

4月26日

# 11 DOCUMENTARY EXERCISE ON THE BATTLE OF STALINGRAD

Study the sources and then answer the questions based upon them.

## SOURCE A

*From an entry in the diary of the German General Hermann Hoth on 7 August 1942.*

The company commander says that the Russian troops are completely broke, and cannot hold out any longer. To reach the Volga and take Stalingrad is not so difficult for us. The *Fuhrer* knows where the Russians' weak spot is. Victory is not far away.

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Lorry-loads of infantry and tanks tore into the city. The Germans obviously thought that the fate of the town had been settled, and they all rushed to the centre and Volga as soon as possible and grabbed souvenirs for themselves ... we saw drunken Germans jumping down from their lorries, playing mouth organs, shouting like madmen, and dancing on the pavements ...

## SOURCE B

*A Russian eye-witness account of the behaviour of German soldiers on 14 September 1942*

September 16. Barbarism...not men but devils.  
September 26. Barbarians, they use gangster methods.  
October 27. The Russians are not men but some kind of cast-iron creatures; they never get tired and are not afraid of fire.

## SOURCE C

*From a series of entries in the diary of the German soldier, Kurt Hoffman in 1942*

I am not leaving the Volga. The Sixth Army will do its historic duty at Stalingrad until the last man.

## SOURCE D

*Hitler's response to von Paulus' request to allow the German army to withdraw from the Volga in November 1942*

We have fought during fifteen days for a single house ... And imagine Stalingrad – eighty days and eighty nights of hand-to-hand struggles. The street is no longer measured in metres but in corpses ... Stalingrad is no longer a town. By day it is an enormous cloud of burning, blinding smoke. The nights of Stalingrad are a terror ... animals flee this hell; the hardest stones cannot bear it for long; only men endure.

## SOURCE E

*From an account written by the Russian General Vasili Chuikov*

- Q**
1. Compare Sources A and C. To what extent do they represent different views of the fighting qualities of the Russian soldier?
  2. To what extent do Sources A and B suggest that, at one stage, the Germans thought they had won the battle for Stalingrad?
  3. What evidence is there in Sources C, D and E that might help to explain why the Germans were defeated at Stalingrad?
  4. How useful are the sources to an understanding of the Battle of Stalingrad?