



VOLUME III NO. 31

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PHILIPPINE SPECIAL
"MAC IS BACK"

PACIFIC:

GENERAL MACARTHUR IN A SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE THIS MORNING ANNOUNCED THAT AMERICAN AMPHIBIOUS FORCES HAD STORMED ASHORE ON LEYTE ISLAND IN THE CENTRAL PHILIPPINES. THE TROOPS THAT LANDED WERE AMERICAN TROOPS OF THE AMERICAN SIXTH ARMY AND ALSO OTHER TROOPS FROM THE CENTRAL PACIFIC. THE ASSAULT TROOPS ESTABLISHED FOUR BRIDGEHEADS ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF THE ISLAND AND THEN QUICKLY PUSHED INLAND. CORRESPONDENTS REPORT THAT THE LANDINGS MET WITH NO OPPOSITION BUT LATE REPORTS SAY THAT THE YANKS ARE MEETING "SOME OPPOSITION" INLAND. THE FOUR BRIDGEHEADS ARE ALL ABOUT THREE AND A HALF MILES LONG AND NO ONE BRIDGEHEAD IS MORE THAN 18 MILES FROM ANOTHER BRIDGEHEAD. THE ACTUAL LANDINGS BEGAN EARLY THIS MORNING AND ALL DURING THE DAY HUGE VOLUMES OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN POURING ASHORE. TANKS ARE BEING PUT ASHORE RAPIDLY AND ARE IN USE AS SOME OF THE ISLAND IS EXCELLENT FOR TANK WARFARE. ON TUESDAY OF THIS WEEK, AMERICAN TROOPS HAD LANDED ON ISLANDS GUARDING THE APPROACHES TO LEYTE. THE JAP NAVY WAS NOT TO BE FOUND AND THE AIR RESISTANCE WAS PITIFUL. ONE JAP BOMBER ROSE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE AMERICAN INVADERS AND AMERICAN PLANES PROMPTLY SHOT THE BOMBER DOWN. THE AMERICAN SEVENTH FLEET; UNITS OF THE AMERICAN THIRD FLEET AND AUSTRALIAN NAVAL UNITS TOGETHER WITH THE AMERICAN FAR EASTERN AIR FORCE AND ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE COVERED THE LAND OPERATIONS. THE NAVAL SHIPS POURED A WITHERING FIRE OF HIGH EXPLOSIVE SHELLS ON THE BEACHES AND THE CARRIER PLANES DROPPED BOMBS ON JAP POSITIONS BEFORE THE ASSAULT TROOPS WENT IN. THE HEAVY BOMBARDMENT OF LUZON IN THE NORTH AND MINDANAO ISLAND IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES THREW THE JAPS OFF AND WHEN THE AMERICANS LANDED IN THE CORE OF THE ISLANDS THEY PULLED A SURPRISE ON THE LITTLE YELLOW MEN.

GENERAL MACARTHUR WAS ASHORE FOUR HOURS AFTER THE LANDINGS BEGAN AND WITH HIM WERE ALL OF THE ABLE-BODIED MEN WHO HAD ESCAPED FROM CORREGIDOR. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TOGETHER WITH HIS CABINET HAS ALREADY BEEN LANDED ON LEYTE. GENERAL MACARTHUR ESTIMATES THAT THE JAPS HAVE 225,000 MEN IN THE PHILIPPINES BUT THEIR FORCE IS UNDOUBTEDLY CUT IN TWO BY THE LANDINGS BETWEEN THE MAIN ISLANDS OF LUZON AND MINDANAO. THE GENERAL ALSO SAID THAT A HALF A MILLION JAPS ARE NOW CUT OFF IN THE ISLANDS TO THE SOUTH OF THE PHILIPPINES. THE ISLAND OF LEYTE IS 125 MILES LONG AND FROM 20 TO 40 MILES WIDE. THE TIP OF THE ISLAND IS ABOUT 300 MILES FROM MANILA.

CORRESPONDENTS SAY THAT THE SIZE OF THE AMERICAN FLEET AND THE AMERICAN AIR FORCE TAKING PART IN THE OPERATIONS WAS "MAMMOTH". IT WAS THE BIGGEST CONCENTRATION OF NAVAL AND AIR POWER EVER ASSEMBLED IN THE PACIFIC. NOT ONE OF THE NAVAL VESSELS WAS LOST IN THE OPERATIONS. THE HUGE ARMADA LEFT DUTCH NEW GUINEA ON FRIDAY THE 15TH. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT IN A BROADCAST TO THE NATION SAID "WE PROMISED TO RETURN AND WE HAVE RETURNED."

ADMIRAL NIMITZ ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT CARRIER PLANES AGAIN ATTACKED THE MANILA AREA ON MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY. THE JAPANESE RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT AN ALLIED TASK FORCE WAS ATTACKING THE JAPANESE HELD ISLAND OF NICOBAR IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE ALLIES HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THIS REPORT.

WASHINGTON ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT WAR CASUALTIES SUFFERED BY U. S. ARMED FORCES AND THE MERCHANT MARINE HAVE NEARLY REACHED THE HALF MILLION MARK.

FRANCE:

CANADIAN AND UNITED KINGDOM TROOPS HAVE OPENED A NEW DRIVE NORTH OF ANTWERP. TWO MORE CANADIAN FORCES HAVE LINKED UP IN THE SCHELDT POCKET. HEAVY RAIN AND MUD HAVE CURTAILED OPERATIONS IN THE WEST. YANKS NOW HOLD MORE THAN HALF THE CITY OF AACHEN. THE NAZIS HAVE TURNED THEIR BIG GUNS ON THE CITY. FRENCH TROOPS ABOVE BELFORT ARE $2\frac{1}{2}$ MILES FROM THE ALSACE BORDER. RAF HEAVY BOMBERS IN GREAT STRENGTH LAST NIGHT HEAVILY BOMBED STUTTGART AND NUREMBERG. YESTERDAY MORE THAN 1000 AMERICAN HEAVIES ELASTED THE MEINTZ AND MANNHEIM-LUDWIGSHAVEN AREAS OF GERMANY.

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RUSSIA:

THE GERMANS ADMITTED TODAY THAT THE REDS HAVE TORN ANOTHER BREACH IN THE GERMAN LINES IN EAST PRUSSIA ABOUT 20 MILES SOUTH OF THE RAILROAD RUNNING TO INSTERBURG. SOVIET TROOPS ARE PRESSING STILL FURTHER TO THE WEST OF RIGA. THE GERMAN'S ONLY ESCAPE FROM LATVIA IS BY SEA AND THE RED AIR FORCE IS ATTACKING EVERY GERMAN SHIP IN THE WATERS OFF LATVIA. NORTH OF SIGHET NEAR THE CZECH BORDER, RUSSIAN TROOPS HAVE MADE GOOD GAINS. SOVIET FORCES APPROACHING THE HUNGARIAN BORDER FROM NORTHERN TRANSYLVANIA ARE CLOSING IN ON THE BIG CITY OF SATU-MARE FROM THREE SIDES.

THE GERMANS SAID TODAY THAT THEY HAD EVACUATED DEBRECZEN IN HUNGARY. MOSCOW HAS SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE GREAT TANK BATTLE REPORTED TO BE RAGING NEAR DEBRECZEN. THE REDS TRAPPED THE NAZIS BETWEEN TWO CANALS HERE AND IN A SAVAGE BATTLE KNOCKED OUT OR CAPTURED 118 TANKS AND 400 GUNS. MORE THAN 11,000 PRISONERS WERE TAKEN.

A GERMAN RELIEF COLUMN TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH TO HELP THE NAZIS FIGHTING IN BELGRADE HAS BEEN SURROUNDED BY THE RUSSIANS.

ITALY:

AMERICAN FIFTH ARMY TROOPS HAVE CAPTURED MORE HILL POSITIONS ON THE ROAD TO BOLOGNA. TROOPS OF THE BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY HAVE TAKEN THE TOWN OF CESENA ON THE ADRIATIC COAST. ALLIED BOMBERS YESTERDAY HIT RAIL TARGETS AND BRIDGES IN THE PO VALLEY. MEDITERRANEAN BASED AIRCRAFT FLEW MORE THAN 900 SORTIES YESTERDAY.

BRITISH TROOPS HAVE TAKEN THE CITY OF THEBES IN GREECE. THEBES IS ABOUT 35 MILES NORTHWEST OF ATHENS.

