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GERMANY:

AMERICAN FIRST AND NINTH ARMY TROOPS SPEARHEADED BY TANKS HAVE FANNED OUT ONTO THE PLAIN OF COLOGNE AND HAVE CONTINUED THEIR GOOD ADVANCES. NINTH ARMY TANKS AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE 35 MILE FRONT WERE LAST REPORTED WITHIN 5 MILES OF THE BIG TOWN OF MUNCHEN GLADBACH. TANK SPEARHEADS OF THE NINTH ARMY HAVE DRIVEN 6 MILES SINCE THIS MORNING AND HAVE NOT RUN INTO ANY SERIOUS GERMAN OPPOSITION. THE TOWN OF ERKELENZ WAS TAKEN IN YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING. OTHER NINTH ARMY TROOPS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN A VILLAGE 2 MILES FROM THE RHFT CANAL AND ARE REPORTED TO BE FIGHTING IN ELSDOFF. TROOPS OF THE AMERICAN FIRST ARMY ARE FANNING OUT NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE MOTOR ROAD TO COLOGNE AND THE AMERICANS HAVE DRIVEN ON ANOTHER 4 MILES. CORRESPONDENTS SAY THAT FIRST ARMY TROOPS ARE JUST UNDER 10 MILES FROM COLOGNE. GERMAN RESISTANCE TO BOTH THE FIRST AND NINTH ARMIES IS COMING MAINLY FROM SCATTERED BATTLE GROUPS. SINCE THE NEW OFFENSIVE WAS STARTED ACROSS THE ROER, TROOPS OF BOTH AMERICAN ARMIES HAVE TAKEN OVER 6000 PRISONERS.

AMERICAN THIRD ARMY TROOPS HAVE CROSSED THE RIVER NIMS IN GERMANY AND WERE LAST REPORTED WITHIN A MILE OF BITBURG. GENERAL PATTON'S FORCES HAVE CLOSED UP TO THE RIVER PRUM ON A 35 MILE STRETCH AND HAVE PUSHED AHEAD IN THE SAARBURG AREA.

THE CANADIAN FIRST ARMY GAINED UP TO 5 MILES IN ITS NEW ATTACK YESTERDAY AND SWEEPED THROUGH THE TOWN OF UDEM AND IS NOW FIGHTING AT THE APPROACHES TO THE LAST SIEGFRIED DEFENSES BETWEEN THE MAAS AND THE RHINE. OVER 2000 GERMAN PRISONERS WERE TAKEN ON THIS SECTOR YESTERDAY.

DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ALLIED BOMBERS HAVE KEPT UP THEIR DAY AND NIGHT BOMBING OF THE REICH. TODAY A FORCE OF 1100 AMERICAN HEAVIES PLASTERED TARGETS IN THE LEIPSIG AREA AND IN SOUTHERN GERMANY. RAF MOSQUITOS HAMMERED BERLIN FOR THE SEVENTH NIGHT RUNNING LAST NIGHT. THEY FOUND FIRES STILL BURNING IN THE CITY FROM THE GREAT AMERICAN DAYLIGHT ATTACK ON THE GERMAN CAPITOL. THE FAST BOMBERS ALSO ATTACKED NURNBERG IN BAVARIA DURING THE NIGHT. IN THE RECORD ATTACK ON BERLIN YESTERDAY OVER 1200 YANK HEAVIES UNLOADED 3000 TONS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVE AND INCENDIARY BOMBS ON THREE MAIN RAILWAY STATIONS.

RUSSIA:

THE GERMAN RADIO TODAY REPORTED A FLAREUP IN THE FIGHTING ALONG THE LOWER ODER EAST OF BERLIN. THE GERMANS ALSO CLAIM THAT MARSHALL KONEV'S TROOPS HAVE FORCED 2 BRIDGEHEADS OVER THE NEISSE RIVER NEAR THE CITY OF FORST AND SAY A GREAT TANK BATTLE IS BEING FOUGHT BETWEEN BRESLAU AND DRESDEN.

THERE IS VERY HEAVY FIGHTING GOING ON AT BOTH SIDES OF KOENIGSBERG. IN THE PENINSULA NORTHWEST OF KOENIGSBERG THE REDS HAVE BEATEN OFF MORE GERMAN ATTACKS. SOUTHWEST OF THE EAST PRUSSIAN CAPITOL THE SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN SEVERAL MORE PLACES. IN BRESLAU THE RUSSIANS TOOK 15 CITY BLOCKS YESTERDAY.

PACIFIC:

BRITISH TROOPS OF THE 14TH ARMY HAVE ESTABLISHED A NEW BRIDGEHEAD OVER THE IRRAWADDY RIVER AT PAGAN, 92 MILES SOUTHWEST OF MANDALAY. THE NEW BRIDGEHEAD IS 4 MILES DEEP AND 2½ MILES WIDE. FIERCE JAP COUNTERATTACKS HAVE BEEN SMASHED WITH HIGH LOSSES INFLICTED ON THE YELLOW MEN.

AMERICAN MARINES ON IWO JIMA HAVE TAKEN MOST OF THE CENTRAL AIRFIELD BUT ARE MEETING HEAVY JAP MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE. AMERICAN TROOPS HAVE LANDED ON VERDE ISLAND BETWEEN LUZON AND MINDORO. GENERAL MACARTHUR HAS TURNED OVER THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO PRESIDENT OSMENA.

ENGLAND:

MR CHURCHILL HAS OPENED A THREE DAY DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE CRIMEAN CONFERENCE.