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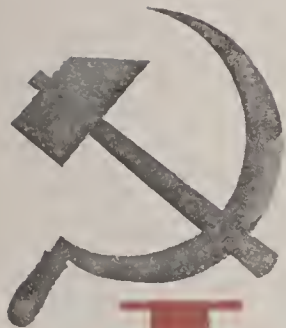
POCKET GUIDE  
TO THE

USSR

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A POCKET GUIDE TO THE

# USSR

WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*1944?*

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# A POCKET GUIDE TO THE U.S.S.R.

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## INTRODUCTION

On duty in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the largest country on the face of the earth, you may be stationed in a sub-tropical climate or within a stone's throw of the Arctic Circle. You may be in rugged mountains or on the steppe, which is level as far as the eye can see. The people will vary as much as the climate; the population of the Soviet Union consists of a great variety of peoples, each with its own culture, art, music and language. However, the predominant language of the Soviet Union is Russian; and, if you take the time and effort necessary to learn it, it will serve you well in any section of the country.

The U.S.S.R. is one of the most active theatres of operation of the present war. The Soviet Union has been fighting Germany since June 1941. The Red Army has won great victories, after having withstood many initial defeats. You should make it a point to remember that, in their march toward victory, the civilian population, as well as the Red Army, has undergone many hardships and suffered many casualties. The most densely populated and most productive section of the country was

over-run by the Germans. In areas recaptured by the Red Army, Allied military observers have been astonished by the total destruction wrought by the Germans before their evacuation. In European Russia, it is difficult to find a single person who has not lost at least one relative during the war.

It may seem to you that there is a pitiful lack of things to buy, especially food; but you must realize that all the resources and reserves of the Soviet Union have been mobilized and organized with one purpose in view—*TO WIN THE WAR*. Some of the people may appear shabby, or very plainly dressed, but they have been wearing those same clothes for nearly three years with almost no opportunity to replace even the most essential items of apparel.

Russian men and women have been completely mobilized to further the war effort. As in all the United Nations, a very great percentage of the ablebodied men are in the armed forces. However, there is also a great number of women in the Red Army and the Red Navy. In addition, essential war industries have absorbed a large percentage of the population. In industry, women have filled many of the positions requiring heavy physi-

cal exertion. The Russians know from first-hand experience what total mobilization means.

Wherever your duties may take you in the Soviet Union, you will find the people extremely conscious of the war. However, Russians do not spend all their time at the serious business of war. You will find entertainment facilities such as theaters, motion pictures and public sports clubs to which you, as a soldier of one of the United Nations, will be welcome.

You will find the Russian people very proud of their country and of their efforts to industrialize it during the past quarter of a century. At the same time, they admire American technical ability and are quick to praise American craftsmanship. One of the principal ambitions of Soviet Russia is to build an industrial organization similar to that of America, but on a different economic basis.

The Russians are a friendly and congenial people. They will entertain you as well as they possibly can, but the chances are they are much more interested in hearing your comments, as an American, about the accomplishments of their country than in hearing you boast about your own nation. If you make any comments be sure

that what you say is well thought-out and based on knowledge of the subject being discussed. For this, it is necessary to understand the country and the people. The following pages will serve to give a basis for better understanding of the Soviet Union, its peoples, its problems, and its aims.

## **THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT**

The basic law of the Soviet Union is the Constitution of 1936.

The chief law-making body or legislature is called the Supreme Soviet (Supreme Council).

Two chambers with equal legislative rights make up the Supreme Soviet. These two chambers are the Soviet of the Union, and the Soviet of Nationalities.

The Soviet of the Union is elected by the citizens of the U.S.S.R. on the basis of one deputy for every 300,000 of the population.

The Soviet of Nationalities is also elected by the citizens of the U.S.S.R., but by a system whose main idea is to permit representation of all racial, linguistic or other unified population groups; as well as the representation of groups having common economic interests.

On this basis, generally speaking, the U.S.S.R. is organized into political units possessing relative influence in the Soviet of Nationalities as follows:

Union Republics (25 deputies). These units are the largest, have the most political prestige, and are more politically advanced than the lesser units which they may include. These lesser units, in order of rank, are:

Autonomous Republics (11 deputies). Non-Russian people, chiefly, make up the population of these units. ("Autonomous" means self-governing).

Autonomous Regions (5 deputies). These are racial units less advanced politically, but still self-governing in local affairs.

National Areas (1 deputy). These are the lowest ranking groups which are nevertheless represented in the Supreme Soviet.

The smallest political unit in the Soviet Union is the simple "cell" or "council", for which the Russian word is *soviet*. This form of organization is duplicated at all levels of the Soviet governmental structure to its highest form in the Supreme Soviet.

Laws may be initiated by either chamber of the

Supreme Soviet, and a law is considered adopted if approved by a majority of each house.

The Supreme Soviet elects a committee called the Presidium which, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet, exercises many of its duties and functions.

The Supreme Soviet also elects the Council of People's Commissars (Sovnarkom), which is the highest administrative organ of the U.S.S.R., and is responsible to the Supreme Soviet or, between sessions, to the Presidium.

The Council of People's Commissars issues decrees and executive orders on the basis of laws in operation and supervises their execution. Each Commissar is responsible for a special field of work: foreign trade, banking, defense, heavy machine building, shipbuilding, food supplies, railways, chemical industry, electrical industry, home trade and so forth.

The only legal political party in the Soviet Union is the Communist Party. This party guides all important action through instructions from the central organs of the party to the party members who occupy most of the important positions in the government. For example,

Marshal J. V. Stalin is Secretary-General of the Communist Party. He is also Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars.

## **THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM**

The economic foundation of the U.S.S.R. is the socialist system of economy.

The socialist principle requires public ownership and public enterprise rather than private ownership and private enterprise.

In the U.S.S.R., this system requires the common ownership of the following:

- (1) Means of production (mines, factories, farms, etc.).
- (2) Means of distribution (railways, etc.)
- (3) Means of exchange (stores, etc.)

Also, this system requires the officially controlled allotment and consumption of all products.

There are two forms of socialist property in the U.S.S.R.:

- (1) State property (property of the whole people)



(2) Collective property (property of co-operating groups, mostly collective farm groups)

*State property* includes the following: the land, mineral deposits, waters, forests, mills, factories, mines, railways, water and air transport, banks, means of communication, large State-organized agricultural enterprises such as State farms (*Sovkhoz*), machine and tractor stations and the like, municipal enterprises, and principal dwelling-house properties in the cities and industrial localities.

*Collective property* includes the land occupied by the collective farmers. This property is secured to them as long as they use it in accordance with the laws of the country and as long as they produce required quotas. A collective farm is known as a *Kolkhoz*.

Soviet citizens unwilling to enter a *Kolkhoz* may retain their small individual farms, but may not hire outside labor.

The Soviet law protects personal property rights of the following kinds: income from work; savings; dwelling-houses; domestic furniture; utensils and objects of personal use and comfort.



## NATIONALITY

Citizens of the Soviet Union are of many races. The population contains representatives of most of the major European and Asiatic stocks. Indeed, one area alone, the Caucasus, with its profusion of nationalities, has been termed an "ethnographical museum".

In the U.S.S.R. there are Slavic and non-Slavic groups. According to the 1939 census, the Great Russians, Ukrainians, and White Russians, all basically Slavic in race and entirely so in language, comprised about 76 per cent of the population. These elements occupy roughly the areas of European Russia and Siberia, while the non-Slavic and non-European stocks inhabit, in general, the border areas in Central Asia and the Caucasus. These non-Slavic groups number about 40,000,000 people; of which the greater part are of Turkish or Mongolian stock.

Because of this great variety of peoples, it is not correct to call them all "Russians". While the term "Russian" applies to the majority population, "Soviet citizen" is more proper for general usage.

## GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

The Soviet Union extends from the sub-tropics to the North Pole, stretches east and west nearly half around the globe, and covers an area equal to one-sixth of the earth's total land area. This fact may be difficult for you to comprehend until this country is compared with the United States, which is only about one-third as large.

The pre-war population numbered about 171,000,000 people, most of whom lived in European Russia, west of the Ural Mountains. In the last 25 years, but especially since the outbreak of the war, a large part of this population has migrated eastward to the Ural Mountains and across them into Asia. Industrial plants were moved away from the fighting zone. Large new cities and farmlands were built and developed, out of range of the German Army.

There are cities in European Russia which are among the oldest and the most famous throughout the world. Moscow is the seat of the government and the largest city. Leningrad lies about 400 miles to the northwest of Moscow. In the South, Kiev, Kharkov and Odessa are big cities of the Ukraine. Gorki and Kazan are two old cities located on the upper reaches of the Volga. On

down along the Volga are Kuibyshev, Saratov, Stalin-grad, and finally Astrakhan where the great river empties into the Caspian Sea.

Most of the big cities east of the Ural Mountains were built or enlarged during the past 25 years. They represent the new backbone of Russian industry, far removed from possible invasion. Magnitogorsk, Sverdlovsk, Novosibirsk, Chelyabinsk, Krasnoyarsk, Komsomolsk, and Khabarovsk are included in this group.

European Russia is a vast plain lying about 550 feet above sea level. The only mountain ranges of any significance are along the eastern and southern borders of this plain; the Urals to the east, the Crimean and Caucasus Mountains to the south. The Caucasus, the highest, lie between the Black and Caspian Seas with the highest peak over 18,000 feet. The Urals, commonly accepted as the dividing line between Europe and Asia, are from 1,000 to 4,000 feet in height.

The Asiatic part of Russia, or Siberia, is also an immense plain with mountain ranges on its eastern and southern borders.

The rivers of the Soviet Union are noted for their great length, volume, and sluggishness; they wind and

bend through the countryside. The main rivers in Western Russia are the Volga flowing south into the Caspian Sea, and the Dnepr, Don and Dnestr flowing south into the Black Sea. For reasons unknown, but expressed by some as the curious "tilt of the earth", the western banks of these rivers are considerably higher than the eastern banks. This fact presented difficult problems to the Red Army when it was driving the Germans westward out of the Ukraine. These rivers are an important link in the transportation system of the country.

In Siberia and Asiatic Russia, the most important rivers are the Ob, the Yenisei and the Lena. These rivers flow north into the Arctic Ocean. Since the Arctic is closed to navigation most of the year, their use for transportation is limited. In the far east, another great river, the Amur, rising in the mountains of northern Mongolia, flows along the border of Manchuria and empties into the waters of the Pacific.

In general, the Russian climate is stern. As a whole the annual mean temperature is lower than that of most European countries, due to the fact that the main bulk of the country lies well north (between 50° and 70°

latitude) and is remote from seas which would have a moderating influence on the climate. In the northern areas, winters are particularly severe.

Probably no other country in the world has such a variety of climate. For example, the temperature in Baku on the Caspian Sea will soar to 120° in mid-summer while in a little town north of Markovo in Siberia the coldest temperatures in the world have been recorded.

You will notice that the Russians build their houses and clothe themselves in order to defend themselves against the weather. If you happen to be in Murmansk or Archangel or travel over the Trans-Sib air route, you will note that the houses are built with heavy logs and are well insulated and that the people are wearing clothes designed for warmth if not appearance. As you travel southward you will notice changes in construction and dress as climatic conditions vary.

### **THE SOVIET UNION COUNTERATTACKS**

The countries of Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Greece were crushed and used as stone to pave the road to Russia for Hitler's

juggernaut. As dawn broke on 22 June 1941, nearly 200 Axis divisions, more than 2,000,000 men, plunged into a front 2,000 miles broad, reaching from the White Sea to the Black. And though the offensive started along the whole length of this front, it was concentrated on three main objectives: Leningrad, Moscow, and Kiev.

In the first thirty days, von Leeb's forces drove to within 125 miles of Leningrad, while the Finns under Mannerheim, supported by the Germans, began a drive from the north to encircle the city. In the center, von Bock's army plunged 430 miles into Soviet territory and, on 17 July, captured Smolensk. According to Hitler, this was to be the German last halt on the road to Moscow.

Simultaneously, in the south, von Rundstedt's forces swept east into the Ukraine. This was blitzkrieg at its best. The world gave Russia another six weeks.

But six months later, by the winter of 1941, the Nazi blitz had stumbled, fallen and frozen. The Germans had reached out for more than they could handle. The Red Army had begun to launch smashing counter-attacks. Throughout the winter of 1941, in spite of the



severe weather, they were on the offensive against the shivering Hitlerites.

In the early summer of 1942, the Germans again took the initiative and concentrated their whole strength against Stalingrad. If Hitler could cut through here, he would sever the north from the south, and win the Caucasus oil for use in German motors. By late August, German guns and German bombers had shattered the city. Once again on the threshold of victory, German troops on 20 September entered the outskirts of the city. But the Hitlerites had not reckoned with Russian courage. Furiously, Soviet Armies lashed out in a spectacular counter-attack. By brilliantly executed encircling moves, the besiegers were besieged. Twenty-two Axis divisions, 25 generals, 330,000 men were taken prisoners of war. This was the Red Army's Christmas present to the U.S.S.R. in 1942.

The Germans have never again been able to mount a sustained offensive. Even before the German defeat at Stalingrad, the Red Army had launched powerful offensives on the middle Don and in the Caucasus and had broken the blockade of Leningrad. In July 1943, the Germans tried once more to take Kursk and develop

an offensive toward Moscow, but these attacks were repelled.

Beginning in August 1943, the whole front began to move westward, and by the summer of 1944 the Red Army had recovered almost all lost territory.

### **MEN AND MACHINES**

Perhaps a decisive factor in Russia's ability to resist the German invasion was the fact that she was able to replace her losses in the Ukraine by new production in the Urals and east of the Urals.

The Ukraine had been called "the bread basket". Wheat and sugar-beets, for example, were grown in huge quantities there. Mineral products also were a source of wealth: the Donbas coal, the Krivoi Rog Steel, and the Nikopol manganese. But the Ukraine had to be evacuated as the Germans attacked in 1941.

Over 20,000,000 people were evacuated eastward as the tide of the German invasion swept forward. What the Russians could not take with them they destroyed so that the Germans would not benefit. Farmers applied the "scorched earth" policy; they burned and destroyed their houses, barns and unmovable equipment.



These millions of people went to work on the new collective farms in the east, and in the new factories. Under the Five-Year Plans, dams and electric-power plants had been built and were ready to provide power for the new industrial centers. The completion of large new irrigation projects made it possible to develop new farming areas. Russian scientists developed harder grains which made new "bread baskets" possible in the colder climates of the eastern plateaus.

As the Germans advanced, the Russians evacuated whole factories on river barges or by train on long strings of flat cars. Engineers and laborers went along and rebuilt the factories where they would be safe from the enemy, beyond the Volga.

Thus, the "scorched earth" policy, as well as the re-birth of industry and agriculture in the east, was a great example of defensive strategy which denied the Germans what they wanted most: the riches of the Ukraine.

They were sadly disappointed. The Ukrainian "bread basket" was made to yield to them little more than enough to feed the German armies of occupation. Their efforts to convert mines, oil wells or factories to their needs were just as discouraging. Aside from the

“scorching” and destruction which they found when they took over, they soon learned that the remaining local population not only would not cooperate, but hindered the Germans in every way possible. Throughout the period of German occupation, guerrillas were active and sabotage was usual. Add to this the destruction of communications, the evacuation of all skilled personnel before the Germans arrived, the lack of usable machinery, the lack of fuel, and, of course, the more or less imminent danger of land or air attack by the Red Army, and it is understandable why the occupied areas did not yield to Hitler the riches he had hoped for.

Now the tables are turned. The Red Army attacks. The Germans fall back in retreat—the Ukraine is ready to be farmed again. Cities and factories are being rebuilt.

The new industrial giants, agricultural areas and population centers far to the east, which received such an impetus during the war, must not be considered as temporary. They were not created just to relieve the war situation, but are part of a long-range plan to industrialize and build up the entire Soviet Union and

strengthen it by making the various parts of the country as self-sufficient as possible.

Another decisive factor in Russia's victory over the Germans on the eastern front was Allied aid in the form of tanks, planes and many other war supplies, even including butter. Thousands of Red Army men, for example, are familiar with American tanks and planes, and appreciate Lend-Lease material sent from the United States.

### **WARTIME LIFE IN RUSSIA**

As a stranger in the Soviet Union, you will notice customs and manners which differ from those in America. For example, Russian men may embrace and kiss upon meeting. Such customs are long-established. Don't laugh or stare at their strangeness.

When you see a woman acquaintance you speak first or otherwise she will not greet you. (It is extremely impolite to whistle.)

Not so easily understandable to the American, coming from a country where almost everything he wants is obtainable, is the lack of consumer goods in Russia. This lack is apparent in the clothing, the housing and the food.

In the 1920's, the Soviet leaders made plans and set in motion an industrial program of huge proportions, aimed primarily at building up the heavy industries. Luxury goods were low on the priority list. Russians had to manage without silk-stockings so that factories might be established which could produce more necessary things. Great dams like the one at Dnepropetrovsk were built to provide industries with electric power. Mass production went along on a big scale. "Speed-up" was the watchword. Russian life took on something of the "hurry-up" spirit in America.

If you should visit the average Russian family in a city such as Moscow, the quarters may seem cramped to you, and there will not be as many pots and pans and household gadgets as you are probably accustomed to. Food will not be plentiful, but sufficient. Rationing in Russia has had to be much more rigid and severe than in America: people receive no more than what is considered enough for the type of work they are doing.

Country people live better than city citizens as they grow their own food and have the privilege of selling whatever surplus they produce in the open market. They

are thus in a position to buy whatever consumer goods are available, and so, perhaps, are more comfortable.

The Soviet citizen generally is very likeable, well intentioned and friendly. When circumstances permit, he will invite you to his home and will accept your hospitality in return. As in all personal relationships, friendship depends on good will and intelligence. As an American soldier you should be well equipped with these virtues. Other items of interest about Russian life are the following:

#### **DRINK**

Vodka is the national drink in the Soviet Union. It is made from grain or potatoes, and looks like water. It is drunk straight in small glasses, bottoms up, and usually followed by a piece of black bread. One hundred grams, or about one-third pint, are issued daily to Russian front-line troops.

Russians don't particularly care for mixed drinks, and invariably with their drinks they serve "za-KOO-ski" or Russian *hors d'oeuvres*. They are usually made of fish, black bread, caviar and spiced meat.

## CIGARETTES

The Russians seldom smoke cigarettes as we know them. Instead they smoke what they call "pa-pee-RAW-sih". Pa-pee-RAW-sih range from three to five inches in length, two-thirds being a hollow round cardboard tube, and one-third a paper extension of this tube filled with tobacco. They like this individual cigarette holder because it keeps the tobacco out of their mouths and enables them to smoke all the tobacco.

*Mahorka* is another Russian smoke. It is made from a small, wild weed and is very harsh to throats unaccustomed to it. Russians roll it in pieces of newspaper and smoke it, seemingly with relish.

## FOOD

Before the war, Russians served many delicious national dishes, but now, under war-time conditions, availability of food is limited and their hospitality has necessarily been curtailed.

Throughout the Soviet Union, black bread is regarded as the staff of life, like rice in China and Japan. Made from unrefined rye, it is deep brown, very moist, heavy, and somewhat sour.

You may encounter your first caviar. There are three types: fresh, grey-black caviar; pressed grey-black caviar, which will keep for months; and orange red caviar, which comes from salmon.

The national beverage of the Soviet Union is tea, served in glasses. A Russian will break up a lump of sugar in his mouth, and drink his tea by filtering it through the sugar.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

When the war came to the Soviet Union, all taxicabs were mobilized as well as most private vehicles, including cars, trucks, motorcycles and bicycles. Auto busses, trolley busses, street cars and, in Moscow, the Metro (or subway) are used for public transportation and are very overcrowded.

## **DRAMA—LITERATURE—SPORTS**

### **THEATRE**

Most Russians are artistic by nature, and are enthusiastic theatre-goers. They like ballet and grand opera as well as plays; in the big cities especially, many popular performances take place.



Theatrical companies have frequently visited the front-line troops during the war years. Most of Russia's top-notch singers, actors and dancers as well as other artists have made tours through the army camps and bivouacs. Many entertainers have been killed at the front.

The Red Army Ensemble, for example, presents the folk dances and songs of the various nationalities of the Soviet Union.

In general, the Soviet theatre prefers serious rather than light themes. Musical comedy, for example, is not often produced in the U.S.S.R. In the same way, concert music is preferred to jazz, although jazz has become increasingly popular among troops.

## **MUSIC**

Excellent symphony orchestras, brilliantly conducted, can be heard in the Soviet Union. Russian symphonic music is famous throughout the world; Tchaikovsky, for example, is very well known in America. Americans also know of Shostakovich as one of the great living Russian composers. Others of our generation are Stravinsky, Glière, Prokofiev, Shebalin, Derzhinski and



Myaskovsky. You will be able to hear frequent symphony concerts, if not in person, at least over the radio.

## **RADIO**

In pre-war times, Russians owned their own private radio sets, but with the German invasion in 1941, all private sets were stored in warehouses for the duration.

Now, most Russian homes in metropolitan districts have a loudspeaker which is wired to the central radio station in Moscow. This central station broadcasts news, symphonic concerts, folk music, pickups from Moscow theaters and just about everything that an American radio station handles except comedy programs and advertising.

## **LITERATURE**

To know the Russians, read their literature. As in all countries, great writers of the U.S.S.R. reflect the life, the thought and the aspirations of her people. Her writers have gained world-wide honor for their realism, their directness and their simplicity. Among those who have contributed to Russia's place in the world of

literature are Pushkin, Lermontov, Leo Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Turgenev, Chekhov, Gogol and Gorky.

Although many local papers are published and many special small papers are printed daily at the front, their line of thought is taken from the main newspapers in Moscow: *Pravda*, organ of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union; *Izvestia*, official organ of the Soviet Government; and *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star), organ of the Red Army.

As in all the arts, contemporary Soviet authors have been spurred by the war to write books, many of them dealing with the heroic spirit of the Soviet people and the Red Army. Over 20,000 new books have been published since 1941—over 2,000 having been written by Army personnel.

## MOVIES

While Soviet movies may lack the technique, polish and lavishness of a Hollywood production, many of them are very good. Historical films like "Peter the Great," "Alexander Nevsky," and "Suvarov" have won acclaim from foreign film critics.

Most of the current movies have military themes, and you will enjoy seeing them. Soviet newsreels contain magnificent action shots (many cameramen have been killed in the front lines trying to take them). Newsreelmen have also parachuted into enemy-occupied territory, taken shots there, and returned guided by partisans.

You may think Soviet movies are rather heavy fare, but remember they are made with a moral—they have a purpose to accomplish from the Soviet point of view. Lenin said, "Movies are our best means of propagandizing the masses."

## **S P O R T S**

Soccer is the most popular spectator-sport in the Soviet Union; big soccer games in pre-war times drew as many as 160,000 people.

The Russians play tennis, basketball, volleyball and hockey, but do not know our baseball and football. Now, in war-time, those sports developing qualities useful at the front are stressed by Soviet authorities. These







include skiing, cross-country running, swimming, boxing, wrestling, bayonet fighting and motorcycle obstacle races.

You may get an opportunity to see Russian boxers. They may be short on skill, but they make up for that in spirit and ability to take it. Russian wrestlers employ the Greco-Roman style, all holds below the waist being barred.

Soviet weight-lifters have beaten many of the official world's records and Soviet swimming records are within seconds of America's best times.

### **RULES FOR HEALTH**

The watchword for the American soldier in Russia, as in other countries, is "prevention". Be on your guard against diseases carried by insects, animals, food and water, and protect yourself during extremes of heat and cold.

Some diseases in the U.S.S.R. used to be limited to certain sections of the country. But due to conditions encountered in the long war, they tend to become epidemic in war areas. As in all battle-torn countries, bed bugs, lice, ticks, flies, sand flies, mosquitoes, water,

milk and small animals carry diseases which can incapacitate you for many weeks and perhaps cripple you for life.

Fungus germs are widespread and will quickly infect a scratch or cut.

As in all countries, be particularly careful to observe all rules relating to sex hygiene. If you expose yourself, venereal disease may well be the price you'll pay. Don't take chances; the odds are against you. If you do, take prophylactic treatment immediately.

Fruits and vegetables must not be eaten raw unless the skin is first removed from the fruit, or the vegetable is cooked in boiling water.

Due to the extremes of temperature, you must be prepared to protect yourself against heat exhaustion and sunstroke in the short hot summers, and against frost-bite in the long severe winters. You should dress sensibly.

While keeping in mind the above conditions, remember that there is no substitute for the Army methods of personal hygiene and sanitation. If your knowledge and teachings are carefully followed, you can expect to enjoy the same good health that you would have in any American army camp.

## CHECK LIST OF DO'S

Be friendly, courteous, and polite. Say "Pa-ZHAH-loo-sta" (Please) or "Spa-SEE-bo" (Thank you). Remember that you are looked upon as a representative of our government.

Shake hands on meeting and parting. It's an old Russian custom.

Stop when challenged: "STOY, ktaw eed-YAWT". (Halt, who goes there?). The Soviet soldier and militiaman have been trained to shoot if you don't stop.

Speak Russian all you can. Russians will feel you are making a sincere attempt to understand them if you use even a few Russian words and phrases. And they will like it, no matter how badly it is done.

Be generous in your praise of the Soviet people and the Red Army whose exploits have won the admiration of the world.

Be frank, but friendly—but firm. The Soviets are frank, sometimes blunt. They respect strength and despise weakness.

Be generous with your cigarettes. The Russians like them.



Carry toilet paper with you. Paper of all kinds is scarce.

Familiarize yourself, if you like, with some of their writers and composers: Tolstoy, Puskin, Chekhov, Gogol, Tschaikovsky, Glinka, Rimsky-Korsakov, Shostakovich. The Russian loves good literature and good music. Try Chekhov and Tolstoy or Dostoevsky in the many English translations you can have sent to you from home.

### AND DON'TS

Don't be a "wise-guy"—the one guy out of a thousand who wrecks good-will by showing-off, bragging and griping with a loud voice and a thrust-out chin.

Don't get into fights about politics or religion. Be tolerant, be reasonable.

Don't deal in the black market. It is a violation of the law.

Don't call Russians *Tovarich* (Comrade). This is a salutation used only between Soviet citizens. Use, instead the word *Gospodeen*, meaning "mister".

Don't joke about Soviet leaders. Soviet citizens have great respect, almost reverence for them and will be offended if they are treated lightly.

Don't criticize the homes, clothing or food of a people who have been fighting a great war for three years and who have made tremendous sacrifices.

Don't photograph anything without specific authorization. The laws regarding the use of cameras in war-time Russia are very strict.

Be security-conscious. Military information is not to be given out to strangers.

Don't get too romantic with Russian women. If you should get any ideas of marriage, you would have to get a "yes" from your commanding officer as well as from the girl herself. In any case, treat Russian women with utmost respect.

If you are sensible and use your head, you will usually find that people in the U.S.S.R. are easy to get along with.

## **SOVIET UNIFORMS AND ARMY GRADES**

Most people in the U.S.S.R. wear uniforms or semi-uniforms. Not all are in the armed services. People engaged in many pursuits which we classify as civilian wear clothes that are in fact uniforms. Unless such people wear insignia it is difficult to tell what they are.

## UNIFORMS

<u>Arm or Service</u>	<u>Uniform</u>	<u>Branch Color</u>
Army	Light Olive Drab	
Infantry	“	Crimson
Artillery	“	Red
Tank Troops	“	Red
Air Arm	“	Light Blue
Cavalry	“	Blue
Technical Troops	“	Black
Med. & Vet. Service	“	Dark Green
Navy	Dark Blue	
N.K.V.D. (Internal Security, formerly the police organization known as O.G.P.U.)		
Border Troops	OD Blouse, Navy Blue breeches	Top of cap is green, with dark red band.
Interior Troops	Same as Army	Top of cap is bright blue, with red band.
Militia (Police)	Dark Blue	Top of cap is dark blue, with light blue band.
RR Guards	Same	Top of cap is red.

## ARMY GRADES AND SHOULDER-STRAP INSIGNIA

Marshal of the Soviet Union	1 large star on gold lace.
Army General (full General)	4 stars on gold lace.
Colonel General	3 stars on gold lace.
Lieut. General	2 stars on gold lace.
Major General	1 star on gold lace.
Colonel	3 stars and 2 bars.*
Lieut. Colonel	2 stars and 2 bars.
Major	1 star and 2 bars.
Captain	4 stars and 1 bar.
Senior Lieutenant	3 stars and 1 bar.
Lieutenant	2 stars and 1 bar.
Junior Lieutenant	1 star and 1 bar.
Sergeant Major	1 wide loop around shoulder strap below the button, and a longitudinal stripe.
Senior Sergeant	1 wide loop around shoulder strap.
Sergeant	3 narrow loops around shoulder strap.
Junior Sergeant	2 narrow loops around shoulder strap.

\* The "bars" are narrow stripes of the branch color and run lengthwise on the shoulder strap.

Corporal	1 narrow loop around shoulder strap.
Private	Plain shoulder strap.

### **SOVIET AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Demonstration of courage and bravery on the battle field is acknowledged in the U.S.S.R. by generous bestowal of orders and medals. Likewise, the signal and loyal accomplishments of civilians, contributing to the betterment of the Soviet Union, are amply rewarded by decorations. Military and civilian personnel who receive such awards are entitled to special privileges according to the degree of decoration. These special privileges may include: travel free of charge on railroads, waterways and street cars; small monthly pensions, various tax exemptions, and special attention at government institutions and establishments. The Gold Star Medal is bestowed on the outstanding heroes of the Soviet Union; it is equivalent to our Congressional Medal. Decorated personnel are authorized to wear service ribbons in lieu of the actual orders and medals. The Gold Star Medal, however, does not have a service ribbon substitute and is always worn on the left side above all other decora-

tions. It is a plain gold star. The Order of Victory also has no substitute service ribbon and is worn on the left side five inches above the waist. It is a ruby and diamond-studded star.

### **SOVIET MILITARY DECORATIONS**

Gold Star (Recipient is a "Hero of the Soviet Union".  
He also receives the Order of Lenin).

Order of Lenin.

Order of Victory.

Order of the Red Banner.

Order of Glory.

Order of Suvarov—In three classes.

Order of Ushakov—For naval officers. In two classes.

Order of Kutuzov—In three classes.

Order of Bogdan Hmel'nitski—In three classes.

Order of Nakhimov—For naval officers. In two classes.

Order of Alexander Nevski.

Order of the War for Fatherland—In two classes.

Order of the Red Star.

Order of the Badge of Honor.

"For Valor" Medal.

Ushakov Medal—Naval decoration. In two classes.

"For Combat Service" Medal.

Nakhimov Medal—Naval decoration. In two classes.

"For the Defense of Leningrad" Medal

- "For the Defense of Odessa" Medal.
- "For the Defense of Sevastopol" Medal.
- "For the Defense of Stalingrad" Medal.

#### **SOVIET CIVILIAN DECORATIONS**

Sickle and Hammer (Recipient is a "Hero of Socialist Labor". He also receives the Order of Lenin).

Order of Lenin.

Order of the Red Banner.

Order of the Red Banner for Labor.

Order of the Red Star.

Order of the Badge of Honor.

"For Labor Prowess" Medal.

"For Distinguished Labor" Medal.

"For the Defense of Leningrad" Medal.

"For the Defense of Odessa" Medal.

"For the Defense of Sevastopol" Medal.

"For the Defense of Stalingrad" Medal.

Civilian recipients of awards and decorations, if inducted into military service, may continue to wear them on their uniforms.

#### **FINANCIAL GUIDE**

The official monetary unit is the *chervonets*, which is divided into 10 *rubles* of 100 *kopeks* each. Prices are



quoted and official statistics are prepared and published in terms of *rubles*.

#### **MONEY TABLE**

10 chervontsev	(chehr-VON-tsev)	equals	100 rubles
1 chervonets	(chehr-VO-nets)	equals	10 rubles
1 ruble	(roobl)	equals	100 kopeks
1 kopek	(ko-PEY-ka)	equals	0.01 ruble

#### **EXCHANGE AND PRICES**

Soviet laws prohibit the importation into, and the exportation from the U.S.S.R. of Soviet currency. State banks are the only authorized institutions through which foreign exchange transactions may be effected. Soviet banks readily purchase foreign money for rubles, but it is *not* their practice to sell foreign money for rubles. The Soviet Government maintains the ruble at a fairly constant value of 5.30 to a dollar.

*It is forbidden to bring any rubles whatsoever, from outside sources, into the Soviet Union, as these are considered to be "black market rubles" and are strictly prohibited.*

Do not carry large sums of rubles on hand. You will find very little opportunity to spend rubles for anything because essentials are strictly rationed and no luxuries are available at the present time. Do not expect to buy souvenirs: above all, do not offer high prices in order to obtain something you want. Better still, send your money home.

### **SAVINGS**

Save as much of your money as you can, for your own benefit after the war when you'll need it. The Army provides some highly-convenient facilities for saving.

You can buy War Bonds by allotment or cash purchase.

You can put your surplus cash into Soldiers' Deposits at 4% interest.

You can make regular Allotments-of-Pay (Class E) to your family, or to your own credit in bank savings or checking accounts.

For sending odd sums of money home to individuals or banks, you can use the Personal Transfer Account System.

If you want more details about any of these services, ask your Commanding Officer.

### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The metric system of weights and measures is in use throughout the Soviet Union.

The principal weights and measures, and their American equivalents are:

kilometer	equals	0.6 mile
meter	equals	3.3 feet
centimeter	equals	0.4 inches
long ton	equals	2,240 pounds
kilogram	equals	2.2 pounds
gram	equals	0.04 ounces
liter	equals	1.1 quarts
hectare	equals	2.5 acres

The "pood" is 16 kilograms and is used chiefly when computing agricultural weights.

### APPROXIMATE CONVERSIONS

inches	x 2.5	equals	centimeters
yards	x 0.9	equals	meters
miles	x 1.6	equals	kilometers
pounds	x 0.5	equals	kilograms
gallons	x 3.8	equals	liters

## Ga-va-REE-tyeh Pa-ROO-ski!

(Speak Russian)

The Soviet Union is a vast country of many peoples and many languages. It is a country of 169 ethnic groups, each with a language of its own.

*Great Russian* is the term used to designate the language which the man in the street knows as *Russian*. It is the official language of the government and of the Soviet Union. It is the mother tongue of more than half of the population and is understood by all educated people in the U.S.S.R.

Russian constitutes the largest section of the Slavonic tongues. Bulgarian and Serbo-Croatian are its first cousins, while Czech, Slovenian and Polish are somewhat further removed. In origin, it stems from Old Bulgarian and, modified through time, has resulted in the modern Russian language.

The difficulty of the language is easily exaggerated. Being an inflected tongue, like Latin and Greek, and with a strange alphabet to boot, it will puzzle you for a while. But don't let it throw you. Remember, you

may not intend to be a student of the language, but you should learn enough to get along. To begin with, study the following language guide, and practice with your Russian friends.

### RUSSIAN LANGUAGE GUIDE

*All the words and phrases are written in a simplified spelling which you read like English.* Each letter or combination of letters is used for the sound it usually stands for in English and it *always* stands for that sound. Thus, *oo* is always pronounced as it is in *too*, *boot*, *tooth*, *roost*, never as anything else. Say these words and then pronounce the vowel sound by itself. That is the sound you must use every time you see *oo* in the simplified spelling. If you should use some other sound—for example, the sound of *oo* in *blood* or *door*—you might be misunderstood.

Syllables that are accented, that is, pronounced louder than others, are written in capital letters. Curved lines ( ) are used to show sounds that are pronounced together without any break; for example, *G DEH* meaning “where”.

## SPECIAL POINTS

- E or EH** as in *let, met, bell*. Be sure not to pronounce it like the *e* in *me*. Example: *GDEH* meaning "where".
- I or IH** as in *hill, sick, rib, limb*, but you will notice that the Russian sound is a little different from the English one. Example: *chib-TIH-ree* meaning "four".
- H** when underlined stands for a sound something like the one you make when you clear your throat to spit. Example: *beez DVOOH* meaning "minus two".
- A or AH** as in *father, calm, ah, pa*. Example: *kahg-DA* meaning "when". In unaccented syllables it may sound like *a* in *sofa, China, about*. Example: *ZAHF-tra* meaning "tomorrow".
- J** stands for the sound we have in *measure, usual, division, occasion*. We have no single letter for this sound in English, so we write it here as *j*. Remember that *j* always stands for the sound in *measure*, never for the sound in *judge*.

You will notice that consonants in Russian are frequently followed by a *y*-sound. Such combinations are like the *n\_y* sound in *canyon* or like the sounds in *view* (pronounced *V\_YOO*), *beauty* (*B\_YOO-tee*), *mule* (pronounced *M\_YOOL*), or *few* (pronounced *F\_YOO*). Consonants may be followed by a *y*-sound even at the end of a word in Russian; in this case, an apostrophe is written. Examples: *DAYN'* meaning "day", *P\_YAT'* meaning "five".

You may hear slight variations in the way Russian is spoken in various regions but these differences are no greater than those you hear in different sections of our own country. It is always best to try to talk like the people among whom you happen to be.

## GREETINGS AND GENERAL PHRASES

<u>English</u>	<u>Russian</u>
Hello	Z_DRAHST-voo_ee-tee
Good morning	DAW-broy OO-tra
Good afternoon	DAW-brih DAYN'
Good evening	DAW-brih VECH-eer
Comrade	ta-VA-reeshch
Mr. Pavlov	ga-spa-DEEN PAHV-luf
Mrs. Pavlov	ga-spa-JA PAHV-la-va



English

Russian

Captain Pavlov	<i>ga-spa-DEEN ka-pee-TAHN PAHV-luf</i>
How are you?	<i>KAHK pa-jee-VA-yee-tee?</i>
Fine	<i>ha-ra-SHAW</i>
Excuse me	<i>eez-vee-NEE-tee</i>
Please	<i>pa-JA-loo-sta</i>
Do you understand?	<i>pa-nee-MA-yee-tee?</i>
Yes	<i>DA</i>
No	<i>NET</i>
I understand	<i>pa-nee-MA-yoo</i>
I don't understand	<i>nee pa-nee-MA-yoo</i>
Speak slowly	<i>ga-va-REE-tee MED-leen-na</i>

**LOCATION**

When you need directions to get somewhere, you use the word for "where" along with the word for the place. For "Where is a restaurant?" you simply say "Where restaurant?"

Where	<i>G_DEH</i>
restaurant	<i>ree-sta-RAHN</i>
Where is a restaurant?	<i>G_DEH ree-sta-RAHN?</i>
hotel	<i>ga-STEE-neet-sa</i>

English

Russian

Where is a  
hotel?

G\_DEH ga-STEE-neet-sa?

station

STAHN-tsee-ya

or if it is a  
large station  
in a big city

vahg-ZAHL

Where is the  
station?

G\_DEH STAHN-tsee-ya?

or G\_DEH vahg-ZAHL?

toilet

oo-BAWR-na-ya

Where is the  
toilet?

G\_DEH oo-BAWR-na-ya?

**DIRECTIONS**

The answer to your question "Where is such and such?" may be "To the right" or "To the left" or "Straight ahead," so you need to know these phrases.

To the right

na-PRA-va

To the left

na-LEV-a

Straight ahead

PR\_YA-ma

Please point

pa-JA-loo-sta pa-ka-JEE-tee

If you are driving and ask the distance to another town it will be given to you in kilometers, not miles.

Kilometer

kee-la-METR

## NUMBERS

<u>English</u>	<u>Russian</u>
One	<i>ab-DEEN</i>
Two	<i>DVA</i>
Three	<i>TREE</i>
Four	<i>chih-TIH-ree</i>
Five	<i>P_YAT'</i>
Six	<i>SHAYST'</i>
Seven	<i>SEM</i>
Eight	<i>VAW-seem</i>
Nine	<i>DAY-veet'</i>
Ten	<i>DAY-seet'</i>
Eleven	<i>ab-DEE-na-tsut'</i>
Twelve	<i>dvee-NA-tsut'</i>
Thirteen	<i>tree-NA-tsut'</i>
Fourteen	<i>chih-TIHR-na-tsut'</i>
Fifteen	<i>peet-NA-tsut'</i>
Sixteen	<i>shiss-NA-tsut'</i>
Seventeen	<i>seem-NA-tsut'</i>
Eighteen	<i>va-seem-NA-tsut'</i>
Nineteen	<i>dee-veet-NA-tsut'</i>
Twenty	<i>DVA-tsut'</i>

For "twenty-one," "twenty-two" and so on, you add the word for "one," "two" and so on, to the word for "twenty," just as in English.

<u>English</u>	<u>Russian</u>
Twenty-one	<i>DVA-tsut' ab-DEEN</i>
Twenty-two	<i>DVA-tsut DVA</i>
Thirty	<i>TREE-tsut'</i>
Forty	<i>SAW-ruk</i>
Fifty	<i>pay-deess-YAHT</i>
Sixty	<i>sbiz-deess-YAHT</i>
Seventy	<i>SEM-deess-yut</i>
Eighty	<i>VAW-seem-deess-yut</i>
Ninety	<i>dee-vee-NAW-sta</i>
A hundred	<i>STAW</i>
A thousand	<i>TIS-ee-cha</i>

### WHAT'S THIS?

When you want to know the name of something you can say "What's this?" and point to the thing you mean.

What	<i>SHTAW</i>
this	<i>ET-a</i>
What's this?	<i>SHTAW ET-a?</i>

## ASKING FOR THINGS

When you want something use the phrase "I want" and add the name of the thing wanted.

<u>English</u>	<u>Russian</u>
I want	<i>YA ha-CHOO</i>
cigarettes	<i>pa-pee-RAW-sib</i>
I want	<i>YA ha-CHOO pa-pee-RAW-sib</i>
cigarettes	
to eat	<i>KOO-shut'</i>
I want to eat	<i>YA ha-CHOO KOO-shut'</i>
a glass of tea	<i>sta-KAHN CHA-yoo</i>
a cup of coffee	<i>CHAHSH-koo KAWF-ya</i>
a bottle of	<i>boo-TIL-koo PEE-va</i>
beer	
a bottle of	<i>boo-TIL-koo vee-NA</i>
wine	
matches	<i>SPEE-chik</i>

## Money

To find out how much things cost you say:

How much?	<i>SKAWL'-ka?</i>
or	
How much is it	<i>SKAWL'-ka STAW-yeet?</i>
worth?	

The answer will be given you in *kopeks* and *rubles*. A hundred *kopeks* make a *ruble*. About five *rubles* make a dollar.

<u>English</u>	<u>Russian</u>
Kopek	<i>ka-PAY-ka</i>
Ruble	<i>ROOBL'</i>

### **Time**

When you want to know what time it is you say really "Which hour?"

Which	<i>ka-TAW-rib</i>
hour	<i>CHAHSS</i>
What time is it?	<i>ka-TAW-rib CHAHSS?</i>

To say it is "one o'clock," you simply use the word for "hour".

One o'clock	<i>CHAHSS</i>
-------------	---------------

For "two o'clock," "three o'clock" and so forth, you say "two hours," "three hours" and so on.

Two o'clock	<i>DVA chib-SA</i>
-------------	--------------------

For "five o'clock" and up, the word for hours is a little different.

Five o'clock	<i>P_YAT' chib-SAWF</i>
--------------	-------------------------

The simplest way to give the time in hours and minutes is exactly like English:

<u>English</u>	<u>Russian</u>
Five twenty	<i>P_YAT' DVA-tsut'</i>
Ten thirty	<i>DAY-seet' TREE-tsut'</i>
Ten fifty	<i>DAY-seet' pee-deess-YAT</i>

However, you will also hear expressions like "twenty minutes of the sixth" for "twenty after five" and "half of the sixth" for "half past five" and "minus two ten" for "two minutes to ten".

Twenty minutes after five	<i>DVA-tsut' mee-NOOT shee-STAW-va</i>
Half past five	<i>pa-la-VEE-na shee-STAW-va</i>
Two minutes to ten	<i>beez dvoob mee-NOOT DAY-seet'</i>
When the beginning of the movie	<i>kahg-DA na-CHA-la kar-TEE-nib</i>
When does the movie begin?	<i>kahg-DA na-CHA-la kar-TEE-nib?</i>
the train it leaves	<i>PAW-yeest abt-HAW-deet</i>
When does the train leave?	<i>kahg-DA abt-HAW-deet PAW-yeest?</i>



English

Russian

Yesterday	f <sub>U</sub> chee-RA
Today	see-VAWD-n-ya
Tomorrow	ZAHF-tra
Sunday	va-skree-SAYN'-ya
Monday	pa-nee-DEL'-neek
Tuesday	F <sub>U</sub> TAWR-neek
Wednesday	sree-DA
Thursday	cheet-VAYRK
Friday	P <sub>U</sub> YAHT-neet-sa
Saturday	soo-BAW-ta

**Other Useful Phrases**

The following phrases will be useful.

English

Russian

How are you called? <i>or</i> What's your name?	KAHK VAHSS za-VOOT?
My name is—	meen-YA za-VOOT—
I am an American	YA a-mee-ree-KA-neets
How do you say <i>table</i> (or anything else) in Russian?	KAHK ska-ZAHT' table pa-ROO-skee?
Good-by	da sree-DAHN-ya

## ADDITIONAL EXPRESSIONS

<u>English</u>	<u>Russian</u>
Come in!	<i>voy-DEE-tee!</i>
Have a seat!	<i>sa-DEE-teess!</i>
Thank you	<i>spa-SEE-ba</i>
You're welcome	<i>pa-JA-loo-sta</i> <i>or nee STAW-yeet</i>

Note that the expressions used when someone thanks you really mean "Please" and "It isn't worth anything" —just as we say "Don't mention it" or "It's nothing".

What's your first name?	<i>KAHK VA-shee EEM-ya?</i>
What's your family name?	<i>KAHK VA-sba fa-MEEL-ya?</i>
Glad to know you	<i>RAHT puz-na-KAW-meet-sa</i>
I am your friend	<i>YA VAHSH DROOG</i>
Please repeat	<i>pa-JA-loo-sta puf-ta-REE-tee</i>
I don't know	<i>YA nee ZNA-yoo</i>
I think so	<i>KA-jit-sa TAHK</i>
I don't think so	<i>VR_YAHD-lee</i>
Maybe	<i>MAW-jit BIT'</i>
I am hungry	<i>YA ga-LAW-deen</i> <i>or M_NEH KOO-shut' HAW-chit-sa</i>
I am thirsty	<i>M_NEH PEET' HAW-chit-sa</i>

English

Stop!  
Come here!  
Right away  
Come quickly!  
Go quickly!  
Help!  
Help me!  
Bring help!  
I'll pay you  
Where are the  
soldiers?  
Where are the  
American  
soldiers?  
How far is the  
town?  
How far is it?  
Is it far?  
Is it near?  
Which way is  
north?  
Which is the  
road to  
Moscow?  
Draw me a map  
Take me there  
Take me to a  
doctor

Russian

*a-sta-na-VEE-teess!*  
*ee-DEE-tee s\_yoo-DA!*  
*see-CHAHSS*  
*pree-ha-DEE-tee ska-RAY!*  
*ee-DEE-tee ska-RAY!*  
*pa-ma-GHEE-tee!*  
*pa-ma-GHEE-tee M\_NEH!*  
*pa-za-VEE-tee na PAW-mushch!*  
*YA VAHM za-pla-CHOO*  
*G\_DEH sahl-DA-tih?*  
*G\_DEH a-mee-ree-KAHN-skee-yee sahl-*  
*DA-tih?*  
*KAHK da-lee-KAW see-LAW?*  
*KAHK da-lee-KAW?*  
*da-lee-KAW?*  
*BLEES-ka lee ET-a?*  
*G\_DEH SEV-eer?*  
*G\_DEH da-RAW-ga na mahsk-VOO?*  
*na-chayr-TEE-tee KAR-too*  
*pra-va-DEE-tee meen-YA too-DA*  
*pra-va-DEE-tee meen-YA G\_DAWK-ta-*  
*roo*

English

Russian

Take me to the  
hospital

*pra-va-DEE-tee meen-YA V\_GAW-spee-  
tul*

Danger!

*a-PA-snust'!*

Take cover!

*voo-BEJ-eesh-chee!*

Gas alarm!

*hee-MEE-chee-ska-ya tree-VAW-ga!*

Careful!

*a-sta-RAWJ-na!*

Wait a minute!

*pa-dahj-DEE-tee mee-NOO-too!*

Good luck!

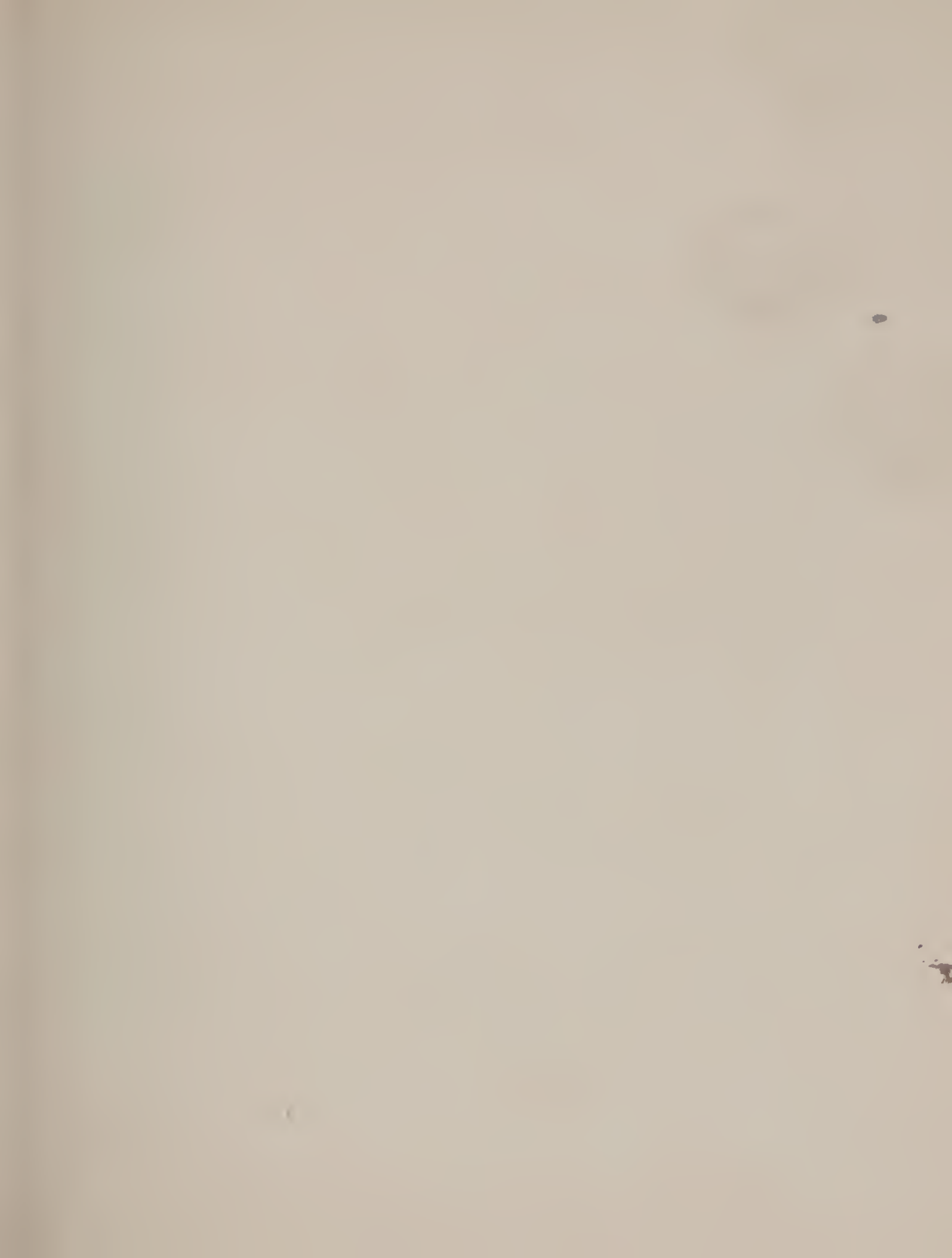
*f\_see-VAW ha-RAW-shee-va!*







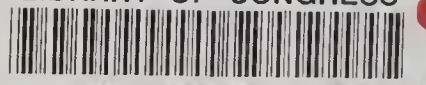








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