Belgium:

The German radio today reported that troops of the United States Ninth Army had launched a big scale attack on a 30 mile front across the Roer River between Duren and Roermond and that the Americans had secured several small bridgeheads between Duren and Elnach. The Germans claim that the Americans have pushed on beyond the Roer and that one corps has reached the banks of the river. They also say that the American attack was backed up with "the usual great artillery and air support." Heavy fighting is said to be going on.

American and British bombers representing seven bomber commands teamed up yesterday to deal the most devastating assault of the war on German communications in Central and Western Germany as well as in Holland, Denmark and Austria. Hell over 6000 planes took part in the smashing attacks and 32 German rail centers were pounded. RAF Mosquitoes kept the round-the-clock attacks moving last night when they bombarded Berlin for the third night running. American planes took up the offensive again today when 1250 heavy bombers flew deep into Central Germany to blast rail targets from Lippstadt to South of Huenberg in Bavaria.

American Third Army troops have linked up their two bridgeheads across the Saar River to the South of Saarburg and now have considerable forces across the river. General Patton's men have established a new bridgehead across the Saar about 2 1/2 miles north of Saarburg and at one point are within 4 miles of Triers. Third Army troops have made gains at several points along a 50 mile front and now hold a 25 mile stretch of the river Saar across the river from the new bridgeheads. The Yanks are running into stiff opposition. The Americans have increased their strength between Pfalz and Eichborn.

American Seventh Army forces now hold 2/3 of the town of Forbach and have cut the main rail line between Forbach and Saarbrucken. The Yanks have taken high ground overlooking Saarbrucken.

Troops of the Canadian First Army have taken the towns of Mould and have pushed beyond it. Canadian troops were last reported within a mile of Holland.

Russia:

Moscow radio reported this afternoon that Marshall Konev's First Ukrainian Army troops were engaged in bitter fighting to cross the Neisse River in Eastern Saxony. Russian artillery and planes of Soviet forces are smashing the German defenses on the far side of the river. The Russians claimed last night that Konev's men had reached the Neisse River on a 25 mile front between Guben and Forest and that engineers were preparing to bridge it. Moscow says Konev's troops are within 2 miles of Guben, 4 of Forest and 12 of Gottaub. The Germans said today that the Russians were attacking Guben and Forest and that the holes were making night air attacks to cross the Neisse. Konev's troops driving through Brandenburg took another 100 planes in yesterday's fighting.

Today is the 27th anniversary of the Red Army. In an order of the day marking the occasion, Marshall Stalin said that in the first 40 days of the Great Russian Winter Offensive, 1,150,000 Germans had been killed or taken prisoner, 4,500 tanks and self-propelled guns had been destroyed or captured and 12,000 guns and 3,000 planes had been destroyed or taken.

Italy:

Allied bombers from Italy joined in on the combined attacks on Germany yesterday and more than 600 sorties were flown. It was the highest number of sorties flown by Mediterranean aircraft so far this year.

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PACIFIC:

American marines on the island of Iwo Jima have resumed their drive towards the central airstrip on the island after smashing two bitter Jap counterattacks yesterday. On the southern part of the island the marines have planted their flag on the top of Mt. Suribachi. Since they landed on the island the marines have suffered just under 200 casualties.

American artillery today opened a terrific bombardment of the old walled city in Manila where a Jap garrison is holding out. The American guns are blasting the walls from point blank range.

Troops of the American Eighth Army have landed on the small Philippine Island of Capul, off the southern tip of Luzon.