RUSSIA:

The massive Soviet winter offensive is a week old today and Marshal Stalin has announced that a fourth Russian army has joined in the great westward sweep towards Germany. A week ago today Marshal Koniev's army in southern Poland jumped off from its bridgehead across the Vistula River in southern Poland. On Sunday the armies of Marshal Zhukov and Marshal Rokossovsky joined the great offensive. And on Monday General Ivan Petrov's Fourth Ukrainian army launched its offensive. This new Russian offensive launched in the Carpathian foothills in southern Poland has gone for 50 miles on a 40-mile front.

The First Ukrainian army under Marshal Koniev has gained quickly forward towards German Silesia. Koniev's men made big gains again yesterday in a northwest direction where the Reds captured the town of Piotrkow. At the tip of his great salient Koniev's spearheads have not been officially reported beyond the city of Cieszynowa but unconfirmed reports say that fighting is going on at the borders of German Silesia. The Germans claim that they have called out the Silesia Home Guard. On Marshal Koniev's left wing Russian forces are officially reported to be engaged in fighting in the outskirts of Chadow. The Germans realize that Koniev's importance to their defense plans for southern Poland and Czechoslovakia, have brought up reserves to fight for the city. Koniev's right wing was reported less than 20 miles from Lodz, the second city of Poland and Poland's largest industrial city. It was reported earlier this evening that bitter street fighting was now going on in Lodz. At one point Koniev's men were only 100 miles from the big German city of Breslau.

The Second White Russian army under Marshal Zhukov has maintained its rapid advance through central Poland. Zhukov's vanguards were reported closing in on Lodz from the east and northwest. West of Warsaw, Zhukov's forces were last reported cutting a wide swath through German positions on the main road and rail line to Berlin. Zhukov's spearheads were said to be 60 miles due west of Warsaw and going hard. In northern Poland, Marshal Rokossovsky's men are meeting tough German resistance but they have gained steadily. At one point the "Rock's" men are within sight of the southern border of East Prussia. The Germans attempted to make a stand at the fortress town of Lwolin but the Russians burst through them and were last reported beyond this town. One prism of Rokossovsky's attack is heading down the Vistula-Danzig railroad.

Russian bombers have been flying a big role in the Russian offensive. Red Air Force heavies have founded Lodz and the German city of Breslau. Leaders of the Polish committee from Lublin arrived in Warsaw yesterday.

Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's troops fighting in Buda-Pest have all but cleared the Germans from the whole of the city. In yesterday's fighting the Russians took 20,000 prisoners and cleared the whole eastern half of the city. There are still some Germans left in the western part of the city. The Russians have already taken 60,000 prisoners in the Hungarian capital.

Pacific:

American super forts from the main land today bombarded central Japan. American forces on Luzon were last reported 37 miles inland. The Yanks are converging on the town of Tiaog. In central Burma, the British 36th Division has advanced 50 miles towards Mandalay.
BELGIUM:
British Second Army troops are pushing northwards from Sittard to Roermond along the eastern bank of the Maas River in Holland. Northeast of Sittard the British have driven four miles to take a small town. American heavy artillery is supporting the British advance.

In the Ardennes American First Army forces are engaged in bitter fighting in a snowstorm 7 miles north of St. Vith. Third Army forces have made some gains along the lateral road between Huy and St. Vith. In Luxembourg, Yanks of the Third Army have crossed the Saar River and street fighting is going on in the town of Diekirch. In Alsace, American Seventh Army troops are locked in See San fighting in the German bridgehead north of Strasbourg. German pressure north of the Hague-Nau Forest has eased off.

For bombers attacked targets in Western Germany last night without loss. Yank heavies yesterday bombed the rail yards at Karlsruhe.

ITALY:
Activity in Italy has again been confined to patrolling. Allied heavy bombers from Italy have been reported over Austria today.

FOUND:
One Colt .45 pistol with holster and pistol belt in officer's latrine. Owner may pick up same by calling at 83rd Div. Headquarters Commandant's Office.

GILBERT

BY N.S. FIREFLIES

HE WANTS TO SEND IN A SHELL REP - WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THAT!