

laid down arms, and ordered him to open the Kremlin gates. Berzin transmitted this ultimatum to the soldiers and proposed that they surrender the Kremlin. This the soldiers categorically refused to do. One of them even rushed at Berzin with his bayonet, but he was held back by his comrades. "If we have to die," the soldiers shouted, "better to die with arms in hand!" Berzin, however, succeeded in persuading the soldiers stationed at the Troitsky Gates to open the gates. He explained that he wanted to avoid having the blood of innocent soldiers shed, in view of Moscow's alleged surrender. But, even granting the point that the Kremlin had no contact with the Revolutionary Military Committee and that the silence reigning in Moscow could in some measure serve as confirmation of Ryabtsev's assertion that the city had surrendered, the fact still remains that the commandant of the Kremlin voluntarily surrendered a well-armed fortress with sufficient forces without putting up a fight.

As soon as the Junkers burst through the Troitsky Gate into the Kremlin they beat up the ensign himself and then, together with him, they set out to remove the sentries from the other gates. Having occupied the Kremlin, the Junkers ordered the soldiers to fall in for roll call. The soldiers lined up in two rows, whereupon the Junkers opened fire on the unarmed men with machine-guns. The soldiers were shot down in two batches: the men from the arsenal in the arsenal yard, and those of the 56th Regiment at the foot of the monument to Alexander II. They threw themselves to the ground, but that did not save them; the Junkers began to rake the ground with their machine-gun fire. This monstrous slaughter continued, with intervals, for about fifteen minutes. Once more history repeated itself: the number of victims who fell because no resistance was made

to the enemy proved incomparably greater than would have been the case if battle had been given.

THE KREMLIN IS OCCUPIED BY THE JUNKERS

The following description of this savage execution of unarmed men was sent in a report to his superior officer by Major-General Kaigorodov, the chief of the arsenal:

"At 8 A.M. on October 28 the Troitsky Gates were opened by Ensign Berzin, and the Junkers were admitted to the Kremlin. Ensign Berzin was beaten up and arrested. The Junkers immediately occupied the Kremlin, mounted two machine-guns and stationed an armored car at the Troitsky Gates, and began to drive the men of the arsenal and the 56th Reserve Infantry Regiment from the barracks with blows and threats. The soldiers from the arsenal, 500 men in all, were lined up unarmed before the gates of the arsenal. A couple of the Junkers began to count them off. Just then a few shots rang out, and the Junkers opened fire from the machine-guns and the guns at the Troitsky Gates. The unarmed soldiers were mown down as they stood; shouts and shrieks rent the air; everyone rushed back to the arsenal gates, but only a single narrow gate stood open, and before this there soon rose a pile of corpses, wounded, men who had been trampled underfoot, and men struggling to get through the gate. After about five minutes the firing stopped. All that could be heard was the groaning of the wounded men; the ground was strewn with mutilated corpses."

The Kremlin had fallen. The triumphant forces of the counter-revolution broadcast the news of the occupation of the Kremlin to "All, all, all. . . ." The news of the victory was gleefully transmitted to General Headquarters.

"The insurrectionists have lost their base and the uprising has assumed a disorganized character," the assistant command-