



VOLUME III NO. 42

31 OCTOBER 1944

FRANCE:

UNITED KINGDOM TROOPS DRIVING ACROSS WESTERN HOLLAND ARE REPORTED TO HAVE REACHED THE RIVER MAAS. ONE OF THE ALLIED COLUMNS IS CLOSING IN ON ONE OF THE GERMAN ESCAPE BRIDGES. THE BROKEN GERMAN FIFTEENTH ARMY IS FALLING BACK SO FAST THAT IN MANY PLACES ALLIED TROOPS HAVE LOST CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY. YESTERDAY, AMERICAN AND CANADIAN FORCES LIBERATED ROOSENDAAL AND WERE WITHIN THREE MILES OF STEENBERGER. BRITISH TROOPS YESTERDAY LIBERATED THE TOWN OF OSTERHOUT. BRITISH GUNS WERE SHELLING THE GERMAN CROSSINGS ALL DAY YESTERDAY AND SPITFIRES BLASTED GERMAN VEHICLES TRYING TO GET ACROSS THE RIVER.

THE BATTLE TO CLEAR THE APPROACHES TO ANTWERP IS NEARING ITS CLOSE. UNITED KINGDOM AND CANADIAN TROOPS HAVE FINISHED MOPPING UP ON THE ISLAND OF SOUTH BEVELAND AND TOOK 2500 PRISONERS. CANADIAN TROOPS HAVE REACHED THE CAUSEWAY LEADING TO WALCHEREN ISLAND. IN THE SCHELDT POCKET, CANADIAN FORCES HAVE TAKEN 7000 GERMAN PRISONERS OUT OF THE 10,000 NAZIS THAT WERE LEFT IN THE POCKET AND THE ALLIED TROOPS ARE DRIVING THE REMAINING 3000 INTO AN AREA 5 MILES SQUARE. AMERICAN THIRD ARMY TROOPS HAVE CAPTURED THE TOWN OF MAIZIERES NEAR METZ.

MORE THAN 850 RAF HEAVY BOMBERS GAVE COLOGNE ITS WORST BATTERING OF THE WAR LAST NIGHT WHEN THEY UNLOADED MORE THAN 4000 TONS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVE AND INCENDIARY BOMBS ON THAT DYING CITY. IT WAS THE SEVENTH ATTACK ON THAT CITY IN THREE DAYS. THE GERMANS SENT UP SOME JET PROPELLED FIGHTERS TO DEFEND THE CITY BUT ALL OF THE BIG BOMBERS RETURNED. LAST NIGHT, MOSQUITO BOMBERS MADE TWO SEPERATE RAIDS ON BERLIN AND INTRUDER AIRCRAFT SHOT UP GERMAN AIRFIELDS. FROM THESE OPERATIONS, TWO PLANES ARE MISSING. IN DAYLIGHT YESTERDAY, AMERICAN AND BRITISH HEAVIES PLASTERED THE GERMAN RAIL CENTERS OF HAMB AND MUNSTER AND OIL PLANTS IN HAMBURG AND THE COLOGNE AREA. ROYAL NAVY CARRIER PLANES OPERATING WITH THE HOME FLEET OFF THE WATERS OF NORTHERN NORWAY HAVE SUNK OR DAMAGED 28 SHIPS. THEY ALSO ATTACKED U-BOAT DEPOTS, OIL TANKS AND SHORE BATTERIES.

SINCE D-DAY ALLIED TROOPS HAVE TAKEN MORE THAN 630,000 PRISONERS.

RUSSIA:

ACCORDING TO THE GERMANS, THE RUSSIANS IN HUNGARY HAVE DRIVEN INTO THE TOWN OF KECSKEMET 45 MILES SOUTH OF BUDAPEST AND THE GERMANS SAY THAT VIOLENT FIGHTING IS GOING ON THERE. THE GERMANS ALSO SAY THAT THE REDS HAVE STARTED NEW ATTACKS SOUTH OF THE EAST PRUSSIAN BORDER ACROSS FROM THE NAREV BRIDGEHEAD. RUSSIA SAID NOTHING ABOUT THESE REPORTED ATTACKS. THE SOVIETS HAVE KEPT UP THEIR ADVANCE IN EASTERN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HAVE TAKEN 21,000 PRISONERS THERE IN THE PAST TEN DAYS. RUSSIAN TROOPS ARE ALSO PUSHING AHEAD IN NORTHEAST HUNGARY.

ITALY:

THE WEATHER HAS IMPROVED IN ITALY BUT THE GROUND IS STILL VERY MUDDY AND BIG SCALE OPERATIONS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BE RESUMED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. INDIAN TROOPS OF THE EIGHTH ARMY HAVE EXPANDED THEIR BRIDGEHEAD OVER THE RONCA RIVER SOUTH OF FORLI. IN GREECE, BRITISH TROOPS AND GREEK GUERRILLAS ARE STILL HARRASSING THE RETREATING GERMANS. GREEK PARTISANS HAVE LIBERATED A TOWN ABOUT EIGHT MILES FROM THE YUGOSLAV BORDER AFTER ELIMINATING THE GERMAN GARRISON THERE.

PACIFIC:

AMERICAN TROOPS ON LEYTE HAVE ADVANCED TO WITHIN 10 MILES OF THE WESTERN COAST OF THE ISLAND. THE JAPS ARE TRYING TO FERRY REINFORCEMENTS OVER TO LEYTE FROM NEIGHBORING ISLANDS DURING THE NIGHT. GENERAL MACARTHUR HAS PLACED JAP CASUALTIES ON LEYTE IN THE FIRST 10 DAYS OF FIGHTING AT 24,000. AMERICAN CARRIER PLANES ATTACKING OTHER ISLANDS IN THE PHILIPPINES OVER THE WEEKEND PROBABLY SUNK A HEAVY JAP CRUISER AND SERIOUSLY DAMAGED 2 OTHER HEAVY CRUISERS IN MANILA HARBOR. NINETY JAP PLANES WERE DESTROYED ON LUZON.

BRITISH AND JAPANESE TROOPS ARE ENGAGED IN BITTER FIGHTING IN THE CHIN HILLS IN NORTHWEST BURMA. OTHER BRITISH TROOPS HAVE PUSHED FURTHER DOWN THE RAILROAD LEADING TO MANDALAY.

GILBERT

BY CPL. N.S. FIRFIRES

