

0. GERMAN SURRENDER - Story Preface

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This image, from the German Federal Archives, depicts Field Marshal Paulus soon after his surrender to Soviet forces on January 31, 1943. Its caption (translated from German into English) tells us: "Russia, Paulus in captivity." Its description tells us more: "The prisoners of war, Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus (left), former commander of the fascist 6th Army at Stalingrad with his chief of staff, Major General Arthur Schmidt (center), and his aide, Colonel William Adam, meet the staff of the Soviet 64th Army at Beketovka on 01.31.1943." The photo was likely taken by Georgi Lipskerov. Online via Bundesarchiv and Wikimedia Commons. Credit: Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-F0316-0204-005 / [CC-BY-SA 3.0](#)

Seeing another alternative for himself and his men, General Paulus followed his own judgment (instead of Hitler's direction). On January 31, 1943 he surrendered.

By February 2, 1943 both the northern and southern parts of Stalingrad were back in Soviet hands. Hitler had sustained a massive defeat from which he would never recover.

Allied supplies helped the Soviets actualize their stunning military reversal. Churchill provided Hurricane fighters and tanks while the Americans contributed jeeps, trucks and food. But the credit for this extraordinary victory belongs to the Soviet people:

- Some who endured incredible deprivation for so many months are still alive today.
- Russian commanders whose strategy outmaneuvered the enemy were given high honors.
- Women and girls, working long hours, made the war materiel which won the war.
- And the men, who pushed the German war machine out of Stalingrad, ultimately caused Adolf Hitler to do what he wanted Friedrich Paulus to do: Commit suicide.

As an ultimate affront to the man who caused so much anguish, soldiers of the Red Army (it is said) took part of Hitler's skull (plus other body parts and his personal possessions) back to Russia at the end of the war. Giving explicit orders to burn his body, so no conquering soldier could find any of his remains, Hitler's last order was not carried out.

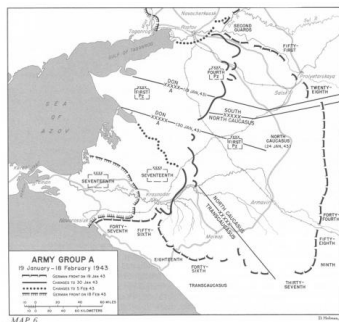
There wasn't enough time for his body to completely combust before the Red Army stormed his bunker.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

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

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

Media Stream



Recovered Soviet Territory - Map

Map image, described above, located at [page 82](#) of *Stalingrad to Berlin: The German Defeat in the East*. PD.

Linked image of General Paulus, at the time of his surrender, from the German Federal Archives where it has this translated description:

The prisoners of war, Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus (left), former commander of the fascist 6th Army at Stalingrad with his chief of staff, Lieutenant General Arthur Schmidt (center), and his aide, Colonel William Adam, meet the staff of the Soviet 64th Army at Beketovka on 01.31.1943. The Bundesarchiv (German Federal Archive) also tells us that the Paulus photographer was most likely Georgi Lipskerow (Lipskerov).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Recovered-Soviet-Territory-Map>



Russian Commanders and Victors - Poster

Image, described above, online courtesy Soviet History.org.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Russian-Commanders-and-Victors-Poster>



Soviet Women Working in Factories - WWII Stalingrad

Photo, by Georgi Zelma, taken in Stalingrad during 1943. It is known as "Stalingrad. The First Guild, 1943."

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Soviet-Women-Working-in-Factories-WWII-Stalingrad>



Hitler's Skull at the Russian State Archive

Image described above online, courtesy Russian State Archives via Wikimedia Commons.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hitler-s-Skull-at-the-Russian-State-Archive>



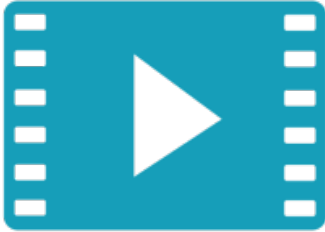
Hitler - Berlin Falls to the Soviet Army

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Hitler's Remains - What Happened to Them?

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Hitler - His Alleged Burial Place

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