FIELD MARSHALL MONTGOMERY'S FORCES IN WESTERN HOLLAND ARE RAPIDLY CLOSING IN ON THE MAAS RIVER ALONG A 50 MILE FRONT. THE BATTERED GERMAN FIFTEENTH ARMY HAS BROUGHT MOST OF ITS TROOPS ACROSS THE MAAS BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME REAR GUARDS LEFT BEHIND. THE GERMANS ARE PREPARING NEW DEFENSES FOR A STAND NORTH OF THE RIVER. ON WALCHEREN ISLAND, UNITED KINGDOM TROOPS THRUSHING NORTH FROM THE TOWN OF FLUSHING WERE REPORTED LAST NIGHT TO BE IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE BIG TOWN OF MIDDLESBROUGH. IT IS NOT KNOWN THAT THE BRITISH SUFFERED HIGH LOSSES BOTH IN MEN AND SHIPS IN THE FIRST LANDINGS ON WALCHEREN. THE BRITISH LANDING CRAFT WERE CAUGHT IN A LOW TIDE AND STRANDED BEFORE THEY REACHED THE BEACHES. GERMAN GUNS ON LAND RAKED THEM WITH A MURDEROUS FIRE CAUSING TERRIFIC DAMAGE.

AMERICAN FIRST ARMY TROOPS HAVE MADE MORE SMALL GAINS IN THE HUTGEN FOREST IN THE FACE OF BITTER GERMAN RESISTANCE. AMERICAN AND GERMAN TROOPS ARE LOCKED IN HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR THE SMALL GERMAN TOWN OF SCHMIDT. THIRD ARMY FORCES TODAY LIBERATED A SMALL TOWN ON THE MOSELLE RIVER ABOUT 8 MILES ABOVE THIONVILLE. AMERICAN SEVENTH ARMY AND FRENCH FIRST ARMY TROOPS ALSO MADE GAINS IN TODAY'S FIGHTING.


A NEW AMERICAN TACTICAL AIR FORCE HAS BEEN FORMED IN FRANCE. IT IS COMPOSED OF AMERICAN AND FRENCH FIGHTER BOMBER AND MEDIUM BOMBERS AND WILL SUPPORT THE U.S. SIXTH ARMY GROUP. THE FRENCH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS INVITED PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND MR. CORDELL HULL TO VISIT PARIS.

RUSSIA:

WINTER WEATHER HAS SET IN IN EAST PRUSSIA.

MARSHALL TITO'S PARTISANS NOW CONTROL ALL OF THE FRONTIER BETWEEN ALBANIA AND GREECE AND HAVE LIBERATED THE GREATER PART OF ALBANIA INCLUDING THE BIG BORDER TOWN OF MONASTIR (BITOLJ). PATRIOT FORCES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN FIGHTING IN THE ALBANIAN CAPITAL OF TIRANA FOR THREE DAYS. YUGOSLAV TANK FORCES AFTER TAKING THE COASTAL TOWN OF SIBENIK HAVE STRUCK INLAND FOR 15 MILES.

ITALY:
THE WEATHER HAS IMPROVED IN ITALY AND BOTH THE FIFTH AND EIGHTH ARMIES HAVE MADE LOCAL GAINS. THE GERMANS STILL HOLD A BIG PART OF THE FORLI AIRFIELD. MEDITERRANEAN AIRCRAFT FLEW MORE THAN 2500 SORTIES YESTERDAY INCLUDING HEAVY BOMBER ATTACKS ON AUSTRIA, YUGOSLAVIA AND THE BRENNER PASS. THE GERMANS TODAY REPORTED ALLIED HEAVY BOMBERS OVER AUSTRIA.

TURN PAGE
ENGLAND:
The Germans sent some flying bombs over southern England during the night. One of the parent launching planes was shot down over the North Sea.

PACIFIC:
Two American columns are closing in on the last Jap strongpoint on Leyte Island. American long range guns are already shelling the Japanese positions. American bombers yesterday attacked the Bonin Islands 600 miles off the coast of Japan. American Super Fortresses from India yesterday gave Singapore its first raid since the Japanese occupation. In Burma, the Fifth Indian Division has made more progress down the Tiddim-Fort White Road.

GILBERT

by CPL. N.S. FIRFIRES

NOW THAT WE HAVE GONE THROUGH FRANCE, I WANT TO TELL YOU A LITTLE ABOUT FIREARMS.