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FRANCE:

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 THRUSTING NORTH FROM THE TOWN OF FLUSHING WERE REPORTED LAST NIGHT TO BE IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE BIG TOWN OF MIDDELBURG. IT IS NOW 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.

MOSQUITOS OF THE SECOND TACTICAL AIR FORCE WERE OUT OVER HOLLAND LAST NIGHT IN SUPPORT OF THE BRITISH SECOND ARMY. THEY SHOT UP TRAINS, BARGES AND MOTOR TRANSPORT. OTHER MOSQUITOS RAIDED THE GERMAN GARRISON AT DUNKERQUE IN FRANCE DURING THE NIGHT. RAF BOMBER COMMAND MOSQUITOS PULLED ANOTHER OF THEIR "DOUBLE ATTACKS" ON THE GERMAN CITY OF STUTTGART DURING THE NIGHT. THE CITY WAS ATTACKED TWICE WITHIN A FEW HOURS. ALL OF THE PLANES RETURNED FROM THE STUTTGART RAIDS. TODAY, FOR THE THIRD DAY RUNNING, MORE THAN 1100 HEAVY AMERICAN BOMBERS WERE OVER THE REICH BLASTING OIL PLANTS NEAR HAMBURG AND FACTORIES IN THE RUHR. YESTERDAY, OVER 1200 YANK HEAVIES PLASTERED FRANKFORT, KARLSRUHE AND LUDWIGSHAFEN. AT THE SAME TIME, RAF LANCASTERS ATTACKED THE GERMAN TOWN OF SOLINGEN FOR THE SECOND DAY IN A ROW.

A NEW AMERICAN TACTICAL AIR FORCE HAS BEEN FORMED IN FRANCE. IT IS COMPOSED OF AMERICAN AND FRENCH FIGHTER BOMBERS 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:

ADVANCE UNITS OF MARSHALL MALINOVSKY'S FORCES WERE LAST REPORTED AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF BUDAPEST. THE WEIGHT OF THE RUSSIAN ARMIES HAS BEEN MOVED UP BETWEEN THE DANUBE AND TISZA RIVERS TO SMASH THE GERMANS IN THE HUNGARIAN CAPITAL. RUSSIAN BOMBERS HAVE BEEN MAKING A ROUND-THE-CLOCK AERIAL OFFENSIVE ON GERMAN COMMUNICATIONS IN AND AROUND BUDAPEST. THE NAZIS HAVE THROWN IN FOUR TANK AND ONE SS DIVISION INTO THE BATTLE FOR THE CITY AND THEY INTEND TO MAKE A REAL FIGHT FOR THE HUNGARIAN CAPITAL. IN EAST PRUSSIA, THE BIG BATTLE IN THE VICINITY OF GOLDAP IS STILL GOING ON. THE GERMANS AGAIN COUNTERATTACKED YESTERDAY BUT THE REDS BEAT THEM BACK AND KILLED 2000 GERMANS AND KNOCKED OUT DOZENS OF TANKS. 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.

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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



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