

Petrograd. First of all, the telephone exchange on Milyutinsky Pereulok, which had been turned into a practically impregnable fortress by the enemy, was taken, for the Red Guards had had the happy idea of hauling up a bomb-thrower to the belfry of an adjacent church. Moreover, the Red Guards and soldiers were practically at the walls of the Kremlin. A battery stationed at the Bolshoy Theater kept up a steady barrage at the Metropole Hotel, which the enemy had made one of its strongholds. The Junkers hit off gunner after gunner, but others took their places, and the bombardment continued without a stop. At dawn on November 2, after a three-hour bombardment, the Red units, led by Comrade Frunze, took the Metropole by storm. The Municipal Duma had already been abandoned by the Whites during the night. "The Committee of Public Safety" had betaken itself to the Kremlin.

The 6-inch guns, which poured a broadside into the Kremlin from the Vorobyovy Hills, turned the trick. On November 1 the heavy artillery had opened fire, and late that night Ryabtsev announced his terms of surrender. The Soviet's guns continued to bombard the Kremlin on the morning of November 2, and under artillery fire Ryabtsev's submissiveness steadily increased.

One more attempt was made by the Socialist-Revolutionaries and the Mensheviks to help the Whites. This time they raised the question of an immediate truce, and tried hard to tone down the terms of surrender. But at 6 o'clock in the morning of November 2 Ryabtsev, unable to wait any longer for the return of his mediators, sent a letter of capitulation to the Revolutionary Military Committee.

THE WHITE GUARDS SURRENDER MOSCOW

The representatives of the Revolutionary Military Committee and Ryabtsev's representatives met in the hall of the Gubernia council. The cannonading in the city had reached its zenith at this time. When the wind blew a window open, the artillery fire could be heard distinctly. The delegations came to an agreement on the terms of the surrender of the White units. This agreement was signed on November 2, at 5 o'clock in the evening. The "Committee of Public Safety" was dissolved. The prisoners held by both sides were to be released immediately. At the very last moment the traitors in the Revolutionary Military Committee still managed to influence the waverers. Again a mistake was committed that bordered closely on treachery. The Junkers were guaranteed their liberty and inviolability of person.

Revolutionary units surrounded the Kremlin. Many of the men had prepared rope ladders and tried to climb the walls of the Kremlin so as to put an end to the Whites more quickly. The Junkers in the Kremlin, who saw that all was up with them, sent out delegates to negotiate about their surrender. By dawn of November 3 the Kremlin was taken. Exhausted but proud of their victory, the revolutionary detachments of Moscow marched through the ancient, shell-torn gates of the Kremlin.

A number of desultory skirmishes still took place here and there on November 3. The masses were indignant at the fact that the White Guard prisoners had been released and that all their deeds went unpunished. It became necessary to confine the Junkers in prison after they had been disarmed in order to avoid the attempts to mete out summary justice to them. It