GERMANY:

The American Ninth, First and Third Armies have continued their sweeping gains into the heart of the Reich. A partial security blackout covers late movements of the Ninth but correspondents say that General Simpson's troops are at one point less than 100 miles from Berlin. The Fifth Armored Division has crossed the Oder River north of Brunswik and the Second Armored has crossed the Oker south of Brunswik. The assault on the city has already started. The big city of Hannover has fallen to Ninth Army troops while above Hannover British troops were last reported 4 miles from the eastern outskirts of the big port of Bremen. British airborne troops are astride the Hannover-Hamburg super highway. In the Netherlands, United Kingdom troops have started a new attack along the line of the Issel River and Canadian troops have cleared Deventer. Canadian armor was last reported within 20 miles of Emden. In the Ruhr pocket the 17th Airborne Division has taken the big city of Essen. American First Army troops have taken the town of Siegburg and the Germans say that they have broken into Bochum. A tank column of the American First Army has taken the big town of Nordhausen, 50 from the Elbe River and 60 from Leipzig. German resistance in this area is said to be negligible.

General Patton's Third Army tank columns have taken Coburg and are putting a ring around Erfurt and are within 50 miles of the Czech border. American fighter bombers working ahead of the Third Army have bombed targets in Czechoslovakia for the first time. American Seventh Army troops have almost surrounded Schweinfurt.

Today more than 1300 American heavies plastered rail yards between Nurnberg and Munich. During the night 800 RAF heavy bombers attacked the rail yards at Leipzig and also bomb Nordhausen. In daylight yesterday, RAF heavies pounded the rail yards at Leipzig while over 1300 Yank heavies ripped jet plane airfields in the Berlin area. The bombers and their escort of 850 fighters destroyed 322 German planes in the air and on the ground. American losses were 25 bombers and 8 fighters.

RUSSIA:

In the 4 day battle for Koenigsberg the Red Army took 92,000 prisoners and killed 42,000 Germans. The Germans still hold some ground in East Prussia around the port of Pillau. Marshall Tolbukhin's troops now hold most of the city of Vienna and the German escape route north of Vienna has been cut to 6 miles wide.

ITALY:

The British Eighth Army has crossed the Senio River on the Adriatic side of Italy. The British are across the river in great strength and are moving towards the next River line below Bologna. The actual crossing of the Senio was preceded by a 4 hour artillery barrage while planes and flamethrowers destroyed the defenses on the far bank of the river.

PACIFIC:

American troops have landed on the chief island of the Sulu Archipelago between the Philippines and Borneo. American infantrymen have taken an island 10 miles east of Okinawa Island in the Ryukyu Group. There is hard fighting going on at the southern end of Okinawa.