



VOLUME V NO. 25

16 JANUARY 1945

BELGIUM:

AMERICAN FIRST ARMY TROOPS DRIVING DOWN FROM THE NORTHERN FLANK OF THE ARDENNES SALIENT HAVE TAKEN THE BIG COMMUNICATION CENTER OF HOUFFALIZE. FIRST ARMY TANKS PUSHED INTO THE TOWN IN THE WAKE OF AMERICAN INFANTRY PATROLS. THE TANKS HAD TO CLEAR A PATH THROUGH WRECKED GERMAN TRANSPORT CLUTTERING THE ROAD AFTER BEING DESTROYED BY ALLIED PLANES. AMERICAN THIRD ARMY FORCES ON THE SOUTH OF THE SALIENT WERE REPORTED CLOSE TO HOUFFALIZE FROM THE SOUTH YESTERDAY. ANOTHER AMERICAN FIRST ARMY FORCE WAS REPORTED ENGAGED IN HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND THE TOWN OF CHERAIN ABOUT SIX MILES EAST OF HOUFFALIZE. THE BRITISH TROOPS FIGHTING AT THE WESTERN TIP OF RUNDSTEDT'S SALIENT HAVE KEPT UP THEIR GOOD PROGRESS. THERE IS VIOLENT FIGHTING GOING ON AT THE NORTHERN SHOULDER OF THE SALIENT WHERE THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN HEAVILY COUNTERATTACKING AGAINST AMERICAN FIRST ARMY TROOPS ABOUT 7 MILES AWAY FROM ST VITH TO THE NORTH.

IN NORTHERN ALSACE THE GERMANS HAVE THROWN IN MORE REINFORCEMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK THROUGH THE MAGINOT LINE. AT THE EDGE OF THE HAGUENAU FOREST THE GERMANS ARE STILL STRIKING STRONGLY AGAINST THE TOWNS OF RITTERSHAVEN AND HATTON. AMERICAN TANKS AND INFANTRY OF THE SEVENTH ARMY TODAY LAUNCHED A POWERFUL ASSAULT AGAINST THE GERMAN BRIDGEHEAD NORTH OF STRASBOURG. AMERICAN TANKS AND INFANTRYMEN WENT INTO THE BATTLE FOLLOWING A BOMBARDMENT BY 300 GUNS. AMERICAN FIGHTER BOMBERS ARE GIVING CLOSE SUPPORT TO THE GROUND TROOPS.

SINCE THE GERMANS LAUNCHED THEIR ARDENNES OFFENSIVE, AMERICAN LOSSES ARE OFFICIALLY GIVEN AS NEARLY 40,000. MANY OF THEM ARE BELIEVED TO BE PRISONERS. THE GERMANS HAVE LOST AN ESTIMATED 50,000 IN DEAD AND WOUNDED AND 40,000 HAVE BEEN CAPTURED. SINCE THE GERMANS LAUNCHED THEIR ATTACK ON THE ALSACE FRONT TWO WEEKS AGO THEY HAVE LOST 10,000 IN KILLED OR WOUNDED, 4,000 PRISONERS AND 100 TANKS.

MORE THAN 600 YANK FLYING FORTRESSES AND LIBERATORS TODAY FLEW ALMOST TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER TO HAMMER GERMAN OIL AND TANKS PLANTS AND RAIL YARDS. IN DAYLIGHT YESTERDAY MORE THAN 600 AMERICAN HEAVIES WITH AN ESCORT OF 700 FIGHTERS BOMBED RAIL YARDS IN SOUTHWESTERN GERMANY. A FORCE OF BRITISH LANCASTERS WITH A FIGHTER ESCORT HIT TWO BIG OIL PLANTS IN THE RUHR.

RUSSIA:

IN THE FIFTH DAY OF THE GREAT RUSSIAN WINTER OFFENSIVE MARSHALL KONEV'S FIRST UKRANIAN ARMY HAS SWEEP ACROSS THE SNOW COVERED PLAINS OF SOUTHERN POLAND TO WITHIN 50 MILES OF THE BORDER OF GERMAN SILESIA. IN YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING KONEV'S TANKS AND INFANTRY CAPTURED KIELCE, FIFTH CITY OF POLAND 112 MILES SOUTHWEST OF WARSAW, AND 400 OTHER PLACES. THE RUSSIANS ON THIS FRONT ARE WITHIN 25 MILES OF THE LARGE CITY OF CRACOW. GERMAN LOSSES IN ARMOR IN SOUTHERN POLAND ARE DESCRIBED AS "TREMENDOUS". RED STAR, OFFICIAL RUSSIAN PAPER, SAYS THAT "THE ROAR OF KONEV'S GUNS NEVER STOP FOR A SINGLE HOUR DURING THE DAY OR NIGHT."

THE GERMAN RADIO TODAY CLAIMED THAT RUSSIAN ARMIES ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT FLANK OF KONEV'S FIRST UKRANIAN ARMY HAD GONE OVER TO THE OFFENSIVE AND WERE EXERTING GREAT PRESSURE. THE NAZIS SAY THAT GENERAL IVAN PETROFF'S FOURTH UKRANIAN ARMY WENT OVER TO THE OFFENSIVE AT DAWN YESTERDAY. ABOUT 70 MILES SOUTHEAST OF CRACOW AND MARSHALL KONSTANTIN K. ROKOSSOVSKY'S FIRST WHITE RUSSIAN ARMY HAD LASHED OUT BELOW WARSAW. THE GERMANS SAY VIOLENT FIGHTING IS GOING ON NEAR THE CITY OF RADOM SOUTH OF WARSAW. THE GERMANS ARE ALSO SPEAKING OF RUSSIAN OFFENSIVES NORTH OF WARSAW AND IN EAST PRUSSIA. THE GERMAN NEWS AGENCY SAID THAT THE GERMANS HAD EVACUATED A TOWN IN EAST PRUSSIA. MOSCOW HAS REMAINED SILENT ABOUT THE REPORTED FIGHTING ON THE WARSAW FRONT AND IN EAST PRUSSIA.

IN BUDAPEST THE RUSSIANS HAVE FURTHER COMPRESSED THE GERMAN GARRISON ENCLOSED THERE AND HAVE TAKEN MORE BUILDINGS INCLUDING THE WESTERN RAILWAY STATION.

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ITALY:

MORE THAN 500 AMERICAN HEAVY BOMBERS FROM ITALY YESTERDAY BLASTED COMMUNICATION TARGETS AROUND VIENNA AND IN NORTHERN ITALY. BAD WEATHER HAS AGAIN HAMPERED GROUND OPERATIONS. EIGHTH ARMY FORCES MOPPED UP GERMAN OUTPOSTS NEAR LAKE COM-
MASHIO.

PACIFIC:

AMERICAN CARRIER BORNE PLANES HAVE STRUCK AT HONG KONG AND TWO OTHER PORTS ON THE SOUTH CHINA COAST AND TARGETS ON FORMOSA. IT IS NOW KNOWN THAT IN EARLIER ATTACKS IN THE INDO-CHINA AREA AMERICAN CARRIER PLANES SANK 41 JAP SHIPS AND DAM-
AGED 28 OTHERS. THEY DESTROYED ABOUT 160 JAP PLANES. AMERICAN LOSSES WERE 16
PLANES. ON LUZON, 5 AMERICAN COLUMNS ARE STEADILY PUSHING ACROSS THE PLAIN OF
LUZON TOWARDS MANILA. THE YANKS WERE LAST REPORTED 28 MILES INLAND AND WITHIN 20
MILES OF THE BIG AIRFIELD AT TARLAC. SO FAR THE JAPS HAVE SENT NO MAJOR FORCE
AGAINST THE AMERICANS.

BRITISH 14TH ARMY FORCES DRIVING INTO CENTRAL BURMA BELOW SHWEDO WERE LAST REP-
ORTED 21 MILES FROM MANDALAY.



HE WANTS TO KNOW IF WE WOULD MIND USING HIS
PIECE DURING THE NIGHT - IT MAKES LESS NOISE!