

military operations whatsoever, disband its forces and present itself for trial before the court. In transmitting Ryabtsev's ultimatum from a telephone booth on the premises of the Municipal Duma, Nogin felt it too embarrassing even to mention this latter point.

The ultimatum acted like a bucket of cold water on the members of the Revolutionary Military Committee. The advocates of negotiations temporarily effaced themselves. With a great loss of time the fighting center began to rally its forces to the Moscow Soviet.

Automobiles whizzed through the dark and the rain of the deserted streets to the barracks. Members of the Revolutionary Military Committee roused the barefooted, half-dressed soldiers, who were heavy with sleep. Then followed a brief, fiery speech. In response scores of voices thundered:

"To arms!"

The first to be called out to the Moscow Soviet were the "Dvinsk men." This was the name given to the Bolshevik soldiers who had been arrested for Bolshevik agitation on the Western front during the July demonstration and following its suppression. Nearly a thousand soldiers had been confined to the Dvinsk prison. From Dvinsk they had been transferred to the Butyrka prison in Moscow. The soldiers had demanded a trial, but it appeared that the records of their cases had been lost, as a result of which 860 men were held in prison without any definite charges having been filed against them. The Moscow Committee of the Bolshevik Party had started a campaign among the Moscow workers and Garrison for the release of the "Dvinsk men." The mass pressure brought to bear upon them had forced the authorities to free about 600

soldiers, and later, during the days of the October battles, the rest of the "Dvinsk men" were also released. The majority of the "Dvinsk men" were billeted in the Zamoskvorechye District.

Called out by the Moscow Soviet, the "Dvinsk men" were passing through the Red Square on the night of October 27 when they were stopped by a detail of Junkers.

"Where to?" the colonel in charge demanded.

"To the Moscow Soviet. For guard duty."

"We're guarding the center ourselves," the colonel asserted and ordered them to surrender their arms.

The soldiers refused to obey, whereupon the colonel whipped out his revolver and fired point-blank at Sapunov, the commander of the "Dvinsk men," killing him on the spot. But the "Dvinsk men" were not thrown into a panic; they fell upon the Junkers with their bayonets and, carrying their wounded with them, fought their way through to the Moscow Soviet.

That night the Junkers opened fire on the besieged Kremlin. Their machine-gun nests were ensconced in the Arcade opposite the Kremlin Wall on the Red Square. The soldiers of the 56th Regiment answered the fire from the Kremlin walls. By now the crackle of gun-fire could be heard all over Moscow. The war was on.

THE ARMED UPRISING IN MOSCOW BEGINS

Toward 3 o'clock in the morning the shooting died down. The defenders of the Kremlin had no idea of what was happening in the city. Telephone connections with the Moscow Soviet had been severed. All the streets leading from Bolshaya