

RUSSIA -- Marshal Stalin announced in an Order of the Day on Friday that Soviet forces had crossed the River Bug on a thirty-five mile front west of Kovel between Brest-Litovsk and Lvov.

Stalin also announced that Soviet forces under Colonel General Ivan Imasenskovsky stormed the city of Ostrov, an important communications center and powerful German-held strongpoint covering the roads to the central areas of the Baltic regions.

AIR WAR -- American heavy bombers based in Britain and Italy struck again Friday at the heart of industrial Germany for the fourth consecutive day of their coordinated offensive against production centers of the Luftwaffe.

More than 1,100 bombers of the U.S. Eighth Force breasted a Channel gale to attack aircraft assembly plants at Regensburg 160 miles south of Leipzig, and ball bearing factories at Schweinfurt and Ebelsbach. The Britain-based bombers were escorted by 800 fighters. Scores of enemy fighters were seen, but returning pilots said most of them refused battle.

The Fifteenth U.S. air force in Italy sent 500 bombers to attack Brux in Czechoslovakia. Specific targets were not named. Pilots said the Germans used a defensive smokescreen, compelling the Allied planes to bomb by instrument.

London dispatches said the twin assaults from the west and from the south carried the bombing offensive to new peaks. In a little more than 24 hours, it was estimated that a total of 7,000 Allied planes dropped about 15,000 tons of bombs on critical targets.

The British Air Ministry in London announced Friday that aircraft of the RAF Bomber Command dropped more than 4,500 tons of bombs on objectives in Germany, Belgium and France between 3:00 P.M. Thursday and 3:00 A.M. Friday.

HITLER PLOT -- U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull at his press conference in Washington Friday said that "no amount of internal reshuffling or repression by Heinrich Himmler can conceal from the German people the fact that many German Generals believe that Germany has lost the war".

The Stockholm daily Aftontidningen Friday called attention to the unprecedented silence which is being maintained by Nazi Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels in the midst of Germany's greatest internal crisis since the purge of June 1934.

Latest developments summarized follow:

Friday night (German time) Field Marshal Guenther von Kluge, Commander of German forces in the west, issued an Order of the Day calling on his troops to be "unconditionally loyal to Hitler".

Reports from Bern reaching Washington Friday said 34 high German officers, including several Generals, had been arrested, and that indications are that the purge had not yet come to an end.

Nothing has been heard of Field Marshal Wilhelm von Keitel, head of the High Command of the German armed forces, nor of any of the other German Commanders in the occupied countries.

The German radio Friday announced the execution of Colonel-General Ludwig Beck, Head of the General Staff until 1938, and said that "precautionary measures" had been taken in Berlin.

Telephone communications between Berlin and Stockholm, and Berlin and Bern, were interrupted and had not been restored by noon Friday.

PACIFIC -- On the same day that the U.S. Fleet landed forces on Japanese-held Guam Island, the Japanese agency Domei quoted Admiral Takahashi, former Commander in Chief of Japanese Navy, as saying Thursday that the Japanese Navy was waiting in "deathly silence" to "strike hard, devastating blows" on the American Navy "when the opportune moment arrives".

(Over)



Transocean, German overseas "News Service" said Friday that Colonel General Kurt Zeitzler has been replaced by General Heinz Guderian as Chief of the German General Staff. Transocean also said that Field Marshal Wilhelm Von Keitel, was among those who escaped the attempted assassination of Hitler. This was the first time that Keitel's name was mentioned in connection with the reported affair.

JAPAN -- Domei, the Japanese news agency, said Friday that Lt. General Yaheita Saito, "acting spokesman for General Kuniaki Koiso's headquarters", told the press that "the cabinet formation is progressing and a selection will be completed Friday."

BURMA - CHINA -- Allied troops in Manipur State, India, continued on Friday to follow up the retreating units of the Japanese forces which attempted to invade India four months ago. One Allied group pursuing the Japanese down the trails from Ukhrul to Burma attacked the Japanese-held base at Meiring, 26 miles south of Ukhrul. On one of the other Japanese escape routes from the Imphal area, Allied troops captured Japanese equipment, including two tanks, as they pushed more than nine miles below Bishenpur. Allied aircraft supported ground troop action in these areas.

U.S. air strength is also playing a large part in support of the Chinese troops in action throughout the Hengyang area where fighting is still in progress.

FRANCE -- A United Press dispatch from Algiers says Henri Bonnet, Minister of Information of French Committee of National Liberation, announced on Friday that news monopolies enjoyed by Havas (prewar French Government news agency) will not be revived, though a temporary monopoly has been decreed for the new French news agency. Government regulations covering the monopoly for the new agency are designed, according to Bonnet, "to give the new agency a chance to get on its feet and to prevent it from being smothered at birth by the big streamlined foreign agencies." He said that the FCNL considers itself bound in its permanent press policy by the recommendations received last March from the National Council of Resistance inside France urging that the future of the French news agency should not be a state organ or monopoly, and that all French agencies and newspapers should be free to deal with whatever agencies French or foreign, they may choose.

CHICAGO -- The names of Henry A. Wallace and Senator Harry S. Truman of Missouri, were placed in nomination for Vice Presidency Friday as Democratic National Convention convened in Chicago for its final session. Balloting began at 5:52 pm. Truman's name was placed in nomination by Senator Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri, who said his candidate had done more to help win the war than any other civilian except the President. Truman is Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee investigating the war effort. Wallace's name was offered by Judge Richard Mitchell, former Chief Justice of Iowa State Supreme Court. Wallace, Mitchell said, was a crusader for the rights of the common man and a leader capable of helping President Roosevelt shoulder the massive responsibilities the war has brought to the Chief Executive's office.

Others whose names were placed in nomination as roll call of states continued were: Sen. John Bankhead of Ala.; Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyo.; Sen. Scott Lucas of Ill.; Paul V. McNutt of War Manpower Comm.; Sen. Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky; U.S. Supreme Court Justice Murphy; Governor J. M. Broughton of N.C.; Governor Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma; Governor Prentis Cooper of Tenn.; and Senator Elbert Thomas of Utah.

NORMANDY -- Allied headquarters announced Friday night that gains are still being made on Normandy Front. Yesterday Allied troops advanced south of St. Andre-Sur-Orne against heavy enemy resistance which developed into German counterattack near St. Martin de Fontenay. This counterattack was supported by armor, but was repulsed with loss to enemy. Bad weather prevented air activity.