

Red Army Still Advancing North of Stalingrad

By KENNETH CLARK

At Stalingrad the initiative appears to be slowly shifting into the hands of the Russians.

Moscow front dispatches Saturday said fresh Soviet tank reserves were knifing deeper into vital Nazi positions on a range of hills northwest of Stalingrad. The Russian attack was reported to be growing in vigor and German counterthrusts were repulsed with heavy losses. In one sector the Russians advanced.

The United Press said it was now clear that Marshal Semyon Timoshenko was determined to drive back the German left flank, that a part of the hills already had been taken, and that if the Germans lost the range they would be forced to withdraw part of their forces from the northern and northwestern outskirts of Stalingrad.

The Germans are withdrawing men and tanks from the line of their frontal assault in an attempt to stop the counter offensive.

Roast the Nazis

On the 34th day of the amazing battle of Stalingrad, front line dispatches said the Russians in bitter hand-to-hand fighting had driven the Germans from a number of blocks inside the city.

The Germans failed to advance in frenzied efforts to take vital intersections. Soviet anti-tank weapons, firing from behind barricades, were proving superior to German armor, knocking out every tank directly hit. The Russians supplemented the fire of their anti-tank guns and artillery with hand grenades and benzine bottles and many Germans were roasted inside their tanks.

German planes, somewhat checked in their everlasting pounding of the city because their own and Russian troops were inextricably tangled in the rubble streets and houses, concentrated on the Volga River crossings in an effort to prevent reinforcements from reaching the defenders.

Meantime new Soviet armored naval units, principally high speed motor boats, joined violently in the battle, coursing up and down the Volga, attacking German artillery emplacements and tanks at short range and helping monitors to protect crossings against dive bombers.

Checkerboard Defense

The German attacks on the checkerboard defense inside the city were reported universally unsuccessful. The Russians blasted them from two points with artillery and mortar fire. German losses in the hand-to-hand street fighting were reported by prisoners to run as high as 70 per cent in some regiments.

While the outlook appeared more encouraging than for weeks past, Moscow continued to take the gravest view of the position. The Army newspaper, *Red Star*, said: "The country is living through grave days. The situation cannot be improved with silly harmful talk about the greatness of our territory and our inexhaustible resources.