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FRANCE:

A FORCE OF 29 BRITISH LANCASTERS HAVE SUNK THE GERMAN SUPER BATTLESHIP, "TIRPITZ" IN TROMSO FJORD IN NORTHERN NORWAY. THE BIG SHIP WAS HIT WITH FOUR OR FIVE 12,000 POUND "EARTHQUAKE" BOMBS AND SHE CAPSIZED AND SANK IN A FEW MINUTES. ONE BOMBER WAS LOST IN THE OPERATION. THE GERMAN NEWS AGENCY SAID TODAY THAT THE "TIRPITZ" WAS ATTACKED YESTERDAY WITH SUPER HEAVY BOMBS AND WAS PUT "OUT OF ACTION" IN SHALLOW WATER. COASTAL COMMAND AIRCRAFT HAVE ALSO DAMAGED EIGHT SHIPS OFF THE NORWEGIAN COAST.

IN EASTERN FRANCE, AMERICAN THIRD ARMY TROOPS ARE BLASTING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE ENVIRONS OF THE FORTRESS OF METZ. TANKS AND INFANTRY MOVING ON METZ FROM THE SOUTH HAVE BROKEN THROUGH THE OUTER DEFENSE RING GUARDING THE CITY AND ARE WITHIN THREE AND A HALF MILES OF THE FORT ITSELF. TWO OTHER AMERICAN SPEARHEADS ARE LESS THAN FIVE MILES FROM THE CITY. SOUTHEAST OF METZ, TANKS AND INFANTRY YESTERDAY WERE COUNTERATTACKED IN THE AREA OF DIEUZE JUST NORTH OF THE MARNE-RHINE CANAL. THE AMERICANS IN THIS SECTOR HAVE INCREASED THEIR GRIP ON THE MAIN RAILWAY LINE SOUTHEAST OF METZ. NORTH OF THE CITY, THE AMERICANS HAVE TAKEN THE MOSELLE RIVER TOWN OF THIONVILLE AND ABOVE THIS, THE YANKS HAVE GREATLY WIDENED AND DEEPENED THEIR BRIDGEHEAD AT KOENIGSMACHER. HERE THE AMERICANS HAVE DRIVEN SEVEN MILES TO THE AREA OF THE SAAR BORDER. THERE ARE STILL NO SIGNS THAT THE GERMANS WILL PULL OUT OF METZ. THE WEATHER HAS REMAINED VERY BAD ON THIS SECTOR. TO THE SOUTH OF THE MARNE-RHINE CANAL, AMERICAN AND FRENCH TROOPS OF THE SEVENTH ARMY ARE DRIVING THROUGH THE VOSGES MOUNTAINS IN THE WORST SNOWSTORM IN TEN YEARS.

IN THE NETHERLANDS, ACTIVITY HAS BEEN CONFINED TO PATROLLING AND ARTILLERY DUELS.

RUSSIA:

MARSHALL MALINOVSKY'S ARMIES ARE CLAMPING TIGHT A HUGE NUTCRACKER AROUND BUDAPEST. RED FORCES MOVING ACROSS THE PLAIN EAST OF THE HUNGARIAN CAPITAL HAVE TAKEN MORE PLACES DESPITE A HEAVY RAIN. THE SOVIETS ARE ATTACKING THE COMMUNICATION CENTER OF JASZBERENY FROM THREE SIDES. THE GERMANS ARE USING FLAMETHROWERS IN AN ATTEMPT TO HOLD OFF THE RUSSIANS. BEYOND SZEGED THE REDS HAVE MADE ADVANCES UP TO SIX MILES. THE GERMANS SAID TODAY THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE RENEWED THEIR ATTACKS IN THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS OF BUDAPEST. IN SOUTHERN YUGOSLAVIA HEAVY FIGHTING IS GOING ON INSIDE SKOPLJE. YUGOSLAV PARTISANS HAVE LIBERATED CETINJE, THE OLD CAPITAL OF MONTENEGRO.

ENGLAND:

MR. CHURCHILL AND GENERAL DE GAULLE HAVE BEEN INTO THE VOSGES MOUNTAINS TO VISIT FRENCH TROOPS IN THE FIELD.

ITALY:

THE EIGHTH ARMY HAS PUSHED TWO MILES UP THE ROAD BETWEEN FORLI AND BOLOGNA.

PACIFIC:

AMERICAN TROOPS HAVE CONSOLIDATED THEIR POSITIONS ON HEIGHTS DOMINATING THE LEYTE PORT OF ORMOC. THE JAPANESE COMMANDER ON LEYTE HAS THROWN IN FIVE DIVISIONS FOR THE BATTLE OF THAT IMPORTANT ISLAND. EAST OF THE PHILIPPINES A FORCE OF JAP TROOPS HAS OCCUPIED A SMALL ISLAND IN THE PALAU GROUP. AMERICAN MARINES WERE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT LOSS.

THE FIFTH INDIAN DIVISION IN BURMA HAS ADVANCED TO WITHIN 10 MILES OF THE JAP BASE OF KALEMYO IN THE VALLEY OF THE CHINWIN RIVER. EAST AFRICAN TROOPS ARE CONVERGING ON KALEMYO FROM THREE DIRECTIONS. ANOTHER EAST AFRICAN COLUMN IS MOVING DOWN THE CHINWIN RIVER IN NORTHWEST BURMA ABOUT 30 MILES ABOVE KALEMYO. BRITISH AND CHINESE TROOPS ARE DRAWING A RING AROUND THE JAP BASE OF BHAMO. THE CHINESE FORCES WERE LAST REPORTED TWO MILES NORTHEAST OF BHAMO.