

VOLUME V NO. 3

23 DECEMBER 1944

GERMANY:

THERE IS STILL A BLACKOUT OF OVER 48 HOURS IN THE NEWS FROM THE FIGHTING ON THE ARDENNES FRONT. TWO NIGHTS AGO THE CENTER OF RUNSTEDT'S DRIVE HAD PUSHED FORWARD TO THE BELGIAN TOWN OF LA ROCHE ABOUT 40 MILES INSIDE THE BELGIAN BORDER. THIS GERMAN SPEARHEAD THRUST ACROSS THE NORTHERN PART OF LUXEMBOURG, BY PASSED THE TOWN OF BASTOGNE AND STRUCK NORTHWEST TO LA ROCHE. THE LUXEMBOURG TOWN OF WILTZ WAS ENCIRCLED AND THE GERMANS HAVE CUT THE ROADS RUNNING INTO BASTOGNE FROM THREE SIDES. ON THE NORTHERN FLANK OF THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE, YANK FIRST ARMY FORCES HAVE STIFFENED AND HALTED THE GERMAN DRIVE. THE GRIM AMERICANS HAVE THROWN BACK THE NAZIS FOR SEVERAL MILES IN THE MONSCHAU- MALMEDY SECTORS. THE AMERICANS ARE REPORTED TO BE STILL HOLDING THE TOWNS OF STAVILLOT AND ST VITH. TO THE SOUTH, THE YANKS HAVE STABILIZED THEIR LINES IN THE ECHTERNACH AREA. THE GERMANS ARE ESTIMATED TO BE ATTACKING WITH AT LEAST 12 DIVISIONS OF WHICH 5 ARE PANZERS. SO FAR THE GERMANS HAVE LOST SEVERELY BUT AMERICAN LOSSES HAVE NOT BEEN LIGHT. REPORTS ARE FAR FROM COMPLETE RIGHT NOW BUT IT IS KNOWN THAT WELL OVER 200 NAZI TANKS HAVE BEEN KNOCKED OUT. THE YANKS NOW REALIZE THAT THEY CAN THROW THE GERMANS BACK AND THIS HAS GIVEN NEW CONFIDENCE TO THE AMERICANS. THE GERMANS ARE STILL DROPPING PARACHUTISTS IN AMERICAN REAR AREAS. THESE PARATROOPERS DRESSED IN AMERICAN UNIFORMS ARE CARRYING SULPHURIC ACID WITH THEM TO THROW IN THE FACES OF THEIR WOULD BE CAPTORS.

THE GERMANS THEMSELVES CLAIM THAT THE HARDEST FIGHTING IS GOING ON ON THEIR FLANKS. THE GERMANS EXPECTED TO MAKE WIDER BREAKTHROUGHS AND THE OFFENSIVE IS NOT GOING AS WELL AS THEY EXPECTED IT TO. SO FAR THEY HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY PLACES OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE. THE NAZIS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORCED TO DROP SUPPLIES TO THEIR COLUMNS.

THERE WAS GOOD FLYING WEATHER TODAY AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL DAYS, ALLIED PLANES IN GREAT STRENGTH TOOK PART IN THE ARDENNES FIGHTING. SEVERAL HUNDRED AMERICAN HEAVY BOMBERS ESCORTED BY 700 FIGHTERS THIS AFTERNOON PLAGSTERED GERMAN COMMUNICATION CENTERS, MARSHALLING YARDS AND RAIL CENTERS JUST BEHIND THE GERMAN LINES. BRITISH FIGHTER BOMBERS OF THE SECOND TACTICAL AIR FORCE CAUGHT GERMAN RAIL AND ROAD TRAFFIC MOVING BETWEEN COBLENZ AND TRIER AND INFLECTED TERRIFIC DAMAGE. LAST NIGHT TWO FORCES OF RAF HEAVY BOMBERS ATTACKED RUNDSTEDT'S SUPPLY ROUTES BY BOMBING THE RAIL YARDS AT COBLENZ AND BINGEN. THE BOMBERS ALSO HIT A GERMAN OIL PLANT IN WESTERN GERMANY AND AS LATE AS THIS AFTERNOON, HEAVY CLOUDS OF SMOKE WERE STILL RISING FROM THE TARGET.

THERE HAS BEEN NO IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE FIGHTING ON THE REST OF THE WESTERN FRONT EXCEPT FOR PATROLLING AND ARTILLERY DUELS.

RUSSIA:

THE WHOLE OF THE 800 MILE EASTERN FRONT IS SHOWING SIGNS OF IGNITING ONCE MORE AS POWERFUL RUSSIAN ARMIES SWITCH OVER TO THE ATTACK. THE GERMANS CLAIMED TODAY THAT THE REDS ARE ATTACKING BUDAPEST FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AND SAY THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE BROKEN INTO THE GERMAN LINES SOUTHWEST OF THE HUNGARIAN CAPITOL. EARLIER THE GERMAN RADIO REPORTED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE MASSING TANKS, MEN AND ARTILLERY ON THE WESTERN BANK OF THE DANUBE BELOW BUDAPEST. IN SOUTHERN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE RUSSIANS ARE STEADILY GAINING GROUND AND ARE CLOSING ON THE BIG CENTER OF LUCENECZ FROM THREE SIDES. THE GERMANS CLAIM THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE LAUNCHED AN ALL OUT ATTACK IN LATVIA WITH 27 INFANTRY AND TANK DIVISIONS AND ADMIT SOVIET PENETRATIONS TO SOME DEPTH IN THEIR LINES. MOSCOW HAS BEEN SILENT ABOUT THE NEW GERMAN CLAIMS BUT SAYS THAT THE RUSSIANS KNOCKED OUT OVER 100 TANKS IN YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING.

ENGLAND:

ONE QUARTER OF A MILLION EXTRA TROOPS ARE TO BE "FOUND" FOR THE BRITISH ARMY. MANY WILL COME FROM A NEW CALL UP FROM CIVIL LIFE. OTHERS WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE RAF AND FROM ARMY UNITS ON STATIC DEFENSE OR ADMINISTRATIVE WORK.

GREECE:

CIVIL WAR HAS BROKEN OUT IN NORTHWEST GREECE BETWEEN GREEK LEFT AND RIGHT WING GUERRILLAS. BRITISH TANKS ARE MOPPING UP LEFT WING GUERRILLAS IN ATHENS.

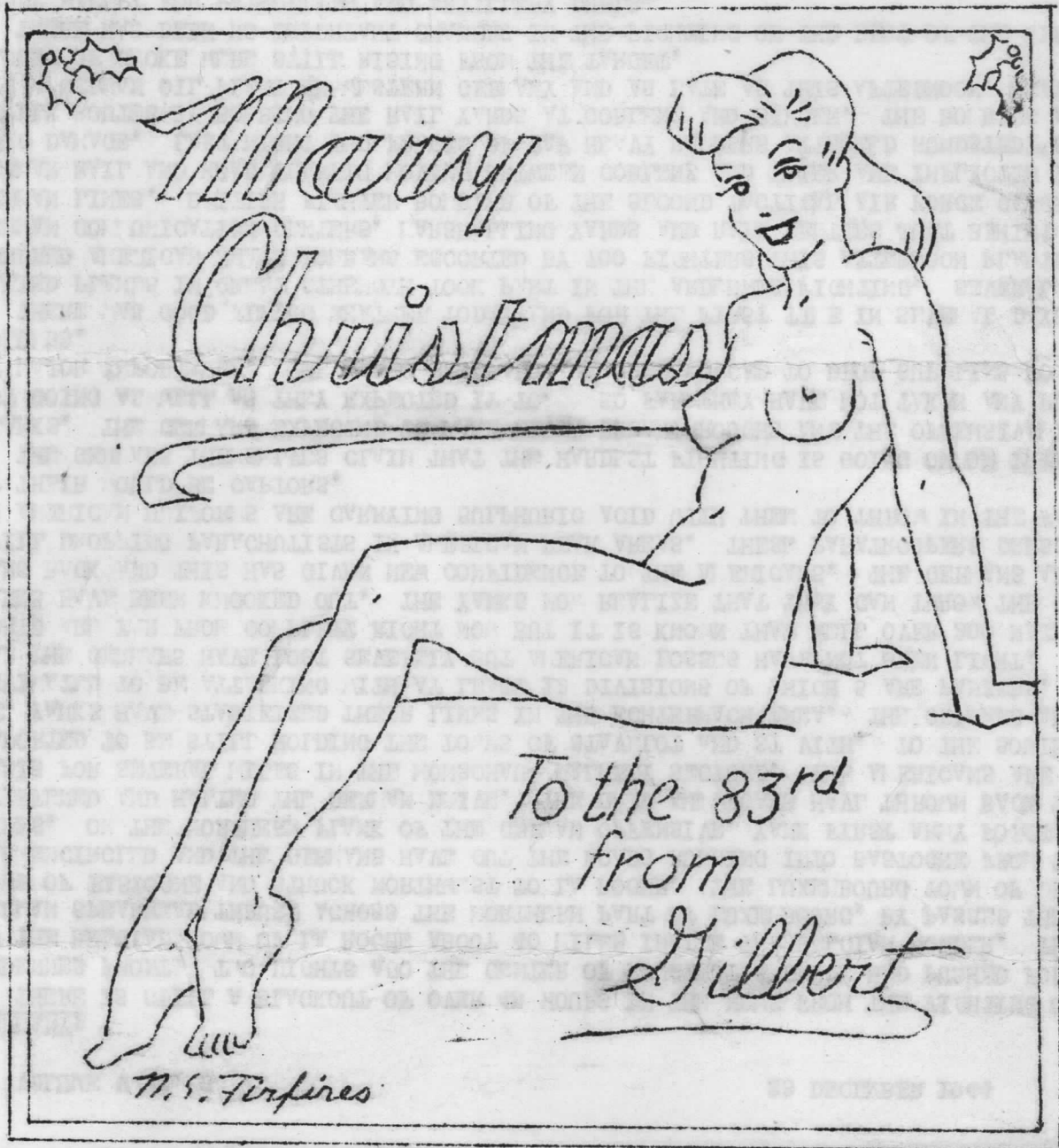
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ITALY:

CANADIAN TROOPS OF THE EIGHTH ARMY HAVE REACHED THE SENIO RIVER ON A FIVE MILE STRETCH NORTH OF PALENZA. THE GERMANS ARE PULLING BACK ACROSS THE RIVER AND ARE DIGGING IN ON THE FAR BANK. ON THE LEFT FLANK OF THE CANADIANS, NEW ZEALAND AND UNITED KINGDOM TROOPS ARE PUSHING AHEAD TO JOIN THE CANADIANS ALONG THE SENIO. ALLIED FIGHTERS AND FIGHTER BOMBERS IN VERY GREAT STRENGTH YESTERDAY ATTACKED TARGETS IN THE PO VALLEY OF NORTHERN ITALY.

PACIFIC:

AMERICAN FORCES ON LEYTE ISLAND HAVE PUSHED ON ANOTHER FOUR MILES AND ARE THREATENING THE LAST JAP ESCAPE PORT ON THE ISLAND.



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