
NEO



RUS

Moscow
31 March 1942

NEW GOVERNMENT – NEW AGE?



There was quiet confidence in the Capital last night at the monthly war briefing given by President Zhukov. News from all quarters is as good as can be expected. The President was encouraging, “Although it is still early days the New Russian Army has acquitted itself well on both fronts. The big question mark this year was in respect of the army’s ability to withstand the might of the Wehrmacht. That question mark has been removed”.

It would appear that the new regime has given birth to a new military. Only time will tell if President Zhukov’s winter reforms will fit the bill but early signs are that 1942 may have a different complexion to 1941.

EAST IS EAST....

COLLAPSE OF JAPANESE OCCUPATION ARMY IMMINENT?

An unusual sight from the Eastern Front would be a picture of a Japanese soldier surrendering. The photograph on the right is something of a rarity then but one which will become more and more common in the future. Ninth and Third Armies report a sea change in Manchuria, China and Korea. The fight seems to have gone out of the Japanese war machine. Hitherto only badly wounded Japanese soldiers would allow themselves to be taken prisoner. In the past month alone more than 26,000 troops have given themselves up to captivity rather than give their lives pointlessly for the Emperor.

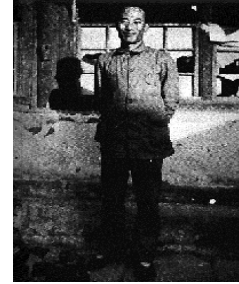


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2

SEOUL LIBERATED

Elements of Ninth Army entered Seoul practically unopposed last week as the Japanese presence in the country all but evaporated. There were the usual scenes of jubilation as Koreans welcomed the weary liberators. Arrangements are already being made as swiftly as possible for the transition of power to a national governing body. Kim Tu Bong, pictured right, has emerged as one of the frontrunners to lead the country. In his role as leader of the recently formed Korean Independence League he is President Zhukov's favourite to help stabilise the region. It will be many months before meaningful progress is likely to be reported but plans are already on the table for Korea to take charge of its own internal security.



.... AND WEST IS WEST

WESTERN FRONT HOLDS FIRM IN FACE OF INTENSE PRESSURE

The first skirmishes of the year took place this month as the Axis 'tested the water' with two large scale assaults. The northern thrust, comprising some 24 divisions of infantry and armour, was halted by 1st Army after a little more than two weeks of heavy fighting. The 6 Russian divisions defending held their ground with tenacity born of the knowledge that the freedom of the Motherland depends upon the outcome of the next months. The second, with a similar composition of forces, was designed to turn the flank of the southernmost series of fortifications. This assault was supported by paratroopers and was evidently a serious attempt not only to break the line but to encircle the entire 7th Army position. Fighting continues as we go to press but the front is showing no sign of weakness and several Axis formations have been isolated from their support.

Morale in the armed forces is climbing as the army and air force begin to clock up an impressive list of successes. The list of recommendations for awards to individual soldiers and regiments is growing ever longer. President Zhukov is to tour the front lines to oversee these awards personally.

HEROES CORNER

Of course the men featured on this page would blush to be called Heroes. However, these two servicemen have been picked at random from the pages of those mentioned in despatches. They do not regard themselves as special in any way, merely doing a job that needs doing:

Corporal Vasily Alexandrov



Pictured here with his Il4, Corporal Alexandrov has been named for bravery in the face of enemy fire. Having completed the mission to which his Eskadra had been assigned, his plane came under attack from German fighters on the return flight. His pilot was wounded and unable to fly the plane. With flames threatening to destroy the aircraft at any moment he took control and, without thought for his personal safety, coolly landed at the nearest friendly airfield thereby saving his crew and his plane. He is currently enjoying a few days well-earned leave at his home town outside Tula. He modestly declined to comment on his actions.

Nursing Lieutenant Jane Horovich



Lieutenant Horovich is one of the many foreign nationals who have volunteered to fight in the cause of freedom. Hailing from Ohio in America, she was attached to the Embassy in Moscow when the Axis powers invaded. Her American husband was killed in the first hours of the conflict, a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. She immediately enlisted as a nurse and has earned her laurels, like many others, for assiduously continuing to carry out her duties whilst under enemy fire and in imminent danger last year of being captured. She stayed with her charges until they were evacuated to the rear areas. She has no intention of returning home 'until the USA sees sense' and takes action to stop the atrocities being committed by the Axis. In her opinion this means nothing short of a war to liberate Europe.
