

Chapter Ten

The Ruler Named “*Rekalibrierung*”

A. The Retreat Continues

In his book *In My Brother's Shadow*, the German writer Uwe Timm describes the situation on the Eastern Front in July 1943 when, south of Kursk, two giants faced each other - the Soviets, who had 1.3 million soldiers, 20,300 guns, 3,600 tanks and 2,600 aircraft and the Germans with 900,000 soldiers, 10,000 guns, 1,026 tanks and 1,830 aircraft.

On 10th July, the two waves of steel moved against each other. Three days later, Hans Timm wrote in his diary:

“It’s not going. We must retreat.”¹

Who counted the bullets fired in that fierce battle? Rifle bullets, aircraft ammunition, tank shells, the “chains” of machine guns... Thousands, tens of thousands, millions! Who provided new ammunition for the continuation of the attack?

Unbelievable, but the need arose to collect empty cartridges by the tens of thousands and send them to factories that knew how to renew them.

Among them was Apparatebau, where awaiting them were Rut Cytter, fourteen, Ilana Chrust, twelve and also Jakow Lewkowicz, thirteen... They, with their small hands, were about to save the German army from defeat, as those who repaired the cartridges.

¹ Uwe Timm, *Am Beispiel meines Bruders* (Köln: Kiepenhauer u. Witsch, 2003), p. 98