

44-20

LIBERATION OF KIEV.

On the eve of the 26th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, Marshal Stalin's special Order of the Day announced the liberation of Kiev, capital of the Ukraine. By a bold by-passing attack, the first Ukrainian Army carried the City by assault, and thus ended its more than two years of German occupation. Breaking through the one time white walls of Kiev, Russian troops entered a blazing and ruined city. In an act of desperation, the retreating Germans indulged in an orgy of destruction. Kiev, the old capital of Russia - "Mother of Russian Cities" has suffered brutalities far greater than anything the Tartars did in the dark ages. This time the mowing and slaughtering and plundering was by twentieth century Germans.

People driven from the centre of the city and forbidden to return to their homes under penalty of death, begin to trickle back now that the threat is removed. From dug-outs, earth-bills and hovels they come to lavish their two years of fettered emotion upon their liberators. Substitute the word "Europe" for "Kiev" and you have the pattern of experience until the last battle of the war on the Continent.

The Germans took Kiev three months after the invasion of the U.S.S.R. Despite heroic efforts by the liberating Red Army troops to forestall the enemy's demolition squads, the Soviet troops found KIEV's famous monuments, Churches, Monasteries, and modern buildings largely destroyed.

Russian despatches tell how, up to the very last moment, German squads were rushing through the city with petrol bottles setting light to everything possible. It was at No. 36 MIHAYLOVSKY STREET that the bodies of many citizens were found. Infuriated Germans executed Men, women and children. Systematic massacring of tens of thousands of Jews, and people hiding to avoid deportation to Germany as slave labour. The hideous things which have burned deep into Russian minds. By their deeds have the Germans fashioned their own destruction.

If any doubt existed in the human mind as to what German occupation means, these pictures from Kiev supply the answer.

Everything of any value was sent to Germany. Even metal utensils such as you see here were collected for melting down. The Master Race has been at work. For two years the place has been bled dry. No wonder that every trace of their loathsome presence is obliterated by angry men.

Marshal JOUKOV and Commissar HROUSCHCHEV enter the city. Kiev, the third largest city in the Soviet Union, has come out of the torture chamber and lives again.