

the Balkans - where it was feared that the approach of Russian armies might cause a serious upheaval - have thrown some 25 divisions into the Kharkov area, including units from the Caucasus and the Crimea and forces from Western Europe which were to have been held in reserve for the summer offensive. After two weeks of bitter fighting they have taken Belgorod, but their attempts to cross the Upper Donets were entirely unsuccessful until Tuesday of this week, when they were driven back to the west bank near Belgorod after a brief excursion on the other side of the river.

Berlin reports that a determined attempt by the Russians to wipe out the German salient at Orel collapsed this week. Farther north, however, the two-pronged Russian drive toward Smolensk has continued steadily and Soviet troops are within 30 miles of that objective, while near Durovo they have established themselves on the west bank of the Dnieper River.

Fighting before Leningrad is described as incessant.

After a lull enforced by torrential rains fighting has been resumed in the south, and Russians report successes both near Novorossiisk and on the Kuban River close to the Kerch Peninsula.

