

## Translation of the **Leningrad Album**, Anna Petrovna Ostroumova-Lebedeva. 1942.

P1

Illustration: Statue of Lenin by VV Kozlov in front of the Smolny Institute.

P3

Illustration: Smolny Institute

P5

Illustration: View of Vasilyevsky Island and the Rostral Columns

P7

To the Women of Coatbridge, Airdrie and (Woodside)

Our dear friends –

The women of Airdrie and Coatbridge

We have been moved to the depth of our soul by the words of love and greeting from those distanced from us in far-off Scotland. We thank you for the help you are giving us in the struggle with Hitler's Germany. While there is Hitlerism, there is suffering and death – this is the lot of women. Our husbands and brothers are cut off from us, our homes are in danger, our children are doomed to destruction of bondage.

The women of Leningrad, just like the women of Airdrie and Coatbridge, have risen to the defence of their homes, their honour, their independence and their freedom. The ungovernable hatred for the common enemy and the struggle to have revenge on the Fascist barbarians for all our suffering fills out hearts.

We are proud that we have such a worth ally as the people of Great Britain.

The treaty concluded between our countries on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1942 will give us new strength in the battle with the German aggressors. Rendering one another military assistance and the support of each country in the war with Germany and her allies in Europe we are coming closer to the not-too-far distant time when our just cause will win a complete victory.

Our dear allies, we have much! Women are a great strength. It is up to us to hasten this victory.

We shall do everything to ensure that the year 1942 will be the year of the final rout of Hitler's armies, the year of Liberation of all humanity From the bloodstained nightmare which if Hitlerism!

P9

Illustration

P11

Illustration: View of Leningrad over the Neva

The distance that separates us does not prevent us from feeling how close you are in friendship and your militant readiness to help us to overcome your enemies. We must vanquish Hitlerism by our joint efforts in 1942 and liberate the world from barbarism and violence. Let us by mutual support strengthen the cooperation of our countries to ensure a great future for our peoples.

P13

Illustration: Picture of Smolny

To the Communist Party of Airdrie, Women's Section

Dear Comrades: We women of Leningrad, a city which bears the name of the great Lenin, send you our sincere greetings and shake you by the hand. For many months now we and the sections of the Red Army have been making all possible efforts to prevent the enemy from breaking into our beloved city. We are inspired and strengthened in this difficult struggle by Stalin. Our strength grows every day. Your letter once again convinced us that we are not alone. The friendly people of Great Britain and America and all freedom-loving and progressive mankind are with us. We very much appreciate your undertaking to work so as to help us speed up the victory over the enemy. We will not spare our strength and will fight to ensure that not one member of the German occupation forces remains in our country. 1942 must become the year in which the German invaders are defeated, the year in which Hitler is smashed. Together with you under the banner of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin – forward to victory.

P15

Illustration

To the girls of Airdrie from the girls of Leningrad

Dear friends: We send you our warm greeting. Your undertaking to help is found a warm echo in our hearts. Fascism hangs like a black cloud over our young lives. We do no spare our strength in the name of a splendid future and of life itself to ensure victory over the hated and inexorable enemy. Hand in hand with you in this struggle, relying on the ever-strengthening unity and help of our states, we will fight for and achieve the right to freedom and happiness.



P17

Illustration: Rostral Columns

To the women of Airdrie

Dear sisters: we are moved by the friendly expression of your feelings, your thoughts about us and your support. Help us to be staunch in bearing all the difficulties of the fight against the common enemy. We firmly believe that by uniting our and your efforts we shall help to overcome the Hitlerite hordes in 1942.

P19

Illustration: Picture of barge being pulled along the Neva

To the women of the Co-operative Guild of Coatbridge

Your friendly letter reached our besieged city and touched us to the depths of our hearts. We thank the women of the Co-operative Guild of Coatbridge for their kind feelings and their wish to help us in the fight we are waging against a common enemy. We are in good spirits and in spite of all the sufferings we have endured we are holding our ground. Our faith in victory is firm and unshakable. Together with you by hard work in the rear and at the front we will achieve victory over fascist Germany.

P21

Illustration: Lion Statue on Palace Pier

To the members of the handwork circle, Greenfield, Coatbridge

Dear friends abroad: We women of Leningrad thank you heartily for your good wishes and messages of sympathy. We are proud of our noble allies Great Britain and America and are certain that by common effort we shall vanquish the hated enemy Hitlerite Germany. The future belongs to us because justice is on our side.

P23

Illustration: View of canal (White Nights)

To the women of the church guild of the Western Parish of Airdrie

We women of Leningrad thank you with all our hearts for your sympathy and good wishes. We will fight together for freedom and the welfare of all nations. The annihilation of fascism is our common cause.

P25

Illustration: Rostral columns

To the women of the congregation of Clifton Hill Church (Clifton Congregational Church?)

We women of Leningrad thank the women of the congregation of Clifton Hill Church for their good wishes. We firmly believe in the rightness of our struggle and this gives us the strength to bear all the difficulties connected with the siege of our great city. We firmly grasp the friendly hands stretched out to us and we hope that you will give us all possible active help so that by our joint efforts we can break and destroy our common enemy.

P27

Illustration: View across the Neva and Rostral Column

To the women of the congregation of Albert Street Church [to the women of the church guild of Albert Street Congregational Church?]

We received your greetings and good wishes with great joy. Dear sisters, please believe that we too firmly believe that the day is not far off when our dear loved ones will return home, when our children will sleep peacefully in their beds and when airplanes with swastikas on them will no longer circle over our cities. We Soviet women and you, our dear friends, must do everything we can to make 1942 the year of our joint victory over the enemy. We are sure that you will help us with all your strength and in all possible ways.

P29

Illustration: View of Neva

To St Thomas's Church, Coatbridge

Women of Brightmoor: we thank you from our hearts for your warm and friendly handshake and the sincere words of sympathy which you sent us. In these difficult days of the fight against our common enemy we women of Leningrad feel that you are thinking about us, that you are helping us and that you are with us. Our common struggle for the rightful cause will lead us to victory.

P31

Illustration: Rostral Column

To the Buchanan Congregational Church women's organisation for war work

We women of Leningrad thank you for your friendly greeting and solidarity with us. We are even stronger in spirit and our will to victory is unswerving.

### Photograph captions

P32

On the corner of the 25<sup>th</sup> October Avenue and Nakhimson Avenue

Here is the widow of the polar explorer G Sedov and these other ladies are learned ladies

This is a group of unnamed Leningrad actresses

Children from crèche 237 (by colonnade in front of the Kazan Cathedral)

P34

Nina Kurganova (nurse) on the battlefield,  
attending a wounded soldier

This is a woman working on  
the (city) defences

These are women drilling

Women working on the defences

P35

Vera Yefimova,  
Engine driver

Woman making tires for lorries MP  
Yemelyanova

Housewife at her post during an air  
raid

Female sailor on the ship  
"Schluesselburg" Raya  
Shepelova

P36

Vera Inber, writer and poet

To the women of Airdrie, Coatbridge and Woodside

We Women of Leningrad send greetings to you women of Scotland and our allies. Distance is no hindrance to you or us. For the sake of our common cause there is no thing as distance. We are waging a fight against the Hitlerites over the whole continent in the wake of our husbands. Let us speed up the day and celebrate our common victory in a common language.

(Signed) V.I.  
Leningrad 1942

P37

Illustration: Bronze Horsemen in Senate Square

These woodcuts and lithographs of Leningrad were donated for this album to the women of Scotland by the artist Anna Petrovna Ostroumova-Lebedeva, who works in Leningrad.