

# SOVIET RUSSIA

15c

SEPTEMBER, 1943

*Today*



**CAN WE DEFEAT HITLER THIS YEAR? by MAX WERNER**

**WINNING THE WAR ON SOVIET FARMS**

**HOW THE USSR CARES FOR ITS WAR ORPHANS**

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*The photograph on the cover is of a Russian grandmother and a war orphan she has adopted. All photos in this issue from SOVFOTO*

Vol. 12, No. 5, September, 1943. Entered as 2nd class matter, March 25, 1932, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription \$1.50 per year; \$1.00 for 8 months. Published monthly by the S. E. T. Publications, Inc., 114 East 32 Street, New York 16, N. Y. Indexed in Bulletin of the Public Affairs Information Service.

PRINTED IN U. S. A.



# This Is War Work Too!

AS Hitler's military position grows worse, he intensifies his efforts on the political front.

It is clear that the Germans see that their only hope of avoiding defeat is in delaying tactics and splitting the Allies.

For this, their most effective weapon is anti-Soviet propaganda, propaganda to delay the Second Front, propaganda to create fear and suspicion of the USSR.

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# SOVIET FARMS AT WAR



85-Year old kolkhoz farmer Mossin, of Leningrad Region, has sent five grandsons to war, and is helping to replace them on the farm



Left — Women gather the harvest in the liberated districts of Zubtsov Region, Kalinin District

Mother and son guard the wheat crop in a section near the front lines



On many collective farms the work is done almost entirely by women. Here they are listening to a lecture on current events during a rest period



Members of a collective farm in the Smolensk Region cart their harvest into the village. A Red Army man on leave drives the truck

The collective farm "Volny Trud" of Rostov Region receives a Red Banner award as the first in its district to complete the spring sowing

# SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY

SEPTEMBER

1943

## *Prelude to Victory*

THE outstanding fact in the world situation as President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill meet in Quebec is that the conditions of victory are in their hands. They are present because of the mighty hammer blows of the Soviet Union against Nazi Germany which have turned the tables on Hitler, transforming what was to have been his summer offensive into the Red Army's.

It was these Soviet victories, weakening both Germany's armed might and her power over her satellites that brought about the fall of Mussolini, that made possible our magnificently coordinated conquest of Sicily, that have helped make so effective the devastating bombing of Axis industrial centers in Europe.

There can no longer be any doubt that the next move in Allied strategy for victory must be the launching of a real Second Front on the Continent of Europe . . . the real Second Front that will be opened by an invasion of Western Europe in full strength from the British Isles.

Even should the Allied armies, following the victory in Sicily, strike first through some point in Southern Europe, this will be subsidiary to the main blow across the English Channel.

This is no longer a question that must be left to the military strategists to decide. It is no longer a question of having enough ships, enough supplies, enough men. The preparations have been made. If there is any delay now it can only be the result of an enemy maneuver which has created conditions temporarily to delay or hamper the major military decisions that have already been made.

In our dress rehearsals our fighting men have shown their fearlessness, our military leaders their skill, and above all we have been able to effect that coordination of our air, sea and land forces both with each other and with Allied forces that insures the success of a full-scale coalition offensive.

Today a child can see that the political situation in Europe is ripe for our action. The fall of Mussolini, the rumblings throughout the Balkans, the jitters of the German propaganda agencies, the ferment among all the conquered peoples, indicate the inner rottenness of the enemy's camp and the potential strength of the allies within the enemy's gates that await our coming.

And any child can see that with the powerful Soviet offensive surging forward with growing momentum against the greatest concentration of troops and military machines Hitler has yet gathered in one place, the supreme moment has come for us to coordinate our offensive action with theirs and to smash Hitler forever.

The present Soviet advances are being made in the teeth of over 200 enemy and satellite divisions fighting with fiendish desperation to hold their positions and resume offensive operations. If part of this great weight were re-

moved from the Red Army now, while at the peak of its power, there is no question that the Red Army could hurl the Germans right back beyond the Soviet borders, while the fresh and magnificently equipped Allied armies striking in force across the English Channel with flanking invasions in the North and South, compelling Hitler to scatter his forces, could certainly cope with what would still be far fewer troops than would be engaged on the Eastern Front, weakened and demoralized by their defeats.

That would mean victory in 1943.

Not an easy victory. It will mean great risks and great sacrifices. But they will be nothing compared with the risk of letting the war drag on for endless months more with constant losses sapping the strength of all our fighting forces, our home front enduring sacrifices as yet undreamed of, and our anti-democratic forces at home undermining us from within.

Unless we are willing to risk greatly and boldly now, we risk everything. A long-drawn out war will give Hitler's agents a chance to work through their agents within for a negotiated peace which would cancel out all the things we are fighting for, and leave the seeds for other and greater blood baths to come.

A quick victory over Hitler on the other hand will send his agents scurrying for cover. It will mean an early victory over Japan. It will thus bring nearer the end of the whole war and the beginning of the new democratic era for mankind the fascists are so desperately trying to prevent.

Because the tides are running so swiftly against Hitler, because the military cards are stacked against him, he is desperately attempting to create the only conditions that will make it possible for him to avoid complete defeat. They are first, the dragging out of the war for the longest possible period, with the hope of sapping the fighting spirit of the Allies so that they will be willing to end the war on more favorable terms to him, and second, to drive a wedge between the Allies and win an early negotiated peace.

## *The Anti-Soviet Campaign Must Be Stopped*

HITLER well knows there is no question of a negotiated peace with the Soviet Union. Millions of Germans are experiencing on their own hides the ferocity of the hatred their bestial behavior has evoked among the whole Soviet people. He knows there are no appeasement and defeatist forces in the Soviet Union with whom he can deal. But unfortunately among the Western democracies there are such forces—forces who still hate and fear the Soviet Union more than they hate and fear Germany, and who therefore are playing Hitler's game and who are trying by every means in their power to block our war effort, to create divisions among our own people and among the allies, to hold up by every possible trick the opening of a Second Front, to prolong the war by every pretext.

So, while the military situation is favorable we cannot yield to any optimism. There is deadly danger all around us from these splitting forces, trying to do Hitler's work.

The Hearst press, for years a purveyor of fascist propaganda, has launched a campaign of unprecedented venom against our Soviet ally, and daily prints editorials urging that we turn our back on the war on Hitler and concentrate everything on Japan, demanding that Messrs.

Churchill and Roosevelt "call a halt to Stalin and his traitorous plots," loudly proclaiming that the USSR intends to communize all Europe and whipping up rumors that the USSR is about to make a separate peace, attempting thereby to pave the way for a separate peace for us. The *N. Y. Daily News* and others echo these treasonable ideas. Over the radio are heard voices such as those of Frederick Libby, and Representative Clare Hoffman calling for negotiated peace, and disreputable professional anti-Sovieters such as Isaac don Levine spill their poison.

Almost equally guilty in spreading suspicion of our Soviet ally are some of the more respectable organs of public opinion. When, following his trip to the Soviet Union, Arthur Hays Sulzberger, president and publisher of the *New York Times* spoke of the importance of close collaboration with the Soviet Union, we had hoped to see a change in the *Times* policy. Subsequently, indeed, an enlightened editorial appeared recognizing that Russia's entrance into the war was no accident. It said:

She was bound to come in because her people would not accept the Nazi rule. This refusal was a positive act, and it was an act which at once linked Russia's fate with ours . . .

In other words, this is more and more evidently a single war, in which results in one sector of the world front affects the situation in all other sectors. By the same token the coming peace, if it is to endure, must be a single peace . . .

Very fine words indeed, but the *Times* has reverted again to its old line and its foreign editor, Edwin L. James wrote a long article in the August 15 issue placing all kinds of sinister implications on Stalin's absence from Quebec, and casting doubt on Soviet post-war intentions.

In his column in the *New York Sun* on August 12, David Lawrence declared: "Russia is constantly demanding things from the United Nations and giving little in return."

We wonder what our Soviet Allies, who have sacrificed 20,000,000 human lives in the struggle, must think when such remarks come to their attention.

### American-Soviet Relations

**A**CTUALLY, all the conditions are present for our relations with the Soviet Union to be on a more solid, mutually beneficial and friendly basis than at any time since the war began. While a tremendous amount remains to be done in this country in increased understanding, we have gone a long way since the beginning

of the war. Many myths about the Soviet Union have been swept away forever. Indicative of the way the great majority of the American people feel was the *Fortune* poll published on May 31 in which 80 per cent of the American people registered their desire to have Soviet Russia as an equal partner in fighting the war and in the peace, about twice as many as felt that way a year ago. Indicative also has been the great upsurge of feeling in response to the work of such organizations as Russian War Relief and the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, through whom millions of Americans in one way or another have expressed their friendship for the USSR.

We know that one of the cardinal points in the foreign policy of our administration is friendship and continued close relations with the Soviet Union. This friendship has practical embodiment in our lend-lease agreement, is emphasized in the constant cordial pronouncements of our President and other Administration and military leaders.

From the Soviet Union itself have come increasing evidences of her appreciation of American friendship and her desire for much closer cooperation. Very recently a big exhibit was opened in Moscow devoted to the Anglo-American-Soviet Coalition, with a wealth of exhibits designed to give the Soviet people a greater understanding of the United States and our contribution in the war, including voluminous statistics on America's aid.

Our victories in North Africa and Sicily have been hailed as the beginning of the final merging of the blows from East and West which together will defeat Hitler.

Naturally our Soviet Allies are eager and anxious for the fulfillment of the policy of opening a Second Front. An article in the Red Army newspaper *Red Star* on August 18, commenting on the Roosevelt-Churchill conference, declared that only by taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Soviet offensive to strike Germany from the West could the length of the war be cut down by any considerable extent, and continued:

The Allied command carried out a well prepared landing operation in Sicily. The struggle for Sicily, however, failed to divert a single German division from the Soviet-German front. . . .

In connection with the Quebec conference, the Anglo-American press is discussing widely the question of the form of aid to be given the Red Army by the Allies.

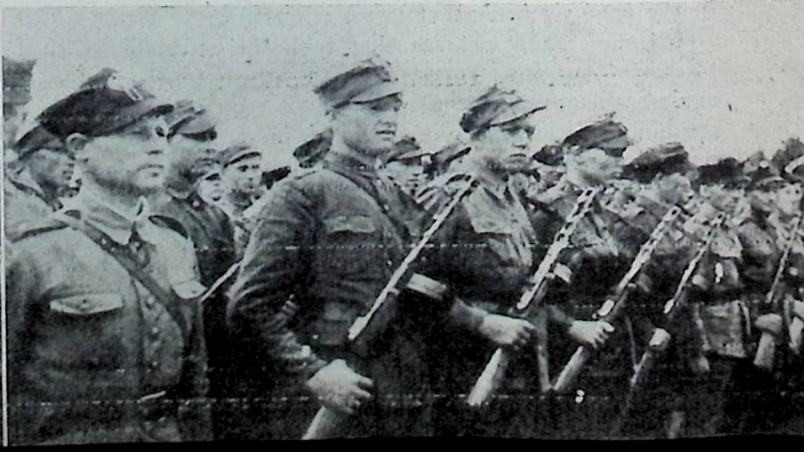
The Soviet point of view in this connection is well known. The Soviet press repeatedly has pointed out already that by a second front we understand an operation by our Allies in the West which would draw from fifty to sixty divisions from the Soviet-German front.

But why should this expression of what the Soviet Union considers the one all-important factor to bring about

French pilots of the "Normandie" air squadron, fighting under the tri-color of their native Franco on the Soviet-German Front



Men and officers of the newly-formed Kosciuszko Division taking their oath to liberate Poland during a recent ceremony in Moscow



a speedy victory be taken as a sign of insoluble differences between our countries? The Soviet Union understood that the Allies had agreed on the importance of opening a Second Front long before this. Certainly the continued insistence of the Soviet Union on the full participation of the Allies in the war against Hitler does not indicate any desire on its part to "get to Berlin first" or to play a lone hand in settling the fate of Europe.

### *Soviet Policy No Mystery*

MUCH is being made of the fact that Joseph Stalin is not in attendance at the conference at Quebec. Indeed, so many wild rumors flew around that the USSR found it necessary to issue an official TASS statement that "the Soviet Government did not receive an invitation to this conference, since in view of the nature of the conference the participation of any representatives of the Soviet Government at the Quebec conference was not and is not envisaged."

There is nothing alarming about Stalin's absence from the parley, especially in view of the fact that recent developments have made clear that there are many political problems both in relation to the conduct of full coalition warfare and in relation to Allied policies in the liberated areas which the Roosevelt-Churchill conference must clarify preliminary to conferring with the USSR.

Soviet policies today, as always, are forthright, realistic, and unequivocal, written large and clear in her actions and in the words of her leaders for all the world to see.

First let us keep in mind that the Soviet Union has subscribed to the terms of the Atlantic Charter, that she is bound by a twenty-year Mutual Aid Pact with our Ally, England, and by an agreement with the United States which provides for cooperation during the war and in "laying the bases of a just and enduring peace."

No one could presume at the present moment to analyze or predict the Soviet attitude on all the complex problems that will precede and follow victory. Soviet policies do not operate in a vacuum and are naturally determined by the whole world situation and by the attitude and policies of other powers toward her.

But on the basis of her consistent past policies and forthright declarations, certain broad outlines of Soviet intentions can certainly be sketched, viz.:

(1) To win the war as quickly as possible with the complete defeat of Hitlerite Germany.

(2) To encourage dependable, democratic forces within the Axis countries to overthrow their present leaders, thus becoming allies of the democracies from within.

(3) To bring the criminals responsible for the war and its accompanying atrocities before the bar of international justice, insure their punishment for their crimes against humanity and deprive them of any opportunity to do further harm.

(4) Insistence on the restoration of the pre-June 1941 boundaries of the USSR on the basis both of future national security and of obligations to the Soviet citizens of these areas. This would naturally include all those territories legally incorporated into the USSR such as Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina, Western Ukraine and Byelo-Russia, and the pre-war boundaries *vis-a-vis* Finland.

(5) A policy of complete self-determination for all nations of Europe liberated from the Hitler yoke, a hands-off

policy regarding the internal affairs of all nations, under conditions of encouragement everywhere of democratic regimes truly representative of their people and cooperation with such regimes through the establishment of mutual aid pacts and measures for collective security.

(6) Opposition to any and every attempt to set up a *cordon sanitaire* or any sort of federation of nations directed against the interests of the Soviet Union.

(7) Support of any and every move that will lessen the dangers of international friction and insure a stable world order based on justice, peaceful international trade and fruitful interchange in all spheres.

(8) Peaceful, cooperative and friendly relations with all nations of the world democratic coalition prepared to deal on reciprocal terms with the Soviet Union.

These would all seem to be clear, common sense matters that all democratic, progressive nations could agree upon. The Soviet Union has a stainless record in keeping its international obligations, has demonstrated repeatedly that she means what she says, and has sealed her faith in the cause of the United Nations with the blood of twenty millions of her people, military and civilian.

### *On the Free Germany Committee*

I N the light of the attempt to blow up the manifesto of the Free Germany Committee either as an attempt to set up a Communist regime in Germany or as a maneuver to bring about a negotiated peace with Germany, it was a relief to come upon this healthy comment in the *New York Herald Tribune* of August 17:

... That the Germany which has slaughtered, robbed and tortured her way across half of Russia and which—to take the latest example—filled a single trench at Orel with the bodies of 5,000 murdered Russians could now make "peace as an equal partner of the Soviet Union" is grimly absurd. But, more than that, if Stalin, by any kind of maneuver, could produce a revolution in Germany which would destroy the German war machine, render the country militarily harmless and restore it as a functioning unit in the world economy, then the Western Allies would have reason to be only profoundly grateful to him, whatever label might be attached to the resulting system.

As pointed out elsewhere in this issue, the "Free Germany Manifesto" is in no sense to be considered as an official document of the Soviet Government simply because it appeared in the Soviet press. However, the publication of such a document in wartime, with prisoners of war among its signers, would naturally indicate official approval of the move. It can only be interpreted as a brilliant move, designed to strengthen the hands of the underground anti-Hitler forces within Germany and thus to help hasten the defeat of Hitler. The allegation that because the document suggests the overthrow of the Hitler regime and the establishment in its stead of a free democratic Germany that would repudiate all conquests and be restored as a self-respecting member of the family of nations, this represents a policy completely at variance with President Roosevelt's "Unconditional Surrender" policy is merely another attempt to split the Allies and create differences where none should exist.

It must be remembered that Roosevelt and Churchill called upon the Italian people to throw off their Nazi and Fascist leaders, and said:

It is only by disavowing both that a *reconstituted Italy can hope to occupy a respected place in the family of European nations.* (Italics ours.)

# The Twenty-Sixth Month

By

CAPT. SERGEI N. KOURNAKOFF

**J**UST as our last month's military review went on the press, the Red Army went over to a vigorous counter-offensive north, east and south of the great fortress of Orel which the Germans had been fortifying ever since they captured the city on October 8, 1941.

Orel was protected by a semicircle of bastions from all three threatened directions. These bastions were Znamenskoye, Bolkhov, Mtsensk, Mokhovaya, Zmievka and Kromy.

The Germans, be it noted, in their offensive attempt against Kursk during July 5-23, which period includes the continued German offensive attempts in the Belgorod sector, lost:

- 2,900 tanks
- 1,309 guns (including 195 self-propelled)
- 1,392 planes
- more than 5,000 officers, and
- 70,000 men killed

The Red Army offensive in the region of Orel began on July 12.

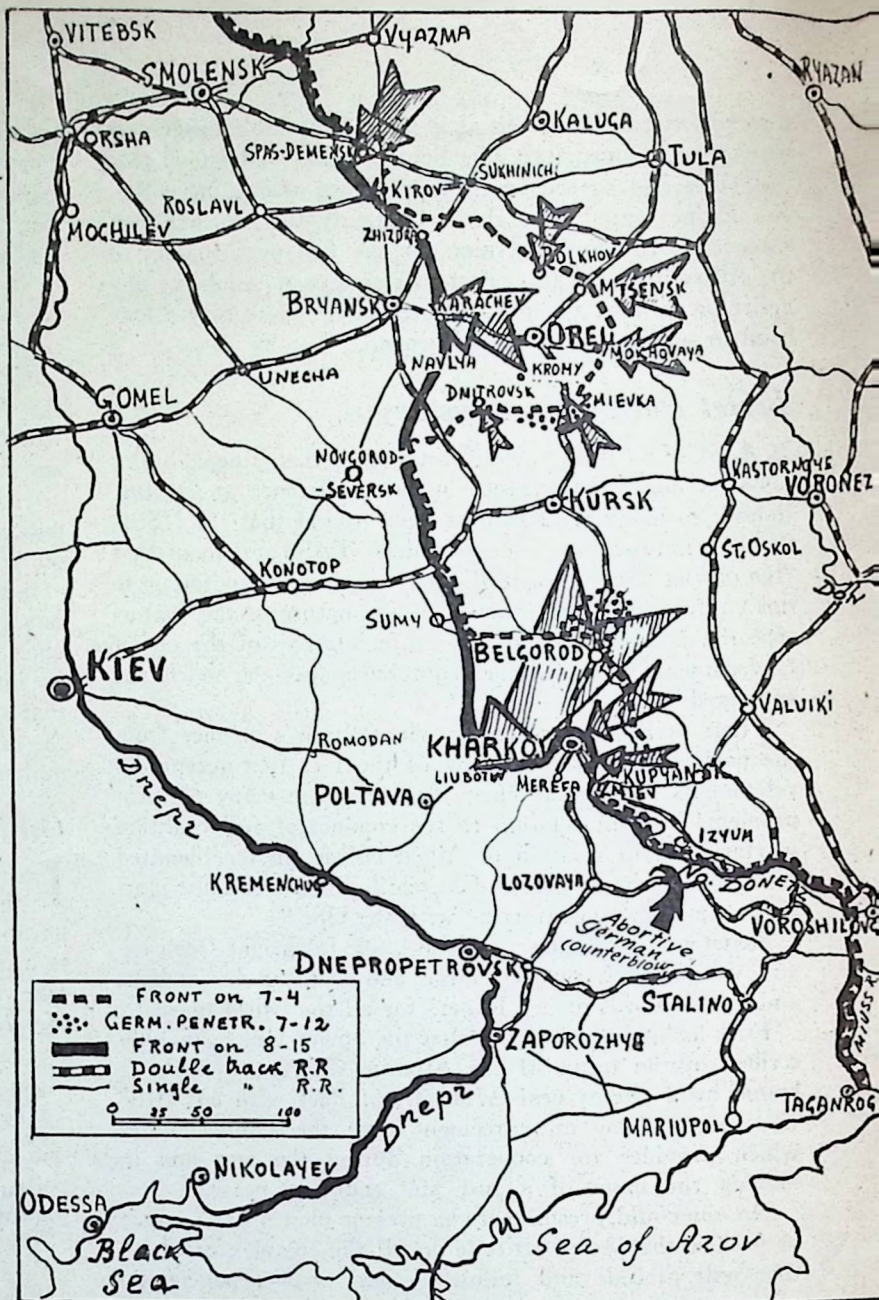
The German Command ordered its troops not to retreat one step and virtually to die for Orel which was the kingpin of the entire front. The twenty-odd German divisions in the Orel *place d'armes* fought stubbornly, incessantly counter-attacking along the flanks in order to prevent the Red Army from closing the trap around Orel.

The strong-point of Dudorovski fell on July 15, Maloarchangelsk on the 19th, Mtsensk on the 20th, Mokhovaya on the 21st, Bolkhov on the 22nd.

The outer defenses of Orel had been smashed in ten days.

But the two strong points protecting the corridor of escape from Orel—Kromy and Khotynetz—fell only several days after Orel itself was captured on August 5. Thus the battle of Orel developed as a battle of methodical destruction instead of a battle of encirclement and annihilation such as Stalingrad. The Germans had learned their lesson and did not risk encircle-

The map shows the Red Army's advance on the Eastern Front from July 4, the eve of the abortive German offensive, to August 15



ment in the hope that somebody would come and rescue them, as in the case of von Mannstein's attempt to rescue von Paulus at Stalingrad by his ill-fated push from Kotelnikov.

On the eve of the capture of Orel, the Red Army High Command ordered the armies of the Voronezh and Steppe Fronts into an offensive against the Belgorod salient. Their success was phenomenal and unexpected, for Belgorod fell twenty-four hours later, i.e., on August 5. The enemy sustained the following losses during the Orel-Belgorod twin operation (July 24-Aug. 6):

- 50,000 officers and men killed
- 1,100 planes
- 1,705 tanks
- 584 guns
- Altogether, from July 5 to August 6, the Germans lost:
- 120,000 officers and men killed
- 4,605 tanks

1,893 guns  
2,492 planes and  
11,000 motor vehicles destroyed  
During the same period, the Red Army captured:

- 12,400 German officers and men
- 621 tanks
- 875 guns
- 2,521 machine-guns

Having captured Belgorod, the key to Kharkov, the Red Army group (apparently under the command of General Rokossovsky) broke through to the southeast, by-passing Kharkov, reaching, for example, Kolontayev, one hundred miles from its starting point, on August 13, i.e., nine days after the start of the Belgorod offensive.

At this writing (August 15), fighting is going on in the streets of Kharkov. The flank-bastions of Kharkov—Bogodukhov and Chuguyev—fell on August 6 and 12, respectively, but the

(Continued on page 32)



# ATTACK CAN STILL WIN IN 1943

By MAX WERNER

A leading military analyst outlines the prospects of the Anglo-American-Soviet coalition for victory over Hitler this year

**B**ETWEEN July 5, when the German troops in the Belgorod-Orel sector launched this year's offensive, and August 15, when these lines were written, the world was flooded by sweeping military and political events: the German offensive in Russia, the Allied landing in Sicily, Mussolini's downfall, the Russian counter-offensive.

These latest happenings prove that the war in Europe can and must still be won before 1943 is over.

The battles and the radical changes that have taken place during the summer of 1943, confirm the conclusions of my book "Attack Can Win in 1943," (completed on May 10 of this year.) They were the result of the preceding war developments which I therein described and analyzed.

The dramatic week of July 5 to July 12 on the Russian Front showed conclusively that the Red Army's defense methods are superior to the German offensive. The German offensive, planned as an overwhelming blow, collapsed in a single week. The spearhead of the German Army was broken. Once and for all that week blotted out the offensive strength of the German Army for large-scale, decisive actions.

There followed the Allied landing in Sicily and the conquest of the island. Now it was established that the invasion can be realized, that Fortress Europe is but a bluff. If the invasion of Sicily was possible, then it is also possible to invade Southern Europe. Sicily was the best fortified key position of the entire German-Italian defense of Southern Europe. The German troops had entrenched themselves on the island since the beginning of 1941.

The battle for Sicily in itself was an action of limited scope. But it generated events of the greatest strategic effect. The battle for Italy was won in the battle for Sicily. Mussolini's downfall signified the breakup of the Axis and Italy's impending elimination from the war. This opens breath-taking perspectives for the Anglo-American strategy in the Mediterranean: the invasion of Southern Europe has now become possible at any point, from

the mouth of the Danube to the Spanish-French border.

Meanwhile the Red Army's counter-offensive gathered speed. In the area between Orel, Bryansk and Kharkov the Red Army defeated the strongest German Army concentrations. Here the most powerful forces of the German Army succumbed first to the Russian defenses and then to the Russian offensive. That sector of the German Front which was most important and completely saturated with arms, was split wide open. It was unprecedented that the German Army was on the defensive and in retreat in Russia as early as July and August. Unquestionably the Red Army will wage other great offensive actions in still other front sectors.

The crisis of German strategy has come to a head. Not only was the German Army beaten in Russia and Sicily. German strategy committed virtually criminal miscalculations in war planning. I predicted in my book that German strategy would make more blunders. It did, during the summer of 1943, and it will make still more, up to the end. What happened is that the German High Command had no well-balanced over-all plan. Again, as in 1941 and 1942, Hitler was a prisoner of his Eastern strategy—an offensive in the East at all cost. But the short-lived, badly calculated offensive in Russia brought about the trouble in the South. Instead of defending the approaches to the European coasts the German Army launched a new strategic venture in Russia. Hitler lost Sicily and Italy at Orel and Belgorod. The gates of Fortress Europe were simultaneously cracked open from the outside and opened from the inside. It emerged that Hitler had no plan whatever for the defense of the European continent. The art of strategy consists of disposing one's forces so that vital military goals can be attained, either for the defensive or for the offensive. But German strategy could neither defend nor attack. The German soldier still fought tenaciously, but in a position rendered hopeless in advance by his own leadership. Any army is bound to collapse under such circumstances.

Now the hour has struck for the anti-Hitler coalition to exploit all of Hitler's mistakes, to combine all their own efforts in unified and decisive action for victory. Today all chances of military and political strategy are on our side. Military and political factors of strategy are now closely interlinked. Uprisings and sabotage in Italy, the Balkans and France signify the military disorganization of the whole German defense system in Southern Europe. Total war demands an orderly and secure rear. Organized defense at long distances is impossible if the hinterland is on fire. The critical zones of German defense are closely interrelated. The disintegration of Southern and Southeastern Europe threatens the Southern flank of the German front in the Soviet Union. Once the Balkans and the Danube valley are made insecure by satellite desertions, the opposition of the betrayed masses and Anglo-American pressure, the German armies in Southern Russia will be in mortal danger, for they will have no avenue of retreat. Their communication lines run for the most part through Southeastern Europe. They might get into a trap from which there is no escape.

Events in the summer of 1943 call for solution. The war can be won quickly if the Anglo-American forces are taken to the European continent and go into action without delay. The German defense system of the European continent has already been unhinged; now it must be completely upset. In the early fall of 1943 the anti-Hitler coalition has new trump cards which it did not have in the spring. Today it is more than ever evident that the Third Reich will not be able to withstand a combined Anglo-American-Soviet onslaught against the European continent. Never before has an offensive Anglo-American strategy had its present opportunity, for the substance of the German Army is not only being tied down and bled white on the Russian Front, it is also being crushed by the active Russian offensive. That is where the greatest opportunity lies.

The tempo of military events is now counted by weeks—and every week counts.

# Farming on the Roof of the World

By M. PRISCHENA

This account of how the Pamir Mountaineers are aiding the war was telephoned to Moscow from Stalinabad, ninety miles from the Afghan border, which did not even have rail connections with Moscow before the Revolution

IT is customary to begin a description of the Soviet Pamir by saying that this is the "Roof of the World," that we live in an altitude of from 7,500 to 15,000 feet above sea level, and that during most of the year, Mountain Badakhshan is cut off from the mainland and lives in its own exotic world. But today the inhabitants of Mountain Badakhshan are not cut off from the rest of the country for a single day. In Khorog, Rushan, Vanch and other counties of the Pamir, radio receivers, powered by electricity derived from mountain torrents, get broadcasts from every part of our country. These broadcasts are reprinted in the newspaper *Badakhshāni Surkh*, and the news soon reaches the farthest mountain villages.

Before the war, almost the entire economic life of Badakhshan centered around commodities and foodstuffs brought in during the summer, a process which cost the government huge sums of money. During the years of war, however, party and government agencies and the collective farm *dek-kans* have been creating their own economy and are reducing to the very minimum the so-called "pre-usage" import of commodities. As a result, the Mountain Badakhshan Autonomous Region is producing a considerable proportion of the grain and vegetables it requires.

In 1942, the Region exceeded its quota for acreage sown to winter crops by 27 per cent. This spring, the collective farms of Badakhshan are extending the area under spring crops by 2400 acres. For the dwellers of the high Pamir, accustomed for decades to plant mere hatfuls of land, this figure speaks volumes. For example, in order to increase their own sown acreage by around 480 acres, the collective farmers of Ishkashim county had to dig an irrigation canal seven miles long. To be more exact, they did not dig it, but hewed it out of the mountain cliffs. The course of the canal passes over a huge chasm. This obstacle was overcome by suspending a sluice across it.

Every clod of cultivated soil in the Pamir represents colossal efforts, a vast amount of physical labor, and the overcoming of incredible natural difficulties. For that very reason the people of the Pamir value their land most highly and strive to wrest from it all that it is capable of producing. Last spring, the men and women of the collective farms hauled hundreds of tons of natural fertilizer on their shoulders and in their hands. High school students who are members of the Young Communist League alone gathered a thousand tons of ashes.

The land has repaid its masters handsomely for these efforts. Last year, Shugnan county recorded an average grain yield of 25 bushels per acre. Individual collectives did even better, Ordzhonokidze Farm getting 44 bushels per acre from its 190 acres and Kalinin Farm taking in 51 bushels, on the average, from its 145. In Vanch county, the collective farm whose chairman is Bibimo Yusupov, a member of the Supreme Soviet of Tadzhikistan, succeeded in doubling its grain crop over the preceding year.

Until 1934, the Pamir simply did not know what was meant by a potato. The tubers were first brought in and planted by the Red Army's frontier troops. But today, this crop is favored above all others by Pamir farmers. The field gang led by farmer Mirzanobotov of the Stalin Collective has brought in record yields running between 30 and 33 metric tons per acre, while the researches of the Chichiktin Biological Research Station and the Pamir Botanical Gardens have demonstrated that the markedly continental climate of the high Pamirs and the presence of a high degree of ultra-violet radiation has an extremely favorable effect upon the accumulation of sugar-bearing flour-matter in plants and speeds up the formation of the tubers of the potato.

Our local scientists are helping the collective farms to speed the introduction of new crops. The Pamir Botanical Gardens, directed by Comrade Gursky, have, in the period just past, provided the collective farms with

40,000 seedlings of fruit trees, berry bushes and grape vines. Not long ago, this institution undertook to foster strawberry-growing in Badakhshan and now has a rich collection of varieties of this fruit.

Strawberries in the Pamir! Who would have dreamed of this just fifteen or twenty years ago, when to grow a head of cabbage in these mountains was the acme of the dreams of the boldest agricultural experts of the Pamir. Not content with these achievements, the Botanical Gardens have worked out a new method of irrigating the porous earth of this area, and this method is now being applied by many collectives.

The battle for water is, in the conditions of the Pamir, synonymous with the battle for the harvest. For this reason, recent years have witnessed a continuous struggle by the peasantry to retain water for purposes of irrigation. But to retain the water means to plant forest belts. Our mountains are not rich in timber, but our collective farmers have been actively correcting this "omission" of nature. More than 300,000 trees have been planted recently—willow, poplar, ash and maple. Over 180,000 mulberry trees have been planted on the banks of the irrigation canals. Their leaves will provide food for silkworms. In addition to all this, our collective farmers were able, last year, to carry out successfully the government's plan for increasing the herds of all types of livestock—cattle, sheep, goats and beasts of burden.

Our farmers' love for their country and awareness of the needs of the fighting fronts is visible in a thousand and one deeds, large and small. Our shepherds and farmers find many ways to steal time so as to be able to bring in the valuable deficit minerals to be found in the mountains. Previously, it was only geological prospecting expeditions that took any part in this work, but now this sort of mining has become the concern of the entire population.

Since the outbreak of the war, the farmers of Mountain Badakhshan have



Above—A Tadjik collective farmer tends the irrigation of the kolkhoz cotton fields in the foothills of the Pamirs

Left panel, reading down—Spraying the rice-fields of Tadjikistan by airplane to destroy the larvae of malarial mosquitoes

In the mountain pastures of the Frunze Collective Farm in the Pamirs

Experimental wheat field of a biological station located at an altitude of 11,000 feet in the Eastern Pamirs

sent as gifts to the men at the fronts, thousands of pieces of warm wear woven from the wool of our mountain sheep. Of stockings alone, 5,000 pair have been sent. (There are less than twice that number of families in all of Badakhshan—W. M.). They have also sent home-woven fabrics which compare well with the factory product in quality. Even the school children who belong to the Pioneer organization have contributed by gathering 15,000

pounds of vitamin-bearing sweet brier for our hospitals.

The Pamir is proud of its first city—Khorog. During the war, the city has continued to grow and progress. The second section of the Khorog Hydroelectric Project recently went into operation. The city now has electricity not only for lighting but for other needs including those of the local industries.

The city of Khorog is not only the ad-

ministrative center of Badakhshan, but the center of its cultural and artistic life. Its National Theater has made veritable alpine expeditions over distances of many hundreds of miles to bring before the people in the dark corners of the Pamir the questions of the day in militant word and song, thus mobilizing them for the struggle against fascism.

*Translated by William Mandel from the Moscow Izvestia, April 24, 1943.*



Olga Lepeshinskaya

**I**T is impossible to write without agony, rage and loathing of the incredible savagery with which the Hitlerites have treated the civilian inhabitants of the temporarily occupied regions of our country. The bloody record of their crimes is beyond belief. Most horrible of all is the savagery with which they wage war against children. Wherever the Germans have passed tens of thousands of murdered, maimed and orphaned children are left behind, victims of their senseless and limitless cruelty.

In the village of Volchye, Orlov Region, the Germans gathered all the inhabitants together and started to drive them to the rear. Among them were the family of Lena Piliaeva, her father and mother and six small children. By nightfall they reached the village of Lapinka. The children could hardly move from fatigue; their noses, ears and hands froze. The Germans would not let them stop to rest and warm themselves, but drove them on. The adults begged them to have mercy at least on the children. Those who protested were shot. They killed all the men, then drove the women and children into a shed, and threw hand grenades at them. Lena's mother perished, her two sisters and three brothers. She alone of her family remained alive. Of a hundred people, only sixteen survived that wild carnage.

In the village of Kalitsino of Moscow Region the Germans drove all the peasants from their homes into the bitter cold. Sofia Alexeyevna Kisseleva, a collective farm member, tried to go back into her home with her children

# How the USSR Cares for Its Orphans

By OLGA LEPESHINSKAYA

Moscow's Premier Ballerina writes of the loving care bestowed on Hitler's child victims by the whole Soviet people

to get warm, but the fascists turned a machine gun on them, wounding all three. Eleven-year-old Liuba and nine-year old Nadya tried to carry their mortally wounded mother into the house, but the fascists would not permit them, and the mother died on the threshold of her home. Such examples could be multiplied by thousands.

Our people will never forget and never forgive this terror against our children. The helpless babies beside the bodies of their mothers, tortured to death by the fascists; the famished, sobbing children, perishing in the corners of the unheated sheds, all that remained of their village — these are familiar pictures to every Red Army man entering a liberated town.

In spite of the heavy burden of war, the Soviet Government is taking every possible measure to insure that its children, victims of fascism, will not feel bereft and abandoned, and will grow up strong and healthy. Right in the footsteps of our Red Army men as they fight their way westward, liberating our cities and towns, follow detachments of doctors, trained nurses, teachers.

In the still smoking ruins of the liberated villages, under the receding thunder of the guns, the Red Army men tenderly feed the children from their own field kitchens, wrap them in their own greatcoats. The sick and

the orphaned are immediately sent to the rear. In these regions the first piece of bread, the first rebuilt home is for the children.

One of their first steps when they start functioning is for the departments of education and health and the local Soviets to set aside special funds, stores of food, building materials, medicines and school supplies for the children who have suffered from the fascists, Restoration of the schools, children's homes, day nurseries and hospitals starts at once. Infants' homes are organized, milk kitchens and food stations established, children's clinics begin operating. As soon as Moscow Region was cleared of the fascists, commissions for the care of homeless children were set up by the Central Executive Committee of the Moscow Regional Soviet and of the local city and town Soviets. Orphaned children under three were immediately sent to the Infants' Homes. Children over 14 were taken into the trade schools and given work in industry and agriculture. The remaining were distributed among the children's homes, of which twelve have already been opened, serving over 2,000. Many thousands of children have been evacuated into the rear. The Government provides money, food, clothing, medical help and schooling. Nothing is too great an expense, nothing is too difficult, where children are concerned.

Left to right—Only in death to the Hitlerites keep families together. These are the bodies of the blacksmith, Kuznetsov and two of his children, murdered by the Germans

Working women of the "Krasny Bogatyr" fact and the orphans they have adopted

A Leningrad school girl looks after a child orphaned in an air raid



But not only the government, the whole Soviet people take part in this work.

Nathalia Pflaumer, author of the book "My Family," who took five orphaned children under her wing, wrote to *Pravda*, calling on all Soviet citizens to offer voluntary help in solving the problem. Mass meetings were held all over the country to consider how best to look after the war orphans. All over the country collections were made of children's clothing, bedding, shoes, books, toys, food. The whole population—workers, housewives, collective farmers, children, helped. The dramatic circle of a children's club in Khabarovsk proposed a collection for children of the liberated regions. The next day the gifts came pouring in. Nina Mamontova brought her new fur coat and hat, Olya Lubinina her best dress and underwear. The school children of Altai Region donated 19,000 pieces of clothing and 20,000 books. In far Yakutia over 68,000 pieces of clothing were collected, and money was raised to purchase some 8,000 yards of materials which they made up into clothing.

The school girls of Sverdlovsk Region organized a *Voskresnik* (Sunday) which was wholly devoted to sewing and mending clothing and preparing school materials. Thousands of special school and club circles were organized to make children's clothing. The schools organized competitions among themselves. Collective farm youth organized food collections. Hundreds of thousands of rubles were collected by groups of all kinds, church congregations, factories, theater companies. Many individuals donated large sums. As the money came pouring in, the Moscow Gosbank opened a special fund for children. "Account No. 760,203" was soon known from one end of the country to the other, and swelled quickly.

The men at the front, fighting to free their children, insist on helping in this way too.

Private P. G. Siroyed wrote from somewhere at the front:

I have three little sons. The fascists tore me from my family, and I don't know where they are, or whether they were able to escape alive from the temporarily occupied regions. I am sending in 200 rubles to help take care of someone else's children.

Not long ago, from the rear of the enemy, the guerrilla post brought 16,130 rubles from a group of parachutists. Many make regular monthly contributions.

The trained nurses attached to a regiment at the front—Galakhova, Bodrova, Golayeva, and others contribute ten per cent of their pay every month. The workers of a mine in Cheliabinsk Region contribute 500 rubles monthly. There are thousands of such examples.

The Soviet people help the children not only with gifts and money. They give their time and labor too. The young people of Pushkino in Moscow Region got together and decided to organize a children's home. The boys and girls decided that the children couldn't wait, and they went directly from the meeting to start work. First of all they got permission from the Soviet to take over an abandoned building.

One group went right to work on repairs, whitewashing the walls, mending the broken windows, building new stoves. Another group went off to fell trees for fuel. Another went from house to house collecting beds, tables, chairs. There were some skilled carpenters among them, and all the furniture was repaired and freshly painted in one day. A group of girls made mattresses and pillows, hemmed sheets and pillow

cases. They worked at night, in every free moment outside of their working hours. Young needle workers from the Dzerzhinsky clothing factory sewed children's clothing after hours. School children cleaned up the yard, made paths, chopped and piled wood.

In three days Valya Korshunova, the director, sent word to the Children's Commission in Moscow. "Our Home is ready. Send us the children!" On the fourth day came the first two little guests—the five-year-olds Vanya and Tonya, whose mother had been burned by the fascists in Istra. Others soon followed.

Valya bathed them and fed them, gave them playthings, lavished affection on them so they would forget the horrors they had been through. Now 150 children are living happily in the Pushkino home. They are looked after mainly by school girls, who attend their classes in the evening.

This movement has been very widespread in the country districts. Many schools have been evacuated to collective farms, and thousands of orphaned children have been adopted by collective farmers.

A hundred children from German-occupied Smolensk were evacuated to Gavrilovsky district in Tambov Region, and the collective farms vied for the privilege of looking after them. The kolkhoz "Krestyanin-Peredovik" won out, and soon had a big new house ready to which they welcomed the children with a big celebration.

In the deep woods of Bryansk, far in the enemy's rear, is a large area the fascists have never been able to capture. This guerrilla region has stayed Soviet, and even there, under the difficult conditions of enemy encirclement, 100 orphans are being cared for by the collective farmers.

(Continued on page 33)



# SOVIET CHILDREN ON THE FARM

By N. V. NECHAYEV

By their work on the farms, thousands of school boys and girls in the USSR are helping to win the war

THIS summer, millions of school children and hundreds of thousands of teachers are replacing men who have gone to the front in the fields of the collective and state farms of the USSR. This was true to a certain extent even the first summer of the war. By 1942, it was already on a well organized basis.

By December, 1941, courses were introduced in the schools providing both practical and theoretical training for farm work. Millions of seventh and eighth graders were taking agricultural training during the school year 1941-42. Most of these trained for ordinary farm labor, but many thousands of youngsters took training to be tractor drivers, combine operators and to handle other complicated farm machinery.

All the school children who took training courses for agricultural work were given tests in the spring which showed that in the majority of the schools, the training was entirely satisfactory. In quite a number of the regular schools, the boys and girls had mastered their farm work even better than those attending agricultural schools, indicating the soundness of the general program of Soviet schools, which aim to impart a knowledge of the fundamental processes underlying all labor.

The schools were faced with a number of problems in providing this special agricultural training. The first difficulty was a lack of properly qualified teachers. The natural history teachers for the most part were not sufficiently familiar with practical problems of modern farming and the specialists provided by the Commissariat of Agriculture were already so overburdened with their own work that they could not give proper attention to their work in the schools.

Secondly, there was a great lack of text books and of farm equipment for practical work. The Commissariat of Agriculture did everything possible to gather together the books in the libraries of the many young naturalists' stations all over the country, and to equip the schools with basic agricultural tools and machines. But for the

most part, the teaching had to be done without sufficient equipment for either practical or laboratory work.

Thirdly, there was the especially difficult problem of teaching tractor drivers and combine operators when there were neither sufficient machines nor fuel available for training purposes.

And yet they managed somehow. In February and March, 1942, the schools began to organize the departure of the school children for their summer field work. Medical examinations were held in order to determine which students were able to undertake the work and for what type of work they were physically most suited.

Collective farms sent in their requests for help to the Commissariat of Agriculture and State Farms, which in turn allotted quotas to the schools. The children were divided into brigades with teachers in charge and they began to correspond with the state or collective farms to which they were assigned.

The Komsomol (Communist Youth League) organization wrote letters to its members in all the schools suggesting that they take leadership in this movement. Under the guidance of the Commissariats of Agriculture and of State Farms, an all-union competition was organized among the schools for agricultural work on the state and collective farms.

The winners of the competition would be the schools which (a) achieved the highest number of work-days\* per student while maintaining a high standard of work; (b) achieved the highest norm of work per student, along with the highest quality of work; (c) achieved a high degree of organization, discipline, regularity, etc., in the school brigades, and order and cleanliness in the dormitories; (d) took active part in the mass political, cultural, and military physical culture work in the village.

The Commissariats of Agriculture and State Farms and the Central Committee of the Komsomols established

\*A "work-day" signifies a definite amount of work of different kinds according to which collective farmers are paid.

Red Banner awards for the winning schools, as well as first, second and third prizes. Special awards and money prizes were also established for both teachers and students.

In addition to the All-Union competitions, special competitions were also established within each republic, and region between the different schools, brigades and individual students.

A government decree issued on April 17, 1942, provided that children from 12 to 16 of kolkhoz families be required to give a minimum of 50 work-days a year to agricultural work. Another decree of the same date permitted the executive committees of local Soviets to mobilize for agricultural work on the state and collective farms and machine and tractor stations, able-bodied members of both city and village population, including school children of the 6th to 10th grades, with provisions for payment, living quarters, and so on. The role of the schools and the teachers as the organizers in this work was especially emphasized.

As a general rule, school children were not used very much during the spring plowing and seeding. Their work began with the cultivating season, in June, so that they finished their regular school year without interruption.

During the summer of 1942, 3,505,348 school children and 150,096 teachers worked on the collective farms, completing a total of 108,350,497 work-days.

The decisive importance of the work performed by school children on the farms may be gauged by the following examples:

The pupils of the Noshinsky school (Abansky district, Krasnoyarsk Region) did 70 per cent of the entire summer work for the collective farm "Forepost." During three months work on the collective farm "Road to Socialism," the students' brigade of School No. 26 of Yaroslavl weeded 40 acres of oats and 10 of flax, half the entire acreage under those crops; weeded one-half of the area under sugar beets; cut one-seventh of the meadow land; dried half of the hay crop; stacked two-thirds of the clover, pulled a quarter of the flax crop, etc. In addition, they

hauled manure, harrowed, cleaned the threshing floor, repaired the dam, and accomplished many other important tasks.

Chairman Besimalov of the Borisovskoye Kolkhoz of Kolomensky District, Moscow Region, declared that the school children released all the men of that farm for the front and worked so well that the potatoes were planted in ten days instead of the fifteen that it had taken before the war.

In general, the school children greatly exceeded the number of work-days expected of them. Sometimes, it happened that these school children applied themselves to their work with such intelligence that even veteran farmers could learn from them.

Take the case of Kolya Volkov, thirteen-year-old schoolboy assigned to the Korov Kolkhoz in Teplo-Ogarevsky district of the Tula Region. The brigade to which he belonged regularly exceeded the amount of plowing done by adults on that farm. This is how Kolya explained it:

First of all, we get up early, and we finish late. The main thing is not to drive the horses too hard. I've seen the grown-ups start right in driving the horses hard in the morning, saying they can rest at night. Sure, they go fast at first, but then by noon, they are already tired and they won't go fast any more, no matter how hard you beat them. I don't do it that way. After a couple of hours work, I stop and give the horse twenty minutes rest. Then, I let him take it easy until dinner time. After two hours out for dinner, I go back to the field and work until dark. After dinner, I give the horse two twenty-minute rest periods. That's why my horse doesn't stop the way some of the others do. Next to me, there's a farmer from a neighboring kolkhoz. He starts in driving his horses hard in the morning and by night, they can hardly move their legs. And their horses get thin, but mine don't.

Some of the collective farms which had specialized in grain growing had in the past paid very little attention to their vegetable crops. With the need to increase production of food of all descriptions, many of the schools had introduced their own vegetable plots where teachers and children had learned intensive methods of production. Transferring what they had learned to the plots of the collective farms, the latter found their vegetable plots producing double and triple the previous yield.

Contrary to what might have been expected, the children from city schools actually contributed more to the farm work than those from the village

Group of Saratov school girls working in the truck garden of a collective farm



schools. The explanation for this was simple. The city children took part in regularly organized brigades, under the direction of their teachers, observing strict hours and discipline, whereas, it was much more difficult to organize the village children in this way, since in many cases, they worked individually, with members of their own families, and when the children worked along with the adults, such high standards and efficiency were not ordinarily expected of them.

In the case of detachments of children sent out from school, it has been found desirable to institute a semi-military regime, using military titles and terminology. This appeals very much to the children, most of whose fathers and older brothers are at the front, and who in this way are made more aware of the actual wartime service they are performing. Their teachers are their commanders, they themselves can become captains, lieutenants and so on. This also helps in the observance of good discipline and sanitary regulations. An investigation carried on by the Tambov Department of Health showed that the health of the children actually improved during the period of field work. A certain amount of military physical training and military maneuvers are introduced for the older children.

In addition to the practical agricultural work and military training, the children are also made responsible for a certain amount of cultural work. They organize reading of newspapers in the fields, lectures and discussions on current events, entertainments, concerts, amateur evenings in the collective farm clubs and organize circulating libraries and exhibits.

So great is the shortage of manpower on the collective and state farms that the school children are called upon to help in many other types of work as well as the purely agricultural. Thus, for example, 250 children from the Usolski middle school in Irkutsk Oblast were assigned to a large state pig

farm, where they took part, in addition to the farm work, in many other types of activities. They were organized into a building brigade, a machine-repair brigade, a wood-cutting brigade, and others. They installed electricity in the farm buildings, made 55,000 bricks and started a 500 head poultry farm.

Especially effective was the work done by the school children in gleaning, work considered so important that a special government decree was issued in 1942 proposing that all collective and state farms and machine and tractor stations see that every stalk and every grain left on the field was gathered in. Requiring little skill and strength, the gleaning was done almost entirely by the younger school children who saved thousands of tons of grain for their country.

At the end of the season, many schools, teachers and school children rejoiced in the special banners and awards their hard work had won. Results of the work were summarized in special conferences, exhibits were held, and the new agricultural courses in the schools were revised on the basis of the vast amount of practical experience the summer had brought. During the school year of 1942-43, close contact was kept up between the schools and the farms and every possible measure taken to make the work of the school children even more effective during the summer of 1943.

The school teachers report that this practical farm work growing out of the war emergency has given new meaning to the principle of the closest possible link between school and society which has always been an important element in the Soviet education. This direct service to their country, along with the many other ways in which children are helping in the war, has also meant an important step in the training of Soviet children to be useful citizens and in preparing them for the great task of restoring their country when the fascist vandals have been driven out forever.



(Above) Railwayman Tikhon Kulichonko finds the members of his family murdered by the Germans at Gartmashovka Station. (Top right) Identifying residents of Georgiovsk murdered and buried in the Gestapo courtyard during German occupation



## Behind the Victories

By JESSICA SMITH

No one can measure one human being's grief and sacrifice against another's. The wives and mothers of Colin Kelly and Dorrie Miller have given as greatly and suffered as deeply as those of Nikolai Gastello and Zoya Kosmodemianskaya. Each American boy who has given his life on the islands of the Pacific, the deserts of Africa or the beaches of Sicily has loved freedom as dearly and fought for it as bravely as the Red Army boys who died before Sevastopol, Stalingrad and Orel.

But when it comes to a nation's sacrifices that is different. When you say 20,000 American dead against 20,000,000 Russian dead, that is something that can and must be measured. And we have a right to ask why in this second year of common fighting against a common enemy the overwhelming share of humanity's struggle for freedom must still be borne by the Soviet people. How many more millions of Russians must die for us before we are ready to make this an all-out coalition war, before we begin to make good on our President's words: "It is not too much to say that we must pour into this war the entire strength and intelligence and will power of the United States?"

The time has come for us, too, to throw everything we have into the struggle, to play our full part in the war in wholehearted cooperation with our Soviet ally, and to silence forever those defeatist and treasonable voices who dare to suggest that the Soviet

people might make a separate peace with their murderers.

Because of the magnitude of the Soviet sacrifices, and because their military achievements have already turned the tide of the war in favor of the Allies, such sacrifices as theirs will never be required of us. But far greater sacrifices than we have yet made will be necessary, and the more quickly we make them, the less will be the total cost.

Look long and hard at that figure—20,000,000 lives. It may be that millions more will have to be added to it when the full record of Hitler's bloody deeds against civilians in the occupied areas is known. Are we willing to face what these cold figures represent, or do we shut them out of our minds and turn away from their meaning?

We must not turn away. We must think of them as twenty million human beings, whose broken and bleeding bodies stopped the onrush of the murderous armies which intended our destruction too. More Red Army men have died than the number of men on all our fighting fronts today. They have died in the fiercest, bloodiest battles the world has ever seen, under the most hideous tortures the bestialized Nazi mind could devise. More civilians have died in the German occupied regions of the USSR than all the people in New York City and New York State—more than the entire population of Canada—and that means literally all the people, the babies, the children, the sick in the hospitals, the feeble old men and women, the strong

**I**N Moscow the guns have thundered a mighty salvo of victory. Orel, Belgorod, Karachev are free again. Yesterday a hundred villages were liberated, today a hundred more. The black plague recedes. The army of liberation rolls onward. The people who have survived rush forth to meet their deliverers. All over the world the hearts of free men leap in joy and gratitude as the Red Army marches westward.

Yes, the guns thunder the news of victory and the Soviet people have the right to rejoice. All of them, the least as well as the greatest, have fought and toiled and suffered for these victories. Twenty million\* of them have already died and many more will die before the final victory is won. No nation has ever had so many dead to mourn at once. And yet it is not their sorrow for all they have lost that they announce to the world but their confidence in final victory.

\* Soviet military losses were announced on June 22 as 4,200,000 killed or missing; civilian deaths in the occupied areas are estimated at between 15 and 20 million.



young boys and the beautiful girls. Over vast areas all the people that make up a community, all the things that men live by in a community, have been completely and utterly wiped out.

And behind these human beings, think of all that their hands and brains have built and enjoyed. The monuments of the past they preserved, the pictures and books they cherished, their theatres, their hospitals and schools, their fine public buildings, their great modern factories with their intricate machines, their scientific laboratories, their observatories, their modest homes—all of these blasted to rubble and dust. Think of the great fields of golden grain in the Kuban, in the Ukraine, grain now trampled and blood soaked, pushed back into the earth by the heavy tanks and dead bodies. Think of a small town where you grew up in the hands of the Germans, with people you knew swinging from every balcony. Think of it now burned to rubble and ashes, a few human beings still shuffling among the ruins, looking for bits of their lost lives, living in dugouts because this was once their home. Think of a great industrial city like Pittsburgh, blasted from the earth like Stalingrad. Think of Philadelphia, our third largest city, turned into a heap of smoking ruins like Kharkov, today, Russia's third largest city. Think what it would mean if you yourself had to take part in the destruction of your own towns and cities—first to keep them from falling into German hands, and then to win them back.

There is no end to the horrors the master race devised, no measure of the suffering they have inflicted. A pair of warm boots snatched from a child, a herd of cattle stolen to feed the army, carloads of priceless manuscripts and paintings burned and destroyed, or shipped by carloads back to Germany—such robbery and plunder are the least of their crimes. Unimaginable are the

tragedies that are revealed by the mass graves now being opened in the newly liberated regions—the ravished girls, the mutilated babies, the starved and tortured Red Army prisoners. These things have been officially recorded by the Soviet Government and announced to the world, and now the American correspondents are seeing them with their own eyes.

In all the occupied areas the able-bodied have been forced into slavery by the conquering beasts, made to serve the officers at the point of a gun or lash of a whip. Many thousands have been sent to Germany and sold as slaves. Then began the systematic mass extermination of those who were left. Jews were the first victims. Fifty thousand massacred in Kiev, 30,000 in Minsk, 15,000 in Kharkov. We must force ourselves to see in our minds and hearts the heaving, groaning ground as the dead and half-dead were packed into trenches. When there were not thousands left to massacre, or even hundreds, they were sought out one by one and slain—a sick Jewish girl in a hospital, a little Jewish boy hidden in a neighbor's house. Then they invented the murder van—a simpler, cheaper way to dispatch the victims—huge metal-lined trucks with the exhaust pipes emptying the deadly carbon monoxide inside. Eighty people herded in, the door slammed. It is all over while the executioner smokes a cigarette. The murder van is driven to the edge of town to empty its load. When children being driven into the vans cause disorder, a German corporal with a metal tube and long brush goes among them painting their nostrils and lips with black paste that silences them quickly and forever.

Nothing is exaggerated or exceptional. These things are done wholesale, under orders of the Nazi authorities. Medical commissions have examined the victims, witnesses have been ques-



A Red Army officer hears the stories of some of the inhabitants in a newly liberated village

tioned. Mountains of documents and affidavits pile up against the day when the criminals will be brought to trial.

Ilya Ehrenburg wrote recently that in German-occupied Ukraine and Byelorussia not a single Jew, not a single Jewess, not a single Jewish child survived. This is what occurred when the Germans swept through the North Caucasus a year ago:

The Germans entered the Caucasian health resort of Essentuki on August 1, 1942. On August 5 the German commandant announced that all Jews must be registered . . . On September 7, the city commandant Von Beck published an order that all Essentuki Jews should present themselves at the premises of the "Jewish Committee," bringing with them clothing totalling a weight of 30 kilograms, a plate and spoon and provisions for three days.

The doomed people were brought to the school house at night. 6 A.M. on September 10 the Jews were put into motor trucks and driven to Mineralnye Vodi. About a kilometer from Mineralnye Vodi there is a glass factory. Near it an anti-tank trench had been dug, and to this trench the Jews of Essentuki were brought. The lips of the children were anointed with poison. The adults were ordered to undress and the Germans piled their clothing and footwear into



These children were not victims of bombing but were deliberately shot by the Germans . . . and this is what the conquerors did to the village school in Elen-sky







## REBUILDING STALINGRAD

Top Left—In a wrecked kindergarten building the women of Stalingrad have organized a day nursery

Left—School days begin again among the ruins. Top right—Crowded into a few rooms quickly repaired and supplied with salvaged odds and ends of equipment, classes are resumed



Left to right—Public gardens are being swept clean of the debris of war for the use of Stalingrad's children

Clearing the ruins of what was once Stalingrad's largest department store

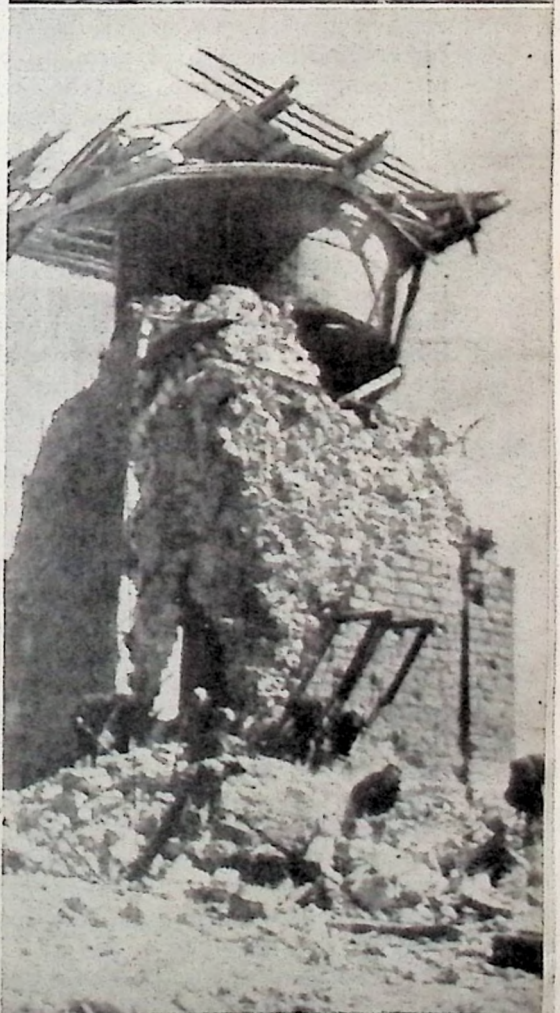
Laying the foundations for a new apartment house to replace one blasted from the earth by the Nazis



Left to right—This is where the famous Guards Division of General Alexander Rodimtsev covered itself with immortal glory

This tent city houses workers who have come from all over the Soviet Union to help the people of Stalingrad rebuild their beloved city

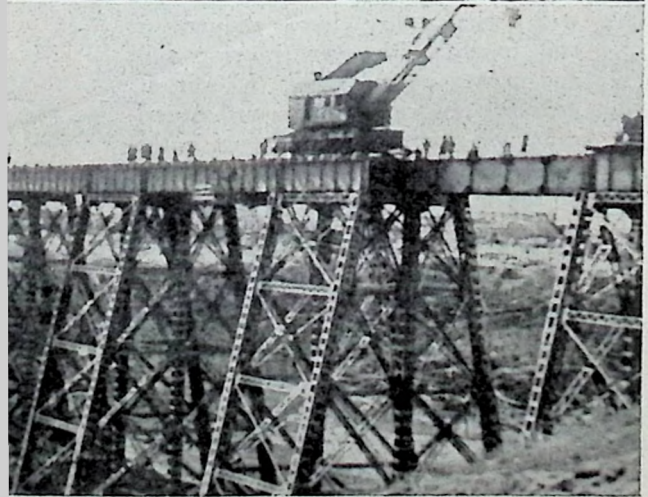
Bottom right—This water tower overlooked a battle of unparalleled ferocity. It is already working again



Left to right—Red Army men who saved the city help to clear away the rubble

Men and women work together to restore a railroad track into a destroyed factory district

A railroad bridge into the city is restored to use



trucks. Those who tried to run away were shot. The rest were lined up beside the trench in contingents and slain.

At this same spot all the Jews of Mineralnye Vodi, Patigorsk and Kislovodsk were also massacred. In the trench were discovered over 10,000 corpses mutilated by motor vehicles and buried in several layers . . .

In Stavropol, the Jews were exterminated on August 14, 1942 . . . They were stripped and put into hermetically sealed vans where within eight minutes they expired from asphyxiating gases and were then carried outside the city and buried in a ditch. Twelve-year-old Lina Nankin escaped the general fate: her mother had not taken her along. All day German soldiers armed with tommy guns looked for this twelve-year-old. The following day Lina, deaf to the entreaties of neighbors who had concealed her, went herself to the Gestapo and said "I want to go to my mother." The Germans killed her.

The deadly record goes on and on. Now there are no Jews left. But the Hitlerites massacre Russians in the same way, systematically wiping out one town after another. Those who cannot be used as slaves must be exterminated. Sometimes they are lined up on the edge of a trench, into which the bodies topple as they are shot. Sometimes they are forced to lie face down at the bottom of a ditch and then machine-gunned. Other victims are forced to lie on top of them, to be machine-gunned in turn, until the ditch is filled. No matter that they are not all dead. The earth is heaped on top of them.

In the winter thousands were driven out of their homes to die in the snow. Thousands simply starve to death. The Germans poison the water supply, even though they themselves are the victims. They kill the doctors and destroy all the medical institutions and then their filthy habits spread disease everywhere. Syphilis, unknown in the Red Army, typhus, enteric fever, dysentery, diphtheria and scurvy take a heavy toll.

If the Red Army on its liberating mission arrives before the slaughter has been completed, the retreating Germans drive the remaining Soviet population out before them, sending them on to mine fields. Children are slain before their mothers' eyes or left behind to starve. Mothers are torn apart by tanks before their children's eyes. Whatever the Germans had not destroyed while they occupied the town is burned and blown up as they leave. Often the people are forced to put their own homes to the torch and are then driven back inside.

Sometimes the Germans plan a treat

Residents of a village near Belgorod, burned by the Germans as they retreated, return to the ruins of their homes



as they depart, handing around soft drinks with poison in them, or set out feasts of poisoned food for famished people who for months have subsisted on bark and rotten potatoes. Over matters of this kind the advanced medical profession of the *herrenvolk* presides, especially when the victims are the inmates of psychiatric homes.

Only an infinitesimal part of what the Red Army finds as it wins back town after town from the Nazis can be suggested here. In his powerful article "The Science of Hatred" Mikhail Sholokhov tells the story of one Lieutenant Gerasimov who had miraculously escaped from the unspeakable hell of a Nazi prison camp. Lieutenant Gerasimov related what he had seen during the Red Army's advance before he was captured, the burned villages, the murdered children and old people, the mutilated Red Army prisoners, the violated and murdered women, girls and adolescents. He went on:

One in particular remained in my memory. She was about eleven years old. The Germans had caught her on her way to school, dragged her into an orchard, violated and killed her—a little girl, a child. Her blood-stained school books lay round about her. Her face was terribly slashed. Her hands gripped her open school bag . . . I remember I picked up one of the books: "Physical Geography, manual for the lower middle and middle school." It was a book I knew. My daughter was in the fifth grade herself.

Hour by hour sights like this are meeting the Red Army men as they advance. B. Balin, a "Red Star" correspondent with the Red Army on the Eastern Front, wrote a few days ago:

Today we visited Belgorod, which at one time nestled amid blossoming orchards, linden trees and white acacias . . . With throbbing hearts we crossed the Severny Donets and set foot on the black, charred soil of the liberated Soviet city.

On the same day the retreating Germans destroyed Orel and Belgorod; the German torchbearers dashed through the streets of the two Russian cities, burning and blasting the buildings. Belgorod, like Orel, is bleeding. But Belgorod presents an even more shocking and terrible picture, having been converted into a desert zone.

We entered the city from the direction of the blasted railway station, and the deeper we penetrated the Belgorod streets, the more ghastly the prevailing silence seemed. The people—young, old and children—have been shipped by the Germans to an unknown destination. Rarely does a passerby appear in the street. Belgorod is dead . . .

Our troops pass through the dead city urged on by one feeling—vengeance.

One cannot speak in terms of repayment of a debt such as the world owes the Soviet people who have suffered all this for us. They ask only that we help shorten the struggle against our common enemy which will mean not only bringing an end to the torture of their people but will also lessen the sacrifices we ourselves must make. The crimes against the Russians are crimes against the whole human race. Not one of us can escape the duty of helping to destroy the criminals.

As the suffering of the Soviet peoples is measureless, so is the heroism with which they have endured it and fought with ever growing skill and power to wipe out forever its poisoned source. How soon, Americans, will we take our full part in this common struggle? How soon, nations of the world, will you tear away the last vestiges of your fear and suspicion of the Soviet Union and understand that this mighty and heroic people have saved our civilization for us, and that this civilization can progress and flower only if the democratic nations accord the Soviet Union the full and equal share in all their plans and councils she has so greatly earned?

# MY BROTHER OF CANTERBURY

*A Tribute to*

*The Very Reverend Dr. Hewlett Johnson  
Dean of Canterbury*

By REV. ELIOT WHITE



Rev. Eliot White

ONE of your fellow clergymen, on the western shore of the Atlantic, salutes you with admiration and warm comradeship.

No outward compulsion, but your love of truth, justice and human liberation, moved you, when it was immeasurably more unpopular than now, to take your valiant stand in behalf of the Soviet Union and its marvelous advance out of Tsarist tyranny into the new day of the people's self-determination and constitutional liberties.

Dear Brother, how easy it would have been to leave to others the vindication of the Soviet Power and its prophecy of hope for a better world this side of Heaven, for all people! And to be satisfied to officiate at the time-honored services in the magnificent Cathedral, and to wander in meditation about its beautiful and historic precincts, letting its wide walls shut out all the turbulent world of international strife and debate.

For surely you love no less than do others the vista of the long Cathedral nave leading to chancel and sanctuary, so richly illumined by the glorious stained-glass windows.

And when on one of your walks along the banks of the river Stour, in the lovely country beyond the Cathedral, you look back at its noble walls and pinnacles reflected in the calm waters of the summer stream, your spirit, too, delights in that serene and beloved vision. Yet all of these treasures of history and devotion could not make you forget the world's conflict and need out beyond its cloistered peace.

During years when the great majority of dwellers in countries outside of Russia (your own and mine notably included), were misjudging the pur-

poses and achievements of that newly-awakening land, and were accepting with little if any evidence, the prejudices and propaganda-laden assertions of hostile critics, you on the contrary, after patient investigation made in visits to the USSR, secured your own first hand evidence of the immense scope and wise planning of the Soviet progress. And you then had the courage and independence to make known to your hitherto misinformed contemporaries, the truth about the vast contribution to human welfare and social advancement which Soviet Russia had already made, and was resolutely determined to continue in a happier future.

Against a tide of opposition, led by those who instinctively felt their privileges and profits threatened by a new social system wherein no individual or group can continue to exploit the masses through control of their sources and means of existence, you nevertheless pressed on, with calmness and determination, to make your proofs of Russia's advance more widely known.

The loneliness that must have been your lot in this self-sacrificing service to humanity, never cast you down. You knew that you were arraying solid facts against the crumbling defenses that prejudice and greed had raised up against truth.

And what a change for you have the most recent years brought, wherein Russia's power and worth, which you proclaimed in the time of her endurance of scornful stigma, have now been so triumphantly revealed in the most fearful of all wars, before the eyes of all mankind!

Yes, you were right, and your detractors wrong. If you rejoice now in that vindication, it is not for any personal aggrandizement—rather because you have lived to behold the truth made manifest, and the mighty dawning, after a long suffering, of the people's freedom and joy.

In Canterbury's historic minister, you well know how the ecclesiastical leaders of former generations are commemorated by carven tablets above



Dr. Hewlett Johnson

their tombs, recording dates and deeds of their earthly careers. And yet even stone and bronze monuments are not imperishable. More nearly everlasting will be your memorial, my Brother!

For your name is cherished on living tablets of millions of grateful hearts. Your valiant advocacy of their cause and destiny, elsewhere under a cloud of malice and lies, will outlast and outshine all inscriptions preserving the titles of those who sought to rivet forever the fetters of unrighteous privilege upon its victims.

In the Bible, from which all of us who have been ordained to the Christian Ministry pledged ourselves to preach and teach the truth of God, no matter what the consequence might be to us, you, dear Brother, in your faithful witness-bearing, have found some realities very startling to our modern times.

For example, the prophet Jeremiah, as a bringer of that divine truth to men, voices this searching declaration of God:

"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" (23:29)

And if that awful fire now rages through the shams and lies of hypocrites and oppressors of later days, you, my Brother and modern prophet, well know what a heap of ashes and cinders it will leave. And if that divine hammer keeps on striking its resistless blows on the rock of modern greed and tyranny, you also know into what fragments and blowing dust it will shatter it.

The Hammer of God!—already it is smiting!

Again, through the prophet Joel, the divine Voice commands:

*(Continued on page 32)*

# INCENTIVES OF SOVIET YOUTH

By DR. HARRY F. WARD

Dr. Ward's final article shows how identification with peoples and culture of the world is interfused with the patriotism of Soviet youth

SOME armchair writers, habituated to substituting mental acrobatics for the more prosaic chore of getting the facts, have decided that the war will make the Soviet Union dangerously nationalistic. Not long since, the same people were attacking communism for being too international in its thinking and program. Of course, the invasion of an enemy intensifies the spirit of patriotism but this war has also brought to the Soviet people a deeper, wider and more realistic sense of their relationship to the rest of mankind. This is not only because they are fighting with allies, but also because the enemy is attacking all human decency, all human culture. Soviet youth is clearly conscious that they are fighting not only for those who are fighting with them but also for the universal needs and interests of the human race. Thus, their motivation becomes a wider force than their own creative spirit. They feel that they are fighting for the opportunity of the youth of the world to build and develop according to their own capacities.

Their wartime utterances are full of this spirit. Hero of the Soviet Union, Eugene Fedorov, member of Papanin's famous North Pole expedition, says, "We are fighting for freedom, equality and friendship among peoples." A young girl partisan writes from a German occupied district, describing their life, "We work in the field, train in warfare, fight. In between, we attend meetings and lectures. Recently, the young people of our district discussed preparations for harvesting and saving crops from the enemy. We sent many comrades to partisan detachments in neighboring districts. . . . Greetings to all the Soviet youth and young people of friendly foreign countries." *Pravda*, writing on the 1942 World Student Assembly at Washington, said, "Its banners are symbols of the life and future of culture, democracy and humanism. The Soviet youth speaks a common language with the youth of all the freedom-loving nations."

The anti-Fascist meeting of Soviet students last November issued a call to the students of the world to fight for freedom-loving peoples everywhere,

"To live today means to defend mankind in the bitter struggle against the horrors of the Brown Shirt Plague." The plenary meeting of the anti-Fascist Committee of Soviet youth in March declared its solidarity with the International Conference of Youth that met in London last November and issued a stirring call to the youth of the world. The anti-Fascist Youth Rally, held in Moscow last September, declared that Soviet youth is fighting "not only for their own future, but for the honor and freedom of the whole young generation of the world." At the anti-Fascist meeting of sportsmen, with delegates from more than 20 cities and every main sector of the war front, held in Moscow last August, many of the speakers expressed the sentiment: "No one can afford to stand on the sidelines in the life and death struggle against the enemy of all mankind." The meeting adopted an appeal to "all sportsmen of the Soviet Union and all freedom-loving countries of the world."

In similar vein, Olga Lepeshinskaya, Prima Ballerina of the Moscow Bolshoi Theater, also deputy to the Moscow City Soviet and crack rifle shot, writes to young American artists: "Our art is international . . . you would understand even better if you had seen Tolstoy's house in Yasnaya Polyana (national museum) defiled and half demolished; if you had seen the torn, burned pages of Chaikovsky's manuscripts. . . . In the Chaikovsky museum at Klin, these manuscripts were used by the German vandals for starting fires." Then she tells of dancing for the soldiers at the front on open platforms placed on trucks which had come "all the way from America."

Valentina Grizodubova, aviator and Hero of the Soviet Union, speaking for Soviet women and girls says, "Hear my voice also, you dear friends, women of England and America. . . . In fighting fascism, we Russian women are defending not only our own children but yours as well. . . . Let us destroy fascism. Let us win freedom and peace for all mankind." Kuznetsova, a Stakhanovite worker, says: "Dear sisters, women of the whole world! I am a

metal worker of the Stalin auto plant. I spent twenty-five years working at a machine. Think of all the work we put in to build this bright happy life. Can we permit that this life should halt even temporarily, that the peoples of the Soviet Union should become slaves of the fascist gang? Can we permit the women of progressive, cultured, freedom-loving countries, of France, England, America, Czechoslovakia, Poland and others to be trampled under foot by the Fascist barbarians?"

The war has intensified the sense of the relationship of Russian and Soviet culture to world culture that has been growing ever since the defeat of the earlier narrow, sectarian concepts of proletarian culture. Thus, it has added to the motivation of Soviet youth, the sense of contribution to world-wide development of the arts and sciences. Ehrenburg writes: "Like every great love, patriotism widens the consciousness. A true patriot loves the entire world." Citing the great Russian names in the arts and sciences, he concludes that the culture of Russia has a universal human significance. "Fighting for the life of his country, which has given such men to the world, the Soviet soldier defends civilized mankind." And the other side of this: "We have made our heritage the most vital ideas of the past. . . . We have eagerly followed the progress of human thought in Europe and America. . . . We have raised no Chinese wall to separate ourselves from the rest of the world."

The Executive Secretary of the Kom-somol told Maurice Hindus: "We want our youth to respect other people, to regard them always as equals, to admire the good things they have achieved. Soldiers at the front are demanding that we include Mozart and Beethoven in our musical programs. No matter what Hitler and his gangsters do, they will never make us hate the great writers, scientists and musicians of Germany. They are far more dear to us than they are to the Nazis. Our youth must know the best that has been said and thought by the great minds of the world."

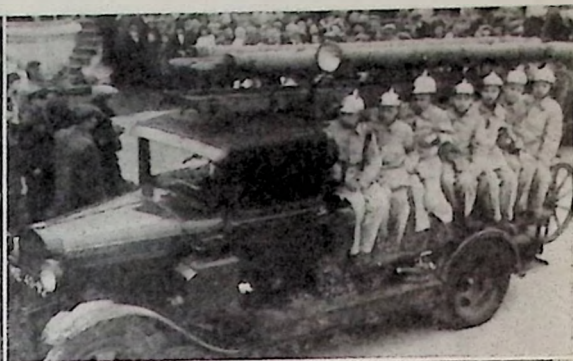
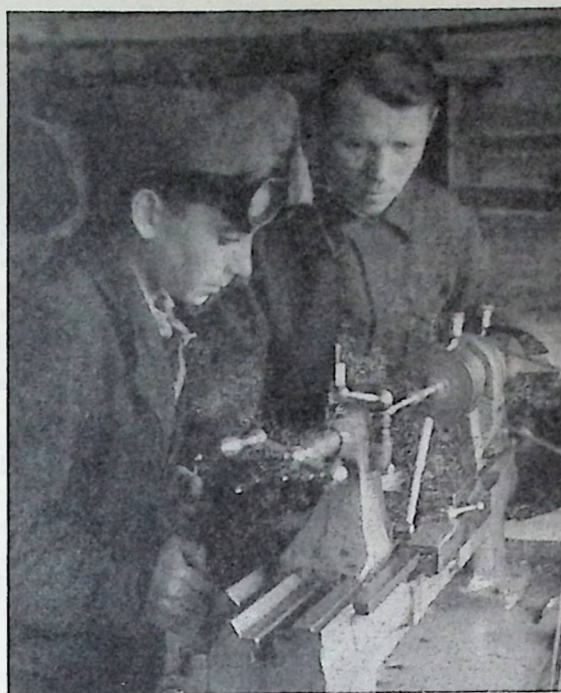
The contacts of what Soviet officials always speak of as "the Anglo-Soviet-

Left column, above:  
A boy refugee from  
Republican Spain,  
learning to operate  
a lathe

Below: School chil-  
dren sacrifice play-  
time to help in the  
harvesting

Right column, above:  
Soviet volunteer fire-  
men in wartime are  
mainly youths

Below: Valeria Bazi-  
kova, a Pharmacy  
student, at her  
A.R.P. post



American coalition" are adding to the long admiration and emulation of our technical achievements, an appreciation of our English-speaking democratic development, which was beginning before the war. A visitor to a Moscow factory was told by the Secretary of the Factory Youth Association that audiences in meetings where political questions were discussed were always much interested in the mode of life and struggle waged by the youth of England and America. The film shown in the factory clubs depicting the heroic defense of London against the German air raiders was debated with animation by all the young workers of the factory. He added: "We know . . . that we are fighting in the front lines for the interests of the youth of the whole world. This idea hardens us yet more to struggle and strengthens our solidarity with the youth of all countries fighting against fascism for liberty."

In the faculty of the history department of Moscow University, there is an Anglo-American section headed by the Dean of the University who has just completed a monograph on Rus-

sian-American Relationships at the end of the 18th Century and an article on "Twenty-five Years of Study of the History of Great Britain and the U. S. A. in the USSR." Courses are given on the history of the U. S. A.

Last May, *Moscow News* announced that five eminent British and American scientists had been elected honorary members of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. In July, it reported a course of lectures on the Pictorial Art of the United States given by Prof. Alexandra Altukhova of the Moscow Museum of Modern Western Art, and repeated in a number of military hospitals and army units. In October, it reported an address to the Book Section of the Union of Soviet Writers by Prof. A. Sidorov on illustrations by Russian artists to books by English and American authors. The professor stated that there is scarcely a single English or American author whose works have not inspired Russian graphic artists.

In commemoration of the recent 200th Anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, *Izvestia*, popular

daily, with an enormous national circulation, published a long article entitled, "A Great American Democrat," which gave its readers a clear understanding of the essential facts in Jefferson's career, the principles he stood for, the results he achieved and their international significance. Summing up the relation of Jefferson's career to the present struggle, the article points out that "Jefferson knew how to place the interests of liberty and progress above the selfish interests of individual groups of society" and that this principle is vital to success in the present struggle in which victory will be won by "the united forces of all liberty-loving nations, with the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition at their head."

The sooner it becomes possible for American youth and Soviet youth to fight side by side, the sooner this victory will be won, the more certain it will be to encompass the defeat of Hitlerism as well as Hitler. For, once in contact, the youth of these two great nations will find themselves seeking the same goal and moved by the same forces.



## THE BUSINESS MAN'S STAKE IN AMERICAN- SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

By HARLAND ALLEN

IT should be obvious to thinking Americans, whether of the right or the left, that the only hope for genuine "peace in our time" lies through a cooperative, friendly *modus vivendi* with communist Russia.

Few, if any, Americans have so much at stake in a peace formula *vis-a-vis* Russia as the businessman and investor. Friction with Russia at the end of this war means, at the very least, a continuance of vast military expenditures—beyond the time when our war debt, at \$300,000,000,000, will already approximate the wealth of the nation. An actual collision with Russia could hardly fail to lift this country's financial obligations beyond all capacity to redeem them, while the whole institution of private enterprise would probably be forfeit to the prolonged regimentation which such a war would require.

Fortunately, and despite many impressions to the contrary, there is much less reason for conflict than for agreement with Russia. Substantial similarities between the USSR and the United States have been noted hopefully by many commentators. At the end of this war, these similarities and parallel interests will bulk much more conspicuous. People both inside and outside these countries will rate them as significant new factors for peace, and should be distinctly tolerant of those who magnify differences and cultivate disagreements.

At the war's end, both Russia and the United States will stand out not only for military and productive attainments in the war, but as uniquely self-sufficient nations in the diversity of their industries and raw materials

and in the adequacy of their food supplies. Both will be recognized as imaginative, pioneering and generous peoples; also as the readiest sources of supply for those toward whom fate has been less kind. Both will stand out as non-imperialist, respecting at least the political rights of less powerful neighbors. Against such a background, enlightened people will be in an undeniably better position to appraise the relative merits of points of contrast. Most of all, against such a background, public opinion (at home and abroad) will expect these nations to treat each other as equals. That is the first challenge to America, for the simple reason that our country became an industrial giant at an earlier date.

Approached candidly (and without emotion or short-sighted self-interest), the only issues which have threatened to make trouble between the United States and Russia are seen to be issues toward which neither country can afford to be intolerant. They are (1) the right of the individual country to choose (freely) the kind of internal political and economic organization which it prefers, and the right to prideful development of such organization, without exporting same by force or high pressure "missionary work"; (2) the right of each country to geographical boundaries that have been sanctioned by long periods of history, or ethnic group preferences.

In relation to boundaries, there is no evidence that such claims of the United States will in any way conflict with Russia's conception of post-war justice; and there seems no probability that Russia could do anything about our boundary claims if she would.

Dniaprostroy Dam, blown up by the Russians to keep it from serving the Hitlerites, is one of many great Soviet enterprises America can help rebuild after the war

Similarly, Russia has made no boundary claims from the Arctic to the Black Sea which do not rest on 200 years of pre-Soviet occupation, nor concerning which the United States could possibly interfere with hope of success. In fact, in disclaiming the right to rule Finland, the Soviets have relinquished one sizable territory and ethnic group which was for centuries under the Russian flag. Any effort by the United States to force more territorial concessions from Russia, whether to gratify imperialist hopes of such as Poland's refugee government, or merely to "reserve" certain areas for capitalist development, could hardly fail to let loose boomerangs against our *legitimate* hopes for post-war business in Europe and Asia.

Post-war opportunity for American exports is a truly vital matter to the business health of this country, that hinges to an immeasurable degree on relations with Soviet Russia. If these relations are amicable, the revival of international trade after this war may not be too different from its nature and content in previously prosperous periods. But if relations are strained between the leading capitalist country and the leading socialist country, other countries great and small will be affected. Many of them will be as reticent about making commitments that would seem to align them on one side or the other as were the neighbors of Germany in the strained period preceding 1939.

A threatened struggle between Russia and the United States would rip China wide open so that there would not be even a beginning of that anticipated vast flow of industrial goods from American factories to a modernizing China. The same would be true to a lesser degree of India, the next most populous nation on earth. Coy Turkey, together with the vast Arab regions which to a large extent take their cue from her, would feel impelled to make limited use of American



credits and to keep a watchful restraint on any kind of American influence which might conceivably become embarrassing *vis-a-vis* Russia. Similar inferences apply to the Balkan States, which border on European Russia and have an added racial tie to the Soviet motherland. Yet this is a region which needs industrial equipment on a large scale both for its own account and as a stabilizing factor in Europe—to end a troublesome dependency on industrial Germany.

American industry is literally banking on export markets to take up the slack in heavy industry after war contracts are terminated—banking on this to an unprecedented degree to help (among other things) absorb war personnel in the demobilizing and reconstruction period. It would be an extreme disservice to free enterprise to let friction with Russia cut down this sustaining volume at such a critical time.

Doubtless it will be asserted by the kind of Americans who were shortsighted before the war that the whole world will need American goods and will take them, regardless, as the one available source of supply. But American goods (after Lend-Lease) will not be purchased without credits; and unless there is realistic promise of peace with Russia, you can be pretty sure that such credits will be turned down by American bankers or by Congress. . . . Only two important post-war regions will have gold to exchange for our goods—the British Empire and Russia—while financial obligations incurred in the war may make this impracticable for the British.

But there are other even more fundamental reasons why good fellowship between the United States and Russia has become of utmost importance to the people of both countries. That is because there can be no stabilized peace without it. Neither capitalism nor communism will have a chance without it.

When this war ends, the fact that Russia and the United States will constitute the bulk of the world's military power means that if harmony rules between them, the world may soon achieve a program of collective security under which each country's ideas of what is best in the way of political and economic organization can have a fair trial. Given such a disposition to live and let live, there can then follow the first genuine disarmament the modern world has known. Free enterprise in populous areas of the Old World

would have its first opportunity, unfettered by the threat of war and the costs of war, to lift the living standards of the masses of the people. Of course, the price of such opportunity would be similar freedom to use "The Middle Way" to advancement, as in Sweden; also the socialist way, as in Russia. A great many capitalists in this country and Britain will be loath to accept such a solution or formula for world peace—particularly those who grew up in the age when private enterprise had a somewhat exclusive franchise on the business of the world—when private bankers held the world's purse strings, could call the starters in any race, could almost say what was moral and what immoral.

Apparently, some of us still need to have it spelled out that *that world* has not been what it used to be since semi-feudal Japan proved able in 1932 to repudiate unilaterally the Nine-Power-Treaty; that it has been a much changed world since totalitarian Germany repudiated the freedoms of both enterprise and government, and almost abolished them in 1940 when overrunning Western Europe; that it got a new lease on life, but with a definitely narrower franchise, when communist Russia proved able to stop the previously unstoppable Nazis.

Apparently, much of the business and banking community has still to make practical adjustment to the fact that the same Russia which found itself able to cope with Hitler's military machine will expect to play an equally important role in post-war affairs. Certainly, her geography favors it. Russia's elongated "one-sixth of the world" which lies so near the center of the populated hemisphere, almost guarantees a more important role in the age of air transportation and radio communication that this land-locked country could possibly have taken as

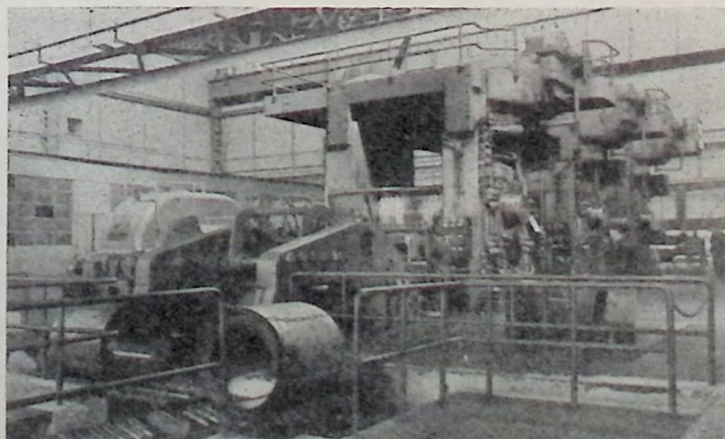
long as the seas were the principal channels between nations—for men, their goods, and their ideas. American investors who think rationally about the position of the United States in post-war air commerce need to begin with recognition that Russian air bases, and great expanses of Russian territory, lie between us and three-fourths of the population of the Eastern Hemisphere—sixty per cent of the world. Moreover, the USSR has a short-hop advantage for the air age, in addition to being the natural crossroads for stratosphere flying. A 1,500 to 2,000 mile belt of thickly inhabited country runs for 7,000 miles along the southern and western borders of the USSR and thus places most of the population of the Eastern Hemisphere within five hours flying of Russian industry and service. Obviously, no other nation has an air accessibility to trade territory which is even comparable to this.

Significantly, too, Russia's principle post-war neighbors within that vast belt will be as non-aggressive toward her territory and institutions as are Canada and Mexico toward ours (to wit, the great peaceful peoples of India and China, together with those which will have been rather permanently "pacified" by victory of the United Nations, namely, Germany and Japan). Thus, the post-war geographical position of this (Great Circle) neighbor of ours will be as strikingly improved from a defensive standpoint (by the military conquest of Fascism) as from a commercial standpoint (by scientific conquest of the air).

Despite all these advantages which will make Russia incomparably stronger defensively at the end of the war than she was when Hitler struck in 1941, there is another significant resemblance to the United States which constitutes very substantial assurance that a strong

(Continued on page 29)

A pre-war picture of the "Zaparozhstal" steel works in the Ukraine, once powered by Dnieprostroy. This equipment was probably evacuated to the Urals



# Ten Years of American-Soviet Amity

By EDWIN S. SMITH

The Executive Director of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship outlines plans for marking an important anniversary

TEN years ago next November 16, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, with wise foresight, brought this country into formal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. The wisdom of this step amply appears in the present magnificent fight against the Axis which Russia is waging as our ally. It also appears in the prospect of postwar collaboration with the Soviet Union and the other United Nations in order to achieve a stabilized world.

The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship is planning for November a large Congress in New York as well as countrywide meetings in celebration of the ten years of our diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. "Congress" activities will be carried on in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco in addition to the celebration in New York City. In other areas such as the Middle West and the South, we will also have meetings fully representative of all phases of community life in many localities.

Last year a great Congress was held in Madison Square Garden to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Soviet Republic. The slogan of this Congress was "Salute to Our Russian Ally." Among notable persons participating as speakers were Vice-President Wallace, Ambassador Litvinov, former Ambassador Joseph E. Davies, Thomas W. Lamont, Governor Lehman, Lt. General Leslie McNair, William Green and R. J. Thomas. Panel meetings were held in connection with the Congress in the fields of science, public health, women and child care in wartime, production for war needs and the role of the trade unions, civilian defense and morale, the Soviet people and their allies, and the Soviet people and the arts.

In addition to the Congress in New York, numerous meetings on the same theme—Salute to Our Russian Ally—were held in communities, large and small, throughout the country, including a very large meeting in Chicago, and a Conference on American-Soviet Friendship in Los Angeles.

Our New York sessions will open on November 6, winding up with a Madison Square Garden mass meeting November 8. The actual date of the beginning of diplomatic relations is November 16. However, since November 7 is the anniversary date of the founding of the Soviet Republic, it is appropriate to honor our Soviet ally, at that time and to utilize the period between the 7th and the 16th throughout the country to organize various events around the tenth anniversary of American-Soviet friendship.

Besides these projected meetings, we hope to stimulate during this week the passing of resolutions and sending of greetings to the Soviet Union by all kinds of organizations. We will arrange for special radio programs commemorating the event. Special attention will be given to discussion in universities on the contribution of the U.S.S.R. in the war, and the U.S.S.R. as an ally in the postwar world. In the public school system we would seek to have appropriate exercises marking the anniversary of recognition of the Soviet Union. In short, our objective is to utilize the period between November 7 and November 16 for manifestations on a mass scale of approval by the American people of President Roosevelt's historic action in establishing diplomatic relations between our country and our Soviet ally, and his present policy of cementing those relations as a vital measure to hasten victory.

The importance of this year's November meetings is greatly enhanced because of the determined effort now being made in certain quarters to discredit the Soviet union and to stir up suspicion and dissension between us and our Soviet ally.

The time for full coalition warfare—that is, complete dovetailing of military plans and strategy as among the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union—is obviously here. This has caused grave alarm among those who fear the Soviet Union's democratic role in the peace conferences.



New York's CIO sends friendship greeting to Soviet trade unionists through the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. Left to right: Joseph Curran, President of NMU and City CIO, Edwin S. Smith, and Taissa Izotova, Soviet student and trade union member.

Americans familiar with pre-war history know full well that the Soviet Union's long stand for collective security and the outlawing of aggression is a firm guarantee that her post-war collaboration with the other allies will be of immense service in carrying into reality the terms of the Atlantic Charter.

It is precisely because the America Firsters, imperialists and defeatists shudder at the prospects of really democratic world relations that they are now trying to befuddle the American public with anti-Soviet propaganda. There is not the slightest warrant for their oft-repeated assertion that the Soviet Union will try to establish Communism by force of arms throughout Europe. Those who propagate this false conception are merely trading on Hitler's discredited and disastrous doctrine of the Communist bogey which was a potent factor in creating the present war.

It behooves Americans, therefore, to exert unusual efforts at this time to deepen understanding of the Soviet Union's role in international affairs and to draw our country closer to the Soviet Union instead of seeking to disrupt unity of purpose among all the United Nations. It is our hope that these November meetings will put a quietus on anti-Soviet activities in this country thus assisting a speedy winning of the war and firm collaboration instead of bickering among the allies in laying the foundations of enduring peace.

We shall be glad to answer inquiries from groups and individuals wishing to participate in the Tenth Anniversary celebrations, addressed to our office at 232 Madison Avenue, N. Y. City.

# ON THE RED ARMY VICTORIES

## STALIN'S ORDER OF THE DAY JULY 24, 1943

*The Order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief to Army General Rokossovsky, Army General Vatutin and Colonel General Popov:*

**Y**ESTERDAY, July 23, by the successful operation of our troops the German offensive of July from areas south of Orel and north of Belgorod and in the direction of Kursk was completely liquidated.

On the morning of July 5, German-fascist troops in large forces of tanks and infantry supported by numerous aircraft launched an offensive in the Orel-Kursk and Belgorod-Kursk directions. The Germans hurled into the offensive against our troops their main forces concentrated in the areas of Orel and Belgorod.

As has now become clear, the German Command put into action in the Orel-Kursk direction seven tank, two motorized and eleven infantry divisions, and in the Belgorod-Kursk direction ten tank, one motorized and seven infantry divisions. Thus in all 17 tank, three motorized and 18 German infantry divisions took part in the offensive on the enemy's side.

Having concentrated these forces in narrow sectors of the front, the German Command calculated by concentric blows from the north and the south in the general direction of Kursk to pierce our defenses and to surround and annihilate our troops stationed along the arc of the Kursk salient. This new German offensive did not catch our troops unawares. They were prepared not only to repulse the German offensive but to deal powerful counter-blows.

At the cost of tremendous losses in manpower and equipment the enemy succeeded only in wedging into our defenses to the depth of about nine kilometers in the Orel-Kursk direction and from 15 to 35 kilometers in the Belgorod-Kursk direction.

In fierce engagements our troops wore down and bled white the picked German divisions and by subsequent resolute counter-blows not only hurled the enemy back and completely restored the positions they had occupied prior to July 5, but broke through enemy defenses and advanced from 15 to 25 kilometers in the direction of Orel.

The battles fought to liquidate the German offensive have demonstrated the high degree of military training of our troops, the unsurpassed examples of perseverance, staunchness and heroism of the Red Army men and commanders of all arms, including artillerymen, trench mortar gunners, tankists and fliers.

Thus the German plan of a summer offensive should be considered a complete failure. Thus the myth that in summer the Germans always score successes in an offensive, whereas Soviet troops allegedly have to retreat, has been exposed.

In the battles for the liquidation of the German offensive the following troops particularly distinguished themselves: the troops under the command of Lieutenant General Pukhov, Lieutenant General Galanin, Lieutenant General of Tank Troops Rodin, Lieutenant General Romanenko, Lieutenant General Kolpakchi, Lieutenant General Chistyakov, Lieutenant General of Tank Troops Katukov, Lieutenant General of Tank Troops Rotmistrov, Lieutenant General Zhadov, Lieutenant General Shumilov, Lieutenant General Kryuchenkin and the fliers of air formations under the command of Colonel General of Aviation Golovanov, Lieutenant General of Aviation Krassovsky, Lieutenant General of Aviation Rudenko and Lieutenant General of Aviation Naumenko.

In the course of the fighting from July 5 to July 23 the enemy sustained the following losses: over 70,000 officers and men killed, 2,900 tanks, 195 gun carriers and 844 field guns disabled or destroyed, 1,392 aircraft and over 5,000 trucks destroyed.

I congratulate you and the troops under your command on the successful completion of the liquidation of the German summer offensive. I thank all Red Army men, commanders and political workers of the troops under your command for the excellent combat actions.

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell on the field of battle in the struggle for the freedom and honor of our motherland.

*(Signed)*

SUPREME COMMANDER IN CHIEF,  
MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION  
STALIN

## STALIN'S ORDER OF THE DAY AUGUST 5, 1943

*Order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief to Colonel General Popov, Colonel General Sokolovsky, Army General Rokossovsky, Army General Vatutin and Colonel General Konev:*

**T**ODAY, August 5, the troops of the Bryansk Front, assisted on the flanks by the troops of the Western and Central Fronts, as a result of fierce engagements captured the town of Orel.

Also, today the troops of the Steppe and Voronezh Fronts broke the enemy's resistance and captured the town of Belgorod.

One month ago, on July 5, the Germans launched their summer offensive from the areas of Orel and Belgorod with the object of surrounding and annihilating our troops stationed in the Kursk salient and capturing Kursk.

Having repulsed all the enemy's attempts to break through to Kursk from the direction of Orel and Belgorod, our troops themselves passed to the offensive and on August 5, exactly one month after the beginning of the German offensive, occupied Orel and Belgorod.

Thus the German myth alleging that Soviet troops are unable to conduct a

successful offensive in the summer stands exposed.

To mark the victory attained, the name of "Orel" shall be conferred on the Fifth, 129th and 380th Infantry Divisions, which were the first to break into the city of Orel and liberate it, and henceforth they shall be named: Fifth Orel Infantry Division, 129th Orel Infantry Division and 380th Orel Infantry Division.

The name of "Belgorod" shall be conferred on the 89th Infantry Division of Guards and the 305th Infantry Division, which were the first to break into the city of Belgorod and liberate it, and henceforth they shall be named: the 89th Belgorod Infantry Division of Guards and the 305th Belgorod Infantry Division.

Today, August 5, at midnight, the Capital of our country—Moscow—will salute our valiant troops which liberated Orel and Belgorod by twelve artillery salvos from 120 guns.

For the excellent offensive actions I thank all the troops under your command which participated in the operations for the liberation of Orel and Belgorod.

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in the struggle for the freedom of the motherland.

Death to the German occupationists!  
SUPREME COMMANDER IN CHIEF,  
MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION  
STALIN

## STALIN'S ORDER OF THE DAY AUGUST 16, 1943

On August 15 of this year, as a result of stiff fighting, the 16th and 84th Infantry Division of Guards and the 238th and 369th Infantry Divisions liberated the town of Karachev from the German invaders, and in doing so showed examples of courage and skillful operation.

To mark the success they achieved, the name of Karachev shall be conferred on the 16th and 84th Guards Infantry Divisions and the 238th and 369th Infantry Divisions which liberated the town of Karachev, and henceforth they shall be named as follows: 16th Karachev Guards Infantry Division; 84th Karachev Guards Infantry Division, 238th Karachev Infantry Division and 369th Karachev Infantry Division.

## PRAVDA'S COMMENT ON THE KARACHEV VICTORY

"In the life of a people there are moments when its physical and spiritual strength are revealed in full grandeur . . .

"The Soviet peoples have set an example of unsurpassed stoicism, dauntlessness and readiness to sacrifice everything for the honor, independence and freedom of their country and their national dignity, and for all the peoples plunged into the abyss of war against Hitler Germany . . .

"Many serious trials and sacrifices are still ahead in the war. But the Soviet people look to the future with the greatest confidence in victory."

# Inside the Russian People

A Review by EDWIN SEAVER

MOTHER RUSSIA. By Maurice Hindus. 395 pp. Doubleday, Doran. \$3.50.

THIS seems to me the best book to date by an American about the Soviet Union at war. Maurice Hindus has a great gift for giving us the Russian people with a minimum of reportorial interference—how they live and work and fight and die, what they do and what they say, what they think and feel about their own land and the rest of the cockeyed world. Other Americans, writing about the Soviet Union at war, have tried to do the same thing. But for the most part, they have only succeeded in telling us *about* the Russian people, as seen by an outsider. Mr. Hindus gives us the people themselves, inside looking out.

The author was there on a return visit in fateful 1942. He had ample opportunity to see whether the conviction he had expressed in his previous book—"Hitler Cannot Conquer Russia"—was justified. He certainly found no reason to change his mind.

By now, anyone who has a grain of common sense and half a grain of common honesty must know what the Soviet Union, her leaders and her people, have done for us. To put it mildly, they have saved our largely undeserving necks. If the USSR had been even half as weak as we had been led to believe by so many of our "authorities" (I leave it to my readers to define for themselves what constitutes an "authority" on the USSR) we might have had to talk of Fortress America instead of Fortress Europe, with war for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as for our children, quite probably.

Great and noble are the Russian people, to whom we owe a spiritual debt of such magnitude it staggers the imagination. And great and noble must their leaders be to have prepared the people and the country not only to endure the fascist onslaught but to hurl it back and ultimately to smash it to pieces. Therefore, I cannot go all the way with Mr. Hindus when he says: "I have always felt that a single day in a village or a single meal with young people in a factory would tell me more of the heart and mind of Russia than an interview with any leader, however exalted." I know what Mr. Hindus means. He most certainly does not mean what those honor-

able gentlemen mean who still to our shame continue to libel our ally in certain malodorous publications. (To put it less elegantly, I refer to such disgusting tripe as I read recently, for instance, over the name of—well, skip it—who has again emerged from his hole as an "authority" on the USSR. Mr. Skipit, I gathered, was practically having a hemorrhage about the lack of "real" democracy in Russia).

It seems to me that if there is any one country in this world where there is no division between the people in village and factory and the most "exalted" leader, that country is the USSR. It seems to me that Mr. Hindus would get the same basic answers to his questions whether he talked to Ivan Ivanovich (I hope this means John Smith) or to Stalin. So why continue the wornout romantic cliché about the common people and the exalted leader?

However, I have no real bone to pick with Mr. Hindus. He has done a marvelous job of reporting and his book makes fascinating reading. He begins with a section on Russia's "flaming youth" and then goes on to tell the stories of Shura, Liza and Zoya, those magnificent young people—magnificently brave and magnificently Russian—whose names have already become legendary because of the heroic deeds they performed. Mr. Hindus then takes a glance

backward over main travelled roads and tells how the USSR became what it is today. Another section of the book deals with "Russia's New Society," ranging from factory management and the *kolkhoz* to morality and love letters. Still other sections range from discussions of Russian women and Russian children, to Russian objectives in the war.

I really can't give you any fair conception of the riches to be found in this book in paragraphs like the above. The only way I could do this would be to give you some of the hundreds of true stories and conversations Mr. Hindus has recorded with so much skill and fidelity. But what would be the use of my doing that, when you can read the book for yourself?

I came away from this book with a renewed faith in people, not the Russian people only, but just people. It was very evident that in the Soviet Union, there are not just a score, or a hundred, or a thousand heroes and heroines. There are millions. Millions of plain, everyday people whose behavior in the moment of supreme trial fills one with humility and even awe. And this is what I meant above when I spoke of our great spiritual debt to the Russian people. They have shown us that life can indeed be real and earnest, that life can be meaningful and beautiful. So many years the fascist dogs and the running dogs of fascism have degraded the people and poisoned the well-springs of life the world over. Looking at the Russians as revealed in Mr. Hindus' splendid book, we can dare to take pride in our humanity again.

## Two Correspondents' Books

Reviewed by ISIDOR SCHNEIDER

TWELVE MONTHS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD by Larry Lesueur. Alfred A. Knopf. \$3.00.

RUSSIA FIGHTS by James E. Brown. Scribners. \$2.50.

IN Brown's book, and even, to some extent, in Lesueur's book, I felt again what occurs to me on reading any correspondent's book on Russia—that the very practices and objectives of the profession peculiarly disqualify most correspondents for the Soviet assignment.

Personalities are important in the USSR for their public functions, not their private lives. And it is more important in Soviet journalism to have the whole story than to meet a deadline. Soviet papers which waited for the complete news on the Dieppe raid before breaking out in headlines, got over not piecemeal news and surmises, but the full story and its true significance, to their readers.

So much for the different attitudes toward what constitutes news. Russia, as a subject, called for exceptional conscientiousness. Not only was its new social system a challenging experiment but the challenge was being made a factor in international politics. It is now universally admitted that by interpreting the Soviet Union as a threat, the voices that

were listened to before the present war, helped to produce the war.

To put the coverage of Soviet news in the hands of regular correspondents is like sending a big game hunter to make a zoological survey of an unexplored region. The correspondents may gather some startling scoops just as the big game hunter may bring back antlers with a record spread. But the value to truth of the former will be about equal to the value of the latter of the science of zoology.

Mr. Brown's book offers some excellent examples of characters and characteristics of the profession that have often tended to make its practitioners worse than useless as interpreters of the Soviets. One of his characters is the famous bearded Cholerton of the *London Daily Telegraph*, the biggest sheet among the anti-Soviet papers in England, who has appeared in virtually all the correspondent books. Cholerton has been in Moscow some fifteen or sixteen years and has never troubled to learn Russian. Neither that, nor the fact that Cholerton has been quite consistently wrong about Russia seems to have troubled Brown or most of the correspondents who have commented on him. Cholerton has satisfied his employers which, apparently makes him a good correspondent.

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Brown, offhandedly, notes having ghosted Olympic games stories carrying the byline of Eleanor Holm Jarrett. He observes that he is not even remotely a sports expert, which might have partially justified his ghosting the series. There seems not to have occurred even a slight jarring of Mr. Brown's conscience over this deception of several million readers.

At another point Brown speaks of the Lindbergh visit to the Soviet Union and his misrepresentation of Soviet air strength. Brown expresses disapproval over the wrath of the Soviet airmen. Incredible as it may seem he appears to think that their indignation was aroused by what they considered an abuse of hospitality in not making his criticisms first to his hosts. Brown thinks the Soviet aviators were mistaken in expecting Lindbergh to feel such obligations to them. The pro-fascist intent of Lindbergh's report and its part in fostering appeasement are forgotten or ignored. The episode is reduced to an unimportant anecdote about the touchiness of the Soviet aces.

In some other pages, Mr. Brown describes a little war of expedients between the American and the British correspondents—any means for the supreme end of beating a rival to the wires by ten minutes! Reading that, it becomes clear why correspondents expressing admiration for Soviet leaders as "realists" get into the word "realism" so much of the connotations of drug-store cynics.

Brown has many words of admiration in his book for the Soviet people, though the words still sound a little extorted. History's drastic editing has had some effect, at last, on the correspondents. The best part of his book is the first section describing the voyage in, on a freighter in a Murmansk convoy. This is excellent narrative. Unfortunately, he never again rises to that level. The rest is chit-chat, about what too many other correspondents' books have already covered, and what was pretty thin to begin with.

This is not true, however, of "Twelve Months that Changed the World." Though the incidents covered in it are the same as in the other correspondent's book, the life in Moscow and Kuibyshev, the trips to the battlefronts arranged for the correspondents by the Soviet authorities, the author sought more and saw more, and had more to tell. Lesueur is one of the correspondents who learned Russian, who sought to be something of the zoologist as well as the big game hunter in the gathering of news. And the result is one of the best of the correspondent books on the Soviet Union. It provides an unusually interesting and often graphic picture of wartime Russia between the autumn of 1941 and the autumn of 1942.

The title is a little pretentious. It suggests a coverage as intimate and penetrating as John Reed's famous "Ten Days"—and it falls far short of living up to that suggestion. It could better have worn Brown's title "Russia Fights"; while Brown himself would have hit nearer the truth with an old-fashioned title something like "Russia Revisited, Including an Account of the Author's

Illness and Sundry Observations On the Great War."

The qualities that distinguish Lesueur from the other correspondents are first, that he is not astrut with the self-important, self-hypnotizing romanticism over being that figure-of-romance, a foreign correspondent, that overcomes so many of them. Secondly, that he considered it worth acquiring a knowledge of Russian. We find him studying Russian on the convoy vessel that takes him into the country through Murmansk; and we find him, in a few months, progressed so far that he is able to make and maintain friendships with Russians, in their own language. And, finally, a larger and more persistent curiosity than most correspondents have shown, the good, ordinary curiosity that seems to be killed in them by the straining for scoops.

This adventurous curiosity led Lesueur into some mishaps which Brown makes fun of, anonymously, in his account. One was the smashing of a skipper's telescope—and patience with inquisitive passengers. Another was a wild ride on a Cossack cavalry mount. But, more important, it led him a little further and deeper into Soviet life than the average correspondent seems able to get.

If the reader does not approach the book with too great expectations, if he looks for neither a literary masterpiece nor *all* the facts about Russia, he will find Lesueur's book interesting and informative.

## BUSINESSMAN'S STAKE IN USSR

(Continued from page 25)

Russia will not be an aggressive Russia. This is the peace-loving characteristic of her people. Modern Russia has never fought beyond her 1914 boundary line.

The long-felt fear of communism within the borders of our own country is not related to the strength of Russia in a military sense. Our greatest concern over the possibility that such extremism could get a foothold in the United States has been when the Russian system was less strong than now. That concern was related primarily to the fact that our system had been weakened by lack of corrective attention to certain ills—when punishing unemployment, as in 1932, published a critical need for remedies, and again in 1938 when a sudden relapse showed that mere humanitarian measures and deficit priming were not enough.

Beyond any doubt, much of Russia's phenomenal strength for the present war came from machines and methods developed in free enterprise America. She had purchased our machines and had sent her technicians here to study

our methods. We took pride in this contribution to Eastern Front victory. We knew that without some of the formulas borrowed from free enterprise, her system might not have been able to meet successfully the ultimate strain.

But one thing free enterprise has tended to overlook in Russia. That is the possibility that a people so numerous, so intelligent, and so similar to us in many ways, yet with sharp contrasts in background and training, may have something to contribute to us besides "share-the-wealth" ideas. Perhaps some factual observation of the Russia which saved the world from catastrophe would contribute to our solution of crucial problems. It might be a formula for more successful race relations; it might be a suggestion for the fuller use of cheap waterway transportations; or for the pooling of agricultural equipment. At the least, such observation would give us a better understanding of the Russia we are going to live with. That would mean less risk of misunderstanding, and friction, and war—much greater assurance that the private values of investors will not become casualties of unnecessary war-debt-inflation, nor free enterprise the victim of complacency.

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# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

By THEODORE BAYER

**Question:** Will you please discuss the Free Germany Committee in Moscow. What is its status? J. K., Portland, Oregon.

**Answer:** The Anti-Nazi German National Committee now functioning in the USSR is comprised of German prisoners of war, of all ranks, and anti-Nazi refugees in the Soviet Union. Representatives of practically all sections of the German population are among the membership of this group.

The German anti-Nazi Committee in Moscow is working for the defeat of Hitlerite Germany and the Nazi system of government. The Committee calls upon its German brethren to overthrow the Nazi regime as a preliminary to the establishment of a free Germany which will renounce all conquests, gain the confidence of Germany's former enemies, and establish peace, so that the German people, freed of the yoke of Nazism, may restore their country to the status of a fit member of the society of nations after the war.

This Committee is a voluntary organization of German anti-fascists in the USSR organized of its own initiative. Its aims were set forth in detail in its Manifesto addressed to the German people and particularly to the German armed forces.

For obvious reasons, a Free Germany Committee in Moscow has importance which other Committees of German refugees organized elsewhere do not have. However, Committees of anti-Nazi German refugees and citizens of German descent are organized in other countries, including the United States.

A large section of the press hostile to the Soviet Union has seized upon the Manifesto for anti-Soviet and anti-United Nations propaganda. They allege that the anti-Nazi Free Germany Committee was inspired by the Soviet Government and that its pronouncements should be regarded as official Soviet documents. Quite apart from the merits of the Manifesto and the constructive policy it presents for the world struggle against Hitlerite Germany, this document is of course only the expression of its authors and while it may be assumed that as an anti-Hitler move, it met with the sympathy of the Soviet Government, it is incorrect to interpret its formation in any way as an official act of the latter.

Our anti-Soviet press further adduced as proof of the fact that the Manifesto was "official" the fact that it was reprinted in the Soviet press and its dissemination abroad permitted by the So-

viet Government. This is of course as ridiculous as to claim that every news release and pronouncement of the scores of committees of European nationals and the many governments-in-exile residing in London and which are cabled therefrom represent the official policy of Great Britain.

**Question:** What are the territorial or administrative divisions of the Soviet Union? M. L., Chelsea, Mass.

**Answer:** The Soviet Union is comprised of sixteen Union Republics. Within some of these Republics there are further national divisions, namely the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics of the given nationality, of which there are fifteen within the Russian Federated Soviet Socialist Republic. Smaller national subdivisions are the Autonomous Regions of the given nationality, and the national areas.

In addition to these divisions along national lines, there are territorial administrative divisions. These are territories, regions, areas, districts and cities, and various types of rural localities. All of the administrative units are governed by local Soviets elected by the populace.

**Question:** What are the regulations governing the disposition of bodies of the deceased in the Soviet Union? C. H. S., Los Angeles, Calif.

**Answer:** The next of kin of the deceased person have the right to decide whether the body is to be buried or cremated. Municipalities and villages maintain burial grounds. Since cremation has been widely accepted, there are numerous cremation centers and they are fairly accessible in all parts of the Union.

**Question:** I recently read an account of a trial before a Soviet court in which lawyers were pleading the case on behalf of the defendant. Is it true that lawyers can be engaged in the USSR? H. N. S., Cleveland, Ohio.

**Answer:** Yes, according to the Constitution of the USSR the accused is guaranteed the right to be defended by counsel. The lawyers are organized in collegiums. For a nominal fee the collegium of lawyers assigns one of its members to assist in the preparation of a case and to appear in court. In criminal cases the court itself often assigns a lawyer to represent the interests of the defendant.

**Question:** Is it true as some statements from Polish sources charge, that Polish refugees in the Soviet Union were not allowed to receive relief? C. P., Binghamton, N. Y.

**Answer:** This charge is part of the anti-Soviet propaganda conducted by Polish reactionary forces in America. The propaganda is designed to incite anti-Soviet feeling and to create a rift among the United Nations. There is, of course, no truth whatsoever in the charge. On the contrary the Soviet Union did everything possible to facilitate the distribution of relief to the Polish refugees fleeing from Hitler-occupied Poland and whom the Soviet Union evacuated into safety into the interior of the USSR.

As the Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Andrei Vyshinsky, explained in his statement to the British and American press on May 6, 1943, (See June *Soviet Russia Today*) the Soviet Union granted a special loan of 100,000,000 rubles to the Polish Government which was earmarked for the relief of Polish refugees in the USSR. In addition, the Soviet Union granted special privileges for the importation of public relief from abroad for distribution among Polish nationals. The Soviet Government also set aside special stocks of provisions for the Polish Relief Administration.

Soviet officials in cooperation with the Polish Embassy organized 589 institutions through which the Polish relief serviced the Polish refugees. These were dining rooms, children's homes, creches, homes for invalids, etc.

Moreover, the Soviet Union permitted the creation of twenty centers for Polish relief administration, under the supervision of the Polish Embassy. These Polish Relief Administration centers were permitted to appoint 421 special delegates for field representation. However, instead of using this network for relief purposes, it was found that it was used for espionage, diversionist and other anti-Soviet activities. Vyshinsky's statement sets forth a number of specific cases tried and convicted.

The Soviet Government, prior to the severance of relations with the Polish-Government-in-Exile, officially warned the Polish Embassy of this intolerable condition. However, this did not bring about the desired results.

Vyshinsky also revealed that the agents of the Polish Relief Administration were acting under instructions of the Polish Embassy in the USSR. Under these circumstances the Soviet Union had to curtail the activities of the Polish Relief Administration.

The Polish reactionary press in the United States of course was well aware of the fact that Polish authorities subordinated relief work to their hostile political objectives and when they were

caught red handed, in order to becloud the issue, charged the Soviet Union with mistreating Polish nationals.

Since the severance of Polish-Soviet relations, the task of distribution of relief for Polish nationals has devolved upon the Union of Polish patriots in the USSR, of which Wanda Wassilewska is President.

The fact that Polish nationals were receiving relief and that the Polish relief activities were freely permitted in the USSR is further confirmed in a report to the Polish National Conference held in Buffalo in October, 1942, by Francis X. Swietlik, President of the Polish-American Council, who stated:

We bought and sent to Russia the following articles: 10,300 pairs of trousers and military shorts, value \$20,946.68; 2,000 boxes of condensed milk, value \$10,680.00. We sent to the Poles in Russia 18 transports of clothes, weight 541,983 pounds, value \$628,044.00.

As a result of our efforts, as is shown by the letter of Mr. Breckenridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State, dated October 18, 1941, the American Red Cross through its representation in the Near East gave substantial help to Poles in Russia in the form of 800 tons of medicine from England, in addition to medicine from the United States to the value of \$250,000.

Mr. Swietlik included in his report a telegram he received from Professor S. Kot, at that time Polish Ambassador in the USSR. The telegram, dated July 6, 1942, contained the following:

Dear Professor Swietlik: Before leaving Soviet Union I wish to convey to you as well as to organizations belonging to Radpol and members of your Board of Directors my sincere thanks for cooperation in bringing relief to many unfortunate Polish war victims in this territory. May I use Radpol's good offices in thanking Polish language press in America for support of relief activities. Continuation fair equitable distribution all gifts and donations my departure assured.

**Question:** We would like to know whether there have been any epidemics in the USSR as a result of the invasion and war.—S. T., Montreal, Canada.

**Answer:** This subject was recently discussed in an article in *Izvestia* by the People's Commissar of Health, Miterev. According to his report, cases like dysentery, measles, scarlet fever and whooping cough were fewer in 1942 than in 1941. There were no epidemics in 1942, nor in the first quarter of 1943. This, despite the difficulties caused by the destruction of sanitation facilities, water mains, and drainage in the districts reached by the Germans and their systematic destruction of these facilities during the retreat of the Nazi armies.

Districts that suffered considerably from this destruction and spread of disease by the Germans were Rostov, Kalinin and Orel regions and the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories.

People's Commissar Miterev, while expressing satisfaction in the achievements of the Soviet medical personnel, called for greater vigilance and alertness on their part to stamp out any threat of epidemics.



## FROM OUR READERS



### Much More to Be Done

To SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY:

It is gratifying to see the good work our magazine is doing in cementing the relationships of Earth's two greatest peoples. Much has been done; more is to be done. But the rewards will be more than proportionate with the task.

Though it is true that the war in which the Soviets are engaged is the most important story with which the magazine has to deal at this time, it is true, too, that we should have more material relative to the daily activities of the Soviet people. Their accomplishments in industry, agriculture, mining, transportation, schools, distribution, dietetics, criminology, penology, medicine and other activities should be dealt with as thoroughly as possible. Charts, maps and groups could be used to accentuate trends.

Now after me telling you how to run the magazine which you have managed so well, how about a report of how things are going on the newsstand front? What's the publicity department doing to further circulation? Are many papers giving us quotes with credit? (Naturally, I do not expect you to take valuable time to deal with these questions; they are just indications of what I think when I think of SRT.)

*Theodora Mahaffey*

El Centro, Calif.

### Finds SRT Indispensable

To SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY:

Although I am a regular reader of two daily and a weekly periodical that give authentic information on the USSR, I always found SRT indispensable and valuable facts not found in any other publication. The article in the February issue on "The Truth About Religion In Russia" is particularly invaluable and timely in answer to the constant campaign carried on by the enemies of the USSR who are also our enemies.

*I. H. Bay*

Pittsburgh, Pa.

### Praise for the February Issue

To SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY:

... I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the splendid February issue. SRT is always good, always carries interesting, timely informative articles. But the February issue was even better than usual. Mandel's fine article on the Leningrad siege with its pictures, Captain Kournakoff's analysis of the recent war news, the article taken from Patriarch Sergius' book, your own well written editorial comments and, most striking of all to me, Armstrong's thrilling chant, "O Soviet Land" made this your most striking issue since your World Fair number in 1939. ...

*C. H. Coyle*

Berwyn, Ill.

### Stalingrad—"Civitas Dei"

To SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY:

The Day has come when the civilian world can acclaim Stalingrad the City of God, the *Civitas Dei* of Saint Augustin, the great Saint of the Fourth Century, who first saw with his inner eyes a City whose virtues were worthy of this great and glorious Title. This

mystical and even real City will rise from its ruins as a symbol for all time of the genius of the Russian people.

*Dr. Eugene R. Corson*

Savannah, Georgia

### Lines from a Russian Girl

To SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY:

Since there has been a great deal of discussion whether the Russian people are familiar and appreciate the friendship and practical generosity of the United States, it has occurred to me that the following excerpt might be of interest to your readers—the letter has just reached me.

The writer is my niece, about 18 years old, living at present in Saratov. During the war she lost her mother who was a physician, her father, and her uncle, a radio engineer. (I am quoting verbatim, her letter is written in English.)

"March 1, 1943

Saratov

Dear Aunt:

... I am a student of the 2nd year of the Leningrad University, and also am working as a turner.

I am sure that the famous deeds of our valiant Red Army and the mighty union of USSR, USA and Great Britain will ruin before long the Hitler rascals. Every day the radio brings us new tidings—more and more fascist armies are beaten, more and more victories gains our Red Army. All our people are working hard for the final victory, and I am very glad and proud that there is also my small share in the great work for the needs of our country's safety.

I would be glad to get a few lines from anyone of you. ... I have no kinsmen left.

With love

*Tania*

Incidentally, this letter is an indication of what the youth of Russia is thinking and doing in these critical times. You are doing a magnificent work with "Soviet Russia Today." Congratulations and gratitude.

*Miriam Finn Scott*

New York City

### Cheers Our Circulation Increase

To SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY:

Good to hear that SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY has tripled its subscription in the past months.

You're doing a swell job, as might be expected, and more and more readers will discover you as time goes by.

Here's my renewal. I don't see how anyone can part with the magazine, once they've really read it.

*George N. Wosk*

Bronx, N. Y.

### Dearly Paid For

To SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY:

It took a world catastrophe to make a respectable nation of Soviet Russia. Future generations will come to realize that it was not too great a price to pay.

Your articles are of great interest, but could you possibly give us a little more information on Soviet opera productions, literary figures, musicians, etc.?

*Mary Kouzmanoff*

Bensenville, Ill.

## TO MY BROTHER

(Continued from page 21)

"Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe." (3:13).

And again, in the New Testament Book of Revelation, the Apostle beholds "the Son of Man," seated upon a cloud of Heaven, having "in his hand a sharp sickle;" and then he hears an angel "crying in a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, 'Thrust in thy sickle, and reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.' And he thrust in his sickle on the earth and the earth was reaped."

And surely if that divine sickle continues to cut through the evil growths of selfishness and hatred, you also well know how it will clear the fertile fields of the world for the true harvest, so long awaited through weary centuries, of justice, peace and the brotherhood of all mankind, never again to be harmed or lost.

The Sickle of God!—already it is reaping!

So are the hammer and the sickle no new associates in the advance to the Better World. The Scriptures of the ages thus reveal them at one in freeing the earth from its evils and preparing it for comradeship and the triumph of beauty and gladness to its remotest corner.

Do you remember, my Brother, from the Paris of 1937, how against the blue heaven above the Exposition grounds were poised the superb great figures in silvery sculpture, of a young workman holding aloft a hammer, and close beside him a girl lifting a gleaming sickle, where they surmounted the Soviet Pavilion?

Those forward-striding giant forms on their sun-bathed tower, seemed indeed to symbolize through the beauty of modern art the wielders of industry's hammer and agriculture's sickle, with a grandeur befitting the Bible's prophetic visions. No wonder that you, modern prophet of the dawning better day, have rejoiced to hail the Soviet emblem of hammer and sickle, joined in inseparable fellowship, as carrying forward in splendor of modern achievement, the daring forecasts of the Word of God itself.

Finally, my Brother overseas, I believe that if the poet Chaucer could be recalled from the 14th century, to write one more of his well-loved "Canterbury Tales" he would delight to add to the narratives of the Knight, the Miller, the Prioress, the Doctor, the

Merchant, the Pardoner, the Monk, the Parson and the others whom his verses celebrate, a new and stirring "Tale of the Canterbury Dean who was Unafraid."

## THE 26th MONTH

(Continued from page 8)

junction of Merefa, southwest of Kharkov and Zmiev, southeast of the city, are still in German hands and there is an escape corridor about 35 miles wide out of the Kharkov area.

It seems rather obvious that for about a week now, the Red Army has been looking at Kharkov as an objective of only secondary importance and has transferred its center of gravity to its salient pointing at Poltava, some 35 miles away, down the valleys of the Kolomak and the Vorskla, which meet at Poltava. This does begin to look like a bid for the Bend of the Dnieper, i.e., a new variant of General Vatutin's attempt to reach Dniepropetrovsk in February of this year which was scotched by the absence of a Second Front in Europe, resulting in the recapture of Kharkov, Belgorod and a length of the western bank of the Donets by the Germans in early March.

The realization of the long-delayed Second Front at the time would insure the success of the ambitious and vast maneuver on the part of the Red Army to cut off the enemy forces between the lower leg of the Dnieper, the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov, the Miuss, and the middle Donets.

While the Belgorod thrust was being prepared by the Soviet High Command, the Germans attempted to launch a strong counterblow along the Donets, against the Soviet bridgehead at Izyum. This attempt lasted only a week and was repulsed, the Germans not only losing heavily in men and materiel but losing some good positions.

The Orel operation is now developing as a push toward Bryansk with the eastern bastion of the latter fortress—Karachev—already in Soviet hands. It is to be expected that the Red Army will now strike from captured Dmitrovsk-Orlovsky toward the junction of Navlya, to outflank Bryansk from the south.

The outflanking of Bryansk from the north will probably be effected by the latest Soviet thrust which started on August 13 along the line Vyazma-Bryansk and has already resulted in the clearing of that vital line and the capture of the junction of Zanoznaya

and the fortified center of Spas-Demensk (not to be confused with the Fortress of Demyansk, near Staraya Russa, captured by the Red Army, March 1). This latest Soviet thrust is developing in the direction of Roslavl, half way between Bryansk and Smolensk and might constitute a direct threat to either one of these key-strongholds.

Thus we see that at the end of the first month of the first Soviet grand scale summer offensive, the backbone of the German central front, resting on Smolensk, Bryansk and Novgorod-Seversk, is under direct threat, while the great forward bastions of that line, Spas-Demensk and Orel, have been captured. The German Southern Front has been cracked and broken to a depth of almost one hundred miles. Its bastion, Belgorod, has been captured and Kharkov, its forward base, is practically gone. Its rear base, Poltava, is under direct threat.

Such are the results of the most "unexpected" phase of this war, a grand Soviet summer offensive, swelling like an avalanche or like an *andante alla marcia* of a symphony moving toward its climax. How did it happen?

It would appear to this observer that the Soviet High Command, after seeing that it had succeeded in stopping the German summer offensive in one week and within 18 miles of the jumping-off line, made a momentous decision: to begin the execution of its offensive plan for the winter of 1943-44 immediately. The first blow was struck at the German kingpin of Orel. The second at Belgorod, where the German front seems to have caved in. The third blow fell at Demensk.

During the repulse of the week-long German offensive against Kursk, the Soviet Intelligence must have laid its hands on plenty of evidence that the Germans, like the Old Gray Mare, were not what they used to be. And the Soviet High Command was quick to act, advancing the time-table by no less than four months.

As we pointed out last month, the conditions of transportation favored the Germans. So did the torrential rains that came in the latter half of July. But in spite of all this, the Red Army not only smashed the German offensive but cracked the German front at its most fortified spot, and at the point of the greatest concentration of enemy troops—a great example of strategy directed at the Hub instead of the Rim.

Napoleon must be applauding from under the rotunda of the *Invalides*.



## WAR ORPHANS IN THE USSR

(Continued from page 13)

So everywhere, throughout the whole broad land, in every city, in every collective farm, children orphaned by the fascists are finding happiness, love, and a new life.

But while these children's homes are necessary institutions to take care of the emergency situation, the whole tendency now, as before the war, is for adoption of orphans by individual citizens.

This movement began in the first days of the war by the initiative of the workers of the rubber factory "Krasny Bogatyr." One of the workers, Elena Semenovna Ovchinnikova, the mother of four herself, began to agitate for permission to adopt a child orphaned by the fascists. Other working women followed her example immediately. They were given permission and together they went to a children's home. Three-year-old Vera made a beeline for Sophia Afanasevna Sharova, who took her in her arms, saying "Hello little daughter, are you ready to come home with me?"

Almost as quickly Trutneva chose seven-year-old Svetlana, Tsibulskaya eight-year-old Dusia, Idelchuk three-year-old Galya, while Ovchinnikova chose three-year-old Nadya who had seen both her mother and father murdered. Sadritdinova, a Tatar, stopped at the bedside of Tolya Vorotnikov, a little fellow so weak he could not walk. One of her companions whispered to her: "Won't it be too hard for you? He's weak and sick, and you have two daughters of your own . . ." "No! I'm sorry for him—I want him and no other. I'll nurse him and make him strong—so he'll be a real person. You'll see!"

The women reported that it was very difficult at the beginning. Sharova's Verichka sat for days without speaking or moving. They gave her a doll, and she refused to look at it. They gave her a little painted gnome. She shuddered violently, and said "Germans!" They talked about getting *valenki* (felt boots) for her, and she said "Oh, you'll have to bury them, so the Germans won't get them!"

But the warm tenderness of their new mothers did its work. Little by little the nightmare of fear left them. Now you would not recognize these happy, rosy-faced youngsters playing in the park of the factory settlement.

The whole country heard about the "Krasny Bogatyr" women, and thousands of requests came pouring in. In Tashkent *all the children* evacuated there were adopted within a week. Soon the secretary of the children's home could be heard saying into the telephone receiver over and over again "Sorry, but we have no more evacuated children!"

Anilkhan Shatafutdinov, a veteran teacher of the Uzbek Republic, brought in an application: "But you already have a huge family!" they answered him. "Not so huge," he pleaded, "only ten. Two of them have already gone to war. One of them is a doctor, one is a commander. So you see we have plenty of room for another."

Fifty-six-year-old Akhmed Shamokhemedov, a blacksmith, came to the Children's Aid Commission and reported that his house had been built for three children but now was empty. So presently this Uzbek worker had a fine new family consisting of a little Byelo-Russian girl, Raya Maltseva, a Tatar girl, Malika Islamova, and a Russian boy, Volodya Urusov.

The Red Army men would not be left out of this movement, either.

A young air force lieutenant attached to the Pacific Fleet, Piotr Beznosikov, wrote to *Komsomolskaya Pravda*:

Dear Comrades:

I have been moved to the depth of my soul by the story of how German doctors forcibly took blood from two-year-old Nadya four times to save their own soldiers, and then on top of that cut ten pieces of skin from her little body to heal their wounds.

If Nadya's mother, Irina Ivanovna Kuzmina, should see this letter, I beg her to send me her address. I would like to send money every month until she comes of age, for Nadya's support, if she should have survived this fascist torture.

If Irina Ivanovna Kuzmina will take her daughter to the village of Peskovka, Omytinsky district, Kirov Region, she will find my mother, Klavdia Savinovna Beznosikova, at 6 Prokofyev Street. My mother is a darling old lady and I know she will take good care of anyone who has suffered from the fascist beasts.

If little Nadya is no longer alive, then I want to take care of some other child orphaned by the fascists.

Let the enemy know that this war which Hitler has started cannot divide our people, but will only bind us all the closer together. It has already done this, made us one solidly united family.

Piotr Beznosikov.



Three youngsters in the Saratov children's homes whose fathers were killed by German guns, and their mothers by German bombs. They will not have long to wait before now parents claim them

Irina's mother did not see the letter, but Piotr's own mother did, and she answered her son.

I was terribly excited when I read the letter from my son Piotr in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. I am happy and proud that my son, who is already doing his duty for his country, has remembered his mother and given me too an honorable task to fulfill—to look after an adopted daughter.

I am already 62. In my youth I lost two daughters and now in my old age, how I would love to have a daughter again! I will be a loving mother and bring her up as a worthy Soviet citizen. I have three sons in the army, all of them serving their country with honor. Wherever they are, I say to them today: Fight mercilessly against the fascist monsters, drive them out of our Soviet country, so that not a breath of them remains on our land. I am happy that there is some way that along with my sons I can help my country in the fight against the fascists.

Klavdia Savinovna Beznosikova

The crew and officers of the ship "Vsevolod Sibirtsev" sent a letter to the Children's Commission of Kalinin Region:

We know that there are many children in Kalinin Region who have lost their fathers and mothers. But they will not be orphans. We undertake to support five children until they are grown up and will send 300 rubles for each every month. Please let us know the exact addresses of the children we adopt, their names and if possible their pictures, so that we can write them directly and send them presents.

Military technician Nikolay Kornienko wired to the newspaper:

Dear Comrade Editor:

My three-year-old son Georgi, my wife and other relatives perished at the hands of the fascists. Because of those beasts thousands of our Soviet children have been left without a mother's and father's love and protection. Beznosi-

kov's noble example is an expression of Soviet patriotism we should all follow. I beg you to assign to me a child orphaned by the fascists. I will bring him up and love him as my own son. For the present I can look after his support only, but as soon as we are victorious over the cursed enemy, I will take him myself. My address: Topographic Division, field station 1485, Military Technician First Rank.

*Nikolay Kornienko.*

Red Army men Efim Firs and Dmitri Shilenkov sent similar requests. The editors of the newspaper transmitted their requests to the Pushkin Children's Home, and soon the three Red Army men had their answer:

Dear Comrades Kornienko, Shilenko, and Firs:

As you requested, we have selected three children for you to adopt.

Your son, Comrade Kornienko, is called Tolya. His father and mother were tortured to death by the fascists when they captured the town of Kriushino in Moscow Region. Tolya is five years old, a lively youngster with deep blue eyes. He has only been with us a little while, and so has not yet recovered from the shock of his experiences. It is not easy to restore the physical and spiritual strength of children who have lived through fascist terror.

Your son, Comrade Firs, is called Vitya. He is six years old, and thoughtful beyond his years. He loves books. He is tall and dark haired. He hasn't yet won back his physical strength fully, and is still somewhat pale and thin.

And your son, Comrade Shilenkov, is named Lenny. He is five years old. He is only just beginning to get accustomed to his new friends and his new home. He is full of curiosity. He has already been nicknamed "Pochemyckou" (a diminutive derived from the Russian word for Why).

Dear comrades, we hope that when you see and get to know these boys you will love them as your own.

More strength to you in clearing our land of the fascist filth!

Don't worry about your wards. We shall bring them up to be healthy children, full of the joy of life. We shall surround them with care and maternal tenderness, we shall teach them to love you and wait for your return. We promise to write about their lives, health, conduct, and you please keep us informed about yourselves.

Warm greetings, dear comrades, and deepest thanks from your sons.

*Teaching staff: Valya Korshunova, Vera Reshetina, Nastya Bogomolova, Valya Marikova, Tonya Barantseva, Nastya Vasina.*

Kornienko wired his reply:

"Unspeakably happy. Thanks for my son. Beg you to draw up formal papers of adoption. Sending money immediately for support."

There are thousands of cases like this. Not long ago an air squadron

which had just accounted for forty fascist planes asked for permission to provide for fifty orphan children.

The movement to adopt children has literally become a mass movement. The Soviet people are surrounding every orphan with love and tenderness, bringing them up on an equal basis with their own children, doing everything within

## ABOUT OLGA LEPESHINSKAYA

*In response to our request, Lepeshinskaya cabled the following biographical sketch:*

**M**Y father was a member of the old "People's Will" party and he used to call me his "Herald of Revolution," as I was born in 1916 the year before the October Revolution. All my life has been passed under the Soviet System and I owe everything to my native land, the Soviet Republic.

From my youngest days I was drawn to music, painting, dancing and literature, although there were no artists in our family. My father was an engineer by profession, completely engrossed in mechanics, my mother a housewife. At fourteen I played the piano at concerts and my teacher, the well-known composer, M. Ippolitov-Ivanov, urged that I become a professional musician, while my parents couldn't decide which form of art I was most fitted for. I then made my own choice of choreography and graduated from the Moscow Ballet School.

At the same time I finished a correspondence course in literature. My literary interests are reflected in the ballet libretto I have written based on one of Heine's "Florentine Nights," to which Vladimir Yurovsky is now writing the music.

I studied art through regular visits to the Tretyakov Gallery and the Moscow Museum of Fine Arts. I must confess too that I took part in amateur theatricals at school. I now find that all these experiences help me in my work. I entered ballet school in 1925 at the age of nine and graduated in 1933. My teachers, to whom I am very much indebted, were Victor Semenov and Maria Kuzhukhova. On January 1, 1934 I made my Bolshoi Theater debut as the fairy Drazhe in Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite." Thus my ten year jubilee will take place in a few months.

During the past ten years I have danced in a great many roles, including Aurora in "Sleeping Beauty," Liza

their power to obliterate all traces of the horrors they have endured from the fascist monsters. And our brothers in the ranks of the Red Army are marching forward ever more swiftly and bravely to wrest from the grasp of the enemy those who still remain in his clutches, and free the world from this terrible scourge.

in "Futile Precaution," Suok in "Three Stout Men." My favorites are Kitri in "Don Quixote," Odillia and Odetta in "Swan Lake," Svetlana in the modern Soviet ballet of the same name.

I belong to the realistic school of choreography. I hate cold formalistic display of ballet acrobatics. In presenting a role I strive to convey to the spectators its inner dramatic psychological content, which of course must be combined with dancing technique of a high order.

This year I began to teach at the ballet school which I formerly attended as a pupil. My teaching activities give me great pleasure. My work is well received by both critics and public. I owe my success to the warmly receptive and creative artistic atmosphere of the Soviet Union. I have been decorated twice by my government: the first time with the title "Honored Artist of the Republic," the second time with the Stalin Prize. In addition to my ballet work I am active in public life, something not at all rare in our country. I am a member of the Komsomol (Soviet Youth League), a member of the Moscow Soviet, and Vice President of the Soviet Youth Anti-Fascist Committee. I find great satisfaction in working for all these organizations. In a few days I am leaving for a three or four weeks tour of the front where I shall have the great honor and joy of performing before the officers and men of the valiant Red Army which is dealing such powerful blows at Hitler's war machine.

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