

# A Soviet Film Portrays End of Hitler

By THEODORE SHABAD  
Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Nov. 4 — The last dramatic hours of Hitler in his chancellery bunker and the vast panorama of the battle for Berlin in 1945 have been re-enacted in a Soviet film spectacular previewed here today for the foreign press.

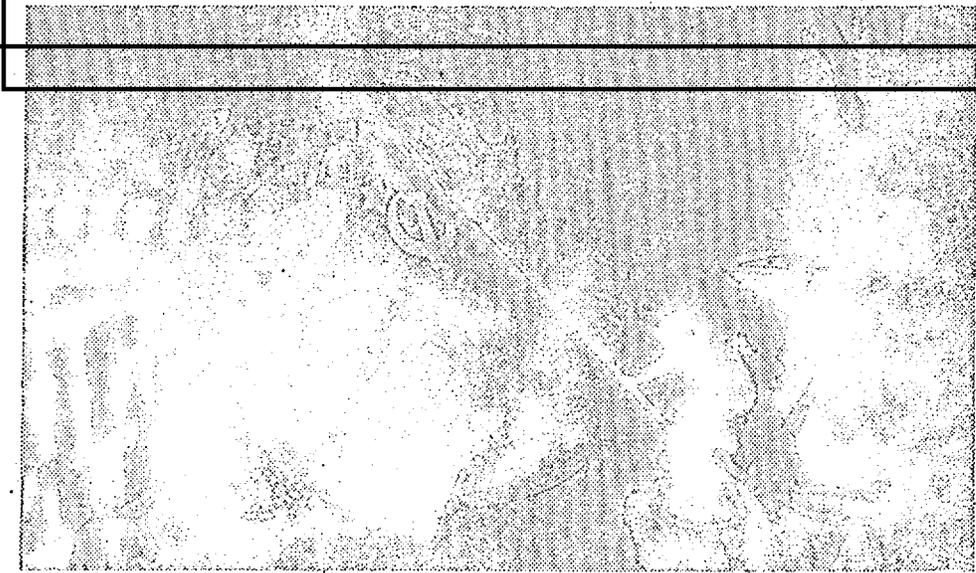
The two-part film, running almost three hours, is the final portion of a film project titled "Liberation," in which Soviet cinematographers, with the help of the armed forces, have sought to re-create some of the politics and the great battles of World War II on the Soviet-German front.

Titled "The Battle for Berlin" and "The Final Assault," the last two parts of the project are devoted to the holocaust of the two-week battle for the German capital, which cost the Red Army a total of 300,000 dead and wounded, according to Soviet figures.

The latest film also provides glimpses of the Yalta Conference of Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Stalin, portrays Stalin sympathetically as the Soviet Union's wartime leader, and hints at Soviet suspicions toward the Western Allies.

Allen W. Dulles, who later became head of the Central Intelligence Agency, is portrayed sounding out a Nazi emissary in Switzerland, and at Yalta, a few months later, Stalin is shown confronting Churchill and Roosevelt with Soviet knowledge about these supposed feelers for a separate peace.

The thorny Berlin issue, which was to embroil East and West after the war, is alluded to in the context of the Yalta Conference when it became clear that Soviet



Soviets

The Soviet flag raised on the Reichstag in Berlin during the last days of the war

forces were preparing their final assault on the city.

Churchill is heard to remark privately to Roosevelt, "If the Russians take Berlin, it will create big difficulties for the future."

In a Kremlin meeting on April 1, with Marshals Georgi K. Zhukov and Ivan S. Konev, Stalin is portrayed going over the plans for the Berlin operation. He urges the two commanders to seize the German capital in the shortest possible time, warning them that the Western Allies may want to get there first.

As the canvas of the Berlin battle unfolds, starting with the Russians' nighttime crossing of the Oder River on April 16 in the glare of their own searchlights, Hitler is shown at his headquarters, alternately flying into rages and sinking into depressions as his world collapses around him.

In the final events in the

bunker, the Führer, played by Fritz Dietz, an East German actor, is heard to order the flooding of subway tunnels filled with civilians and the wounded as Soviet forces approach.

"If we are lost," he says, "the German nation must also vanish. If the Germans have been unable to conquer the Slavs, they are not worth living."

Sweeping battle scenes are generally more effective than interspersed vignettes focusing on individual soldiers. When a tank crew liberates concentration-camp inmates from locked freight cars, the prisoners in their striped garb appear too carefully made up and too well fed to be credible.

Similarly, relations between Soviet soldiers and civilian Berliners strike an unreal note. Troops invading stores and apartments are invited to the dinner table or served coffee within hours

in unusual displays of fraternization.

Some of these episodes almost distract from the absorbing enactment of the house-to-house, and room-to-room fighting as the Soviet noose tightens on the German defenders.

As the storming of the Reichstag begins on April 30, Hitler is shown in his bunker bidding farewell to his associates before killing Eva Braun, his new bride, and himself.

"Alles ist au [it's all over]," he is heard to say in German.

In this Soviet film version, he forces poison down the throat of an unwilling Eva Braun before taking it himself. His hand falters as he is about to put a bullet through his temple, and an aide is shown entering the room to finish the job. The reputed burning of the bodies of Hitler and Eva Braun outside the bunker is not shown.