

Americans Gain In Roer Drive

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its way through 500 more yards of pillboxes in Endorf, strengthening its wedge in the Siegfried line at embattled Saarlautern. Indecisive fighting continued at the other Siegfried dent at Dillingen.

The Germans however appeared to be withdrawing artillery to deeper positions behind Saarlautern and Dillingen, indicating they expected a forced withdrawal deeper into the defenses which extend 30 miles to the Rhine.

Nine miles southeast of the shell-wrecked Saarland capital of Saarbrücken, the Germans knocked out a footbridge at Habkirchen but failed to dislodge the 35th division from its latest foothold in Germany.

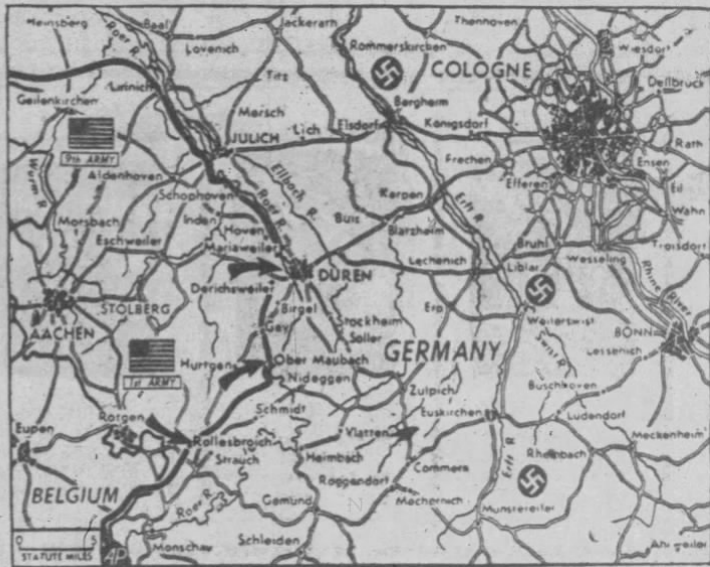
Through Maginot Line.

The U. S. Seventh army plunged clear through another section of the old Maginot line northwest of Bitch to Kappelenhof, three and a half miles from the southeast corner of the Saarland and 12 miles south of the shelled Palatinate city of Zwierbrücken.

The Seventh army at points was two miles or so from the frontier and was still fighting around the Blown bridge at Seltz, 14 miles southwest of the Rhine city of Karlsruhe.

(A London broadcast said the Seventh army had reached the Rhine beyond Seltz and was shelling Germany across the river.)

Supreme headquarters said the fortified towns of Schophoven, Mariaweller, Derichsweller and Gey had been cleared again of the Germans. They formed a stout defense arc for Duren on the Roer, and the First army was virtually



FIRST ARMY AT ROER, STARTS NEW DRIVE — Arrows show U. S. First army drives on the Roer river front (heavy line) in Germany. Americans cleared a five-mile stretch of the Roer's west bank north of Duren, fought on the approaches to Duren, and opened a new push east of Rotgen.

at the city's gates and close to the canal in the western outskirts. All changed hands several times.

First army operations beyond Monschau posed a potential flanking thrust to new German positions east of the Roer, where three new defense lines have been observed between that river and the Ert, flowing eight miles from Cologne and the Rhine.

This headquarters section was the only place where the Americans were across the Roer. The fighting was in the northern spurs of the Eifel range, in such difficult terrain that a swing north behind the main Roer river would be a Herculean achievement. Forests about. Just ahead were three large dams across the Roer, the longest 900 feet at its base.

Army War Toll Hits 483,957

WASHINGTON.—(P)— Army casualties for all theaters now total 483,957.

Secretary of War Stimson announced this figure today, and said it represents casualties reported through Nov. 28. This was an increase of 9,059 for one week period between Nov. 22 and 28.

Total Now 562,368.

Casualties for all branches of the armed forces — army, navy, coast guard and marines—now stand at 562,368. The latest navy

1944-12-14 83rd gains two miles PART TWO

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