

Monday, September 21, 1942

# Russians Gain in Stalingrad Streets

By HAROLD KING

*Reuters Correspondent*

MOSCOW, Sept. 21.—Soviet counter-blows have thrown the Germans back in some places in the Stalingrad area. The early communique announced today that several of the city's streets were recaptured in bloody hand-to-hand battles.

With thousands of German tanks and fresh air-borne Tommy gunners making a ceaseless attack under giant air umbrellas, the possession of Stalingrad continues to elude Hitler's forces. The situation seems desperate to an outside observer, but the Soviet Command refuses to surrender.

The main German effort is now concentrated in northwest Stalingrad where the Germans are trying to lop off part of the suburbs by a lateral push towards the bank of the Volga. There was a most critical moment Friday when, for some six hours, the Germans got possession of a hill from whose heights long-range guns can control the very heart of Stalingrad.

The most violent German tank attacks on record are making headway at great speed with the air force covering their advance. Tanks, often 100 strong at a time, rush in in successive waves. Where the first wave fails to break through it is rapidly wheeled away, leaving the path free for a second wave, and for a third and fourth.

These panzer thrusts are so powerful that heavy German tanks often get right up to positions of Soviet long-range artillery, which frequently have been firing almost point-blank at tanks with shells meant to carry dozens of miles.

Gigantic tank battles are taking place alongside hundreds of small engagements. Both sides are fighting desperately to gain or hold every square yard of ground. Many encircled Soviet units have held out three, four and five days until relieved at last by reinforcements. The Red Army order of the day is:

"There is no such thing as encirclement—it simply means attacking the enemy from the opposite direction."

Red Army men in meetings on the very battlefield, in ravines flown over and bombed by German planes, swear:

"No German will break our will for victory."

The Germans have had enormous losses, as yet uncounted. Two Soviet regiments alone in three days in the past week killed 2200 Germans and destroyed 64 tanks and 20 big guns, besides capturing 34 more guns. This is a mere fraction of the cost paid by the Germans in the last few days, but their power of attack is nowhere near broken yet.

Other Red Armies are fighting hard and offensively on the extreme flank of Stalingrad—Voronezh and Mozdok—pinning down increasingly large German forces and daily adding large figures to the terrible record of German dead. Over 8000 Germans have been killed by Soviet artillery on the Voronezh front in the past week alone. In a fortnight in the Mozdok area two German infantry divisions—the 370th and 111th—were badly mauled, and a third tank division defeated with heavy losses.