

955 12.10 PM 26/2/43 Sir V. Edleston
STALINGRAD --- DESTRUCTION OF THE GERMAN SIXTH ARMY --- FIELD MARSHAL
PAULUS AND HIS GENERALS SURRENDER.

You will never forget this picture.

On the Don front artillery batteries are squeezing the iron ring that has encircled the German Sixth army. Inside it, a force of over 300,000 crack Axis troops are being killed, or starved and battered into surrender. ~~Even their supplies by air have almost ceased. The Nazis who marched in bloodstained conquest across Europe are awaiting the hour of reckoning.~~

The Soviet ring of steel is alive and moving; closing in, ~~even more tightly and~~ remorselessly, upon the invaders who had hammered the city of Stalingrad without mercy for nearly half a year.

Hitler promised that Stalingrad would be taken; many men have died because he would not keep a promise; these died because he could not

~~This blood --- these bones will decay to fertilise the rich soil of Russia; a worthy reward for men who died in so unworthy a cause.~~

This is the Headquarters of Lieutenant General Batov; meeting of the commanders --- Artillery Marshal Voronov --- and the General commanding the Don front --- General Rokossovsky. These men, under orders from Stalin, ^{were} ~~are~~ charged with the annihilation of all German and satellite troops at Stalingrad.

At the last remaining strongholds of the German armies, Red Army guns fire over open sights, closer still and closer; the steel grip puts on pressure with machine guns in the town --- in the streets; a pitiless hail of bullets ^{shells} from every cross-roads and corner. ~~And then ---~~ When they are losing, the Nazis turn to make war upon their own people; these men were told that if they surrendered their families at home would be shot. What a country to fight for!

STALINGRAD --- DESTRUCTION OF THE GERMAN SIXTH ARMY. (2)

Between January 10th and February 2nd 1943, over 90,000 prisoners were taken in and around Stalingrad. If that threat is carried out to the end of the war, the Nazis will themselves solve the problem of Germany's future.

to families

over to want surrendered in Stalingrad

German Generals never surrender; so says Goebbels; but here is Lieutenant General von Daniel, with the tattered fragments of his 376th Division.

Lieutenant General Sanne --- the 100th Division

Commanding Rumanian satellites, Brigadier General Demitriu --- 20th Rumanian Infantry Division. Another group of German generals who never ~~surrendered~~ surrendered --- until now.

and his Staff.

Commanding the 14th Tank Corps --- Lieutenant General Schlemmer.

Commanding the 297th Infantry Division --- Major General von Drebbler; he ~~has~~ spoke bitterly of the army's betrayal by Hitler.

Commanding the Sixth Army Medical Corps; Lieutenant General Rinoldi.

And here General von Daniel is brought to the Headquarters of the Soviet General Tolbuhin:

Victor - and vanquished: the Nazis have had such a long run - it's good to see them humbled!

Now the commander of all German military operations at Stalingrad --- Paulus, with his Chief of Staff, General Schmidt,

It was Paulus who was put in command at Stalingrad when the battle, for the Germans, was well-nigh lost: when all hope of victory was completely gone, Hitler created his victim Field Marshal. You see him in the office of the Red Army General Tolbuhin for interrogation and examination; and though German propoganda suggested that he had attempted suicide rather than surrender, that lie is nailed by these pictures: there is nothing the matter with this man except the humiliation that falls to the commander who has just suffered the greatest defeat in all history. Plus the agony of being outgeneralled and outfought --- the torture of watching a mighty army melt and disintegrate, starve ^{or} sicken and submit.

And outside the house --- above the cellars where this meeting so charged with drama was taking its shape for history --- outside in sullen, gloomy silence, ~~the~~ the German Sixth Army

What do you think they're thinking of ^{as they shuffle past} --- what d'you suppose their memories are? Homes and families --- no they never worried about that. They were the legion of lusty hooligans shouting Sieg Heil at Nuremberg in 1938 and roaring for the Reich and the Fuehrer at the Sportpalast. That was conquest, when Czecho-slovakia was over-run --- when Poland and the rest were invaded: ~~But the jackboot doesn't feel so comfortable in February 1943 --- the overbearing pride begins to sag at the knees --- there were conquests in 1939 and 1940 and 1941 --- but this too is conquest; the dusty side of conquest.~~

All honour, then, to Stalingrad --- the Immortal City.