

Strategy Of Red Army

HITLER'S DEFEAT

IS A CERTAINTY

SAYS LITHGOW RESIDENT

When I was last in Soviet Russia, I met Mr. Louis Brodsky, of Main-street, Lithgow, my Red Army host who outlined the main features of Red strategy as given in Red Army manuals. Since then European military tactics have confirmed this method. Red strategy is based upon the utmost use of every conceivable modern weapon with the entire army mechanised to the last degree. Given this, mechanisation strategy then conforms to the territorial conditions in which the army will operate, with particular attention to that territory facing the most powerful and imminent danger. In the case of Russia this danger was the Western Powers, with the emphasis on Germany, hence Red strategy has been the most intense study of all factors affecting the Western Front—in short all factors operating in the present wanton attack by German Fascists.

Soviet Army manuals explain modern weapons, possessing extraordinary mobility, are essentially weapons

ary mobility, are essentially weapons of offence and, in meeting an attacker, the defender must, firstly, be in possession of every type of arm possessed by the enemy: secondly the defender must maintain superiority in such arms, both in quantity and quality, and thirdly, such weapons of offence must be used to meet the enemy's offensive, i.e. defence carried out with weapons of offence is really preparation for the launching of an offensive.

The defence, utilising the mobility of modern arms to the utmost, which allows for wide spread manoeuvring must steadily increase the resistance to the enemy, striking more and more energetically at the decisive points, while aiming at holding him at the lesser points. This resistance must grow until the enemy attack is held at its greatest intensity, the enemy having staked everything on its final massing for a break-through and drawn to the utmost on his reserves. At this point Red Army manuals emphasise that scientific leadership lies precisely in foreseeing this point of the struggle. The defender must not only be holding the attacker with its main defences still intact, but must have in reserve sufficient forces and materials to go over immediately to the offensive. This offensive must strike throughout the entire depth of the enemy's line, from his front to his base of operations. At the same time an enveloping movement must be undertaken, which, with the speed and striking power of modern weapons, becomes a movement of encirclement

becomes a movement of encirclement and the enemy must be completely destroyed.

SOVIET'S AIR ARM

The Red Army throws into such an offensive the full weight of her mighty air arm, as well as striking with every arm of her most highly mechanised forces. It will be seen that such strategy requires enormous armament strength.

Has the Soviet Union such strength?

I personally witnessed the laying of the foundation for the gigantic Soviet industries which led to the mechanisation of the Red Army on a scale not even reached by Germany!

The first and second five year plans which were completed well ahead of schedule, changed completely the armament of the Red Army.

In 1935 the Army had a first line air strength of 5,000 planes and 10,000 tanks. From 1935 to 1938 the military budget increased nine fold from 9 milliard roubles to 79 milliard roubles. German estimates of this programme of expenditure ending in 1937-38 placed the Red Air Force and Tank Arm at double the strength of 1935, i.e., 10,000 planes and 20,000 tanks.

Another three years have since elapsed with further enormous increases in expenditure. All round motorisation and artillery strength has kept pace with the above two arms. Further, resulting from the growth of collective farming Soviet Agriculture is the most mechanised

Agriculture is the most mechanised in the world, and the Red Army had an additional reserve of 150,000 tractors which can be converted into tanks. Mechanisation of agriculture has since also progressed remarkably.

And what of the war industries and their capacity to maintain this enormous strength?

In 1933, the French Air Ministry estimated that the industrial capacity of the Soviet would be twice the strength of Germany and almost four times the strength of Britain and France!

Soviet Russia is the leading industrial country in Europe and is second only to the United States in world production. It is estimated that in 1938 the production of her heavy industries was five times that of old Tsarist Russia, while production in her engineering industries was fifteen times greater.

In 1938 the Soviet was leading all of Europe in production of oil, aeroplanes, locomotives, tractors, lorries and railway rolling stock.

Oil is the first need of modern armies and must flow as a torrent. Locomotives and rolling stock contradict the peculiar ideas held by many about Soviet transport.

Tractors and lorry production is the standard production for mechanised forces. They can be converted to tanks at need. One further point; highly developed as is Soviet industry on the whole her war industries have a higher percentage of production capacity than industry as a whole, also, the five year plans took into consideration the special needs

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of the Soviet in a war situation. Hence, all industry can be mobilised at great rapidity for a total war.

That the Soviet Union has an inexhaustible supply of man power is evident to all.

The Red Army can swing into operation 12½ million trained reserves. This does not include technically trained reserves. Even these figures do not adequately present a picture of the Soviet's vast manpower.

Training is of the highest efficiency, with a constant challenge between the higher and lower ranks to excel in efficiency and discipline. Every Red Army man must reach a high level of education for which purpose he is regularly engaged in study and examinations—a soldier—citizen in the fullest sense of the word.

The Soviet has at her disposal the men, the materials, and above all, the will to win.

STRATEGY COMPARISON

How does Soviet strategy compare with the present military situation between herself and Germany?

We are aware that she has every type of armament possessed by Germany and even some arms not established by the latter, such as cavalry.

Soviet resistance has definitely increased to such an extent that German forces, despite the advantage of the surprise attack, are heavily in-aid

man forces, despite the advantage of the surprise attack, are barely in old Russian territory. Soviet resistance has grown to the point of most powerful counter attacks thrusting to great depths into the enemies lines. The German Fascists have not reached the main Soviet defence line—the Stalin line. Yet the German war machine has been mobilised at his greatest striking power for more than two weeks.

Soviet strategy is meeting, holding, destroying the first line forces of Germany's army. Soviet strategy is compelling Germany to draw exhaustingly upon her reserves. Reports illustrate the moving of divisions from occupied France to Soviet frontiers. The Soviet is meeting and holding the German attack at its greatest intensity.

Is the Soviet offensive on the agenda? Certainly the Soviet counter attacks would indicate this. That German forces have failed to reach the Stalin line is proof positive that the Soviet has at her disposal vast resources in men and material which is a necessary pre-condition for the offensive.

The Soviet will compel Hitler's General Staff to draw to the utmost upon their reserves. In doing so counter attacks are most important and serve as a prelude to the opening offensive.

When the Red Army does go over to its offensive it will strike from the entire depth of the Stalin line through the full depth of the German lines as the Soviet manuals says, "from depth into depth." Hitler's strategy of the lightning thrust

says, from depth into depth. Hitler strategy of the lightning thrust, break-through and fan-out has failed. The Red Army prepares too well to fail.

In my opinion its victory is assured and it will be victory for the common people of the world and particularly for the European masses. Above all it will mean liberty and national freedom for the German people, the destruction of Hitler and with him the forces of exploitation and privilege which he represents.

(Mr. Brodsky, who is a native of the Ukraine, was formerly a lecturer on political economy and a freelance journalist for "Pravda," foremost Soviet newspaper. He served in the A.I.F. during the last war, being enlisted as an interpreter).

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