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THE O. N. I. WEEKLY

For the Officers of the United States Navy

VOL. III, NO. 44

NOVEMBER 1, 1944



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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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HEWLETT THEBAUD, REAR ADMIRAL, U. S. N.,
Director of Naval Intelligence.

Vol. III. No. 44

November 1, 1944

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THE O. N. I. WEEKLY

PROGRESS OF THE WAR

"Amplifying reports on the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea, although still subject to revision as more information is received, indicate an overwhelming victory for the Third and Seventh United States Fleets.

"The Japanese Fleet has been decisively defeated and routed."
Pacific Fleet Communique 168.

Latest available information on the greatest air-sea battle in history—in which our surface units engaged capital ships of the Japanese Navy for the first time since the Battle of Guadalcanal in mid-November, 1942—reveals that our forces sank or damaged 58 of 60 Japanese warships engaged. Included in the bag of vessels definitely sunk by our surface craft, submarines and aircraft during the period October 23d–28th were 2 battleships, 4 carriers, 6 heavy cruisers, 3 light cruisers, 3 small cruisers or large destroyers and 6 destroyers. Our losses were 1 light carrier (CVL *Princeton*), 2 escort carriers, 2 destroyers, 1 destroyer escort and a few lesser craft sunk, and several warships damaged.

As a result of this historic engagement, the offensive and defensive capabilities of the Japanese Navy have been very substantially reduced and our foothold on the Philippines, which was greatly expanded this week, is now secure.

Coupled with the attrition of Japanese naval strength is the disclosure that Pacific Fleet carrier aircraft have destroyed 2,594 enemy planes in the air and on the ground in the period August 31st–October 31st. Our losses during these two months were approximately 300 planes, making a ratio of better than 8 to 1.

☆☆☆

Troops of the American Sixth Army, rapidly consolidating and expanding their positions against varying Japanese resistance, this week extended their control to approximately two-thirds of Leyte Island and most of Samar Island to the northeast. The entire east coast of Leyte,

the Leyte Valley and that part of the north coast east of Carigara Bay are now under our domination, although some pockets of Japanese troops remain. It appears at present that the enemy is preparing for a stand in the northwestern sector of the island, probably in the vicinity of Carigara. Meanwhile, Japanese reinforcements from Cebu have been arriving by barge in the Ormoc Bay region on the west coast of Leyte.

Important assistance has been given our forces by Filipino guerrilla fighters, who have been incorporated into the regular Commonwealth army by an executive order of President Sergio Osmena.

Japanese aircraft continued to operate against our shipping in Leyte Gulf on every day of the week, but were fended off for the most part by our combat patrols. Following the capture and building of airfields on Leyte, aircraft of the Fifth Army Air Force, including P-38's and P-47's, moved in on the 27th to relieve the naval carrier force of air support duties.

In addition to continued attacks on Japanese bases and shipping in the southern and central Philippines by Allied aircraft from Southwest Pacific bases, another attack was made on the Manila area by carrier planes of the Third Fleet. Seventy-seven enemy planes were destroyed, airfield installations were damaged, and hits were scored on three Japanese cruisers, one of which may have sunk.

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General Joseph W. Stilwell has been relieved of his various commands and duties in the Far East and recalled to Washington. The former China-Burma-India theater will be divided into two theaters under separate commanders: Maj. Gen. A. C. Wedemeyer will act concurrently as commander of United States forces in the China theater and as Chief of Staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek; Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Sultan will be in charge of all United States troops in the Burma-India theater.

Japanese forces in China this week renewed their northern and southern offensives in Kwangsi Province, which had been at a virtual standstill for the past month. A three-pronged drive aimed at the rail center and former U. S. Fourteenth Air Force base at Kweilin has penetrated to the northern and eastern outskirts of the city. Other forces in the south attacking northwest toward Liuchow have advanced to within 45 miles southeast of that air base.

Meanwhile, Allied operations in North Burma were intensified this week as British and Chinese forces drove close to two major Japanese communication centers and bases at Katha and Bhamo. British

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units advancing along the Mogaung-Mandalay railroad are within 22 air miles of Katha, while Chinese troops operating east of the Irrawaddy have occupied a point 18 air miles from Bhamo.

China-based B-29 Superfortresses have carried out another attack on the southernmost Japanese home island of Kyushu, dropping approximately 150 tons on the important Omura aircraft assembly plant about 12 miles northeast of Nagasaki.

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On the Western Front, the battle to clear the approaches to the port of Antwerp is drawing to a successful conclusion. While Canadian troops have compressed the German bridgehead on the south bank of the Scheldt Estuary into a small pocket between the Leopold Canal and the Belgian border, other units have cleared the whole of South Beveland and pushed across the causeway leading to Walcheren Island. With the silencing of the gun positions dominating the estuary, minesweeping and dredging operations will in time permit use of the practically undamaged port of Antwerp as a major entry point for Allied supplies.

Good progress has also been made in the offensive to drive the German Fifteenth Army out of southwestern Holland and across the Waal River. Allied troops this week captured all the key points of the road system in this area, established bridgeheads across the Mark River, and reached the Maas River farther east. The Germans conducted a skillful retreat, aided by bad weather that hampered our air operations against their withdrawal movements; although badly cut up by the heavy fighting, they appear to have extricated the bulk of their forces.

Elsewhere on the Western Front, there was little change in the line.

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Soviet troops, about 20 miles inside East Prussia at their deepest point of penetration, made only minor gains this week against bitter enemy resistance. The Red Army, however, appears to have consolidated its position on German soil and has extended its salient to north of the main Kaunas-Königsberg route. Meanwhile, in western Latvia, the Germans have reported the opening of a new Soviet offensive to eliminate the German troops pocketed there.

Significant Soviet gains were made this week in Hungary. Red troops advancing north and northwestward toward Budapest on a 75-mile front between the Tisza and Danube rivers have broken into the streets of Kecskemet, about 44 miles southeast of the capital. No

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natural obstacles stand in the path of the Soviet advance short of the Danube, which flows through the Hungarian capital.

The Russians also succeeded this week in clearing out all Transylvania, and occupied the whole of Ruthenia, easternmost province of Czechoslovakia. German positions in these areas had become vulnerable and the enemy appears to have withdrawn with little resistance. In the province of Slovakia, the Germans are engaged in determined efforts to wipe out organized patriot resistance.

The German withdrawal from the southeastern Balkans continued this week as their evacuation lines were subjected to steady pressure. Practically all German troops are reported to have withdrawn from Greece across the Yugoslav border. In Yugoslavia, Tito's Partisans claim control of about 125 miles of the Dalmatian coast, including the important port of Split, and are operating against the secondary road and rail escape routes in Bosnia, Hercegovina, Montenegro and Servia. Combined Soviet and Partisan forces advancing westward from Belgrade have now entered the Sava Valley, one of the enemy's main east-west evacuation routes.

The German retirement in the south was matched by withdrawals in the far North. Under pressure from both Finnish and Soviet troops, the Germans have given up most of northern Finland. Meanwhile, Soviet forces, which last week crossed into Norway with the permission of the Norwegian Government-in-exile, have captured Kirkenes. This port was a major supply base for the Nazi forces in Finland and had also been used as a naval base to harass convoys to Murmansk.

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Exceptionally bad weather continued to impede operations in Italy, although hard fighting took place in some sectors. Along the Adriatic, Field Marshal Kesselring continued to pull back from the area east and south of Forli.

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EUROPE

SEA OPERATIONS

Northern Waters

Although the Germans' loss on the 25th of the Norwegian port of Kirkenes will presumably reduce naval activity in the Barents Sea, operations this week continued on a considerable scale. Ships of the Soviet Northern Fleet during the week sank two enemy transports and a number of patrol vessels, and in addition bombarded the port of Vardö, starting fires and explosions there and in nearby military installations. Soviet naval aircraft likewise were active, sinking a 2,000-ton transport, four patrol vessels, 6 barges and a number of motor boats in a series of attacks off Varanger Fjord. The port of Vardö was also attacked by Russian aircraft, with several small vessels being sunk; in other unnamed Norwegian fjords later in the week a 5,000-ton transport, a patrol vessel and nine motor launches were sunk and two German destroyers were said to have been damaged.

German submarine activity in the White Sea was indicated by a Moscow announcement that a U-boat had been sunk this week by ships and aircraft of the Soviet White Sea Flotilla. The Germans claimed that two submarines had been destroyed by their escort vessels.

On the 29th, 40 RAF Lancasters attacked the *Tirpitz*, lying at Haakoy, near Tromsö. In all about 190 tons were dropped. Although clouds interfered with the bombing, one 6-ton bomb hit and two near hits were claimed. No enemy aircraft were encountered, but A/A fire from the battleship was moderate to intense. One heavy bomber is missing.

A British Admiralty communique announcing recent carrier strikes against enemy shipping in Norwegian waters discloses that in the vicinity of Bodö two supply ships, a medium-sized tanker, an aircraft tender and two naval auxiliaries were sunk, a large U-boat was driven ashore in a damaged condition and an additional nineteen ships, including seven large supply ships, were damaged by cannon fire or bombs. Mines were laid in Norwegian waters, and shore installations, including a U-boat depot, radio stations, oil tanks and coastal batteries, were attacked. Five aircraft are missing from these operations.

Also in Norwegian waters Coastal Command Mosquitos on the 26th scored hits with cannon fire on an anchored merchant ship. On the 29th a Mosquito scored cannon hits and caused a large explosion on a small stationery escort vessel off the southern Norwegian coast.

Baltic

In the Gulf of Finland this week the Germans claimed that their submarines sank 6 Soviet transports laden with ammunition and supplies, as well as four other vessels escorting the transports. Some enemy air activity in the Baltic was indicated by a Soviet announcement that their aircraft had shot down 13 German planes, on the same day that a German transport was sunk. The next day a German tanker in the port of Liepaja was reported sunk by Soviet naval aircraft, while other transports in the harbor were severely damaged.

German Naval Dispositions

Either the heavy cruiser *Admiral Scheer* or the heavy cruiser *Lützow* has moved from Swinemünde to Gdynia. The heavy cruisers *Prinz Eugen* (previously reported off Oland Island) and *Hipper* (previously reported off Hela) have returned to Gdynia, as have the light cruisers *Nürnberg* and *Köln*.

French Waters

On the 25th, south of St. Nazaire, the British destroyers *Tanatside* and *Brissenden* sank a 450-ton tanker and an armed trawler. Some of the crew were made prisoners.

On the night of the 26th, off the Dutch coast, Coastal Command planes attacked nine E-boats, setting one on fire and damaging three others.

The following United States naval losses occurred during the liberation of northern France, either as the result of enemy action or the perils of the sea: *Miantonomah* (CM 10); LST's 314, 376, 496, 499, 523 and 921; LCI(L)'s 85, 91, 92, 93, 219 and 232; YMS's 304, 350 and 378; and PT-509. In addition to the above, a number of smaller landing craft were lost.

Western Mediterranean

Allied warships operating in support of our ground troops have continued to shell enemy targets near the French-Italian frontier. On the 24th the United States destroyer *Woolsey* carried out a successful bombardment of enemy road transport in the frontier area. On the 27th the French light cruiser *Jeanne d'Arc* and the United States destroyer *Plunkett* obtained direct hits on enemy batteries. On the following day the French light cruiser *Emile Bertin* and the United States destroyers *Gleaves* and *Plunkett* shelled enemy batteries and troop concentrations, obtaining many direct hits. There was some return fire from the shore.

The *Emile Bertin* bombarded beaches and enemy troop movements near the frontier on the 30th. The following day the French destroyer

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Forbin shelled targets in the same area and scored direct hits on a pillbox and among enemy personnel. Allied minesweepers are continuing their operations off the French and Italian Riviera.

In the Gulf of Genoa, Allied light coastal forces attacked an enemy convoy of six F-lighters and two escort vessels as it was entering Rapallo harbor on the night of the 27th. Three of the F-lighters were sunk by torpedoes. United States destroyers sank two abandoned explosive boats 16 miles southeast of Cape Ferrat on the 29th.

Adriatic

Allied aircraft continued their anti-shipping sweeps in the Gulf of Venice whenever weather permitted. Beaufighters, Wellingtons, and Spitfires bombed and strafed barges, trawlers, tugs, and other small coastal craft as far east as Cape Promontore. On the 24th two coastal convoys, including a number of possible Siebel ferries, were attacked off Grado, west of Trieste, and on the 25th two anti-aircraft ships were attacked with cannon fire at Trieste. Other targets were attacked at Chioggia, Cittanova d'Istria and Rovigno.

Harbor installations at Zara were bombed by 15 Venturas on the 25th. On the same day seven A-30 Baltimores attacked a group of E-boats off Sibenik with unobserved results. On the 28th, 12 Venturas and Baltimores carried out an anti-shipping sweep between Sibenik and Zara.

Aegean

Allied naval operations were directed against the few remaining German-held islands in the Aegean. Melos, the only enemy-controlled island in the Cyclades, was under attack by British warships and aircraft throughout the week. The light cruiser *Aurora* and the destroyers *Tyrian* and *Tetcott* bombarded enemy positions on Melos on the 26th; carrier-based aircraft from the escort carrier *Emperor* joined in the attack. Enemy batteries on Melos were again shelled by the *Aurora* on the 28th and 29th. Small groups of land-based RAF Baltimores attacked German concentrations and gun positions every day but one between the 25th and 31st.

British ground forces were reported to have been landed on Melos during the week, but German resistance is believed to be still continuing.

On the night of the 26th troops were landed from the light cruiser *Sirius* on the island of Piscopi, in the Dodecanese 22 miles northwest of Rhodes. Although it was first believed that the island was under Allied control, subsequent reports indicated that German reinforcements had arrived and that the island was still in enemy hands.

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GROUND OPERATIONS

Western Front

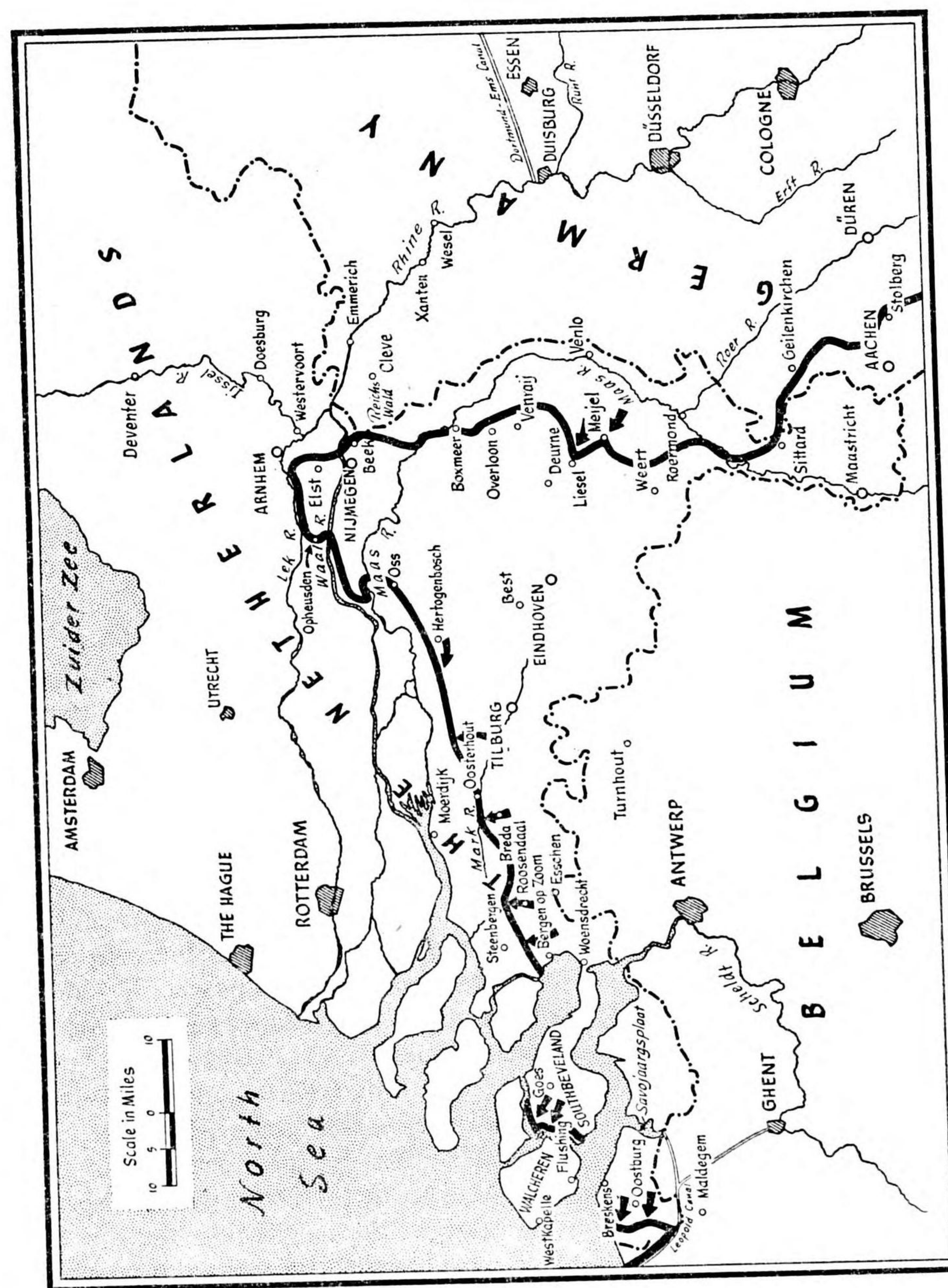
The drive against the German Fifteenth Army positions in south-western Holland by the Canadian First Army and the British Second Army made rapid progress this week. By the 31st the enemy had been cleared from all but a narrow strip south of the Maas and the Waal and he was retiring as rapidly as possible to the north.

On the 24th the Canadians were 4 miles south of Roosendaal, 12 miles south of Breda, and 3 miles south of Tilburg, the three important communications centers in the German-held area south of the Waal. The British had entered Hertogenbosch, which lies astride the most easterly of the north-south roads across the Waal. During the day the enemy was cleared out of the eastern part of the town, but the British were held up at the Zuid Willemsvaart canal which divides the town in two. Although the enemy had succeeded in demolishing the bridges over the canal, the British at about 2400 got a temporary bridge across and during the following day mopped up all of Hertogenbosch save the southwest corner. They also reached the road above the town and so cut off the remnant of the garrison from escape northwards. The division defending Hertogenbosch—the 712th—was badly cut up. Though this division did not enter the fighting until the battle reached Belgium, where it was stationed throughout the summer, it is thought to have been much under strength and of mediocre quality even before the beginning of the current action.

Since the loss of Hertogenbosch left the enemy only two main highways northward, a general withdrawal was evidently decided on, especially as the Canadians were exerting heavy pressure on the German defense positions to the southwest. By the 26th the area between Hertogenbosch and Tilburg had been largely cleared and the British had reached the eastern outskirts of the latter town, itself the hinge of the whole German position below the Waal. Tilburg was not, however, completely cleaned up until the following day. Meanwhile, to the west, a Canadian column on the 27th cut the Tilburg-Breda road and seized the Gilze-Rijen airfield, formerly one of the most important GAF bases in Holland. On the same day another column, pushing northward toward Breda, advanced 3 miles and reached a point 9 miles south of the city. A third column was within 2 miles of Roosendaal, while a fourth advanced 2½ miles and occupied Bergen op Zoom after the Germans withdrew from the town.

Though German resistance steadily deteriorated, the advance of the Canadians, and of a Polish and of a U. S. division operating under their command, was slowed by extensive minefields and flooding. However, despite these obstacles, they had advanced 4 miles north of

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Tilburg on the 28th and to within 2 miles of Breda; on the 29th, Polish patrols entered Breda at 1100 and found only a few snipers left in the town, while the Canadians had advanced 3 miles north of Bergen op Zoom; on the 31st this latter column was only 3 miles south of Steenbergen, while farther east another column occupied Roosendaal and pushed on 4 miles beyond the town. On the 31st this column reached the Mark River, while farther east between Roosendaal and Breda, two bridgeheads across the Mark were established. North of Tilburg even better progress was made; on the 30th Oosterhout was reached and at their deepest point of penetration the Canadians were only 3 miles from the Maas. On the 31st the Maas was reached north of Tilburg.

It appears likely that the Germans have once again been able to extricate most of their forces from what threatened to be a serious encirclement. A variety of circumstances has contributed to this enemy success. The Germans were able to hold the Second Army to small westward gains after it seized Hertogenbosch and thus keep open the mouth of the sack while they rapidly pulled out the troops from the south. They were also assisted by the nature of the terrain, which is much cut up by canals. Moreover, during a week of bad flying weather the enemy was able, according to press reports, to repair the bridges across the Maas and the Waal which had been damaged last week, and the same weather severely restricted the scale of strafing air attacks on vehicles and troops moving northward out of the battle area.

The most important of these bridges is at Moerdijk. It crosses the Hollandschdiep, the joint estuary of the Waal and the Maas, and is over a mile long, with a swing span near the south bank. The roadway is forty feet wide with an eight-foot pavement on either side. East of the highway bridge is the single-span Moerdijk railroad bridge. Nine miles east of the Moerdijk bridges is the Geertruidenberg highway bridge. This bridge, which was destroyed in 1940 and which has since been reconstructed, was a three-span structure, with a water clearance of 31 feet. The Geertruidenberg bridge is reported to have been under artillery fire on the 31st, but the Moerdijk bridge and a ferry, west of the bridge, also across the Hollandschdiep, are still presumably open to the retreating Germans. On the 29th improving weather had made it possible for our air forces again to bomb the Moerdijk bridge; on the same day the rail line between Amersfoort and Zwolle was cut by our fighter bombers. This is one of the main routes through the corridor between the Lek and the Zuider Zee. The bridge across the IJssel at Deventer was also attacked.

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While these operations were in progress, the clearing of the Scheldt estuary continued. On the south bank, Oostburg was occupied on the 25th, and other Canadian units advancing beyond Breskens recaptured Fort Frederik Henrik and reached the North Sea. By the 31st the enemy had been forced back into a small pocket between the Leopold Canal and the Belgian border. Probably only a few hundred Germans now remain on the south bank. Some 6,000 prisoners had been taken by the 29th.

Equally good progress was made against the garrisons left by the Germans on the Scheldt islands. By the 24th the Canadians had advanced 3 miles down the isthmus which connects South Beveland with the mainland. On the 25th an advance of 3 miles was made. On the following night British troops made an amphibious landing on the south shore of Beveland and by 1200 on the 26th a bridgehead 4 miles long and extending, at its deepest point, 2 miles inland had been established. Meanwhile the column pushing westward along the isthmus continued its advance, making another 3-mile advance and reaching a point only about 5 miles from the new bridgehead. On the 27th an enemy attack on the bridgehead was broken up and 2,000 prisoners were taken. On the 29th the Canadian and British forces effected a juncture and the important communication town of Goes in the center of the island was captured. By the 30th the whole of South Beveland had been cleared and the Canadians had established themselves at the eastern end of the causeway leading to Walcheren Island. On the 31st a unit of the Canadian division fought its way on to the causeway and by nightfall reached a point only 75 yards from Walcheren. This causeway, known as the Sleedam, is constructed of brick. It is 1,000 yards long and the roadway is 20 feet wide, with an eight-foot cycle path along one side.

Ground operations against Walcheren were supplemented by heavy air attacks in the course of which more than 3,600 tons were dropped on the remaining batteries on the island, some of which were emplaced on sand dunes outside the dikes and had not been affected by the breaching of the sea wall.

Elsewhere in Holland there was no important action this week except in the Venlo area on the right flank of the Nijmegen salient, where German counterattacks may have been an effort to distract the British and Canadians from their assault on the Fifteenth Army on the other side of the salient. These counterattacks began on the 27th when four small attacks—the largest employing about 250 infantry men and 6 tanks—were launched. On the next day the attacks were resumed and we were forced to withdraw from Meijel. The enemy was subsequently checked, however, by a U. S. unit operating under the com-

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mand of the British Second Army. On the 29th, Liesel, 5 miles north of Meijel, was also lost to the enemy but on the 30th the enemy's attacks made no gains and we made progress in clearing him out of the northwestern outskirts of Liesel. On the 31st Liesel was completely cleared by British troops and two determined enemy counterattacks were repulsed. Again this week our air force attacked the Maas bridges at Roermond and Venlo, across which the enemy on the west bank must be supplied. The center span of the Roermond bridge was claimed destroyed and hits were scored on the approaches of the bridge at Venlo, which carries both the railroad and the highway.

In the Twelfth Army Group there was no significant action this week, except that the enemy was finally cleared out of Maizières, on the west bank of the Moselle north of Metz, a town which he has stubbornly defended since October 7th.

Slow progress continued in the Sixth Army Group sector in clearing the western approaches to the Vosges passes. East of Bruyères on the 25th we gained a maximum of 5 miles on a 12-mile front reaching points within 6 miles of St. Dié. On the 27th new advances brought our forward elements to within 2 miles of St. Dié. On the 30th a German counterattack in this area was repulsed. On the 31st a counterattack northwest of St. Dié caused us to make a slight retirement but southwest of the town another U. S. division made a small advance. Farther south there was no change in our positions around Le Thillot or Belfort.

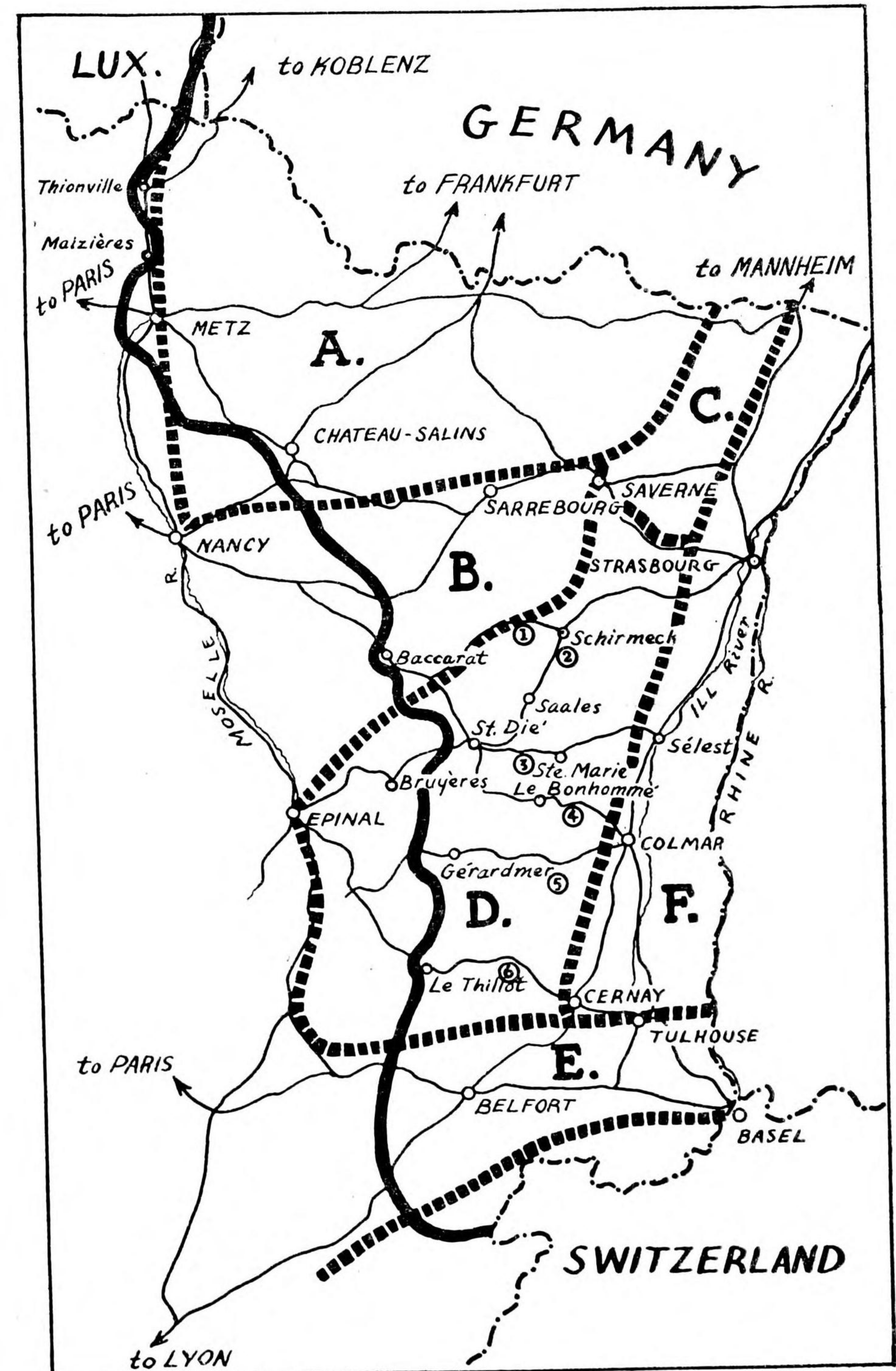
The fact that winter has now set in on the southern sector of the front, coupled with the difficulties of the terrain, explains the lack of progress. This part of France, which includes most of Alsace and Lorraine, may be divided physically into six regions. These are the Lorraine Plateau and Plain, the High and Low Vosges, the Belfort Gap and the Alsatian Plain.

(A) *The Lorraine Plateau*

This area is not a true plateau, for it consists of rolling country and includes several ridges, some steep enough to be formidable military obstacles. Luckily, most of these ridges are steepest on the eastern slopes. It is not heavily forested and is more favorable to military operations than the more mountainous areas to the east and south.

(B) *The Lorraine Plain*

This is higher than the Lorraine Plateau but flatter and dryer, and thus more suitable for military operations.



Solid line indicates Allied penetration as of October 30, 1944.

(C) The Low Vosges

The Low Vosges cover only a small area, about 10 to 15 miles across from west to east and extending 25 to 30 miles from north to south. Despite their comparatively low altitude (1,300-1,600 feet), these mountains form a more formidable military barrier than the High Vosges, since no pass runs through them. The Saverne Gap separates the Low Vosges from the High Vosges. Through this gap runs the road from Nancy via Saverne to Strasbourg, as well as the railroad and the Marne-Rhine Canal.

(D) The High Vosges

The High Vosges have an average elevation of 4,000 feet and constitute a formidable military barrier. They are, however, broken by 6 important east-west passes, through each of which there is a road of some importance. They are:

(1) *Col du Donon*—Through this pass runs the road from Baccarat to Schirmeck, which joins the St. Dié-Strasbourg road at Schirmeck.

(2) *Col de Saales*—This is the most important pass through the High Vosges. Its altitude is 1,237 feet; the main Épinal-Strasbourg road and railroad run through this pass, via St. Dié, Saales and Schirmeck.

(3) *Passe de Ste. Marie*—This is a minor pass east of St. Dié; through it run the road and railroad from St. Dié to Selestat; its altitude is 2,470 feet.

(4) *Col du Bonhomme*—This pass is southeast of St. Dié; the Nancy-St. Dié-Colmar road runs through it. Its altitude is 3,120 feet.

(5) *Col de Schlucht*—This pass is probably the second most important through the High Vosges. The road from Épinal to Colmar runs through it, via Remirement, Gerardmer and Munster. Its altitude is 3,736 feet.

(6) *Col de Busang*—The road from Épinal to Mulhouse, via Le Thillot, runs through this pass, which has an altitude of 2,396 feet.

(E) The Belfort Gap

This gap between the High Vosges and the Jura Mountains averages about 15 miles in width. Several highways and railroads and the Rhine-Rhone canal run through it. The country is hilly and dotted by many lakes, but it is better suited for military operations than either the High or Low Vosges.

(F) The Alsatian Plain

The Alsatian Plain, which is a section of the western Rhine Plain, is about 15 miles broad. There are no important military obstacles to north-south movement except a few large towns and forests; the

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only important obstacle to east-west movement is the river Ill, which parallels the Rhine.

Prisoners of war taken on the Western Front total 637,062, up to October 28th. The enemy is not thought to have more than 500,000 troops in the West; of these perhaps 125,000-130,000 are in fortresses behind the Allied lines. These garrisons are scattered along the Bay of Biscay—on either side of the Gironde estuary (thus preventing Allied use of Bordeaux), at La Rochelle, St. Nazaire, Vannes and Lorient—on the Channel Islands and at Dunkerque. They are being contained, but no major operations have been undertaken against them since Calais was taken on September 30th. The Germans have occasionally made a small sortie from Dunkerque and this week a Czech unit made a successful raid against the enemy perimeter, taking more than 300 prisoners. These by-passed units have a certain nuisance value but cannot be any real contribution to the defense of the Siegfried Line.

The enemy has made desperate efforts to find new troops in the Reich. Though the latest total mobilization has produced a certain number of rather indifferent quality, he has not begun to replace the losses he suffered in his defeat in France. Indeed, since his losses—killed, captured and long-term wounded—ran to 4,000 daily even during the relatively static fighting of October, it is clear that such replacements as he can bring in are hardly keeping him from going still farther down hill. He is still as far as ever from forming a mobile reserve, which will be a necessity if he is to have any hope of sealing off an Allied breakthrough when it occurs. He still is unable to avoid committing his replacements in dribbles as they arrive at the front. He is still short in equipment; the new divisions being formed appear to be equipped with all types of guns on a very parsimonious scale and the Panzer divisions, especially, are very much below establishment.

Confronted with this situation, the German High Command can hardly hope to stage the kind of counterattacks which, it appears, the men have been promised. There seems, indeed, no alternative to falling back as slowly as possible. In the north, western Holland can be given up without too much loss, and the enemy doubtless intends eventually to anchor his line on the Ijssel. In the south he is still in a position to exchange space for time, and if further withdrawals become necessary he would doubtless prefer to make these in the Vosges, than along the center of the front, where the Allies have already reached and penetrated the Siegfried Line on a broad front. Unhappily for the enemy, the Ruhr, which is an absolutely essentially economic area, is dangerously near to the frontier

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at precisely this most threatened point. Quite apart from the Ruhr's heavy industry, which is still functioning despite heavy damage from air attack, this area accounts for over two-thirds of all of Germany's hard coal production. Since it is not only consumed locally but feeds industrial areas in the northern and southwestern parts of the Reich, its loss (or a serious interference with transportation) would be a heavy blow. (Unfortunately for the Germans all their coal mines are located in strategically weak frontier areas. Besides the Ruhr, there are mines in Silesia (about 20% of the total Reich production), the Saar (about 8%) and the Aachen area (less than 4%).)

Less important than the Ruhr but more immediately threatened are the industrial areas west of the Rhine. Indeed most of these have either been lost already or closed down and evacuated. The Aachen area itself produced, in 1943, 3.25 percent of the hard coke production of Greater Germany. Other Aachen industries now lost to the Reich include truck manufacturing, a motor tire factory producing about 6 percent of the total German production, precision tools and electrical engineering equipment. Stolberg, just east of Aachen and also in our hands, was a center of zinc mining and the site of some chemical industries. Düren, about half way between Aachen and Cologne and at present in range of our artillery, was one of the Reich's largest producers of light metals and other non-ferrous products. Weisweiler, about 12 miles northeast of Aachen, was an important center of ferro-alloy production.

Alpine Front

Although patrol skirmishes between special mountain detachments were reported from the high Alps, there was no change in the situation along the French-Italian frontier. The principal passes across the Alps remain in enemy hands. Early in the week, sporadic artillery fire on both sides was reported from the Maurienne, Briançonnais and Ubaye Valley sectors.

In the Riviera sector Allied troops have made small local advances. The towns of Castillon, Sospel and Molinetto, on the road leading north from Menton, are in Allied hands.

Italy

Continued heavy rains, floods, and high winds made Allied offensive operations impossible during much of the week. The only change in the line occurred early in the week, before the weather deteriorated, when Marshall Kesselring withdrew his Adriatic flank eight miles to new positions running southeast of Forli.

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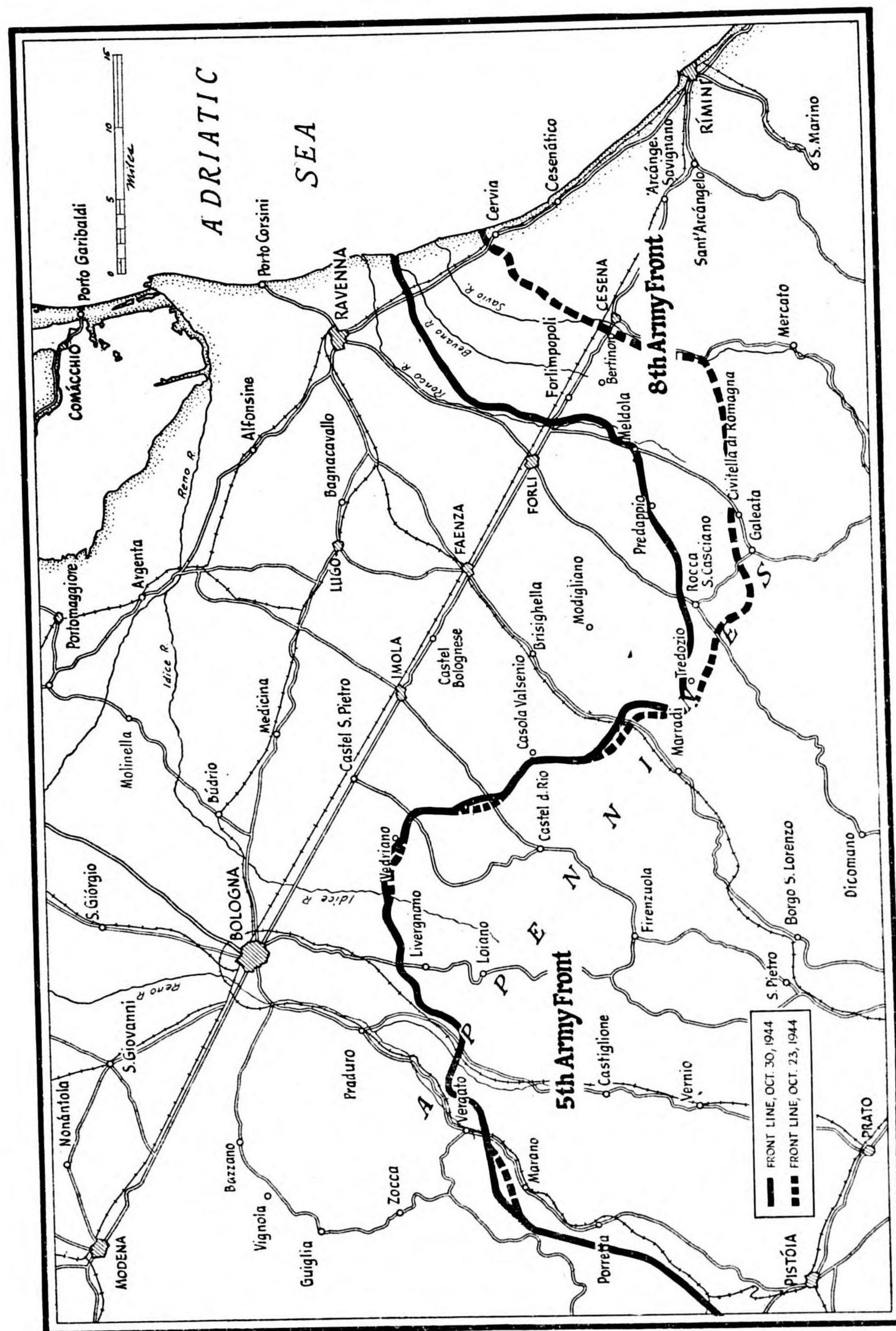
Reports from the front said that it would be impossible to exaggerate the harshness of the weather. In the flat Adriatic sector the countryside was reported waist deep in water. In the mountains interminable cold rain, sleet and fog, often coupled with high winds, made conditions miserable. Deep mud was found everywhere off the main roads, and often bivouac areas were reduced to quagmires. Roads were rutted and swamped by roaring streams, and engineers were kept busy patching weak spots and repairing washouts. Even on the main roads bridges were eaten away by the swirling brown waters. In some forward areas units, cut off by flooded streams, were supplied by ropes and ferries. In one sector, where road maintenance proved impossible, it was necessary to transport supplies five miles by jeep, five miles by mule and four miles by infantryman.

On the Eight Army front German troops, which last week held a line along the Savio River, were withdrawn eight miles to the Ronco River, which crosses the Bologna-Rimini road two miles southeast of Forli. Aided by the weather, the enemy forces were able to take up their new positions in good order. The retreat indicated that Marshall Kesselring was swinging the eastern end of his line northward in a slow, controlled withdrawal to avoid being cut off by a possible American breakthrough south of Bologna.

Canadian and New Zealand troops of the Eighth Army, moving forward in pursuit of the enemy, occupied Bertinoro and Forlimpopoli and reached the Ronco on a broad front by the 27th. In the flat country north of the Bologna-Rimini road the Allied advance carried our forward units six miles north of Cervia to within five miles of Ravenna. With the arrival of extremely bad weather, including gales and floods, on the 27th, operations came to a standstill. The flat country was so flooded by swollen streams and swamps that Allied units were being supplied by rope bridges, rowboats and amphibious craft. Stretches of the Bologna-Rimini road were reported inundated and fields on either side of the road were waist deep in water. At the close of the week the enemy held the northwest bank of the Ronco, which was still running too fast to be forded.

In the foothills of the Apennines south of Forli, Indian and Polish troops made substantial progress. Indian troops established a bridgehead across the Ronco north of Meldola and cut the Meldola-Forli road. Farther west Polish troops captured Predappio Nuova, six miles south of Forli, lost it to an enemy counterattack and then reoccupied it. Strong German resistance was reported in the hills north of Predappio. At the end of the week the enemy withdrew from the Predappio area, and Polish troops advanced two miles to the north, joining forces with Indian units northwest of Meldola. West of

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Predappio, Allied forces occupied the road junction of Rocca S. Casciano and the village of Tredozio.

On the Fifth Army front the bad weather, coupled with determined German resistance, brought fighting almost to a stop. British and Indian troops made small local gains in the hills near the Faenza and Imola roads. In the area directly south of Bologna, where United States troops have driven to within five miles of the Bologna-Rimini road, there was no appreciable change in the front line. Local gains were made west of the village of Vedriano; sharp enemy counterattacks were thrown back on Mt. Belmonte and southwest of Castel San Pietro. Extremely heavy artillery fire has been met in the American-held sector. In addition to bringing up additional divisions for the defense of Bologna, which Marshal Kesselring evidently intends to hold as long as possible, the enemy is reported to be preparing new mine fields and barbed wire entanglements south of the city.

The American 91st Infantry Division has now been identified as having participated in the fighting for Futa Pass and Livergnano. The presence of 85th and 88th Divisions on this front had been previously announced.

West of Livergnano Allied troops captured several hill villages north of Marano, on the Pistoia-Bologna road. Activity along the western coast of Italy continued to be confined to partols.

Although the enemy has regained control of Domodossola and the Simplon rail line to Switzerland, the destruction of the bridges at Domodossola and above Preglia prevents south-bound rail traffic on the Simplon line from going beyond Iselle, just south of the Swiss-Italian border. It is believed that it may take as long as 30 days to repair these bridges.

Greece

German troops are completing a rapid withdrawal from Greece. All enemy units are now believed to be north of the latitude of Salonika and are moving into Yugoslavia along the Vardar valley and through Bitolj and Prilep to the west. The withdrawing Germans must travel more than 600 miles before they reach safety in Austria; their line of retreat through Yugoslavia, leading from Skoplje to Sarajevo to Zagreb, is under constant attack by Yugoslav Partisans and is threatened by Russian units advancing from the east.

German troops from Athens and from southern Greece withdrew from Larissa along the Kozane-Florina road, thus by-passing Salonika. German garrison units from the Salonika area withdrew north along the Vardar Valley and the Kilikis-Strumica road.

British land forces made their first real contact with retreating

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German units at Kozane, about 60 miles southwest of Salonika, on the 28th. British artillery shelled enemy positions close to the town, and a number of guns and mortars defending the area were silenced. Greek guerrilla forces cooperated with the British.

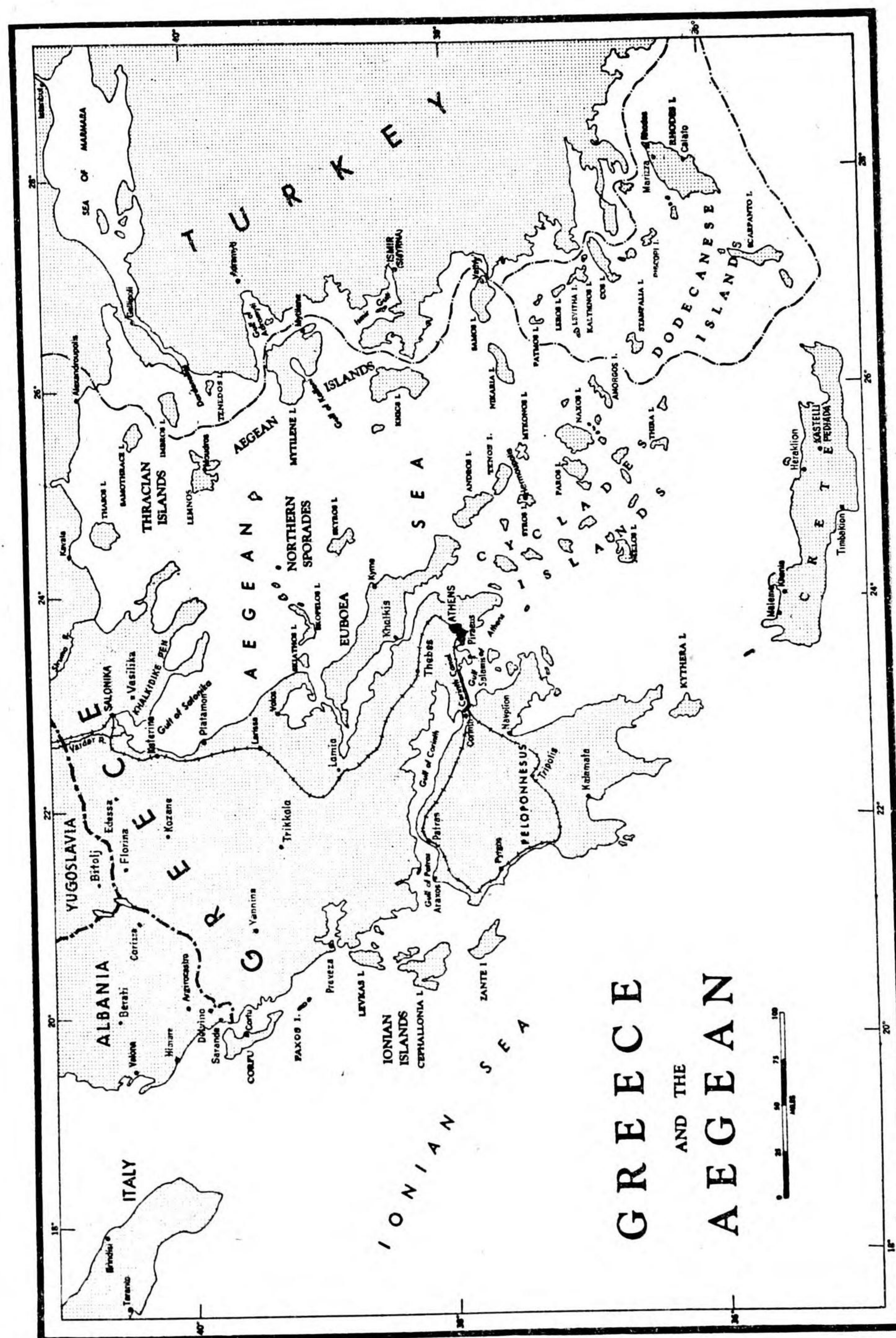
At 1445 the next day British troops captured Kozane after a short engagement just west of the town, and received an enthusiastic welcome from the townspeople. The enemy withdrew to the north in the direction of Florina and Bitolj, and Allied patrols continued to maintain contact. Advance British and Greek patrols were last reported within seven miles of the Yugoslav frontier. Arnissa and Edessa, on the Florina-Salonika Road, have been occupied by Greek guerrillas.

Earlier, Greek partisans had occupied Larissa without opposition, and, in cooperation with the British, had advanced to the north in two columns, one directed at Kozane and the other along the coastal road leading to Salonika. The column moving along the coast occupied Platamon, at the foot of the mountain barrier formed by Mt. Olympus. Platamon is 50 miles south of Salonika and is just north of Tempe Pass, where in 1941 British rearguards held up the German advance for four days. The last German evacuation trains were reported to have left Katerini, between Platamon and Salonika, early in the week.

In Salonika itself the German evacuation has reached such an advanced stage that Greek patriots are reported to be parading freely in the streets. The first British patrols reached the city on October 31st. By the 25th the number of vessels in the harbor had decreased to about 70 from 115, largely because of the considerable number of ships which had been sunk alongside the quays. Between October 17th and 21st a total of 35 evacuation trains are reported to have moved northward from Salonika along the Vardar River rail line. All but two airdromes in the Salonika area are reported unserviceable because of demolitions. The Sedes and Gida airdromes remain in operation to handle northbound traffic.

Southeast of Salonika the Khalkidike peninsula is now reported clear of the enemy, and British patrols which were landed on the Pallene peninsula have reached the town of Vasilika, 20 miles from Salonika. Northeast of Salonika all German troops are west of the Struma river, and forces holding the Struma River line are reported to have been thinned out. The evacuation of Bulgarian troops from eastern Macedonia and Thrace is believed to have been completed on schedule, and a Greek Government representative has reported that order has been restored in the frontier provinces.

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The withdrawing German columns were under frequent attack by Allied aircraft, many of them based in Greece. Early in the week fighter bombers and night fighters operated effectively against motor traffic between Larissa and Kozane and from Kozane to the frontier. The railway yards at Katerine were bombed by Wellingtons on the 25th. Later in the week Beaufighters and Spitfires attacked rail and road traffic in the Salonika area. On the 28th and 29th seven locomotives were destroyed and nine damaged, and 11 freight cars destroyed.

All southern Albania below Berati and Corizza is now reported clear of the enemy. The occupation of Corizza in southeastern Albania by Albanian Partisan units occurred this week. The enemy is carrying out his withdrawals from Scutari and from the Durazzo-Tirana area as rapidly as possible. Enemy motor transport convoys in these areas, including several of more than 100 vehicles, were attacked by Allied aircraft when weather permitted.

Allied landing operations on Melos and Piscopi, two of the Aegean Islands still in German hands, were initiated this week, but at last report enemy resistance was continuing on both islands (see Sea Operations). The enemy garrison on Crete is now estimated to include 7,000 Germans, 2,000 Italians and 3,000 unarmed troops. These forces are concentrated in the Suda Bay-Maleme area in the north-western corner of Crete where they are preparing defensive positions; the remainder of the island has been abandoned to Greek guerrilla forces. It is reported that 800 Germans may have been evacuated from Crete by air. The German garrison on Leros is now estimated at 3,600 Germans, while the German garrison on Rhodes is believed to be at least 1,500 men.

Balkan Front

The Soviet Army this week continued to exploit the opportunities offered by the German retreat from southeastern Europe. The most significant advances were made in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, where Soviet progress contributed to the increasingly grave position of the Germans farther south in Greece, Albania and Yugoslavia. Although positions have not yet been stabilized, it became more evident that Budapest would be the key to the enemy's defensive strategy. The Hungarian capital was menaced by Soviet thrusts on the plains to the south-southeast. Rapid gains in Czechoslovakia put the Red Army in possession of important supply routes across the Carpathian mountain barrier.

In southern Hungary this week the Soviets launched an offensive toward Budapest from their positions between the Danube and

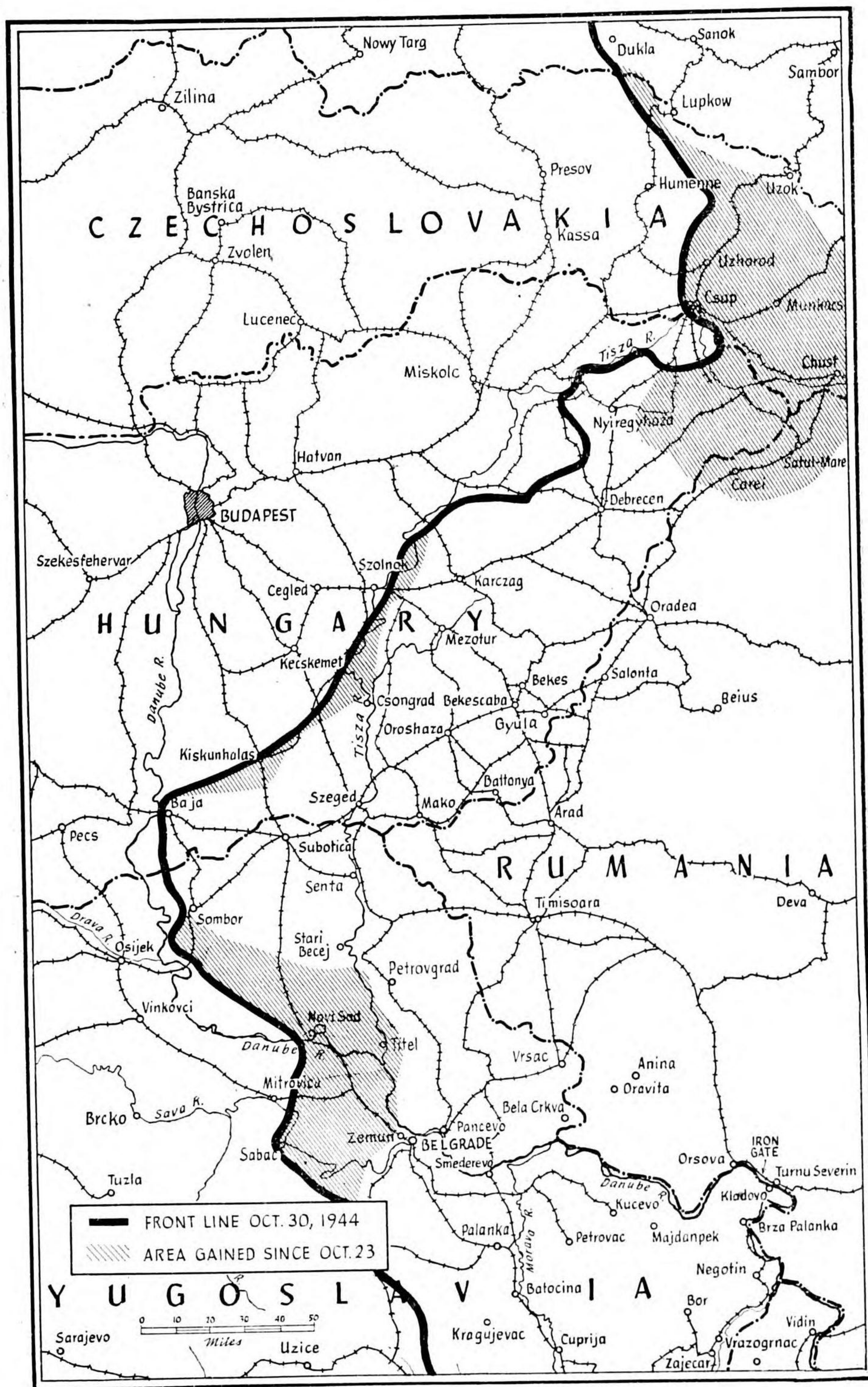
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Tisza rivers, and an immediate threat to the Hungarian capital was indicated by a Russian announcement on the 30th of fighting in the outskirts of Kecskemet, 44 miles southeast of Budapest. According to the Berlin radio, nine Russian and three Rumanian divisions, a motorized corps and several tank brigades were engaged in the new drive. Kecskemet, a city of some 83,000 persons, lies on the flat plains separating the Tisza and Danube rivers athwart one of several main highways leading to Budapest, and its capture would deprive the enemy of his last defensive position short of the Danube. Flowing through the center of Budapest, the Danube offers protection only to Buda, which lies on its western bank, and not to the commercial center of Pest. Moscow also announced a heavy and successful air attack on industrial and military targets in Budapest on the night of the 26th.

Soviet gains in Czechoslovakia appear to be primarily the result of extensive German withdrawals, though enemy prisoners taken by the Fourth Ukrainian Army were said to have totaled more than 21,000 in a ten-day period. Advances have been made by Soviet forces under Ivan T. Petrov, promoted this week to full General, which debouched several weeks ago through the Carpathian passes onto the southern spurs of the mountains, and by the Second Ukrainian Army pushing northwest from Rumania. This eastern tip of Czechoslovakia is relatively undeveloped country, with only two towns of more than 20,000 population; both of these were taken during the week, Munkacs on the 26th and Uzhorod the next day. Uzhorod, besides being the most important town of the region, was capital of Ruthenia from 1918 to 1939, when it formed one of the provinces of Czechoslovakia. On the 29th, the town of Csap was also occupied by Soviet troops, despite efforts by reinforced German and Hungarian forces to hold this railroad junction, from which lines radiate to northern Transylvania, the Soviet Union, Hungary and central Czechoslovakia.

By rapid withdrawals in eastern Czechoslovakia the enemy has all but eliminated the increasingly vulnerable pocket which had hitherto been stubbornly maintained above the Soviet penetration in southern Rumania. The Soviets have gained control of two railroads into Poland by their capture of Munkacs and Uzhorod, as well as another line farther south from Chust in Czechoslovakia to Kolomyja and Cernauti. According to Soviet communiques, the Germans had prepared elaborate defense positions across the valleys, which form the only practicable routes for military traffic, and it is therefore likely that considerable repair work will be necessary before these direct routes can replace the circuitous ones through Rumania upon which it has been necessary to rely hitherto.

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The whole province of Ruthenia, forming roughly one-tenth of pre-Munich Czechoslovakia, is now in Soviet hands. Since March 1939, when Germany established the puppet state of Slovakia and the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia, this eastern part of Czechoslovakia has been occupied by Hungary. Its name was then changed to Carpatho-Ukraine, presumably so that it might form the nucleus of a new state which would be comprised also of the Ukrainian parts of Poland and of the Soviet Union. Much of the province is mountainous, with deeply dissected valleys which often open into broad fertile plains. Near Csap is an important plain drained by the upper Tisza river. Most of this region has been won by the Soviets, and stubborn enemy resistance to the south, which enabled the Germans to regain control temporarily of the Hungarian rail junction of Nyiregyhaza, has now been overcome, putting virtually all the area east of the Tisza river in Russian hands.

Approximately 135 miles due east of Soviet troops at Csap and Uzhorod, Czechoslovak patriot forces this week have been increasingly harassed by strong German units. The center of the Czechoslovak resistance has been in the vicinity of Banska Bystrica and Zvolen, the latter town less than 70 miles north of Budapest. The Germans seem to have made a special effort to reduce this challenge to their authority, especially dangerous in view of their reverses to the east. The Czechoslovaks have admitted the loss of Zvolen, and report a shifting of the fighting to the region of Banska Bystrica. The German account credits the "partisan bands" with considerable strength, allegedly reinforced by "Bolshevist parachutists." According to Berlin, major groups of the partisans have been smashed after several weeks of hard fighting, and further operations are in progress. Ten thousand Soviet-led "insurgents" and "huge amounts" of equipment have been seized so far, the Germans claimed. The enemy's intention in carrying out so vigorous a campaign would appear to be the elimination of a serious threat to his communications—a major railroad runs to the west through Slovakia—and the destruction of organized patriot resistance before a juncture with the Red Army can be effected.

In northern Yugoslavia the Soviets, cooperating with units of Marshal Tito's National Army of Liberation, made gains on both sides of the Danube. Their capture of Novi Sad, on the north bank of the river, gives them control of the Belgrade-Budapest railroad from Belgrade to a point above the junction of Kiskunhalas in southern Hungary, 75 miles below Budapest. Below the Danube, Soviet and Yugoslav forces have cleared most of the lower Sava river valley. Marshal Tito announced the capture of the town of Sabac,

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described as the last enemy strong point in western Serbia; he also stated that the enemy was offering "desperate resistance," in an effort to prevent a penetration of the middle reaches of the Sava river valley.

In widely scattered sectors elsewhere in Yugoslavia the Partisans continued their harassing operations against the withdrawing Germans. Perhaps their most significant gains were made along the Dalmatian coast, where a 125-mile strip of the coast from the vicinity of Sibenik to below Dubrovnik was said to be free of the enemy. On the 28th the capture of the port of Split, capital of Dalmatia, was reported, thus giving the Allies control of the finest harbor on the Adriatic coast. Besides having a broad bay affording deep, safe anchorage, Split holds a central position with good communications to other parts of western Yugoslavia by road—a factor which gave the city considerable commercial importance prior to the war. Other successes by Tito's troops during the week included the cutting of the railroad northwest from Sarajevo by their capture of Travnik, their seizure of the former enemy stronghold of Visegrad, between Sarajevo and Kraljevo and their harassing of German troop concentrations north of the Albanian border.

In southern Yugoslavia the towns of Prilep and Bitolj were said to have been captured, the former by Yugoslav forces and the latter by Bulgars. Both towns are on a secondary communications line used by the Germans evacuating northern Greece. While there remains the possibility that sufficiently strong forces could reopen the escape route, these successes indicate an accelerated deterioration of the enemy's position. His evacuation of the southern Balkans has probably been in progress for about two months, or since the Soviets first reached the Danube, and it is therefore quite possible that much of his military strength has been evacuated, with reliance in recent weeks on secondary routes. The success of the Russians, assisted by Bulgarians and Yugoslavs, in cutting the main lines of communication makes the enemy's evacuation of heavy equipment more doubtful as all routes have been continually harassed and the process at best would be slow.

In addition to sabotage and raids by troops on the enemy's communications, the Balkan Air Force has continued its attacks on road and railroad targets, military concentrations and similar objectives. German attempts to evacuate men and material by sea have also been subjected to constant harassment, and even small coastal shipping is not immune.

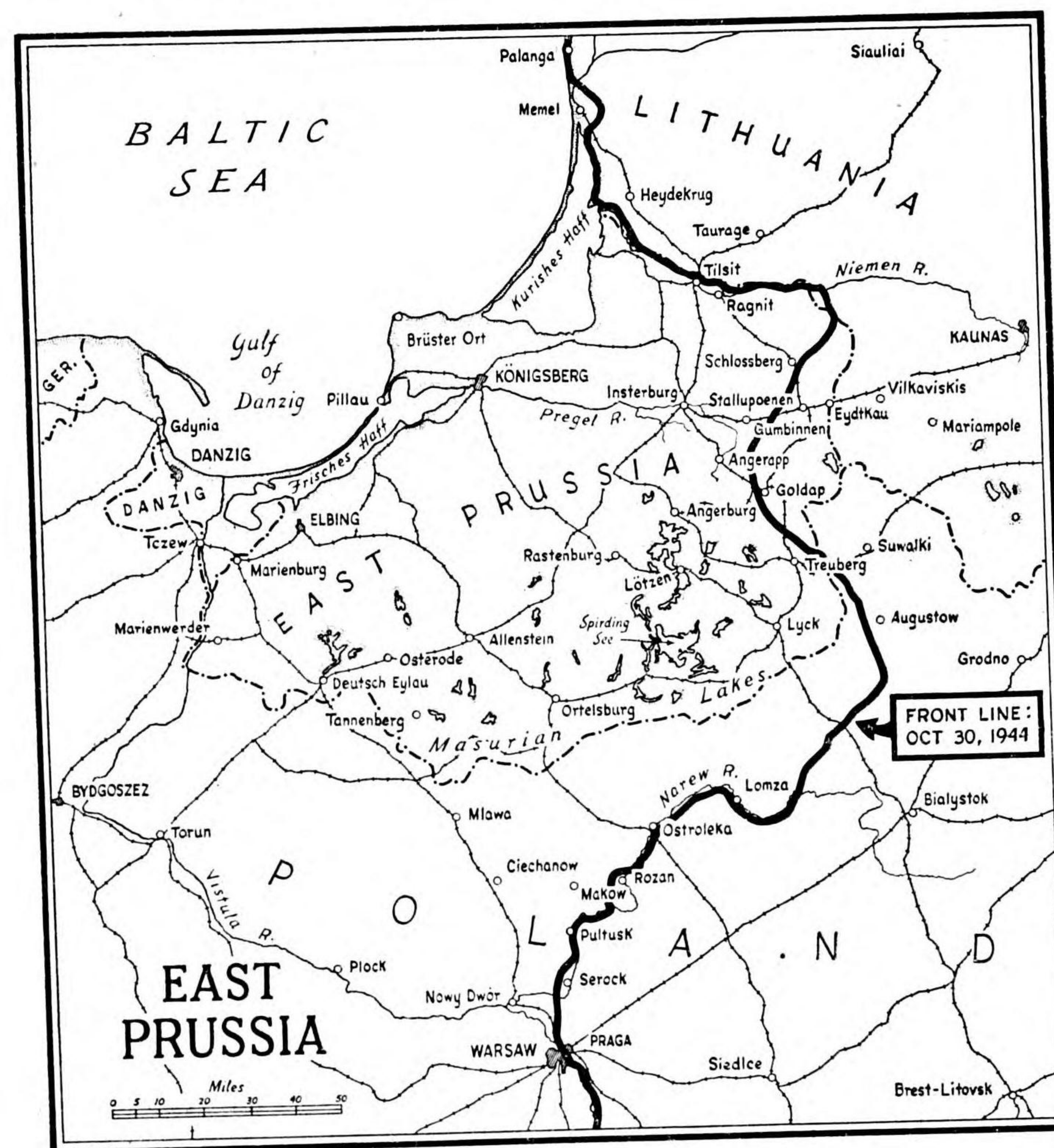
A Yugoslav broadcast this week suggested that Yugoslav troops might be sent out of the country. According to this account, Tito declared that "our mission is not only to liberate our country but

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also to chase the enemy into his lair." No indication was given as to the direction of such a pursuit, but Yugoslav troops recently have been reported along the Hungarian border and also in northern Yugoslavia close to the Italian and Austrian borders.

Eastern Front

The Red Army's offensive into East Prussia this week met powerful German resistance and only local gains were scored. Considering the



violence of the enemy counterattacks, continued through most of the week, the Soviets' achievement in consolidating and expanding their salient on German soil has been a considerable one, however. The Red Army now threatens the main defenses of the enemy's left flank, of importance to him not only because East Prussia forms part of the

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"sacred soil" but because it serves to protect the obvious approach to Germany proper over the flat plains of Poland to the south. According to Berlin, the Soviet attack on East Prussia has made use of more than 35 infantry divisions and numerous tank formations.

The strongest opposition to Soviet advances was offered this week in the Gumbinnen-Goldap area, along and to the south of the main Kaunas-Königsberg railroad and highway route. The Russians have already reached the main line of German defenses built south from Gumbinnen along the Angerapp river through the town of that name. In addition to permanent fortifications built along the river, fixed defenses and obstacles have been observed in the area east of Angerburg and southeast of Lötzen; supplementing these prepared barriers there are, presumably, hastily erected systems of trenches and bunkers thrown up by the newly organized *Volkssturm* battalions. The entire network of fortifications in East Prussia is believed formidable, with bunkers, tank obstacles, wire entanglements and a large number of forts, many of which may have been prepared shortly after the first World War and greatly strengthened during the 1930's. These defenses, combined with resistance described as "fanatical" by Soviet commentators, have checked General Ivan Chernyakovsky's direct advance on Königsberg, capital of the province. North of the Kaunas-Königsberg railroad the Russians have advanced to the outskirts of the town of Schlossberg. In the southern sector of this front they have reached the area of Augustow in pre-war Poland.

Meanwhile the First Baltic Army remains poised along the Niemen river, while the Second and First White Russian Armies are pressing forward in the area between the southern border of East Prussia and the vicinity of Warsaw. Although Moscow has not reported officially on the participation of Gen. Makvei Zakharov's forces, it is probable that it was his Second White Russian Army which captured Augustow and thus broadened the East Prussian drive by some twenty miles. Above Warsaw this week Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's First White Russian Army made gains just northwest of the capital in the direction of the confluence of Vistula and Narew rivers. Although described by the Soviets as of "local importance," these advances might well give the German High Command grounds for worry. Advances here, or slightly farther north from the Russian bridgeheads over the Narew River, would force the Germans back toward the Masurian Lakes defenses of southern East Prussia. A prepared system of fortifications is thought to have been erected along a line running roughly from Osterode to Tannenberg and from there to Ortelsburg, Spirding See and Lötzen.

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A sidelight on Gen. Chernyakovsky's East Prussian offensive was revealed in *Red Star*, official publication of the Soviet Army, which reported that Rominten Heath, east of Goldap, has been entirely occupied. This region is said to have been a favorite hunting ground of the Kaiser before the last war, and more recently was frequented by Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering. According to *Red Star*, the Soviets captured an elaborate hunting lodge built by Goering, complete with military maps, cooked food and French champagne, with some of Goering's belongings packed for evacuation.

North of East Prussia the Germans pocketed in western Latvia were under increasing pressure this week. Their position here has continued to deteriorate since their isolation almost three weeks ago by the Russians' drive to the Baltic Sea above Memel, and their failure to attempt a breakthrough to East Prussia suggests that they are planning evacuation only by sea. This is of necessity a slow process as the ports of Ventspils and Liepaja have a limited capacity and are extremely vulnerable to Soviet air attack. Although the enemy's position has little strategic significance, his presence in Latvia has a definite nuisance value—comparable to that offered by German garrisons in western European ports. Until this area is clear the Soviets are not wholly free to concentrate on the main sectors of the Eastern Front, they are deprived of two ports on the eastern Baltic coast and they are denied free use of the Gulf of Riga. The enemy not only controls the western entrance to the Gulf by maintaining his positions on the mainland to the south, but he also has a garrison still remaining on the southern tip of Oesel Island just across from the mainland. The Russians therefore have good reasons for eliminating the pocket. According to Berlin, a large-scale Soviet effort was begun on October 27th after intense artillery and aircraft preparation; no details have yet been received but the enemy has acknowledged the evacuation of towns at the eastern edge of his positions.

The German Foreign Office has announced that Col. Gen. Heinz Guderian, Chief of the Army General Staff, has been appointed to command all the German armies in the East, amounting to about 130 divisions, or about 40 divisions less than the number allocated to the Eastern Front prior to the Soviet summer offensive. Although the attrition of German forces in the East since June is probably not the reason for the unification of command, it is interesting to note that this is the first time since 1941 that the Eastern Front has had a separate supreme commander. Field Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch was Commander in Chief of the Army from 1938 until 1941, and in that capacity exercised supreme command on the Eastern Front, most active theatre for the greater part of that period. Simi-

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larly when Hitler took over the supreme command of the Army from von Brauchitsch at the end of 1941, he gave most of his attention to the Eastern Front.

It is supposed that Guderian is exercising an over-all command in the East similar to that of von Rundstedt in the West, and that the former Army Group commanders retain their commands under his direction. Army Group North, last reported under Col. Gen. Ferdinand Schoerner, may have ceased to exist as a result of the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States. Col. Gen. Georg-Hans Reinhardt is believed to command Army Group Center, while Col. Gen. Erhard Raus, formerly commander of the First Panzer Army, is believed to be in command in southern Poland and Czechoslovakia. German troops in Hungary were last reported under the command of General of Infantry Johannes Friessner, who had previously commanded Army Group North for a few weeks. It is not known whether German forces in northern Yugoslavia are also under Friessner's command. Not under Guderian's command are the Balkan Army Groups now operating in southern and western Yugoslavia under Commander in Chief Southeast, believed still to be Field Marshal Maximilian von Weichs.

Guderian has had a meteoric rise since his appointment in February 1943 as inspector of the German tank forces. He is apparently favored by the Nazi Party and has been much in the news during recent months. On July 21st of this year he was appointed as Army Chief of Staff to replace Col. Gen. Kurt Zeitzler, and there has been nothing to indicate that he will not continue his former duties. It is reported that Guderian is disliked by Junker generals for his Armenian descent, his middle class parentage and his staunch support of tank warfare.

Since the beginning of war, nine German Field Marshals have met disaster on the Eastern Front; seven have been relieved of their commands, one, Friedrich Paulus, is a Russian prisoner of war, and one, Walter Model, has been transferred to the West. The German Army formerly had sixteen Field Marshals, of whom four only are still in active service—Keitel, von Rundstedt, von Weichs and Model. Three others have recently died, including Rommel, von Witzleben (hanged for implication in the plot on Hitler's life) and von Kluge (reported to have died of heart attack.)

Far Northern Front

Troops of the Soviet Karelian Army, pursuing the retreating forces of the German Twentieth Mountain Army, this week crossed from Finland to capture the northern Norwegian base of Kirkenes on

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October 25th. German opposition at Kirkenes does not appear to have been stubborn, Berlin reporting that the area was evacuated "in accordance with plans," but the Soviet victory here was highly significant as marking the end of Germany's ambitions in the north. The geographical position of Kirkenes made it the Germans' main base in the Far North, the terminus of an important supply route for their divisions in Finland and a naval base for operations against Russia and convoys to that country.

Originally German plans for the development of the Kirkenes area were extremely ambitious, and it was hoped to install industrial and repair facilities and exploit the nearby deposits of iron ore. Although Norway's total iron ore output was only about one-eightieth of total Axis consumption, its high quality increased its importance. By far the most important deposits of Norwegian iron ore were exploited by the Sydvaranger Mining Co. near Kirkenes. Prior to the war, production here amounted to more than 700,000 tons of iron ore concentrates, but after German occupation of the region the annual production was reduced by more than 50 per cent, and by 1942 was probably suspended. According to the Swedish press, Soviet air raids on Kirkenes in May of that year made that port second only to Malta in the number of alarms sounded. By 1943 the Germans had withdrawn the bulk of their air and submarine forces from Kirkenes, making possible more frequent Soviet commando raids on outlying garrisons. The front was relatively stable from the summer of 1942 until Finland's capitulation to the Soviet Union in September of this year.

Enemy morale in these regions appears to be deteriorating. There are only a few hours of daylight at this time of year and the Finnish policy of night attacks is said to have demoralized some units, causing desertions. According to the Soviet communique, Red troops are impeded more by bad weather, difficult country, marshes and lack of roads than by German resistance. Captured German positions on one peninsula contained mortars coastal defense guns, about 6,000 aerial bombs, 10,000 mines and a fuel dump. One Swedish press dispatch suggested that the Germans were abandoning all northern Norway and were planning no serious defense until they reach a line between Lyngen, north of Tromsø, and the point where the Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish borders meet.

Before advancing onto territory of Norway—the ninth country entered thus far by the Red Army—the Soviet Government concluded an agreement with the Norwegian Government-in-exile, similar to that reached with Marshal Tito prior to Russian entry into Yugoslavia. The understanding, reported in the press to have been reached last

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May, gives the Soviet Army military supremacy on Norwegian territory but insures Norwegian control of civil administration and legal procedure as soon as the military situation permits. In a special broadcast to the Norwegian people on the 26th, King Haakon greeted the arrival of Soviet troops in Norway as allies against a common enemy, and declared that Norwegian troops would soon be taking part in operations with Soviet troops on Norwegian soil. It is the



duty of every Norwegian, the King continued, to give "the greatest possible support" to the Red troops.

In addition to the capture of Kirkenes, Soviet forces this week extended their gains south from the Petsamo region toward the Finnish troops advancing from the south. The Finns continued to fulfill their armistice terms by forcing the Germans back towards the Norwegian border. At the end of the week Muonio, just east of Sweden and an important road junction, was captured. North of Muonio the

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Germans are thought to have available a newly constructed road leading into Norway, as well as one leading from Ivalo and Inari to Lakselv in Norway. According to a Stockholm dispatch—unconfirmed by other sources—Gen. Aaro Pajari, commander of Finnish troops fighting close to the Swedish border, has been arrested as a war criminal on the demand of the Russians. This account states also that the Former Finnish military attaché to Stockholm was seized as were a number of other prominent Finns.

The commander of the Soviet Karelian Army, Kirill A. Meretskov, was promoted this week from General to Marshal of the Soviet Union.

AIR OPERATIONS

In operations from western and Mediterranean bases during the period from October 25th to October 31st, Allied planes flew about 26,000 strategic and tactical sorties and dropped at least 31,000 tons of bombs.¹ Only about 3,000 of these sorties were flown by the MAAF; its heavy bombers were prevented by bad weather from carrying out a single major mission. The weather over the continent also forced the Eighth Air Force to do most of its bombing by instrument. The destruction of about 55 GAF aircraft in air combat was reported, the great majority of them in the course of tactical operations over the Western Front. Our losses in bombers and fighters during the week were about 135 aircraft.

The Luftwaffe, for the third successive week, offered no fighter opposition to B-17's and B-24's of the Eighth Air Force, which operated over western and northwestern Germany on four days. Some enemy aircraft, including jet-propelled planes, were seen during these missions, but they failed to press attacks on our bomber formations. RAF bombers encountered no opposition during daylight operations and only limited reaction at night. The small scale MAAF sorties into Austria and southern Germany went unopposed by enemy planes.

GAF tactical activity over the Western Front, restricted by weather at the beginning of the week, rose to about 130 on the 28th and about 160 on the 29th. According to preliminary figures, 13 were shot down by our airmen on the 28th and 28 the next day. Of the 160 enemy planes seen on the 29th, about 100 operated in the Heilbronn area, about 25 miles north of Stuttgart. In Italy, about 30 enemy aircraft were engaged by Allied fighter bombers east of Brescia on the 31st. This was the second time since August that the Luftwaffe has offered

¹ The sorties figure includes airborne deliveries of personnel and supplies to combat areas; the tonnage figure does not include complete totals for tactical operations.

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opposition over northern Italy; last week 10-15 GAF planes were encountered north of Mantua.

Enemy long range reconnaissance over northern waters was again on a small scale. Flying bomb fire against London and the southern counties was intermittent. There was some activity at the beginning of the week, followed by an approximately 80-hour lull which was broken in the early morning of the 29th. On the 31st, the first daylight flying bomb attack in more than a month was carried out. Three He-111's used for launching flying bombs were destroyed over the North Sea by RAF planes during the week.

Duncan Sandys, chairman of the Flying Bomb Counter-measures Committee, has disclosed that the He-111 launching planes rarely venture closer than about 50 miles from the British coast and nearly always operate during darkness. These tactics, Mr. Sandys said, make it difficult for defending pilots to find and attack the launching planes.

Allied tactical activity over the Western Front at the beginning of the week was on a somewhat reduced scale, presumably as a result of the weather, but was resumed on a large scale on the 28th. In addition to direct support of ground operations, much of the Allied air effort was directed against the enemy's communication system in Holland and the Rhineland, in order both to harry the withdrawal of enemy troops from southwestern Holland and to interdict supplies all along the front. A group of strategic bridges across the Maas, Waal and Ijssel Rivers was attacked and rail lines west of the Rhine were cut in several places. RAF heavy bombers were again employed against enemy gun positions and fortifications on the island of Walcheren, dropping about 3,600 tons on three successive days.

In Italy, tactical activity was sharply curtailed, rising above 200 sorties on only one day. Those planes which did operate continued the usual attacks against gun positions and transport in the battle area and against road and rail communications farther north in the Po Valley.

The Balkan Air Force flew a total of about 400 sorties against shipping in the Adriatic and gun positions, troop concentrations and road and rail transport in Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece. Greek-based aircraft were effective against enemy columns withdrawing northward from the Larissa area.

In the Aegean, Baltimore's and Beaufighters of the Middle Eastern Air Force carried out light attacks against gun positions on the island of Melos.

Strategic attacks by heavy bombers of the Eighth Air Force and

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the RAF were directed almost entirely against targets in western and northwestern Germany this week. The important rail and industrial city of Cologne—which was hit with some 8,000 tons by the Eighth two weeks ago and received a lesser tonnage last week—was again singled out for concentrated attack, this time by the RAF. Starting with a heavy daylight attack on the 28th, which was followed by two heavy and 5 light night attacks, a total of about 10,300 tons was loosed on Cologne, described by the Air Ministry as the “most devastated city in the Rhineland.” The Cologne rail system is the most important in that area, feeding directly into the front some 40 miles to the west.

A 4,100-ton “saturation” attack was also carried out this week against Essen, important armament and rail center in the Ruhr; reconnaissance photographs showed heavy damage, according to the press, with virtually every building in the Krupp works destroyed or badly damaged. The Air Ministry has also reported that reconnaissance after the October 6th night attack on Dortmund, another important rail center in the Ruhr, showed heavy destruction around the main passenger railway station and the freight yard and at several steel mills and other war plants. Although repair work was begun immediately, 50 per cent of the through lines were still out of action a week after the attack.

Supplementing these attacks to immobilize the Wehrmacht, a total of about 2,500 tons was dropped on marshalling yards at Hamm and Münster, farther to the north. Hamm, which was attacked three times, is the site of Germany's largest rail yards; through these yards, great supplies of materials flow to the battlefield from the industrial area of northwest Germany while raw materials from the Ruhr are moved to factories elsewhere in the Reich. The Münster marshalling yards, which were attacked four times, serve 7 railways which connect with the Ruhr and with the area immediately east of the front in Holland. An 850-ton attack was also made by Liberators on the Mittelland Canal at Minden. This canal is the most important east-west internal waterway in Germany, linking central and eastern Germany with the Ruhr Valley and the Rhineland. Reconnaissance photographs showed that 85 feet of the canal wall was destroyed by a direct hit. Near hits weakened the wall at other points and damaged a nearby barge repair works. Water rushing through the breach drained the canal for about 3 miles, leaving at least 30 barges and tugboats stranded.

The only MAAF operations against rail communications this week were two light attacks on the marshalling yards at Munich and one

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each on those at Innsbruck and Klagenfurt; a total of about 100 tons was dropped.

The offensive against the enemy's oil industry was again intensified by RAF and USAAF bombers operating from U. K. bases, which dropped a total of approximately 5,000 tons. Targets included refineries in the Hamburg-Harburg area, one of Germany's most important fuel centers, and synthetic oil plants at Gelsenkirchen, Bottrop (both in the Ruhr) and Wesseling (south of Cologne).

In operations against the enemy's aircraft industry, the Eighth Air Force dropped about 925 tons on aircraft repair plants at Münster and Neumünster (southwest of Kiel), while the MAAF made two light attacks against the aircraft factory at Klagenfurt in southern Austria.

Other Allied bombing operations against industrial targets in Germany included an attack on Hanover of approximately 900 tons, 360 of which were devoted to the locomotive and tank works, a 565-ton attack on the I. G. Farben chemical works at Leverkusen (southwest of Düsseldorf), and a 550-ton attack on the Bielefeld ordnance works. About 200 tons were dropped on the submarine pens at Bergen, Norway, and the Heligoland submarine base was also hit. Targets for lighter attacks during the week included Berlin, Cuxhaven, Wesermünde and Gutersloh (northwest of Hamm); harassing raids were made on several cities and airfields in western Germany.

The only reported long range Soviet bombing effort this week was an attack on military and industrial targets in Budapest on the night of the 26th.

During October, the Eighth Air Force has reported, its heavy bombers dropped more than 43,600 tons of bombs on German soil in the course of 18 attacks. Despite adverse weather conditions, this was the heaviest month of American bombing, topping the best previous tonnage of 35,140 in September. Out of 18,000 heavy bomber sorties, 122 planes, or less than 0.7 percent, were lost; out of 13,150 fighter sorties, 67 planes, about 0.5 percent, failed to return. The United States Ninth Air Force flew about 19,000 sorties in October in close support of the American First and Third Armies.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC NOTES

Churchill's Address on Diplomatic Developments

On October 27th Prime Minister Churchill reported to the House of Commons on his discussions in Moscow with Marshal Stalin and the rival Polish groups backed by Britain and Russia. He admitted that

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the Polish problem had not been solved but revealed that the conference had yielded valuable results, both tangible and intangible.

Beginning with the less tangible, the Prime Minister said that it was the hope of the enemy to prolong the war and to divide the Allies. While "all hitherto has been kept . . . solid, sure and sound between us all," he continued, "this process does not arise by itself. It needs constant care and attention . . . I have not, therefore, hesitated to travel from court to court like a wandering minstrel." Mr. Churchill went on to assert that relations with Russia had never been closer or more cordial. He found the results achieved at Moscow "highly satisfactory." But he urged that the heads of the three major Allied Governments meet again before the end of the year in order to obtain "final results."

Turning to the concrete accomplishments of the conference, Mr. Churchill said that "a very good working agreement had been reached" about Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Hungary. He then proceeded to detail the less successful Polish negotiations, revolving about "the question of the eastern frontier of Poland with Russia and the Curzon Line . . . and new territories to be added to Poland in the north and the west," and, secondly, the relationship of the Polish Government-in-exile with the Polish Committee of National Liberation. "Although I do not underrate the difficulties which remain," he continued, "it is a comfort to feel that Britain and Soviet Russia and, I do not doubt, the United States, are all firmly agreed on the re-creation of a strong, free, independent sovereign Poland."

Proceeding to the subject of French recognition, the Prime Minister answered criticism of its tardiness by stating that "the British and American Armies had something to do with the liberation of France, and the British and United States Governments had, therefore, the responsibility . . . for making sure that the French Government emerging in power . . . would be acceptable to France as a whole and would not appear to be a government imposed on the country from without." He reiterated that France could not be excluded from discussions dealing with "the problem of the Rhine and of Germany."

Mr. Churchill concluded his remarks with a review of Greco-British relations from the time of the retreat from Greece in 1941 to the present. He said that the British had no desire to "become arbiters" of Greek affairs, and that "when normal conditions of tranquillity" had been restored, the Greek people should "make their own decisions as to the form of government under which they desire to live." Meanwhile Britain would preserve her relations with the Greek royal house and the Constitutional Government to which she was bound by alliance.

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France

On October 28th the Provisional Government of Gen. Charles de Gaulle, fortified by Allied recognition, declared that the so-called "Patriotic Guard" must be disarmed and dissolved in the interest of public order, according to press accounts. The resistance groups, however, remained reluctant to sacrifice their freedom of action in the interest of national unity. (Cf. O. N. I. WEEKLY for October 18th.)

The Patriotic Guard is a Communist organization, but the National Council of Resistance, representing the FFI in general, immediately leapt into the fray by urging that the Guard be retained and given legal status and that no measures be taken against it without consulting the Council. After a three-hour plenary session the next day, the Council was reported to have modified its position to the extent of stating that it intended to work with and not against the Government. It did not, however, abandon its opposition to the dissolution of the Patriotic Guard and insisted upon its alleged right to advise the Government. Later press accounts indicated that a committee of the Council met with General de Gaulle for discussion of the problem, after which the Government issued a definite order disarming the Guard and providing penalties for failure to surrender weapons. It therefore appeared that the Communists had lost, at least temporarily, their battle to preserve the militia, and that another hurdle in the path toward national unification had been successfully negotiated by the de Gaulle régime.

The Cabinet has adopted a series of measures designed to "insure the economic, social and cultural development" of Algeria, according to the French radio. Included are decrees providing for compulsory education, complete extension to Moslems of the benefits of social legislation in force in France proper, reorganization and extension of health and assistance departments, establishment of "tens of thousands" of Moslem families on reclaimed lands, development of cattle raising and creation of industries to employ large numbers of Moslems.

Belgium

British Maj. Gen. G. W. E. Y. Erskine, head of the SHAEF mission to Belgium, has announced that 4,000 tons of food will be provided by the Allied High Command during the first three weeks of November, according to press dispatches. While this amount is only about a tenth of the normal demand for such a period, it is hoped that news of the shipments will thaw out supplies now hoarded by the peasants in hope of higher prices.

Camille Gutt, Minister of Finance in the Pierlot Government, has given the press the first complete progress report on Belgium's defla-

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tion program. Ninety billion francs in notes of high denominations were declared by the public between October 9th and 13th as required. New currency totaling Fr. 14,000,000,000 was then issued in amounts not exceeding 2,000 francs per person. It is estimated that about Fr. 10,000,000,000 in large bills is still outstanding, but the whereabouts of the money is unimportant since it is no longer legal tender. Another 3,000 francs in new currency will be issued on November 17th to persons owning that amount or more in bank deposits or other savings.

Netherlands

The Government-in-exile has announced that the extensive destruction which the Germans have carried out in occupied Holland by flooding and other means, coupled with systematic looting by the Nazis, has gravely impaired the recuperative power of the country. Consequently it is felt that temporary or permanent annexation of adjoining sections of the Reich may be necessary in order to make good the damage. The statement stipulated, however, that Germany should be required to absorb the inhabitants of any such areas.

Germany

All-out mobilization has run into a number of difficulties, among them the fact that many people were called into national service for whom there were no jobs. An article in *Front und Heimat* frankly admitted the situation and stated that a current popular slogan was "Total war effort means total unemployment."

Propaganda eulogizing the new *Volkssturm*, or Home Army, has fallen off. Lt. Gen. Kurt Dittmar, Nazi military commentator, devoted one broadcast to the subject, emphasizing the legality and orderliness of the movement and issuing what appeared to be a veiled warning against a mob rising. A call for hunting weapons with which to equip the *Volkssturm* contrasts with Hitler's original promise that the Home Army would be adequately armed.

Norway

The invasion of Norway by the Soviets has touched off a new wave of sabotage, while arrests of resistance suspects continue at a high rate. Two thousand persons are said to have been jailed in the two weeks before the Russians crossed the border. The Germans are reported to be planning to remove Norwegian industrial equipment and to be evacuating non-military personnel in the north, including the families of outstanding Quislings.

The advance of Soviet troops and the successful campaign of sabotage no doubt are heartening to the people, but they are having serious repercussions upon the country's already enfeebled economy. The mass requisitioning instituted by the Germans has depleted

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food stores everywhere. The potato crop is exceedingly small and infested with disease, and the population is being advised to eat turnips instead. In many areas bombing and sabotage have disrupted communications to an extent which makes distribution of the limited food supplies next to impossible. Widespread shortages of boats, gasoline and equipment have brought fishing almost to a standstill, and little of the catch is released for general consumption. Only 20 per cent of the winter's wood supply has been cut.

Sweden

Sweden has warned Germany of her interest in Norwegian developments. In a declaration read by Premier Per Albin Hansson and Foreign Minister Christian E. Guenther before the Riksdag, the Government maintained that "what happens in the countries of our Nordic neighbors" does concern Sweden despite German statements that it does not. The Swedish people were said to be "shocked and upset about all that has been done against [their] western neighbors," meaning Norway and Denmark.

According to the Swedish radio, the Government intends to deport to Finland all Finnish Nazis who have fled to Sweden, thus removing a potential cause of friction with Russia. The Soviet press has been criticizing Sweden for allegedly collaborating with Germany by offering sanctuary to refugees from the Baltic countries, notably Estonia.

The number of adult refugees in Sweden is now 165,000, and more are arriving daily. Forty-six camps have been set up in various parts of the country, as well as 60 quarantine stations. Refugees from the Baltic countries number 25,000. Foreign military internees total 1,508.

General Helge Jung, Commander in Chief of the Swedish armed forces, has urged "total defense against total war" and has asked the Government to arm thousands of occupationally deferred civilians who have received military training. The new organization, intended to be permanent, would receive army rifles, while the regular army would be issued new automatic small arms.

Swedish trade statistics through August show that 16,977 tons of new ship construction were delivered to Germany during the first eight months of 1944. The Swedes have informally indicated that no future deliveries of ships under construction for Germany will be made.

Finland

After 14 years of underground activity the Communist party reappeared in Finnish public life when on October 19th it applied for

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registration as a political organization. Swedish press sources in Helsinki estimated that at the next election the Communists would win between 20 and 30 Diet members out of 200.

The Minister of Trade and Industry has announced that commodities required to pay the indemnity to Russia will be produced under the supervision of the Government and at State expense. Certain industrial plants will be chosen to manufacture indemnity goods and will be styled "War Indemnity Industries." If the plants cannot be operated successfully by agreement between Government and management, requisition proceedings will be instituted.

Spain

The first open demand for a new civil war has been issued by the underground publication, *Conquest of Spain*, which urged that Spanish army officers rise against General Franco and the Falange, according to Spanish Republican headquarters in London. Press dispatches identified *Conquest of Spain* as the official newspaper of the Republican junta which operates from secret headquarters in Madrid. The paper has been attacking the Franco Government through 35 issues, but this is the first time it has published a call for revolt.

The Spanish Government continued to insist that the forays of the Maquis across the French border during the past three weeks have met with total failure, while Spanish Republicans maintained that the fighting was mounting in scope and intensity. French resistance authorities, however, claim to have withdrawn Maquis under their control several miles from the border, and newspaper correspondents who have examined the situation at first hand report little evidence of Maquis activity in the Pyrenees. In Mexico City, Gen. José Miaja, former commander of the Republican army, is reported to have characterized as "foolish" the skirmishes between the guerrillas and regular Spanish forces. He added that "he wouldn't be surprised" if the border troubles turned out to be "a trick perpetrated by Franco himself to strengthen his position at home with a display of power."

Italy

Following closely the Allied recognition of the French Provisional Government came the announcement on October 25th that Britain and the United States had resumed diplomatic relations with Italy. The Soviet Government had previously extended recognition. Alexander C. Kirk, who has been serving as U. S. representative in Rome, will be accredited to the Bonomi Government as Ambassador. The British Ambassador will be Sir Noel Charles, who has been High Commissioner at Rome. Italy has chosen Count Carlo Sforza as

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Ambassador to Washington, while Count Niccolo Carandini will represent her in London. Count Sforza resumes a distinguished diplomatic career which was interrupted in October 1922 when he refused to continue as Ambassador to France after Mussolini's accession to power. The departure of Sforza and Carandini will necessitate some reorganization of the Bonomi Government, since both were serving as Ministers Without Portfolio. Count Sforza was also High Commissioner for the Purge of Fascist Crimes.

As in the case of the de Gaulle Government in France, recognition should increase the prestige of the Italian Government and strengthen its hand in dealing with both external and internal problems. In commenting on the Allied move, Acting Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. pointed out that technically we are still at war with Italy, since only Congressional action can conclude peace. A historical anomaly is thus created, because an "enemy" nation not only has been accepted as a co-belligerent but has been granted full diplomatic rights.

Press dispatches reported that Premier Bonomi, while cheered by Allied recognition, complained that Italy's return to the community of nations was incompatible with the "regime of control established by the armistice." He added that Italy now has a voice in the concert of nations but none "in her own house."

Czechoslovakia

On the 26th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence, Dr. Eduard Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, declared that the Republic would be "restored on the basis" of democratic principles adopted on October 28, 1918, even though "we shall have to introduce fundamental changes in the economic and social sphere."

Bulgaria

On October 28th Bulgaria concluded her long-delayed armistice with the United Nations. Foreign Minister Petko Stainov signed for the former satellite state, while Marshal Fedor I. Tolbukhin, whose forces are in occupation, acted for Russia, and British Lt. Gen. J. A. H. Gammell for the Allied Supreme Command in the Mediterranean Theater. A protocol to the agreement was signed by Andrei Y. Vishinsky, Vice Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the U. S. S. R., Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, British Ambassador to Russia, and George F. Kennan, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow during the absence of Ambassador Averell Harriman.

The armistice terms closely parallel those already granted to Rumania and Finland. The clause relating to territorial changes was limited to the areas acquired from Greece and Yugoslavia in the spring

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of 1941. These must be returned to their former owners, thus depriving Bulgaria of her access to the Aegean. Southern Dobruja, which was transferred from Rumania to Bulgaria as a result of Axis pressure in 1940, was not mentioned in either the Bulgarian or Rumanian armistice agreements, so for the present, at least, Bulgaria is to retain this territory, and her state boundaries will in general follow those in effect before the first World War.

Military clauses require the country to maintain land, air and sea forces at the disposition of Marshal Tolbukhin as Allied commander. When Germany is defeated, the Allied Control Commission will supervise demobilization. Nazi forces in Bulgaria are to be disarmed and handed over as prisoners of war.

Unlike the previous armistice agreements, the Bulgarian pact does not specify the amount of reparations due. Bulgaria and the Soviet Union were at war only 99 hours, so Russian damage claims would not be extensive as they were in the cases of Rumania and Finland.

The protocol to the agreement requires immediate delivery of relief food stuffs to Greece and Yugoslavia in amounts to be determined by the Governments concerned. The value of these shipments will be deducted from the final reparations bill.

The armistice includes the usual clause requiring apprehension and trial of war criminals. All persons imprisoned because of race, religion or United Nations sympathies must be released and discriminatory legislation repealed.

The Allied Control Commission will be headed by Marshal Tolbukhin and will include British and U. S. representatives. It will operate "under the general direction of the Allied (Soviet) High Command."

Rumania

The political unrest noted last week has reportedly been aggravated by Soviet suppression of the newspaper *Universul* and by the banning of a meeting called by the National Peasant Party. These moves are said to have the aim of forcing Constantin Bratianu, leader of the National Liberal Party, and Juliu Maniu, leader of the National Peasant Party, to abandon their Cabinet positions, leaving no appreciable opposition to the Communists. It is also reported that Premier Sanatescu attempted to resign last week, but that King Michael refused to accede to his request.

Albania

It is reported that General Hoxha, leader of the Albanian National Committee of Liberation, has accepted the post of Prime Minister, while Dr. Nishani has become Minister of Foreign Affairs. An anti-

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Fascist Committee chosen by the anti-Fascist council which has been meeting at Berati is to perform legislative functions in the new democratic Government until a constitutional assembly can be formed.

A few days after General Hoxha took over his new duties, the Tirana radio announced that the puppet Government of Premier Ibrahim Bicacu, in power since September 6th, had resigned because "threats that existed when this Government was formed, for various reasons within and outside of Albania, have increased to such an extent that they cannot be overcome."

Greece

British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, accompanied by Lord Moyne, British Resident Minister in the Middle East, arrived in Athens on October 25th for conferences with Premier George Papandreou, Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Allied Commander in Chief in the Mediterranean theater, Admiral Sir John H. D. Cunningham, Allied Naval commander in the Mediterranean, and Harold Schantz, U. S. Chargé d'Affaires. In a call upon Mr. Eden, EAM and Communist party leaders are reported to have pledged the support of these organizations to the Greek alliance with Britain.

Mr. Eden reached Athens shortly after Papandreou had announced a revised Cabinet in which the Premier himself retained the portfolios of Foreign Minister and War Minister (temporary) which he had held since June. Eleven other posts were also filled by members of the preceding Cabinet. Four ministries are yet to be permanently assigned. Notably absent were the names of Venizelos and other leaders of the Liberal and Popular parties.

The Government has announced the arrest on a charge of collaboration of Theodoros Pangalos, former dictator of Greece who seized the reins of government in June 1925 and maintained his régime for more than a year before he was overthrown and banished.

Two additional Liberty ships have been allocated to the Greek Government, according to announcement by the War Shipping Administration, making a total of seven vessels so chartered.

Iran

The Government controlled press in Moscow continued this week to criticize the Iranian Government for its refusal to grant oil concessions. Premier Mohammed Saïd was characterized as "disloyal and unfriendly," and it was averred that the Soviet Government would not collaborate with him in the future. The Russian newspapers described mass demonstrations against the Saïd régime which they claimed had occurred in Teheran. They also averred that the Iranian press was opposing Saïd's position. The latter allegation was

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quickly denied by 26 Teheran editors who joined in signing a public statement which pledged their support to the Premier's.

According to press dispatches, both the United States and Great Britain have accepted the Iranian Government's decision to postpone until after the war all discussion of oil concessions to foreigners. As yet there has been no word of any official Soviet *démarche* with regard to the oil situation.

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ASIA

Burma

British and Chinese forces, advancing southward in what appears to be a new offensive in North Burma, have driven to within 22 and 18 air miles, respectively, of the important communication cities of Katha and Bhamo. The British Thirty-sixth Division, operating along the Myitkyina-Mandalay railroad, captured Mawhun against slight enemy resistance. Pushing on to the southwest, the same units under the command of Maj. Gen. F. W. Festing, have advanced to within 1 mile of Mawlu. This represents a 42-mile advance from Hopin. Simultaneously Chinese forces, advancing through the difficult country flanking the Irrawaddy River to the east, occupied Myothit, a village on the Taping River 87 miles south of Myitkyina. Capture of this position represents a gain of 57 miles since the Chinese resumed their offensive in the area. Myothit is 24 miles from Bhamo along the winding river road. There was no substantial resistance to either the British or Chinese advance. Light patrol activity and occasional light artillery fire preceded the enemy withdrawal southward.

Myothit is surrounded by hills and is believed to be one of the best defensive positions between Myitkyina and Bhamo. Katha, an important rail center, is 145 air miles north of Mandalay. Capture of Bhamo, which is only 50 miles from the old Burma Road, and Katha would greatly improve the prospect of reestablishing land communications between India and China. During the operations of the past two weeks nearly 2,000 square miles of northern Burma have been cleared and numerous communities liberated. One hundred and sixteen miles of north Burma's main communication line, the Myitkyina-Mandalay railroad, have now been cleared.

On the Salween front, which takes on new importance as a result of the advance on Bhamo, Chinese forces on the 29th launched an offensive in an attempt to capture enemy positions at Lungling. The old walled-city portion of Lungling has been held by the Chinese for some time, but the enemy occupies sectors in the new portion. Hill positions in this area were claimed to have been seized by the Chinese and northeast of the city other Chinese forces joined the attack. The Chinese also claimed to have made gains 4 miles southeast of Mangshih.

On the Chin Hills front the situation remained relatively unchanged, with the enemy astride positions on the road south of Tiddim. In

the Yazagyo area Allied units captured a Japanese position 4 miles south of the village and then proceeded toward Kalembo. Units of the Fifth Indian Division launched a determined attack on the Tiddim-Fort White road and inflicted casualties on the enemy before withdrawing under heavy machine gun fire. Contact with the Japanese has been made 12 miles south of Tiddim. Fifty miles south of Tiddim the enemy is withdrawing his garrisons from the Falam and Haka areas.

In the Arakan region of southern Burma, West African troops continued to push southward in the Kaladan Valley. Contact was made with the enemy 8 miles north of Paletwa and patrol clashes were reported in other sectors.

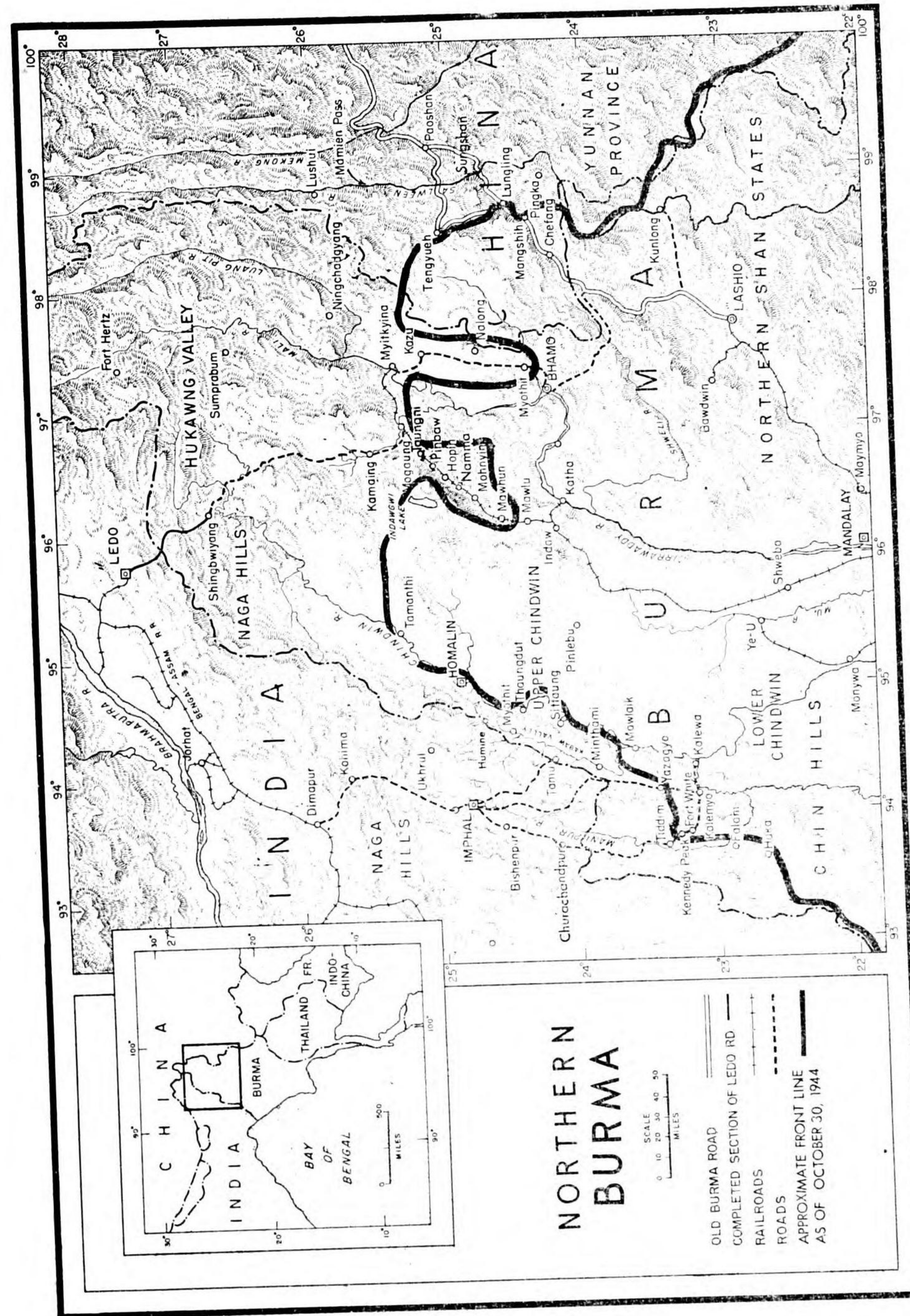
Air Operations.—Planes of the Eastern Air Command continued to carry out effective attacks against enemy communications, supply dumps and airfields. On the 24th the rail town of Monywa was twice attacked by a force of B-25's which dropped about 50 tons. The following day the railroad sidings at Paleik were heavily attacked by Allied B-24's escorted by P-38's. Other B-24's raided Ye-U. More than 60 tons were expended in the two attacks. On the 26th, B-24's hit the supply dumps at Prome. Akyab was also raided. Approximately 35 tons were dropped. The same day in south Burma railway targets and airfields were raided by 45 B-25's escorted by P-38's. More than 65 tons were dropped. Hits were scored on bridges at Pynmana and Kantha and one enemy fighter was destroyed on the ground at Meiktila. On the night of the 26th enemy positions at Kennedy Peak in the Chin Hills were attacked by more than 70 Hurri-bombers while other targets in the Mawlaik area were hit by 50 Hurribombers. Pakokku was hit by another force of B-24's on the 27th with good results. That night RAF B-24's attacked Pegu, the Mandalay area and the Shwebo airfield. On the 28th the airfield at Namsang was raided by B-25's escorted by P-38's. The Burma-Thailand railway was attacked on the same day by RAF B-24's. Liberators of the Eastern Air Command's Strategic Air Force carried out a 2,000-mile round trip on the 29th and bombed a barracks area near Hanoi, French Indochina.

Thailand

The railroad bridge at Dara was attacked on the 25th by Fourteenth Air Force B-25's escorted by P-38's.

Domei disclosed this week that the Thai government of Maj. Luang Kovid Abhaiwong had announced the appointment of two former Cabinet ministers to key defense posts. Former Defense Minister Lieut. Gen. Kriengsak Phichit, Domei said, was named "Chief

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Military Inspector of Home Defense," while former Minister Without Portfolio Maj. Gen. Chai Prathipasen was appointed "Chief of the Air Defense Bureau" of the Thai Ministry of the Interior.

China-Burma-India Command

The White House announced this week that Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell has been relieved of his command and duties in the Far East and recalled to Washington. The China-Burma-India area has been ordered divided into two theatres under separate commanders. The announcement said that General Stilwell has been relieved as chief of staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, as deputy to Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, supreme commander in South East Asia, and as U. S. commander of the CBI theatre. It said the U. S. forces in China will be commanded by Maj. Gen. A. C. Wedemeyer, who has been appointed concurrently by the Generalissimo as chief of staff of the China theatre. General Wedemeyer is now deputy chief of staff to Admiral Mountbatten. The India-Burma theatre will be commanded by Lieut. Gen. Daniel I. Sultan, now deputy commander of the CBI theatre. The War Department said General Stilwell had been recalled "in view of the decision to divide the China-Burma-India theatre into two smaller theatres," and added that Stilwell would receive "a new and important, but at present, undisclosed assignment."

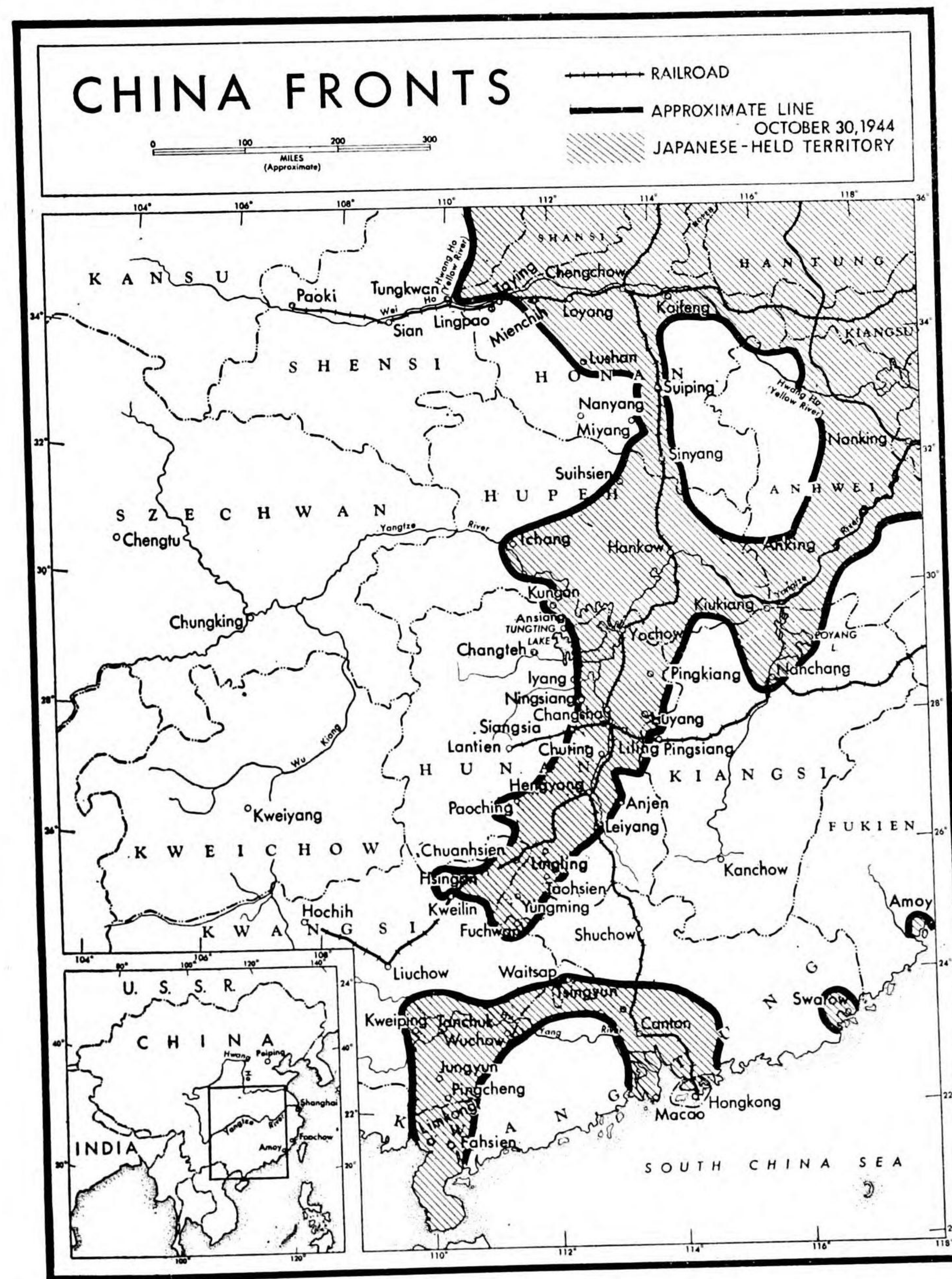
At his press conference on the 31st, President Roosevelt confirmed published reports that General Stilwell had been relieved of his command in response to a demand from the Generalissimo. The President said it was a case of personalities.

China

Japanese troops have resumed their offensive in the Kwangsi Province of south central China and have reached the northern and southern outskirts of the provincial capital at Kweilin. The Japanese, last reported about 23 miles northeast of the city, where it was presumed they were regrouping their forces and bringing up supplies, opened their drive on the city from both the east and west as well as down the Hunan-Kwangsi railway. Intense fighting was reported near the city which the Chinese have said they will defend as "another Stalingrad." One column of the enemy attacked Chinese defenses 14 miles east of Kweilin. While other units pushed down the railway itself, a supporting column moved to outflank Kweilin on the west. To protect their left flank, enemy forces based at the Hunan center of Yungming, 75 miles east of Kweilin, struck across the Kwangsi border toward Fuchwan, 35 miles to the south. They reached Fuchwan

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several days later, thus bringing them only 70 miles from the Japanese forces pushing up from the south. Junction of these forces would cut China in two from Peking to Hongkong.



On the southern front enemy forces moving in the general direction of Liuchow, last remaining U. S. airbase in Kwangsi, had reached a point 25 miles west of Pingnam, which is 8 miles northwest of Tan-

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chuk. The Chinese said they had stopped an enemy drive on Mosun, 45 miles south of Liuchow. The Chinese High Command also claimed the occupation of a major part of a Japanese stronghold 8 miles southwest of Kweiping, another enemy base for the drive on Liuchow. The Chinese have been counterattacking in this area with the support of the Fourteenth Air Force.

On the east coast of China the enemy has advanced westward from the recently seized seaport of Foochow. Japanese forces have crossed the Min River and fighting was reported on the south bank.

Air Operations.—In night operations about 75 miles west of Liuchow Peninsula, B-24's of the Fourteenth Air Force on the 26th probably sank a Japanese destroyer and damaged another. They also damaged a tanker and cargo vessel. B-25's and a B-24 operating over the same waters on the 26th attacked a six-ship enemy convoy. The bombers scored two direct hits on a 350-foot cargo vessel, leaving it sinking. Another direct hit left a freighter listing and burning; a tanker was bracketed and left burning. At Amoy on the 24th B-24's damaged a 210-foot vessel in drydock.

P-51's and P-40's of the Fourteenth Air Force continued to give support to Chinese ground forces in Kwangsi and Hunan provinces. Heavy casualties were inflicted on enemy forces in the Kweiping sector of the West River front. Compounds, villages, gun positions and troop concentrations were bombed and strafed. Large fires were observed in Kweiping. On the 27th on the Kweilin front improved weather enabled our fighters to give close air support to Chinese forces defending the city. Most of the missions centered in the Kaotienhu area, northeast of Kweilin. Enemy concentrations, supply dumps and fuel storage areas were strafed.

On the night of the 27th a considerable force of Japanese medium bombers carried out an ineffective attack on the B-29 base at Chengtu in west China. Fewer than a dozen of the planes pierced the defenses, and the rest were driven off by our interceptors. Four cargo aircraft and two light tactical planes were damaged on one field in the area. The two other fields in the area reported moderate damage to three B-29's and seven light aircraft. Eight waves of the enemy planes approached the fields during a three-hour alert. Damage to runways was slight and the fields were back in use almost immediately after the alert had ended. Japanese Imperial Headquarters claimed that 42 B-29's were destroyed in the attack and 15 others set afire.

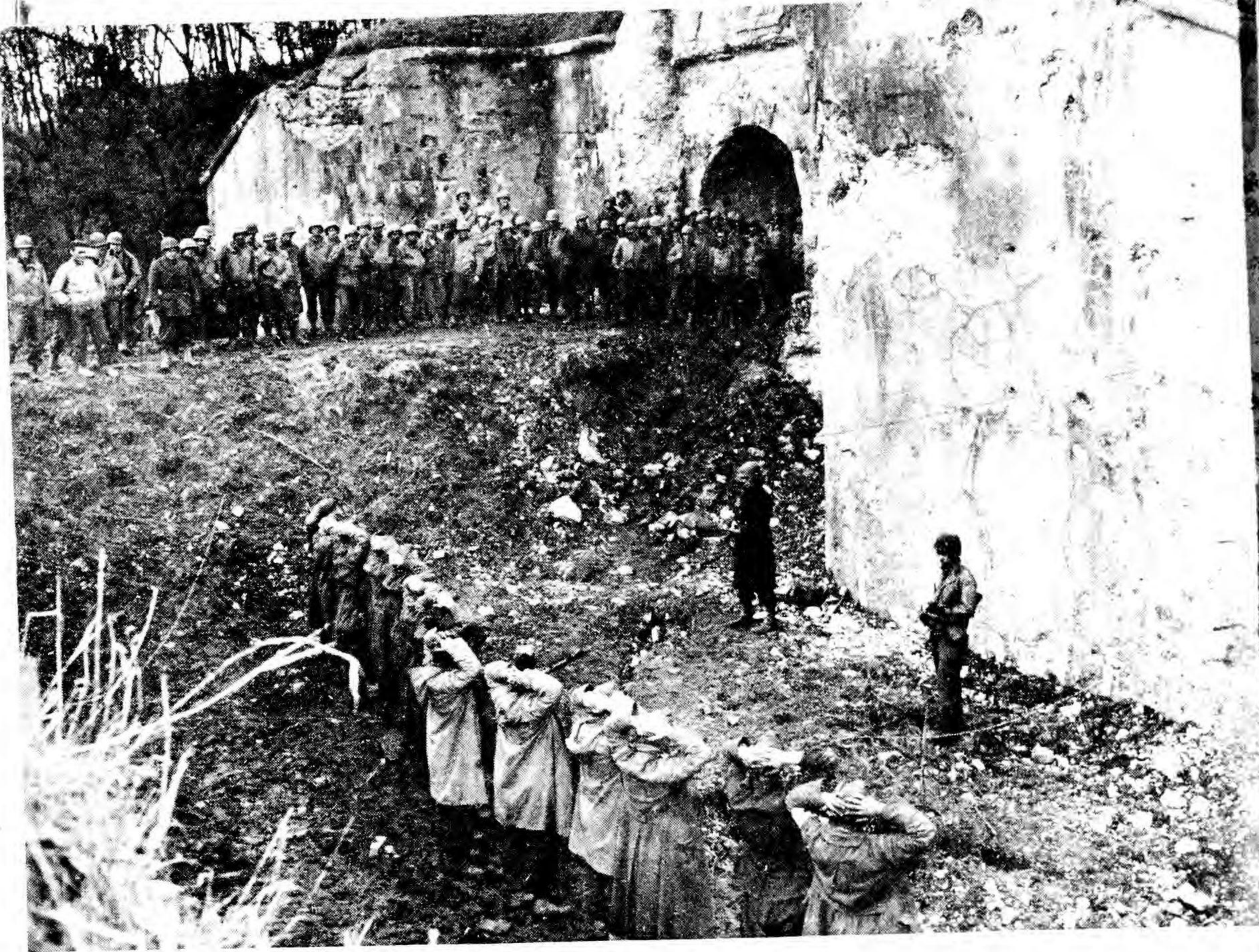
Japan

On the 25th a strong force of B-29 Superfortresses of the China-based Twentieth Bomber Command carried out a daylight attack on

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Remains of a highway bridge (left) and railroad span across the Rhine near Frankenthal after an attack by U. S. bombers.

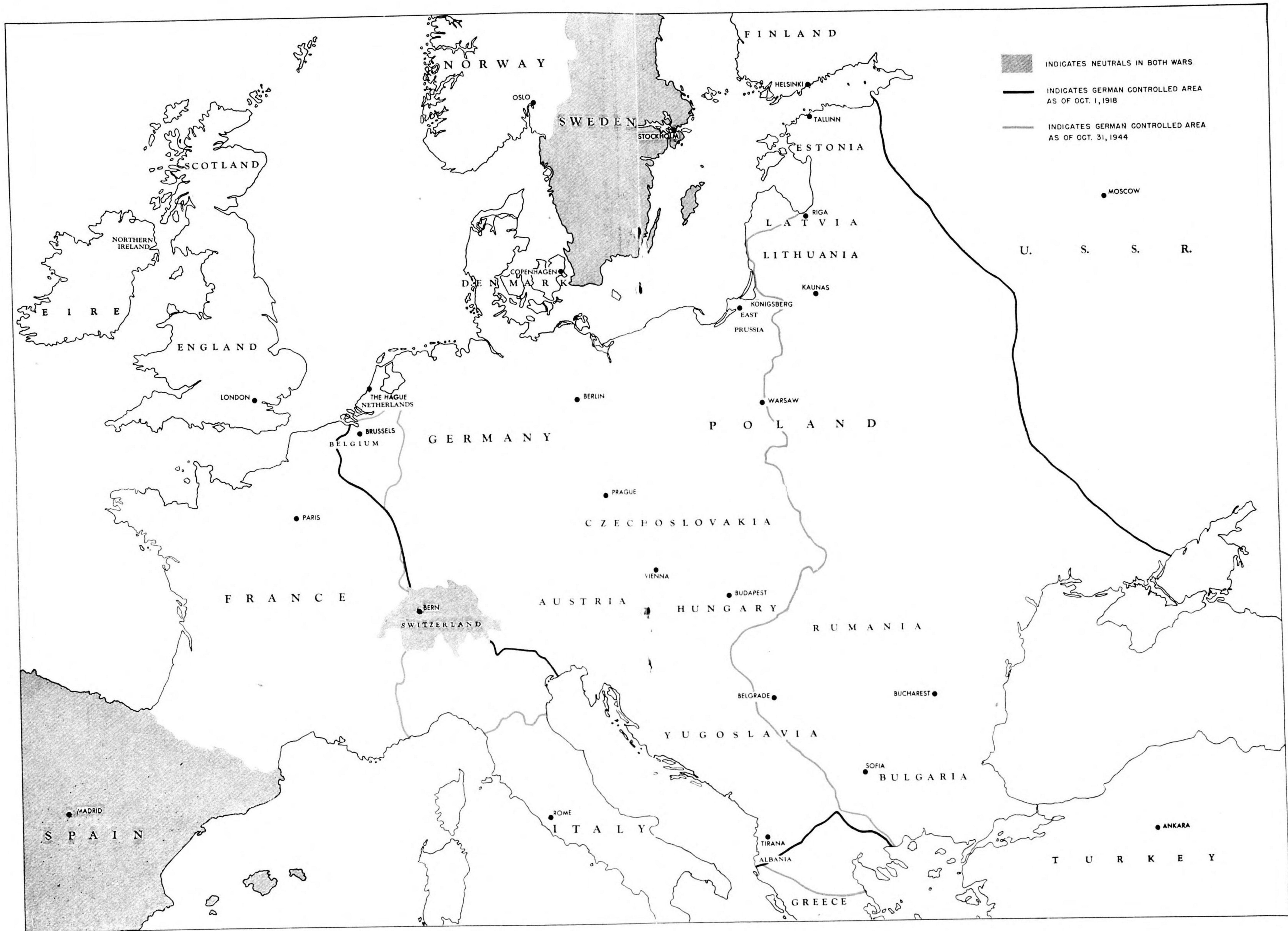


German prisoners on the Western Front.



A U. S. AA gun near Brandtsheid, Germany. (Confidential.) Below, American armor in Aachen.



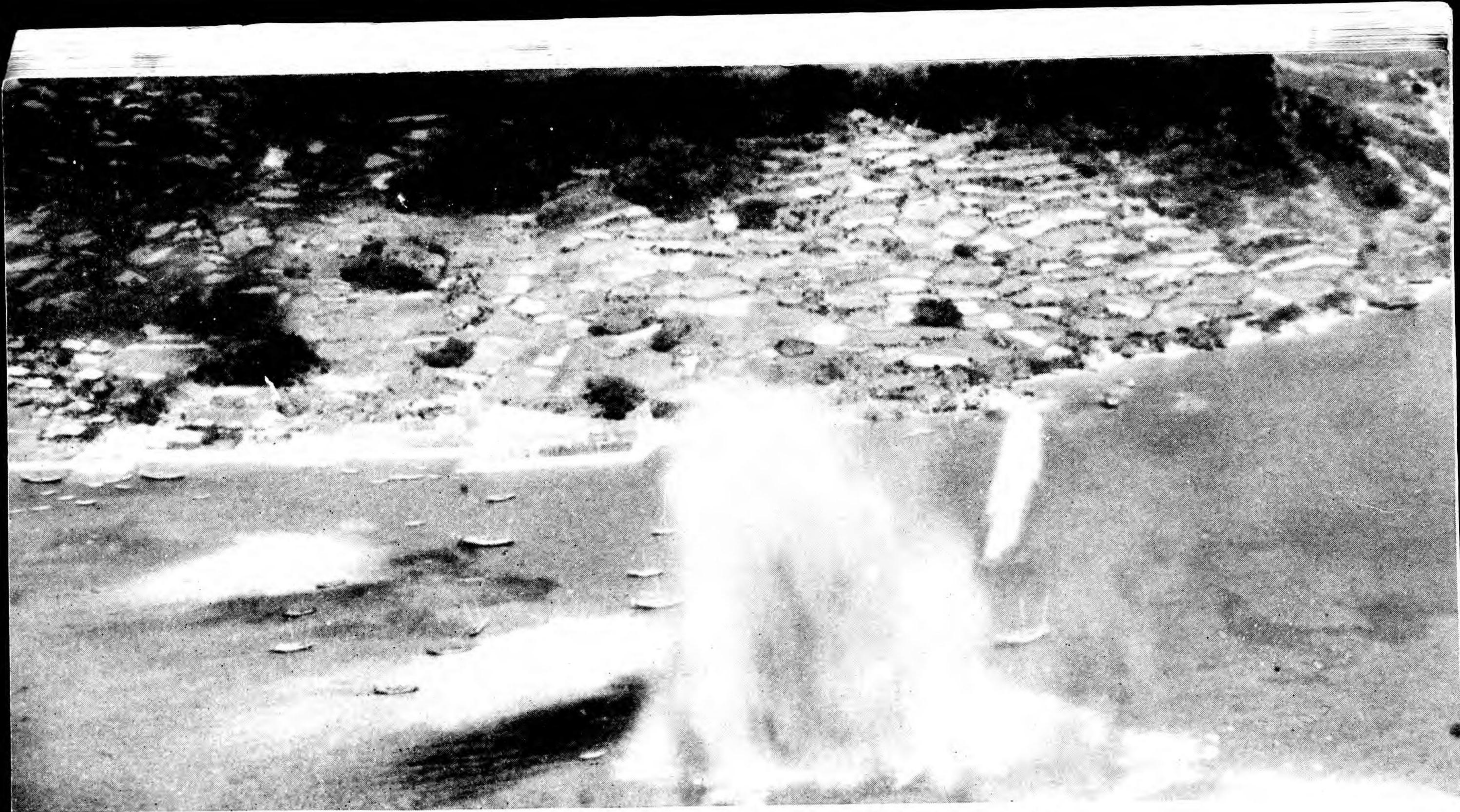


1918 - 1944

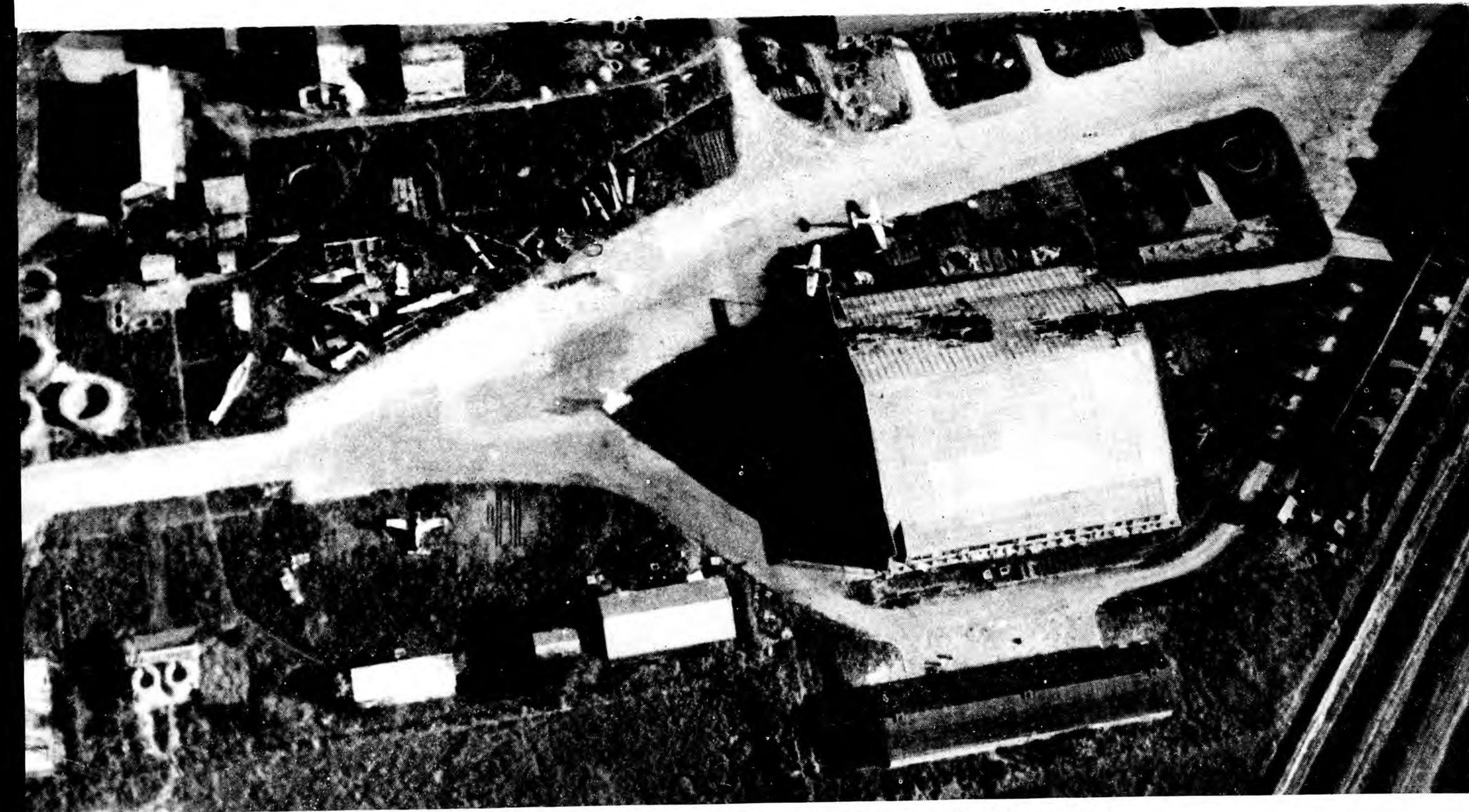
This map compares the extent of territory under German control on October 1, 1918, on the eve of their first request for an Armistice, with the territory at present under German control. In addition to the countries neutral in both wars, the Netherlands,

Denmark, and Norway were neutral in the last war. At the beginning of October 1918, Bulgaria had capitulated but so recently that the country had not yet been occupied by the Allies. Turkey was to drop out of the war later in October. Although

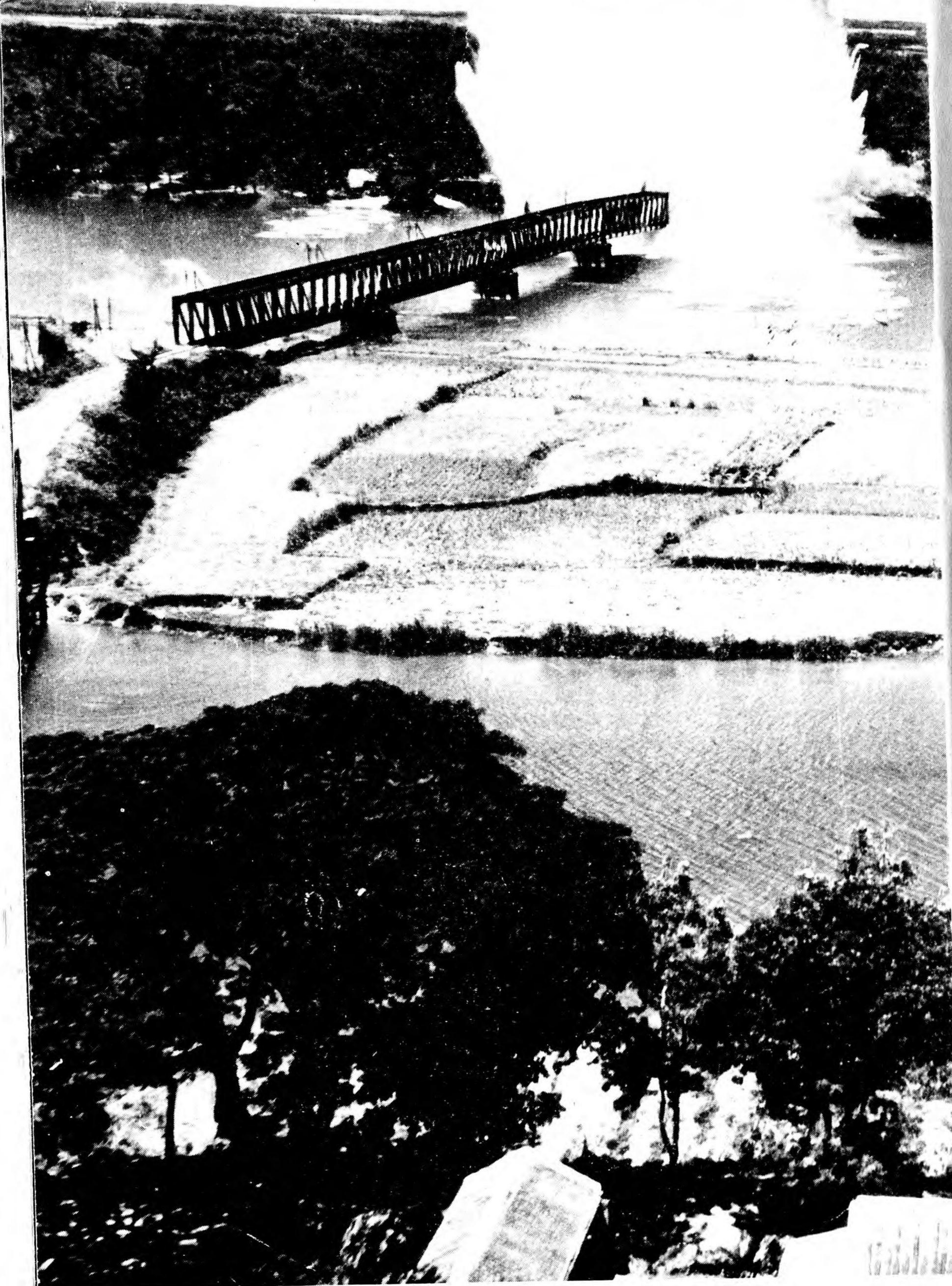
Germany was technically at peace with Russia after the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918, some 25 German divisions were still in the East for garrison duty. See special article in this issue of the WEEKLY, "The Defeat of Germany: 1918."



Small Japanese craft at Okinawa Island under attack during the U. S. Third Fleet's strike at the Ryukyu Islands, October 10th.



After neutralizing enemy bases in the Ryukyu group, the Third Fleet subjected Formosa to a series of heavy attacks. This photograph shows damage done to Japanese planes and hangars at Kagi on October 12th.



A U. S. bomber attack on the Dai Giang bridge in French Indochina.

the Omura Aircraft Assembly Plant in western Kyushu. The plant is located on the east coast of Omura Bay, 12 miles northeast of Nagasaki and adjacent to the Omura Naval Air Station. The majority of the planes attacked Omura, while a few hit at the secondary target, Point Island, near Shanghai, China. Other B-29's bombed Hankow and a number of targets of opportunity. More than 150 tons were dropped on Omura with good to excellent results. The Superfortresses met some fighter resistance and there was moderate anti-aircraft fire over the target. No opposition or anti-aircraft fire was met at the other targets. The weather was clear with the result that the bombing was accomplished in complete visibility. Our planes claimed nine enemy fighters shot down with five aircraft probably destroyed and 22 additional planes damaged over Omura. One of our planes is missing.

Omura, in addition to possessing aircraft assembly facilities, is a repair and training base. Of modern design, the plant was built by Japan during the present war as one of the keystones of her air power. It comprises some 75 buildings with 2,500,000 square feet of roof, and by any standard of comparison is a large aircraft production and engine maintenance center.

Propaganda.—Premier Gen. Kuniaki Koiso warned the Japanese this week that “there has been no time as critical” as the present and told them to be ready for another Allied attempt to “smash our strategic defense.” He repeated the Japanese claims of a “great victory” off Formosa¹ but added: “He (the enemy) still possesses a powerful force of warships and men, and looks forward to victory relying on his material strength.”

Koiso declared later in a press conference at Osaka that Japanese production in many cases had “fallen short of expectations” and repeated his warning to the Japanese people that “the enemy still has a considerable fleet in Leyte Bay, while to the rear he still maintains large fleets of battleships and other craft as well as many troops.” Pointing out that the “labor and efforts” of Japanese workers in many fields has not “reached the first stage desired by the government,” the Premier said that his government planned “to improve whatever needs improvement” and added that “we hope to increase production so that Japan can prosecute the war with ample reserves even if the war should be prolonged.” He acknowledged that living conditions in Japan were “strained,” but expressed the hope that the people would “courageously persevere and hold to the firm belief in ultimate victory even if living standards should fall still lower.”

¹ See special article in this issue on “Japanese ‘Victory’ off Formosa.”

While domestic transmissions were giving this version of Koiso's statement, the Tokyo radio was broadcasting a more rosy version for American consumption. It declared that "the great strides in the productions of arms and ammunition have given Japan added confidence in her march to final victory" and that "Japan's production front is now achieving the desired results in all fields."

The Tokyo radio continued to assert in English-language broadcasts to the United States that "the successive defeats of the American Navy will spell doom to the enemy." Japanese newspapers took up the theme. Domei quoted *Yomiuri Hochi Shimbun* as declaring that the Japanese Navy "has dealt an outstanding defeat to the naval arm of the arrogant enemy." *Asahi Shimbun* said that "the fact that the United States Navy has suffered two successive defeats of the greatest magnitude in less than two weeks in the Pacific theatre of war indicates either a complete lack of ability and recklessness of the enemy high command or some factor other than strategic that is dictating the conduct of the enemy's recent operations." *Mainichi Shimbun* asserted that "this all-out assault by our naval fleet most probably presages a simultaneous all-out counter-offensive by our army against the American invasion forces on Leyte Island."

Domei in another dispatch intended for American consumption claimed that General MacArthur's forces had gained only a "toehold" on Leyte and quoted so-called "informed military quarters" as boasting that the American landing forces "would be crushed like an egg shell once the Japanese forces launched full-scale counter-offensive operations." "There are strong indications," Domei said, "that the Japanese forces are confidently making full preparations to engage the American invaders in a battle that would crush them once and for all."

Another Japanese broadcast, commenting on the naval battle in the Philippines, said it was not possible to disclose what further measures would be taken by the Japanese fleet, but "one thing is now clear: America has lost the war."

"Japanese forces have now complete air and sea superiority on and around Leyte, and powerful additional Japanese forces are moving up for the attack," the broadcast said.

Sadao Iguchi, Japanese Board of Information spokesman, was quoted by Domei as saying that it was "utterly preposterous" for MacArthur to "think of liberating" the Philippines because Japan had already granted the islands "independence."

Political.—The Japanese Board of Information announced this week that the Cabinet had abolished the "machinery for advising the Premier" and that Emperor Hirohito had granted the Govern-

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ment's request to establish "a new official advisory system" because "the war situation has become more pressing than ever."

The announcement, transmitted by Domei, declared that the "rejuvenation" advisory system was necessary also because "the management of the national administration has become more and more delicate and complicated." Civilian participation in the Government is greatly increased as a result of this move.

The development followed a series of emergency meetings involving not only the Cabinet and advisory bodies but also Emperor Hirohito, an indication of crisis despite the Japanese Government's claims of victory in the sea-air battles around the Philippines and off Formosa.

Under the new ordinance providing for a rejuvenated Cabinet advisory system, which goes into effect immediately, the old Cabinet Advisory Board and the post of Wartime Economic Adviser have been eliminated.

Within 24 hours after the Japanese Government had announced its intention of setting up a new and more powerful Cabinet advisory group Premier Koiso named a dozen men to undertake the task and received immediate approval from Emperor Hirohito. Prominent among them are Hachiro Arita, a veteran diplomat who served in three pre-war Japanese cabinets as Foreign Minister; Admiral Nobumasa Suetsugu, onetime commander in chief of the combined Japanese fleet and a perennial governmental advisor; and Toyotaro Yuki, a former Finance Minister and onetime president of the Bank of Japan. The others are Admiral Teijiro Toyoda, president of the Japan Iron Works who served as Foreign Minister in the third Konoye cabinet; Matustaro Shoriki, president of the influential Tokyo daily *Yomiuri Shimbun*; Kamesaburo Yamashita, head of a number of corporations in the shipping, coal, power and mining industries; Shunosuke Furuta, financier and industrialist; Gisuke Ayukawa, Hirotarō Ando, Nobozo Koizumi, Matajiro Koizumi and Shunnosuke Yoshida.

In reporting the Koiso cabinet's intention of choosing a new group of advisers, Domei declared that the men would be accorded the "privilege of directly participating in the council of state instead of merely giving advice on only limited subjects." It was also declared that the new advisers would be given ministerial rank and that they would be "qualified to advise" not only on economic matters but "also in all material and spiritual fields."

Japan first created a Cabinet Advisory Council in October 1937 during the Premiership of Prince Fumimaro Konoye. The group, made a fixture, assumed new importance with Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and was frequently used by the government in office to retain support of varied elements in the nation and to give the semblance of a wide base of authority.

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Allied War Prisoners.—The Japanese Board of Information announced that the *Sakusan Maru* would leave "sometime before the end of the month" for Vladivostok to pick up 1,500 tons of supplies for Allied war prisoners in Japan and other parts of Asia.

The dispatch followed an announcement by the United States State Department on the 24th that the ship would leave Japan for Russia to pick up the supplies that had been held in storage by Russia pending the outcome of lengthy negotiations between the Japanese and American governments.

Economic.—The Nazi DNB agency reported in a Tokyo-dated dispatch this week that the Japanese Munitions Ministry had issued a decree terminating the existing rubber-rationing system in favor of distribution by priorities. The priorities, DNB said, "will depend on the importance of the works concerned in the armaments industry."

Kuriles

A six-to seven-thousand-ton merchant vessel was severely damaged on the 25th off Paramushiru by B-25's which dropped several tons of bombs. Slight anti-aircraft fire from the ship and medium fire from the shore were met. The same day the naval and air base at Kashiwabara on northeast Paramushiru was hit by a B-24. Other B-24's attacked installations at Suribachi Wan on the east coast. Results were obscured by the overcast. Navy patrol bombers raided Shimushu. All planes returned safely.

On the 26th, B-24's attacked Otomari on Onnekotan. Another B-24 met slight anti-aircraft fire while bombing installations at Nemo Bay on the same island. Results were unobserved and all planes returned safely. On the 30th, B-25's dropped bombs on Tomari Zaki on Paramushiru, causing fires in the building area. At Asahi Wan in the northeast portion of the island two picket boats were damaged and still smoking when our planes left the scene. Antiaircraft fire was inaccurate and all planes returned safely. On the same day B-24's scored near hits on three cargo vessels northeast of Onnekotan. Another B-24 raided Matsuwa. On November 1st, B-25's again raided Tomari Zaki. Five enemy fighters intercepted and heavy antiaircraft fire was met. All planes returned safely.

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PACIFIC

Philippine Islands

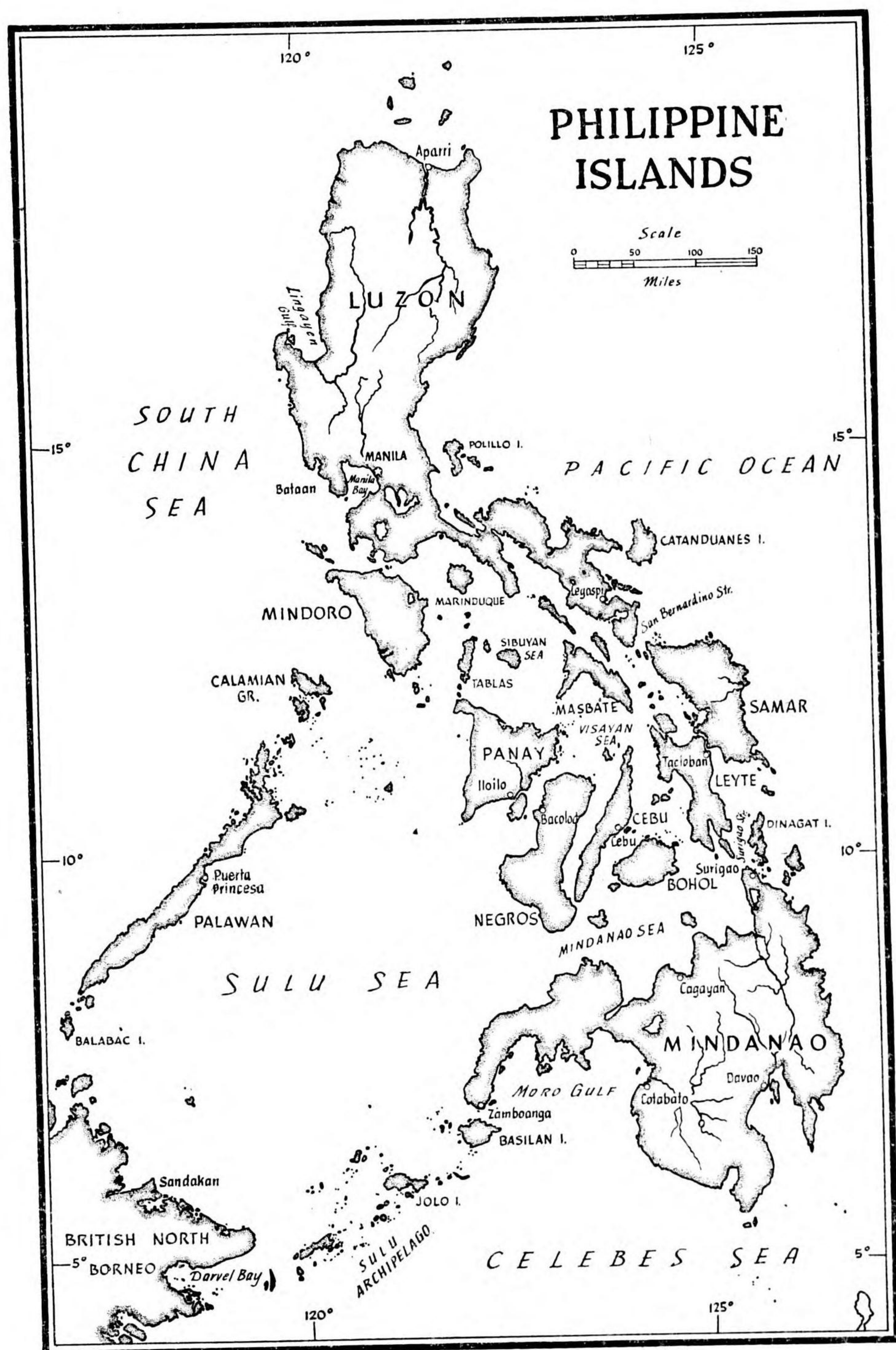
Naval Operations.—As additional details of last week's great air-sea battle in the Philippines area accumulate, the magnitude of the Pacific Fleet's victory daily becomes more apparent. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz's communique released at Pearl Harbor on the 29th, provides exceptionally full information, based on reports which are still subject to revision, concerning the engagement between three powerful Japanese naval forces and the U. S. Third and Seventh Fleets. The latest tabulation of Japanese naval losses to U. S. submarines, surface vessels and aircraft reveals that at least 58 enemy warships were sunk or damaged. It has been definitely established that 24 of these were sent to the bottom, according to Admiral Nimitz's communique. The cost to us was one CVL (the *Princeton*), 2 CVE's, 2 DD's and 1 DE sunk. Several of our ships were reported damaged, but the extent of the damage has not been made public.

Admiral Nimitz in reporting the overwhelming victory scored by the Third and Seventh Fleets declared that "the Japanese Fleet has been decisively defeated and routed." He ranks the engagement, which he calls the "Second Battle of the Philippine Sea," as one of the major sea battles of the war in the Pacific, together with the Battle of the Coral Sea, May 1942; the Battle of Midway, June 1942; the Battle of Guadalcanal, November 1942; and the First Battle of the Philippine Sea, June 1944. It was the first time since the Battle of Guadalcanal that capital ships of the two navies had engaged each other in surface action at close range.

As reported in the last issue of the ONI WEEKLY, movements of major Japanese Fleet units northward from the Singapore area were detected on October 22d and 23d by submarine scouts off Palawan Island. Our submarines attacked the enemy force and sank two *Atago* class CA's and severely damaged a third. To meet possible threats to our invasion area on Leyte Island, ships of Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet were moved into position east of the Philippines off Surigao Strait, San Bernardino Strait and the Polillo Islands off southeast Luzon.

Carrier search planes on the morning of the 24th discovered two strong Japanese naval forces moving eastward,¹ one through the

¹ The account given here is based almost entirely on Admiral Nimitz's communique and press reports from correspondents with our Fleet. It is not made clear in these whether other Japanese warships came into the area after the original sightings; if they did, that could account for certain discrepancies in reported losses inflicted on the Japanese.



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Sibuyan Sea and the other through the Sulu Sea. The force moving through the Sibuyan Sea included 5 battleships (thought to be the *Yamato*, the *Musashi*, the *Nagato*, the *Kongo* and the *Haruna*), 8 cruisers (2 *Tone* class, 2 *Nachi*, 2 *Mogami*, 1 *Atago*, and 1 *Noshiro*) and 13 destroyers. The Sulu Sea force consisted of 2 battleships, reported to be the *Yamashiro* and the *Fuso*, 2 CA's, 2 CL's and 7 or 8 DD's

As soon as the presence of the two enemy task forces inside the central Philippines area was discovered, Hellcats, Avengers and Hell-divers from Third Fleet carriers were launched to attack both forces. The heaviest attacks were apparently directed against the enemy's Sibuyan Sea force, by far the more powerful of the two. One of the Japanese battleships and a heavy cruiser were severely damaged by our planes. These two ships were left burning fiercely and may subsequently have sunk; at any rate, the force which that night made its way into the Pacific through San Bernardino Strait was reported to include but 4 BB's. In the carrier aircraft strikes at the Sibuyan Sea force, our planes also scored hits with bombs and torpedoes on 3 other BB's and 3 other CA's. A light cruiser was torpedoed, cap-sized and sank.

The Japanese force moving eastward through the Sulu Sea in the direction of the Mindanao Sea was also taken under attack by Third Fleet carrier planes, which scored bomb hits on both BB's. The cruisers were strafed and heavily attacked with rocket projectiles.

Meanwhile, our carriers east of the Philippines were under heavy attack by Japanese land-based planes. In this attack the U. S. S. *Princeton* (CVL) was hit by a bomb and so badly damaged by a subsequent explosion in her magazine that she had to be sunk. In combat over our task force more than 150 enemy aircraft were shot down. Our plane losses were reported to have been light.

During the afternoon of the 24th a land-based Navy search plane sighted a third powerful Japanese task force heading toward the Philippines. This force, comprised of 17 warships, was first discovered about 200 miles off Cape Engano, northern Luzon, moving south from Formosa or home waters. In this force, essentially a carrier task group, were a CV believed to be of the *Zuikaku* class and 3 CVL's of the *Chitose* and *Zuiho* classes. In support of the carriers were 2 BB's of the *Ise* class, with flight decks aft; a CA of the *Mogami* class; a CL of the *Noshiro* class; 3 cruisers of the *Kiso* class; and 6 DD's.

By nightfall on the 24th, therefore, there were 3 large Japanese naval forces, representing possibly two-thirds of Japan's naval strength, converging on the U. S. Third and Seventh Fleets protecting General MacArthur's invasion forces in the Leyte Gulf area. In the Japanese fleets there were 8, possibly 9, battleships, 4 carriers,

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16 cruisers and 26 or 27 destroyers. Many of the enemy ships in the 2 southern forces had been damaged during the day by our carrier aircraft but their eastward progress had not been halted.

To meet these threats, made greater by the appearance of the Japanese carrier force to the north, Admiral Halsey concentrated several of his carrier task groups and started northward at high speed for a dawn attack on the enemy force off Luzon. Vice Admiral Kinkaid's Seventh Fleet was left at Leyte Gulf to cover the Japanese forces steaming eastward toward Surigao Strait, between Leyte and Mindanao Islands, and San Bernardino Strait, between Samar and southeastern Luzon.

Units of the Seventh Fleet, under the command of Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf, were the first to join battle with the Japanese. To protect the southern entrance to Leyte Gulf, through Surigao Strait, Admiral Oldendorf stationed a strong force of PT's and DD's at the narrowest part of the strait and at their rear a concentration of battleships, cruisers and destroyers. The Japanese ships were sighted south of Bohol Island by PT's about midnight of the 24th. The PT's attacked and claimed torpedo hits. At 0130 on the 25th the enemy fleet entered Surigao Strait in 2 columns, one about 4 miles astern of the other. Our PT's and destroyers closed first with 3 torpedo attacks at 0230, when the Japanese ships reached the vicinity of tiny Kanihaan Island, off the west coast of Dinagat Island. Admiral Oldendorf's force of battleships, cruisers and destroyers was disposed across the north end of Surigao Strait, running east from Hingatungan Point, on Leyte's east coast. According to accounts of a correspondent with Admiral Oldendorf's force, the admiral himself commanded our vessels on the left flank, while Rear Admiral George Weyler, commanding battleships, was in the center, and Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey commanded the right flank force of cruisers and destroyers.

Our battleships and cruisers opened fire just after 0300. By this time the enemy ships were more than 20 miles inside Surigao Strait. A wall of 16-inch, 8-inch and 6-inch gunfire blasted the Japanese, all of the first salvos landing on the target, according to a statement by Admiral Oldendorf. The enemy ships were slowed down from 20 to 12 knots, and about 40 minutes after the shelling began they started to retire. Unable to turn simultaneously, the Japanese warships turned in column. This maneuver brought them within 11,000 yards of the U. S. battleships' 16-inch guns. Our ships were firing on fixed ranges, Admiral Oldendorf said, and as each Japanese ship came by in line, our big guns scored hit after hit. The enemy vessels were under cross fire, so that our forces could hit them with guns and torpedoes at the same time. Ship after ship was hit by heavy salvos.

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Our force pursued the retreating enemy south to the end of the Strait, sinking a burning battleship, a cruiser and a destroyer. At dawn several Japanese ships were sighted burning. These were attacked by U. S. torpedo planes, which scored hits on all the damaged ships, one of them a battleship which was left dead in the water, listing and burning. The battleship was later seen to sink.

Our carrier planes, assisted by bombers from the Southwest Pacific, continued the hunt for damaged Japanese ships through most of the 25th. In an account of the battle written by a press correspondent with Admiral Oldendorf's force it was reported that during the night remnants of the enemy fleet were observed steaming northward along the west coast of Leyte Island. These ships were apparently attempting to join the Japanese warships fleeing westward after being turned back off Samar Island. Of the 15 or 16 enemy ships which entered Surigao Strait the night of the 24th only a CA and 5 DD's were left afloat by evening of the 25th, this account stated. These remnants of the enemy's Surigao force were attacked off western Leyte about midmorning on the 26th by U. S. fighters and torpedo planes. Bomb and rocket projectile hits were scored on the cruiser and a DD. The cruiser, severely damaged, was seen to be down at the stern and circling at slow speed, while the destroyer was down at the bow, with her anti-aircraft guns silenced. The other ships fled to the southwest, in the direction of Cebu.

While the battle at Surigao Strait was in progress, units of the Third Fleet had been steaming north through the night at full speed. The Japanese carrier task force off southern Luzon was caught so completely by surprise that there was no effective air opposition to our aircraft strikes early in the morning of the 25th. There were reports that many of the Japanese carriers were caught with only a few planes on deck. Those reports are substantiated somewhat by Admiral Nimitz's statement that Japanese carrier aircraft, which had been refueled ashore in the Philippines, flew out later in the morning to join their ships "which already had met disaster." The enemy planes arrived too late to get into the battle; 21 of them in futile attacks on our ships were shot down by our combat patrols.

The Third Fleet sank at least 7 of the 17 ships which comprised the enemy's carrier task force. Carrier aircraft sank the large *Zuikaku* class carrier, two carriers of the *Chitose* class and a destroyer. A carrier of the *Zuiho* class was crippled by our planes and was later sunk by gunfire of our cruisers and destroyers. A cruiser was severely damaged by carrier planes and was sunk during the night by one of our submarines, while a second cruiser, or large DD, was sunk by gunfire during the battle. Heavy damage was inflicted on both

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battleships, one of which was hit by 2-4 torpedoes and many bombs; 3 cruisers and 4 destroyers were damaged by bombs and gunfire. None of the Third Fleet ships engaged with the enemy carrier force was damaged; our only losses in this phase of the action were 10 planes, 8 pilots and 10 air crewmen, downed by anti-aircraft fire.

Before the enemy ships which had been damaged off Luzon could be tracked down and destroyed, the engagement was broken off by the Third Fleet in order to go to the assistance of the Seventh Fleet's carrier escort groups, then under attack off Samar Island by the Japanese force which had succeeded in passing east through San Bernardino Strait. This large force of fast battleships, cruisers and destroyers, in spite of severe damage inflicted by our carrier aircraft on the 24th, had sortied during that night into the Pacific Ocean and was attacking ships of the Seventh Fleet. This enemy force appeared among Rear Admiral Thomas L. Sprague's escort carriers, only 70 miles from our transports and landing craft, according to some reports, and began firing at almost point blank range at the vulnerable carriers. No match for the guns of the Japanese battleships and cruisers, our carriers took evasive action covered by smoke screens laid down by a DE and 2 DD's, which then, in one of the most gallant actions of the war, dashed in to launch torpedo attacks at the enemy. For nearly 5 hours our carrier-planes attacked the enemy force. Heavy damage was inflicted on the Japanese ships, and early in the afternoon, now reinforced by heavy ships and carriers from the Third Fleet, our force drove the enemy to the northwest. Contact with main elements of the fast Japanese task force was apparently lost during the late afternoon. Although Admiral Nimitz's communique does not say so, it is a reasonable assumption that the loss of our CVE's, 2 DD's and a DE occurred in this engagement off Samar.

In this battle most of the enemy's heavy ships were badly damaged by Seventh Fleet units, assisted by aircraft from the Third Fleet. One cruiser of the *Mogami* class was seen to sink and a DD was left dead in the water. The Japanese fleet, retiring northwest from the scene of the action, passed westward back through San Bernardino Strait during the early hours of darkness. A straggling cruiser was sunk by gunfire from ships of the Third Fleet about 0200 on the 26th, before it could reach the Straits.

Admiral Kinkaid gave high praise to the light carrier force that held the Japanese ships off east of Samar all during the morning until help arrived from the south, possibly battleships which had earlier in the day turned back the enemy force at Surigao Strait. Admiral Kinkaid said that the enemy's gunnery was very inaccurate but that

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the attack on our carriers was greatly aided by the arrival of Japanese land-based bombers.

Aerial pursuit of the crippled enemy ships fleeing westward through the Sibuyan Sea was carried out through much of the 26th. In these attacks, shore-based aircraft of the Southwest Pacific area joined with carrier planes of the Third and Seventh Fleets in harrying the Japanese warships. A *Mogami* class cruiser and a *Noshiro* class cruiser were sunk off Mindoro Island, a battleship was possibly sunk, and further damage was inflicted on 3 other BB's and 3 cruisers, damaged the day before off Samar.

A résumé of the enemy's ship losses in this series of naval actions in the period from October 23d through October 28th, as revealed in Admiral Nimitz's communique, follows:

	Sunk	Possibly sunk	Damaged
BB's.....	2	1	6
CV's.....	1		
CVL's.....	3		
CA's.....	6	3	4
CL's.....	3	2	1
CL's or DL's.....	3		
DD's.....	6	7	10
Total.....	24	13	21

A further breakdown, involving only the Japanese ships which were reported definitely sunk, is also given:

Oct. 22-23—2 *Atago* class CA's, by submarine.

Oct. 25-26—Surigao Strait—2 BB's, 1 CA, 1 CL and 6 DD's.

San Bernardino—3 CA's, 2 CL's, 1 other cruiser.

Off Luzon—1 CV, 3 CVL's, 1 cruiser, 1 CL or DL, 1 DD.

It is believed that few, if any, of the Japanese ships which participated in the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea escaped without being damaged. Despite the extensive damage done to Japan's Fleet, however, the enemy's navy is far from stripped of ships. Japan still has considerable naval strength, but the latest damage to her capital ships, plus the steady attrition of escort and screening vessels, such as destroyers and cruisers, has resulted in a badly unbalanced fleet, particularly in respect to aircraft carriers.

Japan has acknowledged that one of the Imperial Navy's battleships, a carrier, 2 cruisers and 2 destroyers were sunk in the Philippine Sea Battle. In addition, Japan admitted that another battleship and a carrier had received substantial damage and that 126 Japanese aircraft had been shot down. On the other hand, the Japanese claimed to have sunk 8 U. S. carriers, 3 cruisers, 2 destroyers and more than 4

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transports. The enemy also claimed to have damaged 7 carriers, a battleship and 2 cruisers; 500 of our planes were claimed shot down by the Japanese.

Admiral Nimitz's communique listed several of the U. S. battleships and carriers which participated in the naval battle off the Philippines. The battleships, all of which had been seriously damaged in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, were the *West Virginia*, *Maryland*, *California*, *Tennessee* and *Pennsylvania*. The carriers listed were the new *Lexington*, *Wasp* and *Hornet*, all named for carriers which had been sunk in the Pacific early in the war.

In his communique, Admiral Nimitz commended particularly the part in the naval engagements played by our submarines and naval airmen. The submarines are credited with sinking and damaging several Japanese warships, both before and after the air and sea battles on the 24th, 25th and 26th. In praise of the airmen, Admiral Nimitz said that "much of the credit for the destruction inflicted on the Japanese Fleet goes to the naval airmen, who gallantly and relentlessly pressed their attacks home with telling effect."

It was revealed on the 26th that HMAS *Australia*, flagship of the Australian Navy, was damaged in an air attack on the 20th during the invasion of the Philippines. Prime Minister John Curtin announced that the 10,000-ton cruiser had received only superficial damage on the upper deck near the bridge. Nineteen of the *Australia's* personnel were killed and 54 were wounded. The wounded included the commanding officer of the Australian Naval Squadron, Commodore John A. Collins, and the *Australia's* skipper, Captain E. F. V. Dechaineux, who died of his wounds.

Ground Operations.—American Sixth Army forces made rapid strides this week toward clearing the Japanese from Leyte Valley and other sections east of the high mountains which run most of the length of Leyte Island. General Douglas MacArthur reported on the 30th that approximately two-thirds of the island's 2,785 square miles is now under U. S. domination, and that our forces control 212 miles of the coast, extending from Carigara on the north to include Panaon Island on the south. Our troops also extended their control over most of Samar Island, northeast of Leyte.¹ In both areas, Filipino guerrillas who were incorporated into the regular Commonwealth army by executive order of President Sergio Osmena on November 1st, gave valuable assistance to our forces by harassing small enemy garrisons, by attacks on the precarious Japanese supply lines and by furnishing information concerning enemy troop movements and concentrations. The Japanese apparently are abandoning

¹ A special article on Leyte and Samar Islands appears elsewhere in this issue.

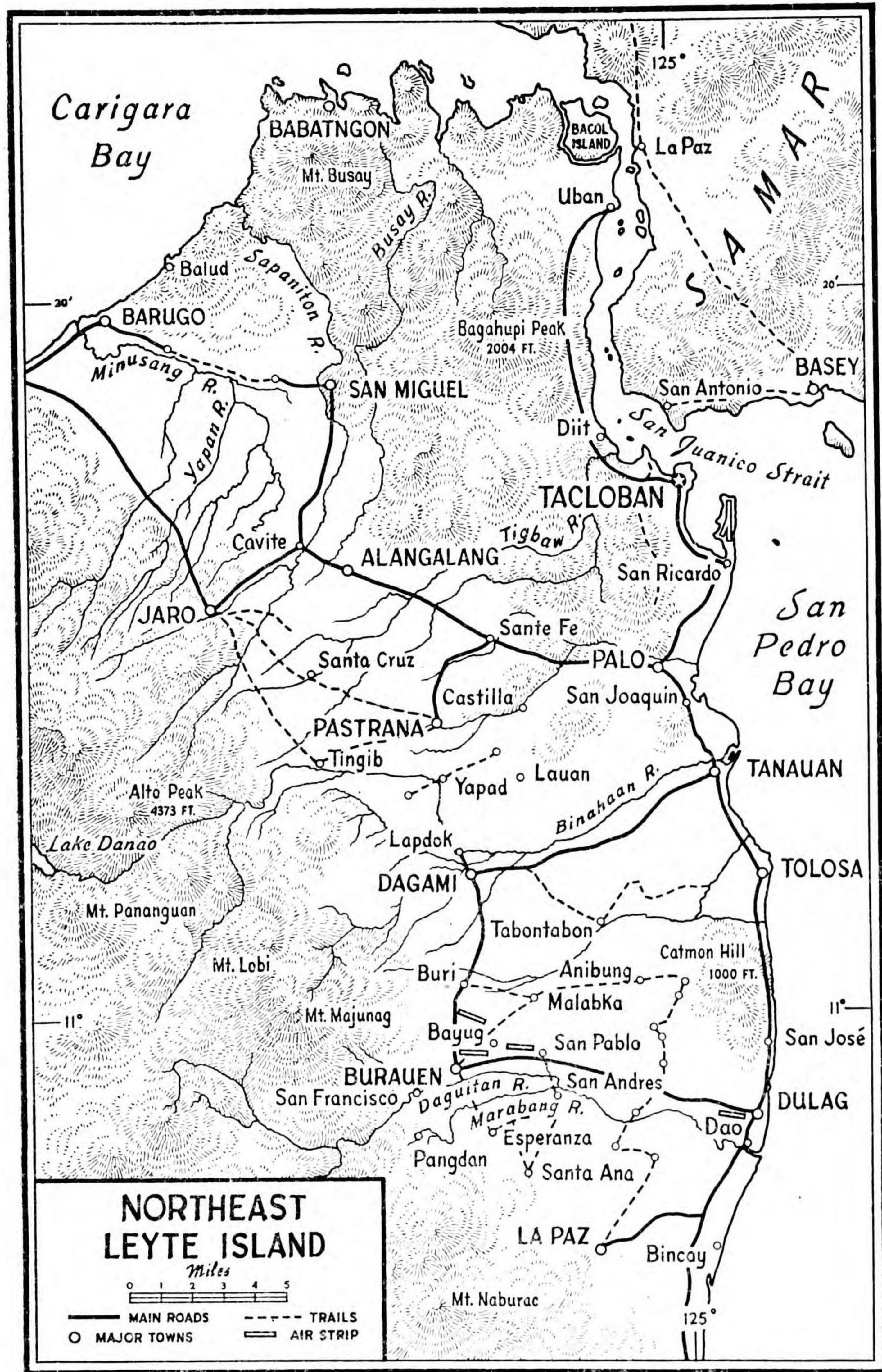
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Leyte Valley and are withdrawing all troops which have not been cut off by the rapid advances of U. S. forces. Present indications are that the enemy intends to make a stand in the northwestern sector of Leyte Island, probably somewhere along the coast of Carigara Bay. Reinforcements from Cebu for the enemy's Leyte garrison have been reported landing by barge at Ormoc and other west coast towns. Our PT's and aircraft, patrolling the west coast, have sunk many barges loaded with troops and supplies. Although the movement of Japanese troops has been considerable, it is believed doubtful that the Japanese will be able to assemble a force sufficiently large to block the American drive into the northern sector of the island and at the same time counter possible blows from the south, where American troops and Filipino guerrillas are swiftly gaining complete control.

Against resistance that at some places has been very heavy and at others surprisingly light, U. S. forces advanced on all fronts and by the end of the week were in control of virtually all of northeastern Leyte and had moved about 14 miles down the coast below Dulag to the town of Abuyog, where the only important cross-island road south of Leyte Valley turns west to wind through the mountains to Baybay, approximately in the center of the west coast. All the main roads and trails east of the mountains are under our control; most of them are being used freely for the transportation of supplies and the movement of troops. Although organized resistance east of the mountains has virtually ceased, several relatively large groups of Japanese have been cut off in central Leyte Valley; one of the largest of these—about 1,500—is trapped in the Binahaan River bend, near Dagami. Another force of Japanese is surrounded on Catmon Hill, north of Dulag, and is being eliminated; by the end of the week 96th Division troops had captured most of the western slopes of the hill. At headquarters of the Sixth Army it was considered doubtful that the Japanese in Leyte Valley could escape the squeeze being applied by elements of the 10th and 24th Corps.

In the 10th Corps sector, north and west of Palo, units of the First Cavalry Division gained virtual control of San Juanico Strait, between Leyte and Samar, by a series of amphibious landings on each side of the narrow, shallow strip of water. Uban and Bacol Island were occupied on the 24th, while patrols pushed north along the highway to capture all of the west coast of the strait except a small area just south of Uban, which on the 30th was reported still in Japanese hands. These patrols encountered some resistance along the highway, and were apparently not able to make an immediate juncture with the forces at Uban. On the 27th, cavalry units which last week had landed at Babatngon, on the north coast, occupied Balud and Barugo, on the

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shores of Carigara Bay. The following day, patrols of these units entered Carigara town, which they found unoccupied by the Japanese. Our troops withdrew from Carigara when warned by guerrillas that a strong force of the enemy was moving on the town. Strong defenses were prepared at Barugo to await the arrival of other U. S. troops moving north from the interior below Carigara Bay. Further patrolling established the fact that the Japanese were at Carigara in considerable strength. It is not clear whether the enemy troops there were reinforcements being brought up from Ormoc or whether they were remnants of the forces which had been driven out of Leyte Valley. It appears likely that the enemy will defend Carigara, which lies at the narrowing northwest corner of Leyte Valley where the mountains come close to the coast. The town is an important road junction where two branches of the highway from the east coast join before continuing west to the pass leading south into Ormoc Valley. Latest reports indicate that heavy fighting is already in progress near Carigara.

In the sector south and west of Tacloban other units of the First Cavalry Division pushed overland on the 26th to capture San Miguel, an inland town on the northern branch of the cross-island road, less than 8 miles east of Barugo. Patrols from this unit were reported to be pushing north along the Busay River to clear this area of enemy troops ousted from Leyte Valley and northeast coastal areas. Other patrols, meanwhile, moved south from San Miguel, advancing along the highway in the direction of Cavite, where the main upper Leyte Valley road divides. The move to the south was made in order to effect a juncture with 24th Infantry troops which captured Cavite on the 28th.

The 24th Infantry Division, operating south and west of Palo, by the end of the week had driven along the main road to the north coast as far as the mountain village of Jaro, which was taken on the 29th after a forced march through rain and high wind. The Japanese fought bitterly for Jaro, their last strongpoint on the road to the coast of Carigara Bay, little more than 10 miles away. The enemy brought up reinforcements in the battle for Jaro, but by 1600 on the 29th, despite bitter resistance, the town was captured by the tank-led troops of the 24th. These troops are reported by General MacArthur to be advancing along the road in the direction of Carigara, some 10 miles northwest of Jaro.

Earlier in the week, the 24th Division, after breaking the backbone of enemy opposition west and south of Palo, which reached its climax on the 24th in a suicidal counterattack that penetrated into the center of Palo, swept westward across Leyte Valley. Castilla, less

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than 5 miles southwest of Palo, was captured on the 25th; two days later, after severe fighting, during which many enemy counterattacks were repulsed, Santa Fe and Pastrana were taken. Alangalang, nearly halfway to the northwest coast from Palo, was occupied on the 28th, and our troops moved on to take Cavite, Santa Cruz and Tingib, all near the western edge of the valley.

The 24th Division also cleared the area between Palo and the Binahaan River, about 4 miles to the south. Japanese defenses near San Joaquin were broken and the village was captured on the 24th. Tanauan, less than 3 miles to the south, was taken the same day. The next day on the north bank of the Binahaan River patrols of the 24th made contact with elements of the 96th Division, which had been operating south of the river. Contact was reestablished on the 27th near Tolosa, about 3 miles south of Tanauan, near the mouth of the Binahaan River. With the juncture of these elements of the 10th and 24th Corps, our forces on Leyte Island created a united front extending from Cagirara Bay, on the north coast, to the Dulag area, about one-third of the way down the east coast.

With the capture of the Burauen airfields last week, units of the 24th Corps spread out rapidly over the level plain between the Binahaan and Daguitan (Marabang) Rivers west and northwest of Dulag. Following the hard fight preceding the capture of Burauen, troops of the 7th Division turned north on the road to Dagami, 7 miles away. Considerable resistance was met north of the Dulag-Burauen road at Bayug and Malabka on the 25th by patrols attempting to clear the valley between the airfields and the coast. Both the 7th Division, from the south, and the 96th Division, from the east, converged on Dagami. Seventh Division troops, after hard fighting, captured Buri on the 26th; on the same day, the 96th Division took Tabontabon. Dagami was entered on the 28th by the 7th Division after one of the fiercest battles of the Leyte campaign. Behind tanks and flame-throwers, the 7th Division battled for 24 hours to break through a series of enemy bunkers a half mile south of the town. Bitter fighting took place inside the town, which was reported firmly in our hands by the end of the week. Dagami had been one of the main Japanese supply centers in Leyte Valley; in addition, it was on one of the few remaining escape routes left for the sizable groups of Japanese troops trapped to the east. The enemy fought desperately to save Dagami, at least until some of the trapped troops might be withdrawn into the mountains. At last reports the 7th Division troops which took Dagami had joined forces with elements of the 96th Division which had moved in along the Tanauan road and both forces were advancing north rapidly, possibly to clear the enemy from the bend of the

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Binahaan River above Dagami. Capture of Dagami virtually ended organized resistance in Leyte Valley and, for all practical purposes, gave us unrestricted control of that vital area.

Extending their control of southern Leyte Valley, troops of the 7th Division, after crossing the Daguitan River, on the 27th advanced southwest from Burauen to San Francisco. Esperanza, to the southeast, was occupied the same day. The next day our patrols entered San Andres and moved into the foothills to seize Pangdan and Santa Ana. Meanwhile, other patrols had pushed rapidly down the coast road south of Dulag and on the 27th took Abuyog. Light resistance was developing as our troops pushed inland from Abuyog along the highway that winds across the island to the west coast.

The southern part of Leyte Island was virtually under our control by the end of the week as the result of the combined efforts of Filipino guerrilla forces and the 21st Infantry Regiment, which landed at the southern tip of the island on the 20th. Japanese garrisons and outposts are reported to have been liquidated in this area, which is one of the wildest parts of Leyte Island.

On Samar Island, northeast of Leyte, American troops which crossed San Juanico Strait and landed at Binatac Point on the 24th swept up the west coast against sporadic resistance from the weak force of enemy troops which formed the garrison of the big island. By the 27th our troops, assisted by organized local guerrillas, had practically the entire island under our domination. Catbalogan, the capital, was entered by patrols of the First Cavalry Division on the 27th, after occupying Wright and sending out scouts along the road to the east in the direction of Loquilocon. Reinforcement of the Samar garrisons by the Japanese is possible across San Bernardino Strait, but the extremely rough terrain on the island and the difficulties of transportation and communication make it seem highly improbable that a major campaign will be conducted on Samar.

All operations on Leyte and Samar were badly hampered toward the end of the week by a severe typhoon which swept over the area, bringing heavy rains and 70 mile an hour winds.

On the 24th, Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger assumed command ashore on Leyte Island.

In the first ten days of operations on Leyte and Samar Islands, Japanese casualties are estimated at 24,000, according to a communique from General MacArthur's headquarters on the 31st. Our casualties were reported to be 706 dead, 270 missing and 3,221 wounded.

According to press reports quoting an Allied radio broadcast from Leyte Island, President Osmena on the 26th appointed Col. Ruperto Kangleon provincial governor of the liberated areas of Leyte and

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Samar Islands. Col. Kangleon had been leader of the Filipino guerilla forces that helped pave the way for the landing of American troops on Leyte.

Air Operations.—U. S. carrier aircraft continued their sweeps over the Philippines, attacking airfields and harassing shipping. At least 50 enemy planes were shot down in combat over the targets and another 40-50 were destroyed on the ground in the central Philippines. A large number of small inter-island craft were sunk or damaged during these attacks.

Our carrier planes again attacked the Manila area this week, destroying at least 77 enemy planes and inflicting damage on ground installations at Clark, Nichols and Nielson airfields. In Manila harbor hits were scored on three Japanese cruisers which possibly had sought haven there following the naval battles in the Philippines last week. One of them, a heavy cruiser, was heavily damaged off Cavite and may have sunk. Our pilots reported that the Japanese fighters which intercepted the strike were more aggressive and skillful than those previously encountered in the area.

Aircraft of the Fifth Army Air Force, under the Far Eastern Air Forces Command, began operating from bases on Leyte Island on the 27th and have relieved the naval carrier force which had been covering landing operations since the beginning of the invasion. In their first major strike, Lightnings and Thunderbolts of this force damaged a destroyer and a small cargo ship off Cebu.

Allied bombers and fighters from Southwest Pacific bases carried out additional attacks on Japanese shore installations and shipping in the southern and central Philippines. A strong force of nearly 50 Liberators bombed Japanese headquarters buildings at Cotabato, Mindanao, on the 23d. The following day Buayan airfield, in the Davao area, was attacked by approximately 20 Liberators. A total of nearly 150 tons was dropped in the two raids. Iligan airfield, on the north coast of Mindanao, was bombed on the 26th by about 25 Mitchells which had been sent out to attack enemy ships in Mindanao Sea. Iligan was bombed as a secondary target when the enemy ships could not be located. Bad weather interfered with operations against the Japanese fleet which passed north of Mindanao in its attempt to break through Surigao Strait. More than 50 Liberators attacked enemy naval units on the 25th, the day after the defeat of the enemy fleet at Surigao. Many near hits were scored; at least one cruiser was damaged. The following day another force of Liberators struck again at remnants of the enemy's naval force fleeing through the central Philippines. This attack was carried out in the northern Sulu Sea area through bad weather. Again a light cruiser was damaged and a direct hit was scored on a destroyer.

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Southwest Pacific bombers on the 30th heavily raided Bacolod airfield, on Negros Island. Large fires were started and 4 enemy planes were destroyed on the ground.

Long-range patrol bombers were over the Palawan area frequently during the week. On the 25th two Liberators sank a small cargo vessel, damaged another and damaged several floatplanes off northern Palawan. On the 28th our heavy bombers carried out their first large-scale attack on Puerto Princesa, chief city on Palawan Island. Nearly 30 Liberators made the attack and dropped approximately 35 tons, which destroyed 23 enemy planes and damaged 10-15 others. Runways were cratered and buildings were set on fire. There was no interception of any kind.

Japanese aircraft in large numbers continued through most of the week to press their attacks on our shipping in the Leyte Gulf area and off the coast of Samar. Raids were also made by the enemy on Tacloban, capital of Leyte province. Large numbers of the enemy aircraft were shot down by our air combat patrols and by ships' anti-aircraft guns. On the 24th, for example, a total of more than 80 enemy bombers and fighters attempted to raid our ships in Leyte Gulf. These attacked in three waves, beginning just before 0800 and continuing until well after dark. Escort carrier fighters shot down 49 of the Japanese bombers and 7 fighters. We lost only two planes and one pilot. Incomplete reports show that 23 Japanese planes were shot down over our ships on the 26th; 26 were downed during a raid by the enemy on Tacloban on the night of the 27th; and 17 or more were destroyed on the 28th when approximately 50 enemy aircraft attempted to raid our shipping. Toward the end of the week, enemy aerial activity decreased sharply because of the extremely bad weather which hampered all operations from the 28th through the 30th.

Western Pacific

Formosa.—The Japanese Domei agency, in a recapitulation of damages sustained in the U. S. air attacks on Formosa on October 12th, 13th and 14th, said that 1,949 private buildings had been destroyed and admitted that "some plants were hit, as were military installations, shipping and railways." Domei said that, as in the case of the U. S. air strikes at Okinawa in the Ryukyu chain, "the enemy aimed first for important shipping and harbor accommodations" and "second for the vital production plants." The Japanese news agency claimed that "fierce indiscriminate bombing" was also directed against civilians. It listed the civilian dead at 381 and the injured at 348.

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Carolina Islands.—Japanese positions on Peleliu and Babelthuap Islands, in the Palau group, and on Yap Island, only other important enemy base in the western Carolinas, were the only targets for U. S. air strikes this week. Marine Corsairs dropped incendiaries on Japanese positions at Peleliu in support of ground forces and at Babelthuap raided barges in the lagoon and bombed the radio station. Yap was hit daily, occasionally several times a day, by U. S. aircraft. The runway and dispersal areas were the main targets for small numbers of Marine Corsairs and Seventh AAF Liberators. At least 12 separate strikes were made on Yap during the week, during which 4 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. We lost one F4U, shot down by anti-aircraft fire on the 24th.

Marianas Islands.—Gun positions, villages, personnel areas and the airstrips at Rota and Pagan were hit in sporadic attacks by Army and Marine fighter-bombers. Pagan was also bombed once by 2 Seventh AAF Liberators.

Bonin and Volcano Islands.—There were three major attacks by Seventh AAF Liberators on enemy positions in the Bonins and Volcanoes this week. Iwo Jima airfield was hit on the 25th by nearly 60 tons of bombs from approximately 30 B-24's; Haha Jima was attacked on the 28th by 11 of the heavy bombers, which started a large fire among targets along the shore; and Chichi Jima was bombed on the 29th by nearly 20 Liberators, which dropped more than 25 tons at a possible light cruiser, 3 destroyer escorts, 3 subchasers and other small craft in the harbor. In addition, our patrol planes bombed all the major bases intermittently, as well as raiding small craft off shore. The only interception reported was during the raid on Iwo on the 25th, when 3 Japanese fighters attacked our planes without success.

Netherlands East Indies

On Morotai Island, a U. S. outpost north of Pitoe airfield was attacked on the 23d by a small force of Japanese, according to a delayed report. The attack was repulsed and 37 of the enemy were killed. Small numbers of Japanese planes continued to harass our positions with sporadic night attacks, which have caused little damage.

Allied aerial activity again was on a very light scale. There was widespread patrolling by our medium and heavy bombers, particularly along the east and north coasts of Borneo and over Makassar Strait. Numerous enemy coastal freighters and other small craft were attacked in this area and among the islands clustered about Ceram Island. Airfields and shipping in the Halmahera area were

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frequently bombed. Bad weather once more hampered our operations, especially in the Ceram area.

The heaviest attack of the week was made on Sandakan, on the northeast coast of Borneo, by a combined force of Mitchells and Liberators with fighter escort. Our bombers on the 24th hit port facilities, barracks and airfields in the area with nearly 25 tons of bombs, while the fighters attacked shipping, setting fire to a large number of sea trucks and luggers. On the same day other Allied planes attacked targets in southern Celebes. Approximately 25 Liberators bombed Ambesia airfield, near Kendari, while 6 others attacked Malili and Palopo, at the head of the Gulf of Bone. Warehouses were wrecked at all target areas and several small craft were damaged offshore. Malili and Palopo were raided again on the 27th by a smaller number of Liberators. Our PBY's on the 28th attacked a light cruiser and a medium transport near Sandakan and bombed the waterfront at Brunei Bay, on the South China Sea coast of northwest Borneo. The next day a B-24 on patrol scored two direct hits on a large tanker south of Balikpapan. Before dawn on the 29th fires were started in the town and along the waterfront at Makassar by 10 Liberators.

In the Ambon area, recently one of the major objectives for Allied air attacks, only scattered light raids were made, mainly by fighters and light bombers. On the 25th, however, nearly 30 Mitchells bombed Ambon and Piroe, on Ceram Island just north of Ambon, and on the 28th more than 40 Mitchells with a P-38 escort heavily attacked Ambon town and nearby areas. More than 65 tons of bombs were dropped in the two attacks.

The usual harassing raids by patrolling bombers were made on airfields and other installations on northeastern Timor Island. On Flores Island, Dutch and Australian Mitchells attacked Maoemere, dropping nearly 20 tons on storage dumps, gun emplacements and warehouses on the 23d and about 10 tons on supply dumps and small craft on the 27th.

Southwest Pacific

Bad weather over most of the area limited Allied aerial activity to relatively light harassing raids on the major Japanese airfields and supply centers in New Guinea, the Bismarcks and the Solomons. The heaviest and most sustained attacks were made on the Wewak area, which was hit daily by our bombers. Usually the attacks on Wewak were carried out by approximately 20-25 planes each day, involving almost equal numbers of Liberators, Mitchells, Beauforts and Bostons. Nearly 175 tons of bombs were dropped on supply dumps, runways and personnel areas during the week.

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In Dutch New Guinea, Allied planes this week flew only about 200 sorties against Japanese airfields along Geelvink Bay and MacCluer Gulf. The heaviest raids were on Babo and Utarom airfields, each hit by 20-25 tons. In bombing and strafing attacks on New Ireland and the Rabaul area, in the Bismarcks, Allied medium bombers, Corsairs and Dauntlesses flew more than 500 sorties. On at least two days fewer than 50 sorties were flown against these areas. In the Solomons, our planes continued to harass enemy supply areas and communication routes, despite bad weather which prevented any attacks on two days this week. Slightly more than 275 sorties were flown in this area.

Central Pacific

Hawaiian Islands.—It was announced in Washington on the 24th that President Roosevelt had proclaimed the end of martial law in the Hawaiian Islands. The White House announcement stated that continued improvement in the war situation in the Pacific ended the necessity for the special public safety provision ordered after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The commanding general of the U. S. Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Area, was named as the military commander of Hawaii, with powers to prescribe all or any part of the territory as a military area and control the movements of persons in or out of the area. Whenever military necessity exists, the commander is authorized to establish blackout and curfew periods and air raid precautions; regulate the conduct of enemy aliens; provide adequate protection of harbor facilities; and, when necessary to prevent espionage or sabotage, regulate the publication of newspapers and the use of radio equipment.

Marshall Islands.—Considerable increase in aerial activity was reported this week. All of the Japanese-occupied atolls were hit repeatedly by U. S. fighters and dive bombers, with Wotje and Jaluit the main targets. More than 250 sorties were flown against the four enemy-held atolls, on which our planes dropped approximately 135 tons of bombs. Bad weather prevailed on several days, causing several scheduled strikes to be canceled.

Nauru Island.—On the 27th the airfields and other installations at Nauru were bombed by 15 B-25's, which dropped nearly 15 tons. Anti-aircraft fire was meager and inaccurate.

Pacific—General

The Navy Department on the 31st announced that U. S. submarines operating in the Pacific and Far Eastern waters have sunk 18 more Japanese vessels. The ships sunk were a destroyer, a large transport, 3 medium and 2 small cargo transports, 5 medium and 4 small cargo vessels, a medium tanker and a small auxiliary.

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Navy

The following reports of Navy construction, excluding small landing craft and district craft, were received during the week:

Type of vessel	Keel layings	Launchings	Deliveries or Commissionings
COMBATANT:			
Destroyer			Zellers.
Destroyer escort			Thaddeus Parker.
High-speed transports			Crosley, Kingness.
Light minelayers			J. William Ditter, Tolman, Aaron Ward.
			Springer, Tigrone, Brill.
MINE CRAFT:			
Submarines			
Large minesweepers	Peregrine		Quest.
Motor minesweepers			4.
PATROL CRAFT:			
Frigate			Abilene.
Motor gun boat			1.
180' submarine chaser			1.
Motor torpedo boats	2	2	
AUXILIARY VESSELS:			
Hotel barge			1.
Ocean tugs, auxiliary	1	2	3.
Ocean tug, rescue			1.
LARGE LANDING CRAFT:			
Landing ships, medium	12	10	3.
Landing ships, tank	9	11	14.*
Landing craft, infantry (L)			6.
Landing craft, Support (L)	8	3	4.
(3)			
Landing craft, tank (6)	3	12	6.

*4 of these in reduced commission.

The Navy's ordnance requirements by the end of the first quarter of 1945 will be nearly \$350,000,000 a month, of which \$100,000,000 will be for rocket ammunition, Rear Admiral George F. Hussey, Jr., Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, disclosed this week. The Navy's present ammunition production program requires \$100,000,000 a month, he said.

Army

Losses to the Army through discharges, deaths and other causes from the beginning of the present war through August 31st totaled 1,357,000, the War Department announced. The latest figures (to the nearest thousand) show male losses reported from December 7, 1941 through August 31, 1944 to be as follows:

	Officers	Enlisted	Total
Total deaths (battle and nonbattle)	20,000	84,000	104,000
Honorable discharges	19,000	981,000	1,000,000
Prisoners of war and missing	20,000	66,000	86,000
Other separations	4,000	163,000	167,000
TOTALS	63,000	1,294,000	1,357,000

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The foregoing figures do not include discharges of enlisted men to accept commissions. "Other separations" include men who were placed in an inactive status, personnel given discharges other than honorable, retirements of Regular Army personnel and other miscellaneous separations.

War Production

J. A. Krug, chairman of the War Production Board, disclosed this week that the U. S. had produced 240,000 planes and 70,000 tanks thus far in the present war. Twenty-five thousand of the planes were four-engine bombers, he said. The output of B-29 Superfortresses is still behind schedule, but changes in production methods should improve the situation.

Lend-Lease

Lend-lease shipments of food for the first nine months of 1944 were lower than in 1943, Leo T. Crowley, Foreign Economic Administrator, disclosed this week. A slight increase was noted in the shipment of milk products.

Aviation Conference

The Soviet Government this week rejected a United States invitation to the International Aviation Conference which was to open in Chicago on the 1st because of the presence of Switzerland, Portugal and Spain. The Russian statement gave as the reason for the action the assertion that these countries for years have "maintained an inimical pro-Fascist policy toward the Soviet Union." Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Acting Secretary of State, commented that Russia's absence from the conference will be regretted, but that negotiations with Russia on civil aviation will be continued through bi-lateral talks. The Chicago conference is expected to discuss post-war agreements affecting the operation of international airways and airlines.

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina

The Argentine Government has applied to the governing board of the Pan American Union to call a meeting of Foreign Ministers of the American republics to consider the so-called "Argentine problem." The United States Government will not discourage such a meeting, Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Acting Secretary of State, told a press conference.

The three Japanese language dailies in Buenos Aires are still appearing in Japanese, filled with propaganda received by radio from Tokyo and as yet unaffected by the new Argentine decree restricting

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Axis propaganda. These dailies published the new decree on October 19th. Japanese leaders are reported to have called on the Argentine Interior Minister and Police Chief on October 18th and were assured that they could continue to publish their papers in Japanese "as long as they are moderate in tone and do not carry propaganda favoring totalitarianism and their Nazi allies"; and "that as long as they continue to show respect for Argentina, they have nothing to fear from Argentina and no measures would be taken against the Japanese community because Argentina is a traditional friend of Japan."

Gen. Arturo Rawson, one of the leaders of the June 1943 revolution and former Argentine Ambassador to Brazil, has been placed under arrest by military authorities, it was reported from Buenos Aires.

El Salvador

The accession to the Presidency by Col. Osmin Aguirre has met opposition among many circles in El Salvador. The opposition claims that under the Constitution Miguel Tomas Molina, the first Presidential delegate, should have become the provisional President. Molina has declared that he intends to assume the Presidency. It may be noted that the Aguirre government ordered the arrest of members of the Supreme Court when that body declared the new government to be unconstitutional.

Guatemala

During its first week of existence the revolutionary junta has dissolved the National Assembly, ordered general elections for all deputies on the 3d, 4th and 5th of November and appointed a new cabinet consisting of civilians with the exception of the Minister of War. The junta has also exiled deposed President Ponce and dispatched dissident members of the police force and Army to concentration camps. It is expected that a provisional chief executive will be appointed by the forthcoming National Assembly to act until elections can be held.

Cuba

Dr. Guillermo Belt, a close friend of President Ramon Grau San Martin, has been named Ambassador to the United States. Dr. Belt served as Secretary of Education in the short-lived administration that followed the ousting of Gen. Gerardo Machado y Morales and later was mayor of Havana.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

GERMANY'S MANPOWER LOSSES IN FIVE YEARS OF WAR

Total permanent losses in the German Army, Air Force and Navy for the period from September 1, 1939 to August 31, 1944 amount to 7,206,000, according to a recently prepared estimate. Battle losses totaled 6,098,000 and non-battle losses 1,108,000. A breakdown is given in the following table:¹

	Sept. 1, 1939 to June 21, 1941	June 22, 1941 to June 30, 1943	July 1, 1943 to August 31, 1944	Total
ARMY:				
PERMANENT BATTLE LOSSES:	(in thou- sands)	(in thou- sands)	(in thou- sands)	(in thou- sands)
Killed.....	59	1,737	992	2,788
Missing dead.....	21	625	357	1,003
Prisoners of war.....		330	740	1,070
Unfit for further service.....	18	574	328	920
Total.....	98	3,266	2,417	5,781
PERMANENT NON-BATTLE LOSSES:				
Deaths.....	37	72	41	150
Unfit for further service.....	173	333	199	705
Total.....	210	405	240	855
Total permanent losses.....	308	3,671	2,657	6,636
AIR FORCE:				
Permanent battle losses.....				266
Permanent non-battle losses.....				191
Total.....				457
NAVY:				
Permanent battle losses.....				51
Permanent non-battle losses.....				62
Total.....				113
TOTAL ARMED FORCES:				
Permanent battle losses.....				6,098
Permanent non-battle losses.....				1,108
Total.....				7,206

Distribution of Total Casualties by Ages

A study of casualties prior to April 1, 1944 in the German military forces led to the conclusion that nearly 92.3 percent were men aged 19 through 35. As expendables in these ages have been reduced, older and younger men have probably been increasingly exposed to wounds, death, or capture and to conditions which lead to non-battle casualties. It cannot, therefore, be assumed that the age groups 19 through 35 have borne 92.3 percent of the casualties for the whole war. But if

¹ This table was prepared by the Research and Analysis Branch of the Office of Strategic Services.

their losses have been no more than 85 percent of total casualties, the total for these ages would be 6,128,000 as of August 31, 1944.

Remaining Expendables Ages 19 Through 35

If Germany had incurred no war losses, her current supply of men aged 19 through 35 would be around 10,697,000. Of these 23 to 24 percent would by normal standards be unfit for military service. Thus the present balance would be as follows:

(A) Normal current supply of German males aged 19 through 35.....	10,697,000
(F) Unfit for military service.....	2,500,000
(C) Permanent casualties to August 31.....	6,128,000
(D) Total of B plus C.....	8,628,000
(E) Remainder of expendables: A minus D.....	2,051,000

Expendables in Relation to Requirements

The current set-up of the German military forces is thought to require the following strengths:

Personnel strength of German Army.....	5,500,000
Personnel strength of German Air Force.....	1,550,000
Personnel strength of German Navy.....	350,000
Total strength of Armed Forces.....	7,400,000

The remaining 2,051,000 fit men aged 19 through 35 are less than 28 percent of the above total of 7,400,000. This deficit is made up by the use of men under 19 and over 35, men in the 19-35 age group who had previously been rejected on physical grounds (or would normally have been discharged as unfit for further service), and foreigners.

At its maximum in June 1942 German army strength is thought to have been 6,800,000. The present figure for German army strength is an estimate made by a careful and generally accurate agency. If a higher estimate were used, the significant point would be even more strikingly illustrated, namely, that the number of available male Germans in the most suitable ages for active military employment is extremely small in proportion to the requirements.

If the entire 2,051,000 available fit men aged 19 through 35 were at the disposition of the army alone and were used as divisional troops—leaving none for army headquarters units, none for the navy and air force, none for police or security work and none for the industries which require young workers of good physique—they would furnish personnel for not more than 137 divisions of 15,000 men each, which was approximately the standard strength of a German division two years ago. In maintaining, as she now does, nearly twice that

number of combat divisions, Germany is obviously forced to practise a great deal of dilution.

The present strength of the average German division is believed to be not more than 10,000, though its theoretical strength is somewhat higher. In September 1944 there were thought to be 265 combat divisions. But the remaining expendables among fit men aged 19 through 35 would furnish personnel for only about 205 divisions of 10,000 men each. At least 23 percent of the personnel must come from other sources. Actually the entire 2,051,000 are not available to the German army alone; and the German army cannot use its entire allotment in forming divisions and leave none for other units. Hence the dilution of German divisions through the introduction of other and less fit personnel must be substantially greater than the 23 per cent implied by the figures given.

Comparison of Recent Army Strength With That of 1942

In view of the twofold process of dilution that has been affecting both the personnel strength and the quality of personnel employed in German divisions, comparisons between the present strength of the German army and its strength in the fall of 1942 will be entirely misleading if expressed in totals of the numbers of divisions comprised in the Army. The introduction of inferior personnel into German divisions has had an important but not readily measurable effect. But the reduction, by about one third, of the strength of the average German division is an innovation the effects of which can be readily stated. For this purpose, in the following table, the strength of the German army in September 1944 is expressed in two ways, viz: "nominal strength," which means the number of divisions believed to exist, and "actual strength," which means the number of divisions that would exist if division strength had been maintained at 15,000 instead of being reduced to 10,000.

	Total number of divisions in Army		
	Sept. 1942	Sept. 1944 (nominal)	Sept. 1944 (actual)
Good combat divisions.....	224	190	127
Inferior combat divisions.....	54	75	50
Totals.....	278	265	177

Two years ago the Eastern Front alone was thought to be engaging upwards of 4,000,000 troops and between 180 and 190 combat divisions, or more than the present total strength in 15,000-man divisions. Fifteen combat divisions were engaged in Finland and in North

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Africa. Thus a substantial remnant of 83 to 93 divisions were free to train, recuperate, and perform security and garrison duties in such inactive areas as Germany, Poland, the West, the Balkans, Denmark and Norway. That the maintenance of any such reserves is no longer possible is apparent from the fact that heterogeneous new units are now appearing in battle areas before either their training or forming have been completed.

Sidelights on Present Fitness Standards

The necessary lowering of physical standards for German army personnel has produced some curious results. Thus a deserter from a so-called "stomach battalion" reported that his unit consisted of four companies of 150 men each, all suffering from gastric disorders. He believed that in Denmark there were men with impaired hearing comprising an analogous "ear battalion." One German prisoner of war has been found to be the bearer of a document, dated January 1941, which certified that he was fit to continue in the service but noted that he was blind in one eye and had impaired vision in the other and was therefore medically exempted from saluting. Extreme cases only serve to make vivid a point well established by other evidences, i. e., that a striking alteration has occurred in prescribed standards of military fitness.

Comparison of Present Manpower Situation With That of 1918

Germany must be suffering a more acute shortage in military manpower than she experienced in 1918. German permanent casualties at the end of the first World War are believed to have been 3,236,910, or 5 percent of an initial population of 65,000,000. The present permanent German casualties would amount to 9 percent of an initial total population of 79,375,000.

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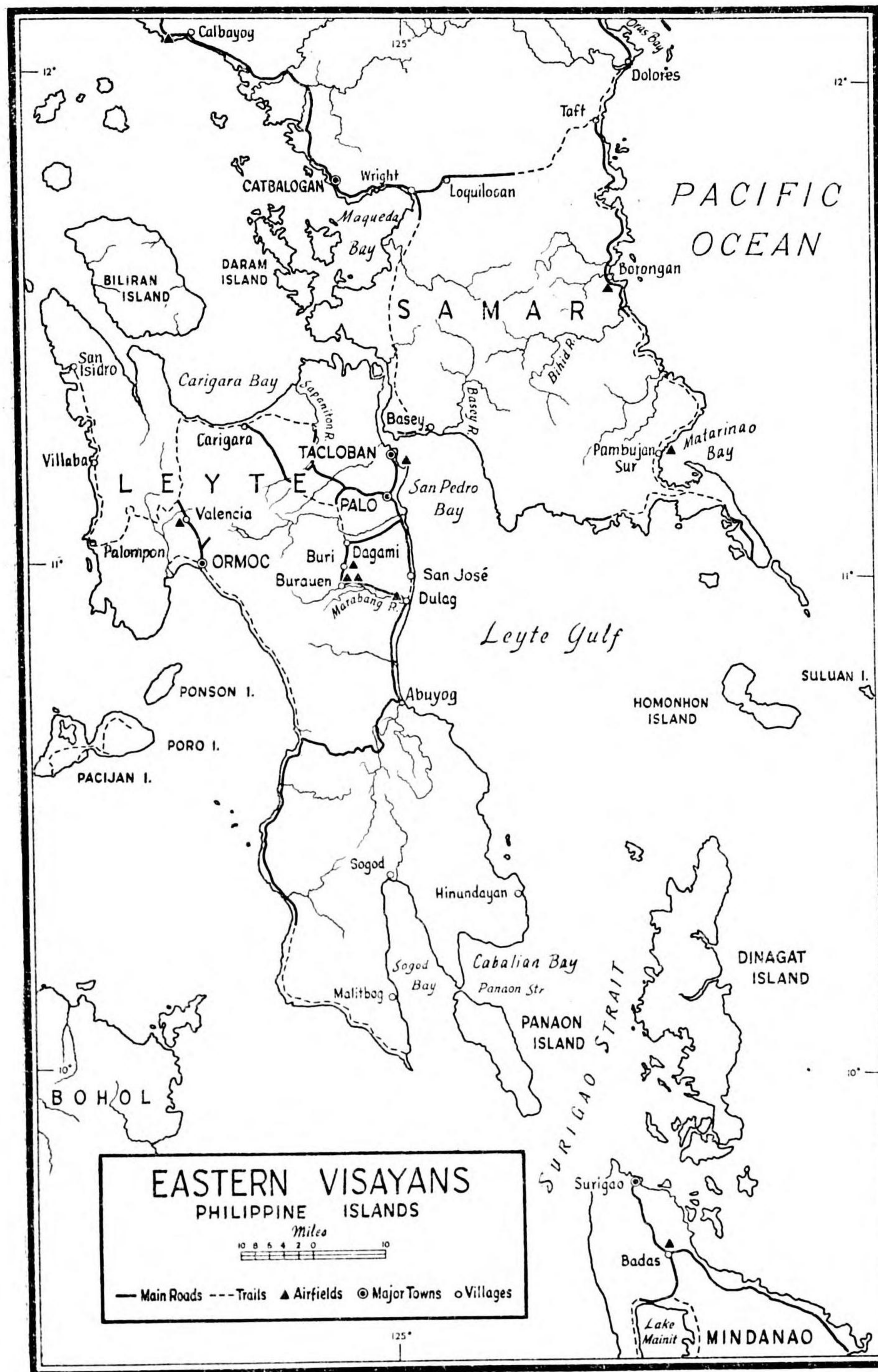
LEYTE AND SAMAR ISLANDS

Ten days after Sixth Army troops landed in the Philippines, Leyte and Samar, two of the largest islands in the group, had been brought under American control, and bases for future operations in the archipelago had been firmly established. In conquering Leyte Island (2,785 sq. mi.) and Samar (5,124 sq. mi.), respectively the eighth and third islands in size in the Philippines, our forces have liberated approximately one and a half million Filipinos and have gained possession of strategic territory in the heart of the archipelago, from which Manila and all other major enemy bases can be dominated.

Both Leyte and Samar are mountainous islands, with large areas covered by dense tropical forests. The only sizable plain is the 250-sq. mi. Leyte Valley at the northeast tip of Leyte Island. This valley naturally became, for the Japanese, the center of their defenses protecting the eastern approaches to the central Philippines. To defend and service the airfields which they constructed in Leyte Valley, the Japanese maintained on Leyte a garrison force possibly 25,000 strong. Lt. Gen. Shiro Makino's 16th Division and a large number of air force service and maintenance personnel are believed to have comprised the bulk of the enemy's Leyte garrison. Most of these troops were stationed in Leyte Valley, with small numbers at Ormoc, on the west coast, and in smaller key towns along the coast. Samar, on the other hand, was only lightly garrisoned by the enemy, since the big island, because of its rugged terrain, offered few military potentialities.

Leyte Island

From a military standpoint, Leyte is one of the most important islands in the Visayan group. On the eastern side of the comparatively narrow waist of the Philippine Islands, Leyte is directly approached from the Pacific Ocean through the deep Leyte Gulf. The broad valley in the north faces Leyte Gulf for about 35 miles and extends through to the northern coast of the island, giving good access to the inland waters of the archipelago. The beaches are generally sandy, though there are some stretches of mangrove swamps and marshlands, principally at the mouths of the many streams which drain the Leyte Valley. Sections of low hills intrude into the coastal plain at several points, in some instances reaching very close to the shore line.



Leyte Valley is the site of the island's principal military installations. The Japanese developed a large number of airfields on Leyte Island, most of them clustered in the southern part of Leyte Valley along the Marabang River inland from the coastal village of Dulag. Four airfields in this area were apparently fully developed and operational at the time of the U. S. landings. These were Dulag, San Pablo, Burauen (or Bayug) and Buri, named in order from the coast inland. Slightly north and west of Dulag there are reported to be two emergency air strips, at Mojon and Anibung, while south of the Marabang River, at Dao and San Andres, two more emergency landing strips are believed to exist. All of these fields are now in American hands.

The principal airfield on Leyte Island is at Cataisan Point, across Cancabato Bay, east of Tacloban, the capital and largest town. Tacloban Field was built as a Commercial National Airport by the Philippine Bureau of Aeronautics. Originally it consisted of only one strip but the addition of a cross strip greatly increased the value of the field. The north-south strip, 6,000 x 330 feet, is sand surfaced; the northeast-southwest strip, 2,600 x 330 feet, is grass turf on sandy loam. Both strips are considered all-weather.

About four miles northwest of Ormoc, on the west coast, U. S. Air Force personnel late in 1941 built an airfield with a 4,950-foot runway. The field, however, has not been reported used by the Japanese, since the area is subject to flooding in the monsoon seasons, making the earth soft and spongy. Inland, about 7 miles north of Ormoc, the Japanese have built an airfield at Valencia, which is believed to be operational. There are no known airfields in the southern part of Leyte Island, but it is reported that landing areas have been developed near the town of Hinunamgan, on the southeast coast, and at Malitbog, on the west coast of Sogod Bay.

Potential military development of Leyte is limited mainly by the elements. Though somewhat broken by Samar Island, the northeast monsoons (October-January) lash the east coast of Leyte, considerably hampering ground operations; the south and west coasts of the island are almost as hard hit during the southwest monsoons (June-September). However, the large central mountain range restricts the force of each of the monsoons to their respective sides of the island. During the monsoons torrential rains and high winds destroy crops, wash out bridges and hold up shipping, frequently for weeks at a time. In most other respects the island offers good facilities as a major operating base. Level Leyte Valley is maneuverable for tracked vehicles and foot troops off the road the year round. A better-than-average road system traverses the valley and excellent materials for further con-

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struction are available in quantity. The principal hindrance to transport is the extensive network of small streams which drain the valley.

The possibilities for extensive airfield construction in Leyte Valley are excellent, although the usefulness of fields in this area is limited during the winter monsoon.

Leyte Valley, extending northwest across Leyte to Samar Sea, gives good access to the inland waters of the archipelago. Light naval units operating in the inner waters could be based at Carigara, on the north coast of Leyte, receiving their supplies overland through this valley from east coast ports.

Although much of Leyte is mountainous, there is a fairly large population, estimated in July 1941 to be about 972,000, much of it concentrated in the more level and fertile northern half. Tacloban, the capital and main port, has a population of approximately 20,000. The city has many modern buildings and paved streets, and can be developed into a fairly useful port of entry for supplies. The port area is natural but must be kept dredged alongside the wharf to permit larger vessels to dock. The harbor will accommodate 12-15 vessels of 12-20 foot draft. A large marginal wharf will accommodate three 300-foot vessels at a time, while small craft and lighters can find additional docking space in shallow water along the southwest end of the wharf and the quayside south of the wharf. Cancabato Bay, east of the town, is very shallow and is used extensively for fish trapping. An unlimited number of the largest vessels can anchor in San Pedro Bay south of Diyo Island but the monsoon seasons make anchorage in San Pedro Bay and Leyte Gulf extremely dangerous. Improvement of Tacloban port and Cancabato Bay, however, would provide all-year shipping facilities for fairly large vessels.

There are no other major port facilities on Leyte Island, but numerous indentations along the west coast afford anchorage except in the southwest monsoon season. Ormoc, at the head of Ormoc Bay, and Palompon, farther up the coast, are the only two ports of any significance on the west coast. Ormoc Bay has unlimited anchorage for a large number of vessels but is open to the southwest monsoons. Palompon harbor, on the other hand, is sheltered from all winds but anchorage and wharf accommodations are limited to a relatively small number of vessels.

There are no important ports on the north and south coasts. The waters of Sogod and Cabalian Bays, in the latter area, are among the deepest found anywhere around Leyte Island. In Sogod Bay, which is sheltered from monsoon winds, depths in excess of 600 fathoms are found but anchorage is not feasible except for small vessels, since the 10-fathom line is only a few yards from shore.

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Leyte's principal resources are its fertile soil and fine timber. Most of the inhabitants are farmers, who raise rice, corn and garden produce. Some sugar cane is raised in the Ormoc valley. Doubtless under the Japanese the production of foodstuffs has been increased considerably, in line with the enemy's practice of making garrisons dependent on the land.

Leyte is not rich in minerals. Small deposits of poor grade coal, sulphur and manganese have been found, and a relatively large deposit of rock asphalt has been mined near Villaba, on the west coast. On Biliran Island, off the northwest coast, rather large beds of sulphur are known to exist.

Roads on northern Leyte are better than the average found on tropical islands of the Pacific. These roads are nearly all surfaced and can be used in all weather. This network was designed primarily to transport the produce of the agricultural inland regions to the port of Tacloban. There is also an inferior road around the southern coast. The mountainous interior has only rough trails, except for the graded road which winds across the island at its narrowest point, just west of Abuyog.

Samar Island

On Samar Island, separated from Leyte by San Juanico Strait, there are no high mountains or ranges but the terrain is almost uniformly rugged. Samar has been the least developed of the Visayas; its agricultural resources are limited and its mining concessions, except one, have not been wholly successful. Unlike most of the other islands, Samar has no broad valleys or extensive level plains. Movement overland is limited to the roads, and in places these are so bad that natives find it easier to use water routes. Such small river valleys as do exist are winding, and heavily overgrown with forest. Only one river, the Catubig, can be considered navigable for any distance for any but small launches and native craft.

Large sections of the coastline, particularly along the east and south coasts, are encumbered with reefs and shoals.

By far the greatest number of the population, estimated to be nearly 550,000 people, live within five miles of the coasts. Such people as do live in the interior are inclined to be unfriendly and live a tribal life, producing only enough *abaca* or other crops to trade with the coastal natives for salt, their most desired possession.

The island's principal military significance probably lies in the fact that its northern coast dominates San Bernardino Strait, across which lies the southeastern tip of Luzon Island, barely 12 miles away. Control of this strait would virtually seal one of the main exits from inland

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waters of the Philippines into the Pacific. Poor communications and hazardous weather, however, pose certain limitations to rapid exploitation of this factor. Control of Samar by the U. S. also serves to protect the northeast flank of our base on Leyte Island.

The Japanese apparently maintained only a token garrison on Samar. This was believed to have been concentrated chiefly at Catbalogan, the capital, and a few other towns on the island. Samar, like Leyte, is reported to have been one of the principal centers of Filipino guerrilla activity since the Japanese overran the Philippines early in 1942. This fact may in part be attributed to the wild, rugged terrain of the island, ideal for guerilla tactics. It may also be explained partly by indifference of the Japanese, who confined their activities largely to bleeding the island of its rice and apparently made little effort to develop military installations on Samar.

No Japanese air activity was reported on Samar, although at one time laborers were reported working on the airfield at Calbayog, about 30 miles northwest of Catbalogan. This field, the only one on the west coast, was being built as a Commercial National Airport when the war started in 1941. Two crossing runways, each 2,620 x 165 feet, were planned. There were two other pre-war Commercial National Airports and one private airfield on Samar. One of the Commercial Airports was at Borongan, on the east coast; the other was located near the town of Catarman, on the north coast. The private airfield, on a small island in Matarinao Bay, in the extreme southeastern part of Samar, was built by the Elizalde Mining Co. None of these fields has the necessary military qualifications for an operational airfield. Since Samar is located at the center of the Samar typhoon track, airfields on the island are limited more or less to seasonal usage. From October through January, aircraft would be grounded much of the time.

There are no primary ports on Samar Island. Although several of the coastal towns are shipping points for copra, rice and *abaca*, few of them have anchorages protected from the monsoons or wharves or piers for unloading. Laoang, Catbalogan and Borongan are the most important ports. Only four towns on Samar had more than 5,000 inhabitants in the 1939 census; these were Catbalogan (8,159), the capital, Wright (7,244), Catarman (7,019) and Oras (5,557). Most of the larger towns, including the capital, are on the more sheltered west coast and along the shore of San Bernardino Strait on the north coast. San Bernardino Strait, separating Samar from southeast Luzon, before the war was the most frequented route for large vessels on the run between North American ports and Manila.

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Although the road net on Samar is rather extensive it was poorly maintained and would not hold up long under heavy traffic or heavy rain. The east-west road across the center of the island, from Taft on the east coast to Wright on the west coast, was only just completed when the islands were occupied by the Japanese. It was reported as being used by the Japanese, but no indication was given of its condition. Most of the roads were of dirt, with a veneer of metal surfacing, in some cases.

With the exception of a few lumber mills and mines there is no industry of any importance on Samar. About one-quarter of the population is engaged in agriculture but little more than enough foodstuffs for the local inhabitants is produced. Fishing is second to agriculture in the island's economy. Maqueda Bay, on the west coast, is one of the most famous fishing grounds in the Philippines.

Iron is the only mineral on Samar which has warranted commercial development. The principal mine is near Pambuhan Sur, on the south-east coast. This mine before the war was the second largest producer of iron ore in the Philippines; a considerable part of the ore was shipped regularly to Japan. In addition to iron, there are small deposits of coal, manganese, chromite and sulphur.

JAPANESE "VICTORY" OFF FORMOSA

For six days, between October 12th and 18th, the Japanese propaganda machine made an attempt to rekindle the fading memories of Tsushima and of ascendant Japanese sea power with a synthetically fabricated "victory" over the United States Pacific Fleet in waters off Formosa. With a campaign of mendacity unprecedented since Napoleon proclaimed the destruction of Nelson's fleet at Trafalgar, Japanese authorities claimed that in the course of an action lasting six days, the Imperial Navy destroyed "60 per cent of America's effective naval strength," sinking "over 500,000 tons and sending an estimated 26,000 American seamen to their deaths." (No U. S. ship was sunk in this engagement; two "medium-sized ships" were hit by aerial torpedoes and some of our other units received superficial damage.) It was claimed that Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet was so badly mauled that it had "ceased to be an organized striking force," and that Vice Admiral Mitscher's "notorious" Task Force 58 "was completely wiped out." The Japanese Cabinet met in special session to formulate a report to the Emperor "advising him on the glorious victory" and the Emperor himself received the Cabinet delegation with an Imperial Rescript of Commendation, assuring the doubters that "the Army and naval forces acting in close cooperation have intercepted the enemy fleet and after valiant fighting have greatly damaged it."

Japanese newspapers sallied forth, even if their fleet did not, with banner headlines proclaiming the victory. "Triumphal Song Rings: Enemy Task Force Dealt Decisive Blow," read the headline in the *Yomiuri Hochi*. "Look at This Great War Result," the *Asahi* wrote above its banner headline: "Desperately Fleeing Enemy Warships Completely Destroyed," and, as if trying to crush all doubts, added: "Enemy Task Force Has Been *Truly* Destroyed." Although the comprehensive communique issued by Imperial Headquarters at 0827 on October 18th, claimed the sinking of 17 American warships and the destruction of 112 planes, commentators seized upon the communique's vague reference to the 54 ships and "over a thousand planes" *involved*, and inflated the "victory" to include the *sinking* of more than 50 ships and the destruction of over 1,000 planes.

The falsification of the official Japanese communique by commentators who included the Imperial Navy's two chief official spokesmen, Captain Kurihara and Captain Matsushima, may explain at least one

of the reasons for the hoax. The official Japanese communique, the one claiming the sinking of 17 U. S. ships and the destruction of 112 planes, admitted that Japan on her part had lost "less than 40 ships" (of unspecified types) and 312 planes, i.e., 23 more ships and 200 more planes than allegedly lost by us. It is, therefore, possible that the elaborate faking of battle results served the purpose of covering up the apparently greater numerical loss suffered by the Japanese themselves.

There may, however, be other explanations. The arrival of the Third Fleet off the Ryukyu Islands, Formosa and the Pescadores represented the materialization of a threat the Japanese had many times confessed to dread, namely the penetration of our Pacific Fleet into what the enemy himself described as his "Essential Sea Area." The possibility had loomed large in every Japanese mind ever since our conquest of Saipan and Tinian and caused great apprehension throughout the Empire.

Japanese military and naval leaders had repeatedly assured the people that Japanese land-based aircraft would, even without the participation of the Combined Fleet, repel such an attack. Now that the test had come, the people had to be persuaded that the pledge had indeed been redeemed and that Japanese land-based aircraft had in fact repelled the attack, and crushingly defeated the "arrogant intruder." This may explain the Emperor's wording of the Rescript, which placed the emphasis on the Army's participation in the battle by mentioning it before the Navy. This reassurance was overdue, if only in view of the prolonged and uninterrupted series of Japanese setbacks.

At first, Japanese propaganda sought to minimize the damage in the Ryukyu-Formosa area with the double-talk characteristic of their whole propaganda language. Stating that American flyers were "too scared" to make a low-altitude attack against Formosa when chased by Japanese fighters, and that they dropped their bombs into the sea without hitting anything but water, they went on to add that the civilian population was strafed and bombed by "the low-flying barbarians." But on October 20th, in a broadcast on a home-beam, it was admitted that in two days no less than 1,925 houses were destroyed on Formosa alone, "including numerous military installations." Here then was the shape of things to come, the pattern of destruction in store for all Japan. The people had to be warned and yet reassured and the hoax of the alleged victory over the force which caused such destruction thus filled still another need.

There may be other non-military reasons for this gigantic maneuver of self-deception. Allied observers watching events within Japan as

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reported by the Japanese press and radio detected signs of panic sweeping all home islands from southern Kyushu to northern Hokkaido when the approach of our Third Fleet to Japan proper became widely known. In one rather vaguely worded broadcast for home consumption a Japanese commentator mentioned the loss in all Japanese factories of three working days between October 9th and 12th. This might have been caused by a protracted air raid alert, throughout Japan, possibly accompanied by some confusion in coastal areas most congested and exposed to the attack that was thought to be imminent. It may be that the Japanese Government was disturbed by this public reaction to danger and sought to cushion the shock by presenting the populace with a mythical victory. The issuance of generous quantities of sake and the partial relaxation of restrictions on public entertainment may have served this same purpose.

Strictly military considerations may also have motivated the hoax. What these considerations actually were is very difficult to gauge, as is the working of the Japanese military mind when attempting to comprehend a succession of unmitigated defeats. In referring to another matter, Admiral Ernest J. King said in a press conference: "One of the rules of General Jackson was 'mislead, mystify and confuse the enemy'—and if that is their strategy, that is what they may have been following." It is conceivable that the Japanese hoped to throw us into confusion by broadcasting their alleged victories over the Third Fleet to those others of our forces thought to be in the area. This effort resulted in a highly embarrassing situation when our forces immediately proceeded with landings at Leyte. After these landings became an accomplished fact, the Japanese commentators continued to cling to their original claim, declaring that "it is quite clear what Admiral Halsey's tragedy will mean to the MacArthur forces stranded on Leyte beachhead which is no larger than a cat's forehead. When MacArthur arose on the morning of October 25th, he found himself cut off from the sea lanes to his rear and completely isolated by our superior strategy." Even while MacArthur's troops were going ashore, Japanese commentators insisted that the invasion of the Philippines had now become impossible.

Despite the seemingly controlled character of the victory announcements, certain contradictions in claims and statements betrayed both confusion and uneasiness in Japan. The uneasiness was primarily reflected in the Emperor's own Rescript, especially when he thought it necessary to conclude it with words of warning: "The war situation is by day and month becoming more pressing," and manifesting his "solicitude by rushing to the Yasukuni Shrine to

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offer his prayer for victory." Similar warnings on lower echelons were issued by Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura, Japan's last Ambassador to the United States, by Shotaro Kashiwahara, president of the Greater Nippon Industrial Patriotic Association, and even by Sadao Iguchi of the Board of Information who on October 16th added the ominous warning that "we may expect the enemy to repeat his attempts." The confusion was apparent in the contradictory interpretations of the possible effect the Japanese "victory" might have on our future strategy. A Japanese home broadcast declared that "the enemy fleet, despite the fact that it had been annihilated in the waters off Taiwan (Formosa), has continued the execution of its plans . . . without making the slightest change in its strategy," while another broadcaster stated on the same day that "the overall American strategy in the Pacific has gone astray."

It may be interesting to review the technique used by the Japanese propagandists in perpetrating their hoax. On October 15th the Japanese radio began to interrupt its programs asking the listeners to stand by for an Imperial Headquarters announcement which would bring them good news. Finally at 1500 the announcement was made that on October 12th and 13th a total of 23 American warships had been sunk or damaged off Formosa and the Philippines. Of these, nine were said to be aircraft carriers. The listeners were promised that the "war results would soon be further expanded," and by 2100, the box score was stated to be 53 vessels sunk or damaged, of which 16 were said to be aircraft carriers. By October 19th the score was raised to 57 ships, of which 19 were said to be aircraft carriers. The emphasis on carriers indicated among other things the prevalent Japanese fear of air attacks by carrier-borne planes and the desire on the part of the Japanese authorities to alleviate this fear. A Special Report of the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service describes public reaction to these announcements as follows:

"All day Sunday (October 21st) crowds thronged around the newspaper stalls or stood in line waiting to purchase the latest editions. Radio revealed news flash after news flash, feeding the public hunger for good news. People were told that it was an 'overwhelming victory, as great as the blow dealt the Czarist Russian fleet in the battle of the Japan Sea 40 years ago.' Naval Spokesman Kurihara told the press that it was a victory which 'far surpasses Pearl Harbor' or the action off the coast of Malaya." It may be noted that no comparison with Midway was attempted, even though that battle, too, had been described as a decisive Japanese victory in which "the remnants" of our Pacific Fleet were definitely "annihilated."

The next step was to substantiate the Japanese claims by summon-

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ing both Axis character witnesses and statements allegedly originating in the United States. It was in this field that Japanese ingenuity outdid itself and the hoax reached its most ludicrous proportions. The fact that American newspapers printed the Japanese claims was cited as a proof for their accuracy. It was stated that according to the London radio, Admiral Nimitz's address to the New York Herald-Tribune Forum, in which he denied the Japanese claims, was cut off by the Blue Network and the British Broadcasting Corporation, who refused to act as media for "Nimitz' lies." A congratulatory signal sent by Grand Admiral Doenitz, remarkable in fact for the vagueness of its wording and the lukewarmness of its enthusiasm, was quoted as a further proof of the accuracy of Japanese claims. A slump on the New York stock exchange and the temporary silence of American authorities was fully exploited and characterized as a sign of deep embarrassment.

The accuracy of Imperial Headquarters communiques was said to be assured by the "careful examination of staff members and their usual and characteristic effort to insure the utmost accuracy." Scientists were called in to describe the area where the battle occurred, including a geologist who stated that the depth of the sea and the lack of seaweed off Formosa made the drowning of the 26,000 American seamen particularly unpleasant. One or two "eyewitness" accounts were played heavily on both the home and overseas beams, one of them describing how our aircraft carriers were blown out of the water and disintegrated in midair before going down. Another "eyewitness" described the flight of the Third Fleet "which made the rescue of American seamen struggling in the bottomless sea impossible." But all through these claims, not one single American ship allegedly sunk or damaged was identified, and no mention of prisoners captured was made. The entire process of attempted substantiation was remarkable for its vagueness, and was obviously entrusted to the eloquence of individual radio commentators and journalists.

The hoax has, however, another aspect worthy of notice. It is by no means impossible that the Japanese naval high command was misled by the extravagant claims of its own pilots returning from their strikes against the Third Fleet. Captured documents reveal a consistency of exaggerations not so much by the Japanese propaganda machine as by local commanders on the spot. For example, reports sent by Lieutenant General Saito from Saipan claimed the virtual annihilation of our fleet even while the allegedly annihilated fleet's guns were destroying his shore defenses. At the same time the Japanese Naval General Staff in Tokyo was assuring Saito that the American fleet had been disastrously defeated in the concurrent battle

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between the Marianas and Philippines, listing four American battleships and eight carriers as sunk.

It is probable that this type of deception by Japanese field and fleet commanders of all ranks accounted for the abortive enemy sortie of October 16th, when some units of the Japanese fleet were sighted approaching the waters in which one of our task groups was operating. On discovering that our strength was unimpaired, the enemy ships withdrew toward their own bases. Admiral Soemu Toyoda, commander in chief of the Combined Fleet, had apparently believed that the expectations so persistently harbored by the Japanese naval command—that land-based air attacks would whittle down the strength of our fleet and thus present the Japanese with an opportunity for an all-out surface action in which they might enjoy superiority—had at last come to pass.

Whatever the motivation for the hoax, the great battle which followed in its wake enabled us to effect the victory which the Japanese had claimed.

THE DEFEAT OF GERMANY: 1918

Twenty-six years ago this week the Imperial German Government and the High Command were desperately searching for an exit from a hopeless impasse. They faced a situation which in its purely physical, or military, factors was strikingly like that which today confronts the Hitler regime.¹ The Army had fought well for four long years but it had suffered appalling casualties and the bottom of the manpower barrel had long before been scraped. Only the very old, the very young and the infirm remained at the disposal of the High Command. Allied superiority in all weapons of war, especially in armor, was enormous; German industry was quite incapable of making good the deficit. There was a severe shortage of oil; the Air Force was faced with the prospect of grounding its planes because of lack of gasoline and the High Command feared intensified air bombardment of German cities. One by one Germany's allies had deserted her until now she was standing alone and encircled. At home the population was hungry, exhausted and dispirited. All these factors, which are present again today, led the Germans of 1918 to ask for an armistice.

Today certain other factors, unlike those which obtained in 1918, have so far prevented Germany's collapse. Above all, the Nazi party now has a grip on the country which the Imperial Government and the Army of 1918 did not even dream of. (See article on "The Core of German Resistance," O. N. I. WEEKLY, September 6, 1944, pp. 2821-28.) The Nazis learned the lesson of Germany's earlier defeat, and the Gestapo and the other agencies of the party know how to deal with weakness, dissidence and war-weariness. In 1918 a legal opposition, even if feeble and inexperienced, existed both to exercise pressure on the ruling class and to take over the reins of government when it collapsed. No alternative to the present regime, so thorough and ruthless have the Nazis been, exists in Germany today. Moreover Germany's leaders in 1918 had some sense of humanity, which their successors lack. It was clear, in the discussions which took place in October 1918, that the dominant consideration of the Chancellor was to end the war as soon as it was clearly lost. He could not, he said, take the responsibility for further bloodshed once the situation was hopeless. No such considerations disturb the determination of the Hitler regime to fight to the end. The Nazi leaders know that the end of the war means their own

¹ A map in the photographic section of this issue compares the German military position of October 1, 1918 with that of October 31, 1944.

end, whereas in 1918 the class which made the war was not obliged to contemplate its own destruction if the war were ended.

Some of the more suggestive similarities and contrasts in the position of Germany in the autumns of 1918 and 1944 are brought out in the following account of the military and political developments which removed Germany from the last war.

Even though conditions in the autumn of 1918 made Germany's rulers more disposed to seek peace than are the Nazis today, the Imperial Government could hardly bring itself to accept the victors' demands. While Germany's rulers procrastinated, trying to escape the inevitable, the Reich's position *vis à vis* her enemies steadily deteriorated and capitulation became more certain.

The Germans had in fact lost their final chance for victory in the spring of 1918. For four months after the launching of their offensive in March the Reich dominated the military situation and held the initiative in the West. Ludendorff won great victories, but without achieving a decision. He used up Germany's remaining strength in the process and made eventual defeat certain. The Army had promised "victory and peace in the course of the year," and the German public, still completely confident in the judgment of its military leaders, accepted this promise at its face value. Neither High Command nor Government had any conception of the "psychological catastrophe" (as the Chancellor was later to describe it) which occurred when the public finally realized that the promise would not be fulfilled.

Ludendorff, however, did not despair. On the contrary, he secured the dismissal of the Secretary of State, Kühlmann, when that official cautiously admitted a military decision in favor of Germany was now impossible. Even after the beginning of the Allied counter-offensive in July, Ludendorff was busy planning new drives of his own and declared he was still certain of a decisive victory. By the beginning of August he was no longer sure of Germany's capacity to inflict a decisive defeat on her enemies, but he told von Hintze, the Foreign Secretary, that it was still possible to wear down the Entente's fighting spirit—"a strategic defensive with occasional offensive advances" was his description of his current program.

Then, on August 8th, the British launched a great attack east of Amiens. Ludendorff described this as the "black day of the German Army" because here, for the first time, whole divisions failed and in many cases allowed themselves to be captured without resistance.

As a result of Ludendorff's sudden despair, a Crown Council was immediately called and met at Supreme HQ on the 14th to canvass the situation. The Chancellor (Herting) described the internal

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situation. The public, he pointed out, was tired of war. Food supplies were insufficient, clothing conditions even worse. Moreover, there was a demand for broadening the base of the suffrage. The Foreign Secretary then reviewed the external situation. The neutrals, von Hintze pointed out, all hoped for, and expected, an Allied victory. As regards Germany's allies, Austria had declared that she was at the end of her rope; it was doubtful whether she could survive the winter. Bulgaria was capable of little; her army was exhausted. Turkey was crossing Germany's designs—"we have the choice of either letting our allies go their own way or of complying with their arrogant demands." Next the Chief of Staff pointed out that, militarily, the situation was such that Germany could no longer hope to break her enemy by offensive action. The only course possible was to conduct such a stubborn defense that the enemy would weary of the war. After canvassing the whole subject, the decision, as the Emperor expressed it, was to "prepare to seek the opportune moment for coming to an understanding with the enemy." But it was decided that these diplomatic feelers must be postponed until after the next successes in the west. Von Hintze later said that the restriction imposed on him of awaiting a victory before beginning negotiations was a material limitation on the plans to seek a settlement.

This was in fact a remarkable understatement; the delay was fatal. But not only did no one at this time consider the possibility of complete defeat, so little was the real situation understood, that on the 25th the Vice Chancellor (von Payer) went to Supreme HQ to try to induce Ludendorff to consent to what von Payer called a "peace of understanding." This meant, in his opinion, agreeing to give up Belgium. The whole conversation lacked reality. It was not then a question of whether to give up Belgium, but whether Alsace-Lorraine itself could be retained. (Similarly, officers on the General Staff discussed whether England might make a compromise peace if Germany were to offer to cede her the High Seas Fleet—as if, at this date, Germany could buy peace for so little.)

Ludendorff now decided on a slow fighting retreat, as against the Crown Prince's recommendation for a swift withdrawal to the security of the Hindenburg line. Ludendorff was anxious to destroy railroads and other communications, to prepare the new lines thoroughly and to evacuate supplies accumulated in the forward zones. But events did not take cognizance of his wishes. During the remainder of August and in September the Germans were given no rest. The British struck a series of blows in the north which dislodged the enemy from positions he had expected to hold for much longer. The St. Mihiel salient was reduced by the Americans and the Germans were being hustled back

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to the Hindenburg line. Towards the end of September a vast and concerted attack began. In the south the Americans struck in the Argonne on the 26th. On the 27th the British attacked at Cambrai; on the 28th still a third drive was launched in Flanders by the Belgians and, finally, on the 29th, the British and French drove a wedge through the Hindenburg line in the St. Quentin area.

Meanwhile Germany's allies were collapsing behind her back. On September 14th the Emperor Karl issued a peace manifesto, only to be ignored by the Allies. The Allied attack on Bulgaria was launched on the 15th, and so exhausted and dispirited was the Bulgarian Army that no opposition was offered. King Ferdinand abdicated and a surrender was negotiated on the 30th. It was not believed at Supreme HQ that Rumania could be held for more than a few weeks after the defection of Bulgaria. Thus the loss of Bulgaria would in effect cut off Germany's supply of oil. Supplies on hand for the air force, for motor transport, and for civilian uses were sufficient for only two months. In Palestine, Allenby opened his offensive on the 19th and two days later the two Turkish armies west of the Jordan had been destroyed.

By the 27th, Ludendorff had become obsessed by the fear of collapse in the west and demanded that a peace offer coupled with a request for an armistice be made at once. He not only failed to appreciate his Army's powers of resistance in the west, which were still great, but he grossly underestimated the diplomatic situation. He believed that the armistice would permit a slow methodical withdrawal from France and Belgium, that the Army would obtain badly needed time for rest and recuperation during a prolonged haggling over the meaning of Wilson's Fourteen Points and that he would be then in a position to renew hostilities if the proposed conditions of peace proved unacceptable. He did not realize that the Allies had no intention of granting an armistice except on conditions which would make further German resistance impossible nor did he recognize that, as soon as it became known in the Reich that an armistice had been requested, fighting morale would vanish and the country itself would be satisfied with nothing less than peace. The situation was in fact such that the path to peace, once entered, had to be followed to the bitter end.

As a preliminary to peace overtures it was decided to liberalize the regime. Since Wilson had announced that the United States was fighting to make the world safe for democracy, Ludendorff decided to create a favorable atmosphere by presenting the President with a new and democratic Germany. Thus occurred the so-called "revolution from above." It was not a demand of the liberal parties in the Reichstag nor an outbreak on the part of the masses which created

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the constitutional monarchy, it was the old guard itself. As Arthur Rosenberg remarks in *The Birth of the German Republic*, "It has never happened that a dictator took such infinite pains to secure power to his antagonists as did Ludendorff."

Having reconciled themselves to the parliamentarization of Germany and secured the Emperor's consent, Ludendorff and Hindenburg proceeded to demand that this great constitutional change be effected at once. A telegram from Werner Gruenau, a Foreign Office representative at Supreme Headquarters, to Berlin on October 1st reflects the panic which had seized Supreme Headquarters. "General Ludendorff has just asked me to transmit his urgent request to issue the peace proposal at once, and not to hold it back until the formation of the new government, which might be delayed. The troops still held their ground today, . . . but the line might be broken at any moment and then our proposal would come at the most unfavorable time. Ludendorff said he felt like a gambler, and that a division might fail him anywhere at any time. I get the impression that they have all lost their nerve here and that, if things come to the worst, we can justify our action to the outside world by Bulgaria's behavior." This was followed up on the 2d by an address to party leaders of the Reichstag by a representative of Ludendorff, who told the shocked and unprepared politicians that "no time must be lost. Even twenty-four hours can impair the situation and give our opponents the opportunity of clearly realizing our present weakness."

On the next day the new government was formed. Prince Max of Baden became Chancellor. The members of the government were drawn from the Center, the Progressive Party and the Majority Socialists. Neither the extreme Right nor the extreme Left gave their support. The new Chancellor, who felt that the military situation could not be as serious as Ludendorff claimed, pleaded for a fortnight's grace in which to prepare the ground for the peace offer. He pointed out that "the atmosphere favorable to peace created by the formation of a new government would be lost in the sensation which the request for an armistice would create." Thereupon Hindenburg wrote to him stating that the "Supreme Command continues to hold to its demand that a request for an armistice should be sent to our enemies immediately." The Supreme Command, however, made mental reservations; it was still not prepared for complete surrender. If the peace terms should prove too hard, it was prepared to "fight to the last man." It did not realize that once the negotiations were set in train—once the public and the Army knew that the request had been made—it would be impossible to draw back.

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Immediately on receipt of Hindenburg's letters, on the night of the 3d, the new Chancellor dispatched a note to Wilson requesting an armistice. The note requested the President to "take in hand the restoration of the peace," accepted the Fourteen Points as a "basis for negotiations" and urged the President "to arrange the immediate conclusion of an armistice in order to avoid further bloodshed."

In the interval between the dispatch of this note and the receipt of Wilson's reply, the Supreme Command partially recovered from its fright. Instead of collapsing as Ludendorff had feared, the line held, and heavy casualties were inflicted on the Allies. Ludendorff's confidant, von Haefen, admitted on October 8th that the request for an armistice "had been from a military point of view unnecessary." In this atmosphere a conference was held at Berlin to determine what line to take in replying to Wilson. The Supreme Command's new position was that a catastrophe was no longer to be feared; their object was to save the Army so that it could be used as a means of pressure during the peace negotiations: "The Army needs rest. If it gets it and receives fresh recruits, it will be able to show fresh achievements." Ludendorff declared that it would be possible to protect the frontier "for a long time." How far he was from realizing the temper of the Allies and their conception of an armistice was indicated by his remarks on the subject of evacuation (one of the points raised in Wilson's note): "We have an enormous mass of material in the occupied territories. Roughly, evacuation would take two or three months. . . . Once on the frontier the Army could repulse every hostile attack. The only doubtful point is the danger to industrial regions from air attack. Hence we must try to arrange that only Belgian troops follow us into Belgium. A demand to evacuate Metz would infringe on our military honor."

The second German note to Wilson, which was dispatched on the 12th, attempted to satisfy the President on all points he had raised and, in particular, was at pains to assure him that the Chancellor was speaking "in the name of the German people" when he asked for an armistice. Unfortunately for the Germans, the effect of this smooth speaking was destroyed by a submarine attack, on the same day, on a packet boat on the run between England and Ireland, which was sunk with the loss of more than 400 lives. Wilson's reply reflected his anger and for the first time clearly revealed to the Germans that they would not be able, as they had hoped, to use the armistice to strengthen their military position. The President said that the armistice terms must be left to the military commanders to formulate and that they must be such as to assure that the current Allied superi-

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ority would be maintained. He also reaffirmed that one of the preliminaries to peace must be the "destruction of arbitrary power"—a clear implication that he did not believe that the changes Ludendorff had effected in the German government went far enough.

After the receipt of this "terrible note," as the Chancellor called it, another conference was called. When it met on the 17th the Chancellor put a number of questions to Ludendorff in an attempt to discover just how serious the military situation was. He did not at first get much satisfaction from Ludendorff, who began by saying that it was impossible to give exact answers. "War is not an example in arithmetic, . . . No one knows what will happen. Soldier's luck is a part of war; perhaps Germany will have soldier's luck again."

Despite this beginning, it became clear that Ludendorff was in an optimistic mood. An Allied breakthrough was possible "but not probable. If you ask me my conscientious opinion I can only answer 'I do not fear it'." However, reinforcements were absolutely necessary. "If I can get the men, I can look forward to the future with confidence." Where then, could the men be found?

Every possibility was therefore canvassed. It was impossible to augment the West by shifting troops from the East. The twenty-four divisions still in the East consisted "of men between 35 and 45 years of age. . . . We have already drawn all the good out of them. They no longer have any attacking power" and would be useless for mounting the kind of counterattack needed to bring the Allies to terms. In any case it would take three months to bring the troops from the East. Finally, it was impossible to abandon the Ukraine, which was needed from an economic point of view and as a *cordon sanitaire* to prevent the germ of Bolshevism from spreading into the Reich.

The question whether the necessary troops could be found inside the Reich was next considered. To Ludendorff's astonishment the Minister of War estimated that he could find 600,000 men in a "reasonable length of time." With these men, the general announced, he could hold on. "If we can get over the next four weeks we shall be on safe ground." Meanwhile the armistice negotiations should be continued, but the government should refuse any proposals which would make a "resumption of hostilities impossible" or which are "contrary to national honor."

The civilian Secretaries of State, however, who represented the middle class parties, had a more realistic grasp of the situation. Scheidemann said that Ludendorff might get his reinforcements but that they would "lower, not raise, the Army's morale." "The length of the war has broken the spirit of the people no less than the dis-

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appointments they have suffered. . . . Now we have the effects of reaction. Men on leave come from the Army with ugly stories; returning from home to the front they carry bad news back to the Army. This exchange of ideas depresses the public's morale. We should be deceiving ourselves if we tried to gloss it over. The workers are coming nearer and nearer to saying 'Better a horrible end than horror without end.'"

In view of the whole situation the government concluded that it must reply submissively to Wilson. In its next note it therefore attempted to convince the President that it was "free from arbitrary and irresponsible influences" and, in effect, threw itself on the mercy of the Allies, asking only that no demand be made "irreconcilable with the honor of the German people."

Later in the month renewed suggestions by the Supreme Command that negotiations be broken off were rejected by the government, who was finally facing the fact that the situation was hopeless. On the evening of the 31st Ludendorff had a conference with von Payer which was, he said, "very depressing." It was clear, he added, that "the government did not wish to continue fighting and that it was prepared to yield everything and to accept any terms however harsh. . . . I could only say that I considered everything was lost and that I expected to see the country given over to Bolshevism." But at the same time, even while urging continued resistance, Ludendorff admitted that the country could fight only for "a few months." His view was simply that it was dishonorable to capitulate before one is "utterly exhausted." Hindenburg was of the same mind. On the 29th in an Army order he declared, "Wilson's answer demands capitulation. It is, therefore, impossible for us, as soldiers, to accept." But the masses did not share these fine sentiments. They realized that the war was hopelessly lost and, like the government, were opposed to empty gestures which would only prolong their agony.

Meanwhile new disasters overwhelmed the Germans. The Italian offensive was launched on the 24th, and on the 30th the Emperor Karl telegraphed to the German Emperor that his situation was untenable and that he had requested an armistice for Austria-Hungary. On the western front on November 4th the British broke through east of Valenciennes with such ease and threw the enemy into such confusion that Haig described the Germans as "capable neither of accepting nor refusing battle." On the 6th, Groener, who had replaced Ludendorff as First Quartermaster General, and who had been attempting to disengage the Army, gave up the situation and told the Chancellor that "we shall have to cross the lines with a white flag . . . Even a week is too long to wait. It must be Saturday [November 9th] at

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the latest." The next evening the armistice commission crossed the line, was received by Foch and presented with the terms.

At home the situation was equally bad. At the end of October the Admiralty decided on a hit-and-run cruiser raid against the English coast. The intention was to disrupt communications between Britain and the continent. The cruisers were to be covered by the battleships and the whole submarine fleet was to be deployed in the North Sea in the hope of intercepting and causing heavy casualties to the Grand Fleet when it came down, as it was anticipated it would do, from Scapa in response to the raid. It was never intended to stage a suicidal last fight; the plan was strategically possible and might have caused damage to the Allies, although it certainly could not have affected the outcome of the war. But if strategically sound, it was a serious political and psychological error.

The conviction was already widespread among the German masses that the ruling class intended to destroy the chance for peace, and when the order was given on October 29th and 30th to sail from Kiel, the sailors on the *Thüringen* and the *Helgoland*, believing that the whole thing was a militarist plot directed against the new parliamentary government, refused to obey orders. The raid was countermanded and 600 sailors from the two ships were arrested. The crews of the remaining ships were convinced that the mutineers were being punished for their loyalty to the new government and that the government was too weak to protect them against the officers. They therefore decided to take matters into their own hands and on the 4th took possession of the town of Kiel. They and the shipyard workers elected Sailors' and Workers' Councils. Their demands were entirely non-political. Point 9, for instance, stated that "the address 'Sir' is to be used only at the beginning of an interview—in the course of conversation, officers will be addressed as 'you'." As Rosenberg says, "The situation needs to be clearly envisaged. 100,000 sailors had mutinied. All the guns were in their hands. The lives of their officers were at their mercy. The German Empire was breaking up under their action. And these same revolutionaries were concerned with the question as to whether they should say 'you' instead of 'Sir' to their officers. The political naivete and inexperience of the Germans find adequate expression here."

The collapse of discipline was not confined to the Navy. Army reservists joined the sailors. The revolt spread to Hamburg and from there all over the Reich. By the 7th the revolution reached Munich and discontented Bavarian peasant soldiers destroyed the Wittelsbach regime overnight. By the following morning Bavaria was a republic. Here, as in Kiel, the main purpose of the revolution

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was not to introduce "socialism"—it was not even political; it was merely to assure peace by removing the power of those—the officers, the ruling class, the dynasties—who were thought to be blocking the armistice negotiations.

Meanwhile events were occurring at Berlin which meant not merely that the military defeat of Germany was being consummated, but that the Imperial order was ending. The same feeling against the officer caste and the dynasties which moved the sailors at Kiel and the peasant soldiers at Munich was at work in Berlin. Moreover, the Wilson notes had brought the "Emperor question" into the foreground. It was thought in many quarters that the Allies would refuse to make peace as long as William II headed the German state. The Emperor, however, was not willing to abdicate, even though the parliamentary reform inaugurated in October had left him only the shadow of power. From October 26th on, Prince Max attempted to convince the Emperor that his own abdication and that of the Crown Prince in favor of a regency for the latter's son, was the only course which had a hope of saving the monarchial principle. But instead of heeding this good advice, he slipped away to Supreme HQ and declined to return to Berlin. The generals appear to have encouraged him in his refusal to consider abdication. The Supreme Command either did not itself know, or refused to make clear to him, the feeling of the country toward him, and the courtiers of his entourage permitted him to dream of the possibility of heading a military expedition to bring order to the Fatherland, even though it was clear that the most trusted regiments were now proving unreliable.

But while Supreme HQ was delaying and refusing to face the facts, events were on the march in Berlin. The revolution reached the capital on the 8th, a general strike occurred the next morning and the garrison fraternized with the workers. It being necessary to act at once, Prince Max telephoned to Supreme HQ to plead for instant abdication, only to be told by a member of the entourage that "a decision of such importance cannot be made in a few minutes." The telephone was then taken off the hook to prevent further importunities from Berlin. At this point the Chancellor took the responsibility on his own shoulders and announced the Emperor's abdication, hoping thereby at least to save the dynasty. But it was then too late and on the next day a Republic was proclaimed.

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