***Kliment Voroshilov- Russia, World War II***

Kliment Voroshilov (KV) was born in 1881 in the city of Lysychansk, in current day Eastern Ukraine. His family was very poor, and by the age of seven KV was already working in nearby mines to earn a wage. By the age of 12, he had only finished two grades in a local school and decided to work in a nearby factory, never attending school again. While at the factory, Voroshilov heard and became intrigued about the social-democratic movement brought forth by Karl Marx and led by Vladimir Lenin, and eventually led the factory in organized strikes. This caused him to be fired, thereby causing him to move between jobs for the next five years. In 1906, Voroshilov took part in the 4th Bolshevik Congress, and in 1917 he took a big part in organizing the Bolshevik Revolution.

Kliment Voroshilov played an enormous role in originating the Red Army, as he helped Trotsky and Stalin start the Military Council. During the Civil War, he led the Red Army during certain battles, but lost his first one to the Cossack Troops. Voroshilov was known as a valiant and brave soldier who was passionate but could not make proper decisions due to his lack of education.

In 1939, when the USSR fought Finland in a Military Crisis, Voroshilov was a commander of Soviet units. Unfortunately, under his rule, Voroshilov’s troops suffered a major blow, losing 125 000 men. This enraged Stalin, as he grew angry about Voroshilov’s incompetence towards leading an army; as a result, Voroshilov was soon demoted. For the rest of the War, Voroshilov’s main role was to represent Russia’s First Commander at various places. Voroshilov received many awards throughout his lifetime, such as “Hero of the Soviet Union” and the “Gold Star of Hero of the Socialists Labour”, just to mention a few.

During the years of 1940-1943, in the midst of World War II, different models of the Kliment Voroshilov Heavy Tanks were built. These tanks were composed of thick, heavy armour and long barreled guns. The tanks were smaller than average WWII tanks but had improved performance. When they were placed under fire by German forces, the Nazis were surprised at the fact that their shells simply bounced off the thick armoured Heavy Tanks, and that these tanks had the capacity to crush German vehicles and guns simply by driving over them.

Voroshilov was brutal, as he personally signed 185 execution list documents during the Stalin Purge. Thousands of high ranked officers were either sent to prison camps or were executed. Voroshilov condemned many of his colleagues and people that were considered “beneath him” in title.

Joseph Stalin took Kliment Voroshilov to a conference in Tenran in 1943, which is where Voroshilov became internationally known due an unfortunate incident. When Winston Churchill presented Voroshilov with the “Sword of Stalingrad”, (a gift from King George VI) which was used to recognize the heroic deeds of the Red Army, Voroshilov dropped it in front of the three most prominent WWII Military leaders. Kliment Voroshilov died in 1969, in Moscow at the age of 87.