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FRANCE:

SIX ALLIED ARMIES ARE ADVANCING ON AND IN GERMANY ALONG A 400 MILE FRONT FROM HOLLAND TO THE SWISS BORDER. THE BRITISH SECOND ARMY AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE ALLIED FRONT HAS ALL BUT WIPE OUT THE GERMAN SALIENT ON THIS SIDE OF THE MAAS RIVER. THE GERMANS STILL HAVE SMALL POCKETS OF RESISTANCE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MAAS NEAR THE TOWNS OF VENLO AND ROERMOND. ONE BRITISH COLUMN IS LESS THAN A MILE FROM THE BIG BRIDGE LEADING INTO ROERMOND. THE BRITISH HAVE REACHED THE MIDDLE MAAS AT SEVERAL PLACES AND ARE NOT MEETING MUCH OPPOSITION EXCEPT AT ONE PLACE NEAR THE CANAL AT VENLO. ON THE FAR BANK OF THE MAAS THE GERMANS REINFORCED BY CIVILIANS ARE FEVERISHLY PUTTING UP BREASTWORKS AND DIGGING ANTI-TANK DITCHES.

THE AMERICAN NINTH AND FIRST ARMIES YESTERDAY LAUNCHED OFFENSIVES IN THE AACHEN AREA OF GERMANY. OVER 1200 AMERICAN HEAVY BOMBERS AND MORE THAN 1150 BRITISH BOMBERS SATURATED GERMAN POSITIONS IN THE AREA AND BIG GUNS LAID DOWN A TERRIFIC BARRAGE BEFORE THE INFANTRY AND THE TANKS WENT INTO ACTION. THE NINTH ARMY QUICKLY DROVE AHEAD FOLLOWING THE DRUMFIRE BARRAGE AND BOMBARDMENT AND TOOK ITS FIRST OBJECTIVES WITHOUT MEETING STIFF OPPOSITION. GENERAL SIMPSON'S TROOPS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN FIVE GERMAN TOWNS AND ARE RAPIDLY CLOSING IN ON THE ROER RIVER AND THE GREAT PLAIN OF COLOGNE. THE DEFENDING GERMANS TOOK SUCH A POUNDING FROM THE BOMBS AND SHELLS THAT THEY COULD NOT OFFER ANYTHING BUT TOKEN RESISTANCE AT FIRST. AT THE SAME TIME, THE AMERICAN FIRST ARMY STRUCK DUE EAST OF AACHEN FOLLOWING THE AERIAL AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT. HERE TOO THE GERMANS WERE STUNNED BY THE FURY OF THE BOMBS AND SHELLS AND DID NOT PUT UP MUCH OPPOSITION AND THE FIRST DROVE STEADILY AHEAD AND WERE LAST REPORTED TO BE 8 MILES EAST OF AACHEN. RESISTANCE TODAY WAS REPORTED AS "LIGHT" AS FIRST ARMY TROOPS DROVE ON TOWARDS COLOGNE. THE GERMANS ARE REPORTED TO BE IN "VERY GREAT STRENGTH" IN THIS AREA.

GENERAL PATTON'S THIRD ARMY HAS DRIVEN DEEPER INTO THE GERMAN LINES NORTH AND SOUTH OF METZ AND ONE COLUMN IS LESS THAN $1\frac{1}{2}$ MILES FROM THE CITY ITSELF. THE GERMANS HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL GARRISON AT METZ AND ARE THROWING UP DEFENSE POSITIONS AROUND THE CITY. GERMAN SS TROOPS ARE GUARDING ROADS AND TRACKS LEADING OUT OF THE TOWN SO CIVILIANS WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO GET OUT. THUNDERBOLT DIVE BOMBERS TODAY WORKED OVER ROADS AND RAILWAYS LEADING OUT OF THE CITY INTO GERMANY.

THE AMERICAN SEVENTH ARMY PUSHING AHEAD IN THE HIGH VOSGES MOUNTAINS OF EASTERN FRANCE IS WITHIN TWO MILES OF THE TOWN OF SAINT DIE. THE GERMANS ARE STEADILY PULLING BACK IN THIS SECTOR AND ARE BURNING EVERY HOUSE AS THEY GO SO AS TO DENY THE ADVANCING AMERICANS PROTECTION FROM THE COLD. ON THE EXTREME RIGHT OF THE ALLIED LINE THE FRENCH FIRST ARMY HAS BATTLED ITS WAY TO WITHIN SEVEN MILES OF THE TOWN OF BELFORT. THE FRENCH FORCES HAVE FREED SEVERAL MORE TOWNS BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE DOUBS RIVER.

RUSSIA:

POWERFUL RUSSIAN INFANTRY, TANK AND CAVALRY FORCES HAVE BROKEN THROUGH THE GERMAN POSITIONS EAST AND SOUTHEAST OF BUDAPEST AND ARE NOW POURING TOWARDS THE HUNGARIAN CAPITAL. THE GREAT ARC IS TIGHTENING AROUND THE EASTERN APPROACHES TO BUDAPEST AND SOME RUSSIAN GROUPS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE REACHED THE SUBURBS OF THE CITY FROM THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST. THE GERMANS SAY THAT THE REDS HAVE THROWN IN LARGE NUMBERS OF INFANTRY, TANKS AND CAVALRY IN THE BATTLE RAGING EAST OF BUDAPEST. SOVIET TROOPS HAVE ALSO CUT THE MAIN RAIL LINE LEADING TO NORTHEASTERN HUNGARY ABOUT 37 MILES AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL.

ITALY:

THE BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY WAS LAST REPORTED 5 MILES FROM FAENZA. THE GERMANS HAVE FLOODED A LARGE PART OF THE COASTAL AREA SOUTH OF RAVENNA. HEAVY RAINS HAVE FLOODED ANOTHER AREA BETWEEN THE RONCO AND MONTONE RIVERS. MEDITERRANEAN BOMBERS YESTERDAY HIT TARGETS IN AUSTRIA. THE GERMAN RADIO TODAY REPORTED ALLIED BOMBER FORMATIONS OVER SOUTHERN AUSTRIA AGAIN.

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PACIFIC:

AMERICAN TROOPS ON LEYTE ISLAND HAVE TIGHTENED THEIR GRIP ON THE JAPANESE SALIENT IN FRONT OF ORMOC AND HAVE VIRTUALLY CUT OFF THE 30,000 JAPS DEFENDING THE PORT. IN BURMA, ALLIED TROOPS HAVE CUT OFF THE LAST JAP ESCAPE ROUTES TO THE SOUTH OF BHAMO ON THE IRRAWADDY RIVER. EAST AFRICAN AND FIFTH INDIAN DIVISION TROOPS ARE DRIVING ON TO THE EAST OF CAPTURED KALEMYO.

MR. DONALD NELSON FORMER U. S. PRODUCTION CHIEF HAS ARRIVED IN CHUNGKING.

GILBERT

BY CPL N. S. FIRFIRES

