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Russian Anti-Communists Protest COPE Article

by B. L. Drazel

Dear Mr. Maguire:

Rear Admiral Harley Cope's article, "Let's Examine the Russian Military Record," in the November issue of the *American Mercury* has deeply disturbed me and has caused utmost indignation among my Russian friends who happen to be subscribers to, or regular readers of, your magazine.

The title of the article is misleading. The admiral refers to the "Russian" military record, whereas, except for a few perfunctory and grossly insulting as well as strikingly erroneous remarks about the Russo-Japanese and World I wars, the truly glorious Russian military exploits for over two centuries—from Peter the Great to Emperor Nicholas II—are passed over in thunderous silence. The crux of the admiral's discussion is confined to the early reverses and ultimate victory of the Red Soviet Army in World War II. What have we to do with the Russian military record? And while I, for one, fully sympathize with Cope's contempt for Stalin and his villainous successor, Khrushchev, I fail to understand what these criticisms of the Russian people have in common with the Russian military record.

But even in his evaluation of the initial stages of World War II, Cope manages to misrepresent the

military significance of the horrendous to the German Wehrmacht of whole divisions led by their Red commanders. He merely states: "The Russians were defeated in every turn." The fact is that the Russians refused to fight because not only "the parts of Georgia and the Ukraine" but the Russian people as a whole first welcomed the Germans as deliverers of communist oppression. It was only when the Russian people came to realize that Hitler's aim was not their liberation but the dismemberment of Russia and the annexation of its southern provinces, including the so-called Ukraine, that they, the Russians, began and were able to stand up to the Germans, inflicting an overwhelming victory over their armies at Stalingrad.

All the events of World War II, whether military or political, are part and parcel of Soviet history and should not be deliberately minimized to Russian history and as Russian military record.

A detail Cope is guilty of another blunder. He exclaims, "Then came Hungary! The entire Red Russian divisions and planes did not dare to fight the excited Hungarian patriots." What bloody nonsense!

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