NORMANDY -- Supreme Allied Headquarters spokesman said
Wednesday that United States troops are fighting in the streets of
La Haye du Puits at the Western base of the Cherbourg Peninsula.
The Americans advanced along the entire La Haye du Puits front for
more than two miles (three kilometers). He also said 56 French
towns have been liberated since the Allies breached the Atlantic
Wall. There were no other new developments in the Normandy fight-
ing.

Supreme Headquarters announced that General Eisenhower
returned to his headquarters in England Wednesday after a five day
tour of the Normandy battlefronts.

BOMBING -- Completion of the first triangular England-
Russia-Italy bombing flights by United States Flying Fortresses
also was announced. The planes attacked railroad yards in France
and Italy on their return flight to England Wednesday. The
total three way trip was 7,000 miles (11,200 kilometers).

The British Air Ministry disclosed that RAF Mosquito
bombers, carrying mines for the first time, had blocked traffic
on Germany's vital Kiel Canal for ten days, less than a month
before the landings in France.

The undertaking was called as remarkable as the
breaching of the Noehn and Eder Dams in Ruhr area in May 1943.
United States heavy bombers attacked the German-held
Mediterranean base at Toulon Wednesday. Details were not disclosed.

RUSSIA -- Marshal Stalin, in an order of the day,
announced that Soviet forces have captured the four-way railway
junction of Molodechno, fifty miles (eighty kilometers) northwest
of liberated Minsk. His order said capture of the city was "a
result of a swift attack by tank formations, cavalry and infantry."
He described the city as "an important strong point on the German
defense line guarding the way to Vilna and Riga."

Molodechno is an important junction of the Gomel-Minsk
-Vilna railway with a line running southwest from Polotsk through
Lida and Mosty. It is sixty-five miles (105 kilometers) southeast
of Vilna.

Wednesday's late Soviet communique says Soviet troops
east of Minsk are now liquidating the remnants of surrounded units
of the twelfth and twenty seventh German armies, and the thirty-
ninth tank corps.

CHINA -- In China, the United States Fourteenth Air
Force strafed and bombed enemy concentrations, bridges, supply
compounds, railyards, and road transport along the Canton-Hankow
railway.

WASHINGTON -- Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal said
that between one-third and one-half of Japan's pre-war shipping
tonnage has been sunk. He said Japan had about seven million tons
before the war.

Forrestal described shipping as Japan's "jugular vein".
He said 740 Japanese merchant vessels have been sunk since the
start of the war.

(over)
DE GAULLE -- General De Gaulle's arrival in Washington is expected momentarily. A dispatch from Algiers said he left there by plane for the United States early Wednesday. At his press conference Wednesday, Secretary of State Hull said American discussions with De Gaulle would be general, and that no particular subject would be emphasized.

SECRETARY HULL -- Secretary Hull said conversations were going on between all Departments of the United States Government on matters such as whether contracts would be terminated in Buenos Aires where three officers of the United States Army Air Force are instructing Argentinians. Asked whether the report of Norman Armour, United States Ambassador to Argentina, would be circulated among other nations, he replied: "We never have anything to conceal from other nations when it is of interest to them."

Secretary Hull described the return to the United States of Laurence Steinhardt, United States Ambassador to Turkey, as one of Steinhardt's periodic trips, with nothing unusual about it. Asked if United States Lend-Lease to Latin America is tapering off, he replied that Lend-Lease there is only military, not civilian, and that future amounts will be determined by our military authorities.

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