

# NIGHTMARE



Beneath clothing and baggage, Arkady escaped a Russian inspector's eye.

rensky's military reinforcements failed to arrive.

In the Soviet Union, the November Revolution is called the October Revolution. This comes from a difference in calendars. The western world uses the Gregorian calendar, which is 11 days ahead of the Julian calendar then in use in Russia. Thus the date, November 6, in Western Europe or the United States would have been October 27 in Russia.

In her own words, this is how Marguerite Weber recalls that fateful November 6:

"On that day," she said, "I waked up as usual at 6 o'clock, completely unaware that this was to be a day of major crisis."

"Toward 8 o'clock, as I was approaching the hospital where I worked, I was called by one of our doctors driving an ambulance. He urged me to join him and three of the male nurses. He told me, while driving, that we were summoned to the palace of the ballerina Khesinskays, a favorite of Czar Nicholas II before his marriage.

"The doctor said that bloody firing had broken out there at daybreak between the Bolsheviks and forces of the provisional Government. The Bolsheviks had seized the palace of the ballerina and the mosque and were machine-gunning the streets. There were many wounded we had to take care of.

"When we arrived, the firing had nearly stopped. There were some occasional shots, and spectators were wandering around the dead and wounded.—We picked up as many of them as we could and took them to the nearest hospital.

"Next we were summoned to the Baltic Railroad Station. We soon learned that the Bolsheviks had seized all the railroad stations,

the State bank, the power station, all the bridges, and finally the telephone station. It was the end of the provisional Government and of Alexander Kerensky—the end of the old era."

The next day, Mrs. Weber recalled, all Petrograd was under the yoke of the Bolsheviks "and since this gruesome date the intelligentsia has lived a life of fear and terror. Arrests and executions of officers, cadets and members of the Czarist regime became a matter of routine. Civilian relatives of those prosecuted had to die from starvation or be executed for the simple reason of being a wife, a brother or some other relative of these vampires who draw the blood of the working people."

LIFE became an ordeal for Marguerite. She lost her job in the hospital. But somehow her family managed to live.

"The ration of bread was so meager," she said, "that when we sliced it to go around it was almost transparent. Meat was only for the members of the Party, but we managed sometimes to buy horse meat or bear meat."

The year of revolution passed, to be followed by civil war between the Reds and the Whites.

"For the Easter of 1918," Marguerite laughed, "our faithful servant went to the country and, for an exorbitant price, got some eggs, butter and flour. She brought it back in a most peculiar way. She strapped the whole bundle over her belly, pretending she was pregnant and had to be rushed to a hospital."

Food became more scarce as the weeks passed. "All the valuables, such as gold and jewelry," Marguerite said, "and even precious

Continued on Page 26

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