

Soviets Open Great Battles On 3 Fronts

Poland, East Prussia, Baltic Goals

MOSCOW, July 12 — Three great battles are opening in Russia for eastern Poland, East Prussia and the Baltic states.

The ferocity with which the Germans are resisting the great march forward by the force of Marshal Rokossovsky and Gens. Chernyakovskiy and Bagramyan is indicative of the gravity with which the German High Command views its position.

The possibility that the Russian forces may have achieved a complete breakdown was contained in a German Overseas News Agency admission that hard fighting was going on east of Olita, which lies south of Kaunas on the Memel River, 52 miles from the East Prussian border.

At the same time, the German military spokesman practically admitted a big German retreat was impending.

(An Associated Press Moscow dispatch said that if the Soviet advance continued at its present rate "there is a good chance the Armies will be fighting on German soil." "It brought out that the Red Army now was within striking distance of its last objectives before Poland, with Kaunas 45 miles away, Grodno, 56 miles, Bialystok, 51 miles, and Pinsk, 15 miles.)

In East Prussia the Germans are desperately preparing to do battle on Germany's own territory. The Russian columns which bypassed Vienna are striking toward Kaunas and the East Prussian border. In Vienna the last bitter battle is going on between the trapped Germans and the victorious Russian units who are mopping up on a large scale in the narrow streets of the old city.

STIMSON IN BRITAIN

LONDON, July 12—Sect. of War Henry L. Stimson arrived yesterday in Britain on a tour of Allied battlefronts in Europe after spending a week in Italy.

One-Man BAR Barrage Rescues Whole Battalion Pinned in Field

SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION HQ., July 13—How Pfc Ralston A. Shepherd, of Roanoke, Va., single-handedly saved more than 500 men from annihilation by firing 1,000 rounds from his BAR against Nazis seeking to man a 3.7 flak gun was told today.

Shepherd's battalion had been forced to retreat from a small town and was trapped between two hedgerows in a field 100 yards long and 30 yards wide when the Germans brought the gun down a road adjoining the American position.

"If the gun had been allowed to go into action," 1/Lt Vere E. McClement, of Craig, Colo., said, "the entire battalion probably would have been wiped out."

However, Shepherd ran to the gate leading to the road, put his BAR over a post and the first Nazi gun crew melted away as he fired clip after clip. More Germans tried to put the gun into action, but fled before his fierce fire.

"I don't know whether it was

Tokyo Evacuates 30,000 Children

NEW YORK, July 12. (AP)—Approximately 30,000 school children have been evacuated from Tokyo to the rural district since July 8 as a precaution against American bomber raids, according to a Tokyo broadcast recorded by the Federal Communications Commission.

2 Chinese Forces Bridge Jap Line In North Burma

CHUNGKING, July 12—The Allied campaign to drive the Japanese out of northern Burma and complete a land supply route to China reached another milestone yesterday when the Chinese 22nd and 38th divisions effected a juncture seven miles west of Mogaung.

They cleared the enemy from the area between Kamaing and Mogaung and stretched Allied control of the Ledo Road leading into China to around 300 miles.

Meanwhile, the Chinese High Command repeated charges that the Japs were using poison gas in the Hengyang area. The Chinese also said Jap forces striking northward west of the Canton-Hankow Railway had reached a point 12 miles from Yingiak, 70 miles north of Canton.

Tokyo radio claimed the Jap air force bombed U. S. airfields in China, destroying 11 planes and damaging at least 95 others.

U. S. to Increase Civilian Output

WASHINGTON, July 12—The WPB announced last night that Chairman Donald M. Nelson's program for resumption of civilian production in plants not needed for war work would go into effect Saturday. A concession to military leaders, who opposed the program on the grounds that it would divert labor from arms production provides for staggered dates which defer operation of part of the plan to Aug. 15.

National League Routs American In 12th All-Star Contest, 7 to 1

PITTSBURGH, July 12—The National League rose up and got sweet revenge for humiliating setbacks received against their American League rivals in the past by combining timely slugging and topflight pitching to win the 12th annual All Star game, 7-1, before 36,000 last night at Forbes Field.

The victory was only the fourth for the National Leaguers in the series inaugurated in 1933 but they handed the junior circuit its most one-sided defeat.

The A. L. took an early lead in the second, scoring its only run before the Nationals climbed all over Tex Hughson, Red Sox, ace, in the fifth to register four runs then added two more in the seventh and another in the eighth off Detroit's Hal Newhouser.

Ken Raffensberger, Philly left-hander making his All Star debut, was the winning pitcher. He came on the scene in the fourth to relieve Bucky Walters of the Reds who worked the first three frames. Hughson was the loser.

Led by Phil Cavaretta, Dixie Walker, Connie Ryan and Walker Cooper, each of whom collected two hits, the Nationals rapped (Continued on page 2)

5th Army Moves 2 Miles Nearer Port of Leghorn

ROME, July 12—Fifth Army units pushed forward two miles to within eight miles of the important port of Leghorn today by occupying the coastal town of Castiglione, while on the Adriatic coast Eighth Army big guns began shelling Ancona's harbor installations. Bitter opposition was reported along the whole Italian front as the Germans played for time to strengthen the Gothic Line.

A Swiss diplomatic source said the Nazis had installed a new headquarters in Bavaria in preparation for total retreat from Italy. This was said to be designed "for the future battle zone of South Germany," with some 300 strongpoints being constructed from the Brenner pass into the heart of Bavaria.

Mitchell bombers today dropped 200 tons of bombs on 1,700 railway cars on the Adessandria yards, and photos showed more than 1,400 destroyed or damaged.

Allies Resume Talks With Turks

ANKARA, July 12 (AP)—Conversations among Turkey, Russia and Britain are afoot which may lead to Turkish participation in the war before the end of the summer. The talks have taken up where the failure of the Cairo Conference left Turkey's position within the United Nations undefined.

They must first surmount the bitterness which followed Allied charges that Turkey failed to keep her word, and Turkish counter-charges that the Allies failed to equip Turkey for war, as promised.

DeGaulle Insists On Factual Rule

OTTAWA, July 12—The existence of the French Provisional government is a fact and formulas of recognition are unimportant, Gen. Charles De Gaulle told reporters. Commenting on President Roosevelt's announcement yesterday that the French National Committee had been recognized as the authority for the administration of liberated French territory, but not as a French provisional government, De Gaulle said: "The administration of France will not be anything else than the administration of the French government."

Munich Hit Again; Attacks on London By Robots Continue

LONDON, July 12—More than 1,200 American heavy bombers today boosted the weight of bombs dropped on the area around Munich to 6,000 tons in 24 hours as they blasted communications and other targets around the fourth largest city in the Reich.

The escorted Fortresses and Liberators, for the second successive day, flew to Munich through clouds and intense flak to bomb by instrument without encountering a single interceptor on their 1,000-mile round trip. Twenty-six bombers were lost.

Ninth Air Force war planes, meanwhile flew in support of Allied armies in Normandy and pounded fuel dumps supplying German panzer forces. Marauders struck at two fuel dumps and enemy troop positions south of Caen while Havocs went after gasoline and oil supplies east of Demfront.

While RAF Lancasters were raiding rocket coast installations without loss for the third straight day, it was announced that flying bombs made another attack on London, causing damage and casualties. It also was stated that the Australia House, near Trafalgar Square, was hit during an earlier robot-plane attack.

Col. Walter B. Goodrich, U. S. Army anti-aircraft expert, in a statement issued from SHAEF said it was "more peaceful along the Normandy beaches right now than in London and southern England." American A.A. units, guarding the beaches, have shot down more than 100 enemy planes, mostly at night, Col. Goodrich said.

LUFTWAFFE ACE KILLED

German radio reported last night the death in action of Maj. (Acting Gen.) Wolfgang Redlich group commander of a Luftwaffe fighter wing credited with 41 air victories.

For 30 Hours Jerries at Meauffe Withstood Siege, Then 'Got Bellyfull'

By William Stringer
Reuter Correspondent

Three prisoners and five dead Germans were brought out of Meauffe yesterday—all that visibly remained of a force of 300 which, trapped behind U. S. lines, wouldn't fight to the death.

You could hear the rest of them firing as, by groups of two and three, they fled through the hedgerows trying to make their way through more than a mile and a half of American ground to the German lines.

For 30 hours the trapped force, holed up in a chateau and three other buildings constituting Meauffe, fought wildly, hurling back two American efforts to enter the town.

By noon, the Germans apparently decided "they'd had a belly

full," as one U. S. officer said, and broke and fled.

For 30 hours they sat in the chateau and "looked down on us like a cat looking down on a saucer of milk," as Capt. Robert Stephenson said.

For 30 hours American artillery whammed shells into the chateau and adjacent buildings.

GIs, like Cpl. Harry Straley, of Richwood, W. Va., lay in foxholes listening to our shells whistle over and crash, and burrowed deeper when German artillery replied.

"If you think I wasn't having a one-way conversation with God during that battle, you're crazy," Straley said. "I was praying to Him to make every one of those Jerry shells a dud."

Yanks 1 1/2 Mi. From St. Lo, Near Periers

Germans Retreating On West Front

American troops yesterday fought within sight of the battered spire of St. Lo, strategic heart of Hitler's defenses in the eastern sector of the 48-mile U. S. front in Normandy, while in the western sector German forces continued their general withdrawal toward Lessay.

Yanks advancing southwest from Carentan toward Periers, in the center of the front, reached the villages of Maugerie and La Roserie, four miles from Periers.

On the British-Canadian front southwest of Caen, a hull occurred in the battle between the Orne and Orne rivers after some of the heaviest fighting there since D-Day.

Fresh American forces poured forward in new attacks toward St. Lo from a 640-foot ridge overlooking the city from about three miles east, and one column reached a point one and one-half miles from the city limits. Fierce fighting raged on the highway from Bayeux to St. Lo, east of the city, as Yanks by-passed St. Andre de l'Epine and swept through La Calvra for a gain of two miles.

"Suicide squads" of Germans covering the Nazis' general withdrawal on a ten-mile front southward from La Haye du Puits toward Lessay were blasted by American dive bombers and artillery at the hilltop town of Mebecq, about four miles northeast of Lessay.

American patrols were reported to have reached the outskirts of Angeville-sur-Aye, three miles north of Lessay.

SHAEF disclosed yesterday that Allied front-support planes had executed one of the most intensive attacks yet on German armor when fighter-bombers and rocket-firing planes destroyed 28 German tanks and damaged 16 Tuesday. This equals about one-fifth of the tank strength of an entire division.

German counter attacks against British and Canadian forces southwest of Caen died down. Hill 112 — "Crucifix Hill" — was again held by the British last night after it had changed hands three times. British troops repelled strong counter-attacks at Eterville and held high ground there from which they could cover the German line controlling the Orne River crossings.

