

There is every indication that the German strategic direction of the war is now firmly in the hands of the generals and no longer under the personal direction of Hitler. This has been made manifest in the ability of the German armies to give up key points and territory in order to conform to an overall plan of eventually stabilizing the German armies on the best possible defence lines!

(c) AIR FORCE -

With the exception of a short period during the middle of the month, weather did not seriously curtail Allied operations.

The main strategic targets continued to be synthetic oil plants and the industrial areas of the Ruhr. In addition, many large attacks were carried out on railway centres and canals, some of which, due to their location immediately behind the battle line, might be considered as tactical objectives. Close support was given the allied offensive in the Aachen area and German communications were harassed as the French and United States troops advanced in the south.

The successful attack on the German battleship, Tirpitz, by Bomber Command aircraft was the month's most outstanding event.

II - Summary of Canadian Operations

Central Mediterranean Theatre

(a) ARMY -

During November, 1st Canadian Corps in Italy remained out of the line. Some units of the Corps, however, were attached to the "Porter Force", a composite British - Canadian mobile force operating in the Adriatic sector. This Force advanced from three to seven miles during the month to within two miles of Ravenna. The 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade continued to operate under the 13th British Corps of the Fifth U.S. Army.

(b) AIR FORCE -

In the period November 1st - 15th, No. 417 (Fighter) Squadron, based at Fano, flew a total of 167 sorties without loss. These operations consisted mainly of armed and weather reconnaissance flights and low-bombing and strafing attacks.

United Kingdom and Northwestern Europe

(a) NAVY -

H.M.C. Ships "Algonquin" and "Sioux" took part in two expeditions directed against enemy shipping off the Norwegian coast. In these operations they assisted directly or indirectly in the probable destruction of eleven enemy merchant ships and five escorts. Canadian corvettes continued to escort Channel convoys and several escort groups operated in U.K. waters.

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