

# Caldwell Describes Guerilla Activities by Red 'Partizans'

By ERSKINE CALDWELL



A Red Army officer, who said the German Army was being constantly harassed behind its lines by *partizan* activities and guerilla warfare, told me details of a number of recent incidents in White Russia. He said almost every village in German-occupied territory had supplied one or more groups of *partizans* who lived in the woods and used every opportunity to waylay detachments of infantry patrols and tanks.

The officer said that in many districts the Germans were unable to venture far from their bases without large formations to protect their movements. He described how the guerillas destroyed railway lines by uprooting the rails and sinking them in swampy ground. When supply trains bringing gasoline reached the ripped up track, the guerillas punctured the tank cars and then ignited oil, burning up the cross ties and rolling stock.

He described the activities of the population of one village taken by the Germans.

"Men of military age had already joined the Red Army," he said. Young boys were assigned the task of driving all the cattle and horses eastward, out of the path of the German advance. The older men had already gone to the woods to take up *partizan* activities. The only man left in the village when the Germans arrived was the elderly president of a collective farm. All the women had remained.

"When the Germans arrived, they shot the president of the collective farm and an 18-year-old girl clerk of the village Soviet. All was quiet in the village until a German soldier molested the young daughter of one of the women. The woman hit the soldier with a stick of wood. She was bound and tied to a tree for 24 hours. Then they hanged her from a limb of the same tree. When this occurred the women of the village carried all the children to the woods and left them in the care of the young girls.



# Red Guerillas

"That night 18 women attacked the village with pitchforks and killed the guards. Then they set fire to all the buildings. Many sleeping Germans, including two officers, were killed. Then the women went back to the woods, took their children and all began the long walk toward the Soviet lines.

"They traveled by night and rested by day in the woods. Once they were approached by a German on a motorcycle. They killed him and destroyed the machine. After walking 11 days and living on mushrooms and wild strawberries, the entire group of women and children reached the safety of the Soviet lines."

The officer said the story was representative of many he had heard from groups that had safely passed from German-occupied territory through German lines and had reached the Soviet lines.

## Buenos Aires: Nazi Paper Banned

Argentine postal authorities barred the pro-Nazi newspaper, *El Pampero*, from the mails for an indefinite period. Postal privileges were withdrawn because of two "anti-government" articles.

## Bucharest: Jews Enslaved

Rome newspapers reported that 150,000 Rumanian Jews were being recruited in forced labor gangs to repair and rebuild damage done by retreating Russians in Bessarabia.

## Berlin: Antonescu Decorated

DNB reported that Hitler had personally decorated Premier Ion Antonescu of Rumania with the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross for "liberating Bessarabia."



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