"WE MADE A MISTAKE" HITLER. RUSSIA'S SURPRISING DEFENSE AGAINST GERMANY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649079643

"We made a mistake" - Hitler. Russia's surprising defense against Germany by Lucien Zacharoff

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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LUCIEN ZACHAROFF

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RUSSIA'S SURPRISING DEFENSE AGAINST GERMANY

By LUCIEN ZACHAROFF

GROSSET & DUNLAP

Publishers

NEW YORK

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CHAPTER I

"According to Plan"

Seven years ago, Lieutenant Colonel Justrow, an outstanding brain-truster of the Nazi army, wrote: "Decisive success against a defense prepared for all eventualities is possible, if at all, only by a lightning surprise attack."

The italics are mine.

At 4 A.M. on June 22, 1941, the "lightning surprise attack" was launched against Russia. German artillery opened up full blast. German mechanized units were hurled at the frontiers. Luftwaffe bombers rained death on the Ukraine, Crimea, Lithuania.

At 5.30 A.M., Count Von der Schulenberg, German Ambassador to Moscow, called on the Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Molotoff, to "inform" him that Russia's turn had come.

It was the standardized formula of Blitzkrieg. The impact of the first attack was tremendous. It had been worked out to the most minute detail, rehearsed with loving care like the overture to a Wagner opera. The first blow was to send the Red Army staggering back, punch-drunk. The Russians were to be thrown off bal-