

THE RED STAR

28 February 1941

General Secretary Josef Stalin was found dead today in his quarters in the Kremlin by members of the Red Army garrison. Marshall Zhukov, visiting Moscow at the time, stated that a heart attack was responsible for the tragedy.

Rumours that foreign military agents had penetrated Moscow and had assassinated Secretary Stalin were quickly denied. Marshall Zhukov scoffed at the idea that hostiles were within 1,000 miles of the Capital at the time. "The nearest counter-revolutionary is banging his head against the Red Army defence line far to the west"

It appears that Secretary Stalin had been suffering from chest pains the previous evening. Doctors had prescribed rest from his heavy responsibilities and a stay on the Black Sea had been arranged for the following day.

Marshall Zhukov stated that the Secretary's untimely demise would have no effect on the conduct of the war.

"Matters are well in hand and the Fascist aggressors are stalled all along the western front. Secretary Stalin has left the Rodina in a healthy state for prosecuting the war against the enemies of the Soviet people".

The State Funeral will be held in March. A full obituary can be found on page 3.



Comrade Lavrenti Beria



At an extraordinary meeting of the Politburo, hastily convened the same morning, Lavrenti Beria was appointed to succeed Comrade Stalin.

Comrade Beria has served the State for many years and has worked closely with General Secretary Stalin. He is ideally suited to carry the work of Marx and Lenin into the latter half of the twentieth century.

Comrade Beria has re-affirmed his determination to accomplish the destruction of the Axis powers. His first announcement was to the effect that Marshalls Zhukov and Vassilievsky will continue to conduct the course of the war with the full support of the Politburo.