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FRANCE:

AMERICAN FIRST ARMY TROOPS LAST NIGHT WERE LESS THAN FOUR MILES FROM DUREN ON THE EDGE OF THE PLAIN OF COLOGNE. THESE TROOPS HAD FOUGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH THE HUTGEN FOREST AND HAD COME OUT OF THE FOREST AND HAD ENTERED THE TOWN OF HURTGEN WHERE HOUSE TO HOUSE FIGHTING WAS GOING ON. ANOTHER FIRST ARMY FORCE YESTERDAY PUSHED FURTHER ALONG THE GREAT MOTOR ROAD BETWEEN AACHEN AND COLOGNE. AMERICAN NINTH ARMY TROOPS HAVE REACHED A BRANCH OF THE ROER RIVER JUST SOUTH OF JULICH. THE BRITISH SECOND ARMY'S SPEARHEAD IN GERMANY EAST OF GEILENKIRCHEN DID NOT GAIN ANY GROUND YESTERDAY. FIGHTING ON THIS SECTOR WAS CONFINED TO PATROLLING AND ARTILLERY DUELS. OTHER SECOND ARMY TROOPS IN EASTERN HOLLAND HAVE CLEARED UP ONE OF THE FOUR, SMALL GERMAN POCKETS WEST OF THE MAAS RIVER NORTH OF THE TOWN OF VENLO.

AMERICAN THIRD ARMY TROOPS HAVE LIBERATED THE MAGINOT LINE TOWN OF SAINT AVOLD AND REINFORCEMENTS ARE POURING THROUGH THE BREACH IN THE GERMAN LINES. GENERAL PATTON'S FORCES WERE LAST REPORTED ABOUT 10 MILES FROM THE BIG CITY OF SAARBRUCKEN. THIRD ARMY TANKS AND INFANTRY ARE DRIVING AHEAD IN GERMANY ON A FRONT OF 20 MILES. THE GERMANS YESTERDAY AND TODAY COUNTERATTACKED WITH TANKS AT THE RIGHT WING OF THE THIRD ARMY AT THE NORTHERN TIP OF THE "STRASBOURG WEDGE".

AMERICAN AND FRENCH TROOPS OF THE SEVENTH ARMY ARE RAPIDLY PUSHING THROUGH THE VOSGES MOUNTAINS. THE FIRST FRENCH ARMY HAS VIRTUALLY WIPED OUT THE GERMAN SALIENT SOUTH OF THE RHONE-RHINE CANAL IN EASTERN FRANCE. OTHER FRENCH TROOPS ARE CLEANING UP BETWEEN BELFORT AND MULHOUSE.

LAST NIGHT, RAF BOMBERS IN GREAT STRENGTH ATTACKED FREIBURG AND ANOTHER RAIL CENTER NEAR DUSSELDORF. SEVERAL SQUADRONS RIPPED BERLIN WITH 4000 POUND BOMBS DURING THE NIGHT. IN DAYLIGHT YESTERDAY, A STRONG FORCE OF BRITISH HEAVIES HIT THE RAIL YARDS AT COLOGNE. MORE THAN 500 AMERICAN HEAVIES HAMMERED RAIL CENTERS ON THE RHINE. OVER NORTHWESTERN AND CENTRAL GERMANY YESTERDAY, AMERICAN FIGHTER PILOTS SHOT DOWN 98 PLANES BRINGING THEIR TWO DAY TOTAL TO OVER 240. MORE THAN 500 MUSTANGS AND THUNDERBOLTS ATTACKED ENEMY TRANSPORT AND DESTROYED 72 LOCOMOTIVES AND 50 OIL TANK CARS. THE FAMOUS DORTMUND-EMS CANAL HAS AGAIN BEEN BREACHED BY RAF BOMBS.

RUSSIA:

GENERAL IVAN PETROFF'S FOURTH UKRAINIAN ARMY HAS ADVANCED SIX MILES ON A 30 MILE FRONT IN EASTERN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. AS THE GERMANS RETREAT ACROSS THE WATER LOGGED COUNTRY THEY ARE BEING CONSTANTLY ATTACKED FROM BEHIND BY STRONG FORCES OF PARTISAN FIGHTERS. ACCORDING TO THE GERMANS, THE RUSSIANS HAVE GAINED MORE GROUND ON THE ISLAND IN THE DANUBE RIVER SOUTH OF BUDAPEST.

ENGLAND:

MR. CHURCHILL HAS SENT A REPORT TO PARLIMENT ON THE ENGLISH WAR EFFORT. AT PRESENT, ENGLAND HAS  $6\frac{1}{2}$  MILLION MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES AND IN CIVILIAN DEFENSE. ENGLAND HAS SUFFERED OVER A HALF MILLION CASUALTIES SINCE THE START OF THE WAR IN DEAD, WOUNDED AND PRISONERS. SHE NOW HAS FOUR AND A HALF MILLION MEN IN THE SERVICE. ENGLAND HAS LOST 30,000 MERCHANT SEAMEN AND OVER 3000 MERCHANT SHIPS BUT HAS BUILT  $6\frac{1}{2}$  MILLION TONS OF NEW SHIPPING (MERCHANT SHIPS) AND HAS BUILT OVER 700 WARSHIPS.

THERE WAS "ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY" OVER ENGLAND DURING THE NIGHT.

UNITED STATES:

MR. EDWARD STETTINIUS IS TO BE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE. HE SUCCEEDS MR. CORDELL HULL WHO RESIGNED FROM THE POST BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH.

ITALY:

IT HAS BEEN RAINING IN ITALY AGAIN BUT THE EIGHTH ARMY HAS ~~DRAWN~~, NEARER TO FAENZA FROM THREE SIDES.

PACIFIC:

NONE OF THE AMERICAN SUPER FORTRESSES USED IN THE ATTACK AGAINST TOKIO OR BANGKOK YESTERDAY WERE **LOST**. VERY HEAVY RAIN HAS BROUGHT THE FIGHTING ON LEYTE ISLAND IN THE PHILIPPINES ALMOST TO A STANDSTILL.

EAST AFRICAN AND WEST AFRICAN TROOPS IN BURMA HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL ADVANCES.