

NEWSMAP

FOR THE ARMED FORCES

25th Week of the War - 118th Week of U.S. Participation

THE WAR FRONTS

USSR:

The Red Army made major gains in the southern front on a line that ran generally northwest to southeast facing the Rumanian border. The most spectacular of these was the encirclement of several enemy divisions in the region of Krasnodar and Singulavka, about 17 miles east of Nikolayev. In this the Soviets captured living 10,000 prisoners and seized 8,000 prisoners and captured quantities of material. The action was carried out by troops of Gen. Malinovsky's Third Ukrainian front, who advanced in two main bodies, one southeast of Krasnodar which continued to attack the Ingulez River, the other south of Krasnodar, which moved along the Ingulez and then covered westward toward the city.

Only two days before on March 14, the Red Army advanced the region of Krasnodar, the Black Sea port of the mouth of the Dnieper River. It is noted that troops of the Third Ukrainian Army had occupied since last December, on the coast of the Black Sea, the town of Malinovsky's Third Ukrainian front, who advanced in two main bodies, one southeast of Krasnodar which continued to attack the Ingulez River, the other south of Krasnodar, which moved along the Ingulez and then covered westward toward the city.

Other units reached the Middle Bug River after moving down from Ukraine. They took Gostynin, which is a junction of two rail lines serving enemy units.

At the 4th front of the first assault the Red Army forces were in Trojany and held some 70 miles of the main rail line leading northwest from their troops to the Baltic. Sea port base at Odessa.

While deep and wide a trap check for both sides the spring there had not fully developed. German air transport was being used to supply gasoline to Nazi armor and other vehicles, but even with this aid great quantities of equipment were reported left behind.

ITALY:

Allied forces on the Cassino front opened a new offensive. All types of aircraft took part in a preliminary bombing which from low altitudes descended upon the little town of the top. In the space of three hours, 400 tons of bombs were dropped on the square area above before the battle for Cassino began on March 15.

Before the heavy attack opened our troops withdrew from the front of the line which had occupied and after the breakthrough from the city. Allied artillery continued the rain of steel.

Progress in the heavy action, both the Cassino and Anagni fronts had been relatively quiet. The line still was not to be broken, but German soldiers which covered the entire area, and partial action was reported in both areas.

CENTRAL PACIFIC:

Army and Navy forces landed a 5,000-man attack in the evening at 10 miles from the beach. The attack was supported by heavy armor units to attack rail centers in Southern Italy, including the tracks at Rome, and the major road base at Tivoli, on the southern French coast.

U.S. forces captured Monte Alti in the mountains. The soil, 47 miles northwest of Bari, was taken with no resistance by a detachment of Marines.

In the attack and in the mountains to be occupied.

ADMIRALTY ISLANDS:

Thrope of the First Cavalry Division, fighting dismounted, moved from their well-entrenched positions on Los Negros Island after a week of stiff fighting, and occupied two small islands on San Engel Harbor. American artillery firing from Los Negros and American destroyers supported the landing on Hauer and Balyo Is. Manus Island, the target of the Admiralty Group lies to the west of Los Negros.

Following reports that the Japanese were fighting reinforcements down from Hillandia, Allied heavy and medium bombers continued a heavy offensive at Truk in which 65 enemy planes were shot down. In the heaviest attack on March 11, Allied planes dropped 210 tons of bombs on gun positions and the Brandi Flaminian.

Further up the coast eight air groups attacked an enemy convoy at Haidama, sinking two 1,000-ton vessels and forcing a halt on a raid.

SOUTHEAST ASIA:

British and Indian troops captured the island part of the Balaikang-Mangrove tract, south of the entrance on Malay, the port 70 miles to the south.

In the night it was revealed that a Chinese-American tank force played a major role in smashing Jap resistance in the Malaya-Burman area of the Hukong Valley. The tanks held Japs in action since March 3.



These photos released by the Navy show the new amphibious tank, known as the LVT (A)1. It differs from the earlier "wheeled tank" in that it has armor. For transport the vehicle has a 20-ton crane and two main engines.



The three guns of the new tank fire in unison to send a solid stream of flame to their target. The armored vehicle has armor plating in the front and sides.



Agile on land the tank is doubly formidable through the outstanding feature of being able to travel on water. In the latter version the LVT (A)1's characteristic silhouette is still land-based, but the landing gear is retractable.



Lighter resistance. It was reported that Luftwaffe resistance and U.S. plane forces would drop in the Berlin offensive developed, but press dispatches from London reported the drop was abnormal. Although anti-aircraft fire was extremely heavy, American losses were only seven bombers and one fighter of a major attacking force. This compared very favorably with the first two of series of raids which 133 Allied planes were lost.

Observers attributed the lack of enemy opposition on the fourth raid not only to heavy Nazi losses in the previous raids, 75 on March 7 and 121 on March 8, but to a cloud bank, 20,000 feet high that may have pinned enemy planes to their fields.

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These photos were taken during the attack of U.S. Navy tank force raid on Sagan and Tivoli in the mountains, Feb. 22, 1944. With the sky clouded with deadly blossoms of anti-aircraft fire a Navy pilot goes to the plane forward.



Planes and crewmen aboard a Navy carrier chase as the guns of their task force send a Jap plane to a blazing finish. Guns of the ships shot down 14 Jap bombers, bringing the total score of the raid to 135. We lost six.



A field burst of flame streams from the landing of Jap anti-aircraft units during the attempt to beach up.



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Caption with this picture, received from a neutral source, shows the crew of a German coastal battery on the English Channel Coast. This and others are part of a series which the Nazis permit to pass in order to show German preparations for invasion. Above is an armored car, supposedly seeking out Partisans in Yugoslavia. Third photo shows soldiers Gostynin on the Eastern Front.



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Description

An American map titled "Newsmap for the Armed Forces: Monday, March 20, 1944." The map of the southern portion of the Eastern front shows railroads, rivers, battle areas, boundaries as of 1939 and 1941, and points of Soviet activity. Printed text and photographs reveal news on multiple fronts.

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March 20, 1944

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