

NEWS DIGEST NO. 83

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(Information as of 1215 hrs 12 Dec 44)

- AIR** Two thousand heavy allied air craft are out over Germany to-day attacking all installations at MERSEBURG and rail targets in Sout-west Germany. Last night R.A.F. bombers made a heavy attack on the HANOVER-HAMBURG area. One aircraft is missing.
- WESTERN FRONT** American 1st Army Troops have opened a heavy attack in the DUREN section and are now within one mile of that town. The thrust was opened in a blinding snow storm and our troops operated under very heavy conditions. We now hold the west bank of the RHEIN for about a mile opposite DUREN.
- The American 7th Army has made considerable gains in the ALSACE region and have advanced on a twenty mile front to within five miles of the RHINE opposite KARLSRUHE. There are signs that the enemy's resistance may be breaking on this front.
- The British and Canadian sector in HOLLAND to the north appears to be quiet. This is no doubt due to heavy flooding which the Germans have imposed to check our operations.
- RUSSIAN FRONT** Bitter hand-to-hand fighting is said to be taking place in the outskirts of BUDAPEST. The Russians are attacking the city from ~~an~~ a new quarter and have captured strongly defended points ten miles from the city in this new direction. Further gains have been made in the MISKOLC region and numerous populated places liberated.
- GREECE** Increased fighting is taking place in ATHENS and the city is under heavy shell fire. Many buildings are on fire. The Partisans are apparently trying to force a decision before the arrival of British reinforcements. To the west of the city British troops have gained some ground. In the centre they have had to retire. To the east loyal Greek groups have eliminated certain resistance forces. Partisan casualties of the E.L.A.S. have suffered three thousand casualties since the fighting started of which two thousand are prisoners, the rest killed or wounded. Our casualties have been comparatively light.
- ITALY** Some sharp clashes have occurred on the BOLOGNA front. Only patrol activity is reported from the 8th Army Sector. Eight Italian spies have been tried by allied authorities and shot. These were all young men under twenty.
- BURMA** The 36th British division has made some progress in the KATHA region in norther BURMA. East Africans have advanced in the KALEWA sector. West African troops are still making good progress in the KALÉDAN area.
- AIR** Bombers from the Mediterranean Air Force yesterday attacked VIENNA and left a large ordnance depot blazing.
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