

NEWSMAP

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 2 TO DECEMBER 9
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THE WAR FRONTS

ITALY: Both the Eighth and Fifth Armies show about a major offensive on both sides, and Italy and the Nazis steadily retreated.

Forcing in the mountains on the west side the Fifth Army gained the highest peaks of the Mount Cassino group from the Nazis who appeared to be determined to keep the Axis south of Cassino. Our front correspondents reported the tremendous evolution of the mountain ridge and peaks as an epic of different fighting in which the individual soldier had to combine the technique of a jungle fighter with that of a mountain goat.

On the Adriatic coast, the Eighth was reported to have reached the German line, a week after crossing the Sangro River, and was expanding a hold across the Muro River, with our positions about 15 miles before Pescara. During the advance, strong German counterattacks repulsed the Eighth and that town was reported in the middle of the month defense that ran inland along the Muro River from Orsogna.

Allied troops had good support from the air and the new advance was marked by heavy artillery duels.

USSR: The strong German counterattacks, which previously had repulsed the Red Army, continued in the area west of Krasnaya Polya, and the Red Army was reported to have pushed back in this area again.

Relieving these lines, however, were new Soviet gains northwest of Gusev, west of Smolensk and in the Dnieper River bend, southwest of Kremenchuk. Northwest of Gusev the immediate main objective appeared to be Zhitkovo, the rail junction on the line to Minsk. West of Smolensk the Red Army was reported in a new offensive aimed at Cherk, a junction on another rail line to Minsk. In the south three Red Army columns advanced to take

Zvenozka, a point well inside the Dnieper River bend. This action deprived the enemy of a rail junction which would reportedly be covered with supporting troops which are discussed with being included in this area.

AIR OFFENSIVE: The British Air Ministry announced during November, "the importance of the subsequent types of attack is in no sense representative of the bomber offensive." There of the four heaviest RAF missions on Germany last month were of this type with most important targets bombed simultaneously, thus splitting the Luftwaffe's intercepting forces.

The three main attacks during November were in "very great strength," while others were "great strength," "medium" and "moderate" attacks. One correspondent estimated that "very great strength" means 500 to 1000 bombers employed, while "great strength" means 500 to 750 planes.

MARSHALL IS. Following up on the capture of the task forces and heavy long-range bombers attacked the Japanese in the center of the Gilberts in the Central Pacific.

In the center action our planes sank two Japanese light carriers, and also shot down 77 planes as the American flight reported attacks. We suffered only light plane losses and one of our ships was slightly damaged.

The Liberators hit Midway, in the southeast end of the Marshall, Midway about 15 miles from the captured airbase at Tanana, in the Gilberts, which was in operation again only a few days after the Marines won the island.

Our losses in taking Tanana were 1016 killed and 237 killed, 123 wounded.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC: Allied heavy and medium bombers repeatedly bombed the north coast of New Britain, dropping

hundreds of tons of bombs on the coast extending for about 50 miles north from Cape Gloucester. In hitting this area, our forces struck at the series of Japanese air bases which extend down from the enemy's main base at Rabaul.

American troops were attacking the Wewak area which is inland about 11 miles northwest of coastal Finakohan area which the Allies took Oct. 2.

On Bougainville, the Americans enlarged their Engorogoro base to include an area seven miles wide by five miles deep and our bombers hit a Japanese supply line and ammunition dump in addition to repeating attacks on the enemy airfields on the island.

CONFERENCE: President Roosevelt, Premier Stalin together with their military and diplomatic staffs for four days at Potsdam, and at the conclusion of the conference (conference of the U.S., England and the Soviet Union) the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain would work together in the war, and in the peace that will follow.

Complete agreement was reached as to the scope and timing of operations against Germany which will be undertaken from the east, west and south. The common understanding, the declaration continued, guarantees victory for the Allies.

The three recognized fully the supreme responsibility resting with them and all the nations to make a peace which will command good will from the cooperating masses of the peoples of the world and break the occupiers' and terror of war for many generations.

The three powers will work the cooperation and active participation of all nations, large and small, whose peoples are dedicated to the destruction of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance.

No power on earth, the declaration stated, can prevent the destruction of the German areas by land, that U.S. forces by sea, and their sea planes from the air. The attacks will be relentless and increasing.



THE AIR OFFENSIVE: 4th Air Force bombers en route—Target Bremen.



HERAN, IRAN—Marshall Stalin, President Roosevelt, and Prime Minister Churchill are pictured with other members of the staff.

Some of the participants at the historic Potsdam conference. In the background may be seen Gen. Arnold, Gen. Banfill, and Gen. Eaker.

British, British Chief of Staff, Adm. Cunningham, Royal Navy, and Adm. Leahy, Chief of Staff to the President.



Standing outside the Soviet Embassy at Tehran are British Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Soviet Marshal Shaporov, Soviet Air Marshal Gen. G. G. Zhukov, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George C. Marshall, and Soviet Marshal Zhukov.



British Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Harry Hopkins, the President's secretary, Bertram, Marshal Stalin's interpreter, Marshal Stalin, Vyacheslav Molotov, Soviet Foreign Minister, and Soviet Marshal Zhukov.



During the President's visit to the Cairo and Tehran conferences he awarded the Legion of Merit to Gen. Eisenhower.



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Description

An American map titled "Newsmap, Monday, December 13, 1943." The map of the European theater shows rivers, railways, pre-war boundaries, areas under Allied and Nazi control, and neutral countries. Printed text and photographs reveal news on multiple fronts. Printed text and a "Li'l Abner" comic strip on the back instructs soldiers on the importance of saluting as a "a sign of comradeship."

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December 13, 1943

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