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12.30 PM.
17/4/42 K. G. Simon

DAUNTLESS SEBASTOPOL.

The name Sebastopol is the name of courage and resistance: *in* this war Soviet sailors and soldiers have held it defiantly against the onslaughts of the Nazis since November 1941. It has withstood in the south, the hammering dealt out to Moscow in the centre, and Leningrad in the north. Hitler ordered that his troops should capture Sebastopol before Christmas 1941: but the Soviet Union is one of the few places in Europe where Hitler's orders don't count. A siege is meant to break the hearts of the men besieged; but not only did Hitler fail in this --- he even found the garrison morale growing higher and higher: ~~they didn't even always stay put but sometimes sallied out to attack and still their spirit and their courage grew.~~

Day after day and night after night the Red ^{forces} repulsed continuous attacks. In the first month they killed fifteen thousand Nazi officers and men; destroyed a hundred and fifty tanks and a huge proportion of guns, planes, lorries and other equipment. The stream of reinforcements never ceased to flow into this most important port of the Black Sea.

For three quarters of a year the Soviet Union have been at war; and their war has been one long, uninterrupted battle: It's something more than physical strength that has sustained them; so that to-day they are attacking: to-day they are determined to finish the Nazi army in 1942; and if we can give the right kind of help it will be done. This is the year for attack in Europe.

For nine months the Soviet Union has held off an Army that was hitherto invincible: for five months ~~through the winter~~ they've been pushing it back: ~~the Nazi giant is still unbroken, but~~ let's make 1942 the year that it bit the dust.