

REPORT HITLER TAKES COMMAND IN MOSCOW ZONE

Fuehrer Flies to Sector of Big Nazi Defeat.

LONDON, Jan. 1 (P).—Adolf Hitler was reported tonight to have flown northward from Kiev to a point behind the Nazis' Moscow front to take personal command of German armies broken and beaten at Kaluga by Russia's great counteroffensive, which was continuing with unfettered force on all fronts.

Hitler, who 11 days ago fired his commander in chief, Field Marshal Von Brauchitsch, and personally took over control of the army, presumably will attempt to direct a successful digging in of the Nazi armies—something they have failed to do in more than a month of retreat before the big Red onslaught.

As this report from well informed circles in Stockholm reached London, the Russian command announced a long advance in the area 125 miles northwest of Moscow and the recapture of several towns, including the important upper Volga river town of Staritsa. This drive is now aimed toward Rzhev.

Red Army Nears Mzhaisk. Dispatches from Russia also said advance Red army units were within a few miles of Mzhaisk, key town 57 miles west of Moscow on the broad Moscow-Smolensk highway.

Hitler, according to the Stockholm report, rushed to the Moscow front following the big Russian victory at Kaluga over the tank army of Nazi Col. Gen. Heinz Guderian and the rout of six army corps of perhaps 250,000 men.

The Nazi Fuehrer was at his headquarters in the Kiev area, it was said, when he heard of the defeat, which was regarded by the German general staff as very serious.

Hitler was pictured as hoping that his personal appearance before his troops would stiffen their morale and resistance. His new headquarters were understood to be near Smolensk, 230 miles west of Moscow, and 150 miles from the nearest fighting.

Important Town Lies Ahead. Staritsa, sitting high on the steep banks of the Volga, is approximately one-third of the way to the Latvian border from Moscow.

In smashing toward Rzhev the Russians are approaching a town of 30,000 or 40,000 population which straddles the Volga at a point where it is 350 feet wide and navigable for steamers. It is a junction point of four branch railway lines.

The Russian advance continued all along the front and some of the day's most important gains apparently were made in the vital industrial Donetz basin in the south. In this region from Dec. 7 to 25 the Russians reported capturing much booty, including 71 armored vehicles, 471 guns and 4,000 trucks.

British observers were convinced that these manifestations, added to the grand offensive on the Moscow front and the daring assault in the Crimea, meant the Russians have plenty of trained troops ready to fight thru the winter.

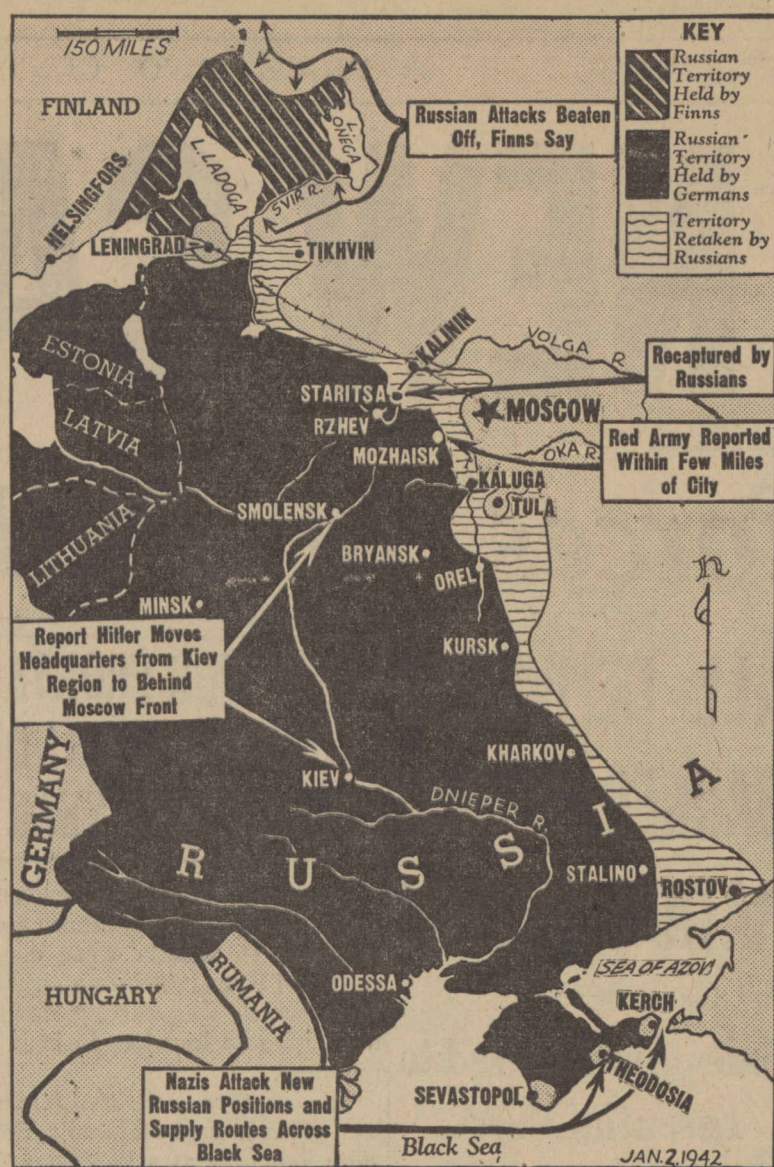
Air Attacks in Crimea. BERLIN, Jan. 1 (Official broadcast recorded by Associated Press).—The high command today declared that Russian forces which landed on Tuesday at Theodosia on the Crimean peninsula "and their supply routes across the Black sea have been attacked by strong formations of the German air force and suffered considerable losses in men and material."

At Lake Ilmen (southeast of Leningrad), it was claimed "a large number of soviet planes" were destroyed on the ground by air attacks.

Finns Occupy An Island. HELSINGFORS, Finland, Jan. 1 (Official broadcast recorded by Associated Press).—Sommer island, in the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland, has been occupied by Finnish naval forces, the Finnish high command announced today.

Soviets Press Gains in Russia

(Story in adjoining column.)



Captions tell developments yesterday along the Russian war front, where continued soviet successes were reported.

SUCCESS OF JAPS AT MANILA LAID TO UNITY IN AIR

Lack of Concealment Training Adds To Toll

(Chicago Tribune Press Service.) Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.—The effectiveness of Japanese bombers over Manila is attributed by capital military experts to coordination of bombers operating from plane carriers, land bases and possibly beaches on the island of Luzon where the enemy made successful landings.

At the same time, experts attributed much of the toll of the bombers in men and equipment to the lack of training of the defending forces in proper utilization of road concealment.

It was recalled that during army maneuvers last summer and fall, troops repeatedly failed to understand and take advantage of road concealment. This failure was remarked by correspondents covering the maneuvers and brought to the attention of the army high command.

Lesson Written in Blood. Because the Philippine army was in process of building when the Jap attack came, experts here were certain that the army was not trained in road concealment and the lesson of peace time maneuvers was written in blood on the island of Luzon.

However, it was said that the toll was not near as heavy as it would have been in this country, because the islands do not possess the broad highways of this country and the jungle growth which arches many roads offered concealment unknown here.

The bases of Jap bombers are still of high concern to the army and navy although reports indicate that the Japs are using land as well as sea bases. The use of plane carriers is believed to have enabled the Japs to strike simultaneously from various directions.

Land Planes Believed Used. The Japs have a naval air base at Taiwan (Formosa) which is but 200 miles north of Luzon. They also

JAP-RUSSIAN FISHING PACT ENDS; QUESTION OF RENEWAL DELAYED

KUIBYSHEV, Russia, Jan. 1 (P).—The Japanese-Russian fisheries agreement which requires annual renewal, came to its end last midnight without any public announcement as to whether it has been extended.

The 1941 renewal, however, was not signed until the middle of January. There is no actual need for the new pact until late February or March, when the fishing grounds off Siberia's coasts are auctioned at Vladivostok.

This year, however, keen interest has attached to the pact's renewal, because observers consider it a test of the World War position of these two powers, at peace with one another although each is at war with the other's allies.

have bases on the coast of China some 400 miles away and have taken over bases in French Indo-China 1,000 miles from the islands.

In attacking, the Japs are believed to have sent land planes from Taiwan and the China coast and to have moved carriers from French Indo-China and Japanese island bases to within striking distance of Manila.

Experts believed that in the later stages of the attack the Japs may have based dive bombers on beaches where landings were effected and where they could protect such bases by having mastery of the air.

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STIMSON WARNS: JAPANESE FOE IS NO PUSHOVER!

Lauds Philippine Defense by MacArthur.

BY WALTER TROHAN.

(Chicago Tribune Press Service.) Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson cautioned the nation today against looking at the war with Japan "thru rose colored glasses."

At the same time he revealed that the American flag still flew over Manila, expressed himself as supremely confident of ultimate American victory and paid high tribute to the handling of the Philippine campaign by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of the far east forces of the United States.

Denies Withdrawal Order. Stimson was asked whether MacArthur had been instructed by the war department to leave the Philippines in the event of the fall of Manila. His reply was an emphatic "No."

He scouted radio reports that the Japanese army is poorly trained and made up of improperly armed youths. "The cold truth," he said, "is that they are well equipped and well trained. The Japanese are short, stocky, and well disciplined fighters."

"We have got to face facts. The work of the Japanese staff officers has been of a high order and much of the Japanese success in China has been due to this, plus training and good technical equipment."

The secretary refused to comment on criticism of the Philippine campaign in Pravda, the official Russian newspaper, which assailed the declaration of Manila as an open city—a declaration the Japs ignored. Stimson said he did not wish to get into a controversy and reminded reporters that "our people out there [in the Philippines] are under our most skillful fighter."

Hails "Masterful" Defense. For 20 years the army has known that the defense of the Philippines would be an uphill fight, but MacArthur has handled the situation "masterfully," he added.

Asked if Japanese cities would be bombed in reprisal for attacks on Manila after it was declared an open city, he replied that "urgent things" have to be taken up first and that MacArthur's recommendations for reprisals as soon as possible have not been fully studied.

On being questioned about Japanese casualties, he said he had reason to believe they were high because the fighting had been very sustained by American and Filipino troops and any one carrying an offensive against such troops was bound to suffer heavy casualties.

Hear Japs Report Death of Two Army Leaders

New York, Jan. 1 (P).—The British radio reported tonight that the Japanese had reported the deaths of a Gen. Yamagata and a Col. Ishii in an attack on Midway Island.

[Both the names Yamagata and Ishii are fairly common in Japan, but current Japanese directories offer no clues to the identity of the military men mentioned.]

Find U. S. Forces Could Fight On in Philippines if Manila Falls

The large scale colored map on the back page of this issue shows the northern islands of the Philippine archipelago. The principal island is Luzon, where American and Filipino troops are battling against the Japanese invaders.

The capture of Manila by the enemy would not necessarily end resistance to the Japanese in the Philippines. Perhaps no terrain in the world offers better opportunities for guerrilla warfare than that of the Philippines. Rugged, densely covered with vegetation, and often mountainous, these islands provide abundant cover for military forces that refuse to surrender. Moreover, the Filipinos operating with the Americans know their way about in the jungles and mountain fastnesses.

Islands Also Have Volcanoes. The mountains of the Philippines mainly run in the general direction of the main axis of the islands. Several ranges occur in northern Luzon, while most of southern Luzon is covered with isolated volcanoes and irregular masses of hills and mountains. Mountains also are found on many of the other islands.

An undeveloped country under the Spaniards, the Philippines under American supervision, have been provided with good roads that are being used to advantage for military purposes. As early as 1926 this system boasted more than 3,600 miles of first class highways.

Guerrillas Fought After War. That the Philippine terrain lends itself to defensive warfare was shown in the Filipino insurrection of 40 years ago. Two years passed before the American troops put down the guerrilla resistance of the Filipinos.

According to John T. McCutcheon, TRIBUNE cartoonist, the Americans in that conflict were successful only after heavy reinforcements were sent to the 50,000 United States troops already on the islands. Mr. McCutcheon was a correspondent in the Philippines during the fighting. He was one of the group of correspondents who finally, despite censorship, got word to America that reinforcements were badly needed.

With a coastline of more than 11,000 miles, 21 fine harbors, and 8 land-locked straits, the Philippines offered to the Japanese invaders numerous places to effect landings. Should the Japanese gain control of the islands temporarily, these same physical features would help the United States to reconquer the islands. The American forces might come from Hawaii, from the north via Alaska and the Aleutian islands, or along the southern route by the way of Australia, New Guinea, and the Celebes sea.

Bravery of Manila Citizens Hailed by London's Mayor

LONDON, Jan. 1 (P).—Manila citizens were saluted in a special message of sympathy broadcast today by Sir John Laurie, lord mayor of London, for their "bravery and fortitude" under fire. "Together we have passed thru fiery trials," he said. "Together we shall watch the dawn of a new world."

January Sale of KERMANS Furred Coats

Distinguished coats richly trimmed with fine Persian Lamb, Mink, sheared Beaver, Silver Fox, Lynx dyed Fox and Lynx.

\$68 formerly to \$125

\$98 formerly to \$165

\$128 formerly to \$250

Untrimmed Coats

Imported tweed casuals also dress types in black and colors. Values to \$55.

\$29

KERMANS

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ITALIAN PAPERS HAIL AMERICANS FOR LUZON FIGHT

BERNE, Switzerland, Jan. 1 (P).—Italian newspapers paid tribute tonight to the courage of the American-Philippine defense of Luzon.

Milan's Corriere Della Sera said the "desperate guerrilla warfare" of the Filipinos had staved off the occupation of Manila and added: "It now remains for the Japanese to occupy the military base of Cavite and all the archipelago. It will be a long job."

Turin's La Stampa said the United States resistance in the Philippines was interesting from the point of view of military honor. It said "the Japanese fleet is mistress of the Pacific," but added the United States and Britain likely will now intensify air and submarine warfare against Japanese lines of communication.

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