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Section I: WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATER
Part 2: Sixth Army Group

1. U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

During first week of this month, direction of attack turns northward toward the Saar-Palatinate and the Siegfried Line fortifications stretching across the Saar Valley, the Vosges Mountains, and the Rhine Plain, from Saarbruecken on the W to Lauterbourg on the E.

XV Corps On Corps L flank, 44th Div receives considerable enemy arty and mortar fire in vicinity of Tieffenbach. During night, an enemy inf force supported by SP guns and 5 half-tracks enters Weisslingen, 1 mile N of Tieffenbach. Elements of 114th Inf fight back with rocket launchers, automatic rifles, carbines, and pistols, finally outflanking enemy. Through the afternoon, 71st Inf attacks toward high ground W of Mackwiller, 3½ miles W of Weisslingen. On E edge of the Vosges Mountains, 45th Div is in heavy fighting on the hills about Zinswiller. Div front line extends E across narrow, open stretch between forests of the Vosges and the W end of Haguenau Forest. Forces NW of Engwiller are held in place by strength of enemy fire. After weathering intense SA and mortar fire, elements of 179th Inf succeed in taking most of Engwiller by nightfall. The 180th Inf completes clearing Kindwiller and Bitschhoffen, on Div R flank, and attacks Mientesheim, where heavy fighting ensues for remainder of day, with tank battles within the town. Enemy counter-attack forces withdrawal to SW outskirts late in afternoon. Attached 397th Inf (100th Div) remains in position on rear L flank of Div, N of Moder R. near edge of Vosges forest, blocking Ingwiller-Winnenau pass. Enemy patrols attempt to enter Gries, near Bischwiller on 79th Div R flank, and are driven off by arty, mortar, and SA fire. The 94th Cav Rcn Sq of 14th Armd Div is attached to 79th Div to protect R flank and rear and to reconnoiter to the Rhine. At 0800, 314th Inf attacks N toward clearing in woods SW of Haguenau, then NE to the Wintershouse-Haguenau road, which is partially interdicted by airbursts fired by flak guns. Schweighausen, 2 miles W of Haguenau, is cleared by 315th Inf. Div units at Neubourg, 3 miles farther up the Moder R., receive occasional arty and mortar shelling.

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VI Corps A 3d Div co continues to besiege Maginot Line fort where enemy is holding out N of Mutzig on the Bruch R. Air bombardment and direct 155-mm. fire on the fort proves ineffective. Greater part of 3d Div is employed in holding Strasbourg area along the Rhine, where enemy has blown all important bridges. When attacked by 7th Inf, enemy withdraws most of his forces from the Kehl bridgehead and subsequently blows main bridges over the Rhine E of Strasbourg. Units of 36th Div still deep in the Vosges are nearing le Bonhomme from the W and the NE; farther E, fighting is in progress at Aubure; Div elements at the edge of the Vosges forests occupy Chatenois and clear several towns SW of Selestat. By end of day, 2 bns have entered outskirts of strongly defended city of Selestat. CCA of 14th Armd Div and 103d Div have converged on Epfig, 6 miles N of Selestat, from the N and W respectively. Continuing to attack S, elements of 103d Div, supported by CCA, occupy Ebersheim, 3 miles NE of Selestat. To the W, another column of 103d Div also moves S, attacking from Dambach-la-Ville. It contacts 36th Div near Scherwiller and reaches RR in N part of Selestat, where house-to-house fighting begins. CCR of 2d Fr Armd Div seizes Kogenheim on Strasbourg-Selestat highway SW of Benfeld. Advance is delayed by blown bridges over Ill R. Turning NE, elements of CCR seize Huttenheim and Benfeld without opposition. Advance of CCV toward Herbsheim, 2 miles SE of Benfeld, is halted during night of 1--2 Dec by heavy enemy AT, mortar, and SA fire. CCD advances S toward Friesenheim along the Rhine R. road, encountering mine fields covered by fire. Harassing fire is received from across the Rhine.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

Enemy is defending Rhine Valley E of the Vosges along general line of Harth Forest--Thann--St. Hippolyte--Selestat--Friesenheim, forming the "Colmar Pocket" lying across the zone of advance of First Fr Army and contained on the N by elements of U.S. VI Corps.

II Corps Third Armd Div units occupy Bussang Pass, between the Rhine and the Thur R. Enemy counterattacks 2d Mor Div, taking Hill 200 of Boursbach le Bas.

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I Corps Units of 4th Mtn Div in Harth Forest reach crossroads 6 miles NE of Mulhouse. Just W of Mulhouse, enemy counterattack is repulsed near Lutterbach. Along Rhine R. to the S, elements of 9th Col Div work to reduce enemy bridgeheads between Kembs and the Swiss frontier, capturing Rosenau and reaching Neuf. W of Mulhouse, enemy troops are in general gradually withdrawing, while maintaining pressure against la Doller R. line on Corps N flank.

Alps Sector Second Bn of RCT 442 relieves 68th Armd Inf Bn (14th Armd Div) near Peira Cava. RCT 442 now occupies 20-mile front between Menton and Peira Cava in Maritime Alps region of southern France, with mission of patrolling aggressively against German 34th Div stationed on other side of border in Italy. It is under control of 44th AAA Brig, which is responsible for Franco-Italian front from the Mediterranean up to Larche Pass. N of Larche Pass the front is held by remnants of Fr 4th Mtn Div, in process of transfer to Mulhouse area. Enemy arty is heavy in sector of 442d RCT.

2 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Forty-fourth Div resumes advance N in direction of Petit-Rederching, 10 miles NNE of Weisslingen. Hand-to-hand combat occurs near latter town during night of 1--2 Dec. SE of Weisslingen, elements of 114th Inf mounted on medium tanks attack N from Petersbach toward Hinsbourg, which is taken by 1500, then turn W and advance through Frohmuhl. Two miles WNW of Weisslingen, at Waldhambach, enemy counterattacks unsuccessfully against 324th Inf. Attacking at 0700, 71st Inf clears Bois de Todtenberg, SE of Mackwiller. Elements cross RR track but are prevented by enemy fire from entering town. XII TAC fighter bombers set fires in Volksberg, Puberg, Waldhambach, and Mackwiller in close support missions. The 100th Div assembles at Metting, 4 miles NW of Phalsbourg, prepared to advance NE and breach Maginot Line at Bitche. On E edge of Vosges, 157th Inf of 45th Div takes hills E and NW of Zinswiller. Patrols find bridge at Zinswiller blown. The 397th Inf (100th Div) follows up 157th's advance along L. flank with a line of Vosges forest. Attack on Engwiller and wooded area to

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NW is continued by 179th Inf; resistance remains stiff. Mietesheim, SE of Engwiller, falls to 180th Inf, but is not yet cleared of snipers. Units of 79th Div attacking toward Haguenau encounter considerable SA and flat trajectory fire. Small counterattack is repulsed in afternoon.

VI Corps Thirty-sixth Div troops on W edge of Selestat are engaged in heavy fire fight with the enemy. Elements E of Colmar highway attack SE section of city against intense sniper fire and reach blown bridge over Ill R. To the SW, units have pushed through Orschwiller and are fighting in St. Hippolyte. Bitter combat continues at Aubure, 8 miles WSW of latter. The 409th Inf of 103d Div battles its way into the walled section of the city through well protected road blocks and under fire from tanks, arty, mortar, and automatic weapons. Almost 400 PWs are taken in Selestat during the day. The 411th Inf attacks SE from Ebersheim, but enemy counterattack at dusk from the woods to the SE causes a slight withdrawal. During night, heavy arty barrage is laid on enemy positions here. Second Fr Armd Div's CCD captures Friesenheim after full day of fighting. On Div's R flank as it drives S, CCR and elements of 30th Inf, 3d Div, cross Ill R. near Sermersheim and Kogenheim. CCV clears and occupies Herbsheim after bitter fighting.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Resistance is lively on Schlucht road and toward la Bresse, in N of 3d Alg Div sector, but has collapsed in central Thur Valley, where Div elements are on outskirts of St. Amarin, with enemy troops retreating hurriedly toward Metzeral in the N and Thann in the S. Second Mor Div finds resistance heavy before Thann. Several enemy tanks destroyed as counterattacks are repulsed.

I Corps Ninth Col Div captures Huningue, just N of Basel, after severe fighting. Over 200 PWs and much materiel captured. Enemy still holds bridgehead at Loechle, between Rosenau and Lebs. Fourth Mtn Div repulses renewed enemy attacks against Lützbach bridge and takes many PWs.

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Alps Sector During 24-hr. period ending at noon, enemy attacked Fr post at les Granges Chevillet, in Briancon area, and took a number of prisoners after a battle of several hours. Enemy arty active in 44th AAA Brig sector during afternoon of 2 Dec.

2 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Blowing bridges and mining and blocking roads, enemy withdraws rapidly on Corps L flank after failure to retake Waldhambach. Two miles NNE, delaying action occurs at Ratzwiller, under attack by 324th Inf, 44th Div. Other elements of 324th Inf take Diemeringen, less than 2 miles NW of Waldhambach, then lose half of it as enemy counterattacks. South of Diemeringen, 71st Inf seizes Mackwiller and occupies high ground N of town. On Div E flank, 114th Inf attacks through woods toward Volksberg, 4 miles N of Hinsbourg. Enemy road blocks and gunfire halt attacking forces just W and S of the town. At 0730, 100th Div attacks through elements of 44th Div toward Puberg and Wingen, N of la Petite Piere. Puberg is captured and one co enters Wingen, where it becomes surrounded. SA, MG, mortar, and 88-mm. fire from vicinity of Wingen is heavy and there is road block on road S of town. The 397th Inf, still attached to 45th Div, attacks NW from Rothbach to outflank Wimmenau-Wingen area from N, and meets very heavy resistance. Zinswiller falls to 157th Inf, 45th Div, after fierce fighting. Engwiller, to the SE, is taken by 180th Inf and troops of 179th Inf cross Zintzel R. at Gumbrechtshoffen. Uttenhoffen, over a mile NE of Mietesheim, is cleared. Forty-fifth Div has been ordered to seize RR line from Niederbronn to Mertzwiller. Gries, in 79th Div sector, is heavily shelled by enemy following a demonstration by elements of 313th Inf. Assault guns of 94th Cav Rcn Sq damage RR station in Gamsheim.

VI Corps House-to-house fighting continues in Selestat. Thirty-sixth Div employs two assault bns. Enemy counter-attack with tanks from E edge of city is beaten off in the afternoon. The 409th Inf of 103d Div suffers many

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casualties from tank fire. Town of St. Hippolyte, directly SW of Selestat, is cleared by 36th Div troops, which encounter resistance from town of Rodern to the SW. In W sector of Div zone, RCT 143 clears Aubure and is relieved there by RCT 141. Other elements of RCT 141 seize the Bois de Lapoutroie and clear town of Farupt in le Bonhomme Pass area. Elements of RCT 143 moving SE on Ste. Marie-Ribeauville road enter Ribeauville, midway between Kaysersberg and Orschwiller. Twelve planes support 103d Div troops NE of Selestat by attacking enemy gun positions at Mutterholtz, 3 miles E of Selestat. After bayonet fight, 411th Inf regains ground lost SE of Ebersheim. TF Selestat is created from 409th Inf and attached units and is given mission of carrying through the capture of Selestat. Allied vehicles NE of Strasbourg are strafed from the air and fired on from E of the Rhine. Strasbourg's main power plant is hit by 240-mm. shells. CCA of 14th Armd Div returns to Div control and moves to assembly area in vicinity of Hochfelden on the Marne-Rhine Canal.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Second Mor Div units advance to within less than a mile SW of Thann.

I Corps Enemy counterattack against 4th Mtn Div elements in Harth Forest destroys a bridge over Huningue Canal. Many enemy mines encountered. First Armd Div meets heavy resistance from AT weapons.

Alps Sector Enemy activity greatly reduced. Arty of 44th AAA Brig fires about 30 missions. The Puerto Rican 65th Inf Regt (less 1st and 2d Bns) is attached to 44th AAA Brig on arrival at Nice.

4 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

Army regroups in accordance with shift northward in emphasis of attack. The 36th Div is to assist First French Army in liquidation of the Colmar Pocket.

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XV Corps On L flank, 44th Div line now runs from Diemerlingen on the W to Hinsbourg on the E, as Div continues to advance against opposing 130th Pz Lehr Div. Elements of 324th Inf complete seizure of Diemerlingen and advance E toward Ratzwiller, but are pinned down by enemy AT, mortar, MG, and rifle fire and withdraw to Diemerlingen at dark. Farther E, troops of 114th Inf enter Volksberg in afternoon; other units of this regt reach high ground E of Roesert, which is just E of Volksberg. Patrols of 100th Div enter Wingen and report no contact with co which entered town on preceding day. More arty fire is placed on Wingen. In the meantime, Rosteig, 2 miles NW of Wingen, is captured against moderate opposition. Forty-fifth Div's 157th Inf elements attacking from woods E of Zinswiller toward Niederbronn are pinned down by 20-mm. fire from the town, but other elements of Regt succeed in taking near-by Oberbronn after house-to-house fighting. On Div R flank, motor patrol reaches Neubourg and contacts elements of 79th Div's Rcn Tr. Attached 397th Inf elements on extreme L flank attain Hill 375 overlooking Rothbach stream. Advance units reach Moder R., on the S. At 2400, 397th Inf is detached from 45th Div, passing to control of 100th Div. Village of Gries, on 79th Div R flank, is again target of enemy arty fire and is evacuated by civilians. Harassing arty and mortar fire strikes along most of 79th Div front. Four of six enemy planes which strafe AAA positions are shot down.

VI Corps The 103d Div, less TF Selestat, commences movement N to Gougenheim, which is in rear of 79th and 45th Divs. RCT 411 is relieved by 2d Fr Armd Div in area SE of Ebersheim. TF Selestat completes elimination of resistance in Selestat by 1645 and control of the city is passed to 36th Div. Within the Vosges, RCT 141 of 36th Div advances S from Aubure and E from Faurupt toward vicinity of Freland and W entrance of Kayzersberg Valley, encountering many mines and booby-traps and scattered enemy inf detachments. Units of RCT 143 clear woods about Ribeauville and move S to take Hunawihr. Third Div elements N of Mutzig explode 32-ton demolition charge against Maginot line fortification, breaching an 8-ft. hole in the wall. Nine enemy are captured in escape

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attempt during night. Enemy blows Rhine R. bridge E of Gamsheim.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Enemy withdrawal ceases in center of Corps zone. Mortar activity increases. On Corps extreme N flank, 3d Alg Div units approach le Valtin, NE of Lac de Retournemer. In 2d Mor Div sector on the S flank, enemy holds firmly at Rammersmatt, Roderen, and Michelbach; several hills exchange hands in violent fighting S of Thann.

I Corps Enemy inf and tanks in vicinity of Pont du Bouc, approximately in center of Harth Forest, cause withdrawal of 4th Mtn Div elements in area N of Huningue Canal between Ile Napoleon and the bridge. NW of Mulhouse, sharp fighting continues around Lutterbach.

Alps Sector Field arty scores direct hits on enemy pillbox and CP.

Western French Forces Withdrawal to Cire d'Aunis has been made by elements in La Rochelle sector.

5 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

VI Corps-XV Corps boundary is shifted N to follow the crest of the Low Vosges from NW of Saverne through Philippsbourg to the NE, with XV Corps on the L and VI Corps on the R. Twelfth Armd Div comes under operational control of XV Corps and elements of it move to Drulingen-la Petite Pierre area in rear of 44th Div. At 0001, 45th and 79th Divs and 14th Armd Div are detached from XV Corps and attached to VI Corps, the boundary between 100th and 45th Divs becoming the XV Corps-VI Corps boundary.

XV Corps The 71st Inf of 44th Div moves into Lorentzen, immediately NW of Dicmeringen. Ratzwiller and Butten, NE of Lorentzen, are captured by 324th Inf. Wooded ridge NW of Völsberg is cleared by 114th Inf. Within

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the Vosges forests on the E, 397th Inf, which reverts to 100th Div from attachment to 45th Div, advances NW from Rothbach area, seizing Lichtenberg, Reiperts-willer, and Wimmenau, meeting moderate resistance. After a 20-min. arty preparation, 398th Inf attacks and occupies Wingen, 2 miles NW of Wimmenau. Patrols reach Meisenthal and Soucht, several miles farther NW. The 399th Inf advances through 398th toward Lemberg.

VI Corps Control of 45th Div, 79th Div, and 14th Armd Div passes from XV to VI Corps. Becoming pinned down by SA and tank fire, elements of 45th Div make little progress from Oberbronn toward Niederbronn, objective on Div L flank. On Div R flank, 180th Inf advances SE from Mietesheim and attacks Mertzwiller, in clearing at W end of Haguenau Forest, where elements cross Zintzel R. in face of heavy fire from enemy's prepared positions along RR line. Seventy-ninth Div remains in position along general line running NW to SE from Neubourg to Gries, probing enemy positions and patrolling across Moder R. where possible. Arty and mortar fire is received all along front lines; enemy shells Gries, Ohlungen, and Niederschaeffolsheim. Elements of 708th VG Div in old fort N of Mutzig surrender to 3d Div troops after days of stubborn resistance to blaze bombs and demolitions; over 80 PWs taken. First Bn of 30th Inf is relieved from attachment to 2d Fr Armd Div and moves N to Achenheim, 5 miles W of Strasbourg.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

At 050001, U.S. Seventh Army passes 36th Div and 2d Fr Armd Div to II Corps control, First Fr Army. Second Mor Div is transferred from II to I Corps.

II Corps Thirty-six Div's 142d RCT occupies Rodern, as well as Bergheim and Rorschwihr, all 4 to 5 miles SW of Selestat. Other elements of same regt occupy Selestat and relieve 103d Div units in N section of city. Farther to the SW, 143d RCT finishes clearing Riquewihr and Zellenberg, S of Ribeauville, and pushes toward Guemar

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and Ostheim against scattered resistance which stiffens to strong opposition as towns are neared. Elements still further S attack through Beblenheim with aim of securing high ground overlooking Colmar. About 6 miles W of positions held by 143d RCT, RCT 141 secures Freland without a fight. The Lapoutroie-Kaysersberg road is cut and patrols enter Lapoutroie. Third Alg Div troops reach Schlucht Pass and W outskirts of le Valtin. Many obstacles and mines encountered. Dieboltsheim, on Corps R flank, is reached by 2d Fr Armd Div.

I Corps Second Mor Div is assigned to this corps, widening its area to include Thann-Cernay area. Arty active on both sides.

Alps Sector Enemy patrols active in Termignon region. During 24-hr. period ending at noon, an attack of about 50 enemy against Ft. Tournoux (about 50 miles S of Termignon) is repulsed. Enemy movement and arty active in S of 44th AAA Brig sector.

6 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps The 44th and 100th Divs are driving along parallel axes NE across W slopes of the Vosges toward Siersthal and Bitche, which are located in one of the strongest sectors of the Maginot Line. The 324th Inf of 44th Div advances from Batten to vicinity of Guisberg, encountering many demolition obstacles along the road. Frequency of plastic and other types of mines on the narrow mountain roads also prevents tanks and TD's from giving effective close support to 114th Inf in its advance on Montbronn, 5 miles NE of Ratzwiller. Montbronn is attacked from the W and cleared. Enemy used 20-mm. AA fire and also Russian 152-mm. guns in this area. Attacking astride Wingen-Lemberg road, 399th Inf of 100th Div secures Sarreinsberg, Goetzenbruck, and Plateau 409 almost without opposition. Resistance stiffens as Lemberg is neared and by nightfall there is heavy fighting all about the town. Soucht and Meisenthal are secured by 398th Inf. Little resistance is met by

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397th Inf as it moves NE from Wimmenau and takes Wildenguth and Melch. Mouterhouse, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles N of Melch, is enemy occupied but is surrounded by night-fall.

VI Corps Positions of 157th Inf on L flank of 45th Div remain under direct enemy fire from vicinity of Niederbronn. Farther down the Falkenstein R., elements of 179th Inf are under direct fire from Gundershoffen. Enemy counter-attack supported by 3 tanks overruns 180th Inf positions at Mertzwiller, forcing a withdrawal to S part of the town after a fierce fire fight. On 79th Div R flank, patrols reconnoiter bridges S of Bischwiller, finding one intact but suitable for tracked vehicles only. Gries is again shelled by enemy arty and mortars. Ninety-fourth Cav Rcn Sq patrols draw heavy enemy fire from Gamsheim. Fifteenth Inf of 3d Div completes wiring in of defensive positions S of Strasbourg.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Elements of 2d Fr Armd Div are at Rhinau, Diebolsheim, Rossfeld, Ebersmunster, and Ebersheim--all in area between Selestat-Erstein RR line and the Rhine. Enemy enters Lapoutroie from the W, causing local withdrawal of 141st RCT elements of 36th Div. RCT 142 garrisons St. Hippolyte and Selestat and secures bridgehead across l'Ille R. at SE edge of Selestat. Fierce fighting holds 143d RCT at Ostheim and Guemar. Latter is taken in the afternoon and portion of Ostheim W of Fecht R. is cleared. In sector of 3d Alg Div, enemy pressure is particularly strong between Fellerling and Kruth on the upper Thur R.

I Corps Enemy counterattacks twice in 2d Mor Div sector, but loses ground in front of Bitschwiller and Thann. In Mulhouse area, patrol clashes occur W of Lutterbach. Rcn units near Niffer, between Hombourg and Kembs, provoke violent enemy arty reaction.

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Alps Sector Vigorous patrolling. First enemy arty fire in 3 days in N sector of 44th AAA Brig front.

Western French Forces Enemy occupies Chateau Didonne.

7 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps On Corps L flank, 324th Inf of 44th Div advances NW from vicinity of Guisberg against mortar and arty fire. Troops of 114th Div approaching Enchenberg from Montbrunn are pinned down by fire from edge of town and from RR tracks that run SE to Lemberg. Elements of 100th Div are fighting for the hills commanding Lemberg from the N and NE, making slow progress against considerable enemy 20-mm. fire. Mouterhouse, 4 miles SE of Lemberg, is captured by 397th Inf, which receives mortar, automatic weapons, SA, and flak gun fire while moving into the town. CCA of 12th Armd Div commences relief of 4th Armd Div (XII Corps) on Corps L flank, directly W of 44th Div.

VI Corps Aggressive patrolling and local fire fights take place on 45th Div front along the Zintzel and Falkenstein Rivers. The 94th Cav Rcn Sq and elements of 19th Armd Inf Bn attached to 79th Div attack Gambsheim from the W and S. This is well defended strongpoint near the Rhine about 10 miles NE of Strasbourg. Fighting continues throughout the day; by evening, attacking forces hold NW and SW corners of the village. Enemy harassing fire is strong in Haguenau area, and Schweighausen, to the W, receives heavy shelling in the morning. Some of enemy arty fire is probably from across the Rhine. The 103d Div advances N between 45th and 79th Div. Its rcn units relieve L flank units of 79th Div around Neubourg, on the Moder R.; other Div elements relieve 180th Inf, 45th Div, along Zintzel R. in Mertzwiller and vicinity during the night. Armd inf elements of 14th Armd Div reinforce its cav units in vicinity of Hoerdt, S of Haguenau.

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FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Elements of 2d GTM relieve 141st RCT of 36th Div in Lapoutroie-Freland sector on N flank, N of Orbey. Enemy renews attacks in Kayzersberg area, where he is building up considerable strength. Heavy fighting rages in hills about Kientzheim, Sigolsheim, Bennwihr, Mittelwihr, and Beblenheim. Mortar, arty, MG, and AT fire heavy on 143d RCT elements. Latter occupy Beblenheim, but are strongly counterattacked at Guemar and Mittelwihr and in Ostheim, where enemy crosses Fecht R. in boats. Enemy traffic E from Colmar and across the Rhine at Breisach reported heavy.

I Corps Second Mor Div captures Bitschwiller, enters Willer sur Thur and Thann, captures Michelbach, and extends its front along la Doller R. to Pont d'Aspach. Bridges at Thann and Aspach have been washed out. Street fighting in progress at Thann. Enemy arty fire strikes at Heimsbrunn and Morschwiller, W of Mulhouse. Fr heavy arty makes two direct hits on Chalampe bridge.

Alps Sector RCT 442 captures 8-man enemy patrol near Moulinet. Arty of 44th AAA Brig fires 57 missions at enemy pillboxes, mortar positions, and barracks.

8 Hq Detachment of 63d Div arrives at Marseilles.

U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps In limited objective attacks in afternoon and evening, CCA of 12th Armd Div advances toward high ground E of Gros Rederching and NE of Singling, completing relief of 4th Armd Div, Third Army. The 114th Inf of 44th Div fights its way into Enchenberg, although mines and 88-mm. fire prevent armor from getting into the town. Many casualties are caused by heavy arty, mortar, and automatic weapons fire from dug-in enemy positions. High ground commanding Lemberg is secured by 399th Inf, 100th Div. Lemberg-Bitche road and RR are cut and troops attack into Lemberg, making considerable progress in late afternoon. Five miles SE of Lemberg, 397th Inf finishes mopping

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up of Mouterhouse. Patrols of 106th Cav Gp, which is covering Corps R flank and maintaining contact with VI Corps, find town of Baerenthal, on the Zintzel R. 5 miles NW of Zinswiller, occupied by the enemy.

VI Corps Third Div begins program of deception to lead enemy to expect a Rhine crossing in Strasbourg sector and 103d Div and 14th Armd Div simulate preparations for an attack against enemy positions in the Bischwiller area and S thereof. On Corps L flank, 157th Inf of 45th Div attacks Niederbronn and is on NW edge of town by night. Units in center and on R flank of Div sector patrol toward Reichshoffen and Gundershoffen on Falkenstein R., between Niederbronn and Mertzwiller. Engrs of 79th Div remove mine fields and bridge charges that had earlier been placed along R flank near Kurtzenhausen and Weyersheim. The 94th Cav Rcn Sq clears Gamsheim and patrols toward Offendorf. Gamsheim under enemy mortar fire in evening. Elements of 315th Inf move S from Schweighausen, getting into position for an attack on Marienthal and Kaltenhouse.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps After arty preparation, enemy unsuccessfully counterattacks 2d Fr Armd Div troops holding Friessenheim, near Rhinau. Enemy fights back fiercely against 36th Div forces on outskirts of Mittelwihr, employing tank fire and heavy arty and mortar concentrations. There is also heavy combat before the Sigolsheim hill mass. Elements of 141st RCT advance toward Kaysersberg against SA and mortar resistance. Div units in SW sector of zone have reached le Rudlin, 2 miles NE of le Valtin. Malmerspach and Moosch, on Thur R. near St. Amarin, have been liberated by 2d Alg Div.

I Corps Second Corps elements are contacted on L flank, between Moosch and Thann. Second Mor Div holds two bridge-heads N of Thann over the Thur R., which is rising. Resistance continues strong at Lutterbach, adjoining Mulhouse.

Alps Sector The 27th Alps Div (FFI) relieves remnants of 4th Mtn Div, assuming responsibility for front along Franco-Italian border from vicinity of Larche Pass in the S to Bourg St. Maurice area in the N.

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2 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Attacks by task forces of CCA, 12th Armd Div, culminate in occupation of Singling-Bining area and seizure of half of Bining Barracks on Corps L flank. Arty supports 44th Div's attack on Enchenberg, 4 miles ESE of Bining, by laying smoke screen and directing time fire over enemy fox holes. Enemy withdraws to the N during following night. Lemberg, SE of Enchenberg, falls to 399th Inf, 100th Div, but mopping up continues throughout day.

VI Corps Forty-fifth Div troops fight way into Niederbronn from N and W and clear town by mid-afternoon. Div continues to feel out defenses of Reichshoffen and Gundershoffen, farther down the Falkenstein R. Patrol of 103d Div draws enemy SA and MG fire when attempting to cross Zintzel R. Valley floor is flooded and all bridges out. Elements of 94th Cav Rcn Sq and 14th Armd Div move down Rhine R. from Gamsheim toward area directly SE of Haguenau and Bischwiller. Seventy-ninth Div attacks NE along axis Bischwiller-Seltz. Bischwiller falls easily to units of 313th Inf which attacked at dawn without arty preparation and by-passed the Gries woods. Other elements of this regt overrun enemy positions in the woods. Bridge across the Moder R. at Bischwiller is captured intact. Oberhoffen, N of Bischwiller, is cleared of moderate resistance in the afternoon and the attacking forces dig in on E edge of the town. During same period, 315th Inf is attacking toward Kaltenhouse, between Bischwiller and Haguenau, and has reached edge of woods on S side of Marienthal. The 314th Inf attacks at 1400 in forest strip on SW side of Haguenau and by midnight reaches SW edge of city, meeting strong opposition.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Severe fighting continues on outskirts of Sigolsheim, Mittelwihr, and Bennwihr and in the hills above Kientzheim. Mittelwihr is cleared during afternoon. Enemy troops assaulting 36th Div forces in this area have strong armor support.

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I Corps Second Mor Div mops up Thann as far as Vieux Thann and enlarges bridgehead across the river. Counter-attack is repulsed SW of Thann. Div has difficulty holding Pont d'Aspach, on the Doller R., because of enemy pressure and flooded stream. Fourth Mtn Div is in fierce fighting at Lutterbach.

Alps Sector Active patrolling.

Western French Forces Enemy patrols active from coastal pockets of resistance at La Rochelle and at mouth of Gironde Estuary.

10 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

Newly arrived 63d and 42d Divs are assigned to Seventh Army on 10 December; elements of each are organized as TF Harris and TF Linden, respectively.

XV Corps CCA of 12th Armd Div finishes taking of Bining Barracks and captures Rohrbach-les-Bitche. Div CP at Domfessel is under fire during night of 9--10 Dec from German railroad guns of 380-mm. caliber. After fierce fighting, 324th Inf, 44th Div, takes Maierhof in the vicinity of Petit-Rederching. Intense enemy arty fire is received near Enchenberg, where 71st Inf enters line, relieving elements of 114th Inf. Units of 100th Div advance N from Mouterhouse. N of Lemberg, 399th Inf is relieved by 398th Inf.

VI Corps The 157th Inf of 45th Div advances 3 miles NE of Niederbronn and clears Jaegerthal. Mine fields and rugged terrain are chief delaying factors here, rather than enemy arms. At 0530, 180th Inf attacks against scattered arty and mortar fire and pushes armor into Reichshoffen across RR bridge on W while assaulting town from N and S. The town is taken by 1600. In the afternoon, another column of this regt seizes Gundershoffen, less than two miles S, after exchange of SA and MG fire and grenades. After 315th Inf, 79th Div, takes Marienthal

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and Kaltenhouse, it turns R to cross Moder R. at Bischwiller since bridge S of Haguenau is blown. Enemy appears to have withdrawn from vicinity of Bischwiller beyond woods N of Oberhoffen. The woods are cleared by 1502 and troops proceed to Schirrhein under heavy fire and with tank support occupy most of the village. The 314th Inf is engaged in fierce fighting at SE edge of Haguenau, finally breaking enemy resistance along RR line. Ninety-fourth Cav Rcn Sq is relieved at Gamsheim by 117th Cav Rcn Sq during the night. The 103d Div attacks NE toward Zintzel R. at 0530. After crossing Zintzel R. on improvised footbridges, 410th Inf assaults enemy strongpoints in houses in N section of Mertzwiller. Group of 45th Div men who had been cut off and in hiding in that part of the town for several days is rescued. To the NW, at Uttenhoffen, 411th Inf crosses against less resistance, elements reaching Forstheim, 2½ miles NE of the river, by nightfall. Enemy aircraft bomb and strafe targets in 103d Div sector.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Thirty-sixth Div repels small counterattacks in Sigolsheim-Bennwihr sector. Enemy arty fire is very heavy. Resistance stiffens along N front of 3d Alg Div. Enemy infiltration causes slight withdrawal to N in Orbey area.

I Corps Second Mor Div enters Michelbach, N of Doller R. Fighting continues at Lutterbach. Ninth Col Div captures Schaeferhof and Loehle, clearing last enemy bridgehead over the Rhine between Kembs and the Swiss border.

Alps Sector Normal patrol and arty activity.

11 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Twelfth Armd Div elements (CCA) attack N to vicinity W of Guising. Units advancing toward Bettviller, on Div R flank, are stopped by a mine field and by enemy fire from 88-mm. guns which forces troops back to the RR tracks. Petit-Rederching is seized by 324th Inf, 44th Div, against intense arty, mortar, tank cannon, and SA fire. Seventy-first Inf occupies Lambach, Siersthal, and

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Frohmuhl against automatic weapons and mortar fire, much of which is apparently from Ft. Simserhof, SE of Hottviller. The 398th Inf of 100th Div spearheads attack N from Lemberg toward Bitche and the Maginot Line, meeting heavy arty, mortar, and SA fire. Several high ground objectives are taken between Lemberg and Reysersviller. The 106th Cav Gp continues to encounter enemy patrols on Corps R flank in the Baerenthal area, deep in the Vosges Mtns. Baerenthal, itself, is cleared, but enemy holds high ground N and E of it.

VI Corps Enemy shells Niederbronn in 45th Div sector. Left flank elements are in hills N of Langensoultzbach. Woods W of Froeschwiller on R flank are reached against sporadic opposition and town is cleared, against SP gun and SA fire, by 1700. Mertzwiller is completely cleared by 103d Div troops, which meet relatively little resistance as they advance over open and rolling terrain E of Zintzel R., since the Maginot Line is not manned in this sector. Mines and demolitions are frequent, however. Enemy hastily withdraws across la Sauer R., but offers real opposition as Div reaches Gunstett, E of the Sauer. Moderate resistance is met as troops near Woerth, on the L side of the corridor between the Vosges forests and Haguenau Forest, but town itself is easily occupied. The 313th Inf of 79th Div passes through Schirrhein in approaching Soufflenheim from direction of Bischwiller. Fighting in Soufflenheim is heavy and bridgehead across Eberbach R. is not established until midnight. Haguenau is secured by 314th Inf, resistance being reduced to occasional sniper fire; Bailey bridge is installed across Moder R. Patrols report no contact with enemy in Haguenau Forest. Rcn units move along Haguenau-Surbourg route through Haguenau Forest. The 315th Inf completes clearing Camp d'Oberhoffen, where considerable enemy supplies are captured. During night of 11--12 Dec, the three regts of 79th Div are converted into mobile combat teams. Ninety-fourth Cav Rcn Sq returns to control of 14th Armd Div from attachment to 79th Div. The 117th Cav Rcn Sq is attached to 79th Div and moves to area N of Gamsheim.

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FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Enemy units fail in attempt to cross the Rhine N of Rhinau. German tanks are active in Bennwihr-Houssen area as elements of 141st and 143d Regts, 36th Div, attempt to push into Bennwihr and S from Hills 393 and 351. Enemy throws smoke screen over valley from Sigolsheim to Bennwihr. Third Alg Div captures Bas d'Orbey, E of Blanc and Noir Lakes. To the N, Fr armd elements gain ground in vicinity of le Bonhomme.

I Corps Continuing its attack between la Doller and la Thur Rivers, 2d Mor Div occupies Vieux Thann, Aspach-le Haut, and Asbach-le Bas, none more than 3 miles from Cernay.

Alps Sector No contact with enemy.

12 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps CCA of 12th Armd Div occupies Guising, Hoelling, and Bettviller. Advance of 324th Inf, 44th Div, NE from Petit-Rederching, carries to W bank of Schwalb R., over-running farms between Kleinmuhl and Holbach. The advance of 71st Inf N from Siersthal is stopped by blown bridges and by arty fire from Ft. Simserhof in the Ensemble de Bitche. These formidable fortifications of the Maginot Line are situated on commanding ground along an E-W line passing immediately N of Bitche. They are comprised, from L to R, of the fortresses of Simserhoff, Schiesseck, Otterbiel, and Grand Hohekirkel, each consisting of from 6 to 11 pillboxes or casemates, while several smaller fortresses fill in gaps between the larger emplacements. The 100th Div continues its attack toward Bitche, reaching high ground along the highway $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles SW of Bitche; on Div R flank elements are approaching high ground SE of Camp de Bitche.

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VI Corps Elements of 21st Pz Div appear in sector of German front held by 245th Inf Div and 256th VG Div. Opposition increases on L flank of 45th Div as 157th Inf approaches Maginot Line stretching across Vosges Mts between Lembach on the E and Bitchie on the W. Langensoultzbach is taken after bitter house-to-house battles throughout the day. SA fights occur between this town and Mattstall, 1½ miles NE. Elements of 179th Inf move NW from Niederbronn up the Falkenstein R. to Philippsbourg, where a few prisoners are taken. On Div R flank, 180th Inf attacks through Woerth to Goersdorf, where lengthy fire fight develops. Three enemy tanks are driven from the area and 180th Inf elements proceed NE to high ground of the Hochwald. Resistance at Dieffenbach and Goersdorf, astride main roads E from Woerth, is cleaned up by 411th Inf, 103d Div, and troops continue advance to occupy Preuschdorf and Mitschdorf. Enemy seems to be withdrawing N toward Lembach. Four German armd cars are destroyed just beyond Preuschdorf. On the whole, isolated enemy groups are surrendering rather than fighting it out. In center of Div sector, 409th crosses la Sauer R. at Gunstett, advances NE, and clears Merkwiller. On Div E flank, 410th Inf clears Biblisheim and seizes Surbourg, near N edge of Haguenau Forest. Seventy-ninth Div overcomes final resistance at Soufflenheim, at SE edge of Haguenau Forest, and enemy withdraws generally from Haguenau area. One column of 313th RCT drives on for Seltz, 3 miles NE of Soufflenheim and at N end of corridor between Haguenau Forest and the Rhine. Half of Seltz is in their hands by evening. To the W, other column moves on parallel axis, moving up through Haguenau Forest to Niederroedern on N bank of Seltzbach R. Troops cross on ruins of blown bridge and on a footbridge; by midnight they have cut all roads into the village. Cav and rcn elements on Div R flank report nine villages cleared between Gambshheim and Seltz. Fourteenth Armd Div is ordered into the line between 103d and 79th Divs, to attack toward German border between Wissenbourg and Scheibenhard. Road block is removed from Haguenau-Surbourg road just N of Haguenau.

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FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps RCT 142 units of 36th Div are heavily attacked in factory area at E edge of Selestat. About 200 of the enemy are captured after a second attack at 1730. Strong arty resistance prevents 143d Inf from completely clearing ridge line S of Hunawihr. Elements of 141st RCT lose ground before enemy attack above Kientzheim; enemy overruns mortar positions near Riquewihr, but is turned back with heavy losses in the afternoon. Third Alg Div is under strong enemy pressure at Hohneck, Kruth, and Bussang Pass.

I Corps Fierce enemy counterattack is launched N of Thann against elements of 2d Mor Div. First Armd Div units take some prisoners during engagement with enemy detachment in Schweighouse area.

Alps Sector Rcn and security patrols active.

13 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps The 92d Cav Rcn Sq clears area NE of Bettviller and screens front line of 12th Armd Div on Corps L flank. Under heavy fire, Engrs construct a bridge near Petit-Rederching. To the NE, elements of 324th Inf, 44th Div, ford Schwalb R. in five feet of water. Seventy-first Inf attacks toward Ft. Simserhof from positions between Siersthal and Holbach. At 1600, enemy counterattack throws the assaulting forces back from Freudenberg Farm. Enemy also maintains harassing arty and MG fire on front line troops. Small groups sent out by 71st Inf during night to reduce concrete emplacements are mainly unsuccessful. Arty fires long-range mission into town of Brenschelbach, Germany, for 100th Div. Troops of 398th Inf, 100th Div, occupy Meyersviller, less than 2 miles SW of Bitche, unopposed, but are pinned down at edge of woods by fire from the forts and so remain in woods for the night, while Div and Corps arty is brought up.

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VI Corps Forty-fifth Div's 157th Inf clears Disteldorf, 2 miles W of Lembach. Patrols of 180th Inf, which has occupied Mattstall, reach W edge of Lembach, drawing heavy MG and rifle fire from the town. Elements of 121st Cav Rcn Sq (XV Corps) relieve 179th Inf unit at Philippsbourg and unit moves back to Niederbronn. The 103d Div continues attacking NE, reaching Soultz-sous-Forêts and Memelshoffen against negligible resistance. On Div N flank, 411th Inf advances along edge of le Hochwald Mt., which is studded with unoccupied pillboxes of Maginot Line; road blocks and mines are numerous. Resistance stiffens as Lembach-Climbach area is approached. The 409th Inf advances through wooded terrain S of Lobsann, overcoming isolated pockets of resistance. Fourteenth Armd Div advances N between 103d and 79th Divs. CCA proceeds NE to Soultz-sous-Forêts and CCB moves E along N edge of Haguenau Forest to vicinity of Hatten. Armor of 313th RCT, 79th Div, crosses swift Seltzbach R. and clears remaining half of town of Seltz. RCT 315 clears Niederroedern, 3 miles WNW of Seltz, despite heavy enemy arty and mortar fire, especially on bridge site. Eberbach, 1½ miles N, is also cleared. Fort Louis, on Div R flank 5 miles SE of Soufflenheim, is reported clear by 117th Cav Rcn Sq.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Second Fr Armd Div captures Witternheim, in center of sector S of Benfeld, and reaches outskirts of Neunkirch, to the E, after overcoming mined areas and abatis. Enemy persists in efforts to dislodge 36th Div from ground commanding Colmar from the NW, but Div continues to hold Fecht-Mühlbach river line from Selestat to Ostheim and Mt. de Sigolsheim, overlooking Kaysersberg valley. Local withdrawals are made, however, by elements of 143d and 141st RCTs. Enemy attacks on Selestat continue. The enemy is reinforcing his positions before Hill 393 and in Kientzheim Forest. RCT 143 inflicts heavy casualties on enemy forces attacking NW of Mittelwihr. U.S. Third Div (VI Corps) starts relief of 36th Div by commencing to move elements from Strasbourg area to vicinity of Ribeauville.

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In 3d Alg Div sector enemy places heavy arty fire on Bussang and probes aggressively in Hohneck area.

I Corps Second Mor Div elements have withdrawn from Brandwaldkopf after enemy counterattack N of Thann.

Alps Sector Ren activity and harassing fire on both sides. Cannon Co of 442d RCT fires propaganda leaflets into Grimaldi. The 65th Inf Regt (less 1st and 2d Bns) relieves units of 2d Bn, 442d RCT, and takes up defensive positions in vicinity of Sospel, Turini, Roquebillere, and Belvedere, with detachments at Nice and Peira Cava, also.

14 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Forty-fourth Div develops its positions along Schwalb R., W and SW of Hottviller and commences attack on Ft. Simserhof. Seventy-first Inf regains ground lost on previous day, neutralizing three pillboxes and taking Freudenberg Farm, then presses attack against the personnel and ammo entrances to Ft. Simserhof. The 398th Inf of 100th Div attacks NW from the woods SW of Bitche and advances beyond Ft. Freudenberg, but is pinned down by overwhelming fire as it approaches Ft. Schiesseck. The 399th Inf is moving up by the Bitche-Lemberg road.

VI Corps The 157th Inf of 45th Div meets extremely stiff resistance from enemy line running through woods N of Lembach. Dug-in enemy inf halts troops just E of roads leading NW out of Lembach and very heavy fire is received from SA, MG, mortar, arty, and SP guns. On L flank, 179th Inf patrols reach high ground S of Niedersteinbach. Lembach, itself, is attacked from the S and W by 180th Inf and is cleared by 1112. The road leading S out of the town was found heavily mined and blocked. Wingen, 2 miles NE of Lembach and within 2 miles of the German border, is also secured in the evening. The 103d Div attacks Climbach, 4 1/2 miles WSW of Wissenbourg, to cut German supply lines passing W through it to Lembach. Motorized column of TF Blackshear (411th Inf), approaching Climbach along road

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from the S, is struck by heavy enemy barrage. Swift arty action enables riflemen and machine gunners to secure two hills flanking the village, and Climbach is finally captured after a hard fight. Reinforcements are sent from 410th Inf when TF Blackshear is counterattacked in evening by about 200 enemy infantrymen and 4 tanks. The 409th Inf takes Claebourg, then comes up against strong enemy rearguard action at Steinseltz, Oberhoffen, and Rott, villages immediately SW of Wissembourg. CCA, 14th Armd Div, clears Riedseltz, 5 miles NE of Soultz-sous-Forets, then is halted by intense and accurate fire and is counterattacked by 6 Mark IV tanks. Counterattack is repulsed and two enemy tanks knocked out. Other elements of CCA are at Oberseebach, 2 miles SE of Riedseltz. CCB reaches Salmbach on Div R flank, having crossed open region between Haguenau Forest and the Bien woods, and fighting begins within the town. Continuing the drive NE along line of the Rhine, armd column of RCT 313 of 79th Div reaches outskirts of Lauterbach, where it digs in for the night under heavy fire from the city. Two miles W, RCT 315, which has moved up from Niederroedern, is dug in on outskirts of Scheibenhard. During night, patrols report enemy tanks and inf in both Scheibenhard and Niederlauterbach. Third Div units commence move from Strasbourg area to Ribeauville sector between and W of Selestat and Colmar, where Div will relieve 36th Div, which will take over Strasbourg area.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Continuing its attack at 0700, 2d Fr Armd Div advances S to vicinity of Bindernheim, over terrain thickly strewn with mines and obstacles. Enemy counter-attack against 36th Div units in Ostheim is repulsed during morning. Attacks against Hill 393 continue, threatening to break through defenses of 141st RCT. RCT 143 is heavily engaged at Mittelwihr. Near Bennwihr, two enemy counterattacks preceded by heavy arty preparation are quickly beaten off and enemy infiltration into forest is halted. First BTL of 4th Mtn Div arrives in vicinity of Gersheim, in N of 2d Alg Div sector.

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Enemy mortars active in S of sector.

I Corps Another counterattack hits 2d Mor Div less than a mile N of Thann and is repulsed only after serious losses have occurred.

Alps Sector Heavy enemy arty and mortar fire on Sospel, as 65th Regt troops move into position. In the N, during 24-hr. period ending at noon, strong enemy patrol near Tournoux is dispersed by automatic fire. Enemy arty and mortar fire received at le Lavoir and la Turra, W of Frejus tunnel.

Western French Forces Bouhet and le Gue d'Allere are evacuated after strong enemy attack.

15 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Seventy-first Inf, 44th Div, reconnoiters the 8 pillboxes of Ft. Simserhof from the E and fights off local counterattacks. Demolition of S entrances to the fort is continued. Dug-in tanks are used to fire at apertures in face of Ft. Simserhof. The 324th Inf repulses several counterattacks in afternoon and improves positions against further counterattacks. Medium and heavy arty is concentrated on Ft. Schiesseck in 100th Div sector, but even 240-mm. and 8-inch shells ricochet off casemates without inflicting severe damage. Three of the 11 blocks of this fort have disappearing turrets and all are surrounded by moats and have tubes for rolling grenades against attacking troops. Both Fts. Otterbiel and Grand Hohekirkel, to the E, can cover attacks on Schiesseck with their arty.

VI Corps On L flank of 45th Div, 179th Inf units in Windstein-Nagelsthal area are under harassing arty fire all day. The 157th Inf continues attacks N into Bois de Wingen, while 180th Inf advances N of Pt. Wingen against light resistance from the front and the R flank. German border is crossed during afternoon. Rott, 2 miles SW of Wissembourg, is cleared by 409th Inf, 103d Div, after 3-hr. battle, and enemy retires into

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walled section of Wissenbourg. Early in the morning, TF Blackshear and elements of 410th Inf, 103d Div, repulse another counterattack at Climbach. Div attack at 0730 forces enemy to withdraw to fixed fortifications of the Siegfried Line; attacking forces cross German border directly N of Climbach at 1305. CCB, 12th Armd Div, occupies Salmbach and Schleithal and makes slight gains to the N against heavy SA, arty, and mortar fire. Elements of CCA advancing from Riedseltz toward Wissenbourg are halted by enemy fire from direction of Oberdorf. At 0550, RCT 313 of 79th Div attacks Lauterbourg from W and S and succeeds in driving enemy across the Lauter and the German border. During the afternoon, troops are under heavy fire from enemy arty across the river; the bridge is destroyed. RCT 315 clears Niederlauterbach by 1100, seizes S half of Scheibenhart and crosses Lauter R. into N part.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Germans launch counterattacks across entire Corps front. Second Fr Armd Div elements are forced to draw back to S edges of Witternheim and Neunkirch. Thirtieth Inf of U.S. 3d Div is attached to 36th Div in vicinity of Ribeauville and enters combat at 1100, attacking S against Kaysersberg along axis Chapelle de St. Alexis-Toggenbach road toward Hills 672 and 651. Although repeatedly counterattacked, RCT 141, 36th Div, achieves some progress on Hill 393. RCT 143 consolidates positions above Mittelwihr. Units of both 36th Div and 3d Alg Div attack from region S of Bonhomme Pass toward Mont de Sigolsheim. Orbey, about 2 miles S of Lapoutroie, is occupied. Counterattack by enemy forces elements of 3d Alg Div to withdraw from top of the Hohneck (SE of Lac de Retournemer).

I Corps Active rcn. Arty fire received at Mulhouse.

Alps Sector Enemy arty very heavy, especially just N of Sospel.

Western French Forces Enemy vacates Bouhet and le Gue d'Allere following their bombardment.

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XV Corps Eighty-seventh Div, on R flank of XII Corps (U.S. Third Army), and 44th Div, on L flank of XV Corps, are converging in area W of Petit-Rederching, pinching out 12th Armd Div units. Bn of 324th Inf, 44th Div, is attacked 3 times during night by enemy tanks. Two hills SE of Bitch are captured by 397th Inf of 100th Div, as elements of 100th Div make limited attacks to secure favorable positions for operations against the Bitch fortifications. Twenty-seven tons of 500-lb. bombs dropped on the fortifications by XII TAC have little apparent effect.

VI Corps The 157th Inf of 45th Div occupies Nothweiler, about 5 miles N of Lembach, then advances along roads to N and NE. Platoon of 179th Inf occupies Hirschthal, also on the border, but $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles SW of Nothweiler. Advancing N from Wingen, 180th Inf clears Bobenthal, on the Lauter R., and carries the attack $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles farther N, until the advance is stopped by fire from enemy pillboxes. On 103d Div R flank, 409th Inf by-passes Wissembourg and enters Germany N of the city, moving onto rising slopes beyond the Lauter R. and seizing Schweigen and Rechtenbach. CCA of 14th Armd Div passes through Wissembourg, crosses Lauter R., and takes Schweighofen, to the E, with a small force. On Div R flank, CCB has great difficulty in crossing Lauter R. S of Bien woods. Three groups cross, only to be forced back to S bank by fire from entrenched enemy forces. Arty of 79th Div places TOT on Neu Lauterbourg, village across the river and border from Lauterbourg, and inf enters unopposed at 1330. Berg, 1 mile NE of Lauterbourg, is taken against slight resistance. Units of 313th and 315th RCTs cross Lauter R. in vicinity of Scheibenhard. Opposite this Corps front, Siegfried Line is held by the German 245th Inf Div, elements of the 21st Pz Div, and the 256th VG Div.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Positions of 2d Fr Armd Div at Neunkirch and Witternheim are held and strengthened. RCT 30 of 3d Div, now with 36th Div, inflicts heavy casualties on enemy delaying detachments along route to Kaysersberg. High

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elements of 36th Div, it enters Kaysersberg during night, capturing intact a bridge over the Weiss R. Arty fire stops fresh counterattack by enemy.

I Corps Enemy attempts infiltration in Mulhouse. Altkirch, 9 miles SW of Mulhouse, is shelled by enemy.

Alps Sector Enemy patrol attacks positions of 65th Regt. Scattered arty fire received.

17 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Eightieth Div, U.S. Third Army, relieves 12th Armd Div and latter withdraws to vicinity of Rimsdorf. Forty-fourth and 100th Divs continue attack on Bitche forts of Maginot Line, defended by 361st VG Div and 25th Pz Gren Div. Fire from 90-mm. TD units and 155-mm. "Long-Toms" forces Germans to withdraw to underground portions of their casemates. Fire is maintained on the casemates until attacking inf are within 300 yards of them, then foot soldiers and engrs dash to a selected block and work on it while arty keeps adjacent blocks buttoned up. Doors are blown in by dynamite dropped from the top of the pillbox or by a pole charge across the moat. When the cupola has been entered across the resulting debris, the elevator or staircase within is destroyed, thus shutting off any additional enemy below. Tank dozer is then used to bury the casemate. XII TAC supports 44th Div with 3 close support missions over Ft. Simserhof and Simserhof Farm. Dug-in tanks and TD's place direct fire on the Fort and elements of 71st Inf are able to penetrate personnel entrance on hill to the S (unit 9). The 114th Inf moves N to relieve 324th Inf W and NW of Hottviller. After 1½ hours of air and arty bombardment, 398th Inf of 100th Div moves toward Ft. Schiesseck under a light rolling barrage at 1130. Assault squads, using grenades and satchel charges and followed by tank-dozers, dispose of first two blocks (10 and 11) and the Ft. Freudenberg personnel entrance, although under continual harassing fire from blocks on top of the hill and from neighboring forts and town of Bitche. Enemy opposes the attack with 88-mm., 77-mm., automatic weapons, and SA fire from the fortifications, as well as arty and mortar fire from near-by positions. At 1130, 397th Inf

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launches diversionary attack on Camp de Bitche, on Div R flank. In center of sector, 399th Inf has captured College de Bitche. Fort Otterbiel is bombed in afternoon by 12 P-47s of XII TAC. During the night, Div Arty fires on remaining blocks of the fortifications to clear paths through the barbed wire.

VI Corps Forty-fifth Div forces on Corps L flank advance to point just S of Bundenthal, which is on Lauter R. over 3 miles NW of Bobenthal. Elements of 157th RCT attempt to cross river in evening in rubber assault boats, but are forced back by enemy fire. Patrols of 130th Inf find considerable enemy activity in Nieder Schlettenbach, between Bundenthal and Bobenthal. Fire is especially heavy from enemy pillboxes and trenches along road W of Nieder Schlettenbach. Having reached Siegfried Line, enemy forces halt their withdrawal in the Rhine Valley. The 103d Div runs into heavy fire from Siegfried Line N and NW of Wissembourg. Troops are withdrawn slightly in afternoon to permit heavy bombing missions to pound enemy positions. CCA of 14th Armd Div, confronted by intense enemy fire and dragon's teeth defense works, likewise withdraws from its advance positions on roads to Ober-Otterbach and Steinfeld as XII TAC flies two medium bomber missions of 120 sorties against fortifications between these towns. Bombings have only limited success. On Div E flank, CCB succeeds in getting patrols across Lauter R. into Bien woods. RCT 313, 79th Div, passes beyond Berg into Bien woods, where it comes under heavy fire from Siegfried Line. RCT 314 comes forward between 315th and 313th Regts, advances into Bien woods to outer defenses of Siegfried Line and digs in below Buchelberg. Entire 79th Div is now across German border, ready to assault fixed defenses of Siegfried Line, and before it lie mine fields, wire entanglements, pillboxes, and an AT ditch 12 to 25 feet wide.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Elements of 2d Fr Armd Div relieve RCT 142, 36th Div, in Selestat. RCT 30 repulses heavy attack on E edge of Kaysersberg and Fr armd units advance through 141st RCT positions to occupy Kientzheim during night of 17-18

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Dec. Little progress made by 143d RCT elements fighting on Hill 351.

I Corps German counterattack on the Oberfeld, N of Willer sur Thur, is stopped by arty fire. Enemy arty fire on Mulhouse becomes heavy and further infiltration is attempted.

Alps Sector Rcn and security patrolling.

18 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

Advance units of Task Force Harris (63d Div) arrive at Camp d'Oberhoffen, between Haguenau and Bischwiller in VI Corps sector, where TF will undergo intensive training.

XV Corps Twelfth Armd Div is ordered to reoccupy Bining and area to the N, relieving 80th Div. Arty of 44th Div continues to pound Ft. Simserhof to soften it for assault by 71st Inf. Enemy resists attempts of attacking troops to push along underground railway tunnel from personnel entrance, which is therefore abandoned after stairway and ventilation system have been dynamited. By this time, units 1 and 2 have also been penetrated, 4, 5, and 6 are severely damaged, and the turrets have been blown off unit 10. Freudenberg OP, a metal dome of 12" steel, is seized. The 398th Inf of 100th Div captures all of Ft. Schiesseck but block 2.

VI Corps Divisions of this Corps fight desperately to breach the Siegfried Line, but are able to make very little progress through the many defensive works covered by SA and MG fire from well entrenched positions. On Corps L flank, RCT 157, 45th Div, continues attempts during night to outflank Bundenthal on the Lauter R. Troops wade through waist-deep, icy water at three different sites, but are forced back to S bank by enemy fire. A bn crosses by a bridge at Bundenthal and enters the S edge of the town. Altogether 4 platoons become cut off in the outskirts of Bundenthal for the following 5 days, as later attempts to cross at this point are thwarted by enemy fire. Div Arty fires on Rumbach and

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Baerenbach, W and N of Bundenthal, respectively. In area SW of 157th Inf positions, 179th Inf clears Niedersteinbach, over 2 miles NW of Disteldorf. ESE of Bundenthal, 180th Div enters Nieder Schlettenbach, N of the Lauter R., and holds it against a stiff counterattack. It also secures Hill 327, E of the town, after spending two days reducing pillboxes in the vicinity. Enemy infiltrates to the rear of 103d Div advance elements, obstructing roads previously cleared. Div continues its attack on the Siegfried Line N of Climbach and Wissembourg; employing assault teams with satchel charges. The 409th Inf seizes hill 1 mile W of Doerrenbach, 5 miles N of Wissembourg. Bitter resistance is met by 411th Inf, which uses rocket launcher and AT grenades in capturing bunker on Hill 518, 3 miles W of Doerrenbach. CCR's 68th Armd Inf Bn is assigned to CCA on L flank of 14th Armd Div, relieving 62d AIB, and CCA continues the assault on Siegfried Line defenses NE of Wissembourg. Slight progress is made, but elements approaching Ober-Otterbach are driven back by heavy arty, SA, and mortar fire. CCB patrols W end of Bien woods. Seventy-ninth Div forces facing Siegfried Line in Bien woods in vicinity of Berg and Buechelberg fail in attempts to advance through its outer defenses, but by nightfall AT ditch near Berg is successfully filled with dirt so tanks can cross there.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Having freed road from Freland to Kaysersberg, 36th Div elements continue movement SE and occupy Ammerschwyr, where strong, tank-supported counterattack is repelled. RCT 143, attacking S, clears Mittelwyr and reaches outskirts of Bennwyr. RCT 30 completes mop-up in Kaysersberg and vicinity.

I Corps Enemy patrols reported at outskirts of Schweighouse in la Doller R. sector.

Alps Sector Very little activity. Scattered enemy arty falls in 65th Regt area.

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19 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Seventy-first Inf of 44th Div jumps off against Ft. Simserhof and completes its reduction. The 114th Inf attacks Hottviller, to the NW, captures it by 1045 and seizes high ground N of it. Enemy is withdrawing to the N. The 398th Inf of 100th Div surrounds block 2 of Ft. Schiessock and repels enemy counterattack. Twelfth Armd Div relieves elements of 80th Div just S of German border, in vicinity of Epping-Urbach.

VI Corps Forty-fifth Div patrols fail to contact 157th Inf elements isolated in Bundenthal. Units attempting to reach Bundenthal from the E are stopped by heavy MG fire. Interdicting arty, TD, and mortar fire is placed on enemy pillboxes N and NW of Nieder Schlettenbach. The 103d Div suffers heavy casualties from mortar and arty fire and hand grenades. On L flank, 411th Inf, advancing on either side of the road to Reisdorf, reduces several of innumerable enemy pillbox positions. After three days of assault, large bunker SE of Reisdorf still holds out. Grenade launchers and Div Arty prove ineffective against larger fortifications in the Siegfried Line. The 409th Inf captures two pillboxes W of Doerrenbach. Forward units of CCA, 14th Armd Div, in area above Ober Otterbach, receive enemy arty, mortar, and sniper fire all day. Seventy-ninth Div attacks with 4 bns in the Bien woods. Wire obstacles and a road block prevent any appreciable gain and troops are soon pinned down by enemy fire. A platoon of tanks and 2 cos of riflemen of 313th RCT cross the AT ditch above Berg and knock out 3 enemy pillboxes, losing 2 tanks. Two counterattacks are repulsed. The 314th RCT works up through woods SW of Buechelberg. In evening, both regts remain in place and dig in.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Mutual reliefs by bns of U.S. 3d and 36th Divs continues, as RCT 141 moves to Strasbourg area. Only light enemy contact in 36th Div sector during day. The widespread counterattacks begun by the enemy on 15 Dec have been stopped along most of Corps front but continue in Orbey and Lac Noir region on N flank of 3d Alg Div.

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I Corps Enemy increases harassing fire against Schweighouse and shells Mulhouse.

Alps Sector Elements of RCT 442 capture German miniature submarine off Menton. Enemy activity throughout sector increases slightly.

20 In order to check German attempts at espionage and sabotage, armored road blocks are being set up throughout area held by this army group.

U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

Newly arrived 70th Div, now at Delta Base, is assigned to this army; elements organized as TF Herren. Units of 42d Div which have been attached to Third Army are transferred to Seventh Army as TF Linden.

XV Corps The 87th Div, U.S. Third Army, passes to command of XV Corps at 2100. As 398th Inf, 100th Div, completes the capture of Ft. Schiesseck, Corps goes on defensive; 398th Inf pulls back to position on high ground to the S and 399th Inf withdraws its co from College de Bitch. Aggressive patrolling continues on both sides.

VI Corps Intense fire from enemy positions in and about Bundenthal continues to thwart all efforts to rescue four platoons of 157th Inf, 45th Div, now cut off in the town. Elements of 180th Inf at Nieder Schlettenbach withdraw to S of Lauter R. during the night to organize defensive positions. Bollenborn and Doerrenbach, to the E, are shelled by 103d Div Arty. The 409th Inf digs in at strong positions NW of Doerrenbach, after beating off strong counterattack in which enemy employs flame throwers and Molotov cocktails. Elements of 411th Inf dig in S. of Reisdorf. Fourteenth Armd Div carries out patrol duties and firing missions along Rechtenbach-Kapsweyer line, facing Siegfried Line defenses of the enemy. Between this sector and the Rhine, 79th Div goes on the defensive,

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dissolving its combat teams, located in the S portion of Bien woods. Enemy remains very active, counters patrol moves with heavy SA fire, and maintains light harassing fire on the regts.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Fr armd elements in 36th Div sector cross Walbach stream in vicinity of Ammerschwihr and reach quarry E of Katzenthal. Thirty-sixth Div continues process of exchanging positions with 3d Div, which has been holding Strasbourg area.

Alps Sector Arty active on both sides. Ren unit finds enemy elements at Lanslebourg.

21 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

In view of German offensive in the Ardennes, Seventh Army prepares to extend its line westward to St. Avold, relieving XII Corps of Third Army.

XV Corps On E flank of 12th Armd Div, 56th Armd Inf Bn attacks early in morning toward Utweiler, across the German border. Town is not entered until late afternoon and troops soon withdraw S of town because of heavy enemy arty and mortar fire. Later in evening, two platoons re-enter the town. The 100th Div extends its sector to the W, relieving 44th Div, which in turn, relieves 35th Div units in area NE of Sarreguémines. Harassing enemy arty fire is only activity in present 100th Div sector. Area which 100th Div holds E of Bitch-Wimmenau line will be occupied by VI Corps units; in the meantime, 106th Cav Gp takes over this area as 100th Div elements in question move NW. Shifting of XV Corps units is well underway by end of day.

VI Corps Forty-fifth Div organizes defensive positions and starts to relieve 103d Div in sector; 179th Inf relieves elements of 409th Inf and 180th Inf prepares to relieve 179th Inf. The 157th Inf is still unable to contact

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forces cut off in Bundenthal. Patrol on L flank finds Schoenau, 5 miles SW of Bundenthal and 1 mile NW of Hirschthal, occupied by enemy. Command of 3d Div sector passes to CG, 36th Div, at 1430. Seventy-ninth Div units remain in place, maintaining contact with enemy's defenses in and SE of Bien woods. Much automatic and direct fire comes from enemy forces around Neuburg, 2 miles E of Berg.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps U.S. Third Div completes relief of U.S. 36th Div on N flank of Corps zone, taking over front line running S and SW from Selestat to vicinity of Katzenthal, 3 miles NW of Colmar. Corps consolidates newly won positions. During afternoon, enemy mortar fire falls in area S of Kientzheim. Sigolsheim is still enemy occupied.

Alps Sector Enemy arty activity increases slightly.

22 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

Two regts (253d and 255th) of TF Harris (63d Div) relieve the 117th Cav Sq in defense area along the Rhine R. from Seltz S to Gambsheim; sector quiet, with only activity patrolling to W bank of Rhine. TF Herren (70th Div) establishes CP at Bischwiller, S of Haguenau Forest.

XV Corps Forty-fourth Div completes move into new sector extending from Erching westward to Sarreguemines, relieving part of 87th Div and completing relief of 35th Div; 114th Inf occupies positions NE from Sarreguemines to vicinity of Frauenberg; 324th Inf, across the Blies R. on high ground NE of Habkirchen, loses ground and then regains it as enemy attack is repelled; 71st Inf is in reserve near Sarreguemines. The 100th Div takes over 44th Div's sector as latter moves W, then digs in in new positions, paying particular attention to AT defenses. Harassing enemy arty and 88-mm. fire continues. The 103d Div is detached from VI Corps and attached to this corps.

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VI Corps CCR of 14th Armd Div and the 117th Cav Ren Sq become TF Hudelson and move to Baerenenthal, to W of 45th Div's L flank, where Corps zone has been widened to include all of forested Vosges Mt. area E of Winmenau-Lemberg-Bitche-Pirmasens line. Forty-fifth Div completes relief of 103d Div, thereby extending its front about 5 miles to the E, to the forest's edge running between Wissembourg and Bergzabern. Units of 103d Div move to Hundling, 4 miles W of Sarreguemines, and Div passes to XV Corps command. Since Seventh Army's sector is being widened in consequence of Third Army's move N, the individual div's sectors also widen. Seventy-ninth Div is ordered to establish a defensive line along the Lauter R. from Wissembourg to the Rhine, which means an extension of its sector to the W by about 10 miles, so that it becomes over double its former width. Elements of 315th Inf move NW at once to relieve 14th Armd Div elements across the German border E of Wissembourg.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Fr armd elements in 3d Div sector proceed with mopping up of Kaysersberg woods. Third Div improves its defensive positions.

I Corps Enemy raid on Schweighouse repulsed. Arty fire is placed on enemy movements near Reiningue and between Sausheim and l'Île Napoleon.

23 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Moving from R to L flank of the Corps, 106th Cav Gp prepares to relieve Third Army's TF Fickett (6th Cav Gp, reinf.), W of Saarbruecken. The 103d Div commences relief of 6th Armd Div (XX Corps) in area SW of Saarbruecken. Forty-fourth Div relieves some elements of 87th Div on its R flank and during night makes slight tactical withdrawal in Blies R. area NE of Sarreguemines. Div Arty is active. Enemy attempts infiltration to secure prisoners. On R of 44th Div, 100th Div commences relief

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of remaining 87th Div elements, and 87th Div commences move to vicinity of Dieuze.

VI Corps On Corps L flank, TF Hudelson completes relief of 106th Cav Gp (XV Corps). Twelve-man patrol of 57th Inf, 45th Div, enters Bundenthal after arty preparation and brings out safely under protection of heavy arty barrage the more than 70 men who have been isolated in the town since 18 Dec. Considerable enemy fire received along entire Div front. Very heavy arty and mortar concentrations strike in 313th Inf sector on R flank of 79th Div. Div units continue move westward to take up new defensive positions along the Lauter R. At 0001, 36th Div is released from Corps to Seventh Army control as TF Linden begins its relief in Strasbourg sector, extending from Herrlisheim on the N to Plobsheim on the S; Div prepares to move to Sarrebourg in XV Corps sector. Responsibility for security of W bank of Rhine S. of Munchhouse passes from VI Corps to Seventh Army.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY.

II Corps Fifteenth Inf of 3d Div launches attack to capture towns of Sigolsheim and Bennwihr and clear Hill 351. Strong enemy resistance met from SA, MG, mortar, and arty fire, tanks, and Panzerfaust weapon. Toward midnight, heavy counterattack forces elements of 15th Inf back from N outskirts of Sigolsheim.

Alps Sector During 24-hr. period ending at noon, Fr patrols capture 35 PWs in region of Col du Petit St. Bernard. Recon and harassing action by both sides.

24 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Enemy moves forward to occupy region evacuated by 44th Div elements N of Blies R., forcing withdrawal of outposts along the river near Habkirchen, and Div blows bridge at Frauenberg. Relief of 87th Div by 44th and 100th Divs is completed and 87th assembles near Dieuze. The 103d Div completes relief of 6th Armd Div and establishes line of resistance along favorable terrain features from Emmelshausen, N of

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Saarbruecken, to Welferding, just W of Sarreguemines. Relief of TF Fickett, W of Saarbruecken, is completed by 106th Cav Gp.

VI Corps Extensive patrolling conducted by 45th Div, which is in close contact with enemy, particularly in center and on R of sector. Seventy-ninth Div improves defensive positions along German border from Wissenbourg to the Rhine. Enemy patrols are still encountered S of Lauterbourg; 314th Inf works to improve defenses at Lauterbourg and Berg and NE of Neewiller. Div Engrs lay 27 mine fields and prepare 5 abatis. Div completes relief of 14th Armd Div, which pulls back to vicinity of Surbourg, N of Haguenau Forest.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Bennwihr is secured by 15th Inf, 3d Div, before end of day. The 7th and 30th Inf Regts continue to improve their defensive position. Third Alg Div is violently counterattacked near Labaroche and la Chapelle, SE of Orbey. There is also lively resistance SW of Orbey.

I Corps Ren and harassing fire are only activity in Corps zone.

Alps Sector Usual observation patrol and liaison activity. Enemy arty fire in Maurienne region.

25 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

Eighty-seventh Div, relieved of assignment to Seventh Army and designated SHAEF reserve under control of Twelfth Army Group, moves to Reims. Advance elements of XXI Corps arrive at Seventh Army CP at Saverne.

XV Corps Ren patrols of 103d Div cross Saar R. near Welferding, making no contact with enemy. Forty-fourth Div arty employs proximity fuze shell with good effect during night of 24--25 December. Tanks and arty fire on

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targets of opportunity during day, as Div patrols extensively and concentrates on the laying of mines, wire, and trip flares, and the construction of obstacles. Enemy fire is sporadic. In hour-long fire fight, units of 324th Inf eject small enemy group which infiltrated into Bliesbruck during night. Elements which move to secure positions in and around Frauchberg receive heavy enemy arty fire. Enemy occupies Erching, 1 mile N of Rimling. The 100th Div relieves 12th Armd Div and repels two small-scale enemy attacks.

VI Corps Forty-fifth and 79th Divs remain in defensive positions. Patrolling by both sides particularly active in W of Corps zone.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Continuing its attack, 15th Inf of 3d Div occupies NE slope of Hill 351.

Alps Sector Routine patrolling. More propaganda shells fired over Grimaldi on the Mediterranean coast.

26 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Patrols of 103d Div find enemy occupies towns of Kerbach and Lixing, about 5 miles S of Saarbruecken. Tank demonstration is made in 411th Inf sector. Forty-fourth Div makes minor readjustments in defensive positions; listening posts and patrols are sent into Habkirchen and vicinity of Reinheim. Arty fire breaks up concentration of enemy inf and tanks on 100th Div L flank, near Rimling. Twelfth Armd Div moves to concentration area N of Dieuze.

VI Corps Forty-fifth Div is occupied with regrouping of units and preparation of counterattack plans in case of an enemy offensive. NW of Lindstein, elements of 179th Inf and 45th Ren Tr attached to 157th Inf attack at 0900 and establish positions between Dambach and Obersteinbach without serious opposition.

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FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Enemy stubbornly resists attempt of 3d Div troops to advance S of Bonnwihr. Arty exchange becomes especially lively in vicinity of Sigolsheim.

I Corps During night of 25--26 Dec, Germans attempt to raid Thann. Although supported by heavy arty, enemy is repulsed with severe losses.

Alps Sector Aggressive patrolling on both sides. Small amount of harassing fire.

27 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

XV Corps Twelfth Arm'd Div is placed under operational control of XXI Corps as of noon. Forty-fourth Div is engaged in intensive defensive preparations throughout its sector E of Sarreguemines. Town of Erching, just S of German border at boundary of 44th and 100th Divs, is found free of enemy and small 71st Inf unit secures high ground W of it.

XXI Corps Thirty-sixth Div and 12th Arm'd Div are attached to this corps effective 1200. Corps units assemble in Phalsbourg-Sarrebourg area.

VI Corps Attempt of 157th Inf units on L flank of 45th Div to attack N or NW past Schoenau bring heavy enemy mortar and arty concentrations which prevent further progress N. To the SW, strong resistance prevents attached units from taking Obersteinbach. Mengelsbach, to the NE, is cleared, however; and troops continue N of it, repulsing four strong counterattacks during the night. The 179th Inf constructs defensive positions on MLR in forested mountains N of Wissenbourg and lays large amount of concertina wire along forward positions. Engrs of 79th Div lay 1200 mines during the day. TDs and tanks, coordinating with Div arty, harass enemy with numerous rounds of fire. Light enemy arty fire falls on forward units. Effective 1800, TF Harris (63d Div less 1 regt), TF Herren (70th Div), and TF Linden (42d Div) are

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attached to this Corps in their present locations along the Rhine. TF Harris holds sector between Munchhouse and Stattnatten, TF Herren that from Stattnatten S to Bischheim, and TF Linden that from just N of Strasbourg to new VI Corps-II Fr Corps boundary near Plobsheim.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Attack of 3d Div troops on Sigolsheim is continued, along with effort to clear zone of 15th Inf to the line of Fecht R.; lively patrol and ren activity. Early morning counterattack at Sigolsheim is repulsed. The 254th Inf of 63d Div is attached to 3d Div.

I Corps Enemy patrols active in S part of Harth Forest. A few enemy shells hit Mulhouse and Riedisheim.

Alps Sector Scattered enemy arty fire in S portion of 44th AAA Brig area. Ren patrol of 65th Inf Regt draws enemy MG fire at Cable House E of Turini.

28 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY.

Army is instructed to continue on defensive, "prepared to give ground rather than endanger the integrity of its forces." Second French Arm'd Div comes under operational control of Seventh Army.

XV Corps Front remains quiet; patrolling and slight exchange of arty are only activities. CCA of 14th Arm'd Div is attached to this corps to provide an armored reserve between the Vosges and the Saar R.

VI Corps Corps is preparing an alternate main line of resistance generally following the Maginot Line, in readiness for any large-scale enemy offensive. Harassing and interdicting fire is exchanged with enemy in 45th and 79th Divs' sectors. CCA of 14th Arm'd Div moves to Phalsbourg for attachment to XV Corps. Enemy activity is slight in Corps R flank sector along the Rhine, held by TFs Harris, Herren, and Linden. Night patrolling is conducted.

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FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Hills 216 and 351 are completely occupied and 15th Inf troops of 3d Div enter Sigolsheim against strong enemy arty. Town is completely cleared by end of day, yielding about 150 PWs. Patrols E from Ostheim and Guemar, on the Fecht R., report only light contact with enemy. Second Fr Arm'd Div is returned to operational control of Seventh Army.

I Corps Strong enemy raid on Loechle beaten off with hard fighting.

Alps Sector Enemy mortars and arty very active in S sector of 44th AAA Brig. Seventeen heavily-armed Italian EM surrender to patrol E of St. Martin-Vesubie.

29 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

Army is completing its preparations against a possible enemy attack. Enemy lines are raided for prisoners.

XV Corps Active patrolling continues. Thirty-sixth Div, recently assigned to XXI Corps, is attached to XV Corps by oral orders CG, Seventh Army, and carries out training program in vicinity of Lerquin, 30 miles S of Sarreguemines.

XXI Corps Corps is earmarked as SHAEF reserve.

VI Corps Enemy shells Dambach and Obersteinbach on 45th Div L flank. On 79th Div's front there is little activity during last days of month--only patrolling, rcn, and light exchange of arty fire. Extending its sector N along the W bank of the Rhine, TF Herren relieves TF Harris.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Third Div commences regrouping. At 1700, enemy inf and tanks attack from the E toward Ammerschwihr, which is heavily shelled by enemy simultaneously. The attack

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is smashed by employment of arty and 4.2 mortars.
Another enemy attack strikes at 3d Alg Div front near
le Gras, E of Orbey.

Alps Sector Enemy mortars active in S of 44th AAA Brig front.

30 U.S. SEVENTH ARMY

Thirty-sixth Div and 12th Armd Div are relieved from
attachment to XXI Corps and revert to Army control at 0900.

XV Corps Corps maintains its positions and patrols to
the front. Elements of 36th Div are alerted against
enemy paratroop landings in Corps sector. Platoon of
397th Inf, 100th Div, raids woods between Rirling and
Epping-Urbach, taking 19 PWs. A platoon of 398th Inf
raids Dollenbach, 2 miles E of Epping-Urbach, causing
about 25 enemy casualties. At 1530, 11 P-47s operated
by enemy bomb and strafe Petit-Roderching, Rohrbach, and
other villages. Div fights to maintain control of no-
man's-land as enemy makes several attempts to cross.

VI Corps In 79th Div sector, enemy planes bomb cross-
roads in Surbourg and Scultz-sous-Forêts, on main road
from Haguenau to Wissembourg, causing civilian and
military casualties. TF Harris (-254th Inf) prepares
to move to XV Corps zone.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Seventh Inf of 3d Div moves to 3d Alg Div
sector. Enemy infiltrates onto E slope of Hill 216,
near Bennwihr.

I Corps Second Mor Div repels local counterattack near
Vieux Thann. Patrol activity continues in Modenhain area
and on l'Île Napoleon, NE of Mulhouse.

Alps Sector During 24-hr. period ending at noon, there is
considerable enemy arty activity, particularly against Briançon
and Cervières. Fr ski detachments carry out deep ren missions
in enemy positions in the Tarentaise and Maurienne.

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Second French Arm'd Div and TF Harris move from VI Corps to XV Corps for attachment to latter upon arrival.

XV Corps Enemy patrolling activity increases on 103d Div front. Patrols clash at Grosbliederstroff and Behren in fire fights. Enemy drops propaganda leaflets.

VI Corps Forty-fifth Div engages in active patrolling and work on defensive positions. Seventy-ninth Div front likewise remains quiet and work is continued on MLR #2 (Maginot Line). The 275th and 276th Regts of 70th Div are withdrawn from TF Herren for attachment to 45th and 79th Divs respectively. The 275th assembles at Niederbronn in readiness to relieve 62d Arm'd Bn on 45th Div L flank between Philippsbourg and Baerenthal; the 276th Inf assembles at Camp d'Oberhoffen.

FIRST FRENCH ARMY

II Corps Third Div maintains and improves defensive positions. Kientzheim and Sigolsheim are under enemy arty fire.

I Corps Enemy raids on posts at Kembs and on l'Île Napoleon repelled by arty fire.

Alps Sector Enemy arty and mortars very active along entire front of 44th AAA Brig.

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U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Right flank of Fifth Army is held by XIII Corps with 8th Ind and 3 British Divs (6th Armd, 78th, and 1st) in line; Corps troops are opposed by elements of 98th Grenadier and 1st Para Divs. In 8th Ind Div sector, 6th Lancers, on R flank, remain in high ground area along Lamone R. within 2 miles of Brisighella (under attack by elements of II Polish Corps of Eighth Army); W of river in area 4 miles SW of Brisighella, 19th Brig secures M. Giornetto, while on L flank 21st Brig makes some advance on both sides of Senio R. in vicinity of Casola Valsenio. In Fontanelice area, 6th Br Armd Div is established along Firenzuola-Imola road and high ground about 3 miles on either side; patrols of 26th Armd Brig report enemy firmly entrenched on M. Penzola, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles due N of Fontanelice. In mountainous area NW, 78th Br Div reports increasing enemy shell and mortar fire with no change in forward positions. After yesterday's unsuccessful attempt to retake M. Castellaro in M. Grande area, elements of 66th Brig, 1st Br Div, remain quiet although patrols on remainder of Div front continue active.

II Corps At beginning of month 88th, 34th, and 1st Armd Divs continue to hold defensive line S of Bologna; opposing these units are elements of German 1st Para, 42d Light, 29th PG, 65th Grenadier, 4th Para, and 16th SS PG Divs. Enemy, attempting to infiltrate positions of 34th Div in vicinity of Route 65, is repulsed by SA fire.

IV Corps At beginning of month IV Corps front (approximately 39 miles long) is held from E to W by 6th SA Armd Div on R; 1st Inf Div, Brazilian Expeditionary Force, in center, and TF 45 (including 39th LAA Regt, 435th and 434th AAA Bns, and 2d Bn of 370th Inf, 92d Div) on L. On Corps R flank, elements of 24th Guards Brig, 6th SA Armd Div, again attempting to gain M. Sole hill mass between Setta and Reno rivers, launch local attack to secure high ground N of Lurazze on W side of Setta R.; objective gained against stiff enemy MG and arty fire. Reliefs and patrolling are taking place along remainder of front.

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Army Troops Ninety-second Div, holding coastal sector from IV Corps boundary to Ligurian Sea, continues active patrolling, maintaining contact with adjacent units of TF 45 on R; 3d Bn, 371st Inf, relieves 365th Inf in place.

2 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps On R flank in 3th Ind Div sector, 6th Lancers engage enemy at la Strada, 5 miles SW of Brisighella; farther W, 21st Brig makes minor gains in high ground S of Casola Valsenio. Brisighella is reported clear of enemy by II Polish Corps elements of Eighth Army. Forward units of 6th Br Armd Div establish firm positions about 1 mile NE of Fontanelice. In M. Grande-M. Cerere area held by 1st Br Div, patrols engage Germans in fire fight near Casetta; intermittent arty and mortar fire received during day. Reliefs are effected throughout Corps sector.

II Corps All div sectors are quiet with routine patrols being maintained. In 1st Armd Div sector W of Route 65, patrol of 6th Armd Inf Bn crosses Savena R. and contacts enemy in vicinity of C. Nuova, S of M. Castellazzo. CCB reverts to command of 1st Armd Div and takes over 91st Rcn Sq sector.

IV Corps In BEF sector, heavy enemy arty reported in vicinity of Lissano and Riola on Reno R.; farther W, elements of 1st Div repulse elements of 232d Grenadier Div attempting to infiltrate positions just S of M. Castello, 3 miles E of M. Belvedere, under cover of mortar fire. TF 45 continues patrolling.

Army Troops Activity limited to patrolling; some enemy SA fire received about 1 mile N of Terrinca, 3 miles NE of Seravezza. Third Bn, 370th Inf, is attached to IV Corps and placed under operational control of 6th SA Armd Div.

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1944Section II: MEDITERRANEAN THEATER3 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Eighth Ind Div makes no progress except on L flank in 21st Brig sector where forward units reach new positions E and SE of Casola Valsenio, reporting M. Faggeto, 2 miles E of town, clear. To NW, Longhina, 1 mile E of Fontanelice, found unoccupied by troops of 1st Guards Brig, 6th Br Armd Div. Light enemy mortar fire falls on positions of 11th Brig, 78th Br Div, in vicinity of M. Spaduro during day and increased toward evening. Throughout Corps zone patrols maintain contact with enemy.

II Corps The 365th (-) Inf, 92d Div, is attached to 88th Div. East of Route 65, elements of 168th Inf, 34th Div, beat off Germans attacking M. Belmonte. Ninety-first Div assumes command of 133d Inf, 34th Div, sector on L of 34th Div at 0600 and new boundary becomes effective at same time.

IV Corps New inter-Corps boundary is established on R flank of 6th SA Armd Div; elements of 4/13 Frontier Force Rifles (FFR) relieve elements of 24th Guards Brig. Renewing attacks at 0140, Germans, supported by arty and mortar fire, force Brazilian troops to withdraw from positions S of M. Castello which are regained during morning. Inter-bn reliefs are being carried out in 1st Div, BEF, sector. On L flank, patrols of TF 45, operating in vicinity of Rocca Corneta, SW of M. Belvedere, receive considerable enemy SA fire.

Army Troops Patrolling continues and contact with TF 45 on R is maintained. Enemy arty active in coastal sector at night.

4 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Eighth Ind Div continues advance along Lamone and Senio Rivers: on R flank, 6th Landers secure M. Visano,

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about 3 miles SW of Brisighella, and height just to W, while Casola Valsenio and Prugno, 1 mile NW, as well as Valsenio, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles downstream from Casola Valsenio, are occupied by troops of 21st Brig. During night of 4/5, elements of 1st Guards Brig of 6th Br Armd Div begin attack to seize M. Penzola, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles N of Fontanelice. Patrolling continues on remainder of front.

II Corps At 0100, boundary between II and IV Corps is extended about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles W. Thirty-fourth Div patrol contacts enemy just NE of M. Belmonte.

IV Corps South African patrols continue active, contacting enemy at 5 points along div front. Intense mortar and arty fire is received in Brazilian sector during afternoon. On R flank of TF 45, patrols engage enemy near Ronchidos, N of Gaggio Montano.

Army Troops Enemy patrol attempts to infiltrate positions of 370th Inf, 92d Div, in vicinity of Vergemoli, 3 miles W of Gallicano. Enemy arty reported moderately active.

5 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps In 8th Ind Div sector, while 17th Brig establishes platoon at la Strada, 21st Brig makes local advances on both sides of Senio R. in vicinity of Casola Valsenio and secures M. Battogliola, almost 2 miles due N of Casola Valsenio. North of Fontanelice, after capturing M. Penzola and height just SE, elements of 1st Guards Brig, 6th Br Armd Div, drive off 2 enemy counterattacks on these positions by arty fire. Heavy enemy shelling and mortaring received in 78th Br Div sector. Nineteenth Ind Brig, 8th Ind Div, assumes command of 2d Brig sector of 1st Br Div at 1000. A new inter-Army boundary is established between XIII Corps and II Polish Corps of Eighth Army to facilitate operations on R of XIII Corps as some of its units are pinched out by advance of Eighth Army.

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II Corps Corps troops maintain active defense with normal patrol activity. Patrol of 34th Div captures 5 prisoners in vicinity of M. Belmonte; enemy arty reported light in Div sector. The 135th Inf assumes command of L flank of 34th Div.

IV Corps Five patrol clashes reported on 6th SA Armd Div front; moderate arty falls on forward positions. Enemy shells Riola on Reno R. in BEF sector. TF 45 continues patrolling and maintains contact with 92d Div on L.

Army Troops Elements of 92d Div repulse enemy combat patrols operating in areas N of Galliciano and Vergemoli. On E side of Route 1, strong rcn patrol of 371st Inf contacts enemy just S of Strettoia, taking some prisoners. Enemy arty is reported light throughout this section.

6 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Effective gains made in 8th Ind Div zone: on R flank, 6th Lancers continue advance down Lamone R., taking several positions downstream from la Strada and reaching M. Bitella and nearby heights about 3 miles from Brisighella; 21st Ind Brig continues local advances in Casola Valsenio area and in Sintria R. valley 2 miles SE of town. In 6th Br Armd Div sector, 61st Brig gains several positions in high ground $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles E of Fontanelice without opposition, while elements of 1st Guards Brig secure another hill N of town. Near Ca di Lucca, elements drive off enemy platoon attempting to infiltrate positions of 78th Br Div. Third Brig of 1st Br Div assumes command of its sector at 1415.

II Corps New 86th-34th Div boundary becomes effective at 0345, enlarging latter sector about 1 mile, as elements of 168th Inf relieve elements of 351st Inf. First Armd Div reports light enemy arty.

IV Corps E of Route 64 in 6th SA Armd Div zone, patrol clash occurs at Casigno, 12 miles E of Vergato; other patrols, operating along front, report considerable SA

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and mortar fire. German patrol, attempting to infiltrate positions in Palazzo area, N of Affrico, is repulsed by units of 1st Brazilian Div after brief fire fight; reliefs are taking place in this sector. Troops of TF 45 drive back enemy patrol in area NW of Gaggio Montano. Light harassing arty fire falls in vicinity of Riola, Lissano, and Gaggio Montano.

Army Troops Moderate enemy arty falls on front line positions. Small enemy clash is reported in coastal sector.

7 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Right flank elements of 8th Ind Div occupy M. Bitella without opposition and contact Italian units of II Polish Corps in area about 2 miles W of Brisighella; farther W, 21st Brig makes slight progress in area about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles N and NE of Casola Valsenio. Patrols of 6th Br Armd Div find position $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles SE of Fontanelice unoccupied; late at night heavy enemy shelling is reported in 1st Guards Brig sector. Some enemy shelling reported in 78th Br Div sector. In 1st Br Div zone, while patrol of 19th Ind Brig is ambushed near M. Cerere, other elements of Brig drive back 2 enemy raids nearby.

II Corps Patrolling continues; some arty falls in Corps area. On extreme R flank in 88th Div sector, patrol contacts enemy, causing him to withdraw.

IV Corps In 6th SA Armd Div sector on R flank, elements of 370th Inf, attached, relieve elements of 11th SA Armd Brig. Enemy arty reported again at Riola and Silla along Reno R. and in vicinity of Cutigliano and Vizzaneta on L flank. In TF 45 zone, patrol, operating in area of Ronchidos, withdraws after engaging enemy in fire fight.

Army Troops In area W of Serchio R., enemy mortar fire falls between Galliciano and Molazzana. Patrols continue active along remainder of front.

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8. Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Patrols are active on entire Corps front. Increased enemy fire reported in Penzola area, N of Fontanelice, where elements of 6th Br Armd Div engage in fire fight. Intermittent shelling and mortaring received by 11th and 38th Brigs, 78th Br Div. Heavy mortaring takes place in S sector of 1st Br Div.

II Corps Light arty falls on positions along Corps front with increased fire in vicinity of Livergnano. First Armd Div patrols are active; sporadic enemy mortar fire reported near la Piano, N of Monterumici.

IV Corps South African units again attempt to gain possession of M. Sole hill mass in Setta Valley: during night of 8/9, 4/13 FFR send attacking forces against 3 hill positions on SE slopes of mountain (Hill 476, 445, and 431), losing former but gaining latter two against stiff resistance. Enemy arty received by Brazilian forward units in Affrico and Volpara areas. During night 8/9, in TF 45 sector, 900th AAA Bn assumes command of 435th AAA Bn which reverts to control of Army.

Army Troops On E side of Serchio R., patrol of 370th Inf, 92d Div, reaches Castelvechio without contact, while to SW, patrol of 371st Inf engages enemy in fire fight about 1 mile NW of Livigliani. Light enemy arty is reported in coastal sector in vicinity of Forte dei Marmi.

9. Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Slight gain made down Casola Valsenio-Castel Bolognese road by 21st Brig, 8th Ind Div. Directed against Tossignano, about 2 miles from Fontanelice, elements of 6th Br Armd Div establish units in unoccupied positions nearby and south area just of Borgo Tossignano,

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taking 5 prisoners. Fighting patrol of 11th Brig, 78th Br Div, kills 4 enemy immediately N of M. Spaduro; 36th Brig assumes command of 1st Guards Brig sector at 2130 and new boundary between 78th Div and 6th Br Armd goes into effect.

II Corps Heavy enemy arty reported in 88th Div sector in vicinity of Savazza. Reliefs are taking place throughout Corps area. Elements of 362d Inf, 91st Div, relieve elements of 133d Inf, 34th Div, of screening mission.

IV Corps Elements of 4/13 FFR, 6th SA Armd Div, which captured Hill 445 yesterday are severely counterattacked from NW and forced to withdraw to prepared positions on S slopes; during night of 9/10, troops are also pushed from Hill 431 because of very heavy SA fire. Enemy shells Porretta, Silla, Riola, and Gaggio Montano. To SW in TF 45 sector, elements of 900th AAA Bn establish outpost at Pissaccio, about 6 miles W of Porretta.

Army Troops Ninety-second Div maintains pressure on enemy by patrolling; local reliefs and attachments are accomplished without incident.

10 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Eighth Ind Div continues patrolling, contacting enemy in several positions on both sides of Senio R. about 1 mile NE of Valsenio; enemy outpost N of town is forced back. In Santerno R. Valley, Borgo Tossignano is found unoccupied by elements of 61st Brig which report enemy entrenched just E of town. Heavy MG fire received in 11th Brig sector of 78th Br Div. On L flank of 1st Br Div, patrols attack enemy position about 1 mile W of M. Castellaro, inflicting casualties and taking 4 prisoners.

II Corps Heavy enemy arty is received in 88th Div sector during afternoon. Reliefs occur in 88th and 34th Div sectors. On L flank, patrols of 6th Armd Inf Bn, 1st Armd Div, cross Savena R. in vicinity of Campuzzano, and

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find 2 small villages, Fazzanello and Fazzano, unoccupied. At dusk German planes strafe and bomb Route 65 and other objectives in Corps area.

IV Corps Marano, Silla, Gaggio Montano, and Porretta are again objectives for heavy enemy fire. TF 45 sends out several patrols which make no contact; local reliefs are taking place.

Army Troops Aggressive patrolling on div front continues. Elements of 370th Inf, 92d Div, contact enemy at Hills 832 and 1031, 1 and 2 miles SW of Molazzana, respectively. AT guns and MGs of 371st Inf have good results against enemy in coastal area.

11 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Activity of 8th Ind, 6th Br Armd, and 78th Divs confined to patrolling. Sixth Br Armd Div receives sporadic enemy shelling in area about 1 mile E of Fontanelice. In 1st Br Div sector, enemy is repulsed after penetrating positions in area $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N of M. Grande; 2d Brig takes command of 3d Brig sector.

II Corps Heavy enemy arty concentration is received in 88th Div sector at 1800. Thirty-fourth Div patrol captures prisoner in vicinity of M. Belmonte.

IV Corps In Setta Valley on R flank, 4/13 FFR of 6th SA Armd Div attack Hill 431 at 0445 and recapture this objective despite heavy arty and mortar concentrations. In effort to extend positions in M. Belvedere area, Brazilians, supported by 900th AAA Bn on R of TF 45, prepare for attack on M. Torraccia-M. Belvedere ridge. In Cutigliano area to SW, enemy force, attempting to infiltrate positions of TF 45, is pushed back.

Army Troops Patrols continue normal activity throughout 92d Div sector. Approximately 1 mile N of Sommacolonia, on E side of Serchio R., patrols of 370th Inf encounter enemy SA fire. Light harassing arty fire reported on R flank.

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12 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Enemy activity increasing throughout Corps front. In 21st Brig sector of 8th Ind Div, elements gain several high positions between Sintria and Senio Rivers in area NE of Casola Valsenio. Heavy enemy shelling and mortaring reported in 73th Br Div zone. At 0730, enemy (3d Bn, 1st Para Regt, 1st Para Div), supported by smoke, launches attack in M. Cerere area against 19th Brig of 1st Br Div and captures Castel Nuovo on S slopes of height; later in day elements restore lost ground by counterattack; casualties to both sides are believed heavy.

II Corps Corps sector continues quiet with some enemy arty concentration in 34th Div zone.

IV Corps On R flank in 6th SA Armd Div sector, Germans launch unsuccessful counterattack, preceded by mortar fire, against troops of 4/13 FFR on Hill 431; reinforcements for FFR are moving up for support. To SW in BEF sector, after 30 minutes of arty preparation, 1st Brazilian Inf, 1st Inf Div, (with 2d and 3d Bns abreast and supported by tanks) attacks toward M. Castello, 2 miles NE of Gaggio Montano, at 0630, making good progress until noon against enemy resistance centered mostly on R bn; however during afternoon Brazilian troops are thrown back because of very heavy and increasing enemy SA, mortar, and arty fire. Diversionary attack by TF Nelson on Brazilian R flank is successful with troops pushing along Route 64 as far as Malpasso, about 2 miles NE of Riola. In TF 45 zone to W, 2d Armd Group is instructed to stage strong diversionary attacks in M. Belvedere area to support Brazilian troops: during early hours R flank elements of 900th AAA Bn, preceded by arty preparation, penetrate to N edge of Corona, while L flank units attack and gain S portion of Rocca Corneta after heavy shelling; by noon, enemy, supported by arty, mortar, and MG fire, begins flanking movement and drives troops back to initial positions.

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Army Troops Patrols of 370th Inf contact enemy on E side of Serchio R. in vicinity of Castelvechio. Harassing enemy arty falls in Pietrasanta area near Route 1.

13 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Elements of 8th Ind Div assist 6th Br Armd Div's attack with demonstrations in their sector. Preceded by heavy arty and mortar barrage, 61st Brig of 6th Br Armd Div, attempting to penetrate down Castel del Rio-Inola road in Santerno Valley, attacks Tossignano and Borgo Tossignano, establishing 5 platoons in former town against bitter resistance from troops of 755th Grenadier Regt of 334th Grenadier Div and occupying latter place against only arty fire; this offensive operation is made in attempt to aid Eighth Army's NW push. First Br Div sector remains quiet and reliefs are being carried out.

II Corps Except for heavy enemy arty concentration in 34th Div zone, Corps sector remains quiet.

IV Corps Reliefs are taking place throughout Corps area. Little enemy activity reported during day except harassing light arty and mortar fire in TF 45 zone.

Army Troops Contact with enemy and adjacent units is maintained by 92d Div. Sixty planes give air support, successfully attacking gun positions N of battle area. Increase in enemy arty is reported.

14 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Sixth Lancers, 8th Ind Div, contact elements of II Polish Corps in area $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles E of Casola Valsenio. Elements of 61st Brig, 6th Br Armd Div, are unable to bring up reinforcements to garrison in Tossignano because

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of heavy German arty and mortar fire on approaches to town; situation in Tossignano considered grave. Three miles NW of Tossignano, elements of 36th Brig, 78th Br Div, attack and secure Cammaggio, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile W of M. Maggiore, but are forced back to original positions by heavy enemy fire; meanwhile other elements of Brig are also thrown back after attempting to take position about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles E. In M. Cerere area, leading Indian elements attached to 1st Br Div occupy positions near Frassineto and repulse enemy raid on mountain; to N elements of 2d Brig push back enemy attempting to penetrate positions about 1 mile E of M. Castellaro.

II Corps Patrolling continues; enemy arty fire increases especially in 34th Div sector and along Route 65.

IV Corps Sixth SA Armd Div front marked by increased arty duels and patrol action. On L flank, elements of TF 45 receive SA fire in vicinity of Ponte di Sestaione, W of Cutigliano on Lima R.

Army Troops Inter-bn reliefs and patrolling continue throughout 92d Div front. On L flank, patrol of 371st Inf engages enemy just W of Seravezza. Light enemy arty continues to fall throughout Div sector.

15 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps In 6th Br Armd Div sector, enemy seizes Tossignano, killing or capturing most of town's defenders (elements of 61st Brig) who were unable to escape to Borgo Tossignano; this unsuccessful attempt cost British approximately 200 officers and men. Reinforcements are sent to Borgo Tossignano and positions nearby. Elements of 11th Brig, 73th Br Div, repulse enemy attack in area about 1 mile E of S. Clemente. Increased enemy arty and mortar fire falls in 1st Br Div sector particularly throughout Indian zone.

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II Corps Continued increase in arty fire along Route 65 is reported. At dawn, enemy, attacking in vicinity of M. Belmonte, surrounds platoon of 133d Inf, 34th Div, near Poggio di Sopra and is thrown back by arty and SA fire after suffering several casualties.

IV Corps In M. Sole area, preceded by heavy mortar concentration against position just SW of Hill 431, elements of 35th SS Pz Grenadier Regt, 16th SS Pz Grenadier Div, again counterattack, forcing troops of 4/13 FFR of 6th SA Armd Div from this feature. During night 15/16, 4/13 FFR are relieved by ILHK (Imperial Light Horse Kimberley) Regt in place. Patrols of 1st Div, BEF, report 2 hill positions and Gambiana, N of Gaggio Montano, free of enemy; mortar fire is heavy in Riola area.

Army Troops Ninety-second Div patrols remain active in 370th Inf sector in area W of Serchio R.: elements repulse Germans attempting to infiltrate positions E and NE of Molazzana while to SW, combat patrol reaches Brucciano in contact with enemy. In coastal sector, patrols of 371st Inf reach area between Cinquale and Anfossi under enemy mortar fire.

16 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

At 1200, Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark assumes command of Allied Armies in Italy (AAI) which is redesignated 15th Army Group; at same time Lt. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Jr. assumes command of U.S. Fifth Army.

XIII Corps In Santerno Valley, reports claim Tossignano bombed repeatedly by Allied planes which completely demolish it; elements of 61st Brig, 6th SA Armd Div, which were established along Tossignano-Borgo Tossignano road, withdraw about 1 mile S and report no enemy on S side of Tossignano. Enemy patrol, again attempting to infiltrate positions of 78th Br Div in area E of S. Clemente, is driven back. Elements of 1st Br Div also repulse enemy patrols in vicinity of M. Sereno.

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II Corps Patrols of 88th Div have fire fight about 1½ miles W of M. Fano. In 91st Div zone, enemy arty is again reported active on Route 65 and N of Livergnano.

IV Corps After bitter battle, front lines of 6th SA Armd Div in area S of M. Sole are consolidated and are now essentially same as before initial assault. Increased enemy arty reported during night in South African zone. Boundary between 1st Inf Div, BEF, and TF 45 is shifted W to include area held by 2d Bn, 370th Inf (which is now returned to 92d Div); 1st Inf Div assumes command of widened sector. Scattered arty and mortar fire fall on troops of 2d Armd Group of TF 45.

Army Troops On R flank 370th Inf of 92d Div continues aggressive patrolling, receiving intermittent SA and MG fire. In coastal sector 366th Inf assumes command of sector occupied by 1st Bn, 366th Inf, in area W of Route 1. Forward positions of Div receive some medium caliber enemy arty.

17 ItalyU.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps In 8th Ind Div sector, R flank elements contact units of Eighth Army about 3 miles E of Casola Valsenio, 17th Brig assumes command of 21st Brig sector, and enemy patrol, approaching M. Battogliola, about 2 miles due N of Casola Valsenio, is dispersed by arty and SA fire; enemy retaliates by shelling area. Enemy arty continues active on forward positions of 61st Brig in Tossignano sector. In 1st Br Div area, 66th Brig assumes command of 2d Brig sector.

II Corps Numerous inter-regt reliefs are taking place throughout Corps area. Combat patrol on R flank of 34th Div, attempting to cross Zena R. E of La Maddalena, is driven back by SA and mortar fire. Continued arty fire reported along Route 65. During night 17/18, 91st Div sends out 4 patrols to probe enemy defenses.

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IV Corps Corps front remains quiet except in Riola and Marano areas of BEF where considerable enemy mortar and arty fire is reported. Patrol of TF 45 contacts enemy in vicinity of Melo, N of Cutigliano.

Army Troops Local reliefs carried out without incident. Ninety-second Div begins preparations to comply with attack order. Patrols continue to harass enemy positions and to contact adjacent units.

18 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps In 6th Br Armd Div sector, 61st Brig reports all approaches to Tossignano strongly held by enemy. Inter-brig reliefs are effected in both 78th and 1st Br Divs. Intermittent mortar fire falls on forward positions of 78th Br Div.

II Corps Patrol of 350th Inf, 88th Div, engages enemy in area N of M. Fano; casualties reported heavy on both sides. Corps sector remains quiet with some increase in arty fire.

IV Corps On extreme R flank of 6th SA Armd Div, elements move to positions just W of C. di Giulietto; patrol clashes occur in vicinity of S. Martino farther W. Enemy arty hits ammunition dump just N of Cozzo, S of Murazze. Moderate enemy arty fire falls throughout BEF sector.

Army Troops Second Bn of 370th Inf, 92d Div, is detached from IV Corps and reverts to 370th control at 0015. In 370th Inf sector, while patrol engages enemy in vicinity of Treppignana, another patrol reaches area about 1 mile NE of Calomini under enemy fire.

19 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps On R flank, 6th Lancers of 8th Ind Div withdraw to Fogano, on Lamone R. 2 miles SW of Brisighella.

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Patrols of 6th Br Armd Div undergo MG fire on roads leading to Tossignano. Remainder of sectors quiet with routine patrolling maintained.

II Corps Activity hampered by adverse weather. Light enemy arty fire falls in forward areas of 88th Div.

IV Corps In South African sector, enemy patrol is repulsed in vicinity of Sterpia, S of S. Martino. Some harassing arty fire received in Gaggio Montano area; enemy fire reported decreasing.

Army Troops On L of 92d Div sector, elements of 371st Inf attack Germans holding hill position W of Seravezza, firing on enemy MG position nearby with several direct hits. Patrolling continues on remainder of front.

20 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps At 0001, new boundary is effected between Eighth and Fifth Armies in order to facilitate operations of R flank of XIII Corps as some of its units are pinched out by advance of II Polish Corps. Patrols of 8th Ind Div engage enemy in fire fight in area just S of M. della Volpe. About 4 miles NW, elements of 61st Brig, 6th Br Armd Div, also contact enemy along S approaches to Tossignano. In 1st Br Div sector, 3d Brig takes over command of 19th Ind Brig (8th Ind Div) sector and elements are reported in M. Cerere area.

II Corps At 0800, 365th Inf, attached to 88th Div, assumes command of 349th Inf, 88th Div. In 34th Div sector, patrol operating to Canovetta is driven from town by enemy fire.

IV Corps West of Setta R. in 6th SA Armd Div sector, patrols contact enemy in vicinity of Porte and in area N of Murazze. Harassing fire again received along Reno R. at Silla, Riola, and Porretta. TF 45 continues aggressive patrolling.

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Army Troops On R of 92d Div sector, elements of 370th Inf ambush enemy patrol in vicinity of Pradoscello, 2 miles NE of Treppignana, killing 4; other elements draw enemy SA fire near S. Niccolo on Serchio R.

21 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Scattered enemy shelling and mortaring reported along entire front. Enemy, holding E approaches to Tossignano, engages elements of 61st Brig, 6th Br Armd Div. N of Sillaro R. in 73th Br Div sector, enemy withdraws on contact with British troops. Reliefs are effected in 1st Br Div zone.

II Corps Corps sector remains quiet; patrolling continues. At 0600, 361st Inf of 91st Div assumes command of 362d Inf sector. Slight increase in arty fire reported in 91st Div sector in afternoon.

IV Corps East of Reno R. in 6th SA Armd Div sector, patrol to S. Martino withdraws after exchange of fire. To SW, Brazilian patrols remain active; forward troops sent to Hill 702, S of Labante, are thrown back because of heavy enemy arty fire. At 1500, in TF45 area, 2d Armd Group is relieved of its sector responsibility and 900th AAA Bn comes under direct control of TF.

Army Troops Local reliefs are effected without incident; enemy arty reported light. Units of 370th Inf, 92d Div, operating on E side of Serchio R., reach Castelvecchio without contact. To SW near Route 1, enemy, established on S slopes of M. Strettoia, is harassed by elements of 371st Inf using inf weapons.

22 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Effective progress made in 8th Ind Div on R flank: some elements reach slopes of M. della Volpe about 3 miles NE of Casola Valsenio where they repulse enemy

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counterattack, while other units are established at Campiuno 4 miles farther W. Left flank boundary of 6th Br Armd Div is extended W to include sector of 36th Brig of 78th Br Div. A patrol clash is reported about 1 mile E of M. Castellaro in 1st Br Div zone; minor reliefs are being effected in this sector.

II Corps Inter-bn reliefs in progress in 88th Div sector. Some advance made in 34th Div zone as elements of 133d Inf improve positions by occupying two strongpoints E of M. Belmonte. Allied fighters and fighter bombers give this advance close support.

IV Corps Patrols remain very active, probing German positions in front of South African lines; at least 7 enemy raids repulsed during this period. In BEF sector, small enemy patrol, attempting to infiltrate positions near Abetia, is repulsed. Patrolling is intensified and deepened along entire TF 45 front.

Army Troops Patrolling continues and contact is maintained with enemy and adjacent units. Harassing enemy fire falls in coastal sector. Many local reliefs effected.

23 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Eighth Ind Div is shifted to R to take up new positions which include S end of the Vena del Gesso ridge formerly held by II Polish Corps; temporary boundary is established between Fifth and Eighth Armies at 1200. Seventeenth Ind Brig continues progress, occupying M. della Volpe and M. Tonda nearby. In 78th Br Div sector, at 1000, 11th Brig takes over command of 38th Brig; several patrol clashes occur N of Sillaro R. in area NE of S. Clemente. Reverse slopes of M. Cerere and M. Grande in 1st Br Div sector are objectives for heavy concentrations of enemy mortar and arty fire.

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II Corps Elements of 133d Inf of 34th Div repulse enemy attempting to retake positions E of M. Belmonte. Increase of MG fire reported in 91st Div sector. The 337th CT of 85th Div moves to vicinity of Lucca and is detached from II Corps and attached to 92d Div. On extreme L flank in 1st Armd Div sector, patrol of 338th Inf engages in fire fight with enemy in area less than 1 mile NE of Murazze.

IV Corps On R flank in 6th SA Armd Div sector, Sabbione, W of M. Salvaro, is reported clear of enemy. Brazilian patrol, operating on W side of Route 64, successfully engages enemy in vicinity of Castelnuovo. Reliefs are taking place in Brazilian zone. Marano, Silla, Porretta, and Gaggio Montano are again objectives for enemy shelling.

Army Troops Inter-bn reliefs are being carried out in 92d Div sector. The 337th CT of 85th Div is detached from II Corps and attached to 92d Div. Patrols continue contact with enemy.

24 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Operating along Senio R. valley patrols of 17th Ind Brig, 8th Ind Div, reach Rivola, about 4 miles downstream from Casola Valsenio, without contact; several positions along Vena del Gesso ridge reported clear. In remainder of Corps sector, patrols continue active and inter-bn reliefs are being effected.

II Corps Patrolling continues along Corps sector which remains quiet. The 339th CT, 85th Div, is detached from II Corps.

IV Corps Several patrol clashes reported in 6th SA Armd Div sector. In BEF sector, enemy patrol from vicinity of Gambiana is repulsed by 11th Inf of 1st Brazilian Div. At 1230, 339th CT of 85th Div is attached to IV Corps. Reno R. objectives, including Marano, Riola, and Porretta, again shelled by enemy. In TF 45 zone, continued tank

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demonstrations conducted along Route 12 in Oppio-S. Marcello Pistoiese-Spignana-Casotti area draw no enemy response.

Army Troops Ninety-second Div patrols continue active: W of Serchio R. in area E of Cascio, patrol of 370th Inf engages enemy in fire fight, while in coastal sector near Route 1, forward troops of 366th Inf, operating as far as Porta, NW of Strettoia, encounter SA and MG fire.

25 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps At 0830, 17th Brig assumes command of 8th Ind Div sector as Div (-17th Brig) moves W to temporary command of IV Corps. Heavy enemy shelling is received in vicinity of Sasso, SE of Rivola, where patrols remain active. In 1st Br Div sector, 2d Brig assumes command of 66th Brig sector. No change reported in Corps forward positions.

II Corps All sectors remain very quiet. The 338th Inf (-), 85th Div, moves to Lucca and is attached to IV Corps on arrival.

IV Corps At 1200, 6th SA Armd Div reverts to Army control and R boundary of IV Corps is now same as Brazilian-South African inter-div boundary; at same time Corps assumes command of 92d Div in coastal zone extending L boundary to sea. In BEF sector, patrol to S. Filomena, S of M. Belvedere, reports town unoccupied. Nineteenth and 21st Ind Brigs of 8th Ind Div, XIII Corps, are placed temporarily under command of 92d Div. Riveggio on Setta R. and Porretta are shelled by enemy. 338th Inf (-), 85th Div, is attached to IV Corps.

Army Troops In event of enemy attack in Serchio Valley, orders are issued for 92d Div to organize, occupy, and hold present positions at all cost. At 1200, 92d Div is relieved from Army control and attached to IV Corps; enemy contact maintained by aggressive patrolling.

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U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Patrols of 17th Ind Brig establish several new positions in vicinity of Vena del Gesso ridge. First Br Div reports intermittent mortar and MG fire throughout front.

II Corps Inter-bn reliefs taking place in 34th and 91st Div sectors; slight increase in enemy arty reported in former zone. West of Route 65, elements of 91st Div contact enemy in vicinity of S. Ansano on Savena R., while about 1 mile SW near Fazzanella 1st Armd Div troops engage Germans. To meet threat of enemy attacking down Serchio Valley, units of II Corps are withdrawn and moved W. Corps postpones execution of Pianoro Plan indefinitely. At 0800, 85th Div is detached from II Corps and attached to IV Corps.

Army Troops Enemy shells 24th Guards Brig sector on R of 6th SA Armd Div. Elements of 12th SA Mtzd Brig report enemy withdrawn from la Villa, E of Carviano. During evening 6th SA Armd Div sector N of M. Catarelto is bombed by enemy planes.

IV Corps After short intensive arty preparation, German forces, spearheaded by elements of 235th and 286th Regts of 148th Grenadier Div, launch 2-bn attack against 92d Div on 6-mile front astride Serchio R.: E of river, Germans assault positions of 2d Bn, 366th Inf, and other elements attached to 370th CT at Sornocolonia, Tiglio, and Bebbio, while farther W across river, they hit elements of 370th Inf near Molazzana, 4 miles S of Castelnuovo, and at Calomini, SE of Molazzana; by evening, after fierce battle, enemy has penetrated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles down Serchio Valley and all these towns as well as Gallicano are in enemy hands. At 0800, 85th Div (-339th Inf) is attached to IV Corps and 337th and 338th Infs revert to Div control. Eighth Ind Div is attached to IV Corps and again assumes control of 19th and 21st Ind Brigs. Considerable arty fire received in Porretta area.

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U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps In Senio Valley area in 17th Ind Brig sector, enemy is reported holding Rivola and most of Vena del Gesso ridge to W in strength; forward positions throughout this sector are targets for considerable enemy mortar and arty fire. Inter-bn reliefs are taking place in 6th Br Armd and 78th Br Div sectors. M. Grande, in 1st Br Div zone, receives heavy caliber arty fire.

II Corps Many reliefs are being carried out in div sectors. Patrol clash occurs about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile E. of Route 65 in 34th Div sector just ahead of front lines.

Army Troops North of Setta R. on R flank of 6th SA Armd Div, elements repulse enemy patrols attempting to infiltrate positions about 2 miles N and W of Murazze.

IV Corps At 0600, 339th CT (85th Div) completes move to Pistoiese area where it is attached to TF 45. Renewing attack in Serchio Valley at dawn, Germans center effort in area between Coreglia and Galliciano, forcing E flank elements of 92d Div to withdraw from Barga to area S of Pedona, on Serchio R. 2 miles due S of Barga; additional slight withdrawals made on W side of river in vicinity of Molazzana. XXII Tactical Air Command flies approximately 200 sorties in support of Serchio Valley troops. At 1300, 8th Ind Div assumes command of entire Serchio Valley sector and 19th Ind Brig relieves 2d Bn, 366th Inf. Along coast 92d Div troops strengthen and improve positions and maintain contact with 8th Ind Div on R.

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U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Patrols of 6th Br Armd Div are within short distance of Tossignano without contact. Activity on remainder of front is limited to patrolling and relieving.

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II Corps Corps sector reported quiet with increase in enemy arty and SA fire during night. In 34th Div zone, 135th Inf, after being relieved by 133d Inf in place, moves to IV Corps and is attached to 92d Div; meanwhile, on R flank of Div, forward units find Hill 394, NE of M. Belmonte, clear of enemy. At 0700, 91st Div assumes command of 1st Armd Div sector and 1st Armd Div becomes Army Troops at same time.

Army Troops First Armd Div is detached from II Corps and becomes Army Troops at 0700 and Div (-) is placed in reserve. On R flank of 6th SA Armd Div, intense enemy arty is received in area about 2 miles W of Murazze.

IV Corps While patrols in central sector of 1st Brazilian Div receive enemy sniper and MG fire, farther W in Cutigliano area, TF 45 patrols successfully engages enemy in fire fight. Germans fail to gain additional ground in Serchio Valley: 19th and 21st Ind Brigs, 3th Ind Div, E of river and 370th Inf to W continue to hold and improve positions; Toreglia, SE of Coreglia, reported unoccupied by enemy; patrols sent to Galliciano undergo enemy SA fire. Increased arty and patrol activity reported throughout 92d Div front. The 135th CT, 34th Div, completes move to area NE of Viareggio and is attached to 92d Div as reserve unit. Total of 228 fighter bombers and 24 medium bombers of XXII Tactical Air Command supports counterattack in Serchio Valley strafing and bombing enemy positions and troop concentrations. In BEF sector, enemy shells Riola, Bombiana, Silla, Porretta, Gaggio Montano, and Gabba (just SW of Gaggio Montano).

29 ItalyU.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps Seventeenth Ind Brig sends patrols forward to probe Senio R. crossings. Sixth Br Armd Div reports increased enemy shelling in M. del Verro area, N of M. dell'Acqua Salata, while considerable fire is also claimed in 78th Br Div zone. At 1200, 36th Brig (78th Br Div) assumes command of 2d Brig in 1st Br Div sector.

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II Corps Patrols in 34th Div sector repulse enemy in area approximately 1 mile E of Route 65. Elements of 361st Inf relieve elements on L flank of 133d Inf, 34th Div, and command of sector passes to 91st Div at 2220.

Army Troops Normal patrolling continues throughout 6th SA Armd Div sector.

IV Corps Intense enemy mortar and arty fire is received throughout 1st Brazilian Div sector; enemy patrol, attempting to penetrate lines along E boundary, is forced to withdraw. During early hours, enemy raid surprises OP of TF 45 in vicinity of Pian di Ontani and 6 prisoners are taken; 339th CT continues to probe enemy defenses, sending out numerous patrols. Germans begin to retire as Indian troops counterattack in effort to gain lost ground E of Serchio R.: Coreglia and ridge to SW and Barga are reoccupied. Ninety-second Div maintains positions, contacts adjacent units and enemy, and prepares for counterattack. XXII Tactical Air Command again supports ground troops in Serchio Valley.

30 Italy

U.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps In 17th Ind Brig sector on R flank, patrols gain far side of Senio R. in area S and E of Rivola where they encounter heavy enemy fire; later attempts to cross fail.

II Corps At 2200, 88th Div completes relief of remaining R flank elements of 34th Div and assumes command of sector. Active patrolling continues on remainder of front.

Army Troops Reliefs are being carried out in 6th SA Armd Div sector; activity limited to patrolling.

IV Corps Troops of 6th Inf, 1st Brazilian Div, fire on enemy attempting to infiltrate their positions. Enemy arty and mortar fire is reported intense along entire

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front. Eighth Ind Div continues steady pressure forward, reaching as far as Gallicano, despite heavy shelling, and retaking Sommocolonia and M. Vano against slight resistance. Elements of 366th Inf, 92d Div, supported by tank and arty fire, conduct raids against M. Strettoia and coastal areas, taking some prisoners.

31 ItalyU.S. FIFTH ARMY

XIII Corps At end of month enemy remains firmly established in front of Corps. Additional patrols of 17th Ind Brig on R flank are unable to cross Senio R. because of stiff opposition. Germans are still entrenched in Tossignano. On L flank, 1st Br Div reports reliefs in 3d Brig sector and mortaring in 36th area. At 1345, 66th Brig assumes command of 3d Brig sector.

II Corps Regrouping of 88th Div to defend its increased front line is complete during night 31 Dec./1 Jan. Corps sector is generally quiet with inter-bn reliefs taking place.

Army Troops Sixth SA Armd Div continues defense of its sector and reports no change in forward positions.

IV Corps On R flank of BEF sector, patrols encounter harassing mortar and rifle grenade fire near Montecavalloro. In TF 45 sector, elements of 339th CT dispatch average 10 patrols a day and continue to improve positions in event of enemy attack. Continued gains are made in Sarchio Valley area by troops of 8th Ind Div: on E side of river, patrols penetrate into Bebbio, while across river, patrols enter Gallicano and Molazzana and establish new positions in vicinity of Verni and Trassilico, S of Gallicano; 2d Bn, 370th Inf, extends L flank by establishing positions on Bicocca hill mass, 2½ miles S of Vergemoli. At end of month 92d Div continues to protect L flank of Corps and prepares to defend its present positions by counterattack.

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Section III: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

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U.S. SIXTH ARMY

Major objective of Sixth Army is capture of port of Ormoc through which enemy garrison on NW Leyte is being resupplied and reinforced. GHQ directs that Sixth Army postpone for ten days the Mindoro Operation, which was scheduled to take place on 5 Dec. In addition to giving more time for neutralizing strikes on Luzon airfields and shipping by fast carrier TFs of U.S. Third Fleet, postponement of landing on Mindoro I. releases engineer units for work on Tanauan airfield and provides amphibious shipping and naval support required for the Ormoc landing.

X Corps Corps is engaged in heavy fighting at N end of the Ormoc corridor. With Limon secured, 32d Div is attacking S astride Pinamopoan-Ormoc highway; road blocks established approximately 1,000 yards SE and 800 yards NE of Tolibaw are maintained in face of desperate counterattacks. Terrain is highly favorable to defenders; because of winding road and densely wooded hills, enemy is able to operate between the two road blocks, moving troops and supplies into corridor E of Limon. Following arty and mortar preparation, 2d Bn of 128th Inf with flank support of 1st Bn of 34th Inf attacks enemy positions on "Kilay Ridge"; first of enemy-held knolls at SE extremity of Ridge is quickly seized but enemy continues to hold position on second knoll despite heavy blasting by bazookas and grenades. First Bn of 34th Inf reverts to control of 24th Inf Div and is ordered to withdraw from "Kilay Ridge" to Pinamopoan. During period of combat, this bn suffered 195 casualties as compared to over 900 enemy (Japanese 1st Div) counted killed.

Progress of 1st Cav Div operating to SE of 32d Div between Mt. Badian and Mt. Mamban is slowed up by many well-prepared defensive positions. Second Sq of 112th Cav overruns initial resistance to its front but is soon pinned down by intense and heavy fire from extensive enemy positions SW of Sinayawan. With arty support, 1st Sq of 12th Cav and A Tr of 5th Cav close pincers on enemy trail block N of Mt. Cabungaan, killing more than 200 enemy. On

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NE slope of Hill 2348, 2d Sq of 12th Cav gains 200 yards through MG and mortar fire and maneuvers into position to attack enemy strongpoint. Elements of 24th Inf Div operating in zone on L flank of 1st Cav Div exert pressure SW of Jaro against enemy in Mt. Laco and Alto Peak areas; contact is maintained with elements of 96th Inf Div, XXIV Corps.

XXIV Corps Corps is operating astride and S of the Binahaan R.; beachhead area forward of line Dagami-Burauen-La Paz is secured by 96th and 7th Inf Divs, assisted by elements of 11th A/B Div; the line Dulag-Abuyog-Baybay is maintained by 77th Inf with elements of 7th Inf and 11th A/B Divs. In heights SW of Dagami, 381st Inf, less 2d Bn, of 96th Div overcomes stubborn resistance to clear several enemy pockets in vicinity of Malobago. Following intensive arty barrage against enemy strongpoint on E slopes of Mt. Lobi (W of Guinarona), elements of 306th Inf, attached to 11th A/B Div, secure position and continue attack to W; 153 enemy dead counted and several MGs and 70-mm. mountain gun captured. Attacking NE from Damulan on W coast of Leyte, 1st and 2d Bns of 184th Inf, 7th Div, eliminate series of enemy pillboxes to reach high ground, overlooking enemy positions in Palanas R. Valley.

With enemy in mountainous terrain S of Ormoc in process of organizing forces to prepare for combined assault from S and E and as increased pressure of X Corps troops pulls enemy reserves N of Ormoc, the 77th Div is alerted for an amphibious landing on W coast of Leyte with mission of disrupting enemy defenses and supply routes in the Ormoc pocket.

During night, Seventh Fleet DDs sink enemy AK off NW tip of Leyte and bombard shore installations at Palompon and N portion of Ormoc Bay.

2 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps S of Limon, 32d Div troops eliminate several enemy groups in Kelobacan-Bonbongan areas. Against

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stubborn resistance, 2d Bn of 128th Inf seizes and occupies SE knolls of "Kilay Ridge"; 260 enemy dead counted and many MGs captured. Enemy opposition facing 1st Cav Div SE of Bonbongan and Mt. Cabungaan remains stubborn. From positions about 2,800 yards SW of Sinayawan, 2d Sq of 112th Cav repels several "banzai" charges and continues attack against ridge area to its front. First Sq of 12th Cav and A Tr of 5th Cav maintain guard over supply trail NW of Mt. Cabungaan, waiting for ammunition in order to attack enemy-held ridge NW of Mt. Catabaran. With arty support, 2d Sq of 12th Cav breaks enemy resistance in strongly fortified ridge area W of Hill 2348. Mission of guarding coastal area from Capoccan to high ground W of Pinamopoan is assigned to 34th Regt of 24th Inf Div.

XXIV Corps Enemy continues to hold main ridge position in Kabayan-Malobago area, SW of Dagami, despite numerous casualties inflicted by 96th Div troops; 381st Inf, less 2d Bn, maneuvers for position to break S end of enemy line and turn enemy's flank. Elements of 11th A/B Div attack enemy positions in Lubi-San Pedro area, W of Burauen; 306th Inf, attached to 11th A/B Div, makes further gains on E slopes of Mt. Lobi. Seventh Div troops consolidate gains S of the Palanas R., near coast about 12 miles SE of Ormoc; patrols of 184th Inf probe enemy lines in Palanas R. Valley, encountering strong opposition; number of enemy positions are taken under arty fire. Seventy-seventh Div is in process of assembling on Terragona and Rizal beaches on E coast of Leyte; progress is slowed up because of widely dispersed elements and poor road conditions.

During night, Seventh Fleet DDs attack five enemy vessels in Ormoc Bay; 1 DD and 1 AK/AP believed sunk; 250 enemy dead counted on beaches; DD Cooper is sunk by enemy torpedo.

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U.S. SIXTH ARMY

Commanding General, Sixth Army, in radio message to Commanding General of X Corps, orders that operations on Samar I. be initiated on 5 Dec. to seize Wright and secure control of Wright-Taft highway.

X Corps Corps directs coordinated attack S by 32d Inf Div and 1st Cav Div to gain control of high ground in Libungao area and to prevent enemy escape from Ormoc on road running from junction just N of Libungao to Palompon on W coast of Leyte. Mopping up of enemy pockets of resistance in Kalogbacan-Bombongan areas is continued by 32d Div; 2d Bn of 127th Inf is released from Div reserve to regt control and 1st Bn becomes Div reserve. First Bn of 34th Inf, 24th Div, commences withdrawal from "Kilay Ridge," moving overland to Consuegra and thence, up Naga R. by LVTs to Calubian and through Biliran Strait and Carigara Bay to Pinamopon area. First Cav Div continues to maintain screen along line extending S of Mt. Badian to Mt. Limban; majority of troops are engaged in carrying supplies and ammunition over rain-drenched trails to forward elements. First Sq of 112th Cav is pushing W toward the Leyte R.; E Tr reaches W bank of river, establishing perimeter about 400 yards E of advance elements of 126th Inf of 32d Div. SW of Sinayawan, pressure is maintained against enemy-held ridge positions by 2d Sq of 112th Cav. Second Sq of 12th Cav is pushing through dense undergrowth in vicinity of Hill 2348 to mop up scattered resistance.

XXIV Corps Last organized enemy position in heights SW of Dagami is eliminated by 96th Div; with support of light tanks and arty, 1st and 3d Bns of 381st Inf secure main ridge in Kabayan-Malabago area; 160 enemy killed for no loss to regt. Aggressive patrolling in Mt. Lazo, Mt. Cunjajanag, and Mt. Lobi areas conducted by other elements of Div. Meanwhile, 11th A/B Div troops are concentrating in mountainous area in vicinity of Lake Danao,

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in foothills of Mt. Lobi, in area SW of Mt. Majunag, and in Lubi area along Burauen-Albuera trail. First L-4 plane lands on Manarawat airstrip, constructed by 127th A/B Eng Bn; this airstrip is the control point for mountain fighting in Lubi-Mahonag-Anas area.

Seventh Div CP closes on E coast of Leyte to open at Baybay on W coast. The 184th Inf of 7th Div, in front-line positions S of the Palanas R., pushes strong patrols on N slope of Hill 918; heavy MG fire from well-concealed enemy positions is encountered. To support northward drive of 7th Div, 306th FA Bn displaces from Tarragona to Baybay and elements of 776th Amph Tank Bn and of 718th Amph Tractor Bn are landed at Tinagan and Lalolago to guard beach defenses. First Bn of 32d Inf is en route from Panoan I. to Caridad; 2d Bn of 32d Inf takes over defense of Baybay, relieving 2d Bn of 305th Inf, which reverts to control of 77th Div. Elements of 77th Div are moving toward Tarragona and Rizal beaches; CT 307 is held up at Mayorga on road leading from La Paz to Rizal; this road is pocked with deep holes caused by torrential rains and heavy traffic.

4 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

Commanding General, Sixth Army, directs XXIV Corps to make its main effort with its L to defeat the Japanese in the Ormoc area, reinforcing its L by landing 77th Div in the Ipil-Binoljo area (about 3 miles S of Ormoc) on 7 Dec. To support XXIV Corps, X Corps is to attack vigorously S astride highway 2.

X Corps Thirty-second Div consolidates positions in Bonbongon and Tolibaw areas, lying respectively to E and W of highway 2, and prepares for southward drive to seize high ground running NW-SE through Lonoy. During night, enemy counterattack spearheaded by 8 tanks against road block about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles S of the Leyte R. bridge is repulsed by bazooka fire; 2 tanks destroyed. Activity in 1st Cav Div sector, E of highway 2, is centered around problems

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of supply and communications. On Samar I., 8th Cav prepares for northward drive to seize Wright; Btry B of 99th FA Bn moves by native boats to Sebastian to bring enemy fortress under fire.

XXIV Corps Increase of enemy activity W of Burauen is reported; enemy groups are infiltrating through 11th A/B Div outposts to hide in rice paddies N of airfields. Ninety-sixth Div troops mop up on E slopes of Mt. Lobi. Div boundary is extended 1,500 yards farther S; 381st Inf (Co B, reinf by 2 plats of 96th Rcn Tr) commences relief of 3d Bn of 306th Inf, 77th Div, in Burauen-Guinarona area. On Burauen-Albuera trail, 11th A/B Div troops are pushing W of Lubi toward Mahonag; Div CP is set up on Manarawat airstrip. On W coast of Leyte, 7th Inf Div prepares to attack N and NE to seize Hill 918 and to break through enemy defenses in Palanas R. Valley; Div CP is pushed up coast from Baybay to Caridad. The 184th Inf probes enemy positions to its front and pushes patrols up coast to Balogo. Seventeenth Inf moves to forward positions: 1st Bn establishes perimeter 600 yards E of Damulaan while 2d Bn takes up position 200 yards to E; 3d Bn reaches Caridad by naval craft and moves one mile up coastal road to Tinagan. Thirty-second Inf continues consolidation of regt: 3d Bn is in position SE of 184th Inf; 1st Bn, which is relieved on Panaon I. by Filipino Inf Bn, 9th Military District, arrives at Caridad; 2d Bn, less one co at San Agustin, maintains defense of Baybay. Preparation for amphibious landing on W coast continues as large portion of 77th Div troops, despite shortage of transportation facilities and extremely poor road conditions, reach Tarragona and Rizal beaches. By working day and night, 307th Inf with assistance of 233d Eng Bn succeeds in moving heavy equipment and about one-third of its troops from La Paz to Rizal. The 305th Inf completes assembly in Tarragona area with return of 2d Bn from Baybay. Second Bn of 306th Inf, relieved from control of 11th A/B Div, moves overland to Dulag en route to join 1st Bn at Tarragona; 3d Bn is still under operational control of 11th A/B Div.

Five Marine fighter squadrons commence operations from Leyte airfields.

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X Corps The 127th Inf of 32d Div passes through positions occupied by 3d Bn of 128th Inf, S of the Leyte R. and SW of Limon, and attacks S, encountering strong enemy defenses on high ground about 1,000 yards S of Leyte R. bridge. In 1st Cav Div zone, 1st Sq of 112th Cav is closing in on A Tr, which is in contact with 126th Inf of 32d Div along the Leyte R. Unsuccessful frontal and flanking attacks are made by 2d Sq of 112th Cav against enemy strongpoint SW of Sinayawan. Second Sq of 12th Cav is pushing SW from Hill 2348 to clamp pincers on enemy in front of 1st Sq in Mt. Cabungaan area. The 302d Rcn Tr, mopping up in rear areas, engages in fire fight with estimated 100 enemy in vicinity of San Miguel; major part of enemy force escapes during night. On Samar, 8th Cav launches its attack N toward Wright, reaching outskirts of Hinabangan. Preparatory to assault on Wright, enemy defenses are bombed and strafed by 12 P-40s and shelled by 99th FA Bn.

XXIV Corps Coordinated Corps attack gets under way; 7th Div attacks N and NE from Damulaan while 11th A/B Div attacks W through central mountain range to apply pincers on Japanese 26th Div. At 0800, 7th Div, with 17th Inf on R and 184th Inf on L, launches attack NE and N toward the Palanas R. and Hill 918. Seventeenth Inf advances against moderate resistance to secure ridge W of Hill 918 while 184th Inf pushes through enemy fire to secure line reaching from coast about 300 yards S of Balogo to high ground just S of the Palanas R.; first ridge of Hill 380, NE of Balogo, seized. Gap in line between 17th and 184th Inf troops is filled in by elements of 3d Bn of 32d Inf. First Bn of 32d Inf moves up coast to Tinagan in position to support attack or to prevent hostile envelopment of Div R flank. In support of 184th Inf, am tanks of 776th Amph Tank Bn land at Balogo, shelling gun installations and troop concentrations to W of village and withdrawing

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under enemy fire to make diversionary demonstration off Albuera. On return to base at Tinagan; second landing is made at Balogo by amtanks which wipe out further enemy positions. Eleventh A/B Div troops are engaged in fierce fighting with enemy forces 400 yards E of Mahonag and N of San Pedro; A Btry of 457th Para FA Bn is dropped on Manarawat airstrip to support attacks.

Activity of 96th Div is limited to patrolling in Mt. Majunag-Mt. Lobi-Mt. Cunajanag-Alto Peak areas. Relief of 3d Bn of 306th Inf, 77th Inf, by 381st Inf (Co B, reinf by 2 plats of 96th Rcn Tr) is effected. Final preparations for amphibious landing in Ipil area, S of Ormoc, are completed as additional elements of 77th Div arrive in Tarragona area; during night loading of supplies and equipment commences. Elements of 20th Armored Group assume responsibility for rear areas of the Corps.

6 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Continuing attack against enemy strongpoint S of Leyte R. bridge, 127th Inf of 32d Div clears out numerous spider holes and interlacing trenches; mopping up of bypassed enemy groups conducted by remainder of Div. Extensive patrolling from Mt. Badian-Mt. Mamban line is carried out by 1st Cav Div troops. Fifth Cav and 1st Sq of 12th Cav probe SW for route of approach to cut highway 2, locating several enemy outposts in vicinity of Cananga, Bagatoon, and Dolores. Enemy outposts are effectively shelled by Div arty during night. Eighth Cav troops on Samar I. occupy Hinabangan and push N of village where first enemy organized resistance is encountered; enemy MG on highway 1 about 3 miles to N of village is destroyed by 60-mm. mortar fire.

XXIV Corps Enemy attacks Burauen airfields. Elements of Japanese 16th Div, approximately 1,500 troops which had assembled in the Guinarona Valley about 3,600 yards W of Buri airstrip, attack E across the Dagami-Burauen

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road; estimated 200-400 enemy push onto Buri airstrip during early morning hours. Shortly before dusk, enemy force of transport planes, supported by bombers and fighters, are over Leyte I. airfields; more than 30 enemy planes reported shot down. Approximately 350-400 enemy paratroops descend on San Pablo and Buri airfields and in scattered areas, destroying and damaging several liaison planes and number of drums of gasoline at San Pablo and inflicting casualties among service troops at Buri. Captured documents reveal that the Japanese 35th Army had planned to participate on a major scale with A/B operations of 1st Parachute Training Regt against Burauen airfields. The Japanese 26th Div was to advance two regts through the Mahonag-Anas Pass down Lubi Valley to join with elements of Japanese 16th Div. Because of weather and difficult terrain, enemy supply trail W from Albura is only partially completed and only one regt, with arty support, reaches Mahonag-Anas area where progress through mountain pass is blocked by 11th A/B Div troops. Third Bn of 13th Inf (reinf), the "Shigamatsu Force" pulls away to N and pushes E along foot trails toward Burauen.

Elements of 11th A/B Div (127th A/B Eng, 674th Para-Glider FA Bn, and additional supply and communication units) engage in fighting with enemy on airstrips; other elements of Div, with 1st Bn of 382d Inf of 96th Div attached, hold positions S of San Pablo and W of Buri during night. Patrols of 383d Inf, 96th Div, contact enemy troops near "White Chalk Ridge," main enemy line of defense in Mt. Alto Peak area.

Attack N toward enemy defense line in Palanas Valley by 7th Div is continued with 184th and 17th Regts on line and 32d Inf in reserve. Against stiff resistance, 17th Inf troops on regt R force a crossing of the Palanas R. while Regt L reduces number of enemy pillboxes to secure Hill 918 and then strikes NW, encountering heavy resistance at river crossing. The 184th Inf progresses to an E-W line through Balogo, where sharp enemy counterattack supported by mortars, MG, and arty hits R flank. Loading of 77th Div troops from Tarragona and Rizal beaches which begins at 0800 is completed at 1200; convoy assembles in Leyte Gulf, waiting for arrival of DDs. At about 1300, Naval

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TG 78.3 under command of Rear Admiral A. D. Struble, leaves Leyte Gulf, moving around S tip of Leyte through Surigao Strait and thence N through Camotes Sea during night to reach positions off Ipil on E coast of Ormoc Bay.

7 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps After two days of close fighting, 127th Inf of 32d Div clears enemy strongpoint S of Leyte R. bridge and attacks S against scattered resistance to come abreast of 126th Inf, in position about 800 yards SE of Tolibaw. On W coast of Leyte Peninsula, large enemy force has reportedly landed at San Isidro with detachments at Hubay, Daba, Tabango, and Boho. Elements of 1st Bn of 34th Inf. (Hq and B Co) at Calubian and of 1st Bn of 96th Inf (guerrilla) dispatch patrols W on main trail toward San Isidro to gain contact with enemy force. Activity of 1st Cav Div on Leyte is limited to patrolling and mopping up in Div zone. Eighth Cav troops on Samar I. consolidate positions in Hinabangan area and push strong patrols to E and N of village.

XXIV Corps Following bombardment of beaches by 5-in. guns of DDs and rocket-firing LCIs, first assault wave of 77th Inf Div lands on beach S of Ipil, on E shore of Ormoc Bay, about 3 miles S of Ormoc at 0707; only light resistance encountered. Unloading of troops and equipment is completed by 0900; firm beachhead is established between the Baod and Bagonbon Rivers. Driving northward, 307th Inf, less 2d Bn, with 2d Bn of 306th Inf attached, secures Baod R. bridge and seizes Ipil. S flank of Div, protected by 305th Inf, is established on line of the Bagonbon R. Div CP is set up at Deposito on N bank of Baod R. By nightfall, beachhead extending approximately 2 miles long and 1 mile inland is secured. In support of attack, 902d FA Bn (105-mm. How) takes up position 200-500 yards inland along S bank of the Baod R. and one

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co of amtanks with 75-mm. How is attached to 307th Inf. Arty fire of 306th FA Bn is made available on call from position behind front lines of 7th Div to S and from 226th FA Bn from position E of mountains in vicinity of Daro. Enemy aircraft attack assault shipping leaving transport area; USS Ward (APD) and USS Mahan (DD) are severely damaged by suicide dives and are sunk by friendly gunfire; only two light attacks are made on beachhead area and no damage to installations results. Seventh Div troops with support of amphibian tanks, which deliver flanking fire against hostile defensive positions along coast N of Balogo, reach positions approximately 3,000 yards S of Deposito; 17th Inf on regt R makes only limited gains over rugged terrain and through heavy enemy mortar and automatic weapons fire.

W of Burauen, 511th Para Inf and 187th Para-Glider Inf of 11th A/B Div repulse two counterattacks and clear several enemy positions in vicinity of Mahonag. Elements of 11th A/B Div, with 1st Bn of 382d Inf, 96th Div, attached, launch attack against hostile troops on San Pablo airfield. The 149th Inf (less 1 bn) of 38th Div (which had arrived on Leyte 6 Dec. en route to another operation) is assigned to XXIV Corps and placed under operational control of 11th A/B Div; regt moves to vicinity of San Pablo and prepares to attack NW.

8 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps From positions SE of Tolibaw, 126th and 127th Inf Regts of 32d Div launch coordinated attack S astride highway 2 toward Lonoy, overcoming stiff enemy resistance on W flank to gain approximately 500 yards. Elements of 34th Inf, 24th Div, at Calubian are reinforced by 2 plats of C Co and one section of 81-mm. mortars; patrols moving W toward San Isidro make no contact with the enemy. Heavy rains prevent offensive operations in mountainous terrain E of highway 2; redistribution and regrouping of 1st Cav Div troops initiated. Gain of about 1,000 yards is made

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by 1st Sq of 112th Cav which is keeping abreast of 32d Div troops in drive to S along highway 2. During night, 2d Sq of 112th Cav exchanges grenades with enemy in ridge area SW of Sinayawan.

XXIV Corps With support of chemical mortars, arty, and tanks, 307th Inf (less 2d Bn, which is still on Samar I.) and 2d Bn of 306th Inf, 77th Div, attack northward from Ipil against increasingly heavy resistance; point blank fire is delivered into enemy positions to clear path of advance for inf assault which carries forward to high ground near Camp Downes, about 1 mile S of Ormoc. S of Ipil beachhead, 7th Div mops up enemy resistance at Balogo, forces enemy to withdraw from SW slopes of Hill 606, and secures Tabgas R. Valley; six MGs and several mortars captured. Amtanks of 776th Amph Tank Bn shell Albuera, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles N of Balogo, and deliver flanking fire in support of Div advance.

Fighting continues on Burauen airfields where troops of 11th A/B Div, with attached units, are engaging the enemy at various points. In desperate charge, elements of 1st Bn of 382d Inf of 96th Div (attached to 11th A/B Div) employing rifles, carbines, and grenades break organized enemy defense line on San Pablo airfield. W of Burauen, troops of 11th A/B Div (511th Para Inf and 2d Bn of 187th Para-Glider Inf) overcome determined enemy opposition to secure mountain pass near village of Mahonag.

9 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Thirty-second Div troops continue to hack away at enemy opposition holding up advance S to Lonoy; 2d Bn of 126th Inf is facing enemy strongpoint, estimated as 2 plato on ridge to W of highway, about 1 mile SE of Kalogbacan. Elements of 1st Bn of 34th Inf, 24th Div, from Calubian establish outposts on trail toward San Isidro;

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one enemy force is reportedly advancing on trail toward Calubian from position about 3 miles E of San Isidro and another is pushing E from Daha toward Matagok, about 5 kilometers NW of Calubian. During night 34th Inf reinforcements arrive at Calubian. First Cav Div continues to maintain screen which extends from Mt. Badian to Corps SE boundary at Mt. Laao. Advance S along the Leyte R. by 1st Sq of 112th Cav parallels movement of 126th Inf of 32d Div. Second Sq of 112th Cav launches three attacks against enemy defensive positions SW of Sinayawan but fails to reduce strongpoints. Heavy rains limit 8th Cav operations on Samar I. to patrolling. Operating under control of Sixth Army, 1st Bn of 152d Inf, 38th Div, moves from staging area on Leyte I. to Agojo Point on SE Samar to relieve 2d Bn of 307th Inf, 77th Div (XXIV Corps) and to furnish protection for naval installations under construction in this area.

XXIV Corps Continuing N toward Ormoc, 307th Inf (less 2d Bn) and 2d Bn of 306th Inf, 77th Div, drives through enemy arty, MG, and mortar fire into Camp Downes; by 1600, enemy garrison is cleared of hostile troops. Extremely bitter fighting takes place in coconut grove on high ground position just S of Camp Downes; Div CP closes in area as enemy defenders are being mopped up. To support northward attack of 307th Inf, the 305th Inf is moved up to N bank of Baod R., leaving supply installations at Deposito within SA range of MLR of Div S flank. Patrols of 305th Inf move S of Ipil to probe enemy positions between 77th and 7th Divs. Third Bn of 306th Inf lands near Ipil to take over defense of center of beachhead; landing of 305th FA Bn in Ipil area also completed. With tank support, 184th Inf of 7th Div sweeps N of Balogo and captures Albuera, terminus of trail from Burauen; against stiff opposition, 17th Inf secures high ground positions N of the Sibugay R.; flanking patrols contact 511th Parachute Inf, 11th A/B Div, in Anas area.

Eleventh A/B Div troops with assisting units eliminate several enemy groups in vicinity of Buri airstrip. Bitter fighting continues in mountainous terrain W of

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Burauen, where elements of 11th A/B Div are pushing W toward Mahonag.

10 Philippine Is.U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Thirty-second Div troops engage in bitter fighting in attempt to open up highway 2 S of Tolibaw-Bonbongan area to Lonoy; enemy strongpoint about 1 mile SE of Kalogbacan is reduced by 2d Bn of 126th Inf. In 1st Cav Div sector, 1st Sq of 12th Cav with arty and mortar support overruns strongly fortified enemy position on N slopes of Mt. Cabungaan and push patrols to within 800 yards of Lonoy. Second Sq of 7th Cav takes over positions occupied by 2d Sq of 112th Cav SW of Sinayawan; 2d Sq of 112th Cav passes to control of Sixth Army. Thirty-fourth Inf of 24th Div, assisted by 96th Filipino Inf Regt, commences drive to eliminate enemy on NW Leyte Peninsula: one plat of G Co establishes trail block about 5 kilometers W of Calubian while another plat of A Co makes amphibious move some 9,000 yards up coast to Villaneuva, on W bank of Matague R. and opposite Matagok, to protect R flank. At midnight, enemy forces 34th Inf patrol to withdraw from outpost at Tagharigui, SW of Calubian; B and C Cos make repeated thrusts at both flanks of enemy-held ridge position in vicinity of Tagharigui, encountering automatic weapons, grenades, and mortar fire; ridge area is finally cleared in hand-to-hand fighting; 78 enemy dead counted. Air strikes and arty fire are directed against enemy defenses and troop concentrations in San Isidro area. The 21st Inf Regt of 24th Div takes over beach defenses in Barugo-Carigara-Capooacan areas. On Samar I., road blocks are established about 6 kilometers E of Wright and between Wright and Motiang by 8th Cav troops. Enemy infiltrates 8th Cav perimeter at Hinabangan but fails in attempt to destroy gun positions.

XXIV Corps Ormoc falls to troops of 77th Inf Div, commanded by Maj. Gen. Andrew D. Bruce. Preparatory to assault, devastating arty barrage is laid down on enemy defenses by 90th and 30th FA Bns, supplemented by fires

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of 4.2 chemical mortars, M-8s, M-10s, and 75-mm. How of Co A, 776th Amtank Bn. Simultaneously, rocket-firing LCIs close in to pier and deliver point blank fire into center of town. Troops of 307th Inf sweep down from Camp Downes to make frontal assault while 306th Inf moves to envelop enemy's NE flank. Enemy puts up desperate stand at a deep draw which extends E and W on S outskirts of Ormoc; defenders on both sides of draw are routed from well dug-in positions with mortars, grenades, and bayonets. At 1330, 307th Inf enters Ormoc and fights steadily through town, overcoming enemy arty, mortar, MG, and rifle fire. Remnants of enemy garrison entrenched in ruins of houses and in street-side fox holes are mopped up in bitter fighting. By evening, Ormoc is freed of Japanese invaders and 77th Div troops establish front line on S bank of the Antilao R. Escape of enemy garrison to hills E of Ormoc is prevented by successful enveloping move of 306th Inf; withdrawal route to N is covered by arty fire. Meanwhile, 184th Inf of 7th Div continues attack along coast N of Albuera, reaching position about 800 yards N of the Talisayan R. and contacting 77th Div troops at Ipil while 17th Inf on R flank of Div seizes ridge 500 yards to N of river; considerable stores in Binoljo and number of arty pieces and MGs captured. Enemy occupying favorable terrain positions and supported by arty and aircraft bitterly contests 7th Div's advance.

After five days of fighting, 11th A/B Div troops, assisted by two bns of 149th Inf, 38th Div, and one bn of 96th Div, clear enemy paratroops and elements of Japanese 16th Div from Buri airstrip; majority of hostile force is killed and remainder withdraws westward. During night, elements of the "Shigamatsu Force" make unsuccessful attempt to infiltrate defense perimeter of Burauen airfields; in retreat toward hills, major part of enemy force is annihilated and remainder dispersed by 11th A/B outposts. W of Burauen, bitter fighting continues in Mahonag-Anas area. First Bn of 383d Inf, 96th Div, is relieved of patrolling in Macanip area and ordered to Dagami as Div reserve; the 96th Rcn Tr, less 1 plat, moves NW of Dagami to Pastrana to furnish security for area.

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U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps After three days of close fighting, 126th and 127th Regts of 32d Div overcome enemy opposition immediately to their front and progress 300-400 yards where heavy enemy fire from hill position to E of highway 2 and about 1,300 yards S of Bonbongon is encountered. Following intense arty and mortar barrage, 12th Cav of 1st Cav Div drives enemy from strongpoint on ridge NW of Mt. Cabungaan. Heavy arty barrage is laid down on enemy warehouses and a probable radio station in vicinity of Bagatoon and also on Valencia airstrip, where enemy parachutists are reportedly landing.

XXIV Corps With Ormoc secure, 77th Div attacks NW to secure N bank of the Antilao R. in face of heavy and accurate enemy MG and SA fire; point blank tank fire fails to reduce enemy strongpoint at river bridge. Two bns of 305th Inf take up positions between 307th Inf on W flank and 306th Inf on E to launch attack N astride highway 2; remaining bn moves to position just S of Camp Downes to protect Div's new S boundary. Defense of supplies and installations in Ipil area is taken over by 2d Bn of 184th Inf, 7th Div, which is attached to 77th Div at 0955. Advancing along coast of Ormoc Bay NW of the Talisayan R., 184th Inf, 7th Div, seizes village of Siquinon; 2d Bn by-passes enemy coastal positions to reach Ipil; Regt line of 184th now extends from Binoljo to a point approximately 300 yards N of the Talisayan R. Series of enemy delaying points are reduced and 12 arty pieces captured by 17th Inf which crosses the Talisayan R. and occupies high ground to N. In mopping up operations in Burauen area, only a few enemy stragglers are killed by 11th A/B Div troops; Burauen airfields are considered secure by nightfall; estimated 500-600 enemy reported killed in "Battle of Airfields." W of Burauen, other elements of 11th A/B Div continue destruction of enemy pockets of resistance in Anas-Mahonag and Lubi-Anonang

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areas; Japanese main line of defense on ridges E of the Talisayan R. and on high ground approximately 5,000 yards N of Mahonag is defended by units of 26th Div (26th Div Hq, 26th Div Eng Regt, 2d Bn of 12th Ind Regt identified), the 65th Independent Eng Bn, and stragglers of 16th Div. Arty continually pounds enemy strongpoint on "White Chalk Ridge," guarding mountain pass on trail leading from Alto Peak to Lake Danao, while 383d Inf of 96th Div moves troops and supplies forward to attack position.

Planes of Fifth AF intercept Japanese convoy off Port Palompon, sinking 5 vessels and damaging remaining six ships. During night U.S. DDs fire on enemy vessels in Ormoc Bay, probably sinking one vessel. Japanese DD or DE torpedoed and sunk by U.S. PTs off Port Palompon. Re-supply convoy, consisting of 13 LSMs and LSIs and screened by 6 DDs, en route to Ormoc, is attacked by enemy suicide planes; USS Reid (DD) lost to enemy action. During night, enemy craft move into Ormoc Bay; 1 barge within 50 yards of shore and another enemy vessel unloading troops and supplies NW of Ormoc are destroyed by shore fire; third vessel withdrawing along shore in vicinity of Linao is taken under fire by arty, mortars, M-8s, and M-10s; no damage to shore installations or naval supply vessels in Bay results.

12 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Enemy, employing arty, MGs, and automatic weapons, continues to put up determined resistance to southward advance of 32d Div troops astride highway 2. By an outflanking move, 1st Bn of 126th Inf drives enemy from hill dominating highway 2 S of Bonbongon and occupies position. On NW coast, 34th Inf of 24th Div maintains guard over Calubian-Matagok area and continues to outpost trails to San Isidro and Daba. On N flank of 1st Cav Div, 1st Sq of 112th Cav disperses large enemy group blocking path of patrols in Leyte R. area. Second Sq of 7th Cav advances through MG, grenade, and rifle fire to

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within 50 yards of enemy strongpoint SW of Sinayawan and succeeds in pinpointing 15-20 bunkers. In Mt. Cabungaan-Mt. Catabaran area, several enemy delaying points are overrrun by 12th Cav troops. On Samar I., 8th Cav troops with arty support eliminate stubborn opposition at junction of highways 1 and 2 and establish contact with enemy's main defensive position SE of Wright.

XXIV Corps Seventy-seventh Div consolidates positions in Ormoc area and engages in aggressive patrolling to front and on both flanks; harassing and interdictory fires are laid down on enemy positions across the Antilao R. throughout day and night. Third Bn of 184th Inf, 7th Div, eliminates enemy resistance along the Panilahan R. and then displaces to Ipil, passing to control of 77th Div. Thirty-second Inf takes over front-line positions of 17th Inf astride the Talisayan R. and prepares to drive E. Second Bn of 32d Inf reverts to Div reserve while 1st Bn moves to Baybay and 2d Bn to Albuera to maintain security of coastal defenses. Eleventh A/B Div troops engage in bitter fighting to seize village of Mahonag, about 5 miles E of Albuera; Div route of advance closely parallels main enemy supply line Mahonag-Albuera. Second Bn of 382d Inf, 96th Div, is attached to 11th A/B Div for operations W of Burauen. In Alto Peak area, patrol of 2d Bn, 383d Inf, 96th Div, contacts enemy force, killing 112.

At 1800, convoy with Western Visayan TF, consisting of 19th RCT of 24th Inf Div and the 503d Parachute Inf RCT, leaves Leyte Gulf, feints E, and then turns S to proceed through Surigao Strait and the enemy-interdicted waters of Mindanao and Sulu Seas to Mindoro I.; fighter cover for 550-mile push through inland seas is provided by carrier aircraft and land-based planes. Attack force consists of Attack Group (TG 78.3) under Rear Admiral A.D. Struble, in command of amphibious operation, Close Covering Group (TG 77.3) under Rear Admiral R.S. Berkey, and Motor Torpedo Boat Group (TG 70.1) under Commander C.E. Dowling; Heavy Covering and Carrier Group (TG 77.12), consisting of 3 OBBs, 3 CLs, 6 CVEs, and 18 DDs, is commanded by Rear Admiral T.D. Ruddock, Jr.

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13 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Second Bn of 126th Inf, 32d Div, is moved forward to occupy hill position S of Bonbongan; push S astride highway 2 against determined opposition is continued by 127th Inf and by 1st and 3d Bns of 126th Inf; bridge about 1,700 yards S of Tolibaw reached. The 128th Inf consolidates positions E and S of Limon and maintains guard over "Kilay Ridge" approach to highway 2. Eighth Cav clears main enemy defensive position SE of Wright and storms into fortress; by 1415, occupation of town is completed and leading elements pursue enemy, 2d Bn of 9th Japanese Regt, up coastal road toward Catbalogan, capital of Samar I. On Leyte I., 1st Cav Div troops are engaged in aggressive patrolling in Mt. Catabaran-Mt. Cabungaan area.

XXIV Corps With arty support, 77th Div resumes attack N of Ormoc. The 305th Inf astride highway 2 runs into strongly fortified enemy position which is centered around stone church building in vicinity of Cogon. The enemy, occupying high ground around church building and on both sides of highway, had dug-in spider holes 6-8 feet in depth with cuts built to protect occupants from air-burst arty. Div arty pulverizes church building but repeated attacks of 305th Inf fail to reduce enemy positions, which are reinforced from rear. After repulsing three enemy counterattacks, 305th Inf withdraws from Cogon area and calls for heavy arty barrage against enemy strongpoints. Patrols of 306th Inf reach Dunghol, about 2 miles NE of Ormoc, without enemy contact while 307th Inf, pushing NW along coastal road from Ormoc, seizes Punta and reaches Linao.

Attack of 7th Div spearheaded by 32d Div turns E from Talisayan-Siquinon area in order to eliminate enemy forces in Bintolan-Libas-Capatgan areas and to link up with 511th Para Inf of 11th Div, driving westward through mountains from Mahonag on Burauen-Albuera trail. First Bn and Hq of 184th Inf, 7th Div, move to Ormoc; 2d and 3d Bns revert to regt control.

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USS Nashville (CL), command ship of TG 78.3 en route to Mindoro I., is heavily hit by suicide plane while passing between Mindanao and Negros Islands; staff is transferred to USS Dashiell (DD); numerous casualties caused; Brig. Gen. William C. Dunckel is wounded. Nashville returns to Leyte Gulf, escorted by Stanley (DD). USS Haraden (DD) of TG 77.12 receives damaging hit by another suicide plane. Efforts of Army and Marine fighters to provide strong "umbrella" over convoy hampered by adverse weather.

14 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

Commanding General, Sixth Army, revises boundary between X and XXIV Corps, placing Valencia in XXIV Corps zone of action.

X Corps With tank support, 32d Div is attacking S astride highway 2, about one mile S of Tolibaw; progress is slow as every bend in road is lined with enemy dug-in positions many of which are being cleared out in hand-to-hand fighting. Enemy demolition squad attacks 126th Inf CP; no damage results and enemy is completely annihilated by CP personnel. Pushing S along the Leyte R. on L flank of 32d Div, 1st Sq of 112th Cav reaches positions about 1,200 yards S of Bonbongan. Heavy arty and mortar barrage is laid down on enemy strongpoint SW of Sinayawan, which prevents link-up of 2d Sq of 7th Cav with 1st Sq of 112th Cav on W bank of the Leyte R. Using all types of weapons including flame throwers, G Tr of 2d Sq of 7th Cav makes frontal attack while F Tr closes in from rear to reduce enemy strongpoint; 30 enemy bunkers are knocked out. First Sq of 12th Cav continues advance SW from Mt. Cabungaan, eliminating series of enemy delaying positions and setting up advance CP in a banana plantation about 1,500 yards E of Lonoy on highway 2. Second Sq of 12th Cav engages in successful fire fight with estimated enemy plat on Hill 2348. On Samar I., 8th Cav consolidates positions at Wright and pushes strong patrols N

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toward Catbalogan; E of Wright, contact is established with Filipino forces who report Wright-Taft highway free of enemy. Progress N of Wright is delayed because of poor roads and flooded streams.

XXIV Corps N of Ormoc, elements of 305th Inf, 77th Div, envelop enemy's W flank, by-passing enemy positions astride highway 2 S of Cogon, and attacking toward road junction about 1,000 yards to N. Meanwhile, other elements of 305th Inf engage in the bitterest of fighting to eliminate Cogon positions; with fire of M-8s and M-10s and with grenades and bayonets, enemy spider holes and fox holes are being cleared out one-by-one; armored bulldozers of 302d Eng Bn by driving straight into enemy positions cover numerous fox holes occupied by the enemy. On R flank of Div, 306th Inf sends patrols to Dunghol and Patag and reconnoiters to N for route to cut highway 2 between Dayhagan and Catayom. Patrols of 307th Inf make wide encircling move to W of highway 2 to reach point within 2,000 yards of Valencia; meanwhile, 2 reinf rifle co's of 307th Inf, with cannon and tank support, push along coastal road NW of Ormoc to reach bank of an unnamed river near Jalubon; 6 enemy amphibious tanks, 7 barges, 1 schooner, 9 AA guns, several MGs, 1 sea coast range finder, 1 radio transmitter, and more than 75 tons of supplies and ammunition reported destroyed; approximately half of the town of Linao is set on fire to eliminate enemy dug-in positions; 1 seacoast ranger, 1 radio transmitter, and two 20-mm. guns are brought back to base. Arty fire is placed on W bank of unnamed river in vicinity of Jalubon from which enemy rifle and MG fire was encountered. SE of Ormoc, 32d Inf of 7th Div attacks enemy-held ridge positions between the Talisayan and Panilahan Rivers, encountering heavy enemy arty, mortars, and grenades. In Alto Peak area, 15-man patrol from 2d Bn, 383d Inf (96th Div) reaches high ground position overlooking "White Chalk Ridge"; member of 921st FA Bn relays adjustments to firing btry, which makes direct hits on enemy positions. The 382d Inf, less 1st Bn, reverts to 96th Div control from attachment to 11th A/B Div.

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Third Fleet carrier aircraft lay "air blanket" over Luzon airfields in support of convoy with Western Visayan TF, approaching SW coast of Mindoro I.

15 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Japanese positions on three heavily wooded razor-back ridges about 1,500 yards S of Bonbongan are opposing advance of 32d Div; enemy arty is active, shelling CPs, frontline positions, and Leyte R. bridge area. The 127th Inf strikes out toward high ground positions near bridge S of Tolibaw in face of enemy MG and mortar fire; 5 enemy tanks are knocked out. Second Sq of 7th Cav, 1st Cav Div, occupies ridge positions SW of Sinayawan and drives SW, eliminating strong enemy pocket of resistance and linking up with 1st Sq of 112th Cav, in area about 1,200 yards S of Bonbongan. Second Sq of 12th Cav reaches peak of hill 2348 without contacting the enemy; to SW, 2d Sq from Mt. Cabungaan continues move to new perimeter E of Lonoy. On Samar I., 8th Cav troops advancing on Catbalogan reach the Magbag R., finding bridge across river has been burned out by retreating enemy. Small rcn unit is moved by native boat to Darajuay I., to reconnoiter enemy movements in Catbalogan area.

XXIV Corps Seventy-seventh Div, relieved of guarding Ormoc defenses by 7th Div troops, prepares for northward attack to capture Valencia; plan is to make wide enveloping moves to W and N toward highway 2 and to push 77th Rcn Tr on R flank toward Tambuco-Dolores road. The 305th Inf continues drive astride highway 2, encountering determined resistance in Cogon area; many enemy positions are cleared out in close fighting from fox hole to fox hole; estimated one enemy bn still remains in area between Cogon and road junction just N of town. The 306th FA Bn, which moved over land from S, takes up positions approximately 200 yards in rear of front lines under sniper fire. Several mutually supporting ridges between the Talisayan and Panilahan Rivers are secured by 32d Inf of 7th Div which is attacking E toward Apatgan, about 2½ miles from Mahonag. Eleventh A/B troops pushing forward in mountainous terrain W of the Talisayan R. extend control from Mahonag to Anas area. Elements of 2d Bn of 383d Inf, 96th Div, engage in fire fight with enemy force on slope of "White Chalk Ridge" in Apatgan Peak area.

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After short preparation by naval gunfire and rockets, troops of Western Visayan TF land at 0730 on beaches on SW coast of Mindoro I., lying just S of Luzon and about 300 miles NW of Leyte. The 19th RCT puts ashore in area about 4 miles N of Caminawit Pt.; one reinforced rifle co occupies Caminawit Pt. Troops of 503d Parachute Inf RCT land N and S of the Bugsanga R. in San Agustin area and push inland to secure San Jose town and airstrip. At 1045, Brig. Gen. William C. Dunckel takes command ashore; Western Visayan TF CP is set up at San Jose. Engineers commence work on airstrips, roads, and installations. By evening, beachhead between San Agustin and Caminawit Pt., extending about 10 miles along shore and 8 miles inland is secured; no enemy contacted except at Caminawit Pt. where 5 Japanese are killed and 2 prisoners taken. Natives report the withdrawal of small enemy garrison at San Jose to Bulalacao on SE coast of island. By seizure of SW Mindoro, bases for air operations against Luzon and for protection of sea routes through the Visayan waters are secured.

Enemy aircraft attack convoy during unloading at beaches, damaging DD Howarth and setting 2 LSTs ablaze by suicide crashes; LSTs are abandoned and sunk by friendly gunfire. Attacks against TG 77.12 cause minor damage by near misses to CVE Marcus Island. Twenty-two enemy planes reported destroyed during attacks on convoy. Record unloading is accomplished by 1800 by use of some 1,200 troops of 77th Inf Div, brought along for that purpose; at 1900, TG 38.3 commences return voyage to Leyte. During night, TG 77.3 patrols off Mindoro beachhead while TG 77.2 remains in covering position in the Sulu Sea. Seventh Fleet seaplanes commence operations from Mangarin Bay.

16 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Fierce fighting takes place about 1,500 yards S of Bonbongon where 32d Div troops destroy more than 100 enemy caves and bunkers to seize ridges; captured

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position is identified as the CP of Japanese 1st Inf Regt. Second Sq of 7th Cav, 1st Cav Div, relieves 126th Inf of 32d Div, in this area and commences mop-up operations. First Sq of 112th Cav, pushing W to join up with 126th Inf of 32d Div, spots enemy pack train on high bluff W of the Leyte R. and directs arty fire against this position; 75 enemy dead counted following shelling of area. Fifth Cav closes in area about one mile E of Lonoy and pushes strong rcn patrol toward Catotocan area; 12th Cav is assembling on high ground immediately to NE of Lonoy. The 151st Inf RCT of 38th Div is placed under control of X Corps and used in patrolling N coastal corridor. On Samar I., small enemy force is ambushed near Magbag R., W of Motiong, by 8th Cav troops.

XXIV Corps Seventy-seventh Div opens attack toward Valencia town and airstrip. Troops of 305th Inf pushing N on highway 2 against stubborn opposition capture Cogon and establish defensive position around road junction just N of town. Swinging to W of highway, 307th Inf advances approximately 8 miles through rice paddies, coconut groves, and across rivers to Bao and then turns N, capturing San Jose within 2 miles of objective; only light resistance encountered. The 306th Inf from Ormoc follows 307th Inf to point about 1,500 yards E of Liloan and then turns N in attempt to cut highway 2 between Cataycm and Dagayan; defensive perimeter for night is set up about 1,200 yards W of Tiptic. Seventh Div troops consolidate positions in mountainous terrain in Talisayan area and conduct rcn in force toward Capatgan. Numerous counterattacks by enemy troops attempting to break out of hills in Anas area are repulsed by 11th A/B Div troops. On E coast of Leyte, Tanauan airfield, approximately midway between Tacloban and Dulag, becomes operational.

On Mindoro, troops of 503d Parachute RCT and 19th Inf RCT consolidate defenses on SW coast of island and push patrols to E and N of beachhead perimeter; small enemy group is contacted E of San Jose. U.S. PT base is established at

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Caminawit Pt. Results of three-day "air blanket" over Luzon by Third Fleet aircraft, in support of Mindoro operation, reported as 62 enemy planes destroyed in air and 208 on ground; 16 ships sunk and 37 damaged; 43 U.S. planes reported lost.

17 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Thirty-Second Div continues attack S astride highway 2 against increasingly stubborn resistance. Utilizing favorable terrain positions in area SE of Tolibaw, each group of 2-5 enemy may comprise a strong-point, the elimination of which requires close fighting with hand grenades and bayonets. Enemy dynamites large trees to form road blocks on highway 2 and continues attempts to destroy Leyte R. bridge with arty fire. Elements of 5th Cav move to Mt. Cabungaan area to keep supply route open and to mop up in area vacated by 12th Cav. Twelfth Cav OPs are established in area about 1,500 yards E of Lonoy; enemy targets spotted in area are heavily shelled during night by 271st FA Bn. On NW tip of Leyte, elements of 34th Inf, 24th Div, assisted by 96th Filipino Inf Regt, make surprise attack on enemy-held ridge positions in vicinity of Taglawigan on Calubian-San Isidro trail, decimating entire force. On Samar I., 8th Cav troops occupy village of Motiong and push rcn units toward Hill 169, W of Magbag R. Catbalogan vacated by enemy on 14 Dec., according to Filipino guerrillas.

XXIV Corps Seventy-seventh Div closes in on Valencia town and airstrip. With arty support, 307th Inf drives NE from San Jose, reaching point on road at S tip of airstrip and within 1,000 yards of town. Prior to attack of 307th Inf, town and airstrip are blasted by air bombardment and arty fire: commencing in early morning hours, 155-mm. guns of 226th FA Bn from Daro

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pound area until about 1230; air strikes begin at 1240 and last until 1330. Meanwhile, 306th Inf attacks NE from Tiptic, overcoming stiff resistance from enemy units retreating NW to escape fire of 305th Inf, to cut highway 2 at Cabulihan, less than 2 miles S of Valencia. N of Cogon, 305th Inf eliminates scattered enemy resistance along highway 2 and captures Tambuco town and road junction. Seventy-seventh Rcn Tr on Div R flank links up with 305th Inf on Tambuco-Dolores road after engaging in fire fight with estimated 200 enemy in Dunghol-Patag area. During night, enemy arty and mortars from vicinity of Dayhagan, on highway 2 between Cabulihan and Tambuco, shell Div CP but are quickly spotted and silenced. S of Libas, elements of 7th Div attack enemy high ground positions commanding trail to Capatgan, making only limited gains over almost impassable terrain and in face of heavy MG fire. Enemy ridge positions in this area are also under attack by 11th A/B Div troops, driving W of Mahonag.

Patrolling to N and E of beachhead on Mindoro I. is continued by troops of 503d Parachute Inf RCT and 19th Inf RCT, with assistance of Filipino guerrillas.

18 Philippine Is.U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps The 127th Inf of 32d Div gains 400 yards S of bridge about 1,800 yards SW of Bonbongon, advance is held up by enemy fire from two ridges directly to E of highway. First Brig of 1st Cav Div prepares for attack against Lonoy. First Sq of 112th Cav mops up scattered resistance along W bank of the Leyte R. and moves into position on L flank of 126th Inf of 32d Div; 2d Sq of 7th Cav is clearing out enemy groups on E bank of river. Patrol of 34th Inf, 24th Div, from Calubian reaches W coast of Leyte near Tabango and is cut off by enemy force moving S; patrol is evacuated by native

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canoes, picked up by PTs, and returned to base. The 151st Inf of 38th Div, is attached to 24th Inf Div, to take over beach defenses in Carigara area. On Samar I., 8th Cav troops move onto Hill 169, W of the Magbag R., finding well-prepared positions abandoned by enemy: reinf plat of A Tr enters Catbalogan; no opposition encountered.

XXIV Corps At 0730, 307th Inf of 77th Div continues attack against Valencia, capturing airstrip at 0950 and occupying town by 1200; only minor resistance encountered. Majority of enemy troops had withdrawn to E to escape air and arty bombardment. From Cabuhilan, 2d and 3d Bns of 306th Inf drive N, clearing highway 2 to Valencia while 1st Bn moves S, capturing Catayom and linking up with leading elements of 305th Inf N of Huaton. Malunod, Dayhagan, and Huaton secured by 305th Inf in drive N along highway from Tambuco road junction. Armored supply columns are now being pushed vigorously forward on Ormoc-Valencia highway.

Thirty-second Inf (less 2d Bn) of 7th Div establishes defense perimeter about 400 yards N of the Panilahan R. and prepares to attack N to Ormoc-Patag line; 2d Bn attempts without success to by-pass enemy strongpoint W of Capatgan. With arty support, 11th A/B Div troops push forward on only trail running up knife-like ridge to eliminate enemy positions on "Rock Hill" (surrounded by heavily wooded and almost perpendicular cliffs) in Mahonag-Anas area; 432 enemy dead counted.

Units of Third Fleet withdrawing from operations against Luzon to refueling area E of the Philippines are caught in a severe typhoon, resulting in capsizing and sinking of Hull, Monaghan, and Spence (DDs) and damaging other units; total of 790 men and 146 planes reported lost.

19 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

Commanding General, Sixth Army, adjusts boundary between X and XXIV Corps so that Libungao is included in latter zone.

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X Corps Lonoy, about 6,000 yards S of Tolibaw, falls to 1st Cav Div. Twelfth Cav with two squadrons abreast moves out from high ground positions attacking SW: 1st Sq pushes onto highway 2 and turns S, silencing enemy fire as it advances into and through town of Lonoy while 2d Sq silences enemy arty with counter-battery fire and reduces enemy strongpoint to push onto highway 2 at point about 150 yards N of Lonoy and link up with 1st Sq. Enemy continues to fight strong delaying action on both sides of highway 2 N of Lonoy; 127th Inf of 32d Div maneuvering for positions to attack ridges SW of Bonbongan comes under intense cross-fire. Catbalogan, capital of Samar I., is occupied by 8th Cav troops.

XXIV Corps With Valencia secure, 77th Div troops are driving N to capture Libungao road junction and Tagbong R. crossing and to cut the Libungao-Palompon road. The 305th Inf takes over defense of Valencia town and airstrip while 306th Inf attacks NW across country to reach position about 400 yards SW of Libungao road junction and about 800 yards NE of Tagbong R. crossing; the 307th Inf, attacking NE from Valencia against stiff opposition, sets up perimeter for night about 400 yards N of the Pagsangahan R. and 300 yards SW of highway 2. Advance Div CP opens at Valencia at 1530. Ninety-sixth Inf Regt (guerrilla) is operating with 77th Div, guarding bridges on Palompon road. Heavy enemy arty fires 306th Inf positions near Tagbong R. crossing during night.

Advancing N of the Panilahan R., 1st and 3d Bns of 32d Inf, 7th Div, eliminate several enemy pockets of resistance to establish front line immediately to S of Ipil-Boroc road. Second Bn of 32d Inf with arty support continues attack against enemy-occupied ridge, commanding trail to Capatgan. Eleventh A/B Div troops engage in extremely bitter fighting with enemy groups in mountainous terrain in Anas area; 189 enemy reported killed. Second Bn of 382d Inf, 96th Div, from Burauen-Guinarona area moves to position N of Jugpa and pushes patrols into Mt. Majunag area.

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On Mindoro, troops of 503d Parachute Inf RCT set up trail block N of the Bugsanga R. and establish patrol base at Pianag, which is chiefly used by Filipino guerrillas.

20 Philippine Is.U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Continuing attack S from Lonoy toward Cananga, 1st Sq of 12th Cav overcomes resistance along highway to reach point about 400 yards N of town while 2d Sq swings to E and establishes perimeter for night within 300 yards of objective; shelling of enemy installations within town commences. Advance S toward Lonoy by 32d Div troops is still held up by heavy fire from enemy-held ridges SW of Bonbongon and by enemy road blocks. Seventh and 112th Cav troops on L flank of 1st Bn of 127th Inf, 32d Div, continue slow push S over difficult terrain and against stubborn resistance. On NW tip of Leyte, combat patrols of 34th Inf, 24th Div, are moving from Naga R. area toward Arevalo, on W coast of Leyte, to intercept enemy troop movement to S. Eighth Cav reports organized enemy resistance on Samar has retreated to N of Catbalogan; ferry service is established over the Magbag R., opening up traffic between Catbalogan and Wright.

XXIV Corps The 306th Inf of 77th Div attacks W against determined resistance and cuts the Libungao-Palompon road near Tagbong R. crossing; 1st Bn crosses the Tagbong R. in face of MG, mortar, and SA fire from estimated enemy bn, defending crossing from high ground positions W of river. Failing to locate favorable defensive position, 1st Bn withdraws to E bank for night. Second and 3d Bns of 306th Inf upon reaching the Libungao-Palompon road turn E, advancing against heavy resistance toward road junction just N of Libungao, where intense enemy fire forces withdrawal to positions about 300 yards to W. The 307th Inf continues northward attack to Libungao;

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three counterattacks against Regt R flank are repulsed with heavy losses to counterattacking forces; defense perimeter is established about 1,000 yards to S of Libungao road junction. In fighting near road junction, enemy commits fresh troops of 5th Inf CT, 8th Japanese Div, which had recently arrived at Palompon. Intensive arty barrage is laid down on enemy positions in vicinity of road junction throughout night. The 305th Inf maintains security for Valencia town and airstrip and holds a "Provisional Armored Column" in readiness for drive W to secure Palompon.

Seventh Div troops continue to eliminate enemy troops E and SE of Ormoc. Following bombing and strafing attack on enemy dug-in positions in vicinity of Boroc, 1st and 3d Bns of 32d Inf progress 500 yards to N; severe enemy casualties inflicted. Enemy continues to maintain control of ridge area commanding approach to Capatgan against repeated attacks by 2d Bn of 32d Inf. The 184th Inf reverts to 7th Div control. Eleventh A/B Div continues offensive operations in Anas area. Final organized enemy resistance in Alto Peak area is broken by troops of 96th Div. After heavy arty barrage is placed on enemy strongpoint on "White Chalk Ridge" by 921st and 383d FA Bns, troops of 2d Bn of 383d Inf advance to top of ridge against slight opposition; majority of enemy on ridge found killed by arty fire. Ninety-sixth Rcn patrol is ordered to cross mountains over Mt. Laao Pass and establish contact with 77th Div troops at Valencia.

Hill airstrip, about 2 miles S of San Jose on Mindoro I., becomes operational. Troops of 503d Parachute Inf RCT with aid of Filipino guerrillas set up trail block N of the Bugsanga R. and establish patrol base at Pasugui. Enemy aircraft are active against San Jose, Hill airstrip, and PT base at Caminawit Pt.; 25-30 enemy planes reported shot down.

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1944Section III: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER21 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps With support of 271st FA Bn and 77th Div arty, 12th Cav of 1st Cav Div fights its way into Cananga, systematically destroying all installations and clearing out every hut in village. Contact of 12th Cav with elements of 77th Inf Div, XXIV Corps, is established near bridge about 400 yards S of Cananga. Fifth Cav troops move into Lonoy to mop up following rapid push S by 12th Cav. First Sq of 12th Cav maintains its position on L flank of 1st Bn of 127th Inf, 32d Div, while mortar barrage is laid down on enemy positions barring advance of these units. Seventh Cav establishes position about 2,500 yards N of Lonoy after clearing out several enemy groups and capturing one 70-mm. mountain gun. After attempting for two days to gain a favorable position to attack enemy-held ridges SW of Bonbongan, 3d Bn of 127th Inf, 32d Div, is withdrawn from area and an all-night arty-mortar barrage is laid down on enemy strongpoints. Eighth Cav Regt CP is established at Catbalogan on Samar I.

XXIV Corps With arty support, 1st Bn of 306th Inf, 77th Div, again crosses the Tagbong R., seizing high ground about 300 yards to W. Second and 3d Bns of 306th Inf attack E and capture strategic road junction just N of Libungao; 307th Inf overcomes stiff resistance to close 1,000-yard gap and link up with 306th Inf at road junction. Third Bn of 306th Inf drives N from road junction to link up with elements of 1st Cav Div, X Corps, attacking S from Cananga on highway 2. Contact is effected at the first bridge S of Cananga, opening up highway 2 from Lonoy S to Ormoc. In securing Tagbong R. crossing and Libungao road junction, 4,500 enemy reported killed. Aggressive engineer rcn of bridges on road W of Tagbong R. crossing reveals impracticality of attempt to move a fast armored column W to Palompon. Filipino guerrillas and natives are ordered to evacuate Palompon area in

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preparation for air strikes and 155-mm. bombardment of port and town. Attack N by 1st and 3d Bns of 32d Inf, 7th Div, rolls past the Ormoc-Patag line to the Ormoc-Canale trail; six 75-mm. guns captured during advance. Second Bn of 32d Inf exerts strong pressure against enemy ridge positions in vicinity of Capatgan. Troops of 184th Inf maintain guard over Linao-Ormoc-Camp Downes area and push strong rcn unit NE on road to Dolores, forcing enemy to withdraw from village and capturing considerable quantities of supplies and ammunition. Enemy resistance in Anas area is practically eliminated by 11th A/B Div troops. Elements of 2d Bn of 383d Inf, 96th Div, continue down trail from peak of "White Chalk Ridge," destroying enemy MG positions with counter-battery arty fire and mortars.

Third Bn of 21st Inf, 24th Div, sails from Leyte for Mindoro I.; enemy aircraft attack convoy, causing casualties and heavy loss of equipment. Re-supply convoy in the Sulu Sea, en route to Mindoro, is attacked by enemy suicide planes which score hits on LSTs 749 and 460 and Liberty Ship SS Juan De Fuca; 15 enemy planes shot down by combat air patrols and AA fire.

22 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Last organized enemy defensive position in upper Ormoc Valley is eliminated; the "Yamashita Line" crumbles as 7th Cav, 112th Cav, and 32d Div troops push S and join up with 5th and 12th Cav troops of 1st Cav Div in Lonoy-Cananga area. Thirty-second Div troops attack ridge areas about 1,800 yards SW of Bonbongan, finding well-prepared positions abandoned by enemy; estimated 500 enemy had withdrawn to S and W during night of 21st because of intense arty-mortar barrage. This heavily fortified position at Kilometer 79 on the

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Ormoc highway had been the 1st Japanese Div CP. The 127th Inf, spearheading drive of 32d Div, links up with 5th Cav of 1st Cav Div on highway 2, about 400 yards N of Lonoy; Pinamopoan-Ormoc highway is completely clear of enemy resistance. Approximately 500 enemy are still holding out in vicinity of Bagatoon, SW of Cananga. On NW coast of Leyte, 34th Inf of 24th Div prepares for surprise attack on Tuktuk village, about 8 kilometers SE of Calubian, by moving MGs and 81-mm. mortars to Nipa and establishing trail blocks in vicinity of village. Before ground troops are in position to attack, elements of 34th Inf moving up Naga R. in LVTs are detected by enemy which withdraws from village when automatic weapons open up; portion of enemy force is overtaken and eliminated near Parasen.

XXIV Corps Second and 3d Bns of 305th Inf with support of light tanks passes through positions of 1st Bn of 306th Inf at Tagbong R. crossing, reaching Humaybunay, about 6,000 yards W of road junction. Mission of 1st Bn of 305th Inf is changed from that of a "Provisional Armored Column" to advance rapidly against Palompon down road from Libungao road junction to an amphibious force which is to embark from Ormoc and land in vicinity of Palompon. Third Bn of 306th Inf guards bridge S of Cananga while 2d Bn with 1st Bn of 307th Inf organizes defense of Libungao road junction. The 307th Inf, less 1st Bn, relieves 305th Inf troops, guarding Valencia town and airstrip; Co F moves to San Jose to protect 531st FA Bn, which is in position to pound Palompon with long range gun fire and also to support attack W along Palompon road. Engineer progress to W is slowed up by inability to obtain sufficient Bailey bridge to leap frog over impassable bridges; work of strengthening bridges is carried out by 302d Eng, under enemy fire and frequently without inf protection. SE of Ormoc, 2d Bn of 32d Inf, 7th Div, engages in vicious fighting to clear enemy from caves on ridge near Capatgan. Eleventh A/B Div troops (2d Bn of 1st Bn of 187th Para-Glider Inf Regts are engaged in fierce fighting in mountainous terrain NW of Anonang, where enemy had developed 22 strongpoints.

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At 0900, 3d Bn of 21st Inf, 24th Div, lands in San Jose area and occupies portion of 503d Parachute sector, SW Mindoro I. Radar and radio units are installed on Apo I., W of Mindoro.

23 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Corps initiates westward drive to eliminate remaining enemy resistance between Tolibaw-Cananga line and W coast of Leyte. The 128th Inf of 32d Div assembling in Limon-Tolibaw area is to attack toward Tabango Bay while 127th Inf prepares to drive W from Lonoy area to Silad Bay. Pushing W from Lonoy-Cananga area, 5th, 7th, and 12th Cav troops, 1st Cav Div, secure high ground W of the Tagbong R. and reach Agayayan; general line is established approximately 2,000 yards W of highway 2. Eighth Cav reports Wright-Taft highway completely cleared of enemy; with aid of Filipino troops, search for remnants of enemy garrison on Samar I. is continued from perimeter established around Wright-Catbalogan area.

XXIV Corps With arty and air support, 305th Inf (less 1st Bn) of 77th Div continues advance on road to Palompon, reaching point within 500 yards of Dipi; several enemy pockets of resistance and one well-organized position astride road cleared. Bridge guards along route of advance of 305th Inf are furnished by 96th Inf Regt (Guerrillas) while 302d Eng continues work on bridges to keep traffic rolling. Remainder of 77th Div continues to guard Libungao road junction, Valencia area, and bridges over the Tagbong and Pagsangahan Rivers. Thirty-second Inf (less 2d Bn) with 3d Bn of 184th Inf, 7th Div, attached takes over defense of Linao-Ormoc-Camp Downes area. The 184th Inf, less 3d Bn, is given mission of destroying remaining enemy forces in area E of Ormoc-Valencia road. Eleventh A/B Div engages in bitter

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fighting to clear Burauen-Albuera trail of organized hostile forces; Div Commander from CP on "Rock Hill" directs battle of "Hacksaw Hill"; 4 bns in column formation attack W astride enemy trail, surprising and almost completely annihilating enemy force (remnants of 3d Bn of 13th Independent Regt, 11th Independent FA Regt, 11th Div Signal Unit, Kitano Co of 16th Eng Regt, and elements of 26th Eng Regt identified); 750 enemy killed; survivors withdraw in disorganized groups toward Ormoc Valley. Second Bn of 187th Para-Glider Inf passes through 511th Parachute Inf and crosses the Leyte Watershed, contacting elements of 7th Inf Div on W slope of mountains near Albuera. During three days of patrolling in Mt. Majunag area, W of Guinarona, 2d Bn of 382d Inf (96th Div) kills 21 enemy.

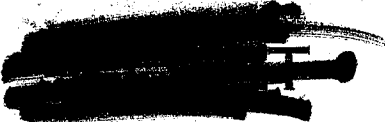
24 Philippine Is.

U.S. SIXTH ARMY

X Corps Thirty-second Div troops from Limon-Tolibaw-Lonoy area commence push toward W Leyte coast; only swampy terrain and occasional sniper fire hinders advance. First Cav Div troops continue slow push W of Lonoy-Cananga line against scattered but determined resistance.

XXIV Corps At about 2000, amphibious force (1st Bn of 305th Inf, reinf) in LVTs of the 718th and 536th Amtrac Bns and LCMs operated by 2d Eng Special Brig, screened by PTs, leaves Ormoc to make night passage to Palompon area; no enemy action occurs; 3 LVTs lost to mechanical failure. Second and 3d Bns of 305th Inf, 77th Div, in position about 500 yards W of Dipi astride road to Palompon repulses an attack by estimated 200 enemy; approximately half of force is killed and remainder withdraws. The 306th Inf from Libungao road junction engages in vigorous patrolling, killing 65 enemy; no enemy contacted by 307th Inf in Valencia area. Seventh

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Div zone of action is expanded to include all W coast territory S of line Palompon-Valencia. The 184th Inf of 7th Div is engaged in clearing out enemy remnants E of Ormoc-Valencia highway. Eleventh A/B Div troops mop up enemy groups in hills NW of Anonang. After four days of fighting astride trail from "White Chalk Ridge" toward Lake Danao, F and G Cos of 2d Bn, 383d Inf (96th Div) are relieved by L Co; 2d Bn has suffered practically 80% non-battle casualties from treacherous trails, leeches, and mosquitoes.

On Mindoro I., radio teams are dispatched to Sablayan, Paluan, and Contura to report any enemy activity in areas and to guard against possible enemy landings.

25 Philippine Is.U.S. SIXTH ARMY

Commanding General, Sixth Army, terminates Leyte campaign.

X Corps Only light enemy resistance is encountered by 32d Inf Div and by 1st Cav Div troops in drive to general line Tabigui-Tanguhuay-Bayanacac, roughly 8,000 yards W of highway 2. Arty fire disperses enemy carabao pack train moving W from Bohaon. SE of Cananga, 2d Sq of 5th Cav eliminates two enemy positions of plat strength in vicinity of Bagatoon.

XXIV Corps Following preparatory fires by 155-mm. guns of 531st FA Bn from positions near San Jose, 1st Bn of 305th Inf, reinf, 77th Div, effects successful landing near Buaya, about 1½ miles N of Palompon. One fast armored column is pushed to N to clear road to Sabang while remainder of force strikes S through town of Look to seize Palompon; town is cleared of enemy by 1206. Capture of Palompon, last remaining port for reinforcement or evacuation of hostile troops, virtually assures complete destruction of remaining enemy on Leyte. NW of


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Palompon, 2d and 3d Bns of 305th Inf pushing along highway W of Dipi encounter enemy strongpoint, consisting of spider holes and pill boxes, which arty, MG, and SA fire fail to reduce; 3d Bn leading attack is withdrawn about 500 yards to E to permit heavy arty concentrations against enemy position. First Bn of 306th Inf holding high ground positions W of the Tagbong R. crossing is relieved by troops of 96th Inf Regt (Guerrillas); movement to Tagbong R. crossing is initiated. Seventh Div troops land at Puerto Bello on W shore of Ormoc Bay to clear Japanese from S tip of Leyte Peninsula and to form flanking movement against hostile troops between Palompon and the Ormoc corridor. Enemy resistance in Anas area reported broken by 11th A/B Div; attacks against enemy strongpoints in hills NW of Anonang continued. Co L of 2d Bn, 383d Inf of 96th Div, continues slow push on trail leading W from "White Chalk Ridge."

26 Philippine Is.

U.S. EIGHTH ARMY

Commanding General of Eighth Army, Lt. Gen. R. L. Eichelberger, assumes control of combat operations of Sixth Army units on Leyte and Samar Islands at 0001. To date, total of 55,344 Japanese are reported killed and 275 prisoners taken; battle casualties for Sixth Army reported as 2,888 killed, 9,858 wounded, and 161 missing. Extended period for mopping-up operations is required for final liquidation of enemy troops on islands, the bulk of which are in NW Leyte, W of highway 2 and N of Palompon, and in mountainous terrain S of Lake Danao.

X Corps Coordinated drive to eliminate enemy resistance in San Isidro and Aravelo Bay areas is commenced by 34th Regt of 24th Inf Div which completes move to Calubian. Elements of 34th Inf land at Ynalad on N tip of Leyte Peninsula and join with plat of 24th Cav Rcn Tr to push S through Hubay to Taglawigan while other units with section of MGs and 81-mm. mortars and about 100 Filipino

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carriers push overland toward Davao, establishing perimeter about 3,000 yards from Oras Hill; additional units with sections of MGs and mortars make amphibious move to Gigatangan I. off NW tip of Leyte. To S, troops of 32d Inf and 1st Cav Divs from line Tabigui-Tanguhay-Bayanacao continue push against scattered but moderately strong resistance. On Samar I., 8th Cav patrols are active in Catbalogan-Silanga area.

XXIV Corps The 305th Inf of 77th Div, with 3d Bn in lead and 2d Bn in rear, pushes its attack W toward Palompon, overcoming stiff enemy resistance and capturing Dipi; five Japanese 70-mm. guns destroyed by arty fire. On W coast of Leyte, 1st Bn of 305th Inf consolidates positions around Palompon and Lock and operates patrols to N and E. Seventh Inf Div maintains defense of coastal area from Baybay to Ormoc; 17th Inf takes over defense of main supply route which runs from Abuyog to Baybay and thence N up coastal road to Ormoc; 32d Inf guards Ormoc perimeter while 184th operates to E of Ormoc-Valencia highway. Japanese force, estimated 4,000 troops (remnants of Japanese 26th Div under General Yamagata, of Japanese 16th Div including HQ under General Makino, and of the 13th Independent Inf Regt (Provisional) commanded by Col Saito) has reportedly assembled in vicinity of Hill 4101, about 6 miles E of Ormoc. Enemy units (estimated 2,000) dispersed by landings in Ipil area are reported to be assembling at Canale, about 5 miles E of Ormoc, under Col. Imabori, Commanding General of the 12th Independent Regt. The 184th Inf of 7th Div is moving against the "Imabori unit" in Canale area; patrol bases are established near Dolores, Song, and Cabulihan.

Reinf plat of 19th Inf RCT makes unopposed landing on Ilin I., off SW tip of Mindoro; OP is established about 3,000 yards NW of Ilin Pt. At 1615, PB4Y sights Japanese TF, reported as 1 BB, 1 CA, 6 DDs, and 6 APs, approaching Mindoro from the South China Sea. Presence of enemy TF off W coast

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of island causes general alert to be sounded at 1800 and all units pass to control of regt combat team commanders; condition exists until 0700 on 28 Dec. Enemy vessels are taken under attack by PB4Y, 13 B-25s and Army fighter planes, operating from new airstrips on Mindoro; claims are 2 DDs sunk, 3 APs set on fire, and hits registered on BB and CA. Four B-25s, 4 P-38s, 7 P-47s, 5 P-40s, and 1 PBM reported lost. Between 2300 and 2400, Japanese naval units bombard shore positions; several merchant ships off beachhead damaged; no casualties caused. During night, Mindoro-based PTs, under orders not to attack enemy vessels unless landing attempt is made, are subjected to enemy fire for more than one hour but no damage results; "unidentified" aircraft also attack PTs, causing slight damage and casualties.

27 Philippine Is.

U.S. EIGHTH ARMY

X Corps As series of amphibious leaps by 2d Bn of 34th Inf, 24th Div, are made down NW coast of Leyte Peninsula to block enemy's main escape routes, 1st Bn moves overland on trail from Calubian, clearing Bagacay and Pananauan and reaching high ground overlooking San Isidro. Taglawigan is occupied by amphibious unit from Gigatangan I.; trail block to S of village set up by elements of 1st Bn of 34th Inf and 24th Rcn Tr which moved S from Ynalad. Another amphibious unit lands about 2½ miles S of Taglawigan and seizes Daba while a third force in LCMs and LVTs moves 6,000 yards S of Daba to make landing about 400 yards SW of San Isidro jetty; latter unit establishes contact with elements of 34th Inf on Oras Hill and outposts high ground to N of San Isidro. Sporadic opposition from a disorganized enemy is encountered by 32d Inf and 1st Cav Div troops approaching Campopo Bay and Silad Bay areas. Clearing out isolated pockets of resistance in rear areas is conducted by elements of 112th Cav; 2d Sq of 5th Cav eliminates small groups of enemy stragglers in Cananga area.

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XXIV Corps Second and 3d Bns of 305th Inf, 77th Div, continue advance astride highway to Palompon, encountering stubborn resistance from enemy concrete pill boxes in vicinity of Matagob. First Bn of 305th Inf conducts aggressive patrolling N, E, and S of Palompon. Troops of 184th Inf, 7th Div, are patrolling SE of Dolores toward Canale.

At approximately 0012, Japanese TF steams northward from Mindoro; withdrawing enemy vessels are attacked by B-25s and fighters which claim hit on CA and near misses on DDs. Second and 3d Bns of 21st Regt, 24th Inf Div, embark from Leyte for Mindoro.

28 Philippine Is.

U.S. EIGHTH ARMY

X Corps After repulsing light enemy counterattack against beachhead on San Isidro Bay, 34th Inf of 24th Div captures San Isidro. Elements of 32d Div are operating in Canpokpok area, about 3,000 yards E of Campopo Bay. Seventh Cav of 1st Cav Div encounters determined enemy delaying action in advance W of Tanguay toward Villaba Bay; 5th and 12th Cav troops push through broken enemy lines and reach village of Tibur, between coastal towns of Villaba and Abijao. On Samar, A Tr of 8th Cav contacts group of approximately 80 Japanese in position about 5 kilometers E of Bongan.

XXIV Corps "Provisional Mountain Force" (2d Bn of 305th Inf, less G Co and elements of H Co) of 77th Div, is withdrawn from force attacking W astride narrow mountain road leading to Palompon and transported by truck to Ormoc; this force moves from Ormoc to Palompon by LVTs with mission to attack E in rear of enemy force in vicinity of Tipolo. Third Bn (plus G Co and elements of H Co) of 305th Inf gains 2,000 yards along highway, encountering heavy enemy fire in Tipolo area. First Bn of

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305th Inf (less Co B, reinf) maintains guard over port of Palompon and sends patrols N to Sabang without encountering the enemy; Co B, reinf, moves on highway through Look, encountering enemy mortar fire near destroyed bridge in vicinity of Bito which halts further advance. Seventy-seventh Rcn Tr operating to E of Valencia sends 2 plats with arty support to Hot Springs to evacuate approximately 3,000 natives, who are being held prisoners by enemy; arty fire is laid down on ridge positions overlooking Hot Springs. Seventh Div troops with arty support continue attacks to eliminate enemy force in vicinity of Canale; 45 enemy dead counted. Three enemy positions on S slopes of Mt. Majunag, NE of Lubi, are reduced by 11th A/B Div troops.

Convoy with 21st Inf Regt (less 3d Bn) of 24th Div en route to Mindoro is under enemy air attack throughout day; two vessels carrying munitions and gasoline are exploded; other ships are damaged and Regt suffers casualties. San Jose airfield with parallel taxistrip and 35 revetments is reported completed.

29 Philippine Is.

U.S. EIGHTH ARMY

X Corps Thirty-fourth Inf of 24th Div sweeps S of San Isidro to clear coastal area around Arevalo Bay; high terrain near Tunga seized. With supporting fire of 61st FA Bn which disperses enemy force of regt strength at Baliti, about one mile S of Villaba, 7th Cav of 1st Cav Div reaches W coast. Mopping up of scattered enemy resistance in area between Campopo and Silad Bays is continued by troops of 32d Inf and 1st Cav Divs.

XXIV Corps Third Bn of 305th Inf, 77th Div, continues attack W toward enemy road block at Tipolo, encountering heavy arty fire; counter-battery fire is delivered against enemy positions with good results. Meanwhile, the

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"Provisional Mountain Force" (2d Bn of 305th Inf, less G Co and elements of H Co) moves out from Look passing through Co B of 1st Bn, holding positions about 600 yards E of San Miguel, and attacking E to clamp pincers on enemy force in vicinity of Tipolo. Seventeenth Inf of 7th Div conducts rcn in force to locate enemy force in vicinity of Hill 4101, E of Ormoc. After seven days of fierce fighting in hills NW of Anonang, 11th A/B Div with support of 3 arty bns succeeds in neutralizing enemy strongpoints. Relief of 11th A/B Div by 96th Inf Div is initiated.

U.S. patrols find no evidence of enemy landing near beachhead on Mindoro or on Ilin I. Reinf plat of 19th Inf RCT lands at Bulalacao off SW tip of Mindoro to install radar installations; no opposition met.

30 Philippine Is.

U.S. EIGHTH ARMY

X Corps Basud and Arevalo on coast of Arevalo Bay, are secured by 34th Inf of 24th Div. To S of Tabango Bay elements of 32d Inf and 1st Cav Divs mop up scattered enemy troops near coast; contact of 127th Inf and 7th Cav made in vicinity of Villaba. Return of 1st Cav units to staging area in Leyte Valley is initiated.

XXIV Corps Action of 305th Inf, 77th Div, on W coast of Leyte and on Palompon road is intensified. Co C of 1st Bn makes amphibious landing at Abijao, about 6½ miles N of Palompon, driving enemy from town, which is then burned to prevent its reoccupation, and continuing N along coast to Jordan; radio contact with elements of 1st Cav Div operating in vicinity of Villaba is established. "Provisional Mountain Force" driving E on road from Palompon progress about 4 miles where heavy and accurate MG fire from well-concealed enemy positions halts advance. Meanwhile, 3d Bn, reinf, with support of arty and mortars, breaks through enemy defenses at Tipolo and

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gains 1,000 yards SW of village. Troops of 306th and 307th Regts initiate preliminary rcn preparatory to relief of X Corps troops mopping up in NW Leyte. Seventeenth Inf of 7th Div eliminates several enemy groups in Kancosia-Magocdoc-Mahilaom area, NE of Ipil. Thirty-second Inf troops attack enemy force in vicinity of Biliboy in foothills about 3 miles NE of Ormoc, killing 40 and forcing remainder to retreat to NE; 184th Inf operating NE of Valencia eliminates estimated 80 enemy in entrenched positions. Seventh Inf amphibious unit establishes patrol base at Merida, S of Puerto Bello; patrols probe Libas, Lalunasang, Lundag, and Calinangan Pt. without contacting the enemy.

Twenty-first Inf Regt (less 3d Bn) of 24th Div lands in San Jose area on Mindoro I. and assumes responsibility for part of 503d Parachute Inf sector. Forty-seventh Bomber Gp (A-20s) reported operating from Mindoro airfields.

31 Philippine Is.

U.S. EIGHTH ARMY

X Corps In sweep S of Arevalo Bay, 34th Inf troops clear Maigang and occupy Tabango on coast of Tabango Bay. Mopping-up operations in coastal area between Campopo and Silad Bays are continued by elements of 32d Inf and 1st Cav Divs; four "banzai" attacks against 7th Cav perimeter at Villaba repulsed.

XXIV Corps Second and 3d Bns of 305th Inf, 77th Div, join forces about two miles NE of San Miguel, ending organized hostile resistance on Libungao-Palompon road. Against stubborn resistance, elements of 32d Inf of 7th Div with tank support drive NE up Ormoc-Canale trail to within 400 yards of Dunghol; 17th Inf troops are pushing toward Mahilaom, about 6 miles NE of Ipil; 184th Inf moves to Dolores and prepares to attack NE

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in conjunction with 32d Inf. On SW coast of Leyte Peninsula, elements of 7th Div establish defensive position at Quiot and push patrols to Duljugan and Sacay Points. Eleventh A/B Div troops continue to destroy mutually supporting enemy pillboxes on S slopes of Mt. Majunag; many enemy eliminated in hand-to-hand fighting.

Reinf rifle company of 19th Inf RCT makes unopposed landing at Bongabong on E coast of Mindoro I. Preparations for transfer of Western Visayan TF from control of Sixth Army to Eighth Army are in progress. To date, enemy casualties on Mindoro reported as 79 killed and 19 captured; Japanese air attacks on Mindoro positions, TFs, and convoys estimated to total 373 planes, of which approximately 145 are reported destroyed.

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