

lutionary committee. The cars were found to contain about 40,000 rifles. A locomotive was coupled to the cars and they were pulled into the roundhouse, after which all the districts, the Gorodskoy and Sokolniki Districts heading the list, were notified. Each district sent over trucks and the arms were immediately distributed throughout the city.

A number of men were sent out to Tula on trucks and, with the help of Comrade Shkiryatov, a member of the Revolutionary Committee, they obtained arms from the Tula Arsenal.

On October 28 the Red Guards of the Simonov sub-district captured the Simonov powder magazine. From this time on the revolutionary forces of Moscow were furnished with arms and ammunition practically without interruption.

By the night of October 28 the position of the Revolutionary Military Committee had improved considerably. The Junkers had been unable to make further headway. On the contrary, the revolutionary forces had practically encircled them. The workers' districts pressed on the Junkers, forcing them toward the center. All the railway stations were in the hands of the Reds. No one had come to the assistance of the Junkers, while the Soviet was constantly receiving fresh detachments. Once again the rooms of the Soviet premises teemed with armed men. Cannon were mounted in front of the building and the mere sight of them raised the spirits of the men. The main thing, however, was that detachments were now being organized on a mass scale. When the Revolutionary Military Committee asked a district to send over 100 men, 300 would report. The people rallied to the struggle. The districts hummed like a hive of disturbed bees. There was no limit to the creative initiative displayed by the masses.

On the morning of October 29 the Revolutionary Military Committee launched an attack in the center. First of all, steps were taken to ensure the security of the immediate rear. It appeared that more than 200 Junkers had massed in the Moscow Town Hall, at 26 Tverskoy Boulevard. They had been gathering for two or three days, for Ryabtsev attached a great deal of importance to this position. A special detachment consisting of "Dvinsk men," cyclists, soldiers from the 55th and 85th Regiments and Red Guards from the Mikhelson and other factories was organized to take the Town Hall. The attack was launched along the Tverskoy Boulevard and Bolshoy and Maly Gnezdnikovsky Pereuloks.

Artillery forces that had come up from Khodynka bombarded the Town Hall. As soon as the Red Guards thought that one of the shells had hit the building, the soldiers asked that the artillery fire be suspended, and rushed into an attack together with the Red Guards. Upon nearing the building the soldiers dropped to the ground, but the Red Guards dashed across the street and began to smash the windows. Utter confusion seized the Junkers. They came tumbling downstairs from the upper stories of the building. Two hundred well-armed Junkers surrendered to a detachment of Red Guards and soldiers. Guarded by a convoy of ten men the Junkers were led off to the Moscow Soviet.

Two heroes, Barbolin and Zhebrunov, lost their lives in this battle for the Town Hall. Both had taken active part in organizing the Young Communist League in Moscow.

The Reds entrenched themselves in the side streets leading to the Soviet and advanced along Bolshaya Nikitskaya Ulitsa, now the boundary line between themselves and the Junkers.