

1 fr.

CONTINENTAL EDITION

THE STARS AND STRIPES

1 fr.

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Vol. 1 No 21

Printed "Somewhere in France"

Thursday, July 27, 1944

U.S. THRUST ENGULFS MARIGNY, ST. GILLES

On Other Fronts

U.S. Airmen Fighting On Soviet Front

American P51 Mustangs and P38 Lightnings, flying from recently constructed U. S. bases in Russia, carried out offensive sweeps supporting the advancing Soviet armies in the Lwow region. Tuesday, Eastern Command, U. S. Strategic Air Force announced yesterday it was the first report of action on the Eastern front by U. S. planes. All of the planes returned safely after destroying 38 enemy aircraft. Targets included a German airfield 150 miles northwest of encircled Lwow, and highway communications.

Meanwhile fresh Soviet successes were reported yesterday on the north, south and central fronts. Narva, on the Gulf of Finland, was captured; the Reds were carrying out a battle of annihilation in encircled Lwow, and Berlin acknowledged that Russians rolling westward over the Polish plains had reached the Vistula River, last big water barrier before Warsaw.

A great pincer squeeze on the Polish Capital was shaping rapidly as preliminaries for river crossings to flank it on the south were begun, and Soviet armor and motorized infantry, geared for a frontal assault, raced west from the Siedlice area against what Moscow termed feeble rearguard resistance.

Yank Troops Advance On Guam, Tinian

After five days of hard fighting, Marines and Army troops on Guam have joined beachheads and started grinding down Japs trapped on the Orte Peninsula. An airfield, a naval base and Agaña, the capital, were American objectives.

On Tinian, 125 miles north, warship and plane bombardments split the enemy forces in two and U. S. troops now hold part of an airstrip.

At least 2,590 Guam Japs have been killed against 443 American dead, while in two days of fighting on Tinian American casualties are 15 dead and 225 wounded against 1,324 Japs known dead.

Japanese radio broadcast yesterday a report that powerful Allied naval forces operating 3,000 miles apart had assaulted Palau in the Western Pacific and Sabang in the Dutch East Indies, the former on an unspecified date and the latter on Tuesday. No mention of either attack has been made in Navy Department communiques.

British Units 8 Miles From Florence

The British Eighth Army in Italy advanced three miles yesterday on a broad front below Florence and sent armored spearheads to within eight miles of the city, while Americans to the west deployed along the Arno River for a climactic assault through Pisa.

German paratroops facing New Zealanders in the sector southeast of Florence were resisting savagely for every foot of ground.

Action yesterday on the main Fifth Army front before Pisa was confined chiefly to artillery exchanges.

N. Y. Night Clubs 'Cheat Patrons

NEW YORK, July 26—Night clubs here were charged with "cheating" their customers in a report submitted to Mayor La Guardia today by the Commissioner of Investigation.

The report accused the night spots generally of "vicious violations of law and gross tax frauds." The Stork Club was described as the most flagrant violator in the report which charged that it was collecting customers' taxes on drinks figured to the nearest nickel and paying city and state taxes computed to the nearest half cent.

These conditions were typical of the entire industry, the report claimed.

U. S. INCREASING PARATROOP UNITS

WASHINGTON, July 26—Because of their success in the Normandy campaign, the number of airborne divisions and paratroop outfits will be increased immediately and play a bigger role in the Pacific and Far Eastern drives.

This was disclosed today by War Department sources, which said the number of units to be activated depend upon the number of volunteers.

They also said the War Department henceforth would refer to airborne units as "the third flank" or "vertical flank" in recognition of their tactical job in invasions. The infantry always has been referred to as "two flanks—left and right" so the paratroops being dropped directly from above will be termed the "third flank."

Paratroops just returned from Normandy, it was reported, said that casualties were far lower than had been expected. Many of them said that they were taken prisoner by the Germans, sent to the Cherbourg peninsula and were later freed by Americans.

War Department sources said the paratroops would be used often and in greater numbers in assaults on Pacific islands. They added that the Army was making every effort to get personnel to volunteer and transfer to the paratroops or airborne units, but the rigid physical examination had proven a stumbling block.

NAVY DROPS DAUNTLESS

EL SEGUNDO, Cal., July 26—The navy has ordered discontinuance of the Douglas Dauntless bomber because of its preference for the Hell Diver, a speedier and more powerful plane. Nearly 6,000 of the Dauntless bombers have been built.

Berlin Calls Hitler Attack British Plot

The attempt on the life of Adolf Hitler was plotted by the British, not by German military leaders convinced the war was lost, Propaganda Minister Goebbels declared in a radio broadcast last night, reversing the original Berlin account of the attack.

Goebbels said the bomb had been found to be of British make and the chief conspirator, Count von Stauffenberg, who later was executed, was connected with British aristocracy.

In a speech apparently designed to convince the German people that the home-front situation was under control, Goebbels gave the first official detailed account of the assassination attempt.

The bomb, deposited in an attache case, was placed by Hitler's feet at a table around which military leaders were to confer at Berntesgaden, Goebbels said. When it went off, he continued, two generals were fatally wounded, others seriously injured and the clothes torn off of many who were present, but the Führer was, by some miracle, unharmed.

Count von Stauffenberg rushed to Berlin after the bomb was planted to direct the widely prepared coup d'etat, and for a time the German War Office was in the conspirators' hand, Goebbels said. Word was spread in Berlin that Hitler had been killed, but when a telephone checkup proved this to be false, the conspirators were rounded up and the leaders summarily executed, Goebbels related.

The Propaganda Minister also said that Germany was preparing new weapons which would be used with telling effect against enemy countries, but which alone could not win the war, and appealed for all-out support of the new total war decrees.

A Stockholm dispatch, meanwhile, reported anti-Hitler demonstrations in the German cities of Karlsruhe and Mannheim. It said garrisons inside Germany had been sent to the front and replaced by storm-troopers.

SEES POST-WAR BOOM

INDIANAPOLIS, July 26—Charles Kettering, vice president of General Motors, predicted today that there would be a boom in industrial employment for the first five years after the war and that he did not anticipate another depression like that in 1929.

Trio in Observation Post Orders Fire On Its Position to Save Rifle Company

WITH THE FOURTH INF. DIV., July 25—"Give me all you've got as long and as fast as you can!"

That was the order that brought Lt. John F. Ward's Cannon Company artillery fire down upon his own position, seriously wounding him but routing the enemy and saving a rifle company from annihilation. The story of the action was finally released today.

Lt. Ward, observer in a position well forward of the front line elements, saw an entire company surrounded by infiltrating enemy troops. Realizing that the only hope of aiding the company was to direct the cannon fire on his own position, he offered the two enlisted men with him—Pfc Louis B. Greenberg, of Brooklyn, and Pvt. Glenn T. Martin, of Chatsworth, Ga.—a chance to escape. They refused.

Well aware that his action probably would cost him his life, Lt. Ward then transmitted a message to his fire direction center, calling for fire upon his own position. In the ensuing barrage, he coolly directed his gunners until he was seriously wounded by a shell from one of his own guns.

The enemy, who had been calling upon the surrounded troops to surrender or be annihilated, were forced to withdraw hastily and the company rejoined its battalion.

U.S. Rest Homes For Ground Units

WASHINGTON, July 26—The War Department announced today that the Army Ground Force and Service of Supply were establishing rest centers in some of the nation's leading resort hotels for military personnel returning from overseas.

The program, it was said, will be similar to that already effected for the Air Force. Veterans will receive "complete physical examinations" and each will be evaluated as to his "most suitable assignment."

The names of the rest centers will not be listed until leasing has been completed, but it was understood several hotels in Miami already had been "drafted."

A-A SHELLS USED IN BOOBY TRAPS

SECOND INF. DIV. HQ, July 26—German booby traps in the form of potato mashers (hand grenades) attached to 20mm anti-aircraft shells are being found in abandoned foxholes, it was reported today.

A trip wire sets off the grenade which in turn bursts the flak shell, Sgt. Francis W. King, of Arlington, Va., in charge of a demolition squad, said.

The traps have been found several times. Due to the large bursting radius of the flak shells, the traps are regarded as particularly dangerous.

DOGS HUNT MINES

WASHINGTON, July 26—The instinct which tells a dog where to look for a buried bone is being employed by the Army to locate deadly anti-personnel and booby traps left by the enemy, the War Department revealed today.

These dangerous jobs are done by what the Army calls "M-dogs," the elite of the "K-9 Corps." They lead the way around the mines and point safe routes through them to indicate areas free of them. As soon as the mines are located, they are removed or deactivated.

Repairs at Cherbourg Please Navy Official

A high naval authority declared yesterday that the German destruction of harbor installations at Cherbourg was greater than anticipated but added that salvage and repair operations were "extremely pleasing."

Because of the extensive damage, and the size of the French harbor, it presented far more difficult and lengthy reconstruction problems than Naples and other ports, damaged previously by the Nazis.

EXPLOSIVE COATS RIVER

JOLIET, Ill., July 26—The Des Plaines River is coated with a film of toluene, an explosive and inflammable hydrocarbon used in the manufacture of TNT. A broken pipeline 15 miles south of Joliet spilled 30,000 gallons into the river. Coast Guardsmen and state officials are on the watch to caution people from accidentally igniting the explosives.

U. S. PHOTOGRAPHER KILLED

Bede Irvin, 34, Associated Press photographer, was killed Tuesday in the American sector near Pont Hebert, France. He was the first American civilian war correspondent to be fatally wounded in Normandy. Irvin formerly was assigned to the AP's Detroit bureau.

Yanks Drive 4-Mi. Wedge In Nazi Lines

U. S. FIRST ARMY HQ, July 26 (Reuter)—Paced by two armored columns, American forces today broke through and turned German main and reserve defense lines on an 8,000-yard front west of Saint Lo in a daring dash deep into Axis territory.

Gen. Omar Bradley's First Army hit the heart of the Germans' Normandy line with force to score the breakthrough and engulf the highway junctions of St. Gilles and Marigny. Beating off counterattacks by some of Hitler's crack units, the Yanks hurled a steel spearhead four miles deep into German territory to seize Marigny.

(The British and Canadians yesterday consolidated gains made on Tuesday, with heavy fighting around Map-sur-Orne, Verrieres, and Tilly La Montagne. Continuing tactical air attacks in close support of ground troops, Dutch, French and RAF squadrons struck at fuel dumps near Alençon about 165 miles west and south of Paris. It was announced that in the last ten days AEF planes had attacked 35 fuel dumps behind enemy lines and between the Seine and Loire.)

The race to St. Gilles put American troops inside German lines about three miles from the positions where the offensive started yesterday. St. Gilles is about three miles west of St. Lo and from it eight miles radiate like spokes of a wheel, Marigny, about three miles further westward, is the focal point of seven highways.

Simultaneous with the breakthrough which rolled back German flanks on both sides of the American corridor, virtually the entire U. S. line blazed into action. The offensive front, after new attacks west of St. Lo to the sea and east of St. Lo, was some 40 miles wide. An average gain of about 200 yards was scored against heavy opposition, including four counterattacks by SS panzer and parachute troops in the sector southwest of Carentan. In that area, however—the confluence of the Seves and Ay rivers—an advance of about one mile was registered.

Meanwhile east of St. Lo the

Continued on Back Page

French Start Fishing Waters Off Cherbourg

French fishing boats put out from Cherbourg yesterday under U. S. Navy supervision to work free waters within the five-mile limit for the first time in more than three months.

Twelve craft of the normal fleet of 60 were gathered by Navy Civil Affairs officers during the last few weeks in time for the current mackerel season. Before sailing the crews were instructed by Capt. Norman S. Ives, USN, port commodore.

Lt. Paul Borel, USNR, of Kansas City, Mo., and Lt. (jg) Seymour St. John, USNR, of Wallingford, Conn., the Civil Affairs officers, said preparations were under way to establish the fishing trade a few days after the port fell and their main task was to locate boats seized by the Germans. One craft was located which had not been seen by its owner since the Nazis took it four years ago.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Printed for U. S. Armed forces, under auspices of the Special Service Division ETOUSA

Contents passed by the U. S. Army and Navy censors. Continental edition. Entered as second class matter Mar. 15, 1943, at the post office, New York, N. Y., under the Act of Mar. 3, 1879.

Vol. 1, No. 21, July 27, 1944

'Somewhere in France...'

In case you've wondered — as we have — just how those hedgerows which seem to line every field and road in Normandy originated, here are several theories. They come from Maj. Roy D. Craft, editor of La Tomahawk, a corps newsheet, who writes:

"One theory is that the soil is sandy and was blowing away and that the ditched walls, planted with trees and bushes, represented a sort of soil-conservation project. Another theory tries to justify the ditches on the grounds of drainage or irrigation, but our engineers say the ditches don't lead anywhere and show no signs of ever carrying water.

"Best and probably correct theory is that the ditches and walls were simply built as fences in this rich dairy country. The material was cheap. Dirt was simply thrown up into the walls, trees were planted and the ditches were simply the holes left where the dirt had been. Being tidy and methodical people, the ditches were smoothed and made uniform in the process of digging and the walls were made uniformly solid."

There they are. Take 'em or leave 'em.

Sgt. Howard R. Willson of Prosser, Wash., believes in giving the enemy a dose of its own medicine. After capturing a house, Willson and his Fourth Infantry Division squad became the object of a Nazi grenade assault. Five times the Germans hurled grenades into the house and each landed dangerously close. Willson calmly picked up each grenade and tossed it back at the enemy, inflicting many casualties. He has been awarded the Silver Star.

Troops of the Fourth Infantry Division are getting their copies of Stars and Stripes much more quickly these days, thanks to an order from its commanding general, Maj. Gen. Raymond O. Barton. Papers—both the London and Continental editions—were straggling into troop areas a day or two late, mainly because of transportation difficulties. When Gen. Barton established a new SOP for their delivery—Now the papers are picked up by a special courier and rushed to the division's forward command post, whence liaison officers make prompt delivery to their units.

Father John J. O'Brien, of Boston, Mass., a 79th Division chaplain, has no intention of making his Sunday morning services, which usually are held in a field, a target for Nazi snipers. In place of the white vestments, the chaplain has received a hand-made robe of green and olive parachute material from a French woman, who lives near Briquebec. You can't tell him from any part of the orchard now.

For courageous and fearless leadership, beyond the call of duty...

They could have added a little to that, because Lt. Carlos Ogden, of St. Louis, Mo., did just a little more.

During an attack on an important village, Ogden was leading his 79th Infantry Division company against a stubborn pillbox. Reconnaissance showed the enemy to be well entrenched. Nevertheless, Ogden took an M-1, attached a grenade launcher and, with three hand grenades ready, attacked the stronghold single-handed. Two rifle grenades and three hand grenades later the

pillbox was destroyed and Ogden signaled his men forward. When they came up to him he was bleeding from slight wounds in the head, arms and legs.

Refusing to go to the rear for medical aid, he led his company on and later, signaling over a hedgerow, he was confronted by a German officer with a pistol. Ogden, with a quick motion, snapped the pistol out of the officer's hand and, emptying his carbine, killed the officer and wounded several other Germans. Only when the battle was over would he go to a medical station.

There's nothing like music while you work. So the Special Service section of the Second Infantry Division has arranged to have the unit's orchestra play for GIs in their foxholes a short distance from the front, while artillery and small arms fire boom and crack in the background. When a battalion is pulled out for a rest, the band goes around to each company. The artillery and other units are similarly entertained.

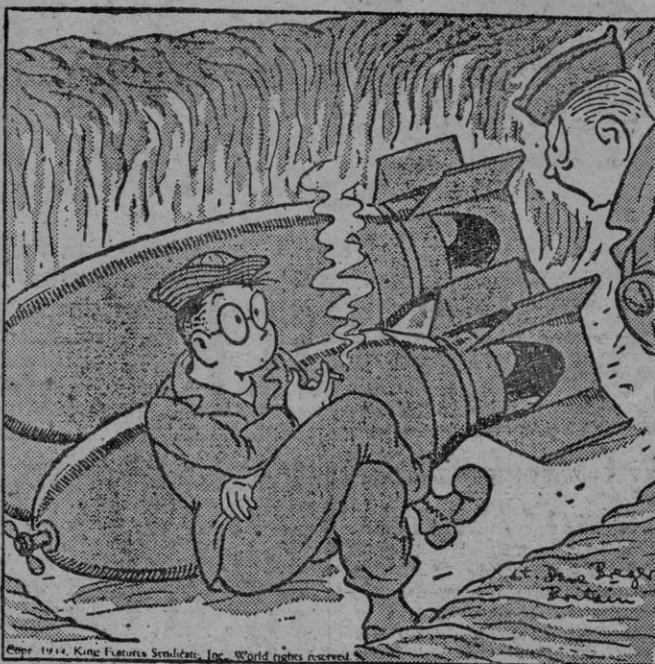
An important factor in the fall of Cherbourg's Fort du Boule was demolition of Nazi big guns which continued to fire from lower levels after the upper level had been seized. The men of the 79th Division regiment who braved heavy sniper fire to climb down the face of the cliffs and place dynamite charges in the gun openings have been cited. They were S/Sgt. Paul Hurst, St. Joseph, Mo., who made the reconnaissance and led the demolition party; T/Sgt. Walter Newman, Whitestone, N. Y., and Daniel F. Feojay, Plainfield, Conn.; S/Sgt. Chester R. Walker, Baltimore, and Edward A. Hagedorn, Monett, Mo., and Sgt. Doyle Zirkle, Mabie, W. Va.

It took a war and a girl in Leeds, England, to get Cpl. Louis J. Giordano, and Pvt. Enrico L. Giordano, 24, both of Brooklyn, together after five years. For about two years they drifted apart before they were inducted. Finally a girl from Leeds, who happened to be corresponding with both, informed them they ought to be able to visit each other in Normandy. They did.

Sgt. John E. Peters, of Cheyenne, Wyo., and Cpl. Roland Desert, of Taunton, Mass., set out one recent morning to repair roads near the 90th Infantry Division headquarters, but before the day was over they had captured two Nazi officers. The Germans, unarmed and waving white handkerchiefs, walked through the lines and across open fields to give up because "all of our men have been killed, captured or wounded." Incidentally, they wanted it understood that they were "full-blooded Nazis" and not conscripted military personnel from occupied countries.

HOW'S THAT AGAIN? DEPARTMENT Calvados, a "somewhat more civilized version" of our Jersey lighting, is distilled in Normandy. —The New Yorker, Apr. 22, 1944

Private Breger



"Just remember, if you get blown to bits, don't come running to me for sympathy!"

News From Home

'Cotton Ed' Smith, Dean of Senate, Defeated in Bid for Seventh Term

COLUMBIA, S. C., July 26—Sen. Ellison (Cotton Ed) Smith, colorful dean of the Senate and caustic critic of the New Deal, whom President Roosevelt unsuccessfully attempted to unseat in 1938, was decisively defeated Tuesday in his bid for renomination for a seventh term.

BRICKER TO MEET DEWEY

ALBANY, N. Y., July 26—Gov. John W. Bricker, of Ohio, Republican Vice-Presidential nominee, tomorrow will go into his first huddle with Gov. Thomas E. Dewey since the Chicago convention. Later, accompanied by Mrs. Bricker, the governor will visit Republican national headquarters in New York.

VETS, LABOR AGREE

WASHINGTON, July 26—The commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars today disclosed an agreement with AFL and CIO labor leaders pledging certain employment benefits and preferential consideration for returning veterans.

U.S. Thrust Engulfs Marigny and St. Gilles

Continued from Page 1 Doughboys, supported by tanks, pushed between one-half and three quarters of a mile but were halted by savage counterattacks launched by stubborn paratroopers. In the breakthrough area, doughboys and tanks were meeting only infantry resistance, much of it uncoordinated. It was believed that most of the German artillery in the area either had been smashed yesterday by the great American aerial plastering or had been withdrawn. Counterattacks by the 13th and 14th regiments of the Fifth German Paratrooper Division and by elements of the poly-

dues shall be no higher than those imposed on members doing the same work; veterans who formerly were union members will have length of military service added to their seniority and in no case shall seniority rights be established on military service prior to Sept. 1, 1940.

TRUMAN QUITS COMMITTEE

KANSAS CITY, July 26—Sen. Harry S. Truman, Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee, said he would resign the chairmanship of his war-investigating committee at its next meeting and then would be ready to "pitch into" the campaign whenever and whenever President Roosevelt desired.

VETS SEEK EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, July 26—The Veterans' Administration announced it had received more than 1,000 applications from discharged servicemen for educational benefits provided by the new GI bill of rights.

LIKE PRIVATE BUSES

WASHINGTON, July 26—Ration boards will refuse to issue full supplemental rations of gasoline to persons who drive to work after Aug. 1 unless they organize a "full car club." OPA has announced.

KARLOFF UNDER KNIFE

HOLLYWOOD, Cal., July 26—Actor Boris Karloff has entered a hospital to undergo an operation for arthritis.

got 353rd Infantry Division were successfully crushed.

Dive bombers and fighters worked all day in coordination with U. S. infantry and tanks, knocking out occasional gun positions and hammering Axis strongpoints. Faced by uncoordinated resistance, the doughboys were able to crash through the Germans' main and reserve defense lines and reach Axis artillery emplacements at Marigny.

Twelve German tanks, twelve motor transports, three staff cars and one half-track were reported attacked and left burning about noon as they tried to leave Coutances. The vehicles apparently were rushing toward the St. Lo front when spotted by American pilots.

CARD FANS SKIP PENNANT RACE, WATCH MUSIAL

ST. LOUIS, July 26—The National League fans in St. Louis who have long conceded the flag to their favorite Cardinals are paying more attention to outfielder Stan Musial's batting average these days than they are to the pennant race.

One of the most outstanding natural players to come along the pike in years, Musial has made life uncomfortable for rival pitchers ever since he came up to the Redbirds from Rochester a few years back and this looks like one of his best seasons. Musial's .348 mark is second only to Brooklyn's Dixie Walker .352.

Musial led the Cards to a 9-0 verdict over the Phillies last night by getting four hits, including his fourth homer. He picked up seven points on Walker who was going hitless against the Cubs. Al Jurish, Cardinal righthander, was the author of a six-hitter.

The Cincinnati Reds and Pittsburgh Pirates, occupying second and third places, managed to hang on without losing more ground by beating the Giants and Braves. The Pirates walloped the New Yorkers, 15-0, while the Reds subdued the Braves, 6-2.

The Dodgers reverted to form by losing to the Cubs, 14-6, and falling into a last-place tie with the Braves.

Majors & Minors

AMERICAN LEAGUE St. Louis 9, Philadelphia 1 Cleveland 10, New York 0 Boston 7, Detroit 3 Chicago 9, Washington 6

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Rows include St. Louis, New York, Boston, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia.

NATIONAL LEAGUE St. Louis 9, Philadelphia 0 Pittsburgh 15, New York 0 Cincinnati 6, Boston 2 Chicago 14, Brooklyn 6

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Rows include St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Brooklyn, Boston.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE Jersey City 6, Buffalo 1 Newark 8, Rochester 7 (1st) Newark 15, Rochester 5 (2nd) Baltimore 2, Toronto 1 Syracuse 6, Montreal 3

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Rows include Baltimore, Buffalo, Montreal, Jersey City, Newark, Toronto, Syracuse, Rochester.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION Louisville 7, Columbus 6 Milwaukee 4, St. Paul 2 Minneapolis 5, Kansas City 3 Only games scheduled

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Rows include Milwaukee, Louisville, Columbus, Toledo, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Kansas City.

115th, 134th Regiments In Battle for St. Lo

LONDON, July 26—Supreme Headquarters announced today that the U. S. 115th and 134th Infantry Regiments took part in the fighting in and around St. Lo within the last week.

The 115th commanded by Col. Alfred V. Ednie, of Buffalo, N. Y., formerly was the First Infantry Regiment of the Maryland National Guard.

The 134th, commanded by Col. Butler E. Miltonberger, of North Platte, Neb., was spearheaded by infantry companies led by Capt. John S. Davis, of North Dakota, and Lorin S. McGowan and Francis S. Mason, both of Beatrice, Neb. In World War I, the 134th was the Fourth Nebraska Infantry Regiment.

BLONDIE



Copyright 1944, King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved