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Fighting with the Forces of Nature 与自然力量抗争

Part

Pre-Reading Task 课前预习

Listen to the recording two or three times and then think over the following questions: 听两到三遍录音并思考下列问题:

- Sailors often have to fight against the forces of nature. Sometimes they win; sometimes they lose. Who wins in the story that is told in the song?
- **2.** Where did the storm take place?

Lake Superior.

3. When did the storm occur?

November 1975.

4. Why did the crew fear the worst?

They all knew the dangers of November storms.

Part ||

Text A

THE ICY DEFENDER



一、背景知识与课文大意



1) World War Ⅱ:第一次世界大战后,世界没有赢得持久的和平,又酝酿着新的战争。20世纪30年代前后,德国、意大利、日本三国相继建立法西斯政权,如德国法

西斯头子希特勒夺取了政权,他们对内实行恐怖统治,对外进行侵略扩张。



日本侵占了我国东北,继而对我国发动全面进攻。意大利和德国也先后侵略 非洲、欧洲的一些国家。法西斯把世界笼罩在战争的烟云之中。

1939年9月,德国再次发动侵略战争,迫使英国、法国对德宣战。第二次世界大战全面爆发了。

战争初期,德国以闪电战击败了许多欧洲国家。欧洲拥有庞大军队的法国,也战败投降。侵略者的贪欲是无止境的。1941年,德国大军侵略苏联,日本军队偷袭美国军港,对美军发动进攻。面对法西斯的不断侵略,美、英、苏、中等26个国家组成同盟,决定彻底打败法西斯。

1942年7月,法西斯德国集中精锐部队,猛攻苏联的斯大林格勒。斯大林格勒是苏联南北交通枢纽,战略地位十分重要。它的得失,关系着苏德双方整个战局的命运。保卫斯大林格勒的苏联军民,与德军展开了殊死抵抗,为反攻争取了时间,1943年2月,苏联调集了大量反攻部队,把攻打斯大林格勒的33万德军全部歼灭。从此,苏军掌握了战争主动权,转入战略反攻。斯大林格勒战役扭转了欧洲战场的局面。

同时,美英盟军进攻意大利,迫使意大利投降。1944年6月,美英等国军队在法国北部的诺曼底海岸强行登陆,开辟了从西面直接进攻德国的欧洲第二战场。

从此,德国法西斯处于东西两面夹击之下,节节溃败。1945年5月,德国无条件投降。在亚洲,经过中国人民的艰苦抗战,也由于处于美国、苏联的进攻之下,日本法西斯在8月15日宣布无条件投降。9月2日,日本正式在投降书上签字。世界人民取得了反法西斯战争的最后胜利。

(2) Napoleon Bonaparte:拿破仑,1769 年诞生于刚被法国兼并的科西嘉岛上,幼时的他,害羞、郁郁寡欢,谁也无法预料,日后他竟成为法国历史上最伟大的军事天才,率领五十万大军,统治范围广达百万哩,征服了科学革命后的整个欧洲,结束了法国十八世纪末短暂的自由共和体制,在十九世纪初建立起独裁统治的政权。拿破仑崛起于共和时期的内战,在赢得普法战争后,一举扩张法国版图,并利用教皇加冕时自封罗马帝国皇帝,正式逞其独裁统治的野心,主宰了整个法国二十余年。其后在法俄一仗战败被迫退位,并在滑铁卢之役后彻底丧失势力,死于被放逐的圣赫勒拿岛上,其短暂而传奇的生涯,值得您一窥究竟。

课文大意

人道是骄兵必败。就拿拿破仑和希特勒两人来说吧,他们所向披靡,便以为自己战无不胜,不可阻挡。但俄罗斯的冰雪卫士证明他们错了。

二、课文(单词、词组、句子)详解

1. In 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French, led his Grand Army into Russia.

注:句中 Emperor of the French 为同位语,对 Napoleon Bonaparte 补充说明。

2. He was prepared for the fierce resistance of the Russian people defending their homeland. He was prepared for the long march across Russian soil to Moscow, the capital city.

be prepared for [to do] 准备着

例:We must be prepared for all contingencies. 我们要作好各种准备,以防意外。

3. But he was not prepared for the devastating enemy that met him in Moscow - the raw, bitter, bleak Russian winter.

√devastate vt. 毁坏

例:A long war devastated Europe. 长期的战争破坏了欧洲。

4. In 1941, Adolf Hitler, leader of Nazi Germany, launched an attack against the Soviet Union, as Russia then was called.

注:as Russia then was called 为非限制性定语从句。

例: As we all know, he is the most intelligent in the class. 众所周知,他是班上最聪明的。

5. Hitler's military might was unequaled. His war machine had mowed down resistance in most of Europe.

mow down 杀死:摧毁:扫射

例:Our machine guns mowed them down like grass. 我们的机枪像割草似地把他们扫射倒。

6. Hitler expected a short campaign but, like Napoleon before him, was taught a painful lesson. The Russian winter again came to the aid of the Soviet soldiers.

come to 获致;到达;结束

例: They came to the conclusion that they had made an unforgivable mistake. 他们得到的结论是他们犯了一个不可饶恕的错误。

7. In the spring of 1812, Napoleon assembled an army of six hundred thousand men on the borders of Russia. The soldiers were well trained, efficient, and well equipped.

assemble vt., vi. 集合;聚集

例: All the people assembled at Mary's house. 所有的人都聚集在玛丽的屋子里。efficient adj. 有效率的,最经济的;有能力的;能胜任的

例:The new secretary is a quick, efficient worker, and the boss is quite satisfied with her. 新来的秘书是个敏捷的、效率高的工作人员,老板对她很满意。

8. This military force was called the Grand Army. Napoleon, confident of a quick victory, predicted the conquest of Russia in five weeks.

Confident adj. 自信的, 确信的

例:Peter is confident of winning the post as the assistant to the managing director. 彼得确信他能获得总经理助理的职位。

predict v. 预知, 预言, 预报

例: She predicted that he would marry a doctor. 她预言他将娶一位医生。

9. Shortly afterwards, Napoleon's army crossed the Neman River into Russia.

The quick, decisive victory that Napoleon expected never happened.

√decisive adj. 决定性的

例:He gave a decisive answer. 他作了明确的答复。



10. To his surprise, the Russians refused to stand and fight. Instead, they retreated eastward, burning their crops and homes as they went.

↑注:burning their crops and homes as they went 为现在分词短语作伴随状语,与retreated eastward 动作同时发生。

11. The Grand Army followed, but its advance march soon became bogged down by slow – moving supply lines.

bog (与 down 连用) v. 陷入沼泽;陷入困境

例:I got bogged down by the difficult homework. 课外作业把我给难住了。

12. In August, the French and Russian armies engaged at Smolensk, in a battle that left over ten thousand dead on each side. Yet, the Russians were again able to retreat farther into Russian territory.

engage vt. 交战

例:They engaged the enemy. 他们与敌人交战。 retreat vi. 撤退:退却

- 例:The soldiers had to retreat when they were beaten in battle. 士兵们在战斗中受挫时不得不撤退。
- 13. Napoleon had won no decisive victory. He was now faced with a crucial decision.

√be faced with 面临

例:The difficulty that we are faced with is the number of those in need. 我们面临的困难是需要帮助的人数太多。

crucial adj. 至关紧要的

例:It is crucial that we (should) combine revolutionary sweep with practicalness. 对我们来说,把革命气概和实际精神结合起来是很重要的。

14. Should he continue to pursue the Russian army? Or should he keep his army in Smolensk for the approaching winter?

pursue vt. 追赶, 追踪, 追击, 继续, 从事

例:The police are pursuing an escaped prisoner. 警方正在追捕一个在逃的犯人。

15. Napoleon took the gamble of pressing on to Moscow, 448 kilometers away. take a gamble of 冒险从事(某事)

例:They took a gamble of driving on, notwithstanding the storm. 尽管有暴风雨,他们还是冒险驾车赶路。

16. On September 7, 1812, the French and Russian armies met in fierce battle at Borodino, 112 kilometers west of Moscow.

fierce adj. 强烈的,猛烈的

例:In the fierce fighting the lightly wounded refused to leave the front line. 在这场激烈的战斗中轻伤员们都不肯下火线。

17. By nightfall, thirty thousand French and forty -four thousand Russians lay dead or wounded on the battlefield.

注:dead or wounded 形容词作伴随状语,修饰动词。



18. The Russians fled their capital. Soon after the French arrived, a raging fire destroyed two -thirds of the city. Napoleon offered a truce to Alexander I, but the Russian czar knew he could bide his time: "We shall let the Russian winter fight the war for us."

flee vt. 逃避, 逃跑, 逃走

- 例: He was forced to flee his native village to join the rebel army. 他被迫逃离家乡参加了叛军。
- 19. The French retreat turned into a nightmare. From fields and forests, the Russians launched hit and run attacks on the French.

√hit - and - run 为复合形容词,修饰 attack。

20. A short distance from Moscow, the temperature had already dropped to minus 4 degrees Celsius.

minus prep. 零下…度

- 例:The temperature was minus 20 degrees. 温度是零下 20 度。
 - 21. Cannon became stuck in the snow.

be stuck in 陷于

- 例: The bus was stuck in the mud. 公共汽车陷在泥里动不了了。
 - **22.** At the Berezina River, the Russians nearly trapped the retreating French by burning the bridges over the swollen river.

注:其中 by burning the bridges over the swollen river 为 by +doing sth. 表示方式。

- **23.** But Napoleon, by a stroke of luck, was able to build two new bridges. 注:a stroke of luck 意外的运气。
- 24. Thousands of French soldiers escaped, but at the cost of fifty thousand dead. at the cost of 以...为代价
- 例: The battle was won at great cost of life. 牺牲了许多生命才换来这场战斗的胜利。
- 25. The weakened Frencharmy continued its retreat westward across Europe.

注:weakened 过去分词作定语,表示被动和完成。

26. Napoleon abdicated and went into exile, his empire at an end.

abdicate vi. (国王)退位

- 例:When King George abdicated, his brother succeeded him on the throne. 国王乔治退位时,其弟继承王位。
- 27. To the east of Hitler's German empire was the Soviet Union.

▼注:To the east of Hitler's German empire was the Soviet Union. 为倒装句,正常语序为 The Soviet Union was to the east of Hitler's German empire.

28. On June 22, 1941, without a declaration of war, Hitler began an invasion of the Soviet Union that was the largest military land campaignin history.

注:that was the largest military land campaign in history 为定语从句,先行词为invasion。



declaration n. 宣布, 宣言, 声明

- 例:The opening speeches sounded more like declaration of war than offerings of peace. 开场白听起来与其说是和平的倡议还不如说是战争的宣言。
- 29. Confident of a quick victory, Hitler expected the campaign to last no longer than three months.

√注:confident of a quick victory 形容词短语作状语。

30. Caught off guard by the invasion, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin instructed Russian people to "scorch the earth" in front of the German invaders.

注:caught off guard by the invasion 为过去分词短语作原因状语。

31. During the first ten weeks of the invasion, the Germans pushed the front eastward, and the Russians suffered more than a million casualties. casualty n. 死伤(者). 受害者

例: The enemy suffered heavy casualties. 敌人遭受惨重伤亡。

32. Despite great suffering, however, the people of Leningrad refused to surrender.

despite prep. 不管:不顾:即使

例: Despite the bad weather we enjoyed our holiday. 尽管天气不好,我们的假期仍过得很愉快。

surrender v. 放弃, 投降

- 例:We advised the hijackers to surrender themselves to the police. 我们劝那些劫持者向警察投案。
- **33.** As the battle of Leningrad dragged on into winter, the city's situation became desperate. As food ran out, people died from hunger and disease. desperate adj. 不顾一切的,拼死的,令人绝望的

例:His failure made him desperate. 他因失败而铤而走险。

34. By the middle of the winter of 1941 – 1942, nearly four thousand people starved to death every day. Close to one million people died as a result of the siege.

▼注:starve to death 饿死; as a result of 作为……的结果。

35. In the center of Russia, Hitler's goal was the capture of Moscow.

Because the Germans had anticipated a quick victory, they had
made no plans for winter supplies.

anticipate v. 预期;期待

- 例:We anticipate great pleasure from our visit to London. 我们期待伦敦之行过得愉快。
- **36.** October arrived with heavy rains. "General Mud" slowed down the movement of the Germans' lightning attack.

注:slow down (使)慢下来, (使)减速,其中 slow 为动词。

37. As Hitler's armies drew closer and closer to Moscow, an early, severe winter settled over the Soviet Union, the harshest in years.

severe adj. 严厉的, 严格的, 剧烈的, 严重的, 严峻的

例: The severe teacher has gone abroad; you can breathe freely again. 要求苛严的教师已经出国了,你可以完全放心了。



38. The Russian winter brought the German offensive to a halt.

注:bring...to a halt 使……停下。

39. Hitler then pushed east to Stalingrad, a great industrial city that stretched for 48 kilometers along the Volga River.

文注:a great industrial city that stretched for 48 kilometers along the Volga River 为同位语。

40. With little or no shelter from the winter cold in and around Stalingrad, German troops were further weakened by a lack of food and supplies.

lack n. (常与 of 连用)缺乏;需要

例:The lack of rain aggravated the serious lack of food. 由于干旱少雨,缺粮问题更加严重。

41. ... the Germans give up their siege.

n. 包围,长期努力,不断袭击,围攻

- 例: After a three day siege by the police, the terrorists who had seized the restaurant had to give in. 被警察包围了三天以后,霸占餐馆的恐怖分子不得不屈服了。
- **42.** Within two weeks, the heroic survivors of Leningrad saw their invaders depart.

注:heroic 为 hero 的形容词,意为"英雄的""勇敢的"。

例:He is a heroic man. 他是一个勇敢的人。

43. The elements of nature must be reckoned with in any military campaign.

V be reckoned with 考虑到; reckon with 处理;解决;考虑

例:We have to reckon with many problems. 我们必须考虑到许多问题。

44. For the Russian people, the winter was an icy defender.

Vicy adj. 冰冷的;极冷的

例: My hands are icy. 我两手冰冷。



三、易错易混词语辨析

1. 辨析 happen/chance/occur/take place

都含"发生"的意思。

nappen

为常用词语,指"一切客观事物或情况的偶然或未能预见地发生",例:The accident happened yesterday. 事故发生在昨天。

chance

指"偶然发生"、"碰巧",例:He chanced to meet her. 他偶然遇见了她。

P occur

属正式用语,指"按计划使某事或效果发生",通常所指的时间和事件都比



较确定,在以具体事物、事件作主语时,可与 happen 互换,例:These events occurred in 1909. 这些事件发生于1909年。

take place

指"发生事先计划或预想到的事",例:The meeting took place at 8:00 as planned. 按计划会议在八点举行了。

2. 辨析 defeat/conquer/overcome

都含"战胜"、"击败"的意思。

defeat

指"赢得胜利",尤其指"军事上的胜利",例: defeat the enemy 打败敌人。

conquer

指"征服"、"战胜",特别指"获得对人、物或感情的控制",例:conquer nature 征服自然。

overcome

指"战胜"、"压倒"、"克服",尤指"感情"而言,例:overcome difficulties 克服困难。



四、课文练习答案与详解

Content Questions 课文内容问题

1. What does "the icy defender" refer to?

【译文】"冰雪卫士"指的是什么?

【答案】It refers to the fierce winter of Russia.

2. What did Napoleon expect when he assembled his army to attack Russia?

【译文】当集结军队攻打俄罗斯时,拿破仑期望什么?

【答案】Napoleon expected the conquest of Russia in five weeks.

What did the Russians do in the face of Napoleon's offensive? What strategy did the Russian adopt?

【译文】面对拿破仑的进攻,俄罗斯人做了什么?俄罗斯人采取了什么策略?

[答案] The Russians refused to stand and fight. Instead, they retreated eastward, burning their crops and homes as they went.

4. What did Napoleon discover after he occupied Moscow?

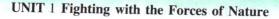
【译文】他占领莫斯科以后,拿破仑发现了什么?

【答案】He discovered the occupation of the city became an empty victory because the Russian army retreated to safety again.

5. What happened to Napoleon's army when it was retreating from Moscow?

【译文】当拿破仑的军队从莫斯科撤退时,发生了什么事?

答案】The temperature had already dropped to minus 4 degrees Celsius. Exhausted horses fell dead in their tracks and cannon became stuck in the snow, equipment had to be burned for fuel, soldiers took ill and froze to death.





6. What did Napoleon do when Paris was captured?

【译文】当巴黎被占领时,拿破仑做了什么?

【答案】Napoleon abdicated and went into exile, his empire at an end.

When did Hitler begin his invasion of the Soviet Union? What tactics did he use? How long did he expect the campaign to last?

【译文】希特勒什么时候开始占领苏联?他采用了什么策略,他期望战役持续多久?【答案】On June 22, 1941, Hitler began an invasion of the Soviet Union. He planned to use the blitzkrieg, or "lightning war" tactics. Hitler expected the campaign to last no longer than three months.

Was Stalin prepared for Hitler's attack? What did he do in the face of the

German invasion?

【译文】斯大林对希特勒的进攻有准备吗?面对德国人的进攻,他做了什么? 【答案】Stalin was prepared for Hitler's attack. He instructed the Russian people to

"scorch the earth" in front of the German invaders.

9. How did the people of Leningrad respond to the German attack?

【译文】列宁格勒的人们对德国人的进攻有什么反应?

【答案】The people of Leningrad refused to surrender.

10. What slowed down the German advance on Moscow? What made the German offensive come to a halt?

【译文】什么减缓了德军向莫斯科开进的速度?什么使德军的进攻停了下来? 【答案】"General Mud" slowed down the movement of the Germans' lightning attack. The Russian winter brought the German offensive a halt.

11. What was the significance of the battle of Stalingrad?

【译文】斯大林格勒战役有什么意义?

【答案】The loss of the battle for Stalingrad finally turned the tide against Hitler.

12. What conclusion does the author draw from Napoleons' and Hitler's military campaigns?

【译文】从拿破仑和希特勒军事行动中作者得出什么结论?

【答案】The elements of nature must be reckoned with in any military campaign.

$\mathbf{P}_{ ext{oints}}\,\mathbf{f}_{ ext{or}}\,\mathbf{D}_{ ext{iscussion}}\,$ 要点讨论

1. In what way was Hitler's offensive against the Soviet Union similar to Napoleon's campaign against Russia? In what way were they different?

【译文】希特勒和拿破仑对苏联的战役中有什么相似之处?又有什么不同?

【答案】Similarity: they were defeated by the harsh winter of Russian.

Difference: the failure of the campaign has different influences on them.

2. Do you think the harsh Russian winter the only factor that led to Napoleon's and Hitler's defeat? Why or why not?

【译文】你认为俄罗斯残酷的冬天是导致拿破仑和希特勒失败的唯一因素吗?为什么是或为什么不是?

【答案】It is not the only factor. To some degree, it's important. But the unity of Russian is more important than this.

3. Prussian military strategist Karl von Clausewitz said, "War is nothing but the continuation of politics with the admixture of other means." What do you think of his definition of war? Do you think war can be avoided in today's world? Why or why not?

【译文】普鲁士军事家 Karl von Clausewitz 说道,"战争只不过是政治与其他方式混合后的继续。"你对此有何看法?你认为在当今世界战争能避免吗?为什么?