

== (Compiled by Overseas Branch, U. S. Office of War Information) ==

FLASH!

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PACIFIC -- The United States Navy announced at 11:48 A.M. Wednesday that American submarines have sunk seventeen more Japanese ships, including a light cruiser and destroyers. The new sinkings bring to 640 the number of Japanese ships sunk by U. S. submarines alone since December 7, 1941.

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Here are highlights of action on the World's War Fronts up to noon today:

AIR -- On Wednesday fighter escorted U. S. Flying Fortresses and Liberators attacked German airfields in Belgium and Holland, as well as flying torpedo installations and other targets in northwestern France.

During Tuesday night, Allied heavy bombers hit railways at Villeneuve St. Georges, near Paris, and at Orleans, while light bombers successfully attacked German reinforcements moving towards the front. RAF Mosquitoes bombed synthetic oil plants in the Ruhr Valley.

MEDITERRANEAN -- In Italy Allied troops Wednesday were approaching the key rail and road center of Arezzo, below Florence. Leading Eighth Army elements are within eight kilos (five miles) of Arezzo, which is sixty kilos (thirty-eight miles) from Florence. Further East the Germans are still bitterly contesting the Allied advance on Monte Murlo and Monte Acuto which command Umbertide, twenty kilos (thirteen miles) northeast of Lake Trasimeno and the valley to the Northwest Sector. Fifth Army troops are fighting their way forward against German troops holding doggedly to two towns on the road to Leghorn, Italy's third commercial port. The Allies are now about twenty kilos (thirteen miles) below that port.

Fighters and bombers on sweeps over Yugoslavia and Albania attacked barges, rolling stock and transport vehicles. Seventeen enemy aircraft were destroyed and five Allied planes are missing.

Allied bombers also attacked oil targets in Rumania. Allied Mediterranean flyers flew about 1200 sorties Tuesday.

Allied headquarters in Rome announced Wednesday that the German army has sharply reduced the strength of supply services and rear echelon units in order to find more front line troops to replace battle losses. It said captured enemy documents showed that in the last two months the Germans had cut the strength of rear echelon combat units by twenty per cent and cut the strength of all supply units by twenty-five per cent.

THE FAR EAST -- The Chinese communique Wednesday said Chinese forces on the Salween front have captured the village of Chanhhi in Western Yunnan Province, narrowing to forty-five kilometers (twenty-eight miles) the distance separating them from units of U. S. Lieut. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's forces in northern Burma, which have occupied positions at Hadonu. No further developments were reported on Saipan where American troops have captured Garapan, capital of the island.

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There were no new developments on the Normandy or Russian fronts since the morning news report (Bulletin No. 1)