

RED ARMY TRAP FOE IN BEND

Setting in motion its grandiose plan to liberate the Ukraine and encircle whole German armies in the Dnieper Bend, the Red Army first cleared the Caucasus and drove the remnants of the Nazi force out of the Kuban Peninsula. Over the Kuban River they chased the enemy back to the Kersch Straits, ~~the Russian object being to secure the~~ ~~last of the Soviet~~ ~~islands~~. As the foe fled over the water to the Crimea, heavy artillery spread death and confusion in the Nazi ranks.

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An enormous telescopic lens secured a unique shot ~~from~~ ^{of} behind the German line. Nazis try to escape from their disabled tank.

(map) ^{Directing} ² ~~in command of operations~~ liberate ~~for~~ the Kuban was Marshal Timoshenko, ^(on the left) ~~confering here with General Iissidze.~~ ^{General Iissidze}

In the sea port of Taman ~~itself~~, the battalions of freedom were rapturously received. At this point the Kersch straits are barely three hundred yards wide. In crossing them the enemy ~~sf~~ suffered heavy casualties from the Russian fire. Debris and wreckage of sunken transports littered the harbour. Thousands of Nazis didn't get that far and the haul of prisoners was great.

For the assault of the Dnieper bend the way was now clear. ^{Hi}
~~his left flank secured~~ ^{Left flank secured} That great commander, General Vatutin brought the river crossing under tremendous fire.

*Handwritten: J.V. & G. M. **
At many points the Red Army forced crossings over the huge river, doing so ~~in~~ the face of heavy shelling.

(43 SV gun onto bridge) Confidence in victory imbued the spearhead troops of the Red Army. Over the river lay the Ukraine, possession of which had fortified the ~~war~~ enemy in food and raw material for two years. One of the richest provinces in the Soviet Union it was a prize which now seemed almost within the Russian grasp. Nowhere on the Eastern front have the Germans defended so stubbornly and at such cost in human life as here in the Ukraine.

(53 ~~after~~ CU dead) Before them the Russians drove masses of the enemy. The famous Katuscha rockets hastened the retreat.

Handwritten: reachable
~~On the right~~ In this ~~scene~~ are German soldiers running to surrender.

Though not shrinking from severe losses the enemy completely failed to prevent the Red Army firmly establishing itself west of the Dnieper. ~~Even the greatest optimist in~~

Handwritten: No
Germany ~~does not~~ expect to cross the Dnieper again.

German prisoners often came under a hail of fire from both sides.

* One of the greatest prizes falling to the Red Army was the important manufacturing town of Zaporozhe. ~~on the left bank of the Dnieper,~~ Just below the falls on which is the Dnieper Dam, Zaporozhe was noted for its agricultural machinery. Its immediate military value lay in the fact that it was a railway junction essential to German communications, ~~further north.~~

The great Dnieper Dam itself now lay in Russian hands. It stood wrecked, as it was when the Red Army ~~abandoned it~~ abandoned it in 1941, ~~so did the metallurgical plant and all other factories in Dnieprepet/rovsk.~~ The way was now open for the Red army to surge westwards across the Ukraine. Encircling more than a hundred divisions in its ~~path~~ th it accomplished yet another triumphant victory, to which the guns of Moscow accorded an impressive salute.