

Nazi forces no closer to their coveted objectives of oil resources beyond the Caucasus. They finally abandoned their efforts to take Stalingrad, which by itself has become a symbol of Soviet resistance.

What looked for a long time like a last-ditch defensive stand was turned into an offensive of such proportions that the entire German Sixth Army before Stalingrad was annihilated. Losses of men and materials on this front probably have been heavier than in any other theatre of operations. At various points, at the eastern edge of the Black Sea, in the Don Valley, on the central front, and in the Northwest region fronting on the Baltic, steady gains have been made by Russian forces.

On January 18, while talks between Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt were continuing at Casablanca, the siege of Leningrad was lifted. In addition to the relief which this brought to the remaining inhabitants of the beleaguered city, it enabled railway communications long under German control to be restored to Soviet hands.