GERMANY:
The southern wing of the American First Army this morning struck for the Roer River south of Duren and the Americans pushed on for a mile through deep mud. Both north and south of Duren heavy fighting is going on and one American force is less than a half mile from the Roer River across from Duren. Just south of Duren, Yank forces hold two half mile stretches of the western bank of the river. The Nazis appear to be pulling back to the eastern bank of the Roer in the Duren area and they are leaving rear guards behind to cover their retreat. American fighter bombers have again battered Duren.

General Patton’s Third Army troops fighting in the Saar Valley have made another crossing of the German frontier and have captured the German town of Harkirchen. The Americans crossed the swollen Saar River in assault boats and pushed across the German border. In northern Alsace, American Seventh Army troops yesterday drove 8 miles past captured Haguenau and broke through the old Maginot line and were last reported fighting in the town of Selitz. Selitz is about a mile from the Rhine River and about 14 miles from the German industrial city of Karlsruhe. The Americans now hold all of the Haguenau Forest.

In daylight yesterday more than 1,200 escorted heavy American bombers ripped the synthetic oil plant at Leuna, Germany. American heavies from Italy attacked oil plants in southern Silesia. British Lancasters yesterday heralded the Ruhr town of Witten. Last night RAF heavy bombers in strength bombèd the Rhineland arsenal city of Essen and left huge fires burning there. RAF bomber GQ1 and 10 Mosquitos made a concentrated attack on Osnabruck with 4,000-pound bombs. From the night’s operations, 13 RAF bombers are missing.

RUSSIA:
Fierce hand to hand fighting is going on at the northeastern approaches to Budapest in Hungary. Russian tanks have taken a rail junction 9 miles northeast of the Hungarian capital. In a new drive north of Budapest, Soviet columns have crossed the upper Danube and are pushing for the Austrian border. Above Hiskolocz, in northeastern Hungary, the Russians are rapidly driving for the southern border of Slovakia. Moscow Radio said today that “the liberation of the whole of Czechoslovakia is not far off.”

ITALY:
Canadian troops of the Eighth Army have broken into the main German defenses between Faenza and the sea. American Fifth Army troops have beaten off a German attack south of Bologna. Heavy rain is falling in Italy again.

CRETE:
ELAS, or Left Wing Guerrillas began two new attacks against British forces in Athens this morning. Both of the rebel attacks were held. British officials have given a final ultimatum to the guerrillas to hand in their arms by December 20, or be wiped out.

PACIFIC:
American Super Fortresses flying from the Marianas today attacked Jap industries on the main Japanese home island of Honshu. More than 100 of the giant bombers took part in the raid. American forces in the Orloc area on Leyte Island have made more gains.

Another Japanese attempt to relieve their trapped forces on Leyte has been smashed in a two day battle by American planes and light naval craft. Four Trans-
PACIFIC CONTINUED:

PORTS AND 3 DESTROYERS WERE WIPED OUT BY THE AMERICAN FORCES AND 25 OF THE ESCORTING JAP PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN. AMERICAN LOSSES WERE 8 PLANES.

IN BURMA, ALLIED TROOPS HAVE MADE MORE PROGRESS WEST OF KATHA AND INDAW TOWARDS THE MANDALAY RAILROAD.

CHINESE TROOPS COUNTERATTACKING IN SOUTHEASTERN CHINA ARE CONTINUING TO PUSH THE JAPANESE BACK.