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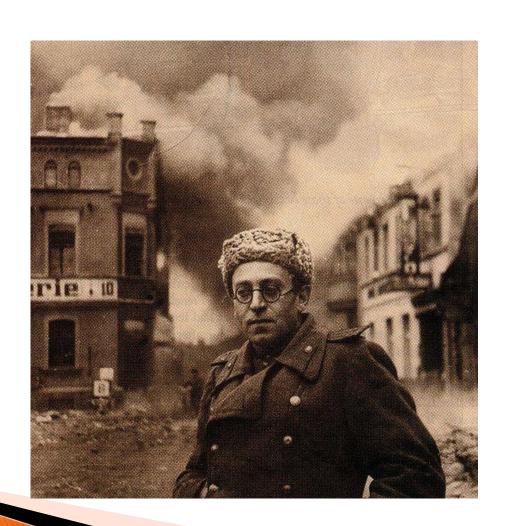
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STALINGRAD TO GROZNY

The war reporting of Vassily Grossman and Anna Politkovskaya.

James Rodgers. City University London.

Vassily Grossman, 1905-64



The Battle of Stalingrad, 1942-3



Grossman interviews a sniper

'When I first got the rifle, I couldn't bring myself to kill a living being: one German was standing there for about four minutes, talking, and I let him go. When I killed my first one, he fell at once. Another one ran out and stooped over the killed one, and I knocked him down too ... when I first killed, I was shaking all over: the man was only walking to get some water! ... I felt scared: I'd killed a person! Then I remembered our people and started killing them without mercy.'

(2006: 157)

- No I don't believe she is still alive. I travel all the time around areas
- that have been liberated, and I see what these accursed monsters
- have done to old people and children. And Mama was Jewish. A
- desire to exchange my pen for a rifle is getting stronger and stronger
- in me.
- **(2006: 224)**

- There were black holes and craters from bombs everywhere along the
- railway. One could see trees broken by explosions. In the fields there
- were thousands of peasants, men and women, digging anti-tank
- ditches.
- We watch the sky nervously and decided to jump off the train if
- the worst came to the worst. It was moving quite slowly. The
- moment we arrived in Novozybkov there was an air raid. A bomb fell
- by the station forecourt. This train wasn't going any further.
- **(2006: 8)**