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(Information as of 1200 hrs 17 Dec 44)

NOTE: There was no B.B.C. News owing to poor reception and there were no important new developments to report. A brief summary follows:

PHILIPPINES

American and Australian engineers are preparing the Airfields on MINDORO for probable air attacks on MANILA 150 miles to the north.

WESTERN FRONT

The German counter attacks against the American 1st Army between DUREN and THIER have made some gains and overrun certain American positions inside the Belgian border.

In the SAAR, the American 3rd Army has made a thrust to $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of SAARGUEMINES.

The American 7th Army continues to exert pressure and has captured WEISSENBURG, about 20 miles west of KARLSRUHE

ITALY

New Zealand troops took FAENZA after bitter house to house fighting. Action has also flared up on the 5th Army front 9 miles south of BOLOGNA.

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