

## Chapter 1 : Top 10 Facts About the Battle of Stalingrad - Listverse

*The Battle of Stalingrad was not only the psychological turning point of World War II: it also changed the face of modern warfare. From Antony Beevor, the internationally bestselling author of D-Day and The Battle of Arnhem.*

Or the European portion of Russia. For whatever reason, though, the lure of Russia - its vast steppes, its vast resources, its vast and bloody history - has "You fool! For whatever reason, though, the lure of Russia - its vast steppes, its vast resources, its vast and bloody history - has proven irresistible, stretching back to early Mongol invasions. The two most famous fools who dared strive for Moscow were Napoleon and Hitler. Napoleon was failed by the logistics of his day and age; the harder he pressed Kutuzov, and the deeper he got into Russia, the longer his supply line became. When he reached his goal, he ran out of food, and turned back in the midst of a cruel winter. On his retreat, Napoleon famously remarked that "from the sublime to the ridiculous is but a single step. Undoubtedly, the winters were rough, and the Germans unprepared, but as Anthony Beevor makes clear in Stalingrad, the fault did not lie in the weather, but in Hitler and the stars. Indeed, it should have worked. Instead, the Germans attacked Stalingrad and nearly captured it. Then, the Russians surrounded the Germans, and the attackers became the attacked. The Germans at Stalingrad surrendered, and eventually the entire German invasion was turned. Specifically, in the second summer of the German invasion, the Nazi armies were poised to sprint to the Caucasus and seize the Soviet oil fields. Hitler intervened and split the German Army Group, sending Group B to Stalingrad, where it was eventually chewed to pieces. This is all explained in the beginning sections of Stalingrad, which are dedicated to the the planning of Operation Barbarossa, the start of the invasion, the battle for Moscow, and the first Russian winter. I found this to be the weakest part of the book, and it actually made me pause and consider continuing. I firmly believe that even the most subject-specific history book should provide a little context. In this case, though, the overview was not only cursory, but confusing. Beevor jumps quickly from event to event, battle to battle, using a series of unconnected anecdotes. Oh, the Germans executed thousands of Jews at Babi Yar? The situation is not helped by the small number of maps. Beevor expends a lot of ink detailing troop movements. If you want me to care that the 81st Cavalry Division in the 4th Cavalry Corps crossed the Kalmyk steppe to the southern flank, you will kindly have to show me where the Kalmyk steppe is located. At the very least, the writing is at times vivid and evocative. Beevor has a novelistic flair for creating memorable images. Take, for instance, this description of Russian troops crossing the Volga to enter Stalingrad: The crossing was probably most eerie for those in the rowing boats, as the water gently slapped the bow, and the rowlocks creaked in unison. The distant crack of rifle shots and the thump of shell bursts sounded hollow over the expanse of river. Then, German artillery, mortars and any machine-guns close enough to the bank switched their aim. Columns of water were thrown up in midstream, drenching the occupants of the boats. The silver bellies of stunned fish soon glistened on the surface Some men stared at the water around them to avoid the sight of the far bank, rather like a climber refusing to look down. Others, however, kept glancing ahead to the blazing buildings on the western shore, their steel-helmeted heads instinctively withdrawn into the shoulders As darkness intensified, the huge flames silhouetted the shells of tall buildings on the bank high above them and cast grotesque shadows. Sparks flew up in the night air As they approached the shore, they caught the smell of charred buildings and the sickly stench from decaying corpses under the rubble. A lot of times, the paragraphs on the page seemed absolute strangers to each other. Also, many paragraphs just left me scratching my head. For instance, one paragraph dealing with the Russian response to desertion stated that "[o: The proposition in the paragraph was that sometimes even the Russians realized they were nuts; but instead of supporting this statement, Beevor tells a story that shows just the opposite. This is not to get nit-picky, but as I read, I often had this almost unconscious sensation that something was slightly off. The final third of the book, though, is quite strong. Along with the details of battle, there are fascinating discussions is fascinating the right word? Stalingrad is a hard battle to write about. There are big troop movements leading up to the fight in the city. And there are big troop movements that lead to the encirclement of the German Army. However, most of the bitter fighting within the city itself was small unit action. Beevor is at his absolute best when he leaves the

generalities and finds a specific character or two to follow for a couple of pages. These two men were ordered to give a message to General Paulus. And in the Russian army, orders mean something. After braving German fire, they convince a Nazi sentry to bring them into a bunker after they are blindfolded with their own parkas. Once in the bunker, they finally convince the German company commander to take the message to his commander. When the Russians ask the German to sign a receipt for the message, which they can take to their superiors, the German refuses. This is almost Shakespearean-level farce. One of the oddities of this book is that I found my rooting interest to be with the Germans. Beevor even devotes an entire chapter to explaining how much the Germans loved Christmas, and how they tried to celebrate despite freezing and starving to death. Beevor even compares and contrasts the letters home from the troops. While the German soldiers wrote tenderly about how much they missed hearth and home, Beevor makes clear that the Russian letters were filled with mindless propaganda. Stalingrad was known as "the fateful city. Even as Stalingrad was falling, Rommel was losing in North Africa and America was gearing up to finally get in the fight. From that point on, Germany would know nothing but defeat. In hindsight, we are left to gasp at how close we came to a world dominated by Nazis. Some might find it hard to believe that we escaped through what appears to be luck - luck that Hitler made such a string of foolhardy decisions. To me, it was inevitable. Our character is our fate. A Napoleonic dictum says that to gain power, one must be absolutely petty, but to wield power, one must exercise true greatness. It makes perfect sense that a self-aggrandizing, paranoid-delusional sociopath such as Hitler would strive for absolute power and, with a few breaks along the way, eventually achieve it. But it also makes just as much sense that a self-aggrandizing, paranoid-delusional sociopath would be utterly unable to exercise that power, and would make stupid decisions in the unsupported belief that he was always right.

### Chapter 2 : Letters from the Battle of Stalingrad - Russia Beyond

*The Battle of Stalingrad continues to enthrall strategists, war history enthusiasts, and general readers alike. Read on for a brief of the titanic clash between the Soviet Union and Axis partners Germany, Italy, and Hungary.*

Elsewhere, the war had been progressing well: There were a number of salients , but these were not particularly threatening. The initial objectives in the region around Stalingrad were the destruction of the industrial capacity of the city and the deployment of forces to block the Volga River. The river was a key route from the Caucasus and the Caspian Sea to central Russia. Its capture would disrupt commercial river traffic. The Germans cut the pipeline from the oilfields when they captured Rostov on 23 July. The capture of Stalingrad would make the delivery of Lend Lease supplies via the Persian Corridor much more difficult. Both sides began to attach propaganda value to the city, based on it bearing the name of the leader of the Soviet Union. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. January If I do not get the oil of Maikop and Grozny then I must finish [liquidieren; "kill off", "liquidate"] this war. Poised in Eastern Ukraine , it was to spearhead the offensive. Hitler intervened, however, ordering the Army Group to split in two. A number of German and Romanian units that were to take part in Blau, however, were besieging Sevastopol on the Crimean Peninsula. Delays in ending the siege pushed back the start date for Blau several times, and the city did not fall until the end of June. Operation Fridericus I by the Germans against the "Isium bulge", pinched off the Soviet salient in the Second Battle of Kharkov , and resulted in the envelopment of a large Soviet force between 17 May and 29 May. The German offensive started well. Soviet forces offered little resistance in the vast empty steppes and started streaming eastward. Several attempts to re-establish a defensive line failed when German units outflanked them. Two major pockets were formed and destroyed: Situation briefing near Stalingrad between a German company commander and a platoon leader The initial advance of the 6th Army was so successful that Hitler intervened and ordered the 4th Panzer Army to join Army Group South A to the south. A massive traffic jam resulted when the 4th Panzer and the 1st Panzer both required the few roads in the area. Both armies were stopped dead while they attempted to clear the resulting mess of thousands of vehicles. The delay was long, and it is thought that it cost the advance at least one week. With the advance now slowed, Hitler changed his mind and reassigned the 4th Panzer Army back to the attack on Stalingrad. The Germans began using the armies of their Italian , Hungarian and Romanian allies to guard their left northern flank. Occasionally Italian actions were mentioned in official German communiques.

*The battle of Stalingrad was the most important of WWII, the author tell us about the siege of Stalingrad; an very detailed story of the battle and point of view of soldier. The book count with an excellent research, well written like a novel.*

Capturing the city would cut Soviet transport links with southern Russia, and Stalingrad would then serve to anchor the northern flank of the larger German drive into the oil fields of the Caucasus. In addition, siezing the city that bore the name of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin would serve as a great personal and propaganda victory for Adolf Hitler. On June 28, , operations began with significant German victories. Battle of StalingradIn the Battle of Stalingrad 43 , the advancing Germans were finally stopped by the Red Army in desperate house-to-house fighting. From The Second World War: On July 9 Hitler altered his original plan and ordered the simultaenous capture of both Stalingrad and the Caucasus. The division of forces placed tremendous pressure on an already-strained logistical support system. It also caused a gap between the two forces, allowing Soviet forces to escape encirclement and retreat to the east. Hitler intervened in the operation again and reassigned Gen. Stalin and the Soviet high command responded to the summer offensive by forming the Stalingrad Front with the Sixty-second, Sixty-third, and Sixty-fourth Armies, under Marshal Semyon Timoshenko. While the initial Soviet response to Fall Blau was to maintain an orderly withdrawal and thus avoid the massive encirclements and troop losses that had characterized the early months of Operation Barbarossa , on July 28 Stalin issued Order No. For his part, Hitler continued to directly intervene at the operational level, and in August he ordered Hoth to turn around and head toward Stalingrad from the south. The Red Army , however, put up a determined resistance , yielding ground only very slowly and at a high cost to the Sixth Army as it approached Stalingrad. The Soviet Sixty-second Army was pushed back into Stalingrad proper, where, under the command of Gen. Chuikov , it made a determined stand. By mid-September the Germans had pushed the Soviet forces in Stalingrad back until the latter occupied only a 9-mile- km- long strip of the city along the Volga, and that strip was only 2 or 3 miles 3 to 5 km wide. The Soviets had to supply their troops by barge and boat across the Volga from the other bank. At that point Stalingrad became the scene of some of the fiercest and most-concentrated fighting of the war; streets, blocks, and individual buildings were fought over by many small units of troops and often changed hands again and again. The most-critical moment came when on October 14 the Soviet defenders had their backs so close to the Volga that the few remaining supply crossings of the river came under German machine-gun fire. The Germans, however, were growing dispirited by heavy losses, fatigue, and the approach of winter. The turning point of the battle came with a huge Soviet counteroffensive, code-named Operation Uranus November 1943 , which had been planned by Generals Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov , Aleksandr Mikhailovich Vasilevsky, and Nikolay Nikolayevich Voronov. It was launched in two spearheads, some 50 miles 80 km north and south of the German salient whose tip was at Stalingrad. The counteroffensive utterly surprised the Germans, who thought the Soviets incapable of mounting such an attack. Those flanks were vulnerably exposed on the open steppes surrounding the city and were weakly defended by undermanned, undersupplied, overstretched, and undermotivated Romanian, Hungarian, and Italian troops. The attacks quickly penetrated deep into the flanks, and by November 23 the two prongs of the attack had linked up at Kalach, about 60 miles km west of Stalingrad; the encirclement of the two German armies in Stalingrad was complete. Hitler declared that the Sixth Army would be supplied by the Luftwaffe , but the air convoys could deliver only a fraction of the necessary supplies. The Soviets then resumed the offensive Operation Saturn, begun on December 16 to shrink the pocket of encircled Germans, to head off any further relief efforts, and to set the stage for the final capitulation of the Germans in Stalingrad. The Volga River was now frozen over solid, and Soviet forces and equipment were sent over the ice at various points within the city. Hitler exhorted the trapped German forces to fight to the death, going so far as to promote Paulus to field marshal and reminding Paulus that no German officer of that rank had ever surrendered. With Soviet armies closing in as part of Operation Ring begun January 10, , the situation was hopeless. The Sixth Army was surrounded by seven Soviet armies. On January

31 Paulus disobeyed Hitler and agreed to give himself up. Twenty-two generals surrendered with him, and on February 2 the last of 91, frozen starving men all that was left of the Sixth and Fourth armies surrendered to the Soviets. The Soviets recovered , German and Romanian corpses in and around Stalingrad, and total Axis casualties Germans, Romanians, Italians, and Hungarians are believed to have been more than , dead, wounded, missing, or captured. Of the 91, men who surrendered, only some 5,â€™6, ever returned to their homelands the last of them a full decade after the end of the war in ; the rest died in Soviet prison and labour camps. On the Soviet side, official Russian military historians estimate that there were 1,, Red Army dead, wounded, missing, or captured in the campaign to defend the city. An estimated 40, civilians died as well. The memorial was finished in ; its focal point is The Motherland Calls , a great metre- foot- high statue of a winged female figure holding a sword aloft. The tip of the sword reaches 85 metres feet into the air. In the Mamayev complex is the tomb of Chuikov , who went on to lead the Soviet drive to Berlin and who died a marshal of the Soviet Union almost 40 years after the Battle of Stalingrad.

## Chapter 4 : Revisiting the Battle of Stalingrad through German Letters

*Stalingrad is a narrative history written by Antony Beevor of the battle fought in and around the city of Stalingrad during World War II, as well as the events leading up to it.*

The Volga River, which runs through the city, was also an important shipping route connecting the western part of the country with its distant eastern regions. For similar reasons, the Russians felt a special need to protect it. Stalin ordered all Russians strong enough to hold a rifle to take up arms in defense of the city. The 6th Army of the Wehrmacht began their assault on August 23, 1942. From late August through the end of the assault, the Luftwaffe conducted dozens of air strikes on the city. The number of civilian casualties is unknown. By September, the Luftwaffe essentially had control of the skies over Stalingrad, and the Russians were getting desperate. Workers in the city not involved in war-related weapons production were soon asked to take up fighting, often without firearms of their own. Women were enlisted to dig trenches at the front lines. And yet, the Russians continued to suffer heavy losses. By the fall of 1942, Stalingrad was in ruins. Russian generals Georgy Zhukov and Aleksandr Vasilevsky organized Russian troops, augmented by forces from allies Romania and Hungary, in the mountains to the north and west of the city. From there, they launched a counterattack, famously known as Operation Uranus. Although they again sustained significant losses, Russian forces were able to form what in essence was a defensive ring around the city by late November 1942, trapping the nearly 300,000 German and Axis troops in the 6th Army. This effort became the subject of a propaganda film produced after the war, *The Battle of Stalingrad*. With the Russian blockade limiting access to supplies, German forces trapped in Stalingrad slowly starved. The Russians would seize upon the resulting weakness during the cold, harsh winter months that followed. They began consolidating their positions around Stalingrad, choking off the German forces from vital supplies and essentially surrounding them in an ever-tightening noose. Thanks to Russian gains in nearby fighting, including in Rostov-on-Don, miles from Stalingrad, the Axis forces — mostly Germans and Italians — were stretched thin. Through Operation Little Saturn, the Russians began to break the lines of mostly Italian forces to the west of the city. At this point, German generals abandoned all efforts to relieve their beleaguered forces trapped in Stalingrad. Still, Hitler refused to surrender even as his men slowly starved and ran out of ammunition. *Battle of Stalingrad Ends* By February 1943, Russian troops had retaken Stalingrad and captured nearly 200,000 German soldiers, though pockets of resistance continued to fight in the city until early March. Most of the captured soldiers died in Russian prison camps, either as a result of disease or starvation. The loss at Stalingrad was the first failure of the war to be publicly acknowledged by Hitler. In the end, many historians believe the Battle at Stalingrad marked a major turning point in the conflict. It was the beginning of the march toward victory for the Allied forces of Russia, Britain, France and the United States. In February 1943, Russians gathered in what is now known as Volgograd to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the conclusion of the battle that had ravaged their city.

## Chapter 5 : The Battle of Stalingrad: Top 10 Good Books - Jolly Book Junkie

*#1 Stalingrad: The Fateful Siege, by Antony Beevor (first published ). In August , Hitler's huge Sixth Army reached the city that bore Stalin's name. In the five-month siege that followed, the Russians fought to hold Stalingrad at any cost; then, in an astonishing reversal, encircled and trapped their Nazi enemy.*

Fedor von Bock who urged Hitler to press Moscow despite worsening weather conditions, may have remembered that Napoleon also got bogged down in his own invasion of Russia before being chased out. Finally, the harsh weather and fierce concentrated Soviet engagements close to Moscow further slowed forward progress to a crawl. Hitler was finally forced to suspend all offensive operations. Afterwards, front lines stabilized in the long bitter cold winter until the spring of However, Barbarossa alone was not sufficient to collapse the Soviet Union. The consequences of German operations in were six-fold. First, German forces were spent after long drives hampered by incessant sniping. Second, the time delay pushed back operations. Fourth, the Germans had no real material strategic gains after slaughtering 3 million Russians and imprisoning another 3 million. Instead, an enraged and energized population with a history of absorbing unfathomable pain and privation surrounded the invaders from the West. Germany and Italy prompted declared war against the United States. On to Road to Stalingrad The thaw in the early summer of revved up action along the vast Russian front. Attention turned first to the southern sector. Hopes soared when in May a new Soviet offensive to expand upon their strategic initiative was smashed by German forces in the so-named Second Battle of Kharkov. Hitler, increasingly directing military operations in Berlin, decided to shift his offensive to early August. Operation Blue – the code name for the campaign to seize Stalingrad – split southern sector armies in two. German troops were accompanied by the inferior units of Italian, and Hungarian allies, one weak link in the overall plan. What was the Battle of Stalingrad? By August 23, the Germans were in the suburbs, where fighting turned ferocious. Sometimes the combat was room to room in bombed out buildings, basements, sewers, and the abandoned factories in the ruined industrial city. Snipers easily used the terrain to pick off targets even though there is doubt now about the veracity of the story as depicted in the movie, *Enemy at the Gates* , about the famous Soviet sniper, Vasily Zaitsev. Russian grunt soldiers did not fight for socialism, nor Russia, but their own lives, their spines steeled with a gun barrel if they tried to flee. Field Marshal von Manstein, whom Hitler had previously sent north to Leningrad doubled back in a failed attempt to rescue Paulus. Hitler cynically believed his appointment of Paulus to field marshal would avoid an ignoble surrender since no field marshal had surrendered to the enemy. Friedrich Paulus, surrendered the remaining ninety thousand troops of his army to the Soviets. Why did the Soviets prevail at Stalingrad and what were the consequences for the course of the war? Are there history lessons to be gleaned from the Battle of Stalingrad? He seemingly refused to believe them and actually trusted Hitler. Some say Stalin was fixated on the idea that Germany would first resolve the matter with Great Britain before turning east. Your enemy is allowed to mistakes in war. Only the threat to his own power moved the Soviet despot to react. The following six reasons are by no means exhaustive. First, from the beginning, the Germans overestimated their own capabilities and underestimated Soviet ones. Your enemy always has a vote on the course of a war, too. Second, the treacherous slog under constant fire from the fringes of eastern Poland to the gates of Moscow overextended German supply lines. Logistics trumps strategy in war plans. Another unfortunate invader of Russia – Napoleon – also wrestled with supplies of his forces. The French dictator faced a logistical nightmare of quite staggering proportions, requiring a wagon train of no fewer than 26 battalions – eight equipped with light and medium wagons each, and the rest with four-horse wagons capable of carrying 1. Fourth, avoid urban warfare. Stalingrad was the first great extended urban conflict in the history of modern warfare. Conventional military tools – tanks and large organized units – are poorly fitted to guerrilla warfare, especially in dilapidated city landscape like Stalingrad. The German forces were not suited for that type of warfare especially in unfamiliar territory where the enemy knows every city block. Two dictators bent on domination of Continental Europe inevitably were drawn into war with its traditional large land power, Russia. Napoleonic France and Hitlerite Germany plunged into the vast deep Russian heartland and finally

reached a breaking point because of distance, weather, and constant sniping from the local around every corner. Both also failed to conquer Britain and reaped the rewards later in their own destruction. Second, now, the tables were turned. Third, one of the most savage and bitter urban warfare battles of the 20th century – the Battle of Stalingrad – proved the high watermark for the Third Reich. Certainly much sacrifice, and many horrific campaigns loomed, but only with the luxury of hindsight, the days of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Imperial Japan were numbered. What are the top 10 history books on the Battle of Stalingrad? To learn more about the German invasion of the Soviet Union and specifically the campaign at Stalingrad, consider these resources. Glantz and Jonathan M. House; Buy from Amazon. *The Road to Stalingrad. The Fateful Siege, The City that Defeated the Third Reich.* By Jochen Hellbeck; Buy from Amazon. *Eyewitness Accounts from the 6th Army,* By Reinhold Busch; Buy from Amazon. *The Nazi-Soviet War – The Russian-German Conflict of Your Turn Please* continue your study of history so future mistakes may be avoided. Unfortunately, a sad state of historical knowledge pervades US youth which bodes ill for a world built on the sacrifice of others.

### Chapter 6 : Battle of Stalingrad - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*I would like to recommend Stalingrad, Das Drama, written by Guido Knopp as the best book on the battle of Stalingrad from a German point of view. Unfortunately it's only written in German and as far as I know there isn't an English translation available.*

The Battle of Stalingrad ended seventy one years ago – on February 2, – after exactly five months, a week and three days of incessant fighting. The retreat of the Nazis in that particular battle is seen by many historians as the turning point of WWII. Most of the writings were dated from November to December and the first two weeks of January Confessions of the Enemy. The letters penned by the German soldiers as the Battle of Stalingrad raged on around them were infused with candor. The stash showed how they tried to communicate their impressions to their loved ones, how they wanted them to see their situations as they fought in the Stalingrad region and how they see the Red Army. The letters and diary entries were direct and animated testimonials of the Battle of Stalingrad from the front lines, a long way off from the trenches and the bunkers. Stalingrad is hell on earth – Verdun, beautiful Verdun, with new weapons. We attack on a daily basis. When we got to Stalingrad, there were of us, but by September 1, after two weeks of battle, only 16 remained. All the rest were wounded and killed. Up to a thousand wounded soldiers a day are taken back to the rear from Stalingrad. It is pure hell here. There are barely 30 men in the company. We have never been through anything like this. If fate allows it, someday I will tell you about it. Stalingrad is a grave for the German soldiers. We killed thousands of Russians and Jews with wives and children around Kiev and Kharkov. This is simply unbelievable. But it is for precisely this reason that we need to exert all our strength in order to win the war. The weather is getting worse and worse. Clothing freezes on our bodies. Fritz is telling me about a conversation he heard: Yesterday we got vodka. At that time we actually cut up a dog, and the vodka really came in handy. One day I shot a magpie and cooked it. Our division has a cemetery near Stalingrad where more than 1, people are buried. People who are now sent from transport units to the infantry are as good as sentenced to death. There is no way out, nor will there be a way out, of the cauldron. From time to time mines explode around us. But now we have to roam around this horrible Russia, and for what? In just the last two days, our battalion has lost 60 killed, injured and frostbitten men; more than 30 men have escaped; there is only enough ammunition to last until evening; the soldiers have not eaten at all in three days, and many of them have frostbitten feet. A question looms before us: On the morning of January 10 we read a pamphlet that contained an ultimatum. This could not fail to influence our decision. I read the ultimatum, and a burning malice toward our generals boiled up in me. They evidently decided to bury us in this hellish place once and for all. Let the generals and officers fight the war themselves. The operation to surround and liquidate the German 6th Army is a strategic masterpiece. The defeat of the German troops in the vicinity of Stalingrad will have a major influence on how the war proceeds. Making up for colossal losses in people, equipment and ammunition sustained by the German armed forces as a result of the perishing of the 6th Army will require huge effort and a lot of time.

**Chapter 7 : Stalingrad (book) - Wikipedia**

*Volgograd* (vɔ̞lˈɡɐt͡sɨˈgrɔ̞tʲ), formerly *Stalingrad*, city ( pop. ), capital of Volgograd region, SE European Russia, a port on the Volga River and the eastern terminus of the Volga-Don Canal.

Share1 Shares 5K The Battle of Stalingrad has been something has long fascinated me, the Soviets at the close of WW2 went on to become the antagonist in the Cold War, thus the Soviet contribution to the defeat of Nazi Germany is often overlooked here in the West, however without the sacrifices made by mostly untrained and poorly armed men, women and in some cases children, it is almost certain we would be living in a very different world today. The battle began on August 23rd and ended with Germans surrendering on February 2nd What would eventually bring about the downfall of Hitler began here, carnage, brutality and loss of life unlike any the world had ever seen would mark the bloodiest battle of the most destructive war in history. The th is known for their fierce interception of the German 16th Panzer Division. On August 23rd , the German 16th were tasked with destroying the Stalingrad Tractor Factory, which had been refitted to manufacture tanks. The attack came from the northern quarter of the city and as the Soviets were not expecting an attack from this quarter, the th were completely unprotected by infantry. Armed with only thirty seven M Air Defense Guns and facing an onslaught of German tanks, the young women of the th did the only thing they could, improvise and fight. They dropped their anti-aircraft guns to the lowest elevation and fired out across German tanks and submachine-guns, for two days they fought before finally being overwhelmed by the sheer number of Germans. The Germans, arriving at the positions they had been receiving such intense fire from were shocked to find the bodies of young women. The th were no more but not before destroying 83 tanks, 15 infantry vehicles, killing 3 battalions of infantry and shooting down 14 aircraft. A lot of the time in the rush to drive back the Germans the Ts went off the floor lacking paint and gun sights, crewed by the very people who a short time ago were putting them together. As quickly as the Panzer Divisions would destroy them, the tractor factory would push wave after wave of new tanks out the door and into battle. This makeshift battlefield production line proved invaluable in holding off the Nazi invasion until reinforcements and a counter-attack could be planned. The Stalingrad Tractor Factory was rebuilt after the war during Soviet restoration and stands today under the name Dzerzhinsky Tractor Works, up until it was declared bankrupt in , it manufactured both tractors and military equipment. Originally captured briskly by the Germans on September 13th , the very next day it was the site of a huge Soviet counterattack from 13th Guards Rifle Division which by September 16th had recaptured the hill. The cost was almost all of the 10, men that had went in two days previously. Over the next few weeks, the hill changed hands time and time again. In fact what was once a hill had become almost completely flattened during the numerous attempts to capture and hold it. In a poignant example of the horrors of war, in an excavation of the area in at the beginning of Soviet restoration, two soldiers from either side were found who having impaled the other with a bayonet to the chest, were then buried by an exploding shell, preserved amidst a battle that ended over a year previously. It would be a week before reinforcements would arrive but the Junior Sergeant and four weary soldiers held tight, repelling wave after wave of German attackers from mounted machine guns and destroying enemy tanks with an anti-tank rifle placement on the roof. The reinforcements brought their number to twenty five, together they dug a communications and supply trench although adequate supplies were a rarity and they ended up having to resort to using insulating wool from the roof as bedding. At times the fighting was so intense they would have take it in turns to run outside and kick down the stacks of corpses mounting at the front of the building to stop the attacking Germans from using them as cover. Around , troops in total now found themselves at the mercy of their top command. Sealing their fate Hitler would now make his second major mistake in Stalingrad the first one being attacking it. Firstly and inexplicably he insisted that they not try and break out of the Soviet ring encircling them, he refused to acknowledge that retreat was an option and instead announced that the German 6th Army would now receive their supplies by air. From the outset this was destined to be a disaster, the huge numbers of troops by far outweighed the amount that could feasibly be airdropped. It was estimated the besieged 6th Army would require at least tons daily to ensure operational functionality, measuring this against the

maximum amount that could be delivered of tons and becomes obvious just how dire the situation was to become for the trapped German Army. To compound this further, most of the deliveries were hopelessly unsuitable for the situation on the ground, one delivery in particular dropping 20 tons of Vodka and summer uniforms in the middle of a bitter Russian winter. Besieged on either side by two leaders of varying insanity and stubbornness, being a general during the Battle of Stalingrad was far from a walk in the park. General Vasily Chuikov, a lieutenant general in the Red Army and one of the key figures in the battle of Stalingrad developed stress induced eczema of such a severity that he was forced to completely bandage his hands pictured 2nd from left. General Paulus, in charge of the German 6th Army developed a tic in his right eye that would eventually take hold of entire right side his face. The German Chief of the Army General Staff, Kurt Zeitzler, so appalled by the conditions the troops were facing since the airdrop strategy began, reduced his rations to those of the ground force in Stalingrad, after losing 26 pounds in two weeks, an irritated Hitler forced him to begin eating regular meals again. Like most of histories greatest snipers, a simple farm boy, he was born in the Ural Mountains and honed his skills hunting deer and wolf with his grandfather. Originally serving in the Soviet Navy as a clerk, which seems like a gross misappropriation of his skills, he volunteered to be sent to the front line at the outset of the German invasion. Zaytsev was much more than just a sharpshooter though, his improvisation of the equipment at hand was ingenious. Predating modern anti-material rifles by decades he attached a Mosin-Nagant scope to an anti tank gun so that he could take out enemies who were taking cover behind walls, the 20mm round proving proving brutally effective for this task. He established a sniper school in a factory in the middle of Stalingrad, bear in mind this was during the battle itself, his 28 students going on to kill and estimated soldiers during the course of the war. Almost blinded during a mortar attack, his sight was restored by a Professor Filatov, a pioneering eye surgeon and he went straight back out to the front line, finishing the war in Seelow Heights, around 60 miles from Berlin. His final request was to be buried at Stalingrad alongside his fallen comrades, after initially being buried in Kiev he was reburied in in Volgograd present day Stalingrad with full military honors. The Soviets initially after being caught on the back foot, had to endure hardships that today we would find hard to comprehend, cannibalism was a common occurrence amongst the starving and besieged populace. Rats became a staple of most peoples protein intake, soldiers and citizens alike would go around picking dead horses clean of meat. Initially a poor supply chain meant that the Soviets had to strip their dead comrades of their uniform to outfit the continual stream of new draftees. Fighting had ground to a bitter floor by floor affair, the average engagement would involve the Soviets holding a living room adjacent the to Germans in the kitchen. Slowly starving to death, they resorted to slaughtering the 10, horses they had brought to the battle as a source of food. The Germans also had another problem to contend with, the cold, ill equipped for winter warfare as Hitler had arrogantly thought the battle would be over by the winter, the Germans now had to face temperatures of minus 30 degrees celsius for comparison the temperature in your freezer is about minus 18 to 19 degrees celsius. The German prisoners were immediately sent on a series of death marches to gulags or put to work rebuilding Stalingrad, weakened by starvation, disease and wounds, 75, German prisoners of war died within three months of their surrender. In an attempt to reduce the death rate, the Soviets abandoned the death marches and put the remainder on transports, however this did little to help and the amount of survivors again plummeted from 35, to around 17, In total, of the , captured just 5, returned home to a divided Germany in , a full 13 years after the battle had ended. By the end of what turned into a decisive Soviet victory the city of Stalingrad was comparable structurally to Hiroshima or Nagasaki, what had started as an attempt to seize a city had descended into madness amongst nothing but rubble. Volgograd today has a population of around one million and is an important industrial hub within modern Russia. Thirty six inches long, with a hand grip bound in 18 carat carat gold wire and a pommel of rock crystal, the blade was inscribed in Russian and English with the words:

**Chapter 8 : Stalingrad: The Fateful Siege, " by Antony Beevor**

*The German Debacle of Stalingrad. By Colonel Herbert Selle, German Army, Retired. Translated and adapted by Karl T. Marx. Many myths, legends, and opinions surround the various versions of the bitter World War II battle for Stalingrad, which culminated in the destruction of the once proud and powerful Sixth German (Stalingrad) Army.*

Background[ change change source ] By the spring of 1941, the German Operation Barbarossa did not defeat the Soviet Union. The war was still going well for the Germans: There were a number of places where Soviet attacks had pushed the Germans back to the northwest of Moscow and south of Kharkov but this did not threaten the Germans. Hitler was confident that he could beat the Red Army after the winter of 1941. Army Groups North and South had also not had a hard time over the winter. The Germans decided that their summer campaign in 1942 would be directed at the southern parts of the Soviet Union. The Germans also wanted to block the Volga River. The river was a route between the Caspian Sea and northern Russia. Capturing the river would make it hard for the Soviets to use the river to transport goods. The German operations were initially very successful. On July 23, 1942, Hitler changed the goals for the attack. He made occupying Stalingrad one of the goals. The city was important, because it was named after Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union. The Germans thought that if they captured Stalingrad, it would help the northern and western parts of the German armies to attack Baku. The Germans wanted to capture Baku because it had a lot of oil. The Soviets ordered that anyone strong enough to hold a rifle be sent to fight. Many German soldiers took Russian weapons, because they were better for close quarter combat. They were following the 62nd and 64th Armies, which had gone back into the city. Kleist later said after the war: But most civilian residents stayed in the city. The city lacked food even before the German attack. The Luftwaffe air attacks made the Soviets unable to use the River Volga to bring supplies into the city. Between 25 and 31 July, 32 Soviet ships were sunk in the River Volga. A 1,000 tons of bombs were dropped. Some factories continued to produce goods. Stalin moved troops to the east bank of the Volga. All the regular ferries were destroyed by the Luftwaffe. The Luftwaffe also attacked troop barges. Many civilians were moved out of the city across the Volga. Massive German bombing on 23 August caused a firestorm. It killed thousands and turned Stalingrad into rubble and ruins. Between 23 and 26 August, people were killed and another 1,000 wounded from the bombing. The Soviets lost aircraft between 23 and 31 August. They brought in another aircraft in August. The city was briefly defended by the 1st Anti-Aircraft Regiment, [19]: The Germans eventually swarmed and killed them, but were shocked to discover that this whole time they were being held back by young women that seemed fresh out of high school. By 1 September, the Soviets could only supply their forces in Stalingrad by crossing the Volga under constant bombing by artillery and aircraft. The Luftwaffe helped stop the attack by attacking Soviet artillery and soldiers. The Soviets had to pull back. Of the tanks the Soviets had sent into battle, 30 were lost to air attack. Fliiegerkorps sent Stuka dive-bombers to prevent the Soviets from advancing. The Soviet attack was stopped. The Stukas destroyed 41 of the Soviet tanks that were destroyed that morning. German Bf 109s destroyed 77 Soviet aircraft. Fighting in city was very violent. The Germans attacking Stalingrad had many dead and wounded. Germany reaches the Volga[ change change source ] After three months of slow advance, the Germans finally reached the river banks. Ice on the Volga river made it impossible for the Soviets to bring in supplies by boat. Soviet counter-offensives[ change change source ] Soviet soldiers attack a house, February German troops were not ready for fighting during the winter of 1942. The Stavka did a number of attacks between November 19, and February 2, 1942. These operations started the Winter Campaign of 1942 November " " 3 March 1942, which involved 15 armies. The northern side was defended by Hungarian, and Romanian troops. The Don river had never been defended well by the German side. The Soviet plan was to attack and surround the German forces in the Stalingrad region. The operation was code-named "Uran". The attacking Soviet units under the command of Gen. Nikolay Vatutin consisted of three armies. This included a total of 18 infantry divisions, eight tank brigades, two motorized brigades, six cavalry divisions and one anti-tank brigade. The Soviets pushed past the Romanian Third Army. The response by the Wehrmacht was disorganized. Bad weather prevented air attacks against the Soviets. On 20 November, a second Soviet offensive two armies was launched to the south

of Stalingrad against the Romanian 4th Army Corps. The Romanians were overrun by large numbers of tanks. The Soviet forces moved west and made a ring around Stalingrad. There were , Germans on 19 November There were also around 10, Soviet civilians and several thousand Soviet soldiers the Germans had taken captive during the battle. Not all of the 6th Army was trapped; 50, were not surrounded. Of the , Germans surrounded, 10, remained to fight, , surrendered, 35, left by air and the remaining 60, died. The Red Army formed two defensive groups. Manstein thought that he could break through the Soviet troops and free the 6th Army. He thought that this attack could work if the 6th Army was supplied through the air. At a meeting shortly after the Soviets formed a ring around the Germans, the German army chiefs wanted to try to escape to the west of the Don. Hitler thought that the Luftwaffe could supply the 6th Army with an "air bridge". This would allow the Germans in the city to fight while a new force was assembled. A similar plan had been used a year earlier at the Demyansk Pocket. The director of Luftflotte 4, Wolfram von Richthofen , tried to get this decision stopped. The forces under 6th Army were almost twice as large as a regular German army unit, plus there was also a corps of the 4th Panzer Army trapped in the city. To add to the limited number of Junkers Ju 52 planes the Germans used other planes like the Heinkel He General Richthofen told Manstein on 27 November that the Luftwaffe could not supply tons a day by air. Manstein now saw the problems of a supply by air. The next day he made a report which said that the supply by air would be impossible. He said the Sixth Army should try to escape. He said that giving up Stalingrad would be a difficult loss, but that it would keep the Sixth Army intact. In the early parts of the operation, more fuel was shipped than food and ammunition because the Germans thought they could escape from the city. Transport airplanes also flew out sick or wounded men from the city. The German attack did not reach the 6th Army. The air supply operation continued. The 6th Army slowly starved. Some Junkers Ju 52s were destroyed. Operation Winter Storm[ change change source ] Soviet forces grouped together around Stalingrad. Violent fighting to attack the Germans began. Operation Winter Storm Operation Wintergewitter , the German attempt to rescue the trapped army from the south, was at first successful. It attempted to make a hole through the Axis army mainly Italians on the Don and capture Rostov. The Germans set up a defence of small units. The German attempt to break through to Stalingrad was stopped and Army Group A was told to come back from the Caucasus. The 6th Army could no longer hope to escape. The 6th Army did not have enough fuel. As well, the German soldiers have found it very hard to break through the Soviet lines on foot in the cold winter conditions. Generalfeldmarschall Friedrich Paulus left , with his chief of staff, Generalleutnant Arthur Schmidt centre and his aide, Wilhelm Adam right , after their surrender.

### Chapter 9 : Battle Of Stalingrad Facts For Kids | DK Find Out

*The Battle of Stalingrad was a brutal military campaign between Russian forces and those of Nazi Germany and the Axis powers during World War II. The battle is infamous as one of the largest.*

After five months of unrelenting battle, the retreat of the Nazis became the turning point of World War II. Among the trophies of the Soviet troops was an enormous field post office of the adversary, along with diaries and other writings by captured soldiers. The majority of the writings date from November and December of and the first half of January Confessions of the Enemy. The book became a bibliographic rarity. These letters and diaries are lively and direct testimonials about the war by those who were on the front line, beyond the trenches and bunkers. Stalingrad is hell on earthâ€”Verdun, beautiful Verdun, with new weapons. We attack on a daily basis. If in the morning we manage to advance 20 metres, in the evening the Russians throw us backward. When we got to Stalingrad, there were of us, but by September 1, after two weeks of battle, only 16 remained. All the rest were wounded and killed. Up to a thousand wounded soldiers a day are taken back to the rear from Stalingrad. It is pure hell here. There are barely 30 men in the company. We have never been through anything like this. If fate allows it, someday I will tell you about it. Stalingrad is a grave for the German soldiers. We killed thousands of Russians and Jews with wives and children around Kiev and Kharkov. This is simply unbelievable. But it is for precisely this reason that we need to exert all our strength in order to win the war. The weather is getting worse and worse. Clothing freezes on our bodies. Fritz is telling me about a conversation he heard: Yesterday we got vodka. At that time we actually cut up a dog, and the vodka really came in handy. One day I shot a magpie and cooked it. Our division has a cemetery near Stalingrad where more than 1, people are buried. People who are now sent from transport units to the infantry are as good as sentenced to death. There is no way out, nor will there be a way out, of the cauldron. From time to time mines explode around us. But now we have to roam around this horrible Russia, and for what? In just the last two days, our battalion has lost 60 killed, injured and frostbitten men; more than 30 men have escaped; there is only enough ammunition to last until evening; the soldiers have not eaten at all in three days, and many of them have frostbitten feet. A question looms before us: On the morning of January 10 we read a pamphlet that contained an ultimatum. This could not fail to influence our decision. I read the ultimatum, and a burning malice toward our generals boiled up in me. They evidently decided to bury us in this hellish place once and for all. Let the generals and officers fight the war themselves. The operation to surround and liquidate the German 6th Army is a strategic masterpiece. The defeat of the German troops in the vicinity of Stalingrad will have a major influence on how the war proceeds. Making up for colossal losses in people, equipment and ammunition sustained by the German armed forces as a result of the perishing of the 6th Army will require huge effort and a lot of time. All rights reserved by Rossiyskaya Gazeta. [Click here to find out more.](#)