



VOLUME V NO. 5

CHRISTMAS DAY 1944

GERMANY:

THE GREAT GERMAN COUNTEROFFENSIVE IN THE ARDENNES HAS BEEN CHECKED BOTH BY AIR AND ON THE GROUND. THE GERMANS HAVE MADE SLIGHT GAINS AT THE CENTER OF THEIR SALIENT WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN JABBING WITH ARMORED COLUMNS. THE AMERICANS ARE STEADILY INCREASING THEIR PRESSURE ON THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FLANKS. ON THE GERMAN NORTHERN FLANK, RUNDSTEDT'S FORCES 10 MILES WEST OF STAVELOT HAVE BEEN BEATEN BACK 7 MILES. ON THE GERMAN LEFT FLANK, AMERICAN FORCES ARE ATTACKING ON A 25 MILE FRONT AND HAVE GAINED 5 MILES ON ONE SECTOR. BOTH THE AMERICANS AND THE GERMANS ARE BRINGING UP MORE TANKS AND INFANTRY AND CORRESPONDENTS SAY THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST BATTLES OF THE WAR WILL BE FOUGHT SOON. THE FRONT IS ONE OF PREPARATION AND WATCHFULNESS AND THIS TIME THE AMERICANS ARE WAITING FOR THE GERMANS. ONE GERMAN SPEARHEAD HAS BEEN ENCIRCLED AND COMPLETELY WIPED OUT. A CORRESPONDENT SAYS SCORES OF NAZI TANKS WERE BURNED OUT AND 38 CAPTURED. HUNDREDS OF DEAD NAZIS WERE LEFT IN THE AREA.

YESTERDAY WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST DAYS OF THE WAR FOR THE ALLIED AIR FORCES. MORE THAN 7000 SORTIES WERE FLOWN BY ALLIED PLANES YESTERDAY. ALL TYPES OF ALLIED PLANES TEAMED UP TO UNLOAD 10,000 TONS OF BOMBS ON THE GERMAN SALIENT, ITS LINES OF COMMUNICATION, RAIL HEADS, SUPPLY DEPOTS AND LUFTWAFFE BASES. THE ALLIED PLANES SHOT DOWN 116 GERMAN AIRCRAFT. THE BIGGEST SINGLE FORMATION WAS MADE UP OF MORE THAN 2000 YANK FORTS AND LIBERATORS ESCORTED BY 900 FIGHTERS. THIS FORMATION ALONE DROPPED 5000 TONS OF BOMBS. AMERICAN NINTH AIR FORCE PLANES ALONE CLAIMED THEY KNOCKED OUT OVER 900 GERMAN VEHICLES INCLUDING TANKS YESTERDAY. NO SCORE OF VEHICLES KNOCKED OUT BY BRITISH FIGHTER BOMBERS IS KNOWN YET. A GROUP OF AMERICAN P-47'S CAUGHT A CONVOY OF OVER 100 VEHICLES CARRYING GASOLINE AND LEFT THEM A BLAZING WRECK. LAST NIGHT, STRONG FORMATIONS OF RAF HEAVY BOMBERS BLASTED THE SUPPLY CENTERS OF COLOGNE AND BONN. TODAY, THE WEATHER WAS GOOD ONCE MORE, AND ALLIED PLANES IN VERY GREAT STRENGTH WERE OUT AGAIN. REPORTS ARE INCOMPLETE SO FAR BUT IT IS KNOWN THAT A FORCE OF OVER 400 AMERICAN HEAVIES ESCORTED BY 400 FIGHTERS ATTACKED ROAD AND RAIL BRIDGES JUST OPPOSITE THE BATTLEFRONT. YESTERDAY, RAF SPITFIRE BOMBERS ATTACKED ROCKET LAUNCHING SITES IN HOLLAND.

THE REST OF THE BATTLEFRONT IN THE WEST HAS BEEN COMPARATIVELY QUIET. IT IS REPORTED THAT MAJOR GLEN MILLER, LEADER OF THE AMERICAN BAND OF THE AEF, IS "MISSING IN ACTION" IN FRANCE.

RUSSIA:

MARSHALL FEDOR I. TOLBUKHIN'S THIRD UKRANIAN ARMY AFTER THREE DAYS OF FIGHTING HAS BROKEN THROUGH STRONGLY FORTIFIED GERMAN POSITIONS SOUTHWEST OF BUDAPEST AND DRIVEN 25 MILES TO CUT THE MAIN ROAD AND RAIL LINES RUNNING FROM THE HUNGARIAN CAPITOL TO AUSTRIA. THE RUSSIANS TOOK 160 PLACES AND 3000 PRISONERS IN THEIR DRIVE AND ARE NOW COMING IN ON THE HUNGARIAN CAPITOL FROM THE NORTHEAST, EAST, SOUTH AND WEST. THE GERMAN RADIO TODAY REPORTED VERY HEAVY FIGHTING JUST WEST OF BUDAPEST.

ITALY:

VERY HEAVY SNOW IS FALLING IN ITALY ALL ALONG THE FRONT. NEW ZEALAND AND UNITED KINGDOM TROOPS OF THE EIGHTH ARMY THRUSTING DOWN FROM BAGNACAVALLLO ARE GRADUALLY WIPING OUT THE GERMAN POCKET ON THE EASTERN BANK OF THE RIVER SENIO TO THE NORTHEAST OF FAENZA.

PACIFIC:

THE JAP RADIO REPORTED TODAY THAT ALLIED WARSHIPS AND PLANES HAD ATTACKED THE BONIN ISLANDS ABOUT 700 MILES SOUTH OF JAPAN. AMERICAN AIRCRAFT HAVE ATTACKED THE TWO MAIN AIRFIELDS ON LUZON AND THE PLANES DESTROYED 25 JAP PLANES.

IN CENTRAL BURMA, TROOPS OF THE BRITISH 14TH ARMY HAVE GAINED 10 MILES ON THE WAY TO YEU. ALLIED HEAVY BOMBERS LAST NIGHT ATTACKED RAIL YARDS NEAR HANOY, THE CAPITOL OF INDO CHINA.

GILBERT

BY CPL. N. S. FIRFIRES



THAT, SOLDIER, WOULD BE A 65 DOLLAR QUESTION!