BELGIUM:

American First Army troops advancing through deep snow in a blizzard have taken a 15 mile stretch of the main road running from St Vith to La Roche. This road is one of the two main supply lines that Marshall Rundstedt has in the Ardennes salient. One American spearhead has driven to within four miles of the second and last main supply line between Houffalize and St Vith. American guns are already shelling the important road center of Houffalize. The road leading to Houffalize is also cut by heavy shellfire. Both American and British forces are very close to the town of La Roche. One tank unit was last reported a mile from the town. British forces attacking south of Roche/fort at this tip of the German salient are meeting very stubborn resistance and have gained little ground. There are signs that the Germans are fighting a delaying action in the western part of the Ardennes salient for the Allied troops are running into dense mine fields and road blocks. On the southern flank of the salient, Rundstedt is still launching attacks against the Bastogne corridor and in yesterday's fighting the Germans succeeded in making slight penetrations on both sides of the corridor. American Third Army forces yesterday destroyed 31 German tanks west of Bastogne and in the Lultz area of Luxembourg.

American Seventh Army troops attacking the western end of the German wedge near Bittogne in northern Luxembourg have driven the Germans back. The German bridgehead 6 miles north of Strasbourg on the Rhine River has been further reduced. Americans of the Seventh Army are subjecting the German pocket here to heavy pressure.

RUSSIA:

Strong German and Russian armored forces are battling it out on the Danube plain between Budapest and Bratislava. The Russians yesterday drove to within 6 miles of the Big Communications Center of Komaron. The German Overseas News Agency said today that in an 18 hour battle in the Hungarian capital the Germans had been forced to drop back to their second defense line. The Germans say that the Russians are attacking day and night with artillery, tanks, mortars and flamethrowers. The Russians claim that they stormed 100 city blocks yesterday.

ITALY:

Deep snow has hampered military operations in Italy. The Germans have heavily shelled the town of St Alberto on the Eighth Army front.

PACIFIC:

American super fortresses flying from the Marianas Islands today bombed the main Japanese island of Honshu. The Japs say that a substantial force of the giant bombers attacked the Tokio area. About the same time another force of super forts flying from China attacked the big island of Formosa. Carrier based planes of the Third American Fleet today heavily attacked the island of Formosa and the Ryukyu Islands north of Formosa. Tokyo Radio says about 450 American planes took part in these attacks.

The Jap Radio for the third day today of the impending invasion of Luzon Island through Lingayen Gulf. The Japs said another Allied invasion fleet of some 150 ships had appeared off Lingayen Gulf and said another fleet of 100 ships had been sighted moving westward in the Sulu Sea. Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur have conferred in the Philippines. American heavy, medium and light bombers yesterday gave the island of Luzon its heaviest pounding of the war paying particular attention to airfields.

British 14th Army troops in central Burma have taken Shwebo, only 50 miles from Mandalay.