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NEWS DIGEST NO. 61

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(Information as of 1215 hrs 1 Dec 44)

WESTERN FRONT

Allied Armies have made further gains all along the front. In the NORTH the First and Ninth US Armies have made small gains in the HURTGEN Forest area and on the approaches to the flooded ROER River. Farther SOUTH the American Third Army is now holding the west bank of the SAAR River from MEETZIG to SAARLAUTERN. French forces have made further gains in the VOSGES mountains where strong enemy counter attacks have been repulsed. EAST of MULHOUSE French troops are fighting in the wooded area near the RHINE.

The Germans are losing more than three thousand men a day in prisoners and disabled, on the Western Front.

Defence Headquarters has announced that up to October 31st the Canadian Army suffered fifty eight thousand nine hundred and forty three casualties.

RUSSIA

Russian forces which crossed the DANUBE SOUTH of BUDAPEST have turned NORTH and are pushing up the WEST bank of the river. They have reached a point seventy five miles from BUDAPEST and one hundred miles from the Austrian border. Northeast of BUDAPEST the Red Army has captured EGER and SZIKSZO which guard invasion routes into central SLOVAKIA. They have also cut the main rail line between MISKOLC and KASSA.

ITALY

The British Eighth Army has made further small gains in the area northeast of FAENZA.

PHILIPPINES

The Japanese have lost twenty six thousand troops in their attempts to reinforce LEYTE Island. Heavy fighting is still continuing in the area northeast of ORMOC.

BURMA

British troops have made further gains down the MANDALAY railroad and have occupied the town of PINWE, seven miles NORTH of the key rail junction of NABA.

AIR

During the night Allied airmen dropped more than three thousand tons of bombs on DUISBURG and HAMBURG.

GENERAL

Washington has announced that since PERL HARBOUR the Americans have suffered nearly five hundred and thirty seven thousand casualties.

A proclamation from Gen Scobie to the Greek people stating Allied support of the Greek Government is to be dropped from the air to-morrow.

A German broadcast claims that a major contingent of Canadian prisoners of war was attacked by British fighter bombers and that half their number was wounded. The claim is without Allied confirmation and gives no date.

(B.B.C. and Press Releases)

OTTAWA, Ontario.

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General Staff.