GERMANY:

General George Patton's American Third Army has joined the eastward surge through western Germany towards the Rhine River. Tanks and motorized infantry of the Fourth Armored Division have swept forward to within 14 miles of the River and were last reported 20 miles from where the Moselle River joins the Rhine at Coblenz. The swift dash began two mornings ago when the Fifth Infantry Division established a bridgehead over the river Kyll. The Fourth Armored then passed through the infantry holding the bridgehead and dashed 18 miles on the first day. The tanks drove another 9 miles yesterday and 5 last night to take them within 14 miles of the Rhine. Today's progress is not known yet. The quick stab through the enemy lines threw the Germans in confusion and one armored column swung away from the main group and used back roads further confusing the Germans. The Yanks did not run into stiff resistance until they reached the town of Schoenbach. The infantry is now consolidating behind the tanks, big demolition and supply dumps were overrun and over 1500 prisoners including a corps commander were taken.

American First Army Troops have completed the capture of the great city of Cologne and they have reached the Rhine. The Yanks met little resistance inside the city. Allied troops now line the west bank of the Rhine nearly all the way from Cologne to the German bridgehead around Wesel in the north. First Army Yanks are reported to have seized an airfield on the outskirts of Bonn, below Cologne. The Americans have driven into the salient between Bonn and Cologne.

The German bridgehead covering the Rhine crossings at Wesel has been cut to a notch. Artillery is pounding the German paratroopers who are fighting rear guard actions on the west bank of the Rhine. American Ninth Army troops at the southern end of the pocket have all but cleared Rhede and got to within 6 miles of Wesel. Infantrymen of the American Ninth Army say that they saw white flags waving in Duisberg today. Duisberg is on the eastern side of the Rhine.

Raf heavies twice attacked Wesel last night and raf mosquitos attacked the town off and on for 7 hours during the night.

Today more than 900 American heavy bombers from Britain hit 3 benzol plants and an oil refinery in the Dortmund area and also raf targets in the Ruhr. Last night a strong force of raf lancasters unloaded 12,000 pound bombs on shipping anchored off the Baltic Island of Hagen. Hagen is a terminal point for the evacuation and supply of east Russia. Raf mosquitos dropped 4000 pound bombs on Berlin during the night for the 15th night running.

RUSSIA:

The German high command announced today that Marshall Zhukov's forces were attacking Kustrin on the east bank of the Oder opposite Berlin. The Germans say that the Russians have increased their pressure along the lower Oder and say their artillery is pounding Kustrin. The Germans claim that the Soviets want a jumping off place for the new offensive towards Berlin and add that Zhukov's supply and communication lines are ready for the new drive to the west. Moscow has not confirmed these German reports.

The Russians on Zhukov's right flank have made more big gains in western Poland and have taken a town a few miles from the Baltic. Commanding an outlet of the great lagoon between Stettin and the Sea, the Reds are flooding out along the Eastern side of the Oder estuary as they close on Stettin. Marshall Rokossovsky's forces have taken the fortress town of Grudziadz, 60 miles south of Danzig.

ITALY:

American troops of the Fifth Army have driven 5 miles forward to the southwest of Bologna. The new American 10th Mountain Division distinguished itself in the new drive. This is the first sizeable gain on the Fifth Army sector in several months. The Americans took 1200 prisoners in their drive.

TURN PAGE
ARMORED SPEARHEADS OF THE 19TH INDIAN DIVISION HAVE DASHED TO LITTLE MORE THAN 4 MILES NORTH OF MANDALAY. BRITISH AUTHORITIES SAY THAT THE BATTLE FOR MANDALAY WILL NOT BE AS IMPORTANT AS THE BATTLE FOR THE MANDALAY AREA. THE BATTLE FOR THE AREA AROUND MANDALAY MAY WELL DECIDE THE FATE OF THE JAP ARMY CUT IN HALF BELOW MANDALAY AND IT MAY DECIDE THE FATE OF ALL BURMA. CHINESE FIRST ARMY TROOPS HAVE TAKEN AN AIRFIELD ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LASHIO.

ON IWO JIMA, AMERICAN MARINES HAVE RESUMED THEIR DRIVE AGAINST THE JAPS HOLDING OUT AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE ISLAND. THE NEW ATTACK WAS PRECEDED BY THE HEAVIEST ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT OF THE WHOLE OFFENSIVE.

GILBERT
BY SGT. N.S. FISTFIRE

HE DOESN'T THINK MUCH OF THE RHINE - NO TROUT.