

## THE FIRST EASTERN FRONT BATTLE PICTURES.

The Moscow newspaper Pravda prints the appointment of three Generals --- Voroshilov, Timoshenko and Budenny --- but this is a whole nation at war. As far as the eye can see there are men and women ~~and~~ civilians ~~too~~ working on the defences against the Hun invader.

Past the workers on the land there is a never-ending stream of Red Army troops going to battle stations; this army has been variously estimated between nine and fifteen millions.

Nazi Germany has not only to fight the Red Army. The Soviet Union also has a Home Guard --- how many millions there may be in the guerilla armies, Nazi Germany is just beginning to find out. There are frequent practice alarms to train the farm workers in the turnout in case of emergency.

They wear no uniform, these Soviet Home Guards. Goebbels will say they must be shot as spies --- or franc tireurs. Call them what you will; ~~every fool knows to day that a~~

conquered people will get no ultimate mercy from Nazi Germany whatever they're dressed in; even if they put on the motley of a Laval or a Darlan. Better far to die fighting; and you may well fight and live.

They're realists, in the land we used to call Russia .... even to actual paratroops for practice .... and they're ready to smash bridges and railways and carry out Stalin's policy of the scorched earth.

THE FIRST EASTERN FRONT BATTLE PICTURES. (2)

Endlessly, the long, long columns roll on to the Eastern Front. There have been so many unpleasant surprises in this world war --- but it doesn't seem that Stalin was unprepared.

Command of the Red Army was divided into three soon after the invasion began; Marshal Voroshilov was given command of the northern sector protecting Leningrad.

Marshal Timoshenko --- commander of the Central front before Moscow. Marshal Budenny commands the South of this 1500-mile battle-line --- protecting the Ukraine from the drive from Rumania.

Artillery opens fire; fighter pilots receive final instructions before the take-off. As against Britain, the Luftwaffe is fighting an air force now --- it's not one of their famous walk-overs.

Propaganda, too. They're dropping leaflets on the German troops, asking if they know why they're fighting their mad Fuehrer's battles.

But it's not all leaflets in the Soviet's war. They're bringing down the raiders like they do in the R.A.F. Many places in the battle area know what a smashed-up German plane looks like. Here's the return of a Soviet fighter pilot; he's wounded; but when he was wounded he stuck to his guns to the end --- to the end of another Hun invader.

## THE FIRST EASTERN FRONT BATTLE PICTURES. (3)

Yes --- in parts of the Soviet Union they're getting as familiar with these things as we were in the Battle of Britain

And now --- the battle on land. Nobody outside the inner councils of the Supreme Soviet knows the strength of the Red Army either in men or in machines. But we do know that while Germany was building up for war on the gargantuan scale, Russia was not asleep. We have read of the millions of men and the thousands of tanks locked in a death-grip along the line of the eastern front and a hundred miles in depth; this is the first instalment of the film story of a titanic battle that shook the very earth and rocked the Gods above. Battle ---- 1941

Battle ---- 1941. And these are the first of the German prisoners taken on Soviet soil. It does your heart good to see the swaggering Nazi with some of the swank knocked out of him. We're not supposing that this is the end of the war by any means --- but it's a step.

Listen, Fritz! What were you doing on the eastern front anyway? Hitler made a pact of friendship with Stalin less than two years ago. Nothing between Germany and the Soviet Union has altered since --- why are you suddenly fighting the Red Army? That's what Moscow radio wanted to know; that's what we want to know: one day, Fritz --- that's what you'll want to know.

THE FIRST EASTERN FRONT BATTLE PICTURES. (4)

789

Hitler gave you a nice victory in Poland --- and then you had to fight Britain and France; and then you had a victory in Norway and in France and Belgium and Holland; and then you were sent to fight against Greece and Jugo-Slavia; and you won again.

And then you were sent to fight against Russia; and if you beat Russia ---- where would Adolf be sending you to fight next time, little man?

The Red Army in the field is equipped with its own newspaper. Troops and air crews get the news hot from the home front --- and when they read of the bombing of Moscow they do something about it.

*That's the signal - take it!*

~~No --- it isn't quite so much fun as it used to be when they were bombing defenceless Warsaw and Belgrade; the Red Air Force has the means to hit back --- and hit and keep on hitting.~~

More prisoners are coming in. But quite a few of the Nazis who embarked on this latest invasion didn't have the good fortune to be taken prisoner. And even those that were, don't look any too happy!

This is the other side of war ---- a side the Nazis don't know much about --- yet. Even for Germany, war isn't always one grand sweep of murdering and loot: war isn't always a goose-step on the victory march into a newly-conquered capital. Are you just beginning to find out, Fritz --- war is hell!