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BELGIUM:

GENERAL PATTON'S THIRD ARMY TROOPS DRIVING UP FROM THE SOUTH THROUGH NORTHERN LUXEMBOURG AND THE SOUTHERN PART OF BELGIUM HAVE FORCED A BIG DENT IN THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF THE GERMAN SALIENT. A THIRD ARMY ARMORED COLUMN HAS BROKEN THROUGH TO RELIEVE THE AMERICAN 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION THAT HAD BEEN HOLDING OUT AT BASTOGNE. THE AIRBORNE TROOPERS HAD HELD OUT AT BASTOGNE FOR MORE THAN A WEEK ALTHOUGH THEY WERE CUT OFF. SUPPLIES, INCLUDING AMMUNITION, FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES HAD TO BE FLOWN IN TO THEM. THE CORRIDOR TO BASTOGNE HAS BEEN WIDENED AND GROUND SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST OF THE TOWN HAS BEEN TAKEN. OTHER THIRD ARMY FORCES HAVE TAKEN SEVERAL VILLAGES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FRONTIER BETWEEN LUXEMBOURG AND BELGIUM AND THE TOWN OF ECHTERNACH HAS BEEN RETAKEN. EAST OF ECHTERNACH, AMERICAN THIRD ARMY FORCES HAVE REACHED THE GERMAN BORDER AT THREE PLACES.

AMERICAN FIRST ARMY TROOPS HAVE SURROUNDED A PANZER COLUMN BETWEEN ROCHEFORT AND CELLES AT THE TIP OF THE NAZI SALIENT AND THE GERMANS ARE BEING HEAVILY POUNDED BY ARTILLERY. MORE THAN 1000 PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN HERE. THE NAZIS ABANDONED MUCH OF THEIR EQUIPMENT INCLUDING TANKS. AT THE NORTHERN FLANK OF HIS SALIENT, MARSHALL RUNDSTEDT HAS BEEN MAKING ATTACKS BUT HAS GAINED NO GROUND AND HE HAS SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES.

FOR THE SEVENTH DAY RUNNING, AMERICAN HEAVY BOMBERS IN GREAT STRENGTH WERE OVER WESTERN GERMANY. LAST NIGHT, TWO SEPARATE FORCES OF RAF HEAVY BOMBERS STRUCK AT BOTTLENECKS ON GERMAN RAILWAY LINES IN WESTERN GERMANY. A FORCE OF BRITISH MOSQUITOS LAST NIGHT MADE A SWEEP OF THE BATTLEFRONT. IN DAYLIGHT YESTERDAY MORE THAN 1200 AMERICAN HEAVY BOMBERS PLAGSTERED 10 SUPPLY CENTERS BETWEEN THE RHINE RIVER AND THE BATTLEFRONT. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON BRITISH HEAVIES ATTACKED A MARSHALLING YARD AT COLOGNE. TACTICAL AIRFORCE PLANES WERE NOT OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS YESTERDAY DUE TO THE POOR FLYING CONDITIONS.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE GERMAN COUNTEROFFENSIVE IN THE ARDENNES FOREST IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE GERMANS HAVE LOST 700 PLANES. MORE THAN 5000 VEHICLES AND AN ESTIMATED 1000 TANKS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY ALLIED PLANES AND GROUND FORCES.

RUSSIA:

THE RUSSIANS ARE DRIVING INTO BUDAPEST FROM THE WEST AND THE EAST. RUSSIAN ASSAULT TROOPS ARE NOW ATTACKING THE INNER DEFENSES OF THE CITY. WEST OF THE HUNGARIAN CAPITOL THE RED ARMY HAS SWUNG DOWN INTO THE BROAD DANUBE VALLEY AND IS ADVANCING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DANUBE RIVER TOWARDS THE AUSTRIAN BORDER. SOUTH OF THE RIVER THE RUSSIANS WERE LAST REPORTED 30 MILES FROM THE BIG COMMUNICATION CENTER OF GYOR IN WESTERN HUNGARY NEAR THE AUSTRIAN BORDER.

ITALY:

FIFTH ARMY TROOPS YESTERDAY MADE ANOTHER SLIGHT WITHDRAWAL IN THE SERCHIO VALLEY NEAR THE WEST COAST OF ITALY. THEY GAVE UP THE LITTLE TOWN OF BARGA. TODAY THE FIGHTING HAS DIED DOWN IN THE VALLEY AND ACTIVITY ALL ALONG THE FRONT IN ITALY HAS BEEN CONFINED TO PATROLLING. ALLIED PLANES FROM ITALY YESTERDAY FLEW MORE THAN 2600 SORTIES ATTACKING OIL AND RAIL TARGETS IN GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE GERMAN RADIO REPORTED ALLIED BOMBERS OVER SOUTHERN GERMANY TODAY.

PACIFIC:

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S TROOPS ARE NOW IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF MINDORO ISLAND. IN THREE ATTACKS ON CLARK FIELD, MANILA, ON CHRISTMAS DAY, 144 JAP PLANES WERE DESTROYED.

GILBERT

BY CPL. N. S. FIRFIRE



HES BEEN MAKING THAT MIDNIGHT MESSAGE RUN!