

EVENING BULLETIN

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== (Compiled by Overseas Branch, Office of War Information) ==

RUSSIA — Marshal Stalin in two Orders of the Day announced the capture of Pinsk and Volkovsk by the Red Army Friday.

Pinsk, in the western Pripet Marshes, was the last major bastion protecting the great German fortress of Brest-Litovsk 100 miles (160 kilometers) to the east. It is on the main Gomel-Brest-Litovsk railway. Volkovsk, an important railway junction, was a stronghold protecting Bialystok, eighty kilometers (fifty miles) directly east.

Friday's Soviet communique said Red Army troops who took Volkovsk captured a German Major General. (This was the 20th General taken in the current offensive. Four have been killed in action.) The communique said Soviet forces took Opochna, a railway station and fortified point on the Pskov-Polotsk railroad 120 kilometers (74 miles) south of Polotsk. The Red Army occupied forty places north of Idritsa, twenty places northwest of Polotsk, sixty places northwest and southwest of Vilna, and fifty places southwest of Lida.

FRANCE — Friday night's Allied Headquarters communique said: "The Allied advance towards the Lessay-St. Lo road continues, and several small salients have been driven into the enemy's defenses." The rest of the Normandy Front was reported unchanged. Flying weather was described as "difficult". American troops, advancing one to three miles, have driven within 2000 yards (1880 meters) of Lessay, at the western end of the Normandy battlefront. Below Carentan, U.S. troops took four villages in a small advance. At St. Lo, U.S. infantrymen held their positions two miles (three kilometers) outside the city. British artillery beat back a German counterattack by forty tanks below Eterville, four miles (six kilometers) southwest of Caen. Bad weather again hampered Allied planes.

ITALY — French troops Friday in Italy took Poggibonsi, road junction and German strongpoint twenty-two miles (thirty-five kilometers) south of Florence.

More than 500 Italy-based U.S. heavy bombers Friday attacked three oil refineries, with a one-time capacity of 358,000 tons per year, on the outskirts of Budapest. They also bombed railyards in Budapest, and an oil plant five miles (eight kilometers) to the south.

WESTERN EUROPE — RAF — Bombers, flying in daylight with fighter escort, Friday attacked flying torpedo installations in Northern France. No planes were lost.

U. S. SECRETARY OF STATE CORDELL HULL said in a special statement Friday that the State Department has confirmed the "appalling news" of mass killings of Jews in Hungary, and said the entire Hungarian Jewish community of 1,000,000, ~~000~~ persons is "threatened with extermination." He also condemned the German mass slaughter early June of the population of Distomo, Greece, and said: "Justice will certainly be meted out to those responsible."

(Over)

YUGOSLAVIA -- Constantin Fotitch Friday announced his resignation as Yugoslav Ambassador to the United States. He said he has been elected a member of "the Central National Committee of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia ... with the responsibility and duty of informing the people of the United States of the conditions and struggle in Yugoslavia ... and about the activities of General Draja Mihailovic, who has been relentlessly fighting the enemy for more than three years." (Fotitch last Saturday announced he no longer "recognizes" the new Yugoslav Government of Dr. Ivan Subasitch claiming that it does not represent the Yugoslav people.)

BRAZIL -- President Getulio Vargas Friday decreed the industrial mobilization of Brazil in the interests of the war effort. The decree provides that labor contracts cannot be rescinded except when laborers are drafted into the army; authorizes a ten-hour day, with at least twenty percent overtime for the extra two hours; and permits night work in industry for women.

PACIFIC -- British Home Secretary Herbert Morrison told House of Commons Friday that Britain will fight the war against Japan through to victory. He said: "There can be no question of letting our ... Allies ... down, or shirking our full share of the burden of the (Pacific) conflict."

DOMESTIC -- The United States War Department says Lieutenant General Ben Lear, ex-commander of the United States Second Army, has been named commander of United States Army Ground Forces in the United States, succeeding Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, who has been given an undisclosed important overseas assignment.

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