

SEPTEMBER 7, 1942

Nazis Halted At Stalingrad

Stalingrad continued to hold today. For three days now the Nazis have been stopped on both the northwest and southwest approaches to the key industrial city on the Volga, loss of which would be a grave blow to the Soviet war effort. (*Map on Page 16, pictures on Page 9.*)

Today's first Soviet communique indicated that Marshal Fedor von Bock continues to pour in more men, more tanks and more planes, trying to overwhelm the Russian defenders by sheer weight. The Russian High Command spoke only of "fierce engagements" in the same areas where fighting had been going on since Friday and gave no further details.

Front line dispatches, however, said the situation was "increasingly grave" southwest of the city, where massive concentrations of all arms are trying to blast a path through the depth defenses of Marshal Semyon Timoshenko.

Nazis Retreat

Northwest of the beleaguered city, the Russians struck back with such force that the Nazis had to retreat from a number of populated places and Red Army tanks slashed into German positions at one point.

Stalingrad itself lies in ruins. The great factories which used to turn out tanks and tractors have been leveled by the numerically superior Nazi *Luftwaffe*. The machinery and supplies of these plants sprawled along the banks of the Volga have been removed to safer regions.

Every able-bodied man, woman and child of Stalingrad's 450,000 population is bearing arms today. They have been welded into a citizens' army and are manning the ramparts of the city's defenses alongside the men of the Red Army. Moscow was saved in this way by its citizens; so was Leningrad.

Hold at Grozny

Novorossiisk, one of the few remaining bases of the Soviet Black Sea fleet, stands in imminent peril of falling to the Nazis. The German High Command claimed to have captured it yesterday, but loss of the port was not announced by the Russians. The Soviet High Command said fighting is going on "in the area of Novorossiisk."

Von Bock's forces trying to advance toward the Grozny oilfields still are being held up at an unnamed river barrier, probably the Terek River. Mopping-up operations are being carried out against the Germans who have tried to bridge the gap.

Russian Losses

Russian Ambassador to London Ivan Maisky said yesterday Russian losses in the war with Germany are now 6000 to 7000 men a day.

As recorded by CBS, he paid tribute to the RAF and said:

"My country's wish is that you will use this weapon with the utmost terrific force. Bomb Germany day and night in the West, East, South and North. I hope that before long British and Soviet airmen will meet over Germany, fighting in the common battle against the common enemy."