FRANCE:
British Second Army Troops have entered the outskirts of Hechtogenbosch West of the British Netherlands Salient. Two other British columns are closing in on the town. One column is less than two miles away while the other is about three miles from the important communications town. To the west, United Kingdom and Canadian troops across the Dutch border are about four miles from Roosendaal. Canadian troops are engaged in heavy fighting in the water-logged country around the port of Breskens. Other Canadian troops have once again cut the causeway running from Walcheren Island in the Scheldt Estuary to the mainland.

Last night, more than 1000 RAF heavy bombers bucked snow storms over the continent to stage a concentrated bombing attack on the rail center of Essen. Essen, the home of the great Krupp gun works, has not had a major bombing attack since last April. The Luftwaffe sent up some night fighters to defend the city and flak was very intense. British night fighters went along as escort and shot up several German airfields. Berlin also bombed.

There were no important changes on the remainder of the Allied fronts in the west.

RUSSIA:
Following Marshall Stalin's order of the day last night saying that the Russians had broken into East Prussia on a 90 mile front for a depth of 20 miles, the German radio stated that the Russians had expanded their 90 mile front and had broken through the German defenses up to a depth of 35 miles inside the East Prussian border. Russian vanguards are racing for Königsberg, the capital of East Prussia, from four different points. In the last few day's fighting the Reds have killed thousands of Germans on both sides of the East Prussian border and have cleared a 60 mile stretch of the Niemen River and have captured the towns of Suwałki and Goldap.

General Chernyakovsky's troops after an all day and all night aerial and air bombardment stormed two German defense lines. Tanks and infantry following the assault troops then bulleted into open country. The Russians have already taken more than 400 towns and villages. Other Russian forces have cleared all of the Lithuanian coast except Kaunas and are poised for a new thrust at East Prussia from the north. Moscon radio said last night that the Russians "will now deal the German beasts devastating blows in East Prussia and that the Soviet forces will continue until they have met and shaken hands with their American and British allies less than 700 miles away."

Marshall Malinovsky's forces in Northern Hungary have advanced 50 miles in three days and have reached the river Tisza and have taken a town 10 miles from the border of Czechoslovakia.

ENGLAND:
The Germans launched more flying bombs against Southern England during the night from parent planes over the North Sea. The Allied governments have formally recognized the administration of General de Gaulle as the provisional government of France.

ITALY:
American troops of the Fifth Army have made small gains south of Bolona. Canadian troops of the Eighth Army have occupied Civit, 20 miles beyond Rimini. The Germans are desperately counterattacking at the two British bridgeheads over the Savio River above Cesena.

British troops in Greece have swept through Lamia about 100 miles Northwest of Athens. British patrols are pushing past the city. The Germans are fleeing down the road to Larissa.

CONTINUED
PACIFIC:

THREE ISLANDS FLANKING THE EASTERN APPROACHES TO LEYTE HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE
AMERICANS. YANK TROOPS ON LEYTE HAVE MADE FRESH ADVANCES ALONG A 19 MILE FRONT,
THEY HAVE TAKEN MANY TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND HAVE DRIVEN THREE MILES PAST TACLOBAN,
THE CAPITAL OF THE ISLAND, ONE COLUMN SPEARHEADED BY TANKS HAS DRIVEN INLAND FOR
7 MILES.

AMERICAN CARRIER BORNE PLANES ARE SMASHING JAP ATTEMPTS TO FORM FOR A COUNTER­
ATTACK, HEAVY GUNS FROM NAVAL CRAFT OFFSHORE ARE PULVERIZING JAP CONCRETE PILL­
BOXES.

BRITISH FOURTEENTH ARMY TROOPS HAVE PUSHED FOR 11 MILES DOWN THE ROAD BETWEEN
TIDDIM AND FORT WHITE IN BURMA.

GILBERT

BY CPL. N. S. FIRFIRES