At the call of the regional military commissariat, the workers of the Urals factories sent their best forces to the front against the Czechoslovaks. When almost the entire local organisation of Communists, numbering three hundred persons, had left Nev'yansk factory under arms, the automobile-company [motorised company], which had evacuated to the factory from Luga and had always opposed the local soviet, began a counter-revolutionary uprising. This company, consisting...
of various White-Guard elements, was to oversee repairs of motorised equipment, but, in fact, all of the equipment was used against the Soviet authority, including two armoured vehicles intended for the struggle against the Czechoslovaks. The revolt was led by one Eliseenko, who billed himself as an anarchist. Moreover, at the head of the movement there was a military staff that included, besides Eliseenko, the officer-Cadets: Melent’ev, Frolov, Miller (a pharmacist by profession), Khionin (a photographer), as well as the student Brodovsky, nephew of a millionaire, the Right S-R Vorob’ev, and the leader of the local Mensheviks, Bakhtin.

The insurrectionists arrested the local soviet, the commissars and those Bolsheviks who had not gone off to the front, numbering 22 people, and locked them in a detention-facility. During the arrest of the commission of inquiry, the chairman of the commission and his comrade were killed. A meeting was held of frontline-soldiers, and the former officers and soldiers from the kulaks joined the White Guards. At the meeting, one of the motorists, a sailor-White Guardsman, argued that after the overthrow of the Soviet power, things must be arranged so that the country would be ruled by a single person with fitting experience. Even though they were intimidated, a mass of residents at the meeting spoke out against shooting those arrested and for investigation of the affair by a commission of inquiry. It needs to be said that the counter-revolutionaries, who had interrupted communication with Ekaterinburg, assured the masses that Ekaterinburg had been taken and that all the commissars had scattered after plundering state-funds. They said Soviet authority had collapsed everywhere, and they insisted on executing the prisoners.

The Nev’yansk White Guards were surrounded by detachments sent almost simultaneously from Ekaterinburg and Perm, and with the support of armed workers from Kushva, Tagil and elsewhere. Soon the arrested comrades heard the crackle of machine-guns approaching closer-and-closer to the factory. The most horrific hours had come for the prisoners. One of those arrested, comrade Kaskovich, had already been shot on the evening of 12–13 June. The rest were awaiting execution at the same time, but a decision by the meeting had saved their lives. Now the moment was approaching for the retreating White Guards to retaliate against the prisoners. The accursed murderers began shooting our comrades through the cell-windows and then hurled hand-grenades at them. When most of the comrades were scattered about the floor in pools of blood, with arms and legs torn off and dislocated entrails, a cry rang out, ‘Whoever is alive, get up!’ The survivors began to get up, the wounded began to moan, and the comrades thought the Red-Army men had arrived. But it was a base deception by the

3. [There is an error here. The correct name is S.F. Kos’kovich.]