AWESOME stories

THE SIEGE OF STALINGRAD

0. THE SIEGE OF STALINGRAD - Story Preface

1. STALINGRAD

2. SOVIET RESISTANCE

3. THE SIEGE OF STALINGRAD

4. VASILY ZAITSEV

5. TANIA CHERNOVA

6. STALINGRAD SNIPERS

7. THE DUEL

8. IS IT TRUE?

9. OPERATION URANUS

10. HITLER FORBIDS SURRENDER

11. GERMAN SURRENDER

12. THE SWORD OF STALINGRAD

Everyone suffered in Stalingrad, including children. The people of Toronto (Canada) heard about massive suffering in the city named after Stalin and tried to help (by sending huge amounts of food and other items). This image depicts children in Stalingrad during 1942. It is online via an article entitled “Toronto ♥s Stalingrad,” by Adam Bunch at *The Little Red Umbrella*.

Stalingrad did not surrender. General Paulus, in charge of the German offensive, settled in for a long winter in the city. Soviet commanders prepared to hold out.

As winter approached, the German troops were at a potential disadvantage. No one liked the idea of spending Christmas with few supplies in a pitiful camp near the city of Stalingrad.

The Germans were ill-equipped. Letters which survive reflect the soldiers' despair. Most German troops had expected to be long-gone before the brutal Russian winter set in.

But German soldiers were better off than citizens still alive in the city. Starving women, children and soldiers endured endless agonies. Lice-laden, frost-bitten people gave in to cannibalism as frozen corpses mounted while food supplies dwindled.

Despite the ghastly scene of human despair, the people of Stalingrad held on. Soviet snipers systematically targeted German officers. Using leveled buildings as hiding spots, they took aim with their Russian Mosin-Nagant 91/30 sniper rifles. The more "kills" they achieved, the greater their fame.

Vasily Zaitsev, the most famous sniper of all, had arrived in Stalingrad with the 284th Division on September 20, 1942. Using the skills he had learned as a boy, growing up in the Siberian taiga, he inspired his comrades to stand firm and to eliminate one enemy at a time.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-SIEGE-OF-STALINGRAD-Stalingrad-Deadly-Battle-of-WWII

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-SIEGE-OF-STALINGRAD-Stalingrad-Deadly-Battle-of-WWII

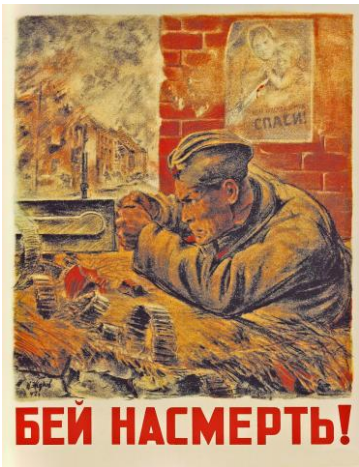
Media Stream

General Paulus

Image online, courtesy the German Federal Archives.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/General-Paulus0

Policy of Soviet Commander: "Hugging the Enemy"

Image online, courtesy the Russian State Archives.
The full names of the other two Soviet generals are:
• Kuzma Akimovich Gurov (who served as a political commissar during the Battle of Stalingrad); and
• Nikolai Ivanovich Krylov (who was chief of staff, of the 62nd Army, during the Battle of Stalingrad).
PD
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Policy-of-Soviet-Commander-Hugging-the-Enemy-



Soviet Military Poster - Beat Them to Death!

Image online, courtesy World War II Archive.
PD
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Soviet-Military-Poster-Beat-Them-to-Death-

Living in the Stalingrad Ruins

Image online, courtesy the Russian State Archives.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Living-in-the-Stalingrad-Ruins

Soviet Sniper during the Battle of Stalingrad

Image online, courtesy Volgograd Archives.
PD
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Soviet-Sniper-during-the-Battle-of-Stalingrad

Vasily Zaitsev
Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.
PD
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Vasily-Zaitsev-

Vasily Zaitsev - Soviet Sniper at Stalingrad
Image of Zaitsev, described above, placed online by Za Rodinu via Flickr.
LICENSE: CC BY-ND 2.0
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Vasily-Zaitsev-Soviet-Sniper-at-Stalingrad