

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENT

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THE NEW RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE

The New York Herald Tribune commenting on the new Russian offensive states: It would seem **not** to be aimed directly at any major strategic objective but rather to be another multi-pronged job of infiltration and minor encirclement on the now familiar pattern of Russian winter warfare directed primarily at the Germans communications rather than ^{at} their strong points. But its importance lies in its demonstration that the Russians have not for a moment relaxed the initiative which they seized a month ago. They still have the men the weapons the offensive spirit and the co-ordinated strategic planning to force the battle on their own terms. They are putting the maximum strain on the German dispositions.... On every front in Russia in the Mediterranean even in the Far East the Axis stands today on a grim defensive. ...

The enemy's defences are still tremendously strong.... but the advantages of the initiative like the disadvantage of the defence are cumulative.

THE TIDE OF WAR

From the New York Times:- Everywhere yesterday the forces of the United Nations were on the offensive.... There can no longer be any doubt that the tide of war has turned. It is the aggressor nations at last that are now on the defensive; and it is a position that they can ill afford to hold. It is essential to morale in the Axis countries and to their very coherence as a group not only that they should be winning but that they should always appear to be winning.

That the United Nations are in their present favourable position as the world enters the fourth winter of the war is owing largely to the fortitude and faith of two great nations and of two strong leaders. Prime Minister Churchill sustained the fighting heart of England when England stood alone.... and Stalin held his nation in the fight while the Nazis were repeatedly announcing that its resistance had been utterly broken. Hitler, self declared liar that he is, would never have made such announcements..... if he had not himself at the time believed them to be true. His boasts before Moscow in 1941 and before Stalingrad this year have become unintended tributes to Russia's amazing ability to recover from seemingly hopeless predicaments. But though the tide of war has turned no easy victory lies ahead. The United Nations' offensive has begun. But it has still a long way to go.

DOROTHY THOMPSON ON "HITLER AND THE ARMY"

Miss Dorothy Thompson in the New York Post concludes her series of articles on "Hitler and the Army" as follows:- Heinrich Himmler is now picking the Army chiefs. There is encouragement for us in this from a purely military standpoint. But the situation also contains serious dangers....the German Army is in the hands of desperadoes and there is nothing they will not do to preserve the Nazi regime from defeat.

We are seeing the immediate effects of Hitler's army purge in the intensification of brutalities in occupied countries and in the blood curdling massacre of all European Jews. On December 17 the Tass Agency reported from Moscow that the 'German High Command' had set up at the request of Himmler a 'Balkan punitive council'.....

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Its mission is to 'clear the Balkan Peninsula of Anti-German elements'.

Whole peoples are to be held as hostages under a reign of terror unique in human history. What is being done to the Jews may rapidly be extended to all Eastern European and Balkan peoples under Hitler's sway. The Jewish program is complete extermination.....

The object is no longer to win victory by military means but to scare the world to death. The weakening of German military forces does not mean that their power to destroy civilization is weakened.....

We now have the means to win the war militarily. But that is no answer to the Hitler plan of wholesale and even senseless destruction. The only possibility of preventing this is by making a revolution in Germany.....

We must win over those Germans of whatever class who believe that by overthrowing Hitler they can save Germany. No Germans with the power to do so will overthrow this regime until they are convinced that they will get a peace in which Germany can live as a people and a nation and can start its life again.

STALIN'S BIRTHDAY

The Cleveland Plain Dealer says:- Voronezh the strategic city on the west bank of the Don River is today a name synonymous with victory. An offensive of Blitzkrieg proportions and speed based on Voronezh.....has put the German army to routThese developments are a fitting tribute to Joseph Stalin on his sixty-third birthday today.....Despite the territorial successes of the German armies it can be said that Stalin has triumphed because Hitler has not obtained any of his objectives in the Soviet Union while Stalin still retains control of his country and his armies are intact. Today the Germans are either in retreat, on the defensive or in extremely precarious positions along the whole two thousand mile Russian front.... Axis leaders are none too happy as 1942 draws to a close.

BRITAIN AND WAR PRODUCTION

The Atlanta Constitution states:- Now come reports from Britain outlining methods by which Britains contribution to the cause of the United Nations will be increased in 1943. There will be even further economies in British food supply. More women and older men will be drafted for the war factories.....These are a few of the ways, by which Britain already at peak of war production and war effort will seek to go even beyond that peak in 1943. It sets an example which should not be ineffective in the United States.

THE BURMA OFFENSIVE

Commenting on the Burma operations by 'The General' in the New York newspaper P.M. says:- There is not sufficient evidence as yet to determine whether this is the beginning of a large scale offensive aimed at re-opening the Burma Road.... The Jap garrisons in the river and coastal towns along the Bay of Bengal.....have little air support. Wavell may be content to capture Akyab as a base for future heavy air attacks on communications and Japanese strong points which could in turn be the prelude to an all out re-invasion.

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION