

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Oct  
1944

Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

1      Eastern Front Red Army troops keep pressure on Pskov-Riga communication line as Germans fall back toward Riga; operations are impeded by heavy rains. In Lithuania, both Russian and German recon units are active in Vilkauskis-Kalvarija areas, NW and SW of Mariampole. Germans win control of Zoliborz, northern suburb of Warsaw, isolating Polish resistance elements within central part of city. Stiff fighting continues in S Poland where Col Gen. Ivan Petrov's 4th Ukrainian Army is approaching Carpathian passes leading into eastern Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine (ceded by Czechoslovakia to Hungary, March 1939). Enemy attacks in upper Vah Valley in Slovakia are withstood by Partisans with support of Czech planes.

Driving W and SW of Campulung in NE Rumania, Russian and Rumanian troops cross the Bistrita R., capturing Sacbeni. Strong German counterattacks to eliminate bridgeheads on R bank of the Muresul R., E of Targul Mures in N Transylvania, repelled by Soviet troops, according to Moscow. Striking SW of Turnu-Severin on Yugoslav territory toward Nis, important RR city on Athens-Belgrade line, Russians drive 21 miles through the Timok Valley and to W of the Negotin-Nis RR to seize Vrazognac, within 45 miles of objective; stubborn resistance by troops of German 1st Mtn Div encountered. Soviet bridgeheads W of the Danube at Tekiga and Negotin, NW and SW of Turnu-Severin, are joined with capture of Mihailovac. Sofia reports capture of Vlastotince, approximately 30 miles SE of Nis, by Bulgarian troops and Yugoslav Partisans.

SAF is active against enemy troops and supplies E of Riga; 29 enemy planes claimed destroyed in combat. Russian troop concentrations along E shore of Gulf of Riga are shelled by German naval units. Tank assembly and repair workshops at Przasnysz in N central Poland attacked by Russian fighter bombers which cause fires and explosions; fighters strafe near-by Ciechanow airdrome, claiming 8 grounded planes and 1 airborne destroyed. German 15,000-ton transport and 7,000-ton vessel sailing through Irbeni Strait into the Baltic Sea reported sunk by Soviet naval planes. Russian ships on the Danube capture 9 enemy motor launches used as AMs. During night Soviet aircraft sink 2 enemy transports, totaling 10,000 tons, in the Gulf of Riga.

2      Eastern Front Finnish troops (which landed at Tornio at head of Gulf of Bothnia on 30 Sept. to force German evacuation of port) push S along coast toward Kemi. Russian attacks E of Riga result in small gains. Germans attempting

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**UNCLASSIFIED**Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

to cross the Lielupe R. near Jelgava, SW of Riga, are driven back by MG and rifle fire; several enemy craft sunk. German defenses of E Prussian border NW of Mariampole are probed by troops of 3d White Russian Army. Warsaw falls to Germans after 63 days of non-stop fighting; Polish forces within city, commanded by Lt. Gen. Tadeusz Komorowski (Gen. Bor), devoid of food, water, and ammunition, are forced to surrender; cease fire order is given at 2000. In first six weeks of fighting, Warsaw suffered 200,000 casualties while another 100,000 have been imprisoned, according to estimate of London Poles. Indecisive fighting continues at approaches to E Carpathian passes.

Repulse of Soviet tank-supported attacks near Reghin in N Transylvania, successful German and Hungarian counterattacks between Oradea and Hungarian town of Szeged, and increased pressure by Russians on both sides of the Iron Gate reported by Berlin. Sofia announces successful bombing of enemy positions in Novo Selo area in SE Serbia by Bulgarian planes.

German 5,000-ton transport and 1 AM sunk in the Baltic Sea by planes of Red Banner Baltic Fleet.

3

Eastern Front Troops of the Leningrad Front land on Hiiumaa I. (Dagoe I.) off Estonian coast at entrance to Gulf of Riga; enemy arty and mortar fire reduced by fire from armored cutters and by low-level air attacks and bridgehead 6 miles in depth secured; fierce fighting continues throughout night. Berlin claims slight gains in sector E of Jelgava in Latvia and repulse of Soviet attacks in Pultusk-Rozan area, N of Warsaw. SE of Turka, troops of 4th Ukrainian Army capture RR station of Beskid and several villages along Polish-Czechoslovak frontier. In central Slovakia, German attacks supported by arty and tanks are directed toward Svaty Kriz on the Hron R.

In N Transylvania, Russians and Rumanians cross the Muresul R. NE of Reghin and break into the town from N; Reghin captured after heavy fighting in which German 46th Inf and 4th Mtn Divs as well as Hungarian units are routed. Hungarians claim recapture of Salonta and report juncture made with German troops attacking SW of Oradea; entire border sector between Oradea and Sarkad reported under Axis control. Red Army drives into Yugoslavia on two new invasion fronts: forces striking SW of Timisoara (Rumania) make 48 mile advance to capture RR town of Petrovgrad; armored spearheads are now less than 40 miles from juncture of Belgrade-Budapest and Belgrade-Monich Rts; other units S of Timisoara successfully

**UNCLASSIFIED**

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

apply pincers' tactics to highway and RR towns of Vrsac and Bela Krvka, situated about 45 miles N and NE of Belgrade. S of Turnu-Severin, Russians continue drive in Timok Valley, capturing Rgotina and a number of towns between Topolnica on N and Vrazognac on S. Fighting also takes place in N outskirts of Zagecar, about 45 miles NE of Nis, according to Yugoslavia.

4 Eastern Front Against increasing enemy resistance, Finns make slight progress toward port of Kemi. Successful evacuation of German troops from S part of Hiiumaa I. by naval units reported by Berlin. Aggressive patrolling continued by Russians toward E Prussian border from positions NW of Mariampole in Lithuania and W of the Polish city of Lomza; prisoners and documents are reportedly captured by elements crossing the Narew R. during night. Strong Soviet attacks in area S of Dukla Pass withstood by Axis units, according to Germans. With air support, Czechoslovak Partisans repel German tank-supported attacks and improve their positions SW of Ziarovice and at Trbin in central Slovakia.

S of Oradea, advance of Soviet and Rumanian troops is halted by German Pz units supported by aircraft. Striking SW from Vrsac, Russians in Yugoslavia sweep up communication towns of Alibunar, Vladimirovac, Banat Novo Selo, and Banat Kraljevo, and fan out to W to seize Crepaja and Debeljaca on RR from Pancevo to Petrovgrad; other units linked up with Yugoslav Partisans advance down the Timok Valley to within 36 miles of Nis, taking Toplica and Krivelj; pincers are applied to Zagecar with capture of Zvesdan and Grljane, N and S of the town; to the NW, important copper mining center at Bor and RR station at Brestovac seized. Belgrade, outflanked from N, is being enveloped by Russian forces striking from NE and SE, and by Partisan troops steadily pushing toward capital from W and S. Yugoslavia announces liberation of Vlastotince (reported captured by Bulgars on 1st) after several days of serious fighting.

Russian naval planes bomb German shipping in the Gulf of Riga, sinking a 2,000-ton transport.

Austria Munich W marshaling yards are target for daylight attack by 110 B-17s and 217 B-24s with escort of 135 P-38s and 112 P-51s; very good results attained with 798 tons of bombs; no enemy planes are encountered but flak claims 2 B-17s and 6 B-24s; 7 more B-24s and 1 P-51 missing.

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

5 Eastern Front N and E of Tornio, fierce fighting between German and Finnish troops continues; GAF dive bombers furnish strong support to ground forces. Berlin admits Soviet penetration of German defenses SW of Siauliai in Lithuania but claims that attacks toward mountain passes in E Beskids in S Poland are frustrated. Under arty barrage, Germans attempt to cross the Narew R. W of Lomza during night but are driven back by heavy MG fire.

Pancevo, important communication center in bend of Danube 9 mi. NE of Belgrade, falls to Russians; gains N of Petrovgrad include towns of Alexandrovo, Basaid, and Melenci; Petrovgrad-Pancevo road practically cleared of enemy with capture of G. Muzla, Ecka, Centa, Opovo, Sefkerin, and Glogonj; SE of Pancevo, Vojlovica and Starcevo taken; 76 enemy aircraft in Petrovgrad-Vrsac area reported captured. Enemy communications in SE Serbia successfully attacked by Bulgarian aircraft, according to Sofia; Leskovets-Kumanovo RR bridge across the Kriva R. W of Kriva Palanka, and bridges and MT on Kriva Palanka-Kumanovo road are chief targets hit.

6 Eastern Front Russians on the Leningrad Front land on E coast of Saaremaa I. (Oesel I.) off Estonian mainland; bridgehead 25 miles in width and 15 miles in depth is secured after fierce struggle. Berlin announces opening of strong Soviet offensive from positions NW and SW of Siauliai toward Baltic ports of Liepaja and Memel. Attacks from Narew bridgehead S of Rozan by 2d White Russian troops reported sealed off by German counter thrusts.

Driving N and NW of Arad (Rumania), troops of Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's 2d Ukrainian Army invade SE Hungary on a wide front, capturing RR town of Gyula and cutting Arad-Budapest RR at Becescaba, 102 miles SW of capital; units striking W toward Szeged (Hungary's 2d largest city) sweep up Battonya to reach Mako, within 14 miles of objective. W of Timisoara, Russians in Yugoslavia threaten RR junction and town of Velika Kikinda near Rumanian border with capture of Nova Crnja and, to SW, reach the Tisza R. at Novi Becej, 45 miles S of Szeged. SW of Turnu-Severin, Soviets and Yugoslavs encircle large forces of enemy troops in Milanovac, Kokocevac, and Zagecar areas; extensive gains made all along front in this sector with farthest penetration westward toward the Morava R. at Zagubica.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Oct  
1944

Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

UNCLASSIFIED

7 Eastern Front Berlin confirms Finnish reports that Germans and Finns are engaged in bitter fighting in vicinity of Tornio and claims that Germans with arty and air support have penetrated Finnish positions at some points. Kuressaare, capital of Saaremaa I., falls to troops of the Leningrad Army; gain of 15 miles is made N of the capital. Second and 3d Baltic Armies reopen offensive to reduce arc around Riga, capturing Sigula on Pskov-Riga RR to N and Rembate on the Dvina to S; Malpils and Suntazi, approximately 30 miles E of capital, also seized. W of Siauliai, 1st Baltic troops are engaged in stiff fighting with Germans; Russians are heading toward Baltic port of Memel. Fierce battle is also raging N of Warsaw where enemy throws in SS tank div in all-out attempt to eliminate Narew bridgehead S of Pultusk; Berlin claims to have reduced a second Soviet bridgehead farther N near Rozan. German pressure toward Svaty Kriz on the Hron R. in central Slovakia intensified.

In 29-mile advance in SE Hungary, Soviets cross the Koros R. to seize important communication center of Bekes and reach Gyoma within 83 miles of Budapest and on RR running SW from Becescaba; spearhead is pushed N to Korosladany; units to SW of Becescaba seize RR town of Oroshaza, less than 35 miles from Szeged. Russians and Yugoslavs keep pressure on enemy E of Belgrade and in vicinity of Zagecar.

Russian bombers make night attack on Silesian RR and industrial town of Breslau, about 180 miles SE of Berlin; large fires and explosions result in S and SW parts of town where gas and metallurgic works are located. Attacks on enemy shipping continued by Soviet naval aircraft which sink 4 transports and 8 small vessels in Gulf of Riga; 7 supply ships, 2 escort vessels, 2 barges, and 6 motor torpedo boats reported sunk in the Baltic Sea and in bays off Saaremaa I.

Austria-Hungary Oil refineries and marshaling yards in Vienna area are objectives of 380 heavy bombers escorted by 252 P-38s and P-51s; 99 B-17s drop 196 tons of bombs on Vienna/Lobau oil refinery and 34 tons on RR yards at Winterhafen with good coverage; 23 B-24s loose 44 tons on Vienna/Nova Schwechat oil plant, causing fires and explosions; near-by RR targets take 20 tons from 10 B-24s; in second attack, 231 B-24s release 524.2 tons of bombs on oil storage areas at Winterhafen with good effect while alternate target at Szombathely (Hungary) receives 33 tons from 17 B-24s; 14 B-24s and 3 P-51s missing. Total of 269 heavy bombers covered by 258 fighters attacks RR targets on Budapest-Vienna lines: 82 B-24s loose 201 tons of bombs in first attack

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

Oct  
1944

Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

RR center while 104 B-24s and 83 B-17s strike Komarom yards with 403 tons; good concentration attained.

8      Eastern Front Berlin reports Soviet attacks toward Petsamo from Murmansk halted at Finnish-Russian border; 14 Russian planes claimed shot down by German dive bombers, supporting ground troops. Finns clear coast of Gulf of Bothnia to Swedish border with capture of port of Kemi; German troops withdrawing northward along Kemi R. attacked by Finnish planes. Soviets continue offensive to clear Germans from W part of Saaremaa I. Second and 3d Baltic Armies edge closer to Riga, capturing Pabazi on coast of Gulf of Riga, RR station of Inculkans on Pskov-Riga line, and Ogre on the Dvina; at Ogre, Soviets are 17 miles SE of objective. Moscow announces that in four days of offensive fighting troops of 1st Baltic Army, supported by 3d White Russian Army, driving NW, W, and SW of Siauliai through western Lithuania have advanced up to 62 miles and widened front to 130 miles; communication lines to Liepaja, Memel, and Tilsit cut with capture of Mazekiai, Plunge, and Kelme; road junctions of Tryskia, Telsia, and Varnia and more than 2,000 towns and villages reported seized; advance elements of Red Army are reported within 30 miles of Baltic port of Memel, and within 35 miles of Latvian port of Liepaja and E Prussian RR center of Tilsit. Germans are now in control of only one RR and two minor roads for withdrawal routes to E Prussia. Russians continue to hold Narew bridgeheads N of Warsaw in face of numerous and heavy enemy counterattacks.

Sweeping westward toward the Tisza R., Red Army in Hungary captures RR towns of Mezotur, Szarvas, Szentes, and Hodmezo-Vasarhely in the Becescaba-Szolnok-Szeged triangle. SW of Turnu-Severin, encircled enemy garrisons in Klokocevac-Milanovac-Zagecar areas are wiped out by Soviets and Yugoslav units which push westward toward the Morava R. to clear number of towns, including Petrovac (on the Mlava R.) to N and Bogovina (W of Zagecar) to S. Sofia reports fall of Kriva Palanka in SE Serbia to Bulgars after five days of stubborn fighting; Nis-Skoplje RR traffic S of Vranje interrupted by Bulgarian aircraft.

Naval aircraft of Red Banner Baltic Fleet continue attacks on enemy shipping in Gulf of Riga; enemy 3,000-ton AO, 2 transports totaling 11,000 tons, and 3 motor launches claimed sunk.

Baltic Sea SS Zonnewijk (Dutch cargo ship, 4,499 tons) sunk by aircraft on Oct 5, 1944, 54-20 E.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**UNCLASSIFIED**Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

9 Eastern Front German withdrawal N of Kemi in Finland continued with air support; Berlin reports elimination of Finnish bn attempting to penetrate flank of German detachment S of Rovaniemi. Troops of the Leningrad Front reach W coast of Saaremaa I.; Karala, Kihelkonna, and Undva captured. In Latvia, 2d and 3d Baltic Armies are inching closer to Riga between Espars on Gulf of Riga and Kliga on Krustpils-Riga RR. Big tank battle takes place W of Siauliai where Russians capture numerous tanks and transport in Kalvarija-Plateliai area and then push onto main highway to reach Vezaiciai, 12 miles W of Memel; drive NW nets Kerviai, on Lithuanian-Latvian border and within 30 miles of Liepaja; other units driving SW toward Tilsit capture Pajuris and reach positions within 22 miles of city. Heavily fortified German defense line N of the Niemen, guarding NE approaches to E Prussia, breached by Russians who sever Kaunas-Tilsit RR and highway at Jurbarkas, only 6 miles from border and 35 miles from Tilsit. Germans continue to launch heavy attacks against Soviet positions on W bank of the Narew near Pultusk but again fail to liquidate bridgehead.

In N Transylvania, gains are registered W and SW of Reghin by Russians and Rumanians pushing toward Cluj. Driving northward in Hungary, Soviets overcome resistance along the Hortobagy R. to cut Debrecen-Budapest RR and highway with capture of Puskladany and Karcag; Debrecen imperiled by seizure of Hajdusboszlo, 12 miles to SW; other units pushing toward the Tisza R. reach Tiszafoldvar, 12 miles S of Szolnok and 25 miles NE of Kecskemet. In NW Yugoslavia, Russians operating with Yugoslav troops force the Tisza on a wide front, establishing bridgeheads on W bank at Stari Becej and Senta; Novi Becej, 15 miles S. of Szeged, also captured and Belgrade-Szeged RR cut. Berlin claims Soviet advance S of the Danube halted by reinforced Germans.

Shipping, military stores, and RR facilities at Latvian ports of Liepaja and Riga heavily attacked during night by Russian bombers which cause fires and explosions reported visible at distance of 125 miles from targets. Soviet naval aircraft sink 2 German transports and several small vessels in the Gulf of Riga.

10 Eastern Front Russians moving S along Gulf of Riga overcome enemy resistance in lake area W of the Gauja R. and seize Gauja RR station; NE and SE of Riga, Ropazi and Ekskile RR stations captured. All land escape routes for Germans on

**UNCLASSIFIED**

~~SECRET~~

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Oct  
1944

Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

Riga-Liepaja-Ventspils area are cut by troops of 1st Baltic Army which cross the Minia R. W of Plunge to capture Kretinga road junction and reach the Baltic Sea at Palanga, 15 miles N of Memel; SW of Plunge, Gargzdia road center, only 9 miles W of Memel, captured; some units advance N of Kretinga to take border town of Lenkimai, just 25 miles SE of Liepaja; forces threatening Tilsit hammer to within 16 miles of objective, capturing Daguciai on Lithuanian-E Prussian border (established by German-Soviet agreement Sept. 1930) and important communication center of Taurage. S of the Niemen, enemy stronghold of Sakiai, 35 miles W of Kaunas and 11 miles from E Prussian border, falls to 3d White Russian forces after grim battle.

Advance S and SW of Reghin toward Transylvanian capital of Cluj is continued by 2d Ukrainian and Rumanian troops; Feleazu, about 4 miles S of capital, seized. Russians in Hungary reach S outskirts of Debrecen where determined opposition is encountered. SW of Pozarevac, Russians assisted by Yugoslavs penetrate the Mlava Valley to cut Nis-Belgrade RR at Velika Plana; units striking W along Zagecar-Paracin road to sever RR leading NW of Nis to Kragujevac are within 22 miles of objective.

Berlin reports successful GAF attacks against Russian troops and supply lines on the Arctic Front; 119 Soviet planes, including 85 in Petsamo area, claimed shot down. In night attack, Russian aircraft cause fires and explosions in ports of Liepaja and Riga. SAF inflicts heavy losses to enemy troops and communications in NE part of Tilsit and successfully attacks enemy-held crossings over the Niemen.

- 11      Eastern Front Increasing Soviet pressure NW of Murmansk toward Petsamo reported by Germans; Russian units have reportedly landed on Rybachi Peninsula. Stiff fighting takes place on Sworbe Peninsula, SW Saaremaa I.; Abruksa and Vilsandilaid to S and W of town of Saaremaa are freed of enemy. Driving NW toward Liepaja, troops of 1st Baltic Army take Latvian towns of Rusava and Sikana to reach point within 19 miles of port; Soviet holdings on Baltic coast N of Memel extended to Nida. Third White Russian Army strengthens front along E Prussian border, fanning out to NW and SW from Sakiai to capture more than 50 villages. Berlin reports strong Soviet attacks along Narew R. S of Rozan but claims that penetrations of their position have been narrowed by counterthrusts. Czechoslovak Partisans, supported by tanks and planes, are holding positions

**UNCLASSIFIED**

~~SECRET~~



UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

in Svaty Kriz area on the Hron R. (central Slovakia) in face of heavy German attacks.

Cluj, capital of Transylvania, falls to Rumanians and troops of 2d Ukrainian Army; farther N, other units continue push over mountainous terrain to expand holdings W of Campulung toward Satul-Mare. Soviet bridgehead over the lower Tisza is widened to a 50-mile front with capture of Szeged, Hungary's second largest city. Russian troops have crossed the Tisza above Szeged in Szentcsongrad sector with advance elements in Kecskemet, according to Hungarian reports. Driving SW and S of Zagecar, Russians assisted by Yugoslavs capture town and RR station of Knjazevac, 26 miles NW of Nis; other units are moving up the Morava Valley toward Belgrade. Bulgars, cooperating with Russians, cut Sofia-Nis and Nis-Skolopje RRs with capture of Bela Palanka and Leskovac, according to Sofia.

Austria-Hungary Vienna targets bombed through 10/10ths cloud: 77 B-24s release 152 tons of bombs on Vienna/Sauerwerke RR yards and 40 tons on RR line NE of Wiener Neustadt; of 55 B-17s dispatched to bomb ordnance works in S Vienna, 18 hit target with 35 tons of bombs, 12 drop 32 tons on engine works at Graz, and 17 loose 51 tons on RR line leading NE of Villach; cover for missions provided by 86 P-38s, of which some strafe Esztergom airfield, 18 attack target, and 20 strafe barge traffic on the Danube; 17 enemy planes and 6 barges claimed destroyed.

Czechoslovakia Prostejov airdrome, about 90 miles NE of Vienna, strafed by 37 P-51s which destroy 3 enemy planes in combat and 7 on ground; 20 more grounded planes and 1 airborne claimed damaged; 3 P-51s lost.

12 Eastern Front Germans admit Soviet occupation of port of Linahamari, 9 miles N of Petsamo; frustration of Soviet attacks and landing attempts on SW peninsula of Saaremaa I. claimed. Overcoming strong German defenses, troops of 2d and 3d Baltic Armies advance to within 5 miles of Riga from E. Liepaja menaced by 1st Baltic forces which reach Baltic Sea 15 miles to S of port. Despite numerous and desperate enemy counterattacks, Russians steadily forge ahead in area N and SE of Memel. Heavy fighting continues E of Tilsit; Russian troops from Sakiai reach E Prussian border at Slavikai; other border towns near by are heavily shelled by Soviet arty.

SW of Campulung, Russians and Rumanians continue drive through N Transylvania, overcoming stubborn resistance to gain control of Bargau Pass and clear towns of Crandul-Bargaulun.

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

and Rodna-Veche; farther W, Oradea, important RR and road center situated 35 miles SE of Hungarian town of Debrecen, falls to troops of 2d Ukrainian Army; Oradea has reportedly changed hands several times during fighting of past weeks. Debrecen also threatened from W and SW by capture of Tiszazentimre, Abadszalok, Kunhegyes, and Kisujszallas. Berlin announces repulse of Russian troops which crossed the Tisza R. N of Szeged and penetrated to Kecskemet. Soviets SW of Szeged take Horgos and cut Belgrade-Novi Sad-Budapest RR with capture of important road and RR junction of Subotica. Russians and Yugoslavs capture more than 60 towns and villages SE of Belgrade to reach Smederevo, site of an oil refinery and within 25 miles of the capital.

Hungary Fifteenth AF fighters support Red Army in Hungary: 109 P-51s strafe enemy communications in Budapest-Vienna area, claiming 36 locomotives, 20 RR cars, 10 MT, and 5 barges destroyed; extensive damage to tracks caused; same planes also attack airfields at Kapsovar, Csakvar, and Gyor, destroying 41 grounded planes and 13 airborne; 25 planes on ground and 1 airborne damaged; 2 P-51s lost. Seregeyles airdrome, about 35 miles SW of Budapest, strafed by 15 P-51s; 5 of 26 unaggressive enemy planes destroyed in combat; 51 grounded planes reported destroyed or damaged.

13 Eastern Front Soviets in Finland are pushing S from bridgehead at Linchamari toward port of Petsamo; other units are driving on port from E; Finns maintain pressure against Germans withdrawing N along Arctic Road toward Rovaniemi. Riga, capital of Latvia and important naval base, falls to troops of 3d Baltic Army supported by 2d Baltic forces. Berlin announces massed Soviet tank attacks directed toward Memel; Memel garrison reported to have destroyed 44 tanks in defensive fighting. Germans continue to report heavy fighting at Rozan on W bank of the Narew, N of Warsaw.

Road and RR town of Bistrita and more than 50 villages are swept up by Russians and Rumanians, clearing German and Hungarian forces from N Transylvania. Berlin reports fierce fighting in Oradea and Debrecen areas. Highway and RR running SE of Belgrade to Krugujevac cut at Topola and Mladenovac by Soviets and Yugoslav Partisans; at Mladenovac, Red Army troops are less than 30 miles from Belgrade.

Memel and Tilsit are targets for night attack by Russian aircraft; at Memel, fires and explosions result among 9 German supply ships observed; at Tilsit, many hits scored on

**UNCLASSIFIED**

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

RR junction and military objectives in N and W parts of town; fires also started at Niemen crossings to N of town.

Austria-Hungary Ninety-three B-17s and 40 P-38s attack Vienna/Florisdorf oil refinery, dropping 216.75 tons of bombs; results obscured by smoke screen; 4 B-17s missing. Forty-eight B-24s drop 36.25 tons of bombs on RR and locomotive shops at Vienna N yards, 16 tons on Graz, and 12 tons on RR yards at Papa; main lines cut and 17 freight cars wrecked at Graz; fair to good results achieved at other targets; 9 B-24s missing. Vienna main marshaling yards and Osterreich motor works are targets for 199 tons of bombs dropped by 94 B-24s; good concentration attained; 15 B-24s missing. Marshaling yards in SW Hungary are also objectives of heavy bombers: 148 B-24s with 298.25 tons of bombs successfully attack Bahida N and E yards; 73 additional B-24s unload 145 tons on RR targets at Szekesfehervar, 41 tons on Varpalota, and 2.5 tons on Papa. Road, RR, and river traffic in Gyor, Budapest, and Vienna areas strafed with success by 37 P-51s; 2 enemy planes shot down for loss of 1 P-51. During night, 52 Wellingtons, 21 B-24s, and 6 Halifaxes attack RR targets at Szekesfehervar, causing many large fires with 190.88 tons of bombs; 1 B-24 and 1 Wellington lost. In day and night attacks on Szekesfehervar RR center, all through lines are cut and yards effectively blocked; extensive damage caused to buildings in surrounding area.

Germany-Czechoslovakia-Hungary Total of 135 B-17s and 155 B-24s with escort of 89 P-38s and 163 P-51s unloads 664.7 tons of bombs on Blechhammer S oil refinery in Silesia and 21.5 tons on Hranice RR center in Moravia; results generally unobserved; fighters strafe airfields and communications between target and Lake Balaton area, claiming 24 grounded planes, 15 locomotives, 2 oil cars, and an ammunition dump destroyed; flak claims 3 B-24s; 2 P-38s, 4 P-51s, 2 B-17s, and 18 B-24s missing.

14 Eastern Front Soviet attempts to land troops on Sworbe Peninsula, Saaremaa I., prevented by German naval craft, according to German reports; 2 Russian vessels reported sunk. Second and 3d Baltic troops are eliminating enemy mine fields and forest barricades S of Riga. Berlin reports continuous and heavy fighting at Rozan on W bank of the Narew and also in S Poland at approaches to E Beskid passes.

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATEROct  
1944

Enemy units W of Bistrita in N Transylvania are being forced back toward the Someșul and Someșul-Mir rivers. Fighting S of Hungarian city of Debrecen intensified, according to Berlin. Despite numerous enemy counterattacks SE of Belgrade, Red Army troops and Yugoslav Partisans tighten ring of encirclement around Belgrade; village about 2 miles SE of city reported seized. Fall of Nis, important communication center S of Belgrade, to Bulgarian and Yugoslav troops as of 6:00 p.m. announced by Sofia; number of towns along the Morava R. between Nis and Kragujevac also claimed captured.

During night, Soviet bombers heavily attack shipping and military stores in Baltic ports of Memel and Liepaja; at Memel, 2 supply ships set on fire and 1 exploded and many fires started among 25 ships observed in port; RR station, naval base, and fuel dump also hit; fires and explosions started at Liepaja. Enemy transport in N part of E Prussian city of Tilsit and at Niemen R. crossings also successfully hit in night attack by Russian planes. In the Baltic Sea, 3 transports, totaling 16,000 tons, and several small craft reported sunk by Soviet naval aircraft; 1 more transport sunk by ships of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet.

Germany-Czechoslovakia-Hungary Force of 173 B-17s escorted by 94 P-38s and P-51s unloads 242.75 tons of bombs on Blechhammer N oil refinery and 171 tons on RR targets at Bratislava, Nove Surany, Borzavar, Komarom, and Papa with good results; 7 B-17s, 2 P-38s, and 1 P-51 missing. Odertal oil refinery in Silesia bombed by 81 B-24s which cause fires and explosions with 183 tons of bombs; Bratislava and Ersekujvar marshaling yards and RR bridge at Komarom take 144 tons from 67 B-24s; fighter escort of 41 P-38s and 108 P-51s strafe communications; good to excellent results reported at all targets; 8 B-24s and 2 P-51s missing. Seregelyes and Szekesfehervar airfields and communications SW of Budapest, effectively strafed by 54 P-51s; 31 grounded planes and 18 locomotives destroyed; 2 P-51s missing.

15 Eastern Front Breaking through strong enemy fortifications NW of Murmansk, troops of the Karelian Front, supported by naval units and aircraft, capture enemy-occupied Finnish port of Petsamo (center of important nickel deposits) and push S of port to cut Polar Circle highway leading to Rovaniemi; heavy losses inflicted on German 20th Lapland Army; in five days of fighting in Petsamo area, 66 German airborne and 33 grounded planes claimed destroyed. Finnish troops pushing N

**UNCLASSIFIED**

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

of Tornio along Swedish border reach Aasasaksa; N of Kemi, 3 Finnish columns are closing in on Rovaniemi. Unsuccessful Soviet attacks toward Memel from positions SE of Liepaja reported by Germans. Serious fighting continues N of Warsaw; Berlin admits penetration of German lines N of Scrook by 2d White Russian troops; both GAF and SAF support their respective ground troops.

In N Transylvania, enemy garrison at confluence of Somesul and Somesul-Mir rivers routed by Soviets and Rumanians; communication center of Doja, 30 mi. NW of Cluj, captured; 700 prisoners reported taken. Berlin continues to report grim fighting at Tisza crossing between Szeged and Csongrad and claims that Soviet thrusts S of Debrecen are withstood by Axis units with support of battle planes. SE of Belgrade, Russians and Yugoslavs clear out enemy garrison at Pozarevac and, farther S across the Morava R., occupy Krusevac. Street fighting in Belgrade, with units of Yugoslav XII Corps and Red Army participating, reported by Yugoslavia; escape routes to W of city are being blocked.

SAF makes night attack on RR junction of Insterburg on Kaunas-Koenigsberg line in E Prussia; 3 military trains exploded and many fires caused; several explosions also registered in area of airfield. On 2d White Russian front in N Poland, an ammunition dump at Slawoko village NW of Rozan exploded by Russian planes; W of Rozan, gun positions silenced and several aircraft destroyed at Cicchanow airfield.

16

Eastern Front Russians NW of Petsamo continue advance toward the Norwegian border. Finnish columns clear broad stretch of the Kemi R. to reach heights overlooking Rovaniemi. W of Riga, troops of 2d and 3d Baltic Armies clear several strongly fortified positions on S banks of Lake Babites-Ezer; gain of 12½ miles also made SW of captial. Fierce fighting supported by aircraft of both sides continues on W banks of the Narew in Scrook-Rozan sector. Following "drum-fire" arty barrage lasting several hours, Soviet forces supported by numerous tanks and planes open offensive on 2 25-miles front from Vilkaviskis (W of Kaunas) and reach E Prussian border at one point, according to German reports.

In N Transylvania, Russians and Rumanians clear road running N from Salva; Borsa captured and Visaul-de-Sus, approximately 15 miles from Czechoslovak border, reached; farther S, Targul Lapuslui, Lapuslui, Galgau, Garbau, and Aghires occupied; Axis troops are reported to be abandoning

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

16 Transylvania. Berlin announces tank battle still raging S  
Cont and SW of Debrecen. Moscow, Berlin, and Yugoslavia report  
street fighting in Belgrade; Moscow claims capture of 1,500  
prisoners in suburbs; desperate house-to-house resistance  
being put up by Germans and Hungarians in S part of city.  
Nis, important RR and road center on Sofia-Belgrade line,  
occupied by Bulgars, Yugoslavs, and Russians; according to  
Moscow report (Sofia reported capture of city 2 days ago);  
farther S in E Serbia, Leskovac (reported captured on 11th  
by Bulgars), Lebane, Grdelica, and Vranje, the last town  
only 43 miles NE of Skolpje, also reported taken. Sofia  
announces capture of Prokulpje, SW of Nis, and air attacks  
on enemy communications in vicinity of Kumanovo.

SAF supports ground troops in Latvia, attacking Sloka  
RR junction on Riga-Tukums line; train load of supplies and  
15 MT destroyed. Three German transports and 3 landing  
barges reported sunk in the Baltic Sea by planes of Red  
Banner Baltic Fleet. Latvian port of Ventspils and RR  
junctions of Insterburg, Gumbinnen, and Ebenrode in E  
Prussia attacked during night by Russian bombers; numerous  
fires and explosions caused.

Germany-Czechoslovakia-Austria Of 193 B-17s with  
escort of 35 P-38s and 184 P-51s dispatched to bomb Brux  
synthetic oil plant in Sudetenland, 28 hit target with 78.5  
tons of bombs, 61 release 122 tons on Pilsen/Skoda works  
(Czechoslovakia), while 68 strike RR targets at Linz, Salzburg,  
and Villach (Austria) with 169 tons; hits scored in target  
areas at Salzburg and Villach; observation of results at  
other targets prevented by weather; fighters meet about 120  
enemy planes in area SE of Brux, driving them to NW; 19  
enemy planes and considerable amount of RR equipment destroyed.  
Industrial and RR targets W and SW of Vienna also hit by  
B-24s; adverse weather encountered by 193 B-24s and 43 P-38s  
dispatched to attack Linz/St. Valentin tank works causes  
some planes to return to base while remainder attacks as  
follows: 62 hit target with 144 tons of bombs, causing  
severe damage; 64 release 158 tons on Graz/Neudorf aircraft  
engine factory, destroying 1 of 3 large workshops and  
damaging major structures; 67 scatter 127.5 tons of bombs on  
marshaling yards at Zeltweg, St. Veit, Trieben, and Klagenfurt,  
and targets of opportunity; fighters strafe road and RR  
lines; results reported good at St. Valentin, fair at Graz,  
and poor at Trieben and Klagenfurt; 10 B-24s missing. Sixty-  
seven B-24s unload 63 tons of bombs on Steyr aero-engine works  
and 95 tons on Spital marshaling yards with good to excellent

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944

Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

results; 66 additional B-24s release 111 tons of bombs on Steyr/Daimler Puch assembly plant and plaster N end of Graz marshaling yards with 82 tons; 1 B-24 missing. Linz/Hermann Goering benzol works and ordnance depot hit with 161 tons by 72 B-24s escorted by 25 P-38s; results unobserved; 2 B-24s missing.

17

Eastern Front Rovaniemi in central Finland is freed of enemy by Finnish forces. W of Riga, Russians take Rigas Jurmala and RR town of Sloka to clear Riga coastline; units pushing SW reach the Lielupe R., capturing Kalnciems, Valgunte, and Ozolmuiza; entire E bank of Lielupe R. in Sloka-Jelgava sector is in Russian hands. Following heavy arty barrage, Russians supported by tanks and planes are continuing attack toward E Prussian border along both sides of Kaunas-Gumbinnen-Insterburg-Koenigsberg communication line, according to Berlin. Soviet breakthrough attempts from Narew bridgehead at Rozan again claimed thwarted by Germans. Ground troops of both sides supported by planes.

Continuing N of Bistrita along the Visaul and Iza rivers, Russians and Rumanians take Petrova and reach point 2 miles from Czechoslovak border near RR leading into Tatar Pass to Soviet-held areas in Poland; enemy positions along Cluj-Oradea RR outflanked with capture of Sacueni and Zalau. Intense tank battles waged S and SW of Debrecen; to the SE, Hungarians with support of GAF regain some ground. Street fighting continues in Belgrade with Russians and Yugoslavs steadily forging ahead to center of town despite determined resistance. Moscow announces seizure of Prokoplje (reported by Bulgars on 16th) and Medvedja, SW of Nis, by Bulgars operating in conjunction with Soviet and Yugoslav troops. Bulgars claim capture of Kursunlija, SW of Prokoplje, and Carevo Selo, on the Bregalnica R. near Bulgarian frontier.

Goldap RR junction, 30 miles SE of Insterburg in E Prussia, heavily attacked during night by Russian aircraft.

Germany-Czechoslovakia Despite adverse weather, 122 B-17s release 279,75 tons of bombs on Blechhammer S oil plant and 12.5 tons on secondary target at Moravska Ostrava; escort flown by 181 P-51s; results unobserved; 4 enemy planes destroyed; 2 B-17s lost to flak; 3 B-17s and 2 P-51s missing.

Austria-Hungary Ninety-seven B-24s escorted by 48 P-51s drop 184 tons of bombs on Vienna SE industrial area and 12 tons on near-by RR yard; flak claims 2 B-24s; 5 more bombers missing. Seventy-one of 122 B-24s dispatched to bomb Vienna

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

S ordnance depot drop 51.75 tons on Vienna SE industrial area, 50 tons on Vienna RR yards, and 32 tons on Nagykanizsa (Hungary). Vienna SE industrial area also bombed by 110 B-24s with 225 tons of bombs; marshaling yards at Graz, Nagykanizsa, Szombathely, and Neunkirchen and targets of opportunity in Vienna-Lake Balaton area attacked by total of 122 B-24s, dropping 254.5 tons of bombs; missions escorted by 84 P-38s and P-51s; results generally unobserved because of weather; 8 B-24s lost.

18      Eastern Front German Alpine troops, covering evacuation of German troops into Norway, offer determined resistance to Russian attacks from Petsamo; in central Finland, capture of German positions along the Ounas R. NW of Rovaniemi reported by Finns. Russians in Latvia push W along Riga-Ventspils RR to reach Kemeris; SW of Riga, Kaiguciems and Valguntesciems on W bank of the Lielupe R. cleared. Germans announce heavy Soviet attacks with air support from Vilkauskis-Kalvarija sector extending toward S; Virbalis reported evacuated as Red Army reaches E Prussian frontier.

Surging southward from Poland through major Carpathian Mt. passes, Col. Gen. Ivan Petrov's 4th Ukrainian Army enters eastern Czechoslovakia on a 172-mile front; SE tip of Carpatho-Ukraine (ceded to Hungary March 1939) cut off, and control of RR just E of the Tisza R. gained by forces driving through Tatar Pass to seize Jasina, Rachow, and Velicky Bockov and to link up with 2d Ukrainian troops at Transylvanian town of Sighet; SW of Stryj, other units push through Vyshkov, Verecky, and Uzok passes to capture Torun, Volovec, and Ljuta, respectively; S and SW of Sanok, control of Rostok and Lupkow passes gained and towns of Velka Poljana (below Rostok) and Certizne (S of Lupkow) reached. NW of Cluj, Soviets and Rumanians take Simleul-Silvaniei and cut Debrecen--Satul-Mare RR with capture of Valea-lui-Mihai near Hungarian border; gains also made NW of Deza toward Satul-Mare. Bitter fighting for Belgrade continues; 2 enemy divs SE of city reported encircled; prisoners taken reported at 5,700. Capture of Kursumlija, approximately 30 miles SW of Nis, and Blace to the N by Bulgars, cooperating with Yugoslavs and Soviets, reported by Moscow.

19      Eastern Front Continuing advance NW of Sloka along coast of Gulf of Riga, Russians take Ragasciems; units pushing W of Sloka along RR to Tukums reach Kemeris;

**UNCLASSIFIED**



UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

German 389th Inf Div, reportedly reinforced by units arriving by sea, puts up stiff resistance. Berlin claims major Soviet attempts to break through into E Prussia between Schirwindt to N and Suwalki (Poland) to S prevented but admits that frontier RR station of Edytkau on Kaunas-Koenigsberg line is in Russian hands. At Edytkau, Russians are 38 miles W of important RR hub of Insterburg. Slight gains made by Russians pressing forward along the Narew R. in Nowogrod and Serock areas.

Stiffening Axis resistance prevents further Soviet advances S of Carpathian passes in eastern Czechoslovakia. SW of Sighet in N Transylvania, Baia-Mare falls to Rumanians and troops of 2d Ukrainian Army approaching Satul-Mare. Moscow announces capture of 11,000 German and Hungarian troops and large quantities of equipment, including 91 planes during fighting from 13-18 Oct. in Debrecen area; Berettyoufalu, Sarand, and Vamospercs, SW and W of Debrecen, reported free of Axis troops. In Yugoslavia, Russians and Yugoslavs fighting within Belgrade reach N part of city where remnants of enemy garrison are resisting desperately; encircled enemy divs SE of city are split up into groups which are being eliminated.

Enemy convoy in Varanger Fjord, consisting of 3 supply ships, 1 DD, 2 AMs, and several patrol vessels and launches reported destroyed by bombs and torpedoes of planes of Soviet Northern Fleet; 14 enemy planes claimed shot down.

20

Eastern Front Troops of the Soviet Karelian Front increase pressure against German positions W of Petsamo; Finns forcing German withdrawal along Arctic Road engage in serious fighting with Germans S of Sodankylae. Soviet attacks W of Riga are withstood by Axis forces. Berlin again announces heavy fighting in E Prussian border area between Schirwindt and Suwalki with stiffest engagements being fought in Ebenrode area (W of Edytkau) and to S in the Rominten Heide. N of Warsaw, Soviet attacks from Serock and Rozan bridgeheads claimed sealed off by Germans.

In thrust toward Satul-Mare to clear Germans and Hungarians from N Transylvania, Russians reach point 13 miles to SE of objective. All escape routes for enemy troops in Debrecen cut by outflanking maneuvers of troops of Ukrainian Army; Debrecen, stronghold of enemy defenses in E Hungary captured after fierce street-to-street fighting, heavy losses are inflicted on German 23d Tk Div and German 46th Inf Div

UNCLASSIFIED

# UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944

## Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

as well as on Hungarian 12th Light Inf and 4th Reserve Inf Divs. In S Hungary, Bac's-Almas, approximately 15 miles SW of Subotica, falls to Soviets; S and SW of Subotica, Yugoslav towns of Bajmok, Bac Topola, Srbobran, and St. Vrbas seized. Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia, falls to Gen. Tolbulkin's 3d Ukrainian Army and Marshal Tito's Yugoslav National Army of Liberation; SE of the city, enemy force (elements of German 1st Mtn and 117th Inf Divs, estimated at 12,000) reported eliminated. Enemy's attempt to reinforce Kragujevac and garrison's attempt to break out of ring of encirclement around city thwarted. In Prokuplje-Kursumlija area, SW of Nis, strong column of Prinz Eugen Div reported wiped out by Yugoslavs and Bulgars with support of Russian planes.

Soviet naval vessels and planes sink 1 large enemy transport in port of Liepaja, 2 transports totaling 14,000 tons in the Baltic Sea, and 1 transport and several small vessels in the Barents Sea.

Germany-Czechoslovakia-Austria Brux synthetic oil refinery attacked by 134 B-17s escorted by 48 P-38s and 184 P-51s; observation of results prevented by clouds; intense and heavy flak encountered; 4 B-17s and 1 P-38 missing; 1 B-17 drops 1.5 tons on alternate target at Pilsen/Skoda works. Marshaling yards at Rosenheim bombed by 126 B-24s with 284 tons of bombs; fires and explosions caused; 4 B-24s missing. Of 147 additional B-24s dispatched to bomb targets in S Germany, 82 return to base or jettison bombs because of weather, 65 bomb Bad Aibling airdrome and marshaling yards at Innsbruck and Rosenheim, as well as targets of opportunity; 4 B-24s missing.

Hungary In night attack, 37 Wellingtons, 23 B-24s, and 6 Halifaxes unload 167 tons of bombs on Szombathely airfield; fair results attained; approximately 30 enemy planes are air-borne between Zagreb (Yugoslavia) and target; 3 Wellingtons, 1 B-24, and 1 Halifax missing.

21 Eastern Front Berlin reports frustration of Soviet attacks on Sworbe Peninsula on Saaremaa I. and between Mezeikiai and the Gulf of Riga in Latvia. Stiff fighting continues along E Prussian border between Schirwindt and Suwalki where reinforced Russian troops are held to minor gains, according to Germans; heavy losses reportedly inflicted on Soviet tank spearheads by GAF. Soviet attacks on the lower Narew from Serock and Rezan bridgeheads reported slackening; 89 Soviet tanks claimed destroyed in last two days of fighting.

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944

Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

Fourth Ukrainian troops continue drive NW of Sighet along Transylvanian-Czechoslovak border. Striking northward from Hungarian city of Debrecen, Russians advance 25 miles to threaten Nyiregyhaza with capture of Hajdukadhaz, Balkany, and Nagykallo. Offensive in S Hungary is reopened on a 40-mile front by troops of Marshal Malinovsky's 2d Ukrainian Army which cross the Tisza R. to take Csongrad, Kistelek, and Bacs-Bodrog; at Csongrad Soviets are 66 miles SE of Budapest; troops driving W of Szeged reach the Danube R. at Baja, 84 miles S of Budapest; both air forces support their respective ground troops. S of Subotica in Yugoslavia, Russians take Telecka and Crvenka and cut Stari-Becej--Sombor road at St. Sivic. SE of Belgrade, Russians and Yugoslavs clear towns of Kragujevac and Jagodina; spearhead is pushed 25 miles W of Kragujevac to Gorni Milanovac, opening up for direct attack German westward escape route by way of Uzice and Sarajevo.

Hungary Fifteenth AF continues attacks on communications and airfields. Fifty-two B-24s release 125 tons of bombs on Szombathely marshaling yards with good concentration; Gyor main yards take 116 tons from 49 B-24s; escort for missions flown by 103 P-51s. Seventy-five P-38s strafe RR targets on Budapest-Miskolc line, claiming 22 locomotives, 20 RR cars, and 1 staff car destroyed. Seregeyles and Szombathely airfields strafed by 34 P-51s; 37 enemy grounded and 4 airborne planes reported destroyed.

22 Eastern Front Troops of the Soviet Karelian Front with strong arty and air support clear Petsamo nickel mining region and reach the Norwegian frontier after stiff fighting with German rearguard units; German 163d Inf Div reported wiped out. Kolari on Finnish-Swedish border N of Tornio freed of enemy by Finnish troops. Soviet attacks W of Riga frustrated by Germans with assistance of light naval units, Berlin reports. According to Col. Gen. Reinhardt, commander of Army Group Center, counterattacks by German 5th Pz Div and elements of "Korps Hermann Goering" succeed in cutting off and annihilating spearheads of Soviet thrust N of the Rominten Heide (E Prussia). Russian tank and troop concentrations on battle front claimed successfully attacked by GAF.

Driving NW from Baia-Mare toward Satul-Mare, Soviets and Rumanians take RR town of Seini. Second Ukrainian troops advance swiftly northward from Debrecen to eliminate enemy garrisons at Hajdukadhaz and Balkany and seize important

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

communication center of Nyiregyhaza after bitter struggle; units then strike N and NE to take Kotaj, Kemesce, and Demescer. At Demescer, Russians are 25 miles S of Czechoslovakian RR town of Cop (Csap), controlling enemy escape routes from Transylvania. Russians driving NW of Debrecen capture Hajduboszormeny and Balmazujvaros. Farther S, Kisunmadjsa between Szeged and Kecskemet and Melykut on Szeged-Baja road captured by Red Army troops. SW of Subotica, Russians win Sombor, road and RR center situated in triangle formed by the Danube and the lower Tisza; in this sector, the 39th Security Regt and its Hungarian composite, made up of sailors of the Hungarian Fleet, and the 1st Hungarian Cav Div routed. Capture of Sombor gives Soviets control of virtually all of E bank of the Danube below the Hungarian town of Baja. NW of Belgrade, 3d Ukrainian and Yugoslav troops cross the Sava R. to take Zemun; SW and NW of the capital, Obrenovac, Lazarevac, and Knic, the last town only 15 miles W of Kraljevo, seized. Last enemy escape route S of the Sava from Belgrade is cut with capture of Obrenovac.

Units of Soviet Northern Fleet attack enemy shipping in Varanger Fjord; 2 transports, 2 AMs, and 1 patrol vessel reported sunk. German 2,000-ton transport sunk in the Baltic Sea by Soviet naval aircraft. Latvian ports of Ventspils and Liepaja are targets for night attack by SAF; 10 ships at Ventspils and 30 at Liepaja observed during raids; fires and explosions result in midst of supply ships and in areas of customs and storage houses.

- 23 Eastern Front Red Army troops, with strong air support, exert pressure along road to Kirkenes in N Norway; Finnish troops pushing N along Rovaniemi-Petsamo road clear Sodankylae; to W, advance toward RR town Muonio is slowed by stiff German opposition. Berlin reports that Soviet penetrations from N on isthmus leading to Sworbe Peninsula, Saaremaa I., have been sealed off by Germans with assistance of naval units. First Baltic Army clears all of Memel territory except port of Memel, reaching coast to N at Scheipen-Thomas and to S at Starrischken; Winwethen, 4 miles to E of port, captured. North bank of the Niemen from coast to Jurbarkas, near E Prussian border and 35 miles W of Tilsit, completely cleared of Germans; Tilsit reported under heavy Soviet arty fire. Moscow announces drive from E Prussia to a depth of 18½ miles on an 87-mile front by 3d White Russian Army troops with strong arty and air support; to N, Schirwindt and

**UNCLASSIFIED**

UNCLASSIFIED

137

Oct  
1944

Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

23  
Cont

Willuhnen captured; along Kaunas-Koenigsberg RR, Edytkau and Ebenrode won; SE of Gumbinnen, Walterkehmen, Gr. Rominten; and RR junction of Goldap are among towns seized; farther S near Polish-E Prussian border, important communication center of Suwalki (Poland) falls to forces which continue drive W to take Filipow and Wehrkirchen. Germans, supported by fighter bombers, are counterattacking from S and NW; Soviet supply lines S of Gumbinnen reported cut and assault spearheads smashed.

Berlin announces reinforcement of Czechoslovak Partisans in central Slovakia by Russian parachutists. Fourth Ukrainian Army heading NW toward Czechoslovakian town of Mukacevo capture Tacovo and number of localities along the Tisza R. SW of Sighet, more than 50 villages cleared in N Transylvania as Russians and Rumanians close in on Satul-Mare. Advancing from S toward large communication center of Uzhorod in eastern Czechoslovakia, Russians take Dombrad and reach S banks of the Tisza R. on a 30-mile front NW of Nyiregyhaza. Germans claim that encircled Soviet and Rumanian troops E of Szolnok have been split into groups and are being systematically eliminated; increased Russian pressure toward the Danube in S Hungary reported. W of Belgrade, successful engagements fought by Russians and Yugoslavs to enlarge Sava R. bridgehead. Fighting for Cacak and Kraljevo on W Morava R. continues. Bulgars, cooperating with Yugoslavs and Russians, make gains in SE Serbia, reportedly capturing Kocane and number of villages SE of Skolpje; enemy troops and communications in Kumanovo area reported effectively hit by Bulgarian AF.

SAF makes night attack on RR junctions of Gumbinnen, Insterburg, and Darkehmen behind the German lines in E Prussia; many hits reported scored on trains and tracks.

Germany-Czechoslovakia Force of 137 B-17s with escort of 153 P-51s unloads 299 tons of bombs on Pilsen/Skoda works (Czechoslovakia), 97.5 tons on Plauen factory area, and 62.3 tons on RR yards at Rosenheim; clouds prevent observation of results; 2 B-17s and 8 P-51s missing. Augsburg engine factory takes 181.7 tons of bombs from 81 B-24s covered by 45 P-51s; Regensburg/Winterhafen oil plant bombed by 63 B-24s dropping 153 tons of bombs; Munich/Allach industrial works hit with 107 tons by 63 B-24s escorted by 80 P-38s; results generally unobserved because of weather; 8 B-24s, 2 P-51s, and 1 P-39 missing.

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER24

Eastern Front Enemy withdrawal from N Finland continues as Soviets maintain pressure from N toward Norwegian port of Kirkenes. Germans maintain hold on Sworbe Peninsula on Saaremaa I. German naval units reported shelling Soviet positions in Memel area. Moscow announces repulse of numerous and heavy enemy counterattacks in Goldap-Gumbinnen areas where slight gains are made by Russians; 4 enemy divs, including SS "Greater Germany" and "Hermann Goering" Divs, have reportedly been transferred to this sector; both SAF and GAF lend strong support to respective ground troops. Polish stronghold of Augustow, 20 miles S of Suwalki, falls to 3d White Russians after fierce fighting; other units driving westward from Suwalki are nearing Treuberg (E Prussia). Russian pressure from Narew bridgeheads is maintained against strong German counterthrusts.

Advance along Tacova-Mukacevo road continued by 4th Ukrainian troops which capture Chust on R bank of the Tisza after bitter fighting in streets throughout night; Drahovo to N and border town of Vyskovo to S also cleared. With capture of Chust, Russians gain control of Chust-Kolomyja-Cernauti RR. In NW Transylvania, 2d Ukrainian troops assisted by Rumanians by-pass road junction of Carei and break into Satul-Mare from W; determined resistance is put up by Germans and Hungarians defending city street by street. Berlin claims bulk of 30 Soviet Cav Divs and 3d Soviet Tk Brig encircled near Debrecen. In S Hungary, Soviets cut Subotica-Budapest RR with capture of Kiskunhalas; Janoshalma, about midway between Baja (on the Danube) and Kiskunhalas, also seized. Yugoslavia announces that Novi Sad, situated on N bank of the Danube approximately 45 miles SW of Belgrade, is freed of enemy. With capture of Novi Sad, Belgrade-Budapest RR is cleared from Belgrade to Kiskunhalas junction, 75 miles SE of Budapest. Bulgars report fierce fighting at Stracin in S Serbia.

Soviet aircraft make night attack on enemy transports and shore facilities at Liepaja and Ventspils; fires and explosions result. RR junctions of Insterburg and Darkehmen in E Prussia also effectively hit during night by SAF; at Darkehmen, an ammunition train reported exploded by direct hit.

25

Eastern Front Red Army troops cross the Norwegian frontier and force German evacuation of Kirkenes. Finns are pressing German troops withdrawing along Arctic road S of Upernivik and along Swedish border S of Muonio; stiff rearguard

**UNCLASSIFIED**

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

resistance encountered. W of Liepaja in Latvia, Germans launch repeated counterattacks but fail to penetrate Soviet positions. NW of Schirwindt, 3d White Russians take Bilden and Petereitschen, the latter only one mile from Schlossberg; slight gains also made W of Ebenrode and N of Goldap. S of Gumbinnen, German arm'd units with air support have cut off Soviet tank spearheads and regained some ground to E, according to Berlin. Germans frustrate Red Army attacks from Narew bridgeheads and are counterattacking. First White Russian troops together with units of 1st Polish Army gain some ground SW of Praga (E suburb of Warsaw).

Satul-Mare and Carei to SW fall to 2d Ukrainian and Rumanian troops; with capture of these towns, all organized enemy resistance in Transylvania is broken. Russian troops overcome technical obstacles and stiff opposition NE and SE of Mukacevo and drive to within 9 miles of town along road from Chust. Axis troops with air support continue attacks on Soviet spearheads N of Debrecen. Russians and Yugoslavs clear several towns along Voyvodina-Slavonia border; Srem, Karlovci and Titel in Novi Sad area are included in towns captured. Serious fighting reported by Yugoslavs in W Morava Valley where Germans are attempting to reach Uzice and Visegrad from Cacak and in the Novi-Sjenica area from which the enemy is trying to escape to the Sanjak. Serbia-Montenegro escape route (Mitrovica-Pec-Podgorica) reported in Partisan hands. In SE Serbia, Bulgars and Yugoslavs cooperating with Soviets attack toward Skoplje; Stracin captured and drive for Kumanovo is under way. Germans are reportedly withdrawing from Kumanovo to Skoplje and from Stip to Veles to strengthen defense line along W bank of the Vardar.

Austria Aircraft factory at Klagenfurt bombed through heavy clouds by 4 B-17s with 4.5 tons of bombs; 1 B-17 drops 1.9 tons on RR targets at St. Veit.

26

Eastern Front Troops of the Soviet Karelian Army continue offensive action to clear retreating troops of German 20th Mtn Army from area S of Norwegian port of Kirkenes. Third White Russian troops cut RR running N of Ebenrode to Schlossberg at Eichhagen and are engaged in fighting along and to S of Ebenrode-Gumbinnen road and RR, according to Moscow.

Mukacevo, stronghold of German defenses SW of Beskid Pass and important RR town on line running NE to Polish city of Lwow, falls to troops of 4th Ukrainian Army.

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

fighting in streets throughout the night; to S of town, juncture is made with 2d Ukrainian and Rumanian troops near border town of Vylk, about midway between Mukacevo and Satul-Mare. NW and W of Satul-Mare, Russian and Rumanian troops cross the Hungarian frontier to capture Csenger on W bank of the Szamos R. and more than 40 small towns and villages. During fighting from 21-25 Oct. in Transylvania, 6,700 German and Hungarian prisoners reported taken by 2d Ukrainian Army. Berlin and Hungary report heavy fighting N and NW of Debrecen and claim recapture of Nyiregyhaza. Yugoslavs announce entire Backa area freed of Germans. NW of Belgrade in E Slavonia, Partisan forces in cooperation with Red Army capture Novi Karlovci, Indijija, Krusedol, and Kraljevci. Sabac, enemy strongpoint in NW Serbia, reported in Allied hands by Yugoslavia.

Budapest, capital of Hungary, is target for night attack by Russian bombers which cause fires and explosions in S and W parts of city reported visible at a distance of 125 miles from target. Russian naval aircraft attack enemy shipping in the Barents Sea; 3 patrol vessels, 5 barges, 1 launch, and 2 motor boats reported sunk; in port of Vardoe, N Norway, 2 motor launches and several small craft sunk.

Austria Innsbruck marshaling yards take 15.5 tons of bombs from 7 B-17s; very good results achieved in individual bombing runs at 5-minute intervals.

27

Eastern Front Soviets continue pressure against German troops withdrawing S of Kirkenes; Finnish forces pushing N along Swedish border are within 6 miles of Muonio; air forces support their respective ground troops. Moscow claims capture of several enemy strongpoints NW of Ebenrode in East Prussia. Berlin claims offensive power of Red Army in E Prussia is broken; Russians who entered Schlossberg have reportedly been driven back and penetrations SE of Gumbinnen have been sealed off by German counterthrusts. On both sides of the Bug and lower Narew, Russian air-supported attacks are withstood by Germans, according to Berlin. In central Slovakia, Axis troops force Czechoslovak Partisans to evacuate Zvolen and move N to Banska Bystrica; Berlin claims virtual collapse of Partisan rebellion.

Continuing advance NW of Mukacevo, 4th Ukrainian forces sweep up Seredne RR station and enter Uzhorod; forces on S slopes of the Carpathians capture Perecin and break into Uzhorod from the N. Uzhorod cleared after street-to-street

**UNCLASSIFIED**



141  
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Oct  
1944

Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

fighting; to N of Uzhorod, Starina captured; to S, units approaching Cop (Csap) take Berehovo. With capture of Uzhorod, Russians gain control of another RR to Lwow and virtually complete conquest of Carpatho-Ukraine (Czechoslovak province of Ruthenia prior to March 1939). Moscow announces gains made NW of Belgrade by 3d Ukrainian troops and Yugoslavs: RR junction of Novi Sad (reported captured on 24th by Yugoslavia) and towns of Petrovac, Kula, and Stapar in Vovvodina, and Indijija, Stara Pazova, Platicevo, and Irig in E Slavonia are among towns won. Fierce fighting along Kriva and Bregalnica rivers in SE Serbia reported by Sofia; RR town of Veles claimed effectively attacked by Bulgarian AF.

Military installations and port facilities at Vardoe, Norway, fired by Russian naval vessels. Near Varanger Peninsula, German 2,000-ton transport and several small craft sunk by Soviet naval vessels; a 5,000-ton transport and several other vessels damaged. Soviet Baltic Fleet units and aircraft sink an enemy transport in the Baltic Sea and down 13 planes.

28

Eastern Front Troops of the Soviet Karelian Front continue offensive to clear Germans from Norwegian territory in vicinity of Kirkenes while Finns engage in stiff fighting at approaches to Muonio. Germans report that Red Army troops in Latvia, after heavy arty barrage and air strikes, are attacking toward Liepaja from Auce and positions SE of the port. In E Prussia, heavy fighting reported by Germans E and SE of Gumbinnen and to W of the Rominten Heide with Germans progressing toward Goldap; both GAF and SAF are active in this area; in fighting between 16-18 Oct., 1,255 Russian tanks and 112 Russian planes claimed destroyed or captured by German ground troops and the Luftwaffe. Pushing NW of Praga (E suburb of Warsaw), 1st White Russian and 1st Polish troops capture town and RR station of Jablonna on E bank of the Wisla R. Czechoslovak Partisans are forced to yield Banska Bystrica in central Slovakia (approximately 70 miles N of Budapest) to Germans.

N and S of Uzhorod, Soviet pressure is maintained to score gains toward RR center of Cop; progress of Russians in this area is slowed by heavily mined roads and bridges. Gains are also made NW of Debrecen where Russians and Rumanians have penetrated 19 miles beyond Transylvanian-Hungarian border to take Mateszalka, Nyirbator, and Nyirbogot. Berlin reports fierce fighting still in progress in Debrecen area and claims 25 Russian planes on Debrecen airfield destroyed by GAF. Moscow announces capture of more than 80 towns and villages

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

**UNCLASSIFIED**Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

NW of Belgrade in Vojvodina and Slavonia provinces; among these are Apatin on the Danube and on W border of Vojvodina, along border to S, Senta and Bac, and S of Novi Sad in E Slavonia, Ruma and Klenak. Germans are reportedly assembling their forces from S Balkans to defend Kraljevo-Cacak sector of communication line running W to Uzice and Sarajevo. In SE Serbia, Yugoslavs and Bulgars, cooperating with Russians, are driving toward the Pcinja R. from Stracin and toward Stip on the Bregalnica R.; Veles RR junction again reported hit by Bulgarian AF.

Enemy shipping off N coast of Norway heavily attacked by Soviet naval planes; 5,000-ton transport, 9 motor launches, and a patrol vessel reported sunk. German AO in port of Liepaja sunk by aircraft of Red Banner Baltic Fleet; several transports in harbor damaged.

Austria Ten B-17s drop 23.5 tons of bombs on Klagenfurt aircraft factory through 10/10ths cloud. Eight B-17s make night raid on Munich W marshaling yards with unobserved results.

29 Eastern Front Finns forcing withdrawal N along Arctic Road toward Petsamo clear Vuctso; other units engage in serious fighting with Germans near Muonio. In Latvia, Soviets against determined opposition make slight gains toward Liepaja. Fighting continues S and SE of Gumbinnen in E Prussia.

Heavily fortified enemy garrison at Cop, important RR junction 25 miles SW of Uzhorod, falls to Russians and Rumanians; final desperate resistance within town is wiped out with bayonets and hand grenades. Germans and Hungarians launch violent counterattacks in vicinity of Nyirbator, NW of Debrecen, but fail to stop Russian and Rumanian advance. With hq at Skolpje in SE Serbia, German 11th GAF Div, 297th Div, and 104th Div believed to be protecting escape routes.

Germany-Austria Large-scale air attacks on targets in SE Germany prevented by adverse weather. Thirty-five B-24s release 60 tons of bombs on Munich W marshaling yards; 30 P-38s strafe road and RR targets in Wels area, SW of Linz, claiming 17 locomotives and several MT destroyed; 136 additional P-38s and 191 P-51s strafe targets of opportunity.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

UNCLASSIFIED

Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER30

Eastern Front Berlin reports unsuccessful Soviet attacks against Sworbe Peninsula, Saaremaa I., toward Liepaja on W coast of Latvia, and SW of Dukla Pass in Czechoslovakia.

In eastern Czechoslovakia, 4th Ukrainian troops continue offensive to clear area to N and S of Uzhored. During fighting from 20-29 Oct., 21,390 German and Hungarian prisoners reported taken by 4th Ukrainian Army. N of Mateszalka, 2d Ukrainian and Rumanian troops seize RR junction of Vasaros-Nameny to cut off enemy troops in NE tip of Hungary. In 3 weeks' fighting in Debrecen area, Germans report more than 12,000 Russian and Rumanian troops killed and 6,000 captured. NW of Belgrade, Russians and Yugoslavs are engaged in street-to-street fighting in Srem, Metrovica on NW boundary of Serbia; several enemy strongpoints NW of Novi Sad cleared. Sofia reports that Bulgars cooperating with Russians have established bridgeheads on W bank of the Pcinja R. E of Kumanovo (SE Serbia); gun batteries at river crossing and RR station N of Kumanovo claimed effectively bombed by Russian planes.

Austria Three B-24s drop 6 tons of bombs on RR yards at Klagenfurt during night; results unobserved because of weather.

31

Eastern Front Muonio, enemy stronghold on Finnish-Swedish border, cleared of Germans by Finns. In SW Latvia, Russians and Germans are engaged in serious fighting S of Liepaja and W of Auce. Fighting continues, but on a diminishing scale, in Goldap-Gumbinnen area in E Prussia; N of Warsaw, Red Army troops renew attacks from Narw R. bridgeheads with heaviest fighting concentrated in vicinity of Pultusk. Berlin reports more than 10,000 prisoners taken in Zvolen and Banska Bystrica areas in central Slovakia in fighting with Slovak Partisans.

NW of Debrecen, Russians and Rumanians advancing along road and RR leading to Miskolc seize Hajdunanas within 35 miles of objective; Nyiregyhaza, which has reportedly changed hands several times, recaptured after fierce battle. With strong air support, Red Army troops assisted by Rumanians seize more than 200 localities and break into Kecskemet (last enemy defensive position in this area short of the Danube), where fierce street fighting takes place; units push SW to Izsak; Kalocsa, N of Baja along the Danube, also captured; 2 regts and hq of 23d Hung Inf Div reported routed during advance; German and Hungarian aircraft are active over

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**Oct  
1944Section III: EASTERN EUROPEAN THEATER

31 battle area, heavily attacking spearheads of attacking  
Cont forces; 48 enemy aircraft on airfield near Izsak claimed  
captured. At Kecskemet, Soviets are approximately 45 miles  
SE of Budapest. Yugoslavs report heavy fighting NW of  
Belgrade along Srem-Mitrovica-Veliki Radinci line; several  
strongpoints in W portion of Fruska Gora Mt. area claimed  
captured. Elements of German 13th SS and 118th Jaeger Divs  
together with remnants of 117th Jaeger and 1st Mtn Divs  
believed to be fighting W of Novi Sad. In Serbia, fighting  
continues in Kraljevo-Cacak area along W banks of the Morava  
R.; to the SE, Yugoslavs and Bulgars are steadily pushing  
toward Mitrovica and Pristina; farther S, other units are  
heavily engaged along the Pcinja R. line and in vicinity of  
Strumica where Germans are stubbornly defending the Vardar  
withdrawal route.

**UNCLASSIFIED**