

0. SOVIET RESISTANCE - Story Preface

1. STALINGRAD

2. SOVIET RESISTANCE

3. THE SIEGE OF STALINGRAD

4. VASILY ZAITSEV

5. TANIA CHERNOVA

6. STALINGRAD SNIPERS

7. THE DUEL

8. IS IT TRUE?

9. OPERATION URANUS

10. HITLER FORBIDS SURRENDER

11. GERMAN SURRENDER

12. THE SWORD OF STALINGRAD



A few months before Hitler ordered a massive attack on Stalingrad, the Soviet Union published this poster. It depicts military men of the USSR and the UK working together to push back the Nazis-led regime (as they stand over the body of a swastikaed dragon). Translated into English (from Russian), the caption says: "Greetings to the heroic warriors of the Soviet Union from the British allies fighting with them." Online via the UK's National Archives (at Kew) and Wikimedia Commons.

Hitler launched a plan ("Operation Barbarossa") to conquer the Soviet Union and to control its vast oil deposits. He thought he would be successful. Indeed, his troops penetrated deeper into Russian territory than any other invader, including Napoleon.

But Hitler failed to consider the will of his opponent, Joseph Stalin. A ruthless modern leader, Stalin ordered "show trials" which purged his former colleagues. He ordered millions of forced laborers to industrialize the Soviet Union and ended the lives of farmers who opposed his plan for collectivized agriculture.

To this day, people in the Ukraine remember the great famine of 1932-33. Referred to as Holodomor ("death by starvation"), that Ukrainian catastrophe resulted in the deaths of millions of people. Likened to the Great Hunger of Ireland, Holodomor has been condemned as a completely preventable event. Some historians believe Stalin engineered it.

Beyond Stalin, Hitler also failed to consider the psychological impact of a German invasion. He did not count on the will and skill of the Soviet people to resist him and his military might. He did not count on the misery of his own soldiers as they endured the brutal Russian winters.

Contemporary posters depict how much the Soviet people "hated" Hitler and his Third Reich. Even without understanding a word of Russian, it's easy to grasp the message:

- "Kill the German Beast"
- "That's Enough, Fascist Beast!"
- "Death to the Fascist Monster"

The battle for Stalin's city was originally code-named "Operation Blue" (when the initial plan was merely to capture the Soviet oil fields). When the mission changed, and Stalingrad also became a specific target, German soldiers called the battle Rattenkrieg (War of the Rats).

Doing what they (and Hitler) never wanted, German troops were forced to fight man-to-man where rats lived: in the streets, in the cellars, in the ditches.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/SOVIET-RESISTANCE-Stalingrad-Deadly-Battle-of-WWII>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/SOVIET-RESISTANCE-Stalingrad-Deadly-Battle-of-WWII>

Media Stream

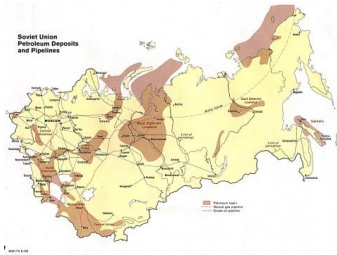


Battle of Stalingrad - Map Locator, Military Positions

Map online, courtesy U.S. Military Academy.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Battle-of-Stalingrad-Map-Locator-Military-Positions>



Soviet Union - Oil Deposits

Map online, courtesy Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Soviet-Union-Oil-Deposits>



Stalingrad - Battle Scene

Image online, courtesy Russian State Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stalingrad-Battle-Scene>



Russian Propaganda Poster - Defeat Hitler

Image online, courtesy Russian State Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Russian-Propaganda-Poster-Defeat-Hitler>



German Soldiers at the Russian Front

Image online, courtesy [Das Bundesarchiv](http://www.bundesarchiv.de) (the German Federal Archives).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/German-Soldiers-at-the-Russian-Front>



Russian Poster - Kill the German Beast

Image online, courtesy Russian State Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Russian-Poster-Kill-the-German-Beast>



Russian Poster - That's Enough, Fascist Beast

Image online, courtesy Russian State Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Russian-Poster-That-s-Enough-Fascist-Beast>



Stalingrad - Fighting in the Streets of the City

Image online, courtesy Volgograd Archives.

View this asset at:

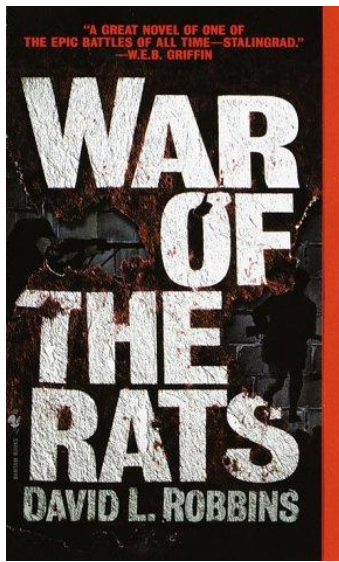
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stalingrad-Fighting-in-the-Streets-of-the-City>



Stalingrad Battle Scene

Image online, courtesy Volgograd Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stalingrad-Battle-Scene0>



War of the Rats - by David L. Robbins

Book-cover image online, courtesy Amazon.com.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/War-of-the-Rats-by-David-L.-Robbins0>

Famine in Ukraine - Harvest of Despair

Clip from "Harvest of Despair: The Unknown Holocaust."

Produced and directed by Slavko Nowytski for the Ukrainian Famine Research Committee in Canada, with the assistance of the National Film Board of Canada.

Narration writer and story consultant, Peter Blow

Photography by Thomas Burstyn and Yuri Denysenko

Edited by Yuriy Luhovy

Music by Zenoby Lawryshyn

Distributed by [International Historic Films, Inc.](#)

Released, 1984

Online, courtesy Google Video.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Famine-in-Ukraine-Harvest-of-Despair>

Harvest of Despair - Part 2

[Quoted passage](#), Library of Congress.

Clip from "Harvest of Despair: The Unknown Holocaust."

Produced and directed by Slavko Nowytski for the Ukrainian Famine Research Committee in Canada, with the assistance of the National Film Board of Canada.

Narration writer and story consultant, Peter Blow

Photography by Thomas Burstyn and Yuri Denysenko

Edited by Yuriy Luhovy

Music by Zenoby Lawryshyn

Distributed by [International Historic Films, Inc.](#)

Released, 1984

Online, courtesy Google Video.

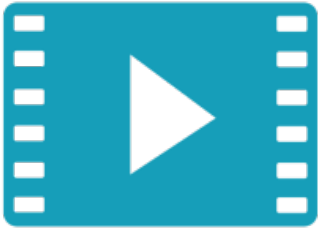
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Harvest-of-Despair-Part-2>



Harvest of Despair - Part 3

Clip from "Harvest of Despair: The Unknown Holocaust."

Produced and directed by Slavko Nowytski for the Ukrainian Famine Research Committee in Canada, with the assistance of the National Film Board of Canada.



Narration writer and story consultant, Peter Blow

Photography by Thomas Burstyn and Yuri Denysenko

Edited by Yuriy Luhovy

Music by Zenoby Lawryshyn

Distributed by [International Historic Films, Inc.](#)

Released, 1984

Online, courtesy Google Video.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Harvest-of-Despair-Part-3>

Harvest of Despair - Part 4

Clip from "Harvest of Despair: The Unknown Holocaust."

Produced and directed by Slavko Nowytski for the Ukrainian Famine Research Committee in Canada, with the assistance of the National Film Board of Canada.



Narration writer and story consultant, Peter Blow

Photography by Thomas Burstyn and Yuri Denysenko

Edited by Yuriy Luhovy

Music by Zenoby Lawryshyn

Distributed by [International Historic Films, Inc.](#)

Released, 1984

Online, courtesy Google Video.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Harvest-of-Despair-Part-4>

Harvest of Despair - Part 5

Clip from "Harvest of Despair: The Unknown Holocaust."

Produced and directed by Slavko Nowytski for the Ukrainian Famine Research Committee in Canada, with the assistance of the National Film Board of Canada.



Narration writer and story consultant, Peter Blow

Photography by Thomas Burstyn and Yuri Denysenko

Edited by Yuriy Luhovy

Music by Zenoby Lawryshyn

Distributed by [International Historic Films, Inc.](#)

Released, 1984

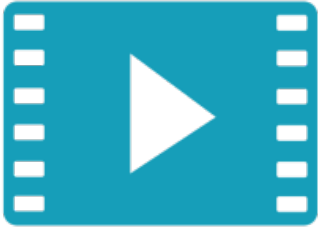
Online, courtesy Google Video.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Harvest-of-Despair-Part-5>

Harvest of Despair - Part 6

Clip from "Harvest of Despair: The Unknown Holocaust."

Produced and directed by Slavko Nowytski for the Ukrainian Famine Research Committee in Canada, with the assistance of the National Film Board of Canada.



Narration writer and story consultant, Peter Blow

Photography by Thomas Burstyn and Yuri Denysenko

Edited by Yuriy Luhovy

Music by Zenoby Lawryshyn

Distributed by [International Historic Films, Inc.](#)

Released, 1984

Online, courtesy Google Video.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Harvest-of-Despair-Part-6>