



Great October Revolution

8th July Alexander Kerensky became the new leader of the Provisional Government. Soon after **taking office**, he announced a new summer offensive. Soldiers on the Eastern Front were **dismayed** at the news and by the autumn of 1917 an estimated two million men had unofficially left the army.

19th July Kerensky gave orders for the arrest of leading Bolsheviks who were **campaigning against** the war. Kerensky appointed general Lavr Kornilov Supreme Commander of the Russian Army. Kornilov wanted to restore the death penalty for soldiers, but Kerensky refused and **sacked** him. Kornilov responded by sending troops to **take control** of Petrograd. In danger, Kerensky was forced to ask the Soviets for help. Within a few days Bolsheviks had enlisted 25,000 armed recruits. Delegations of soldiers were sent out to talk to the advancing troops. Meetings were held and Kornilov's troops decided not to attack Petrograd. Kornilov was arrested and **taken into custody**.

25 September Lenin now returned to Petrograd but **remained in hiding**. The Bolsheviks send up their headquarters in the Smoiny Institute. The former girls' convent school also housed the Petrograd Soviet. Under pressure from the nobility and industrialists Kerensky was persuaded

to **take decisive action**.

22 October He ordered the arrest of the Military Revolutionary Committee. The next day he closed down the Bolshevik newspapers and caught off the telephones to the Smoiny.

24 October Leon Trotsky **urged** the overthrow of the Provisional Government. Lenin agreed and orders were given for the Bolsheviks to occupy the railway stations, the telephone exchange and the State Bank.

25 October (7th November new style) The Red Guards surrounded the Winter Palace. At 9:00 pm the ???????? and the Peter and Paul Fortress began to open fire on the palace. Little damage was done but the action persuaded most of Cossacks, junior army officers and the Women's Battalion to **surrender**. The records led by Vladimir Antonov-Ovseenko, now entered the Winter Palace and arrested the Cabinet Ministers although Kerensky had managed to escape from the city.

26 October The old Russian Congress of Soviets met and **handed over** power to the Soviet Council of People's Commissars. Vladimir Lenin was elected chairman.

Lead-in

1 Who are the people in the pictures and how are they related to the title? Read or listen and check.

Reading & Listening

2 Listen to the tape and put events in the correct chronological order.

- Aurora began to open fire on the palace
- troops are sent to Petrograd
- Winter Palace is taken by storm
- a new prime-minister appointed
- the Supreme Commander changed

3 Read the text and match people to the dates:

8th July	Vladimir Lenin
25th October	Leon Trotsky
19th July	Lavr Kornilov
24th October	Vladimir Antonov-Ovseenko
26th October	Alexander Kerensky

4 Read the text and name people in pictures A-E.



returned but **remained in hiding**.
was **elected** chairman.



The overthrow was **urged** by



managed to escape from the city.
was **forced** to ask the Soviets for help.
was persuaded to **take action**.



The Red Guards were **led** by



was **sacked** by Kerensky.
was **appointed** the Supreme Commander.
was **taken into custody** by soldiers.

5 Read the text again and rephrase sentences in Ex. 4 without using the words in bold. Then, explain the highlighted words in the text.

Speaking

In pairs, choose one of people A-E and tell your partner about his role in the events.

Lead-in

- 1 What are the monuments in the pictures? What are they for?



The greatest **national** holiday in Russia is **Victory Day** – 9th May. **The Great Patriotic War** ended on this day in 1945. On that day, we celebrate the end of the war and remember the people who died for Russia.

The war lasted for four years. Soldiers **fought** all over the country: from the White Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the South. The Brest Fortress was the first to **fight** the Nazis on 22nd June 1941. The Germans attacked Moscow many times. Leningrad – now St Petersburg – was **under siege** for 900 days. The battle of Stalingrad was one of the most important battles in this war.

There are a lot of monuments to the **heroes** of this war everywhere in Russia. The best known are the Brest Fortress, Mamayev Hill, Piskarev Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where an eternal flame burns.

Every year on 9th May, **veterans** who fought in the war take part in a **parade**. People give them flowers and then they all go to the monuments. There is a minute's silence all over the country at 7 pm. This is when people **pay tribute** to those who died in this war. Victory Day is a holiday that unites all Russian people.



Reading & Listening

- 2 In pairs, try to match the following information. Then, read or listen and check your answers.

9th May 1945
4 years
22nd June 1941
900 days

- the siege of Leningrad
- the beginning of the war
- the Great Patriotic War
- the end of the war

- 3 Replace the pronouns in bold with the correct word(s) from the text. Then, explain the words in bold.

- 1 They fought all over Russia. *soldiers*
- 2 It was the first city to take part in the war.
- 3 It is now called St Petersburg.
- 4 There are many monuments for **them**.
- 5 People see **them** in parades.

Speaking

- How do you celebrate Victory Day at your school? What do people in your region do on that day?
- Imagine you are a TV reporter talking live to the viewers. Describe the parade.