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THE ARMY

of the

SOVIET UNION



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HITLER'S INSANE PLANS

The gaze of all progressive people is now riveted on the Soviet Union, where, on an immense front stretching from the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea, the fate of the world is being decided in gigantic battles. On this front, 3,500 kilometres long, the men of the Red Army are fighting the fascist hordes to defend the honour and liberty of their own country and for the culture, the democracy and the independence of all the nations of Europe and America.

When the hordes of barbarians invaded Europe in the early Middle Ages, leaving a trail of death and devastation, the cry rang throughout Europe: "The Huns are coming!" The Huns spared neither children nor the aged; they trampled down the fields, seized all the cattle, stocks of grain and provisions, and all the valuables that came their way; they looted and despoiled whole countries, converting flourishing regions into a howling wilderness.

In our days we were destined to hear the sinister cry ringing over Europe and across the ocean to America: "The fascists are coming!"

Resorting to deceit where the slightest resistance threatened, to force where weakness was encountered, to bribery where corruption was possible, and relying on the treachery of those whose motto was: "Slavery rather than war!"—the fascists have subjugated the Bohemians and the Austrians; they have occupied Poland, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Norway, a large part of France, Yugoslavia and Greece. Like the Huns of the Middle Ages, the fascists today are looting and despoiling these countries.

They are taking the bread out of the mouths of the starving in order to feed the German army. They are depriving infants of their milk to pour it down their own insatiable throats. They are denuding these countries of steel structures and scrap, of machines and door handles, automobiles and buckets, finished articles and raw materials and, loading them on innumerable trains, are shipping them off to Germany.

The modern Huns have settled on the civilized countries of Europe like swarms of locusts. They compel the nations they have subjugated to feed their armies. Millions of French, Norwegian, Belgian and Polish workers have been forcibly sent to Germany where, like the slaves of antiquity, often fettered in chains, they are compelled to toil on the estates of the German junkers, the big and little Hitlers, Goerings, Goebbelses, and other gangsters.

The fascists have trampled upon democracy, they have dissolved the governments of the countries they have subjugated and have appointed their own Governors, who are taking advantage of their position to amass fortunes for themselves. The finest works of art now adorn the castles which Goebbels has furnished for himself. Vast industrial plants have become the property of that former hobo and wastrel, and now multi-millionaire, Herman Goering. Millions of marks, squeezed out of the German people, are flowing into the bottomless pockets of Hitler, who forcibly compels everybody to purchase his misanthropic screeds.

The fascist organizers and leaders themselves cynically declare that the whole of Europe and America must become fascist Germany's sphere of influence, or "influence space," as they call it in their jargon. The cannibal Hitler, with cynical candour, drew a picture of what he conceived as the fascist world. In this picture he depicted mankind in the form of a pyramid, on the apex of which were ensconced himself and his associates in plunder and murder.

"Under the future social system," said Hitler, "there will be a class of rulers and middle classes. Then there will be a vast class of eternal servitors." By the latter Hitler meant the masses of

the German people, who in his scheme of things are doomed to serve the ruling classes. "Still lower we shall have a class of vanquished aliens, those whom we coolly describe as modern slaves."

In other words: "Woe to the vanquished!" This is the cry of the modern fascist barbarians sprawling on their tanks.

The German poet, Heinrich Heine—once wrote the following poem:

There was once a king in Thule
Who of his numerous treasures prized
Most of all a cup,
Every time this cup he quaffed
He went altogether daft,
In his head ideas would blend
That we would never understand.

Hitler's "ideas" too are the monstrous product of a disordered mind; but the ravings of a maniac become a frightful force when that maniac is in command of a colossal machine of destruction. It is such a machine that the maniac Hitler is now in command of, and is operating to its utmost capacity.

Hitler and his gang divided their plan to subjugate the world into several stages. After France went down on her knees, the crushing of Great Britain became the main object of the fascists. On November 30, 1940, the *Völkischer Beobachter*, the chief organ of the fascists, wrote:

"The object now is to rid the continent of Europe of the insolence of this arrogant pirate nation. . . ." Germany will see to it "that the evil spirit of British influence shall never again haunt the shores of Europe, and never again disturb the peaceful collaboration of the European nations. Such are our peace objects; such is our mission in Europe."

At the word of command this refrain was taken up by the whole fascist press. That same day another important fascist newspaper, the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, wrote:

"Germany's object in the war is to strike at Great Britain by every means in her power—today, tomorrow and the day after—until British pride, which existed even at the beginning of the present continental war, is broken."

The *Berliner Börsenzeitung*, the organ of the big industrialists, wrote that day:

"We shall hold Great Britain in a vise, and the pressure will be constantly increased! . . . We shall wage this war stubbornly and relentlessly until we secure guarantees for the final liberation of Europe from the intolerable British mischief-maker and from the British menace."

Thus, the slogan of the first stage of Germany's predatory war for the conquest of the world was: Crush Great Britain in order to conquer all Europe.

In anticipation of this, the fascists long ago drew up a plan for a "New Order" in Europe under the control of Germany.

On March 8, 1941, Goebbels broadcast an extensive program for the introduction of this "New Order" in Europe. Boastfully declaring that Great Britain will be finished off in the "first seven sunny days," and that the war would certainly come to an end in 1941, this fascist oracle went on to say:

"Among other things, Germany wants the European countries to unite for joint effort. For purely practical reasons—as, for example, the possibilities of modern means of communication—frontiers in the new Europe will to a large extent lose their former influence and importance. All the European countries should unite and form a single continental entity; no country has the right to resist another. Production and labour must be distributed in conformity with a rational plan. Agrarian countries must not artificially develop industry, and *vice versa*."

As a rule, fascist statements are false; the whole world is now convinced of this. But even this arrogant liar Goebbels could not conceal the whole truth. He admitted that there will be no room for nationality in the future Europe if the fascists have their way. All Europe will be "incorporated." No country will be allowed to develop its industry. Industrial Germany will reign supreme over an agrarian Europe. If this is Goebbels' half truth, one can imagine what the whole truth is!

But Goebbels himself left no room for doubt on that score. The Berlin correspondent of the Swedish newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet*, reported on March 9, 1941, that Goebbels was asked

to which spheres of political life the leaders of the "New Europe" will pay most attention; to this Goebbels replied:

"Military policy, economic policy, currency policy and foreign policy. In these four spheres the leading power [i.e., Germany] will take the main responsibility for the whole of the new Europe. The small and minor countries should, for the sake of their own welfare and that of the whole of Europe, submit to the leading state, particularly in these spheres of political life."

All the countries in Europe are to be transformed into German provinces and their economy is to be entirely subordinated to the interests of German industry. German currency will be the only recognized currency throughout Europe. The German diplomats will speak on behalf of the whole of Europe. The German drill-sergeant will represent all the armies of Europe. The "New Europe" will be wholly and entirely a colony to provide fascist Germany with slaves and raw materials. Those countries which have not yet expressed their desire to enter this Hitlerite "paradise" are advised to do so at once. Those which hesitate or stubbornly cling to their neutrality are unambiguously threatened. Thus, the *Stockholms Tidningen* of April 5, 1941, reported Dr. Walter, the head of the fascist trade delegation in Sweden, as saying:

"Those countries that desire to do so may remain outside the sphere of European collaboration; but if they do, they must not complain of the economic consequences. Those countries will have to resign themselves to the fact that they will be treated with 'more or less indifference.' There is no time to lose; and Sweden too must decide."

Certain observers of the present war, including some who are not pro-Nazi, believed, and still believe, that Germany's object is to conquer only the continent of Europe, and that when she has achieved this, she will cease her aggression. Others thought that it was possible to keep aloof from the war. Like the philistine in Goethe's *Faust* they thought that nations are warring "somewhere in Turkey, in a distant land," and that it was possible to lie low until the storm blew over. These views were current particularly in America.

But if Germany succeeds in converting the European countries

into her dependencies, this alone will enable her to rule the whole world. By concentrating all the industrial and raw material resources of Europe in her own hands, Hitler Germany will be in position to shake her mailed fist at every country on the globe. Thus, even if they confine their conquests to the continent of Europe, Hitler and his gang will still be a menace to the world. But the fascists themselves make no attempt to conceal the fact that their object is to achieve direct world hegemony. Some time ago, the fascist press very seriously discussed the question as to whether Germany should confine herself to the continent or not. The question was formulated as follows: Should Germany orientate herself towards continental trade or overseas trade? To this came the authoritative reply of State Councillor Emil Helfferich. According to the *Berliner Börsenzeitung*, of July 31, 1940, he said:

"It is obvious for purely geographical reasons that autarky cannot be established in Europe, any more than it can be established in Africa. . . . Germany has succeeded by her own efforts in breaking all her fetters; she has achieved a new and higher conception of life; she has succeeded in regulating the circulation of money on the continent and, incidentally, by producing synthetic raw materials, has broken through the enemy blockade. All these successes, achieved in the course of struggle, will safeguard Germany from the creation of an artificial economic structure. . . . Not continental or overseas trade, but continental and overseas trade—such should be our slogan."

Herr State Councillor argues in exactly the same way as the lion in the fable in claiming his share of the spoil:

This part is mine
By virtue of our pact.
This part is mine
By virtue of the fact
That I am the lion.
Against this who will cavil?
This part is mine
As the strongest of you all.
As for this part,
He who even touches it
Will do so at his peril.

This was not the Councillor's private opinion, nor was it a casually dropped observation. It is the official opinion of his fascist chiefs. For example, on July 25, 1940, the German Minister for Trade and Industry, Funk, delivered a speech on "Economic Policy in the New Europe." After repeating the stereotyped fascist phrases about transforming all Europe into Germany's tributary, Herr Funk laid special emphasis on what this meant for the United States. He said:

"The volume of our trade with the United States will depend entirely upon the Americans themselves. As long as they deprecate German goods, this intercourse will naturally remain problematical, and as long as they adhere to this dogma . . . which no longer has any basis in economic practice, economic intercourse with the United States will, of course, encounter difficulties. If, however, the United States wants to help to restore the normal development of world economy it will have to abandon its morbid ambition to become the largest exporting country."

The German Minister of Trade and Industry bluntly proposed that America should cease her industrial activity, cease to manufacture goods, and use all her national wealth to purchase German goods. He said:

"We cannot tell what the Americans propose to do with their gold. At all events, gold, as the basis of European currency, will no longer play any role. . . . It is quite another matter if this gold will be regarded as a suitable means of settling the balance of payments, but we will never pursue a currency policy that might make us dependent on gold. . . . If, however, the Americans want to get rid of their gold . . . they must revalue the dollar. Then gold will flow from America and goods will flow to America. . . ."

Could anything be clearer? A German Cabinet Minister publicly demands that the United States should be brought within the orbit of fascist influence.

In re-drawing the map of the world the German fascists have also allocated a place to South America. In the above-mentioned speech Herr Funk laid special stress on South America. He said:

"Our long-standing and organized trade with South America has been disturbed only as a result of the British blockade. The United States must abandon the idea that it can impose its economic terms upon Germany or Europe. *We don't want North America as our middleman* in our trade with the South American countries."

Latin America is to be converted into a "New Germany" which is to serve as a base for foodstuffs and raw materials. In 1941, a number of German spies were arrested in Montevideo, and among the papers found in their possession was a map of the "New Germany." This "New Germany" covered Argentine, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, and a considerable part of south Brazil, an area totalling a little less than two-thirds of that of the United States. It is no accident that numerous German spies are arrested in the Latin American countries. In the guise of tourists and settlers, large numbers of German spies are concentrating around the vital centres of Latin America; and Germany's diplomatic representatives in those countries are actually the heads of a large army of fascist agents whose object is to organize revolutions. Arms are imported to those countries in diplomatic bags, and spies are given diplomatic passports. It has become obvious that if the fascists are victorious in Europe their next step will be to invade South America. The menace of fascism hovers over the United States.

Thus, the slogan of the second stage of Germany's predatory war is: *The introduction of a fascist "New Order" in Europe as a preliminary step to the conquest of the whole world.*

Thus, the idea of conquering and looting the whole world is not merely the product of the disordered minds of a clique of maniacs in command of a frightful machine for destruction. It is the underlying idea of the whole system of predatory fascism. It is the old idea of "*Deutschland über alles*" carried to its logical conclusion.

As Stalin said: "The Hitler party is a party of imperialists, and of the most predatory and piratical imperialists in the world at that."

THE FASCISTS' MISCALCULATIONS

"There's many a slip twixt cup and lip." This proverb applies to Hitler's plans. In the autumn of 1940, he proclaimed with a deafening fanfare of trumpets that the Battle of London had commenced. Night after night thousands of aeroplanes bombed that peaceful and unprotected city. Flying high over the Channel, the fascist airmen, turning off their engines, glided over the thickly populated districts of London and haphazardly dropped incendiary and high explosive bombs.

Then came 1941. The fascists confidently claimed that this would be the last year of the war. In the spring came a few clear, good flying days; the "seven days" in which the Hitlerites solemnly undertook to put an end to London.

The city put up a heroic defence. Weeks passed, but no end to the Battle of London was in sight. British industry turned out new aeroplanes, tanks and munitions in increasing numbers. Armaments and munitions flowed in a constant stream across the ocean from the United States.

With the same fanfare of trumpets the fascists launched the Battle for the Atlantic with the object of cutting off supplies from the United States and of bringing Great Britain to her knees by starvation. Night and day hundreds of submarines scoured the seas around the British Isles. Heavy, long-range bombers patrolled the ocean, seeking for ships in order to drop their death-dealing cargoes upon them. The German raiders, flying false colours like pirates, tried to intercept the ships *en route* for England. Fast fascist battleships and cruisers stole their way far into the British rear in order to cut her lines of communication.

Valuable stocks of petrol were consumed, and no less valuable time was lost; but the Battle of the Atlantic showed no signs of ending in a speedy victory for Germany. Notwithstanding its losses, the British Navy increased in size, as also did the British mercantile fleet. Caravans of ships carrying munitions and food continued to arrive from the United States.

Failing to achieve victory on the Atlantic, the fascists proclaimed the opening of a third great battle—this time for the British colonies. Hitler hoped to strike at Great Britain through Africa. The fascists started a drive for Egypt through Libya, where their Italian allies had already suffered defeat. Through Syria they tried to strike at the Suez Canal and at the oil resources of Iraq.

Germany tried to draw Spain and Portugal into the orbit of her influence, to seize Gibraltar, and to break through into West Africa. The fascists needed continuous victories in order to whip the war spirit of the German people to fever heat. They needed these victories in order to sustain the legend that the fascist army is invincible and to keep the subjugated countries in subordination. In their quest for easy victories they flung themselves upon the Balkans where the Greek people, bleeding from many wounds, heroically repelled the attacks of Italy. The heroic resistance of the Greek people was crushed by the fascist war machine.

The fascists achieved several ostentatious gains. Greece was occupied in a short space of time; the German parachutists attacked and seized the Island of Crete, which was defended by only three or four divisions. These successes were very sparkling, like fireworks; but they were as ineffective as the cold fire of a rocket. The only prospect ahead of Germany was the prolongation of the war for years. The mathematical law of big numbers came into operation. The resources of Great Britain—assisted by the United States—steadily increased, while Germany's strategical raw materials—accumulated at the cost of frightful privation for the German people under the slogan of: "Guns instead of butter"—steadily diminished. Germany's position appeared brilliant . . . but more and more hopeless.

Alarmed by the gloomy prospects, Hitler quickly changed his plans for conquering the world. He returned to the old plan,

which had been drawn up long before the fascists seized power, and for the execution of which, in fact, the German imperialists wanted them to take power, *viz.*, war against the Soviet Union. Utterly bereft of morals, trampling upon all the laws and traditions of international politics, he wantonly attacked the Soviet Union. To be able to conquer England and then America Hitler must have oil and food. These are available in the U.S.S.R. in vast quantities. The object of Germany's wanton attack on the Soviet Union was plainly stated in Goering's "instructions": "To obtain for Germany as much as possible of food and oil—such is the main economic object of the campaign."

Moreover, a war against the U.S.S.R. held out the prospect of obtaining a very advantageous strategical position. It would open the road to India and to the Persian Gulf. The fascist reptile newspaper *Frankfurter Zeitung* wrote in its issue of August 3, 1941:

"The war against the Soviet Union will prolong the war in the technical sense, but actually it will accelerate its victorious conclusion and greatly facilitate victory over Great Britain."

To strike at Great Britain and the United States through the U.S.S.R.—such is the objective of the fourth battle launched by the fascists.

The fascists made long and thorough preparations for their attack upon the Soviet Union. They prevented Finland from establishing peaceful relations with the U.S.S.R. and did all in their power to convert her into a *place d'armes* for war against the Soviet Union. They carried on intrigues against the Soviet Union in the Balkans. In the occupied countries the fascist agents spread rumours to the effect that Germany's treaty with the Soviet Union was only a temporary one. Hitler intended to attack the Soviet Union in April 1941, but was prevented from doing so by events in Yugoslavia, with whom the Soviet Union concluded a treaty of neutrality.

In plunging into this, his last, adventure, Hitler counted on being able to strike a lightning blow at the Red Army, and bring the war to a speedy conclusion. The fascist press declared with great bravado that the German troops would reach the line Archangel-Astrakhan in a matter of three weeks and that they would

reach the Urals in six weeks, or two months at the most. True, there were some who doubted this. Goebbels, who over the radio and in the press shouted loudest about a *blitzkrieg*, called these doubters "bleating critics," but even these critics dared not prophesy a period longer than 70 days in which the Soviet Union was to be defeated. All the other fascist authorities, big and little, assured the world that the Soviet Union would be defeated in a matter of four to six weeks.

The German fascists based their calculations on three factors:

First of all they believed that they would succeed in isolating the Soviet Union and compel her to fight Germany single-handed. Germany would thus have to fight only on one front.

It is a historical fact that Germany was always defeated in war when she was obliged to fight on two fronts. The greatest German statesmen such as Bismarck, and the greatest German military experts, such as Moltke, always laid it down as an absolute condition for Germany's success in war that she should fight only on one front. The fascist leaders bore this well in mind, but they calculated on compelling the Soviet Union to fight alone. They believed that by means of cunning diplomatic manoeuvres they would succeed in preventing Great Britain and the United States from rendering the Soviet Union any assistance, and that after the Soviet Union was defeated they would be able to hurl all their forces against the Anglo-American countries.

These brazen rascals, skilled in the art of deception, intimidation and blackmail, were firmly convinced that their favourite methods would always be successful. In France they succeeded in scaring the ruling clique with the spectre of revolution. For many years Hitler's agents had been assiduously propagating the idea that a war between France and Germany would inevitably lead to a revolution in France. In pursuit of their selfish aims the ruling clique in France did not hesitate to advance the slogan: "Slavery rather than war!" This hindered the preparation for national defence. A French journalist relates that the French Cabinet Ministers were so overcome by their fear of the people and by their dread of revolution, that after the fall of Paris, General Weygand succeeded in inducing them to pass

the decisions that he desired by falsely telling them that the Communists had seized power in Paris. This was enough to bring the terrified Cabinet Ministers to heel.

The Hitlerites were firmly convinced that they would succeed in intimidating Great Britain and the United States in the same way. These blackmailers believed that they would be able to conceal the real objects of their adventure by claiming that they were pursuing some lofty ideal. Every important movement must have some ideal to inspire it. Even a piratical movement like the conquest of South America was conducted under an idealist cover. The adventurers and fortune hunters who sailed to America to rob the inhabitants of their gold claimed that their object was to spread the Catholic faith in the new countries. In the same way, the fascists believed that they would be able to cover up their predatory invasion of the Soviet Union in quest of loot with the pretext of conducting a "crusade against Bolshevism." As Stalin said in his speech on November 6, 1941, "They [the fascists] seriously counted . . . on creating a universal coalition against the U.S.S.R., on enlisting Great Britain and the U.S.A. in this coalition, after having frightened the ruling circles of these countries with the bogey of revolution, and thus completely isolating our country from other powers."

Secondly, the fascists believed that a crushing blow at the Red Army would give rise to a conflict between the workers and the collective farmers, and between the different nationalities in the Soviet Union.

Thirdly, the fascists banked on the weakness of the Red Army. They thought that they would be able speedily to break it up and crush its resistance.

To fight the Soviet Union, Hitler mustered all his forces. He hurled against her 170 divisions, one third of which were mechanized. When Hitler hurled ten or eleven armoured-car and tank divisions against France, the world was amazed and horrified at this colossal concentration of mechanized forces; but against the Soviet Union he hurled over sixty mechanized divisions. The foreign press quoted amazing figures of the troops and equipment that the fascists lined up on the immense front stretching from

the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea. It is believed that Hitler had at his command over 25,000 aeroplanes and from fifteen to eighteen thousand tanks; the great bulk of these were hurled against the Soviet Union.

Hitler himself came flying to the Eastern Front, accompanied by the leaders of the fascist party, the prominent German generals, and the leader of the fascist Youth League, who was subsequently severely wounded on this front. Hordes of Storm Troopers, on whose bayonets the fascist regime rests, were sent to this front, too.

The Germans concentrated most of their motorized and mechanized divisions into several Tank Army Groups. Up to that time the advanced countries had been familiar with Tank Divisions. The Soviet High Command were the first to work out the tactics for Tank Corps. Tank Divisions, and even Tank Corps, however, were used mainly for the purpose of achieving tactical objectives. The formation of Tank Armies indicated that the Germans were out to achieve strategical objectives with the aid of tanks. They organized their Tank Groups in the form of wedges with the apex turned against the enemy. Each group was headed by motorcycle units and one or two Tank Divisions. These were followed by the motorized divisions accompanied by all the service units. Then came two or three Tank Divisions, and behind them several divisions of motorized infantry. The foreign press referred to these concentrations as "tank daggers."

The German High Command made oblique thrusts at the Red Army along converging routes, to a depth of 300 to 400 kilometres. Thus, one group forced its way through Kovno-Vilna, to Minsk, and then on to Smolensk, while another advanced through Byelostok to Minsk and then on to Smolensk. The object of this manoeuvre was to plunge these "daggers" into the body of the Red Army at an angle so as to converge at its rear and in this way cut it up into parts. The parts were then to be surrounded and destroyed. These were the tactics the fascists adopted in France. They believed they would be successful in the Soviet Union.

In working out their plans for a *blitzkrieg*, for which they had concentrated all their forces, the fascists believed that they would succeed in:

1) smashing through to the vital centres of the Soviet Union where her main resources are concentrated and in dislocating the munitions industry;

2) preventing mobilization;

3) utilizing a "Fifth Column" in the Soviet Union's rear;

4) compelling the Soviet Army Command to throw all its reserves of aeroplanes, tanks and artillery under the wheels of the irresistibly advancing fascist war machine;

5) defeating and crushing the man power of the Red Army.

Such were the calculations of the German fascists; but their calculations were all wrong.

In the light of subsequent events the brilliant foresight of Stalin stands out with astonishing force. Long before the war he insisted on the creation of a new coal and metallurgical base in addition to the Donetz coalfields and the industrial regions in the south of Ukraine. During the period of the operation of the Stalin Five-Year Plans a second metallurgical and coal base was formed in the Urals and in Siberia. A second oil base was created in the territory between the Volga and the Urals. During the ten years before the war over 200 large industrial plants were built in the Urals, including giants like the Magnitogorsk and Novy Tagil Steel Plants, the Urals Engineering Plant, the Urals Railway Car Works, the Solikamsk and Berezniki Chemical Plants, the Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant, and others. The output capacity of these plants is equal to the largest of their kind in the world, while that of the Chelyabinsk Plant, which produces caterpillar tractors, exceeds that of all the tractor plants in the United States put together. In 1940, the Eastern coalfields produced twenty times more coal than they produced in 1913.

All the big plants situated in the western part of the Soviet Union have their duplicates in the regions of the Kama, the Urals, and Western Siberia. The bulk of Soviet industry is almost beyond the reach of enemy aeroplanes.

Even as regards agriculture, the importance of the Eastern regions has increased immensely. Notwithstanding the continuous growth of agricultural output in the Ukraine, the proportion of grain produced there to the total grain output of the

country has greatly diminished. The principal grain producing regions, in addition to the Ukraine and the North Caucasus, are the Volga region, the Urals, Western Siberia and Kazakhstan.

Owing to the suddenness of Hitler's wanton attack on the Soviet Union, his colossal concentration of forces and the fact that the Soviet Union bore the brunt of the blow delivered by Germany and her allies, the German fascists succeeded in occupying a part of Soviet territory which was highly developed industrially. The Soviet Union sustained serious losses, but the fascists failed to paralyse the activities of Soviet industry. The majority of the plants were evacuated from the regions attacked by the Germans. This was literally a gigantic "retreat of industry." This is not the time to publish the figures of the trainloads of factory equipment that were sent into the interior, but when they are published they will be astonishing. Whole regions—of a size equal to that of many countries in different parts of the world—with all their industrial equipment, the workers and their families, were completely evacuated to other districts, where the equipment was installed and the factories started within an amazingly short period in spite of enormous difficulties. The principal factories producing aeroplanes, tanks, and artillery have been working uninterruptedly and constantly increasing their output. In many cases, of which Moscow is a striking example, the production of munitions was started in evacuated premises after the Germans were repulsed. A certain sewing machine factory, for example, is now producing tanks; another factory, where ink was formerly manufactured, is now producing charges for trench-mortar shells. In short, Hitler failed to paralyse Soviet industry; and he will never succeed in doing so.

Hitler also failed to prevent the mobilization of the Soviet armed forces; it proceeded smoothly and in the organized manner provided for in the plans of the Soviet High Command. In Moscow, for example, there was not a single case of absenteeism nor of any man turning up late. Long before midnight, on June 22, when the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. issued the order for mobilization, men began to appear at the recruiting stations individually, but most often in large groups, straight

from the factories. Parents came to see their sons off. Girls brought flowers to offer to the men. Thousands of people gathered at the railway stations to see the men off, and the trains moved out amidst loud cheers and cries of: "Ours is a just cause, victory will be ours!" In the districts occupied by the fascists in the first days of the war the men who were liable for active service made their way through the fascist lines and appeared at the recruiting stations in other districts. In all parts of the country hundreds of thousands of men who were not liable to mobilization volunteered for active service. A veritable flood of written applications to go to the front came pouring into the recruiting stations.

Hitler's expectations regarding the operations in the Soviet Union of a "Fifth Column," such as rendered the fascists invaluable service in a number of European countries, also proved groundless. It goes without saying that the enemy sends spies and saboteurs into the country. They spread provocative rumours in the endeavour to sow panic among the population. It must not be forgotten that Goebbels has a special department which conducts "whispering propaganda"; it fabricates all sorts of false rumours and spreads them through the medium of its agents. In queues outside of shops, in dining rooms, at the railway stations and in trains, the fascist agents spread alleged "authentic information" of the most amazing character, such as the appearance of German forces deep in the Soviet rear, the landing of vast numbers of parachute troops, and so forth. Such propaganda was successful in France. As a result of rumours of this kind, the population of Northern France fled in panic, blocking up all roads, hindering the movements of the French troops, and thereby facilitating the advance of the German divisions. Certainly, great vigilance is needed, and these fascist agents must be ruthlessly exposed. No doubt there are many of them lurking in the towns and villages of the Soviet Union, but they are a diffused mass and have no permanent economic ties with the population. The fascists found no compact social stratum or class upon which they could rely. Hitler found himself up against a country in which politically and in morale the people were absolutely united.

Not finding a "Fifth Column" in the U.S.S.R. Hitler tries to import one. At night, fascist spies are dropped behind the Soviet lines from enemy aeroplanes. As a rule these are Germans able to speak Russian, or Russian Whiteguards who were deported from the Soviet Union about twenty years ago. But these "imported" representatives of the "Fifth Column" are caught by the inhabitants of the districts where they land and by especially formed Destroyer Battalions. Thousands of eyes vigilantly watch every aeroplane that appears above a village or a wood. On the roads the local inhabitants stop every stranger. Children watch out for parachutes, and immediately they see any they report to the headquarters of the local Destroyer Battalion. The few spies who succeed in escaping the vigilance of the inhabitants very soon expose themselves, for they are totally unfamiliar with the customs and interests of Soviet citizens.

The fascists believed that the first setbacks sustained by the Red Army would enfeeble the country, that they would cause conflicts between the classes and nationalities in the Soviet Union, which would lead to the collapse of the state. In all countries serious setbacks at the front during a war undoubtedly intensify class antagonisms; and serious loss of territory, such as the Soviet Union has sustained, would no doubt have caused the collapse of any other state. But the strength of the Soviet Union lies in the fact that setbacks at the front serve to unite the Soviet people more closely than ever. This has been the case throughout the entire history of the Soviet regime, and it is the case in the present war. Realizing the danger that threatened the country, the people rose unitedly in its defence. As Stalin said in his speech of November 6, 1941:

"Far from weakening, the reverses of the Red Army only served still further to strengthen both the alliance of the workers and farmers and the friendship of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. More, they converted the family of peoples of the U.S.S.R. into a single and unshakable camp, selflessly supporting their Red Army and their Red Navy. Never has the Soviet hinterland been as solid as it is today."

A striking demonstration of the unity of the Soviet peoples and of the collapse of all the enemy's hopes of finding a "Fifth Column" was the formation of the Popular Guard. This movement sprang from the very heart of the people. Recalling the grand traditions dating back to the time of Minin and Pozharsky in the seventeenth century, and to other times when the Russian people formed a National Militia to resist an invading enemy, the citizens of Moscow and Leningrad, already in July 1941, began to form an auxiliary force to reinforce the Red Army. The example of the two capitals was followed by the other cities.

The Popular Guard is fully militarized and organized in regiments and divisions on the lines of the Red Army, with their corresponding military technique. From the very first days they were formed, the Popular Guards have been fighting the fascist invaders and making them feel the strength of the united popular resistance. Some of the Popular Guard divisions—like the 11th Division, which consists of Moscow workers—have displayed such staunchness and valour in action that they have been promoted to the regular Guards Divisions of the Red Army.

In 1941, universal military training was introduced, and university professors, students, pupils of the senior classes of secondary schools, factory workers, engineers and technicians are undergoing military training in order to take their part in the fight against the fascists to defend the freedom and the honour of their country. It is as the famous Russian poet, Nekrasov, wrote:

A host arising in numbers
Incalculable,
Whose might and strength will prove
Invincible!

In reply to the wanton attack of the fascists, the people are rapidly increasing output in all branches of production. In the factories, mines and workshops, they are working with double and treble energy. Not a single factory has even for a day suffered a shortage of labour as a consequence of the mobilization. The places of the men who have gone to fight at the front have been

taken by their mothers, wives and children. Students, school-children and women not engaged in industry went to the collective farms to gather in the harvest, which this year proved to be an abundant one. Socialist emulation in the factories and in the collective farms has assumed unprecedented dimensions.

The vast masses of the people displayed their unity and solidarity with the Soviet Government by the way they contributed to the National Defence Fund. The working people of the Soviet Union know that the Soviet Government's resources are immense, but every citizen is imbued with the desire to make a personal contribution to the organized effort to resist the enemy. All the wage and salaried workers in the Soviet Union resolved to contribute to the Defence Fund each month, for the duration of the war, a sum equal to one day's pay. The citizens of the Soviet Union voluntarily surrendered to the government the bonds of loans subscribed to in previous years, thereby reducing the National Debt and enabling the government to float new loans if necessary. The people have also voluntarily surrendered their gold, silver and other precious ornaments; and workers and engineers send back to the bank bonuses and prizes that are awarded them. The collective farmers bring in large quantities of grain, hay and other produce over and above the regular state deliveries. Hundreds of millions of rubles are flowing into the State Bank in the form of voluntary contributions. The fascists' hopes of splitting the ranks of the people of the Soviet Union were scattered to the winds.

Hitler's hopes of being able to keep Great Britain and the United States out of the war he launched against the Soviet Union and of dealing with her single-handed have also collapsed. Shortly before his attack on the Soviet Union Hitler made peace overtures to Great Britain on the pretext that he wanted to crush Bolshevism. Up to that time the world considered that the most despicable act the fascists ever committed was the burning of the Reichstag. But Hitler excelled even this. He declared his right-hand man Hess to be insane in order to cover up a fresh act of perfidy. Hess flew to England ostensibly in opposition to Hitler's wishes. But British public opinion laughed at these

diplomatic acrobatics. On the day he launched his attack on the Soviet Union, Hitler made another attempt to open peace negotiations with Great Britain through von Papen, the German ambassador in Turkey. But that very day Mr. Winston Churchill denounced this wanton and unprovoked attack and exposed the treacherous designs behind it. In his speech the British Prime Minister said:

"Hitler's invasion of Russia is nothing more than a prelude to an attempt to invade the British Isles. He undoubtedly hopes to achieve this before the winter and conquer Great Britain before the United States Navy and Air Force can intervene in the struggle. He hopes to be able to repeat, but on a wider scale, the process of destroying his enemies one by one, as he has been able for so long to do hitherto. After that he will try to subjugate the Western Hemisphere. Consequently, Russia's danger is our danger, and the danger of the United States too, just as the fight that every Russian is waging for his country and his home is the fight of free people and of free nations in all parts of the globe."

Since then a number of diplomatic instruments have been signed which have served to form a mighty coalition against Hitler Germany. The world, which fascism is striving to subdue by attacking each country one by one, is uniting into a force, in the face of which the aggressor is impotent. The unification of the forces of progressive mankind for the struggle against fascist Germany was crowned by the conclusion, on May 26, 1942, between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain, of the Treaty of Alliance in the War Against Hitler Germany and Her Associates in Europe and of Collaboration and Mutual Assistance Thereafter. The treaty is to be in operation for a period of twenty years. On June 11, 1942, an agreement was signed in Washington between the governments of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. on the Principles Applying to Mutual Aid in the Prosecution of the War Against Aggression. Thus, the very thing that Hitler and his disreputable associates feared most, came to pass. Germany must now fight on two or more fronts.

For many years Hitler had been boasting that he would avoid the mistake made by Wilhelm II; that he would compel his enemies to fight on many fronts, but would not fall into this trap himself. Hitler did indeed succeed in crushing some of his victims one by one, but this game has now been checked. At the crucial moment this trick failed, and Hitler now finds himself in the position of Wilhelm II, with all its fatal consequences. Hitler has been caught in his own snare.

Thus, not only has the plan for a "lightning stroke" that was to isolate the Soviet Union failed, but so also has the plan for a "crusade" of the whole of Europe against the Soviet Union.

That mountebank Goebbels, bawling like a circus showman, shouted into the ether that all Europe was marching against the Soviet Union. "The Italians, the Rumanians, the Finns and the Slovaks are with us!" he yelled until he was hoarse. Having gagged the people of the occupied countries, Hitler and Goebbels shouted in their name that they had formed a coalition with them. The whole world is asking:

"In what low kitchen did you learn
This chivalrous trick?"

"Italy is our ally," bawl these "führers," trying with their noise to dispel the doubts and discontent of their own army. But Italy is now only nominally an "independent" country. Italy's colonial empire collapsed in less than six months, and the Kingdom of Italy is now under the heel of Germany. Not long ago, the German fascist rulers, in enumerating the countries they have occupied, put Italy in the same list with Belgium and Holland. The alleged ruler of Italy, who is so fond of brandishing his wooden sword, has long ago been dubbed the "oft defeated Marshal"; and as for his brave warriors, the world says about them: "There is not an army in Europe that has not licked the Austro-Hungarian army; but even the Austro-Hungarian army managed to give the Italians a licking."

Or take fascist Germany's other ally—Rumania, the motto of whose rulers is: "You can get out of any fix if you stoop low enough." The corrupt Rumanian boyars who, like prostitutes,

sell themselves to the highest bidder, acted up to their motto by fleeing from their capital. Or take that "maggot" Slovakia, which is silly enough to dream of annexing an "elephant"—Soviet Ukraine. Or, perhaps, in speaking of his allies Hitler means the veteran warriors in the "Vichy Government," of whose prototypes the poet Béranger wrote in his "Prayer of the Thoroughbred Dogs":

"What care we for *la patrie*?
On the enemy's head let French blood be.
Seeking sops as we would fleas,
We cringe at his feet so as him to please."

Such are Hitler's present and potential "allies." The whole world knows that the downtrodden vassals of Germany are no more his allies than he, Goebbels, Goering and the other fascist gangsters represent the German people.

The pacts concluded between the governments of the Soviet Union, Great Britain, the United States and other freedom-loving countries, constitute a real and formidable coalition of great, independent equal powers, which stand united against Hitler Germany. Hitler's fictitious coalition is confronted by a mighty coalition of nations with an aggregate population of 800,000,000. Scores of millions of people now groaning under the yoke of fascism are hopefully watching the heroic struggle of the Red Army. Their hearts and minds are not with those who want to restore the era of barbarism, but with those nations which have inscribed on their banners the motto: "Liberate the world from the yoke of fascism." And the time is not far distant when they will proceed to act up to this motto by force of arms. Tens of millions of inhabitants of Europe and America who are threatened with the horrors of German invasion welcomed the formation of this mighty coalition with tremendous enthusiasm, for in it they see their shield and protection against the abomination and desolation of fascism. In his radio broadcast on July 3, 1941, Stalin said:

"In this war of liberation we shall not be alone. In this great war we shall have loyal allies in the peoples of Europe and America, including the German people who are enslaved by the

Hitlerite despots. Our war for the freedom of our country will merge with the struggle of the peoples of Europe and America for their independence, for democratic liberties. It will be a united front of the peoples standing for freedom and against enslavement and threats of enslavement by Hitler's fascist armies."

This has come to pass. All the vital and best elements of the human race, all progressive minds, all those to whom independence and democratic liberties are precious, are rallying around the coalition of freedom-loving nations for the purpose of crushing the Hitler fascists.

Already thirty countries have united their efforts in the struggle against the Hitler barbarians. True, the most important thing is not that the resources of the united nations shall exceed the resources of the Hitler bloc; numerical superiority in itself has never achieved victory. The task is to transform these potentialities of victory into real victory. To wish for a thing is not enough. Action is needed to make the wish come true.

Entangled in numerous adventures, with no confidence in his forces and no prospects for the future, Hitler is now faced with the inevitable necessity of having to fight on two or more fronts. Hitler's plans have collapsed.

But Hitler's most serious mistake was his expectation of being able to destroy the man power of the Red Army by a few swift strokes.

A MYTH EXPOSED

Before Hitler Germany attacked the Soviet Union, country after country fell under the blows of the mailed fist of the modern barbarians. By means of force, fraud, and treachery, the Hitlerites succeeded in subjugating a dozen or more European countries. Armies, including the French army, one of the largest in Europe, laid their arms at the feet of the conquerors. Many nations in their despair doubted whether any army in the world was capable of withstanding the assault of 12,000,000 fascists armed to the teeth.

Intoxicated with human blood, arrogant because he had long gone unpunished, and forgetting the lessons of history, Hitler really thought that his army was invincible. When his hordes poured across the frontier of the Soviet Union the whole world held its breath. Even Hitler's enemies in Europe and the United States doubted whether the Red Army would be able to withstand the German war machine. The editor of the New York *Post Meridien*, who was in Moscow in the autumn of 1941, wrote an article for the newspaper *Trud*, of September 5, in which he stated: "Americans were beginning to think that no army in Europe could stop Hitler. . . ."

A few weeks later, however, all progressive mankind breathed with relief. Warriors were found, who, for the first time, were able to check Hitler's hordes and inflict crushing blows upon them. Fighting like lions, the men of the Red Army and Navy are defending their country and, continuing the struggle, are destroying the enemy's man power and material.

In invading the Soviet Union Hitler's army enjoyed a number of advantages. Germany had been at war for two years before

she attacked the Soviet Union. Consequently, she had her army fully mobilized. Over 10,000,000 of her population were under arms. During these two years her industry, which had been organized for war purposes long before the war, was entirely transferred to war production. All branches of her national economy were mobilized for war purposes. All inventions, which up till then had been kept secret, were now put into production on a mass scale.

For two years the fascist army had had opportunities of practising the tactics of modern warfare. Until then soldiers had had no idea of the colossal destructive power of modern war technique. True, all armies were familiar with aircraft, but none had seen concentrations of several hundreds of aeroplanes, or had experienced bombing by numerous squadrons of aircraft flying over an objective in successive waves. In past wars soldiers had seen tanks whose speed did not exceed 20 or 30 kilometres an hour. Those tanks were much lighter than the modern ones, and only once, in 1918, were 400 used in one action, when the British army broke through the German fortifications.

During the two years of war in Europe, the German army obtained striking demonstrations of the enormous destructive power of modern weapons. Hitler's soldiers had become accustomed to the roar and clatter of whole Tank Corps; they had seen hundreds of bombers flying overhead, and had seen the results of their work. They had overcome the strongest fortifications. They had mastered modern fighting tactics and the use of modern automatic weapons. All this was a very important advantage for the fascist army.

An extremely important factor was that the German army had achieved a number of easy victories as a result of a threefold and sometimes greater superiority in numbers. Moreover, the defeat of France was achieved largely as the result of the treachery of her government. The German army had not met with serious resistance anywhere. The German soldiers had trampled the fields of Poland and Norway; they had fought in North Africa; they had waged war in many latitudes. Around the German army was created the myth that it was invincible; and this

myth the fascists assiduously fostered among the German soldiers.

Lastly, an important factor was the very perfidious, wanton and sudden character of the attack upon the Soviet Union. These advantages enabled Hitler to achieve a number of temporary successes.

Under all these circumstances, what was the main task of the High Command of the Red Army? To nullify the temporary military advantages of the fascists; to equalize the fighting conditions, and to enable not the temporary, but the constant factors of the war to come into play.

To fulfil this task, the High Command of the Red Army adopted the tactics of *active defence*. Primarily, this meant fighting for every inch of territory, holding on to every village and town for as long as possible in order to gain time, to bleed the enemy as much as possible, to inflict the greatest possible losses upon him, and to wear down his forces. Staunchly defend every line—such was the order issued to the men of the Red Army. Launch frequent and impetuous counter-attacks in order to wear down the enemy—this was demanded of every unit.

Secondly, the tactics of active defence called for extensive guerilla warfare. The very fact that modern armies are so highly mechanized makes them particularly sensitive to attacks in the rear, to the destruction of roads, the cutting of communications, and so forth.

Thirdly, these tactics called for the timely evacuation of industries and stocks of raw materials and food, so as to leave the enemy nothing of value, and to compel him to transport from Germany, over hundreds of kilometres, everything, right down to nails, and thus make him waste time, transport facilities and man power.

Lastly, in addition to enormously expanding the munitions industry, it was important to produce new weapons, primarily to combat tanks: weapons like fighter planes, anti-tank guns, anti-tank rifles, machine guns, bottles with inflammable liquid, hand grenades, and so forth; and it was necessary to train hundreds of thousands of men to handle these new types of weapons.

Such were the tactics of active defence as opposed to the fascist tactics. They were the tactics of a *popular war* as against the fascist tactics of *total war*.

The fascists mechanically applied in the Soviet Union the tactics they had employed on the battlefield of France. This mechanical application of plans suitable for one strategic situation to an entirely different one already bears within itself seeds of defeat. The fascist Army Command ordered their units to drive forward without necessarily maintaining contact with the units on their flanks, and without waiting to fortify their rear. An Army Order issued at the beginning of the war which fell into the hands of the Soviet Command when the German 27th Armoured Car Unit was captured stated:

" . . . The Second Tank Group, without stopping, must then advance into the region of Smolensk, and by exterminating the Russian troops operating on that side of the Dnieper, open the road to Moscow. . . . Of decisive importance will be an attack with the engines operating at full power. Ignoring danger to flanks, without respite or rest, in day and night battles, it must advance as long as fuel lasts."

The fascists tried to overwhelm the Soviet troops by fierce attacks on different parts of the front. They opened fire with mass concentrations of artillery, without aiming at any particular target. Motorcyclists kept up a continuous machine-gun fire as they rushed along. Many of the infantry fired from automatic rifles from the hip. Trench mortars were placed on motor trucks, and after bombarding one district they were hurried off to another to open fire on the other flank of the Soviet troops in order to make them believe that they were surrounded. To their artillery and trench-mortar fire the fascists added rockets. Their fire is harmless, but they create a flare and a lot of noise. In short, everything was done to terrify the Soviet troops and to create panic in their ranks. The Soviet commanders dubbed this manoeuvre "attacks on the nerves."

But it is precisely the nerves of the Soviet fighters who had taken to arms to defend their country that the fascists had underrated. Intoxicated with their easy victories in Western

Europe, and accustomed to meet with no resistance, Hitler's hordes soon realized that they were up against an entirely different proposition when they felt the impact of the dauntless Red Army. In the very first days of their offensive, the fascists already suffered several unexpected disappointments. For example: on the frontier stood the fortress of Brest-Litovsk. The very fact that it stood on the frontier diminished its strength. Moreover, it was an old fortress, which the Soviet High Command had not had time to modernize. The Germans thought they could capture it with a rush and for this purpose detailed the 45th Infantry Division, which was equipped with nine light and three heavy batteries. In addition, the commander of the 12th Army Corps concentrated on the fortress the fire of the mortar batteries of the 34th and 31st Divisions. The first assault on the fortress failed. On the evening of June 22, a battery of assault guns and a fresh regiment of infantry were brought into action, but even this proved ineffective. Recently, the despatch to Headquarters on the capture of Brest-Litovsk, drawn up by the Staff of the German 45th Division on July 8, 1941, fell into the hands of the Red Army authorities. In this despatch we read the following:

"Where the Russians were beaten or smoked out from the basements of houses, drain-pipes, and other cover, new forces very soon appeared, excellent marksmen, with the result that our losses greatly increased."

The German divisional commander decided to withdraw his forces in order to regroup them and launch another assault, but the Red Armymen immediately launched a counter-offensive and surrounded a section of the fascist forces.

Next day, June 23, all the German attacks were repulsed. The fascists called upon the defenders of the fortress to surrender, but the only answer they received was an intensification of fire. On the fifth day of unexampled fighting, the defenders of the fortress were still offering resistance.

"The focus of resistance," the Staff of the fascist division confessed, "continued to be the Eastern fort. It was impossible to approach this only with infantry, because the excellently

organized rifle and machine-gun fire from the deep trenches and the ditches in the courtyard mowed down everybody who approached. There was only one means of securing a decision and that was by compelling the Russians to surrender by hunger, and that is why it was necessary to resort to every means to accelerate their exhaustion, such as constant and wearying fire from heavy trench mortars, with the object of preventing the Russians from moving along their trenches or in the courtyards, firing point-blank from tanks, calling upon them to surrender through megaphones, or by throwing leaflets in their trenches."

The fascists dropped air bombs on the fortress weighing 500 kilograms, and one even weighed 1,800 kilograms; but this had no effect, the garrison did not surrender. On the ninth day of the battle, the remnants of the garrison fought their way through the besieging line. When the Germans at last entered the fortress, they found, as they themselves admitted, "several mortally wounded Russians and a number of dead Germans lying by their side." The fascists themselves were compelled to pay tribute to the staunchness of the Red Armymen. In the despatch of the 45th Division referred to above, we read:

"An impetuous assault on a fortress occupied by valiant defenders costs a lot of blood. This simple truth was confirmed once again during the assault on Brest-Litovsk.

"At Brest-Litovsk the Russians fought with exceptional staunchness and determination; they displayed excellent infantry training and wonderful power of resistance."

This was the case not only at Brest-Litovsk.

The Soviet units were not deceived into believing that they were surrounded; nor did they give way to panic when in their rear they heard the shout: "Beware, tanks!" as had been the case elsewhere. They coolly allowed the tanks to pass through the gaps in their ranks and then closed in on their rear, thus cutting them off from the German infantry. They then proceeded to destroy both the tanks and the infantry piecemeal. Over and over again Red Army regiments charged at the enemy; and the fascist cutthroats, crying in panic: "Soviet tanks are in our

rear!" threw down their weapons and raised their arms in token of surrender.

Against the mass concentrations of tanks the Soviet Command utilized the concentrated fire of artillery combined with bombing from the air. For the first time in modern warfare mass concentrations of aircraft were used against mass concentrations of tanks. Hundreds of Soviet aeroplanes dropped bombs on German tanks, destroying whole divisions. This was the case with the famous 39th Tank Corps. The fascist tank "daggers" were blunted by the stalwart resistance of the Red Army; their "blades" were broken by the splendid technical equipment of the Soviet forces, and their "hafts"—the mechanized infantry—were greatly damaged by the persistent counter-attacks of the Red Divisions.

The phantom that always haunted the fascist generals, *i.e.*, the danger that the *blitzkrieg* would be converted into a long drawn out war with all the fatal consequences for Germany—became real. In their savage fury the fascists hurled more and more divisions into the holocaust in a desperate effort to bring the war to a speedy conclusion. They could not do otherwise. Hitler can say in the words of Macbeth:

"..... I am in blood
Steept in so far that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o'er;
Strange things I have in head, that will be to hand;
Which must be acted ere they may be scann'd."

In the first two months of the war against the Soviet Union Hitler lost two million men. This is only slightly less than Germany lost on the Eastern Front during three years of war from August 1914 to May 1917. The total casualties at that time were 2,750,000. Thus, in the summer of 1941, the Germans lost more men in a month than they lost in a year in the last war.

As for losses in material, according to provisional estimates, the Germans lost in the first two months of the war 10,000 guns, 8,000 tanks, and 7,200 aeroplanes.

In the same period the Red Army lost 150,000 men killed,

440,000 wounded, 110,000 missing, making a total of 700,000 casualties; 5,500 tanks, 7,500 guns, 4,500 aeroplanes.

Thus, for every Red Armyman the Germans lost three fascists; for every Soviet gun they lost one and one-third guns; for every Soviet tank they lost nearly one-and-a-half tanks, and for every Soviet aeroplane they lost more than one-and-a-half aeroplanes.

The heroic Red Army exploded the legend about the invincibility of the German army. More than that. The Red Army upset all the calculations of the German Army Command and completely wrecked their plans for a *blitzkrieg*. The fascists boasted that in one month they would capture Leningrad and Moscow. In publishing their boastful communiqués about the towns they captured, the fascists always stressed places like Smolensk, for example, which are well known from the history of Napoleon's invasion of Russia. Historical parallels do not prove anything, of course, but sometimes they do help to explain events that take place in our own times. And since the fascists—who are as ignorant of history as they are of all social science—poke their clumsy fingers into the history books, we, too, will trace Napoleon's march along the Smolensk road and compare it with Hitler's.

Napoleon commenced operations on the night of June 23, and entered Smolensk on August 17. He covered the distance in 48 days. Hitler attacked the Soviet Union two days earlier in the month—on the morning of June 22—and occupied Smolensk in a somewhat shorter period. Napoleon's divisions, however, marched at the rate of four or five kilometres an hour, whereas modern mechanized troops can move at the rate of 60 km. an hour. Thus, although capable of moving fifteen times faster than Napoleon's troops, it took the troops of the fascist would-be Napoleon almost as long to reach Smolensk. The verdict of history is therefore against the fascist Command. How powerful must have been the resistance of the Red Army if it compelled an army capable of moving with lightning speed to travel at a rate that was usual for an army 130 years ago! This knocks all the brilliance out of the fascists' "lightning" war. Moreover, in capturing Smolensk Napoleon did, indeed, open

the road to Moscow, whereas for Hitler, even after the capture of Smolensk, the road to Moscow is definitely blocked.

A month after the opening of hostilities the German radio announced that the Soviet Air Force had been completely annihilated. Soon after that announcement was made, however, the inhabitants of Berlin were convinced by the bombs that suddenly rained down upon them that the Soviet Air Force was very much alive. Thus, another of the boastful claims made by the fascist Army Command was proved to be a barefaced lie.

The German Army Command has often announced that the Soviet reserves have been exhausted; but the very persistence with which they repeat this statement gives them away. As the proverb goes: "The wish is father to the thought." No doubt the fascist leaders would very much like the Soviet Government recklessly to throw all its reserves of man power, aeroplanes and tanks into one desperate effort to save some particular point or other. But the Soviet Army Command is cruelly disappointing the fascists. The Red Army is, indeed, fighting for every inch of Soviet soil. Every kilometre of territory won by the Germans is bestrewn with the corpses and drenched with the blood of German soldiers. In frequent counter-attacks Soviet regiments wipe out whole fascist divisions and compel the German Command to draw troops from other sectors. This is admitted by the fascists themselves. For example, the Eastern Department of the German General Staff recently issued a *Memorandum on the Specific Features of the Russian Methods of Warfare*, in which we read the following:

"The military operations of the Red Army always have for their objective the complete extermination of the enemy's man power; every engagement (offensive and defensive) is fought with the object of inflicting crushing defeat on the enemy."

But in mustering increasing reinforcements on the front, the Soviet Army Command does not by any means throw all its reserves under the wheels of the fascist war machine. On the contrary, keeping the prospects of the war well in mind, it is calmly and confidently forming Tank Divisions and aircraft concentrations in places out of reach of the enemy, and just when

the fascists imagine that victory is in their grasp, fresh masses of Red Army troops are hurled against them.

The fight for Smolensk may serve to illustrate how determined and destructive for the enemy are the methods of defence employed by the Soviet troops. The Germans moved vast forces against Smolensk. Thousands of tanks were brought into action. Vast numbers of aircraft were concentrated over the city. The Germans' aerodromes were situated quite close to the Soviet line of defence, and night and day German aircraft hovered over the Red Army lines like swarms of mosquitoes.

The fight for Smolensk lasted thirty days. The city changed hands again and again. A German Tank Division broke through the lines, but was wiped out in the streets of the city. The Soviet long-range artillery and aircraft wrecked the enemy aerodromes. In two days' fighting on the Moghilev-Orsha line 162 fascist planes were brought down. The Soviet small-calibre anti-aircraft artillery worked splendidly; it prevented the Germans from dropping bombs at low altitudes. The Red Army repulsed every enemy attack. In the immediate vicinity of Smolensk it destroyed the 5th and 137th German Infantry Divisions and the 20th Mechanized Division. Near one village, the 20th Tank Division left on the battlefield 700 killed and 200 tanks. Hundreds of thousands of Germans were killed at Smolensk.

The Red Army put up this staunch defence not only at Smolensk, but along the whole front. On the Nevel sector it routed the 253rd and 110th Infantry Divisions. In the Moghilev region, the 11th and 30th SS Divisions were wiped out. Near Gomel the Germans lost 80,000 men and over 200 tanks.

The defenders of Odessa covered themselves with undying fame. This peaceful city which could not be regarded as a fortress even by the longest stretch of imagination, defended itself for nearly 70 days. Against Odessa the Rumanians hurled 18 divisions, but the approaches to the city were so piled up with corpses that the Rumanian ambulances could not take them all away. Thousands of bodies were left to decay until the stench became unbearable. The Soviet Command put up a large board in the front line bearing the following inscription: "To General Stœffl, Commander

of the Third Infantry Division. I propose that we cease fire until you have removed the bodies of your men." At night the Soviet soldiers were obliged to go out and pour chloride of lime over these bodies. Tens of thousands of German and Rumanian soldiers were wounded and the enemy ambulances were unable to take them from the battlefield to render them first aid. A. Fischer, a German army doctor who voluntarily gave himself up to the Soviet troops, related that near the village of Blagoveshchenka, the German and Rumanian ambulance men picked up 900 killed and 21,000 wounded. Within three days 900 of the wounded men died because the German Command had sent no vehicles to take even the severely wounded to the hospital base. Altogether the enemy lost 250,000 men at the approaches to Odessa, and even then they failed to capture it. The Soviet Command withdrew from the city for strategical reasons.

Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, put up a no less heroic defence. On the southern sector alone, the Germans hurled against the city the 44th, 95th, and 299th Infantry Divisions. After concentrating three-and-a-half artillery regiments and hundreds of aeroplanes, the fascists started an offensive from the south on August 8. The attack lasted a whole day, but on August 9, it was checked, and the Soviet forces launched a counter-offensive. The Germans sustained enormous losses. All three German divisions were wiped out. The orders of the German Command, copies of which afterwards fell into the hands of the Soviet troops, referred to the tremendous losses these divisions had suffered and ordered them to be withdrawn to the rear for re-formation. Particularly severe were the losses inflicted on the Germans by the Soviet artillery. The Germans dropped leaflets over the Soviet lines, warning the artillerymen that no mercy would be shown them if they were taken prisoner. "But we don't intend to be taken prisoners," was the Red Armymen's comment as they continued to mow down the enemy.

The Germans also sustained tremendous losses at Leningrad. On July 11, 1941, the fascist radio boastfully announced that the German armoured-car and tank units were approaching Leningrad, and next day the world was solemnly informed that

the Germans would enter Leningrad within the next 24 hours. Over a year has passed since then, but this hero city, the cradle of the Soviet regime, still stands like an impregnable fortress. The Germans have been compelled to go on the defensive.

In the course of three weeks in August 1941, the Germans on the Eastern Front lost 12 tank divisions, 37 infantry divisions, 3 divisions and several regiments of Storm Troops, and many regiments of other divisions. According to the statements of prisoners of war, many companies were reduced to ten or twelve men.

In their dread of the popular war, the fascists have introduced in the regions they have captured, a reign of terror unprecedented for its ferocity. They shoot not only individuals, but inhabitants of entire villages, irrespective of age or sex. They tie collective farmers to two tanks which are started off in opposite directions, thus tearing the victims in twain. They crush civilians with tanks, burn them at the stake or in their homes, or bury them alive. Gangs of drunken fascist soldiery rape women, torment them, and then kill them.

The crimes committed by the fascists are by no means casual excesses perpetrated by individual soldiers and officers, or by undisciplined units. All these atrocities are perpetrated according to the orders and plans previously drawn up by the German government and its military commanders. Some time ago, the original of a secret document signed by Goering fell into the hands of the Soviet military authorities. It is entitled: "Directives for Economic Management in the Newly Occupied Eastern Regions (Green Folder)" and dated June 1941. These "directives" constitute a monstrous plan, drawn up with astonishing candour, to plunder the Soviet people, to convert them into the slaves of the German fascists, and to exterminate their best representatives. There has been no such barbarism in the history of mankind since the times of Genghiz-Khan. In accordance with these instructions, captured towns and villages were given up to the fascist soldiers to be looted. One of the instructions in this document reads as follows:

"Food products as well as articles of household and personal

consumption and clothing found in the front-line zone and in the regions in the rear must be placed primarily at the disposal of the Quartermaster Departments for the satisfaction of the requirements of the troops." (Excerpt from section entitled: "The Supply of the Troops from the Resources of the Country," Chap. I, point 2.)

In conformity with Goering's instructions, the fascist generals deliberately encourage looting. The regular forces are provided with railway cars especially for the purpose of enabling the soldiers to send their loot home. The official German "Memorandum on Captured Property and Food Requisitioned from the Population" contains the following instruction:

"The supreme law for every military unit should be: to utilize to the utmost all local resources. . . . Food products and other materials may be purchased or requisitioned from the local population by order of company commanders, their equals and superiors. Requisitions must be made in a methodical manner. *The proceeds are to be utilized by the unit that makes the requisition.*

When the 68th Infantry Division was routed a number of documents were captured, among which was found the following secret circular addressed to the Commanders of the Propaganda Companies of the German Army. It was dated July 17, 1941, and bore the following File No. UV. 10—43/677.

"It is now necessary once again to emphasize the main task that follows from the specific features of the Eastern Front. Here, to an immeasurably larger degree than on all previous fronts, it is necessary to cultivate among the German soldiers the sense of ruthlessness. No leniency must be displayed towards anybody, irrespective of sex or age. . . . Everything must be done to encourage and develop the initiative of every soldier who, by his actions, must inculcate fear of the German race. . . .

"Propaganda officers must inculcate in every officer and private of the German Army a sense of personal material interest in the war. . . ."

In keeping with their unprecedented perfidy, the fascists added the following instruction to this document:

" . . . In its *direct* form, this instruction is intended only for

Commanders of Propaganda Companies and should not be made public. In official talks with the soldiers and the population, the customary forms should be adhered to."

Having no ideals with which to inspire their youth, the fascists tried to give every soldier a personal incentive to fight by holding out the prospect of loot. The Hitlerites deliberately encourage looting and officially permit their soldiers to retain part of the spoils and share it among themselves. The Hitler army is, as it were, a vast joint-stock company of gangsters, all of whom engage in looting and robbery, the lion's share of the proceeds going to the führers, gauleuters, and other fascist bosses.

His sudden and wanton attack, the tremendous effort he exerted, the inhuman reign of terror and unrestrained plunder brought Hitler no nearer to his goal—the conquest of the Soviet Union. He had to exert still greater efforts and find vast additional reserves. The German fascists hurriedly replaced their forces in occupied countries with Italians and withdrew their troops from France, Holland, Norway and Rumania. Vast quantities of munitions had to be concentrated for another offensive. But this required time, and above all, it required safe lines of communication. Meanwhile, Hitler was receiving information from the districts his forces had occupied that must have sent a cold shiver down his back. In one district Soviet patriots threw burning logs across a railway track and thereby brought a munitions train to a standstill. Then they killed the guard and blew up the train. From other districts came information that railroads had been damaged, or tanks blown up and food, fuel and munition columns attacked and destroyed. The fascists had barely been in occupation of Soviet territory for a couple of weeks when they were made to realize what the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet peoples means.

Among the fascist commanders there must be not a few who remember their bitter experience of the guerilla warfare that was waged against the German troops in Soviet Russia twenty-three years ago. In 1918, the predecessors of the present-day fascists, headed by the half-insane Wilhelm II, who also claimed

that Germany must rule the world, were compelled to flee from the Ukraine and Byelorussia, because the guerillas made life impossible for them. And now the grim phantom of guerilla warfare is again stalking in the rear of the German army. Is this not enough to make the fascists lose their equanimity?

As a result of the formidable resistance of the Red Army in the autumn of 1941, the situation at the front changed very much for the worse for the fascists. Its line of attack was lengthened from 800 km. to approximately 3,000 km. Instead of bounteous fields, the German army found a barren wilderness. All the food stocks had been carted out of the occupied districts; most of the cattle had been driven off, and the towns and villages were almost deserted. For example, before the war, the town of Borisov had a population of 50,000, but, as the Germans themselves reported, only 3,000 remained, and most of these were forcibly rounded up from the surrounding woods and driven back to town.

In the German rear, guerilla fighters cut telegraph and telephone lines, destroyed supply columns, attacked reserves on the march, and hindered the concentration of German forces. The transportation of every ton of oil cost the Germans a ton of oil. During the first two months of the war on the Eastern Front, the Germans consumed over 4,000,000 tons of oil. Their oil reserves were giving out and the Soviet oil resources were still beyond their reach.

The tactics of active defence proved to be exceedingly effective. All Hitler's plans for the "lightning" defeat of the Soviet Union collapsed, and all the airy talk about a "pleasure trip" to Leningrad and Moscow ceased. The entire German press, forgetting its loud boasts, mendaciously declared that the Germans never expected a speedy termination of the war. Typical of the change in the tone and temper of the German army is the following order, which was issued by the Commander of the 489th German Infantry Regiment operating near Leningrad, dated September 25, 1941:

"We are in the midst of a relentless and decisive struggle which will decide the issue—'to be or not to be.'—Every man must realize this, and this must determine every man's attitude towards the enemy."

THE DEFEAT OF THE GERMAN TROOPS NEAR MOSCOW

On October 2, 1941, the fascist army, haunted by fear of a protracted war, launched a general offensive. Hitler concentrated on the Eastern Front almost all his aircraft and tank divisions. He raked up all the tanks that had been captured by the German troops in previous campaigns, had them hastily repaired, and hurled them against the Red Army. He took the arms away from his garrisons scattered throughout Europe and gave them obsolete rifles instead. He mobilized large numbers of German workers employed in the German munitions factories and replaced them by slaves bought in Italy, Rumania and Hungary, or forcibly driven to Germany from Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece and other vassal and subjugated countries. He despatched to the Eastern Front part of the troops of occupation in France, Belgium and Norway and replaced them with regiments consisting of men over age and wounded soldiers still wearing their bandages. He denuded his rear, and made it vulnerable to attack by Great Britain and the other allies of the U.S.S.R.

Hitler also compelled his vassals to send cannon fodder to the Soviet front. He compelled Italy to send forces, threatening, in the event of her refusing, to leave her to face Great Britain alone and thus meet with inevitable defeat. He obtained the support of Rumania by placing at her disposal a large part of occupied Soviet Ukraine, including Odessa. He obtained the support of Hungary by promising her territory in the Ukraine, and making her a present of a stretch of territory carved out of Rumania. One day he gives Hungary what he had promised to

Rumania, and next day deprives both of the promised morsel and threatens to give it to a third party. He promised Salonica to Italy, but secretly transferred it to Bulgaria. Then he tried to tempt Yugoslavia with an offer of that town, while at the same time conducting negotiations for transferring it to Macedonia. Actually it remained in the hands of Germany. The politico-geographical changes made by the frenzied fascist führer were so rapid that the Ordnance Map Department in Germany could not keep pace with him.

The fascist High Command set their troops a complicated strategical task. On the Southern Front they were ordered to capture the Donetz Basin and to break through to Rostov. On this front Hitler concentrated considerable forces, including the tank unit commanded by General von Kleist, whom the fascist press had boastingly dubbed the "invincible."

On the Northern Sector the fascists decided to concentrate a force consisting of several divisions, which was to proceed unobserved through the forests and swamps to the region of Tikhvin with the object of surrounding the Leningrad troops and cutting them off from the rest of the Red Army. The blow at Tikhvin pursued still another important object for the Germans. They were finding it increasingly difficult to supply their forces operating in Finland. The despatch of transports *via* the Baltic Sea encountered the active operations of the Soviet Navy, which zealously sunk ship after ship. Transports sent round Norway took a long time to reach their destination and often encountered the British fleet. By breaking through Tikhvin to Lake Onega, and further to the north, the Germans could send reserves and munitions from the Baltic to Finland by the shortest route. Moreover, by linking up with their forces in Finland, they would be able to exercise greater control over the Finnish units which were already showing signs of wavering and of wanting to get out of the war.

The German troops operating on the Kalinin Front were ordered to break through to Kalinin and further north with the object of threatening to surround Moscow on the one hand, and of cutting the railway to Archangel on the other, and thus cut

off the Red Army from supplies of armaments and munitions from England which were delivered by the northern route.

The main objective of the German fascist troops however was to surround the Soviet troops protecting Moscow and to capture the capital of the Soviet Union.

On October 2, 1941, the day appointed for the opening of the offensive, Hitler issued an Order of the Day to the German troops on the Soviet-German Front in which he said:

"Within a few weeks, three of the Bolsheviks' major industrial regions will be entirely in our hands. At last all the prerequisites are to hand for delivering the last mighty blow, which must lead to the destruction of the enemy before the winter sets in. All the preparations that could humanly be made are complete. This time the preparations were made methodically, step by step, to force the enemy into a position to enable us to strike a mortal blow at him. *Today will begin the last great decisive battle of this year.*"

Two days later Hitler spoke over the radio and made the monstrous claim that all the Soviet troops near Moscow were surrounded and that on the Southern Front the Red Forces were fleeing in disorder.

"The enemy is already crushed, and he will never be able to recuperate his forces!"—this adventurer shouted into the ether.

Dietrich, the Chief of the Press Department of the German General Staff, assured foreign newspaper correspondents on his "word of honour" that the defeat of the Soviet Union was a matter of only a few days. The German newspapers were ordered to leave space in their issues of October 12 for "exceptionally important news," and it was whispered "in secret," to everybody that Moscow was about to fall.

This gigantic offensive lasted thirty days, during which the heroic fighters of the Red Army withstood the enemy's onslaught with matchless courage and staunchness.

On October 19, the State Committee of Defence issued an order declaring Moscow in a state of siege. The working people of the city were called upon to put up a stern defence and to deal

relentlessly with the provocateurs, spies, and other enemy agents. This order, signed by Stalin, read in part as follows:

"The State Committee of Defence calls upon all the working people of the capital to remain orderly and calm and to render the Red Army which is protecting Moscow every assistance."

Under enemy fire the working people of Moscow set to work to build defence fortifications on the approaches to the city. The men of the Red Army were inspired by the iron will of Stalin, and the people of Moscow were imbued with cool courage by the knowledge that Stalin was in Moscow and calmly and with a firm hand directing the struggle. The eyes of the entire people of the Soviet Union were riveted on the capital. Reinforcements hastened up from every side. Munitions came pouring in from the Volga. The Urals sent tanks and trench mortars. Siberia sent her stout lads to reinforce the fighters around Moscow. All over the country the output of munitions took a tremendous leap forward, reflecting the eagerness of the workers to come to the aid of the defenders of their glorious capital.

Moscow, where the Soviet regime was created and consolidated, where all the great historical decisions of the Soviet Government were taken, where Lenin carried on his labours and where Stalin is leading the country today, fought firmly and confidently, keeping the enemy at bay and inflicting enormous losses upon him. From October 12 to October 30, the Germans in the Volokolamsk, Mozhaishk and Maly Yaroslavets directions lost 70,000 killed and wounded, 289 tanks, 198 aeroplanes and 142 guns.

Day after day passed, but the fascist gangsters could obtain no decision. They used up their fuel, their man power was dwindling, but the date of the capture of Moscow was constantly put off. On the plea that unforeseen circumstances had arisen, the German Information Bureau appointed a new date for the capture of Moscow, namely October 25. That date arrived, but the end of the battle for Moscow was not in sight. The mendacious fascist newspaper hacks began to talk about an alleged misunderstanding. They had thought, they said, that the old style calendar was still in operation in the Soviet Union and had fixed

the date for the capture of Moscow according to that. When they said October 25, they actually meant November 7! On that date Hitler arranged to have a military parade in the Red Square.

A military parade was indeed held in the Red Square in Moscow on November 7, 1941, but this was the regular review of the Red Army on the anniversary of the inauguration of the Soviet regime. While the parade was in progress intense fighting was going on around Moscow. The guns roared almost within range of the Red Square. Four or five times during the day air raid alarm signals were sounded. Hitler knew what an important festival November 7 is in the Soviet Union and did his very utmost to make life a misery in the Soviet capital that day. On November 6 alone, 50 fascist bombers were brought down near the city. Judging by the experience of preceding air raids, the fascists lose an average of 10 per cent of the planes participating in a raid. On this basis we may assume that on this one day no less than 500 German planes tried to get to Moscow.

In this tense situation a meeting to celebrate the anniversary was held in Moscow on November 6, attended by 2,000 representatives of the workers and the armed forces of Moscow. On the morning of November 7, a military parade was held in the Red Square, in which all arms of the service participated. At both the meeting on November 6 and at the parade on November 7, J. Stalin, the leader of the people of the Soviet Union spoke, uttering words of encouragement and inspiration, breathing conviction that victory would be on the side of the Soviet people. The very parade itself was a striking demonstration of the immensity of the Soviet Union's reserves, for in this Square, in the city around which fierce battles were raging, tens of thousands of men were mustered. It was a magnificent demonstration of the coolness of the people of the Soviet Union and of their firm confidence in ultimate victory.

In his historic speech at the meeting on November 6, Stalin stated that a turning point had been reached in this just war for liberation, that the fascist plans for a *blitzkrieg* had collapsed. True, the danger threatening the country had increased since July 3, when he delivered his last speech, but events had proved

that the enemy's plans had been based on sheer miscalculation. The enemy would not succeed in breaking the resistance of the Soviet Union. His strength was oozing out, whereas the strength of the Soviet Union and of the entire anti-Hitler coalition was growing. The defeat of the fascists was inevitable.

At the military parade on November 7, Stalin said:

"The enemy is not so strong as some frightened little intellectuals imagine. The devil is not so terrible as he is painted. . . . Germany is losing blood, her reserves of man power are giving out, the spirit of indignation is spreading not only among the people of Europe who have fallen under the yoke of the German robbers, but also among the German people themselves, who can see no end to the war. The German robbers are straining their last efforts. There can be no doubt that Germany will be unable to stand such a strain for long. Another few months, another half-year, perhaps another brief year, and Hitler Germany is bound to burst beneath the weight of its crimes."

Stalin's speeches inspired the men of the Red Army to perform new feats of heroism. They sounded like a tocsin calling for a war of extermination against the German fascist invaders.

Infuriated by his failure, Hitler, on November 16, on the 147th day of the war, launched a second general offensive against Moscow. Against Moscow alone he hurled 51 divisions—18 tank and mechanized divisions and 33 infantry divisions. Against Moscow alone he hurled more armoured-car and tank forces than he had hurled against the whole of France.

On November 10, Hitler issued another Order of the Day to his troops in which he again announced the last "decisive" offensive. "The road is clear," he said, "for the crushing and final blow that will smash the enemy before the beginning of the winter."

One of the greatest battles in history was fought near Moscow. The number of troops and the quantity of technique hurled into this battle far exceeded anything man could have conceived of before. This time the fascist Command decided to break through to Moscow not by a frontal attack, but by flanking movements from the North and South. They intended to capture

Tula and advance on Kashira and Ryazan, so as to cut off the capital on the East, from where reinforcements for the Red Army were brought up. Their intention was to grip Moscow in a mighty pair of pincers.

Having become steeled and more mature in battle, the Red Army wore down the forces of the enemy by frequent counter-attacks and checked their violent onslaught. Deeds of unprecedented heroism were performed by the men of the Red Army during this titanic battle. For example, twenty-eight men of Panfilov's Guards Division, led by Political Officer Klochkov, defended a line against which the enemy hurled 54 tanks. This unequal battle lasted for four whole hours. With machine guns, anti-tank rifles and bottles of inflammable liquid they destroyed 18 enemy tanks. Some of these hero Guardsmen were killed, but the remainder, bleeding from numerous wounds, kept up the fight. At last, all were killed, but they had kept those tanks at bay until reinforcements arrived, and the enemy, battered and bleeding, was repulsed.

Five Red Armymen from the unit commanded by Captain Andreyev rushed a German trench and bayoneted a large number of fascists. Four of the heroes were killed. The fifth, Private Shmelev, was wounded. A German non-commissioned officer, wearing two Iron Crosses, saw Shmelev lying in the trench and pounced upon him with the intention of killing him. Gathering his last ounce of strength, Private Shmelev tore the automatic out of the German's hands, knocked him down, bound his arms with a machine-gun cartridge belt, pulled him to his feet by his coat collar, and piling the automatic and the cartridges on him, led him to the Red Army unit.

Tankists and infantrymen, artillerymen and cavalrymen, automatic-riflemen and machine-gunners, all emulated each other in deeds of heroism; all burned with but one desire, and that was to destroy the enemy.

In the course of an attack in the region of Yakhroma a battalion belonging to the unit commanded by General Shevtzov came under the cross-fire of enemy machine guns placed in the basement of a brick house. Every attempt on the part of the Red Armymen

to advance was met with a galling fire. These guns had to be silenced in some way or other. Private Kichigin volunteered to do it. He crawled up to the house, dragging a box of explosives with him. He placed the charges in position and blew the house up. The fascist machine-gunners perished. Kichigin was killed too, but the road for the advancing Soviet battalion was cleared.

The men of the Red Army gained experience in these battles, learned the tactics of the enemy, and displayed initiative and skill in counteracting them. For example, one of the units commanded by General Govorov was attacked by fascist infantry accompanied by 40 tanks. In a matter of 10 or 20 minutes the Red Armymen put up a barricade nearly half a mile long consisting of logs torn from wrecked peasant houses, as well as brushwood and straw, and set fire to it. The fire burned for two hours, the flames rising to a height of six or seven feet. It was a fiery obstacle through which the fascists dared not pass. They kept up an aimless fire for a time and at last were compelled to turn and drive parallel to the barricade, thus exposing their vulnerable flanks to the Soviet artillery. Of the 40 enemy tanks, 25 were wrecked.

The heroic resistance and frequent counter-attacks of the Red Army broke the impetus of the fascist offensive. Day after day its tempo diminished. In the first days the fascists advanced 10 to 20 kilometres a day, but later this was reduced to 2 or 3 kilometres, and at the end of November their advance could be calculated in metres. Every inch of soil around Moscow was carpeted with fascist corpses, mown down by the fire and bayonets of the defenders of Moscow.

From November 16 to December 6, 1941, Hitler lost in killed alone, 55,170 men; but he failed to capture Moscow. At the cost of gigantic effort the fascist troops succeeded in reaching the approaches to the city in several places. In the North-West, they succeeded in capturing Klin and Solnechnogorsk; in the South they made a detour of impregnable Tula and reached the town of Kashira. This was the most critical moment in the battle. Moreover, the fascist forces commanded by General

Schmidt captured Tikhvin, and in the South, the Hitlerites captured Rostov.

Saying nothing about their failure near Moscow, the Hitlerites raised a howl of exultation over the capture of Rostov. "Now," they bawled into the ether, "the road to the oilfields of the Caucasus is open." Hitler's generals even began to distribute the Soviet oil among the fascist army units; and the fascist diplomats began to press neutral countries to go over to the side of Germany which, they claimed, now possessed all that was needed to vanquish the whole world.

But before the echoes of these cries of exultation died away news came that the Germans had evacuated Rostov. Quickly re-grouping its forces on the orders of the Soviet High Command, the Red Army drove the fascists out of Rostov and pursued them westwards to Taganrog. This victory was achieved by the very units which the fascist radio had announced as having been exterminated, and by the very same commanders whom the Berlin radio claimed had been surrounded and captured.

At Rostov, the men of the Red Army became more than ever convinced of the justness of Stalin's observation that "the devil is not as terrible as he is painted." The battle of Rostov proved that the Red Army was still capable of taking the offensive.

On many other sectors of the front, however, Hitler's forces were still advancing. They were still advancing near Moscow, but much more slowly, and with much greater effort. The fascist Command still blew their trumpets over every step forward they took. The *Danziger Vorpost*, of December 7, 1941, reported that the Moscow broadcasting station had been silent since December 5, and that Soviet news was being broadcast from Kuibyshev while claiming to be broadcast from Moscow. But Hitler failed to realize that the Soviet victory at Rostov marked a turning point in the war. Saturday, November 29, became "Black Saturday" for Hitler. Inspired by the Rostov victory and Stalin's telegram congratulating them on it, the men of the Red Army passed to the offensive. They defeated the fascists at Tikhvin and occupied that town, thereby frustrating the Germans' attempt to link up with the Finns. At Kalinin the Red Army crushed the enemy's

resistance, reached the south bank of the Volga, defeated the German army there and liberated the town. The Red Army also inflicted a crushing blow on the fascist hordes near Eletz.

On December 6, the Red Forces near Moscow passed from the defensive to the offensive. They succeeded in surrounding a number of enemy divisions and broke the points of the tank daggers which tried to break through into their rear on the extreme flank. The defeated and disorganized fascist divisions hastily retreated, abandoning guns, automobiles, tanks, and thousands of killed, wounded and frozen men.

From November 16 to December 10, the Red Army captured and destroyed—exclusive of what was destroyed by Soviet aircraft—1,434 tanks, 5,418 motor trucks, 575 guns, 339 trench mortars and 870 machine guns. During these 24 days the Germans lost directly near Moscow 85,000 men and officers in killed alone.

Every day brought news of fresh successes achieved by the Soviet troops. Nearly the whole of the Moscow Region was liberated. The occupation of Kozelsk by the Red Army marked the beginning of the liberation of the Smolensk Region. In a number of places the Germans were not only retreating, but in full flight. The Red Army captured vast quantities of war material and liberated hundreds of inhabited centres. During the Red Army's 40 days of continuous offensive from December 6, 1941, to January 15, 1942, the fascists lost 300,000 men and officers in killed alone. The Red Army captured sufficient arms and ammunition to equip a score or so of divisions; 4,801 guns, 3,071 trench mortars, 3,000 machine guns, 15,000 automatic rifles, over 90,000 rifles, 2,766 tanks, over 300 armoured cars, 33,640 motor trucks, 2,000,000 shells, over 30,000,000 cartridges, etc., etc.

The victory of the Red Army over the German forces near Moscow was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by all progressive people throughout the world, and streams of congratulations addressed to Stalin came pouring in from all sides. The press of the freedom-loving countries declared that this was the greatest defeat the fascists had suffered since the beginning of the war.

The defeat of the Germans near Moscow had a stunning effect

upon Germany. At first, the fascist press tried to hush up the events near Moscow. The fascist newspaper hacks wrote a great deal about the situation in Libya and the war in the Pacific; and all the big and little Goebbelses resorted to every possible device to conceal from the German people the defeat suffered by the German army near Moscow. The fascist censorship worked at full pressure; soldiers' letters from the front were held up. But in spite of all this, the rumours about the frightful losses sustained by Hitler's army penetrated the country. Prices on the German Stock Exchange began to fall. The fascist press was obliged to adopt a different tone. At first, the German Information Bureau reported that "fighting of a local character" was taking place on the Eastern Front, but as the pressure of the Red Army increased, it admitted that "the enemy was making fierce attacks." This referred to the very divisions of the Red Army which this Information Bureau had so often reported as having been defeated and captured. Then the fascists began to complain about the winter, which they alleged had prevented them from capturing Moscow. Thus, the Hitlerites themselves were obliged to admit defeat even though in a veiled form.

Exposing the clumsy attempts of the fascists to blame the climate for their defeat, the Soviet Information Bureau issued the following statement:

"The Germans are complaining about the winter. They state that winter prevented them from capturing Moscow. In the first place, winter has not yet really set in near Moscow, for the temperature is still only from 3 to 5 degrees below zero. Secondly, these complaints about the winter show that the Germans had not taken the trouble to supply their army with warm equipment, although they had proclaimed to the whole world that they had been ready for a winter campaign long before. And they failed to supply their army with winter equipment because they hoped to bring the war to an end before the winter. Obviously, the Germans' hopes have been dashed to the ground. Here the Germans made a grave and dangerous miscalculation. But this miscalculation cannot be attributed to the winter conditions of the campaign. It is not the winter that is to blame, but the organic

defects in the work of the German Command in planning the war."

The Germans took frantic measures to save the situation. Hitler dismissed General von Bok, the Commander of the Central Sector of the Eastern Front, thus throwing the blame for the defeat on him. The German Command hastily reformed the defeated divisions, reduced them to separate battalions and sent them to the front to hold up the Red Army's advance. Parachute forces, tank forces, signalmen and technical forces were sent to the front as infantry. In this way the German Command not only lost its technique, but also its trained technical forces of which it was already feeling a shortage.

The defeat at the front immediately affected the morale of the German soldiers. There were many cases of whole platoons surrendering in a body.

Haunted by the fear of utter defeat, Hitler dismissed General Brauchitsch, and forgetting that for two years the fascist press had attributed Germany's successes to the fact that Hitler was directing military operations, appointed himself Commander-in-Chief of all the fascist armed forces. In connection with this, he delivered a speech to the country, but he no longer spoke about victories, and no longer promised to bring the war to an end that year, or in any particular year. He merely told the people he had duped about new difficulties that had arisen. He appealed to the soldiers to increase their resistance and pleaded with the people not to desert their "leaders." •

The defeat of the Hitlerites near Moscow utterly dispelled the myth about the invincibility of the German fascist army.

The enemy began to lose the advantages he enjoyed at the beginning of the war. He lost the advantage of having his forces mobilized and his industries placed on a war footing. By this time, the industry in the Soviet Union had been placed on a war footing. The Hitler army lost the advantage of skill in modern methods of warfare. The Red Army had become steeled in terrific battles. It had mastered the enemy's tactics and had learned how to counteract them. New Red Army units were formed, and the entire Red Army became a seasoned force. In a

number of sectors the Red Army robbed the enemy of the initiative and extended its offensive in new directions.

The enemy lost a great part of his war material, and what is more important, a large part of his man power. Millions of the marauders and cutthroats who constitute the German fascist army were destroyed on different sectors of the front.

The whole world admitted the growing power of resistance of the Red Army and more and more confidently declared that it, together with the armies of Great Britain and the United States, backed by all the freedom-loving nations, will once and for all put an end to Hitlerism, the worst enemy of mankind.

To understand what lies at the root of the Red Army's strength and staunchness, and why it is able to put up such a powerful resistance, one must know its history and character of its organization.

THE RED ARMY AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GERMAN INVADERS

1. GERMANY'S ATTACK ON SOVIET RUSSIA IN 1917-18

The Red Army came into being in the course of the struggle against German invaders. When power in Russia was taken over by the Soviets in November 1917, the first World War, which had started in 1914, was still in progress. German troops were lined up on the frontiers of Russia from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Wilhelm II and his clique thought they could take advantage of the weakness of the young and newly organized Soviet state to achieve their plan to conquer the world. The German panther crouched, ready to spring upon the Land of Soviets. Foreseeing the danger, the Soviet Government set to work to organize its armed forces.

The old army left over from the tsarist regime could not serve as a basis for the new army, which had to be organized on entirely different lines.

On January 28, 1918, Lenin signed a decree ordering the formation of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army. Only workers and peasants were eligible for this army. Its first cadres consisted of the units of the Red Guards that had brought about the revolution. Thousands of soldiers who had been schooled in warfare at the front served as the reservoir of its man power.

At first, the Red Army was a voluntary army. Lenin and Stalin deemed it necessary to demobilize the old army and to allow the men return to their homes. They wanted the millions of peasants, of whom the bulk of the army was composed, to take a direct part in building the new social system and to become

convinced by their own experience that the Soviet Government was protecting the vital interests of the working people. They were sure that after this the vast masses of the people would back the Soviet Government against all enemies with renewed vigour and confidence. Until that had been achieved it was premature to introduce compulsory military service. Hence, in the first stages the Red Army was necessarily a voluntary army. The men themselves elected their officers from among the bravest and most worthy in their ranks.

On February 14, 1918, two weeks after the promulgation of the decree on the formation of the Red Army, the Council of People's Commissars issued a decree ordering the formation of the Red Navy.

Considerable time was needed, however, to organize the armed forces. To obtain a respite, the Soviet Government opened peace negotiations with Germany.

At that time Germany and her allies were in a serious plight. Exhausted by three years of war, Germany was starving, and looked forward to the prospect of a fourth year of war with horror. The Soviet Government's offer of peace promised salvation to the starving German people. But the German rulers had other plans. Hypocritically agreeing to start negotiations, they intended to take advantage of the Soviet Government's offer to further their predatory interests. •

They accepted the proposal to open peace negotiations and assured the Soviet Government that they did not desire territorial or material aggrandizement and that they were prepared to withdraw from the Russian districts they had occupied. Speeches were delivered in the Reichstag proclaiming Germany's peaceful intentions, and the columns of the German newspapers were filled with eulogies of the "democratism" of the German rulers. But on the evening of the very day on which the German diplomats had formally associated themselves with the Decree on Peace issued by the Soviet Government, when the peace delegation of the two governments met in Brest-Litovsk, General Hoffman, the German delegate, cynically declared that the German troops would not be withdrawn from any part of Russian

territory they occupied. All the flamboyant speeches and declarations about Germany's peaceful intentions were intended only for "foreign consumption." Their purpose was to deceive public opinion and to enable the German imperialists to pose as peace-makers. The fact is that long before the peace negotiations the German rulers had drawn up a map on which they had marked off the territory they intended to hold. At the peace conference the Germans submitted an ultimatum demanding the surrender of Poland, Lithuania and the parts of Byelorussia they had occupied during the war against tsarist Russia.

During the negotiations Soviet Russia, though without an army, practically unarmed, nevertheless tried to guard the interests of Great Britain and the United States, the allies of former Russia in the war against Germany. In submitting its peace terms, the Soviet delegation strongly insisted on the condition that Germany must not transfer her troops from the Eastern to the Western Front. This demand almost led to a rupture of the negotiations. General Hoffman, the head of the German delegation, was in a perfect fury about it. He declared that only victors could make a demand like that, "but it is sufficient to look at the map to see who the victors are in this case," he said. In view of Germany's refusal to concede this demand the Council of People's Commissars ordered the Soviet delegation to refrain from signing the armistice. Subsequently General Hoffman wrote: "The Russians attached great importance to the condition that the German forces located on the Eastern Front should remain where they were and not be transferred to the Western Front."

The firm position taken by the Soviet delegation compelled the German *bloc* to yield, and by way of a compromise it was agreed that there shall be no movement of troops, except of those which had already started. True, General Hoffman boasted afterwards that he had agreed to this because most of the German troops on the Eastern Front had been transferred to the West before the negotiations had opened. "That is why," he wrote, "I could readily assure the Russians that during the armistice no troops would be sent back to the Western

Front except those which had already received orders to return."

This merely illustrates the cynicism of the German conquerors; the Soviet delegation had done its utmost to perform its duty.

Before submitting their ultimatum to the Soviet delegation the Germans established contact with the counter-revolutionary Ukrainian nationalists. At that time the Ukraine was entirely Soviet; the Soviet flag waved all over the country. The troops of the Ukrainian Central Rada, as the counter-revolutionary government of the Ukraine had been called, were utterly routed. The Rada controlled only a small area around Zhitomir. But it promised the Germans grain, sugar and meat if they gave them military assistance in their fight against the Soviet Government. These traitors were ready to place their country at the mercy of the alien conquerors if the latter helped them to oust the Bolsheviks. During the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk a delegation from the Ukrainian Central Rada arrived. Behind the backs of the Soviet delegates the Germans entered into negotiations with this delegation. This was like concluding a treaty with the dead, for the Ukrainian Central Rada represented nobody. It had neither territory nor a people in whose name it had a right to speak. But, as Shakespeare said, the devil can quote Scripture, and the Germans, claiming that they were recognizing the independence of the Ukraine, concluded this treaty with these corpses in order to cover up their predatory plans. Having these traitors to fall back on, they, on February 9, 1918, demanded that the Soviet peace delegation should accept their peace terms, failing which they threatened to resume hostilities.

Trotsky, the head of the Soviet delegation, acted in a treacherous manner. In spite of Lenin's categorical instructions to conclude peace, he made a forensic declaration to the effect that Soviet Russia would neither conclude peace nor wage war; she would not conclude peace, but would demobilize her army. The Germans drew their own conclusions from this. On February 16, they declared that they would commence hostilities on February 18, if their terms were not accepted by that date. This was a piece

of downright bad faith, for by the terms of the armistice they should have given seven days' notice of their intention to resume hostilities.

At midday on February 18, the Germans opened artillery fire along the whole front. Nearly thirty German divisions advanced against Soviet Russia all along the line from the Baltic to the Black Sea. In the North they marched through Latvia and Esthonia to Reval, and thence to Narva, threatening Petrograd from the North-West. German divisions occupied Dvinsk and marched on Pskov in order to approach Petrograd from the South-West. The Germans launched an offensive against Byelorussia, the frontiers of which were thrown open to them by the counter-revolutionary Byelorussian Rada. By arrangement with the Ukrainian Central Rada the Germans marched on Kiev, and the Austro-Hungarian troops marched on Odessa.

In December 1917, the Rumanian boyars tore up all their treaties, deserted Great Britain and France, went over to the side of the Germans and with their aid occupied Bessarabia.

The German troops marched in column formation with a vanguard consisting of cavalry and armoured cars. The remnants of the old Russian army failed to withstand the attack and retreated far into the hinterland. The German hordes captured a vast quantity of war material in the shape of guns, machine guns and rifles, and in the first week of their wanton attack they seized territory equal to that of Germany, France and Italy put together, and more than they had seized during the three preceding years of war.

In the North the German invaders hastened towards Petrograd. To facilitate the capture of what was then the Soviet capital, their spies endeavoured to raise an insurrection in the city. Thousands of Germans who had been taken prisoners of war by the old Russian army appeared in the streets of Petrograd. They had received secret orders from the German spies to concentrate in the capital from various parts of Central Russia. Many of them even came from distant Siberia. They were to rise in revolt as soon as the German forces approached the city.

On February 21, 1918, Lenin and Stalin proclaimed a

state of emergency. In the declaration they issued on behalf of the Council of People's Commissars they said that Germany's intention was to crush the Russian and Ukrainian workers and peasants and to restore the Russian monarchy. They called for the concentration of all the efforts and resources of the country on the task of combating the invaders. They appealed to the workers and peasants to defend every inch of their ground to the very last and to shoot on the spot all those who betrayed the slightest sign of treachery.

Stalin issued an order to all towns in the war zone to blow up bridges and to evacuate everything of value, all locomotives industrial machinery, etc. "Leave the enemy nothing," said Stalin in his order.

In Petrograd, Lenin and Stalin nipped in the bud the insurrection which the German agents were fomenting. In one night thousands of German prisoners of war were rounded up, put into trains and shipped far out of Petrograd.

The whole country responded to the call of its leaders. Units of the Red Army were despatched to the front from Moscow; the workers of Tula, Ivanovo-Voznesensk, Yaroslavl and Tver took to arms. In Narva, on which the German troops were marching, the soldiers of the old army proclaimed their adherence to the Red Army, and took up positions at the front. In Petrograd the following telegram was received from Lugansk signed by Voroshilov:

"The Lugansk Soviet has decided to reduce the bread ration by a quarter of a pound and to send the stocks of flour thus saved to Petrograd. A Red Army is being formed which will be ready to march anywhere it is ordered at a moment's notice. I shall remain here to organize a unit with which I shall go to the front."

When the Germans occupied Pskov, not more than eight hours' journey from Petrograd, it seemed as though they would be able to advance to the capital without meeting with any resistance: But this was not to be; beyond Pskov the German imperialists for the first time came into collision with its future grave-diggers. The conquerors encountered the warriors whom

history had entrusted with the mission of destroying German imperialism.

The German vanguard, not expecting the slightest danger, marched forward carelessly and was attacked by Red Forces which had hastened from Petrograd. The Germans were defeated in the very first battles and turned back to Pskov, losing a considerable quantity of material. The Red Forces displayed the same prowess near Narva. Even the enemies of the Soviet Government were compelled to admit that the Red Army-men were fighting with amazing courage and staunchness. A French officer who witnessed the attack reported to his Ambassador that the Red Army fought as well as the best regiments of the old army. That officer did not know that many of the Red Army-men were handling weapons for the first time.

The young Red Army received its baptism of fire and came through the ordeal with flying colours. Since then, February 23, the date on which the attack against the German invaders was launched, has been celebrated in the Soviet Union as the festival of the Red Army and Navy, during which it is always stressed that the Red Army came into being in the course of the struggle against German invaders.

For ten days the Germans could not move a step. Their "triumphant march" was checked. Their "pleasure trip" became a long and arduous campaign. Meanwhile, in the West, Great Britain, the United States and their allies were preparing for an offensive.

The heroic resistance to the German imperialists put up by the Red Army at the front and the collapse of the plot to raise an insurrection in the rear convinced the invaders that Soviet Russia could not be vanquished by a lightning stroke. They therefore halted their offensive against Petrograd and agreed to conclude peace, which was signed in Brest-Litovsk on March 3, 1918. This time the peace terms were even more harsh than those the Germans had offered in February; but the Soviet Government accepted them because the Soviet people needed a respite in which to restore their industries and build up an efficient Red Army.

On March 12, 1918, the Soviet Government was transferred to Moscow, which since then has been the capital of the Soviet Union.

2. GERMANY'S OCCUPATION OF FINLAND, UKRAINE AND BYELORUSSIA

Although they had concluded peace, the German invaders did not cease hostilities, they hastened to encircle Soviet Russia with a hostile ring. First of all they entrenched themselves in Finland, whence they could easily threaten Petrograd. Moreover, nearly the whole of the Baltic Fleet was concentrated in Finnish ports, and the German imperialists hoped to be able to capture it.

The Red fleet was stationed in Helsingfors. The commanders of the ships, mainly old naval officers, gave them up for lost. The sea was covered with ice and it was impossible to get to Kronstadt, they said, and the Germans were advancing in the rear. But the sailors were determined to save the fleet. On the orders of Lenin and Stalin the Baltic Fleet weighed anchor and began to push its way through the ice of the Gulf of Finland. On March 13, four battleships, the *Petropavlovsk*, *Gangut*, *Sevastopol* and *Pollava*, and the cruisers *Rurik*, *Admiral Makarov* and *Bogatyr*, put out to sea accompanied by two ice-breakers. The ice was as much as a foot thick, and often the ships were held fast and had to be cut out by the ice-breakers. Meanwhile, the Germans bombarded the vessels from the shore. The passage took five days, during which the crews had not a wink of sleep. The old naval officers marvelled at the men's fortitude and endurance. They did not appreciate the fact that these were the sons of the people fighting to save their own ships.

On March 17, the first units of the fleet at last arrived in Kronstadt. Soon they were followed by the rest. The submarines had the worst time of it; they could make their way through the ice only very slowly. The heroic crews kept constant watch, noting the changes in the ice drifts, and whenever the ice began

to close in all hands were called to save the boats from being crushed.

The Germans failed to capture the Baltic Fleet. In the course of a month over 200 vessels were restored to the Soviet state. Later, a large section of the sailors joined the Red Army.

Notwithstanding her undertaking to cease hostilities, Germany advanced against the Ukraine and Byelorussia, declaring that she did not recognize the Soviet Government in these regions. She wanted to seize the Ukraine in order to lay her hands on the abundant food supplies there. She also hoped to get at the coal in the Donets Basin, and to march through the Don and Kuban regions into Transcaucasia to the oilfields of Baku. It was also her ambition to pass through the Ukraine to India and so threaten the British Empire. She needed the Ukraine as a base for the struggle against the Soviet regime and for the dismemberment of the Land of Soviets. "Divide and rule!"—the motto of the ancient Roman Empire, became the guiding rule of the German imperialists. Kaiser Wilhelm candidly told the representative of Ataman Krassnov, the head of one of the counter-revolutionary governments in the South of Russia, that he "wished to have Russia divided into four or five groups: Central Russia, Ukraine, a South-Eastern Federation, Transcaucasia and Siberia."

Over 300,000 German troops inundated Byelorussia and the Ukraine. In the train of the German troops came the puppet governments that the Germans set up for the different regions. The Central Rada, which the people of the Ukraine had spurned as traitors, was reinstated. Separate "governments" were set up for the Don, Kuban and Terek Regions and for the North Caucasus Region. On March 1, 1918, the Germans occupied Kiev, and on March 13, the Austrians entered Odessa.

The Ukrainian people proclaimed a popular war against the foreign invaders. The Ukrainian Red Army consisting of the factory workers of Kharkov, the miners of the Donets Basin and the workers of other towns of the Ukraine, fought like lions for every inch of their native soil. And in this heroic struggle they were supported by units of the Russian Red Army consisting of workers from Petrograd and Moscow who had come to

the assistance of their Ukrainian brothers. Hard pressed by an enemy ten times its superior in numbers and equipment, the Red Army retreated and abandoned towns, but often took the offensive and recaptured them. On March 17, the Germans captured Nikolayev; but a few days later the workers of the town forced them out again. The Germans then bombarded the town for three days and recaptured it. The bulk of the workers broke through the German lines and joined the Red Forces.

On March 20, the Germans occupied Kherson, but on the 23rd, the Red Forces in conjunction with the workers inside the town drove them out. For two weeks these heroes repulsed the attacks of the German troops, and only on April 5 did they surrender the town, half of which had been destroyed by the long bombardment.

Large numbers of the miners of the Donets Basin went to the front under the command of Kliment Voroshilov, a worker from Lugansk. When the Germans entered the Ukraine Voroshilov issued an appeal to the workers to take to arms to resist the invaders. The First Lugansk Workers' Unit was formed 600 strong. Under the command of Voroshilov the unit encountered the Germans at Dubovyazovka. Insufficiently trained and badly armed, the men were unable to withstand the fire of the German artillery and were obliged to retreat, but in conjunction with other units they kept on beating off the attacks of the Germans.

Voroshilov introduced stern discipline in the Lugansk Unit and this staunch and class-conscious body of workers became the nucleus of a large fighting force. On April 16, the government of the Donetz Soviet Republic appointed Voroshilov Commander of the Fifth Army. Beating off the attacks of the enemy, and often launching crushing counter-attacks, the army retreated from the Ukraine. Voroshilov decided to force his way through to Tsaritsyn to join the Red Army. On May 1, he had his forces concentrated at the railway junction of Likhaya when the Germans began to surround the district. In spite of the heavy German artillery fire he succeeded in extricating his whole force from the enemy ring. In addition, he managed to save and take with him a large quantity of valuables as well as industrial machinery and equipment.

Then commenced the famous Voroshilov march to Tsaritsyn. Night and day, for six whole weeks, the column marched, beating off the attacks of the Germans and the raids of the White Cossacks. The army reached Chirskaya, on the River Don, and found that the Whites had blown up the bridge; the broken span was lying in the water fifty metres below. Voroshilov ordered the bridge to be repaired. To do that it was necessary to dam part of the river and then to build a stack of sleepers fifty metres high upon which rails could be laid. To build the dam an enormous quantity of earth was required. The superintendent of the work was asked how much earth would be required and he replied, pointing to a large hill in the vicinity: "We must shift that hill into the river."

The men set to work with right good will, but it was an arduous task. Often they had to lay aside their axes, saws and shovels and take up their rifles to beat off the attacks of the Whites. The work was carried on under constant enemy fire. Eventually the job was done and by the beginning of July the army safely reached Tsaritsyn.

3. THE GERMAN DRIVE TO THE CRIMEA, DON AND TRANSCAUCASIA

After occupying the Ukraine the Germans made a drive for the Crimean Soviet Republic. They needed the Crimea in order to entrench themselves on the Black Sea Coast. From the Crimea they could send troops to Transcaucasia by sea. Moreover, they wanted to capture the Black Sea Fleet. On April 18, they took Perekop. The Crimean Red Forces fought valiantly against the invaders. An active part in the struggle was taken by the first Black Sea guerilla unit in which machine-gunner Semyon Timoshenko—the son of a small peasant—was first platoon commander and then squadron commander.

A counter-revolutionary insurrection broke out in the rear of the Crimean Red Army; the insurgents arrested and shot the members of the Crimean Soviet Government. On April 22, the Germans captured Simferopol and advanced on Sevastopol,

where the Black Sea Fleet was stationed. The men, however, were determined to save the fleet, and on April 30, under a hail of German shells and bullets, they put out to sea and sailed for Novorossiisk.

The Germans occupied the Donets Basin and then advanced to the Don. On May 2, 1918, they captured Taganrog, which was in the territory of the Russian Soviet Republic, with whom Germany was supposed to have concluded peace. But the German imperialists thought no more of respecting treaty obligations than their fascist successors do now.

From Taganrog the German troops together with the Whiteguard forces marched to Rostov-on-Don. In the Don Region the Germans set up a puppet government headed by the tsarist general Krasnov, who in 1917, during the Great October Revolution, had marched with Kerensky against revolutionary Petrograd. In the Ukraine they set up a similar government headed by the tsarist general Skoropadski.

The Germans hastened to the North Caucasus to capture Novorossiisk, where the Black Sea Fleet had gone. The Commander-in-Chief of the German forces sent an ultimatum to the Soviet Government demanding that the fleet be sent back to Sevastopol on the plea that the fleet had operated against the German troops in the Ukraine and should therefore be dismantled. At the same time they despatched troops from the Kerch Peninsula to march to the Kuban; German submarines appeared at the mouth of Novorossiisk Bay, and German hydroplanes flew over the fleet. The cruisers *Goeben* and *Hamadie* were ordered to put out to sea and open fire on the fleet. Thus the Soviet Black Sea Fleet was in danger of being cut off and compelled to surrender. Lenin and Stalin gave orders to sink the fleet. Far better that it should be sent to the bottom of the sea than allow it fall into the hands of the Germans, they said.

The sailors, however, could not find it in their hearts to sink their own ships. For many months they fought the German and Turkish cruisers and held their own; but eventually supplies gave out. Spies penetrated among the sailors and began to agitate in favour of surrendering the fleet to the Germans. The

admiral of the fleet, Tikhmenev, proved to be a traitor. He took the battleship *Volya* and a number of torpedo boats to Sevastopol and surrendered them to the Germans. The majority of the sailors, however, decided to obey the order of Lenin and Stalin. On June 18, the crews again saw German aeroplanes hovering over the fleet. Here and there on the horizon the periscopes of German submarines were visible. The torpedo boat *Kerch* then approached the torpedo boat *Fidonisi* and fired a torpedo into her. The boat went to the bottom. On the other torpedo-boats the men opened the Kingston valves and let in the water. As the boats listed they opened the sky lights on the sloping decks and then took to their boats. No sooner had the men left their vessels than the turbines blew up. Every sinking ship flew the signal: "I perish, but do not surrender." Seven torpedo boats were thus sunk. The *Kerch* then approached the battleship *Svobodnaya Rossiya* and fired three torpedoes into her. The magnificent vessel kept afloat for 37 minutes as if reluctant to go down. The *Kerch* then made for Tuapso. On the morning of June 19, the men took to the boats, but before leaving the ship they issued the proud radio message: "To all! To all! To all! Perished after sinking a number of the vessels of the Black Sea Fleet which preferred to go to the bottom rather than shamefully surrender to Germany. Torpedo boat *Kerch*."

The sailors of the Black Sea Fleet obeyed the order of the Soviet Government. The fleet perished, but did not surrender. The sailors went off to the front to fight the enemies of the revolution, to shed their blood so that their country may have the opportunity to build another fleet. Thus, thanks to the vigilance of the Soviet Government and to the courage and discipline of the Soviet sailors, the German invaders failed to capture either the Baltic or the Black Sea Fleets.

The occupation of the Crimea enabled the Germans to organize a base of operations against Transcaucasia. Their avaricious eyes had long been turned towards the oil and manganese resources of the Caucasus. Furthermore, they regarded Transcaucasia as a stepping stone to the invasion of Persia and India, and therefore a base of operations against Great Britain. Enver

Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish troops, withdrew part of his forces from the Mesopotamian front, where they were fighting against British troops, and transferred them to Transcaucasia with the object of seizing Baku. He launched an offensive and occupied a number of Soviet towns and villages in Transcaucasia. The Soviet Government in Moscow sent a sharp protest to the German government against the Turkish march on Baku, but the German government treated this protest as cynically as they treated all international law. They replied that "enquiries have shown" that Baku was not being threatened by regular Turkish troops, but by "local brigands." The Baku workers took to arms to repel the foreign troops.

The German troops entered Tiflis, the capital of Georgia, and were immediately used to suppress the revolutionary insurrection of the workers and peasants. In conjunction with the Menshevik troops, the Germans massacred thousands of insurgents. The German Army Command took control of the railways, and Georgia practically became Germany's colony. After occupying Georgia the invaders made preparations to capture Baku.

4. THE GERMAN OCCUPATION

The German imperialists surrounded Soviet Russia with a close ring from the Arctic Ocean to the estuary of the Don. They occupied Finland, and from there threatened Petrograd. They held Poland, Esthonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, the Crimea and the Don. They helped the Whiteguards to occupy North Caucasus, and, as has been already stated, they advanced into Transcaucasia.

In Pskov, they organized a North-Western Army of Russian Whiteguards for the purpose of capturing Petrograd. General Hoffman, the German Commander-in-Chief, like Cato exclaiming "Carthage must be destroyed," called for an advance on Moscow to overthrow the Soviet regime. German imperialism threatened Soviet Russia in the North-West, the West and in the South. The Germans captured enormous booty.

The German diplomats searched among the innumerable

relations of Kaiser Wilhelm II for kings to place upon the thrones of Lithuania, Poland, and Finland.

The German government in Berlin controlled Western Europe and a considerable part of Eastern Europe. The German newspapers boasted about the invincibility of German arms. The neutral countries in Europe gradually turned towards Germany. In the summer of 1918, Germany seemed on the verge of conquering the whole world; and Kaiser Wilhelm already had the map of the world re-drawn. Very few people in Germany realized that these were only Pyrrhic victories, and that this exultation was only a "feast in the midst of a plague." Nobody saw the virus that was already eating into the body of the German empire.

The gorged beast then lay down to digest the prey it had hastily devoured. The German imperialists imposed a yoke upon the nations they had subjugated that was even worse than that of the Mongol invaders; for those mediæval conquerors never resorted to such methodical and systematic plunder and to the cool and calculated extermination of nations as the Germans were doing. The German barbarians drained the subjugated nations of literally everything. They waded up to their knees in blood and stalked ever mountains of corpses. Wherever they went they left a trail of smoking ruins, of horror and desolation.

In response to the call of the Bolshevik Party the workers and peasants in the occupied districts took to arms to fight the German conquerors. The Bolsheviks in these districts, working underground, organized and directed a guerilla movement. They taught the masses how to fight the invaders and roused them for a life and death struggle against them. In March 1918, Stalin, in an article about the events that were then occurring in the Ukraine wrote:

"Against the foreign yoke imposed from the West, Soviet Ukraine has proclaimed a patriotic war of liberation; this is what the events now taking place in the Ukraine show. This means that as a result of the desperate resistance of the Ukrainian people the Germans will have to fight for every pood of grain, and for every scrap of metal."

The fight against the invaders was waged everywhere, night

and day. Guerilla groups were formed, which destroyed the German army's lines of communication; they tore up rails, wrecked bridges and dislocated the transport system. They set fire to stores and blew up ammunition trains. At night the sky was lit up with the lurid glow from the flames of burning hay stacks and granaries that the Germans had seized from the inhabitants. The guerillas even made their way into the occupied cities and attacked the German garrisons in their barracks with hand grenades.

The German troops had no rest, night or day. Repeated raids by guerillas held them in a constant state of tension and alarm. They were made to feel the full force of the burning hatred of the people. German soldiers did not dare to leave the boundaries of villages they occupied except in large groups. German troops were moved only in large columns equipped with numerous machine guns and artillery. The German Command had boasted that their campaign against Soviet Russia would be a walkover, a pleasure trip; but this trip proved to be the funeral procession of German imperialism.

The resistance of the Red Army and the general deterioration of conditions in Germany due to the prolongation of the war in the West served to undermine discipline among the German forces and gave rise to discontent and disintegration in their ranks. Cases of insubordination became more and more frequent. The German Army Command tried to combat this by bringing fresh forces to the occupied regions. The result of this, however, was that the new forces were soon infected with the same spirit of decay, while the forces that were transferred to the Western Front spread the germs of disintegration there. The man power of the German war machine broke down.

THE FIRST PATRIOTIC WAR OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE

THE FORMATION OF THE RED ARMY

While the Ukraine, Byelorussia, the Baltic countries and Transcaucasia were groaning under the tyranny of the German invaders, a new social system was being built up in Soviet Russia, and to be able to protect it, the Soviet Government devoted special attention to the organization of the Red Army. Units, regiments and divisions were formed in all the important centres of the country. The volunteers were chosen with very great care. Every volunteer had to bring recommendations from his local Soviet of Workers' Deputies, or from other public organizations.

The liberated nationalities in the Federation of Soviet Socialist Republics took an active part in the formation of the Red Army. Under the auspices of the People's Commissariat for Nationalities, of which Stalin was the head, separate national units were formed, such as the Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Tatar, Kirghiz, Armenian, Chechen, and others.

On April 8, 1918, the Council of People's Commissars issued a decree establishing Military Commissariats in every Volost, Uyezd, Gubernia and Region for the purpose of recruiting men for the Red Army. The strength of the Army and Navy and of their different units was definitely fixed. Military training was conducted all over the country. In the large cities Officers' Training Corps were organized. The members of the Communist Party in every unit were organized to form the leading nucleus of the unit.

The man power of the Red Army was splendid. It consisted of the best elements of the people who were passionately devoted to their country and ready to lay down their lives for the Soviet regime. From the military point of view, however, they were still raw. Many of them had never handled a gun before, but they only wanted proper training to become a magnificent army. Shortly before the decree on the formation of the Red Army was issued Lenin wrote:

"It has been said that Russia cannot fight because she lacks officers; but we must not forget what these very same bourgeois officers said when they saw the workers fighting against Kerensky and Kaledin: 'Yes, technically, these Red Guards are no good; but if these people had a little training they would make an invincible army.' This is because for the first time in the history of the world struggle elements have joined the army which do not bring with them stock ideas, but are inspired with the ideal of fighting for the emancipation of the exploited. And when the task we have undertaken is completed, the Russian Soviet Republic will be invincible."

The Red Army had hardly any trained commanders, and the question of training such became very urgent. The history of war shows that it takes years to train a body of efficient commanders, and the enemies of the Soviet Republic declared that the Soviet Government could never cope with this problem. They were mistaken. The Soviet Government succeeded in overcoming even this fundamental difficulty in the work of building up an army.

On April 22, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee issued a decree on "Methods of Promotion in the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army." This decree abolished the system of electing commanders and introduced the principle of appointment.

The first company and battalion commanders to be appointed were former members of the Workers' Red Guard who had acquired experience in fighting against the Germans. Many non-commissioned officers of the old army were also promoted to the position of commanders in the Red Army. This, however, did not

solve the problem of filling the higher commands, where the shortage of suitable men was particularly acute. The Soviet Government therefore decided to enlist the services of the officers of the old army. This was a risky step, for many of the old officers were hostile to the Soviet regime. Moreover, to quite a number of these old officers gold was more precious than the interests of Russia, and they sold themselves to her enemies. Many officers hesitated to join the Red Army because they feared that the Soviet regime was unstable.

It was therefore necessary to set up an organization that would forestall attempts at treachery, convince the wavering, and assist the honest and loyal commanders. The Soviet Government established such an organization in the shape of the Military Commissars. Military Commissars were appointed to all regiments and divisions of the Red Army, to all ships of the Navy, to army hospitals and supply departments. They were regarded as the representatives of the Soviet Government and the Bolshevik Party in the different military and naval units, and were vested with wide powers. They served to maintain close and inseparable connection between the Red Army and the Workers' and Peasants' Government. They unremittingly watched the activities of the military experts and ruthlessly nipped every attempt at treachery in the bud. But they also helped to make the best use of the old military experts and assisted them in their work. They helped to maintain discipline and encouraged the men in their military training. They were also responsible for the work of political education in the army. They formed schools to teach the men to read and write—for illiteracy was then widespread in Russia—and explained the political situation to them; who were the country's enemies, and what their aims were.

The Red Army grew numerically. Three months after the German offensive was checked, 450,000 volunteers had joined its ranks.

The Soviet Government had hoped to take advantage of the respite obtained after concluding peace with Germany to reorganize the country's industry; but the respite was a short one. Though overthrown by the revolution, the counter-revolutionary

parties, such as the Constitutional-Democrats, the Socialist-Revolutionaries, the Mensheviks, the Anarchists and the bourgeois nationalist parties, continued their struggle against the Soviet regime. They engaged in sabotage, wrecked machinery, damaged goods, hatched anti-Soviet plots and fomented insurrections among elements that were discontent with the Soviet regime. They were assisted by a large number of officers and generals of the old army, who organized rebellions of the kulaks or capitalist farmers, and of the upper ranks of the Cossacks. But these internal enemies of the Soviet regime were impotent without outside aid, and this they received from certain West-European governments. These governments wanted to see the old regime restored in Russia, for they imagined that the old regime would continue the war against Germany. In this they were entirely mistaken. The former landlord and capitalist government of Russia had no intention of continuing the war. Documents taken from the secret archives with which the whole world is now familiar have proved that the tsarist government had entered into negotiations with Germany for the conclusion of a separate peace in order to have its hands free to deal with the growing unrest among the workers and peasants at home. It is also common knowledge that the Provisional Government that was established after the tsar was deposed was also not averse to concluding peace with Germany, and that some of its Ministers, like Milyukov, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, definitely proposed that the Germans be called in to assist the government in fighting the Russian people.

Thus, in the first half of 1918, two counter-revolutionary forces united against the Soviet Republic: the home and the foreign. A horde of enemies threatened the young Soviet Republic. Obviously, a force of less than half a million volunteers was inadequate to meet this danger. The Soviet Government therefore decided to introduce universal military service for the workers and the poorest strata of the peasantry, and, in the beginning of June 1918, the first enrollment was announced. The reasons that had prompted the introduction of the voluntary principle in forming the Red Army had now passed away. The soldiers of the

old army had returned home. They had recuperated and were taking an active part in the work of building up the Soviet state. The peasants had received land, and for the first time for many centuries were cultivating it for their own benefit. The masses of the people had become convinced that the Soviet regime protected their vital interests. The workers and peasants were aware that their enemies desired to rob them of their land and liberty and to restore the slavery of former days. The soldiers who in 1918 had "voted with their feet" against the continuation of the war, that is to say, had simply deserted from the front *en masse*, were now—encouraged by the example of the workers who were organized and led by the Bolshevik Party—eager to march against the enemy. The necessary machinery for carrying out mobilization had also been set up by this time, and all the able-bodied population had been registered and assigned to their respective recruiting stations.

On July 10, 1918, the Fifth All-Russian Congress of Soviets met. This Congress resolved to introduce compulsory military service. This meant the mobilization of a vast force; and this in turn created a very acute demand for trained and efficient staff officers. To meet this the Fifth Congress of Soviets ordered that wide resort should be made to the services of the military experts of the old army. It recommended that all military experts and officers of the old army should be registered, and that the honest and conscientious among them should be invited to take part in developing the military power of the Soviet Republic. The Congress at the same time uttered a warning that military experts who attempted to take advantage of the responsible posts they held for the purpose of organizing counter-revolutionary plots or acts of treachery on behalf of the enemies would be sternly punished.

The enlistment of tens of thousands of military experts of the old army called for an increase in the number of Military Commissars. Actually, the fate of the army was in the hands of these Military Commissars, and only men of irreproachable character, who had proved their devotion to the cause of the people, were appointed. Their energy, inflexible will and deter-

mination served to strengthen the army. Stalin drew up a *Manual for Regimental Commissars* in which he defined their functions as follows:

"The Regimental Commissar is the political and moral guide of his regiment; the first protector of its material and spiritual interests. While the Regimental Commander is the chief of the regiment, the Commissar must be its father and its leading spirit.

2. STALIN IN TSARITSYN

The war that was forced on the Soviet Republic was a long and extremely intense one. It lasted from the summer of 1918 to late in the autumn of 1920. Enemies advanced against the Republic on all sides. The Whiteguard forces of Admiral Kolchak, and of Generals Denikin, Yudenich, Miller, and others, were in occupation of the Russian Far East, the whole of Siberia and the Urals, the Caucasus and the Ukraine. Enemy troops advancing from the South had reached Tula, a matter of about 200 km. from Moscow. Byelorussia, the Baltic countries and the North were occupied, and enemy troops were at the gates of Petrograd. The territory controlled by the Soviet Government was considerably less than that of sixteenth century Russia. The Soviet Republic was cut off from food resources, from the coal of the Donetz Basin, and from the oil of Baku. The people were starving.

In different parts of the country spies and enemy agents organized rebellions. The Whiteguards drenched the country in blood. Wherever they succeeded in establishing their power they reinstated the tsarist laws. They sold the country to foreigners piecemeal. Oil, ore, lumber and steamships were shipped abroad. Everybody foretold the imminent collapse of the Soviet regime. More than once reports appeared in the foreign press that Petrograd had fallen and that the fall of Moscow was only a matter of days.

But the Soviet Government did not flinch. The Communist Party roused the whole people for a war of liberation. All over the country units of the Red Army were formed. Tens of thou-

sands of Communists—over two-thirds of the Party membership—went to the front. Referring to this period in later years Lenin wrote:

“What did we do in the more dangerous periods of the Civil War? We concentrated the best forces of our Party in the Red Army; we mobilized the best of our workers, we went in search of new forces at the sources where our dictatorship was most deeply rooted.”

The trade unions mobilized their members; the workers of the central industrial regions, the cradle of the Russian proletariat—the metal workers of Petrograd, the textile workers of Moscow, the gunsmiths of Tula, the weavers of Yaroslavl— — took to arms.

The youths and girls who were organized in the Young Communist League followed their example. All the Young Communist Leagues in the war zone joined the army. On the doors of Young Communist League committee rooms one found everywhere the notice: “Closed. Everybody gone off to the front.”

The vast masses of the peasants rallied around the Soviet Government, declared themselves mobilized and volunteered to go to the front. No less eager and enthusiastic were the workers and peasants of the various nationalities in the Soviet Republic. A continuous stream of reinforcements flowed to the war zone. As Stalin wrote: “It was sufficient for the Soviet Government to issue a call for help for the front, for Russia to furnish in an instant a whole army of fresh regiments.”

The whole struggle was directed by Lenin and Stalin. Lenin maintained direct telegraph and telephone communication with all parts of the front, receiving reports and giving necessary instructions. For the purpose of concentrating all the forces of the country, on November 30, 1918, a Workers' and Peasants' Council of Defence was formed, of which Lenin was the head. This Council dealt with all matters connected with the war, such as the mobilization of industry and all sources of supply, transport, and particularly the formation and reinforcement of the Red Army. Lenin issued passionate appeals to the people to exert every effort to vanquish the enemies of the Republic. Every meeting he addressed, in every report or lecture he deliv-

ered, he called for greater effort in building up the Red Army. "With a strong Red Army," he said, "we are invincible. Without a strong army we shall inevitably fall victims to Kolchak, Denikin and Yudenich."

Lenin watched every step the enemy took. Thoroughly familiar with the laws of social development, he saw through the strategical designs of the enemy and took measures to frustrate them. He closely watched the course of the struggle on every front and at the first signs of danger he at once took measures to avert it. He immediately ordered reinforcements to be sent to the threatened sector; he ordered a special mobilization of the members of the Communist Party and thousands were sent to the front; he issued a call for volunteers and tens of thousands responded.

Wherever the fate of the Soviet Republic was in the balance, where the situation was critical, or where it was necessary to deliver a decisive stroke, Lenin invariably placed Stalin in command. It was Stalin who drew up and carried out the plan of operations that eventually brought about victory.

One of these crucial moments was the defence of Tsaritsyn in the summer of 1918. Tsaritsyn, now called Stalingrad, was then a relatively small town. It was not even the Gubernia capital. But a number of circumstances served to make it a centre of vital importance. The Germans were then in control of the Ukraine and the Don Region, and the Whiteguards were in control of Siberia. Russia was thus cut off from the principal grain districts and the population was literally starving. The only places from which grain could still be obtained were the Lower Volga and North Caucasus. Here, the ring around Soviet Russia had not yet been closed. If the enemy succeeded in capturing Tsaritsyn, the ring would be closed. To organize the defence of this vital spot and to obtain grain for the starving population, Stalin was commissioned to go to Tsaritsyn.

He arrived there on June 6, 1918, and set to work to carry out his mission with his accustomed vigour. The task of obtaining grain was an extremely difficult one. The railway had long been in a state of disrepair. There was a shortage of freight

cars. Over and over again gangs of Whiteguards blew up the railway track. The Socialist-Revolutionary and Menshevik officials who were working in the food supply organizations sabotaged the orders of the Soviet authorities, carried on counter-revolutionary agitation among the peasantry, and helped the kulaks to conceal their stocks of grain.

In Tsaritsyn itself Stalin found the situation very strained. A large number of capitalists and ex-army officers who had fled from Moscow and Petrograd had concentrated in the town and were here plotting against the Soviet regime. Whiteguard units were closing in on all sides. The defences had been organized by unreliable officers of the old army, among whom were down-right traitors, like Nosovich, the Chief of Staff, who subsequently deserted to the Whiteguards.

Stalin chose a number of men who were capable organizers and had proved their boundless devotion to the country and sent them to the various regiments of the Red Army and to the factories. An extensive political campaign was conducted among the workers, the peasants, and the soldiers in the garrison and at the front.

Stalin's iron will overcame all obstacles, and in spite of the incredible difficulties, trainloads of provisions were soon sent off to Moscow. In June alone, no less than 2,000 carloads of grain, meat and fish were despatched. One can imagine the effort this must have cost if we remember that the food supply figure for the whole Republic for that month was only about 4,000 carloads.

The regular supply of grain for the country, however, was prevented by the critical military situation. The Germans ordered General Krassnov, whom they had set up as the dictator of the Don Region, to capture Tsaritsyn, so as to enable them to fortify their position on the Don and cover their left flank, and thus ensure their safe advance towards Transcaucasia, Iran and India. At the end of July 1918, Krassnov mustered his forces and took up a position from which to launch an offensive. He had at his command 27,000 infantry, 30,000 cavalry, 610 machine guns, 175 field guns, 20 aeroplanes and several armoured trains. Against this force the Red Army could muster 35,000 infantry,

3,500 cavalry, 260 machine guns and 100 field guns. Thus, the Whiteguards had nearly ten times as many cavalry, two-and-a-half times as many machine guns and nearly twice as many field guns as the Red Army. In the wake of the White forces followed a long train of wagons for the purpose of carrying away their expected booty.

Stalin set to work to organize the defence of Tsaritsyn. He speeded up the reorganization of the military units that had arrived under the command of Voroshilov, and appointed the latter Commander-in-Chief of the forces in and around Tsaritsyn. He got wind of a plot that was being hatched by Nosovich, the Chief of Staff, to raise a rebellion in Tsaritsyn timed to break out just as Krassnov's Whiteguard forces were approaching. He therefore ruthlessly combed out the Staff Headquarters, and dismissed wavering and unreliable officers. He reported to Lenin that many of the military experts were useless and that many were reluctant to fight the counter-revolutionaries to whose class they belonged. In this report he stated:

"I consider that I have no right to regard matters with indifference. . . . I shall correct these and many other shortcomings on the spot; I am taking a number of measures—even to the point of removing the officials and commanders who ruin matters—and shall continue to do so, in spite of formal difficulties, which I shall brush aside when necessary. It is understood that I assume full responsibility before all higher bodies."

When Krassnov's hordes rushed upon Tsaritsyn to carry out the Kaiser's orders, they found themselves confronted by the staunch and invigorated ranks of the Red Army. On August 18, the White Cossack Forces closed the ring around the town. The defeat of the Red Forces seemed inevitable; but the defenders of Tsaritsyn were led by Stalin. The factory sirens sounded the alarm. Workers streamed from the factories to military headquarters—where rifles and ammunition were served out—and marched to the fighting zone. All the able-bodied male population from the age of 18 to 40 was mobilized. In the Tsaritsyn Military Area five categories of men were mobilized for the Red Army. Thousands of women joined the men in the firing line.

Work in the armament factories went on night and day, the workers standing at their machines wearing their cartridge pouches and keeping their rifles close at hand. Often the gates were opened and guns were hauled in for repairs straight from the firing line with the barrels still warm. The workers immediately set to work to repair them, and before the gunners had time to rest and take a bite, the job would be done and the guns hauled back again into the firing line.

The Whiteguard offensive broke against the steel wall of the defenders. Attack after attack was repulsed with heavy losses. Skilfully manœuvring, the Red Forces launched counter-attacks where the enemy least expected. Worn down by these unexpected attacks, the ranks of the White Cossacks broke; and they fled from the field—with the wagons they had brought with them to carry away the expected booty trailing behind them. On August 25 and 26 they retreated to the Don with the Red Forces in hot pursuit.

The victory at Tsaritsyn eased the situation on the Volga Front. The Red Army, reinforced by Communists from Moscow, Petrograd, Ivanovo-Voznesensk, Yaroslavl and other industrial centres, relieved Kazan and Samara. The Volga became a Soviet river.

In October 1918, Krassnov made another attempt to surround and capture Tsaritsyn, but again he failed. Inspired by Stalin's iron will, Tsaritsyn held out. Tsaritsyn was saved by Stalin, and for that reason is now called Stalingrad.

Under Stalin's leadership the Tenth Army—the main force that defended Tsaritsyn—became hardened and experienced in battle and provided the Red Army with seasoned cadres. It was at Tsaritsyn that Voroshilov, now Marshal of the Soviet Union, displayed his talents as a military leader; and here, too, Marshal of the Soviet Union, Semyon Budyonny, a former non-commissioned officer of the old army, revealed his capabilities as a commander.

3. THE DEFENCE OF PETROGRAD

While the Red Army was fighting successfully at Tsaritsyn and on the Volga, Germany suffered defeat in the West.

On the Western Front the Allies, assisted with war supplies from America, were inflicting heavy defeat upon the Germans. The German army was worn out by continuous war and enfeebled by the struggle waged against her by Soviet Russia. Its strength as a fighting machine was palpably giving out. The German Command might have put up a better resistance to the attack of Great Britain, France and the United States had they mustered all their forces, including those in the occupied zones of Soviet Russia; but the avaricious German imperialists clung to their booty, and would not withdraw their forces from Soviet Russia. This undoubtedly weakened Germany's resistance in the West and hastened her defeat. In November 1918, revolution broke out in Germany and in Austro-Hungary. This double blow of revolution in the rear and the Anglo-French offensive at the front caused Germany's collapse. At 11 a.m. on November 11, artillery fire ceased. The war in the West was over.

Defeated in the West, the German rulers, inevitably rushing to their doom, continued to cling to their booty in the East. They offered the Allies the use of their army as a police force in the occupied regions of Soviet Russia. In this way they hoped to obtain concessions from the victors at Russia's expense.

As a result of the blows delivered by the Ukrainian insurgents and units of the Red Army, however, the morale of the German army of occupation, about 300,000 strong, completely broke down. The officers lost all control over their men who fled in panic, abandoning their artillery and their booty. With dwindling numbers, starving and in rags, the German army, like the miserable remnants of Napoleon's hordes, retreated in disorder, harried all the way by the insurgents and the Red Army.

The Red Army then proceeded to clear these regions of German troops, and by the spring of 1919, the Baltic countries, Byelorussia and the Ukraine were almost entirely liberated.

The respite that Soviet Russia obtained as a result of these successes was not of long duration, however. Another formidable enemy appeared in the shape of the army of the Whiteguard Admiral Kolchak. Kolchak forcibly mobilized the young men of Siberia and formed an army over 300,000 strong under the com-

mand of former tsarist officers. About 140,000 men of this force were at the front. In addition, 200,000 foreign troops guarded the Siberian railway, fought the Red guerillas and protected Kolchak's rear.

Kolchak was not alone in attacking Soviet Russia at that time. In the South, General Denikin advanced against her with an army of 200,000 men. Of these, over 70,000 were at the front. In the North, General Miller was preparing for an offensive with an army of 65,000 men, many of whom were foreign soldiers who had not managed to return home. In the North-West, General Yudenich stood quite close to Petrograd with an army of about 12,000 men which the Germans had formed. Along the Western frontier were lined the forces of Finland and Poland, as well as the Whiteguard Esthonian and Lettish units which had not been entirely routed by the Red Army in the spring of 1919. These Western countries diverted a considerable part of the Soviet forces from the Eastern and Southern Fronts. Poland alone had an army of 100,000 men.

Thus, in the spring of 1919, Soviet Russia again found herself surrounded by a ring of counter-revolution, and this time the danger was much more serious than it had been in the autumn of 1918. The Red Army was faced by a combined force of over 1,500,000 men. The Red Army consisted of 1,400,000 men, of whom only 450,000, equipped with 2,000 guns, were concentrated on the various fronts.

The Soviet Army Command was concentrating all its efforts and attention upon the Kolchak front. The country's slogan at that time was: "Everything for the fight against Kolchak!" But just as preparations were in hand for an offensive against Kolchak on the Volga and in the Urals, the so-called North-Western Army, under the command of General Yudenich, supported by White Finnish and Esthonian forces, launched an attack on Petrograd.

Judging these events today, after a lapse of over twenty years, we can say that this was a manoeuvre based on the expectation that the Soviet Command would be taken by surprise. At that time Lenin and Stalin were not yet in possession of the enemy's plans. Meanwhile, the enemy forces were approaching the city in

which was concentrated over ten per cent of the country's industry. To surrender Petrograd meant opening the road to Moscow. On the other hand it was impossible to withdraw large forces from the Kolchak front, for that would have jeopardized the very existence of the Soviet regime. The government decided to hold fast to Petrograd and sent Stalin to organize the defence.

Stalin left for Petrograd on the night of May 17. On his arrival he investigated the situation at the front and in the rear and learned that a Whiteguard plot was being hatched. He immediately took measures to nip it in the bud. He ordered a number of units of Baltic Fleet sailors and Red Armymen headed by Political Commissars to surround the district where the plotters had concentrated and to search every house. The men found over 4,000 rifles and several hundred revolvers; in the Rumanian Embassy they even found a three-inch gun. All this proved that this was not a plot hatched by a small clique, but by a widely ramified enemy organization.

These measures frustrated the enemy's efforts at espionage and sabotage. Stalin drew up a very brief, concise and clear order to all Red Armymen in which he explained the various forms of espionage and sabotage resorted to by the enemy. This order proved very effective in increasing the vigilance of the Red Armymen. On one section of the Petrograd Front, for example, a deserter was caught. He was searched and a packet of cigarettes were found on him. Under ordinary circumstances the Red Armymen would have taken the cigarettes and smoked them. But this time they decided to investigate, and in one of the cigarettes they found a note rolled up signed "VIK." This note was addressed to General Yudenich and contained the password of the plotters. This served as a clue for unraveling the whole plot. It transpired that in it were involved a number of high commanders of the Seventh Army that was defending Petrograd, including the Chief of the Air Force, the Inspector General of Artillery, and the Chief of the Radio Service, all ex-officers of the former tsarist army. Stalin purged Army Headquarters of these traitors, appointed firm and determined Political Commissars to work with the General Staff and sent political instructors to the various units of

the army. These measures proved very effective in creating a healthier morale at the front.

Stalin also undertook the task of restoring the Baltic Fleet and appointed Commissars to all the ships. Here, too, a gang of plotters were operating. As naval experts they urged that the large vessels should be dismantled on the plea that they consumed a large quantity of coal, which, of course, was then very scarce, and they proposed that the battleships should be converted into floating batteries. Stalin, however, managed to obtain increased supplies of coal and thereby helped to keep the fleet intact.

While concentrating all his efforts and experience on organizing the defence of Petrograd, Stalin did not forget the danger represented by Kolchak. He insisted that the government should continue to direct its main forces to the East, for serious as the situation was in Petrograd, he argued, the preparations for the offensive against Kolchak must be continued and no large forces should be withdrawn from the East. In a letter to Lenin, he wrote:

"Kolchak is the most serious enemy, for he has sufficient territory in which to retreat, sufficient man power for his army, and a hinterland where there is an abundance of grain. Compared with Kolchak, General Rodzyanko is a mere fly, for the latter has no grain, no hinterland, no territory in which to retreat and insufficient man power. Therefore, *under no circumstances* should troops be withdrawn from the Eastern Front to the Petrograd Front in such numbers as might put a stop to the offensive on the Eastern Front. All that we need for the purpose of driving Rodzyanko to the Esthonian border (and we need not go any further) is one division, the withdrawal of which would not put a stop to the offensive on the Eastern Front. Please pay particular attention to this. . . ."

The measures taken by Stalin thwarted the plans of the Whiteguards. The Red Army succeeded in checking the enemy's advance and then launched a counter-offensive. At the beginning of June, the Whiteguard Army Command realized that their position was becoming hopeless and therefore decided on a last desperate throw, *i.e.*, to accelerate the insurrection in Petrograd which

they had planned to raise only when their forces had reached the very gates of the city. On June 11, the Whiteguards withdrew their forces from the central sector, concentrated them on the Finnish Coast and there launched an offensive. On June 12, they advanced on the fort of Krasnaya Gorka where, it turned out, a mutiny against the Soviet Government had been prepared. The mutineers sent a radio message to the Whiteguard Command stating: "Krasnaya Gorka is in our hands." Then they sent an ultimatum to Kronstadt calling upon that fort to join them, threatening to bombard it if it did not. Fifteen minutes after they had presented their ultimatum the traitors opened fire. That day the forts Seraya Loshad and Obruchev joined the mutiny.

On learning of this treachery Stalin took heroic measures. In the course of a day special units of sailors were formed to attack the mutineer forts. Stalin himself went to the front and held a Council of War to discuss the plan of attack. The military experts expressed the opinion that according to all the rules of war the Krasnaya Gorka and Seraya Loshad could only be attacked by land as they were invulnerable to attack by sea.

Stalin, however, decided to act contrary to these old traditions. He gave orders for battleships to be called out to bombard the forts. The *Petropavlovsk*, *Andrey Pervozvanny* and other battleships took up their positions and opened fire. The mutineers did not expect this blow. They, too, followed the old traditions and expected an attack by land. As soon as the bombardment commenced their attention was divided. The naval units formed by Stalin took advantage of this and launched a determined offensive. Late at night on June 15, Krasnaya Gorka was captured. The other two forts surrendered without a fight. In his despatch to Lenin on these operations Stalin wrote:

"Following the capture of Fort Krasnaya Gorka, Fort Seraya Loshad has been captured. . . . The naval experts assert that the capture of Krasnaya Gorka from the sea runs counter to all naval science. I can only deplore this so-called science. The swift capture of Gorka was due to the grossest interference in the operations by me and by civilians generally, even to the point

of countermanding orders on land and sea and imposing my own.. I consider it my duty to declare that I shall continue to act in this way in future, despite all my reverence for science."

Thus this card of the Whiteguards was also beaten. The Red Army launched an offensive along the whole line and routed the enemy.

Meanwhile, the concentration of forces on the Eastern Front was completed and the Red Army launched an offensive against Kolchak. After a series of sanguinary battles Kolchak was defeated.

Directed by Stalin, the Red Army achieved a decisive victory also over the Finnish forces concentrated near Petrograd. General Mannerheim, in command of the Finnish forces on the Karelian Isthmus, tried to outflank the Red Forces and strike them in the rear. Stalin ordered the formation of a flotilla of ships from the fleet on Lakes Ladoga and Onega and with this flotilla landed a force in the rear of the Finns. On June 27, the Red Forces captured Vidlitsa, where the Finns were entrenched. Stalin immediately reported this victory to Lenin, and in reply came the following message:

"If the situation on the Petrograd Front is favourable, strain every effort to strike a rapid and decisive blow, for the troops are urgently needed in other places."

A new enemy was advancing against the country and Stalin was needed on other fronts.

The Civil War continued for another year, in the course of which the Soviet Republic found itself in a tight fix more than once. But the Red Army, increased to five and a half million men, having trained a fine body of commanders and backed by the whole people, routed its enemies. At the battle of Perekop (the isthmus joining the Crimea to Russia) in November 1920, the Red Army utterly defeated the army of General Wrangel, the last formidable enemy of the Soviet Republic. Ten thousand Red Armymen laid down their lives in the heroic storming of the Isthmus and in crossing the shoals of Sivash Bay; but by the victory thus gained they ushered in a period of peace for the Soviet people and enabled them to turn their attention to peace-

ful construction. The Civil War drew to a close. Repelling the attacks of its numerous, powerful and well-armed enemies, the Soviet Republic emerged victorious.

4. WHAT THE CIVIL WAR TAUGHT THE RED ARMY

The Civil War was a great war of liberation; the first great patriotic war of the Soviet people. In the course of it were created and built up the Red Army and Navy, and the fine traditions of loyalty and devotion to country, of courage and heroism, to which the Red Army has always adhered, were laid down.

The Red Army was victorious because it was loyal to the Soviet people. The Soviet people knew that the Whiteguards wanted to restore the detestable old regime; they knew that the foreign invaders wanted to transform their country into a colony, as Germany had tried to do with the Ukraine. That is why they sent their best sons into the Red Army and supported it by every means in their power.

It was this devotion and determination of the workers and peasants that enabled the poorly-armed Red Army to defeat the well-armed and numerically superior forces of the Whiteguards and the invaders. Russians and Kazakhs, Ukrainians and Tajiks, Byelorussians and Uzbeks, Caucasian Highlanders and the Northern peoples fought shoulder to shoulder in the Red Army and this served to tighten still further the bonds of fraternity that united the different nationalities of the Soviet Republic. All the peoples of the Soviet Republic headed by the great Russian people jointly defended their motherland, jointly liberated the Ukraine and Byelorussia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. The blood they shed for their motherland served to cement the friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Concerning the victory of the Red Army Lenin wrote: "We were victorious because we could be and were united."

Another important factor that contributed to the victory of the Red Army was that the government, guided by the Communist Party, succeeded in organizing the country to serve the forces fighting to defend it. The whole country was trans-

formed into a united camp which devoted all its efforts to the service of the Red Army.

The Red Army's victory was ensured by the invaluable assistance it received from the guerillas fighting in the enemy's rear. The experience and traditions of this heroic guerilla warfare are indelibly inscribed in the annals of the Soviet people and inspire them in their struggle against the fascist hordes today. In every region and every republic occupied by foreign invaders or Russian Whiteguards, guerilla warfare broke out. Each region had its own specific methods of fighting, adapted to their local conditions; but taken as a whole it was another, "minor war," in the enemy's rear, similar to one that is being so effectively waged in the present war. This "minor war" was most vigorously pursued in the Ukraine, Byelorussia and in the Baltic countries.

With an army of over 300,000 men the Germans invaded the Ukraine in quest of grain. Actually, this was a vast foraging expedition. German garrisons were stationed not only in the towns, but also in the large villages. Large forces were continuously marching from village to village. These circumstances moulded the character of the guerilla warfare of the Ukrainian people. It was almost impossible to form large guerilla units, for these would soon have been discovered and crushed by the large concentrations of German troops. The character of the country—the vast steppes and scarcity of woods in which to take cover—also precluded the formation of large units.

A guerilla unit usually consisted of thirty to fifty men, these were carefully chosen, and only those known for their devotion to the Soviet regime and for their courage and experience were enrolled. The guerillas lived in their different villages, and engaged in their ordinary occupations. Their arms were carefully hidden in secret but easily accessible places. When the commander of the group intended to make a raid on a German garrison he informed all the members of his group through scouts, and on the appointed day they gathered at a given spot with their arms. If a very large operation was to be undertaken as many as several hundred men would be concentrated. After the raid had

been carried out and the German garrison wiped out, the guerillas would disperse to their villages again, carefully conceal their arms and go on with their work as before. These units were very mobile and after a raid could quickly move to places scores of miles from the scene of operations. On receiving information of a raid having taken place the German Command would send out a force of several hundred men, and sometimes a whole division, to attempt to capture the guerillas. They surrounded whole Uyezds, combed the woods and scoured the plains, but all in vain.

The guerilla warfare in Byelorussia had its own peculiar features. True, the large stretches of forest and marsh provided excellent cover; nevertheless, this did not permit of the formation of large groups. The invaders kept to the main roads and railways fearing to follow the cross-country tracks that wound deviously through the marshes and forests. This made their lines of communication very vulnerable and compelled them to guard the roads, and particularly the bridges, with the aid of armoured trains, armoured cars, and special infantry units armed with machine guns. This strong protection compelled the guerillas, who were poorly armed, closely to coordinate their activities with the operations of the regular Red Army.

This warfare was particularly effective when the guerillas were able to establish direct contact with the headquarters of the Red Army units. In such cases they received instructions where to make raids, which bridges to destroy, etc., in conformity with the operations the Red Army Command had in view. As a consequence of this close cooperation the Red Army was able to inflict more effective blows on the enemy.

These guerilla activities wore down the enemy and kept him in a state of constant tension: They gave him no rest and compelled him to fight on two fronts. Night and day the German invaders were made to feel that they were in enemy territory; danger lurked in every hut and in every bush.

Guerilla warfare was conducted on an exceptionally wide scale in Kolchak's rear, in Siberia. Here, hundreds of guerilla units were formed. In view of the vast area of the country, the

Whiteguards could not maintain garrisons everywhere. They were stationed only in the large towns, and along the railways from which they dared not venture more than twenty kilometres or so. This facilitated the formation of large guerilla units and even whole armies, with divisions and regiments. The guerilla army led by Shchetinkin and Kravchenko numbered tens of thousands of men. Whole regions behind Kolchak's lines remained in the control of the Soviets. Here the machinery of Soviet local government functioned in the ordinary way, and Soviet newspapers were regularly published. The guerilla forces were organized in regiments and divisions and had a well organized supply service. All the secret operations were conducted by arrangement with the General Staff of the Eastern Front of the Red Army.

To counteract the operations of the guerillas Kolchak was compelled to divert a large part of his forces. A force of 200,000 men were employed to guard the railway, but even this proved to be inadequate and Kolchak was compelled to withdraw men from the front. Hard pressed by the Red Army, the Whiteguard forces retreated, but their line of retreat, was constantly harassed by guerillas. Under these double blows Kolchak's army dwindled. Whole divisions went over to the side of the Red Army. Eventually, by the combined efforts of the Red Army and the guerillas, Kolchak was routed.

An extremely important part in the achievement of victory was played by the Military Commissars of the Red Army. By their fearless and courageous example they inspired the Red Armymen to perform deeds of amazing heroism. They were always to be found in the front ranks in the fight, leading the men forward. Here, are a couple of examples of their conduct in battle.

On October 5, 1918, during one of the battles against the Whiteguards, a battalion of the Second Army was surrounded. Regimental Commissar Malenkov took over the command of the battalion, rallied the men and decided to break through the enemy encirclement. A large force of Whiteguards launched another attack against the battalion. The lines of the First and

Second Companies wavered, Malenkov was wounded in the leg; but in spite of this he rallied the men and shouting: "Hurrah! Forward!" he rushed to the attack. Another bullet hit him in the stomach. Although bleeding profusely, he rose and continued to lead his men. A third bullet hit him in the head and killed him; but inspired by the heroism of their Commissar, the men succeeded in breaking through.

During the fighting at Perekop on the night of November 7, 1920, certain units of the Red Army waded across the shoals of Sivash Bay to the opposite shore, which was strongly fortified. The men dug in while a party was sent out to cut an opening in the barbed wire entanglements. Suddenly, one of the men felt the ground under him becoming moist. Looking round he saw the water creeping up. The wind had changed during the night and was blowing the water into the bay. Some of the men jumped up and cried out in alarm: "Water!" and began to run. Panic and disorder threatened to affect the whole force. Just then a Commissar, whose name is not known, for most of the Political Officers perished in the fierce fighting at Perekop, shouted out: "Communists, stand fast!" The Communists quickly rallied around the Commissar who gave them the following instruction: "Disperse among the squads. Tell the men that if they go back certain death awaits them. They will be drowned. If they go forward victory will be ours."

The Communists quickly dispersed and within half an hour order was restored. Soon after, the shore was flooded with light from Wrangel's searchlights. Fierce artillery fire was opened. But this did not daunt the heroic men of the Red Army. Behind their Commissar they rushed forward through the passages cut in the barbed wire; where there were no passages the men flung their greatcoats over the wire and crawled over them. The fighting lasted all night and the Soviet troops suffered heavy losses, but they succeeded in entrenching themselves on the shore next day and thereby hastened the fall of Perekop.

The Political Commissars played an important part in combating out hostile elements in the ranks of the Red Army. The devices the latter resorted to were simply amazing. For exam-

ple: In one of the regiments of the 24th Rifle Division there was a doctor who always asked the men who came to see him: "Volunteer or conscript?" At first nobody paid any attention to this, but one day one of the men reported it to the Political Commissar. The latter thought this suspicious and decided to investigate. It transpired that the doctor certified all volunteers as fit for active service irrespective of whether they were so or not. Later it was revealed that he was in the service of the Whiteguards. He undermined the men's health and even caused the death of many of them.

Here is another example: Some of the commanders of the forces at Petrograd were extremely lax in maintaining discipline. When the Military Commissar drew their attention to this they became too strict, so much so that the men began to complain. To these complaints the commanders replied: "It's not our fault, we are obeying the orders of the Military Commissar." On investigation it was found that these commanders were in communication with the Whiteguards, and they behaved in this way in order to set the men against the Military Commissars.

It was the Military Commissars who created the undying fighting tradition: "A Red Armyman never surrenders. He dies fighting!" At Petrograd, in 1919, the Whiteguards, assisted by traitors, surrounded the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Petrograd Brigade. The Commander and the Military Commissar of the regiment were killed in action. With the regiment was A.S. Rakov, the Brigade Commissar. He locked himself in a house and kept the enemy at bay with a machine gun and a pistol until he had only one bullet left. Not wishing to surrender, he shot himself.

The Commissars and Political Officers did a great deal to introduce the Soviet system in the regions cleared of the enemy. They organized propaganda among the soldiers of the Whiteguard armies; they formed guerilla units and helped them to fight behind the enemy's lines.

The Red Army has carefully cherished the fighting traditions of the patriotic war against the foreign invaders and counter-rev-

olutionary Whiteguards of 1918-20; and the Military Commissars of that period have since served as heroic examples for Commanders, Political Officers and men of the Red Army.

The historic victories of the Red Army were ensured by the leadership of Lenin and Stalin. They carefully thought out every problem connected with the military operations and worked out the strategy and tactics of every decisive campaign. And wherever the most critical situation arose, such as at Tsaritsyn and Perm, it was Stalin who saved the situation. He organized the defeat of Yudenich and Denikin, and paved the way for the defeat of Wrangel.

It was during the Civil War that the basis was laid for the Soviet Army Regulations, *i.e.*, its methods of training, tactics and strategy.

THE RED ARMY TRAINS FOR MODERN WARFARE

1. THE REORGANIZATION OF THE RED ARMY

After defeating its enemies and saving its independence the Soviet Republic started on its peaceful work of economic development. Even before the revolution Russia was economically one of the backward countries of the world; the four years of the World War and the three years of Civil War completely exhausted the country and threw her into a worse position than she had been in before. In the winter of 1920, industrial output amounted to only 14 per cent of the pre-war level. The output of pig-iron dropped to as low as 3 per cent of pre-war, amounting to only 116,000 tons compared with 4,200,000 tons in 1913. During the war many factories and industrial plants were wrecked; and even those that had survived were short of raw materials and fuel, so that many of them functioned irregularly and many were even at a standstill. Factory premises fell into delapidation and machinery deteriorated. There were relatively few factory workers left, as the best of them had fought and died in the Civil War, while large numbers had migrated to the rural districts, where food conditions were better than in the towns. In those industrial plants that were running to some extent the productivity of labour was very low. Very often the starving workers spent their time making cigarette lighters and articles of that kind to sell privately in order to obtain bread. In the towns houses fell into delapidation as there were no means of repairing them. Many electric power stations were at a standstill, and the street-car service had ceased.

Agriculture, too, was in a parlous state. At this time the total output of agriculture amounted to only 55 per cent of pre-war.

Under these circumstances could this exhausted country maintain an army, and one capable of meeting the requirements of modern warfare, at that? Many foreign observers stated that it was utterly impossible, or at all events that it would take decades before the Red Army would become a first-class modern army. But the Soviet people tightened their belts, and rolling up their sleeves, set to work with grim determination to restore and then further develop the industry of the country on new lines. Meanwhile, the Soviet Government did not for a moment relax its concern for the needs of the Red Army. It realized that, as the ancient Persian thinker, Saadi, said: "He who is unable to grasp the hilt of his sword firmly will be struck down by its blade."

The Red Army had been built up in the course of the struggle against numerous enemies that had surrounded the country on all sides. It is not surprising therefore, that there were numerous flaws in its organization. There was overlapping and duplication in its administration, and where the Trotskyites had control, there were evidences of downright sabotage. The Red Army therefore needed thorough overhauling and reorganization. The whole military machine had to be made to work more efficiently, the personnel made more permanent, and younger men had to be promoted to leading positions. The training of the men had to be improved and arrangements made for the pre-enlistment training of the young men eligible for military service.

Furthermore, it was impossible for the country to maintain under arms an army of 5,000,000 men, which was the Red Army's strength at the close of the Civil War. This army had to be reduced to peace time strength and the bulk of the men demobilized. In all countries, even in the richest, such as Great Britain and the United States, the process of reducing the armies to peace time strength was a very protracted and difficult one. How much more difficult was it in the Soviet Union, which had been exhausted by the long years of war?

Lastly, there was the problem of bringing the reduced Red Army up to the level of the armies of the advanced countries, of providing it with up-to-date equipment, and of training the men to handle it; for it was necessary to prepare for the contingency of having to meet a highly equipped enemy.

Naturally, it was extremely difficult for the Soviet state, impoverished as it was, to find the means with which to procure costly armaments. Nor had it any means of producing tanks and aeroplanes. But it had to do all it could, and it did it.

The numerical strength of the Red Army was reduced to 600,000 men, but the number of military units was increased by the formation of special arms of the service. The artillery power of the army was augmented. Divisional and regimental administration staffs were cut down to the bone. The infantry was organized on a uniform basis. Formerly, each regiment had what was known as a "model company" which was equipped with up-to-date weapons and trained in accordance with up-to-date tactics. The other companies were trained in accordance with the old methods. After the Army was reformed all companies were brought up to the level of the "model companies." Important changes were introduced in the organization of the special arms of the service. The signal units were strengthened, and the sappers and engineers were formed into larger units. This greatly facilitated their training. The central administration staff of the Red Army was reduced and rationalized.

Half the Red Army, mainly the infantry, was transformed into a territorial force. The commissioned and non-commissioned officers were maintained on the permanent strength of the army, while the men were called up for a few weeks' training every year during their period of military service. Most of the technical forces, however, spent their whole period of military service with the colours.

Separate national units were formed of men belonging to the various nationalities in the Federation of Soviet Republics. There were no national units in the old army. The tsarist government dared not conscript Uzbeks, Turkmens, Tajiks, Kazakhs and similar nationalities in the tsarist empire, for it feared that

if it trained them in the use of arms they would one day turn them against the tsarist regime. The Soviet Government, however, abolished that "prison of the nations," as the tsarist empire was called, and already during the Civil War had formed special national units of Bashkirs, Latvians, Lithuanians, and others, who fought heroically side by side with the Russian and other working people for the freedom of their country. In 1923, on Stalin's proposal, national units were formed in all the national republics. Furthermore, military schools were established for the purpose of training Red Army commanders from among these nationalities

The strength of the Red Army, however, was obviously inadequate to meet the contingency of war. Consequently, measures were taken to provide military training for the youth not called up for military service. Military training also became part of the curriculum of the senior classes of the secondary schools and of the universities.

The personnel of the commanding staff of the Army was greatly changed and young commanders from the ranks of the workers and peasants were promoted to responsible posts. In 1924, 85 per cent of the commanders of the Red Army were former workers and peasants. The training of commanders was reorganized to meet the requirements of modern tactics.

The reform of the Red Army was carried out under the direction of that splendid Bolshevik and military commander, the General who defeated Kolchak and Wrangel—Mikhail Frunze. But his untiring efforts in this direction were cut short by his untimely death. On November 6, 1925, Kliment Voroshilov, close associate of Lenin and Stalin, was appointed to the leadership of the Red Army.

2. THE BEGINNING OF THE RESTORATION OF THE RED NAVY

While devoting his attention to the restoration of the Red Army, Lenin did not neglect the Red Navy. He brought this question forward when the guns were still roaring at Perekop,

The major part of the Black Sea Fleet lay at the bottom of the sea. The Northern Flotilla no longer existed. The ships of the Amur Flotilla were in the hands of the enemy. The Baltic Fleet alone remained intact and defended the approaches to Petrograd. Towards the end of the Civil War, however, most of the vessels of the Baltic Fleet were idle, and the crews were scattered among the various infantry units. The Red Navy had to be built up almost anew. The ships were lying rusting in the harbours. Heaps of machine parts were lying in store. The ships were in a delapidated condition, for they had not been repaired for years. And it was necessary to collect the trained sailors who were scattered on every front of the Civil War. On October 23, 1920, Lenin signed the following Order of the Council of Labour and Defence:

"The Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies, and especially the Committee for the Defence of Petrograd, are hereby instructed to take special measures to accelerate the restoration of the Baltic Fleet and to coordinate the activities of all departments capable of assisting in this task; to remove all red tape and establish effective supervision so as to secure the speedy and successful execution of this work."

The heroic sailors themselves set to work to restore the Navy. They worked day and night, and as a result of their efforts a number of ships were repaired and launched. The men of the Black Sea Fleet, for example, restored the torpedo boat "Nezamoshnik," and the sailors of the Submarine Flotilla assembled submarine parts which had been purchased by the tsarist government and had not been used. In this way the submarine "Shachter" (The Miner) was completed on the appointed date and successfully launched.

An active part in the restoration of the Red Navy was taken by the youth of Soviet Russia. On October 16, 1922, the Fifth Congress of the Young Communist League decided that the League should become the patron of the Navy. Thousands of young workers and peasants joined the Navy. At that time conditions in the service were by no means good. The naval barracks were delapidated, there was a shortage of food, but this did not

daunt the Young Communist Leaguers. Inspired by the heroic traditions already laid down by the men of the Red Navy, they overcame all difficulties with the energy and enthusiasm characteristic of youth. The remnants of the old fleet came to life; the worn out and battered ships revived.

3. THE CREATION OF INDUSTRY TO SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF THE RED ARMY

The general situation in the country in the period when the Red Army and Navy were undergoing reorganization was extremely strained. The Red Army was often compelled to go into action against gangs of raiders from across the frontier, and in 1929 it was obliged to wage a regular campaign against the Manchurian satrap, Chang Tso-lin, who had seized the Chinese Eastern Railway, which in conformity with the Treaty between Soviet Russia and China was jointly administered by the two governments. Already in that campaign the Red Army was convinced of the importance of being able to handle modern means of warfare like aircraft and tanks.

The conflict in the Far East proved to the peoples of the Soviet Union that its enemies were preparing to attack it at any moment, and it became clear that everything must be done to expedite the strengthening of the country's defences.

This, however, depended upon the speedy development of industry to provide the means of defence. The workers all over the country therefore strained every nerve to carry out the industrial development schemes which had been planned by the Soviet Government. In the Urals, the old steel mills were modernized and new ones built. In the Ukraine, the Dnieper Dam was built in record time and an immense power station erected. In Stalingrad, the famous Tractor Works was built amidst incredible difficulties. In the Caucasus the oil industry was put on its feet again, and in the Donetz Basin the coal industry was revived. In 1929 the Soviet Government adopted the First Five-Year Plan. All this served to lay the basis for the industries

which were to provide the raw materials and fuel for the manufacture of the modern equipment which the armed forces required.

During the period of the First Five-Year Plan the Red Army took an active part in the work of socialist industrial development. Hundreds of thousands of men of the Red Army and Navy helped to build the new factories, steel mills, power stations and railways, setting examples of labour discipline, enthusiasm and organization, and thereby helping to fulfil the Five-Year Plan in four years.

During this period the production of electric power increased nearly sevenfold compared with pre-war, and tens of thousands of kilometres of new railway lines were laid. New industries were built which had not existed in tsarist Russia. Russia had practically only one coal and metallurgical base, that in the Ukraine, and even there the methods of production were obsolete. Under the Soviet Government, not only was this base modernized and enlarged, but entirely new bases with the most up-to-date equipment were built in the Urals and Western Siberia, deep in the heart of the country. A vast industry was created for the manufacture of modern agricultural machinery, and aircraft factories were built in the central parts of the country, as well as far in the hinterland.

The Second Five-Year Plan provided for even more extensive industrial development than the First; and the Third Five-Year Plan still more than the Second.

Particularly extensive industrial development was carried on during these three Five-Year Plan periods in the regions which under the tsarist regime had been doomed to permanent stagnation. In drawing up its plans of industrial development the Soviet Government pursued the object of raising these regions out of their state of economic inferiority and of bringing them up to the level of the advanced districts. As a result, huge industrial plants were erected in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the Ukraine and Byelorussia. Education was energetically promoted, and the people were trained to handle modern industrial equipment. The successes achieved in all this work brought the Soviet

Union into the ranks of the most economically developed countries in the world.

Prominent economists are of the opinion that to wage modern war successfully, a country must have abundant supplies of the following twenty-two strategical raw materials: coal, iron ore, oil, copper, lead, zinc, nickel, chrome, manganese, tungsten, antimony, tin, quicksilver, mica, aluminium, nitrates, sulphur, rubber, potash, phosphates, cotton and wool.

This, of course, does not exhaust the list of materials needed to wage war successfully, but these are essential. It is interesting to observe that whereas Germany possesses sources of only four of these strategical raw materials, the U.S.S.R. possesses eighteen. Characteristic of the rapid industrial development of the Soviet Union in recent years is the fact that four years ago tungsten, tin, antimony and nickel were not produced in the country, but they are today.

4. THE TECHNICAL RECONSTRUCTION OF THE RED ARMY

The industrial transformation of the country made possible the technical reconstruction of the Red Army. The Red Army had taken over from the old tsarist army the latter's obsolete technique. The rifle, machine gun, the three-inch gun and the howitzer were practically the only weapons with which the heroes of the Civil War had achieved victory. But machine guns and artillery were inadequate compared with the modern equipment of the armies of other countries. The Red Army possessed a few tanks which had been captured from the interventionist troops during the Civil War. The number of aircraft it possessed amounted to a few score, and these were old and worn out.

Moreover, modern warfare calls for a tremendous expenditure of ammunition. In August 1918, the British forces daily hurled against the Germans 3,000,000 shells, which is equal to 125,000 tons of metal. At the time they broke through the German defences they fired 1,000,000 shells, *i.e.*, 45,000 tons of metal, per day.

What a tremendous amount of raw material is required to produce shells on such a scale! How many railway cars are needed to convey them to the front! No wonder it is said that modern warfare is warfare between munition plants. The successful fulfilment of the Stalin Five-Year Plans enabled the Soviet Government to provide the Red Army with the weapons needed for modern warfare. The country was now able to produce new types of firearms for the infantry, new types of artillery, new means of communication, powerful tanks and splendid aircraft. By 1939, the armoured-car and tank forces of the Red Army had increased two and a half times, the number of tanks almost trebled, and the number of armoured cars increased seven and a half times. New types of tanks were introduced and the old types considerably improved. There was a considerable increase in artillery—light artillery by 31 per cent, medium by 26 per cent and heavy by 85 per cent. Anti-aircraft artillery increased by 169 per cent. Tank and anti-tank artillery increased even more than the other types. The increase in the number of guns proceeded hand in hand with increase in range, speed of firing and weight of shells. It is sufficient to say that the range of heavy artillery increased from 50 to 75 per cent for the different types of guns.

Aircraft grew to an enormous extent. In the course of five years the aggregate power of aircraft engines in the Red Army more than trebled, the weight of a bomb load per craft increased to the same extent. As regards height and speed, the Red Army acquired not only fighter planes but also bombers with a speed of over 500 kilometres per hour and capable of rising to a height of 14 to 15 kilometres.

Not only was the Red Army equipped with the most up-to-date technique, but this technique was constantly improved. The High Command of the Red Army closely watched the progress of military technique all over the world. It studied the experience of the wars that were in progress and immediately put into practice the conclusions it arrived at as a result of these observations. The commanders, irrespective of age or rank, read a great deal and imbibed new ideas. Stalin devoted un-

flagging attention to the equipment of the Red Army and did everything to promote its improvement. He was often to be seen at artillery practice grounds, aerodromes and in tank fields where new weapons were being tested. After attending such tests he often assembled the military engineers and designers in the Kremlin and pointed to defects in the designs of the weapons tested and suggested new ideas. Describing the part Stalin played in the reconstruction of the Red Army, Voroshilov relates the following:

"Stalin always took part in and directed the discussion of problems connected with the reconstruction of the armed forces of the Soviet Union. It was he who initiated the most far-reaching and important organizational and technical measures to develop and improve their equipment, and he devoted a great deal of attention and care to the military inventors and their inventions, doing everything in his power to assist them in their work. He did everything to encourage young Soviet inventors and personally studied the new models they proposed. It is under his direction that the adoption of new types of armaments was discussed and decided."

All the new types of weapons, like all the equipment of the Soviet armed forces, were designed entirely by Soviet engineers and manufactured in the Soviet Union. A large staff of designers and inventors, trained under Stalin's direct supervision, worked unceasingly to improve the technical level of the Red Army.

Outstanding among these is Degtyarev, whom the Soviet Government awarded the lofty title of Hero of Socialist Labour for the work he did to improve the quality of infantry firearms. Son of a Tula gunsmith, and a plain gunsmith himself in the past, Degtyarev by dint of hard study, achieved the degree of Doctor of Technical Sciences. He invented an improved light machine gun, a large calibre machine gun, an automatic pistol and other modern small arms. Another outstanding inventor is Major General V. Grabin, who also bears the title of Hero of Socialist Labour. He is the son of an ordinary workingman, and in 1920 joined the Red Army as a private. He invented new types of powerful artillery. The aircraft engine designer A. Mikulin, is

famous throughout the world. It was in aircraft supplied with engines he designed that the Soviet airmen flew to the North Pole and Gromov and Chkalov flew to the United States. Since the war another inventor has been awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour, namely, A. Kostikov, who invented a new type of gun which has immensely increased the artillery power of the Red Army.

But the technical reconstruction of the Red Army was not due entirely to the inventors and experts. Rank and file Red Armymen contributed a great deal to this. The men of the Soviet armed forces are encouraged to make suggestions regarding the character and quality of the arms they handle, and these suggestions are often acted on. Many of the military units have inventors' study circles, which are conducted by trained experts. Now and again conferences of inventors are held in various Military Areas at which, sitting beside a general or a famous expert, may be seen an ordinary private who is responsible for some important invention.

During the period of the fulfilment of the Stalin Five-Year Plans the very composition of the Red Army underwent an important change. Before the Army was reorganized it consisted of a small permanent force and of a large territorial force. To be able to handle modern weapons with the greatest effect, however, a long period of training is required, and therefore, the territorial system, with its short period of training, proved unsuitable. Moreover, the armies of countries adjacent to the Soviet Union had been greatly enlarged. Fascist Germany began to put her army on a war footing long before the outbreak of the war, and the Soviet Union would have been at a very serious disadvantage in the face of an aggressive state. The Soviet Government therefore decided to abolish the territorial system and to place the entire Red Army on a permanent footing.

This change, in its turn, involved a radical reorganization of the administration of the Red Army, and in addition, the number of local Military Commissariats—the bodies responsible for the registration of those liable to military service—was greatly enlarged. This greatly facilitated the task of calling

recruits to the colours and of mobilization in the event of war.

The national units of the Red Army were also reorganized. During the fifteen years they had been in existence these national units had fully served their purpose; but in view of the complete reorganization of the Red Army and the requirements of modern military training, the retention of these relatively small units, with service restricted to their national territory, would have been a serious drawback and would have hindered the task of national defence. Moreover, the existence of these separate national units ran counter to the Stalin Constitution, according to which the Red Army constitutes a single force, recruited from among all citizens on an equal basis. The national units were therefore merged with the general body of the Red Army.

5. THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NAVY

The industrial development of the Soviet Union also created the possibility of building up and modernizing the Red Navy. Under the tsarist regime, Russia, which has a larger coast line than any other country, lacked adequate naval forces with which to protect it. The Navy was considerably enlarged and improved. At first the Soviet Government built small craft, such as submarines and torpedo boats, and in numbers such as the tsarist government could never dream of. The strength of all four fleets—the Baltic Fleet, the Far Eastern Fleet, the Black Sea Fleet and the Northern Fleet—was greatly increased. The latter increased particularly after the White Sea-Baltic Canal was constructed and it became possible to transfer warships from the Baltic to the White Sea.

Being a large maritime power, however, the Soviet Union needed a much more powerful Navy, and after the fulfilment of the Stalin Five-Year Plans it possessed the means with which to build one. During this period the technical resources required for building a modern Navy had been developed. Shipyards had been built capable of building ships of any category. This is proved by the construction of the cruiser *Kirov*, which took part

in the war against Finland. The range of her guns is such, that the shells from the Finnish heavy coastal batteries fell short of her by several kilometres. At the First Session of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., V.M. Molotov said:

“We now have four fleets: the Baltic, Black Sea, Northern and Pacific. Not a few for one country, I think, especially as our fleets have direct relation to certain oceans. But we were able to start on naval construction at all seriously only within the past few years, and the Baltic, Black Sea, Northern and Pacific Fleets began to grow at a pace that was fitting for a Great Power such as the Soviet Union. They are being rapidly reinforced by new units, small ones for the time being; but when certain shipyards now in course of construction are completed—and we shall try to complete them as speedily as possible—we shall begin to enlarge our fleets more rapidly and with powerful naval units.”

To direct the building of this modern Navy, with its intricate equipment and powerful naval artillery and aircraft, and to direct the training of the men and commanders for it, a separate Commissariat for the Navy was formed, headed by Admiral M. Kuznetsov, formerly an ordinary seaman.

THE RED ARMY IS THE ARMY OF THE WORKERS' AND PEASANTS' STATE

1. THE THREE SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE RED ARMY

The technical reconstruction of the Red Army converted it into something entirely different from the old army. The up-to-date technique with which it is abundantly supplied places it in the front ranks of the modern armies of the world. But there is one thing that distinguishes the Red Army particularly from the old tsarist army—as well as from the armies of many other countries—and that is its character.

The old army served the interests of the landlords and capitalists. It was the instrument of their rule, and was used to suppress every attempt on the part of the people to overthrow them. The old army was an instrument of the aggressive and predatory policy of tsarism and was used to conquer alien territories and to convert them into the colonies of tsarist Russia.

The Red Army is the army of the Soviet state, the state of the workers and peasants. It was the instrument of the liberation of the workers and peasants, and is the bulwark of their rule. Concerning the Red Army Stalin said:

“The first specific feature of the Red Army is that it is the army of the emancipated workers and peasants, it is the army of the October Revolution, the army of the dictatorship of the proletariat.”

For the first time in history the army, instead of being an instrument for the oppression of the people, became an instrument of their liberation. Instead of being an instrument for the

conquest and subjugation of alien nations, the Red Army is a bulwark and protection of the independence of the numerous nationalities that inhabit the Soviet Union.

Stalin pointed to the following second specific feature of the Red Army:

"Our army differs radically from colonial armies. Its whole being and whole structure rests on the cementing of the ties of friendship among the nations of our country, on the idea of liberation of the oppressed nations, on the idea of protecting the freedom and independence of the Socialist Republics which constitute the Soviet Union."

The Red Army is trained not in the spirit of hatred for other nations, but in the spirit of friendship and peace among the nations. This is its third specific feature, to which Stalin referred. He said:

"The strength of the Red Army lies in the fact that from the moment it was born it was trained in the spirit of internationalism, trained to respect other nations, to love and respect the workers of all countries and to maintain peace among the nations."

2. THE COMMANDERS OF THE RED ARMY

The commanders of the Red Army differ entirely from those of the old tsarist army. The latter were chosen mainly from the ranks of the aristocracy. It was very rare for a man to be promoted from the ranks, and those who were felt entirely out of place among the aristocratic officers. The officers of the old army constituted an exclusive caste, and the few representatives of the common people in their midst were looked down upon with contempt. It was only during the first World War, when the demand for army officers became very great, that the sons of the lower grades of the Civil Service, teachers, merchants, and so forth, were given commissions. The result of this exclusiveness of the officer caste was that the best brains of the country were kept out of the leadership of the army, and the intellectual level of the commanding personnel of the old army was very low.

In the Red Army, however, promotion to commanding posi-

tions is open to every citizen of the Soviet Union, irrespective of nationality or social position. Every man who has a bent for military service may apply for admission to any commanders' training establishment in any branch of the service. The only qualification required is a secondary school education. Naturally, preference is given to privates and non-commissioned officers already serving in the army.

Commanders of the Red Army have the following ranks: Junior Lieutenant, Lieutenant, Senior Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Lt.-Colonel, Colonel, Major General, Lieutenant General, Colonel General, Army General, and Marshal of the Soviet Union. A commander must serve a definite number of years in each rank: two years as Junior Lieutenant, three years as Lieutenant, and so forth; but commanders who show outstanding ability, or who have distinguished themselves while on active service, may receive promotion at shorter intervals. Frequent promotions are so common in the Red Army that it has generals who have barely reached the age of thirty.

The Red Army has another source from which to obtain commanders that few other armies possess. Any Red Armyman, after completing his term of military service may, if he so desires, remain on permanent service as a non-commissioned officer—Corporal, Junior Sergeant, Sergeant, Senior Sergeant and Sergeant Major. While fulfilling his duties in one of these ranks, he obtains opportunities for improving his general education and is then sent to a school for Junior Lieutenants which exists in every Military Area. As regards the Red Army it is perfectly true to say that "every corporal carries a Marshal's baton in his knapsack!" The gulf that exists between commanders and men, particularly in fascist armies, is totally non-existent in the Red Army. It is characteristic that during the present war a German commander, in reporting to Headquarters about the heavy losses sustained among his officers, made frantic appeals for replacements. "You cannot expect me to put non-commissioned officers in charge of companies!"—he wrote, horrified at the very idea of such a thing.

The Red Army commander's education does not cease after he has graduated from the officers' training school. On the contrary.

It may be said without exaggeration that his real education begins when he is allocated to his regiment. Every unit has a special day set apart for commanders' instruction classes. Here, under the direction of senior commanders, tactical problems are discussed, subjects are given for further study, recent books on military questions are reviewed and military operations in wars conducted by other countries are analysed. This, as well as lectures and consultations by military experts and facilities for obtaining literature on any subject desired, help the commanders of the Red Army to keep abreast with the progress of military science and to cultivate their minds.

Commanders who desire to receive a higher military education have at their service sixteen Military Academies—General Military Academy, Artillery, Engineering, Motor and Mechanization, Military Law, Army Service, two Army Medical Academies, and so forth. These Academies are open to commanders who have been in the service for several years and have had practical experience in commanding an army unit. Commanders may also attend evening classes or take correspondence courses. The extent to which commanders take advantage of these facilities may be gauged by the fact that the Frunze Military Academy alone runs evening classes in a number of cities in the Soviet Union.

These vast educational facilities have put their specific stamp on the commanders of the Red Army, which distinguishes them as men of wide outlook and cultural tastes who closely follow the progress of military science as well as science and art in general. Needless to say, the post of commander in the Red Army is an extremely attractive one for the young men of the Soviet Union, and this is evidenced by the fact that for every vacancy in military schools from eight to ten applications are made.

About thirty years ago, A. Kuprin, the well-known Russian author, wrote a book entitled "The Duel," in which he described the lives of Russian army officers at that time. It was a dull, monotonous life, without prospects, full of petty intrigue, backbiting and scandal. Reading this book today, the commander of the Red Army shrugs his shoulders in amazement, so different is the picture of army life drawn in that book from life in the

Red Army, which is full of interest and holds out the brightest prospects for every commander.

3. THE RANK AND FILE OF THE RED ARMY

The old tsarist army reflected as in a mirror the entire tsarist regime. Throughout the country the landlords and capitalists tyrannized over the peasants and workers. In the army the sons of the landlords tyrannized over the young workers and peasants in army uniform. The officers in the old army enjoyed all rights, the rank and file had none. They were called the "lower ranks." On the street cars they were allowed to travel only on the platform, they were not allowed to go inside the car. In the theatre they were allowed only in the gallery. The life of soldiers of non-Russian nationalities was still worse than that of the Russians. They were forced to perform the most arduous duties. The officers mocked and tormented them for not being able to speak Russian.

The soldiers were kept in subordination by means of threats and punishment. For the slightest offence they were put into punishment cells and kept on bread and water. Flogging was rife, and the assaulting of men by officers was a common practice. An officer would punch a man in the jaw simply for "looking cross," for not obeying an order smartly enough, or even "just for fun." Soldiers were obliged to know by heart all the titles of the members of the royal family and of all his other superiors, right down to his company officer. Woe betide the soldier who mixed up the titles! It is recorded that a soldier who mentioned the Minister for War by name and not by his full title was convicted to two years' confinement in a military prison.

Soldiers had no right to belong to any organization whatsoever; nor were they permitted to attend meetings of any kind. They could not subscribe for newspapers or borrow books from public libraries. Barrack life was so organized as to keep the common soldier in ignorance and to convert him into a cowed and obedient tool of tsarism. The generals of the tsarist army contemptuously referred to the mass of common soldiers as "dumb cattle."

According to the report of the Ministry for War for 1912, thirty per cent of the men called up for military service were totally illiterate, and only half of one per cent had received a secondary or higher education. It was extremely difficult to train men of this type to handle complex modern arms, and the tsarist government always had difficulty in forming the technical units of the army.

The young men that answer the call to the colours today are of an entirely different type. Of the total contingent called up for the Red Army in 1940, 35.5 per cent had received a higher or secondary education, 55 per cent had received an elementary education of not lower than the fifth standard, and only 9 per cent had not gone further than the fourth standard. There were no illiterates among them whatever. If a lad is backward in his education before he is called to the colours he is obliged to attend evening school to bring his knowledge up to the level of at least the fourth standard. As a consequence, no difficulty is found in training the men of the Red Army to use all types of weapons, no matter how complex.

The young man liable to military service is not only obliged to have an education of the required standard, but he also goes through a period of preliminary military training before he is called to the colours. Facilities are also provided for acquiring proficiency for the special arms of the service. The numerous aviation clubs, rifle ranges, automobile clubs, and so forth, serve as excellent preliminary training ground for these services. In Moscow alone, the contingent called up in 1940 contained 3,500 airmen capable of handling motor driven aircraft and gliders, 3,000 parachute jumpers, 1,500 snipers and nearly 3,000 lads capable of handling machine guns. Within a short period after their joining the army, these lads became expert in their different branches. Similar preliminary training is conducted in all towns throughout the country.

In conformity with the Compulsory Military Service Act of 1939, the period of service in the Infantry is two years, in the Frontier Guards three years, in the Air and Coast Defence Forces four years, and in the Navy five years.

The tsarist army was divorced from the people; it was set against the people and was used to prevent them from winning their political rights. The Red Army, however, is part and parcel of the people, and throughout his army life the Red Armyman maintains the closest association with the people.

Article 138 of the Stalin Constitution states: "Citizens in the ranks of the Red Army enjoy the right to elect and be elected equally with all other citizens." Members of the armed forces, irrespective of rank, may be nominated as candidates for and elected to any public body, from the local Soviet to the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union. Thousands of men of the Red Army of all ranks are fulfilling their public duties on these bodies on a par with all the other elected citizens. If a man holds public office before he is called to the colours, as is very often the case, he, on joining the Red Army, is given every facility to continue to perform his public duties.

While in the army the Red Armyman devotes himself entirely to the object for which he was called to join it, namely, to learn the art of war. All the efforts of the men, commanders and political personnel are concentrated on training the recruit in the shortest possible time to become a daring and skilful soldier, expert in the use of the weapons of his particular branch of the service, capable of displaying resource and initiative and wholeheartedly devoted to his country.

In the speech he delivered at the reception given to the Heroes of the Soviet Union, Chkalov, Baidukov and Belyakov, in 1936, Stalin said:-

"Courage and valour are only one side of heroism. The other side, no less important, is skill. It is said that with valour one can capture cities, but that is only when valour, daring and readiness to take risks is combined with perfect knowledge."

4. THE RED ARMY IS A SCHOOL

The Red Army and Navy are exemplary political schools which cultivate the political consciousness and patriotism of the men and commanders. They are also excellent economic schools.

Every year they turn out hundreds of thousands of men capable of handling tractors and harvester combines, and of being good farm managers and chairmen of Village Soviets. For the men of the Red Army and Navy the time spent in the service is time spent not in serving alien interests, but in acquiring knowledge and in cultivating the mind, making them useful citizens and capable and staunch defenders of their Soviet motherland.

A wide-flung network of cultural and educational institutions such as libraries, clubs and Houses of the Red Army, give the men and commanders access to all the achievements of science, literature and art. On the eve of the war there were in the country over 2,000 Red Army Clubs and about 300 Houses of the Red Army, which are truly great centres of culture, with large halls for theatrical performances, cinemas, libraries and class rooms, in addition to numerous recreation rooms. Here, too, the artistic talents of the men and commanders are developed and find outlet for their application. It is sufficient to mention the famous Red Army Song and Dance Troupe conducted by Prof. Alexandrov, which has given successful performances before numerous enthusiastic audiences abroad. All the members of this troupe were chosen from the ranks of the Red Army. In addition to this troupe, the Red Army has 18 other troupes of a similar type.

The Soviet Government attaches exceptional importance to the political training of the Red Army and Navy, for it holds that in the hands of men who are ignorant of the objects for which they are fighting military technique loses a great deal of its effectiveness. In the hands of men who are fighting for definite ideals, however, this technique acquires added power. The importance of the moral factor for an army was fully appreciated by many great military leaders. Napoleon is even alleged to have said that "the ratio of importance of the moral to the physical element is 3:1." In the Red Army the work of political education is conducted on an extremely wide scale. As far back as 1918, a military expert, in conversation with Stalin, near Tsaritsyn, expressed the opinion that the reverses of the Red Army were due to the technical superiority of the enemy and to his superiority in artillery. To this Stalin replied:

"But are not our reverses due to inadequate political training? Behind the gun there is a man. No matter how many guns an army commander may have at his disposal, if his men are not properly trained by propaganda, he will be powerless against men who are inspired by revolution, even if they are less supplied with artillery."

The Political Commissars were an extremely important factor in building up the Red Army, in choosing the commanding personnel and in the political training of the army. During the twenty-five years the army has been in existence, however, new cadres of commanders have arisen. Moreover, in the course of the war against the fascist invaders large numbers of new commanders have come to the front who are quite mature both politically and militarily. On the other hand, during this period, and particularly during the war, the Political Commissars have mastered the art of military leadership. Hence, the function of Political Commissar as distinct from the military commander became superfluous. Furthermore, it had this drawback that it restricted to some extent the responsibility of the commander. It was therefore considered expedient to abolish the function of Political Commissar and to place full responsibility for all the activities of his unit upon the commander. This was done by order of the Soviet Government on October 9, 1942. Henceforth political work in the armed forces is to be conducted by Deputy Political Officers who are subordinate to the commanders. The Deputy Political Officers and all other political workers are to be given the same rank and marks of distinction as the commanders.

Superior Political Officers receive their training at the Lenin Military Political Academy, while the Junior Officers obtain theirs at Military Political Schools and various courses.

Political instruction is given mainly in political instruction classes, which are obligatory for all privates and non-commissioned officers. This is supplemented by lectures, the publication of regimental and company newspapers, attendance at cinemas, etc. An important feature of this work is the explanation that

is given to the men of the latest laws and regulations passed by the government.

Much attention is devoted to fostering the gallant traditions of the Russian Army. Lectures are frequently arranged dealing with the lives and campaigns of outstanding military leaders in Russian history, such as Alexander Nevsky, Dmitri Donskoi, Alexander Suvorov and Mikhail Kutuzov, whose names are honoured and cherished in the Red Army. Everything in the experience of these great military leaders that can be usefully applied today is taken over. Suvorov's striking maxims, in which he formulated his rules for the conduct of war—such as "Fight, not with numbers, but with skill"; "Hard on the training ground, easy on the battlefield," etc.—are exceedingly popular among both men and officers. Much attention is devoted also to the cultivation of the traditions of the Civil War and war against the foreign interventionists from 1918 to 1920. Nearly every regiment has its history and the men are made familiar with the famous battles it has fought in the past. Most attention, however, is paid to the inculcation of love and devotion to the country, contempt for death and readiness to sacrifice everything for the honour, freedom, and independence of the country.

An important part in the work of political instruction in the Red Army is played by the Young Communist League in each unit which is a useful auxiliary to the Commander and the Deputy Political Officer.

The Red Army and Navy are strong because the men know that they are fighting to defend their motherland. The Red Army and Navy were born and became steeled in the fight for the Land of Soviets. Hundreds of thousands of sons of the people laid down their lives for their country on the hills in the Far East and on the Western frontier, on the bleak coast of the White Sea, in the broad steppes of the Ukraine and Don, and in the mountains of Caucasia. The men of the Red Army and Navy know that the object for which they are fighting is the object of the entire people.

The Red Army and Navy are strong because they are backed by all the nations which constitute the Soviet Union. Russians,

and Kazakhs, Ukrainians and Tajiks, Armenians, Azerbaijanians and Georgians, Byelorussians and Uzbeks, Caucasian Highlanders and the people of the Arctic are fighting shoulder to shoulder for their common cause.

The Red Army and Navy are strong because of the united front that exists among the nations of Europe and America which are fighting for freedom and independence and against enslavement, or the menace of enslavement, by Hitler's fascist army.

The Red Army and Navy are strong because they were created and reared by Lenin and Stalin, and are led today by Stalin, one of the greatest military commanders of the age.

5. TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY IS THE SACRED DUTY OF EVERY CITIZEN OF THE SOVIET UNION

In November 1917, the workers and peasants of Russia became the masters of their country. They really acquired a motherland, and united to defend it from the first moment the Soviet regime was established. After beating off numerous enemies in fierce and sanguinary battles, they, by their arduous and persistent labours transformed their country into a flourishing and happy Land of Socialism.

On June 12, 1936, the Soviet Government published the draft of the Stalin Constitution and submitted it to the consideration of the citizens of the country. This draft was eagerly welcomed and discussed in every factory and farm, in every town and village, and met with the approval of the vast masses of the people. Eventually, the draft became the Fundamental Law of the land, the Great Charter of the Soviet people. One of the Articles of the Constitution which enumerates the rights and duties of the citizen reads as follows:

"To defend the fatherland is the sacred duty of every citizen of the U.S.S.R. Treason to the country—violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the state, espionage—is punishable with all the severity of the law as the most heinous of crimes."

The people of the Soviet Union proudly fulfil their sacred duty

of defending their country. The annual enrollment of recruits for the Red Army are regular festivals. The recruiting stations are decorated with flags and flowers. Many parents come to see their sons off, not with wailing and weeping, as was the case in the old days of tsarism, but with joy and gladness. Failure to answer the call to the colours is extremely rare. On the other hand, numerous cases occur of men not liable to military service offering to fill the place of their brothers who have fallen in battle. For example, on July 5, 1937, Private Grigori Michurin fell in battle defending the frontiers of the Soviet Union in the Far East. On hearing of this, his brother, Vassili, volunteered to fill his place.

Strengthening the defences of the country does not mean strengthening only the Red Army and Navy; it means training the masses of the people in the use of arms in order to repel an invading foe. For this purpose the Aircraft and Chemical Warfare Defence Society was formed and proved of valuable assistance to the government. This society, a purely voluntary organization, was formed as far back as 1923. It organized squads of young men and women for various arms of the service and thus trained auxiliaries for the Red Army. Tens of thousands of young men and women learned in their spare time to become airmen, glider pilots, parachute jumpers, tankists and signalmen. In response to the appeal of Marshal Voroshilov, who is himself a crack shot, this society trained hundreds of thousands of excellent marksmen who won the Voroshilov Badge. Large numbers of these "Voroshilov Marksmen," as they are called, are performing splendid service as snipers in the present war against the fascists.

At the present time, when millions of men of the Red Army are fighting on the battlefield and performing miracles of heroism, universal military training is going on in the rear. Every able-bodied man capable of bearing arms is undergoing military training in his spare time to be ready if called upon to take his part in defending the country against its enemies. It is this that makes the Soviet people invincible and serves as the pledge of their victory.

THE WAR AGAINST FINLAND

1. THE MANNERHEIM LINE

It is common knowledge that the Soviet Union has been and is in the front rank of the nations in the struggle for peace. The Soviet Union pursues no imperialist aims; it stands for the freedom and independence of nations, and has always opposed the predatory plans of aggression. It was with the object of preserving peace that the Soviet Government signed the non-aggression pact with Germany in August 1939. Referring to this pact Stalin said in his radio broadcast of July 3, 1941:

"It may be asked: How could the Soviet Government have consented to conclude a non-aggression pact with such treacherous fiends as Hitler and Ribbentrop? Was this not an error on the part of the Soviet Government? Of course, not! Non-aggression pacts are pacts of peace between two states. It was such a pact that Germany proposed to us in 1939. Could the Soviet Government have declined such a proposal? I think that not a single peace-loving state could decline a peace treaty with a neighbouring state, even though the latter was headed by such fiends and cannibals as Hitler and Ribbentrop. But that, of course, only on one indispensable condition, that this peace treaty did not jeopardize, either directly or indirectly, the territorial integrity, independence and honour of the peace-loving state. As is well known, the non-aggression pact between Germany and the U.S.S.R. was precisely such a pact."

Stalin then went on to explain what the Soviet Union gained by this pact. He said:

“What did we gain by concluding the non-aggression pact with Germany? We secured our country peace for a year and a half and the opportunity of preparing its forces to repulse fascist Germany should she risk an attack on our country despite the pact. This was a definite advantage for us and a disadvantage for fascist Germany.”

On September 1, 1939, the fascists commenced hostilities against Poland. Crushed by a force three times as large as her own, Poland was quickly defeated and the fascist troops rapidly advanced towards the Eastern regions of Poland, to Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia, the ancient territory of Russia, which had belonged to the Russian people long before the war of 1914-18.

The Soviet Government could not remain inactive when the Ukrainian and Byelorussian people, the kinsmen of the Russian people, were menaced by the danger of being enslaved by Hitler, and on September 17, 1939, with the approval of the entire people, it resolved to go to their rescue.

The liberation of Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia by the Red Army was not all to the liking of the fascist aggressors who had counted on converting these territories into a *place d'armes* for an attack on the Soviet Union, in the same way as they had done to Finland. In Finland, thirty kilometres from Leningrad a line of powerful fortifications was built which has gone into history under the name of the Mannerheim Line. These fortifications were of the same type as those of the Maginot Line in France and the Ziegfried Line in Germany.

The Finns had been building this line for the past twenty years, but operations were accelerated in the period between 1929 and 1937, and particularly during the few years preceding 1939, when the most powerful of the fortifications were built.

The line ran across the Karelian Isthmus from Lake Ladoga to the Gulf of Finland. It had over 3,000 gun emplacements, all skilfully masked. Many of them were covered with earth on which bushes and even young trees grew. Some of these emplacements had houses built over them and in many villages the basements of houses were lined with ferro-concrete and had as

many as five embrasures. Between the gun emplacements trenches were built for infantry, and many of them were connected with the rear by underground tunnels.

The Mannerheim Line consisted of a main defence zone, a second defence zone three to five kilometres behind the first, and twelve kilometres behind that ran the Vyborg rear position, which was protected from the sea by a number of fortified islands and coastal batteries. The front of the line was covered by a zone of entanglements and obstacles consisting of anti-tank trenches, granite rocks, three-fourths of their bulk buried in the ground, and thick anti-tank walls from one to two metres high, built immediately behind the anti-tank trenches. The roads were barred by barricades of logs extending in places up to 250 metres, huge pits, and other traps for tanks. The whole zone was very thickly mined. Subsequently, when the Red Army was pursuing the Finns, as many as a thousand mines were found in some places in an area of one square kilometre. They had been cunningly concealed in brushwood seemingly collected for fuel, in wood piles, and in stoves of abandoned houses. Mines were attached to door handles, and to articles seemingly left behind by retreating troops and likely to be picked up by the pursuers.

To all this must be added the natural obstacles: the marshes, the innumerable lakes connected with each other by narrow necks of land thickly mined, the impassable granite rocks, and the dense woods which greatly strengthened the defences of the region.

High military experts regarded the Mannerheim Line as impregnable. General Badu, who supervised the construction of the line, claimed that not only was it completely up-to-date in every respect, but had the additional advantage that the artillery and machine-gun emplacements were built in solid granite which could withstand the heaviest bombs.

This heavily fortified zone commenced 30 kilometres from Leningrad, one of the largest industrial centres of the Soviet Union, with a population of three and a half million. The city could easily be bombarded with long range artillery, while enemy aeroplanes could reach it within three or four minutes,

before the anti-aircraft defences could get into action. From Fort Ino, at Vyborg, the Finns could bombard Kronstadt; and from Vyborg Bay, Finnish torpedo boats, covered by the islands, could attack Kronstadt Harbour. The Finns also threatened the Kirov Railway, which connected the Soviet Union with its only ice-free port, Murmansk. In short, the Finnish fortifications on the Karelian Isthmus were like a revolver pointed at the head of Leningrad.

The Soviet Government could not allow Leningrad and the North-Western frontier of the Soviet Union to remain under this menace. Therefore, in October 1939, it offered to conclude a pact of mutual assistance with Finland. The Finnish government rejected this. The Soviet Government then proposed to the Finnish government that the Finnish frontier on the Karelian Isthmus be shifted inland thirty or forty kilometres and that Finland should lease to the Soviet Union the Hango Peninsula on which to build a Soviet naval and air base. In compensation for this the Soviet Government offered Finland territory in Soviet Karelia of an area twice as large as that to be ceded by Finland.

It was clear to every unprejudiced person that the object of the Soviet Government's proposal was to ensure the safety of Leningrad and to safeguard the North-West frontier of the Soviet Union, and that its proposal did not in the least affect Finland's vital interests. No Great Power would tolerate a situation in which its second capital was under the very muzzles of enemy guns. An American journalist, reviewing the situation that led up to Hitler's wanton attack on the Soviet Union, stated that if New York were in the position of Leningrad at that time, every American would consider it right for the United States to try to prevent the building of a military base in close proximity to a large American city. And today, when the German fascists are using Finland as a *place d'armes* for attacking Leningrad, even the blind can see that the Soviet Union was fully justified in the attitude it then took.

Negotiations dragged on for two months. The Soviet Government patiently explained to the Finnish representatives that it

could not tolerate an enemy *place d'armes* so close to Leningrad and did its utmost to reach an agreement. Time and again the negotiations were broken off and resumed. Instead of meeting the Soviet Government's proposal in a conciliatory spirit, the Finnish government called a general mobilization, increased its forces under arms from 30,000 to 400,000, and began to clear the region bordering on the Soviet Union. It forcibly evicted the population, destroyed villages and slaughtered the cattle. It moved seven divisions to the Karelian Isthmus. At the same time the Finnish press launched a furious anti-Soviet campaign. It was obvious that Finland was preparing for war against the Soviet Union.

On November 26, 1939, at 3.45 p.m., the Finnish artillery opened fire in the region of the village of Mainila and killed three Red Army privates and one non-commissioned officer, and wounded seven privates, one non-commissioned officer and one junior lieutenant. But even then the Soviet Government did not draw the sword. It demanded that the Finnish troops be withdrawn twenty to twenty-five kilometres from the frontier. The Finnish government refused to do so, and the President of Finland proclaimed the country in a state of war with the Soviet Union.

On November 29, 1939, Molotov delivered a speech over the radio in which he informed the Soviet people of the provocative conduct of the Finnish government and stated that the High Command of the Red Army and Navy had been ordered "to be prepared to meet all contingencies and immediately to thwart every new sortie on the part of the Finnish militarists." Concluding his speech Molotov said:

"The sole object of the measures we are taking is to ensure the safety of the Soviet Union and particularly of Leningrad with its three and a half million population."

Late that night the Finnish frontier guards tried to cross the Soviet frontier at two points. On November 30, the Red Army, after thwarting these attempts, proceeded to carry out the Soviet Government's order: to ensure the safety of the frontier and of Leningrad.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASSAULT

The Soviet High Command were well aware of the difficulties that confronted the Red Army and did not in the least imagine that the Finnish fortifications, which had taken a score of years to build, could be destroyed in a short space of time. Up to that time the Red Army had not had to contend against such an intricate and widely ramified system of obstacles as that represented by the Mannerheim Line. It is sufficient to mention that in the foremost operative zone of entanglements no less than eighty gun emplacements were subsequently found. Only an army equipped with the most up-to-date weapons could undertake to overcome fortifications of this kind.

The Red Navy launched its attack simultaneously with that launched by the Red Army. Its first objective was to capture the islands in the Gulf of Finland. Beating off the attacks of enemy submarines and crushing the fire of the Finnish batteries, the fleet ensured a successful landing and a number of islands were occupied.

Notwithstanding all the difficulties of overcoming the obstacles in the foremost zone of entanglements the Red Army pressed forward. The advance proceeded in five directions: Murmansk, Ukhta, Petrozavodsk, Kexholm and Vyborg.

The problem that faced the Soviet High Command was: Which is the main direction? Where should the main blow be struck? The problem would seem to have been an easy one. At Uleaborg the Red Army had advanced 150 kilometres and the enemy was retreating. What would have been easier than to follow the line of least resistance, press on towards Bothnia Bay, and thus cut Finland into two?

But this would not have decided the issue of the war. That could be achieved only by striking at the Mannerheim Line. Only by piercing the Mannerheim Line could the back of Finnish resistance be broken and the object of the war attained, *viz.*, to safeguard Leningrad from the menace of attack by air and sea. The Soviet High Command, in close consultation with

Stalin, decided that the Vyborg direction was the main one and that the main blow must be struck here.

But this meant breaking through a line of fortifications which the most prominent military experts in the world regarded as impregnable. For this, adequate preparations had to be made.

The Soviet Government appointed to the command of the North-Western Front Semyon Timoshenko, one of the heroes of the Civil War. Andrei Zhdanov, Secretary of the Leningrad Regional Committee of the Communist Party, was appointed to the Military Council of that Front. Armed with the vast experience he had obtained in the course of building the Red Army and the fights it had waged, Marshal Timoshenko vigorously set to work to prepare for the assault on the Mannerheim Line.

The winter set in, the lakes and rivers froze and it seemed that favourable weather had set in for military operations. But then came heavy snowfalls. The snow lay on the ground one and a half metres thick, covering the fortifications and hindering scouting operations. The temperature dropped to 45 degrees below zero, but in spite of that the marshes did not freeze. Often aeroplanes would land on a marsh, and water would ooze out from under the runners. It was under these severe conditions that the Red Army developed its operations.

The absence of roads and the deep snow made it necessary to put the troops on skis. Special ski battalions and squadrons were formed, which mastered the art of manœuvring on skis in a remarkably short time. On Marshal Timoshenko's orders, obstacles were erected behind the Red Army lines, similar to those in the Mannerheim Line, and the Red Armymen were trained to overcome them.

The entire country watched the struggle with bated breath. Tens of thousands of young workers volunteered for the front. Athletes, students, and factory workers who were good ski-runners volunteered for the ski battalions and rendered yeoman service in the war. The men at the front felt the full backing of the people at home. They received thousands of letters and parcels from their friends and workmates, full of encouragement

and good cheer, and this imbued them with greater courage and fortitude for the severe task that lay ahead.

At last, the Soviet High Command considered that the preparations were complete and gave the order for the assault on the Mannerheim Line to commence on February 11, 1940.

3. THE ASSAULT ON THE MANNERHEIM LINE

The assault was started by a heavy artillery bombardment. At 9.40 a.m. on February 11, the Soviet guns of all calibres began to bombard every yard of the Finnish fortifications. The heavy shells literally scalped the Finnish dugouts and gun emplacements; they blew the roofs clean off. The artillery fire formed an almost solid wall which slowly moved forward, deeper into the enemy's lines. The bombardment lasted until 2.20 p.m. Suddenly it ceased. The silence that followed could almost be felt. But this lasted only for a moment or so. The roar of tank engines was heard and soon the tanks themselves were seen speeding towards the enemy's lines. With a mighty cheer and cries of: "For our Country!" "For Stalin!" the Red Armymen rushed to the assault of the Mannerheim Line.

The first to break through the line was the 123rd Division, commanded by General Alyabushev. Twenty minutes after the bombardment had ceased several units of this division had already captured a number of enemy gun emplacements and heights. They also captured guns, machine guns, and other war material, and also prisoners.

The success of the 123rd Division was due to the splendid coordination of the operations of the infantry with those of the other arms. The infantry kept close behind the curtain of fire put up by the Soviet artillery and, advancing energetically, gave the enemy no opportunity to rally his forces. The Finns waited for the bombardment to cease in order to put their still surviving guns in action, but as soon as the firing ceased the Red Infantry charged and prevented them from doing so.

Every day brought news of new regiments and divisions having pierced the Mannerheim Line, and within the course of a week the

main defence line was broken. New Red Forces streamed through the breaches in the line. The impetus of the assault did not subside for a single moment.

By March 1, after seventeen days of continuous offensive, the Red Army captured nearly 1,000 fortified defence positions, over 500 guns, nearly 3,000 machine guns and over 10,000 rifles. One hundred and ninety aeroplanes were brought down.

The offensive was maintained along the whole front in order to hold the enemy's forces and to prevent him from transferring reinforcements to the Karelian Isthmus. The Red Army units fought their way forward in the Murmansk, Ukhta, Petrozavodsk and Kexholm directions.

The Soviet High Command then issued the order to the Red troops to capture Vyborg Fort. Basing themselves on the Koyvisto Peninsula and a number of islands which they had captured, the Red Army began to force its way across the ice of Vyborg Bay. The enemy kept up a hurricane fire. Mines had been laid in the ice packs and the Finns broke up the ice along the shore with explosive bombs. But the Red Forces overcame all obstacles. The Red Marines had reconnoitred the ice beforehand and had marked the most convenient places for landing. The order to advance across the ice was given. Dawn was just breaking on March 13, when the silence was broken by the roar of artillery. Behind the curtain of fire the Red Armymen advanced to storm Vyborg Fort.

At 11.45 a.m., the flag of the 27th Regiment waved from the chimney stack of a factory in the centre of the town. At noon, both the artillery and machine-gun fire ceased. The war had come to an end. Finland accepted the Soviet Government's peace terms.

After the Mannerheim Line had been pierced and Vyborg captured, the Red Army could have advanced further and in a very short period have captured the Finnish capital and all the vital centres of the country. But the Soviet Government was not imbued with any desire for conquest. Nor had it any intention of punishing Finland for the perfidious and insane policy of her government. It did not, therefore, occupy Finland, nor impose

any indemnities upon her. It merely desired the satisfaction of its legitimate demands. *

The Finnish government, which is now cringing at the feet of Hitler, repaid the Soviet Government's generosity by placing Finland at the disposal of fascist Germany as a *place d'armes* for her attack on Leningrad, and by participating in the war against the Soviet Union.

HEROES OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

On Stalin's instructions, the lessons of the Finnish campaign were closely studied by the whole Red Army. The intense and rapidly changing international situation and the war raging on the threshold of the Soviet Union demanded that the Soviet armed forces should constitute a powerful, united body bound from top to bottom by exemplary discipline, capable and ready to carry out the orders of the Soviet Government at the first word of command. The new technique of war and the new rate of locomotion not only changed the character of military operations, but also changed the outlook of commanders and men and called forth entirely new reactions. The whole organism of the army had to be adapted to these new conditions.

Shortly after passing the test of modern conditions of warfare in the Finnish campaign the Red Army was called upon to stand this test on an immeasurably larger scale. On June 22, 1941, fascist Germany launched her wanton and unprovoked attack on the Soviet Union.

Equipped with up-to-date weapons, backed morally and politically by the united Soviet people, and supported by all the progressive nations in the world, the Red Army is now fighting to repel the invasion of the fascist barbarians. Confident in its leaders, convinced of ultimate victory, proudly aware of the admiration and support of all freedom-loving nations the Red Army is making the enemy pay heavily for every inch of Soviet soil, and meanwhile is mustering its forces for the decisive blow that will crush the enemy when its leader Stalin gives the word of command.

The brave warriors of the Soviet Union have contributed many a glorious page to the annals of the popular struggles for liberty. First among them are the Soviet airmen whom the Soviet people fondly call "Stalin's falcons."

Perhaps it is not so well known that Baidukov, who accompanied Chkalov in his flight from Moscow across the North Pole to the United States, is also a novelist. In one of his novels, he describes a battle between a group of aeroplanes and a number of naval craft, in the course of which one of the aeroplanes is hit. The pilot steers his damaged plane over one of the enemy ships and drops on its deck with his load of bombs. The ship is blown up and the airman with it. Readers of this story thought that this incident was merely the product of artistic fantasy. But Baidukov knows the spirit of his comrades thoroughly. What only recently seemed merely artistic fantasy is now being enacted in real life in the great war of national defence that the Red Army is waging.

For example: On July 3, a fascist tank column protected by aircraft tried to pierce the Soviet lines. The Soviet artillery and aircraft held up the enemy's advance. One of the aircraft squadrons was led by Captain Nikolai Gastello. During the fighting an enemy shell pierced his oil tank. The plane caught fire and all the Captain's efforts to put out the flames were futile. Seemingly, the only thing left for him to do was to jump with his parachute and fall into the hands of the enemy. But Soviet airmen do not surrender. Captain Gastello looked down and observed that a lull had occurred in the fighting and that the German tanks were grouped around an oil tank taking fuel. He directed his burning machine over the enemy tanks and dropped right among them. Tens of enemy machines were blown up together with this heroic airman. Captain Gastello was formerly a factory worker and so was his father. Both had worked at an engineering plant in Moscow. Captain Gastello had also fought in the war against Finland.

Fiction has become truth; and truth has proved to be stranger than fiction. Captain Gastello has many imitators. For example,

airman Mikhailov's plane caught fire in the air. The airman could have saved himself, but he steered his plane over a group of fascist tanks and dropped among them. He met his death like a hero, causing the enemy serious damage.

The same thing occurred with airman Stepanov, whose plane had caught fire, and he too caused the enemy serious damage by dropping upon a group of tanks.

Airman Tarasov and Yeremin could easily have saved themselves from their burning planes by jumping from them with their parachutes, but they saw a column of fascist machines below them and dropped right among them. Tarasov was 25 years of age and Yeremin 24.

At the end of August, the Germans concentrated large tank and infantry forces in a certain district in preparation for an attempt to cross the River Dnieper. Soviet aircraft and artillery thwarted these attempts for two days. At the end of the third day the enemy, after losing about a thousand sappers and infantrymen, 50 tanks, six anti-aircraft batteries and a large number of pontoons succeeded in erecting a pontoon bridge half-way across the river. A squadron of Soviet diving bombers was ordered to wreck the bridge. In the course of the operation, the plane commanded by Junior Lieutenant Vdovenko bombed and destroyed five enemy anti-aircraft guns, but a German shell hit the plane and set it on fire. The crew decided to steer for the enemy bridge with the remainder of their load of bombs. The plane dropped and the bridge was blown into splinters. In addition to Junior Lieutenant Vdovenko, the crew consisted of pilot Gomanenko, machine-gunner Kapatov and machine-gunner Karpov. They all perished. In the Red Army this amazingly self-sacrificing method of fighting is now called "fire ramming."

But the actual ramming of enemy planes is also becoming a common practice among Soviet airmen in the present war. This form of air fighting was first attempted by the famous Russian airman, Captain Peter Nesterov, during the first World War. On August 26, 1914, he rammed a German aeroplane and perished together with his enemy. This act of heroism was never repeated. But the Soviet airmen always cherished the memory

of that gallant airman and in the present war against the fascist barbarians scores of Soviet airmen have performed the deed that made his name famous.

The Soviet airmen ram enemy machines either with their chassis or their propellers. Quite a number of these brave airmen have perished in these daring attacks, but the majority, in addition to displaying wonderful heroism, also display marvellous technical skill and successfully emerge from such attacks, sometimes with no damage at all. According to far from complete returns, from July 22 to August 31, 1941, 43 airmen, the majority of whom were saved, rammed 43 enemy planes. By January 1, 1942, the number of rammed enemy planes had risen to 100.

When the first cases of ramming in the air were reported in the Soviet press, the Germans declared over the radio that these reports were pure fiction. One of Goebbels' professional liars even waxed very ironic over the radio and told the story in the form of a fairy tale and then, sniggering, said that even children would not believe it. But one can understand the incredulity of these fascist marauders. Fascist soldiers fighting only for loot cannot understand self-sacrifice of this kind. Soldiers who have had it dinned into their minds by their leaders that the object of their war is to plunder other countries cannot conceive of anybody voluntarily laying down his life for his country. But where soldiers are inspired by lofty ideals, the number of those ready to sacrifice their lives for the honour and liberty of their country is legion. They truly deserve the title of Hero of the Soviet Union that has been conferred upon them. Here are some more facts:

The following is a brief account of the last air battle fought by young Nikolai Liskonozenko, who was 22 years old. In the beginning of October 1941, a group of Soviet fighter planes, after attacking an enemy ford across the river V., encountered two enemy bombers. As soon as the latter sighted the Soviet aeroplanes, they turned and tried to get away. Liskonozenko went in pursuit, overtook one of the German bombers, and cut off its rudder with his propeller. The enemy plane hurtled to the ground. During this operation, Liskonozenko was separated from his group. On emerging from the clouds he was attacked by three "M-109's."

In spite of the fact that his propeller had been bent as a result of ramming the German bomber, he made a frontal attack at these Messerschmidts with the intention of ramming them. The fascists opened a heavy machine-gun and gun fire. Liskonozhenko was wounded in the shoulder and the head, but in spite of that, he continued to steer for the Messerschmidts, and rammed one. The latter hurtled to the ground enveloped in flames. Liskonozhenko, however, failed to land his own machine safely. He perished with it.

Junior Lieutenant Victor Talalikhin is in charge of a fighting plane in the Moscow Air Defence Force. He is only 23 years of age. He entered the air pilots' school in 1938. Until then he was employed in a meat-packing plant in Moscow. He learnt to fly in his spare time at courses organized by the Air and Chemical Defence Society. He fought in the war against Finland and was awarded the Order of the Red Star. On the night of August 6, Talalikhin was ordered to intercept a fascist plane that was making for Moscow at a height of 4,500 metres. Swiftly taking off, he saw a "Heinkel-III" on his left and quickly caught up with it, although he was not flying a machine of the latest type. He even had to reduce speed to prevent himself flying past the enemy bomber. He damaged the enemy's engine with his very first shots and compelled him to turn away from Moscow. He chased after him, sending a stream of bullets in his wake. The German airman proved to be a very experienced one and skilfully evaded the shots. Talalikhin's cartridges ran out. "An airman must think quickly," he said in relating the story. "I decided to ram him. I was one and they were four. If I died, the score would be 4 to 1 in our favour, as we say on the football field." He put on speed. When he got within about fifteen metres of the bomber, a stream of bullets came pouring from its rear. One bullet seared Talalikhin's right hand. He put on more speed and charged right into the bomber. Later his watch showed 11.28 p.m. It was stopped by the force of the impact. The Soviet plane turned turtle. At a height of 2,500 metres Talalikhin jumped with his parachute, dropped about 800 metres before opening it, and did so only when he heard his plane hurtling past him. He landed

safely. The plane that he rammed was built in March 1941 and was equipped with six double machine guns and one large-calibre machine gun. The German airmen were armed with automatic rifles and pistols. The plane was piloted by a Colonel, about 40 years of age, who wore the Iron Cross for bombarding Narvik.

On August 20, Senior Lieutenant Vlassov was on duty, sitting in the cockpit of his fighting plane at his aerodrome. Suddenly a German "Junkers-88" dived out of the clouds. Vlassov was in the air in a flash. The bomber opened fire and then turned tail. Vlassov overhauled it and began firing at a range of 200 m. The enemy made off as fast as his engines would carry him. Vlassov put on speed, came within 50 m. of the bomber, but found that his cartridges had run out. He decided to ram the bomber. He steered his plane to the left and under the Junkers and thus got out of range of its machine gun, gave a short spurt and rammed it, cut across his rudder, breaking it clean off. Vlassov's plane bounced off the enemy plane and listed at an angle of 90°. The fight took place at a height of 4,500 metres. Vlassov was dazed by the collision. When his mind cleared he found that his plane was about 1,500 m. from the ground. He tried the steering gear and found that it worked. The engines were silent, and the propeller blades were bent. Vlassov was wounded in the right hand and blood flowed from his forehead, over the right eye; he could not see with his left eye as the glass of his goggles was smashed. Nevertheless, he landed his plane and then lost consciousness.

Junior Lieutenant Michael Zhukov shot down one enemy plane and rammed a second.

Junior Lieutenant Peter Kharitonov has rammed two enemy planes.

Junior Lieutenant D. Zaitsev cut off the rudder of an enemy machine with his propeller. The enemy machine dropped to its doom, but Zaitsev safely landed at his aerodrome.

All these airmen have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Junior Lieutenant A. Lukyanov in one fight damaged two enemy planes by machine-gun fire and cut off the tail of a third with his propeller. Lukyanov safely landed at his aerodrome.

Airman Klykov shot down a German plane; but during the fight his own plane caught fire. With his burning plane Klykov rammed a second enemy plane.

Captain Krasnolutsky flew his machine head-on against a Messerschmidt. The German pilot funked and swerved aside, but Captain Krasnolutsky went after him and rammed him. He himself safely landed at his aerodrome.

Such are the almost legendary feats of Soviet airmen. Perhaps the biggest mistake the fascists made in their calculations was in their estimation of the Soviet Air Force. "Slavs can never be any good in air fighting. This is the weapon of brave men. It is the German method of warfare," declared the fascist chiefs with their customary arrogance. They boasted that they were masters of the air, and several times they announced that the Soviet Air Force had been smashed. But for two-and-a-half months Soviet airmen prevented German planes from reaching Leningrad; and they are compelling the German bombers in their flights to Moscow to keep at a height of 7,000 to 8,000 metres and to drop their bombs long before they reach the city. The fascist airmen brought down by Stalin's falcons bombed Paris, London and Narvik and flew over North Africa, but they met their doom in Russia.

In 45 days the air squadron commanded by Captain Kholzakov brought down 150 fascist planes, losing very few of its own. In 40 days the squadron commanded by Captain Morozov shot down 71 German planes in air fighting and destroyed 12 in their aerodromes. In the first month of the war, the squadron commanded by Captain Shevchenko, Hero of the Soviet Union, destroyed over 100 fascist aeroplanes in air fighting and in German aerodromes.

The fascists always avoid entering into single combat with the Soviet airmen. In most cases they avoid battle, preferring to bomb defenceless cities at night.

Airman Vladimir Kamenshchikov and his wife were in a theatre in a certain frontier town when the fascists wantonly attacked it. Hurrying off to his aerodrome he rose into the air and at once encountered two Messerschmidts. He shot down one of them, but came under the fire of another group of enemy planes. They

pumped streams of bullets into his plane. First one of his oil tanks exploded, and then the other. The burning liquid poured all over him. He jumped with his parachute at a height of 150 metres and dropped like a burning torch. Fortunately he fell into the river. His face and hands were scorched. His eyes had been saved by his goggles. He was taken to the hospital but he quietly left it a few days later and returned to the front. With his head and hands swathed in bandages he piloted another plane in quest of further encounters with the enemy. Since then he has brought down many a fascist plane and has been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

In the first month of the war Senior Lieutenant Storozhakov brought down eight fascist aeroplanes, Lieutenant Chirkov, seven, Lieutenant Borovkov, five.

In the fighting near Leningrad, Squadron Commissar Murga has up to now brought down ten German aeroplanes, five of them in one battle.

In this same area Captain Brinko, now Hero of the Soviet Union, has brought down fourteen German planes.

Up to June 16, 1942, Lieutenant Colonel Boris Safonov, of the 2nd Guards Aviation Regiment, on the Northern Front, who has been twice awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union Medal, brought down 25 German aeroplanes on his own account, and 14 others in group battles. "Safonov's round" has become proverbial along the whole front. He approaches quite close to an enemy plane and fires at its most vulnerable parts at a range of no more than 100 metres.

In one battle, seven Soviet fighter planes commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Safonov intercepted 52 fascist bombers on their way to bomb a Soviet objective. The group of Soviet airmen impetuously charged right among this enemy air armada, and broke up its formation. Dashing into the clouds and suddenly appearing again from a different direction, they gave the fascists the impression that they were surrounded by a large force. The 52 fascist aeroplanes dropped their bombs on their own troops and made off. Four of them were brought down.

As Safonov's group was returning to its base six German

bombers appeared with the intention of bombing it. Safonov guessed that enemy planes were around from the barking of anti-aircraft guns. He looked around and sighted a Junkers just coming out of a dive. He charged at it and opened fire with his machine gun at a range of 100 metres. The Junkers was hit, and trying to get away by flying low, dropped to about 10 metres above the water of a lake nearby. It could be attacked only from above. The translucent surface of the water merged with the air and the slightest miscalculation on Safonov's part would result in his machine hitting the water; but he fired one more round and the fascist machine hit the water instead.

In this battle Safonov brought down another Junkers. He sighted it just as it, too, was getting out of the dive. He got behind it and kept up a continuous fire until it burst into flames.

Lieutenant Colonel Safonov was the first Soviet airman to handle an English Hurricane, and the first to make a night flight in one. Major Miller, the Commander of the British Air Squadron on the Northern Front, said that nobody could handle a Hurricane better than Safonov. In March 1942, the British Government awarded Lieutenant Colonel Safonov a Distinguished Flying Cross.

Major Alexandrov fought and defeated seven enemy aeroplanes. It happened this way. One day, a number of German bombers, accompanied by 15 fighter planes, attacked a Soviet aerodrome. The Soviet airmen went up like a shot. They made a frontal attack, broke up the enemy's formation and compelled him to accept battle. The ratio of enemy to Soviet planes was 3 : 1. Major Alexandrov found himself up against seven "M-109's." Continuously attacking, he drove them to a great height where his engine was more powerful than those of the Messerschmidts. The seven enemy planes were scattered and driven from the aerodrome. Afterwards, Major Alexandrov said: "I had to make a forced landing, but I am quite sure that the Germans had to do the same, because my frontal attacks must have been fatal for them."

On August 5, 1942, in the region of Kletskaya, on the Southern Front, a young airman named Baranov compelled a large group

of German aeroplanes to accept battle and in the course of an hour brought down four of them. He shot down a "J-87" diving bomber, two fast "M-101's," and rammed another fighter plane. Airman Baranov's total score at the time of writing was 24 enemy planes. He has been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Soviet airmen bomb fascist tank columns, mow down their infantry, bomb Rumanian oilwells, destroy fords, make raids on Berlin, Koenigsberg, Danzig, Stettin and other German towns, and play havoc with the fascist aircraft. They have the mastery of the air. Aircraft are indeed "the weapons of brave men."

Stalin's falcons are emulated in courage and self-sacrifice by the other arms of the Soviet service—tanks, artillery and infantry.

Following the example of their comrades in the air, Soviet tank troopers are also employing ramming tactics. For example, during a tank battle, Junior Lieutenant Yukhnich was surrounded by five fascist tanks. The Soviet tank commander destroyed four of them by gun fire and overturned the fifth by charging it head on.

Tank Commander, Junior Lieutenant Simonov, encountered a number of fascist tanks which opened a running fire on him. The fascist shells merely scraped the steel armour of the Soviet tank. Lieutenant Simonov opened fire from his gun, set fire to two of the fascist tanks, and went in pursuit of the rest. He caught up with one of them, charged it with his full weight, and wrecked it. In that battle Lieutenant Simonov's group destroyed by gun fire and crushed 11 fascist tanks.

Captain I. Kaduchenko, Hero of the Soviet Union, is known among his comrades as "Tank Destroyer." Absolutely fearless, he is continuously in the fighting line at the head of his tank battalion. One day he destroyed seven enemy tanks, in one of which was the German Battalion Commander. On another occasion he was engaged in battle with an enemy tank when his shells ran out, so he rammed the enemy tank. So powerful was the impact that the German tank turned turtle and caught fire. The crew, unable to get out of the overturned tank, perished in flames.

For heroic deeds performed in battles, Lieutenant General V. Mishulin, commander of a large Soviet tank unit, has been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. He is the son of a peasant. He joined the Red Army during the Civil War, taking part in all its campaigns. His unit bore the brunt of the attack of the German tanks that came rushing east in the first days of the war. In one battle he was seriously wounded, but it was only with great difficulty that he was persuaded to go into hospital. Even while in bed he demanded hourly reports of the situation at the front. From one of these reports he learned that the Germans, failing to break through the Soviet defence lines, were preparing for a flank movement. He at once got out of bed, hobbled into the street and stopping the first automobile that passed, speeded off to his unit. His return acted as a stimulant upon his men by whom he was greatly loved and admired. Carefully studying the situation, he drew up a plan of battle and led his unit against the enemy. The Germans' flanking movement was frustrated; the enemy was beaten and thrown back.

Before this war it was not considered possible for infantry to repel tank attacks without the aid of artillery. But Soviet infantrymen, on their own initiative, have derived a means by which this can be done. It requires a great deal of courage and nerve to employ it however. The men allow advancing tanks to come within short range and then hurl bunches of hand grenades or bottles of inflammable liquid at them. If the throw is successful the tank hit will be wrecked or set on fire. If, however, the tank continues to advance, the men crouch low in their trench and allow the tanks to pass and throw another bunch of hand grenades at its rear.

The Red Armymen are now familiar with the parts of tanks that are most vulnerable to fire. These are the engine, the oil tank, the exhaust pipe and the electrical fittings, all situated in the rear of the tank. It is these parts that the Soviet infantrymen aim at with their hand grenades and bottles of inflammable liquid.

One day, a rifle unit commanded by Lieutenant Khrennikov was attacked by German tanks which were followed by infantry.

Lieutenant Khrennikov ordered his men to withhold their fire. The men kept close to the ground watching the advancing tanks. "Thirty metres, twenty, ten," they counted. When the tanks got within about seven metres, one of the men, Private Demin, rose to full height and with a hefty swing threw a bottle of inflammable liquid at one of the tanks and immediately crouched low again. The liquid set the tank on fire. Demin's comrades did the same to the other tanks. When the German infantry came up they were met by fierce machine gun and rifle fire from the men who they thought had been crushed.

Captain Krassnov, Hero of the Soviet Union, was in command of an infantry battalion that was attacked by fifteen German tanks. He gave orders to his men to allow the tanks to pass through their lines and then close in on their rear and cut off the German infantry that was following them. This was done. The tanks were destroyed by the battalion's artillery, while the German infantry were wiped out by the Soviet riflemen.

Another effective weapon which the Red Army men use skilfully against enemy tanks is the anti-tank rifle, and many of the men have become real experts in handling it. The following is a typical example.

In August 1942, Sergeant Shapovalov, armed with an anti-tank rifle, was guarding an important position near Voronezh. He dug for himself three small trenches in the form of a triangle. At dawn he saw four enemy tanks approaching, two from the right and two from the left. He moved over to the right trench and when the tanks coming in that direction reached within 100 metres he took aim and fired. One of the tanks caught fire and stopped dead. Shapovalov fired again, but missed. The third shot, however, hit the second tank and stopped it. The Sergeant then quickly moved to the left trench. Only 75 metres separated him from the second pair of tanks. At that moment he was hit by a shell splinter, but taking no notice of the wound he took aim and fired and hit the third tank. The fourth tank turned tail and drove off.

In this war, in which mechanized forces play the predominant part, there would seem to be no room for cavalry. But the Soviet

cavalry have succeeded in adapting their methods of fighting to the requirements of modern warfare and have revived the glorious traditions established by cavalry during the Civil War. Soviet cavalrymen are equipped just like infantrymen. They wear steel helmets, and, in addition to their sabres, they carry automatic rifles and light machine guns. Every cavalry unit has a number of tanks. The cavalry horse still shortens distances, and what is very important, can travel where mechanized vehicles cannot. A horse can manage muddy roads better than tanks, armoured cars and motorcycles. Taking advantage of every hollow, wood, or gully, mounted on their horses, the cavalrymen move quickly from place to place, hurl themselves like an avalanche upon the enemy, rout him, and quickly disappear.

One day, the commander of a Soviet unit received information that a fascist mechanized battalion had broken through to a certain village. He ordered a squadron, commanded by Captain Lapshev to wipe out the enemy. About forty minutes later the cavalrymen were charging through the village. They cut up the German battalion and captured many prisoners and war material.

Sometimes, large cavalry forces, after finding weak spots in the enemy's lines, usually at the junctions of different units, break through into the enemy's rear and there play havoc.

From August 14 to 23, a Cossack group commanded by Colonel Dovator engaged in a series of skirmishes with the Germans in the endeavour to find a vulnerable spot in their line. They discovered such a spot on the morning of August 23. Dismounting from their horses, they launched a bayonet attack against the enemy, cut up the 3rd Battalion of the 430th Infantry Regiment, broke through to the enemy's rear, and remained there for two whole weeks, harassing the enemy and causing him enormous damage. They masked their activities so well that the enemy took them to be small groups of scouts. They raided villages occupied by the Germans and drove them out. They were welcomed with joy by the inhabitants of these liberated villages. They saw abundant evidence of the atrocities the Germans had perpetrated during their occupation, and gave short shrift to

the authorities that the Germans had appointed to terrorize the people.

On the third day of their expedition the Cossacks came out onto the main road and began to destroy the German supply columns. On August 27, they reached the village of Rikshevo and broke up the Staff Headquarters of a large German unit. Of automobiles alone they destroyed 58. In a number of places they cut the German lines of communication, mined the roads, and cut up German units marching to replace troops at the front. The arms they captured from the Germans they gave to the guerrillas operating in this region and whose activities were greatly stimulated by the presence of the Cossacks in the enemy's rear. One day the Cossacks met about 400 Red Armymen who had been cut off from their units and had been hiding in the forest.

Alarmed by the Cossacks' activities, the Germans tried to surround them, but every time the ring seemed to close around them they gave them the slip. When the purpose of their expedition had been achieved, they made their way to the front, and cutting up a battalion of German infantry, returned to the Soviet lines. Thus, Soviet cavalry are proving extremely useful even in the present war, and will prove still more useful when the Red Army, having worn down the enemy by its stalwart defence eventually launches its offensive.

No less glory has been earned in this war by the Soviet infantry and artillery. Even the enemies of the Red Army were amazed by the staunchness displayed by the Soviet infantry. The *Stockholms Tidningen* quoted a German Major as saying: "The Bolshevik rifle regiments are simply terrible." And Colonel Constantine Simeonescu, Commander of the 39th Regiment of the Rumanian Army, in Order No. 81, even held the Red Army up as an example to his own commanders. In this order, which fell into the hands of the Soviet troops, he said: "The enemy can quite justly say that his men are fighting magnificently."

The army withstood the first powerful blows of the fascist mechanized columns, regrouped its forces and began to strike powerful counter-blows. This ability to stand blows behind which the enemy had put his whole strength, and the ability to strike

counter-blows, is the result of the Red Army's twenty years' training and reveals its specific character. The majority of the frontier divisions that were cut off by the enemy during his first onslaught succeeded in breaking through and inflicting severe losses upon him. The force commanded by Major General Galitsky was one of the first to receive the weight of the German onslaught, and he parried it, destroying 265 German tanks in the process. When the German columns broke through on both his flanks, Major General Galitsky's men did not throw down their arms, but fought night and day to join their main forces, meanwhile attacking the enemy in the rear and wiping out enemy units and Staff Headquarters. When their ammunition ran out and their weapons were damaged they used captured German arms and fought the fascists with their own weapons. Major General Galitsky succeeded in saving nearly the whole of his force. Many other Soviet units fought their way through the German ring in the same way.

The 17th Mechanized Rifle Regiment was surrounded by the enemy but fought until it had spent its last cartridge. Eventually, it broke through and joined its main forces. In one battle it destroyed 11 enemy tanks, 22 guns, 32 motor trucks and 8 motorcycles, and captured about 100 prisoners. In another battle the Regiment encountered and attacked a German division and captured 20 guns, 30 trucks and 200 prisoners. This Regiment has been awarded the Order of Lenin.

The 57th Tank Division, the 1st Mechanized Rifle Division and the 99th Division have also been awarded marks of distinction for staunchness in battle. The 1st Mechanized Rifle Division engaged one of the strongest enemy mechanized concentrations and held up its advance for a long time by repeated counter-attacks.

In these first battles, thousands of individual fighters displayed fabulous heroism. Take, for example, Private Ivan Sereda. In the course of the fighting a fascist tank suddenly appeared from behind cover and prevented the advance of a squad of Soviet troops. It was impossible to put the tank out of action with a machine gun and no bottles of inflammable liquid were at hand.

Private Sereda crept up to the tank, climbed on to it and smashed the barrel of its machine gun with an axe. The squad captured the tank and its crew. In another engagement Private Sereda wrecked a tank with a bunch of hand grenades and captured the crew. For his valour Private Sereda has been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

A group of German tanks were threatening the flanks of a certain Soviet unit. Captain Khigrin, commander of an artillery division, was ordered to stop the advance. The commander brought a long-range gun into action and trained it point-blank on the tanks. The gunners, directed by Captain Khigrin himself, put four tanks out of action, but the rest continued to advance, showering bullets at the gun crew. Four of the men were put out of action, including the gun-layer. Captain Khigrin took the place of the gun-layer and two more tanks were smashed. A fragment of enemy shell hit and fatally wounded the Captain. For his valour Captain Khigrin was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Assistant Political Instructor Arnold Meri, an Estonian, held up a German attack with his machine gun. The Germans called up reserves. The Soviet unit began to retreat, covered by Meri's machine gun. Meri was wounded, but he continued to hold up the enemy's advance. His cartridges nearly ran out. Leaving a wounded ammunition carrier with the machine gun with the order to hold up the enemy with the last few cartridges, he rushed to get another box of cartridges. A few minutes later, squirming with pain, he poured a fresh stream of lead into the enemy. Meri was wounded again, but in spite of the profuse bleeding and severe pain he continued to keep the enemy at bay. He was wounded a third time, but still he stuck to his gun until reinforcements arrived and dispersed the enemy. Assistant Political Instructor Meri faithfully carried out the Red Army Regulation which says:

"It is the duty of every man, and of every unit as a whole, irrespective of losses to defend his position until the enemy is repulsed, or bravely to sacrifice his life for his country."

Meri has been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

All these heroes are plain and modest Soviet people. They know that heroes are not born, but made. Private Nicholas Eskorov has frequently distinguished himself in fighting the fascists. On several occasions he went out on night reconnoitring expeditions and brought back valuable information. At the beginning of September Private Eskorov fell in battle. His comrades found the following message in his pocket:

"No matter how hard it may go with me, whatever conditions I may find myself in, I will honestly serve my people and my beloved motherland to my last gasp, to the last beat of my heart.

"No one will compel me to betray my sacred vow to my country, which nursed and reared me, and to which I am obliged for my development, for my education, and for my profession, without which life would be meaningless.

"If I am killed, please inform my parents that I faithfully carried out their behest."

In this gigantic struggle against the German invaders splendid courage is being displayed by the men of the Red Navy—the heroic defenders of Leningrad, Murmansk, Odessa and Sevastopol. Loyal to the glorious fighting traditions of the Russian people and of the Russian Navy the Soviet sailors have by their heroism on the sea, under the sea, in the air and on land, demonstrated their devotion to their country, their readiness to defend its freedom, honour and independence and to fight to the last gasp until the fascist barbarians are exterminated.

Famous among Soviet submarine commanders is Captain Zhunin, Hero of the Soviet Union. His submarine has sunk seven enemy transports totalling 50,000 tons; and it was his boat that torpedoed Germany's latest battleship, the "Tirpiz."

Another famous submarine commander is Hero of the Soviet Union, Israel Fisanovich. He is only 27 years of age and commands the submarine "Malyutka." On the outbreak of the war his boat was scouting the seas off the Norwegian coast in search of enemy craft, but for several days met with no success. He therefore decided to "beard the lion in his den." Heading his submarine towards the coast, he passed into a fjord and made for a certain port. There he found a large enemy transport moored

at the wharf. The "Malyutka" crept towards the ship. A curt command; a deafening explosion, and the transport heeled over. Under cover of the panic that broke out in the port the "Malyutka" safely stole out of the fjord.

One day last spring the "Malyutka" encountered two enemy transports under a strong naval escort. Captain Fisanovich was delighted. He chose the largest of the transports for his target. At his command a torpedo was released causing the boat to rock as it left the tube. Soon an explosion was heard and the transport began to sink with its bottom knocked almost clean out. The "Malyutka" at once submerged. Infuriated by the daring of the Soviet sailors the fascists released dozens of depth charges. The "Malyutka" was shaken fore and aft by the explosions, the electric lighting was damaged, and the glass skylights were broken. Coolly manœuvring, the commander successfully steered the boat out of the danger zone.

Captain S.A. Ossipov, Hero of the Soviet Union, is known in the Navy as the "German torpedo boat destroyer," and is famed for the fearlessness with which he attacks enemy ships. In July 1941, while in command of three destroyers, he encountered a flotilla consisting of two fascist torpedo boats, six trawlers, eight guard ships and eight destroyers. In spite of the overwhelming superiority of the enemy forces, Ossipov gave the order to attack. Dashing through a veritable curtain of enemy fire, Ossipov's boats approached the enemy and with the first volley destroyed an enemy torpedo boat, a trawler and a guard ship. A month later Ossipov, in command of four destroyers, attacked five German torpedo boats. He sent two to the bottom and damaged two others. On another occasion Ossipov's destroyers sunk three fascist destroyers, four German troop ships loaded with men, and several schooners, damaged two other destroyers and brought down two enemy aeroplanes.

The sailors of the Black Sea Fleet fought shoulder to shoulder with the men of the Red Army in defending Odessa. Several times a day the men of the First Marine Regiment, commanded by Colonel J. I. Ossipov, attacked the fascist hordes and inflicted terrific blows upon them. One day this regiment was attacked

by the 15th Division of the Rumanian Army, a regiment of Chasseurs, two tank regiments, a cavalry regiment, and a regiment of artillery. The attack was preceded by a heavy artillery bombardment and bombing from the air. After this artillery preparation, the enemy infantry advanced. The Soviet Marines held their fire until the enemy came within close range and then, at Ossipov's command, they opened fire and mowed them down like grass. The enemy turned and fled in panic, leaving over a thousand killed and 2,000 wounded. The marines captured 808 prisoners, 18 guns, 4 light tanks and about 30 machine guns. The Rumanians resumed the attack, this time bringing 15 tanks into action. Ossipov ordered his men to cease fire and allow the enemy tanks to come within close range. When they came near enough, the men hurled bunches of hand grenades and bottles with inflammable liquid at them. Nine tanks were destroyed, and the rest, not wishing to share the fate of their fellows, hastily retreated.

The men of the Red Army and of the Red Navy are united with the armed forces of Great Britain and the United States in the desire to exterminate German fascism, the mortal enemy of the whole of progressive mankind. This unity of aim and object found striking expression in the correspondence that was exchanged between the heroic defenders of Odessa and the British garrison at Tobruk. The commander of the Tobruk garrison sent a message to the defenders of Odessa expressing admiration of the fighting spirit shown by the defenders of Odessa and wishing them success.

In their reply, the defenders of Odessa said:

"We read your message with the greatest satisfaction. With the determination and firmness characteristic of our country and of the Soviet people, we shall continue to fight the fascist gangsters until they are entirely exterminated. We assure you that we shall fight as long as our hearts beat and blood flows in our veins in order once and for all to rid the world of this detestable Hitlerism which threatens the world with ruin and destruction. Our strength and courage are adequate for this task. Under the destructive blows of the Red Army and Navy

in conjunction with all the nations of the world, Hitlerism will perish. Gallant defenders of Tobruk! We send you ardent greetings. Stand fast! Victory will be ours!"

It is with feelings of the deepest emotion, pride and admiration that the people of the Soviet Union and of the whole world mention the immortal heroes who defended "Russian Troy"—Sevastopol. Remember the five Red Navy men who barred the road for the German tanks with their bodies. They fought like lions until their ammunition gave out, and then, tying hand grenades to their waists, they flung themselves under the caterpillars of the German tanks. The enemy machines were blown up together with these brave men.

The infuriated enemy hurled against the heroic defenders of Sevastopol 14 infantry divisions, two tank groups, 400 machines and an aviation corps consisting of 900 planes. In June 1942, in the course of only three days, the fascists hurled against Sevastopol about 30,000 artillery shells, 20,000 trench-mortar shells and over 15,000 bombs. On a sector of about two and a half kilometres they hurled no less than 10,000 shells. One anti-aircraft battery was attacked by twenty German diving bombers, which dropped 150 bombs; but the men did not flinch. Every man remained at his post. They shot down six of the enemy's planes without suffering a single casualty.

During a German attack an anti-aircraft battery commanded by Lieutenant Vorobyov turned its guns against the advancing infantry. For five days these heroic sailors kept the fascists at bay. Lieutenant Vorobyov was killed, and Lieutenant Pyanzin took his place. The Hitlerites attacked the battery in waves; enemy aeroplanes dropped bombs upon it from the air. Shells and mines ploughed up the position occupied by the battery, and gun after gun was damaged. But the Soviet sailors kept firing at the Germans with their damaged guns. Sergeant Streltsov fired no less than 100 shells from his damaged gun. The Germans, far outnumbering the Soviet sailors, began to surround the battery. The gunners took to their rifles, hand grenades and bayonets and kept the enemy at bay. On the sixth day of this terrific battle the surviving sailors sent out their last radio mes-

sage: "We have no means of defending ourselves. Almost the entire personnel has been put out of action. Open fire on our position."

On one occasion a wounded sailor was brought into hospital. It was said that he had fought against and killed thirty fascists. Somebody in his hearing said: "Good lad . . . one against thirty!" "I don't know how many," answered the sailor. "I didn't count them—I just went on killing them."

In six days Noah Adamiya, Hero of the Soviet Union, killed 200 fascists, men and officers. J. Turgenev, of the Naval Air Force, made five or six flights a day attacking the fascist troops.

The whole world watched the battle for Sevastopol with bated breath. The heroic fight put up by the gallant defenders of that city set a magnificent example for all nations of how Hitlerism should be fought. Just as the Soviet troops were at death grips with the fascist hordes, the defenders of Sevastopol received a message from Lord Gort, Governor of Malta, expressing the admiration of the garrison and citizens of the fortress for the wonderful defence of the city. "The resistance which the defenders of the citadel are offering the enemy," he wrote, "adds new laurels to the historic name of Sevastopol."

The Soviet Government paid a fitting tribute to the heroic deeds performed by the Soviet sailors. Of the fearless men of the Red Navy, 48 commanders, commissars and sailors were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, and 6,000 received other decorations. Nine ships' crews and the personnel of eleven aviation regiments and coastal units were promoted to the Guards. Six ships and two units of Marines were awarded the Order of the Red Flag.

The Hitler gangsters cannot speak of the Soviet sailors without a shudder. No wonder the German soldiers and officers call them the "black death." A diary found on the dead body of Senior Lieutenant Erich Stock contained the following entry: "It is possible to bear anything except an attack by the sailors. These men with the black ribbons floating behind them and wearing their striped shirts, are more terrible than aeroplanes or guns. . . ."

This fascist Senior Lieutenant was quite right.

* * *

All the numerous nationalities inhabiting the Soviet Union are fighting shoulder to shoulder, defending their native land. This is illustrated by the following table. Up to October 5, 1942, 185,113 members of the armed forces had been awarded Orders and Medals for distinguished service in the war. These were divided among the following nationalities:

Russians	128,732	Mari	232
Ukrainians	33,191	Mordvinians	1,116
Byelorussians	5,411	Udmurts	236
Azerbaijanians	302	Chuvashes	363
Georgians	976	Buryats	132
Armenians	913	Komi	250
Turkmenians	59	Kalmyks	71
Uzbeks	419	Yakuts	17
Tajiks	69	Altaians	18
Kazakhs	1,035	Mongolians	6
Kirghiz	84	Komi-Permyaks	4
Karelo-Finns	93	Kara-Kalpaks	8
Karelians	391	Ojots	4
Moldavians	150	Hakassians	26
Lithuanians	25	Ossetians	338
Letts	488	Daghestanians	2
Estonians	56	Kabardinians	73
Tatars	2,883	Circassians	48
Jews	5,163	Ingushes	9
Bashkirs	451	Karachai	31
Chechens	44	Turkis	13
Abkhazians	28	Dungans	6
Adygeis	49	Nanais	10
Avars	27	Veps	14
Lezghins	38	Suams	4
Dargin	8	Ostyaks	1
Laks	10	Shortzy	1
Karaites	2	Gypsies	14
Mingrelians	1	Bohemians	10
Uigurs	6	Spaniards	9
Tabasaranians	1	Poles	230
Kumyks	14	Assyrians	7
Dargils	4	Bulgarians	37
Izhorians	3	Greeks	98
Kurds	3		

Thus, there is not a nationality in the U.S.S.R. whose sons are not fighting heroically against mankind's worst enemy—Hitlerite Germany.

THE GUERILLA WAR AGAINST THE FASCIST ROBBERS

In their invasion of the Soviet Union the fascists are not only encountering the formidable resistance of the Red Army, but they have also to contend against the irregular forces of the Soviet people operating in their rear. This guerilla war is steadily and increasingly dislocating the German lines of communication and wearing down the German forces. The fascists are being made to feel that they are up against the burning hatred of the whole Soviet people, young and old, who are all imbued with the inflexible determination to free their country from the barbarous invader and to crush the force that has proved itself to be a menace to the whole of mankind.

In his radio broadcast of July 3, 1941, Stalin said:

"In areas occupied by the enemy, guerilla units, mounted and foot, must be formed, sabotage groups must be organized to combat enemy units, to foment guerilla warfare everywhere, blow up bridges and roads, damage telephone and telegraph lines, set fire to forests, stores and transports. In occupied regions conditions must be made unbearable for the enemy and all his accomplices. They must be hounded and annihilated at every step, and all their measures frustrated."

This appeal was heard across the trenches and barbed wire entanglements by Soviet people inhabiting the regions temporarily occupied by the Germans, and in response there has arisen a movement that has become a veritable nightmare to the Germans. The speech was translated into German and in leaflet form was dropped into the German lines. A copy of this leaflet fell into the hands of a Red Army unit that had been cut off from

its main force and was making its way back to the Soviet lines. After reading it the commander said: "We're not going back. This is Stalin's order to create unbearable conditions for the enemy in his rear." The unit remained to a man and started guerilla operations. It established connection with other guerilla units operating in the region and transferred to them some of its commanders to give them the benefit of their military experience.

Innumerable guerilla units make sudden attacks upon the invaders, destroy their man power and material and dislocate the enemy's rear. In the steppes of the Ukraine, in the forests of Byelorussia, in the Smolensk and Leningrad regions, near Bryansk and Kursk, in the Don and Kuban regions, wherever the Hitler gangsters are trampling upon Soviet soil, increasing numbers of enemy trains are wrecked, bridges are blown up, stores are burned and larger and larger numbers of invaders are killed by the guerillas' bullets, shells, and mines.

Although they have captured a large part of Soviet territory, the Germans have failed to subjugate the Soviet people. In spite of the fact that they hurl against the guerillas whole divisions, with tanks and aeroplanes, in spite of the reign of terror they have introduced, the flames of guerilla war are flaring up with greater intensity every day.

The guerilla war has produced splendid leaders. Literally thousands of units have been formed, many of which have performed deeds that have now gone into popular song and fable. The following are a few facts about this guerilla movement that is causing the German Command serious alarm.

The members of the Krasni Luch Collective Farm, in the village of Voropayevo, learned of the approach of fascist troops and so they collected all their cattle, agricultural machines and their stocks of grain and sent them all off to the Soviet hinterland. All the ablebodied men, led by Peter Vorona, the Party organizer in the village and a veteran of the Civil War, went off to the woods and formed a guerilla unit. All the weapons they had were several rifles and four hand grenades. Most of the members of the unit armed themselves with axes. Scouts who had been sent out came back with the report that a column of

German mechanized forces were on the road and were expected to pass through the village at night. This proved to be the case.

The German column entered the village to put up for the night and to wait for a supply of fuel. Late at night the unit crept up to the village and took up positions at both ends of the road running through it. Vorona and another guerilla noiselessly killed the sentries and at a given signal the whole unit rushed into the village and cut down the tank troopers and motorcycleists with their axes. Only three tanks managed to open fire, but the guerillas rushed towards them with hand grenades and lighted torches and set them on fire. Others picked up automatic rifles that had been dropped by dead Germans and opened fire on the survivors. When the job was finished the guerillas, now well armed with captured weapons, returned to the woods, leaving forty German corpses and a number of burnt and wrecked machines on the battlefield.

In a certain district in the Ukraine there is a guerilla unit led by an employee of a village Co-operative Society who goes by the name of "Grandfather"; his unit is known as "Grandfather's Unit." By its operations this unit has literally spread panic among the Germans in occupation of this district. They dare not stay in the village houses at night for fear of sudden attacks and sleep in dugouts instead.

One day, seven German tanks halted near a village in the district and the crews got out to rest a bit. They took care to post sentries, but this did not save them. Grandfather's Unit pounced upon them like lightning, wiped them out, and took the tanks away. The men of the unit wait in ambush for motorcycleist despatch riders and shoot them as they ride past. The Germans place sentries along their telegraph and telephone lines, but every day the lines are cut in one place or another.

The fame of Grandfather's Unit has spread throughout the country and the fascists themselves speak of it with horror. It is elusive and to the Germans seems omnipresent. According to their reports it appears to be operating in two places at once, at a distance of 80 kilometres from each other. A popular song has

even been written about Grandfather, one of the verses of which runs as follows:

No sup nor bite
Can the Germans take,
Nor a wink of sleep,
They're in such a fright.
Grandpa's here
And Grandpa's there,
And Grandpa's children
Are everywhere!

A guerilla unit is operating in a certain district in Byelorussia headed by T. Bumazhkov, an official of the District Soviet. This unit has made a number of successful raids behind the fascist lines during which it wiped out a large number of Hitlerites, blew up shell dumps, and sniped fascist despatch riders. In a neighbouring wood another guerilla unit is operating, headed by F. Pavlovsky, the district representative of the People's Commissariat of Supplies. One day, a member of the Mayak Revolutsii Collective Farm came to Bumazhkov and informed him that a German tank column was moving along the road towards the front and would pass the place where the unit was hiding in the morning. Bumazhkov enquired how many tanks there were and how they were guarded, and then established contact with Pavlovsky's unit. Next morning the two units made a combined attack on the fascists with hand grenades and bottles of inflammable liquid, and put the five leading tanks out of action. Scared by this sudden attack, the fascists started firing at random, hitting their own tanks. The guerillas continued to hurl their missiles at the remaining machines. In all they destroyed 18 tanks and armoured cars. The rest drove off in panic.

One day the two units made a combined attack on a German Divisional Headquarters. They silently killed the guard and then wiped out all the Staff officers and captured the Staff papers, 35 trucks and 40 motorcycles. The Staff papers and information obtained by scouting operations of the number and condition of the enemy forces were immediately conveyed to Red Army Headquarters. Both Bumazhkov and Pavlovsky have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Another guerilla unit headed by M. Zhukovsky, who was lately awarded the Order of the Red Flag, raided the town of S. in the enemy's rear, killed all the sentries and drove out the garrison. The guerillas left the town only when a large German force arrived. The same unit also captured the town of K. and dispersed the garrison.

A small guerilla unit hid in a wood through which a road ran to the front. The fascists used this road to convey ammunition to the front lines. The guerillas cut up a lot of wood blocks and drove sharp pointed nails through them. At night they scattered these blocks along the road, points upward, and the enemy machines, running over them, had their tyres punctured and were compelled to stop. Immediately the guerillas wiped out the guards and blew up the ammunition. In this way the unit inflicted an enormous amount of damage on the Germans.

The guerillas often start a fight with German troops and, pretending to retreat, entice them into a forest or marsh, where they are familiar with every track and thicket, wipe them out and take possession of their weapons to use in further operations.

A diary found on the body of a German officer named Friedrich Bischele contained the following entry, made about a month after the officer had arrived in Russia:

"We have arrived with our tanks in a gloomy wilderness. Not a living soul around; but everywhere in the woods and marshes are hovering the shadows of avengers. These are the guerillas. They fall upon us suddenly, as if they had sprung from the ground, cut and hack at us, and disappear; they vanish like fiends into the infernal regions. The avengers pursue us at every step, and there is no escaping them.

"Curse them! I have never experienced anything like it in any war before. I cannot fight against phantoms of the forest. As I write this I glance at the setting sun with fear and trembling. It is better not to think. Night is setting in, and I feel that out of the darkness shadows are creeping up silently, and icy horror grips my heart."

We can assure the German officers that it is not phantoms they

fear but men of flesh and blood, Soviet patriots, who are filled with a burning hatred for the invaders, and determination to drive them from their soil.

It is already possible to make a preliminary survey of guerilla warfare, and to point to the specific features of this form of struggle against the fascist barbarians.

First of all, emphasis must be laid on the nation-wide character of this movement. The units consist of every type of collective farm member: members of the management boards, field workers, stablemen, shepherds, cattlemen, etc., etc. On leaving their villages the guerillas set fire to the crops and destroy the farm implements and machines. The enemy finds a scorched and devastated land. The inhabitants do this in the calm conviction that eventually everything will be restored by the whole people; they have unshakeable confidence in the Soviet system of industry and agriculture.

There are many women in the guerilla units. One of the first guerilla fighters to be awarded Orders of distinction was Valentina Gerassimova, a member of the Young Communist League. She acted as ambulance worker in her unit. One day she was wounded, but in spite of that she saved twelve wounded guerillas and carried them from the battlefield. Another woman guerilla whose bravery has won public recognition is Anna Shubenok, the Secretary of the Young Communist League organization in her district. She made her way into the town of T., which had been captured by the Germans, and at the risk of her life blew up an oil reservoir.

In the district of S. a guerilla group is operating under the command of Maria D., a member of the Management Board of the Krassny Pakhar Collective Farm. Her unit has filled up many wells, has cut numerous telephone and telegraph lines and has blown up bridges on a number of important roads. On August 2, the unit, under Maria's leadership, captured four German despatch riders and learned from them that a column of trucks carrying fuel and spare parts for tanks was hastening towards the town of P. They waited in ambush at a narrow neck of the road, and when the column approached early next morning the unit

attacked it. It destroyed eight trucks and threw the spare parts into a bog.

There was a very large increase in the number of women volunteers for the guerilla units when the news got abroad of the incredible atrocities the fascist monsters are perpetrating. In one village the Germans shot the chairman of the collective farm and several of the active members, plundered all the houses in the village, seized all the poultry, pigs and wearing apparel, and even demolished the stoves in search of valuables. The men of the village retreated to the woods. The women elected Eudocia Mironova chairman of the collective farm. At a secret meeting the women decided to go on working as a collective farm. A few days later a drunken fascist corporal molested the fifteen-year-old daughter of one of the members of the collective farm. The mother struck this beast in the chest with a log of wood. Two days later she was hanged. That night the women took their children into the woods and on the following night they raided the premises of the village Soviet, which the fascists had converted into their Staff Headquarters. They silently killed the sentries and then poured kerosene all round the house and set fire to it. The officers who tried to escape from the burning house were killed. Soon, all the other houses in the village flared up; they were set on fire by the women. When all this was done the women returned to the woods. Since then they have made a number of other bold sorties.

Of the seven hundred or more guerilla fighters whom the Government up to the spring of 1942 had awarded Orders of distinction for their valour, over 60 are women. Of the ten guerilla fighters who have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, three are women: Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, Liza Chaikina and Antonina Petrova. Hundreds of wonderful stories are told of the amazing heroism displayed by women guerilla fighters. The following was related by the commander of a guerilla unit operating in the Smolensk region.

Once it was necessary to obtain information about the strength of the enemy who was quartered in a neighbouring village. The commander sent two girls, Anna Yegorova and Yevdokia Plet-

kina to act as the scouts. The girls got into the village, remained there a day and a night, and, after obtaining all the information they required, started out to return to the unit. It so happened that there was a traitress in the village. She informed the Germans that the two girls who had just left the village belonged to the guerilla unit. The Germans sent a squad of men in hot haste after them which overtook them about seven kilometres from the village. They were arrested and brought to the German Commandant. For two weeks the girls were tortured to make them divulge the whereabouts of the unit. As a matter of fact, the unit had its camp only about 10 kilometres from this village, but the Germans could not get track of them. In spite of all the torments to which they were subjected, the girls did not utter a word. They were taken out to be hanged, one on a post, and the other on a railway semaphore. Anna was pulled up by the neck and lowered again three times, and each time the Germans demanded that she should inform them where the guerilla unit was encamped; but the girl remained staunch to the end. Yevdokia at once said to the Germans: "You can shoot me if you like, but I shall tell you nothing." She was taken to the semaphore, where a German police official was standing on a ladder tying the noose. Yevdokia went up to him, tore the rope out of his hand and said: "I will hang myself." She put the noose around her neck and shouting: "For our country! For Stalin!" she jumped from the ladder. As she did so she upset the ladder and the German policeman was sent flying. The bodies of the girls were left hanging until this district was liberated by the Red Army.

In some units there are whole families, such as the family of Peter Valin, who is in the unit with his wife and two sons. Between them, they have accounted for 74 German privates and five officers, and have destroyed a tank, 21 motor trucks and 11 wagons loaded with munitions. They also helped to capture a traitor. This is how it happend.

The commander of the unit learned that the Gestapo had secured the services of a fellow named Mamontov who had managed to get on the tracks of the guerillas and there was a danger

of his betraying them. The commander decided that Mamontov must be put out of the way before he caused any trouble. He appointed Valin's two sons to lay in wait for him, capture him, and bring him back to the camp. The lads went out and hid in a roadside ditch. At last they saw Mamontov riding up in a wagon. They got out into the road and passed the time of day to him.

"Where are you going," Mamontov asked them.

"We're going to the guerillas' camp," the lads answered.

Mamontov was delighted to hear that.

"That's fine," he said, "I'll come with you. I've been wanting to join the unit for a long time."

"But we have orders not to show anybody where the unit is encamped," the boys replied.

Mamontov pleaded with them to take him along, and, after showing signs of hesitation, they at last consented and brought him before the commander.

"Comrade Commander, we've brought you the traitor," they reported.

The traitor met his deserts in accordance with the laws of guerilla warfare.

Fighting shoulder to shoulder in the guerilla units are representatives of many of the nationalities in the Soviet Union: Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Jews, Poles, Lithuanians, Letts, Esthonians and Georgians. In the first list of forty-one guerillas to be awarded Orders of distinction we find the names of Maxim Zhukovsky, a Russian; Ignat Rudobelts, a Byelorussian; Rosa Guzman, a Jewess and Matthew Kvintradze, a Georgian. The ties of friendship among the nations that grew up in the years of Civil War and of peaceful construction have been cemented more firmly than ever in the fight against the barbarous fascists. The composition of the guerilla units reflects the character of the war that the people of the Soviet Union are waging. It is a war for the defence of their motherland against foreign invaders and subjugators.

The next feature to be noted in the guerilla warfare is that every village in the occupied regions serves as a guerilla base. This was not the case twenty years ago in the fight against the Kaiser

militarists, the predecessors of the present-day fascists. At that time there were many kulaks or capitalist farmers in the rural districts, who served as the agents of the Germans or the White-guards. These kulaks traced the guerillas to their hiding places and betrayed them to their enemies. The sons of these kulaks took part in punitive expeditions against the guerillas. The guerillas had to form their own special bases and take great care in choosing the site for them. The fact that they were tied down to a definite base restricted the guerillas in their operations.

Now the situation is entirely different. The predominance of the collective-farm system has given the present guerilla unit an entirely different character. True, even now traitors are to be found in the villages; but by and large, the villages in the Soviet Union are politically and morally united like the Soviet people as a whole. Today, every collective farm and every village in the occupied districts serve as a base for the guerilla struggle. A guerilla unit will find refuge and assistance in literally every village they apply to. Wherever he goes the guerilla feels that he is among his own kith and kin. This makes the units elusive and extremely mobile. Wounded guerillas and Red Army men stranded behind the enemy's lines, have hidden in these villages for many days at a stretch. If the men are wounded the villagers tenderly nurse them until they are well enough to move and then guide them to the Red Army lines.

One day, Lieutenant Yaroslavtsev, of the Soviet Air Force, was forced to land in the enemy's lines. The Germans saw him drop with his parachute and motorcyclists dashed to the place where they expected him to land. When they got there, however, they found only the parachute. The airman had vanished. The fascists searched all the fields around and also the nearest village, but they failed to find their quarry. The villagers had hidden him.

"I spent four days behind the lines," related Lieutenant Yaroslavtsev afterwards. "Don't forget that this was enemy territory. But I had only to turn from the main road, along which troops were moving, to take the tracks through the woods and knock at the door of any cottage to make me forget that I was in enemy

territory. In every village I felt that I was among my own people."

There is another feature of the guerilla war that must be noted. Hitler, the drill-sergeant at the head of fascist Germany, advising his generals how to combat the guerillas said: "Crush them with machinery, with tanks." The fascist generals were convinced that the collective farmers in the Soviet Union were totally incapable of handling machinery. But here, too, the fascist barbarians found that they were entirely mistaken. The guerilla fighters quickly learned to handle the German mechanized weapons and to turn them against the Germans.

One day a guerilla unit led by the manager of a distillery attacked a German column. It wiped out the infantrymen and captured a tank, ten armoured cars and an anti-tank gun. The tractor-drivers in the unit took charge of the tanks and armoured cars and the members of the Young Communist League, who had attended the training courses of the Chemical and Air Defence Society, took their places at the machine guns mounted on them; and this, now mechanized, unit is continuing to fight the fascists.

A certain guerilla unit, led by an old veteran of the Civil War, in the course of two weeks wiped out over 100 fascist soldiers and officers and captured a considerable amount of war material, including three light tanks and six motor trucks. Shortly afterwards the unit discovered a hidden German aerodrome. Late at night it surrounded the aerodrome and killed 25 German soldiers, radio-operators and air mechanics. In the aerodrome they found six "Heinkels," five of which they burnt. The sixth was taken charge of by a tractor-driver named Solin, who had learnt to fly in his local aviation club. He mounted the "Heinkel" and flew it to the Soviet lines and there handed it over together with important information the unit had obtained.

One of the most important achievements of the guerilla units is that they have prevented the Germans from establishing anything in the nature of a civil administration in the regions they have occupied. The Germans expected to find a sufficient number of traitors in the various localities to form an administra-

tion. In this way, they would have been able to reduce their garrisons in the various towns and villages to the minimum and have more men to send to the front. But these expectations proved to be utterly groundless. In those cases where traitors are found to act as administrators for the Germans, the guerillas soon give them short shrift. They are cleared out so thoroughly that the Germans find it almost impossible to get local inhabitants to serve them, and are compelled to import administrators from Germany. But these too meet with the same fate as the treacherous Russians. Consequently, the whole plan of having a civil administration in the occupied areas has collapsed. The Germans are compelled to maintain large garrisons in all the districts they occupy.

Hitler and his chiefs made still another wrong calculation. They thought that they would be able to employ on the Eastern Front the tactics they had employed on the Western Front. They did not form a continuous line but concentrated large forces of tanks and motorized infantry on certain sectors with the object of smashing through the Soviet defences and surrounding the isolated sections of the Red Army. But the Red Army, which has acquired considerable experience in raiding the enemy's rear and in organizing all round defence, took advantage of these gaps in the German line and the reckless onrush of German troops, to attack the Germans in the rear. Not a few regular units of the Red Army, sometimes amounting to a whole division, have successfully operated in the enemy's rear, cutting lines of communication, capturing supply columns, arming the local inhabitants, and developing guerilla warfare. The Division commanded by Colonel Novikov operated behind the enemy lines in this way for thirty-two days. During this period it cut up a German mechanized division, killed 3,000 Germans, and captured 300 trucks of ammunition, provisions and clothing, hundreds of motorcycles, cycles, armoured cars, etc. A large Soviet unit commanded by Lieutenant General I. Boldin spent 45 days in the enemy's rear, during which it destroyed 26 enemy tanks, 1,049 trucks and automobiles, including those belonging to Staff officers, 147 motorcycles, five batteries of artillery and

a large number of trench mortars and machine guns. Thousands of fascist soldiers were wiped out.

The activities of regular units of the Red Army in the enemy's rear greatly alarm the fascist Command. Instead of surrounding Soviet troops, they find themselves surrounded. The German press admits that fortified districts which the German troops think they have captured and crushed, suddenly come to life again; Soviet units spring up from the ground, as it were, and attack the Germans.

The close cooperation between the guerilla units and the regular forces of the Red Army that produced such excellent results during the Civil War is being largely practised in the present war. The guerillas obtain useful information, ascertain where the Staff Headquarters of the enemy's divisions and regiments are situated, how his batteries are arranged, and so forth, and convey this information to the nearest headquarters of the Red Army.

Not long ago the unit commanded by F., formerly the manager of a department store, captured a fascist despatch rider. From the papers found on him the guerillas learnt that the German 103rd Infantry Regiment was preparing to go round a certain hill and strike at the flank of the Red Army unit on this sector. The guerilla commander immediately warned the Red Army Command and then led his unit by a short route through the woods to the hill and there they lay in ambush. The German regiment, confident that they were in perfect safety, marched along carelessly, but on reaching the hill they were met by the fire of the guerilla unit and held up for several hours. Meanwhile, a Soviet force, commanded by Captain Ignatov, arrived and cut up the German regiment. The fascists left on the field 500 killed and wounded men and officers, 12 trucks, 21 machine guns and a large quantity of automatic rifles and ordinary rifles.

This close cooperation between the guerilla units and the regular forces of the Red Army often puts the German Command in a very tight fix. It is thus compelled to fight on two fronts. Sometimes, just as the fascists are engaged in battle with Red Army forces, guerillas attack them in the rear, and they feel as if they were between the hammer and the anvil.

These specific features of the guerilla warfare now being conducted in the occupied regions of the Soviet Union, baffle the German Command and make it impossible for it to cope with it.

The time has not yet come to sum up the results of this warfare, but the figures that have been published so far give us an idea of the damage it inflicts in the German rear.

In the course of ten months, the guerillas in the Leningrad area killed nearly 21,000 German privates and officers and destroyed 117 heavy and light tanks, 25 armoured cars, 91 aeroplanes, over 100 fuel tanks and over 2,000 motor trucks.

According to the reports of only 28 units in the Smolensk region, the guerillas there killed 15,800 German soldiers, officers, spies and traitors, destroyed 27 aeroplanes and 34 tanks, and captured a large quantity of war material.

According to the incomplete returns of only 15 units operating in the Crimea, 4,500 fascists were killed by guerillas in that part of the country. The reports of only 16 guerilla units operating in Karelia show that they have killed 3,500 Finns and Germans. Thus, these far from complete figures show that tens of thousands of fascists have been killed, and hundreds of tanks, aeroplanes, motor trucks and other war material have been destroyed. This fully confirms what Frederick Engels said about the effects of guerilla warfare.

"In the course of time, the waves of popular warfare, bit by bit, destroy even the biggest army and, what is particularly important, without any evident loss to the other side."

The offensive operations of the Red Army greatly stimulate the guerilla war. As the Red forces approach any given district, literally the whole population rises in arms. The guerilla war flared up with added force as a result of the Red Army's offensive last December. The German-fascist newspapers published in the Baltic countries, Byelorussia and the Ukraine, contained innumerable reports of the mass shooting of guerillas, testifying to the growing intensity of guerilla warfare in the German rear. Thus the *Deutsche Zeitung in Ostland* of May 7, 1942, reported the execution of 150 guerillas in Minsk. On May 21, the fascist radio reported the execution of 550 guerillas in Minsk.

The fascists themselves admit that guerilla warfare has flared up with greater intensity in their rear and it sends a shudder down their spine. Even in the early stages of the war the Germans were made to feel what a guerilla district was and they took care to avoid it. But now they cannot avoid such districts, because the avengers of the people are operating everywhere.

In attacking a given village, Red Army units were assisted not only by the guerilla units operating in that district, but also by the local collective farmers. The latter armed themselves with whatever weapons they could lay their hands on, in many cases arms found on the battlefield, and just when the fighting was at its height they attacked the Germans in the rear and thus facilitated their defeat. There have been cases when, on the expected approach of Red Army units, the local population rose against the Germans, captured a village, and held it until the Soviet forces arrived.

The Germans resort to the most ferocious measures to suppress the guerillas. If they capture a guerilla fighter in any village they usually burn the whole village. Often they take half the inhabitants of a village as hostages and shoot them in batches. The monstrous reign of terror that rages in the Soviet districts temporarily occupied by the fascists is unprecedented in history. To combat the guerillas the Germans have formed numerous punitive units consisting of all arms: infantry, cavalry, tanks and even aircraft. Sometimes they send whole divisions against them, as is the case in the South where it is well known that a large part of the Hungarian army has been detailed for this purpose. But this has no effect. Guerilla war in the fascist rear is growing with greater intensity every day, and this is causing increasing alarm among the German High Command. The fascist generals admit that the guerillas dislocate the movements of the German columns, create panic in their ranks which causes no less damage to man power and material than regular fighting. Dread of the guerillas wears out the nerves and physique of the fascist soldiers.

The fascist soldiers are horrified at the rising tide of guerilla war. For example, Sergeant Krieger, a German prisoner of war, stated: "In your country every bush and every hut shoots. The

German soldiers realize that such an army cannot be vanquished and they are therefore surrendering." Private Krock of the 167th Division of the German Army stated: "The population hates us. The very air is impregnated with hatred. We are in constant dread of it. Death hovers everywhere. We Germans are suffocating here." The war continues where according to all the rules of war it is supposed to have ceased. In the enemy's rear, as at the front, victory over the German-fascist hordes is being forged.

The heroic struggle waged by the Soviet guerillas should serve as an inspiration to the other nations groaning under the yoke of fascism. Not long ago articles could be read in the foreign press in which the authors expressed admiration for the heroism displayed by Soviet guerillas, but added that this form of warfare was purely Russian, for Russia had many forests and marshes, and nature itself facilitated guerilla warfare. In Western Europe, however, this was impossible as the countries were closely dotted with towns and guerillas would have nowhere to hide.

But the Soviet guerilla fighters have proved how unsound this argument is. They have shown that any town may become a labyrinth as intricate as any forest. In Orel, for example, the guerillas blew up a hotel and 150 fascists were buried under the ruins. In Kharkov they blew up the German Divisional Headquarters and, among others, General Braun, the Divisional Commander, was killed. Guerilla warfare can be conducted in towns as well as in forests and marshes. Natural conditions, of course, are an important but not the most important factor. The most important factor is courage and determination, and ability to organize guerilla warfare. The example of the Soviet guerillas is beginning to be followed by the fighters for popular liberty in Yugoslavia, Poland, Norway and France.

The German war machine was built up in the course of decades. The German imperialists, aiming at world domination, spent years on building up a vast army of conquest. The fascists strengthened this war machine. They transformed the looting and atrocities perpetrated by the German army in previous

wars into a regular system. They mobilized all the resources of Germany for the purpose of feeding this machine.

A war machine that has taken years to build cannot be smashed at one stroke. It is sufficient to recall that in the last World War Germany was confronted by a mighty coalition including powerful countries like Russia, Great Britain, France, Italy, the United States, and Japan. Nevertheless, it took four years to defeat the German army. In the present war Germany is fighting without the aid of Turkey, but on the other hand she is supported by Italy and Japan, and for the time being by Rumania and Finland, which in the last war also formed part of the anti-German alliance.

At the present time, the Soviet Union is bearing the brunt of the struggle against fascist Germany, which is very much stronger than the Germany of 1914. This alone proves what enormous progress the Soviet Union has made compared with the Russia of 1914.

In the war against the Soviet Union, Hitler Germany has sustained terrific losses in man power and material. Discontent is growing in the fascist rear. In the occupied countries hatred is accumulating against the invaders. Friction is breaking out between Germany and her vassals. But all these processes are as yet only in their initial stage. They will undoubtedly grow rapidly when the back of the German army is broken. For the time being, however, fascist Germany is still capable of striking heavy blows. Hitler has squeezed still further supplies of cannon fodder out of his vassals. He has mobilized several categories of Poles and has compelled them to fight against the Soviet Union. He has withdrawn scores of divisions from the Western Front. He has hurled nearly all his forces against the Soviet Union in the frantic endeavour to achieve victory before the opening of the second front. Hitler wants, at all cost, to defeat the Red Army and thus end the war in the East in 1942, or, at all events, to weaken it to such an extent as to prevent it from conducting big operations when the second front is opened. The staunch resistance of the Red Army, however, has thwarted the plans of the German offensive of

1942. Since June 1942, terrific battles have been fought on the Southern and Southeastern Fronts. The Red Army has been fighting heroically for every inch of the ground, inflicting terrific losses upon the enemy. During 25 days of continuous assault on Sevastopol, the Germans and Rumanians lost 150,000 men and officers—of whom no less than 60,000 were killed—over 250 tanks and about 250 guns. During the whole period of the attack on Sevastopol, lasting 250 days, the enemy lost in killed and wounded 300,000 men and officers.

The Red Army and Navy are fighting heroically on a vast front stretching from the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea. The men can hear the groans of their tortured wives and children and the sighs of their aged men and girls whom the fascists have driven into slavery. And their hatred causes their blood to course faster in their veins and their hands to grip their weapons tighter. "Not a step backwards!"—is the battlecry of the heroes of the Red Army as they beat off the attacks of the fascist hordes and inflict terrific losses in men and material upon them.

The pluck and determination displayed by the Soviet forces in Stalingrad and in the Caucasus show that Hitler will fail to defeat the Red Army. Its resistance to the fascist hordes is stiffening day after day, and the fight it is putting up **has won** the boundless admiration of the whole world. Even the fascist generals are compelled to admit it. At the end of September 1942, Lieutenant General Ditmar, who is said to be "an authoritative military observer," stated the following:

"The easiest and most complete victories are achieved when the enemy's morale, *i.e.*, his will to resist, is quickly broken. It is far less possible to do this to the Soviet soldiers than it was to our previous opponents in the West and other places. . . . The enemy who now confronts us is made of entirely different stuff. . . . It is certainly a difficult task to crush him." And we may add to these sad reflections of the fascist "authoritative observer" that to defeat the Red Army is not only a "difficult task" for Hitler's army, but an impossible one. As an English radio commentator said in his comments on Ditmar's statement:

"The Soviet people never had any doubts about victory. Their iron will to resist is unshakeable. This confidence in victory and the iron will of the Soviet people should serve as an example for all Hitler's enemies."

A battle of gigantic dimensions is raging around Stalingrad. Here the enemy concentrated enormous forces. For three months the heroic defenders of the city staunchly fought for every inch of ground, for every street and every house.

Hold Stalingrad at all costs!—such was Stalin's order, expressing the thoughts of every Soviet citizen. The Red Army carried out this order, the order of their country, with honour. The heroes of the City of Stalin have achieved a brilliant victory. Round about November 20, 1942, the Soviet troops situated on the approaches to Stalingrad successfully passed to the offensive, broke through the enemy's lines of defence and, overcoming his stubborn resistance, captured a number of towns and villages.

The Red Army's victory at Stalingrad deeply impressed all the freedom-loving nations. The *London Evening News* stated that for eighteen desperate months the Red Army had been obliged to withstand the avalanche of enemy troops. Never in history has an army fought with such coolness and staunchness, with such matchless skill and with such unflagging power as the army led by Stalin. The paper frankly admitted that had it not been for the heroism of the Red Army, the fate of the free nations would have been gloomy indeed.

Not for a moment during the war that was forced upon them by fascism, have the people of the Soviet Union lost confidence in victory, for they know that theirs is a just cause, that they are waging a just war of liberation, defending not only their own freedom, but the freedom of all the nations of the world.

The peoples of the Soviet Union are convinced that the time is not far distant when the Red Army, fighting in co-operation with the armies of Great Britain and the United States, will utterly defeat Hitlerite Germany and rid mankind of the brown plague forever.

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