SHAEF ANNOUNCED LATE THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE GREAT OFFENSIVE IN THE ARDENNES FOREST HAS BEEN SLOWED DOWN TO A HALT AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. THE GERMAN WEDGE DRIVEN INTO THE AMERICAN LINES IS ABOUT 20 MILES WIDE AND SOME 30 MILES DEEP. THE NAZIS HAVE REACHED A POINT ABOUT 15 MILES PAST BASTOGNE BUT ON THEIR NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FLANKS THEY HAVE BEEN FIRMLY HELD BY THE AMERICANS. IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT HUNDESTEDT'S FORCES TOOK THE TOWN OF ST VITE AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF FIGHTING BUT CORRESPONDENTS SAID THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE NEWS FROM THE ST VITE SECTOR STILL REMAINED "GOOD". STAVELOT WAS REPORTED AS RETAKEN BY THE GERMANS BUT IT WAS IN AMERICAN HANDS THIS AFTERNOON. THE GROUND HAS FROZEN SOLID IN THE ARDENNES AND IT IS EXCELLENT FOR ARMOR WARFARE. LONG LINES OF AMERICAN TANKS AND INFANTRY ARE CONTINUALLY MOVING TO THE FRONT. THE NAZIS ARE BRINGING UP REINFORCEMENTS TOO AND CORRESPONDENTS SAY THAT A GREAT BATTLE WILL SOON BE FOUGHT.

THE WEATHER WAS EXCELLENT FOR FLYING YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND ALLIED PLANES MADE THE MOST OF IT. YESTERDAY MORE THAN 4000 PLANES OF ALL TYPES WERE OUT BLASTING GERMAN TANK COLUMNS IN THE BATTLE AREA, HAMM ERING COMMUNICATION CENTERS, SUPPLY DUMPS AND RAILROADS BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES. MORE THAN 400 AMERICAN HEAVIES ESCORTED BY 700 fighters DUMPED THEIR CARGO OF DEATH ON MARSHALLING YARDS BETWEEN COBLENZ AND THE BELGIAN BORDER. A FORCE OF 400 MEDIUM BOMBERS HIT RAIL MILLS AND BRIDGES BETWEEN THE RHINE AND THE BATTLE AREA. A GREAT NUMBER OF TANKS AND BRITISH FIGHTERS AND FIGHTER BOMBERS WENT FOR TANK FORMATIONS AND MOTOR TRANSPORT IN THE BATTLE AREA AND JUST BEHIND THE GERMAN BORDERS. FIGHTER BOMBERS DESTROYED AT LEAST 16 TANKS AND 240 TRUCKS. BRITISH TYPHOONS CAUGHT A GERMAN AIR TRAIN NEAR TRIER AND BLEW IT TO BITS. A GROUP OF P-47'S INTERCEPTED A 47 TON TANK TRAIN NEAR TRIER AND KILLED IT TO BITS. A GROUP OF P-47'S DESTROYED 47 TON TANKS AND DESTROYED THEM ALL. RAF GERMAN TRUCKS IN CONVOY, ALL LOADED WITH TROOPS, AND DESTROYED THEM ALL. RAF GERMAN TRANSPORTS OVER THE ENEMY LINES AGAIN LAST NIGHT AND RA F MOSQUITOS SHOT DOWN 10 NAZI FIGHTERS. DURING DAYLIGHT TODAY, ALLIED PLANES WERE AGAIN OUT IN VERY GREAT STRENGTH, NO REPORT OF GERMAN PLANES SHOT DOWN TODAY IS KNOWN YET. ALLIED HEAVY AND MEDIUM BOMBERS WERE OVER GERMANY AGAIN TODAY.

THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE FIGHTING ON THE REST OF THE WESTERN FRONT. RUSSIA


ENGLAND

LONDON REPORTS THAT THE GERMANS ARE NOW DIRECTING ROCKETS AGAINST NORTHERN AS WELL AS SOUTHERN ENGLAND.

ITALY

CANADIAN TROOPS FIGHTING THEIR WAY THROUGH SNOWSTORMS HAVE TAKEN A TOWN FOUR MILES NORTH EAST OF FAENZA. DESPITE BAD WEATHER, ALLIED PLANES FLEW MORE THAN 600 SORTIES YESTERDAY.

GREECE

BRITISH FORCES FIGHTING IN ATHENS NOW HOLD MORE THAN HALF OF THE CITY.

TURN PAGE
AMERICAN TROOPS ON LEYTE ISLAND HAVE Wiped OUT THE JAPANESE POCKET IN THE OROGO VALLEY. THE AMERICANS COUNTED 3788 JAP DEAD. NINE PRISONERS WERE TAKEN. THE AMERICANS ARE NOW ADVANCING ON PALOMONI, LAST ESCAPES PORT FOR THE JAPS ON LEYTE. IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE U. S. 11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION HELPED SMASH THE "YAMASHITA LINE" ON LEYTE. AMERICAN PLANES HAVE RAIDED CLARK AIR FIELD AT MANILA AND DESTROYED OR DAMAGED MORE THAN 100 JAP PLANES.

AMERICAN SUPER FORTS FLYING FROM SAIPAN ISLAND HAVE BOMBED THE BONIN ISLANDS, 600 MILES FROM JAPAN.

IN BURMA, THE BRITISH 36TH DIVISION HAS PUSHED INTO CENTRAL BURMA. THEY ARE CLOSING ON THE JAP BASE OF YEU, 60 MILES FROM MANDALAY.