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# THE STARS AND STRIPES

AFRICA

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For U.S. Armed Forces

TWO FRANCS

## Kiev Left Behind As Soviet Tide Rolls Westward Shattered Wehrmacht Driven 60 Miles Across Plain

LONDON—Kiev was returning to normal under the Red banner today while the guns roared on the battle line 60 miles farther west toward the Polish border.

Thus did the curtain fall on the third act of Adolf Hitler's bid for power on the eastern front. The first act ended last January when the German 6th Army was wiped out and Stalingrad recaptured by the Russians. Act Two closed this summer with the fall of Kharkov and Smolensk. Only the epilogue remains now, since Kiev came back into the hands of the Soviets at dawn last Saturday.

The Russians proceeded into the epilogue immediately, aiming to clear the Ukraine, the Crimea and the northern front of the Nazi invader as soon as possible. From Kiev, the Red Army fanned out in a vast semicircle toward the railway junctions of Kozelen, Zhitomir and Bendichev, all on the railway running north from Odessa. Advance patrols had come within 20 miles of the first and third of these and the main body of General Nikolai Vatutin's forces was not far behind.

### THIS SAME ARMY

It was this same army of General Vatutin to which all Russia paid tribute Saturday night in the 24 salutes from 324 guns in Moscow. Now it was pressing the German rear hard and forcing the Wehrmacht ever back toward the frontier it had crossed going the other way in June, 1941.

What was left of Kiev after the German retreat was still a matter of doubt. Berlin said that Kiev had lost its military importance to the Nazi, that "only a few houses" remained standing in a city known for 600 years as Kiev the Magnificent.

The Russian's victory at Kiev came as no surprise. They had been gradually encircling the city for weeks while the Nazis tentatively held their ground. This stand, military observers pointed out, weakened the Germans more than it helped, since it permitted the Russians to draw up large armies on the east bank of the Dnieper.

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## Prison Chaplain Finds Hitler Good Teacher

DALLAS—1st Lt. Maurice M. Hall, chaplain of a prisoner of war camp at Huntsville, Texas, said this week that "60 percent of the prisoners are confirmed Nazis."

"And you might as well preach Christianity to a wall as to these Hitlerites," he added. "The Nazis are treacherous," the chaplain declared, "often trying after midnight in the barracks to lynch their comrades who are not Nazis. "I think we evangelize these men," Chaplain Hall asserted, "they will return to Germany after the war with nothing but contempt for our ideals and more than eager to fight another war."

## Heavy Bombers Rip Italian Rails

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Nov. 12—Fanning out far northward over Italy and across into southeastern France, four-motored bombers of the 15th U.S. Air Force this week ripped rail lines into Italy at four points and bombed three plants producing strategically important ball bearings for the German army.

A small formation of B-24 Liberators flew over the Alps yesterday to bomb the ball bearing factory and railway yards at Anney.

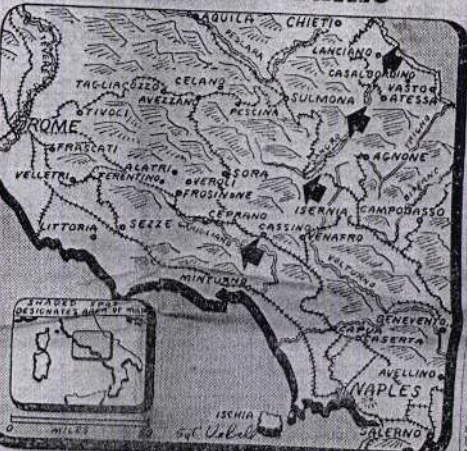
WASHINGTON—Allied estimates of Axis plane losses in the Mediterranean area have been conservative, it was indicated by a survey of captured enemy airfields. Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announced Thursday. It has been estimated that 3,453 enemy planes were destroyed on the ground by Allied attacks during the past year, while actual count on captured airbases showed 1,038 more, the secretary said.

France, 90 miles south of the Swiss border and 40 miles west of the Italian frontier at Mont Blanc. Southwestward, at a point 15 miles west of Cannes another Liberator formation hit the coast—a railway spanning from France into Italy. The rail line was believed cut. In neither raid over France were enemy fighters encountered.

Fortresses flying the long haul to the south of Brenner Pass, hit a railway highway bridge at Bolzano, Italy, knocked out a rail line leading northward, and damaged heavily the marshalling yards and railroad repair shops. From 20 to 30 enemy fighters attacked the

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## Fields Of Battle



ALLIED FORCES in Italy this week pushed steadily forward through a sea of mud and bitter Nazi resistance. The Germans at week's end had apparently entrenched themselves for a stubborn stand along a line shown by the arrows on the map above.

## Elections Prompt Fast Soldier-Vote Action

(Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12—Suddenly waking up to the possibility that the uniformed men and women may hold a margin of victory or defeat in next year's big election, Congress is turning on the heat to bring the pending soldier-vote up for action, probably within the next week.

The 87-year election returns a week ago turned the trick. Congressmen did a doubletake when they looked at GOP gains, generally interpreted as forecasting one of the closest Presidential contests in years for 1944, and then looked at the 10,000,000 or 11,000,000 potential voters expected to be in service by next year.

### UNTIL RECENTLY

Up until recently, the Republicans seemed uninterested about okaying various Democratic proposals for the soldier vote. Now both major party leaders have formally endorsed the idea that the armed forces must be encouraged, by any means, to have their say although politicians haven't yet agreed on the methods.

You get the idea of just how important the soldier vote may be when you look at the figures in the 1940 election. That was considered a nip and tuck affair with President Roosevelt nosing out Wendell L. Willkie by fewer than 5,000,000 popular votes. So even though many of the millions in the service will still be under the voting age by election time, and while nobody's going to stop the guy ducking for cover to request his X on the ballot, a thin two or three million votes turned in from soldiers might swing the election, Congressmen say, especially in view of the belief that the campaign coming up may prove to have a closer finish than the last one.

For the first time, the War and Navy Departments also have approved

## Air Force Turns Over Sub Patrol To Navy

WASHINGTON—The Army Air Forces have been withdrawn from anti-submarine operations, the War Department announced this week. Leaving full responsibility up to the Navy, the department said that the action was taken because the Navy now has acquired sufficient planes and crews to take over the entire job. Army units which participated in the anti-sub war effort will be distributed among other air forces and theaters, it was said.

## Fifth Is Bogged In Mud Before New Nazi Line

Enemy Though Likely To Make 'Do Or Die' Stand

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Nov. 12—The 5th Army flank of the Allied line across Italy, which a month ago tonight burst through the German Volturno River defenses 22 miles to the south, today was halted in the mud before a new enemy line stretching around the high country behind the Sangro and Garigliano Rivers.

There were strong indications that the enemy meant to hold this line. German prisoners referred to it as the "winter line." Captured documents revealed the German High Command had ordered the present positions held at all cost for at least eight weeks. American troops who bucked the German strongholds in the hills were met by machinegun fire from emplacements carved in the rocky cliffsides.

### NINE ATTACKS

Against 5th Army forces in position to attack the counterattacks, using infantry backed up by artillery in the hilly sectors and tanks in the low, flat country along the coast. These attacks regained no ground and cost the enemy heavily, but they indicated his apparent intent to hold his positions.

Yesterday, with bad weather still holding, only one minor advance was reported in the entire battle line crossing the 80-mile neck at Italy's narrowest point. The enemy threw fairly heavy counterattacks into the 5th Army front but all were knocked back.

What the Allies' next move is may depend largely upon the left flank anchor which, stuck deep in the mud on the south banks of the Garigliano River, has not moved for a week. If heavy rains continue to hold up movement there, it may be impracticable to advance further the 8th Army extreme right flank which now rests on the south banks of the River Sangro, after an advance of 17 miles in seven days.

The 8th, which in the month since the Volturno River crossing

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## King's Palace Awes Battlewise Americans

By S-Sgt. JACK FOISIE  
(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

CASERTA, Italy—The three Yanks had reached the entrance to the king's palace. Nobody stopped them so they ascended the grand stairway, just as Fernando II, king of Naples, had done in 1774. They passed the two lions guarding the landing. The lions were marble and the tail of one of them had been broken off.

"Some guy twisted the lion's tail," said Sgt. William Tully, Johnstown, Pa. There was no humor in his voice. "Very brave, wasn't he?"

"I bet that lion was worth plenty," replied Pvt. James Campbell, Arlington, N. J. "I wonder if it will be worth it when they find it has no tail. Like the old Greek statue of the gal without any arms. What's her name?"

"The Venus of Milo," answered Cpl. Fred Garr, Brookline, Mass. The three Yanks had now ascended the second flight of grand stairs and were standing under the dome. They were admiring the painting of "Apollo's Court" on the ceiling of the dome, undecided whether to continue further. It was so big, this palace. "Must be as big as the Pentagon building in Washington," suggested Pvt. Campbell, who had heard that the new War Department building in Washington was very big indeed.

A little man in civilian clothes and black riding boots suddenly immersed in the shadows. "You want guide. This way, yes?" It was a long walk through the 1,200-room palace. But the three Yanks did not mind. They had stepped back two centuries and were seeing—and touching—riches none had known existed except in story books.

The grandeur of the 40-room royal apartment was almost incomprehensible to these men of the generation of neon lights and streamlined cigarette lighters. The massiveness of the more than ten miles of gardens, with the chain of formal pools and fountains and the hundreds of life-size statues,

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## Mrs. Roosevelt Hopes To Visit This Theater

By T-Sgt. JOHN M. WILLIG  
(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt is hoping she will be able to visit troops in North Africa and Sicily one of these days, but at the moment she hasn't made any plans for such a trip.

"I certainly would consider it a great privilege to see and talk with the men in camps and hospitals over there," Mrs. Roosevelt replied when asked whether a tour of the Mediterranean theater might now be in order. I asked questions half-way through my first and probably last White House luncheon, which started out as a pretty enlightening affair when I discovered I was the only male among five persons at the table.

Mrs. Roosevelt's recent tour of the Southwest Pacific battlefield brought thousands of "thank you" notes from grateful and homesick soldiers. Down Under and when she smiles and begins talking, it isn't hard to figure out her morale uplift for the troops. It is like talking to your mother. And then

the First Lady gives you the answers to so many questions that have bothered you about the war and homefront and with such common sense and honesty that you wonder why no one has done it before.

The First Lady returned from the Pacific with deep and sympathetic understanding of the soldier's worries and what causes them. That is why she believes it is highly important that men themselves try to understand some of the problems behind the war and its over-all ramifications. She urges, especially, that in the little time-off men have from the business of fighting, they should discuss more among themselves some of the immediate and past-war questions.

"You men should be making up your minds when you live on America you want after the war," Mrs. Roosevelt advised. "You'll be a powerful influence either for or against."

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