

PM

Wednesday, April 22, 1942

Hitler Admits He Has Staked All in Russia

The Soviet Army newspaper *Red Star* last night told of endless lines of Soviet reserves moving to battle stations over half-frozen roads in the north and deep mud in the south along the vast Russian Front.

In a message to the German Red Cross, Hitler referred to Russia as "an enemy whose victory would mean the end of everything."

When Hitler says "the end of everything" he, of course, means the end of Nazism.

Ilya Ehrenbourg, Soviet war correspondent, in a dispatch to the United Press, reported that the Spring thaws had slowed up military operations. Here and there, he said, in Karelia, near Staraya Russa and on the Bryansk front, the Red Army still was attacking, but only in isolated operations.

He said Hitler was continuing to shift his divisions from France, Belgium and Norway to Russia, adding:

"Evidently neither the Royal Air Force, nor the wrath of unarmed Frenchmen has affected his strategy.

"Our friends often ask how American fighter planes or British tanks are making out.

"I have seen German bombers brought down by American fighters. I have seen Russian villages in the liberation of which the British tanks took a part. But friends should be told only the truth: our front is no mere 100 miles long, and on our immense front the British and American tanks are merely isolated episodes. One has only to remember that all Europe's plants are working for Hitler.

"You hear the Second Front talked about in our country everywhere. We aren't condemning. We aren't arguing. We simply want to understand. We read about the monthly output of America's aircraft factories, and we feel a glow of pride for our friends. But immediately the thought arises: what will be the fate of these aircraft?

"We talk of a Second Front as of the fate of our friends.

"We know that today we are fighting alone against the common enemy."

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Nazis Tell of Suffering

The BBC said that a Berlin broadcast Monday by a German general named Dietmar contained the admission that Hitler went against the advice of his High Command in pursuing the Winter campaign in Russia.

Gen. Dietmar, as quoted by the BBC and picked up by CBS, said:

"The Russian Winter came early and we were taken by surprise. Our High Command considered withdrawing to the old frontiers, relying on the Soviet's scorched earth as a barrier between ourselves and the enemy.

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"In this unheard of situation and dangerous hour Hitler took over the Supreme Command. He decided to hold the positions, regardless of cost.

"He had to be cruel to those he loved in the German Army. The suffering of our armies baffle the imagination."

The picture of continued German suffering was drawn by the Nazi radio yesterday. It described the German soldiers as fighting soaked to the skin during the day with their uniforms freezing to their bodies at night. The announcer said that in these conditions a German unit "thrust forward to the attack up to their chins in water."

The Soviet midnight communique said that in fierce battles on the Kalinin Front the Russians in a single day killed 1000 Germans and destroyed large quantities of war material. It said 31 German planes were destroyed Monday, only 11 Soviet planes lost.



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