BELGIUM:
American and British forces under Field Marshal Montgomery are attacking on a 25 mile front along the northern flank of Hunsrück's salient in the Ardennes. Both the Yanks and the British have pushed ahead for an average gain of four miles along the whole front. One force closing on the main supply road between La Roche and St Vith. The Americans are within a few thousand yards of the road along a seven mile front. The Yanks were last reported within 24 miles of La Roche itself. The weather on this front was bad again today ruling out direct air support. The Nazis are fiercely contesting the Allied advance on this sector and Field Marshal Rundstedt has concentrated large numbers of tanks and artillery in this area. American Third Army troops have been forced to drop back about two miles northeast of Bastogne. The Yanks have taken another town due west of Bastogne. The Germans have counter-attacked six times in the past 24 hours in the Bastogne area but have been beaten back with heavy losses each time. Near the Saar-Palatinate border the Germans have driven a vector 12 miles deep into American Seventh Army lines. This wedge is between Saar-Germain and Bouzonnet and the Germans have reached the main road between these two towns and are only 10 miles from the Saar-Germain gap. American Seventh Army forces have stiffened here and have held the Germans. Further south, about 8 miles above Strasbourg, the Germans have crossed the Rhine river and are fighting in two small towns on the western bank of the Rhine.

The large scale night and day aerial offensive against Germany and German troops in the Ardennes salient went on today and last night. Today more than 800 American heavies escorted by 550 fighters bombed road and rail bridges across the Rhine at Cologne and Bonn. The heavies also attacked other targets in western Germany. Last night over 1000 RAF bombers were over Germany. RAF heavies staged a "double attack" on Hanover and after the attacks great fires could be seen for 200 miles. RAf Mosquitos went back to Heilin again last night with 4000 pound bombs. Early this morning before dawn a force of RAF Lancasters plastered German troop and tank concentrations at Houffalize 10 miles northeast of Bastogne. RAF Mosquitos last night cut over the Ardennes salient bombed the communication center of St Vith. All of the road and rail lines leading into St Vith have now been cut. From the night's operations 33 RAF bombers are missing.

RUSSIA:
The Russians stormed another 230 city blocks and took more than 2000 prisoners in the fighting in Budapest yesterday. West of the Hungarian capital the Red Army has beaten back more powerful German attempts to relieve Budapest. Russia has recognized the Lublin Committee as the provisional government of Poland. Britain and the United States continue to recognize the Polish government in London.

ITALY:
Canadian troops of the Eighth Army have reached the southern shore of Lake Comacchio and have taken the town of St Alberto. The lake lies northwest of Ravenna. Allied aircraft in Italy flew more than 600 sorties yesterday.

GREECE:
Organized fighting has ceased in Athens and the Piraeus, the port of Athens. British troops ranging in northern Athens, the last area held by ELAS, are only occasional sniper fire.
American Sixth Army Forces have landed without opposition on the Philippine Island of Mindanao, less than 100 miles from Manila. American heavy bombers have again attacked Clark Airfield near Manila and other American bombers have bombed the Volcano Islands about 600 miles from Japan.

American Super Fortresses flying from Asiatic bases today attacked industries on the Jap home island of Kyushu. In the two day attack on Formosa Island and the island of Okinawa, American carrier planes destroyed 111 Jap planes and sunk or damaged 95 Jap ships.

British carrier planes have bombed an important Jap oil refinery on the north-east coast of Sumatra without loss.

*Gilbert* by Cpl. N. S. Finfres

He wants to sell his carrier pigeons, now that we are getting mail again.