

flagrant and disgusting violation of the most elementary demands of international law for the treatment of war prisoners, and in particular of the Hague Convention of 1907, which is recognised both by the Soviet Union and by Germany.

HAGUE CONVENTION FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED

The German Government has flagrantly violated the demands of the Hague Convention which orders that belligerent countries shall give prisoners of war the same rations as are given to their own armies. (Article 7 in the supplement to the 4th Hague Convention, 1907.) In consequence of the serious shortage of man-power in the German Army, the Nazis are openly infringing the Hague Convention of 1907, signed by Germany, in their attitude to prisoners of war.

In their criminal, systematic and deliberate violation of international law, the German militarists and the German Government have gone so far as to force Red Army men, under penalty of clubbing or being shot on the spot, to haul transports and carts, carrying ammunition and other materials to the front, to take ammunition to front-line positions, and so on.

All this is in direct violation and contravention of the Hague Convention concerning the use of prisoners for work in any way connected with army operations.

All these facts testify to the existence of the bestial and bloody conditions which reign in the German camps for Soviet prisoners of war, and to the inhuman cruelties of the Hitlerite authorities and the unbearable sufferings which Red Army men and commanders have to experience when they are taken prisoner by the Hitlerite bandits.

CRIMINAL GERMAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE

All these facts are an outrageous violation by the German Government of the elementary principles and regulations of international law and of the International Agreement signed by representatives of Germany itself.

In bringing these horrible facts to the notice of all countries with which the Soviet Union has diplomatic relations, the Soviet Government indignantly protests before the whole world against the barbaric violation by the German Government of the elementary rules of international law.

The Soviet Government indignantly protests against the brutal attitude of the German authorities towards Red Army prisoners, an attitude which violates the most elementary rules of human morality. It lays all the responsibility for these inhuman actions of the German military and civil authorities on the criminal Hitlerite Government.

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THE MOLOTOV NOTES

ON

GERMAN ATROCITIES

NOTES SENT BY V. M. MOLOTOV,
PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
TO ALL GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH
THE U.S.S.R. HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

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1. ATROCITIES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

THE NOTE SENT BY V. M. MOLOTOV

ON JANUARY 6, 1942

TO ALL GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH THE U.S.S.R.
HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

ON the instructions of the Government of the U.S.S.R., I have the honour to bring to your notice the following:—

Units of the Red Army, in the course of their continued successful counter-offensive, have liberated a number of towns and rural localities, which temporarily have been in the hands of the German invaders. This liberation has revealed, and daily continues to reveal, an unprecedented picture of universal robbery, devastation, abominable violence, outrages and massacres perpetrated by the German Fascist invaders against the peaceful population during their offensive, occupation and retreat.

Abundant documentary material in the possession of the Soviet Government testifies to the fact that the robbing and ruin of the population has been accompanied by widespread bestial outrages and massacres. It has taken place in all districts which have fallen under the heel of the German invaders.

DELIBERATE POLICY OF GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Irrefutable facts prove that the regime of plunder and bloody terror against the non-combatant population of occupied towns and villages constitutes not merely the excesses of individual German officers and soldiers, but a definite system previously planned and encouraged by the German Government and the German High Command, which deliberately foster the most brutal instincts among soldiers and officers in their army.

Every step of the German Fascist army and its allies on seized Soviet territory of the Ukraine, Moldavia, Byelorussia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and on the territories of Russian districts and regions brings in its train the destruction of countless material and cultural treasures of our people. The Nazis and their allies rob the peaceful population of property won by its own stubborn labours, and establish a regime of hard labour, starvation and bloody repression before the horrors of which the most terrible crimes that human history ever knew fade into insignificance.

ALL NAZI CRIMES REGISTERED

The Soviet Government and its organs are conducting detailed registration of all these evil crimes of the Hitlerite army. This is demanded by the angered Soviet people who call for vengeance.

The Soviet Government considers it its duty to bring to the notice of the whole of civilised humanity, of all honest people throughout the world,

facts which are characteristic of the monstrous crimes committed by the Hitlerite army against the peaceful people in the territories of the Soviet Union seized by them.

Wherever the German invaders have passed over Soviet territory they have brought with them destruction and ruin to our towns and villages. Dozens of towns, thousands of villages in the temporarily occupied districts of the U.S.S.R. have been devastated by them and then razed to the ground.

There have been registered countless facts of wanton bandit destruction by the German troops of town buildings, factories and whole blocks, as was the case in Minsk, Kiev, Novgorod, Kharkov, Rostov, Kalinin, and other towns.

Such towns as Istra, Klin, Rogachevo of the Moscow region, Yepifan of the Tula region, Yelnia of the Smolensk region and several other towns, have been reduced to ruins. The German invaders have swept from the face of the earth hundreds of villages in the Ukraine and Byelorussia, in the Moscow, Leningrad, Tula, and other regions of our country.

VILLAGES WIPED OUT

In the village of Dedilovo, Tula region, out of 998 homes, the invaders have burned down 960. In the village of Pozhidayevka, Kursk region, out of 602 homes they have burned down 564. In the village of Ozeretskoye, Krasnaya Polyana district, Moscow region, out of 232 homes, 225 were burnt.

In the village of Kobneshki, in the same district, consisting of 123 homes, the whole of them have been completely burnt out. In the village of Nekrasino, Vysokovo district of the Moscow region, out of 99 homes, 66 were burnt.

When leaving the villages of Krasnaya Polyana, Mishetskoye, Ozherelye, Vysokovo, in the Moscow region, the Germans instructed automatic riflemen to fire the houses with fire-bottles. When the inhabitants tried to put out the fires the Germans fired on them from automatic rifles. Out of 80 homesteads in the village of Mishetskoye, only five remained. Out of 200 homesteads in Ozherelye, only eight were left.

In the village of Vysokovo, out of 76 homesteads, only three were left intact. When an old man of 70, F. K. Grigoriev, said, "Don't burn my home," he was shot dead.

In this foul criminal destruction of our towns and villages, the Hitlerites express their black hatred towards our country, towards the labour and achievements of the Soviet people, and towards what has already been done to improve the life of the peasants, workers and intelligentsia in the U.S.S.R.

These evil crimes of the invaders are going on everywhere, and are being accomplished on orders from above. In an order recently captured not far from the town of Verkhovye, Orlov region, from the 512th German Infantry Regiment, signed by Colonel Schitnig, the outrageously insolent statement is made that, "The zones indicated, as conditions of evacuation allow, must be completely reduced to desert zones. In places which are to be completely destroyed, all houses should be burned. In preparation for this, houses should be filled with straw. Brick buildings should be blown up. This order concerning the transformation of special zones

into deserts should be carefully prepared and carried out fully and mercilessly."

The German High Command requires its troops to create "desert zones" in all Soviet localities out of which the Red Army is successfully hurling the Fascist invaders. But wherever they remain on our territory, they continue to do their foul work—brutally converting inhabited places into "desert zones." They blow up and burn dwelling-houses, public buildings, factories, workshops, schools, libraries, hospitals and churches.

The peaceful peasant population in villages occupied by German authorities is subjected to plunder and repression. The peasants have had taken away from them the property they had gained by their own labour over decades. Their cattle, grain and household linen, everything even to the last infant's vest and to the last handful of grain, is taken from them.

In many cases, as soon as a village has been occupied, the population, including old men, women and children, are driven from their homes and forced to take refuge in mud huts, caves, forests, or simply under the open sky. If the invaders meet these people on the roads they take the clothing off their backs, even from the little children. They cruelly treat all who try to protest or show any resistance to their ravages.

EACH GERMAN UNIT ROBS AGAIN

In the villages in the Rostov region and Voroshilovgrad regions of the Ukraine liberated by the Red Army, the peasants had been several times robbed by the invaders when different German army units passed over the place. Each of them renewed the searches, beatings, burnings and shootings for not handing over provisions. The same thing occurred in the Moscow, Kalinin, Tula, Orel, Leningrad and other regions from where, at the present time, the troops of the Red Army are driving away the remains of the German troops.

Thus, in the village of Maslovo, Tula region, German officers and soldiers took away from the population all their provisions. They went so far in their excesses that in this village every day one or two people died.

Villages treated in this way by the Germans are to be found everywhere. The invaders take away all provisions and stocks, kill off the cattle and poultry, requisition grain and other products. The last troops to pass through take with them all household linen, clothing, furniture and toys.

In the village of Golubovka, Voroshilovgrad region, the Germans subjected to a new robbery the inhabitants who had previously been deprived of all stocks of foodstuffs. They now took the last remains of the food from the women and children, and all household linen, clothing, pillows, blankets and kitchen utensils, and destroyed everything they could not take away with them.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES AND FOOD TAKEN

In the village of Golubovka, the Germans took from a woman collective-farmer, M. I. Leshenko—the mother of three young children—children's vests and coats, and food specially put aside for the children. In the same village one German officer and a number of soldiers broke into the

house of a teacher, Vera Ivanovna Matienko, and took from her all her personal linen and children's clothing. The furniture which they could not take with them they chopped to pieces.

In the village of Prudnoye, Tula region, the German soldiers broke into a building where 150 invalids lived and took all their warm clothing and provisions, threatening these helpless people with firearms.

Not long before the village of Kolodetsnoye, Tula region, was liberated by troops of the Red Army, the Germans, on December 7th, shot 32 men and women, alleging that they had not given the Germans all their warm clothing.

In the village of Vlasovo, Moscow region, one of the collective-farmers resisted the bandits and tried to prevent them from taking all the potatoes and carrots. She was wounded by an automatic rifle shot. When the wounded woman began to shout and curse the Germans, calling them bandits and robbers, the Germans shot her on the spot with a round of automatic rifle fire, after which they began to shoot down in the same way villagers who crowded round her.

Everywhere the German army establishes a regime of bloody repression on the pretext that not all the foodstuffs and warm clothing have been handed over, or on the pretext that the articles and products are not given quickly enough, etc.

Any attempts to complain to the German authorities against the marauders and robbers are regarded as "Communist propaganda" and sympathy towards the Soviet Government and lead to new acts of repression.

In the collective-farms, in order to keep collective-farm property and cattle in their own robber hands, the German invaders have appointed their own Fascist "managers," who are recruited in Germany from among people belonging to the Hitlerite party and anxious to make fortunes by dirty means. Sometimes they are recruited from vile degenerates among our citizens. In their orders, the German invaders insolently declare: "Collective-farm lands and possessions become the property of the German army."

In one of these orders, dated July 9th, the German command declared: "Within 48 hours after the publication of the present order, all former collective-farm property belonging to the villagers must be given over to the appointed 'manager'; non-compliance will be punished by shooting."

Thus the rapacious bandits deal with our peasants and their property. Unlimited robbery was committed on municipal property in districts temporarily occupied by the Germans. In all towns seized by them, the German officers and soldiers broke into the homes of local workers, office employees, intellectuals and old age pensioners, and seized everything they could lay hands on, from valuables to ordinary kitchen utensils. All this plunder by the marauders is accompanied by bloody repression.

ROWS OF GALLOWS

Thus, in the centre of Orel the Germans set up a gallows and hanged old men who protested against the robberies. Alongside them they hanged several citizens who refused to help the Hitlerites in their plundering of the population's clothing and provisions.

In the town of Rostov on Don, before the Red Army liberated it, the

Germans looted all the shops, wrenched from pedestrians their warm clothing and boots, took away their watches and valuables, robbed homes, and wantonly destroyed everything they could not take away with them.

In the town of Istra, Moscow region, the invaders took from the population literally all their property: household linen, clothing, crockery, furniture. They stripped the workers of their clothes, men and women alike, on the streets. The inhabitants were evicted in mass from their homes, and were left without fuel.

On December 10th the Germans herded about 2,000 inhabitants of this town together with their children into a church in the village of Darno, where not a few of them died of cold and hunger.

When retreating from the town of Istra, the Germans burned the town, consummating thereby the chain of foul crimes committed in Istra.

SECRET INSTRUCTION LEGITIMISES CRIME

German officers and soldiers engage in an orgy of plunder in all Soviet districts they have captured. The German authorities have legitimised robbery in their army and encouraged plunder and rape. The German Government sees in all this the realisation of the bandit principles proclaimed by them, according to which "every German soldier must be personally and materially interested in the war."

Thus, the secret instruction of July 17, 1941, addressed to all propaganda companies of the German army and found by the units of the Red Army when they routed the 68th German Infantry Division, directly declares: "Rooted in every officer and soldier of the German army is the consciousness of personal and material interest in the war."

Similar orders to those given by the German army for mass plunder and murder against the peaceful population are issued in other armies fighting in alliance with Germany. Thus, order No. 24220 of the Chief of Staff of the 14th Rumanian Division, Colonel Nikolaescu, says: "Grain, large-horned cattle, small-horned cattle, poultry, all this must be taken away from the population for the army. In every home it is essential to make a careful search and to seize all clothing and whatever else is to be found. For the slightest resistance shoot down on the spot and burn the houses."

On the German-Soviet front, and in particular on the approaches to Moscow, German officers and soldiers dressed in plundered clothing are to be seen more and more frequently, carrying away stolen articles in their pockets and with children's and women's clothing, boots and linen.

The German army is becoming more and more an army of predatory robbers and marauders who devastate and rob the prosperous towns and villages of the Soviet Union, steal and destroy property and all the wealth won by the labouring population of our villages and towns.

Facts prove the extreme moral degradation and corruption of the Hitlerite army, who richly deserve all the angry curses and contempt of the whole of the Soviet people for their plundering, robbery and marauding.

FORCED LABOURERS SHOT AFTER WORK

Wherever the German troops and German authorities have made their appearance on Soviet territory, there has immediately been established

a regime of cruel exploitation, absence of rights and liberties, and arbitrary rule against the defenceless civil population. The invaders introduce a system of hard labour for the ruined peaceful population which have been deprived of all means of subsistence. Regardless of the age or state of health of the Soviet citizens concerned, the Hitlerites occupy or destroy their homes and drive many of them into concentration camps. They force them under threat of torture to carry out all kinds of heavy work, including work of a military character, for no payment.

In a number of cases, after using the civilian population for work of a military character, they shoot the people who have done the work to preserve secrecy.

Thus, in the village of Kolpino, Smolensk region, the invaders drove all peasants out to build bridges and dug-outs. When these fortifications had been built, all the peasants were shot.

In order to keep secret the building of fortifications on the right bank of the Dnieper in the neighbourhood of the village of Kryakov, the Germans shot those who had done the work—40 local inhabitants and Red Army prisoners of war.

CIVILIANS USED FOR REMOVING MINES

Inhabitants of a number of districts liberated by the Red Army, far distant from each other, state unanimously that the Germans made use of the civilian population for particularly dangerous work, like removing mines from the path of the advancing German units.

A number of documents of the German High Command, captured by units of the Red Army during their offensive operations before Rostov, show that the use of the civilian population for particularly dangerous work is provided for in special instructions of the German Command. Thus, in the order of the day, dated October 11th and issued by the 76th German Infantry Division, article 6 concerning the extraction of mines declares: "It is essential to make use of war prisoners and individuals from the local population for work which may be dangerous to life." This is only one of the many foul violations of all international regulations and of all human morality with which the German High Command has stained itself.

The German authorities call peaceful inhabitants forcibly sent to compulsory labour "prisoners of war," and keep them under the same regime.

It has been established that in the staff reports of the German army, peasants and other peaceful citizens who fall into the hands of the Germans, and are driven out to compulsory labour, are automatically included in the category of "captured prisoners of war." This category is thereby artificially and illegally increased.

Thus, the inhuman regime which has been established by the German Fascist authorities for prisoners of war becomes the lot of the civil population as well.

Near the town of Plavsk, Tula region, a camp was organised in which prisoners of war and the civil population of the surrounding villages were kept together. Among the peasants confined in the camp were adolescents and old men. The food consisted of two potatoes and a little barley porridge (kasha) per day. No water was given to the peasants in the camp, and they were ordered to slake their thirst with snow. The mortality

in the camp reached from 25 to 30 people daily. If the prisoners grouped themselves together, the Germans fired on them without warning.

In the village of Berezhnyaki, Poltava region, the German Command posted up an order stating that in cases where the local inhabitants refused to go out to compulsory labour they would be shot.

PEASANTS DRIVEN INTO GERMAN REAR

Many thousands of peaceful inhabitants are put on compulsory labour not only in the vicinity of their homes, but are driven far into the German rear to starve while performing compulsory slave labour for German landlords. Hundreds of peasants from the village of Luchano, and others in the Ilyinsk district of the Smolensk region alone, were driven out to compulsory labour and have completely disappeared.

When the German authorities entered the village of Prustovo, Zvenigorodski district, Moscow region, on November 22nd, they assembled all the population, separated off the men and stronger women, and sent them deep into the rear.

When retreating, the Germans drove into their rear the population of the villages of Yershovo, Skokovo and Funkovo, of the Zvenigorodski district, and also of the village Yesippovo, in the Solnechnogorsk district of the Moscow region. Before this they set fire to all these villages.

The same thing took place in many other villages of the Moscow, Kalinin, Tula, Ryazan and Orel regions.

When they left the Ukrainian villages of Khudoyarovo, Novoneman, and a number of other villages of the Shevchenko district of Kharkov region, they burned these villages to the ground and carried away the whole of the adult population.

The system of forced hard labour and concentration camps is practised by the Germans also in the towns which they seize. Thus, after the occupation of Kiev, the Germans drove the whole of the civilian population between the ages of 11 and 60 out to hard labour, regardless of profession, sex, state of health or nationality.

Sick people, unable to stand on their feet, were fined 50 roubles a day for time lost.

In another Ukrainian town, Pyatikhatka, in the Dniepropetrovsk region, the Germans drove the whole population out to forced labour on road repairs, compelling them to work 20 hours a day and giving them neither bread nor water.

Old men and women who dropped exhausted were beaten with rifle butts and forced to continue working under threat of cruel punishment and shooting.

ACTORS HARNESSSED TO CARTS

In Kharkov the invaders decided to humiliate the local Ukrainian intellectuals in particular. On November 5th an order was given to all local actors to present themselves for registration at the Shevchenko theatre. When the actors arrived, they were surrounded by German soldiers who harnessed them to carts and drove them through the most crowded streets to the river to haul water.

In all occupied regions, the German Government has appointed as local

Fascist "managers" all kinds of criminals from the Hitlerite party, who disregard all civil rights or national peculiarities of the population and who want to Germanise everything and exterminate the dissatisfied.

The German authorities do everything in their power to destroy every trace of the existence of the Republics which flourished in the Soviet State—Ukraine, Byelorussia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia.

The German invaders know that these Soviet Republics have done tremendous work for the re-birth of the Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, and Moldavian peoples for the fullest development of the national culture of these peoples—as was done for all the peoples living in fraternal community within the Soviet Union.

The thick-headed Fascists will yet realise that they will never succeed in Germanising and subjugating these peoples. In their hatred towards the freedom-loving Russian people and the freedom-loving peoples of the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Moldavia, the German invaders know no bounds.

The destruction of the Ukrainian, Byelorussian and other national cultures, the destruction of national memorials, schools and literature, and the compulsory Germanisation of the population regardless of nationalities, follow on all sides in the wake of the German occupation with the same criminal regularity as their robbery, violence, arson and mass murders.

In their malicious persecution of Russian culture, the German invaders have shown all the vileness and vandalism of German Fascism.

TOLSTOY'S HOME DESECRATED

For six weeks the Germans occupied the world-famous village of Yasnaya Polyana, where one of the greatest geniuses of mankind, Leo Tolstoy, was born, lived and engaged in creative work. This celebrated monument of Russian culture, cleared of invaders by units of the Red Army on December 14th, was devastated, defiled and finally burned by the Fascist barbarians.

The grave of the great writer was desecrated by the invaders. The irreplaceable relics connected with the life-long work of Tolstoy, all his manuscripts, books and pictures, were either stolen by the German soldiers or thrown away and destroyed. One of the staff of the museum requested a German officer, Schwarz, to cease heating the place with the personal furniture and books of the great writer, but to use firewood for the purpose. Schwarz said: "We don't want firewood, we shall burn everything connected with the name of your Tolstoy."

When on December 15th the town of Klin was liberated by units of the Red Army, it was established that the house in which the great Russian composer Peter Ilyich Chaikovsky lived and worked, and which had been converted into a museum by the Soviet Government, had been devastated and plundered by Fascist officers and soldiers.

The museum building was turned by the invaders into a sort of garage for motor-cycles, and the garage was heated with manuscripts, books, furniture and other museum exhibits, part of which moreover were stolen by the German invaders. In doing so the Nazi officers knew they were mocking the most notable memorial of Russian culture.

ANCIENT MONASTERY BLOWN UP

During the occupation of the town of Istra, the German troops made an ammunition dump of the famous ancient New Jerusalem Monastery, founded in the year 1654 and restored in the eighteenth century by the great architects Rastrelli and Kazakov. The New Jerusalem Monastery is one of the outstanding historical and religious monuments of the Russian people, and is renowned as one of the largest and most beautiful pieces of architecture.

This did not prevent the German Fascist pogrom-mongers, when retreating from Istra, from blowing up their ammunition dump in the New Jerusalem Monastery and converting the irreplaceable monument of Russian ecclesiastical history into a heap of ruins.

Among other monuments of the culture of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. devastated and desecrated by the German vandals, mention should be made of the monument of the great Ukrainian poet, Taras Shevchenko, in the town of Kaney, in the Ukraine. This was destroyed by the invaders, as was the house where the great Russian composer Rimski-Korsakov lived in the town of Tikhvin, the home of the world-famous writer Chekhov in Taganrog, and many others.

The German invaders in the occupied districts stopped at nothing in insulting to the utmost the national feelings of Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Estonians and Moldavians, as well as of individuals of other nationalities who inhabit the U.S.S.R. They subjected to similar outrages and violence Jews, Georgians, Armenians, Uzbeks, Azerbaijanians, Tadjiks and other representatives of the Soviet peoples welded together in fraternal friendship and collaboration.

Posing as representatives of the allegedly "higher races," and demanding from the freedom-loving peoples of the Soviet Union the obedience of slaves and slave-labour under the whip, the Hitlerites, by their foul and oppressive behaviour, have called forth indescribable indignation and hatred among all peoples and all social sections of the Soviet Union.

Not only hard labour, ruin and starvation, but, moreover, insults to human pride and national sentiments are brought to the Soviet districts seized by German invaders. Behind the mask of the German "higher race" the Fascists not only want to oppress their own people but to hurl other peoples into slavery.

The German army has invaded our territory in order to liquidate the free life and culture of the peoples of the Soviet Union, to Germanise these peoples and convert them into slaves. Precisely for this reason the peoples of the Soviet Union have united against the hated German army of oppression into a great, inflexible and impregnable force.

NO LIMIT TO OUR ANGER

There is no limit to the anger and indignation of the people called forth by the countless facts of vile rape, foul mockery of women's honour and mass murders of Soviet citizens, men and women, committed by Fascist officers and soldiers.

Wherever the German bayonet has begun to dominate, an insufferable regime of bloody terror, painful torture and brutal murder is established.

The robbery in which Fascist officers and soldiers are everywhere engaged is accompanied by beatings and murder of enormous numbers of people who are guilty of no crime.

For failing to obey the demand that they give up all their footstuffs to the last crumb and all their clothing to the last shirt, the invaders torture and hang young and old, women and children.

During forced labour, they outrageously shoot down people for not fully carrying out the quota of work stipulated. On June 30th the Hitlerite bandits entered the town of Lvov, and the following day they organised a mass slaughter under the slogan: "Kill off the Jews and Poles."

Before the eyes of hundreds of people, the Hitlerite bandits organised an exhibition in the "Passage" building of those killed. Mutilated bodies, chiefly of women, were piled all along the walls.

CHILD PINNED TO MOTHER BY BAYONET

The chief exhibit of this horrible exhibition was the body of a woman to which her child was pinned with a bayonet.

Such were the monstrous atrocities committed by the Hitlerites at the very beginning of the war. Wading through the blood of innocents, the Hitlerite scoundrels are continuing to commit their foul crimes.

In the village of Krasnaya Polyana, near Moscow, the German Fascists on December 2nd assembled the whole of the working population between the ages of 15 and 60 and locked them up in the old building of the District Executive Committee, where the window-panes were all broken, and gave them no water or bread for eight days. The breast-fed children of working women of the Krasnaya Polyana factories, Zaitsova, Gudkina, Naletkina and Mikhailova, died in their mothers' arms.

There have been not a few cases where the Hitlerites have used Soviet children as targets for their firearms. In the village of Bely Rast, Krasnaya Polyana district, a group of drunken German soldiers put a 12-year-old boy, Volodya Tkachev, on the porch of a house and used him as a target, firing on him from an automatic rifle. The boy's whole body was riddled with bullets. After this the bandits began to fire at random at the windows of the houses. They stopped a collective-farm woman, Nosvolova, with her three children in the street and shot her and her children on the spot.

In the village of Voskresenskoye, Dubinin district, the Hitlerites used a 4-year-old boy as a target and shot at him from machine-guns.

In the district centre of Volovo, Kursk region, where the Germans were in occupation for four hours, a German officer knocked the head of Boykova's 2-year-old son against the wall and killed him because he cried.

In the Zlobino rural Soviet, in the Orel region, the Fascists killed the 2-year-old child of Kratova, a collective-farmer, because its crying disturbed their sleep.

PREGNANT WOMEN RAPED

In the village of Semyonobka, Kalinin region, the Germans raped Olga Tikhonova, the 25-year-old wife of a Red Army man. The mother of three children, she was in the last stage of pregnancy. They tied her arms down and afterwards cut her throat, stabbed both breasts and drilled holes into them in sadistic fashion.

In the same village the invaders shot a boy of 13 and carved a five-pointed star on his forehead.

In the month of November, a telegraphist of the town of Kalinin, K. Ivanova, together with her 13-year-old son Leonid, set off to visit her relatives in the village of Burashevo, near Kalinin. As they left the town they were seen by the Hitlerites, who at a distance of 60 metres began to fire on them. The boy was killed. The mother tried several times to raise and carry the body of her child, but each time as soon as she made an attempt of the kind the Germans opened fire on her and she was forced to leave him.

For eight days the German soldiers refused to allow the body to be removed; it was picked up and buried by Ivanova only when the locality was occupied by our troops.

In Rostov on Don, Vitya Cherevichny, a 15-year-old pupil of the trade school, was playing with his pigeons in the back yard. German soldiers passed by at that moment and tried to take away the pigeons. The boy protested. The Germans took him away and, at the corner of 28th Avenue and Second Maisky Street, shot him for not giving them his pigeons. The Germans mutilated the boy's face until it was unrecognisable by stamping on it with their heels.

The village of Basmanovo, Glinka district, Smolensk region, liberated by our troops in the beginning of September, had been reduced to a heap of ashes.

TWO HUNDRED SCHOOL CHILDREN SHOT

On the very first day of occupation the Fascist monsters drove into the fields over 200 schoolboys and girls who had come to the village to help collect the harvest, surrounded them and brutally shot them down. They took a large group of schoolgirls back to their rear "for the gentlemen officers."

The capture of villages and towns usually begins with the erection of gallows, on which the German hangmen kill the first civilians to fall into their hands. Moreover, the Fascists often leave hanged persons on the gallows for several days and sometimes for several weeks. They do the same with those whom they kill on the streets in towns and villages, leaving the corpses lying there for several days.

After the capture of Kharkov, the German bandits hanged several people from the windows of a big building in the centre of the town. On November 16th, in the same town, the Fascists hanged 19 people, including one woman, from the balconies of houses.

In the Cherepess rural Soviet of the Velikie Luki district, Kalinin region, the invaders shot and burned on a bonfire 27 peasant families.

In the town of Tikhvin, Leningrad region, the body of Red Army doctor (first rank) Ramzantsev was found in one of the houses. His nose had been cut off, his arms dislocated and his head scalped, and his neck bore marks of several bayonet thrusts.

In the village of Voronki, Ukraine, the Germans put 40 wounded Red Army prisoners of war and medical nurses in the building of a former hospital, and took away from the medical staff all bandages and medicines, food and other belongings. They raped and shot the nurses, left a guard over the wounded men and refused to allow anyone to approach them

for four days. Some of the wounded men died, the rest were later thrown into the river, and the local inhabitants were forbidden to take away the bodies.

AUTHORITIES ENCOURAGE MURDERS

Not a single German is held responsible in any degree for the murders of Soviet citizens, however wanton they may be. On the contrary, these murders are encouraged by the German authorities. The vile rape of women and girls in the occupied regions is a common phenomenon.

In the Ukrainian village of Borodayevka, Dniepropetrovsk region, the Fascists raped every single woman and girl. In the village of Berezovka, Smolensk region, drunken German soldiers raped and took away with them all women and girls between the ages of 15 and 30. In the town of Smolensk the German Command opened for its officers a brothel to which hundreds of girls and women were driven. They were seized by the arms and hair and dragged mercilessly along the road.

Everywhere the ferocious German bandits break into homes and rape women and girls under the eyes of their relatives and children. They mock the women they rape and shoot their victims on the spot.

In the town of Lvov, 32 working women of the Lvov clothing works were raped and then killed by German storm troopers. Drunken German soldiers dragged young women and girls in Lvov to the Kosciuszko Park and brutally raped them.

PRIEST BAYONETED—CROSS IN HAND

When an aged priest, Pomaznev, cross in hand, tried to prevent the rape of young girls, the Fascists beat him up, tore off his cassock, burned his beard, led him out of the town and bayoneted him to death.

In Byelorussia, near the town of Borisov, 75 women and girls, fleeing from the approaching German troops, fell into the Hitlerites' hands. The Germans raped and then brutally killed 36 women and girls. Melchukova, a 16-year-old girl, was taken away into a forest by order of a German officer and raped by German soldiers. A short while later other women were brought to the forest and saw the dying girl, Melchukova, pinned by a bayonet to a board which was nailed to a tree. The Germans had cut off the breasts of the girl before the eyes of other women, in particular Alperenko and Bereznikova.

From the village of Borovka, Zvenigorodsky district, Moscow region, the Fascists took away with them a number of women, and shot their young children, despite their pleadings and protests.

In the town of Tikhvin, Leningrad region, a 15-year-old girl, Kolodetskaya, in spite of the fact that she was wounded by shell splinters, was brought bound to a hospital in a former monastery where wounded German soldiers were lying. Despite her wounds, Kolodetskaya was raped by a group of German soldiers, which resulted in her death.

From the towns and villages liberated of late from the German Fascist invaders, including different districts of the Moscow, Leningrad, Kalinin, Tula, Orel, Kursk, Voroshilovgrad, Stalin and Rostov regions, reports come in daily of abominable outrages by the German invaders on women, girls, schoolgirls and children. In many cases those who rape are at the same time the murderers of their victims.

But the Hitlerites do not limit themselves to the murder of individual Soviet persons. In the history of Hitlerite murder and terror in the Soviet territories captured by them, there stand out in their fiendish brutality the mass murders of Soviet citizens, which as a rule accompany the temporary seizure by the Germans of towns and villages and other populated places.

Here are a few examples of the wholesale bloody massacres by the German invaders of inhabitants of whole villages. In the village of Yashkino, Smolensk region, the Hitlerites shot all old men and adolescents and burned their houses to the ground.

In the village of Pochinok in the same region, the Germans drove the old men and young children to the building of the collective-farm board. They locked the doors and burned them all alive.

In the Ukrainian village of Yemelkino, Zhitomir region, the Germans locked 68 persons in a building and boarded up the doors and windows. As a result all of them perished from suffocation.

In the village of Yershovo, Zvenigorodski district, Moscow region, now liberated by our troops, the Germans before leaving the town drove all the inhabitants and wounded Red Army men to one place, locked them in and then blew up the building.

ONE IN THREE EXECUTED

In the village of Agrafenovka, Rostov region, on November 16th, the Fascists arrested the whole male population between the ages of 16 and 60 and shot one in every three.

Horrible slaughter and pogroms were committed by the German invaders in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev. In only a few days, the German bandits killed and tortured 52,000 men, women, old men and children, mercilessly dealing with all Ukrainians, Russians and Jews who in any manner displayed their loyalty to the Soviet Government.

Soviet citizens who have escaped from Kiev describe the astounding picture of these mass executions. A large number of Jews, including women and children, were assembled together in the Jewish cemetery. Before shooting, all of them were stripped naked and beaten up. The first group selected for shooting were made to lie on the bottom of a ditch, faces to the ground, and were shot with automatic rifles. The Germans sprinkled earth lightly over the victims and then the second party of Jews were made to lie down and were shot with automatic rifles—and so on.

Many mass murders were committed by the German Fascist invaders in other Ukrainian towns. These bloody executions were particularly directed against unarmed defenceless Jewish working people.

STRIPPED NAKED BEFORE MACHINE-GUNS

According to incomplete data, no less than 6,000 people were shot in Lvov, over 8,000 in Odessa, over 8,500 persons killed or hanged in Kamenetsk-Podolsk, 10,500 persons shot by machine-guns in Dniepropetrovsk; over 3,000 local inhabitants were shot in Mariupol, including aged men, women and children, all of whom were robbed and stripped bare before execution.

According to preliminary data, the German Fascist bandits killed approximately 7,000 people in Kerch.

The bloodthirstiness of the Nazis against the inhabitants of Rostov became particularly notorious. Having established themselves for ten days in Rostov, the Germans murdered not only individuals and families, but in their bloodthirsty zeal annihilated scores and hundreds of inhabitants, particularly in the working districts of the town.

At the building of the railway administration, German automatic riflemen shot 48 people in broad daylight.

On the pavements of the central streets in Rostov the Hitlerite murderers shot 60 people. In the Armenian cemetery they killed 200 people. Even after they were ousted from Rostov by our troops the German generals and officers publicly boasted that they would still return to Rostov precisely in order to take bloody retribution of the population of the town, which actively helped to oust its sworn enemies from its native city.

Besides all that has been said above, the Soviet Government has in its possession documents about the systematically repeated monstrous crimes of the German Fascist Command in using peaceful Soviet inhabitants as cover for the German troops during battles.

On August 28, 1941, when crossing the River Iput, the German Fascist troops, powerless to overcome the stubborn resistance of the units of the Red Army, collected together the local inhabitants of the Byelorussian town of Debrush, Gomel region. Under the threat of shooting, they drove before them women, children and old men. Hiding behind them, they deployed their battle formation.

This foul crime was repeated against the civil population by the German Command in the Leningrad region, in the neighbourhood of the "Vibory" collective-farm, and also in the Yelnia district of the Smolensk region.

The Fascist scoundrels continue to use this cruel, cowardly method right up to the present time.

On December 8th, the Hitlerites covered their retreat from the village of Yamnia, Tula region, with citizens from the local population.

On December 12th, in the same neighbourhood, they assembled 120 old men and children and made them go before their troops during battle against the advancing troops of the Red Army.

WOMEN PLACED IN FRONT OF INFANTRY

During the battle of Kalinin, units of the German 303rd regiment of the 162nd Division, trying to make a counter-attack, assembled women from the outskirts of the village, placed them in front and went into battle. A unit of the Soviet troops successfully repulsed this attack, drove a wedge between the Hitlerites and their victims, and saved the women.

There is no limit to the cruelty and bloodthirstiness of the German Fascist armies which have invaded our territory. The Hitlerite army is not conducting an ordinary war, but a war of plunder. It aims at the annihilation of peace-loving peoples, which is part of the criminal intention of the German Fascists to dominate other peoples and the whole world.

The Hitlerite Government of Germany, which perfidiously attacked the Soviet Union, has no regard whatsoever for any rules of international law, for any requirements of human morals. It is waging war primarily against a peaceful and unarmed population, against women and children

and old men, thus demonstrating its foul, rapacious nature. This robber Government, which recognises only violence and plunder, must be broken by the all-devastating force of all freedom-loving peoples, in the ranks of which the Soviet peoples will fulfil their great liberative task to the end.

Not only the Red Army, but the whole of our many millions of Soviet people are filled with fiery hatred and thirst to avenge mercilessly the blood and the ruined lives of Soviet citizens.

WE SHALL NEVER FORGIVE

The Soviet people will never forgive the atrocities, rape, destruction and mockery which the bestial bands of German invaders have committed and are committing against the peaceful population of our country. They will never forget, nor will they ever forgive, these crimes.

In reporting all these atrocities committed by the German invaders to all Governments with which the U.S.S.R. has diplomatic agreements, the Soviet Government declares that it lays all the responsibility for these inhuman and rapacious acts committed by the German troops on the criminal Hitlerite Government of Germany.

The Government of the U.S.S.R. at the same time declares with unshakable confidence that the liberation struggle of the Soviet Union is a struggle for the rights and liberties not only of the peoples of the Soviet Union, but for the rights and liberties of all freedom-loving peoples of the world, and that this war can finish only with the complete destruction of the Hitlerite troops and the complete victory over Hitlerite tyranny.

MOSCOW, JANUARY 6, 1942.

2. ATROCITIES AGAINST RED ARMY PRISONERS

THE NOTE SENT BY V. M. MOLOTOV

ON NOVEMBER 27, 1941

TO ALL GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH THE U.S.S.R.

HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

ON the instructions of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I wish to bring to your notice the following:—

The Soviet Government is in possession of many facts about the systematic brutalities and atrocities inflicted by the German Government on Red Army men and commanders who are prisoners of war.

There have been many recent instances of atrocities which have taken on a specially glaring character, thus once again exposing the German military authorities and the German Government as a gang of cut-throats who ignore all principles of international law and human morality.

The Soviet Military Command has proof of numerous facts showing that when many Red Army men are taken prisoner, the majority of them being wounded, they are subjected by the German Military Command and military units to brutal torture, punishments and murder.

PRISONERS CRUSHED BY TANKS

Red Army prisoners are tortured with red-hot irons, their eyes are poked out, their legs, hands, ears and noses cut off. Their stomachs are ripped open. They are tied to tanks and crushed to pieces.

Such dastardly brutalities and criminal deeds are committed by German Fascist officers and soldiers throughout the length of the whole front, wherever our Red Army fighters and commanders are taken prisoner. For example, in the Ukrainian Soviet Republic, and on the Island of Khortiza in the Dnieper, tortured bodies of Red Army soldiers were found after battles with German units. Their hands had been cut off, their eyes poked out, and their stomachs ripped open.

In the south-western direction, in the village of Repke in the Ukraine, after the Germans had retreated from occupied positions, the bodies of Battalion Commander Bobrov, Political Instructor Pyatigorsky and two other men were found. Their hands and legs had been nailed to a beam, and their bodies bore black scars of the swastika sign branded on them with red-hot knives. The faces of these men were mutilated and burnt. Not far away the body of another Red Army man was found who had been taken prisoner by the Germans the evening before. His legs were burnt and his ears cut off.

BURNED AT THE STAKE

When our units took the village of Holmy, on the north-western front, the mutilated bodies of Red Army men were found, and the body of Private Andrei Osipov had been burned at the stake.

At the station of Greibovo, in the Ukrainian S.S.R., the German units captured a small group of Red Army men and gave them no food for several days. Some of the prisoners had had their ears cut off and their eyes had been put out; their hands had been cut off and they had been severely bayoneted.

In July of this year at the railway station at Shumilovo, German units took prisoner a group of severely wounded Red Army men and killed them on the spot. The same month, near the town of Borisov in Byelorusia, after capturing 70 severely wounded Red Army men, the Hitlerites poisoned them all with arsenic.

In August, near a small place called Zabolotye, the Germans took 17 severely wounded Red Army men from the battlefield. They were given no food for three days and then all 17 of them, their wounds still bleeding, were tied to a telegraph pole. As the result three of them died. The remaining 14 were saved from certain death by the arrival of Senior-Lieut. Rybin's Soviet tank detachment.

In the village of Mogutin, in the neighbourhood of Briansk, the Germans tied a wounded Red Army man to a tank and crushed him to pieces. In a place to the west of Briansk, not far from the "Red October" collective-farm, eleven charred bodies of Red Army men and commanders captured by the Germans were discovered. On the arms and back of one of them

were scars from the torture he had suffered by being branded with hot irons.

A number of cases have been registered where the German Command, during attacks, have driven Red Army prisoners in front of their advancing columns under threat of death by shooting. Cases of this kind in particular have been registered in the region of the collective-farm "Vybor" in the Leningrad district, in the Yelnia district of the Smolensk region, in the Gomel region of Byelorussia, in the Poltava region of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic, and in a number of other places.

WOUNDED BAYONETED IN HOSPITALS

Disgusting insults, tortures and bestial atrocities are systematically practised against wounded Red Army men in hospitals which fall into the hands of the German invaders. There are innumerable cases of defenceless sick and wounded Red Army men in field-hospitals being bayoneted and shot on the spot. Thus, in the little town of Rudnya, in the Smolensk region, Fascist German units captured a field-hospital and shot wounded Red Army men, nurses and stretcher-bearers. Here Shalamov, Kazimov, Lieut. Doneyev and a 17-year-old nurse, Varya Baikov, and others met their end.

Numerous facts are recorded of rape and insults by the Nazis against women, hospital nurses and medical assistants.

The Hitlerite bandits have no mercy even for the medical personnel attached to the Red Army who fall into their hands. In the neighbourhood of the villages of Kubrovo and Denisovo in the Leningrad region, the chief of the divisional medical post, Dr. Lystov, was brutally tortured. He was bayoneted all over. There were bullet wounds in his head and shoulder. His face bore the marks of brutal blows. Close beside him in the forest was found the mutilated body of stretcher-bearer Bogachev. On the road a little way from there lay the mutilated body of ambulance-driver Gorbunov.

LEFT TO DIE OF DISEASE

In the German camps where Soviet prisoners of war are held, sick and wounded Red Army men are given no medical attention and are doomed to die of typhus, dysentery, pneumonia and other illnesses. Discipline among the guards is purely arbitrary and all kinds of brutalities are practised.

Thus in the Purkhov camp, Red Army prisoners are kept out of doors day and night despite the cold weather. In the early morning they are roused by blows from sticks and clubs and driven out to work, whatever the state of their health. During the work a guard of Finnish and German soldiers constantly drives the prisoners on, and wounded and sick Red Army men are bludgeoned to death.

In the Chernukhinsk camp in the Ukraine, prisoners are systematically clubbed or shot on the spot without warning, for the slightest violation of rules and orders. In one day alone, on September 17th, 95 persons were shot in the Chernukhinsk camp.

Brutality is shown to Soviet prisoners at points where they are assembled for removal. In the neighbourhood of the village of Demyanovka, in the Ukraine, the assembly point for prisoners of war is in the open air. At

this point the prisoners are given insignificant quantities of boiled millet and many prisoners die of exhaustion. When prisoners are being transferred to their destination the weaker ones are shot on the spot. When Soviet prisoners of war were transferred from Khorola, near the village of Semyonovka in the Ukraine, the Red Army men were made to run all the time. Those who fell from exhaustion were shot on the spot.

PEOPLE STRIPPED OF CLOTHING

Among the soldiers and officers of the Nazi army looting is rampant. With the cold winter, looting has taken on a mass character. The Hitlerite bandits stop at nothing in their hunt for warm clothing. Not only do they strip the dead of their warm clothing and boots, but they seize all warm clothing, felt boots, jerseys, boots, socks, trousers and fur caps from wounded Soviet prisoners, stripping them naked and taking everything. They also strip the uniforms and clothes from Soviet nurses.

Captured Red Army men are dying of hunger, going for days at a time without food or only being given infinitesimally small rations of rotten bread or rotten potatoes. The Hitlerites force the prisoners to search garbage heaps for scraps of food left by German soldiers.

In several camps, including the camp at Kama, a village in Byelorussia, the Germans threw to Soviet war prisoners, fenced behind barbed wire, lumps of stinking horseflesh. In the Vitebsk camp in Byelorussia, captured Red Army men received scarcely any food for nearly four months. When a group of five Red Army men wrote a letter to the German Commandant asking to be given food to keep them alive, the Commandant inquired as to who had written the letter and the five Red Army men were shot. Similar facts illustrating this absolute uncontrolled ferocity and brutality have been exposed at other camps, including those at Sichkovsky and Demyansky.

LESS THAN AN OUNCE OF BREAD PER DAY

Hoping to bring about the mass extermination of Soviet war prisoners, the German authorities and the German Government have instituted a brutal regime in the camps of prisoners of war. The German High Command and the Ministry of Food have issued an order which decrees that Soviet war prisoners are to be given less and worse food than prisoners of other countries.

This order decrees the following rations: 20 oz. of bread and 12 oz. of meat for each man per month. This condemns Soviet war prisoners to a painful death from starvation.

While enforcing these brutal and lawless conditions, the German Government tries by every means possible to conceal the orders relating to this question from German public opinion.

Thus when the Soviet Government approached the Swedish Government regarding this question the Swedish Government declared that although information about the aforesaid German Government order published in the European and American Press tallied with the facts, the text of this order has not been published in Germany and was therefore not available.

The conditions enforced in camps for Soviet prisoners of war are a