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(Compiled by Overseas Branch, U.S. Office of War Information)

RUSSIA -- On the Eastern Front the Red Army has captured the outflank five-way rail junction of Poltsk, the Germans last major bastion in White Russia. The Germans threw all their available reserve into their efforts to hold Poltsk, for the German Command's main communications to the Baltic States in East Prussia. However, General Bargramin's troops meshed through German defenses. Meanwhile other units of Bargramin's group occupied over 300 localities as they fanned out beyond Poltsk. Now west of Poltsk Soviet troops took Myery, within 75 kilometers of the Latvian rail junction of Dvinsk; to the Southwest Red Army forces captured the rail junction of Boropayevo in an advance of 35 kilometers in one day. The fall of Boropayevo deprived the Germans of a secondary north-south rail line. Other Soviet thrusts brought the Red Army closer to Vilna, key German base and communications center. Soviet bombers struck ahead of this force by attacking the rail junction at Vilna Monday night.

Around Minsk units of the Red Army reached the Naroch River, 85 kilometers northwest of Minsk. To the southwest another Soviet force took Kletsk 40 kilometers from Baranovich.

On the White Russian Front Tuesday the Red Army killed at least 6700 Germans and captured 2500 prisoners. In addition a German battalion and two regiments were annihilated.

Far to the north in Soviet Karelia Soviet troops wiped out a Finnish battalion and captured more than 40 localities as they continued to clear the rail line leading left from Petrozavodsk.

NORMANDY -- American forces have made further progress along a 25-mile offensive front on the western side of the Cotentin Peninsula. The American drive to the south on the western side of the coast line across the base of the Peninsula brought Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley's troops to within 4 miles of La Haye de Petuits.

The British and Canadians in the Caen Area were reported to be engaged in fierce battles south of the village of Carpiquet to the northwest of Caen which was captured by Canadians Tuesday. No other activity was reported in this area.

Aerial support of Allied ground forces picked up Tuesday as bad weather over the French coast line cleared and permitted Allied fighter bombers to attack road, rail and water communication targets behind the German lines in Normandy and inland France. Light and heavy Allied bombers Tuesday made successful attacks on German reinforcement bases near the western battle sector and hit rail targets south of Paris. Other Allied coastal aircraft attacked enemy shipping off Brittany in the afternoon and in the channel Tuesday night.

ITALY -- Despite strong German resistance being encountered on both coasts of the Italian Peninsula, the Allied Fifth and Eighth Armies Wednesday continued without letup their steady drive northward toward the two major enemy supply ports of Leghorn and Ancona.

German forces just below Leghorn are battling desperately to hold on to Rosignano and Volterra in an effort to stem the rapid advance by the American troops of the Fifth Army. Meanwhile in central Italy Allied Eighth Army troops driving beyond Lake Trasimeno along the Chiana Valley are rapidly advancing on the key road, rail and communication center of Arezzo 60 kilometers southeast of Florence as forward elements pushed to within 8 kilometers of the town.

(Over)



On the Adriatic Coastal sector British troops of the Allied Eighth Army are encountering stiff German resistance as they draw nearer to the key supply port of Ancona. Ancona is only 90 kilometers from the eastern end of the German's new Pisa-Florence-Rimini defense fortifications.

PACIFIC -- In the Pacific American invasion troops now hold about seven-eighths of Saipan. The American troops seized Garapan, capital of Saipan, and the first Japanese city to be taken in the Pacific war.

Meanwhile an American Task Force struck within 1300 kilometers of Tokyo attacking Iwo Jima in the Volcano Group and Maba Jima in the Bonins Sunday and Monday. Five Japanese ships were sunk and several others damaged. Sixty-four Japanese planes were shot down while a number of other Japanese aircraft were damaged on the ground. American losses totaled nine planes.

In the Southwest Pacific American troops reinforced by paratroopers have established a strong defense perimeter around Kamiri airdrome on Noemfoor Island.

In China the Chinese garrison in Hengyang, important point on the Canton-Hankow railroad, is still holding on despite strong Japanese attacks.

Inside India British troops have ousted the Japanese from their base of Ukhrul 55 kilometers northeast of Imphal.

The British Admiralty announced Wednesday that British submarines have sunk 9 Japanese supply ships and damaged two others in Pacific and Far eastern waters.