



VOLUME V NO. 4

CHRISTMAS EVE 1944

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GERMANY:

SHAEF ANNOUNCED LATE THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE GREAT OFFENSIVE IN THE ARDENNES FOREST HAS BEEN SLOWED DOWN TO A HALT AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. THE GERMAN WEDGE DRIVEN INTO THE AMERICAN LINES IS ABOUT 30 MILES WIDE AND SOME 30 MILES DEEP. THE NAZIS HAVE REACHED A POINT ABOUT 15 MILES PAST BASTOGNE BUT ON THEIR NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FLANKS THEY HAVE BEEN FIRMLY HELD BY THE AMERICANS. IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT RUNDSTEDT'S FORCES TOOK THE TOWN OF ST VITE AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF FIGHTING BUT CORRESPONDENTS SAID THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE NEWS FROM THE ST VITE SECTOR STILL REMAINED "GOOD". STAVELOT WAS REPORTED AS RETAKEN BY THE GERMANS BUT IT WAS IN AMERICAN HANDS THIS AFTERNOON. THE GROUND HAS FROZEN SOLID IN THE ARDENNES AND IT IS EXCELLENT FOR ARMOR WARFARE. LONG LINES OF AMERICAN TANKS AND INFANTRY ARE CONTINUALLY MOVING TO THE FRONT. THE NAZIS ARE BRINGING UP REINFORCEMENTS TOO AND CORRESPONDENTS SAY THAT A GREAT BATTLE WILL SOON BE FOUGHT.

THE WEATHER WAS EXCELLENT FOR FLYING YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND ALLIED PLANES MADE THE MOST OF IT. YESTERDAY MORE THAN 4000 PLANES OF ALL TYPES WERE OUT BLASTING GERMAN TANK COLUMNS IN THE BATTLE AREA, HAMMERING COMMUNICATION CENTERS, SUPPLY DUMPS AND RAILHEADS BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. MORE THAN 400 AMERICAN HEAVIES ESCORTED BY 700 FIGHTERS DUMPED THEIR CARGO OF DEATH ON MARSHALLING YARDS BETWEEN COBLENZ AND THE BELGIAN BORDER. A FORCE OF 400 MEDIUM BOMBERS HIT RAIL HEADS AND BRIDGES BETWEEN THE RHINE AND THE BATTLE AREA. A VERY GREAT NUMBER OF TANK AND BRITISH FIGHTERS AND FIGHTER BOMBERS WENT FOR TANK FORMATIONS AND MOTOR TRANSPORT IN THE BATTLE AREA AND JUST BEHIND THE GERMAN BORDER. FIGHTER BOMBERS DESTROYED AT LEAST 18 TANKS AND 185 TRUCKS. BRITISH TYPHOONS CAUGHT A GERMAN AMMUNITION TRAIN NEAR TRIER AND BLEW IT TO BITS. A GROUP OF P-47'S INTERCEPTED 47 GERMAN TRUCKS IN CONVOY, ALL LOADED WITH TROOPS, AND DESTROYED THEM ALL. RAF LANCASTERS OUT IN DAYLIGHT PLASTERED THE GERMAN SUPPLY CENTER OF TRIER. THE LUFTWAFFE WAS OUT IN GREAT FORCE AND IN LARGE SCALE AERIAL BATTLES, ALLIED FIGHTERS SHOT DOWN 178 GERMAN PLANES AND POSSIBLY DESTROYED 22 MORE. SCORES OF GERMAN PLANES WERE DAMAGED. ALLIED LOSSES WERE 40 FIGHTERS. LAST NIGHT A FORCE OF 100 MOSQUITOS CARRYING 4000 POUND BOMBS ATTACKED THE MAIN RAIL LINE NEAR COBLENZ. THE GERMANS SENT PLANES OVER THE BATTLE AREA AGAIN LAST NIGHT AND RAF MOSQUITOS SHOT DOWN 10 NAZI FIGHTERS. DURING DAYLIGHT TODAY, ALLIED PLANES WERE AGAIN OUT IN VERY GREAT STRENGTH. NO REPORT OF GERMAN PLANES SHOT DOWN TODAY IS KNOWN YET. AMERICAN HEAVY AND MEDIUM BOMBERS WERE OVER GERMANY AGAIN TODAY.

THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE FIGHTING ON THE REST OF THE WESTERN FRONT.

RUSSIA:

MOSCOW RADIO ADMITTED TODAY THAT RUSSIAN AND GERMAN TANK AND INFANTRY FORCES ARE LOCKED IN A GREAT BATTLE SOUTHWEST OF BUDAPEST BETWEEN LAKE BALATON AND THE HUNGARIAN CAPITOL. THE GERMANS SAY THAT THE REDS HAVE MADE DEEP PENETRATIONS IN THEIR LINES SOUTHWEST OF BUDAPEST AND ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE EVACUATED A TOWN 30 MILES SOUTHWEST OF BUDAPEST. NORTH OF BUDAPEST THE SOVIETS HAVE ADVANCED 13 MILES AND HAVE REACHED THE IPOL RIVER AT THE HUNGARIAN-CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER AND ABOUT 70 MILES FROM THE AUSTRIAN CITY OF BRATISLAVA. THE RUSSIANS HAVE STILL KEPT SILENT ABOUT THE GREAT BATTLE REPORTED BY THE GERMANS AS GOING ON IN LATVIA. THE RUSSIANS DO CLAIM THAT THEY DESTROYED 107 GERMAN TANKS AND 59 PLANES YESTERDAY. THE GERMAN RADIO SAYS THAT THE RUSSIANS LAUNCHED 40 ASSAULTS ON ONE FRONT IN LATVIA YESTERDAY.

ENGLAND:

LONDON REPORTS THAT THE GERMANS ARE NOW DIRECTING ROCKETS AGAINST NORTHERN AS WELL AS SOUTHERN ENGLAND.

ITALY:

CANADIAN TROOPS FIGHTING THEIR WAY THROUGH SNOWSTORMS HAVE TAKEN A TOWN FOUR MILES NORTHEAST OF FAENZA. DESPITE BAD WEATHER, ALLIED PLANES FLEW MORE THAN 600 SORTIES YESTERDAY.

GREECE:

BRITISH FORCES FIGHTING IN ATHENS NOW HOLD MORE THAN HALF OF THE CITY.

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PACIFIC:

AMERICAN TROOPS ON LEYTE ISLAND HAVE WIPED OUT THE JAPANESE POCKET IN THE ORmoc VALLEY. THE AMERICANS COUNTED 3788 JAP DEAD. NINE PRISONERS WERE TAKEN. THE AMERICANS ARE NOW ADVANCING ON PALOMPON, LAST ESCAPE PORT FOR THE JAPS ON LEYTE. IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE U. S. 11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION HELPED SMASH THE "YAMASHITA LINE" ON LEYTE. AMERICAN PLANES HAVE RAIDED CLARK AIR FIELD AT MANILA AND DESTROYED OR DAMAGED MORE THAN 100 JAP PLANES.

AMERICAN SUPER FORTS FLYING FROM SAIPAN ISLAND HAVE BOMBED THE BONIN ISLANDS, 600 MILES FROM JAPAN.

IN BURMA, THE BRITISH 36TH DIVISION HAS PUSHED INTO CENTRAL BURMA. THEY ARE CLOSING ON THE JAP BASE OF YEU, 60 MILES FROM Mandalay.

