

Another detachment of shock soldiers that arrived at the Bryansk Station that day surrendered to the Red Guards and soldiers who had occupied the station. The shock soldiers declared that they had been fooled into believing that they were being sent to Moscow for new outfits. As soon as they learned that a fight was going on between the soldiers and the Junkers, they placed themselves at the disposal of the Khamovniky Revolutionary Military Committee.

In the Gorodskoy District the Red Guards and soldiers were so incensed with the perfidy of the Whites that they immediately stormed the Central Telephone Exchange. In Lefortovo the attack on the Alexeyev Military School came to an end when the Junkers surrendered at 12 noon on October 30. Thirteen machine-guns, large numbers of rifles and other military supplies were seized in the school.

The ultimatum of the Railwaymen's Executive Committee only played into the hands of the counter-revolution. Taking advantage of the "truce," the Junkers tried to improve their strategic position. They made a forward drive from the Nikitsky Gates along the Tverskoy Boulevard, tried to seize the bridges across the Moscow River and made desperate attempts to break through to Krymskaya Ploshchad. But they were repulsed at all points.

The threat of the Executive Committee of the Railwaymen's Union remained on paper. Over the heads of their leaders the rank-and-file railwaymen helped the revolution. They held up the troops sent to Ryabtsev's aid and at the same time expedited the progress of the detachments of Red Guards and soldiers hastening to Moscow, hunted out transports of arms and immediately turned them over to the revolutionary units.

From Serpukhov and Podolsk, from Vladimir and Shuya, from Alexandrov and Kovrov men were coming to the aid of the Moscow workers. It seemed as though the whole region had risen up in arms!

Meanwhile Area Headquarters were doing all in their power to obtain aid. Over the heads of the proper authorities, Lieutenant Rovny begged Kaluga immediately to send out a detachment accompanied by armored cars, or if that were impossible at least part of a regular detachment.

Kravchuk, Ryabtsev's second assistant, left Moscow secretly, made his way to Smolensk, and from there began to make urgent inquiries of General Headquarters as to what had become of the cavalry unit that had been promised for October 30. Kravchuk was put in touch with Dukhonin.

"The situation in Moscow is grave," he reported, "due to the shortage of ammunition and supplies. The morale of the men is firm and steadfast. The munitions dumps and commissary stores have been captured by the Bolsheviks. A detachment was being formed at the time of my departure to storm the dumps and the commissary stores. I do not know whether this met with success. If not, we shall be unable to hold out much longer, and it is quite possible that we shall have to fight our way out of Moscow. . . ."

Dukhonin told him what units had been dispatched and informed him that a detachment of six battalions and an artillery unit was being organized on the Rumanian front specially for Moscow. Besides this another request had been sent to Kaledin in the Don Region to send out Cossacks.

"With your help we shall hold Moscow," declared Kravchuk, rejoicing at this news.