

LAST NAZI LINE CRACKED-REDS

Germans Fleeing Along Road of Napoleon Retreat, Russians Claim.

KUIBSHEV, Russia, Jan. 2 (U.P.)—German forces on the central Vyazma front, 135 miles southwest of the Moscow front, are retreating on capital on Napoleon's road of retreat, before a merciless Red army drive which has now broken the last stable Nazi defense line, dispatches from the front said today.

It was believed that the Russians already had driven past Mozhaisk, 85 miles southwest of Moscow, which was the key point in the German line, and it was reported that the city had been encircled for reduction at leisure as the main advance continued.

(Vyazma is only 95 miles short of Smolensk, where Adolf Hitler was reported to have established headquarters for a personal attempt to stop the German retreat.)

The Russian break through at Mozhaisk was reported to have accelerated a general German retirement along the central Moscow front, after the Russian capture of Volokolamsk to the north, and Naro Fominsk and Kaluga to the south.

Kaluga Capture Important

Capture of Volokolamsk had permitted the Red army to strike southward in a flanking attack against German positions in the Mozhaisk sector, which had been defended savagely under powerful Russian frontal pressure.

Then the capture of Naro Fominsk and Kaluga presented the Germans with the threat of a flanking movement from the south, dispatches said, and they evidently accepted the alternative of a general retirement to the west rather than face a two-pronged encirclement drive.

There are main highways to Vyazma from both Kaluga and Mozhaisk, and thus the Russian drive was facilitated.

Kaluga was regarded as especially important because its possession permitted the Red Army to strike northwestward while other forces struck westward from Mozhaisk.

Dispatches said huge quantities of heavy artillery were being massed behind the Russian lines to blast out any German forces which essayed a real stand.

Push On In Crimea

It was asserted that the Russians had destroyed an entire German army, of upwards of four divisions or more than 60,000 men, in the Volkov area south of Leningrad, in a seven-day battle as the result of which the Russian 5th army advanced 30 miles.

Dispatches from the extreme southern front said it was believed the Russian army which recaptured Kerch and Theodosia at the eastern end of the Crimea, was merely the advance guard of a powerful force assigned to the relief of Sevastopol and the entire Crimea peninsula.

Last night's communiqué had reported the recapture of Staritsa, on the Kalinin sector northwest of Moscow. It said that in a single small sector of this area, the Russians had occupied 22 villages after breaking stubborn German resistance.

Radio Leningrad reported that the Russians on the Volkov River area had taken 10 populated centers New Year's Eve and had captured big quantities of war materials.

TOPS PLANE SCHEDULE

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 2 (U.P.)—The Boeing Aircraft Co. announced today it had surpassed its own accelerated delivery schedules of flying fortress Army bombers by 50 per cent during December.

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