

Patton Driving to Block Enemy Flight

East Prussia Entered by Soviet Army

Reds Seize Jassy; Nazis Attacking Strongly Near Riga and Warsaw

Russian forces entered East Prussia yesterday and simultaneously scored the first success of their four-day-old Rumanian offensive by capturing the industrial town and rail junction of Jassy, 165 miles from the Ploesti oilfields.

Even as the Red Army unloosed fresh concentrations of tanks and infantry on the southern front, whipping up the fighting to a point where a Berlin spokesman described it as "the chief center of battle in the east," the German High Command threw upward of a quarter of a million men into violent battles west of Riga and counter-attacked strongly east of Warsaw with as many as 120 tanks at a time.

The Soviet entry into East Prussia, first invasion of Germany proper, was accompanied by almost no fanfare, at least at the beginning. A slim front-line dispatch to Moscow's Red Star told the story. It said simply that the enemy had been "repulsed beyond the Sesupe River (which marks the East Prussian frontier) on the other side of the border."

Col. Ernst von Hammer, German News Agency commentator, reported that the Russians fighting to deepen their Sandomierz bridgehead across the Vistula, 120 miles south of Warsaw, achieved "a number of penetrations" with the help of "wave after wave of Soviet bombers."

He said a "major Soviet battle group" was encircled and wiped out in bitter fighting west of Riga, where the Germans have thrown in more than six new panzer divisions to break completely Gen. Ivan Bagramyan's threat to isolate their Baltic troops in Estonia and northern Latvia.

Moscow admitted yesterday that Bagramyan had been pushed back from the Baltic coast at Tukums, ten miles inland from the Gulf of Riga and 32 miles west of Riga itself.

The War Today

France—Americans strike northwest along west bank of Seine to trap Germans retreating to the river. . . . Other U.S. columns expand bridgehead on east bank of Seine near Mantes in threat to flying-bomb coast, and head from another area southeast of Paris toward Marne River. . . . Germans evacuate Etampes, southwest of Paris. . . . New American drive south of Orleans, say Germans. . . . Stiffening resistance slows Toulon drive in south. . . . Americans take Aix as Allies expand bridgehead to 2,000 square miles.

Russia—Russians drive enemy out of Jassy, Rumanian rail junction 165 miles from Ploesti oilfields. . . . Cross into East Prussia. . . . Germans throw quarter of a million men into violent battle west of Riga to keep corridor open to Baltic divisions in Estonia and northern Latvia.

Italy—All Florence firmly in Allied hands, Gen. Alexander's headquarters announce. . . . Patrols move north of city toward Gothic line. . . . Poles in Adriatic sector capture three towns and push back Germans north of the Metaura River in drive toward soft eastern anchor of Nazi defenses.

Pacific—Battle of Tinian bloodiest yet fought in Pacific, casualty totals reveal. . . . Gen. MacArthur announces Halmahera and Boeroe Islands again blasted by Allied bombers. . . . Secretary of Navy Forrestal warns against expecting quick finish to war in Pacific after defeat of Germany.

Asia—Allied 14th Army troops advance five miles inside Burma on Tiddim Road. . . . Seek contact with fleeing Japanese, whose rearguards have retreated beyond Allies' reach.

My Son, My Son!



A French soldier who returned to his homeland with the Allied armies greets his mother for the first time in years as Alencon is freed by U.S. troops.

'Keep 'Em in the Army, It's Cheaper'—Hershey Free Us Fast, Without Jobs? Oh No, Says He Who Took Us In

DENVER, Colo., Aug. 22 (ANS)—The admittedly unpopular theory that many of the nation's soldiers should be kept in uniform—even after Japan's defeat—until there is room for them in private business and industry found a high-brass supporter today in Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey.

Endorsing "gradual demobilization," the Selective Service chief said in a speech here that it was desirable because "we know that when the saturation point is reached we will not gain very much by putting men out where they can't be reabsorbed."

Then came this significant sentence, seemingly implying that the soldier without promise of a job might get only a TS ticket instead of a discharge:

"We can keep people in the Army about as cheaply as we could create an agency for them when they are out."

Anticipates a Hue and Cry
Hershey, apparently prepared for criticism, conceded that gradual demobilization when all hostilities ceased would be "unpopular—because when the war is over people will want the boys to come home."

He forecast the release of a million to two million men after Germany's defeat, but warned this could not be accomplished in "one day."

"If we let out a thousand soldiers an hour," he said, "it still will take ten months to get rid of 2,000,000 to 2,500,000."

The general obviously was figuring on a strict eight-hour day for the discharge mills. Demobilization centers running (Continued on page 4)

Wm. Stringer, Reporter, Killed

William Stringer, Reuter correspondent with the U.S. Army, acclaimed for his dispatches on the French campaign, was killed while covering the advance of American troops, it was announced yesterday. No details were given.

A 27-year-old American, Stringer arrived in Britain three months before D-Day and accompanied the first wave of Yanks into Normandy.

Disclosure of Stringer's death came one day after the burial in France of Tom Treanor, Los Angeles Times and NBC reporter, who died Saturday of injuries received in a tank-jeep collision near the front.

Stabs North on Seine As Germans Stiffen Lines East of River

American forces launched a strong offensive northwest from Mantes along the west bank of the Seine River yesterday to annihilate or capture German forces which escaped from the Falaise pocket.

Other U.S. columns expanded their bridgehead on the east bank of the Seine near Mantes in what dispatches called a threat to the rocket coast.

And while these drives were developing north of Paris, American troops made another Seine crossing south of the capital, in the Fontainebleau area.

As for Paris itself, where French patriots were reported to be fighting the Germans inside the city, the day brought no word of any further thrust by Gen. Patton's troops beyond Versailles, six miles away.

Etampes and Maesherbes, southwest of Paris, were evacuated by the Germans after 15 hours of bitter fighting, German radio admitted last night.

American patrols were ranging from Mantes southward to Versailles, and U.S. armor was reported to be engaged in heavy fighting near Rambouillet, 17 miles southwest of Versailles.

Orleans Reports Vary

Farther south at Orleans, a new Allied operation was beginning to develop, according to a German High Command spokesman, who said the Americans were "driving south from Orleans." However, a Reuter dispatch from the Third Army said the Germans had massed considerable artillery on the southern banks of the Loire, and they were heavily shelling the city.

Strong German resistance was reported in several sectors around Paris, as well as on the Seine north of Mantes. The Germans claimed they had halted American drives west of St. Germain and Versailles, both suburbs of Paris, and west of Arpajon, 20 miles southwest of Paris, while Allied dispatches told of a protective German screen in the area north of Dreux.

As the U.S. First and Third Armies methodically continued crushing all organized opposition outside the Normandy pocket, an AP dispatch from the Canadian First Army disclosed that 30,000 Germans had been captured inside the pocket up to two days ago, the latest estimate available. Although this dispatch added that the problem in the pocket was no longer one of fighting, but of handling prisoners, a Reuter report (Continued on page 4)

Want a Jeep? U.S. May Sell It To You Wholesale

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22 (ANS)—The House recognized the fighting forces' love for the Jeep by writing into the surplus war property disposal bill today an amendment that would permit ex-servicemen and women to buy this ironclad midget at "wholesale prices."

It adopted a proposal by Rep. William J. Miller (R.-Conn.) providing that those who served in uniform may buy any surplus item after the war at the same unit price as big-lot buyers.

Sewing Up Another Pocket



The Stars and Stripes Map

Toulon's Guns Slow French Troops in City

Allies Push 60 Mi. Inland And Within 6 Miles Of Marseilles

Although heavy German artillery fire slowed French progress inside Toulon yesterday, other Allied columns seized the road hub of Aix-en-Provence, drove west within six miles of Marseilles and penetrated 60 miles inland to bring more than 2,000 square miles under control.

Toulon, now completely encircled, was shelled heavily by an Allied naval squadron, including battleships and cruisers, German News Agency reported.

The French, after capturing the base, met stubborn resistance from the Toulon garrison, which began a last-ditch stand by turning anti-aircraft guns against the Allies.

Toulon's resistance was an exception. Elsewhere, as Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch said in a special order, "The enemy in southern France is perplexed and stunned and in full retreat. We have achieved a great initial victory."

American commentators at advanced Allied headquarters broadcast that the operation was far ahead of its timetable and troops were moving so fast that field commanders were improvising strategy as they went along.

Capture of Aix, 13 miles north of Marseilles, put the Americans in the center of the biggest network of main roads radiating north from Marseilles.

Arrested by Gestapo

Petain Played Ball, but Nazis Strike Him Out

ON THE FRENCH FRONTIER, Aug. 22 (AP)—Aged Marshal Petain, once proud defender of Verdun, who has knuckled under to the Nazi overlords for the last four years, was under arrest today by his masters' bloodhounds, the Gestapo. Where he was taken was not disclosed.

At the same time, Pierre Laval moved his "government"—apparently torn by dissension—to Belfort, historic town about 275 miles from Paris, handy to the Swiss and German frontiers.

Otto Abetz, Hitler's "ambassador" to Vichy, is with Laval—and some 20,000 to 30,000 Nazi troops are with him, apparently prepared to defend the important gap, the "trou de Belfort," which leads to the Rhine.

It Won't Be Long

Meanwhile, Gen. Koenig, newly appointed by Gen. de Gaulle to be military governor of Paris, told Parisians in a broadcast that "the hour of liberation is near."

Usually reliable sources reported that Petain was arrested at the Hotel du Parc in Vichy Sunday morning. Before being taken to an unknown destination he was allowed to write a short letter of farewell.

With him, the Gestapo roped in Bernard Menetrel, his private secretary and physician, Gen. Bridoux, Adm. Blehaut and Rochat, secretary-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

De Gaulle Moving Up

RENNES, Aug. 22 (UP)—Gen. Charles De Gaulle is now proceeding through France. He visited here last night. On the road people stopped his car time after time and covered it with flowers. He had visited the bombed towns of Coutances and Avranches on his way.

