitable place. It was necessary to fasten the steel cable on the opposite bank. Senior Sergeant Kirpa was lowered to the bottom of the chasm, and a hook was passed to him on the end of a rope. Scaling the opposite side he made the cable fast, completing the most difficult part of the job. There was no lack of building materials and within a few hours the infantry and pack horses were crossing the suspension bridge.



Soviet sappers build a pontoon bridge over the Narew River



Connecting up the separate sections of the bridge across the Narew



Soviet artillery crossing to the west bank of the Tisza River

Radiophotos

OVER THREE YEARS OF DIVE-BOMBING

By I. Ognev

On June 26, 1941, Lieutenant Alexei Smirnov, a dive-bomber pilot, took off from an airfield near the western border of the USSR to bomb German fuel dumps. Early this fall, Smirnov, now a Major in command of a Dive-Bomber Squadron, returned to the same field. It must be quite a thrill for a flier who has been through three years of war to come back to the place where his fighting began.

Even more remarkable, Major Smirnov was flying the same plane, with the same crew, as on his first mission. Such things happen too rarely in this war. Anxious to get the full story, I visited the field and stuck to Smirnov and his buddies like a leech, talking to them every moment they could spare.

I began an interview with Major Smirnov himself, but it was soon interrupted. Later I met him as he returned from the mission that had halted our conversation. Lifting himself out of the cockpit of his Petlyakov-2 dive-bomber, Major Smirnov unfastened his parachute and walked around the plane, examining the fuselage. He stuck his finger into a small jagged hole, told the mechanic to get busy, then flopped wearily on the grass.

"Well, where were we?" he asked.

"On your 'maiden mission.'"

"I was a pretty green lieutenant then," the Major recalled. And he went on to explain what a time he had had finding his target and placing his bombs.

Smirnov is short and stocky—slow and deliberate of movement. His navigator, Captain Alexei Turikov, is talkative and jolly. Lieutenant Nathan Stratievsky, the gunner and radio operator, is a typical southerner, lively and hot-tempered.

These men and their bomber seem to lead charmed lives. Not once in three years of hard fighting have they been shot down or has their plane caught fire. They have flown over Minsk, Konotop, Poltava, Taganrog and Kharkov; they have fought at Stalingrad and Orel, over the Bryansk woods, the Desna and the Dnieper; they participated in the battles for Chernigov, Gomel, Bobruisk and Baranovichi; they

have bombed railway junctions and the panzer forces of Guderian and Kleist, and have scrapped with planes of the Richthofen Squadron.

Major Smirnov and his men are considered hoary veterans in their regiment, although their combined ages total no more than 74 years. They all entered the Air Force as raw youngsters.

"We have grown up with the regiment," said Captain Turikov. And the regiment has done some tall growing in these three years. It has dropped about 3,000,000 kilograms of bombs on the Germans, has been made a Guards Regiment bearing the name of Stalingrad and has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner; 205 of its fliers and ground men have been decorated with orders or medals and four—including Major Smirnov, now Squadron Commander and Captain Turikov—have earned the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Lieutenant Stratievsky has three orders and a medal.

On the walls of the room the three friends share in a schoolbuilding near the airdrome hang numerous maps, including a large one of northern France. Over their cots is a handwritten sign: "Caution! Beds mined! Take a chair!"

On a small table near Stratievsky's cot I noticed a photograph of a girl.

"Married?" I asked.

The handsome southerner looked embarrassed.

"Not exactly," he muttered. His commander laughed.

"We're all confirmed bachelors," he said. We look at girls from the air only. Nathan hasn't got a wife, but he's got a Zoya. And once there's a Zoya, I guess there'll be a wife, too, one of these days. I'm afraid that's one engagement he won't be able to get out of safely. Looks like a forced landing for him all right."

"Well, so long as he gets out of air engagements, it's all right," I remarked.

"As for that, we've managed pretty well so far," the Major replied. "That's our life now. We make things hot for the

Germans and the Germans make things hot for us."

"Who's getting the best of it?"

"We are. This is our war."

The Major was in good humor that evening and I was able to get two stories out of him. One was an old incident, but it is worth repeating.

When our troops were withdrawing Smirnov and his crew received orders to pick up the group of wounded fliers on an airdrome that was being evacuated. When they reached the airdrome a shower of enemy fire met them; the Germans had already occupied the field. As he climbed Smirnov noticed flashes of gunfire issuing from the hangar at the far end of the field. Evidently the wounded were not giving up without a fight.

Smirnov swooped down, landed near the hangar and found about 20 Red Army men, in addition to the wounded fliers. While the soldiers kept the Germans at bay, Smirnov and his friends loaded the fliers into the plane and took off. When the bomber landed at its base, its tail was riddled with machine-gun bullets.

Smirnov and his friends have taken a heavy toll of the enemy. In its last 30 missions alone the Squadron destroyed 20 tanks, two dozen guns of various calibers and 380 motor vehicles loaded with troops and freight; and blew up two troop trains, about 60 railway cars and six fuel and ammunition dumps.

As he listed his Squadron's accomplishments, the Major grew animated for the first time. Twice he reminded me this was the result of only 30 group flights—the squadron has several hundred to its credit.

"We will give the Germans something to remember us by before we get to Berlin," he said. There was an angry glint in his mild gray eyes.

The Major is reluctant to be photographed. It is not modesty. A few years ago, Smirnov announced to his crew that their first group picture would be taken in Berlin. That's why I was unable to photograph the three, much as I wanted to

Red Army Theater at the Front

By People's Artist of the Russian SFSR Alexei Popov
Director, Central Theater of the Red Army

During the war I have often accompanied our theatrical troupes on tours of the front. I have seen audiences just back from the firing lines eagerly drinking in every word from the improvised stage. I have seen a telephone operator relaying messages to observation posts lift his receiver from time to time in order that those at the other end of the line might listen to a few bars of a concert.

When you are among front-line audiences their response to a performance gradually communicates itself to you and you begin to react as they do, although you may have seen the play a number of times.

The unanimity with which the men at the front, regardless of profession, cultural background, education and tastes, respond to a concert or play is very striking. You begin to sense that this reaction is not due to a simple need for entertainment, but has deeper causes. After attending a number of performances and talking with various people, this impression is strengthened and you begin to un-

derstand that new aesthetic outlooks are being born in the grim and courageous struggle. Here at the front you begin to comprehend the demands the people make on art, and imperceptibly you begin to analyze many of your own points of view.

To understand all this you must mingle with those who are making history and safeguarding the future of our country. In the Central Theater of the Red Army we considered it necessary to allow as many of our actors, directors, designers and musicians as possible to visit the front. All of them have gone at one time or another.

During the war we have given over 2,500 front-line performances, not including the many trips made by groups of actors to assist Red Army amateur circles. Members of our theater have been at the front from the first day of the war; one group was on the Rumanian border when the war broke out, and our players recently revisited this locality.

This past summer the actors spent their vacation at the front. The entire cast, from famous veterans to novices, were organized into five companies to tour Red

Army units. Two plays were presented with the same settings used in the city. In one month we gave 232 variety shows and 32 plays on four fronts.

By far one of our most popular plays was Lukovsky's *Battle of Grunewald* which depicts characters and events remote from our times yet very close to us in spirit. It was at the battle of Grunewald that the united forces of the Russian and other Slav peoples, led by the Lithuanian Grand Prince Vitovt, administered a crushing defeat to the Teutonic Order of Crusaders. The battle was fought in 1410, but it strikes a responsive chord in our time.

Our repertoire also includes several classics and a number of new Soviet plays. Among the classics are Alexander Ostrovsky's *Mad Money* and Lope Felix de Vega's comedy, *The Dancing Master*, translated into Russian for the first time by Tatiana Shchepkina-Kupernik. New plays by Soviet writers include *The Good Lad*, a comedy about the life of airmen, written by the Tur brothers, Sergei Golubev's *Borodino* and Vladimir Solovyev's *Secret of Victory*.



Nonna Kuznetsova does a Russian dance for front-line troops

Improvements in Stereoscopic Cinema Screen

By I. Rodin

It is now 10 years since Semyon Ivanov invented the first stereoscopic cinema which does not require the use of special glasses by the spectator. In this period Ivanov has improved his screen and made a number of other remarkable inventions. He has received a Stalin Prize, and a military decoration for his services to the front. Academician Peter Kapitza, famous Soviet physicist, calls the young man his godson and is convinced that Ivanov's stereoscopic discoveries are of world-wide importance.

The young inventor, who is now only 35, is the son of a shoemaker in a small Central Asian village. Because of the extreme poverty of his family he left home at an early age, trekking from Central Asia to Siberia and back, earning his way as a shoemaker, farmhand, smith, mechanic, actor and artist.

A passionate interest in art brought him to Moscow at 17. He entered an art school, but soon left his studies for museum work. The flat surfaces of the paintings set him to imagining the effect of stereoscopic photographs produced in cinema form.

For years he lost himself in a maze of computations, calculations and hypotheses. He worked alone. There were no books on the subject to which he could refer. Even after he had designed his special screen for stereoscopic films, he told no

one; distrustful of himself, he checked his calculations again and again.

When film circles finally learned of his work, he was immediately supplied with all possible aid for his experiments. Producers, cameramen and engineers were assigned to help him.

The first stereoscopic films, produced in Moscow shortly before the war, were most successful. Without the special glasses formerly necessary in viewing stereoscopic films, the audience saw birds that seemed to fly from the screen almost over their heads, and thundering waves that threatened to dash into their laps.

Ivanov's invention consists principally of a calibrated screen upon which two films depicting the same scene from different angles are simultaneously projected by the usual machines. When properly focused both films merge into one and produce the effect of a three-dimensional picture. The screen is composed of 36,000 very thin copper wires running in three directions in conformity with certain calculations. About 112 miles of wire are required for a screen of 25 square yards.

During the war Ivanov has discovered that the wire can be replaced by very thin optical lenses with a conical surface. Thousands of such lenses are fitted on a mirror. On this screen the stereoscopic effect is much clearer. The mirror screen may weigh as much as a ton.

Ivanov has just presented his country with the new invention—the "integral" screen, a development of his earlier discovery.

At the outbreak of war the inventor joined the People's Volunteer Forces and was sent to Leningrad. He began at once to put his knowledge of stereoscopies into use in front-line conditions. First he taught Soviet scouts to see the enemy more clearly by using his stereoscopic instruments.

His discoveries were invaluable in deciphering aerial photographs. Various details assumed entirely different forms when examined with his instruments. He could discover the most cunningly camouflaged enemy positions and trenches. On one occasion, examining an aerial photograph, he easily located the position of two German armored trains which were shelling Leningrad.

At present Ivanov is working out the details of mass production of stereoscopic lens screens. Within a short time 20 stereoscopic cinemas will be opened in various Soviet cities.

Many other plans of the young inventor will be realized in the near future. Academician Burdenko, Chief Surgeon of the Red Army, is interested in his experiments. Stereoscopic X-ray photographs will be far more effective than the usual film in disclosing the depth and nature of internal injuries.

LENINGRAD ARCHIVES PRESERVED

The Archives of the Institute of Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Leningrad contains innumerable treasures, including rough drafts of *Eugene Onegin*, manuscripts of Pushkin's poem *The Monument* and Gogol's *St. Petersburg Tales*, letters of Turgenev, Saltykov-Shchedrin and Chekhov, and valuable editions of Byron, Goethe, Flaubert and Zola.

The German vandals repeatedly bombarded the Institute. Shells pierced the roof, smashed the window frames and mutilated the fine structure. But the group of 12 Institute workers succeeded in sav-

ing all its treasures. The extremely valuable library of some 300,000 volumes is still in good condition, and several thousand wax rolls of recordings of the folk songs of the USSR were also preserved.

The Institute carried on its work uninterrupted during the blockade. Scientific conferences, at which writers read their new works, were held every Wednesday. Lectures were given in clubs and hospitals, on warships and in Army units.

The Institute is now preparing the second volume of a Russian history; and has completed a work on the history of English, Spanish and French literature.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 124

Washington, D. C., December 2, 1944



Break-Through on the Danube

On November 28 the troops of the Third Ukrainian Front under Marshal Fedor Tolbukhin forced the Danube north of the Drava River, broke through enemy defenses on a front of 95 miles to a depth of 25 miles, and captured 330 towns and villages in southern Hungary and northern Yugoslavia.

The terrain presents great difficulties for an offensive. The Danube flows in low country here, abounding in lakes and swamps, and the river branches into numerous channels. Recent torrential rains have washed out all roads. All this greatly complicated the offensive. As in previous break-throughs, the Soviet Command succeeded in concentrating its troops without the enemy's knowledge. After a hurricane artillery barrage, Russian infantry which had forced the Danube rushed into the breach, followed by the artillery, which continued to repulse furious German and Hungarian counter-attacks.

The Hitler command put strong reserves into the field, including an infantry division hastily brought over from the front in northern Italy, and SS regiments, which counter-attacked with the support of massed artillery fire and tanks. The Soviet Command insured a constant increase of forces on both bridgeheads established on the west bank of the Danube. Repelling all counter-attacks, Soviet troops pressed the German and Hungarian troops ever farther west, and finally the two bridgeheads joined.

Fifteen hundred enemy officers and men surrendered in 24 hours.

* * *

PRAVDA writes editorially:

Modern defenses consist of an intricate system of fortifications erected in accordance with the last word in military engineering. The most durable kinds of steel, concrete, stone, hydraulic devices and electrical machinery are used in defense. Ap-

proaches to fortifications are shielded by minefields, barbed-wire entanglements, anti-tank ditches and various other obstacles. All this is girdled and saturated with guns, mortars, machine-gun and tommy-gun nests. Foxholes, trenches, blockhouses, pillboxes and fortresses are filled with enemy troops. Mobile reserves are ready at a moment's notice to come to their aid from other sectors and from depth. At the first signal, tanks, self-propelled guns and airplanes join the action.

Behind the first line of fortifications lies a second line, then a third, then intermediate positions, and then again new defense zones. It should be remembered that defense is invariably organized on terrain suited for this purpose. The defenders spare no effort to make the best possible use of geographical and topographical features of the terrain, such as rivers, lakes, mountains, hills, making all these natural obstacles serve their ends.

The Danube—one of the greatest European rivers—formed just such a natural obstacle in the path of Soviet troops advancing in Hungary. The break-through is a very complicated operation. It combines the most varied forms of combat activities: artillery offensive, powerful blows from the air, infantry attack, action of tanks, consolidation of flanks, and battles in the depth of the enemy defense zone. The break-through calls for gigantic preparatory work, which must at the same time be conducted in absolute secrecy. The break-through involves the concentration and expenditure of an enormous mass of material. The break-through is a test not only of military power and military art, but also of the entire economy of the country.

The victory of the troops of the Third Ukrainian Front proves once more that defense lines will not save the enemy from defeat.



Radiophoto

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Yepanchin (second from right), who has just received the Gold Star Medal of a Hero of the Soviet Union, talks to Ludmila Pavlichenko (right), also a Hero of the Soviet Union

COORDINATED ACTION

By Colonel N. Denisov

Generals and officers of the Red Army have worked out many important problems of coordinated action, and have introduced clarity and much that is new into the operative and tactical application of armaments on the battlefield. Full comprehension has been attained of artillery and aviation attacks launched for the purpose of supporting the infantry and tanks in breaching the enemy's lines, sustaining vanguard forces engaged in the heart of the enemy's defenses, and facilitating the emergence of mobile units on the terrain beyond.

Collaboration between Soviet aviation and artillery officers begins long before the hundreds of guns unleash their fire and squadrons of planes fill the air. Experience has shown that effective shelling and bombing must be preceded by thorough reconnaissance of the enemy's defense system. Soviet officers hold that the more thoroughly the enemy defenses are reconnoitered, the deadlier will be the effect of the howitzer and cannon fire, the more accurate will be the bombing of the attack planes and bombers.

In these coordinated preparatory actions, an important role devolves upon the air scouts. Photographing the enemy's defenses from the air, they enable artillery officers to study their targets on photo-maps and plane tables and to make their fire computations accordingly.

A single photographing, however, cannot satisfy the Soviet flier. It is more than likely that new, undiscovered fire-nests and fortifications will crop up on enemy territory every day. Soviet scouts continue their reconnaissance systematically. Having obtained a general photo of enemy positions, they repeat their flights with increasing frequency as the zero hour approaches, finally obtaining fire-control photographs. Comparing the consecutive photos, the artillerymen watch closely the growth of the enemy's fortifications.

All this painstaking work does not fail to yield good results. At the beginning of this year, when the Red Army was preparing for the blow at Leningrad, the "horseshoe" of the besiegers was photographed several times from various alti-

tudes. The artillerymen, down to sergeants and gun commanders, all received accurate diagrams indicating the positions of their targets. This secured both the surprise and great accuracy of the fire. The enemy's lines were breached and the main artillery units of the Germans, which for a long time had barbarously shelled Leningrad, were encircled.

An artillery and aviation assault may be roughly divided into two periods: preparation for the attack of infantry and tanks, and the support rendered to both when engaged in the depths of the enemy's defenses. The assault of tanks and infantry is generally preceded by intense fire from all types of ordnance. Soviet officers at such a time strive to coordinate the action of artillery and aircraft in such a way that they will not interfere with one another, while at the same time rendering maximum support to the attackers.

A moment or two before the zero hour, bombers and Stormoviks deal heavy blows to the enemy's forward defenses. The artillery at the time lays down mighty barrages, which are suddenly shifted to the enemy's defenses in depth. This is an important moment in the coordination between aircraft and artillery; its success depends upon the training of officers and men.

Many examples may be cited from offensive operations of the Red Army this year to prove that artillery and aviation officers have indeed found a common language in questions of coordination, and that they lead their units into action with maximum effect.

The breach of the German defenses in Byelorussia was preceded by precisely such coordinated blows of artillery and aircraft; which greatly resembled the combined assaults of these two arms of the service somewhat earlier, during the final battles for the liberation of the Crimea. There the cliff positions of the Germans at Sevastopol were assaulted by artillery and aircraft; owing to their close collaboration, the Red Army was able to capture this fortified district with far greater effect and ten times more quickly than did the Germans in 1942. Simultaneous attacks from the air and heavy shelling

from artillery yielded victory to Soviet infantry and tanks in many large and small operations of the past year.

The coordinated action of artillery and aircraft continues when the enemy's lines have been breached and when tanks and infantry are in action in the depths of his defenses; under such conditions the gunners and fliers hammer at the new targets. Here much depends on communications between gunners and fliers and their methods of dealing with combat assignments. Communications are maintained by radio and visual signals, including rockets and colored smoke bombs. Aviation officers are also present at artillery observation posts. Commanding requisite means of communication, they can accelerate the actions of Stormoviks or bombers by directing them against objectives beyond the reach of artillery.

The combat coordination of artillery and aircraft in the Red Army, besides facilitating the most effective shelling and bombing of the enemy, also consists in mutual assistance in suppressing the enemy's resistance. Whereas artillery batteries are well protected from the air by fighter craft, the gunners in their turn render no little aid to the bombers and Stormoviks.

Such is the case when Soviet guns suppress anti-aircraft batteries of the Germans. A senior artillery officer generally assigns several of his units to combat the anti-aircraft guns of the enemy. The commanders of these artillery units watch the progress of bombers and Stormoviks; as soon as they see that the latter are endangered by flak they turn their fire upon the positions of the enemy's anti-aircraft batteries and thereby help the fliers carry out their combat assignments.

Soviet artillery and aircraft are powerful weapons for the crushing of enemy defenses. Well-planned and executed coordinated actions have enabled Soviet officers to render these weapons even more effective. Assimilating their experience and coordinating their actions on the battlefields, Soviet artillerymen and fliers have been securing the successes of advancing Soviet troops.

HEROES OF THE NORMANDIE AIR UNIT

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Following is the complete text of Ilya Ehrenburg's article of November 28, published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA:

There are now two Frenchmen who, if asked their identity, might answer, "We are Heroes of the Soviet Union." That is a pleasure for the French and it is a pleasure for us. Two peoples equally devoted to liberty—the people of Valmy and Verdun, and the people of Perekop and Stalingrad—take equal pride in the gallant soldiers Marcel Albert and Roland de la Pouape.

We now have many friends, and it is crowded around the table of victors. The airmen of the Normandie Squadron came to us in the autumn of 1942. In those days we were not in East Prussia; the Germans were on the Volga. We fought desperately, knowing that further retreat was impossible. Meanwhile people abroad were guessing how many more weeks we could hold out.

It was in that dark autumn that our friends, the French airmen, came to us. They realized our strength and believed in our friendship. While the Germans were still in the Caucasus, the French patriots realized that the battle of Russia was also the battle of France, that in Russian skies they could also fight for French soil.

Among the first to arrive were Marcel Albert and Roland de la Pouape. They came all the way to us in Stalingrad, and we will never forget that.

France is now liberated, and in the battle for Alsace the French Army covered itself with glory. In 1942 France was silent; her mouth was gagged by the boches. But even then we believed in the star of France, and the men of the Red Army spoke with reverence—more, with love—of that splendid country. Now France is recognized by all. But we recognized her when she was still in chains. And the French will not forget that.

Marcel Albert has shot down 23 German aircraft on our front. He is the ace of aces of the French Army. Russia gave him magnificent aircraft. France endowed him with the heart of a hero.

Germany implanted in him deep hatred. And this gay Frenchman, this Parisian of Parisians, this son of a worker, has become a Hero of the Soviet Union. There were three friends: Lefevre, Durant and Albert. All three flew from North Africa, which was in the hands of the fascists, to Gibraltar. All three declared, "We want to fight in Russia." They were inseparable, and their comrades called them the three musketeers. Durant, and then Lefevre, were killed in action. Marcel Albert lived to see the days of glory, and he is now fighting the boches in the skies of Germany.

Deep is the unity of the French people in the fight against the invader: for if Marcel Albert is the son of a worker, De la Pouape is the scion of an old aristocratic family and, if he wanted, might boast of his titles. But he is a genuine democrat, in love with liberty, and there is only one thing he is proud of—the Germans he has shot down.

When the boches seized France, De la Pouape, without a moment's hesitation, left for England in a tiny bark and there continued to fight the invaders. When he learned that a group of airmen wanted to go to the Soviet Union, he put in an application, "I request to be sent to the East to fight with the Red Army." He has shot down 16 German aircraft.

The art of the flier is not easily described: it is poetry. Who can say why a great poet writes good verses? So I will not venture to tell of the air combats of these two French heroes. I will only point out that they took part in operations, each of which opened a new chapter in the war: Orel, Smolensk, Orsha, the Niemen, East Prussia. These names speak more than bulky tomes. In all these battles the blood of French airmen was shed, and in all of them Marcel Albert and Roland de la Pouape wreaked havoc on the enemy.

It need not be said that they passionately love France, her vineyards and orchards, her ancient stones, her gay maidens, her free spirit and her history. But I will say more: they have come to love

our country. Not only did they learn to understand the Russian language; they also learned to understand something which is not mentioned in dictionaries or grammars: they learned to understand the Russian heart. They have seen the ashes of our burned cities and the grief of our women; they have seen the courage of the Red Army and its march from Orel to East Prussia. And each of them is bound to us not with words but with blood.

And some day, amid the green pastures and tender alders of Puy de Dome, Roland de la Pouape will tell his children about the great expanses and the great heart, about the country so distant and yet so near—Russia. And some day amid the noise of Paris, which, like the ocean surf, never for a moment subsides, Marcel Albert will suddenly recall the silence of the Smolensk forests and say, "There I learned to measure human woe and the strength of the human heart."

The Red Army soldiers congratulate their tried friends, heroes of France and now Heroes of the Soviet Union. If friendship is tested in fire, the friendship of the Soviet Republic and the French Republic has been tested both in sorrow and in joy. We shall yet clink a glass with the French in Berlin.

Valued Document of Leningrad Citizens

Most of the able-bodied men and women of Leningrad—and hundreds of boys and girls as well—have small booklets inscribed on the cover: *Keep this carefully—it is a document testifying to your participation in the restoration of Leningrad.*

Citizens have already restored 87 schools, 57 kindergartens and seven large movie theaters. Ten thousand wrecked apartments have been repaired and over 50 miles of streets pitted with bomb and shell craters have been repaved and replanted with trees and shrubs.

THE STRONGHOLD OF HUMANISM

By Hero of Socialist Labor Vladimir Komarov
President, Academy of Sciences of the USSR

When we think of how near the day of final victory is, we must always bear in mind that fascism must be stamped out so thoroughly that it cannot ever be revived again. We must remember that the Hitlerites have scattered the poisonous seeds of fiendish national hatred far beyond the confines of Germany. These seeds may sprout again unless they have been destroyed.

That is why provision has been made, in the generous armistice terms concluded with Germany's former satellites, for the revocation of the infamous and savage anti-Jewish laws. The adversaries whom we forced to their knees have thus been freed from the most shameful and abhorrent survivals of cannibalism. It makes one feel proud and happy to be a citizen of a country which has come forward before the entire world as a mighty stronghold of humanism.

In 1931, Joseph Stalin wrote in reply to an inquiry from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency:

"... Anti-Semitism, as an extreme form of racial chauvinism, is the most dangerous survival of cannibalism. In the USSR anti-Semitism is prosecuted most severely as a phenomenon profoundly inimical to the Soviet system. According to the laws of the USSR, active anti-Semites are punished by death."

In the USSR anyone who would either by word or deed restrict the rights of any nation, anyone who would incite one nation against another, anyone who would actively foster anti-Semitism or any other form of national hatred would be severely punished by law.

There are various indices to measure the level of culture. One index is the absence of racial chauvinism, for racial chauvinism and especially its extreme form, anti-Semitism, is the most dangerous survival of cannibalism, the most sinister manifestation of barbarism. The farther mankind progresses, the fewer are the survivals of this form of barbarism. These survivals have become particularly acute at present because Hitler has been trying to stop the wheel of history and turn

mankind back to the darkest period of barbarism.

Two years ago the Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR published one of the most stirring documents of the present war, a document showing how the Hitlerite authorities are putting into effect their plan for exterminating the Jewish population of Europe. Referring to the fact that Hitler herded several million Jews into Poland in order to annihilate them, the document states:

"As is to be seen from the information at hand, there is no atrocity which the Hitlerite degenerates have not employed in order to hasten the monstrous mass annihilation of hundreds of thousands of civilians. Besides being mowed down with machine guns, men, women and children are killed in specially equipped gas chambers, murdered by electric current and burned en masse. Prisoners in concentration camps are poisoned with prussic acid. Special bonuses are paid to encourage the individual murder of exiles. In the camps it is an obligatory rule to kill any prisoner who has been ill for more than two days. They have especially organized the wholesale murder of children below 12 years of age."

This document, while describing sadistic cruelties unknown even in the Middle Ages, also reports numerous instances of the noble and self-sacrificing compassion for each other displayed by the peoples of Europe who have found themselves under Hitler's heel. We have read with pride how Lithuanian peasants, braving the threat of the death penalty, helped and succored Jews, Poles and Frenchmen in concentration camps in Lithuania.

Later, when the Red Army liberated part of Poland and helped the Polish people to recover their independence, the entire world was shocked by revelations of what had gone on in Maidanek. There, as in other death camps, the Germans exterminated millions of people. They exterminated them with calculated, cold-

blooded cruelty. These infamous murders point to one fact—that the men guilty of establishing the Maidanek camp, the men who built ovens to burn human beings, the men who designed the gas chambers, the men who reaped profits from all this misery, these men are all outcasts of mankind. They cannot change, they cannot be improved and they must not be forgiven.

The fascists began with stupid anti-Semitic jokes in the beerhalls of Munich and ended with Maidaneks, with millions of corpses of Jews, Frenchmen, Poles, Norwegians, Danes and other peoples of Europe. That is why our attitude toward racial hatred today is different from our attitude in the days of our youth. In those days we merely felt like turning our backs on an infamous and vile spectacle. Today we shall not turn our backs on it until we have stamped it out, pulled it up by the roots, and taken all measures against its recurrence.

And we will not forget. Among other things, we will not forget the anti-Semitic activity of Sosnkowski and Anders. We will not forget the defenders of Hitlerism. We will not forget anything. As long as there remains a single champion of national enmity and exclusiveness, even though covert and acting by stealth, fascism has not been eradicated.

True humanism today consists in absolute mercilessness. There must be no mercy for the fascists. There are some people today who are inclined to forget and forgive. They are dangerous enemies of the security, progress and happiness of mankind. Forgiveness of fascism is a crime against humanity. When I think of the "forgetful" and "soft-hearted" defenders of fascism, I recall the legend of mandarin executions in China. In performing the execution the mandarin pulls a long string to which a weapon is tied. The mandarin does not regard himself as an executioner. He sees neither the victim

nor the weapon, but he kills nevertheless. It is the same with the defenders of the fascists. From their tearful pleadings to forget and forgive runs an unbroken string to the executioners of Maidanek.

All complacency with regard to the seeds of evil scattered by fascism, all reconciliation with racism, anti-Semitism and the like, all talk about leniency for the Hitlerites of Maidanek, paves the way for new fascist pogroms. To keep

silent about this is to deliver our children to death.

In this matter the democratic countries must not stop at anything. When any country gives shelter to the Hitlerites or their ideas in the form of discriminatory legislation, in the form of racist organizations or a racist press, it is no longer an internal affair of that country. If your neighbor uncovers in his backyard a container of poison gases that threaten to

spread over the entire town, you do not waste time by asking permission to enter his backyard and thus avert the death of thousands of people.

Racist ideas are more dangerous than any poison gas. It is our generation's great duty to the future, to the cause of progress, civilization and humanity, not only to put out the smoking bonfire of fascism but to uncover and extinguish every one of its smoldering coals.

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 by the German-fascist invaders in the city of Minsk, capital of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

When the German-fascist invaders broke into Minsk—capital of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic—they tried to destroy the culture of the Byelorussians and to turn the Byelorussians into obedient slaves of the Germans. On the direct instructions of the German government, the Hitlerite military authorities ruthlessly destroyed scientific research institutes and schools, theaters and clubs, hospitals and polyclinics, kindergartens and creches; they exterminated peaceful Soviet people by the thousand—women, children and old men as well as prisoners of war.

The crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders in Minsk have been investigated by a Special Commission consisting of PONOMARENKO, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic; Major General KOZLOV, Hero of the Soviet Union; Academician YAKUB KOLAS; GORBUNOV, Member of the Presidium of the All-Slav Committee; STELMASHONOK, Master of Medical Science; and the Byelorussian writer LYNKOV, with the participation of TABELV, representative of the Extraordinary State Committee.

The Special Commission inspected German concentration camps, examined over

120 victims and witnesses of the Hitlerites' brutalities and German officers and men taken prisoner who had witnessed or participated in the crimes.

On the basis of documentary material presented by the Special Commission and personal investigation conducted by Academician BURDENKO, member of the Extraordinary State Committee, the Extraordinary State Committee has established the following:

Hitler's Order

The German-fascist invaders introduced a regime of bloody terror and violence in Minsk. This is confirmed not only by statements of Soviet citizens who were kept in the prisons and camps but also by German prisoners of war. The chairman of the military tribunal of the 227th German Infantry Division, Captain Julius Reichhof, stated:

"On June 17, 1941 Hitler issued an order saying that German soldiers were entitled to plunder and exterminate the Soviet population. Hitler's order did not permit German soldiers to be brought to trial by a military tribunal. A soldier could be punished only by his unit commander, should the latter consider such a step necessary. According to this same

order of Hitler's, an officer of the German army enjoyed wider rights. . . . He could exterminate the Russian population at his own discretion. . . . A commander was granted the unrestricted right to apply punitive measures to the civil population, such as burning down whole villages and towns, taking away food and cattle from the population, abduction of Soviet citizens for work in Germany, at his own discretion. Hitler's order was brought to the knowledge of every private in the German army on the day before Germany's attack on the Soviet Union. . . . In conformity with Hitler's order, German soldiers, led by officers . . . perpetrated various atrocities."

A Network of Camps

In obedience to this order of Hitler's the fascist scoundrels tortured, plundered and killed everyone they came across. For the purpose of exterminating Soviet people they created a whole system of concentration camps in Minsk and its suburbs. Thousands of Soviet citizens perished in the concentration camps at the hands of the German hangmen. Only very few succeeded in escaping with their lives from the Minsk camp in Shirokaya street.

"During my detention in the Shirokaya street camp, from August 21, 1943, to

June 30, 1944," Moisevich stated to the Commission, "the German hangmen murdered about 10,000 Soviet people. They killed old men, women and adolescents and did not spare pregnant women or mothers with new-born babies. I witnessed the Germans murdering people in 'murder vans.' They forced from 70 to 80 people into each 'murder van' and carried them away in an unknown direction. I saw Professors Klumov and Anisishov, residents of Minsk, who had been interned in the camp, placed in the 'murder van.'"

Moisevich's testimony has been corroborated by another witness, Belyayev, a former inmate of the camp in Shirokaya street. "I know," he stated, "that many people were murdered in a special truck, the 'murder van.' I was present several times during the washing of this machine and saw that its body was lined with galvanized sheet iron. The doors could be tightly shut. A pipe which connected the exhaust of the engine with the body conveyed exhaust gas. The floor was covered with a wooden grating. Camp inmates were removed in the 'murder vans' three or four times a day. From February 17 to 26, 1943, the Hitlerites carried away in the 'murder vans' 3,000 Soviet citizens who had been brought from the town of Polotsk. I also know that the German hangmen—the camp commandant Wachs and his assistant—hanged and shot people in the camp itself."

Murder of the Sick

The Hitlerite fiends also used ordinary bathhouses for this work of exterminating human beings. In these bathhouses they gassed Soviet people with carbon monoxide. In September, 1941, they murdered in this manner 200 patients from the suburban hospital of Novinki. Kolonitskaya and Naumenko, members of the hospital staff, informed the Commission:

"The fascists drove the patients to the bathhouse, locked them in, and then through holes in the door let in gas by means of a hose connected with trucks. Several minutes later they dragged out the dead people and drove in another group of patients."

The Germans kept some 100,000 Jews in a special ghetto camp in the western part of Minsk. Witnesses Brudner, Bozhko, Nesterovich, Yermolenko, Cher-

tova and others stated that the camp commandant, Ridder, and his assistants Gottenbach and Benzke, humiliated the inmates, tortured and killed them without any reason. They set dogs on them. They bayoneted, knifed and shot them. The assistant chief of the camp, Gottenbach, drank toasts to the destruction of the Jews and forced the doomed people to sing and dance while he was doing the shooting.

German Secret Police Camp in Maly Trostynets

Near the village of Maly Trostynets, about six miles from Minsk, the German-fascist invaders set up a concentration camp conducted by the German Secret Police, in which they kept civilians doomed to death. At the Blagovshchina site, about a mile from the camp, they used to shoot camp inmates and bury their bodies in trenches. In the autumn of 1943, with a view to covering up the traces of their crimes, the Germans started to unearth the pit graves and to exhume and burn the bodies.

A resident of the village of Trostynets, Golovach, saw how "the German hangmen killed men, women, old men and children in Blagovshchina Forest; how they put the bodies of murdered people into previously prepared trenches . . . They rammed them down with caterpillar tractors, then placed another layer of bodies on top and rammed them down again. In the autumn of 1943 the Germans opened the trenches in Blagovshchina and started burning the exhumed bodies. They mobilized all the carts from neighboring villages to bring up firewood for the purpose." In the autumn of 1943 the invaders built a special incinerator on the Shashkovka site, about a quarter of a mile from the Maly Trostynets concentration camp. Kovalenko and Kareta, who worked at the concentration camp, stated that the bodies of the people shot or murdered in "murder vans" were burned in this incinerator. Three to five trucks packed with people arrived there every day.

"I saw every day," stated Bashko, a resident of the village of Maly Trostynets, "how the German bandits, headed by the commandant of the ghetto camp, the hangman Ridder, killed civilians in Shashkovka Forest and then burned their bodies in the incinerator. I grazed cattle

not far from this incinerator and often heard the cries and wails of people pleading for mercy. I heard tommy-gun bursts, after which the wailings of the unfortunate people ceased."

Executions at Door of Incinerator

The Investigating Commission examined an incinerator. The examination disclosed inside rails on which were placed metal sheets with holes in them, as well as a huge quantity of small charred human bones. A special drive for trucks had been laid to the incinerator. A barrel and scoop with remnants of tar were found at the mouth of the furnace. Various personal belongings of the executed people were scattered on the spot, such as footwear, clothing, women's blouses, headgear, children's socks, buttons, combs and penknives. Judging by the tremendous quantity of used cartridge cases and fragments of exploded hand grenades, the Germans had shot their victims at the mouth of the furnace and inside the furnace itself. Tar was poured on the bodies and firewood placed between them. Incendiary bombs were placed inside the furnace in order to raise the temperature.

In view of the Red Army's rapid advance to the west, at the end of June, 1944, the Hitlerite hangmen devised a new method for the mass extermination of Soviet civilians. On June 29 and 30 they started taking inmates of the concentration camps and the bodies of those who had been shot to the village of Maly Trostynets. The corpses were stacked up in sheds, where the Germans also shot Soviet people, and the sheds were then set on fire. Savinskaya, who escaped death, stated to the Investigating Commission:

"I resided on German-occupied territory, in Minsk. On February 29, 1944, the German-fascist invaders arrested me and my husband Yakov Savinsky for connections with guerrillas, and put us in the Minsk jail. In mid-May, after long and terrible tortures in which we did not confess our connections with the guerrillas. I and my husband were transferred to the SS concentration camp in Shirokaya street, where we were kept until June 30, 1944. On that day, with 50 other women, I was put into a truck and taken to an unknown destination. The truck drove about six miles from Minsk to the village of Maly Trostynets and stopped at a shed.

"Then we realized we had been brought there to be shot. . . . On the command of the German hangmen the imprisoned women came out in fours from the truck. My turn soon came. With Anna Golubovich, Yulia Semashko and another woman whose name I do not know I climbed on top of the stacked bodies. Shots rang out. I was slightly wounded in the head and fell. I lay among the dead until late at night. Then I got out of the shed and saw two wounded men; the three of us decided to escape. The German guard noticed and opened fire. Both men were killed. I succeeded in hiding in the swamp. I stayed there for 15 days without knowing that Minsk had already been captured by the Red Army."

On examining the remains of the shed at Maly Trostynets, burned down by the Germans, the Investigating Commission discovered a tremendous quantity of ashes and bones, also some partly preserved bodies. Alongside, on a pile of logs, there were 127 incompletely charred bodies of men, women and children. Some personal articles lay near the site of the fire.

The medico-legal experts have discovered bullet wounds on the bodies in the region of the head and neck. On piles of logs and in the shed the Germans shot and burned 6,500 people.

80,000 Bodies in One Cemetery

Three miles from the city, by the Minsk-Molodechno railway near the village of Glinishche, the Investigating Commission discovered 197 graves of Soviet people who had been shot by the Germans. The bodies in the graves were heaped in disorder, some without outer clothing, others naked or in underwear. Here were buried Soviet prisoners of war who had been kept in "Stalag No. 352" and were murdered by the camp guard headed by the German commandant, Captain Lipp. Medico-legal experts have established the presence of skull and brain injuries inflicted by a blunt hard object applied with great force. In two cases the Commission has established the crushing of the thorax, with numerous injuries of the vertebrae inflicted while the victim was alive, and numerous fractures of the ribs. About 80,000 Soviet war prisoners were buried in the cemetery near the village of Glinishche.

Thirty-four grave pits camouflaged by

fir-tree branches have been discovered in Blagovshchina Forest; some of the graves are no less than 50 yards long. Charred bodies covered with a layer of ashes 18 inches to one yard thick were found at a depth of three yards in five graves when they were partly opened. Near the pits the Commission found a great quantity of small human bones, hair, dentures and many personal articles. Investigation has revealed that the fascists murdered about 150,000 people here.

Eight grave pits 21 yards long, four yards wide and five yards deep have been discovered at about 450 yards from the former Petrashkevichi hamlet. In front of each grave pit there are huge piles of ashes which remained after the burning of the bodies. Amidst the ashes the Commission discovered the remains of burned or charred bones, tufts of hair, small metal articles, scorched footwear of women and children. Investigation has established that the Germans burned some 25,000 bodies of civilian Minsk residents whom they had shot.

Ten grave pits were discovered about six miles along the Minsk-Moscow motor road at the Uruchye site. Eight of these graves are 21 by five yards, one is 35 by six yards and one is 20 by six yards. All of them are three to five yards deep. The Commission has discovered three rows of bodies lying lengthwise, in seven layers each. All the corpses were lying face down, and many were in Red Army tank-troops uniforms. In the pockets of the uniforms on some corpses there were found documents, watches, Soviet money and various personal articles. The age of most of the men who perished there was between 20 and 30.

Victims Shot Point-Blank

Several bodies of women in civilian clothes were also found in the graves. A large quantity of used German cartridge cases have been found near the graves and in them. By medico-legal examination of 120 exhumed bodies selected at random, it has been ascertained that the death of the Soviet people was in almost all cases caused by bullet wounds through the head accompanied by considerable destruction of the bones of the roof and foundation of the skull. All this indicates that prisoners of war were shot from rifles or carbines at close range or point-

blank. The total number of those shot and buried on the territory of the Uruchye site, according to testimonies of prisoners of war and the data of experts, exceeds 30,000.

Northeast of the concentration camp, on the territory of the Drozdy settlement, there was discovered a ditch 400 yards long, two and one-half yards wide and two and one-half yards deep. In the course of excavations conducted in several places in the ditch to a depth of 18 inches there were found remnants of bodies (skulls, bones) and decayed clothes. Investigation revealed that about 10,000 Soviet citizens shot by the Germans had been buried in this ditch.

Mass graves of Soviet people tortured to death by the Germans have also been discovered at the Minsk Jewish cemetery, in Tuchinka, in Kalvariskoye cemetery, in the Park of Culture and Rest and in other places.

The Medico-Legal Commission of Experts consisting of Academician BURDENKO of the Extraordinary State Committee, Doctor of Medicine Professor SMOLYANINOV and Doctor of Medicine Professor of Forensic Medicine CHERVAKOV, has established that the German scoundrels exterminated peaceful residents and Soviet prisoners of war by hunger and work beyond human strength, poisoned them with carbon monoxide and shot them. Investigation has revealed that in Minsk and its outskirts the Hitlerites exterminated about 300,000 Soviet citizens, excluding those burned in the incinerator.

Destruction of the Town of Minsk

For three years the German-fascist invaders set themselves systematically to destroy the scientific research institutes, institutions of higher education, libraries, museums, institutions of the Academy of Sciences, theaters and clubs of Minsk.

The Lenin Library in Minsk was the creation of more than 20 years. In 1932 the construction of a new building with a large, well-equipped book depository was completed. The Germans carried away from the library to Berlin and Koenigsberg one and one-half million most valuable volumes, including many on the history of Byelorussia, a collection of old editions by Georgi Skorina, a first edition of the Lithuanian Statute, and collections of manuscripts by Yanka Kupala, Maxim

Bagdanovich and Zmitrak Byadula.

In the effort to eradicate the culture of the Byelorussian people the German-fascist invaders destroyed all the cultural and educational institutions in Minsk. Representatives of the German General Commissariat—the chief for so-called "Cultural Affairs," Doctor Siwitsa, Doctor Rachel, Doctor Mueller, Doctor Koch and Doctor Mach—carried away to Germany the libraries of the Academy of Sciences, totalling 300,000 volumes, of the State University, of the Polytechnic Institute, the Scientific Medical Library and the Pushkin City Public Library.

The Hitlerites destroyed the Byelorussian State University, the Zoological, Geological-Mineralogical and Historico-Archaeological Museums, and the Medical Institute with all its clinics; they demolished the Academy of Sciences with its nine Institutes, its Zoological and Geological Museums and Botanical Gardens; they destroyed the Minsk Polytechnical Institute, where about 9,000 students used to study, as well as the State Philharmonic and Conservatory. Likewise they destroyed the State Art Gallery and carried away to Germany canvases and sculptures by Russian and Byelorussian masters—Repin, Aivazovsky, Perov, Bogolyubov, Kozlovsky, Brazer, Assgur and Kerzin; they ransacked the State Byelorussian Theater of Opera and Ballet, the First Byelorussian Drama Theater, the House of Folk Art and the Houses of the Unions of Writers, Artists and Composers.

From the Opera Theater the Germans carried away to Germany scenery, furniture, chandeliers, mirrors, paintings, carpets and draperies.

In Minsk the fascists destroyed 47 schools, 24 kindergartens, the Palace of Pioneers, two lying-in homes, three children's hospitals, five city polyclinics, 27 nurseries, four children's welfare centers and the Institute of Infant and Maternity Welfare.

They burned down or blew up 23 of the largest factories; the railway carriage repair works, the machine-tool building plant, the Proletari glass factory, two brick kilns and the Udarnik scales manufacturing plant; they destroyed four hotels, 11 bakeries, confectionery and biscuit factories and the knitted-goods mill, meat packing plants, the Oktyabr and garment factories named for Krupskaya; they put

out of commission the sewage system, the telephone and telegraph network.

The General Commissars Kube and Becker turned over the enterprises of Minsk to the following German firms: Bormann, Schorowa Werk, Trebetz, Schlachthof and Trol. They carried away to Germany the machinery of all the enterprises and the trolley-bus wires; they forced the Soviet citizens to labor for the German invaders, starved and tormented them, compelled them to do work beyond their strength.

Evidence of Nazi 'Technical Manager'

Felix Reitzuck, technical manager of the shop which produced army carts for the firm of Trebetz, native of the town of Allenstein in East Prussia, has been interrogated by the Investigating Commission. He testified:

"As representative of the Trebetz firm in Minsk, I state that the occupation authorities sent Soviet citizens to work in compulsory order . . . Representatives of firms brutally exploited Soviet citizens, making even old folk work 10 to 12 hours a day for small wages, beat them and fed them badly. The owner of the firm, Bormann himself beat the Soviet people who worked for his firm. The workers were fed very badly and only once a day. Dinner consisted of 80 grams of bread and thin potato soup. There were no suppers or breakfasts. The workers could not buy anything with their wages and therefore, just like those who worked for other firms, led a starvation existence and went clad in rags."

In view of irrefutable evidence and proof, Reitzuck was compelled to plead guilty of the above crimes before the Investigating Commission.

Responsibility for all the crimes committed by the German invaders in Minsk, for the destruction of cultural and material values, the torture and murder of peaceful citizens and prisoners of war, is borne by the Hitlerite government, the Supreme Military Command, and also by the following organizers and immediate executors of the crimes:

The Commandant of Minsk, Lieutenant General SPERLING; Chiefs of SD (Secret Field Police) SCHLEGEL and STRAUCH;

Assistant Chief of SD KAISER; the Chief of SS Troops, GOTBERG; the General Commissars of Byelorussia, KUBE and BECKER; the commander of the 18th Motorized Division, Lieutenant General PUTAVERN; the commander of the 25th Motorized Division, Lieutenant General SCHIERMANN; the commander of the 31st Infantry Division, Lieutenant General OCHSNER; the commander of the 78th Infantry Division, General TRAUT; the commander of the 256th Infantry Division, Lieutenant General WUESTENGAGEN; the commander of the 260th Infantry Division, Major General KLAMMT; the commanders of the Fifth Tank Division, Major General DECKER and Major General HAUSEN; the commander of the 20th Tank Division, Major General PAUKASSEL; the commander of the 2nd Bicycle Regiment, Lieutenant General SCHMAL; the chairman of the military tribunal of the 267th Infantry Division, Captain JULIUS REICHHOF; the commandant of "Stalag No. 352," Captain LIPP; the commandant of the Ghetto Camp, RIDDER; the assistants of the camp commandant, GOTTENBACH, RICHTER and BENZKE; the Camp Commandant WACHS; representatives of the General Commissariat, Dr. SIWITZA, Chief for Cultural Affairs, Dr. RACHEL, Dr. KOCH, Dr. MUELLER and Dr. MACH; representatives of the firms of Bormann, Trebetz, Schorowa Werk, Schlachthof and Trol and the technical manager of the Trebetz firm in Minsk, FELIX REITZUCK.

October, 1944

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 125

Washington, D. C., December 5, 1944

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V. I. LENIN

DECEMBER 5 CONSTITUTION DAY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS



J. V. STALIN

The Constitution of the USSR is the fundamental law of the country. It determines the organization of society and of the state in the Soviet Union, the structure of the local and higher governmental and administrative organs, as well as of the organs of the court and procurator's offices, and establishes the electoral system and the procedure for amending the Constitution itself. It furthermore contains a description of the arms and the flag of the USSR, and fixes the Capital of the country.

"The Declaration of Rights of the Toiling and Exploited People," written by Lenin and approved by the Third All-Russian Congress of Soviets in January, 1918, was actually Russia's first Constitution. In July, 1918, the Fifth All-Russian Congress of Soviets adopted the Constitution of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. This instrument served as the basic law for all peoples of Russia

until the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The first Constitution of the USSR was ratified by the Second All-Union Congress of Soviets on January 31, 1924. On the basis of this Constitution the people built a socialist society.

The radical economic and social changes in the country between 1924 and 1936 necessitated the framing of a new constitution which would reflect actual conditions in the new, socialist society.

With this end in view a Constitutional Commission presided over by Joseph Stalin was created on February 7, 1935. It submitted the draft of a new constitution to the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR for its approval; when this was given the draft was published for nationwide discussion. This discussion lasted for more than five months and showed that the draft had virtually the unanimous endorsement of

the Soviet people. On December 5, 1936, the Extraordinary Eighth Congress of Soviets adopted the new Constitution of the USSR, popularly named the Stalin Constitution, for its author.

The Soviets of Working People's Deputies constitute the political foundation of the USSR. In the USSR all power belongs to the working people of town and country as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies. The Constitution reflects the basic principles of socialism, which have already been won and achieved in the USSR, and vests them with legislative authority, namely, the socialist ownership of land, forests, factories, mills and other means and instruments of production; the abolition of exploitation, poverty and unemployment; the designation of work as a duty and a matter of honor for every able-bodied citizen. The Constitution is premised on the fact that in Soviet so-

ciety power is wielded by classes friendly to each other—the working class and the farmers. The Constitution proclaims the complete equality of all nations and races inhabiting the Soviet Union and the complete equality before the law of all citizens of the USSR.

The Stalin Constitution introduced universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot; all citizens, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, educational and residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities, enjoy equal political rights. They all have an equal right to work, to rest and leisure, to education, to maintenance in old age, to material and medical assistance in case of permanent or temporary loss of capacity to work, to inviolability of person and of home, etc.

The Soviet Constitution guarantees freedom of conscience, of speech, of the press, of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings and of street processions and demonstrations.

The Constitution also sets forth as inviolable law the duties of citizens of the USSR: to abide by the Constitution, observe the laws, maintain labor disci-

pline, honestly perform public duties, and respect the rules of socialist intercourse. It sets forth that it is the sacred duty of every citizen of the USSR to defend his native land and that universal military service is law.

It is the duty of every citizen of the USSR to safeguard and strengthen public property as the foundation of the Soviet system. At the same time the right of citizens to personal ownership of their incomes from work and of their savings, of their dwelling houses and of their subsidiary household economy, their household furniture and utensils and articles of personal use and convenience, as well as the right of inheritance of personal property of citizens, are protected by law.

Moreover, the Constitution of the USSR does not confine itself to a declaration of rights and liberties, but guarantees their exercise.

Thus, freedom of conscience is guaranteed by the separation of the church from the state and of the school from the church. Freedom of the press is guaranteed by placing at the disposal of the working people and their organizations

printing presses and stocks of paper. Freedom of assembly, including the right to hold mass meetings, is guaranteed by providing the necessary premises in public buildings. The right to rest and leisure is guaranteed by the granting of vacations with pay and the provision of rest homes, sanatoriums and clubs. The right to medical assistance is guaranteed by free dispensaries, clinics and hospitals.

By decision of the Extraordinary Eighth Congress of Soviets of the USSR, the day on which the Stalin Constitution was adopted, December 5, was declared a national holiday.

By a Decree adopted by the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, February 1, 1944, the People's Commissariat of Defense was transformed from a Union to a Union-Republican People's Commissariat, and the All-Union People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs was transformed into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, thus providing for the organization of army formations in the Union Republics, and granting powers to the Union Republics in the sphere of external relations.

FRIENDSHIP OF THE PEOPLES

By J. Paleckis

The friendship of the Soviet peoples has been a fundamental source of power for the Soviet Union and its Red Army. When the Nazis launched their predatory attack upon the USSR, they believed that our multi-national State had been built on sand, that the Kazakh could not be the friend of the Russian, the Georgian of the Ukrainian, the Tatar of the Byelorussian, and the Uzbek of the Lithuanian. It was this belief that prompted Goering to write in his so-called Green Book:

"In the Baltics Germany's interests must be served by the differences between the Lithuanians, Estonians, Latvians and Russians. In the South our interests must be served by the possible differences between the Ukrainians and Russians. In the Caucasus we must avail ourselves of the contradictions between the natives—the Georgians, Armenians, Tartars and Russians."

The Nazis believed that the wrangling between the peoples of the USSR would begin as soon as the German army achieved its first major military successes, that there would be uprisings, that the country would be divided against itself and that this would facilitate the advance of the German invaders all the way to the Urals. The Nazis measured the Soviet people by their own standards. They also applied their own measure when they estimated relations between the Soviet peoples. They hoped to turn to their own advantage the national differences which they imagined existed in the Soviet Union, in the same way as they had done in Western Europe. This was not to be.

During the years of Soviet power a great change had taken place in the lives and relations of the peoples in the Soviet Union. No stone remained of that prison

of nations which was Tsarist Russia. The Soviet Union became a large and friendly family of nations. The close friendship of the Soviet peoples is indeed the cornerstone of the Soviet system, the source of limitless power for the USSR, which has been strengthened rather than weakened by the hardships of war.

The sudden onslaught of superior enemy forces, the temporary reverses of the Red Army, the temporary loss of considerable Soviet territories, the withdrawal to the interior—all these could not engender strife among the Soviet peoples. Quite the opposite occurred. The reverses of the Red Army rallied the family of Soviet peoples into a single indivisible camp that has selflessly supported its Red Army and Navy. Never has the Soviet home front been more stable than it is today.



Hero of the Soviet Union Vasili Naumov, famous Stormovik pilot



Hero of the Soviet Union Sadu Shakirov, of Kazakhstan



Hero of the Soviet Union Herman Burov, Warrant Officer

The unity of Soviet peoples was created during the years of Soviet power. These were years of determined struggle, years in which the USSR became a mighty industrial power, a land with a highly developed agriculture on a scale unequalled in the world. These years of labor and struggle strengthened the friendship of the Soviet peoples.

The national policy of Lenin and Stalin provided all the conditions necessary to further the friendship of the Soviet peoples and has eliminated all cause for discord between them. As in a vast and handsome garden, the Soviet peoples, both large and small, flourish in the multinational Soviet State. In the Soviet Union there are no sons and stepsons. All the peoples are masters of their own fate and they determine their own economic, political and cultural development.

No matter how small, every Soviet people enjoys equal rights in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and participates as an equal in decisions on All-Union matters. Far from being curtailed during the war, these rights have been extended. Convincing proof is the historic decision of the 10th Session of the Supreme So-

viet of the USSR, which authorized each of the Union Republics to establish direct diplomatic relations with foreign governments and to create its own Republican army formations.

The peoples of the Soviet Union have many good things worthwhile fighting for. They are fighting for the liberty that is theirs, for the preservation of their gains, for their flourishing Republics, for their great common motherland, the Soviet Union, which created a new, unprecedented world in which there is no enmity between peoples and no racial hatred—a world of friendship and brotherhood of peoples.

The oldest brother in this family of peoples—the nation which headed the struggle against Tsarism, which rendered fraternal aid to all the other Soviet peoples during the years of the Civil War and the period of peaceful, creative labor, and which in this war has borne the brunt of the struggle—is the Russian people.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is indeed a house undivided, a single fortress inhabited by a large and friendly family. The enemy who breaches one sec-

tor of this fortress thereby menaces the lives of all who dwell within. The defense of the Soviet Union, therefore, coincides with the defense of the individual Republics, towns and villages. When the Lithuanian troops fought victoriously at Orel, the Latvians at Moscow and the Estonians at Velikie Luki, they knew that by liberating Russian soil from the German-fascist invaders they were at the same time fighting for the liberation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. They knew that although they were helping the Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians today, they would themselves receive the aid of the Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians tomorrow.

That happy day at last dawned over the Soviet Baltics. Fighting for the liberation of the Soviet Baltics side by side with Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians in the Red Army, were Russians, Ukrainians, Georgians, Kazakhs and Byelorussians. All the peoples of the Soviet Union contributed their share in the liberation of the Soviet Baltics. Because of this and this alone, the Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians were able to free their countries from the German-fascist invaders.

Twenty-Seven Years

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Perhaps the face of a mother whose child was saved by the Red Army—a Byelorussian or Serbian peasant woman or a woman from Kirkenes in the sub-Arctic—would be the most fitting memorial of the event which shook the world 27 years ago.

At that time many did not understand Russia: they thought her birth-pangs were her death agony. When we are asked today how we hope to rebuild the towns destroyed by the Germans, we may rightly say that it was harder to build the Soviet State. West and east, north and south, war was raging without respite. Famine, cold and typhus took their toll.

Will of Our People

Cart-tracks were overgrown with grass, homeless children wandered abroad; the streets of Moscow, piled high with snow, looked like desert wastes. A small glimmering electric lamp seemed a dazzling beacon. But the will of our men and women made up for the lack of coal. The children of plowmen and shepherds hurled themselves upon the rudiments of science as though storming a fortress.

Columbus' frigate did not make coastal voyages. And of course the Soviet ship was wayward and difficult. There were more hopes than reminiscences. There was more of the gardener's sweat than juice of ripe fruit. After all, we were not living on the interest of the past. Those who lived in long-established homes sometimes looked askance at us; they grumbled that we were not building according to the rules. The more benevolent said our place was in the nursery. The more malignant set about fashioning a straitjacket for us. We were not perturbed, either by the grimaces of aesthetes or by the bombs of saboteurs.

Can it be said that happiness reigned in the old, snug homes where lived people who despised us for our coarseness and poverty? Oh, of course they had plenty of good woolen cloth and porcelain but there was no happiness there. For the West, the period between the two wars was a time of anxiety, gloomy foreboding

and feverish pursuit of momentary distractions. The illuminations in honor of peace were scarcely extinguished when rehearsals began for a new war.

Our young people mastered arithmetic and machine-building, dialectics and verification. Nurseries were ceremonially inaugurated in Russian villages. Nomads watched the building of the Turkestan-Siberian railway.

Meanwhile assassins were already prowling through the streets of German towns. While diplomats, like petrified relics, were still discussing reparations for the last war in sumptuous offices, the Thyssens and Voeglers in the beerhalls of Munich and Berlin were planning new campaigns.

The West was passing through painful crises. Machine-tools were being broken up, milch cows were being slaughtered. Hitler cried, "I have found work for the German people." He was planning gigantic "death factories."

The disease mounted in virulence. The champions of the "new order" began burning the poems of Heine. Minor "supermen" chased aged Jews. Dwellers in venerable homes gently rebuked the cannibal who had only just sat down to the table and was still sharpening his knife. These same people heartily applauded the cannibal's followers, as Dollfuss in Vienna bombed workers' houses, as Gil Robles bombed Asturian miners and La Rocque in Paris set buses on fire.

We Knew

In those days we were bathed in sweat. The builders of Kuznetsk and Magnitogorsk were giving flesh and form to an ideal. Wheat migrated northward. The young folk of Ossetia studied the theory of relativity, and Platon Karatayev's grandchildren learned to understand the spiritual torments of Andrei Bolkonsky. Perhaps we did not realize then what a desert separated us from the promised land, but even then we knew that fascism was raising its hand against the most precious thing of all—the human being.

When Italian blackshirts attacked defenseless Abyssinia we were outraged. The

tragedy was being enacted a long way from us, but we realized that a black shadow was looming over all the cradles of Europe.

Meanwhile the West smiled indulgently at the bloodstained Duce, and having scolded him at Geneva for violating the decencies, cordially clinked glasses with him in Rome. The homes of Paris and London still exuded comfort. The blitz had not yet started. And many tenants of those homes declared hypocritically that Franco, that forerunner of all quislings, represented Spain.

I saw children's corpses in the narrow streets of Barcelona. I was present at the examination of one of the murderers, a certain pilot in the German army, Lieutenant Kurt Ketner. He bragged brazenly of the Fuehrer's plans. After the interrogations a certain foreigner who called himself a "representative of Geneva" approached Kurt Ketner and asked him—not why he had slain nineteen Spanish children. No, that did not interest him. What he wanted to know was whether the murderer was getting enough sugar with his morning coffee.

The Ersatz Olive Branch

I don't know whether the house in Munich where the betrayal of Europe was sealed has survived the bombings. It should have been preserved for the edification of posterity. Picturesque England has learned the worth of the olive branch marked "Made in Germany."

We knew what fascism meant. Yet that morning in June staggered us by its unexpectedness. Only fools could declare that our country was not prepared to offer resistance. But prepare as you will, the aggressor always has the advantage. A man may know that banditry is rife in his town, he may provide himself with a revolver. But he cannot live all the time in expectation of being attacked, for he is a man of peace. He goes to work or comes home from work thinking of books, or of his children, and suddenly a shot rings out. That is how those terrible days of 1941 began.

The enemy seized our granary and our

stokehole. He got as far as the Caucasus. One-third of our population fell under his jackboot. How did we survive the calamity? It would be foolish to attribute it all to the blunders of the German command, for this command had proved infallible in Flanders and Greece. We survived the ordeal because our people proved morally stronger and spiritually superior to the invaders, and they would not have been so if it had not been for the October Revolution.

How long ago is it since Moscow's country resorts and Leningrad's suburbs figured in the communiqués of the Soviet Information Bureau? But today we are not in Kalmykia, but in East Prussia, and the Mozhaïsk sector has now given way to Budapest. The Red Army is liberating Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Norway.

It is one thing to fight when you have spent three years preparing the attack, when you have hundreds of millions of laborers behind you, boundless fields and huge factories, when you have time to sew every button on every soldier's uniform. That is not the way we fought. We were attacked by Germany's finest panzer divisions. Our evacuated factories planted themselves in desert wastes, women took the place of their husbands at the machines and in the fields.

For three years we fought in Europe alone. Great is the joy of the reaper, but we were the plowmen of victory. That is why the Red Army is hailed as a liberator by the Paris Committee of Resistance, by the King of Norway, by Greek fishermen and English bishops. It was not so long ago that we were a stepdaughter of Europe in the eyes of many. Some hissed at us with scorn. Others looked at us askance. Now enlightened eyes are full of gratitude.

The sculptors of ancient Greece carved Perseus holding up the head of the Medusa. Later was born the legend of St. George the dragon-killer. Now we have seen a myth become reality. The Red Army, the Perseus of our day, is liberating Europe from the fascist monster.

We Are Proud of Our Allies

We are not alone in the fight, and having got our friends closer, we have

learned to treasure them. Our airmen are proud of their British and American comrades who are striking such stern blows at the enemy. Our infantrymen respect the English who have stood so tough a test in Holland. Our whole Army is proud of the victories of the Allies in the West, and we hailed the news of the fall of Aachen with as much glee as if it were our own victory. When Paris revolted, all Russia jubilated.

The liberated are not beautiful maidens out of a fairy tale, but living nations. They do not await their liberators meekly. They fight their oppressors. One thought now unites the Soviet Union with the world: Germany must be finished off.

There is one country where people do not wait for us longingly, where they turn pale as they hear the distant tread of the Red Army. It is the country of the miscreants. What the Germans fear most is our invasion—not because our soldiers are by nature more wicked than others, not even because nearly every one of our soldiers has his personal account to settle with the invaders. The Germans fear the coming of the Red Army because we are united in our thoughts, because there are no hypocrites or devil's advocates among us, because we are coming to them as stern judges, as grown men who understand their responsibility to future generations.

The nations look toward Moscow with fervid hope, not only because we are good fighters, but also because no black shadows of "appeasers" loom behind our backs. We love peace too much to spare Germany. We believe too fervently in the brotherhood of nations to leave any fascists on the earth. In these three years we have seen too many genuine tears to be touched by ersatz sobs. We have learned to see through the enemy's military camouflage, and will not be deceived by his civilian camouflage. We have not won the war in order to lose the peace.

We know that the Germans who fled from France to Spain have found employment there. Perhaps my old acquaintance Kurt Ketner is among them. We know that in the Allied countries photographs showing well-fed Hitlerites devouring American canned foods aroused

deep indignation. We know that in various countries which so recently were Hitler's vassals, torturers, having recovered from their first flight, are trying on the wreath of the martyr. We know that, just as in 1939, there are people in the world who fear their own people like poison.

But times have changed. The Red Army has demonstrated its strength. The people of America, Britain and France have shaken off many illusions. And they will join us in saying that the plague must not be left to fester in a single street, a single house. The plague is contagious.

They will join us in saying that expiation is not a barber's shop where brunettes dye themselves blonde and fascists put on democratic wigs. The freedom-loving nations will join us in saying that if there is a school in the world to which a Jew, a Negro or a Slav is not admitted because he is a Jew, a Negro or a Slav, such schools may produce nation-slayers, not humanitarians.

When Perseus slew the Medusa, she left behind a sister-spirit of evil. We do not want to leave any spiritual nephews of the Fuehrer or the Duce. Different nations live in different ways. They have different skies above them and different institutions. We rejoice at the might of America and the independence of Luxembourg. But we cannot tolerate cannibals, even cannibals who are fasting in between two fat meals.

The Red Army is not out for foreign territory, nor will it impose its will on anyone. It is marching westward with one thought: to rid the world of the fascist evil. It is capable of that feat because twenty-seven years ago our people learned what brotherhood means. Stalin was with our people then. Stalin is with our people now. He has weathered many a storm, but in his heart lives the old fire and the old vow.

One cold, raw day in late autumn an immense hope was born in the world—the October Revolution. Its significance is now understood not only by our people, but also by others; not only by our friends, but also by former ill-wishers. Soviet Russia has rescued mankind. And again, in defiance of the calendar, we have witnessed spring in October.

ACTIVITIES OF THE 25 MILLION MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET TRADE UNIONS

By Nikolai Alexeyev

In the twenty-seven years of Soviet power the membership of the Soviet trade unions has increased to over 25,000,000. The activities of our unions are based on the deep confidence of the members, on their broad independence and initiative, on the accountability and control of all trade union bodies from top to bottom, and on the principle of internal trade union democracy and free elections with the right of recall—which is consistently adhered to.

The Soviet trade unions helped the Soviet Government in the socialist reconstruction of industry. They gave active support in all spheres of social, political, economic and cultural life during the Civil War and in the restoration period. During the Stalin Five-Year Plans they put their weight behind the industrialization of the country and the socialist reconstruction of agriculture. Their efforts to organize socialist competition were combined with persistent work to raise the standard of living of the working class.

Training and Care of New Workers

It goes without saying that they did not stand aloof in this war against German fascism, when their own fate, and that of democracy and progress all over the world was being decided. They have made socialist competition and Stakhanovism part of the daily life of every workshop, they have shepherded the young wartime recruits in industry, they have secured a remarkable rise in labor productivity, and have removed many shortcomings which were hampering production.

In this they have been aided by production conferences and collective supervision of labor organization. When someone sets a new record for high output, or has a bright idea for some innovation which will improve the production process, it is the trade union which sees that everyone hears about it and is encouraged to go and do likewise.

The trade unions accept responsibility for the technical education of new work-

ers, who are taken under the wing of veteran members who initiate them into industry. They organize Stakhanovite schools and technical study courses. They seek constantly to raise the political and cultural level of the new workers. The result is not only an increase in the output of war material, but also a rise in the worker's earning capacity.

The Government allocates huge funds for labor protection and the improvement of industrial hygiene. The rational spending of this money is the concern of the trade unions. They appoint safety inspectors in all factories, and instruct all new workers in the observance of safety regulations. These measures have not only reduced the number of accidents, but saved millions of work hours.

The enormous State insurance funds are managed by the trade unions. How are they spent?

Here are a few instances. Before the war the trade unions owned 230 sanatoriums and 621 rest homes which catered annually to 2,120,000 people. Many of these institutions were destroyed by the Germans. Some have already been rebuilt. Among our wartime welfare innovations are "prophylactoria"—residential "preventive" sanatoriums on the factory premises—and overnight rest homes. Since these were started there has been a striking drop in the sickness rate.

Another extremely important activity of the Soviet trade unions is their care for the members' children, many thousands of whom are sent away for a country holiday each year at the expense of the social insurance funds.

Foremost in Reconstruction

All useful public initiative receives the support of the Soviet trade unions—for example, allotment gardening. This year our members have gathered splendid crops from 2,250,000 acres.

In the liberated zones the trade union members are foremost in helping to rebuild industries, farms, railways, hospitals, clinics, kindergartens, clubs and palaces of labor. As soon as the invaders

are driven out, the organization revives at lightning speed.

How do the Soviet trade unions set about accomplishing another of their declared aims—to raise the cultural level of the workers? Before the war we had 6,000 trade union clubs, 100,000 smaller clubrooms, 15,000 libraries and 12,000 cinema installations. Cultural and educational work has certainly not lapsed during the war: this year 760,000,000 rubles are being spent on it.

Aid for Red Army

Yet another field of trade union activity is physical culture and sport—over 1,000,000 skiers, snipers and swimmers have been trained for the Red Army.

Material aid for the Red Army has taken the form of voluntary collections to buy arms—125,000,000 rubles of trade union funds were used to build air squadrons and tank columns. There are trade union hospitals for the wounded and bath trains and laundry trains to serve the Army at the front line.

Soviet trade unionists follow attentively reports of the mighty labor effort of the workers of Great Britain, America and other Allied countries, and desire to see the fullest coordination of the efforts of the working class of the freedom-loving countries.

Latvian City Rebuilds Factories and Homes

In the Latvian city of Daugavpils the Germans destroyed or badly damaged 4,000 houses and removed the equipment of 15 factories to Germany. The entire city is being rapidly rebuilt by its citizens, and a number of factories are already in production. Several hundred wagonloads of grain were sent into the city as gifts from neighboring villages. For the first time in three years the city market is open, with milk, meat, poultry, game and vegetables brought in by the farmers.

GUNS FROM X. ORDNANCE PLANT



Hero of Socialist Labor A. S. Yelyan,
director of X. ordnance plant



Finished products—ready to be shipped
to the front



(Top) In the designing department, Savin, chief designing engineer, talks with an assistant; (center) Gordeyev, left, manager of the gun barrel assembly department; Aryasov, a foreman, and Dmitriev, assistant manager; (lower) Assembling the guns

Radiophotos

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE USSR

By Peter Zolotukhin

Assistant Commissar of Education, Russian SFSR

The experience of the great Patriotic War has shown that the work of the educational system as part of the general cultural revolution throughout our country has produced splendid statesmen and fighters. The majority of those fighting in this war were brought up under the Soviet regime.

As we look back over the past 27 years and the work done in the field of education, we are struck by the magnitude of the task which faced the pioneers in 1917. The Russia taken over by the Soviet Government was one of the most backward countries in Europe. In 1913 Lenin wrote that as regards education Russia "is more than poor; she may be called a beggar." The 1911 census in Russia revealed that only 3.8 out of every 100 people were students of one kind or another. Less than one-third of all children of school age were actually studying in schools.

Among the national minorities the conditions were even worse than in Russia proper. The Tsarist government vigorously stifled all attempts to develop the national cultures of minority peoples. In 1897, only 36 out of 1,000 persons over 10 years of age were literate. In the territory of the Tatar Autonomous Republic (formerly the Kazan Gubernia) there were in all 35 Tatar schools with 3,000 students. In Daghestan in 1913 there were 53 schools with an attendance of 2,300, and even among this insignificant number a native face was rarely seen.

The Soviet Government and its leaders, Lenin and Stalin, put the task of the people's education before all others. The Tsarist Ministry of Education had stated that it would take 125 years to institute universal education in Russia. The Soviet system accomplished the task by its 15th birthday.

In 1940-41 the number of general schools in the Russian SFSR alone had risen to 111,663 and the number of students to 19 million. The corresponding figures in Russia in 1914 were 76,237 schools and 5,551,600 students. Thus at the outbreak of the war the number of students in the Russian SFSR alone were three and one-half times the total for all

of Russia before the Revolution. The number of eighth and ninth-grade pupils had increased by 23 times, and the teaching personnel totaled 670,807.

In the National Republics of the Union, tremendous efforts were directed toward achieving universal education. By 1935, 11,600,000 children were studying in over 75,000 schools of the National Republics and outlying regions. The 35 schools in the Kazan Gubernia had risen to 2,158, of which 1,755 were Tatar, 154 Chuvash, 32 Udmurt, 21 Mari, 21 Mordovian and 175 with a mixed student body. There were also 1,452 Russian schools in the Tatar Republic.

The growth in the number of secondary schools was particularly great in both town and country. The 36,000 students of secondary schools in 1914 had grown to one million in 1939, and by 1940 the

number of schools in the countryside was more than 70 times the figure for 1914.

By 1940 there were four Academies of Sciences in the USSR, 757 scientific research institutes, 416 experimental stations in various fields and 34 observatories. There were about 80,000 scientific workers in these institutions.

The result of the Soviet Government's efforts in the field of education may be seen in the 1939 census, which revealed that literacy had risen to 81.2 per cent.

The number of books printed has kept pace with the expansion of education. The Government has constantly striven to make the printed word available to all the people. In 1913, 86,700 books were published in Russia; in 1939 the number was 71,200,000. In 1913 there were 859 newspapers with a daily circulation of 2.7 million copies; in 1939 there were 9,000 newspapers with a daily circulation of 38 million. Books and newspapers in the USSR are printed in 111 languages.

On the eve of the war there were 77,590 libraries and 103,983 village reading rooms and clubs in the Soviet Union.

* * *

On June 22, 1941 Hitler Germany treacherously attacked the freedom-loving Soviet State with the aim of destroying its Government, enslaving its people and wiping out its culture. Wherever the enemy succeeded in occupying Soviet territory, he mercilessly destroyed schools, libraries, museums and all other institutions calculated to enlighten and bring culture to the Soviet people.

The damage to our cultural and educational institutions runs into hundreds of millions of rubles. In the Stalingrad Region it amounts to 203,285,000 rubles.

The German vandals reduced thousands of schools and cultural establishments to ashes. The Smolensk Region lost 1,932 schools, Rostov 1,240, Orel 1,161, Kursk 623 and Kalinin 1,121. Over half a million school desks and enormous quantities of valuable school equipment were burned, and millions of books and textbooks plundered and destroyed.

The Soviet people have undertaken the



Radiophoto
The rebuilt kindergarten of the Stalingrad tractor works

STALINGRAD CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

vast labor of restoring the schools in the liberated districts. By the beginning of 1944, 15,285 schools were repaired, and today 24,000 schools are serving a student body of over 14 million.

The main task facing the Soviet Government in the field of education during these war years has been the realization in practice of the law of universal education. Thanks to the special interest taken by the entire Government and by Joseph Stalin himself, the task has been accomplished. The 1944 appropriation for public education was 7,885 million rubles, an increase of 2,366 million rubles over the 1943 appropriation.

The Government has interested itself particularly in the children orphaned by the war and children of servicemen. In 1943, 837 new children's homes were opened with accommodations for 142,500 children; 362 of these homes are in the liberated districts. The Russian SFSR has 3,445 children's homes accommodating 400,000 children. The network of preschool establishments has been considerably expanded. In the summer of 1942 there were 400,000 children in Pioneer camps and playgrounds; by 1944 the number had risen to two and one-half million.

During the war thousands of young specialists have been trained. The country's universities, pedagogical and teachers training institutes have graduated over 112,000 teachers for elementary and secondary schools.

In 1944 there were 684 higher schools functioning with a student body of half a million. New scientific centers were created in wartime, including the Academy of Medicine, the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, the Armenian Academy of Sciences and the Uzbek Academy of Sciences. Among the institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR set up during the war are the Institute of Russian Language, the Institute of History, the Institute of the History of Art, and the Institute of Forestry.

The war has shown the readiness of the people to defend their Soviet State and the gains of the October Revolution, thereby laying the basis for the country's further economic and cultural development.



Radiophoto

(Top) New schools have risen in Stalingrad on the sites of those completely destroyed by the Germans; (center) Schoolchildren of the heroic city write to the front; (lower) Kindergartners out for a walk with their teacher

COLLECTIVE FARM SYSTEM TESTED IN WAR

By I. Laptev, *Izvestia* Correspondent

As a result of the successful development of Soviet economy in the period of the Stalin Five-Year Plans, the USSR has become a mighty industrial power and a country of advanced agriculture, a country of mechanized collective farming. The Soviet State gave the peasants generous material, organizational and economic assistance. Vast tracts of fertile lands were transferred free of charge to the collective farms for their use. Socialist industry supplied agriculture with the means for mechanizing farming. Machine and tractor stations were set up to help the collective farms. In 1940, the tractors of these stations did 82 per cent of the spring plowing for the collective farms, 77 per cent of the summer plowing and 72 per cent of the winter plowing. The machine and tractor stations performed work which under a system of individual farming would have kept 10,900,000 workers busy an entire year.

With the advent of highly mechanized large-scale farming many new employment opportunities in the countryside were created for operators of agricultural machines, agronomists, zoo-technicians, collective farm chairmen, brigade leaders, livestock-breeders, farm managers and other organizers of collective farm production. Before the present war several million peasants had advanced themselves to these positions.

The German-fascist invaders set out to enslave and exterminate the Soviet people. They wanted to restore the rule of the landlords and turn the Soviet peasants into slaves of the German barons.

At the call of the great Stalin, the Soviet peasantry along with the working class and the intelligentsia rose to the holy fight against the German invaders. History has never seen such patriotism, such heroism at the front and at work as has been displayed by the Soviet peasantry in this war.

The efforts of the collective farmers in wartime have added to the successes of Soviet agriculture. The work of Soviet peasants, men and women, has to a large extent increased the economic strength of the Soviet Union and helped to achieve economic victory over fascist Germany.

A war is an all-round and severe test of the vitality of any method of production. In countries engaged in protracted wars, agriculture as a rule has always been the weakest link of war economy. Food crises have therefore been the inevitable concomitant of war.

In pre-Revolutionary Russia, at the time of the First World War, agriculture was in a state of decline and could not supply the urban population and the Army with sufficient provisions. As early in the war as 1915 the country was gripped by a food crisis which became aggravated as the war progressed and led to starvation not only among the urban population but even among the soldiers at the front. In the first two years of the war the crop area was reduced by 12,600,000 hectares. The production of grain in the territory of the present Russian SFSR dropped from 4,600,000,000 poods in 1913 to 3,300,000,000 in 1916. The potato crop was reduced by 24 per cent and oil-bearing crops to one-third of the prewar level. The number of cattle dropped by 17 per cent in the first year of the war.

In the present war German agriculture declined just as it did in the First World War. The Hitlerites officially admitted that by 1943 the area under grain in Germany decreased by 20 per cent as compared with 1939. In 1943, despite very favorable weather conditions, crop yields dropped below the 1939 level as follows: wheat 20 per cent, rye 16 per cent, oats 19 per cent and barley 35 per cent. The number of hogs was reduced from 29 million in 1939 to 15 million in 1943, a drop of 47 per cent. This drop occurred at a time when the Germans looted the food and grain supplies of the Soviet regions and of a number of occupied European countries, and despite the enforced employment in agriculture of millions of foreign workers deported as slaves to Germany.

The young collective farm system of the Soviet Union has been put to a severe test by the war. The number of tractors and other motorized vehicles employed

in agriculture has fallen, since part of them had to be diverted to the front. A large section of the male population was called to the colors, thus creating a shortage of labor power. Difficulties were further aggravated by the fact that for some time the Germans plundered the food-producing areas of the Ukraine, the Don and Kuban, Byelorussia and the Baltic Republics. Throughout this difficult period, the advantages of the collective farm system became more and more apparent.

Stalin, speaking of the part of the collective farm peasantry in the nation's war effort, said:

"An army cannot fight and win without modern armaments. But neither can it fight and win without bread, without provisions. Thanks to the solicitude of our collective farm peasantry, the Red Army experiences no shortage of food in this fourth year of war. The men and women of the collective farms are supplying the workers and intelligentsia with foodstuffs and industry with raw materials, making it possible for factories and mills producing arms and equipment for the front to function normally."

During the war new sources of increasing labor productivity in agriculture have been discovered. Despite wartime difficulties, the machine and tractor stations have been kept going, and in the fourth year of war their work has shown a marked improvement. The task of training skilled replacements for the men now in the Armed Forces has been successfully accomplished. In three years, 1,857,000 workers were trained for mechanized farming, over a million of them women. As a result, the machine and tractor stations in 1944 serviced an area nearly 14 million hectares larger than in 1943—and this despite the fact that a number of tractors had been transferred to liberated territories. In the Soviet Union as a whole the increase amounted to 24 million hectares.

The crop area throughout the Soviet Union, including the liberated regions, was increased this year by 9,600,000 hectares. Together with the increase in the



Measuring grapes at an experimental station in Soviet Armenia

area planted to winter crops in autumn of last year, the total cultivated area this year expanded by 12 million hectares. The harvest was good and the collective farms are winding up the season with better results than in preceding years.

Livestock-farming is usually the hardest hit by war. The collective farms, however, managed to increase the number of livestock and still produce a larger surplus for the market.

In the occupied regions, the Hitlerite robbers inflicted enormous damage on agriculture. After the ruin left in their wake, the small individual peasant would have faced inevitable starvation. The Soviet peasantry, with the help of the Government, rebuilt the collective farms within a comparatively short time and is successfully rehabilitating crop cultivation and animal husbandry. Out of the

3,150 machine-tractor stations that existed before the war in the now liberated regions, 3,080 have been restored. In the Ukraine 1,173 machine-tractor stations and 26,439 collective farms have been restored in one year. The collective farm system has proved its strength.

The advantages offered by large-scale planned collective farming made it possible to overcome the shortage of mechanized equipment and of labor power. The patriotic effort of the Soviet peasantry is evidenced by a rise in productivity. In most collective farms adult workers produce from one and one-half to twice as much as before the war. Women collective farm members have come to play a very important part in agricultural production. Collective farm youth are doing the work of able-bodied adults.

"The matchless labor exploits of the Soviet women and of our splendid youth," says Stalin, "will go down forever in history; for it is they that have borne the brunt of the work in the factories and mills and on the collective and State farms."

In the Molotov Region, for example, the average number of work-day units put in by women collective farmers increased from 197 to 305 a year. The average number of work-day units put in by adolescents increased by 150 per cent.

In his speech on the 27th Anniversary of the October Revolution Stalin said: "Actively and with a clear sense of duty to the country, our collective farm peasantry are helping the Red Army to achieve victory over the enemy." Soviet peasantry can be relied upon to perform their duty with honor.

MOTHER HEROINES

By Elena Kononenko

The guards at the ancient Spassky gates of the Kremlin saluted the women respectfully and allowed them to pass. They were ten Soviet mothers and they had come to the Kremlin to receive the Gold Star of the Order of Mother Heroine and the certificates accompanying the title which had been conferred upon them by the Soviet Government. This honor had recently been introduced by the Government for mothers who had raised ten or more children worthily. They had come from various parts of the Soviet Union and they spoke different tongues, but they had this great distinction in common.

Inside the Kremlin they were met by President Mikhail Kalinin who greeted them cordially, shook hands with each one and soon had put them all at ease. "I know what it is like to raise a large family and I understand how much loving care and hard work and wisdom are required," he said. "The Government appreciates it and pays honor to the mothers." He went on to tell them that the entire country was proud of these mothers, respected and admired them. As for himself, Kalinin wished them health, happiness and many long years.

As they sat round the tea table, chatting with the President as with an old friend, one mother remarked that such meetings would have been undreamed of in bygone days. "Russia was a different country then," Kalinin said, "and those were the days when a husband walked in front and his wife trudged behind . . . Now you find them walking side by side and very often it is the husband that carries the child."

When he asked about their husbands, Serafima Vasilievna Ignatieva of Leningrad was the first to reply. Her husband, a teacher, had died, but he had been as proud of their children as she. Although Serafima Ignatieva wears a medal for the Defense of Leningrad for her activity as an air-raid warden and for her work in a war plant during the harrowing blockade, she spoke with pride of her children.

She is the mother of seven sons and three daughters. Her son Nikolai, a colonel in the Air Force, is now in Norway.

He has been decorated three times for gallantry in action. Alexander is a major in the Red Army and the recipient of two orders. He is fighting in East Prussia. He wrote her recently, "You'll have to forgive me, Mom, if I don't come home until I have been made commandant of Kingisepp." A fourth son, Ivan or Vanyusha as his mother likes to call him, is a Guards Captain in the artillery. Although he has been wounded in action four times, he is now with the Red Army in Rumania and has received three orders for conspicuous bravery.

Serafima Ignatieva had had another son in the Armed Forces. Moisei had fought and died in the battle of Stalingrad. Having already received the Order of the Red Banner and the Order of the Patriotic War, first degree, he was also given the Order of Lenin posthumously.

Although not all of Serafima's children were able to fight on the battlefields, the rest have been fighting on the home front. Mikhail is superintendent of a department in a Petropavlovsk plant. Lev, a master craftsman at casting statues, is working on statues of Lenin and Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya. Peter is studying railway engineering. The three daughters are also doing their bit. Nadezhda, a graduate of the Electrotechnical Institute, is chief engineer of a large plant. Vera is also an en-

gineer and Lyuba teaches. All of them have been awarded medals for the Defense of Leningrad.

As Ignatieva talked a little black-eyed woman in a crimson kerchief and shiny earrings listened attentively. This was Valima Asadulina from a collective farm in Bashkiria. When Kalinin inquired about her life there, she found it difficult to answer as her Russian was not very good or very fluent. She managed to make it clear to everybody, however, that her oldest son Zufer had died fighting for his country and that her youngest son was only three. Five of her children work on the farm, the other three go to school.

Maria Maximovna Ryzhkova of Tula, however, was not to be outdone. Her round, somewhat plump face glowed proudly as she said, "I have sent eight of my ten children to the front, Comrade Kalinin. Six sons and two daughters. In our family you have everybody you want—captains, sergeants and military surgeons—and they are scattered over all the fronts."

When Evdokia Pavlovna Soldatova who came from the Maxim Gorky collective farm in the Gorky Region broke in with the fact that she was only 42 and had 13 children all alive and healthy, Kalinin replied, "Well, your family is a collective farm all by itself."



Radiophoto
Mikhail Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, talks with Mother Heroine Tatyana Bubnova

FACTORY HYGIENE

By Professor Z. Smelyansky



Mother Heroine Serafima Ignatieva

From Tatyana Sergeyevna Bubnova, a tall and stately woman from Sverdlovsk, Kalinin learned that most of her children were still quite young. Victor was in the third grade, Yura in the second while Valentine had just turned seven and baby Ludmila was only a year old.

Anisya Mikhailovna Belousova, a collective farmer from the Kolomenskoe Region and mother of 11 children, four of whom are at the front, was proud of all of them. She spoke also of her 13-year-old Alesha who had 110 work-days on the farm to his credit. Although her family was large, she had no difficulty in making ends meet. When Valya, her youngest, was born in 1942, she received a grant of 5,000 rubles from the Government.

The other guests at the reception were: Anna Sergeyevna Kirilina from a village in the Kalinin Region; Maria Platonovna Arkadieva from a little town near Leningrad; Anna Aleksakhina and Maria Smagina, both Muscovites.

Professor Smelyansky is a member of the Obukhov Central Institute of Labor Hygiene and Industrial Diseases.

The prewar expansion of industry in the Soviet Union was paralleled by a great expansion of factory, city and district medical centers and laboratories fighting industrial poisoning and disease.

Industrial diseases in the Soviet Union showed a marked downward tendency before the war. In Leningrad, from 1925 to 1935 the total number of cases of industrial poisoning in the metal-working industry dropped by 10 per cent, and in the chemical industry by 25 per cent. The drop continued through the years of 1936-1941. In the last prewar year the number of cases of industrial poisoning was only 50 per cent of the figure for the previous 12 months.

In Moscow, notwithstanding the rapid growth of chemical and other industries, industrial poisoning became rarer from year to year, and at a number of plants was confined, in the year immediately before the war, to isolated instances. In a large Moscow aniline dye works cases of poisoning declined by two-thirds in the three prewar years, and even in 1943 only seven cases of marked poisoning were registered.

The decline in cases of industrial poisoning is marked in industries where the most virulent substances such as lead and mercury are employed. In the thermometer industry, where the processes bring hundreds of workers into direct contact with mercury, poisoning was practically eliminated before the war.

This was achieved by radical structural and technical changes, such as the isolation of the mercury shops, the mechanization of the more dangerous processes, the installation of powerful ventilating equipment and other hygienic devices, coupled with an efficient medical service and stringent Government and trade union inspection to see that sanitary regulations and provisions for reduced working hours, increased holidays and special diets were observed.

Lead poisoning, once a scourge in many branches of industry, was becoming more and more rare before the war, while cases

of chronic injury to the central and peripheral nervous systems were altogether unknown.

Equally successful were the measures taken to prevent industrial skin infections. In a Moscow ball-bearing plant less than half the number of skin infections were contracted in 1940 than in the previous year.

Diseases due to working in excessive heat were stamped out in many plants by improved working conditions. The supply of salt and aerated water, which is required by law, has been found to be one of the most effective means of preventing heat stroke.

Soviet law forbids the use of certain poisonous substances in industry. The manufacture of white lead is restricted, and its employment is forbidden when it can be replaced by zinc, titanium and lithopone compounds. The use of lead bases is prohibited in cutting files, and the use of lead is limited by law in the manufacture of glazes for crockery. The effect has been to practically eliminate lead poisoning in the corresponding trades.

Similar results have been obtained by the legal prohibition of the use of mercury in the manufacture of certain goods, and of arsenic and arsenical substances in the manufacture of dyes and printing inks.

The reduction of industrial diseases has been greatly aided by the trade union health protection committee and social insurance councils. Inside the factories, the eagle eyes of trade union and labor and sanitary inspectors prevent violations of the law, and so contribute materially to the prevention of disease.

In the early phase of the war there was a certain increase in the incidence of industrial poisoning. This was inevitable, owing to the rapid development of certain branches of industry and the wholesale transfer of plants from one part of the country to another, where at first they were often installed in unsuitable premises and emergency blackout arrangements had to be made. But proper measures were taken without delay, and the year of 1943 witnessed a 50 per cent reduction in industrial diseases in the am-

munition industry, and 60 per cent in the chemical industry.

Since the outbreak of war there have been in the USSR only 10 cases of severe toxic jaundice, a disease which was very widespread in the industries of all belligerent countries in the First World War. At one of the large plants producing tetraethyl lead, one of the most dangerous industrial poisons, there has not been a single case of poisoning in the past six months.

Hygienic Standards Maintained

In wartime, as in peacetime, normal sanitary and health standards (for example, mechanization of heavy and dangerous processes, ventilation, showers and cloakrooms) are observed in the building of all new plants and the reconstruction of old ones. Hygienic improvements are introduced wherever they are called for, even when they require considerable capital and expenditure of scarce materials. At one large tank factory, where outbreaks of industrial disease were observed in the electro-welding shop, a powerful ventilation system was installed, capable of withdrawing 400,000 cubic yards of contaminated air per hour. The result was that the outbreaks ceased completely.

The factory medical service, especially in munitions plants, is very highly organized. The workers are accepted at such plants only after medical inspection, and those working in unhealthy shops are examined once every three or six months, depending on the nature of the risk incurred. At the first sign of poisoning the worker concerned is transferred to a different job.

Workers engaged on jobs involving the use of poisonous substances have a shorter working day, and are allowed additional daily rations of meat, fat, milk, etc.

All these measures are supported by propaganda among the medical workers, engineers, technicians and workers. Millions of copies of publications on the prevention and treatment of industrial diseases have been issued to doctors and workers. This propaganda is supplemented by exhibits on safety methods and personal hygiene.

IN A FACTORY POLYCLINIC



In the waiting room of the surgical ward



Surgeon Clara Mogaricheva gives first-aid to a worker



Analysis of the air in various parts of the plant—testing for carbon dioxide

ANNIVERSARY OF TEHERAN CONFERENCE

By Y. Viktorov

From PRAVDA, December 1:

Today is the first anniversary of the historical meeting in Teheran of the leaders of the three Allied powers—Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR Marshal Stalin; President of the United States of America Roosevelt, and Prime Minister of Great Britain Churchill.

An eventful year has passed since then. It has revealed the tremendous importance of the decisions adopted by the Teheran Conference.

Recently, in stressing the importance of the Teheran Conference, Marshal Stalin said: "There are few instances in history of plans for large-scale military operations undertaken in joint actions against a common enemy being carried out so fully and with such precision as the plan for a joint blow against Germany drawn up at the Teheran Conference."

The one year which separates us from the Teheran Conference has been a year of decisive successes of the Red Army. Soviet troops have struck ten annihilating blows at the enemy, routed and put out of action 120 divisions of the Germans and their allies. The Red Army knocked the Hitlerites out of the Soviet land, began the liberation of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Norway, transferred hostilities to Germany's territory, and smashed the Hitlerite bloc, from which Finland, Rumania and Bulgaria have dropped out. The Red Army, jointly with the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation, freed Belgrade and now stands at the gates of Budapest, continuing to rout the enemy troops.

During this year the Allied troops have effected the invasion of France, liberated practically all of France and Belgium, commenced the liberation of Holland, and shifted operations into Germany's territory.

The Germans are compelled to fight on two fronts. Therein lies the most important military significance of the decisions adopted by the Teheran Conference.

The Germans have felt on their own hides the meaning in action of the Tehe-

ran decisions, the meaning of the cooperation of the two fronts. The powerful offensive operations of the Red Army tied up some 200 German divisions, as a result of which our Allies have been able to swiftly solve their problems of routing the German troops in France, Belgium and Italy.

On the other hand, the second front in the West tied up 75 German divisions, and this enabled the Red Army to expedite the solution of its strategical tasks.

The year of the materialization of the historical decisions of the Teheran Conference has revealed the tremendous force of the united strategy of the Allied powers. The enemy has been unable to withstand the annihilating joint blows of the Allied Armies. He has been compelled to retreat to his frontiers. He is gripped in the vise between the two fronts, and the key to victory is in the Allies' hands.

The past year has witnessed the further consolidation of the United Nations, the increased collaboration between the three great Allied powers. All attempts by the Hitlerites and their henchmen to drive a wedge between the Allied powers have suffered a complete fiasco.

As a result of the successful fulfilment of the Teheran decisions, the war is approaching a victorious end. The Hitlerite rulers know that their game is hopelessly lost. Their efforts are directed at present toward protracting the war in order to create conditions which would enable the Hitlerite gangster imperialists to survive this war as German imperialism survived

the last war, and to prepare a new world slaughter.

They find support on the part of certain elements in the neutral and even in the Allied countries. The remnants of the Fifth Columns, these turncoat advocates of collaboration with Hitlerite Germany, act in their interests. The Germans hopefully receive reports on various plans providing for the revival of prewar combinations, on attempts to secure a lenient attitude toward aggressors, on tendencies to return to the old order which brought about the "new order," this deadly danger to the freedom-loving nations.

Bitter disappointment awaits the Hitlerites. The freedom-loving nations have not raised the banner of irreconcilable struggle against the deadliest enemy of humanity—against Hitlerite gangster imperialism—for the purpose of allowing the henchmen of the German fascists to desecrate with their dirty hands the hard-won victory.

The Teheran Conference inspired the nations with confidence in victory and unveiled before them the prospects of a lasting and stable peace. The fruitful results of the Teheran Conference give every ground for hope that the great Allied powers, on whom rests the chief responsibility both for the achievement of victory and for the organization of postwar peace, will cope with their historical task, and in companionship and collaboration with all freedom-loving nations will achieve lasting and stable peace and security for all of freedom-loving mankind.

SPECIAL SESSION OF LENINGRAD UNIVERSITY

A special session commemorating the 125th anniversary of Leningrad University opened on November 15. Two hundred papers on various branches of science were read during the session.

A special exhibit acquainted visitors with records of former graduates, among whom were Vladimir Lenin, graduate of the Law School in 1891, the great Russian writers Nikolai Gogol, Ivan Turgenyev and Nikolai Chernyshevsky, and

the famous chemist Dmitri Mendeleev.

Today Leningrad University has 12 departments with 4,000 students. Among the lecturers are 30 members of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and 130 professors. The library, recently returned from bomb-shelters, contains three and one-half million volumes.

The Government has allotted two million rubles for restoration of buildings damaged by bombing and shelling.

Notes from Front and Rear

Schools and courses established at machine and tractor stations and on State farms will prepare 237,600 skilled operators for collective and State farm work in 1945. This number will include 192,000 tractor drivers and 34,000 combine operators. Special two-month refresher courses will also be held for 150,000 tractor drivers and 25,000 combine operators. Beginning the first of December, all agricultural educational institutes will give six-week courses for leaders of tractor brigades, who are largely responsible for the efficiency of every tractor and driver. It is expected that this large-scale training will insure a rich harvest in the coming year.

★

Launch races recently held in Zolotoi Rog Bay, Vladivostok, revealed the excellent training and skill of seamen and officers of the Soviet Pacific Fleet, who bettered their records for previous years.

★

A special construction trust for the restoration of Minsk, capital of Soviet Byelorussia, has been set up under the direction of architects Arkadi Mordvinov, Alexei Shchusev and Nikolai Kolli. Groups of skilled building workers are arriving in Minsk from various parts of Byelorussia, and 100,000 urban volunteers have already collected three million bricks and over 200,000 tons of metal scrap from the wreckage of the city.

★

More than two million mines left by the Germans and Rumanians in the orchards, vineyards and rural localities of Moldavia have been removed.

★

The Music and Drama Theater of the Front recently completed a cycle of 60 concerts in territory liberated by troops under Marshal Meretskov, including northern Norway, where the Soviet artists were warmly greeted. The theater, which followed the first wave of advancing troops, frequently gave performances in towns and villages while houses set on fire by the retreating Germans were still blazing.

Two hundred churches wrecked by the Germans in temporarily-occupied areas of the North Caucasus, the Crimea, Byelorussia and the Ukraine, have already been restored. Where the damage was not great, the work was done by the church members themselves.

★

Two Baltic Stormovik pilots, Lieutenants Udaltsov and Chikunov, recently sank a German transport off the Latvian coast. Chikunov's plane was crippled by German anti-aircraft fire and he was forced to land on the enemy-occupied shore. Udaltsov was unable to pick him up, as the hilly terrain afforded no possibility for a take-off. Instead he flew to his base, refilled and returned with a comrade. The Germans sent eight Focke-Wulf fighters against them. Although Stormoviks are not built for dog-fights, the Soviet fliers shot down two enemy craft. Udaltsov's plane was damaged and the controls failed to work. He rammed another Focke-Wulf, which crashed, killing its crew, while Udaltsov and his gunner bailed out. The five remaining German fighters pursued the Soviet fliers with machine-gun volleys, but they took shelter under the engine of the crashed plane. When the enemy finally cleared out, Lieutenant Chikunov emerged from the juniper bushes where he had been hiding. Soviet tanks broke into the area next morning and rescued the three fliers.

★

Lecocq's comic opera THE DAUGHTER OF MADAME ANGOT, had its one thousandth performance at the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater in Moscow on November 18.

★

In two months workers and specialists of Soviet steel and iron plants submitted 3,500 rationalization suggestions, application of which will effect an economy of 35 million rubles. Twelve hundred of the suggestions have already been put into effect. Proposals of workers Klyukin and Avrutin for mechanization of the difficult process of removing ashes from boilers of the Moscow central power station will save 400,000 rubles.

Collective farmers of a number of villages in Eastern Siberia have begun the study of English. The first English language circle was formed on the New Life collective farm in the Cheremkhovo district. In the Irkutsk district 40 farmers signed up for English classes. Teachers and textbooks are provided by the city and district departments of education.

★

The Order of Lenin has been conferred upon Rear Admiral Ivan Papanin, Director of the Chief Administration of the Northern Sea Route, for successful execution of Government assignments, skilled direction of work in the development of the Northern Sea Route, and on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

★

Estonian steamship lines are again operating. During wartime the merchant fleet of Soviet Estonia carried urgent cargoes for the front and aided in the defense of Leningrad. Estonian seamen have distinguished themselves in the war. Some entered the Estonian National Corps; others, stranded in blockaded Leningrad, became shipyard workers, building small craft for the Baltic Fleet. Hundreds of others helped construct the famous ice road across Lake Ladoga. Many Estonians wear the medal "For the Defense of Leningrad."

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 126

Washington, D. C., December 7, 1944



In Southern Hungary

By D. Skulshin and V. Kuprin
PRAVDA War Correspondents

Again the winding Danube has been crossed by our troops. And each time the leap across this formidable water barrier has been an example of outstanding military skill and daring.

A column of our tireless infantrymen were picking their way along the muddy roads.

"What kind of climate is this anyway?" a young fellow grumbled. "Rain in the beginning of December and mud up to your knees? You won't find this in my home town on the Volga."

"That's nothing, my good friend," his tall neighbor broke in, with a grin. "Last spring, when we advanced on Odessa, the mud there was what you call mud—with a capital M! Of course the ground there is richer than here in Hungary."

The conversation between the soldiers continued. They talked of their native towns and villages, their work on the collective farm, the Russian winters with their heavy snowstorms and bright dawns. From behind, someone shouted an order to swing off to the right.

Heavily-loaded trucks rolled past the column, splashing mud in all directions. They had field guns in tow—their long barrels bobbing up and down as if greeting the infantry.

The troops moved in a continuous stream in the direction from which the thunder of a new battle grew steadily in volume. The Germans and Hungarians were doing their best to block the road to the interior of Hungary, to win time to build a new defense line and bring up fresh reserves.

Furious battles broke out along the roads, on commanding elevations and in populated places. The German and Hungarian forces launched counter-attacks time after time, leaving behind covering

parties for rear-guard action and setting up ambushes. Our forces smashed the enemy resistance with consecutive crushing blows, inflicting new defeats on the Germans and Hungarians with swift and skillfully executed flanking maneuvers.

The enemy is suffering heavy losses in manpower and materiel. Prisoner Oberleutnant Hans von Bitenau stated that only about 10 men remained in each battalion of the Reichs Grenadier Division after five days of fighting. This division lost nearly all its junior officers and a greater part of its artillery and vehicles.

"We were in action in Italy for a long time," Hans von Bitenau said, "but the fighting there was nothing compared to what we've been through here. The Russians have broken through our defense lines and are fearlessly pushing on without let-up. We left strong covering parties behind to block their progress, but the Russians moved along secret roads, skirted our covering parties and attacked them from behind. Our soldiers who are caught in these sacks understand that resistance is useless, and they surrender."

There are already several thousand German and Hungarian prisoners, officers and men, collected on the right bank of the Danube. New columns of prisoners continue to arrive from the west. Demolished and abandoned vehicles and wagons of the enemy may be seen everywhere. German cavalry horses with severed traces still roam in the fields. Evidence of rout and hasty retreat may be seen at every stop. Near a road stands a German battery of four guns which apparently tried to occupy a firing position, but did not have time to finish the job. Several bodies of German soldiers lie near the guns; they had tried to resist the oncoming Soviet troops. The rest of the German gun crews were now shuffling eastward in the columns of war prisoners.

After seizing a number of important roads, our forces swiftly advanced to the north and west. They passed the farms of German and Hungarian kulaks and the country homes of rich merchants and factory owners. They also moved past the low huts of Serbian peasants, who were clad in ragged, homespun garb.



Soviet anti-tank gun crew firing under cover of a smoke screen

Radiophoto

Here was a large farm with a stockyard and poultry pens surrounded by wire fences. An old man wearing wooden shoes, patched pantaloons, a torn jacket and high sheepskin hat came up to the gate. He explained that this farm belonged to a German settler who had two sons fighting on the Russian front; both of them were killed there.

"I worked on his farm together with two Russian prisoners," the old man said. "As soon as they heard you were coming, the Russians ran away to join you. The owner was furious and threatened to hunt them down and hang them. But he just managed to get away himself. He never expected you to advance so fast."

"And how about you, grandpa? What do you think about our swift advance?" a young Soviet infantryman asked.

"All I can say is that I'm glad to see you. May God help you to pay back in full for yourselves and us. Just think, that snake who lived here"—the aged man pointed to the massive brick house—"that German spider, sucked blood and sweat out of us Serbs. And then, in the beginning of the war, his sons sent him boxes with stolen property from Russia. They were heavy boxes. I had to carry them from the station."

We came up to the brick house; the doors were open. Chaos reigned inside. Drawers and closets were wide open and the floors strewn with notebooks, contracts and other papers. The barns were full of grain, and many barrels with wine were left in the cellar. The owner had obviously "evacuated" in a great hurry.

"It looks like he got away this time,"

our sergeant muttered through his teeth, when the tommy gunners came back after searching the house and farm buildings. "But don't worry, grandpa, we'll catch that German settler and others like him."

This deep confidence of our officers and men is strengthened by the course and speed of our military operations. Soviet mobile troops are driving the Germans and Hungarians out of their positions and capturing more and more towns, villages and communication centers. After straddling highways and railroads, our forces fan outward in several directions, by-pass the enemy resistance pockets and strike hard from the rear. Daily the troops of the Third Ukrainian Front penetrate deeper into the territory of southern Hungary.

The Offensive in Czechoslovakia

By A. Rostkov, *Pravda* War Correspondent

There is a traffic jam of motor vehicles, carts and soldiers at the approaches to Michalovce which was liberated several days ago. Past us the Laborec River flows swiftly and angrily; its muddy waters carry away logs, stumps, trees and the debris of wooden structures. The roar of the autumn torrent seems to find an accompaniment in the icy wind howling from the mountain tops. Pontoon bridges sway on the water and it seems that at any moment the angry waves will tear them down and rush them away into the murky distance.

Once safely across the river, everybody hurries out of Michalovce to where the battle for Czechoslovakia is raging in ankle-deep mud in the same icy wind. Soviet units gain ground steadily and reach the next river, the Ondava. Here they are confronted with still greater difficulties. A month ago the Germans built hurried defenses to stop our troops from reaching the vital centers of Czechoslovakia. The enemy is endeavoring to benefit by the high autumn waters as much as possible. He is blowing up all the bridges and mining the land.

Each kilometer won in this mud represents a heroic exploit on the part of thousands of Soviet soldiers. And in this difficult advance to the West, they are find-

ing encouragement in the warm support of the liberty-loving Slovak people. When you enter this small country, one of the constituent parts of Czechoslovakia, you immediately become aware of the special respect and esteem of the inhabitants. No wounded man is allowed to go unattended. The people take the wounded into their homes, dress their wounds and nurse them as though they were long-lost members of the family.

The Slovaks have suffered too much at the hands of the Germans and rapacious Magyars during recent years. In the little Slovak village of Reveste, a peasant woman, Anna Borza, told us with tears and indignation how the Germans had confiscated her horse, cows and pigs, had eaten all her geese and chickens, and had carried off nearly her whole supply of wheat. Thousands of young Slovaks have been driven into bondage in Germany. Many are pining in concentration camps and prisons while those who could no longer stand the fascist reign of terror took to the woods and mountains.

I spent a night in a poor peasant's hut in the village of Velikie Zaluzhcy. The owner, a middle-aged man working in a brewery, his wife and children welcomed us like near and dear relatives, told us how many sleepless nights they had spent

under the open sky in hiding from the Germans.

Men had spent a whole week in a haystack for fear of the Hitlerites, venturing forth only at twilight and eating only dry bread. The German command had issued an order driving the population into the interior of the country. The Slovaks did not obey this order, for their eyes were turned to the East in hope and expectation. Therefore they hid. The Germans punished those who disobeyed the decree and turned many cottages in the Slovak regions into ruins.

The Slovaks are welcoming the Soviet troops with sincere and profound joy. They are doing everything in their power to help in this difficult offensive. In one village, the inhabitants hid in a stone cellar during a battle. However, on seeing the first Soviet tommy gunners who had broken through, they all came out to welcome the liberators. These people were dirty and exhausted by their long stay in the dark, but their national ribbon was neatly pinned with pride on each chest.

Hundreds of people carrying bundles and leading children, exhausted and frozen, are coming along the roads towards the stream of troops. After long wanderings they are returning to their cities and villages to build a new, free life.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE USSR— GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRACY

By P. Tumanov

Eight years ago, on December 5, 1936, the new Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was adopted. This new Constitution came to be called by the people the Stalin Constitution, and rightly so, for Stalin was its initiator and also personally directed the work of the drafting commission and the commission which worded the final text.

Furthermore, it was under Stalin's leadership that the great victories of the Soviet people embodied in the Constitution were achieved.

The new Constitution, which was adopted by the Extraordinary Eighth Congress on December 5, 1936, is a document worded with great precision and clarity. It defines the fundamental rights and political liberties of the citizens of the USSR, and marked a new stage in the development of the Soviet Socialist State as a democratic political system.

The new Constitution invested the citizens of the Soviet Union with broad political rights and democratic liberties: it guarantees their right to work, to rest and leisure, to education, to maintenance in old age, sickness and loss of capacity to work, and the right to unite in public organizations, as well as inviolability of person and home and privacy of correspondence.

All Soviet citizens enjoy equal rights, irrespective of their nationality or race, property or professional status, sex, education or social origin.

A distinguishing feature of this Constitution is that it does not confine itself to defining the formal rights of citizens, but stresses the guarantees of these rights, and the means by which they can be exercised. It does not merely proclaim democratic liberties, but insures them by legislatively providing material means for their enjoyment.

Constitution Day is an annual holiday in the Soviet Union and a reminder that consistent democracy, developed to the full, has triumphed in the USSR.

What is the essential feature of Soviet democracy? It is that the working people in their millions have a share in the ad-

ministration of their State, that the country is governed by the people themselves through Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

The Constitution establishes that the Soviets of Working People's Deputies constitute the political foundation of the USSR, and that all power belongs to the working people of town and country as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies. In other words, the Soviets are organs of State power and the working people of the USSR—workers and intelligentsia—directly administer the affairs of the State through the Soviets.

The Soviets—from the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, as the highest organ of State authority, down to the rural Soviets as organs of State authority in localities—are the true vehicles of State power.

The Soviets of Working People's Deputies are democratic organs. They are elected by all citizens of the USSR—men and women who have reached the age of 18, irrespective of race or nationality, re-

ligion, education, residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities—with the exception of insane persons and persons who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights.

Elections are by electoral areas, on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage and secret ballot.

The composition of the membership of the Soviets and the fact that no limiting qualifications are placed on the right of people to vote is a vivid practical demonstration of the principles of Soviet democracy.

The number of deputies elected to all the Soviets—the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Supreme Soviets of the Union and Autonomous Republics and the rural Soviets—in the years 1938-1940 exceeded 1,400,000. Between 98 and 99 per cent of the electorate took part in voting, and some 20 million persons, representing public organizations and working peoples' societies sat on the electoral commissions which supervised the elections.

The Constitution establishes equality of suffrage for men and women, and women hold an honorable place in all Soviets. There are 227 women in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, 1,525 women in the Supreme Soviets of the Union and Autonomous Republics, and 456,673 women in the local Soviets. In other words, over 458,000 women have a direct share in the administration of the State, which represents 33 per cent of the total number of deputies.

The Constitution declares that equality of rights of citizens of the USSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, State, cultural, social and political life, is an indefeasible law. Any direct or indirect restriction of rights of, or conversely, any establishment of direct or indirect privileges, for citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness, or hatred or contempt, is punishable by law.

(Continued on page six)



Hero of the Soviet Union Mikhail Markheyev, son of the Buryat-Mongolian people

The National Anthem of the Soviet Union

Maestoso

Music by A. V. Alexandrov

1. Со - юз не - ру - шн - мый рес.
Un - brea - ka - ble U - nion of

руб - лнх сво - бод - ных сплo - ти - ла на ве - ки ве.
free born Re - pu - blics Great Rus - sia has weld - ed for

ли - ка - я Русь да здра - ству - ет со - зда - нный
e - ver to stand Cre - at ed in strug - gle by

во - лей на - ро - да
will of the peo - ple

вет - ский Со - юз!
So - vi - et land

те - че ства
Mo - therland

бод - но
dy - ing

Unbreakable Union of freeborn Re-
publics,
Great Russia has welded forever to
stand;
Created in struggle by will of the
peoples,
United and mighty, our Soviet Land!

Sing to our Motherland, glory undying,
Bulwark of peoples in brotherhood
strong!
Flag of the Soviets, peoples' flag flying.
Lead us from vict'ry to victory on!

Through tempests the sunrays of free-
dom have cheered us,
Along the new path where great Lenin
did lead,
Be true to the people, thus Stalin
reared us,
Inspired us to labor and valorous deeds

... ний: мо - ру - чий Со -
... ed and miqh - ty our

деж - ный б - лот! Зна - мя со
bro - therhood strong! Flag of the

... са о -
... to our

вет - ско - е, Зна - 'мя на -
So - vi-ets peo - ples flag

... ше со -
... ру un -

род - но - е пусть от по - бе - ды к по - бе - де ве - дет! 2. Схватъ//
fly - ing lead us from vic - try to vic - to - ry on! 2. through

к . бы на - ро - дов на -
l - wark of peo - ples in

... пусть от по - бе - ды к по - бе - де ве - дет!
lead us from vic - try vic - to - ry on!

to our Motherland, glory undying,
Bulwark of peoples in happiness strong!
Flag of the Soviets, peoples' flag flying,
Lead us from vict'ry to victory on!

Our Army grew up in the heat of grim
battle,
Barbarian invaders we'll swiftly strike
down;
In combat the fate of the future we
settle,
Our country we'll lead to eternal renown!

Sing to our Motherland, glory undying,
Bulwark of peoples in glory so strong!
Flag of the Soviets, peoples' flag flying,
Lead us from vict'ry to victory on!

Russian lyrics by Sergei Mikhalkov and El Registan
Translated by H. Marshall

SOVIET CONSTITUTION

(Continued from page three)

The equality of the nationalities of the USSR is vividly reflected in the national affiliations of the deputies to the Supreme Soviets. National equality is also reflected in the fact that the Supreme Soviet of the USSR consists of two Chambers: the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities. Both Chambers have equal rights; both have equal right to initiate legislation, and the members of both Chambers are elected for a term of four years. The Soviet of the Union is elected on the basis of one deputy for every 300,000 of the population. The Soviet of Nationalities is elected on the basis of 25 deputies from each Union Republic, eleven deputies from each Autonomous Republic, five deputies from each Autonomous Region, and one deputy from each National Area, irrespective of size or population of the Republic, Region or Area.

The present deputies to the Supreme Soviet belong to 64 different nationalities; deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic to 37 nationalities; deputies to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to eight; deputies to the Byelorussian Republic to nine; to the Azerbaijan Republic to 16; to the Georgian Republic to 11; and to the Uzbek Republic to 19.

The same diversity of national make-up characterizes the Supreme Soviets of other Union and Autonomous Republics. For example, the national affiliation of the deputies of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic is as follows: 123 Turkmen, 69 Russians, 11 Uzbeks, seven Ukrainians, three Kazakhs, three Jews, two Tatars and one each from the Azerbaijanian, Armenian, Byelorussian, Georgian, Kirghiz, Mordovian, Turkish and Chuvash nationalities.

The make-up of the local Soviets is similarly multi-national. Deputies to the territorial and regional Soviets belong to 51 different nationalities; to the district Soviets to 83 nationalities; to the city Soviets and city district Soviets to 68; to the rural Soviets to 85.

An interesting feature is that the proportion of deputies to local Soviets belonging to each nationality is roughly equal to the proportion of the total number of members of that nationality to the



Radiophoto
Hero of the Soviet Union Lieutenant Commander A. Sverdlov, who commands a detachment of torpedo cutters

total population of the USSR. For example, Russians constitute 58.4 per cent of the total population, while the number of Russian deputies to local Soviets constitutes 55.5 per cent of the total number of deputies. Corresponding figures for the Ukrainians are 16.6 per cent and 17.6 per cent; Georgians, 1.3 and 1.6 per cent; Turkmen, 0.5 and 0.6 per cent, and similarly for the other nationalities.

The Stalin Constitution is an embodiment of the unshakable friendship that binds the multi-national peoples of the Soviet Union. All this shows convincingly that the organs of State power in the Soviet Union are genuinely democratic; that it is governed by the people themselves.

But this does not exhaust the essential character of Soviet democracy. Through the Soviets and through their professional organizations, the Soviet people—workers, collective farmers, office employees, engineers, technicians, agronomists, doctors, teachers and other workers by hand or brain—take an active part in the public and political life of the State, and, in time of war, in the effort to defeat the enemy.

This is the fourth successive year that the Soviet Union celebrates its Constitution Day in the midst of the Patriotic War against the German-fascist invaders. War in general is a searching test of states and peoples, of the stability of the political system of the belligerent countries. The Soviet Union has stood the test of war with credit.

When they attacked the Soviet Union, the Nazis counted on the Soviet system being unstable, and believed that after the first serious blow and the first reverses suffered by the Red Army, conflicts would break out between workers

and farmers, quarrels would begin among the peoples of the USSR, uprisings would occur and the country would fall to pieces. But the Germans sadly miscalculated. The reverses of the Red Army at the beginning of the war did not weaken but only served to strengthen both the alliance of workers and farmers and the friendship of the peoples of the USSR.

The fight put up by the Soviet people and its Army against the German invaders in the three and one-half years of war is a striking confirmation of the stability and firmness of the Soviet system, and of the friendship that binds the peoples of the USSR.

As Stalin said, "It is not only military defeat that the Hitlerites have sustained in this war, but moral and political defeat as well. The ideology of equality of all races and nations which has taken firm root in our country, the ideology of friendship among the peoples, has emerged completely victorious over the Hitlerite ideology of bestial nationalism and racial hatred."

The Soviet people are heroically defending against the fascist barbarians their political rights and democratic liberties established in the Constitution of the USSR. The immense significance of the new Soviet Constitution of 1936 is not confined to the Soviet Union; it is international. In his speech introducing the Draft Constitution at the Congress of Soviets, Stalin said that it would be an indictment of fascism, inasmuch as it testified that socialism and democracy are invincible, and that the new Constitution would be a moral support and a real backing to all who were combating fascist barbarism. The whole course of events has corroborated this statement.

The people of the world who are faithful to the democratic principle have united to form a single camp against fascism, that malignant foe of mankind.

The peoples of the Soviet Union are united under the banner of the Stalin Constitution, and led and inspired by their great leader and teacher, Marshal Stalin, have been and will be in the foremost ranks of the United Nations in the fight for the earliest defeat and complete destruction of Hitlerism, and the establishment of enduring peace on earth, for the happiness and prosperity of nations.

TRIPS THROUGH FRITZLAND

By Ilya Ehrenburg

The Flaxen-haired Witch

The commander of the "Nord" German army group issued the following order to his soldiers, "Ilya Ehrenburg is urging the Asiatic peoples to drink the blood of German women. Ilya Ehrenburg insists that Asiatics should enjoy our women. 'Take the flaxen-haired women; they are your prey,' he says. Ilya Ehrenburg is arousing the lowest instincts of the steppe. He who retreats is a black-guard, for German soldiers are now defending their own wives."

At one time the Germans used to forge documents of state importance. They have now reached the stage of forging my articles. The quotations the German general attributes to me betray their author; only a German is capable of inventing such abominable things.

The Germans are professional rapists, lechers of considerable experience, hereditary sensualists. They have defiled all Europe. It is futile for this general to assert that we are going to Germany for German females. We are not drawn by their Gretchens, but by those Fritzes who insulted our women, and we say plainly that we will have no mercy on those Germans. As for the German women, they evoke only one feeling—disgust. We despise them, because they are the mothers, wives and sisters of hangmen. We despise them because they wrote to their sons, husbands and brothers, "Send your doll a pretty fur coat." We despise them because they are thieves and decoys.

We need none of these flaxen-haired hyenas. We are going to Germany for something different—for Germany. And that particular flaxen-haired witch will not get off easily.

Optimists and Pessimists

A certain Willi Klein, living in Berlin, is indubitably a born humorist. But since humor in Germany savors of the gallows at present, Willi Klein's letter to Hans Herl is of a somewhat gloomy turn. I quote the most interesting part: "Perhaps, friend Hans, you still doubt the

movement of the earth. It revolves; this is a fact; it revolves at such a rate that our heads go round. I am not talking now about the changes in our city and its entire architectural style. I remember the plans of crazy people in 1933, when they suggested doing away with everything and building skyscrapers. The first part of their program has been realized. But this is the least essential part. Changes are taking place in people's minds, too: Michel's brain, which seemed immobile, is revolving. Do you remember the way everybody used to say that one had to reconcile oneself to the hardships of war and that true happiness would come after victory? Now they say that one had better enjoy the war, or perhaps things will be worse later on. And little Velemeck persuades Berta to give in to him because, 'Anyway, you're still here.' When we used to go to the Adolferhaus people were always arguing whether the war was going to be over soon or not. The optimists said by New Year, the pessimists said by

Whitsuntide. Now it is the optimists who say it will be over by Whitsuntide and the pessimists who say by the New Year! You remember, very likely, how Richard began learning Russian that winter before the Eastern campaign. I told him then that he was wrong, because we would finish with England first.

"And now people make jokes about optimists learning English and pessimists learning Russian. But I've kept the biggest sensation for the last; day before yesterday a scoundrel from the *Berliner Illustrierte* informed me in the strictest secrecy that he wasn't a German but a Dane. Perhaps you're a Frenchman after all? And perhaps I'm an Argentinian? To cut a long story short, we are all in for a pretty bad *katzenjammer*."

The exact translation of *katzenjammer* is "cat's misfortune," which means a hangover. I don't know the origin of this German word; cats don't go in for drinking bouts. But the Germans have certainly been on a spree. Now they are feeling the effects. What sort of hangover will this spree leave them?

First Lessons

Hebert Blenz, German soldier, hadn't time to send off his letter to his wife before he was killed. His epistle was full of gloomy presentiments; in September he already understood that the frontier line would prove no check to the Red Army. As a superman of pure blood he feared not so much for his wife as for his rubbishy possessions. "Unfortunately it isn't altogether out of the question that the Russians may come to East Prussia. I am very worried about our things. It's no use taking them anywhere, because there are no safe spots anywhere in Germany now. You'd better do this: dig a pit under the big apple tree and bury everything in it."

I don't know what happened afterward with Frau Blenz's things. But I know the fate of the goods belonging to the Krohl family, who lived in Eastern Germany. "That evening we started to pack up. Two trunks were finished and covered



Red Army artillerymen preparing to fire a special task gun

with old blankets sewn firmly around them, when the sirens sounded. My wife started to cry, 'All our things will be ruined. Perhaps we'll have time to take them to the cellar.' But it was too late. We ran to the bomb shelter and found it had been smashed up four days ago. Our house was on fire. . . . The whole Kreizerallee has gone. Beginning from the Northern railway station, Steidamm, Hintertregheim, Mitteltregheim, Hinterros-garten, Vovder, Sogvten, Angarstrasse, Yorkstrasse, Sackheim, Neumarkt, Franzoesische Strasse, Theaterplatz, Wilhelmplatz Opera, Wasserstrasse and other places were wholly destroyed. There's neither light nor gas nor water. Telephone and trams are not working. . . . Now we've nothing. All that my wife has left is a pair of bloomers and a chemise; the rest is burned. . . ."

Frau Krohl no doubt dreamed in her time of Russian sables. She had better be thankful that she has at least saved her bloomers from the wreck. We remember Gomel. We remember Chernigov. We remember Minsk. The Germans have only put their lips to the cup of retribution, and the cup is a deep one and they'll drain it to the dregs.

Marta Stank writes her husband from Breslau, "We've all lost our heads with fright. They say that everything has gone crazy in East Prussia. An official from Koenigsberg crushed a woman with child and it turned out that he had gone mad. People are running away, abandoning everything. It is an anxious time here, too. They try to calm us with talk of the Russians being a long way off still; that they are 200 kilometers away—but I can tell you that this is only talk, because they must have come a thousand kilometers and I don't think they'll be checked. And that will be the end of everything, and what will become of our snug little nest?"

One should learn to modulate one's voice. If the Germans howl when we are still 200 kilometers away, what will they do when we are only two kilometers from them? After all, we are still only in the frontier cities and these are the first lessons. The real teaching lies ahead of them.

The Photographer

An Oriental sage has said, "Misfortunes come because good people forget the evil-doing of the bad, and bad people remember the good nature of the good." Germans of various types living outside, German Social-Democrats and ordinary scoundrels, are obviously counting on our forgetfulness. One of them writes in his defense, "Responsibility for the crime committed by a handful of Gestapo officials cannot be thrown on the German people or the German army. The army had nothing whatever to do with these depredations."

Take Kurt Ley, Obergefreiter in the Second Regiment, Fourth Air Division. This is no Gestapo official. This is a modest Fritz, above suspicion. He was engaged in most proper and decent work: developing films in a laboratory. He talks of developer and fixative, and, as may be supposed, he is against Hitler.

Only his diary gave him away; with pedantic regularity he noted down how many people he had shot. This lean and polite German, a cinema mechanic before the war, had shot and burned over 1,200 Soviet people.

"I had nothing to do directly with guarding war prisoners. I had to shoot them in my spare time, because my main job kept me in the photo laboratory. In company with Obergefreiter Kaalsveld I shot 577 prisoners, and 250 (roughly) by myself. I shot 92 civilians. The rest were shot by me together with my platoon. I wrote down the number so as not to forget. I didn't think about why I was writing it down. I received orders and carried them out. If anything, these shootings disgusted me with their monotony. . . ."

The reader may imagine that this Kurt Ley, when shootings disgusted him, yelled, "Down with Hitler!" as he does now that he is a prisoner. But, no! When his disgust at shootings became too much for him he varied the monotony by killing people in a more refined way. "In the village of Dubrovka we found 55 persons suspected of being in touch with guerrillas. They were destroyed. Fifteen were women and the rest men. We burned down that village. I personally burned down 28 houses. I burned 64 Russians,

and of course there were some children among them, because there was no question of sorting them. But I never shot at people who were lying down. Whenever wounded or other sick people had to be destroyed, they were always supported by others."

This time good people will not forget the evil-doing of the bad. The Red Army men who have fought their way into Germany will not forget the modest photographer, Kurt Ley. Let the defenders of the "poor Germans" sing like nightingales if they wish, but we have heard the last death cry of little children and we are not to be charmed by the roulades of their contemptible advocates.

Looted Property Returned to Odessa

The first shiploads of Soviet property carried away by the Rumanians during the occupation of southern Soviet areas arrived in Odessa on November 25, from the port of Constanza. The large quantity of industrial and other equipment taken from Soviet factories, institutes and individuals included 200 lathes from the Odessa Kinap plant, which manufactured motion-picture cameras. Some of the lathes still bore Soviet trademarks. Scenery and costumes from the Odessa Opera and Ballet Theater, and other equipment, including the mechanism of the revolving stage, were also returned.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 127

Washington, D. C., December 9, 1944



In the Far North

In the extreme North of the Soviet Union the mountains no longer shake to the thunder of battle; German planes no longer dive on fishing trawlers; trains speed safely over the restored Murmansk railway; air-raid sirens no longer howl in the Arctic cities.

On the steep sides of the mountains one still sees lines of trenches, blindages and dugouts built of stone and ferro-concrete. Narrow canyons are still barred by barbed-wire entanglements. Low clouds hang over the earth. The mountains are thickly blanketed with snow and the wind roars through the gorges. Even in summer there is wintry cold here.

This is the Soviet North. For 40 months Soviet troops fought here. In September, 1941, the German army commander announced that before winter the German alpine troops would hold a parade of victory in the streets of Murmansk, capital of the Soviet Arctic. In a decisive battle 12,000 picked German troops were wiped out and many scores of thousands wounded or taken prisoner. That battle was fought in a valley on the bank of the Zapadnaya Litsa River. The Germans themselves called it the "valley of death." In that valley the Hitlerite "heroes" of Narvik met their doom.

For three years the Germans continued to reinforce their defenses on captured Arctic territory. They built solid strong-points on numerous mountains and hills, surrounded them with barbed wire and minefields, striving to convert every hill into an impregnable fortress. And now not a single German remains in the Soviet North.

The victory of the Soviet troops in the North was the result of the skill of the Soviet Command, of the splendid training of Soviet troops and the gallantry of officers and men. They overcame hardships unparalleled in the history of wars, smashed the entire German Northern

Army and compelled its remnants to flee to the Norwegian hinterland.

But what most stunned the enemy was the appearance of large Soviet tank forces. The German command believed that tanks could not be used in the mountainous Arctic areas. The performance of Russian tanks here was truly brilliant. Together with the infantry and artillery, they smashed the strongest German defenses.

In the North even the food freezes solid in the kettles; the lubricating oil of weapons also freezes. Dugouts are buried by blizzards. The Russian soldier in the Arctic has experienced all these things and overcome them. Not only individual soldiers, but entire regiments and divisions, have won ringing fame in the Far North. It is impossible to list the names of all the heroes of the Arctic, but they will be recognized everywhere for their gallant defense of the northernmost position of the gigantic, 2,000-mile-long Soviet-German front.

At the request of the People's Commissariat of Defense, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has instituted a medal "For the Defense of the Soviet Arctic." This medal will be awarded to all participants in the defense of the Soviet Arctic—servicemen of the Red Army and Navy and the troops of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, as well as civilians who took a direct part in the defense.

Servicemen will be decorated on the recommendations of their unit commanders and civilians on the recommendation of the Murmansk Regional and City Soviets.

The medal "For the Defense of the Soviet Arctic" bears a bas relief bust of a Red Army man in a sheepskin coat and fur cap with earflaps, holding a tommy gun. In the background are outlines of a warship and in the upper part silhouettes of planes. Below appears a design of tanks. The medal is worn on a blue ribbon bordered in white, with a green stripe in the center.



Norwegian motorboats fly their national flag in Kirkenes port, which was liberated by Soviet troops

Radiophoto

SOVIET PATRIOTISM

By Nikolai Tikhonov

The charred ruins of cities and villages no longer smoke on Soviet territory. No single enemy remains on the territory of the Soviet Union—except in one spot, where, burned from the land, air and sea, remnants of the German hordes are suffocating in flames.

The land of our fathers and ancestors, the sacred land of toil and peace, freely breathes around us. Its finest sons have shed their blood for it. Our motherland has risen immeasurably in the past 27 years. She has unveiled her boundless riches, unknown to many who came before us. She has revealed her natural resources to the industrious workers and explorers. She has spread her shining glory over the world.

But the greatest miracle in this rejuvenated country is the gallant new Soviet people. The great Russian people rallied the soldiers of the numerous peoples of the Soviet Union, and against this wall the enemy spearhead crashed. Soviet patriotism has found its expression in the heroic exploits of hundreds of thousands of Soviet soldiers, in the untiring and enthusiastic work on the battlefields and on the home front.

Heroic is the deed of the sapper who has traveled thousands of miles over the roads of war and rendered tens of thousands of mine traps harmless at the risk of his life. This heroism is also seen in the modest labors of the railwaymen who, advancing abreast of the Army, have restored 22,000 miles of main railway lines damaged by the Germans, 2,500 railway stations and 7,000 bridges.

Soviet patriotism inspired the famous locomotive engineer, Nikolai Lunin, to purchase with his private savings a trainload of coal and deliver it to Stalingrad, driving the engine which to him is as dear as a warhorse to an ancient knight.

Neither rain, wind, snow or heat can check the intense efforts of the Soviet people. While the construction of the first blast furnace of Magnitogorsk required 18 months in the first Stalin Five-Year Plan, the sixth blast furnace was built in wartime in eight months. In the first six months of 1944, Urals indus-

try produced as much metal as during all of 1940, the last prewar year.

Miner Yegor Devyatkin completed his annual plan as early as May; Tatyana Yurchenko, a working woman in a Urals ammunition plant, turned out 70,000 shells above the plan. This otherwise not unusual Soviet woman has hurled a rain of fire upon the enemy. Soviet patriotism is expressed in countless deeds, great and small, inspired by selfless militant enthusiasm.

Let us turn again to the great epic of Leningrad. Certain figures will tell the story more vividly than lengthy descriptions. Under bombs and shells, suffering from hunger and sleepless nights, Leningrad citizens built 15,000 blockhouses, 250 miles of walls, 200 miles of forest booms, dug 300 miles of anti-tank ditches and erected 20 miles of barricades in the streets and squares of the city.

The men of the Leningrad Front and the seamen of the Baltic Fleet killed, wounded, or took prisoner over one million enemy officers and men, seized or destroyed 9,000 German planes, 2,100 tanks, over 14,000 guns and mortars, and more than 90,000 machine guns, Tommy guns and rifles. The seamen sank enemy ships totaling 1,800,000 tons.

These are figures of struggle and victory. They vividly illustrate Soviet patriotism. A price of sweat and blood, of tremendous sacrifice and strain, was paid in these efforts; but all the sacrifices are fully justified by our present great victories.

The evil mission of the Hitlerite cannibals has suffered utter fiasco. Gangsters of this world, bewail your lot! The conspiracy against mankind has failed disgracefully. Hitler's zoo is ablaze; its inmates are howling with all their might. Soon they will pounce upon each other, devouring their kind in a fury of despair. The end is inexorably approaching.

Today Soviet patriots are rendering aid to the European peoples in stamping out the Hitlerite plague. They have fought honestly for the freedom of mankind, and they are winning victory.



Senior Lieutenant of the Guards Peter P. Gavrilov, Hero of the Soviet Union, commander of a tank crew, won distinction in the fighting for Vitebsk



Lieutenant Colonel of the Guards Sergei P. Oleinikov, Hero of the Soviet Union, an airman, has flown 235 bombing missions

GERMANY BETWEEN TWO FRONTS

By Major General M. Galaktionov

From WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, Number 23:

The Teheran Conference held a year ago was an important historical landmark in the process of effectively uniting the war efforts of the great Allied powers. The practical realization of the plan worked out at Teheran for a concerted attack on Germany from the west, east and south, has had a decisive effect on the course of the war against Hitler Germany.

In the North the Red Army has dislodged the Germans from key positions in the Eastern Baltics and has entered Norway. On the central sector of the Soviet-German front the Red Army, by a series of powerful, brilliantly conceived and executed blows, has ousted the Germans from Soviet soil, set foot on German territory and reached the banks of the Narew and the Vistula. In the South the Red Army has eliminated Hitler's "Balkan fortress" and, crossing the Carpathians and the Transylvanian Alps, is pushing its offensive in Hungary; while our Allies are advancing in Greece, and in Italy are nearing the plains of Lombardy.

In the West the Anglo-American forces, having effected an unparalleled landing in Normandy and liberated France and Belgium by a masterly maneuver, have carried the front to Germany's borders.

Both in the East and West the Armies of the anti-Hitler coalition have set foot on German territory. As a result of the action of the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies, "Germany found herself gripped in a vise between two fronts." (*Stalin*). And this is the decisive factor for the final and complete defeat of Germany.

The Second World War, even more than the first, is characterized by the vast masses of men and materiel which each of the belligerent coalitions has brought into the field. In the case of an offensive on a single strategical sector, the defending side is in a position to concentrate his means and forces in that direction, to erect powerful fortified zones, and in the long run to stem the attacking forces. Consequently, in modern warfare, to achieve final victory a series of powerful offensive operations are necessary, aiming

at the enemy's vital centers and wearing down his strategical reserves.

At the beginning of the war fascist Germany enjoyed the indisputable, although temporary, advantage which is derived by the aggressor. Long before the outbreak of war Germany had mobilized her armed forces and industry. The peace-loving countries, on the other hand, although surpassing Germany in war potential, needed time in which to deploy it for action. The Hitlerite clique of course realized that their advantage was only temporary, and therefore hastened to derive the utmost benefit from it. Hence their reliance on the blitzkrieg, on highly mobile armament, and on an army whose principal quality was high maneuverability.

After Germany's treacherous attack on the Soviet Union, a powerful anti-Hitler coalition arose. But this was only the beginning: the unity of the coalition still had to be put into effect in order to bridle and crush the aggressor by means of powerful concerted attacks on Germany.

Meanwhile, Germany was still in the position to utilize her advantage. In 1942 the German armies were outside Murmansk, Leningrad and Moscow, at Stalingrad, in the foothills of the Caucasus, near Alexandria, in Tunisia and on the Atlantic Coast. Germany had considerably enlarged her conquests.

The strategical idea of the creation of two fronts in Europe was to bring the main forces of the three great Allied powers into action against Hitler Germany. This was the surest, and in fact, the only way to vanquish her. Delay in the execution of this measure was fraught with the gravest danger, inasmuch as Germany not only retained her initial advantage, but had even enhanced it by the seizure of new and rich territories.

In this crucial period of the Second World War the situation was saved by the brilliant action of the heroic Red Army, fighting the powerful enemy single-handed. The defeat of the Germans at Moscow, Stalingrad, Leningrad, the battle of Kursk, the forcing of the Dnieper, the liberation of the Ukraine and the Crimea, were all remarkable feats of heroism and

generalship which will hold a permanent place in the memory of civilized mankind. They were performed by the mighty Soviet people under the wise leadership of Marshal Stalin. The blood of heroes, the heavy sacrifices and titanic efforts of the Soviet people secured the delay which saved the situation and made it possible to create decisive conditions for the ultimate defeat of Germany.

Now that the two mighty fronts have reached the western and eastern regions of Germany, we should form a clear idea of the significance of this noteworthy fact.

The two fronts in Europe were not created at the outbreak of hostilities, as was the case in 1914, but in the concluding phase of the war. The chief aim of the two fronts in the First World War—namely, the wearing down of Germany's strategical reserves and material resources—was achieved in this war by the antecedent action of the Red Army and our Allies in the land and naval theaters of hostilities.

The flower of the German army was exterminated on Soviet soil, and it is being replaced by "supertotal" reserves and by the youths and old men of the Volkssturm. Now, when the moment of the decisive assault has come, Germany has lost nearly all her satellites and practically all the territory she conquered. The two fronts now represent the initial positions for the crowning and culminating assault on Hitler Germany from the West and East.

The Germans continue to maintain their main forces, amounting to about 200 divisions, on the Soviet-German front. The Hitlerites hoped with these forces to prevent any further advance of the Red Army. They hoped, with a comparatively limited force of some 75 divisions, to be able to stabilize the Western Front at the positions they held. They firmly reckoned that there would be no active operations by the United Nations on both fronts during the winter.

General Dietmar, in one of his recent reviews, said that there were "a number of strong counter-arguments against the view that autumn operations would be directly continued into the winter period." These "counter-arguments" were: climatic

difficulties, fogs which would hamper the action of aircraft, the heavy clay soil of the valley of the lower Rhine and of Lorraine, etc.

Liddell Hart, military commentator of the London *Daily Mail*, says that the Germans have approximately 80 divisions on the Western Front at the present moment. The increase has been entirely due to the newly-formed divisions of the Volksturm, and, as Hart says, the enemy's available forces are entirely inadequate for the long front he has to defend. There can be no doubt that this relation of forces on the Western Front has created the most favorable conditions for the successes achieved by the Allies and for the actions which revealed the skill and valor of the Allied troops.

We may be quite sure that the further development of concerted attacks on two fronts will compel the Germans to split up their forces still more and prevent them from massing large reserves on the sectors most dangerous for Germany.

Firm unity of the coalition, to be attained by concerted action on the two fronts, is one of the most important guarantees of complete victory over Germany at the earliest moment. One still encounters statements in the British and American press which are calculated to undermine the fighting fellowship of the freedom-loving nations. Constantine Brown, reviewer of the *Washington Star*,

for example, declared the other day that the actions of the Allies on the Western and Eastern Fronts were not coordinated and that the Soviet Union was not carrying out the decisions of the Teheran Conference. The Russians, he said, are not averse to delaying Germany's defeat, if they can thereby avoid heavy losses, by postponing the final offensive until the Germans are emaciated by their losses on the Western Front.

Of course, the ears of the enemy can be plainly seen sticking out from behind this libelous statement. For it is the Hitlerites' last hope that the Allies will act in disharmony and give them another chance to protract the war. But this hope is doomed to disappointment.

Naturally, the difficulty of the struggle against the fascist beast, which is prepared to defend its lair with the fury of desperation, cannot be overlooked. The difficulty is that the enemy still possesses considerable forces and means of defense and that he takes advantage of every delay to strengthen his positions. And, in fact, it is the mission of the two fronts under the present conditions to deprive Germany, by means of powerful concerted blows, of the opportunity of maneuvering her strategical reserves, and to develop the successes gained in the offensive on individual sectors for the vigorous and final defeat of the enemy. That is the only way to end the war victoriously in the shortest possible time.

A striking confirmation of this is the outstanding success of the offensives of the Red Army and our Allies this summer, when for the first time concerted attacks were delivered against Germany from the East and West. There can be no doubt that if these concerted blows are continued, the penetration of the enemy's defenses will be developed until the Germans' rear defense lines are completely broken, which under present conditions will mean that the war is won.

It is possible that a series of blows on different sectors will be necessary in order to smash the fortified fronts with which the Germans are protecting the roads to the heart of Germany. At the same time, the significance of two fronts in this decisive and culminating fight will steadily grow. In the battles that will be waged, Germany's last strategical reserves will be contained, and she will be deprived of the possibility of maneuvering not only from one front to another, but even from one sector to another of one and the same front. The complete containing and destruction of the German reserves will spell the final defeat of Germany.

Consequently, the key to victory lies in continuing to keep Germany gripped in the vise between the two fronts. This is fully realized by the freedom-loving nations, which are bending every effort to finish off the fascist beast at the earliest moment in his own lair.

General De Gaulle Visits Soviet Union

On December 6 the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, J. V. STALIN, had a conversation with the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, General CHARLES DE GAULLE.

Present at the conversation were the People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, V. M. MOLOTOV; the Ambassador of the USSR to France, BOGOMOLOV; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, BIDAULT; the Representative of the Provisional Government of the French Republic in the USSR, GARREAU, and the director of the Political Depart-

ment of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DE JEAN.

* * *

On December 6 the People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Molotov; the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, General De Gaulle, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, Bidault, attended a concert of the Red Banner Ensemble of Red Army Song and Dance at the Central Red Army Club.

The concert was also attended by Deputy People's Commissars of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Dekanozov, Lozov-

sky, and Litvinov; the Soviet Ambassador to France, Bogomolov; the Representative of the Provisional Government of the French Republic in the USSR, Garreau; Colonel General Golikov, heads of embassies and legations in Moscow, officials of the Soviet People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat of Defense, and representatives of the Soviet and foreign press.

The French and Soviet national anthems were played at the beginning of the concert, and the stage was decorated with French and Soviet flags. General De Gaulle, Molotov, and Bidault were warmly greeted by the audience.

LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POWER UNDER THE SOVIET CONSTITUTION

By Alexander Yuriev

The system of legislative and executive power has not remained unchanged throughout the period of historical development of the Soviet Union. The most important changes in the state structure were introduced by the present Constitution of 1936.

The Soviet system does not accept the principle of division of power. Of course, legislation and execution of laws in the USSR are in the hands of different bodies, whose competency is strictly limited by the Constitution. The executive authority, however, is in no way independent of the legislative authority, but is a body that is in the fullest sense subordinated to the legislature as the highest authority of state power. Subordination of all departments of the state to the latter body, which is directly elected by the people, is one of the chief principles of the Soviet system.

Legislation in the USSR is effected by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, which is elected for four years by secret ballot of all citizens of both sexes who have attained the age of 18, with the exception of insane persons and those deprived of their electoral rights by courts of law as punishment for some serious crime of which they have been found guilty.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR consists of two Chambers—the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities. In the first Chamber, the Republics which constitute the Union are proportionately represented, one deputy being elected for 300,000 people. The Soviet of Nationalities consists of members of the Soviet federation, including not only the constituent Republics of the Union (Union Republics), but also Autonomous Republics and Regions, and the National Areas included in them. Each Union Republic is represented by 25 deputies, each Autonomous Republic by 11, each Autonomous Region by five and each National Area by one.

The Russian Federative Republic with its over a hundred million inhabitants, and the Estonian Republic, with less than

a million, have an equal number of deputies in the Soviet of Nationalities.

Both Chambers have absolutely equal rights, neither having any advantages over the other. Any act of the Supreme Soviet must be endorsed by both Chambers.

The Supreme Soviet is the real supreme body of the Soviet State. It is the only authority which can make laws. It is the embodiment of the will of the whole people, but it is subordinated to the people, as sovereigns of the Soviet State. This subordination is guaranteed by the right of recall. A deputy to the Supreme Soviet can be recalled at any moment by his electors. This is an expression of the principle of Soviet democracy—that a "deputy is the servant of the people."

The Supreme Soviet meets twice yearly (in wartime it is called less often). Sessions of the Supreme Soviet are quite short. According to the Soviet Constitution, a deputy must not become a professional legislator or politician. Soviet deputies are workers, peasants, scientists, directors of factories, artists, writers and others, who after election continue to work in their factories and laboratories, and thus maintain real everyday contact with the masses and their needs, a connection which is necessary for good legislative work.

The highest authority in periods between sessions of the Supreme Soviet is the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet—which it selects from among its members. The Presidium consists of a chairman, a first vice chairman and 16 vice chairmen—one from each of the 16 Constituent Republics—and 24 members.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet has a number of important functions: it calls sessions of the Soviet, it ratifies or denounces international treaties, appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the USSR, declares war, proclaims martial law, awards decorations, exercises the right to pardon, etc.

Executive power in the USSR is vested in the Government of the USSR, the Council of People's Commissars, headed

by the chairman and his several assistants. This is a body of the highest executive authority. It is sufficient to say that the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars is Stalin, and that his first assistant is Molotov.

The Council of People's Commissars, however, is a body that is responsible to the Supreme Soviet and its Presidium. The Supreme Soviet appoints and recalls the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and the People's Commissars; in the period between sessions the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet fulfills these functions, but all acts of this nature must be later confirmed by the session of the Supreme Soviet. The Presidium and the Supreme Soviet may annul orders of the Council of People's Commissars.

This, in outline, is the structure of the legislative and executive authorities of the USSR. It may be summarized as follows: strictly limited legislative and executive functions, with all executive bodies subordinate and responsible to the Supreme Soviet, as the representative of the people.

Guerrilla Diary Published

One of the most famous of the Cossack guerrilla detachments was that under Commander Ignatov. It was composed entirely of intellectuals.

When the Germans reached the Kuban, professors, factory managers, scientists, engineers and economists left their desks and laboratories to learn from Ignatov how to apply their knowledge to the blowing up of bridges, derailing of troop trains and annihilation of enemy garrisons.

Ignatov's diary, *Notes of a Guerrilla*, is now being published. There is only one break in this diary. It occurs after the brief entry, "Today I can write nothing." On that day Ignatov lost his two sons, one a gifted engineer, the other still a student in an industrial school. The two young men sacrificed their lives to blow up a German troop train. After two days Ignatov's diary was resumed.

SCIENCE AND DEMOCRACY

By Academician Vladimir Komarov
President, Academy of Sciences of the USSR

In the early period of the Revolution, my older contemporary and friend, Klimenti Timiryazev, the great Russian naturalist, wrote a book that was warmly welcomed by the people and highly praised by Lenin. Its title was *Science and Democracy*.

These great words were Timiryazev's lifelong credo. When I think of him now, I can almost hear his wrathful voice condemning the enemy and see his joy at the victorious fighting partnership of the great democracies against fascism, that mortal threat to science and culture.

I should like to say a few words here about the democratic traditions of the three great powers. Democratic ideas animated English society when the modern English natural sciences developed. The Royal Society of London, scientific center of Europe, inscribed on its banner the motto, "Freedom for Scientific Creative Endeavour." Democratic ideas inspired Bacon, Newton, Faraday, Maxwell and Darwin.

International Ties of Russian Science

The ties between Russian and English science go far back into history. It is sufficient to recall the lively and fruitful response which Darwin's work met in Russia. Darwin himself followed with great interest the first steps of his brilliant group of followers in Russia. The history of Russian science has recorded a number of new trends that owe their origin to the ideas of Newton, Faraday and Maxwell.

On the other hand, great Russian scientists have on more than one occasion visited Cambridge to tell the British scientific world of their achievements—achievements that not only evoked friendly interest in England but stimulated new advances in science.

Today Great Britain and the Soviet Union are united in a common struggle and this alliance follows in the tradition of the great English and Russian scientists who have always been the champions of democracy and progress.

American natural science was freedom-loving from its very cradle. The epitaph of Benjamin Franklin, greatest American scientist of the eighteenth century, reads that he wrested lightning from the skies and power from the tyrants. It must be noted that nowhere were Franklin's experiments continued as extensively as in Russia, where Lomonosov developed the theory of atmospheric electricity.

The joint work of Russian and American scientists in exploring the Arctic coast and striving to bring Russia and the American continent closer led to major scientific discoveries.

The Arctic expeditions and the flights over the North Pole in our own times have demonstrated how much science can contribute to the rapprochement between the two great states.

Today new heroic deeds are being performed on the battlefields in the fight

against Hitlerism. American engineering has no minor services to its credit in the battle against Hitler. America is the land where engineering is based on the latest achievements in science and where science is inseparable from advanced engineering in its purpose. Thomas Edison, the great American scientist, was an engineer and inventor. The indissoluble ties between science and practice have enabled American industry to contribute formidable weapons to the common arsenal of the democratic states.

Efficiency Combined with Scope

The Soviet Union has long been on close terms with American engineering. Progressive Americans, in turn, have followed the technological progress of the Soviet people with keen understanding. I recall the correspondence between Steingmetz, that outstanding American electrical engineer, and Vladimir Lenin at the dawn of electrification in Soviet Russia.

During the years of Stalin's industrialization, the Soviet people assimilated and modeled themselves upon American technique. American efficiency combined with Russian scope became the characteristic feature in all fields of endeavor in the Soviet Union.

The great men of Russian science have been true democrats inspired by love for their people and friendship for all the nations of the earth. In the Soviet Union the scientists have come closer to the practical needs of the State which secured freedom, independence and prosperity for the great commonwealth of nations of the USSR.

Tasks of worldwide historical importance now face science in the three great democracies. The natural sciences must be developed further so that scientific experiments and observations may lead to more and more discoveries of benefit to the industries working for victory. Science is a mighty force and to it belongs a place of honor in the united struggle against fascism and in the postwar reconstruction of the world.



Radiophoto

At the Soviet Military Air Academy—I. Slobodin (left), son of the chairman of the Stalin collective farm, Vologda Region, and M. Litvinov, son of the Assistant People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Maxim Litvinov, discuss their diploma theses

Artek Reopens

Artek, the Soviet Union's largest sanatorium and camp for children, recently flew the Soviet flag for the first time since the Crimea was occupied by the Germans more than three years ago. A gala celebration welcomed the first group of 500 youngsters.

When the camp staff arrived in the wake of the Red Army, they found Artek a shambles. The buildings had been razed to the ground and all the handsome furnishings and tapestries stolen.

The restoration of Artek began the day after it was recaptured, although normal communication with the rest of the country had not yet been established. The commander of a Red Army unit sent in 850 men with 50 trucks. Within two weeks they gave the camp some semblance of order. Then new equipment arrived, as well as clothing for the children.

Many of the children now in the camp fought with the guerrillas. A boy from Minsk narrowly escaped being shot and another from the Ukraine saw both parents burned to death.

Volodya Grigoryev, a 15-year-old from Leningrad, lost his right arm and a finger of his left hand. An ugly scar still disfigures his jaw. Unable to endure life under the Germans, he ran away to join a guerrilla detachment and was wounded in action.

Pavel Loshecher, age 12, from the Vilno Region, was also a guerrilla. During one engagement Pavel and his comrades were surrounded by the Germans. They spent two days hiding in swamps, resolved to shoot themselves rather than surrender.

Many of the boys and girls have been awarded medals for bravery. Galya Ryabinina from Taganrog was decorated for concealing a trade union banner throughout the German occupation, for stealing ammunition from the Germans, and for helping captured guerrillas to escape. Lina Meneyeva received a medal for putting out incendiary bombs that had fallen on the roof of her school in Leningrad.

These and other children like them are now at Artek to forget the horrors of war. Sunshine, good food and recreation will make them healthy and happy again.



Before the war, Artek, in the Crimea, was the most famous children's camp in the Soviet Union. These pictures, taken before the camp was ravaged by the Germans, show (from the top down): a group of children in the Good Ship Artek on a cruise of the Crimean waters; two young campers learning to operate a field telephone; and children of the youngest group engaging in an "automobile race"

Notes from Front and Rear

A total of 20,000 enemy officers and soldiers, or the equivalent of two German divisions, have been killed by graduates of the Central School for Volunteer Girl Snipers in Moscow. Winter training has now begun in the school. During the war the school has prepared several thousand sharpshooters for the front line, chiefly daughters or sisters of servicemen. Their ages range from 18 to 20. Decorations have been awarded 300 of the graduates, and the title of Hero of the Soviet Union conferred upon Lia Magdogulova, a Kazakh. In her first month of service, in 1942, Magdogulova shot 32 Germans. On January 11, 1944, her battalion broke through enemy defenses and she killed one officer and ten soldiers. Returning to the attack next day, she killed 40 more. During the battle she lost contact with her comrades and found herself facing a German officer. They fought hand-to-hand. The Kazakh girl emerged victor, the Hitlerite losing his life.

★

ANTI-FASCIST POETRY, a new volume of verse by American, English, French, Polish, Dutch, Chinese and other authors, was recently published in Moscow. American poets represented include Stephen Vincent Benet, Langston Hughes and Alfred Kreymborg.

★

A Northern Geographic Society, with its Board in Murmansk, has been created. Members will be drawn from the scientists, geographers, seamen, geologists and foresters of the Russian North. The Society will promote prospecting and mobilization of natural resources of the Northern areas. First item on the agenda is a detailed study of the wealth of the Northern woods, from the viewpoint of the fur trade, the lumber industry and forestry.

★

More than 50,000 hectares of Soviet forests were barbarously cut down by the German invaders. Seven thousand hectares have now been replanted. New varieties of trees were introduced, including rapidly growing Siberian shade trees, American walnut and red oak, and others.

The Order of Lenin has been conferred upon Alexander Kotov, 30-year-old engineer and chess champion, for an important invention relating to mortars. Kotov, son of an armory worker, won the chess championship of Tula—the city known as the cradle of the Russian gun—when he was 16. Six years ago he won second place to Mikhail Botvinnik, chess champion of the USSR, in the All-Union tournament, and received the title of grandmaster.

★

More than six million books have been sent from Moscow, Leningrad and other cities to the 3,400 libraries which have been restored in the Ukraine, Byelorussia and liberated districts of the Russian SFSR.

★

In Moscow, November 28, Dmitri Shostakovich participated in the first public rendition of his two new works: SECOND QUARTETTE and TRIO FOR PIANOFORTE, VIOLIN AND CELLO. The concert opened with a performance of the composer's PIANOFORTE QUINTETTE, written on the eve of the war, and for which he was awarded his first Stalin Prize.

★

In accordance with Article 14 of the Armistice Agreement with Finland, representatives of the Karelo-Finnish Republic have left Petrozavodsk for the town of Enso, to receive a first consignment of horses, which will be turned over to the People's Commissariat of the Lumber Industry and the collective farms of the Republic.

★

Gymnast Nikolai Seryi, six times Absolute Champion of the USSR, now holds a professorship in the Moscow Institute of Physical Culture. Seryi, who was formerly in charge of physical training for the Reserves of the Leningrad Front, is participating in work on the problem of the prolongation of human life. Soviet scientific workers in the sports field believe that one of the clues to the solution of this problem lies in wide-scale introduction of gymnastics into daily life.

Preparations for New Year's holidays and vacations for Soviet schoolchildren have begun. Youth organizations, departments of education, sports societies and clubs, trade unions, theaters, cinemas, museums and parks are participating in plans for tens of millions of children. New Year trees will be set up in all schools, children's homes, stadiums, skating rinks, etc. Leading Soviet actors will entertain the boys and girls; heroes of the Patriotic War, outstanding scientists, musicians and sports champions, will meet with their young admirers and recount their experiences. There will be many children's excursions, winter sports competitions and games.

★

Four hundred and fifty-six professors, instructors and other personnel of Soviet institutes of higher learning were recently awarded Government decorations.

★

Two hitherto unknown songs of Peter Tchaikovsky, "I Saw You in My Dreams," and "No, Do Not Love Me for My Beauty," were performed in Moscow at the fifty-first Scientific Musical Session, dedicated to Tchaikovsky's memory. The music for the songs was found in sketches among the composer's private papers on his estate-museum near Moscow.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 128

Washington, D. C., December 12, 1944



Soviet Economic Victory Over the Enemy

By S. Vishnev

When Hitler Germany had the resources of almost all Europe at her disposal; when it was evident that Germany had a considerable superiority in tanks and aircraft as compared with the Red Army; when the Germans, taking advantage of a surprise attack, seized some of the most economically important regions of the Soviet Union, it was believed in Germany that the military and economic might of the USSR had been crushed, while the people in friendly and neutral countries became convinced that the Soviet Union would be unable to correct the economic situation by its own efforts.

There was nothing surprising in this, as the Soviet Union was in a position of difficulty for which no parallel can be found.

Germany's strength, both economic and military, was considerably greater in 1941 than in 1914-18. At the time of her assault on the Soviet Union, Germany actually controlled 14 European countries—excluding her ally Italy—with a total area of about 2,400,000 square kilometers and a population of 160 million people. The Nazis had at their disposal additional and very extensive manpower reserves, some of which could be employed in their own countries while the remainder could be sent to Germany. This was done, and done by the most barbaric methods. All this made for a very great difference between the wartime economy of Hitler Germany and that of the Germany of the First World War.

In addition to the above, the Germans captured large stocks of manufactured goods, raw materials and weapons in the occupied regions of Western Europe. Among other things, they obtained several million tons of oil held in reserve in France, Holland, Belgium and other occupied countries; hundreds of thousands

of tons of manganese, ore, copper, lead and other metals; large quantities of wool, cotton, rubber, coffee, cocoa, fats and other foods.

Of special importance was the large number of motor vehicles and parts and railway rolling stock which the Germans seized in the occupied countries. The Germans also requisitioned large numbers of cattle and horses, the latter used for transporting the German army.

The German-occupied territories of Europe had rich natural resources. It is sufficient to mention the Rumanian oil-fields, the French iron mines, the forests of Finland, Norway and Poland; the bauxite in Belgium and France and Yugoslavia, the copper and chromium in the Balkan countries, and the nickel and molybdenum in Finland.

In 1941-42 the Germans temporarily occupied extensive territories of the Soviet Union which were rich in coal, iron, manganese and timber, and which possessed modern iron and steel mills, engineering, chemical and other factories. These

regions also included the extremely fertile farming districts of the Ukraine, the Crimea and the North Caucasus.

The great industrial resources of France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and other occupied European countries were in the hands of the Germans. Here are a few examples: The iron and steel industry of the occupied countries of Western Europe was producing almost as much iron and steel on the eve of the war as Germany herself. The power stations of occupied Europe produced more electric power than Germany. The output of automobiles in the occupied countries was considerably greater than that of Germany. Lastly, the first-class artillery, small arms, explosives and aircraft works of Czechoslovakia, France, Belgium and Holland fell into the hands of the Germans.

From this it is clear to what extent German economy grew at the expense of the seized foreign territories.

At the same time the reorganization of Germany's economy on a war footing was also very extensive and intensive. Ger-



Radiophoto

In the Carpathian fighting, this group made their way to the enemy rear and captured 57 Magyars, four machine guns, three guns and 12 horses. From left, Junior Sergeant Krekin, Privates Polikarpov, Klimov and Kosylin, Lieutenant Timchenko, Senior Lieutenant Zabelinaky and Private Timoshin

many not only prepared huge stocks of raw materials, but also set aside tremendous supplies of essential raw materials. At a great expense the Germans developed the manufacture of liquid fuel from coal, and synthetic rubber, synthetic fibre and other material essential in wartime.

During the years when Germany was making such feverish preparations, her entire war industry was to all intents and purposes rebuilt. New factories, especially aircraft factories, were outfitted with very modern equipment and organized for assembly-line production. As early as 1939 Germany's war industry reached a very high level; the motto of "guns instead of butter" was put into operation. In 1941, at the time of the German attack on the Soviet Union, the German war industry had developed to an even greater extent. By this time the whole national economy of Hitler Germany had been placed on a war basis. Hitlerism began the "Drang nach Osten" after the completion of an economic mobilization, in addition to a purely military mobilization.

This naturally gave the Nazis tremendous advantages over the peace-loving Soviet Union, which had to reorganize its whole economy while the war was in progress and adapt it to the needs of war, on an unsurpassed scale. The task of reorganization was one of colossal magnitude and complexity; to carry it out under war conditions was incomparably more difficult. The enemy succeeded in capturing economically important regions of the USSR; his troops threatened Moscow, Leningrad and the Caucasian oilfields.

The Soviet Union was temporarily deprived of regions in which more than half the country's coal was mined and two-thirds of her metal smelted.

German troops cut the most important railroad and river communications in the USSR; they cut off from the Soviet Union the fertile regions that supplied the country with sugar, grain, meat and agricultural raw materials. It would seem that the scale measuring the economic might of Germany and the Soviet Union had definitely turned in favor of Hitlerism. Everyone who knew pre-Revolutionary Russia was of the opinion that the Soviet Union could not hold out under such circumstances; that her economy would collapse in a very short while.

There is hardly another country in the

world that could have accepted battle and won under such unequal economic conditions. The "indubitable" superiority of Germany's war economy, however, proved to be fiction. "Just as the Red Army achieved military victory over the fascist forces in its long and arduous single-handed struggle," said Marshal Stalin on November 6, 1944, "so the workers in the Soviet rear won economic victory over the enemy in their lone fight against Hitler Germany and her associates."

This economic victory, which many people regard as a "miracle," can be understood only if we take into consideration the tremendous economic reserves afforded by the planned socialist economy of the Soviet Union and the superhuman efforts of all the Russian working people who performed deeds of labor heroism unparalleled in history. In order to understand the secret of this economic victory, the inability of Hitler Germany to develop and exploit the economic resources which she temporarily seized must also be considered.

The foundation for the economic victory over Germany was laid in the farsighted policy of industrializing the country. This overcame the technical and economic backwardness of Tsarist Russia. The successful fulfilment of three Five-Year Plans for the development of the national economy made the Soviet Union technically and economically independent of countries abroad.

Pre-Revolutionary Russia did not have her own motor vehicles and tractors, did not produce aluminum; her iron, steel and chemical industries did not provide for the country's needs in peacetime, to say nothing of war. Old Russia had at her disposal an insignificant number of skilled workers and technical specialists.

The policy of industrialization put an end to this backwardness, a condition that threatened the safety and security of the State. The Soviet Union had at its disposal every kind of essential raw material and every branch of industry needed to provide everything required for the prosecution of war—from precision instruments to battleships.

The farsighted policy of the Soviet Government provided for the timely training of skilled workers. State reserves of fuel, raw material and foodstuffs were

built up, all of which played an important part in wartime.

The Soviet Union paid very great attention to improving railway transport. Shortly before the war powerful new locomotives and bigger freight cars were provided. Soviet railways proved to be able to supply the needs of the front and rear areas at the same time.

The technical and economic reserves built up by the planned economy of the USSR would still have been insufficient if the workers, peasants and intellectuals had not displayed great self-sacrifice and enthusiasm in working for the defense of the country. This heroism in the field of labor made itself felt particularly in those difficult times when it became necessary to transfer hundreds of industrial concerns hurriedly from occupied and threatened regions into the interior of the country.

Womanpower in factories, farms and transport proved a tremendous reserve in the Soviet arsenal. Women have played a greater economic role in the Soviet Union than in any other belligerent country.

This combination of a planned centralized leadership of economy, successful prewar construction in the field of economy, and the unparalleled heroism of the people accomplished that "economic miracle" which was seemingly impossible. The successes achieved in the Soviet rear areas and the victories of the Red Army showed that the Soviet Union was in a position to make effective use of the material she received from the Allies to defeat the common enemy.

On the other hand, the falsity of the "organizational genius" of the Germans became clear in their inability to mobilize the economic resources of occupied Europe. The Nazis were able to engage in pure looting but were unable to organize any real production. They "managed" many millions of foreign slaves in Germany by means of deception and terror, but they could not mobilize the working class of Europe to fulfil German orders.

Germany's fighting forces have been dealt a serious defeat, and the same sort of defeat has been inflicted on Germany in the economic field. The superiority is now completely on the side of the United Nations, and in this the Soviet Union has played a tremendous role by her economic victory over the strong, well-trained and cunning enemy.

Statement of Extraordinary State Committee

For the ascertaining and investigation of crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders and their associates, and the damages caused by them to citizens, collective farms, public organizations, State enterprises and institutions of the USSR

On the Destruction of Monuments of Art and Architecture in the Towns of Petrodvorets, Pushkin and Pavlovsk

The majestic monuments of art and architecture in the towns of Petrodvorets (formerly Peterhof), Pushkin (formerly Tsarskoye Selo) and Pavlovsk are famed throughout the world. In the 18th and 19th Centuries the finest master architects of the world created the palaces, buildings and parks of these museum towns.

Petrodvorets (Peterhof) was founded in 1705 by Peter I, at first as a halting place on the way to the island of Kotlin, where the construction of the Kronstadt fortress had begun. Here on the shores of the Gulf of Finland were built a landing stage and small house which was called "Peter's Court." After 1714 the enormous project of Petrodvorets (Peterhof) began to be realized on the shores of the Gulf of Finland.

After the design and under the personal supervision of Peter, the following palaces were built in Petrodvorets: the Monplaisir, the Marly, the Hermitage and the central part of the Grand Palace, as well as most of the fountains and parks and the stonemason's workshop. The French architect Leblond built in Petrodvorets the fine Marly and Hermitage Palaces, the Upper and Lower Parks; the Italian Rastrelli created the Grand Palace; the English Palace is the masterpiece of Giacomo Quarenghi; the famous Russian architect Voronikhin, a former serf, adorned the Lower Park with graceful pavilions.

The magnificent palaces and parks of Petrodvorets were widely known as outstanding monuments of world architecture of the 18th and 19th Centuries. The fountains of Petrodvorets were known throughout the world. The great cascade waterfall of the Petrodvorets fountain system, together with the Grand Palace, the "Samson" fountain and the canal leading

to the sea were historic monuments of the victory of Russian arms over the Swedes at Poltava. The bronze statue of Samson tearing at the lion's mouth symbolized Peter I's historic victory over Sweden (the lion is the State emblem of Sweden), which opened for Russia a wide outlet to European countries.

After the October Revolution Petrodvorets became a place to which thousands of excursionists came every year, not only from all parts of the Soviet Union but also from many foreign countries. As many as 150,000 Leningrad citizens used to come to Petrodvorets to rest on their free days.

In the course of two centuries there were created artistic architectural monuments—palaces, parks and sculptures—in the town of Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo), which before 1917 was the Tsar's residence. The great architects of the 18th and 19th Centuries Kvassov, Zemtsov, Rastrelli, Quarenghi, Rinaldi, Voronikhin, Felton, Neyelovy, Cameron and Stassov, the sculptors Gordeyev, Martos, Demut-Malinovsky and Kozlovsky, the painters Scotti, Shchedrin, Gonzago and others made Tsarskoye Selo deservedly famous throughout the world by their creations. The monuments of Tsarskoye Selo were closely associated with many of the most important events in the history of Russia.

On July 6, 1757 the keys and banners of the Prussian town of Memel, captured by Russian troops, were brought to the Ekaterininsky Palace. In the parks of the palace were erected the Chessma Column to commemorate the victory of the Russian Navy over the Turkish in 1770 in Chessma Bay; the Kagul Obelisk, to mark the victory scored the same year by Russian troops over the Turks at Kagul

River in Moldavia; the tower-ruin, to mark the Kuchuk-Kainardzhik peace signed by Russia with the Turks in 1774; the Orlov Gate, to mark the victories of Russian troops under the command of Count Grigori Orlov.

In the Tsarskoye Selo Admiralty there was a collection of boats and sailing vessels of exceptional historic value; here in the Admiralty was the famous Hottorp Globe, made to the order of the Duke of Hottorp in the middle of the 17th Century and presented to Peter I in 1713. This enormous globe, the inner surface of which bore a map of the heavens, rotated in conformity with the rotation of the earth; the globe was fitted inside with a table and bench for ten persons.

With Tsarskoye Selo is associated the work of the best representatives of Russian literature: Lomonosov, Sumarokov, Zhukovsky, Karamzin, Lermontov, Chaadayev, Tyutchev and Gogol. The great Russian poet Pushkin was educated at Tsarskoye Selo Lycee.

The magnificent Ekaterininsky Palace built in the town of Pushkin by Bartolomeo Rastrelli, the Alexandrovsky Palace built in the same town by Giacomo Quarenghi, and the Cameron Gallery, bearing the name of its famous creator, were some of the finest examples of world architecture. The Pavlovsky Palace and park in the town of Pavlovsk were outstanding monuments of architecture and of landscape gardening. The palace and park were created by the famous masters of architecture Cameron, Rossi, Voronikhin and Brenna, the sculptors Martos, Kozlovsky, Demut-Malinovsky and Prokofiev, and the painters Scotti, Shchedrin, Mettenleiter and Gonzago. In 1823 the architect Rossi added to the left wing of the

palace the library famous throughout the world.

The Soviet people carefully preserved the museum towns of Petrodvorets, Pushkin and Pavlovsk where the monuments of Russian history were concentrated. Enormous funds were spent annually on improving these towns and their parks, on repairing and restoring the palaces, fountains and other structures. Invaluable treasures of Russian and world art, rarest samples of furniture, porcelain, pictorial art, Gobelin tapestries, and sculptures by Russian and foreign artists were exhibited in the palaces.

After the evacuation which followed the German invasion there still remained in Petrodvorets 34,214 museum exhibits (pictures, art objects and sculptures) and 11,700 most valuable books in the palace libraries. In the lower premises of the Ekaterininsky and Alexandrovsky Palaces in the town of Pushkin there were gathered sets of furniture of Russian and French make, dating from the middle of the 18th Century, 600 pieces of artistic porcelain dating from the 19th and the beginning of the 20th Centuries, a large number of marble busts, small sculptures and some 35,000 volumes from the palace libraries.

On the basis of documentary materials, statements and eyewitnesses' testimony, the testimony of German war prisoners and a thorough investigation carried out by a special committee consisting of Chairman of the Leningrad City Committee Lieutenant General KUZNETSOV; Chairman of the Executive Committee of Leningrad City Soviet of Deputies of the Working People POPKOV; Chief Architect of Leningrad BARANOV; ALEXIUS, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod; Vice President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Academician BAIKOV and Academician ORBELI; President of the Union of Soviet Writers TIKHONOV; MICHURINA-SAMOILOVA, the People's Artist of the USSR; GAGELLO, corresponding member of the Academy of Architecture of the USSR; Professor MANUILOV; chief of the State Inspection for the Protection of Monuments of Leningrad BELEKHOV; director of the State Hermitage Academician ORBELI; Doctor of Art Professor DOBROKLONSKY; Professor FARMAKOVSKY; Master of Architectural Science PILYAVSKY, and the sec-

retary of the committee KUPRIYANOVA; also on the basis of personal investigation of the facts of the plunder and destruction of monuments of art and architecture conducted by Academician TOLSTOI and NIKOLAI, Metropolitan of Krutitsa, members of the Extraordinary State Committee, the following has been established:

Germans Plundered Monuments of Art in Petrodvorets

On September 23, 1941, after breaking into Petrodvorets, the German invaders at once embarked upon the plunder of valuables of the museum-palaces, and occupied themselves for several months in carrying away palace property. They plundered and carried away to Germany 34,000 museum pieces from the Grand, Marly, Monplaisir and Cottage Palaces, including 14,950 pieces of unique furniture of English, Italian, French and Russian make of the reigns of Ekaterina, Alexander and Nikolai and many rare porcelain services from foreign and Russian factories made during the 18th and 19th Centuries. The German barbarians tore off the silk Gobelin tapestries and other decorative materials which adorned the palace walls.

In November, 1941 they removed the bronze sculpture of Samson made by the sculptor Kozlovsky, and carried it away. Andreyeva and Barabanova, residents of Petrodvorets, told the Committee that early in November, 1941, they saw a truck carrying away the statue of Samson covered with a tarpaulin. On the steps of the water stairs of the "Samson" fountain were figures symbolizing the Volkhov River in the shape of an old man, and the Neva River in the shape of a woman. The Germans carried these away, as well as a large fountain bronze figure of the "God of the Seas," Neptune, which stood in the center of the composite group of the large basin in the Upper Park. They carried away to Germany the wrought-iron railings of artistic value which surrounded the parks.

After ransacking the museum valuables the German bandits set fire to the Grand Palace, brilliant masterpiece of the architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli. This resulted in the complete destruction of the ballroom, audience hall and front stairs, the church decorated with wooden gilded carving made after drawings by Rastrelli, the

throne, the Chessma and dining halls created by Felton, the oaken staircase and oaken study decorated with most exquisite carving.

Before retreating from Petrodvorets the Germans destroyed the Marly Palace by means of delayed-action mines. The palace was decorated with most exquisite stucco molding and carving. The Germans destroyed Peter's Monplaisir. They destroyed all the wooden parts of the pavilions, the interior decorations of the study, bedroom and Chinese rooms; during the occupation the central part of the palace—historically and artistically the most valuable—was converted into a pillbox, while the western pavilion was used as a stable and latrine.

In the premises of the assembly block the Germans tore out the floors, sawed out the beams, destroyed the doors and window frames, tore out ceiling and wainscoting. In the park pavilion—the Hermitage—the Hitlerites set up an artillery emplacement, after destroying the internal finishing of the building and the old elevating mechanism of the dining table. In the northern part of the park—the Alexandria—they blew up the country-house of Nikolai II, completely destroyed the wooden "officers' house," the Alexandria Gate, the pavilions of the Adam fountain, the pylon of the main gate of the Upper Park and the Rose Pavilion.

The Cottage—a palace which belonged to Nikolai I—was converted by the Germans into a medical station; they had their H.Q. in the Farm Palace. All the interior decorations of these palaces were destroyed.

The Germans destroyed the famous fountains of Petrodvorets Park, blowing up the main feeding system along its entire length from the dam near the Rose Pavilion to the Upper Park. All the trees of the main avenue in the Lower Park, which ran parallel to the shore of the Gulf of Finland in the sector from the canal to Alexandria, have been felled; the Germans used them to build a mined boom. A tank ditch was dug in the central part of the Upper Park.

After the capture of New Petrodvorets the troops of the 291st German Infantry Division, by fire from heavy guns, completely destroyed the famous English Palace in old Petrodvorets built by edict of

Catherine II by the architect Quarenghi. The Germans hurled 9,000 heavy artillery shells into the palace. Together with the palace the picturesque English park and all the park pavilions were destroyed. The 316th Infantry Regiment of the 212th German Division destroyed with artillery fire the so-called "Own country-house of Alexander II," built in the reign of Nikolai I.

In the old Petrodvorets the Germans destroyed all the churches, including the Church of the Apparition in which were deposited military historical relics of the Patriotic War of 1812. The museum church of the Serafim monastery, with its remarkable iconostasis built in the style of ancient northern Russian church architecture, was laid in ruins.

It has been established that the German invaders deliberately, with the purpose of destruction, included the palaces and parks of historical importance in the German defense system. This is testified by a scale model of the German fortifications of the Petrodvorets area found in one of the premises of the Farm Palace. The model shows the most important buildings, green tracts, water reservoirs and channels, with centers of resistance, minefields and other fortifications of the German invaders mapped on them. The model gives a complete idea of the system of German defense in Petrodvorets, into which all the palaces of the coastal zone—the Marly, Hermitage, Illumination Palace, Monplaisir and others—were included as centers of resistance.

The ransacking and destruction of palaces of great historical and artistic value in the town of Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo) was effected deliberately on the instructions of the higher German authorities. Helmuth Antes, Captain of Medical Service of the 61st Infantry Division, taken prisoner in February, 1944, stated: "I knew that in 1941 a special commission called the *Kunstkommission* was set up in Germany. The functions of this commission included confiscation of palace property in the occupied districts of Russia, and removal to Germany of everything confiscated. In 1941 and 1942 this commission loaded all the valuable property of the Pushkin palaces on trains and carried it away to Germany. I do not know what quantity of valuable property

was removed from these palaces, but in any case, everything was taken. I know that in the Ekaterininsky Palace in Pushkin there was a room with walls faced with amber. The amber was prized off and taken to Germany."

The Germans burned down a considerable part of the Ekaterininsky Palace. The famous Rastrelli enfilade of halls, 300 meters long, perished in the fire as well as the famous ante-chambers finished by Rastrelli. All the walls of the ante-chambers were covered with gilded carving, the huge ceilings were covered with fine canvases by artists of the middle of the 18th Century—Valleriani, Gradizzi, Belsky and others. Unable to remove these enormous canvases, the Germans cut these remarkable masterpieces of art into pieces.

The grand hall—creation of Rastrelli's genius—presents a terrible sight of destruction. The unique plafonds by Torelli, Giordano, Brullov and other most celebrated Italian and Russian masters are destroyed; the ancient 18th Century painted Chinese silk which covered the walls of the Chinese drawing room and the bedroom of Alexander I, and the yellow silk with woven swans and pheasants of Russian 18th Century handiwork which covered the walls of the little dining room were torn off and stolen; the inlaid parquet floors, made of valuable woods after drawings by the architect Rinaldi, were destroyed. The palace church, which possessed a wonderful interior decoration—one of Rastrelli's finest masterpieces—was ransacked and laid waste. The church iconostasis was smashed, the icons carried away, part of the plafonds prized off and another part destroyed, the floors torn out, the gilded stucco molding chiseled off.

The Germans destroyed the private rooms of Catherine II, decorated with fine glass, bronze and porcelain mirrors, majolica miniature frescoes and inlaid woodwork. They smashed to smithereens all the plates of opal, violet and blue glass which covered the walls of the "Tobacco Box" and bedroom of Catherine II.

When retreating in January, 1944, the German invaders prepared to destroy completely whatever still remained of the Ekaterininsky Palace and the building adjoining it. With this end in view, on the ground floor of that part of the palace which still remained standing, and also

under the Cameron gallery, they planted eleven huge delayed-action bombs weighing one to three tons each.

The Hitlerite bandits smashed up the famous Alexandrovsky Palace in Pushkin, built at the close of the 18th Century by the famous architect Giacomo Quarenghi. All the rooms of the palace, including the central enfilade of halls with fixtures by Quarenghi, were used as barracks. The German squads billeted in the palace ransacked all the equipment, furniture and other palace property, wantonly broke all the doors, carried away the metal decorations down to door-knobs and locks, smashed the marble finishing of the front halls and blew up the right wing of the palace.

All the museum furniture stored in the basements of the Ekaterininsky and Alexandrovsky Palaces, painted porcelain, and books from the palace libraries were carried away to Germany. The famous plafond "Fete of the Gods of Olympus" in the main hall of the Hermitage pavilion was removed and taken to Germany. The plafonds by Russian and Italian artists in the side galleries and studies were cut to pieces. The ancient boats, unique relics of the history of the Russian Navy, were used by the Germans for pleasure rowing on the ponds. Most of them were destroyed.

The famous "Turkish Bath" with an interior finishing of gilded Olonets marble was blown up. The Turkish Kiosk built by Quarenghi in 1771-1781 was burned.

Great destruction was wrought by the Hitlerites in the fine Pushkin parks, where thousands of ancient trees were felled.

Destruction of Pavlovsky Palace

Ribbentrop's Special Battalion and squads from Rosenberg's H.Q. carried away to Germany the most valuable palace furniture from the Pavlovsky Palace, manufactured after drawings by Voronikhin and outstanding 18th Century artists. The parquet flooring of the palace, made of precious wood of artistic value, was ripped out. The bas-reliefs, Gobelins, wall and ceiling plafonds were stripped off. The Gonzago frescoes of enormous artistic value, sculptures by Prokofiev and marble vases by Gilet were barbarously mutilated.

Great destruction was wrought in the park. The Rose Pavilion built by Voron-

ikhin was burned to the ground. Nothing but the hallway remains of the 17th Century "Krik" hunting lodge. The Konstantinovsky Palace and adjoining auxiliary buildings were also destroyed.

Before retreating, the fascist invaders set fire to the Pavlovsky Palace: most of the buildings were entirely destroyed. The cupola crowning the central part collapsed. From the facade side the trellis over the colonades of the galleries with their 18th Century wood carvings, and also the Rossi library, were burned down. The wooden parts of the artistic decorations of the palace were burned to the ground on all floors. The paintings and sculptures of the plafonds, the sculptured panel, the marble fireplaces and the pilasters were destroyed.

The Extraordinary State Committee has established that the destruction of monuments of art in Petrodvorets, Pushkin and Pavlovsk was carried out on the direct instructions of the German government and the Supreme Military Command, by officers and men of the German army under the leadership of Field Marshals. Von Leeb and Von Kuechler; Colonel General Lindemann, Commander of the 18th Army; Infantry Generals Kleefel and Wegener, Commanders of the 50th Army Corps; Major General Alprichter and Major General Von Graffen, Commanders of 58th Infantry Division; Major General Wedel, Commander of 10th Airborne Division; Lieutenant General Griazs, Commander of 1st Infantry Division; General of A.A. Troops Odenbrecht, Commander the 3rd Airborne Corps; Lieutenant General Herzog, Commander of 504th Infantry Regiment of 291st Infantry Division; Colonel Himmeler, Commander of 540th Regiment of 291st Infantry Division; Major General Richman, Commander of 212th Infantry Division; Colonel Bisli, Commander of 316th Infantry Regiment of 212th Infantry Division; Lieutenant Colonel Hofmann, Commander of 220th Infantry Regiment; Major General Erdmann; Colonel Rueckes, Commander of 17th Chasseurs Regiment; Lieutenant Colonel Ottenmeyer, Commander of 1st Battalion of 17th Chasseurs Regiment; Lieutenant General Ringel, Commander of 5th Mountain Infantry Division; Commanders of 26th Artillery Corps Artillery General Wodrig and Infantry General Leiser; Commander of 11th Infantry Division Lieutenant General Burdach; Commander of Police SS Division Lieutenant General Krueger; Major General Wandel; Commander of 121st Artillery Regiment Lieutenant Colonel Richtmann; Major Von Dowitz; Colonel Waden, and Commanders of 250th Spanish Division Generals Munos Grandes and Infantes. All of them must bear severe punishment for their crimes.

September, 1944

HITLERITES MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR A THIRD WORLD WAR

From TRUD, newspaper of the All-Union Council of Soviet Trade Unions, December 9:

Hitlerite Germany is doomed. Her military debacle is a matter of the not distant future. The Hitlerites already realize clearly that their criminal game is lost. They cannot expect salvation from any place.

But, realizing the imminence of the collapse of the "Third Reich," the Hitlerites are evolving plans for the preparation of a new war of aggression. Ever more frequently the world press reports the construction of subterranean munitions plants, secret arms caches, and the organization of clandestine terroristic detachments which would become the skeleton of a future German army of aggression.

In preparing for war the Hitlerites draw on the experience of the covert violation of the Versailles Treaty. Even now, standing on the verge of the abyss, the Hitlerite warmongers engage in ideological and material preparation for a new war for world domination by Germany.

"We shall build our life," stated Himmeler, "as in the past years. Sooner or later we shall make it so that the territory vital to Germany will become her forefield."

Outside Germany, under the "blue" or "blazing" skies of so-called "neutral countries," the Hitlerites are already preparing the economic base for the new war. Two countries—Spain and Argentina—have been chosen for the preservation of the Hitlerite reserves.

Franco's subversive activity is not confined to day-to-day treachery. He is an active participant in the fascist plans for the organization of World War Three. Spain is the storehouse and portage for German capital, which is now organizing abroad the industrial place d'armes of fascist aggression.

A considerable part of this capital is on the territory of Argentina. To this reservoir, through secret channels from Spain, flow money and materials representing the embryo of the new German

war machine. To Argentina have rushed a crowd of German agents who are now creating a peculiar storage place for German capital and secret military inventions in the Western Hemisphere.

Characteristic in this respect are the lately intensified reactionary measures taken by the Argentine government, in particular its attempts to restrict the activities of trade unions.

All this feverish activity of the fascist warmongers once again exposes the fallacy of Hitler's voluntary advocates of all descriptions, their pleas for leniency toward the fascist war criminals, and their tales about the possibility of the "reformation" of the German aggressor.

To avert fresh German aggression and to work out well in advance measures which would safeguard the world from the menace of a new war is the primary, sacred duty of the freedom-loving peoples responsible for the world's destinies.

Minesweeper Crew Decorated

All officers and seamen of the minesweeper *Mina* have been decorated by the Soviet Government. The *Mina* is one of those small vessels whose war work has not ended, although the bursting of Luftwaffe bombs and salvos of coastal and ship artillery have ceased on the Black Sea.

During its combat operations the *Mina* located and rendered harmless a tremendous number of enemy mines. It also transported to the Crimean and Rumanian shores 13,000 members of Soviet landing groups and escorted 265 transports. In these cruises the little vessel covered a distance equal to one and one-half trips around the world. The Luftwaffe made 55 attempts to sink the *Mina*: 350 German planes dropped a total of 724 bombs and four torpedoes, in these attempts.

The *Mina* helped to clear Sevastopol Bay, and recently mopped up the approaches to two ports on the western shores of the Black Sea.

One Guerrilla Family

Ivan Lazarev, an Arctic ace who has brought down 18 enemy planes, believed until recently that all his family, whom he left in Byelorussia in 1941, had perished.

A few weeks ago a group of guerrillas came to visit the seamen of the Northern Fleet. Among the partisans Ivan recognized his brother Alexei, and from him heard the remarkable story of the activities of the Lazarev family since the outbreak of war. His father, brothers and sister had all distinguished themselves fighting Germans in occupied territory.

When the invaders reached their village, the oldest brother, Pavel, escaped to the forest and became a guerrilla. Soon afterward Alexei and their father joined him. Only the old mother remained in the village.

For a long time the Germans tormented the mother, trying to learn from her the whereabouts of her husband and sons. She finally determined to join the guerrillas herself. One night when three Hitlerites were asleep in her cottage, she set fire to the building and fled to the forest.

The Germans sent a detachment of troops after the brave woman and succeeded in taking her prisoner. She was condemned to be hanged with a group of Byelorussian farmers.

The guerrillas learned of the proposed

executions and at the moment the doomed people were brought into the village square for hanging, the partisans, among whom were Lazarev and his two sons, attacked and saved them.

Anna Lazareva, the daughter, was still living with her children in a neighboring village. The Germans rounded up all the inhabitants, including the children, and machine-gunned them. Anna's children were killed, but she escaped and joined her family in the guerrilla forces.

For two and one-half years the Lazarev family fought together in a detachment. They attacked German headquarters, blew up army stores and railway trains. Pavel Lazarev personally derailed 20 German trains loaded with troops and equipment. He wears three orders and two medals for heroism. Anna dynamited two trains and one commandant's headquarters. Alexei was the best scout in the detachment.

In the summer of 1944 the entire family took part in a three-day battle for their native village. In this violent battle Father Lazarev was killed.

The Lazarev family's toll of the invaders included 18 German aircraft, 22 troop trains, 25 trucks and two commandants' headquarters destroyed, and about 400 Hitlerites killed.



Alexandra Karpova (second from right), famous Russian woman guerrilla, and some of her friends, with whom she carried out many hazardous assignments

Assembly of Bishops of Russian Orthodox Church

On November 21-22-23, an Assembly of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church was held in Moscow, attended by 39 Bishops, Patriarch Locum Tenens Alexius, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod, inaugurated the Assembly. Metropolitan Alexius devoted his speech to the memory of the late Patriarch Sergius and the tasks confronting the Assembly of Bishops.

At its sessions the Assembly heard a number of reports, including that of the Patriarch Locum Tenens on the activity of the Russian Orthodox Church during the war years; another by the director of the Moscow Patriarchy, Archpriest Kolchitsky, on the intended Convocation of an Assembly of Bishops, and others. The Bishops' Assembly unanimously adopted a decision to convoke in Moscow on January 21, 1945, an Assembly of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church, with the participation of Bishops and representatives of the clergy and parishioners from every Bishopric, to elect a Patriarch of Moscow and the whole of Russia, and to solve problems facing the Church.

Decisions on other reports were also unanimous. The Assembly approved the proposal of Metropolitan Alexius to invite to the Assembly of Bishops as honorary guests Patriarch Ecumenic Veniamin, Archbishop of Constantinople; the Patriarch of Antiochia and the entire East, Alexander; the Patriarch of Alexandria, Christopher; the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Timofei, and the Catholikos of all Georgia, Calistrat.

Rebuilding Rostov Giant

Before beginning restoration of Rostov's giant agricultural machine-building plant, Rosselmash, demolished by the Germans, it was necessary to remove 90,000 tons of wreckage from the site. Several sections of the plant have now been rebuilt and are turning out munitions and machine parts. Rosselmash formerly produced harvesters, plows, cultivators, etc.

THE SOVIET CONSTITUTION AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION

By Georgi Karpov

President, Government Council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church

Stalin referred to the Constitution of the Soviet Union as a "summary of a path that has been traversed, a summary of gains already achieved." It reflects the great historic victories of the peoples of the Soviet Union. All nations and races in the Soviet Union, regardless of their past or present, of their strength or weakness, or of their religious beliefs, enjoy equal rights.

The Soviet Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and religious worship. A decree of January 23, 1918, provided for freedom of conscience, of religious worship and of anti-religious propaganda. This decree also separated the church from the State and the schools from the church. It further provided that every citizen may profess any religion he desires or may profess no religion at all, and all references to religious affiliation were deleted from Government acts and documents. This decree met with the approval of the church itself, as represented by its honest and progressive leaders. Under the Tsar, the church had been an appendage of the Government machine and was entirely dependent upon the State. As a result, its activities had been hampered.

The late Sergius, Patriarch of Moscow and of all Russia, who died in May, 1944, stated in his book, *The Truth About Religion in Russia*, published in 1942:

The decree of the Soviet Government on freedom of conscience and on freedom of religious belief removed the weight which had encumbered the church for many years and relieved it from external tutelage. This was of immense benefit to the inner life of the church. The decree confers freedom upon all religious associations and guarantees the inviolability of that freedom. It is a supreme blessing to our Orthodox Church that it has ceased to be the governing church and has, therefore, ceased to be the instrument of autocracy hindering the religious conscience of other denominations.

Article 124 of the Constitution reads:

In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, the church in the USSR is separated from the state, and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship

and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognized for all citizens.

Thus every citizen is free to choose his religion, to profess any religion he chooses and, furthermore, to enjoy all the rights of citizenship regardless of his religious beliefs. Every citizen is further protected by laws which prohibit any limitation of rights or persecution for religious convictions.

No distinction is made between believers and non-believers either in factories, offices, State and collective farms, or in the Army. Candidates for public office or for admission into any public organization are never required to furnish information about their religious creed.

Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the unrestricted performance of religious services, the publication of church literature and by the existence of seminaries for training the clergy. Both religious and anti-religious literature is printed in Government print shops and the paper for either purpose comes from Government stocks.

The Archbishop of York, who visited the Soviet Union in 1943, publicly declared on April 21, 1944, that the Russian Church today enjoys a freedom it has not had for centuries.

When the Convocation of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church elected the Patriarch of Moscow in October, 1943, the Soviet Government appointed a Council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church. This body would act as a link between the Government and the Patriarchate of Moscow and all Russia on questions affecting the Russian Orthodox Church, which require the decision of the Government.

The Council has representatives in the Republics, territories and regions, to act as a liaison between the local Government authorities and the local church groups.

In 1944, the Government also set up a Council for the Affairs of Religious

Creeds, which functions as a liaison body between the Government and the Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, Mohammedan, Jewish, Evangelical, and other religious groups not affiliated with the Orthodox Church.

By proclaiming freedom of religion, the Soviet Constitution has eliminated the possibility of national and religious strife among the numerous nationalities of the Soviet Union and has cemented the bonds of friendship among them.

In the course of the Soviet Union's Patriotic War of defense against Hitler Germany, this friendship of nations has been strikingly reflected in the deeds of supreme heroism performed by the Soviet people. As Stalin has said:

All the peoples of the Soviet Union have risen as one to defend their motherland, rightly considering the present Patriotic War the common cause of all working people, irrespective of nationality or religion. By now the Hitlerite politicians have themselves seen how hopelessly stupid were their hopes of discord and strife among the peoples of the Soviet Union. The friendship of the peoples of our country has withstood all hardships and trials of war and has become tempered still further in the common struggle of all the Soviet people against the fascist invaders. This is a source of the strength of the Soviet Union.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 129

Washington, D. C., December 14, 1944



Closing in on Budapest

Soviet troops are closing in on the Hungarian capital. The important Hungarian industrial area situated northeast and north of Budapest has already been cut off. The Soviet offensive is so swift that the Germans and Hungarians have failed to evacuate industrial equipment. Russian troops have captured numerous trains loaded with equipment prepared for evacuation.

Soviet aircraft incessantly attack bridges and railway stations in the enemy rear and paralyze his movements. The enemy is suffering bloody casualties. In one sector a German reserve division rushed into a counter-attack just as the Russian artillery shifted their fire to depth. The counter-attacking waves of German infantry fell under the fire of the "Katyushas," and only meager remnants of the division escaped annihilation.

The Cossacks are also battering the German infantry. In the fighting at the

northern approaches to Budapest, Cossacks in one sector completely sabered up two German infantry battalions. Each day that passes confirms the superiority of Soviet military art over the German. The flexible and daring tactics of Soviet officers and men are triumphing on the battlefields of Hungary. Soviet troops constantly resort to surprise actions. They advance in wedges, which either fan out, widening the breach, or converge in the enemy's rear, trapping his garrisons.

The enemy defense is crumbling step by step. All defensive plans of the German command are falling through. Not only large Soviet formations, but even battalions, companies and platoons carry out daring and precise maneuvers on the battlefield, accelerating the enemy's defeat.

On many occasions the initiative of officers in command of small elements has blazed the road for the actions of large formations and thus sealed the outcome

of the battle. Tens of thousands of yesterday's engineers, clerks, workers and collective farmers have in the crucible of war mastered the military art, gaining superiority over the German officers. For more than two years now Russian troops have firmly held the initiative on the battle fronts, invariably imposing their will upon the enemy.

In these two years the German command has tried more than once to turn the tables of the war. The German command began to change its tactics, using new methods on the defensive. But all these attempts fail. The Red Army invariably overcomes the enemy, successfully accomplishing the great and noble task set it by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal Stalin: to complete, together with the Armies of our Allies, the defeat of the German-fascist army, to finish off the fascist beast in its lair and to raise the banner of victory over Berlin.

Advance on Southern Flank

On the southern flank of the Soviet-German front the Red Army is advancing on a 500-kilometer front, with large forces engaged on both sides. The offensive is being conducted in a direction that is of great importance strategically, with the front line some 120-130 kilometers from the Austrian frontier. The fighting is drawing near to Nagykanzsa, one of the most important of Hungary's oilfields, the loss of which will mean increased difficulties in supplying fuel for enemy aircraft, tanks and motor transport. The Germans are therefore forced to expend their reserves.

The outcome of the present battles in Hungary may influence the situation in Yugoslavia and northern Italy, as well as on the southern flank of the Soviet-German front.



Guards Colonel Nikolai Brozgol, Hero of the Soviet Union (center), at an observation post in the Carpathians

Radtophoto

Third Anniversary of German Defeat at Moscow

By Colonel A. Karpov

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, December 7, 1944:

Three years ago, after stubborn defensive fighting, the Red Army at Moscow launched an offensive which developed into one of the most portentous battles in history.

When the Germans treacherously attacked the Soviet Union, they planned to smash Red Army resistance at one blow. They planned to crush the main forces of the Soviet Union at its western borders, thus clearing the field for their advance on Moscow. The fall of Moscow, they hoped, would spell the end of the war in the Soviet Union. The German Central Army group which conducted the operations against the Soviet Capital consisted of three tank and two field armies, including most of Hitler's SS divisions.

In the early months of the war, however, the Red Army had inflicted a series of grave defeats on the German hordes and had shattered divisions that had been trained for years for an Eastern campaign. Before he could launch the offensive, which was to decide not only the fate of Moscow but also of the entire war, Hitler had to replenish his regiments and form new divisions. The offensive began in the early part of October.

"Within a few weeks," Hitler said in an order of the day, "three basic industrial regions [Moscow, Leningrad and the Caucasus] will be completely in our hands. Conditions have been created for a final blow of immense power which should lead to the destruction of the enemy before the onset of winter. . . . This time the preparations have proceeded systematically, step by step, and will put the enemy in a position which will enable us to deal him a mortal blow."

The fighting raged all through the second half of October. Moscow was in grave peril. But the Germans failed to achieve their purpose—they failed to break through to Moscow. The Nazis had once more overestimated their own strength and underestimated the morale of Moscow's defenders and the Red Army's grueling capacity for resistance. The German army sustained a major defeat.

The Germans had to bring up fresh

forces before making another attempt on Moscow. They had, especially, to strengthen their flanks.

The second general offensive began on November 16. At great cost the enemy succeeded in approaching Moscow, in reaching the areas of Dmitrov, Zvenigorod, Narofominsk and Kashira, and in almost completely surrounding Tula. His purpose was to envelop Moscow in a pincers movement and then close these pincers east of the city.

The fighting was fierce and exacting. But despite their numerical strength, the Germans could neither pierce the Soviet defenses nor accomplish their main purpose of smashing our resistance on decisive sectors. The great battle continued for 20 days, without pause or respite. Moscow was defended not only by the Army but by the entire Soviet people. Troops from all parts of the country and an endless stream of guns, tanks and ammunition poured in for the defense of the Capital. The workers of Moscow, inspired by their great leader, Marshal Stalin, converted the city into an impregnable fortress.

Heroes of a Great Battle

When Kashira was in danger and enemy tanks pushed on frantically, one of our cavalry divisions was forced into battle despite the heavy odds. On November 27, its commander, General Baranov, was summoned to speak with Stalin on a direct wire. He reported on the situation and assured Stalin that his cavalymen would not let the enemy pass. Stalin approved the plan of action outlined by Baranov and promised to send reinforcements. The next morning a tank brigade arrived with automatic rifles for the division. Inspired by Stalin's interest and assistance, the cavalymen stemmed the enemy's advance and then delivered a crushing counter-blow against his advance units.

The heroism of the 28 men of General Panfilov's Guards unit is well known. They assaulted a large German armored force at the Dubosekovo Station near Volokolamsk and for several hours kept the panzers at bay, destroying large numbers of them together with their crews.

The 28 heroes laid down their lives, but they did not let the enemy through.

The defense of Moscow succeeded because it was an active defense. It wore down the enemy and decimated his ranks. It paved the way for a counter-blow that would change the entire course of battle. It was part of a brilliant plan conceived by Stalin and carried out under his immediate direction. Its purpose was to hold the enemy and prevent him from driving into the heart of the country and at the same time to mass reserves, concentrate them on decisive sectors and then launch a sudden counter-offensive.

While many persons abroad believed that all was lost and that the fall of Moscow was inevitable, the plans were made and events came to a head 20 days after the Germans had launched their second general offensive against Moscow. Hitler was certain that his entry into the Soviet Capital was a matter of days. On one sector the Germans had massed an impressive array of long-range artillery and were ready to bombard Moscow on the appointed day.

On December 6, however, the Red Army took the offensive. The first blows were struck at the enemy's flank. This was another demonstration of Stalin's strategical acumen, for the enemy's main forces were actually concentrated on the flanks. By crushing them, the Red Army inflicted a defeat upon the German army from which it was not soon to recover.

Three flank groups had wedged deep into our defenses and as a result were actually half-encircled. It was shown that a deep wedge and spearhead can yield positive results only if the adversary's main forces are defeated simultaneously and his capacity for resistance broken. But while the Germans had driven deep wedges into Soviet defenses, they were unable to put the Red Army's main forces out of action. Our forces were compelled to retreat but they preserved their capacity for resistance and were able to conduct active operations, as their subsequent offensive demonstrated.

This offensive overwhelmed the German flank groups and inflicted a severe defeat on them. Soon the attack was de-

livered on the central sectors as well and the enemy's whole front was overpowered and sent reeling westward. By the end of December the front had fallen back beyond Volokolamsk and Kaluga.

Having taken the initiative, the Red Army kept the Germans on the run and within four months had advanced as much as 400 kilometers in some places. The battle of Moscow proved that the Red Army had grown in strength and had

improved in military skill. This battle completely disposed of the myth of the invincibility of the German army. It was the first in which the Germans had suffered a major defeat—not a defeat on some subsidiary sector but a defeat of the Germans' main forces on a decisive sector of the Soviet-German front.

The victory at Moscow opened the eyes of the peoples of Europe to the truth about Hitler's war machine. Unbeaten in

Europe, it began to sustain defeat when it encountered an army whose soldiers knew what they were fighting for and how to fight, and who were backed by the resources of an immense country and by a great people led by Stalin.

The strategical, moral and political effect of the Germans' defeat at Moscow was immense. It gave a powerful fillip to the liberation movements in the occupied countries of Europe.

CONSOLIDATING YUGOSLAVIA'S STRENGTH

By K. Hofman

The conversations conducted in Moscow by representatives of Yugoslavia, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Subasic; the Vice Chairman of the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia, Kardel, and the Ambassador of Yugoslavia to Moscow, Simic, with Marshal Stalin and People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs Molotov, have evoked wide interest.

In the Soviet-Yugoslav communique published subsequently, it is stated that in the course of the conversations the principal Yugoslav questions were discussed in a friendly spirit and from the standpoint of Yugoslavia's position among the United Nations.

The problems which were discussed in Moscow by the Yugoslav statesmen with the leaders of the Soviet Government are connected with the remarkable military and political results of the heroic fight of the Yugoslav people against the Hitlerite invaders. For the first time in the history of Yugoslavia, the unity of the multi-national Yugoslav people on a broad democratic basis has been achieved in the course of this struggle.

From the war against Hitler Germany, Yugoslavia will emerge much stronger and more united than it was before the war. This is largely due to the building up of a federated democratic Yugoslav State based on the equality of all nations inhabiting it, which is being carried out in line with the wishes of the popular masses.

After the First World War, Yugoslavia remained nationally disunited. Serbian ruling circles in those days pursued a policy of national oppression of all non-Serbs. In spite of the fact that Yugoslavia

was called the "Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes," only the Serbs dominated. German imperialism took advantage of the national strife and fomented it, to further its own interests; in fact, it managed to secure quite strong positions in Yugoslavia.

The policy of Belgrade after Hitler's accession to power in Germany still further facilitated German economic and political penetration in the Balkans. Subsequently it helped the Germans to carry out their aggressive plans. The Yugoslav people paid dearly for the reactionary policy of its government before the war. Yugoslavia became the first victim of German aggression in the Balkans.

The Yugoslav people refused to concede defeat and submit to the Hitlerites. Its advanced elements saw clearly what was to be done to save the country. They saw that it was necessary to organize a national war against the German-fascist invaders and in the course of that war to lay the foundations for the future reconstruction of the Yugoslav State, in a way that would forever eliminate the factors which militated against Yugoslavia's unity and military strength and made her an easy prey for the Germans.

Marshal Tito put forward a new program for the consolidation of all forces of the people in the fight against the Hitlerite invaders, a program for a democratic reconstitution of Yugoslavia on the basis of the equality and freedom of all its nations. It is a program that appeals to every honest Yugoslav patriot, whether Serb, Croat, Slovene, Bosnian, Montenegrin or Macedonian.

Thanks to this program, consistently applied by Marshal Tito, the Yugoslav

people realized its own strength and under his leadership scored big military and political successes in the fight against the German invaders and their flunkies—Mikhailovic, Nedic, Pavelic and others.

The freedom-loving peoples of Yugoslavia have made a major contribution to the common cause of the Allies. The People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia has done a great deal to extend the front of the anti-Hitler coalition. In its ranks fight representatives of all the nations of Yugoslavia. The People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia helped to form partisan detachments in neighboring countries. It laid the foundation for the fighting cooperation with the new army of Bulgaria after the latter's liberation from the Hitlerite yoke. . . .

Still greater unity of all the truly democratic forces in the country is needed to consolidate the big successes achieved by Yugoslavia in this war. Last summer Marshal Tito and Doctor Subasic concluded an agreement for close cooperation between the Yugoslav National Committee of Liberation and the Yugoslav government-in-exile. Later, negotiations were conducted regarding the formation of a united Government on the basis of the agreement.

From the communique published in Moscow it is obvious that Prime Minister Subasic and Marshal Tito both desire to unite all truly democratic forces of the people. Therein lies the guarantee of the consolidation of Yugoslavia's international position and home front, for the creation of a democratic federated Yugoslavia which will serve as a positive and constructive factor in the achievement of victory and the organization of peace.



Playing guerrillas is a favorite game of Soviet children. Igor Prokofiev and Gennady Rozov, safe in the thick grass, draw a bead on the enemy



Morning exercises in the kindergarten gymnasium. While fathers are at the front and mothers at the factory, the children are safe and happy

HOW SERVICEMEN'S FAMILIES ARE CARED FOR IN THE SOVIET UNION

By Valentina Khetagurova

Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR

The Soviet State has given tremendous and varied assistance to the families of servicemen, for this is half the job of caring for the Red Army. Billions of rubles annually are paid in grants to the families of these men and various privileges have been granted them by law. The children of servicemen are the first to be admitted to and given complete maintenance in vocational schools and in the Suvorov training schools for junior officers. War orphans are brought up in children's homes.

Extra food rations, clothing and other personal provisions, medical aid and accommodations in sanatoriums and rest homes have been placed at the disposal of servicemen's families.

The powerful movement to help servicemen's families arose spontaneously among the people and rapidly reached tremendous proportions. In order to channelize this initiative of the people, departments having the powers of organization and control were set up under the Council of People's Commissars of the Republics and the Regional and District Soviets of Workers' Deputies.

These departments which united thousands upon thousands of Soviet patriots of all ages and professions, who wished

to take part in the nationwide effort to care for the families of servicemen, made it their business to know the family of each serviceman in order to have a clear concept of the type of assistance needed and to make this assistance systematic. In plants, collective farms, villages and apartment houses everywhere, special aid committees of public investigators were formed. This organizational measure contributed greatly to the nationwide effort and produced splendid results.

A steady income is a true guarantee of a family's welfare. One way of caring for servicemen's families, therefore, is to provide employment for the able-bodied members of the family by teaching them a trade and providing nursery care for the young children, thus making it possible for the adults to work regularly.

How this is achieved may be seen from the following case. A serviceman's family, for example, consists of a mother and two children, one of pre-school age and the other of school age. A public investigator frequently visits the family and is regarded as a family member to whom the rest can turn for advice and assistance. The mother tells him that she would like to work but does not know

what to do with the children. Besides, she has no training and does not know where she can obtain employment. The public investigator makes this report to the Department of Aid to Soldiers' Families of the local Soviet and to the Aid Committee of the apartment house in which the family lives.

As a result, the younger child is placed in a nursery school where, together with other children of his age, he spends the day at supervised play and rest. For the older child there is an after-school program in a "prolonged day" group, specially organized in the schools for children of working mothers. Here he receives his dinner, plays, reads and does his homework until the mother returns from work.

The mother goes to work. Everything is strange and new. A skilled worker-volunteer teaches her a trade, patiently and carefully explains the details of her work, helps and criticizes. When the day's work is over, the mother comes home to find her room spick and span, the fire lit and a hot meal ready. These preparations were made for her by the Timurites in the neighborhood. These groups of boys and girls take their name from the hero of a popular children's book written by Gaidar. They constantly give assistance to



From left, Borya Ivanov, son of a cavalryman; Raya Bobrova, daughter of a militiaman; and Viola Tolpyga, whose father and mother both work in a munitions plant; (right) For late afternoons in the kindergarten, the teachers devise "quiet games," to calm down the youngsters after exciting play. "Botanical lotto" is very popular



The afternoon nap, from 1:30 to 3:30; (right) In bad weather the children play indoors. Nadya Guseva, in foreground, is very quiet—she lost her father at the front and her grandmother died of hunger during the Leningrad blockade



Viola Tolpyga loves dancing; (right) Learning to be snipers—Alik Sokolov's mother is a mail-carrier, Shura Utkin's mother is a barber, Igor Prokofiev's mother is a bookkeeper. Vava Kartashev's mother and father are both at the front and he lives with his grandmother

the families of servicemen.

The public investigator's work and that of the aid committees and departments of the Soviets of Workers' Deputies, however, does not end when the mother is employed and the children placed. A regular follow-up of the family is made to take care of any further problems that may arise either at work or at home.

The case cited above is not an isolated example. There are 111,000 wives of servicemen in the Moscow Region, who have received their training in this way; 122,000 in the city of Gorky and 50,000 in the Ivanov Region. In Leningrad, 30,000 wives of servicemen took their husbands' places at machines they left to fight at the front. Soldiers' wives, as a rule, make good workers. In the Saratov Region, more than a hundred wives of fighting men have doubled their production norms. At the Magnitogorsk iron and steel works, about 4,000 members of servicemen's families have become skilled workers. The Government of the USSR has awarded orders and medals to wives of servicemen for their production records and selfless labor.

Mothers of large families who want to work at home are also given an opportunity to earn steady wages. They sew and knit for the Army and population, getting their orders at home from State agencies and cooperative artels.

The nationwide care of servicemen's families takes many forms. Millions of Soviet workers have contributed two days' pay to aid soldiers' families. A total of 400 million rubles thus collected in voluntary contributions was credited to the accounts of the Departments of Aid to Servicemen's Families. The State has provided families of servicemen with land and seeds for vegetable gardens. Besides this, the collective farms cultivate special plots each year and the products are contributed to the fund. In 1944 in the Russian SFSR alone about 64,000 tons of grain, more than 12,800 tons of vegetables, 48,000 tons of potatoes, and large quantities of milk, butter, eggs, wool and other farm products were contributed to this fund.

New methods of aiding soldiers' families adopted in one locality are eagerly followed in another and soon spread throughout the country. At the collective farm of Krasny Pakhar in the Kursk Re-

gion, two women—Shatalova, a farmer, and Yamshinskaya, a bookkeeper—used their own savings to build a new home for their neighbor, the wife of a soldier. The news soon spread and by now the collective farms of the Kursk Region have built with their own funds 220 homes for families of servicemen. Thousands of Soviet citizens throughout Russia are anxious to contribute part of their wages to finance the construction of homes for soldiers' families that suffered from the German invasion, and thousands of new, modern houses are rising from the ruins of districts liberated from German captivity to welcome the victorious soldiers when they return home.

Special weekly and monthly drives for soldiers' families have become common in the Soviet land. In the Yaroslavl Region, all families of servicemen were provided within two weeks with everything necessary to meet the grim northern winter without worry. During the first nine months of 1944, voluntary contributions financed the renovation of 500,000 apartments of servicemen's families.

Special care is given to soldiers' children and war orphans. The Soviet Union has a large number of State homes for children, kindergartens, 2,500 trade schools, Suvorov training schools, special clinics for children, sanatoria and rest homes. In the Russian Republic there are 17,000 children's homes that take care of 1,200,000 children. The State has spent 1,700,000,000 rubles on the maintenance of these homes in 1944. Two million children of servicemen spent their summer vacations in camps. About two million rubles daily are spent by the State on com-



Boys of a Soviet village find a friend at a nearby airdrome

munal feeding for children. In the liberated districts, 102 children's homes, 25 trade schools and nine Suvorov training schools have been opened for war orphans.

In addition to State measures, the Soviet people have assumed responsibility for children of servicemen and for war orphans. Ovchinnikova, a woman worker at the Krasny Bogatyr plant, has provided an orphan child with a home in her family. "There are no unwanted children in our country. They are all wanted," she said simply. Two hundred and thirty-nine thousand war orphans found homes and a mother's love in families of Soviet patriots.

A collective farm in the Moscow Region financed the construction of a children's home for war orphans, equipped and furnished it, and is maintaining it to this day. There are now similar homes in all the regions of the Soviet Union. In the Kirov Region there are 126 homes for war orphans maintained by collective farms. In the Tambov Region, 1,500 war orphans are cared for in homes sponsored by collective farmers.

Kindergartens, sanatoria and rest homes are being built and maintained by voluntary contributions from Soviet people throughout the country. In the Chita Region of Siberia, three million rubles were contributed for the special purpose of establishing regular scholarships for soldiers' children. This started a new movement and at present similar scholarships exist in schools everywhere.

At the front the war is still going on but every day brings nearer the happy prospect of final victory. "I don't know you but I am writing to you as to some one very dear," read the letter sent by a fighting man to the department of aid for soldiers' wives of the Soviet of Workers' Deputies. "Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your splendid work. To know that someone is thinking of our families means a great deal to us. My wife wrote me about the touching care you have given my children. I shall never forget it. As soon as we square accounts with the Germans, the first thing I shall do when I get back to my village will be to visit you so that I can give you a hearty handshake. With deep respect and warm greetings from a Russian soldier, Alexei Russanov." The hearty grip of a soldier's hand is our highest award.

Chairman of Dzerzhinsky District Soviet, City of Moscow

By I. Ostrovsky

The Dzerzhinsky District in Moscow comprises 300,000 persons. Its economy is administered by the District Soviet, elected by the population. The Chairman is Yulia Polyakova, a 32-year-old engineer who formerly worked in a Moscow aircraft plant.

I recently visited Chairman Polyakova in her large, cheerful office, where she was busy receiving individuals and committees from the District.

Born in the Urals, Polyakova came from a long line of metallurgical workers. Her father is known as one of the best smiths of the region. This heritage determined her choice of a career. "My father was anxious that the dynasty of Polyakov metallurgical workers should not die out," she explained. "Since my two brothers had gone into the Red Army, it was all the more necessary for me to carry on the tradition. After graduation from secondary school in 1929, I entered the Moscow Institute of Non-Ferrous Metals. I had been interested in aviation technique for a long time, and when I finished my course at the Institute I went to work in a Moscow aircraft plant."

For four years Polyakova worked at the plant, making an excellent record as a worker and inventor. At the same time she took an active interest in public affairs. When elections to the District Soviet were held in 1939, her co-workers chose her as their candidate for the Moscow City Soviet and the October District Soviet. She was elected Chairman of the Soviet for the October District and served four years, proving herself an excellent administrator and economist.

When the German armies threatened Moscow, Chairman Polyakova in two days gathered an army of 12,000 women in her District and organized them so thoroughly they carried out their assigned task five days ahead of schedule. For this achievement the Government awarded Polyakova the Meritorious Service Medal.

A year ago the Chairman of the Dzerzhinsky District Soviet fell ill and Polyakova was appointed substitute Chairman. Her work in putting the schools of the district into first-rate condition for the year's work brought her the thanks of

the Moscow City Soviet. Under the difficult conditions then prevailing, the 21 schools were rehabilitated, supplied with firewood, textbooks, teaching aids and all other necessities, far ahead of the opening date. The 20,000 pupils are now supplied with hot lunches, and 3,000 whose health is below par receive special rations and a special diet in children's dining rooms. The 29 kindergartens of the district accommodate 1,785 children, and are staffed with trained teachers and nursing personnel.

The economy of a city district of this size, which must provide municipal services for 300,000 persons, is extremely complex. But the deputies to the Soviets are as a rule the most highly qualified people of the districts, energetic, devoted and understanding, and it is upon them the Chairman relies for assistance.

Committees of deputies, including people of various trades and professions, constantly check up on the economy of the district, the schools, hygiene and medical institutions. Their special training and knowledge enable them to discover flaws and weaknesses that might escape the notice of the district administrators.

Deputies of one such committee recently visited all families of front-line servicemen in the district and distributed gifts of clothing, sent by American women's organizations, to some 5,000 homes. A report on the distribution was made

to Chairman Polyakova by the head of the committee.

The director of the District finance department has submitted the draft of the District budget for 1945 to the Chairman. The appropriation for education has been increased by three million rubles over the 1944 figure, as the number of schoolchildren has risen sharply. Appropriations for health show a similar increase; included were funds for a new 260-bed maternity home and a suburban sanatorium for 230 children.

The entire budget is drawn up with a view to meeting the cultural and physical needs of the people as fully as possible. It is then submitted to Chairman Polyakova, who gives it careful study before approval.

The day the writer visited the Chairman of the Dzerzhinsky City Soviet, a delegation of workers from a bicycle factory had called to arrange for the adoption of children orphaned by the war. Each worker wished to adopt one child. Such requests are taken up by the Chairman aside from the regular order of business.

Yulia Polyakova, who is married to Major General Grachev, decorated 10 times for his services in the Patriotic War, is also the mother of a young daughter.

In her work and in all her public activities, Chairman Polyakova exemplifies the Soviet maxim, "A deputy is the servant of the people."

500-Mile Moscow-Saratov Gas Pipeline

Georgi Popov, newly-elected Chairman of the Moscow City Soviet, reported December 9 that on Marshal Stalin's suggestion the Government had decided to construct a 500-mile gas pipeline from Moscow to Saratov. This will make it possible to supply the Capital with natural gas from enormous deposits recently tapped in the Volga valley. Consumption of gas in Moscow will be increased fivefold and many millions of cubic feet of firewood will be saved annually.

The route of the new pipeline has already been fixed and construction is to be completed by next December. Much

work lies ahead, as it will be necessary to readapt fireboxes, manufacture new gas equipment and build a number of auxiliary installations.

Together with building organizations and machine-building plants, the entire population of Moscow is preparing to take an active part in the project. There is no doubt that it will be carried through on time, as the city has had considerable experience in huge municipal construction in wartime. Two new subway lines and other transport facilities, as well as new houses and factories, have been completed in the war years.

UZBEKISTAN

By Victor Belikov

Uzbekistan, the chief cotton-producing area of the Soviet Union, has made the country independent of cotton imports. In 1913 Tsarist Russia had to import 196,000 tons of raw cotton and only 223,000 tons were grown within the country. By 1937 a great change had come about: 854,000 tons were produced within the country, imports falling to 22,000 tons.

In the following years cotton production rose steadily and before the war five million acres were sown to cotton. Half this sown area was in Uzbekistan. During the war, when the country was temporarily deprived of the large cotton plantations developed under the Soviet power in the southern regions of the Ukraine and in the Kuban, Stavropol and Stalingrad areas, Uzbekistan's cotton crop took on added importance. The area now sown to cotton in the USSR is 170 per cent greater than it had been in 1917, the third year of the First World War.

The accelerated development of Uzbekistan's agriculture is due primarily to extensive mechanization of the work and to the widespread introduction of irrigation systems. Whereas the primitive hoe formerly had been the prevailing agricultural implement, there are now more than 10,000 tractors servicing the Republic's farms through 175 machine and tractor stations.

Uzbekistan provides a perfect example of the value of irrigation to agriculture. In the summer, the temperature is very high and the few ground springs dry up rapidly, leaving the land uncultivable.

During the years of Soviet power 60 large irrigation canals were excavated and 500 mechanical pumping stations were built. The canals were built in record time—the great 270-kilometer Fergana Canal, for example, was built in only 45 days. The scope of this project alone can be seen from the fact that: 160,000 persons were engaged in the excavation and construction work; 18 million cubic meters of soil were excavated; 1,300 various auxiliary irrigation works were built; and over 1,000 trucks and 17,000 horses, oxen and camels were used. Twenty-three portable radio stations operated at various excavation points and

42 medical installations functioned constantly. The canal was completed in record time because of the all-out effort made by everybody concerned.

The extension of irrigation projects in the Republic proceeded without interruption during the war. In fact, the cultivable area was extended by over 1,970,000 acres. As more and more land was made fertile, grain production was doubled without in any way affecting the output of cotton. This increase was without doubt the greatest single achievement made by Uzbekistan's agriculture during the war. It did away with the necessity of importing 45,000 carloads of grain annually, as had been the case before the outbreak of the war. Thus, Uzbekistan has become an important grain-producing area. The Republic has also added sugar beet to its list of crops and has established new sugar refineries.

Uzbekistan can pride itself not only on its agricultural achievements but also on its industrial progress. In the same way in which the Uzbeks took up the construction of irrigation projects, they are now working on hydroelectric power production. Four power plants, with a total capacity of 72,000 kilowatts, have been built since the beginning of the war. The Farkhad hydroelectric power plant, the pride of Uzbekistan, is now in operation and nine new power plants are under construction.

In the short space of six months the aviation, machine-building, chemical, munitions and other industrial plants which had been wholly or partly evacuated to Uzbekistan were set up and put into operation. The Begovat metallurgical plant is now one of Uzbekistan's steel-producing giants. Oil production has been raised to twice its prewar level. Coal mines have been opened and are being exploited.

During the war the Republic's industrial output has been increased by 150 per cent, with almost half this production in heavy industry, as compared with only 14.3 per cent before the war. Uzbekistan is today rapidly emerging as one of the richest Republics of the Soviet Union.

Herds Shifted from East To Liberated Areas

Workers of the Soviet meat and dairy industry have set a unique world record for mass cattle herding. Millions of calves, goats and sheep bought for liberated areas by Government decision were driven to the Ukraine, Byelorussia and other areas from Kazakhstan, Kirov, Vologda and other eastern and northeastern regions. It would have required over 60,000 freight cars and 1,000 locomotives working constantly for four weeks to shift these enormous herds by rail.

Hundreds of scouts were dispatched from specially appointed headquarters to establish the routes by which the cattle would travel. Covering many thousands of miles on motorcycles, bicycles, on horseback and on foot, the scouts mapped 23 routes totaling a distance of 25,000 miles. Along these routes 540 veterinary stations and 250 control stations were set up. Cattle experts were on duty on round-the-clock shifts. The routes traversed areas well supplied with water and pasturage.

This spring several thousand herds began the trek across country, tended by 25,000 herdsmen.

Instead of losing weight en route, the cattle gained and their numbers increased. Chief herdsman Persidsky, who left Kazakhstan with 600 cows weighing a total of about 200 tons, arrived in Voroshilovgrad with 660 cows and calves with a combined weight of 230 tons.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 130

Washington, D. C., December 16, 1944



FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK TREATY

The Soviet public marks the first anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration between the Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Republic, signed in Moscow, December 12, 1943.

IZVESTIA writes editorially:

A traditional friendship exists between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. As far back as 1935, in Prague, the Soviet Union signed a treaty with the Czechoslovak Republic to provide for the possibility that either signatory might become "the object of threat or menace of aggression on the part of any European state."

Hitlerite Germany's bandit attack on the Soviet Union brought the USSR and the Czechoslovak Republic even closer. On July 18, 1941, the Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement was signed in London. It outlined methods of joint military operations

against Hitlerite Germany. The Soviet Government gave its consent to the creation of National Czechoslovak Military Units on the territory of the Soviet Union.

Last year the historical victories of the Red Army and the successes of the Allied troops in the struggle against the common enemy already made quite real and near the prospect of the defeat of Hitlerite Germany and of the complete liberation of the Czechoslovak people from the German-fascist yoke. It became vitally important to sign a new treaty.

The Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty, signed for a term of 20 years, has laid a firm foundation for postwar collaboration between the Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak people. It blocks every attempt on Germany's part to return to the old bandit policy of "Drang nach Osten."

During the past year the Treaty, as well as Soviet-Czechoslovak relations as a whole, were tried and tested in the flames

of the war against the Hitlerite invaders. Inspired by the Red Army's offensive, the peoples of Czechoslovakia rally ever closer for the struggle against the German occupationists.

The Red Army offensive dealt a blow to the German troops in the Carpathians. Soviet troops crossed the Carpathians and lent a helping hand to the Czechoslovak Republic, part of whose territory has already been freed of the German invaders. The people of Czechoslovakia heartily welcomed the Red Army—the liberator.

The struggle of the Czechoslovak nation for liberation has entered a new phase. The day of complete liberation of the Czechoslovak Republic is near. The growing Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship serves as a guarantee that with the Red Army's assistance the Czechoslovak people will soon clear their land of the hateful Hitlerites and embark on the rehabilitation of their country.



Soviet howitzers in the Carpathians



Transporting artillery in the snow-covered Carpathian heights

Radiophotos

POLAND FIGHTING AND BUILDING

By M. Berezanski

From WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, Number 23:

Many are the beautiful legends and songs which the Polish people have created about the Vistula. From time immemorial they flocked to the river banks on the eve of St. John's Day; young people built bonfires, youths and girls went rowing in boats, lighting their way over the river with torches. At midnight the girls threw wreaths and garlands of flowers into the water.

From its source in the Beskids, the Vistula carries its waters through the wide Polish plain, emptying into the Baltic Sea. For ages the Vistula with its tributaries not only served as a means of communication between various parts of the country—it was the backbone holding together all Poland, the entire Polish people.

It was . . .

Today the Germans have covered its western bank with steel and concrete fortifications entangled with rusty barbed wire and barred with minefields. The German army, one-million strong, is entrenched in these fortifications. Howling and whistling shells and mortar bombs fly over the broad expanses of the Vistula. To all appearances, not even a bird could wing its way across the river. Actually, however, it is not quite so. Young Poles, eager to join the Polish Army on freed Polish soil, manage to overcome all barriers. Courageous young men, risking their lives, swim across the river in the dark autumn nights. From them we learn what is going on on the other side—"under the German," as the Poles say.

According to reports of guerrillas who have made their way across the river, savage violence has been rampant in the German-occupied regions of Poland ever since the Warsaw uprising. The Gestapo has now mobilized all Germans from the ages of 16 to 60 to help the police. It has given them arms and organized them as a so-called *Stadt und Landwache*. Their mission is to crush all resistance. They have been given the right to kill Poles at their own discretion, without the formality of an investigation or trial.

The *Stadt und Landwache* help the

gendarmes and the Gestapo to round up the Polish population. Men are deported as slave labor to Germany, women are sent to build fortifications.

The Hitlerites are aware that their days in Poland are numbered. They are therefore robbing the population on a scale unusual even for the Germans. Quotas of obligatory deliveries have been increased severalfold. In districts close to the front the Germans are confiscating all cattle and pigs. Whatever remains, after this "organized" plunder, is taken away by German military units. German soldiers loot not only food products, but clothing and utensils. Whole trainloads of stolen goods are sent to Germany.

In many districts in the front zone the Germans wind up their wholesale plunder by consigning Polish towns and villages to the flames. Thus they have recently burned the towns of Zmigrod and Tarnowic. In the neighborhood of Dukla they razed 22 villages. The Germans are evicting the entire Polish population in the zone between Kielce and Jaslo, and are exterminating aged persons.

The equipment of factories is being hastily removed to Germany. The Germans removed practically all the equipment of the Ostrowiec Iron and Steel Works, the ammunition plant in Radomskie, the powder factory in Zagozdzzone, and many others. In Starachowice the Germans removed not only the equipment but even the window frames of the large iron and steel works, and have mined the factory buildings.

A most terrible fate has befallen the population of Warsaw. Hundreds of thousands of people of the Polish Capital, which General Bor-Komorowski betrayed to the enemy, have been deported. The Germans first herded them into concentration camps in Pruszkow and other places. Then they sent off from twelve to fifteen thousand of them to the death camp in Oswiecim. They deported all able-bodied men and women as slaves for German mines and factories. Children and disabled persons have been loaded in trains and sent in various directions, and then dumped at small stations with-

out food or any of their belongings.

The guerrillas tell how the Germans are now seeking to make capital for themselves out of the tragedy of Warsaw, by inciting the Poles against the Allies. In the press which is published for the Polish population, the Hitlerites spread Bor's calumnious statements against Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States. They also prominently display provocative statements in which the reactionary emigres attack the Allies.

It takes German stupidity, however, to offer the Poles "cooperation with the Germans" at this late hour, when the end of the Hitlerite rule of the remaining part of Polish territory is already in sight. Arrivals from across the Vistula unanimously state that the Poles have nothing but contempt and hate in answer to such appeals coming from the executioners of Warsaw and the rest of Poland.

Despite the reign of terror, the ranks of the Polish guerrillas are swelling. Anti-German sabotage is rife. Guerrilla detachments of the People's Army are active everywhere. On the Kielce-Skarsysko railway line the guerrillas regularly wrecked German troop trains until they compelled the Germans to give up that line altogether. Many German trains have been derailed in the neighborhood of Radomskie, and Pictrkow. Scores of German trains are wrecked and thousands of German officers and men find their death at the hands of the Polish guerrillas. The latter have recently accounted also for two German generals, Reinecke and Steinbock.

It must be said that the guerrillas with whom I have had occasion to talk show no tendency to boast of their successes. "Soviet guerrillas have done bigger things," is a statement one often hears from them.

We must not close our eyes to the truth, and the truth is that there are individuals and organizations in occupied Poland who disgrace the name of Poles. It is a fact that, under the influence of the reactionary Polish emigres, many Home Army commanders disbanded their splendidly armed detachments. It is a

fact that another reactionary organization, the so-called "National Armed Forces," forming part of the Home Army and subordinated to Sosnkowski and Bor, entered into a deal with the invaders and has been cooperating with the Gestapo against the guerrillas.

It is a fact that strong detachments of the National Armed Forces joined the Gestapo and gendarmes in a raid against a guerrilla detachment. It is a fact that on September 8 a large detachment of the National Armed Forces attacked the Bartosz Glowacki detachment of the People's Army in the neighborhood of Z. Thirteen men of the People's Army detachment were killed; 32, who were taken prisoner, were tortured, and some were shot. In the same neighborhood there operated a guerrilla group made up of Red Army men who had escaped from German camps for prisoners of war. They cooperated with the Polish guerrillas. By a ruse, a detachment of the National Armed Forces organization managed to encircle and disarm the Russian guerrillas. They then ordered them—in Hitlerite fashion—to dig graves. The Red Army men who had fought shoulder to shoulder with the Poles against the German invaders and for the liberation of Poland, were shot.

"Such facts must be made public," say the Polish guerrillas who have arrived from the other side of the Vistula, "because our people must not be held responsible for them. The Polish people must not be identified with the bandits of the National Armed Forces organization, the hangmen of the Sosnkowskis and Bieleckis. They will disappear from Polish life along with the German invaders, the Gestapo and all the Hitlerite scum. Of that we are certain. But it is a lesson to us. It shows what the policy of the reactionary emigres leads to."

* * *

The flares with which the Germans illuminated their forward edge fitfully glared and disappeared in the waters of the Vistula. A cool breeze blew from the river. In a small ravine a group of Red Army men and Polish guerrillas carried on an animated conversation. As I listened to their talk, I felt that no force on earth could break the alliance of the brother nations, now sealed with blood.

Striking changes have taken place in the liberated regions of Poland in the past two months. The new processes are particularly manifest in the countryside, where the liquidation of the large landed estates and the agrarian reform have given rise to profound political and economic alterations of a progressive nature. Significant changes are also in evidence among the urban population in liberated territories of Poland.

The division of the landed estates has become a truly national affair. Workers and intellectuals come to the aid of the peasants, contributing their organizational and political experience, their knowledge and skill.

Adjoining the village of Brusy, in the district of Wladawa, there extended the estate of landlord Zaluski. That landlord owned about 900 hectares of arable and forest land—more than all the land owned by the 150 peasant families of the village of Brusy. The families of the landless peasants and farm laborers worked for the landlord. During the German occupation Pan Zaluski was on the best of terms with the Hitlerites. When the Red Army came close, he fled together with the Germans. Of the peasants and farm laborers of Brusy, many joined guerrilla detachments and fought against the German invaders. Now the farm laborers, the landless peasants, peasants with little land and the middle peasants with large families, have received the landlord's land. When a group of workers who arrived from the district seat went out with the village committee to divide the estate, almost the entire population of the village came along.

An old peasant woman who had worked on someone else's land all her life received three hectares. During the rule of the Germans, her son fought in the ranks of the guerrillas. Now he is in the Polish Army, studying in Officers' School. The old woman is illiterate. She asks someone of the group of workers to write a letter to her son to tell him the good news.

The division of the eight large estates which made up Count Potocki's possessions in the district of Lancut, turned into a popular celebration. This one landlord owned enough land in Lancut to provide for 1,500 landless and poor peas-

ants. The count's castle, a structure of great artistic value, has become national property.

The official presentation of the title of ownership to the land was held on November 3 in the old castle of Count Potocki in Lancut, the very same castle in which Polish reaction hatched plots against the people. In those same halls Count Potocki entertained King Alfonso XIII, who had been expelled from his country by the Spanish people. In those halls banquets had been held in honor of Goering, and deals had been arranged with the Hitler gang against the Polish people. There also the traitors to the country foregathered at receptions in honor of German generals.

The high-born owner of the castle, Count Potocki, one of the potentates of prewar Poland, fled together with the German invaders, taking along the family treasures. And in the halls of his former castle today, the Chairman of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, E. Osubka-Morawski, issues official documents to the Polish peasants, installing them in possession of the land which only yesterday the count called his own.

There are tears in the eyes of many peasant men and women, tears of joy. Boruta, of the village of Budziwa, one of the oldest leaders of the Peasant Party (*Stronnictwo Ludowe*) makes a fiery speech. He tells the audience how happy he is to have lived to see the day when the cause for which he had fought since his youth has begun to be accomplished.

In the distribution of the land, the peasants show their respect and gratitude to those who are performing their duty to the people and the State in the fight against the German invaders. In the village of Plonki, the peasants themselves decided to increase the allotments of disabled veterans of the present war. The peasant Wrenga, who has sent three sons to the army, had his allotment increased by one hectare at the suggestion of the land distribution committee. Almost everywhere the peasants, of their own accord, set aside the landlords' houses and small land allotments for schools and other educational institutions.

By November 15, 565 estates had been divided in the liberated territory of Poland and preparations completed for the divi-

sion of 273 more estates. In Bialystok and Rzeszow Voievodships, the division of landlords' land is about to be completed.

It is expected that in the next few weeks the division of the land will be completed throughout the liberated territory. That is a great achievement for the Polish peasantry and a great service performed by the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the democratic parties united in its ranks. Under their leadership the masses of the people are overcoming tremendous difficulties—landlord resistance, sabotage by reactionary officials, and terroristic acts by organizations subordinated to the emigre government, particularly the Home Army and the "National Armed Forces." Agents of the emigre government, receiving no support whatever from the masses of the people, have embarked on ordinary criminal activity. The press of liberated Poland points out that these adventurous elements marked Mikolajczyk's two visits to Moscow by new crimes against the Polish people.

The sabotage of the adherents of the emigre government and the assassinations of peasant leaders have embittered the people. The peasants are quite outspoken in their unflattering remarks about the emigre government. I have heard old active workers of the Peasant Party voice opinions such as this: "If we have carried out agrarian reform without the gentlemen from London, if we have divided the landlords' land without their help—and that was by no means an easy matter—we shall somehow manage to farm this land without their help."

When they hear the exhortation of an agitator who pleads the cause of the emigre government, the peasants seize him by the scruff of his neck, take him to the Militia station and implore the chief: "For God's sake, see that this fellow clears out of the village, or there may be trouble."

The peasants actively help the Militia round up the terrorists and gangsters of the Home Army and the "National Armed Forces."

Today there is no longer any doubt that the main mass of the peasantry supports the Polish Committee of National Liberation. It is not only in words, and even not so much in words, that this is manifested. As a matter of fact, as far as words are concerned, one may hear plenty of

complaints about all sorts of difficulties, the shortage of consumers' goods, and the like.

One index of the attitude of the Polish peasantry is the grain deliveries. In some districts the peasants, already well ahead of schedule, have completed all their deliveries to the State. Deliveries of sugar beet have also exceeded expectations, and all sugar refineries are supplied with raw material. A still better index is the progress of the draft for the Polish Army. The peasants want to fight for the liberation of all Poland, for the creation of a strong, independent, democratic Polish State.

Great changes have taken place among the workers. Although the now liberated section of Poland includes for the most part farming districts, the working class nevertheless plays an important part as an active pillar of the young democratic Polish State.

The first thing that strikes the eye is the urge of the workers for organization. Trade unions have sprung up everywhere. Their membership already exceeds 100,000. Despite serious privations, the workers have done a great deal to restore the industrial enterprises badly damaged by the Germans. The trade unions cooperate with the Polish Committee of National Liberation in dealing with the hard problem of supplying the needs of the working population in the towns. Thanks to the introduction of a well-considered rationing system in the towns, which provides certain advantages for wage workers, particularly in industries of national importance, a section of workers who during the German occupation and even for some time immediately after liberation shirked work, have since shown eagerness to obtain employment in industry.

The attitude of the working class to the new authorities may be judged by the fact that the proletariat and its trade-union organizations rendered decisive assistance in the application of agrarian reform. In response to the call of the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the democratic parties, the trade unions sent to the rural districts hundreds of workers' groups to help the peasants. It was they who speeded up the agrarian reform, which had stalled in the beginning owing to the sabotage of the reactionaries in the Land Departments.

The young government machinery set up by the Polish Committee of National Liberation is gradually gaining more prestige. It was impossible to rely entirely on the old officials because, firstly, their ranks had become attenuated, and secondly, part of them had served as the bulwark of the prewar reactionary regime. That is why the Polish Committee of National Liberation enlisted the services of many new officials recruited from the ranks of the democratic intelligentsia, workers and peasants.

It goes without saying that the Polish Committee of National Liberation is also enlisting the services of the old experts, among whom a definite turn in the direction of democracy has been observed of late. Such a turn, or the beginning of such a turn, may be observed also among those groups of the intelligentsia who until recently have been inclined to sympathize with the emigre government. In fact, for the first time these people have now received the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the practices of a truly democratic government. At the same, direct acquaintance with the Soviet people in the person of the Red Army has helped many people to get rid of their old absurd prejudices regarding the Soviet Union.

At the same time, these processes in the ranks of the intelligentsia are also undoubtedly a reflection of the fact that the Polish Committee of National Liberation represents a real attractive force. Characteristic in this respect is the attitude of a section of the Catholic clergy. The prominent preacher Reverend Warchalowski, now Chaplain of a large Polish military formation, in his sermons supports the democratic policies of the Committee of Liberation. Many other clergymen fully support the policy of the Committee, particularly on the question of agrarian reform.

The Polish Army is a vivid index of the growing strength of the Polish democratic State. The democratic parties launched a recruiting campaign for volunteers for Officers' Schools from the ranks of the democratic sections of the population. In the Officers' School are enlisted former guerrillas and members of the Peasant Party and the Polish Socialist Party. The Polish Army will undoubtedly

become the bulwark of the democratic system.

The influence of the reactionary organizations—the Home Army, the “National Armed Forces,” the *Sanacja*—is sharply declining, particularly now that the agrarian reform is about to be consummated. It would be a mistake, however, to minimize, not so much the

strength, as the perfidy and malice of the enemies of Polish democracy. This is evidenced, for one thing, by the assassinations of democratic leaders and soldiers and officers of the Polish Army, perpetrated by reactionary agents and provocateurs.

The Polish people have entered the broad road of democratic development.

It is a road leading to the building up of an independent, free and strong Poland, strong both by the unity of all progressive forces at home, by the friendship with the Soviet Union and other Slav brother nations, and by a durable alliance with the great democracies of the West, Great Britain, France and the United States.

THROUGH RUMANIA

By Eugene Boltin

From WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, Number 23:

When you first cross the Prut, the Rumanian territory looks very much like ours. But the resemblance is only superficial and is the result of the war.

North of Jassy unfolds a picture of trampled fields, semi-ruined and deserted villages and lone people sheltering in wretched dugouts—a picture we are already familiar with from the war-ridden areas of the Ukraine and Soviet Moldavia.

Our car climbs a steep hill beyond which lies Jassy, a large city. It is badly damaged, since it was for so long in the direct zone of hostilities. But once Jassy is left behind, the area of devastation ceases. From there, all the way to Ploesti and Bucharest, the war rolled swiftly along the roads. Vasluinberlad, Tecuciu, Focsani, Remnicu, Sarat and other cities of east Rumania are quite intact. Of course there is damage here and there, where the Germans tried to make a stand or break out of an encirclement—as in Huszi, Tecuciu and Buzeu.

Most of the villages did not suffer at all, and those situated off the roads simply did not see the war. Despite the stormy events of autumn, the Rumanian peasant could tranquilly gather his harvest and sow his fields again. The economic life of the eastern districts has hardly been affected.

The poverty of this region is notorious and the populace, notwithstanding the busy trade in the towns, seldom purchase any manufactured goods. The peasants, clad in homespun shirts and sheepskin hats, plod through the mud barefoot.

But the area is nevertheless a rich one. The poverty of the peasant is a social poverty. Breadstuffs, vegetables and live-

stock are plentiful in eastern Rumania, and in spite of all the organized pillage of the Germans, Rumania is perhaps the sole belligerent country of Europe where rationing was unknown. This was due to the abundance of agricultural produce and also to the fact that the Rumanian landlords and big peasants grew rich in the war against the Soviet Union by plundering the property of the collective farmers of Moldavia and the Ukraine.

The devastation in central Rumania is even less than in the east, with the exception of Ploesti and the areas of Bucharest adjacent to the railway. Ploesti was heavily bombed, and the extent of destruction there is comparable to Jassy. But the targets were the oil plants and storage areas, not the city itself. The oil fields are again in operation. Rumanian oil, which so long supplied Hitler's armored hordes, is now feeding Soviet tanks, aircraft and motor vehicles.

Traveling north from Ploesti into Transylvania, one rarely sees any sign that the war passed this way. The road crossing the Transylvanian Alps to Brosov is very picturesque. This is one of the most beautiful areas in Rumania and before the war was a favorite resort for tourists.

The Germans, fleeing under the lightning sledge-hammer blows of the Red Army, discarded their plunder and were in too much of a hurry to burn and destroy. Now railway depots are jammed with trains of tank cars and freight cars which bear the names of literally every large German city.

In the northern, and especially the northwestern parts of Transylvania, the Hungarians and Germans managed to make a stand, and there signs of the recent fighting are very noticeable.

But, generally speaking, Rumania may be said to be intact. The war swept through it like a tornado, so quickly that only slight damage was done. Thanks to the rapidity of the Soviet advance and the swift development of events in August and September, 1944, the country suffered very little.

All this is strikingly evident when one compares Transylvania with Hungary. By withdrawing from the war on Hitler's side, Rumania saved many of her cities and villages. Hungary, on the other hand, is now paying in blood and ruins for the criminal folly of the fascist clique entrenched in Budapest.

I crossed Rumania from east to west and back again, and had the opportunity of conversing with many people in all walks of life. One thing is certain: the Rumanians are glad to be out of the war against the Soviet Union. But they still have not grasped the deeper lessons of the war, and they fail to realize their grave responsibility for the colossal damage done to the Soviet people by the former criminal leaders of Rumania.

Outwardly the attitude of the Rumanian citizen to the Red Army and to others from the Soviet Union is friendly and polite. Civilians smile, bow and raise their hats; military men salute smartly. Much of this may be sheer servility and fawning upon strength. But there is plenty of evidence of sincere cordiality. After the object lesson taught Rumania by the Red Army, the idea of friendship with the Soviet Union is undoubtedly popular among the people, and there can be no doubt that if the Bucharest government really intends to conscientiously discharge its obligations to the United Nations, it will always have the

full support of the Rumanian masses.

The Germans with their crass ideology of racial superiority, their arrogance and inhumanity, are remembered with dislike. Many Rumanians speak of them with unfeigned hatred. Great indignation was caused by such wanton acts of brutality as the bombing of Bucharest by the Luftwaffe, a typical German act of retaliation for Rumania's announcement of her withdrawal from the war against the Soviet Union. Taking advantage of the fact that Bucharest's airdromes and aircraft defenses were in their own hands, the Germans bombed the center of the capital all night with absolute impunity, picking out such targets for destruction as the Royal Palace, the National Theater, the Museum, etc. No anti-Hitler propaganda could have so powerful an effect upon the mass of the people as this act of barbarism.

A good documentary film was made of the German bombing and its consequences. To the accompaniment of the majestic, mournful strains of Tchaikovsky's *Sixth Symphony*, it tells the story of that last night of Nazi sway in Rumania. The audience greets the concluding scene of the ejection of the Germans with thunderous applause.

The mentality of the masses, especially

of the working people, favors an anti-fascist policy. But this furnishes no justification for the "reassuring" and unscrupulous statement that fascism had struck no roots in Rumania and that it was a fortuitous and adventitious phenomenon.

Rumania has rich soil for fascism, in the shape of numerous declassed elements of the urban population, "air merchants," small speculators, persons without a definite occupation, and the crowds of idlers that loiter about the streets and fill the cafes, *bodegas*, saloons and cinemas. These elements are thoroughly venal and corrupt, and serve the highest bidder. It is characteristic that this social group managed to keep aloof from the war. The soldiers were supplied by the rural areas, which were drastically denuded of men—yet the towns were full of young men without any definite occupation, who by downright bribery or by one shift or another managed to obtain exemptions or deferments. It was from these elements that Horia Sima recruited his ruffian gangs whose green uniforms have not yet disappeared altogether from the streets of Bucharest.

Another section of the population which is capable of breeding the poison-

ous microbes of fascism is the fairly numerous stratum of Germans living in Transylvania. The German influence in the country is perhaps not very perceptible, now that the spontaneous process of emancipation from the fascist order of things implanted by Antonescu is proceeding from below. Nevertheless, nothing would be more dangerous than an attitude of complacency and wholesale forgiveness toward the German minority. Europe knows only too well how skilfully the German-fascist snake is warming itself in the bosom of other nations.

I have heard constantly expressed by representatives of diverse sections of the Rumanian public the wish that the government would display much greater energy in eliminating the consequences of fascism and in clearing up its breeding grounds.

A Soviet citizen traveling through Rumania cannot help rejoicing at the many signs of the strength and prestige of the Red Army. Our Army of liberation is conducting itself modestly and efficiently, absorbed in its military job and inspired by one thought: to keep pushing westward and to get to Berlin as quickly as possible.

WAR INVALIDS RETURN TO FACTORIES

As far back as 1941, Director Losev, of the Moscow ball-bearing plant, initiated a scheme for the re-absorption of war invalids.

When a former worker of the plant is discharged from the army, Losev writes him immediately, asking him to come in and talk things over. If the man is too ill to come to the plant, factory delegates visit him in his home.

The purpose of the interview is to learn whether the veteran is in condition to work, and if so, what job is most suitable for him. The personal well-being of the ex-soldier and his family is also considered; if his house or apartment needs repairs, the factory will see that they are done. If the family is short of fuel, the factory supplies it; if clothing or shoes

are needed, the factory provides purchase coupons.

Their factory means a great deal to these Soviet war invalids. Despite a partial loss of their labor efficiency, they are eager to do everything within their power to carry on the work. An astonishing number of disabled servicemen have become Stakhanovite workers—exceeding the norm of production. It is not unusual for a man who held a minor job before the war to find himself promoted to a leading position on his return.

If you were to meet Alexander Fastov you would scarcely believe that he had been badly wounded. While on reconnaissance he was struck by shell fragments in the right arm and left leg; 12 teeth were knocked out and his right eye damaged. After a long stay in a hospital, he returned

to his job in the Moscow plant, where he is now one of the outstanding workers.

The ball-bearing plant has set up separate quarters for the ex-soldier workers, where their health is built up by special care and diet. A committee has been appointed to attend to all their needs.

Hydroelectric Plant in Arctic

On the Kola Peninsula, beyond the Arctic Circle, work has been resumed on the construction of the large hydroelectric station on the Niva River, which flows into the White Sea. The project was halted by the war, and during hostilities the buildings of the station were used as field hospitals and rest homes for Red Army men. The station will supply current in 1945.

Stormoviks Clear a Path for the Infantry

By Major of Engineers Ribakov

At the approaches to Satoraljaujhely, in Hungary, the Germans, utilizing the favorable terrain to the utmost, put up a very stiff resistance. They had blown up the bridges across the numerous canals in the sector and the Soviet units were unable to bring up sufficient guns. The offensive began to slacken.

The unit commander decided to compensate for the temporary lack of guns by employing Stormoviks. He immediately put in a call to an airdrome, and soon the first wave of Ilyushin-2 planes arrived. The pilots were instructed to pave the way for the infantry. The sky was low and overcast, making the task of the pilots particularly difficult, since any slight inaccuracy might cause them to inadvertently drop bombs on Soviet units. The success of the operation depended on how well the infantry could point out the objectives and signal their own location.

Poor visibility prevented operations of large formations, and the Stormoviks arrived at the scene of battle in flights. Kuzhelev, commander of the group, signaled for recognition and flew on. Soon there were bursts of flak in the sky.

Kuzhelev was a seasoned flier and hated

to repeat maneuvers. After he had surveyed the battle ground, he would either attack from the run or swoop over the front, but he never repeated himself and thus confused the enemy. This time he penetrated deeper than usual. When his men had familiarized themselves with the enemy positions and the infantry had signaled its location, he gave the command to attack. "Utkin, your flight is to knock out the anti-aircraft battery on the western bank of the river."

Four Ilyushins immediately headed for the objective. With the remaining planes, Kuzhelev began to clear a gap for the infantry. He decided to deal with the artillery and mortar batteries first. "Attack the guns on the edge of the wood," he commanded and was the first to dive.

Bombs exploded and cannon roared. The Stormoviks hammered at the batteries, each man selecting his own target. They attacked four times and then shifted their fire to the southwest. One of the pilots dropped a heavy bomb on an enemy ammunition dump. A terrific explosion followed.

After a while most of the enemy guns were silenced, except at two points which the Ilyushins had not covered. Mortars

posted on a high slope were also causing a great deal of trouble. The infantry signaled the Stormoviks to attack the mortar batteries and indicated their position by radio and rockets.

Just then two more flights of Stormoviks arrived. Kuzhelev immediately pointed the targets out to the new arrivals. "Demidov, your flight will strike against the mortars on that slope. Novichkov, you deal with the batteries on the northern edge of the forest." The pilots located their objectives, delivered their bomb loads and then swooped down to finish off with machine-gun fire. Meanwhile another flight dealt with the flak batteries.

As the enemy fire became weaker, the Stormoviks penetrated deeper into the enemy defenses. Another wave of planes followed the first. The Stormoviks of another unit had sized up the situation and had also begun to attack. The infantry was quick to take advantage of the slackened fire and forged ahead. The Stormoviks accompanied the infantry 20 kilometers and then turned back to their base. The ground forces sent them a message, "Well done and thanks for your help, pilots."



A Soviet pilot finds a quiet place to read his mail; (center) An open-air barber shop at a front-line airdrome; (right) Rations for a pilot about to take off on a long-range mission

Notes from Front and Rear

Marshal Stalin's book, *On the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union*, is now being issued in a fourth printing. The volume contains all of Marshal Stalin's speeches during the Soviet-German war, beginning with his broadcast on July 3, 1941; the Orders of the Day of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief on the occasion of the most important dates in Soviet history, and his answers to questions of Soviet, American and British correspondents in connection with important questions of international policy. With previous printings, the total number of copies published will reach over 15 million. The book has been translated into the languages of all the peoples of the Soviet Union and of many foreign countries.

★

Volunteer builders of Stalingrad have put in a total of one million hours of their leisure time for the restoration of the city.

★

The navigation season in Arctic waters has been successfully completed. The chief of the Central Administration of the Northern Sea Route, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Rear Admiral Ivan Papanin, has issued an order summing up the results of Arctic navigation, and commending the work of the foremost seamen. Many have also been awarded prizes, among them the well-known Russian Arctic sailors Captains Voronin, Maryshev, Rumke, and Vetrov.

★

In the Latvian SSR, 25,700 farm families have already received allotments of land wrested from them by the German invaders. The State is extending aid to farmers who suffered from the occupation.

★

The USSR now has 20 vitamin factories, instead of the four in operation on the eve of the war. A new vitamin trust which is being established in the Ukraine will contribute to a further rise in the production of vitamins for the Red Army and the civilian population.

Anna Moslouskaya, one of the most daring guerrillas of Byelorussia, has been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Among her many brave exploits was the dynamiting of a German garrison. Learning that a conference of officers had been called in a certain city to discuss ways and means of wiping out her guerrilla detachment, Anna went alone to the city and when the debate was at its height exploded a mine under the building, settling the argument.

★

An All-Union Conference of Directors of Palaces of Art in Republics and Regions was recently concluded in Moscow. The German invaders plundered or destroyed all property of the Palaces of Art, dispersed the amateur artists groups of the collective farms and destroyed theaters and libraries. As soon as the Germans were routed, folk art revived. Today the Ukraine has 11,000 art collectives with 150,000 members. These include 5,000 drama circles, 1,500 music groups, 3,200 choruses, 500 choreographic groups, and many literary circles and musical ensembles. Ukrainian poets and playwrights are preparing new works for amateur art repertoires.

★

Horticulturists of the Russian SFSR restored 40,000 acres of orchards and planted 25,000 acres of new trees in 1944. This is in addition to some two million apple and pear saplings planted in private orchards.

★

Contests of airplane model constructors ended recently, with the Moscow City Club of Young Pioneers the winner. The competitions were held simultaneously in Leningrad, Moscow, Novosibirsk, Georgia, Central Asia and other parts of the country.

★

Preparations for the spring sowing are underway throughout the Soviet Union, with collective and State farms inspecting seed reserves and repairing agricultural machinery.

The valuable art collections of the State Tretyakov Gallery, including works of Surikov, Repin, Serov, Levitan and other famous Russian painters, have been returned to Moscow. At the beginning of the war these canvases were sent far into the interior in the care of specialists. Other works of art returned to Moscow are the sculptures of Shubin and Antokolsky, of the Soviet sculptors Mukhina and Merkurov, and paintings by Alexander and Sergei Gerasimov, I. Grabar, B. Johanson, and others. When the cases were opened, the contents were found to be in perfect condition.

★

The Moscow Park of Culture and Rest will have an ice-skating rink of 30,000 square meters for winter sports enthusiasts.

★

Fifteen carloads of cotton, many carloads of building and raw materials, including natural and synthetic rubber, high-grade wool, 500,000 needles for textile factories, and various other supplies, have been received by Soviet Lithuania from the fraternal Republics and Regions.

★

The fall seal-hunting season on the Caspian Sea has ended. The year's catch was 4,300 seals, or double the plan. Seal fat is processed into medicinal fat and reinforced with vitamins.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

VOL. IV No. 131

Washington, D. C., December 19, 1944



RECONSTRUCTION OF DEVASTATED CITIES AND VILLAGES OF THE SOVIET UNION

By Grigori Kuznetsov

Corresponding Member, Academy of Architecture of the USSR, Director of Institute of Building Technique

Destruction in Cities and Villages and the Primary Tasks of Restoration

The destruction wrought in our country by the German occupationists is colossal. In the Moscow Region alone, they destroyed almost completely 2,280 villages, burned down 47,246 farmer's cottages, over 46,000 farm buildings and 12,000 urban dwellings. The destruction in this one Region amounts to 7,125,358,000 rubles, and this does not include the 15,000,000,000 rubles damage to personal property.

In 40 districts of Byelorussia the Germans burned down 209,000 dwelling houses, of which 120,107 belonged to collective farmers. Many large villages and cities were found to be completely destroyed after the German retreat.

In Stalingrad, a city which had a popu-

lation of 700,000 before the war, only 10 per cent of the buildings were in any way fit for human habitation after the battle ended, and most of these were on the outskirts of the city. The central part of Stalingrad was completely destroyed.

In the ancient Russian city of Novgorod, 40 houses remained intact out of 2,300. The Germans looted and destroyed the most valuable Russian monuments: gems of architecture, such as palaces, monasteries, churches, cathedrals, etc., which the Soviet Government had been at great pains to preserve.

The Engineers Castle, the former palace of Paul I, in Leningrad and many other architectural chefs d'oeuvre were badly damaged by German gunfire. In the suburbs of Leningrad, in Peterhof, Pushkin and Pavlovsk, the Germans blew up or set fire to the magnificent palaces of Peter

I, Catherine II and Paul I. The furnishings of these palaces were either destroyed or carried away to Germany.

When the Germans retreated from Istra, they blew up the old cathedral, which belonged to the New Jerusalem Monastery. The foundations of this cathedral were laid in the 17th Century by the Patriarch Nikon, a contemporary of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich, father of Peter I. The Kiev-Pechersk Monastery in Kiev and the Cathedral of St. Sophia in great Novgorod and many other fine buildings were destroyed by the vandals. The restoration of cities and villages began literally on the day when the Red Army, followed by civilians who had hidden in forests, gullies and quarries, entered the ruined localities.

Life in a city cannot be maintained without a water supply, without electricity, without organized baking of bread



Citizens of Rezekne, Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, return after the German rout to find their homes in ashes; (right) This was a street in Rezekne. Three-fourths of the town was destroyed.

and without a regular food supply for the townspeople. The rebuilding of a town, therefore, begins with the repair of water mains, some of the power stations and other public utilities, bakeries, stores, bath houses, laundries and the most important factories.

At the same time, the returning populations also repair or adapt for permanent or at least for temporary habitation whatever buildings remain. They obtain the material for this purpose by dismantling those buildings which are damaged beyond repair. The materials that can always be found are bricks, brick rubble, girders and pipes, as well as radiators from heating systems, roofing material, parquet flooring, tiles and other parts of stoves, door and window frames, and door handles. We have already gained considerable experience in making the best use of damaged materials and their components obtained by dismantling ruined buildings.

The work of dismantling buildings and sorting the usable material for rebuilding is done in an organized manner by the building concerns in the town and also by volunteers from among the population. Factory and office workers, doctors, teachers, scientists and housewives are devoting their spare time to rebuilding their cities towns and villages. It has become an important social duty for people who formerly had no conception of this work, to learn one of the building trades. Groups of plasterers, painters, plumbers, and other workers—organized and directed by women who but a few months ago were ordinary housewives—are taught and assisted by experienced building workers and are rapidly becoming excellent professional workers.

The great strength and patriotism of the Soviet people is making itself felt in this sphere. Ten months after the German defeat at Stalingrad, 11,964 buildings with a total floor space of 374,877 square meters had been built or repaired by the local population. Other cities report similar achievements.

Despite the fact that the war is still going on and that it is absolutely essential to rebuild factories as quickly as possible in order to produce greater quantities of war materiel, the Soviet Government is

giving the people all possible assistance in rebuilding their houses. In August, 1943, when the fighting was particularly heavy around Kharkov, the Government of the USSR issued a Decree on urgent measures to be adopted to assist people living in the regions liberated from enemy occupation.

A number of factories for the production of slag, concrete, cinder blocks, insulating wall materials made of straw or reeds, joinery work and other construction materials have been established in Voronezh, Rostov, Krasnodar and in a number of other regions. At the initiative of their workers, many industrial concerns are helping collective farmers rebuild their cottages by manufacturing and sending them building materials and components from industrial waste materials.

This is the first phase of reconstruction—the wartime phase. Without waiting for the cessation of hostilities, preparations are being made for the second phase. Because of the tremendous scale of damage and the amount of reconstruction involved a number of Government Decrees and instructions have been issued on the subject.

Preparations for Reconstruction and the Scale of Work Involved

The scale and character of the destruction wrought by the Germans vary in different localities. Some of the towns with many wooden buildings were completely destroyed by fire. In cities like Voronezh and Kharkov, the brick and stone buildings were either wrecked by artillery fire or blown up by the Germans. Thus, the extent of the damage must first be estimated.

The ancient Russian cities of Novgorod, Pskov, Kiev, Kalinin and others had many architectural monuments dating from the twelfth century. We shall try to restore and preserve these monuments even if they have been severely damaged. We are also trying to preserve as far as possible the old characteristics of each city. We do not, however, propose merely to rebuild the towns exactly as they were before the war. We shall at the same time reconstruct them. We shall only restore those buildings which are either of historic or artistic value.

Our main efforts will be directed toward making the cities, towns and villages pleasing to the eye, convenient and comfortable to live in.

Plans for the restoration and reconstruction of such important cities as Leningrad, Stalingrad, Kiev, Rostov, Voronezh, Kalinin, Novorossisk and others, and the vacation resorts of the Crimea and Caucasus, are being drawn up under the direction of the country's leading architects and engineers: Academicians V. Veshnin, A. Shchusev, K. Alabyan, B. Iofan, N. Kolli, L. Rudnev, G. Goltz, M. Ginsburg and others. Together with other specialists, they are drawing up general plans for new cities and at the same time are supervising the restoration work now in progress. A number of architects and engineers are engaged in planning the restoration of damaged national monuments.

After the war, the work of restoration and reconstruction will require a tremendous quantity of building materials, skilled workers and transport. Some time will elapse before the building materials industry can be rebuilt and developed to the extent required to provide materials for the work in hand. Reconstruction work in the cities and villages will for some time to come proceed parallel with the rebuilding of old plants for building materials and the erection of new ones. There will be a shortage of building materials, skilled labor and transport during the first period of post-war reconstruction. With this in mind, architects and engineers are making special efforts to select building materials and construction methods that will enable them to overcome the shortage of materials, labor and transport in the briefest possible time.

We do not yet possess a full account of all the damage done by the Germans in our country, but we do know that it is very considerable. The following simple fact is indicative of the extent of the work that will have to be done after the war. In order to provide the pre-war level of shelter for the population of Stalingrad, we shall have to build dwelling houses with a total floor space of 4,500,000 square meters, in addition to all public buildings, offices and other city buildings. This gigantic job of re-



The Germans practically obliterated the city of Siauliai, Latvian SSR. Ninety-five per cent of its private and public buildings were destroyed. At left is a theater gutted by fire; right, a Roman Catholic Church built in 1625, wrecked by the invaders

construction must be done in a very short time, for the population of Stalingrad is constantly increasing. Since the liberation of the city, it has grown from a few thousand to the present level of 300,000. Kharkov, Rostov, Voronezh and all other Soviet cities, large and small, show a similar influx of population.

When we consider the tremendous amount of damage done to the cities and villages of the Soviet Union, we realize what a gigantic task it will be to rebuild it all.

Local Resources for Producing Building Materials and the Restoration of the Building Industry

Before the war we had some experience in highly concentrated building work, between 1934 and 1941, when the city of Moscow was being reconstructed. The building materials were then supplied by other parts of the Soviet Union as well as by the local large building materials industry. After the war, the prospect of receiving supplies for the reconstruction of Stalingrad, Kharkov, Kiev, Voronezh and other cities will not be so favorable, since they will all be built simultaneously. Each city will need large quantities of building materials.

We are, therefore, devoting considerable attention to studying local raw materials and to erecting factories to produce building materials and building components. These plants will be

equipped with modern machinery, will use local raw materials and will supply the immediate locality.

Many research institutions, and especially the Academy of Architecture of the USSR, are taking part in this work. The Academy's Institute of Building Technique, for example, has already completed its study of the raw materials available in the Moscow coal basin, and on the basis of this study has planned the production of building materials for Moscow and its contiguous regions. This is a particularly good district in which to develop the building materials industry as there are many high-quality raw materials and an abundance of coal. The building materials manufactured under these conditions are of excellent quality and low cost. The Institute has also studied the resources of the Stalingrad, Molotov and other regions in the Kama and Volga basins, since the rivers may be used to transport materials to their destination.

Postwar reconstruction will be based on a modern building industry. In making our preparations, we made a comprehensive study of our building methods in order to retain everything of value from prewar and wartime building methods and at the same time avoid a repetition of mistakes. An analysis of prewar building shows that our dwelling houses were built very slowly, were costly and not always of good quality.

We used large quantities of building material and a vast amount of skilled

labor but did not always obtain the best results. In high, many-storied dwelling houses with massive walls we used 300-400 bricks, 150-250 kilograms of binding material (cement, gypsum, lime), and 50-75 kilograms of metal per square meter of floor space. If we tried to rebuild along these lines, the available quantities of these materials would be insufficient for dwelling houses alone if produced at the prewar rate; yet we have also undertaken the parallel construction of industrial enterprises, hydroelectric stations, roads, ports and many other installations.

Materials and Construction Methods for Postwar Homes

By employing modern building techniques in our postwar reconstruction, we shall greatly reduce the amount of transportation, building materials and labor required. These and other achievements will all increase the postwar rate of construction, in which various organizational forms of building work will be employed. Although we shall have the help of the whole population, we shall try to develop industrialized construction by large building trusts and shall establish factories for prefabricating houses. Any one of these organizational forms may be the "best" under certain circumstances, but it would be wrong in principle to advocate any one of the particular methods of postwar building as

the only one to be used.

New urban and rural dwelling houses should be built for permanency and should be made of materials of unquestionable durability. If we are sometimes forced to build temporary dwellings, they should be of the field type so that they can be removed easily when the need for them is past. Naturally, every modern and progressive construction material will be used, but this does not mean that we shall neglect such an excellent building material as brick simply because it is "old-fashioned." Nor shall we avoid the use of reinforced concrete and steel, but shall in the future make continuously greater use of them, as the cement, iron and steel industries develop.

In seeking new materials and construction methods and in improving old methods of construction from known materials, we are trying to reduce to a minimum the expenditure of materials and labor power and, consequently, to reduce construction costs. When making our selection of constructions recommended, we consider first and foremost the types of construction that will provide the maximum comfort for the residents and at the same time be economical in exploitation. But when we assess the amount of labor required for a certain type of construction, we consider the labor involved in the manufacture of the materials, as well as in actual erection of the building. We calculate whether it is profitable to develop the production of certain building materials from the point of view of the capital investment required and the time necessary to train workers for the production of the respective item.

In large dwellings of several stories, the walls will be mainly of brick. In order to improve the thermal qualities of brick, we shall produce large amounts of hollow bricks, porous bricks, hollow ceramic blocks and blocks of other light materials. We are studying the experiences of the United States and Great Britain in this direction and are also doing our own research.

In small houses, we shall use slag, cement, cinder blocks, gypsum and gypsum slag blocks, and blocks of limestone, turf and other light natural stones, in localities where such material is found.

The roofs of large houses will, as a rule, be built of fireproof materials. The war experience has shown that large houses with roofs of wood and other easily inflammable materials suffered most. The ceilings will, in general, be made of gypsum, ceramics or reinforced concrete. Reinforced concrete constructions are particularly useful for dwelling houses. We anticipate a wide development of this type of building after the war, especially when we consider the prospects offered by such modern developments as vibrated concrete, heat-treated molds, and pre-stressed cement.

The reconstruction and development of the cement industry is one of the primary tasks necessary to ensure the success of postwar construction. Tremendous quantities of steel and other metals will be required by many branches of industry. For a few years, therefore, we must limit the amount of iron and steel used in buildings, particularly in dwelling houses, when other materials will serve equally well. We are at present experimenting with a lighter steel and with new grades of steel. The development of the iron and steel industry in our country will enable us to use steel in ever-increasing quantities.

Role of Prefabrication in Postwar Building

The problem of improving the technique of building on a large scale is more acute in our country than in any other, for no other country is faced with building on such a tremendous scale as ours.

The prefabrication of buildings in factories is one means not available to our builders. In introducing factory methods of production into our country, we shall begin with prefabricated wooden structures. Naturally, in such places as the taiga where there is an abundance of timber, we shall build simple log houses and not go to the trouble of converting timber into plywood in order to build houses. In such places as the Donets Basin, however, where timber has to be hauled over long distances, the building of log houses is impermissible. Prefabricated houses, especially those employing plywood structures, will be erected primarily in such districts as the Donets Basin, Krivoi Rog, Zaporozhye, Stalin-

grad and a few other places. These are regions with big industries which are already coming back to life and where the population grows hourly rather than daily. We have to provide these people with adequate shelter in the shortest possible time.

We shall develop all forms of building in these cities and districts, using local materials, but the factory method of house construction will be the most effective. When houses are prefabricated, almost all the work is done by machinery, the amount of lumber required is reduced about one quarter and the time taken in erecting them is very small. The American experience with prefabricated houses shows that it is possible to reduce the labor involved in erecting a house by many man-hours. Prefabrication enabled the Americans to solve their housing problems when there was a rapid influx in regions that had been sparsely settled. In our industrial districts where the Germans have done the greatest amount of damage and where we have to build the greatest number of houses with the smallest possible expenditure of materials and labor, prefabrication of houses will help to provide quick and adequate shelter for the homeless.

Without dwelling on the history of prefabrication, we should like to point out that the USSR is one of the pioneer countries in this field. The prototype of prefabricated houses in the USSR was the "standard" house. Unfortunately, the very term "standard house" in our country implies something of poor quality. It is not the idea of standard houses that should have been discredited, but those builders who used only the poorest materials in structures that were far from perfect and who erected buildings that were poorly planned and equipped. In prefabricating houses we must select materials of the highest quality and the most up-to-date structural forms and we must provide the house with the most modern equipment.

The Soviet Government has adopted measures to develop this branch of the building in our country. The United States has had the greatest amount of experience in prefabricating houses and we shall take every advantage of this experience. We anticipate that during the next few years frame houses with

paneled walls will be highly developed; panels will be made of orgalite or sheet rock and insulated with mineral wool. Constructions of this type are very simple and their manufacture can be undertaken without any complicated equipment. When a large community is to be built, we shall prepare these houses on the building site in a workshop equipped with simple woodworking machinery.

The second type is a small house which we shall develop as a prefabricated unit as soon as we have properly equipped factories built. This type will be semi-prefabricated from local materials in a large factory and will be built as a permanent house.

The Committee on Architecture of the Council of People's Commissars of

the USSR is working on plans for prefabricated small houses with great variety in planning the apartments and the exterior and interior decoration of the houses.

We are paying particular attention to making these houses as modern and as perfect as possible so that they will be beautiful and comfortable to live in.

Modern Science Must Help the Building Industry

The problem of providing the maximum comfort for city dwellers, the problem of eliminating noise, dust, smoke, etc., the problem of reducing the amount of labor in building a house and in manufacturing building materials while at the same time improving the quality of

the building erected, the problem of reducing expenditures for heating and maintaining the building, the problem of increasing the life span of various parts of the house and of the house in general—these problems and hundreds of others, large and small, arise in reconstructing our cities and villages, in reconstructing the habits and conditions of life of our working people.

Science must play an important part in solving these problems. By applying the achievements of modern science and technology to the work of reconstruction and by consolidating the collaboration of all progressive nations, we shall heal the wounds inflicted by the war and rebuild our cities and villages so that they are better than they were before.

RECONSTRUCTION IN THE CRIMEA

By Alexander Kabanov

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars of the Crimean ASSR

The Crimea, one of the richest areas in the Soviet Union, was ruined during fascist occupation and during the enemy's retreat when the fascist armies left behind a trail of sacked towns, demolished factories and neglected and ravaged vineyards.

The rehabilitation of the Crimea was begun while the fighting was still going on at the last German stronghold on Cape Kherones. Since then, traffic has been resumed on all railway lines. Telephone and telegraph services have been restored. Bakeries, clothing, leather goods and textile plants, flour mills, meat packinghouses and building materials plants have been rehabilitated.

In all 13 towns of the Republic, the waterworks wrecked by the Germans have been reconditioned. Dozens of temporary power plants have been set up while the Crimean electric power station is being restored. The power supply is still limited. Industry and public buildings are being provided with electricity, but so far only part of the general lighting needs are being met.

Other highlights are the restoration of the Sevastopol and Kerch shipyards, now well under way; the opening for the new school year of 867 schools, 445 of them completely rebuilt; the reopening of 32 urban libraries, and the revival of chil-

dren's pre-school and medical institutions.

The most serious damage was dealt to industry. During the occupation, the Kerch iron and steel works which had produced more than a half million tons of metal annually before the war, as well as ore mines and coke plants, were put out of commission. The Republic's canneries whose yearly prewar output ran to 80 million tins of canned fruit, vegetables, fish and meat were almost completely demolished. Numerous other branches of industry built during Soviet years have also been ruined.

Industrial rehabilitation has been planned with a view toward the maximum utilization of the Kerch oil, natural gas, coal and building materials.

The revival of agriculture is as important and as difficult as that of industry. Of 105,000 head of cattle which the collective farms owned before the war, only 2,500 have remained and of 39,000 hogs only 89 were left. The Germans ate all the fowl and utterly ruined agriculture.

Cattle-raising is now being revived, thanks to the extraordinary measures undertaken by the State and the aid rendered the collective farms and their members. By October 1, the number of head of cattle amounted to 21,000 and sheep and goats to 36,500.

The production of Crimean wines,

among them the famous products of the Massandra wineries which turned out millions of liters of dessert and table wines annually before the war, dropped from 1,700,000 decaliters to 330,000 under the Germans. The Republic's highly developed tobacco industry, whose products once shared the reputation of Crimean wines, was likewise ruined.

The measures taken to revive these industries include mechanization of the processes consuming the most labor on the tobacco plantations to the level that prevailed before the war.

Plans have been worked out to improve the fisheries. Kerch, the leading fishing center, will be provided with a large fishing fleet and auxiliary vessels, a shipbuilding yard, repair yards, refrigeration plants, etc.

There will be great difficulties in rehabilitating the health resorts on the southern coast, where over 300,000 persons took cures and vacationed annually before the war. Many of the best sanatoriums and rest homes were wrecked during the occupation and most of those that escaped complete demolition were sacked. By the end of 1944, one-fifth of prewar sanatorium accommodations will be restored. Facilities are now reserved for Red Army wounded and convalescents.

BULGARIA SINCE THE ARMISTICE

From IZVESTIA, December 10:

The Bulgarian people were deeply outraged by the treacherous and unscrupulous policy of their fascist rulers which led Bulgaria into a state of war with the Soviet Union. They have known the bitter fruits of the sway exercised in their country by the Germans and their agents for over three years. Bulgaria was thoroughly pillaged and its national finances brought to the verge of bankruptcy.

The Germans exported everything they could from the country and incurred a debt to Bulgaria of over 45 billion lev. Agriculture has fallen into a deep decline. The index of industrial output dropped from 193 in 1941 to 118 in 1944. The railways were in a deplorable state, owing to worn-out locomotives, reduced rolling stock, lack of spare parts, lubricants, etc. The state of the national finances was catastrophic; circulation increased from 2,008,000,000 lev in 1938 to 40,700,000,000 lev in 1944. The national debt rose to nearly 64,000,000,000 lev.

The Bulgarian people overthrew the power of the German agents and set up a government of the Patriotic Front. One of the first acts of the new government was to sue for an armistice.

The Patriotic Front Government adopted a series of measures which showed that Bulgaria had firmly decided to cooperate with the freedom-loving and democratic countries. And one of the first things the Government did was to prepare a manifesto of the National Committee of the Patriotic Front, calling upon the people and army to "take a most active part in the war against the Germans, in order to exculpate the sins of the recent past and to make amends for the crimes of the former pro-German governments toward the Yugoslav and Greek peoples."

The National Committee of the Patriotic Front realized how necessary it was to reconstruct an army without delay and to purge its commanding ranks of pro-German reactionary elements, as an essential condition for converting it into a genuine people's army.

Reliable commanders were appointed. Officers who had aided the Germans in suppressing the national liberation move-

ment, and who were detested by the people and soldiers, were dismissed from the army and replaced by honest officers who had distinguished themselves in the struggle against the fascist dictatorship. The partisan detachments were embodied as Guards units in the regular army, under the command of the men who had led them. A real beginning has been made in the political re-education of the army in a democratic spirit. The army—which had been the buttress of German agents and fascist reactionaries, and which on the eve of the events of September 9 was in a state of profound disintegration—rapidly recovered, acquired a firm morale and true discipline, and revived its fighting traditions.

At the same time, the country was mobilized in support of the army. Newspapers report how the workers are competing in a spirit of mutual emulation to increase the output in factories and mines. Peasants are helping the families of men serving with the armed forces to sow their fields. Collections of money and gifts for the army are being made all over the country.

Since the overthrow of the fascist regime, two Bulgarian armies commanded by Generals Stanchev and Stojchev, respectively, are fighting the Germans side by side with the Red Army and the Yugoslav People's Army of Liberation. Soviet, Yugoslav and Bulgarian troops scored a number of victories in the vicinity of Nisch and Kumanovo, are nearing the borders of Albania and Bosnia, and have ejected the Germans from a large part of Yugoslav territory and liberated Nisch, Kumanovo, Prokuple, Skople, Prishtina and other towns.

Immediately after the overthrow of the German agents, the Patriotic Front movement decreed the abolition of all fascist, anti-democratic and race laws; restored all rights and liberties of the people, and released all anti-fascists languishing in prisons and concentration camps. All fascist organizations were dissolved and their property confiscated, while all fascist newspapers were banned and their printing plants impounded. Supporters of the reactionary regime were dismissed from government posts and offices, and

men responsible for the treasonable pro-German policy and for Bulgaria's debacle were arrested.

Among those arrested are ex-Regents Prince Kirill, Philoff and General Mikhov, and the ministers of all cabinets since January 1, 1941, including Premiers Bozhilov and Bagryanov; persons such as Popov and Shishmanov, who were largely responsible for the pro-Hitler foreign policy; Ministers Gabrovsky, Khris-tov and Stanislav, for their brutality toward the Bulgarian people; Vasilyev, Zakhariyev and others who were instruments of the Germans in pillaging the country and plundering the state treasury; organizers of fascist propaganda such as Jotsov and Arnaudov, as well as war criminals of diverse ranks. The parliament was dissolved and members of the fascist majority who had betrayed the people and sanctioned the pro-German policy were brought to trial.

The Patriotic Front Government passed a law for the institution of people's tribunals and the appointment of people's prosecutors. The investigating authorities are gathering evidence for the coming trials.

On the strength of these and similar acts of the Patriotic Front Government and the Bulgarian people, the peace delegation to Moscow—in the words of its chief, Foreign Minister Stanjov—had grounds to count on "confidence in the new Bulgaria" which was engendered in the bitter resistance of the Bulgarian people to the pro-German policy that ended in the overthrow of the German agents on September 9, 1944.

This confidence found expression in the conclusion of an Armistice Agreement on October 28, and in the terms of the armistice.

Before the Armistice Agreement was signed, the Patriotic Front press wrote that the Bulgarians should cherish no illusions that, in view of the harm the fascist rulers had done to the freedom-loving nations, the terms of the armistice could be anything but severe. Nevertheless, after the agreement was concluded, Premier Kimon Georgiev declared that "anybody who peruses the terms of the armistice without prejudice can-

not fail to be struck by the moderation and sobriety which the Allies strove to display toward the new Bulgaria."

The Patriotic Front press almost unanimously endorsed the view expressed by Foreign Minister Stanjov in the speech he made at the Sofia railway station, when he said that the armistice terms were the "best Bulgaria could hope to obtain from the Allies under the present circumstances."

The fact that some of the armistice stipulations had been carried out by Bulgaria even before the armistice was concluded, as part of the program of the Patriotic Front, confirms the correctness of the path chosen by Bulgaria—namely, the ruthless extirpation of fascism, the building of a new, truly democratic and progressive Bulgaria, and a national war on Hitler Germany, shoulder-to-shoulder with the Armies of the United Nations.

The first stage of the Bulgarian army's operations has already been consummated: the enemy has been ejected from Bulgaria. But the war is not yet over, and

further efforts are required before victory is attained. On November 26, the united front government appealed to the people, calling for new efforts and new deeds of heroism until victory is achieved.

"We are fighting for the liberty and happiness of our country," wrote the newspaper *Narodna Vojska*. "The first of these aims has already been attained; the enemy is now far beyond our borders. But until the enemy is beaten we cannot rest at ease. The children of the present SS men are already dreaming of a new war in 1965. We are fighting in order that this shall not be. . . . We are fighting to eliminate every vestige of fascism in our country. We are fighting in order that we may occupy a fitting place in the ranks of the freedom-loving nations."

The Bulgarian newspapers have lately been stressing the point that it would be mistaken and harmful to claim that the enemy had been definitely vanquished and that the threat of fascism no longer exists in Bulgaria. The agents of Hitler

struck far deeper roots than might be apparent at first glance. Until the genuine democratic government of the people is firmly consolidated, and far-reaching and genuinely democratic reforms are carried out in all spheres of economic, political and cultural life, the reactionaries will hamper the normal development of the country toward progress and national prosperity, and will hang over the Bulgarian people like the sword of Damocles.

The Bulgarian press points out that Bulgaria's effort in the war against Hitler Germany has not yet reached the full limit of its potentiality, and there is still real danger of sabotage on the part of the enemy, who is lying low and biding his time after the blow he received. His schemes and intrigue are directed first and foremost against the Patriotic Front and national unity.

The Bulgarian press accordingly strongly insists on the further consolidation of the Patriotic Front which, as Premier Kimon Georgiev said, is a "historical necessity" for Bulgaria.

GEOLOGICAL WORK IN THE UKRAINE

The Ukraine abounds in useful minerals. The coal of the Donbas, the iron ore of Krivoi Rog and the manganese of Nikopol have helped to strengthen its defenses and develop its industries. The Republic is also rich in non-metallic minerals, such as kaolin, from which fine porcelain is made; brick, tile and fire-proof clays; gypsum, chalk, cement and building stone. Ukrainian marbles, gabbro and labradorite, with their exquisite colors and patterns, adorn the Lenin Mausoleum, the Moscow River embankment, government buildings in Moscow and the house of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet in Kiev.

During the Five-Year Plans, Ukrainian geologists considerably extended the boundaries of known deposits of useful minerals and discovered hundreds of new deposits. Before the war a project for the Greater Donbas yielded its first fruits in the discovery of paying deposits of coal in the Kharkov Region, outside the bounds of the old Donbas. Prospecting was also carried out in the Kremenchug area with the object of developing the greater Krivoi Rog region. Deposits

of rare metals, zircon, tantalum and rare earths were found, and geological indications of the existence of tin, wolfram, molybdenum and radio-active elements were discovered. These activities were halted by the German invasion, and when the geologists returned to their homes, they found laboratories, workshops and museums in ruins.

Keenly aware that the rehabilitation of Ukrainian economy would mean additional resources for the war, Ukrainian scientists, engineers and geologists set about repairing the damage. They have been generously aided by other republics and regions of the Soviet Union. Carloads of drilling equipment were sent to Kiev by the Leningrad Geological Board, which is also collecting a geological library for the Ukraine. The Urals, Northwest Siberian, Far Eastern, Bashkirian, Georgian and other Geological Boards have also sent machinery, field equipment, and materials.

With this assistance the Ukrainian Board is planning to send out 25 expeditions and field parties this year. They will endeavor to extend the known deposits

of cinnabar in Nikitovo and of piezo-quartz in Volodarsk, Volynsk Region, and will prospect for those rare and scattered elements which play so important a part in modern industry.

Immense quantities of building materials will be needed for the rehabilitation of the Ukraine, but the demand can be fully met from the natural resources of the Ukraine. A number of geological groups are now working to insure adequate stocks of minerals for over 100 plants of the People's Commissariat of the Building Industry of the Ukraine.

Deposits of brick and tile, clay, building stone, glass making sand, cement gypsum and similar materials are being surveyed, as well as small deposits of coal to eke out the fuel supply for various localities.

A hydrogeological map of the Ukraine, on a scale of one to 500,000, is being compiled, and a geological map on the same scale. This is a laborious and painstaking task, but when completed will be a highly valuable adjunct to the planning and solving of economic problems after the war period.

New Music in Central Asia

When Tamerlane ruled in Samarkand, his court was famous for its galaxy of poets and musicians. Indeed, the peoples of the steppes and mountains of Central Asia have been musicians and poets since very ancient days. The earliest Persian miniatures depict musicians playing instruments such as are used by the Tajik people, in the Pamirs, to this day.

One of the earliest Tajik poets, Rudaki, who lived in the 10th Century, was also a singer and musician. Like the Greek bard, Homer, Rudaki was blind, and he traveled from town to town singing in the bazaars and other places where people gathered.

Poetry, song and music are intimately bound up with the lives of all the Eastern peoples, and, naturally, their songs are a reflection of the lives they live. The Karategins, a tribe inhabiting the Pamirs, developed a special kind of dirge called "Gharib" (poverty), which they sang when their menfolk were forced to leave their homes and do seasonal work for foreigners owing to the poverty of their own land. Young girls from Central Asia, sold as slaves to the rich merchants of Khiva, developed the sweet, melancholy "Saddog," a song with a heart-rending melody and lyric.

* * *

Since the coming of Soviet power to Central Asia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and Turkmenia, five Constituent Republics of the Soviet Union, have developed this ancient musical tradition along new lines. Russian, Ukrainian and other Western composers have been working for many years in Central Asia, applying the technique of Western music to the melodies of the East. Their aim is not to produce a vulgar and cheap "Europeanization" of Eastern melodies, but to enrich the music of the Asian peoples.

The music we heard at the national festivals held in Moscow during the last few years before the war, the patriotic songs, symphonies and oratorios that have been composed since the war began, and, finally, the ten-day Festival of Central Asian Music held recently in Tashkent,

are excellent proof that this aim has really been achieved.

The music of the Central Asian peoples, like that of India and Iran, has always been homophonic. Their wonderful melodies have on many occasions inspired European composers, but until quite recently no real attempt was ever made to orchestrate the melodies themselves and so produce the polyphonic music of the West. The operas *Lola* and *Kova the Smith* from Tajikistan, the oratorio *Jalal ud-Din*, the ballet *Akbilyak* from Uzbekistan and the opera *Abadan* from Turkmenia are but a few examples of the progress that has been made.

In each of the five Central Asian Republics the ancient heroes of the people, those who defended the nation in times of trouble, have all come to life in opera. The people's natural interest in their past increases considerably in time of war. The Tashkent festival showed how our heroic times are reflected in the music of today, just as the triumphs and sorrows of old were reflected in the songs of the folk-bards.

The music of modern Central Asia includes popular songs, march tunes, oratorios and even chamber music, the highest form of musical art. Azam Kalam, a Tajik composer, has written many popular songs during the past two years; he has orchestrated some of them, and at the festival he conducted the symphony orchestra which performed them.

* * *

Collaboration between Russian and Central Asian musicians has been very real. The European composers have not only been teachers; they have also been pupils. While teaching European musical technique to the musicians of the five Central Asian Republics, they have themselves studied the music of these countries under the guidance of their Central Asian colleagues.

The musical life of Central Asia has flourished exceedingly since the wartime evacuation from the western districts of the European part of the Soviet Union. Many prominent musicians were among the evacuees, and they seized the oppor-

tunity to make a deep study of local music. They are now experimenting with compositions on Central Asian themes. The friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union has triumphed in the fields of art and culture, just as it has done on the battlefield.

Armenian Art Club in Moscow

An exhibit of wartime art in Armenia was recently opened in Moscow, with over 500 works by 80 artists, including paintings, sculpture, sketches, posters, panels for streets and squares—also rugs, which hold an important place in the art of Armenia.

The war has influenced subject matter. A figure of a guerrilla youth by sculptor Nikogosyan, who was unknown before the war, is one of the finest examples of Armenian sculpture of recent times. Paintings by Armenians at the front hold an important place in the exhibit: the presentation of a banner to the Armenian National Division, by Issabekyan; portraits of Heroes of the Soviet Union Margulis and Stepanyan and of a Medical Nurse by Nazaryan, "Captured Heights" by Merited Artist Asargyan, and others.

During the war, 33 art exhibits were held in the Armenian Republic.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 132

Washington, D. C., December 21, 1944



OFFICERS OF THE RED ARMY

By Colonel Boris Telpukhovsky

The preparation of an officers corps was one of the most important and complex problems of the Soviet power in building up its armed forces. Upon the successful solution of this problem depended the fighting capacity of the Red Army and, consequently, the defensive powers of the country.

The Red Army was born in the fires of Civil War, an army of liberated workers and peasants, an army of fraternity between the peoples of Russia, permeated with respect for the freedom and independence of all countries. These qualities of the Red Army mainly determined the method of training for its officers corps.

Availing itself of the best officers of the old Russian Army, the Soviet Government however attributed primary importance to the training of new commanders among men of the people, thereby securing the indivisible ties between the commanders and the mass of Red Army men.

Outstanding army leaders of all times have well understood what an important bearing the relations between men and officers have on the fighting capacity of troops. No army in the world, however, has yet enjoyed such unanimity of interests between soldiers and officers as the Red Army. This is determined first of all by the fact that there is no social difference between them, no cause for antagonism. They have both emerged from the people and equally cherish the interests of their country.

The new commanders in the Soviet Union were confronted with an important task: to master the principles of modern warfare. This was not an easy task, since it was necessary for them to pursue their studies while waging armed struggle against the enemies of the Soviet State. But it was nonetheless successfully fulfilled.

Excellent Army leaders, the first representatives of the Soviet General Staff, were brought forward during the Civil War. Such Army leaders as Frunze, Voroshilov, Budenny, Parkhomenko, Shchors, Chapayev, Kotovsky and others, have won imperishable glory. The Soviet officers corps proved itself in the Civil War. The Red Army overthrew its numerous enemies, although the latter were led by officers of no mean experience.

By the time the Civil War had receded into history, the armament and equipment of the Soviet Armed Forces had changed beyond recognition. The Stalin Five-Year Plans enabled socialist industry to furnish the Red Army with powerful modern armaments. Completely re-equipped, the Red Army became one of the foremost armies of the world.

Soviet commanders worked tirelessly to perfect their application of this mass of armaments and equipment. Their training was improved year by year, but it attained a truly remarkable level during the Patriotic War.

This war precipitated a new phase in the development of the Red Army's fighting powers. During the first days of hostilities it was necessary to learn all that was newest in modern warfare. Soviet officers studied, fought, and at times unlearned, to learn anew in the thick of war operations.

War is a higher school of learning for the officers corps. Battle experience is essential, for maturity in fighting gives rise to new operative and tactical methods of combat. It is on the battlefields that the enemy's tactics and strategy are displayed to the full. The daily routine of battle, therefore, is an essential factor in consummating the training of the officers corps. Study of the experience of war has become an essential part of the Red Army officers' training. In military acad-



Chief Marshal of Artillery, Nikolai N. Voronov



Marshal of Aviation Semyon F. Zhavoronkov



An artillery officer from the Georgian SSR—Guards Senior Lieutenant Ivan Gventsadze, Hero of the Soviet Union, who was graduated from the Red Army School for Junior Lieutenants



Hero of the Soviet Union Nikolai Syrichenko, a 23-year-old artillery officer, has been at the front three years. Surrounded in a battle at Zhlobin, Syrichenko's battery destroyed three Ferdinand self-propelled guns, one field gun, seven machine guns and 100 enemy soldiers

emies and in the Red Army, all training of officers hinges upon the experiences of war.

Soviet officers, for their part, have spared no efforts to augment their knowledge and skill. Determined to defeat the enemy and conscious of the great mission of the Red Army, fighting for the liberty and independence of the Soviet State, for the delivery of Soviet peoples and the peoples of all liberty-loving countries from fascist slavery, they have devoted all their energy to this. Profiting by their combat experience, Soviet officers have advanced the art of warfare and have proven themselves excellent organizers on the modern battlefields.

The valiant efforts of the Soviet officers corps are one of the sources of the Red Army's brilliant victories. As is known, the organizational ability of the Command is a vital factor in deciding the outcome of hostilities. Under the command of Soviet generals and officers, the Red Army has repeatedly achieved that which the German army has never been able to do, which the best generals in the world have always hoped to do. Soviet troops effected the complete encirclement and elimination of enemy forces at Stalingrad, in the Korsun-Shevchenkivsky district, and in a number of other places, and have thereby contributed truly classic examples of encirclement operations on a scale unprecedented in the history of warfare. Encirclement and mopping-up

operations have become a routine feature of Red Army offensive action.

This was demonstrated with particular effect in 1944, when the enemy was encircled at Vitebsk, Bobruisk, Mogilev, Minsk, Brody, Lvov, Vilnius and Brest. The crowning operation was that of Jassy-Kishinev, when more than 15 divisions were eliminated from the Wehrmacht at a single blow.

The Patriotic War has brought forward hundreds of thousands of gifted Soviet officers and many remarkable generals. The great majority of the young officers have risen from the ranks, from squads, platoons and companies. In the hard fighting against the enemy, the officers corps of the Red Army has displayed its loyalty to the Soviet land and has grown stronger both in a military and political sense.

The war has also brought to the fore many splendid commanders among Red Army men of non-Russian nationalities. Excellent officers and generals have risen among all the peoples of the USSR. The Byelorussian Republic has contributed several thousand officers, about 200 generals and two admirals. The Armenian people has given the Red Army 40 generals and hundreds of officers. In 1945 only, tens of thousands of officers of non-Russian nationalities were trained in military technical institutions of the Red Army. These facts are evidence of the friendship and fraternity of the Soviet peoples.

'STEEL NERVES' OF THE ARMY

By Lieutenant Colonel Plestov

It is due to the work of the radio operators that flawless contact is maintained between troops during an offensive, and it is therefore not surprising that Red Army soldiers refer to the communications as the "steel nerves" of the Army.

These steel nerves reach through the entire Army, from the High Command to the smallest sub-units, conveying orders to troops and reports to commanders. By radio the officers coordinate their actions. All means of communication are animated by the single aim of securing smooth direction of troops. Complimenting one another, all methods of communication

serve to keep the Army a close-knit whole.

Radio, the swiftest means of communication, is of inestimable value in modern maneuvers. It dispenses with wires, which as experience has shown may be severed in battle. Successful radio communication naturally depends largely upon the men at the transmitters and receivers. Soviet radiomen have proved themselves past masters of their calling.

However, skill alone is not enough. High courage and heroism are frequently required. It is these qualities, plus skill that have enabled Soviet radiomen to maintain smooth communications under

all conditions. The following is an example . . .

A tank battalion was advancing into an attack. Radio Operator Peter Vlasov sat on one of the turrets, crowded against the commander. Through his earphones the multitude of signals of transmitters sounded very much like a frogpond. All this had to be tuned out before he could spot the signals intended for the commander of the battalion. The huge tank wallowed over shell-holes and the wreckage of enemy armaments, shuddering to the recoil of its own gun.

The battalion commander scribbled a note to the radio operator, the latter put the message in code and transmitted it to one of the company commanders. Turning in their course, the tanks crushed an enemy fire-nest. A request for assistance came from the infantry and the radio operator transmitted the order.

Suddenly a heavy frontal blow brought the machine to a standstill. The motor stalled and the radio operator's earphones went dead. Recovering quickly, the driver started his engine again and the tank moved forward. But the receiver remained inoperative; the antenna had been damaged. With the permission of the commander the radioman crawled through the hatch, flattening himself to escape flying shrapnel. He saw that the antenna had been severed almost at the base. Clinging to the rail of the plunging tank with one hand, he replaced the antenna with the other and crawled back into the tank, resuming his work.

The foregoing is merely part of the routine work of radio operators during an offensive.

Moving constantly with the Army's staffs and commanders, Soviet radio operators have borne the brunt of communications work and have been the principal means of directing troops in battle. Wherever wires are not feasible, wherever telephone squads cannot pass, the job of communications devolves upon the radio operator, who insures smooth direction of troops, close cooperation between all arms of the service, coordinated maneuvers, and all else that marks the fighting skill of the Red Army.

CROSSING THE DANUBE



Radiophoto

Top, a bridge across the Danube destroyed by retreating Hungarian troops; (center) Soviet sappers have built a pontoon bridge, over which Red Army infantrymen cross the river while the sappers complete the road; (lower) Red Army officers inspecting the new pontoon bridge

THE VOLGA DURING THE WAR

By Alexander Vakhurov

Chief of the Upper Volga Steamship Line

Like his father who sailed the Volga for over 50 years, Alexander Vakhurov began to work on Volga boats at the age of 11, first as a deckhand, then as helmsman and mate. He attended the Gorky River Technicum and was graduated from the Lenin Institute of Water Transport Engineers. He has been head of the Upper Volga Steamship Line for six years and has recently received the Order of Lenin.

The Soviet Union has many rivers which play an important part in the country's economy. The most important of these is the Volga, the largest river in Europe, which stretches 2,325 miles. Many large cities line its banks. The handsome industrial town of Gorky (formerly Nizhni Novgorod), founded in 1221, lies at the junction of the Volga and Oka Rivers. Below Gorky is the city of Kazan, birthplace of the internationally known mathematician, N. Lobachevsky. On the Volga, too, lies Ulyanovsk, formerly Simbirsk, where Lenin spent his childhood. Not far from Ulyanovsk stands the large industrial town of Kuibyshev and further downstream is the heroic city of Stalingrad.

In the grim days of the autumn of 1942, many Upper Volga boats were converted into gunboats, Navy trawlers and transports, which were placed at the command of the Volga Naval Flotilla. The passenger boats still carried civilians and cargo, but they also transported the wounded from the war zones. They often ran the gauntlet of intense enemy fire. The motorship Paris Commune, under the command of Captain Galashin, bearing evacuees from Stalingrad and valuable cargo, made 20 trips across the river under intense fire. The ship was torpedoed nine times and set ablaze seven times. It has now been made a flagship of the Upper Volga Line and flies a special banner as a mark of honor.

There were also other difficulties besides gunfire. Oil could not be transported from Baku and the ships had to be converted to coal at short notice. The cargoes also changed greatly. Instead of oil, wheat, salt, fish and coal, the vessels now carried ammunition, Army equipment and food to the front. Like the rest of the Soviet Union, the seamen concentrated on defeating the enemy and helped to hurl

him far beyond the banks of the Volga.

Two years have passed since then. The blue expanse of the great river has returned to a more peaceful life. Vessels once more sail down the Volga to the Caspian and to Baku and they again carry oil, salt, wheat and fish. Passenger service has been resumed on the old lines and new lines have been organized.

Systematically exceeding all plans, the rivermen have been transporting larger cargoes each month. During the past season 100,000 more passengers were carried than had been anticipated by the plan. For the first time, vessels entered the small tributaries in the upper reaches of the Volga and penetrated to the remote interior and the Far North, returning with wheat, flax and lumber.

Shipping along the Volga will be expedited further when some of the smaller tributaries are enlarged. At present the waters of the Unzha tributary are navigable only in the high-water season and the Vetluga tributary only for 200 kilometers. The former is 400 kilometers and the latter 750 kilometers long. When dredging has been completed, both streams will be navigable along their entire length

throughout the season. As a result, the construction of barges and steam-driven boats, each with a cargo capacity of 1,000 tons, will be speeded up.

The Upper Volga Steamship Line also operates between Gorky and Rybinsk, two of the largest Volga ports, both highly mechanized and partly equipped with American machinery. Several conveyors were recently received from the United States.

Near Rybinsk a dam has been built, which has facilitated shipping by deepening the river. Large quays are being constructed to provide more shipping space.

The great Volga River will become a splendid waterway in the future. Three mighty dams will control its flow and increase its depth. New hydroelectric plants along the Volga will supply power for new factories and furnish electricity to new towns and villages. The Volga will irrigate the deserts near the Caspian and along its own lower reaches. When all these projects have been completed, the river will receive deep-water ships from four seas, the White, Baltic, Caspian and Black Seas.

The Clocks of Leningrad

Before the war there were 287 street clocks in Leningrad. They were electrically operated and their dials were lighted at night. On the outbreak of war the clocks were blacked out, but they continued to tick.

Most of these clocks were at street corners, in public squares and on large buildings—in short, in places subjected to the most intense shelling. One by one they stopped.

The inspector-in-chief of the Leningrad clocks, N. Korolev, tried patiently to revive the mechanism of each clock; he fitted new hands, patched the dials and the glass. But it was a losing game. All his young assistants had gone to the front. Finally there was no more electric current and all the clocks fell silent.

Even then, with barely strength to carry the lightweight ladder of his trade, Koro-

lev went from one clock to another, replacing the broken glass with plywood so as to protect the mechanism as fully as possible from rain and snow.

One day while making his rounds Korolev was knocked down by a shell. He came to himself in a hospital. The wound proved serious and he was evacuated from Leningrad to Tbilisi, Georgia. As soon as he was well enough he resumed his old trade in the sun-flooded streets of the busy southern city.

But the clocks of Leningrad haunted him, with their hands pointing sadly to the hours of disaster. When the enemy was rolled back from the city by the Red Army assault, Korolev returned. He began to train new assistants, mostly young boys and disabled war veterans. He taught them to repair the wires and install the huge hands. And now 100 clocks are again ticking in Leningrad.



Rezekne, Latvian SSR, suffered the full fury of German destruction. At left is a devastated street; right, the ruins of the Town Hall, a building dating back more than 200 years, once the pride of Rezekne citizens

SOVIET LATVIA SHALL LIVE AGAIN

By Vilis Lacis

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Latvian SSR

The years of German occupation were filled with indescribable horrors and endless humiliations for the Latvian people. The German invader—the age-old enemy of our people—stood revealed in all his savagery and beastliness.

Hitler attempted to establish his so-called "new order" in Latvia. We know too well what this means: burned cities and villages, hundreds of thousands of innocent people tortured and killed—their graves to be found wherever the Germans passed. Every true Latvian knows that the Germans are the most vicious enemy of our people. For over 700 years Latvia has known the German violators; for over 700 years the irreconcilable enmity between the Latvian people and the German oppressors has continued.

In the great Patriotic War the people of Latvia correctly understood their historic tasks and fought courageously against the German invaders. In the ranks of the fighters were the workers and intellectuals of Riga and Liepaja, our guerrillas and our Guards Riflemen who participated in the liberation of their capital.

The battle for Riga began near Moscow. It was waged on the snowy fields of Narofominsk and Borovsk, in the

marshlands near Staraya Russa, at the Latgalian lakes and on the banks of the Dvina.

The people of Riga enthusiastically welcomed the troops under the command of Army Generals Maslennikov, Yermenko and Bagramyan, and Lieutenant Generals Romanovsky and Zakhvatayev, as well as the Latvian Rifle Corps led by Major General Brantkaln. They honored them as liberators of our capital, and as heroes whose bravery and military skill were instrumental in preventing the fascists from completely demolishing our beautiful Riga.

Cultural and Material Values Destroyed

The enemy has mutilated the capital of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic. All electric power stations, the city water works, the mechanized bakery and the bridges were blown up. Enormous losses were caused to the city's transport. The Germans destroyed or shipped away all streetcars and 184 auto-buses; they drove away all horses and motor vehicles, and demolished the overhead cables of the streetcar system.

The German barbarians attempted to destroy the culture of the Latvian people.

With particular thoroughness they demolished cultural and public institutions. The main postoffice and all telephone stations were blown up; all historical treasures of the city's museums were shipped to Germany; schoolhouses where thousands of children studied were converted into barracks and all school furnishings and study aids destroyed.

All our beautiful streets and boulevards, named for the national heroes of the Latvian people, were renamed by the Germans for the executioners and suppressors of freedom: Hitler, Goering, Rosenberg and other criminals of their ilk.

The Germans also inflicted heavy damages on the city's industries. The beautiful harbor and embankments of the Dvina and the port structures were blown up or wrecked. The Kvadrat factory, the liqueur and wine, confectionery, tobacco and other plants, the printing works, flour mill and other enterprises were blown up and rendered useless.

The Hitlerites removed to Germany all equipment of the textile industry, all machinery and equipment of the chocolate factory, the electrical plant and other enterprises, and put out of commission over 50 per cent of the city's industry.

In the three years of German occupa-

tion Riga became a prison for the population. Thousands of Latvians were shot and tens of thousands languished in prison and concentration camps. The Germans ran amok, especially before leaving Riga. They seized people in the streets, forced them aboard ships and sent them to Germany. Hundreds of professors, engineers, teachers, writers and actors were shot or sent to Germany. Among those transported were the well-known composer E. Vitols, Director of the State Conservatory; Professor A. Schwabe, historian, Archbishop Greenberg of the Lutheran Church, and many others.

As soon as the city was liberated, the people of Soviet Latvia energetically began the work of restoration. Bridges were quickly rebuilt, schools repaired, the network of medical institutions restored, and stores, restaurants, theaters and cinemas reopened. The Latvians will again make their capital a flourishing city.

Civil Rights Restored

The rights of the peasants to the land are now being restored. On this most important question the government passed a special decision which met with the warm support of the peasantry.

In all rural districts, commissions have been set up to apportion the land to peasants with little land or none. Applications for the return of land are acted upon within a few days of filing. The peasants are being provided with agricultural implements and seed.

Some 26,000 peasant households have already received the land the Germans took away from them and handed over to the German Baltic barons.

Restoration of the national economy is proceeding faster than might have been expected in view of the frightful damage inflicted by the fascists. Jelgava and Rezekne are in ruins. Entire blocks of Daugavpils have been wrecked.

But the Latvian people, filled with gratitude to the heroic Soviet soldiers, to the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal of the Soviet Union Joseph Stalin, are doing all in their power to rapidly rehabilitate the demolished economy of the Republic and to render all possible support to the Red Army in the struggle against the German invaders.

Schools for Adults

By Sergei Levin

In old Tsarist Russia the people were kept in darkness and ignorance. A quarter-century of Soviet power eradicated illiteracy. But millions of adults who did not have an opportunity to get a secondary school education in childhood still go to school.

Before the war there were in the USSR about 10,000 secondary schools for grown-ups, with an attendance of 1,500,000 people—workers, office employees and collective farmers. The Soviet Government spends hundreds of millions of rubles on adult education every year. In Moscow alone there are 85 such schools, as well as evening schools for young workers. Correspondence courses are arranged for adults who cannot attend school in person.

The number of students has been increased during the last three years by youths and girls prevented by the war from finishing their secondary education. They spend the day at the factory bench and the evening with their schoolbooks. There are also many Red Army soldiers on temporary leave, or demobilized as invalids, who are eager to improve their educational standard.

In 1942-43 hundreds of youths and girls from 18 to 21 years of age, working in industrial enterprises, graduated from the Moscow secondary correspondence schools. Their fellow students were older people, skilled workers with many years of experience, exempt from military service, who used their spare time to complete their secondary school education, with the intention of continuing their studies in schools of higher education, where they would qualify as specialists in some trade or profession.

Among those who completed their secondary education in 1943 was a Red Army man who used his six-months' sick leave for this purpose. Then there was Partisan K., who lost both hands fighting the Germans. While in the hospital learning to use his artificial hands he finished his secondary school education, and is now making good progress in the law faculty of Moscow University. A girl tele-

grapher who lost her right arm in the war has completed her elementary education and entered a technical school for telegraphers.

The adult schools are for workers who can come regularly to classes three to four times a week. The correspondence schools are based on the independent work of the student at home. At regular intervals he can receive guidance from experienced teachers on the school staff. These are group consultations: but if the student finds his work particularly difficult, he may apply for individual consultation.

Every adult school has a library containing a large collection of textbooks, a reading room, physics, chemistry and biology, history and language rooms. The reading room is open from nine in the morning to 10 in the evening. Students are welcome to study there, and if they need assistance they can apply to the teacher on duty.

Education of War Invalids

At the beginning of 1942 the People's Commissariat of Public Education decreed that special attention should be paid to the education of war invalids. There are special classes for them at the adult schools. The education of invalids confined to hospitals for long periods is entrusted to the correspondence schools.

Qualified teachers conduct classes at the hospitals in general educational subjects: Russian, foreign languages, literature, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and history. The invalids are helped to acquire the elementary knowledge necessary for greater progress in their particular jobs—accounting, fruit growing, beekeeping, etc.; to brush up on their old trades or acquire new ones; to prepare for entrance exams to technical schools, colleges, universities or other institutions of higher learning.

About 1,500 adult workers, office employees and wounded Red Army soldiers are now studying in the Moscow correspondence secondary school and its hospital branches. The teaching staff consists of 60 highly qualified specialists.

A pushball match at the Dynamo Stadium in Moscow



Sports in the USSR in 1944

By Vasili Snegov

Chairman, Government Sports Committee

Athletics became extremely popular and developed on a large scale throughout the Soviet Union in the years preceding the war. Sports were taken up by millions of persons. Nearly 10 million Soviet athletes passed the test for the GTO (Prepared for Labor and Defense) sports badge. Six institutes and 27 physical culture schools trained athletic instructors and coaches. The USSR had 600 stadiums, 14,000 athletic fields, over 45,000 volley ball and basketball courts, 6,000 ski stations and more than 500 swimming pools. The Dynamo Stadium was built in Moscow to accommodate over 50,000 persons. A new stadium with a seating capacity of 50,000 had just been completed in Kiev before the war. It was the third largest in the country.

The unprovoked assault by fascist Germany upon the USSR interrupted the peaceful life of the Soviet people and to a certain extent retarded the further development of sports. Despite all wartime difficulties, however, athletics became even more popular during the war because of the heroic exploits of Soviet sportsmen on the fields of battle, on the home front and in guerrilla detachments.

Among the Honored Athletes of the USSR and holders of records, who won

nationwide fame in the USSR, were Nikolai Shatov, weight-lifter; Lyuba Kulakova, outstanding woman skier; Leonid Mitropolsky, top-ranking track athlete; Nikolai Korolev, boxing champion of the USSR; Georgi Mazurov, star high-diver, and many others who took up arms to defend their country in the very beginning of the war.

Strength, endurance, dexterity, resoluteness, daring and a will to win—qualities developed to a high degree in athletic training and competition—were put to good use by Soviet athletes in the struggle against the hateful enemy.

The Soviet Government has awarded the Order of the Red Banner to the Leningrad Institute of Physical Culture for its outstanding wartime success in preparing physically fit reserves for the Red Army and for the valorous services of its men and women students in the defense of the city.

The brilliant victories of the Red Army inspired a new wave of enthusiasm for sports in the country. In 1944 the scope of athletics reached the prewar level. Last winter the trade unions conducted mass ski-runs in which nine million persons participated. In addition, ski contests were arranged for rural athletes and

1,130,000 persons took part in these events. USSR championship contests were held in skiing, ice-skating, swimming, boxing, weight-lifting, wrestling, gymnastics and ice-hockey. The annual spring cross-country runs, which are conducted simultaneously throughout the country, attracted 9,188,000 competitors this year.

Soviet athletes also had a busy summer. Twenty-four teams competed in the series for the 1944 soccer football cup. The final game was between the Moscow Central House of the Red Army and the Zenith team of Leningrad. Over 60,000 spectators packed the Dynamo Stadium in Moscow to watch this game. Zenith won by a score of two goals to one, giving Leningrad the cup for the first time in the annals of Soviet football. The Moscow Torpedo Sports Society eleven won the cup in the trade union series.

The USSR track and field championship meet was another highlight of the summer sports season. The star performer in this meet was Nina Dumbadze, well-known woman athlete of Georgia, who set a new world record for discus throwing at 49.88 meters. Soviet records also were broken by Evdokia Vasilyeva who ran 1,500 meters in four minutes, 38 seconds; by Barylova who won the 80-meter

hurdle in 11.6 seconds; by Zambremt Bortz who registered 15.23 meters in the hop, skip and jump, and by Junior Lieutenant Sergei Kuznetsov who rolled up a total of 6,961 points in the decathlon.

Several new Soviet records were set in the bicycling and swimming championship meets. Championship tournaments and meets were also held in chess, wrestling, boxing, weight-lifting, basketball, tennis, motorcycling, bayonet fencing and fencing.

All in all, 50 USSR records were improved this year by track and field athletes, cyclists, swimmers and weight-lifters. The results gained by weight-lifters were particularly high. Grigori Novak, a heavyweight, scored 130.5 kilograms in the two-hand clear and press, and a total of 405 kilograms in the two-hand events breaking his own previous record of 129.5 and 400 kilograms, respectively, and at the same time setting a new world record for these events.

In addition to the USSR championships and major meets arranged by the Government Sports Committee, sports committees of various Republics, regions, territories, districts and cities as well as sports societies held their own championship meets and sports festivals.

Particular attention is paid to the development of sports among schoolchildren and students of railway, trade and factory schools. The more talented youngsters may attend special sports schools for juveniles, where they are given specialized training. There are in the Soviet Union nearly 300 such schools, with a total enrollment of 40,000 boys and girls.

The USSR junior championship contests conducted this year in track and field events, swimming, high-diving, boxing and gymnastics brought to the fore a large number of rising athletic stars. Twenty-four teams representing different Republics, territories, and regions competed in the gymnastics meet. The first place went to the young gymnasts of Moscow. Georgian and Armenian teams placed second and third, respectively.

The Soviet people are extremely fond of sports, but they know that the most important thing at the present moment is to win the war which they are fighting together with their Allies to free the world of fascism once and for all.

Georgia is a land of lofty mountain ranges, yawning chasms, fertile valleys, luxuriant steppes and swift, broad rivers. It is rich in timber, game and the subtropical plants of the Black Sea coast. It has extensive deposits of manganese, anthracite coal, molybdenum, gold, barite, marble and granite.

Despite this wealth of raw materials, the gross output of Georgia's major industries before the Revolution was valued at only 43 million rubles. Its electric power stations had a maximum capacity of 8,000 kilowatts and in 1913 only 71,000 tons of coal and 900 tons of manganese ore were mined.

On the eve of the present war, the gross output of Georgia's industries had exceeded the one billion ruble mark. Generation of electric power had increased to 180,000 kilowatts; the output of coal rose to 400,000 tons and the manganese ore output was doubled.

The war has given further impetus to Georgia's economic development. The coal and electricity output has increased greatly and the Soviet Union now obtains from Georgia enough manganese to supply its metallurgical plants.

During the war Georgia's heavy industries were converted to war production and for the first time turned out such munitions as mine-throwers, Tommy guns, flamethrowers, mines and hand grenades. These contributed substantially to the defeat of the enemy in the Caucasus. The light industries of Georgia have also increased their production and have contributed to the war effort by manufacturing vast quantities of clothing and footwear for the Red Army.

Georgian agriculture has flourished under Soviet power. Before the Revolution the peasants of Georgia had owned only 27 per cent of the land, while the land belonging to Tsarist officials, estates and monasteries was cultivated in a wasteful, primitive manner. Although the soil of Georgia is extremely fertile and suitable for an endless variety of subtropical plants, during the 32 years between 1884 and 1916 Georgia had an average of only 1,435 hectares planted to subtropical cultures. Under the Soviet power the area

GEORGIA

By Victor Belikov

planted to tea has been increased to 45,000 hectares, while citrus fruits are grown on more than 15,000 hectares. The Republic now has 12,500 tung trees where there had been none before the Revolution. It has also become a wine-producing region and its Tsinandali, Mukuzani and Napareuli wines are known beyond the Soviet borders.

In 1943 Georgia delivered to the State 60 million kilograms of tea leaves, 10 million more than in 1940. The tobacco crop was five times larger than it had been in 1940. In 1943, also, 430 million tangerines, oranges and lemons were picked. Wheat and vegetables were grown in abundance.

Georgia also provides the country with large quantities of meat and wool. The past three years have shown an increase of 120,000 head of sheep and 500,000 head of goats.

The progress made by Georgia's agriculture may be attributed largely to the high degree of mechanization, the advanced level of farming and to the introduction of excellent irrigation systems. The Republic has more than 50 machine and tractor stations with 2,000 tractors and 400 harvester combines. Under the Soviet power, Georgia acquired the Alazany irrigation network, covering an area of 110,000 acres, the Tiriponsk network, covering 75,000 acres, and the Kuraisi network covering 50,000 acres.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 133

Washington, D. C., December 23, 1944

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The Third Battery

By B. Polevoi, *Pravda* Correspondent

The commander of the artillery regiment stepped across the rugged, barren fields with the lightness of a sportsman, leaped over shell craters full of the dark waters of autumn rains, and turning to me suddenly said, "Here you are . . . there's the Third Battery in front of you."

His youthful eyes twinkled shrewdly under long lashes. He seemed delighted at my astonishment. I looked around, but saw nothing . . . nothing but the monotonous, chilly autumn Polish landscape. My eyes wandered to the narrow strips of fields, plowed up by shells, the scattered pine coppices, the spires of the Roman Catholic churches and between them the narrow winding country road.

But this brief survey of the surroundings did not help me locate the battery. Only after a careful examination of the terrain was I able to spot the traces of two guns, but the third I couldn't for the life of me find. I knew there was a third gun somewhere—but I couldn't guess where.

"Commander of No. Two—come forward," the Lieutenant Colonel ordered quietly. Behind my back I heard the rustle of straw and from the entrance of a dug-out hidden beneath the smallest haystacks emerged a tall, red-haired soldier in a uniform which bore signs of hard fighting. The fur hat, the olive drab cotton shirt almost white from washing, the neat patch on the shoulder, the clean puttees above polished black boots, were all evidence that the man had got used to the hardships of war and was taking them as a matter of course.

He stepped forward, saluted smartly, and reported: "Gun Commander of the Guards, Sergeant Yashin. The crew are cleaning their rifles after firing practice." He gave an order and a moment later his crew filed out, lining up in front of the dugout. All were outwardly different: Corporal Mikita Miroshnichenko, gunlayer, a husky, dark-eyed Ukrainian; Corporal Melik Maldibekov, the gunlayer, a Kazakh, small and round-faced, like a

stump grown into the earth; Gurgen Stepanyan, an Armenian with black eyes and a smiling, cheery countenance, and the short, angry-faced shell carrier, Kafi Gametulin, a Tatar.

All were men of different characters and nationalities, born in various parts of our great country, and all spoke different languages. But all four resembled each other and their commander in bearing, keenness and quickness. Within a few seconds they had removed the straw covering from the fishing net, and the gun appeared before us, ready for action . . . the same gun I had tried to locate without success.

On the gunshield I noticed some drawings of tanks, guns, mortars and trucks. That was the crew's score of enemy battle equipment destroyed—their logbook. Gurgen Stepanyan, son of a painter in Erevan, had drawn nine tanks, 12 guns, six mortars, 23 trucks and eleven planes on the shield.

Thus I made the acquaintance of the gun crew of Sergeant Yashin, about which I had heard and read much. This was beyond the Vistula. The men of the crew had got together at the beginning of the war. Of the four, Yashin was the only artilleryman. He had fought in the war against Finland, was wounded in a battle in the hills of the Karelian Isthmus, and had received the "Medal for Valor."

"I hope I shall not be giving away the secrets of a fine crew if I say that after the first shot on the practice range Maldibekov ran off in fear, and that Stepanyan clapped his hands to his ears long before the gun was fired," Yashin said, with a smile.

But Yashin, a former instructor at a trade school, went on patiently and stubbornly with the training of the crew, and when they had their baptism of fire—one



Radiofoto

SOVIET TROOPS IN HUNGARY—Gunners under the command of Guards Captain Babich hear a talk on Red Army offensive operations

hard autumn day on the Volga steppe, in 1942—the men proved to be skilled, brave and cool.

At that time Yashin also learned the faults of his instruction. The gunlayer was wounded and Yashin himself was suffering from shell-shock, but there was no one to replace them. As soon as he returned from the hospital, Yashin corrected this mistake: he took advantage of every lull in the fighting to train his men so that in case of need each man could set the range or take the place of the commander.

The crew fought in the battles of the Voronezh Region, the Ukraine and in the southern regions of Poland, taking part in dozens of engagements and learning all the time.

Battle for Bridgehead

On a bridgehead beyond the Vistula, the friendship and skill of the crew received a severe test. This was in the autumn, when the German command, realizing the importance of the stretch of land held by Soviet troops, decided at all costs to regain the lost ground on the great Polish river, and by fierce tank thrusts to hurl the Soviet units back to their original positions.

The regiment occupied an advanced position and the battery was set up behind a mound on the edge of a young pine woods. It was here the Germans hoped to drive a wedge into the Soviet positions.

With the first rays of dawn the Nazi bombers attacked. They came in waves, dropping their loads on the front lines. The air was alive with the whining of bombs and the roar of explosions. Fragments whistled through the woods, but did little damage to the artillerymen, for they and their guns were dug deep into the ground. When the thunder of bomb bursts had died down and Sergeant Yashin jumped out of his slit trench to order his men to prepare the gun for action against tanks, he could hardly recognize his position. The earth was full of bomb craters and holes from torn-up trees. And in the distance he could already hear the rattle of tank treads.

The battery opened fire. Seven Nazi tanks rolled over the ridge, making no attempt at camouflage. They headed straight

for the battery, with Grenadiers riding on the armor, evidently anticipating no serious resistance. With his first few shells Yashin stopped two tanks. Two others were knocked out by neighboring gunners and the remainder fell back, disappearing behind the ridge with the Nazi soldiers fleeing in their wake.

The gunners of the neighboring batteries sent up a hearty "Hurrah!"—but Yashin was too seasoned a soldier to be happy at this first success. He sent a few splinter shells after the enemy and got ready for serious battle.

The tanks had hardly vanished behind the hill before the German long-range guns opened up on the battery position. Their fire covered every meter of ground, and the earth shook with the explosions. The gunners, after hauling in the guns, crouched in their foxholes, while Soviet long-range guns replied from rear positions. Soon the enemy shifted his fire deeper into the Soviet defenses. The heavy shells whizzed overhead from both sides, criss-crossing in the air.

Yashin was sure the Germans would repeat the assault under the din of the barrage. Shell fragments were still flying,



Radiophoto
Sergeant Zhiltsov's gun crew, which helped defend Moscow, is now fighting the Germans on their own soil

but he gave the order to roll out the gun. He was just in time. The Nazi tanks thundered over the ridge without firing a single shell.

Yashin gave the order to fire. Then he saw that he was receiving no support from the neighboring gun, and learned that the commander had been killed and the gunlayer wounded. It was here his hours of instruction proved their value. A moment later the hoarse voice of gunlayer Miroshnichenko was issuing the command to fire the next gun, and the wiry figure of Stepanyan was busy around the sights.

Yashin and his two remaining men manned their gun alone. Three tanks were knocked out in succession. But the Germans kept coming. The tanks raced toward the battery, firing as they came.

Gunloader Maldibekov suddenly fell to the ground; a red-hot fragment had swept his fatigue cap from his head, taking part of the skin and hair with it. He got up, wiping the blood from his face with the sleeve of his coat, and with the help of Kafi Gametulin, the shell-carrier, continued to fire.

One of the German tanks broke through at close range, making straight for the gun. When it was about a hundred meters from the position the gunners scored a direct hit; the tank caught fire but continued to move and fire, leaving a trail of smoke behind. Then, from 20 meters, Yashin hit the turret and the beheaded monster stopped.

"Good work!" bawled Miroshnichenko from the distance, minus his overcoat and with his shirt dripping with perspiration as he ran around the gun, keeping an eye on his comrades.

Second Attack Repulsed

Again the Germans retreated behind the ridge, and now not four but nine Nazi tanks left on the hilltop were sending up pillars of smoke.

But the gun crews had also sustained casualties. Glasha, a girl stretcher-bearer, carried the seriously wounded battery commander off the field. Half of the crew were out of action: the gunlayer of the third cannon was also wounded. Yashin took over command. He named Maldibekov, who had somewhat recovered from his shell shock, gunlayer for the third gun,

with Gametulin to man the second. Miroshnichenko and Stepanyan went on with their jobs as before. A few men were mobilized to act as shell carriers. The battery was alive.

When the Germans attacked the third time, they were again met with concentrated fire. This time the Nazis exercised greater care, realizing the stubbornness and skill of their opponents.

The tanks maneuvered and changed their direction, fanning out in an attempt to outflank the battery, while the infantry attacked frontally. Yashin guessed what the German game was. He swung his guns on the flanks to the right and left. While they were dealing with the tanks, he concentrated on the infantry, firing splinter shells. This time the Germans were particularly stubborn.

Position Held

The unequal battle reached its climax. Pillars of smoke shrouded the battery. The crews raced around in the smoke, black with dust, grease and blood. A shell splinter twisted the shield of the No. Two gun. Yashin, wounded in the leg, didn't even feel the pain as he stood at his blinded gun, continuing to fight. Not until the third attack had been repulsed and a dead silence had fallen did he look around and observe with surprise that the wood was no longer there . . . The trees had been cut down by shells and bombs and the guns were standing amid stumps and branches.

That was Yashin's last conscious thought as he slipped to the ground. He came to himself in a field hospital during a blood transfusion.

"Did we hold the position?" he asked. The surgeon answered yes and told him to be quiet.

"And where are the boys?" he asked suddenly, raising himself on his elbow.

"Hold him, he's delirious," the surgeon said.

"He isn't delirious at all and he has a right to know," said Maldibekov's voice from another part of the operating tent. "We're all right."

"They are waiting outside for you," the nurse said gently.

And outside his friends sat, listening intently to every sound.



IN THE CARPATHIANS—In the recent fighting Guards Sergeant Frolov, a *Radiophoto* gunlayer, damaged three German tanks and two self-propelled guns and destroyed four anti-tank guns

GOVERNMENT DECORATIONS AWARDED TO 2,868,962 PERSONS

According to data of October 1, 1944, 2,868,962 persons, including members of every nationality of the Soviet Union, have been decorated with Government orders and medals during the Patriotic War.

Of this number, 2,026,693 were Russians; 409,668 Ukrainians; 107,151 Byelorussians; 55,767 Jews; 55,316 Tatars; 31,668 Kazakhs; 22,004 Uzbeks; 21,897 Armenians; 18,636 Mordovians; 17,757 Georgians; 16,955 Chuvashi; 11,479 Azerbaijanians; 9,746 Bashkirians; 7,034 Mari; 6,796 Udmurts; 4,688 Ossetians; 4,126 Komi; 3,894 Kirghizians; 3,302 Turkmenians; 3,259 Tajiks; 3,143 Latvians; 2,655 Karelians; 2,442 Estonians; 2,177 Buryat-Mongolians; 1,728 Moldavians; 1,665 Lithuanians; 1,160 Lezgins; 651 Khakassians, and 621 Yakuts.

From the beginning of the Patriotic War to October 1, 1944, the title of Hero of the Soviet Union and the Gold Star Medal have been conferred upon 5,901 fighting men of the Red Army. Twenty-five have been awarded the title twice, and one, Guards Colonel Alexander Pokryshkin, has received it three times.

Among the Heroes of the Soviet Union are 3,798 Russians, 961 Ukrainians, 105 Byelorussians, 93 Tatars, 57 Kazakhs, 52

Jews, 39 Uzbeks, 39 Georgians, 33 Armenians, 32 Mordovians, 27 Bashkirians, 22 Chuvashi, 18 Azerbaijanians, 16 Ossetians, nine Turkmenians, nine Mari, seven Tajiks, six Estonians, six Karelians, six Komi, four Latvians, and a number of representatives of the Udmurts, Yakuts, Khakassians and other Soviet nationalities.

New Chemical Substance

The Laboratories of Colloidal Chemistry in Moscow report the discovery of a substance which inhibits dissolution of metals in acids. The material has been called Unikol. Added to acids as an inhibitor, it has yielded excellent results in cleaning rust from articles of iron and steel and even from polished surfaces.

Unikol may prove useful for oilwell machinery, for the transport of acids in metal containers, and for cleaning incrustations from steam boilers.

Lvov University Restored

The Franko State University of Lvov, named for the noted Ukrainian poet, has been partially restored after the damages inflicted by the German invaders. Forty-two widely known professors of the University were killed by the Hitlerites.



THE "KATYUSHAS" GO INTO ACTION—A Soviet observer's view of the effect

THE ARTILLERY SUPPORT OF THE RED ARMY

Soviet artillery has grown into a formidable force which the enemy has never been able to counter with anything of equal power. It was mainly the Soviet artillery that smashed the German panzer hordes in the first period of the war and inflicted enormous losses on the fascist war machine. Soviet artillerymen have played a decisive role in combating modern tank armies.

In the first stage of the war, the Red Army was on the defensive. The second stage, that of the Soviet offensive, began on November 19, 1942, in Stalingrad. On that day, Red Army artillery, with other branches of arms, went over to the offensive and launched upon the fulfillment of its new assignment—smashing the German fortified defense lines and clearing the way for our infantry and tanks. It has splendidly coped with that task in all our advances.

Artillery was the only arm in which the Wehrmacht did not achieve even a numerical superiority. The powerful industry of the Soviet Union, built up during the Stalin Five-Year Plans, was able to provide the Red Army with all types and models of guns in quantities and quality exceeding the sum total of all that the industries of Germany and the countries

occupied by her could turn out. Guns streamed from our plants to the front in such numbers as the Russian artillerymen of the First World War would not even have dared even to dream about.

During the First World War the industry of Tsarist Russia was too weak to insure even a parity with the German artillery. Russian war plants produced scarcely any heavy guns. The Army in the field had good light guns, but there were not enough shells for them. If under these conditions the Russian artillerymen managed to achieve greater firepower in separate battles—during Brusilov's breakthrough, for example—it was due only to the strategic ability of the Russian commanders of the day.

In the present war the Red Army has been supplied with artillery of all types and calibers. While the quantity of our anti-tank artillery was being built up, intensive work was invested in the development of guns of heavy caliber as weapons for use against enemy defense lines and objectives during offensive actions. New types of ordnance never before seen and possessing tremendous efficiency and destructive power made their appearance. The famous "Katyusha" is one of them.

Because of this the Red Army through-

out the war has been insured the support of tremendous artillery firepower. Unable to challenge the superiority of the Red Army artillery in respect to numerical strength and equality, the Germans tried to fill the gap by expanding their self-propelled artillery. At the same time they began to reinforce the protective armor of tanks and to strengthen their defense lines against shell fire.

These attempts were fated to be unsuccessful. The present Soviet self-propelled guns have greater firepower than those of the enemy, who has not yet produced tank armor or permanent fortifications which stand a chance under the impact of our shells.

One of the strong points of Soviet artillery is its high mobility. It is almost entirely mechanically hauled, and this is also to be credited to Soviet industry, particularly the automobile and tractor plants. The mobility of our artillery has played an exceptionally important role in the Red Army's offensive operations, making it possible to quickly mass tremendous numbers of guns in key sectors and to insure constant artillery support for our mobile forces.

These factors laid the foundation for new artillery tactics and strategy. Marshal



Radiophoto

ards Mortars, known as "Katyushas." The German lines are deluged with flame

Stalin has elevated the theory of the utilization of artillery in battle to the highest level yet reached, and has introduced a new principle in artillery action—the "artillery offensive."

The concept of the artillery offensive implies the concentration, on sectors earmarked for the main blow, of tremendous numbers of guns—up to 500 guns have been massed per kilometer of the front—with the view of creating firepower great enough to immediately smash the enemy defenses throughout their full depth. The principle simultaneously provides for the constant support by shell fire of infantry and tanks, from the beginning to the end

of their advance. The efficacy of this principle has been proved time and again in all offensive operations conducted by the Red Army during the past two years.

To build up such powerful artillery, large contingents of experienced officers and soldiers were needed. The former were trained in the country's numerous artillery schools, whose graduates now constitute the overwhelming majority of our artillery generals and officers. The modern gun must be manned by machine-conscious, technically developed and otherwise advanced men. These the Red Army found among the workers of Soviet industry, and among the collective farmers

whom years of mechanized power farming under Soviet conditions had made technically minded, accustomed to regard machinery as a part of their everyday life. It is obvious that the old Russian Army could not have had artillery like ours of today, if only for the reason that it had insufficient people able to man it.

Modern Russian artillery has, however, taken over the best of the centuries-old traditions of the old Army. Qualities that have made the Russian gunners famous since the time of Peter I—their proficiency and skill, grit and staying power, and peerless patriotism and fearlessness in the face of death—have found particularly striking expression during this war. Nearly half a million Red Army artillerymen have been decorated for valor, and over 900 have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.



Radiophoto

A salvo of the "Katyushas"—the Guards Mortars

Caucasian Horseman

The 12-year-old son of an Abkhasian collective farmer in the Caucasus recently won the main event in a horse race in which 105 trick riders participated. The horsemen demonstrated their ability in riding and wielding cold steel. Abkhadians learn to ride at a very early age, and many have won fame in the Soviet cavalry for their valor and skill at the front.

The People's Commissar of the Tank Industry

By Y. Viktorov

The row of tank-gun shells lined up on the floor of the office of Vyacheslav Malyshev, People's Commissar of the Tank Industry, resembled a life-size chart showing a sharply rising curve. On one side stood the 1941 shells; on the other the latest types. The dimensions of the latter were more than double the former.

"This ought to give you some idea of the work of our industry," the People's Commissar said, after we had exchanged greetings.

I had met the Malyshev six years before; he was then director of a large machine works at Kolomna. The intervening period had changed him very little, although it must have been the busiest of his life. He had left Kolomna to become People's Commissar of the Heavy Machine-Building Industry.

When the war began and the Commissariat of the Tank Industry was established, Malyshev was placed at its head. He supervised the work of the war plants in Stalingrad during the most difficult months of the battle for the city.

Fifteen years ago Malyshev was a locomotive engineer. Now, at the age of 42, he wears the Gold Star of a Hero of the Soviet Union, awarded him for outstanding services in the production of tanks and self-propelled artillery.

Before we could begin our talk, a sec-

retary entered with a bulky folder of morning mail. The Commissar works on a rigid schedule, and excusing himself he went through the letters rapidly, penciling marginal notes on some and dictating replies to others. Two were from workers, and he laid them aside.

"These letters often contain suggestions of great value," he said. "But whatever their subject, I answer them personally."

Malyshev keeps in close touch with the workers of the industry. Arriving at a plant by plane—his favorite method of travel—he goes from shop to shop, making a careful check of details and stopping to chat with the men and women about production problems and other matters.

Before the secretary had gone, the director of the production department of the Commissariat came in and handed his chief a report.

"These are yesterday's production figures," Malyshev explained. He looked over the report, signed it and turned to me.

"On the whole, we are not doing so badly. We have kept strictly to our daily production schedule during the year, thanks to the efforts of hundreds of thousands of workers of the electric, Diesel, armor and other plants. The tank industry is one of those which receive the per-

sonal attention of Marshal Stalin. Other branches of industry also render us great assistance, supplying metal, apparatus, tools and other materials. If their schedules were not every bit as exacting as our own, we should hardly have been able to increase tank production severalfold during the war.

"The Germans might have drawn some unpleasant deductions—for themselves—as early as 1942," he continued. "By that time we were already turning out more tanks than they . . . something they could not have expected, since they knew our largest plants had been shifted to the East only a short time before."

Speaking of the comparative qualities of various makes of tanks, Malyshev had praise for a number of American and British types.

As to the German tanks, "They have not come off too well in their contest with Soviet machines," he said. "The Tiger model is impressive in size, but clumsy. The German Panther, insofar as it resembles the Soviet T-34, is not so bad."

"Along what lines do you expect the tank to develop in future?" I asked.

"The evolution of the Soviet tank during the past few years has shown a trend toward increased power without adding to size or weight. Our KVs now fire shells comparable to those used on cruisers; they can pierce the armor of any German tank from a long distance. But the KV is neither larger nor less mobile than formerly. I believe our designers are correct in pursuing this general line."

I noticed three red ribbons, denoting three Orders of Lenin, on the Commissar's lapel, and I remarked upon his meteoric rise from locomotive engineer to People's Commissar.

"You know," he said, "some time ago I received a letter from a woman worker who asked if I might not be her son, whom she had not heard from for many years. The name and the initials are the same," she wrote. Evidently it did not strike her as remarkable that her Vyacheslav might have become a People's Commissar. That is the kind of country we live in."



Soviet tanks moving up to the front in Hungary

Radiofoto

WOMEN OF AZERBAIJAN

By Chimnaz Aslanova

Vice-Chairman, Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of USSR

The question of appointing women to responsible positions in various economic, social and political fields of the country has occupied the center of attention during the years of Soviet power. Many wonderful changes have taken place in the lives of Russian women during these years.

But perhaps the most significant changes are to be observed in the lives of the women of the East, who in bygone days were considered creatures of a lower order. The life of the Azerbaijanian woman, free now from age-old oppression, from the stifling veil she was forced by custom to wear and from her narrow, walled-in existence, is a striking example of these changes.

The Azerbaijanian woman of today participates in the economic, political and social life of the country and has the opportunity of keeping pace with her most progressive countrymen. In opening the era of general democracy, the Soviet Constitution gave all citizens, men and women, equal rights. There are now 72 women among the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan Republic. In many cases the post of chairman of the executive committee of the Regional or District Soviet of Working People's Deputies is filled by a woman. As judges and members of Supreme Court of the Republic, women have carried out their duties with success. They are heads of more than 20 Health Departments.

A cultural revolution took place in Azerbaijan during the years of Soviet power. The school attendance during 1943-1944 was high and 165,000 of the total of over 600,000 school children were Azerbaijanian girls. In Baku alone in the two years before the war, 50 schools with accommodations for 40,000 pupils and 150 colleges, scientific research institutes and technical schools were built. These did not exist in former times. There is also a wide network of other cultural organizations. All these created unlimited opportunities for the Azerbaijanian woman to grow culturally and politically and to develop her creative abilities.

We remember the days when our moth-

ers were not allowed to turn to a doctor for aid. Now we have over 50 women military doctors, besides civilian doctors.

Dilshad Mugalinskaya, an Azerbaijan woman who holds the degree of Doctor of Biological Sciences, is assistant director of the Azerbaijan Zoological Institute. Heirance Alieva and Karanfil Agamirova, two women who recently submitted theses for their Master's Degree at the Chemical Institute, have done research which has contributed greatly to this defense industry.

Never before has Azerbaijan yielded so much oil and benzine as during the war. Many of the engineers in the oilfields are women.

Radical alterations have taken place in the appearance of the oil city which Maxim Gorky once called a Dante's inferno. Public gardens, boulevards and parks have been laid out in places that

were once unsightly wastes and garbage heaps.

If anyone had foretold a quarter of a century ago that the women of Azerbaijan would one day be driving trains, piloting vessels, steamers and airplanes, solving scientific problems and directing oilfields, he would have been termed a romantic dreamer.

But reality has proved far more wonderful than any fantasy. The women of Azerbaijan have taken an active part in these occupations. The head geologist at the Scientific Research Oil Institute is a woman, Dunya Agalarova. The chief engineer of the oilfield exploitation department of Azneft-Kombinat is a woman, Yurga Gaibovai. Foreman and engineer Gussanova trains housewives in the work of the oilfields.

Important successes have been achieved in agriculture by Azerbaijanian women and the woman collective farmer has become a decisive force in the countryside. Only last year 3,200 women completed courses as tractor drivers and took up that branch of work. There are 300 women working on harvesters and combines. The area sown to grain has been extended in Azerbaijan to 140,000 hectares and the production of tea has been doubled.

Not only on the home front but also on the battlefield have Azerbaijan women won glory for themselves. Ziba Ganieva, a student, went to the front as a volunteer and became a splendid sniper. In one skirmish she killed 21 Hitlerites. Leila Safarova is very dear to the Azerbaijan people. This girl, a stretcher-bearer, carried more than 150 wounded men off the field. Two close friends, S. Pavyeva and Sakina Alieva, who are only 18, have carried more than 180 wounded off the field. Once, both these girls were wounded by mine fragments. Neither attended to her own wounds until she had taken all the wounded to safety.

Thus the women of Azerbaijan are defending both on the fighting line and on the home front the political and economic rights which were guaranteed them by the Stalin Constitution.



Radiophoto

Yulia Polyakova, an aircraft engineer, born in the Urals, is now Chairman of the Dzerzhinsky District Soviet in Moscow. She wears a decoration for her work in the defense of the Capital

TURKMENIA

By **Alaberdy Berdyev**

Chairman, Presidium of Supreme Soviet, Turkmenian Republic

In the 20 years since the founding of the Turkmenian Soviet Republic, the Turkmenian people, with the aid of all the peoples of the USSR, and especially with the aid of the great Russian people, have turned this former colony of the Russian empire into a flourishing Soviet Republic.

Building construction was begun during the early years of the Republic's existence and reached its height during the period of the Stalin Five-Year Plans. In the past 20 years, two billion rubles have been invested in construction.

There has been a ninefold increase in the number of large industrial enterprises between 1924 and 1944; 96 per cent of Turkmenia's present industrial output comes from factories that were built during the Soviet period. New branches of industry have sprung up—chemical, textile, food processing, building materials and others. The existing petroleum industry has been extensively developed.

The ratio of industrial to agricultural output has been changed radically. In 1925, 72 per cent of the total output of the Turkmenian national economy was in agricultural produce, whereas today the reverse is true, with industry accounting for 76 per cent of the total output. This expansion becomes all the more remarkable when we consider the fact that agricultural output during this period has been increased threefold.

Shortly after the advent of Soviet power in Turkmenia, land and water reforms were introduced. Thousands of landless peasants and laborers were given land, and during the period of the Stalin Five-Year Plans many small peasant farms were united in collective farms. The Soviet Government allotted the collective farms 3,430,000 acres of land for their free use in perpetuity.

Today 99.9 per cent of all crops sown in the Republic belong to collective farms, which also own 60 per cent of all the cattle. These figures show how great has been the triumph of the collective farm system.

At the same time there has been a radical change in methods of farming. The

state has invested 500 million rubles in rural construction. There are 54 machine and tractor stations serving the Republic's collective farms. Four thousand tractors and several thousand other farm machines are now in use on these farms. Widespread use is made of mineral fertilizers. Because of collectivization and mechanization of agriculture, the output of farm products has been doubled while that of cotton, the Republic's chief crop, has been increased to six times its former level. The stock-raising industry's output is now four times greater than it was before the Revolution.

Before the October Revolution, Turkmenia had been extremely backward culturally, even in comparison with the other peoples of Central Asia. An average of 15 kopeks per annum was expended on education in the distant provinces of Tsarist Russia. In Turkmenia there were all together 58 schools, all of them in towns. Only 7 per cent of the population could read and write.

The Government of Turkmenia now spends 300 million rubles annually for building cultural institutions and maintaining schools, theaters, libraries and clubs. There are now 1,067 schools attended by 184,000 children, of whom 64 per cent are Turkmenians. Education is given in the native language. There are six higher schools in the Republic, 39 technical institutes and a number of research institutions directed by the Turkmenian affiliate of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Considerable work has been done to develop the arts. Before the Revolution there was one theater, the Russian Theater of the Drama, in Ashkhabad. There are now 14 theaters in the Republic and, since the war began, Turkmenian State Opera Houses have been opened. There is also a Turkmenian Philharmonic which includes several orchestras and ensembles. A Turkmenian Conservatory of music will be opened shortly.

When the Patriotic War broke out, the Republic's industry and agriculture were put on a war footing to meet the new requirements. The best sons of Turkmenia

went into the ranks of the Red Army: 3,302 have been awarded orders and medals for their courage and valor in fighting against the German invaders; nine Turkmenians have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The men and women of Turkmenia are working selflessly in factories and on farms. The Turkmenian people have collected over a million and a half items of winter clothing for the troops at the front and have donated 280 million rubles to the Defense Fund. The collective farmers have sent 56,000 head of cattle to farms in the liberated regions. Two trainloads of building material and equipment were sent to speed the reconstruction of Stalingrad and Yelnya.

For 20 years the Turkmenian people have been building a new and happy way of life and they have achieved tremendous successes. These achievements are recorded in the Stalin Constitution which insures further and further prosperity to the great family of brother peoples of the Soviet Union.

The Turkmenian people are devoting all their energies to the struggle for the final defeat of Hitler Germany whose treacherous attack interrupted their life of peaceful and creative labor. They are working and fighting for a just cause and for a postwar life of happiness and creative effort.

Information Bulletin

EMBASSY OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET
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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 134

Washington, D. C., December 28, 1944

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JAN 11 1945

TREATY OF ALLIANCE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Provisional Government of the French Republic, determined to prosecute jointly and to the end the war against Germany, convinced that once victory is achieved, the reestablishment of peace on a stable basis and its prolonged maintenance in the future will be conditioned upon the existence of close collaboration between them and with all the United Nations; having resolved to collaborate in the cause of the creation of an international system of security for the effective maintenance of general peace and for insuring the harmonious development of relations between nations; desirous of confirming the mutual obligations resulting from the exchange of letters of September 20, 1941, concerning joint actions in the war against Germany; convinced that the conclusion of an alliance between the USSR and France corresponds to the sentiments and interests of both peoples, the demands of war, and the requirements of peace and economic reconstruction in full conformity with the aims which the United Nations have set themselves, have decided to conclude a Treaty to this effect and appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics—Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR;

The Provisional Government of the French Republic—Georges Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs;

Who after exchange of their credentials, found in due form, agreed upon the following:

Article I

Each of the high contracting parties shall continue the struggle on the side of the other party and on the side of the United Nations until final victory over Germany. Each of the high contracting parties undertakes to render the other party aid and assistance in this struggle with all the means at its disposal.

Article II

The high contracting parties shall not agree to enter into separate negotiations with Germany or to conclude without mutual consent any armistice or peace treaty either with the Hitler government or with any other government or authority set up in Germany for the purpose of the continuation or support of the policy of German aggression.

Article III

The high contracting parties under-

take also, after the termination of the present war with Germany, to take jointly all necessary measures for the elimination of any new threat coming from Germany, and to obstruct such actions as would make possible any new attempt at aggression on her part.

Article IV

In the event either of the high contracting parties finds itself involved in military operations against Germany, whether as a result of aggression committed by the latter or as a result of the operation of the above Article III, the other party shall at once render it every aid and assistance within its power.

Article V

The high contracting parties undertake not to conclude any alliance and not to take part in any coalition directed against either of the high contracting parties.



Radiophoto
SIGNING THE FRENCH-SOVIET TREATY—Left to right, G. Palevsky, V. G. Dekanozov, B. F. Podserob, M. G. Sergeyev, Marshal I. V. Stalin, G. Lohois, General Charles de Gaulle, Georges Bidault, and V. M. Molotov (signing treaty)

Article VI

The high contracting parties agree to render each other every possible economic assistance after the war, with a view to facilitating and accelerating reconstruction of both countries, and in order to contribute to the cause of world prosperity.

Article VII

The present treaty does not in any way affect obligations undertaken previously by the high contracting parties in regard to third states in virtue of published treaties.

Article VIII

The present treaty, whose Russian and French texts are equally valid, shall be ratified and ratification instruments shall be exchanged in Paris as early as possible. It comes into force from the moment of the exchange of ratification instruments and shall be valid for 20 years. If the treaty is not denounced by either of the high contracting parties at least one year before the expiration of this term, it shall remain valid for an unlimited time; each of the contracting parties will be able to terminate its operation by giving notice to that effect one year in advance.

In confirmation of which, the above plenipotentiaries signed the present treaty and affixed their seals to it.

Done in Moscow in two copies, December 10, 1944.

**On the authorization of the
Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR**

Molotov

**On the authorization of the
Provisional Government of the
French Republic**

Bidault

AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS

PRAVDA wrote editorially, December 18:

The Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the French Republic, the text of which is published in today's *Pravda*, is a document of great military and political moment. Signed on December 10 in Moscow by V. M. Molotov on behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and Monsieur Georges Bidault on behalf of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, the Treaty marks a new and important step in the development of French-Soviet Relations. It is designed to strengthen the fight against Hitler Germany until final victory is achieved, as well as the restoration and consolidation of peace for a long time to come.

The Treaty bears striking testimony to the further strengthening of the front of the anti-German coalition. It is a cruel blow to the plans and calculations of the German-fascist imperialists to postpone their inevitable defeat, and to their plans of preparing for a new war and new aggression.

The negotiations which preceded the signing of the Treaty took place in an atmosphere of friendship. As the French-Soviet communique states: "The presence in Moscow of General de Gaulle, President of the Provisional Government of

the French Republic, and Monsieur Bidault, Minister of Foreign Affairs, was marked by numerous manifestations of the sympathy which unites the peoples of France and the Soviet Union, and which has been strengthened by the trials suffered in the war."

In the course of the negotiations—in which the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, Stalin, and the People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Molotov, took part on the Soviet side; and the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, General de Gaulle, and Foreign Minister Bidault on the French side—the totality of questions concerning the continuation of the war and the organization of peace, and especially the German problem, were discussed.

The German problem has always had particular significance both for the USSR and for France. When German imperialism hatched its plan of aggression, one of its chief political aims was to isolate France, especially from the Soviet Union as at an earlier period from Russia. History furnishes many examples of how fatal to the interests of France and the interests of peace in Europe such isolation was. This was confirmed by the development of events after the First World War.

In preparing for *revanche* and a new

war of aggrandizement, German imperialism exerted every effort to prevent French-Soviet rapprochement, which was imperatively dictated by the interests both of France and the Soviet Union. The necessity for French-Soviet cooperation in the face of the growing German menace was perfectly understood by the more farsighted of France's politicians. And when the fascists came into power in Germany in 1933 and preparations for war were accelerated, the more farsighted of the French politicians spoke of the necessity for French-Soviet cooperation and were supported by the broadest sections of the French people.

Notwithstanding the stubborn resistance of French reactionary circles, the idea of French-Soviet rapprochement was so popular among the French people that a Treaty of Mutual Assistance was nevertheless signed between the USSR and France on May 2, 1935. However, owing to the sabotage of opponents of the Treaty, it was ratified by the French Chamber of Deputies only on February 27, 1936, and by the Senate on March 12, 1936.

The French-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance concluded in 1935 might have become an effective weapon against German aggression if it had not been canceled by the notorious Munich policy, which was aimed against the USSR and

whose consequences proved fatal to Europe, and in the first place to France.

French-Soviet cooperation was interrupted owing to the malignant will of the betrayers of the French people, who took the course of "cooperation" with Hitler Germany. It was resumed when the Soviet people rose up to fight the German-fascist invaders in defense of their honor, independence and freedom, and to perform their historical mission of saving civilization from the menace of Hitlerism. The Soviet people took upon themselves the full weight of the blow of the German war machine and from the very beginning of the war realized that their mortal struggle with German fascism was a fight not only for their own land, but also for the liberation of the peoples of Europe from fascist oppression. In his historic speech of July 3, 1941, Stalin said: "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."

The foundation of effective French-Soviet cooperation in the joint fight against fascist Germany was laid on September 20, 1941, when as the result of an exchange of letters, General de Gaulle was recognized by the Soviet Government as the leader of all the Free French who united to fight Hitler Germany on the side of the Allied powers. Already at that time the Soviet Government, by proclaiming its readiness to give every possible help and support to the Free French in this common struggle, stressed its firm determination to insure the complete restoration of the independence and greatness of France after victory over the common enemy. The purpose of the Treaty now concluded is to confirm the mutual obligations following from the exchange of letters of September 20, 1941, in respect to joint action in the war against Germany.

The next important step in the development of French-Soviet cooperation was the meeting which took place between the People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Molotov, and General de Gaulle, when the former visited London in the summer of 1942. As was an-

nounced in the communique issued on that occasion, Molotov "reaffirmed the desire of the Soviet Government to see France free and capable of resuming its place in Europe and the world as a great democratic anti-Hitler power."

The Red Army's historic victories and the military successes of our Allies were a broad stimulus to the growth of the anti-Hitler movement in occupied France. Simultaneously the French patriotic forces were uniting outside of France. French-Soviet fellowship and cooperation progressed. Its further development found expression in the recognition by the Soviet Government on August 26, 1943, of the French Committee of National Liberation as the representative of the State interests of the French Republic and as the leader of all French patriots resisting Hitler's tyranny.

The year 1943 marked a turning point in the great war of liberation from the German-fascist aggressors. The year 1944 witnessed the carrying out of the historic decisions of the Teheran Conference, when a second front was opened in the West and when the enemy was forced to retreat under staggering blows from the east and west. The liberation of France began; the dawn of freedom broke over the French land.

On October 23, 1944, the Soviet Government as well as the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, recognized the Provisional Government of the French Republic. On the recommendation of the Soviet Government, endorsed by the British and American Governments, France was invited into the European Advisory Commission as an equal member.

France's return to the family of European democratic powers and the development of French-Soviet relations rendered new forms of cooperation necessary between the Soviet Union and the French Republic for the purpose of performing the great historical tasks which confront them and all the United Nations. The present concluding, but at the same time most difficult, phase of the war demands the harnessing of all efforts of the members of the anti-Hitler coalition for the earliest defeat of the enemy.

The French-Soviet Treaty of Alliance

is an important and valuable contribution to the organization of this common effort of the Allied powers and all freedom-loving nations to achieve the complete and decisive defeat of Hitler Germany.

The second task confronting the United Nations is not to permit a repetition of the horrors and sufferings to which mankind was condemned by Hitler's brigand imperialism. Both the Soviet Union and France have common borders with Germany, and this fact alone predetermines the important role they must play in organizing security and preventing German aggression.

The French-Soviet Treaty will help both its partners to perform this task which conforms to the interests both of the USSR and France, and all freedom-loving nations. The French-Soviet Treaty of Alliance is a new link in the mighty system of the anti-German coalition, whose mission it is to vanquish the enemy and insure lasting peace.

The Treaty (Articles I, II and III) provides for a common war effort of both parties and mutual assistance in the fight against Hitler Germany. It precludes the possibility of separate negotiations with Germany, as well as the conclusion, except by mutual consent, of "any armistice or peace treaty either with the Hitler government or with any other government or authority set up in Germany for the purpose of the continuation or support of the policy of German aggression."

Similarly, the two parties obligate themselves after the war to undertake jointly all measures to prevent either new aggression on the part of Germany or new attempts which would render such aggression possible.

If, nevertheless, one of the parties should find itself embroiled in hostilities with Germany, the other "shall at once render it every aid and assistance within its power." (Article IV.)

The Treaty obligates both parties "not to conclude any alliance and not to take part in any coalition directed against either of the high contracting parties." (Article V.)

Article VI constitutes the basis for postwar economic cooperation; it envisages mutual economic assistance after

the war with a view to "facilitating and accelerating the reconstruction of both countries and in order to contribute to the cause of world prosperity."

The Treaty "does not in any way affect obligations undertaken previously by the high contracting parties in regard to third states in virtue of published treaties." (Article VII.)

The text of the Treaty makes perfectly clear that it is an effective instrument in the effort for victory and for an enduring peace in Europe. It will strengthen French-Soviet cooperation, which is so essential

for the organization of European security. Together with the other Allied great powers, liberated and resurrected France is taking its place in the ranks of the active fighters for the defeat of Hitler Germany and the maintenance of peace and security in Europe.

The Soviet people, who have always and unchangingly entertained friendly sentiments toward the French people, hailed with satisfaction the conclusion of the alliance between the USSR and France, which, as the Treaty states, "corresponds to the sentiments and interests

of both peoples, the demands of war and the requirements of peace and economic reconstruction in full conformity with the aims which the United Nations have set themselves."

The Soviet people hail the wise Stalin policy of consolidating firm ties between the peoples of the USSR and other freedom-loving nations in behalf of the lofty and noble aim of ridding mankind of the Hitler menace, of creating a strong security organization and establishing an enduring peace for the benefit of all democratic countries and nations.

THE FIGHTING FOR BUDAPEST

The military skill of the Red Army has been displayed with fresh force in the battle for Budapest. The entire course of this battle is an example of the war of maneuver at its best. Outflanking movements, deep penetration behind the enemy lines, skillful diversion of enemy forces from the direction of the main thrust—the great battle in Hungary is replete with such maneuvers.

After the break-through of Marshal Tolbukhin's troops across the Danube, a temporary lull set in west and southwest of Budapest. German propaganda blared, "We have finally checked the Russian offensive between Lake Balaton and Budapest." Yet the German command was nervous and switched big reserves to this front. Details have become known of the development of this battle, as a result of which all exits from Budapest westward have been cut for the Hitlerite forces, and the Russians have reached the threshold of the Hungarian capital.

On the eve of the Soviet offensive the German command brought two more tank divisions and one cavalry and one infantry division to this area; and when the Russian break-through began, the Germans rushed in another tank division equipped with King Tigers and large formations of assault artillery. For some time previously, local engagements had been in progress here. The Russian Command was steadily collecting intelligence on the strength and disposition of the enemy forces.

A great blow was dealt simultaneously northeast and southwest of Lake Velence. The commander of the German army issued an order demanding supreme staunchness of his troops. "Not one step back," the order read. "If you retreat you will thus open the road to Budapest to the enemy and greatly endanger the position of the Hungarian capital."

In the artillery tempest which swept the entire depth of the German defenses, Russian mortar units operated particularly well. They spread a fire umbrella of exceptional density. Thanks to this, when the infantry went into attack, compara-

tively few German fire-nests revived. Thus the losses of the attackers were the smallest possible during the first hours of the assault, although the initial period of an assault is usually the most costly.

Shortly thereafter the German defense was pierced in both directions. But with the further advance of Soviet troops, the tension of the battle continued to mount. Within 24 hours the enemy launched 25 counter-attacks in which infantry was invariably supported by large numbers of tanks, armored troop-carriers, and self-propelled guns. In a number of sectors drunken Hitlerites attacked in thick columns, yelling savagely or singing, trying to frighten the Russians.

Under incessant volleys of fire from the Soviet infantry, the enemy suffered enormous losses in men and materiel. In the first few hours the enemy left 40 crippled tanks and self-propelled guns before the positions of one Russian division.

Soviet artillery moved within the infantry battle ranks. In many instances, when the German waves had almost reached the Soviet gun positions, the Russian gunners took to smaller arms and wiped out the counter-attacking Germans with grenades and tommy guns.

The retreating enemy is abandoning thousands of his dead on the battlefields. On an airdrome south of Szekesfehervar, advancing Russian troops seized 54 brand-new, freshly-painted Messerschmitt 109s, their tanks still unfilled.



Fighter squadron commander Captain P. Sakharov has shot down ten German planes

IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, December 20:

When France lay bound and gagged and the Germans thought that Paris was a *cafe chantant*, that liberty was a statue that can be photographed and smashed, that Verdun was a place where they make sugared almonds, and the Marne a river for German drill sergeants to bathe in—in those black and gloomy years we silently fought, up to our knees in blood.

When some hastened to bury France, breathing with a sigh, "The late lamented was a charming creature," and adding with a grin, "—but a fine legacy, what?" When mutilated and all bloodied she was watered with hypocritical tears that resembled obscene expectations, we went on doing our duty—fighting Germans. We knew that France was, is, and will be.

And when she rose in her wrath, indomitable, accustomed to fighting from her infancy, a land of warriors and revolutions where the cobblestones leap out of the ground of their own accord, when France rose again in all her grandeur, there were some who were struck with bewilderment. They had forgotten that such a country existed. The table was laid, but, you see, there was no place for France. Her credentials would have to be looked into; who knows, she might be an impostor. We, however, did not

sigh; we had no doubts and we went on fighting Germans. We knew that France was with us.

Long before a treaty was solemnly signed between our two countries, there was an unwritten treaty between our two peoples. It was an invisible treaty, written not in ink, but in tears—tears of grief and wrath; in the ashes of Novgorod and Rouen, in the woe of Paris and Leningrad. It was written in bile, in that hatred which burns but is not consumed—hatred of the vile, cruel, doltish and arrogant invaders of that country—where corpulent *valkyries*, belching, say to glassy-eyed *nibelungs*: "Put me on a mattress made of the hair of the vanquished and cover me with peonies grown in Maidanek."

That unwritten treaty was written in blood, the blood of the heroes of Leningrad and the blood of Bir Hakeim, the blood of the Smolensk guerrillas and the Savoy *Francs Tireurs* the blood of Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya and of Gabriel Peri, the blood of the pilots of the Normandie Squadron and of the stern Russian infantry.

We were joined by geography; between us lay the land of the robbers. In one human lifetime Russia has known twice, and France thrice, the tread of the German jackboot. One chooses one's friends,

but one doesn't choose one's neighbors. It is our misfortune that to the west of us live villains. It is France's misfortune that to the east of her lives a breed of fiends.

But Strasbourg has no ear for sermons nor Lithuania for universal forgiveness. The women of Lutsk know what life was like in Metz. The mothers of France know what it is to sit awake over a Russian cradle. Between us lies Germany—breeding ground of criminals, den of child assassins, country of evil. Our two people live at two different ends of Europe. And the one-eyed predatory German eagle is a menace to both. The two peoples have one will—the will to protect that profound midsummer day of peace, when ears ripen and bees hum, when little children frolic, carefree—yet when on the banks of the Seine, as on the banks of the Volga, the heart may suddenly be frozen by the vile tread of the German jackboot.

We were joined by history. France is not a novelty to us, nor a landscape. We know what she has given to the world. Her rulers have come and gone, and will come and go again, but her sons marched, are marching, and will march, to meet death with the immortal words of the *Marseillaise* on their lips.

We remember that day in March when the people of Paris refused to surrender their cannon to the enemy and to traitors, and covered themselves with glory. It is not Talleyrand that France honors, but the lad, Joseph Bara, who when seized by the enemy, cried, "Long live the Republic!"

The history of France is closely interwoven with ours. We love the French language. It is the language in which Racine and Hugo, Stendhal and Balzac wrote. The language in which the *sans culottes* cried, "Liberty or Death!" The language in which the *poilus* of Verdun swore, "They shall not pass!" We have borrowed much from France, but we have not remained in debt to her. Twice in a lifetime we saved France: in the summer of 1914, when the enemy was nearing Paris; and now again, when we smashed



Radiophoto

Soviet motorcycle troops passing through a village in Hungary



Guards Captain Konstantin Boboshko, Hero of the Soviet Union, knocked out 14 enemy tanks in the fighting at Dukhovshchina



Guards Major Volkov, commander of a Soviet self-propelled gun unit. In the battles in East Prussia, Major Volkov's guns disabled 62 German tanks

the strongest of the German armies and with our blood corroded the iron shackles fettering the body of France. We gave great writers who became teachers of the French people. We gave the French hope—the dawn of the East on that gloomy autumn day which cannot be stricken from the book of history.

We are joined by the heart. That is the hardest of all to talk about; here no atlas and no chronology is of any use. One would think that the Russian and the Frenchman are unlike one another, just as the alder is unlike the birch and the damp mist is unlike the Siberian frost. But our two peoples have long been drawn to one another. That is inexplicable and yet simple, like every genuine sentiment.

And maybe at the bottom of all there is a spiritual affinity: vivacity of mind, love of liberty, the impress of ability and boldness. Both peoples love their land and are exempt from the arrogance characteristic of so many nations.

Let it not be retorted that France betrayed us in the sinister days of Munich. It was not only us she betrayed; she betrayed herself. France was ravished by France. Perfidy and lies drove her into the dungeon of the "new order." She sank to the bottom and then rose again to the surface, and her first words were, "Thanks to Stalingrad." Having found herself, France found us; she found us in her heart, in the dismay of the German generals, in the thunderstorm sweeping the earth, and in our simple, comradely greeting.

The French people have put their hand to a treaty. I see millions of hands, the hands of Paris workers, Burgundy wine-growers, Breton fishermen, the hands of guerrillas, the hands of little hopeful children, the hands of mothers raised in blessing. And if I were asked who sent the representatives to Moscow to conclude a treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union, I would answer: the French people.

This is not the first time the people are revivifying the French Army. They did so in the days of Valmy, when the patriots created a force which beat the armies of the counter-revolutionary coalition. They did so at Sedan, when France, already half lost, was saved by the

Francs Tireurs and the popular levies. They are doing so now: the fresh blood in the veins of France is the blood of the people. There are now in the French Army majors and colonels who were recently "second-class soldiers." Three years they fought in the mountains of Savoy and Auvergne. To the splendid traditions of the French Army they added freshness, boldness and their ties with the people.

And now we see the still inadequately armed French Army fighting manfully. It has scored many a victory and is surging across the Rhine. The Red Army hails it as a tried and courageous ally. Together we will tie the hands of the old German witch. Together we shall demand a reckoning for everything: for June, 1940 and June 1941. The soldiers know the meaning of mud and blood, smoke and snow, bread bitter with grief and days hot with wrath.

Together with the French, together with all our Allies, we shall see the victory. Together with them we shall cut the first loaf of happiness and swallow the first glass of peace.

Soviet Officers Decorated By French Republic

General Charles de Gaulle, President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, recently presented decorations of the French Government to marshals, generals and officers of the Red Army for valor and courage in fighting Hitlerite Germany, common enemy of the Soviet Union and France.

The Commander's Cross of the Legion of Honor was conferred upon Marshal of the Air Force F. Falaleyev and Army General A. Antonov; the Officer's Cross of the Legion of Honor to Major General N. Slavin, Major General M. Kutuzov, Major General of Aviation G. Zakharov, Major General of Aviation S. Levandovich; and the Cavalier's Cross of the Legion of Honor to Colonel of the Medical Service D. Rosenblum, Lieutenant Colonel V. Studenov, Major of the Medical Service A. Karavanov, Major I. Vdovin and Captain S. Agivelyan of the Engineering Corps.

The presentations were made in Moscow.

The Children's New Year Holidays

By P. Ivanov

Moscow children are impatiently awaiting the gay round of festivities planned for the January 1-14 school vacation period. Altogether, more than half a million youngsters are expected to attend the various affairs arranged by schools, trade unions, factories and Government institutions.

The winter vacations will be officially opened by the annual gala Fir Tree Party in the Hall of Columns, House of the Trade Unions. A gaily decorated fir tree, 40 feet high, and music, games and gifts will be among the attractions. In the numerous foyers with their gleaming marble walls the children will find the "Palaces of the Twelve Brothers" (the months) and of the "Four Sisters" (the seasons), who will tell them of the glorious year 1944 and the victories won by the Red Army.

In the Hall the children will meet many animals—heroes of their favorite fairy tales and masquerades. There will also be a pageant centering around the subject, "Your Favorite Dreams." If a child wants to be an explorer, teacher, flier, machine tool operator, musician, etc. he will find here an illustration of the attractions and possibilities of the various professions.

An open air fir tree party will be held in Moscow this year for the first time, in the Hermitage Garden. The Garden will be decorated with colored lights and lanterns, dolls, and figures from Russian fairy tales and Krylov's fables. The schools, Houses of Young Pioneers, and children's playgrounds will hold their own fir tree affairs. A section of the Moscow Zoo, with special attractions, will be reserved for the younger children between January 1 and 8.

Big parties, skating and skiing contests, and games are planned by the Capital's Parks of Culture and Rest for the holidays-makers. Champions will give demonstrations of figure and speed skating. Some 50,000 persons will take part in the winter sports contests during the vacations, according to estimates of the Department of Education.

For pupils in the senior grades, the

Moscow Children's Tourist Station is arranging ski runs to the nearby 1941 battlefields, as well as military games on skis.

Special performances for children during the vacations are being arranged by all of Moscow's movie theaters. It is estimated that no less than 250,000 will attend. All theaters will hold a series of matinees, as well as meetings with popular actors.

Concert cycles of the world's best music are to be given for senior pupils at Tschaikovsky Hall and the Moscow Conservatory. The traditional New Year's ball for students of the senior grades of the Moscow schools will also be an event of the holidays.

Vacations in Leningrad

Perhaps nowhere in the Soviet Union are the youngsters looking forward so eagerly to winter vacations as in Leningrad. This will be their first real New Year's celebration since the outbreak of war, and no stone is being left unturned to make it a gala occasion.

High-lighting the holiday program is a children's *M a s k e d* Ball to be held in the Palace of the Young Pioneers (formerly the palace of Tsar Alexander III) on December 31. Large concerts, games and other affairs will be held in the Palace daily throughout the vacation period.

Fir tree parties are being arranged in schools and other

institutions throughout the city.

At the Kirov Theatre of Opera and Ballet, the schoolchildren will meet Heroes of the Soviet Union, commanders of the Leningrad Front and Baltic Fleet.

In Riga, which was but recently the scene of fighting, 12,000 schoolchildren will celebrate the New Year in Riga Palace. A huge icehouse will be erected on the grounds, where Jack Frost will reign as host for the young guests.

In Stalingrad, Kiev, and Sevastopol, in the cities of Central Asia to which fir trees have been specially brought from the North, and elsewhere throughout the USSR, there will be New Year celebrations.



Leningrad children evacuated to the Urals during the blockade had their New Year's trees and gifts, provided by loving foster-parents

Evening Recreation In Aircraft Plant

By A. Vasserman

My favorite place for relaxation after the day's work is the plant's Palace of Culture. If you like music, there's almost certain to be a good concert or an opera. Often you can choose between a play or a motion picture. Or you can read, play chess, or talk with your friends.

At our aircraft plant we have a theater seating 1,500 people. Some of the foremost actors, musicians and singers in Moscow visit us. Not long ago the Bolshoi Opera Theater gave us Verdi's *La Traviata*, and the Yermolayev Dramatic Theater put on Balzac's *The Stepmother*.

We have a large appetite for good lectures. A series on Russian classical literature saw every seat filled, and surveys of the international situation always draw crowds. The night Solomon Mikhoels described his visit to Britain and the United States the house was packed.

Among the aircraft workers are scores of chess enthusiasts. The Palace of Culture has a chess club.

We also have a library of 30,000 volumes for adults and 25,000 volumes for children. Perhaps it is surprising to find children's books in a factory—but our Palace of Culture is very much a family affair. We have playrooms staffed with experienced teachers and equipped with all kinds of toys and games, where parents may leave their children for the evening. The youngsters also use these rooms during the day, while their parents are at work.

Our amateur artists may study in a dramatic group, a ballet circle, a singing ensemble or a class for soloists. The instructors are all highly skilled.

Another aircraft plant does even better—they have a Russian folksong ensemble, a jazz band, a folk instrument orchestra, a brass band, a symphony orchestra, an accordion ensemble and a variety group.

This year the dramatic group produced Simonov's *The Russian People* and the operettas *Wedding in Malinovka* and *The Girl from Barcelona*.

Growth of Industry in 1944

The year 1944 was marked by a considerable growth of Soviet industry. The continuous construction of new plants, the expansion of old ones and the tremendous work in restoring plants in the liberated southern and western regions of the USSR, have further raised the country's military and economic potential this year.

In 1944 all leading Soviet industries markedly increased production. The ordnance industry produced seven times more guns than before the war. The production of tanks exceeds the prewar level eightfold, and that of aircraft fourfold. The overwhelming part of the aircraft produced this year are planes of new types. Most of the aircraft engines are also of new types. The production of ammunition has sharply increased.

A number of munitions plants were launched in 1944, chiefly in the Eastern regions of the USSR. The output of metal has considerably increased. According to preliminary data, the output of pigiron and steel in 1944 increased by more than one-third compared with 1943. Beginning this year, the Kuznetsk iron and steel works, one of the largest of its kind, has pledged Marshal Stalin to smelt 50,000 tons more steel than last year, and 25,000 tons more rolled metal. Actually, the Kuznetsk workers accomplished their annual production program ahead of schedule, by December 20, exceeding last year's output of pigiron by 130,000 tons, of steel by an equal amount, and of rolled metal by 167,000 tons.

The Soviet iron and steel industry is growing constantly. The Novotagil works is being built in Nizhny Tagil, and in 1945 its capacity will be equal to that of the Kuznetsk iron and steel works. The first iron and steel plant has been built in Uzbekistan in Central Asia, and large iron and steel works are being built in Georgia.

Simultaneously the plants which have been demolished by war are being restored. Eleven blast furnaces, 25 open-hearth furnaces and 55 coking batteries, have been restored in the Ukraine alone in 1944. Krivoi Rog, the largest Soviet iron ore basin, has come back to life. Over 1,000 industrial enterprises, includ-

ing 700 coal mines, have been restored in the Donets Basin.

As a result, the 1944 coal output greatly exceeds that of last year. Kuznetsk Basin alone has increased its coal output by more than two million tons as compared to 1943. Coal output increased considerably in the Karaganda, in the Urals, and in the north of the country.

New power stations, oil refineries, machine building works and other industrial enterprises have sprung up this year. A new turbine building plant has been launched in the Urals and a power locomotive plant in Krasnoyarsk. The large Ukrainian machine building works are being restored. Tractors are again coming off the assembly lines in Stalingrad and Kharkov. A tractor plant in the Altai region is increasing production and new tractor works are also being built. The production of harvester combines and other agricultural machines is being resumed.

Stories from Life

Stories from Life, a book for children written by Alexander Yakovlev, Hero of Socialist Labor, fascinatingly recounts the life of the famous Russian aircraft designer from the building of his first airplane model to the construction of the highspeed Yakovlev fighter. The volume is being issued in a large printing.

Information Bulletin

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 135

Washington, D. C., December 30, 1944



REMEMBER

By Ilya Ehrenburg

From PRAVDA, December 17:

The *Pommersche Zeitung* writes, "Our fight was honest from the very first, for we did not cross our frontiers in a fit of blind folly, with the intention of subjugating other nations. On the contrary, having been forced to leave our frontiers behind us, we came as heralds of a new order and new justice. No German ever harbored the idea of destroying the English, punishing the French, or enslaving the Dutch or any other people, or living on the blood and sweat of other nations. On the contrary, our victories radiated tranquility."

The poor little fellows, it appears, were compelled to march to the Caucasus and Egypt in order to radiate tranquility, and now that they have been allowed to return to Cologne and East Prussia, they declare meekly, "If we have injured anybody, we bear him no malice."

Why did they really "cross the frontiers?" A reply to this question will be found in the maps printed in 1939-1942. They were truly an atlas of "blind folly": On them we find Lille and Kiev, Riga and Nancy, included in "greater Germany."

They did not want to enslave other nations and live on the blood and sweat of others, they say. But was it so long ago that Gruppenfuehrer Hass declared in the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* that "Former Russia will be colonized by stormtroopers and the children of stormtroopers?" The *Danziger Vorposten* calculated that "Every German colonist will be served by eight or ten families."

No, they were not so modest then. The German firm of Bremen promised its shareholders the Turkestan cotton. They cried, "There's no place on earth for that nation of shopkeepers, the English." (*Voelkischer Beobachter*). They threatened, "The shooting of hostages will teach

the French that we intend to halt at nothing." (*Pariser Zeitung*). They deported Netherlanders to the Ukraine and declared: "Holland as a state is a concept which will be preserved only in history books." (*Der Angriff*).

Where was it they "radiated tranquility?" Was it in "the desert zone"? Or perhaps when they stoked the furnaces of Maidanek and Tremblyanka.

They have begun to repudiate themselves rather early. They are still shooting, yet they are already sniveling. They are still hacking children's bodies to pieces—and here they are, already washing their blood-stained hands.

It is said that to remember is to live. And indeed, a man who loses his memory, loses half his life and becomes an ephemeral creature. But remembering does not mean living only; it means saving life, saving future generations, saving the very concept of humanity.

There have been phenomena in history

which caused the sages to rack their brains. But Hitler Germany is not a sphinx; it is a typhus louse. Everybody now understands what fascism is, but not everybody wants to remember what he has understood. To forget means to forgive; and to forgive the furnace tenders of Maidanek means raising children for other and far more perfected furnaces. I am not a politician; my occupation is one that has to do with human feelings, for every writer is, in a way, a psychologist. But every writer is also a moralist, even if he never stops to think about morals.

I, as a writer, want to recall the spiritual sources of fascism.

For years the Hitlerites have been molding the minds of German adolescents. What did they instil into the young fascist? A sense of superiority. The world now knows what racial and national arrogance means. If every nation were to decide that it is the best in the world and is therefore entitled to domineer over



Radiophoto

GERMAN DEATH CAMP AT KLOOGA, ESTONIAN SSR—Bodies of murdered prisoners were found on this log bonfire which the Nazis did not have time to light



Radiophoto

A mother and her four-months-old daughter, shot by the Germans in the Klooga death camp

others, we will be seeing more Maidaneks in the 20th Century.

What is Germany's arrogance based on? On the past, some will say. And true enough, the Germans in the past had wonderful philosophers, musicians, poets and scientists. No anti-fascist would think of repudiating Goethe or Beethoven. But culture is not an annuity; it is a process of creation. We laugh at the degenerates who would substitute a genealogical tree for intelligence or knowledge. A nation that burns down museums and libraries and yet boasts of a Schiller or Kant, is ridiculous and repulsive.

The Germans are proud of their present, others declare. What have they to be proud of? Goering's avarice? Or Goebbels' lechery? Or the ignorance and corruption of their ministers? Or Himmler's industry? Or perhaps they pride themselves on their technical development; the tidiness of their cities, or the comfort of their homes? But these things were not created by the fascists; all Hitler did was to ruin Germany. And it is well to remember that America is more technically developed; Holland's cities are tidier and the homes of the Swedes more comfortable. What is more, technical knowledge cannot be the pride of a nation if the iron flesh of the state is not set off by lofty aspirations. And in fascist Germany, civilization is only the handmaiden of vile aims. And gas chambers for the wholesale asphyxiation of children are a natural consummation of the German technology.

No, the sense of superiority with which the fascists imbue their children derives neither from the past nor the present. German arrogance rests on superstition, on belief in the magical properties of German blood, on the conviction that everything German is superior to everything non-German.

About thirty years ago I happened to overhear a curious argument. A Gascon, seeing buckwheat porridge in a Russian soldier's mess, remarked, "In our country they feed cattle with that stuff." To which the Russian retorted, "You eat frogs, but in our country, cattle wouldn't eat them." They say there is no arguing about tastes (I personally like buckwheat porridge and frogs); but the fascists drenched the earth in blood in order that German taste and German lack of taste may triumph. The young fascist is made to believe that fair Kaetchen is superior to dark Jeanette; that beer is a more noble beverage than cider or kvass; that Berlin is more beautiful than Leningrad or London; that a man who says, "*zdravstvuite*" or "*bonjour*" instead of "*gutentag*" only displays his inferiority.

The sources of the river of blood are the seemingly innocent bogs of human stupidity. Children are given to laugh at what is strange and unaccustomed. The mother rebukes them, and when the child grows up he learns that the world is not confined to his home or his street.

Every individual and every nation loves the things it is familiar with from childhood. What Russian can remain indiffer-

ent to a silver birch? But we do not assert, have never asserted and do not intend to assert, that the birch is "nobler" and more "worthy" than the cypress or cedar. Of course one's mother may be cleverer than her neighbors, but one loves her not for that, but because she is one's mother.

True patriotism is modest and has nothing in common with nationalism. Patriotism means brotherhood; nationalism means slaughter and death.

"*Man muss den Slaven an die Wand druchen*"—"The Slavs must be forced to the wall"—This is the stupid and disgusting maxim on which the Germans were reared. They were not told that the Slav peoples have produced Huss and Copernicus, Tolstoy and Chekhov, Chopin and Tchaikovsky, Mendeleev and Lobachevsky. It was hammered into their heads. "They must be forced against the wall." And the brutalized pupils did at least come to believe that big, talented and virile nations must be stood against a wall. Why? Because Hans wears a green hat with a feather. Because Willi adores bowling, and because Fritz whispers "Kaetchen" into his bride's ear.

The Germans killed all Jews in the countries and regions they seized, from old folk to infants in arms. Ask any German prisoner why his fellow countrymen annihilated six million innocent people, and he will reply: "Why, they were Jews. They have black hair (or red hair). They are of different blood." All this began with vulgar anecdotes and hootings of street urchins and inscriptions on fences; but it led to Maidanek, Babi Yar ravine, Tremblyanka and the ditches crammed with children's corpses. If before Tremblyanka, anti-Semitism may have seemed just an ugly blot, today the word reeks of blood. The Polish poet Julian Tuwim is right when he says, "Anti-Semitism is the international language of fascists."

The whole world now sees what racial and national arrogance lead to. Those awful furnaces in Maidanek where the Germans burned people of thirty nationalities only because they were Russians or French or Poles or Jews, did not spring up all at once; the ground for them was prepared by long education in human hatred. The people all over the world must remember that nationalism is the road to Maidanek. If the liberty of a nation rests on the oppression of other nations,

if a country limits the rights of citizens of a different color of skin; if a society persecutes a man because his nose differs in shape from those of his neighbors, then that nation, that country and that society is in danger.

We have shown the world a lofty example of friendship among nations. We see that this same ideal is inspiring the new Yugoslavia, where peoples who only recently hated one another now feel that they are brothers. We believe that all nations, big and small, will pronounce every manifestation of racial or national intolerance a heinous crime.

Fascism was engendered in the vilest of human minds. No wonder that its first exponents were men bereft of morals: murderers, pimps, embittered failures, adventurers and bandits. However, it is not enough to know where the fascists came from; it should be remembered that these criminals were aided by "respectable" (or reputedly respectable) people.

Of late we have rather tended to forget about the founder of fascism, the ambitious and bloodthirsty Duce. Since Italy has awakened to a new life, Mussolini has become just another German retainer. But one should recall the days of his success; recall in order to remember, and remember in order to live. For many years Mussolini was regarded by certain democrats as a wise statesman. Yet Mussolini began his career as a ruffian who burned down workers clubs, destroyed books, poured castor oil down the throats of teachers, students and workers, and killed honest citizens.

At that time, certain "democrats" thought: better Italian castor oil than Russian books; just as later, in the days of Munich, they consoled themselves with the thought: Better Hitler than the triumph of liberty. The political madmen thought to utilize the mad wolves as watchdogs. They expected the mad wolves would bite only as directed. Europe and the world can now see the moral in this immoral policy; in the ruins of Warsaw, the woe of Paris and the wounds of London. That is the price the nations have had to pay to have their eyes opened.

We must remember that fascism was engendered by the greed and stupidity of some, and by the perfidy and cowardice of others. If mankind wants to put an end to the bloody nightmare of those years, it must put an end to fascism. Half-



A prisoner in the Klooga death camp, who miraculously escaped execution, embraces his relatives Radiophoto

measures will not do here. If fascism is left anywhere to breed again, ten or twenty years hence the rivers of blood will be flowing once more. A wedge is used to drive out a wedge, but fascism cannot be driven out by fascism. There is no sense in liberating nations from fascists of one variety, only to deliver them into the hands of fascists of another variety.

Fascism is a terrible cancer. It cannot be cured with mineral waters. It has to be excised. I don't believe in the kind hearts of people who are sorry for the butchers and traitors; these sham humanitarians are paving the way for the death of millions of innocent people.

The peoples of Europe fought the aggressors heroically, and the people are not Moors, to go their way when their work is done. There is a good French proverb, "The collier is master in his own home." It is one which not only the French understand. The Red Army has shown how to liberate: Poles, Norwegians, Serbs and Slovaks know that. We do not replace fascism by semi-fascism: we liberate without reservation. We know that democracy is the daughter of the people and not an illustrious lady who can be admired only from afar and then only with kind permission.

The peoples who have known the tyranny of the fascists will understand us without many words: This is the age of the people, not of the diplomatists. We will be understood by the gallant people of France. We will be understood by all

of our Allies. There was a time when the English believed in the magic properties of the English Channel. Now they realize that it is no barrier against fascism. It has long been forbidden to import dogs into England; by this measure the English seek to protect their country from rabies. But the mad bipeds differ from the quadrupeds, in their possession of various V-weapons. And the only way to protect Britain is to destroy fascism completely—from Warsaw to La Linea, the little town near Gibraltar. And even an ocean is no defense; America can be saved from new wars only by the friendship of nations and the death of fascism.

If the *Pommersche Zeitung* makes so bold as to assert that Germans went to war as the most peaceful of uplifters, it must mean that the fascists' only hope now is in loss of memory. Such a loss of memory sometimes follows severe wounds and is known in medicine as amnesia. The wounds of the world are severe enough in all conscience, but the peoples do not suffer from amnesia. They remember everything. They will remember everything when the trials come. They will not forget the terrible years, even after victory.

We must remember: It is our duty to the dead heroes and to the children.

Let the awful sights we have witnessed be ever before our eyes: by that price we shall save the world. I know it is easier to forget, but we will not forget. We swear to remember, remember and remember.

STRATEGICAL FACTOR OF THE OFFENSIVE IN HUNGARY

By Major General Nikolai Beliaev

The Red Army is continuing the successful offensive started in October. The Soviet troops have surrounded Budapest. Only a small part of Hungary remains to be occupied. Marshal Stalin was right when on November 6 he said that Hungary, Germany's last ally in Europe, would soon be knocked out of the war. No wonder the Szalasi "government" took the precaution to move to the Austrian border.

What strategical advantages do the Red Army victories in Hungary bring in general to the cause of the struggle of the United Nations with Nazi Germany?

First of all, the last of Germany's vassals is being knocked out of the struggle. From the military standpoint it means that the enemy forces operating against the United Nations will be relieved of another few dozen divisions of the Hungarian army. And the loss of a few dozen divisions at this stage of the conflict is a serious matter for Nazi Germany with her fast dwindling reserves.

The economic loss of Hungary is also a telling blow, for Hungary was Hitler's last source for obtaining foodstuffs. In addition to that, Germany loses a number of industrial enterprises which had hitherto played no small part in providing equipment for the Nazi war machine.

However, in the face of all these considerations, the strategical factor of the Red Army offensive in the Balkans is much more significant.

In the Jassy-Kishenev operation alone, the Soviet armies surrounded and liquidated 22 German divisions, not including the Rumanian forces. As a result of the blows in the Jassy-Kishenev sector, Germany's allies, Rumania and Bulgaria, were put out of the war, and they declared war on Germany. This blow also enabled the Red Army to come to the aid of our ally Yugoslavia, whose troops in cooperation with the Soviet forces are now able to fight more effectively against the German invaders.

The Red Army offensive in Hungary is strategically the logical development of the push into Rumania which preceded the operations in Hungary. If one views the blow against Rumania as a breach of

the southern flank of the strategical front of Nazi Germany in the East, the advance into Hungary must be looked upon as a utilization of the breach for developing the success of turning the southern strategical flank of the Germans and routing it. This blow is fully consistent with the demands made upon the art of war today, which seeks to maneuver on the strategical flanks to the same extent as in operational art and tactics.

The offensive in Hungary enabled the Red Army to turn the very powerful natural defenses of the Carpathians in the south, where the Germans, basing their hopes on the experiences of the First World War, attempted to establish their southern flank. By circuiting the Carpathians, the Red Army emerged deep on the flank of the strategical German group operating in western Poland, and the operations in Budapest and in the north of the Hungarian capital have brought the Red Army to the gateway of the Valley of the Danube and Moravia, dividing the Alps and the Carpathians. This means that the Red Army has won positions facilitating a still deeper strategical envelopment of the German front in the East.

The above-mentioned strategical advantages in Hungary are very promising for the further development of operations. The Red Army now has the opportunity of penetrating into Austria and into the western regions of Czechoslovakia. Germany is now faced with the menace of losing those territories with their highly developed industries and agriculture.

The further development of events will give the Red Army new and very important strategical advantages. It will have the opportunity of breaking deep into Germany from the south, the shortest route to Berlin.

I might also mention that the occupation of the Hungarian lowlands opens possibilities for blows against the German lines of communication feeding the German troops in Italy. This may necessitate the withdrawal of German troops

in Northern Italy, and besides the loss of men and materiel which such a retreat is bound to entail for the German army, it will result in the Red Army joining forces with its Allies.

The general tendency is to thrust Nazi Germany into a vise that will crush her resistance in the shortest possible time.

The Red Army has already negotiated the most arduous part of the theater in the Balkans—the mountains and trackless country. Facing it is territory with a well-developed railroad system and good roads. Another important point to remember is that the populations freed from the German yoke give the Red Army a most hearty welcome. But most important of all is the fact that the Red Army, after surmounting the remaining obstacles, will have reached Germany's southern borders.

It is therefore not to be wondered at that the Red Army offensive has so alarmed the leaders of Nazi Germany. This does not contradict the outwardly calm tone of Goebbels' speech and other recent utterances by the Nazi high command. That is only taking a licking with a smile. The real state of affairs we see in the hurried evacuation of the munitions factories from Austria and the continuous dispatch of German reserve divisions to Hungary. I should add that in the two months of fighting, the German reserve divisions have been thoroughly beaten and the demand in Hungary for fresh forces is just as great as before.

No one can, of course, say for certain how the future of military events will develop. But even now, by reviewing objectively the Red Army's offensive in Hungary, one cannot but see that the offensive has already yielded very considerable strategic advantages. It is a very fine offensive, very promising, and promotes closer coordination between the Red Army and its Allies. The Red Army offensive in Hungary is a fine contribution of the Soviet Union to the common cause of the United Nations in the struggle against a Nazi Germany breathing her last, and a fine execution of the pledge given by the Soviet Union at the Teheran Conference.

THE REVIVAL OF BYELORUSSIA

By **Panteleimon Ponomarenko**

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Byelorussian SSR

Byelorussia, with a population of 11 million, covers an area of 228,000 square kilometers. From a semi-colonial province of Tsarist Russia, Byelorussia under the Soviet power became a free and sovereign State. Its people, for whom poverty had been a byword before the Revolution, began to enjoy unprecedented prosperity and cultural development.

This backward agrarian country became a leading agricultural region with enormous farms, tractors and other modern machinery. Through extensive drainage, the waterlogged and swampy marshlands of Byelorussia yielded to cultivation. Unprecedented harvests of grain, with three or four tons per hectare, were reaped. The hemp of Byelorussia actually grew to twice the height of a man. Roads were built over the former swampland and the Republic acquired a network of excellent highways. More than 2,000 factories and plants were built and put into operation.

These prewar years also saw a remarkable cultural development in Byelorussia. A National Academy of Sciences, 28 schools of higher learning, a number of scientific research institutes and thousands of elementary and secondary schools were established. The Byelorussian people, who had supplied the Tsarist army with only illiterate or semi-literate recruits, during the Patriotic War gave the Red Army and Navy thousands of well-trained servicemen, excellent officers and more than 180 generals and admirals.

The creative labor of the people was interrupted by the treacherous attack of the fascist gangsters. Minsk, the capital of the Republic, was barbarously devastated. It is today hemmed in by the common graves of 300,000 murdered men, women and children. These victims of fascism were the people of Minsk, war prisoners and about 100,000 Jews brought here for slaughter from the ghettos of Warsaw, Hamburg, Vienna and other cities. Not a single Byelorussian city or village was left without its victims, without its ruins.

The fascists robbed the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences of its most valuable

historic documents and books. They burned the holdings of the Republic's Lenin Library. They utterly devastated the Palace of Prince Paskevich-Erivansky in Gomel, which had been designed by Quarenghi and had been one of the loveliest buildings in the Republic. They looted or destroyed the finest exhibits of the State Art Galleries. They completely laid waste 5,200 and damaged more than 10,000 schools.

The Byelorussian people responded to this reign of terror by organized resistance. From the very outbreak of hostilities, they began to wage fierce and merciless guerrilla warfare. Day by day the number of guerrilla bands grew until there were hundreds of detachments with a combined force of more than a quarter of a million patriots.

These partisans maintained constant pressure upon the German army. They disrupted the enemy's supplies and communication lines. They compelled the enemy to divert considerable forces to

protect his communication lines, warehouses, workshops and first-aid stations. No German installation was safe from guerrilla attacks.

The guerrillas went even further. With the assistance of reinforcements sent them by the joint staff of the People's Avengers, the central command of the guerrilla movement, they were able to inflict such heavy blows as those dealt in the "war of rails." In August 1943, the guerrillas of Byelorussia blew up 1,000 kilometers of railway lines and thus seriously disrupted transportation throughout the territory. In June 1944, within a few hours, the Byelorussians dynamited railway lines over a stretch of 350 kilometers, thereby disorganizing German troop movements. This assault was timed to coincide with the decisive phase of the Red Army offensive.

During the war the Byelorussian guerrillas annihilated about half a million German soldiers and officers, caused 11,128 railway wrecks, and destroyed 1,000 enemy tanks and 18,740 trucks. They killed the German "Generalkommissar" Wilhelm Kube, known because of his brutal reprisals as one of the cruelest of Nazi hangmen. They also annihilated over 50 German generals and important Reich officials; they captured several enemy staffs and turned them over to the Red Army. The guerrillas also saved hundreds of thousands of Byelorussians from deportation to slavery in Germany.

The Soviet Government holds the services of the Byelorussian guerrillas in high esteem. Fifty-nine guerrillas have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. More than 45,000 guerrilla commanders and men have been decorated.

As soon as a sector of Byelorussia was liberated, the inhabitants began the job of restoration. In many localities the personnel of plants and factories returned to work before the firing had ceased, without waiting for special orders from the administration. Because of their initiative, production was restored in many of these plants. City transportation facilities, water and sewage systems, bath



Working 24 hours a day—A restored blast furnace in Yenakievo, Donbas Region

houses, laundries, bakeries, hospitals, drug stores and schools are now being restored throughout Byelorussia.

The housing problem is very acute at present. To meet the need for housing, the Government has encouraged individual and cooperative developments by extending credit, construction materials and transport facilities to the builders. Production of cement, bricks and glass has been accelerated.

The farmers, like the industrial workers, began to restore their collective farms immediately after the liberation of Byelorussia. These farms had been utterly ruined by the German invaders and their restoration presented a number of very serious problems. The farmers had, however, learned the advantages of collective effort and have expended an enormous amount of labor to build them up.

The Government of the USSR has given them considerable assistance. Moscow Region alone has allotted 11,000 horses for the regions of Byelorussia in which all the draft animals had been slaughtered by the Germans, as well as

80,000 head of cattle, 50,000 pigs and 130,000 sheep and goats. Plows, harvesters and other agricultural instruments are also being sent to the Republic.

The selfless efforts of the peasants, the support received from the State and the fraternal aid of the other Soviet Republics have already borne their first fruit: the collective farms have fulfilled the State grain delivery plans and have, in addition, furnished the Special Red Army Fund with 48,000 tons of surplus grain. The sowing of winter wheat was also completed in time.

In addition to the problem of restoring the industrial and agricultural economy of the Republic, the Byelorussians faced the problem of restoring public health standards. The Germans had destroyed every medical installation in Byelorussia and had left behind a number of diseases of epidemic proportions, some of them introduced by the invading troops. Many of the diseases, like malaria, long eradicated from Byelorussia, returned again. The Germans had taken no anti-

malaria measures in Byelorussia for three years. The people, however, have rapidly restored the hospitals and pharmacies of all district centers and cities. Although the medical and sanitary services have not yet reached the high level of prewar days, they are at present adequate to assure the population of essential medical care.

The Byelorussian Government has exerted a great deal of effort on the task of restoring the school network; 11,500 elementary and secondary schools have already been opened. This year classes have also been resumed at the Byelorussian University, the Medical Institute and the Forestry Institute, as well as in a number of other higher schools.

The period of hardships, however, is not yet over and many difficulties still lie ahead. Continuous, intense effort will be required to restore the prewar standard of living. The Byelorussian people know that, with the fraternal aid of the other Republics of the USSR, they will build cities and villages finer and larger than those of the past.

SOVIET SCIENCE TO INCREASE AID TO INDUSTRY IN 1945

Cooperation between scientific institutions and industrial enterprises to solve problems of signal importance to the further development of the national economy is the salient feature of next year's plan for research activities, which was discussed at a general meeting of the members and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR as well as at staff meetings held at research institutes of the technical sciences section of the Academy. This plan, as reported by Ivan Bardin, vice-president of the Academy, was the main item on the agenda of a recent session.

Of the themes outlined for treatment next year, the meeting earmarked 38 technical and applied science problems as being of first-rate importance for the national economy. Leading Soviet scientists and the best laboratories will conduct research in these fields. Some of the experiments will be performed directly in the plants.

The resumption of work on the underground gasification of coal, which was in-

terrupted by the war, figures prominently in the 1945 research plans. First proposed about 50 years ago by the Russian scientist Mendeleyev and subsequently sponsored by Lenin, this method of turning coal into combustible gas under the ground and piping the gas to consumers eliminates the need of mining and transporting coal. The new principles outlined for application next year will greatly increase the efficiency of the method.

Utilization of oxygen in iron and steel production is another problem of paramount importance in the 1945 program. Semi-industrial experiments have shown that replacement of air blast by oxygen blast revolutionizes pigiron production, increasing blast furnace productivity. Academician P. Kapitza's compact installation for the production of cheap oxygen will be used.

Special attention is being devoted to the utilization of high-power steam boilers which produce superheated steam under high pressure with minimum consumption of fuel and are very efficient.

Research will also be conducted in methods of obtaining special steels for high-pressure boilers, particularly boilers of the Ramzin type.

Another leading problem is the use of high-frequency currents in heat treatment. Radical improvements are expected in the field in which major theoretical researches have been conducted by the Leningrad scientist Vologdin.

Postwar power problems and further improvement of the Soviet Union's transport system are other highlights of the program.

New Slav Anthology

An anthology of the folk poetry of Southern Slavs, edited by Academician Nikolai Derzhavin, outstanding authority on Slav literature, was recently published in Moscow. The anthology consists chiefly of examples of folk epos, in particular the cycle of songs dealing with the most popular hero of the Southern Slav epos, Prince Marko.

MOSCOW GREETS THE NEW YEAR



A worker of the Yava factory addressing cigarette boxes for the front

Nineteen-forty-five

By Elena Bondareva

Elena Bondareva is a worker in the Borets factory.

For Russia, New Year's has always been the gayest holiday of the winter. But since Hitler Germany's attack on our country, our New Year holidays have been passed under tragic circumstances, with the enemy on our soil and thousands of our people dying on the battlefields and at the hands of the German executioners in concentration camps and "death factories." These were days more terrible than mankind had ever known before.

But even then our people had confidence in the future. They put up a valiant struggle both at the front and in the factories and fields, for the freedom and happiness of their country.

Now we are ushering in 1945. The Germans are no longer on our territory. That is the great difference between this New Year and those of 1942, 1943 and 1944.

This knowledge is happiness to us, but we have not forgotten that the enemy is not yet vanquished, that our people are still languishing in captivity on enemy soil, and that in 1945 we must fight and work still harder to hasten the hour of complete victory.



Radiophotos

From top down, Peter Fatin, a pastry cook at the Boleshevik factory, puts New Year's greetings on a cake; The Yava factory produced a large quantity of cigarettes in excess of the planned output, as gifts for the Red Army; The toy bazaar in Moscow's central department store attracts large crowds

Notes from Front and Rear

A monument to the Red Army has been unveiled on the Svir River on the scene of the famous battle in which the German army was routed at the approaches to Leningrad. A majestic statue of Marshal Stalin stands on the steep bank of the river, and a beautiful staircase leads to a large park planted by the soldiers. Among the firs and pines are newly-built spacious pavilions housing a collection of arms picked up on the battlefield, and photographs and portraits of the heroes who forced the Svir.

★

An exhibit of the history of the textile industry has been opened in Ivanovo, one of the largest textile centers in the USSR. Among the five million samples of fabrics on display are linens from the days of Peter I.

★

Sixteen million Soviet men and women cultivated victory gardens in 1943, reports the Chairman of the Truck Garden Commission of the All-Union Council of Trade Unions. In 1944 the number increased by four million, while the area of truck gardens increased by 50 per cent. During the war Soviet victory gardeners produced 70 million tons of potatoes and other vegetables, in addition to large quantities of other foods. Next year collective and individual truck gardens will be developed on a large scale in the Ukraine, Byelorussia, the Soviet Baltic Republics and other liberated areas.

★

The first grapefruit grove in the USSR, in Georgia, will yield an estimated 100,000 grapefruit this year. Introduced from the United States only a few years ago, the grapefruit is gaining wide popularity in the USSR. Planting was halted by the war, but the groves in the subtropical zone are now being expanded.

★

With the assistance of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, the first Soviet Ukrainian Encyclopedia is now being prepared for publication.

An estimate of the work of Soviet actors and musicians at the front, made in connection with the 20th anniversary of the Artists Trade Unions, revealed that 600,000 concerts have been given at the front and in hospitals, with scores of thousands of artists participating.

★

A geological expedition headed by Academician Shevshov, which has spent the past two years exploring territory in the northeast of the European section of the USSR, has returned to Moscow. This area, in which several European countries could be easily accommodated, possesses incalculable natural resources, although on pre-revolutionary maps it was marked only as a huge white space. Under the Soviet Government the Republic of the northern people of the Komi has been founded in the area. The northern expedition of the Academy of Sciences, which conducted wide geological explorations, has discovered deposits of useful minerals the development of which will give this remote forest land a place among the most important industrial areas of the USSR. The Pechora coal basin, which almost equals the Donets Basin, has all grades of coal. Reserves of iron ore, gypsum, refracting clay, salt, mineral dyes, etc. have also been found.

★

Six hundred libraries closed by the Germans in cities and villages of the Estonian SSR have reopened. The enemy totally destroyed 75 of the most valuable libraries. Others marked for destruction were saved by the people, who shifted them to villages and hid them until after the German retreat.

★

A 10-day Festival of Soviet Music of the Transcaucasian Republics will be held at the Rustaveli Dramatic Theater in Tbilisi. The foremost works of Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani composers during the Patriotic War will be played during the Festival, in which over 600 musicians will participate. Works of the people's bards and folk ensembles of song and dance will also be presented.

The Soviet radio recently marked its 20th anniversary. Broadcasts are made today in 70 languages of the peoples of the USSR and 28 foreign languages. The Moscow central broadcasting system alone has a total of 88 hours on the air daily. During the Patriotic War the radio assumed particular significance, bringing Marshal Stalin's speeches and Orders of the Day directly to the people. Communiques of the Soviet Information Bureau are broadcast 14 times daily, as well as news on life in the Soviet rear and events abroad.

★

A volume of poems by Daghestan national poets has been issued by the Moscow Publishing House of the Soviet Writer.

★

The Stalin automobile plant in Moscow has one of the largest workers libraries in the Capital, with branches in 22 departments of the factory. The library arranges exhibits, literary discussions, book reviews, and meetings between readers and authors. Librarians also visit the shops and make brief reports on new books. When the library cannot supply a particular book, it turns to the All-Union Lenin Library, which has a branch in the plant.

★

Classes have been resumed at the State Agricultural Academy of the Latvian SSR.

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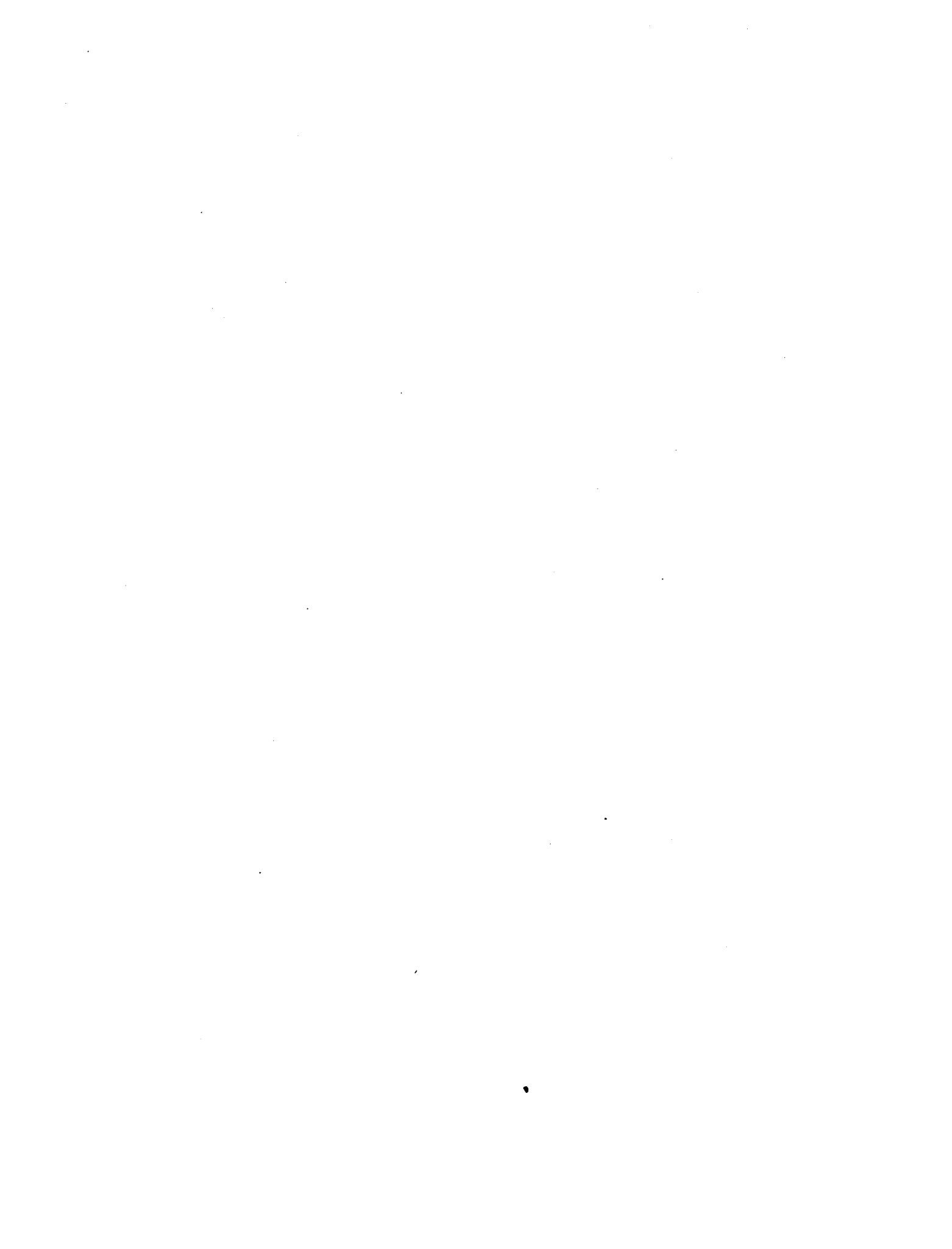
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