

Operation Barbarossa: War against the Soviet Union

On June 22, 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union, quickly overrunning the Baltic countries to the north, Belarus in the center, and Ukraine in the south, pushing on deep into Russia, but eventually slowed before Leningrad, Moscow, and Stalingrad. The full fury of World War II had begun. Before it ended, the toll would be more than 20 million dead in the U.S.S.R.

After the German army's decisive defeat at Stalingrad in February 1943, the Red Army went on the offensive, forcing the Germans to retreat across the entire Eastern front. Victory was still two years away, but it was now assured.

A July 3, 1944, Soviet soldier's postage free patriotic field post card, with Moscow arrival postmark and military censor's marking. A September 22, 1944, postage free patriotic field post card, with Moscow arrival postmark and military censor's marking. Both are inscribed "Death to the German Occupiers!" at the upper right.

