

RUSSIA

L. J. - Sunoco. Monday, Sept. 27, 1943.

In Russia, the big Soviet attack on Kiev has begun

in earnest. The Red Army has forced the passage of the Dnieper River at several points on either side of the city. The river is three thousand two hundred feet wide there. At the same time thousands of Russian parachute troops are sweeping down on the west bank of the River in the rear of the German lines. There are even rumors that the Nazis are beginning to evacuate the ancient city of the Ukraine, but ^{so far} official reports do not ~~in~~ confirm those rumors. Moscow declares there are still Germans remaining in the suburbs of Kiev on the east bank, ^{and that these} ~~and they~~ are being cut down by frontal assaults.

Soviet armies at other points are forcing the German lines along the Dnieper. The fiercest fighting of all is along the lower reaches of the great river in the sector around ^{Zak-pö-rösh'yě.} ~~Dneprop~~ Dnepropetrovsk and Zaporozhe. As for white Russia, the Red armies have crossed that border at four distinct points. They have captured two important cities and seven hundred and eight other towns in that sector. They are now halfway between Smolensk and Orsha, a city halfway between Vitebsk and Mogilev. ^{Mö-gily'-öf}

One Moscow dispatch claims that the Russians have established bridgeheads on the west bank of the Dnieper between ~~Kiev~~ Kiev and Dnepropetrovsk, not large ones, but still - bridgeheads. Whether that's true or not, it is a definite fact that at the end of the twelfth week of the great summer offensive, the Red Army is firmly entrenched along virtually the entire East bank of the Dnieper River.

They have had the advantage of a long warm spell and consequently, ~~they~~ have been able ^{to push through the} ~~to push through~~ forest regions in front of Gomel that are normally impassable at this time of year. ~~Now~~ ^{and} they are within twenty-eight miles of Gomel ~~farther south~~ ^{and} they are taking advantage of the mists and fog ~~to~~ ^{to} force the crossing of the River. ^{TP} Similar reports come from the Kremenzhug area. Dispatches from Moscow allege that the Nazis are retreating across the Dnieper there also. All along the line the Red Army has ^{the offensive,} ~~great mastery of the area, and~~ ~~its planes are pounding the Germans without a let up.~~

At Dnepropetrovsk, the battle is almost in its final phase. The Reds have crashed through the ~~last~~ last line of German defenses which were based on the marshes in front of the

town. Late this evening, Moscow announced ~~that they had~~ ^{the} captured ^{of} the town on the ~~east~~ ^{east} bank of the Dnieper directly ~~opposite~~ opposite Dnepropetrovsk.

~~Way down~~ ^{In the} South, the Soviet armies ^{also} are beginning to menace the Germans in the Crimea, ^{sweeping} ~~They have swept~~ ahead for miles over the plains to the southeast of Zaporozhé. And in the Kuban Peninsula they have captured another important place and are encircling the German bridgehead there.

The Communist newspaper Pravda published a significant ~~in~~ piece today. It was in the form of a warning to Hitler that the Red Armies will not ~~in~~ stop until they reach the old frontiers, ~~here~~ ^{Further} ~~Here is another~~ confirmation of the belief ~~is~~ held by some, ~~people,~~ that Stalin does ^{not} ~~not~~ intend to invade Germany, ^{just} ~~just~~ to push the Germans out of Russia.

ADD RUSSIA

A still later report, ~~which, comes~~ from Berlin, brings word that a column of massed Soviet tanks and infantry has broken through the German lines north of Melitopol on the shore of the Sea of Azov. That column has heavy air support, according to the Germans. This Berlin report indicates that the Russians there are in a position to cut communications between the Nazis in the Crimea and those on the lower Dnieper, ~~in other~~ ~~words, it is a move to~~ ^{and} isolate the Germans in the Crimea.

^{we hear,}
Adolf Hitler has given orders that Kiev be razed to the ground. Kiev, ~~is the~~ third largest city in Russia, and one of the most beautiful of them all. This report ~~also~~ comes from Berlin, through Madrid, and ~~it~~ is taken to mean that the Germans are ~~have begun to~~ ^{ing} withdraw from the capital of the Ukraine. If so, the principal purpose of the summer drive of the Soviet armies will have been realized.

GERMAN'S FOLLOW RUSSIA

The unexpected magnitude of the Russian advance is having its effect on the spirits of the German people. Civilians have been openly afraid that they have ~~it~~ lost the war, and many of them have been put to death for ~~it~~ ^{saying so.} Evidently Hitler's subjects are taking no stock in the explanations offered by propaganda Minister Goebbels for the continual retreats of the German armies. The death sentences on civilians who have spoken their minds shows that the Gestapo is trying to drown in blood the discontent in the Reich.

All this we learn from a United Press correspondent who has just arrived at Stockholm. He reports that apparently even Goebbels realizes that it ~~is~~ ^{now} useless to tell the Germans that everything is fine. ^{For} The Russian advance is too ~~an~~ overwhelming to be explained away. People are ^{said to be} openly asking; - when will the German Army stop and dig in on a new line of defense? One German military expert declared that the Soviet attack was made possible by resources that far exceed those that the Germans ^{even} had in the summer of Nineteen Forty-two and Forty-One. And he adds that the advance of the Red Army is the greatest offensive in history.

GERMAN'S Follow RUSSIA

Nazi propaganda itself is confused. On the one hand it ~~is~~ gives the people the impression that the German Army will try to make a ~~strong~~ stand along the Dnieper River. But almost in the same breath it ~~is~~ throwing out hints of a retreat ~~to~~ to a line drawn from Riga on the Baltic Sea to Odessa on the Black Sea. ^{Which} ~~that~~ would be virtually the line ~~that~~ the Germans held before Hitler attacked Russia.

ADD GERMANS

This report from Stockholm dove-tails with information in the possession of our own government, ^{which we get} ~~that we have~~ from ^{Patterson who} ~~Robert R. Patterson~~ Under-Secretary of War ~~He~~ told a group ~~of men~~ in Washington today that the heads of the German Army have given up all hope of winning the war. ^{Which} ~~but they~~ does not mean they have given up the idea of fighting to the end. They are now planning for a stalemate and ^{intend} ~~they are going~~ to make the allies pay dearly in blood and men for every foot of ground.

Patterson made this statement ~~in~~ at a Washington conference

of leaders of industry, labor and ^{press.} ~~newspapers.~~ Lieutenant-General McNary, ~~the~~ Deputy Chief of Staff, of the Army, ~~was there with~~ ^{also} ~~him.~~ He confirmed stories we have heard that the Germans have ^{just} ~~almost~~ stopped making bombers and are concentrating ~~in~~ on turning out fighter planes.

Both Patterson and McNary revealed the fact that our own production of heavy planes is not ^{what} ~~as good as~~ it should be. ~~We produced~~ seven thousand, six hundred and twelve military aircraft ^{in all} in August; ~~but that was~~ less than our high command had hoped. We need planes badly, and production is ~~being~~ held up because of ~~the~~ shortage of manpower on the Pacific Coast.

~~Patterson and McNary emphasized what other leaders have told us, that we still have a long, hard fight to win.~~

SECOND FRONT FOLLOW GERMANY

The amazing success of the Soviet offensive is also causing repercussions in London, but of a different kind. Military observers along the Thames are coming around to the idea that the Allies ~~have got to~~ ^{must} speed up their second front attack in the West. ~~For~~ If they do not, they may wake up to find that the Russians have defeated the Germans single handed. Those are the ideas that were expressed in London today, and it's significant that this story has cleared the British censorship.

Some experienced observers in London believe the Russians may reach the borders of Germany proper this winter if they can keep up their present pace. High officers in London do not believe the story that the Germans have withdrawn a number of troops from the East and sent them to Italy. It is ^{true} ~~a fact~~ that they have kept on shortening their lines in Russia, but this means they are girding their loins to keep their armies intact for the worst fighting that lies ahead of them. What is more, the allied invasion of Italy and the increasing unrest in the Balkans has drawn off a lot of German reserves.

BALKANS

~~As a rule I take with a grain of salt the stories from Europe about the menace to the German troops from Guerrillas in the Nazi occupied countries. Such reports are always optimistic,~~

~~but as a rule there is no way of confirming them. However,~~

~~the latest stories~~ from the Balkans ^{is all} ~~are~~ circumstantial, ^{the stories} ~~and these~~ appears to be ^{worth considering.} ~~considerable substance to them.~~ For instance, We have word that

one-third of ~~Jugak~~ Jugoslavia is now in the hands of Yugoslav

patriot forces. A spokesman for the Yugoslav government in London declares that General Mikhailovitch's men hold a large stretch of the Dalmatian coast and two-thirds of Slovenia. What is more, two-thirds of Bosnia, Montenegro, and Herzegovina are now completely controlled by Guerillas as well as one-fourth of Croatia.

The same spokesman added that a column of former soldiers, operating under a "partisan" commander, have cut the German-controlled railway line between the Italian port of Trieste and San Pietro, East of Trieste. Some of these guerrilla units have heavy artillery, evidently obtained from the British. This tale is ^{more or less} ~~confirmed~~ confirmed by a German broadcast which related that the Allies are sending food and arms by sea to the guerrilla forces in the

TP
Balkans. Hard fighting is going on all over Jugoslavia and Croatia.

From another source we hear that Italian units ~~are~~ are attacking the German communication ~~lines to~~ ^{lines of} the Brenner Pass. ~~And~~ ^{through} Another force ~~is~~ ^{said to be} operating against the Nazis in northern Italy, ~~is~~ is composed of several thousand British prisoners of war who were held in detention camps in Italy. When Italy surrendered ~~they~~ ^{these} were set free, and ~~now~~ ^{hurriedly} they ~~are~~ formed into an organized Army, behind the German lines, in Italy.

In the air war over Europe, ^{American} Flying Fortresses made a daylight attack on Emden, ^{big} ~~where the~~ Nazis ~~have a big~~ naval and U-boat base. ~~It was~~ The heaviest raid ~~that~~ the United States Eighth Air Force has yet made against a single target. They dropped about a thousand tons of explosives and fire bombs around ~~the~~ ^{at Emden.} harbor. ~~A formation of Pathfinder Fortresses led the way to Emden~~

and when they got there dropped many sticks of incendiary bombs. That made the targets easily visible ~~for~~ for the Fortresses that followed, although the sky was heavily overcast. Thereupon the main body of the attackers dropped their heavy bombs.

The Fortresses were well protected all the way by a strong covering of American Thunderbolt fighter planes. It was the longest escort flight that had ever been made in the war, six hundred miles round trip. From one base alone ~~these~~ Thunderbolt pilots, ^{report having shot down} ~~shot down nine~~ nine German fighter planes.

^R The guessing is that some three hundred and fifty or four hundred fortresses took part in the raid. ^{Emden} ~~The pilots reported that the~~

~~The enemy report~~ ^{telling of the battle, and there} enemy ~~flak was high.~~ The destruction left ~~behind them~~ was shattering. One bombardier, ^{that} ~~reported that there were~~ lots of enemy fighters around, but they were bashful.

INVASION

~~over~~ In Italy, the American Fifth Army has carved its way into the left flank of the ~~Nazis~~ Nazis. They have penetrated eleven miles within the German lines and ~~they~~ now have a fair chance to turn the enemy line at Naples and surround the city.

Meanwhile, the British are ~~having a sanguinary fight on~~ ^{battling on} the mountain above Salerno, ~~they are~~ smashing ahead ~~literally~~ yard by yard. ~~They~~ ^{These} must be the British under General Alexander; ~~because we hear that the British~~ ^{for the} Eighth Army, under Montgomery, is on the Adriatic side, ~~at Foggia~~ marching towards Foggia, ~~one of the main air centers of Italy,~~ ^{one of the main air centers of Italy,} ~~that would be an important capture because there are huge ~~rail~~~~ railway yards there and great airdromes. ^{has just} Montgomery ~~has~~ advanced ^{another} twelve miles overnight, and ^{is now only} ~~captured Cerignola,~~ twenty-two miles to the southeast of Foggia. As soon as Montgomery has his hands on Foggia, he also will be in a position to strike across the peninsula for Naples.

^{As} Returning to General Clark's Fifth Army ~~has~~ ^{now} pushed as far as Calabritto, fifty miles due east of Naples.

Observers declare the fighting has been as fierce *in the Mediterranean area* as anything since El Alamein. ~~The~~ Allied heavy artillery is battering the Germans by day and by night. At the same time British warships standing off shore are also *blasting away at* ~~pepper~~ the enemy.

~~The Americans also captured Cassano, near the southern end of their sector. And the Eighth Army took Muro by storm, sixteen miles east of Calabritto.~~

The south-Italian
~~The~~ front now stretches a hundred and ten miles *right* across the peninsula. It goes from a place called Marguerita de Savoia on the Adriatic, through Cerignola, Muro, and Calabritto to Amalfi on the south coast of the Sorrento Peninsula.

On Corsica there are only a few Nazi units left and they are at Bastia on the northeast coast. Most of them have either been evacuated or ~~been~~ shot down into the waters between Corsica and Leghorne. French, Italian and Corsican troops, supported by American Rangers, have the remaining ~~Nazis~~ Nazis surrounded, and will soon have them either ~~annihilated~~ annihilated or taken prisoner.

~~The news from New Guinea is rather puzzling.~~ From

~~General~~ MacArthur's headquarters we hear that the Americans and Australians are storming the defenses at Finchhafen, ^{on New Guinea} and

^{with} ~~the~~ the Japanese garrison ~~is~~ resisting desperately. The

strategy of MacArthur has had the effect of a triple squeeze on the Japs there.

But from Tokyo we hear that the Jap planes over the weekend raided Finchhafen three times. This would ~~indicate~~ indicate that the Australians have already captured the Jap base at New Guinea. Just what would be Tokyo's propaganda purpose in putting out that hint, it is not easy to understand.

The burden of the news indicates that the Japs are ~~still there and~~ about to be pushed into the sea ^{with} their only chance to escape, ~~is~~ by boat, across a seventy five mile stretch of water to New Britain. Australian General Sir Thomas Blamey, who is in command of the allied ground forces in New Guinea, said today that the fall of Finchhafen is only a matter of days. But he added that the Japs are well bunkered in some places.