GERMANY:

TROOPS OF THE AMERICAN NINTH, THE BRITISH SECOND AND CANADIAN FIRST ARMIES HAVE CROSSED THE LOWER RHINE RIVER IN A MAJOR OFFENSIVE. THE CROSSINGS WERE MADE DURING THE NIGHT AND EARLY THIS MORNING AND WERE PRECEDED BY A TERRIBLE ARTILLERY BARRAGE THAT SAW AMERICAN AND BRITISH CANNON FIRING FOR THREE HOURS WITHOUT A PAUSE. AFTER DAWN, UNITS OF THE FIRST ALLIED AIRBORNE ARMIES, INCLUDING THE SIXTH BRITISH AIRBORNE DIVISION AND THE AMERICAN 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, DROPPED JUST BEHIND THE GERMAN FORCES ON THE EAST BANK. THOSE TROOPS WHO CROSSED THE RIVER IN ASSAULT CRAFT MET LIGHT OPPOSITION ON THE OTHER SIDE AND SOME UNITS WERE LAST REPORTED TO HAVE DRIVEN 2 MILES BEYOND THE FAR BANK.

AT SIX O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT, THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH ARTILLERY FOURED A HAIL OF STEEL ACROSS THE RIVER FOR THREE HOURS WITHOUT LETUP. AT NINE O'CLOCK, BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON, UNITS OF THE ROYAL NAVY WERE LOADED WITH TROOPS OF THE 51ST HIGHLAND DIVISION AND THESE TROOPS WERE CARRIED ACROSS THE RHINE ABOUT 12 MILES BELOW WESSEL.

AT TEN O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT, THE UNITED KINGDOM FORCES WENT INTO ACTION. HUNDREDS OF NAVAL CRAFT OPERATED BY PERSONNEL OF THE ROYAL NAVY WERE LOADED WITH TROOPS OF THE 51ST HIGHLAND DIVISION AND THESE TROOPS WERE CARRIED ACROSS THE RIVER ABOUT 12 MILES BELOW WESSEL.


GERMAN RESISTANCE ON THE EAST OF THE RHINE RIVER IS REPORTED TO BE "LIGHT" BUT THE ALLIED TROOPS HAVE NOT YET RUN INTO THE GERMAN RESERVES.

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THE ALL-OUT ALLIED AERIAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE REICH WENT ON AGAIN TODAY. MORE THAN 1000 AMERICAN HEAVIES BLASTED 12 MORE GIANT AIRFIELDS ABOUT 100 MILES BEHIND THE FRONT LINES EAST OF THE VIENNA RIVER. A FORCE OF 850 FIGHTERS ESCORTED THE BOMBERS AND THEY WENT ON ARMED PATROLS OVER NORTHEAST GERMANY. ALLIED AIRCRAFT PLANES WERE OUT IN GREAT STRENGTH AGAIN TODAY, HAMMERING AT TARGETS IN THE RUHR AND IN NORTHERN GERMANY. WATCHERS ON THE ENGLISH COAST SAID THAT THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH GREAT CONCENTRATIONS OF AIRCRAFT HEADED FOR GERMANY AS THEY HAVE SEEN TODAY.

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TODAY MARKED THE FOURTH DAY OF MASSIVE ALLIED AIR BLOWS AGAINST THE REICH. ALLIED AIRMEN HAVE PARALYZED COMMUNICATIONS IN THE RUHR VALLEY AND IN NORTH AND CENTRAL GERMANY AND HAVE CREATED UTTER DEVASTATION WHERE KESSELRING IS TRYING TO ASSEMBLE HIS FORCES TO TRY AND STOP MONTGOMERY.

AMERICAN HEAVY BOMBERS FROM ITALY TODAY FLEW ALL THE WAY TO BERLIN TO POUND THAT CITY FOR THE FIRST TIME. THIS WAS THE LONGEST ESCORTED MISSION EVER FLOWN BY AMERICAN BOMBERS OF THE 15TH AIR FORCE. ALLIED PLANES FLEW SOME 2700 SORTIES YESTERDAY. MORE THAN 1000 MEDIUM BOMBERS ALONE YESTERDAY ATTACKED COMMUNICATIONS IN AUSTRIA AND NORTHERN ITALY.

RUSSIA:

MARSHALL KONEV'S MEN IN UPPER SILESIA HAVE BROADER THEIR SOUTHWARD DRIVE AND ARE DRIVING TO SUST THROUGH THE SUDETEN GAP GUARDING THE APPROACHES TO PRAGUE. KONEV'S MEN HAVE TAKEN MORE PLACES ON AND NEAR THE CZECHOSLOVAK FRONTIER AND HAVE CUTO THE MAIN GERMAN SUPPLY ROUTE TO THE MORAVIAN GAP AND NOW THREATEN THIS HISTORIC PASS THAT LEADS THROUGH CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO VIENNA. THE GERMANS SAY THAT KONEV'S TANKS ARE FIGHTING IN THE TOWN OF NELISE.

MARSHALL ROSSOVOVSKY'S FORCES HAVE DRIVEN TO THE BALTIC BETWEEN DANZIG AND GDYNIA AND HAVE TAKEN THE PORT OF Gdynia. THIS DRIVE HAS SPLIT THE GERMAN POCKET IN TWO. THE GERMANS SAY THAT MARSHALL ROSSOVOVSKY'S FIRST WHITE RUSSIAN ARMY GROUP IS 7 MILES PAST THE ODER DUE EAST OF BERLIN AND ONLY 33 MILES FROM THE GERMAN CAPITAL.

PACIFIC:

BRITISH 14TH ARMY TROOPS HAVE ADVANCED FAR SOUTH OF MANDALAY TO WITHIN 18 MILES OF PEKTILA. THE JAPS ON THE MANDALAY PLAIN IN BETWEEN THE BRITISH FORCES HAVE LOST THE IRRAWADDY RIVER TOWN OF MYINGAN.

SEVEN HUNDRED (700) JAPANESE AIRCRAFT WERE DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN THIS WEEK’S CARRIER BORNE ATTACKS ON JAPAN. THE AMERICAN ESCORT CARRIER, "BISMARCK SEA", WAS LOST OFF IWO JIMA LAST MONTH. TOKIO RADIO SAID TODAY THAT AMERICAN CARRIER PLANES WERE ATTACKING THE RYUKU CHAIN OF ISLANDS SOUTH OF JAPAN.

AMERICAN TROOPS HAVE ADVANCED AGAIN INTO NORTHERN LUZON AFTER CRUSHING 4 JAP COUNTERATTACKS.