PACIFIC:

The greatest air fleet of Super Fortresses ever sent against Japan, totaling 550 and 600, last night poured more than 4,000 tons of fire bombs on four of Japan's ports in the biggest fire raid carried out yet. The giant bombers attacked Kumaotu on Kyushu Island and the port of Kure, biggest naval base on the Inland Sea plus Ube and Shimokami all on Honshu Island. This was the first attack on all four ports by American bombers. Mitchell bombers (B-25's) from Okinawa yesterday bombed a Jap suicide plane field on Kyushu. Mustang fighters from Iwo Jima went for two other Japanese airfields. Other American bombers have sunk or damaged 18 Japanese ships in waters off Japan and China.

The veteran Australian Seventh Division has established a firm beachhead on the southeastern Borneo coast at the oil center of Balik Papan. The Australians went ashore with a contingent of troops from the Netherlands East Indies and within a few hours they had secured all their first objectives. Over 200 ships took part in the invasion and warships shelled Jap shore batteries before the landing. Opposition was light on the beaches but stiffened inland. Patrols reported that the Japs were pulling out of the town of Balik Papan. In this, the third major Australian landing in Borneo, General MacArthur went ashore with one of the first waves. He said that "the landing at Balik Papan has driven a wedge into the Japanese held East Indies." The whole of Java is now within reach of Allied land planes.

In Burma British troops have cleared two more villages northeast of Pegu. Heavy monsoon rains have continued in Burma and they are seriously hampering operations. Mosquitos and Spitfires have kept up their attacks on Jap supply roads leading back to Siam. British Sunderland flying boats have been bombing Jap shipping in the Gulf of Siam. In south China, Chinese troops are closing in on the big base of Kwai-Lin. Chinese troops have now crossed the frontier of French Indo-China at several places.

EUROPE:

An advance party of British officers and interpreters are passing through the Russian lines on their way to Berlin where they will get things ready for the main British occupying force. These men were due to arrive in Berlin last night.

King Leopold has been holding final talks in Salzburg, Austria, as to whether or not he will abdicate. He has been advised not to go back to Belgium.

Field Marshall Kitzel, who signed the surrender agreements for Germany at both Reims and Berlin, has commited suicide.

In India, Lord Wavell, Viceroy of India has asked Indian groups to submit nominations for the proposed executive council by next Friday. Mr. Nehru who is in Simla for talks with other Congress Party leaders has made it clear that no permanent solution of the Indian problem could come out of the Simla Conference.

The Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. T. V. Soong, held a conference with Marshall Stalin in Moscow two days ago. The results of the talk are not yet known.

The Polish-Czech talks in Moscow over the Teschen territorial question have been suspended indefinitely.