

TOWN AFTER TOWN FALLS IN U.S. ADVANCE

On Other Fronts

Moscow Guns Hail Enemy's Blackest Day

Soviet spearheads speeding towards Warsaw yesterday liberated 300 places within 25 miles of the Polish capital, and Marshal Stalin in two Orders of the Day announced the capture of by-passed Brest-Litovsk by the First White Russian Army and seizure by Red troops in southern Poland of Przemysl and Yaroslav, west of Lwow. A 400-gun salute in Moscow hailed the news. 24 hours for Hitler's generals on the eastern front since the war began.

Fall of Brest-Litovsk was admitted by the German Army spokesman and Moscow said three Nazi divisions encircled west of the city were threatened with annihilation or capture.

Capture of Przemysl, only 50 miles from the Carpathian frontier of Czechoslovakia opened the way to Cracow and southern Germany.

Allies Advance On Florence

Converging Allied thrusts led by New Zealand armored spearheads drove yesterday to within seven miles of Florence, pivot of the Germans' Gothic Line in Italy. Other Eighth Army troops pressing toward the River Arno west of Florence took two villages on the main road to Pisa. The fight for Pisa itself was carried yesterday to pistols and artillery duels.

U. S. Planes Sink 3 Jap Ships

American planes have sunk several Jap ships off the western Carolines and U. S. ground troops have captured the northern third of Tinian Island in the Marianas, including Mt. Lasso, the island's highest point. Adm. Nimitz announced yesterday no new developments were reported on Guam.

Nimitz said a destroyer, escort and an oiler were among the vessels destroyed. Other aircraft bombed the Palau Islands and Yap, all in the Carolines.

Russo-Polish Pact Ends Long Dispute

MOSCOW July 28 (AP)—The long bitter controversy between Russia and Poland apparently drew to a close yesterday as formal documents were signed in the Kremlin governing the operations of the Red Army, the Polish Army and civil administration.

Russia left civil affairs in the hands of the Poles, represented by the Council of National Liberation and military affairs in the hands of the Red Army. The Polish exiled government in London was not recognized.

The agreement provides that the Poles will be responsible for the formation of a government as soon as the country is liberated and ready to vote, and that the Red Army when it departs will leave a Polish army in command.

Rain—and Jerry—Slow Up Yanks, But Fail to Halt 'Em

By G. K. Hodenfield
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

EAST OF COUTANCES, July 28—"If I'm getting wet so are those damn Jerries." That was the statement of one GI this noon as he advanced down the road from Marigny to within two and a half miles of Coutances and that typifies the spirit of the men who are closing the trap on some of Hitler's best troops in the Cotentin peninsula.

There's no doubt both GIs and Jerries are getting wet. At noon the rain was pouring down in sheets and even the Piper Cubs, which seem to be everywhere, were temporarily grounded. What yesterday was a thick carpet of dust on the roads today was turning into gumbo that would make a native Missourian gasp. But it was just as likely that the roads would be dusty again before the day's fighting ended. It's weather like this that makes GIs wish they were back in sunny England.

The rain and the Jerries were slowing the American advance but not stopping it. In a command post along the main road Lt. Col. Fred Gibbs, of Staten Island, N. Y., was watching his staff pinpoint each new advance on a large-scale map. "It's not

the fastest advance in the world but we are doing all right," Gibbs said.

In a field behind the CP two guards were standing near two groups of prisoners—nine enlisted men and two officers. The prisoners were a mixed lot including Waffen SS and paratroopers, but the elite looked no better than the garden variety—they were all hungry, tired and dirty.

Asked where the Luftwaffe was, one of the officers replied: "I also would like to know." Later he advanced the theory that it was lack of gasoline rather than lack of planes that kept the German Air Force out of the skies. There seems to be little surliness and arrogance left in the prisoners we are taking now, although there

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Rift Over Hitler in German Forces Growing Bitter, Prisoners Indicate

WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY, July 28 (AP)—Thousands of prisoners were on their way back today to cages where 4,000 already have been counted in the first four days of the offensive.

To date, the First Army has captured nearly 55,000 prisoners and has buried 8,916 Germans.

U. S. HEAVIES HIT NAZI OIL PLANTS

Heavy bombers of the U. S. Eighth and 15th Air Forces, in simultaneous thrusts from Britain and Italy, struck again yesterday at the hard-pressed German Army's diminishing oil resources.

Between 750 and 1,000 Forts from Britain, escorted by fighters, raided the Leuna synthetic oil plant at Merseburg and other targets in central Germany. It was the third attack on the factory this month.

The Italy-based planes, following an RAF night attack, gave the Picești oil center in Rumania its third plastering in two days.

Five enemy planes were shot down by the Eighth's planes. Seven bombers and two fighters were lost.

GALE IN OKLAHOMA

MUSKOGEE, Okla., July 28—At least two persons were seriously injured and scores of homes were left without roofs by an 80-mile-an-hour wind which swept through the Arkansas River Valley yesterday.

The gale was accompanied by a heavy rainfall which at times reached two inches in 30 minutes and temporarily flooded a dozen Oklahoma towns. Damage was estimated at \$200,000.

TITO BLASTS NAZI FORCE

A force of more than 5,000 German troops, composed of SS and grenadier units, was destroyed and huge quantities of material captured by Yugoslav partisans in the Berame area of Montenegro, a communique from Marshal Tito's headquarters, announced yesterday. Nine hundred Germans were found dead on the battlefield and 200 were taken prisoner.

Five American Columns Rip Rommel's Defenses; Thousands of Prisoners

By J. Wes Gallagher
Associated Press Correspondent

WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY, July 28—Fresh armor and infantry attack forces pushed the momentum of the First Army to a dizzy pace today as town after town fell before the avalanche of American striking power that registered gains of six to eight miles behind Rommel's disorganized lines from daylight to dusk.

Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's "precision offensive" took the shape of long armored fingers, miles deep tearing huge chunks out of the German Army on the 20-mile-wide front from Tassy-sur-Vire west to Coutances.

Four thousand prisoners were in First Army cages, with thousand more en route back from the front. Wrecked German tanks and guns by the score lay behind the victorious First Army advance, while Ninth AF planes turned the crowded roads of German retreat into junk heaps of burning equipment.

These were the positions of the First Army's armored and infantry fingers at dusk tonight:

One column, driving six miles south of Le Mesnil Herman, captured Tassy-sur-Vire and pushed southwest.

A second column, driving eight miles south of Le Mesnil Herman, reached a point a half kilometer north of Percy.

A third column captured Notre Dame de Cenilly in a drive which forced its way more than eight miles from Canisy.

A fourth column of infantry and armor pushed four miles forward to the outskirts of Coutances, in conjunction with another column coming down the road from Periers, which also reached the northern outskirts of Coutances where heavy fighting was going on.

The first sign that the Germans might be pulling their shattered lines together was a heavy counter attack by German armor at Notre Dame de Cenilly tonight.

Prisoners revealed that it was believed that Rommel had visited his sagging front on the day of the American attack and conferred with Lt. Gen. Bayerken, commander of the Panzerlehr Division. Since then, the Panzerlehr has been badly mauled, along with the Fifth parachute Division north of Coutances.

From just outside Coutances one could obtain a one-sector view of the character of the fighting.

Isolated German units were mortaring and sniping from both sides of the road until rounded up by the doughboys pouring into the battle area.

Blue mortar smoke was rising from La Chapelle, five miles from Coutances and taken last night, but the main American column was pushing straight through toward the town, paying no attention to the flying shells.

This type of fighting was going on over a 20-mile front, 10 miles deep, spreading the fighting over 200 square miles. Despite the magnitude of the battle, probably the largest in western Europe to date, the main spearheads of attack kept their eyes straight on main objectives secure in the knowledge that divisions racing up from behind would take care of the isolated pockets and take over when they tired.

Great quantities of loot were taken, but it will be some time before it is counted up. Elements of one Luftwaffe flak regiment were overrun and many of its guns are in American hands.

U. S. TROOPS HIT IN AIR ATTACK PRECEDING PUSH

NINTH AIR FORCE HQ, July 28—The Army is not satisfied with results of the mass bombing, which on Tuesday preceded the new American offensive west of St. Lo, Maj. Gen. Lewis Brereton, commander of the Ninth Air Force said today.

Brereton said the bombing was concentrated in an area of 9,000 by 2,000 yards and while practically the entire mass of bombs fell on the intended targets, some fell short and caused casualties among American troops. The casualties, however, were much less than was thought at first, he said.

About 50 planes dropped their bombs short, Brereton declared, and in the case of one group of Havocs the bombing-release mechanism went wrong on one plane causing it to drop its bombs short of the target. The rest of the planes dropped their bombs at the same time, causing the casualties to American troops.

240 HOWITZER IN USE

WASHINGTON, July 28—The new 240mm howitzer weighing 25 tons, known as the "Black Dragon" and largest mobile field artillery piece used by the Americans, has played a decisive role in the Italian campaign, Army ordnance officers disclosed today.

STATLER STRIKE

DETROIT, July 28—The regional War Labor Board office today ordered representatives of 12 striking AFL unions to explain the walkout of 700 employees at the Hotel Statler here.

ATS IN NORMANDY

LONDON, July 28—The arrival of 12 British ATS women in Normandy was announced today. It also was stated that several hundred more, all volunteers, were waiting to embark for France.

4th Div. Cites Hero Who Gave Life To Save His Trapped Rifle Company

WITH THE FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION, July 28—The heroism of Capt. Thomas C. Shields, of Augusta, Ga., who died while directing American artillery fire to allow the safe withdrawal of his trapped rifle company, was lauded today in a division citation.

After his company had been cut off and was being subjected to heavy fire, Shields, according to the citation, went forward with a radio "in full view" of Nazi OPs and machine gunners to direct friendly artillery until "mortally wounded by a direct hit of an enemy shell."

Sgt. Romeo Bourgoin, of Watertown, Me., a squad leader, said Shields told him to "drop me and save your own life" when the Germans counter-attacked as he was being carried back to American lines after being wounded.

The Captain, the citation said, refused medical aid after being returned to the company command post, where he ordered that he be placed "in a position from which he could supervise the successful withdrawal of his unit and instruct them as to the proper position from which to repel the counter-attack."

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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'Somewhere in France...'

Kelly didn't wear a green necktie, but Kelly was the loud-necktie type. You know. He was gonna kick hell out of the Germans personally and single-handed. Wait'll he get into combat. He would do this and such.

Kelly wasn't a bad guy; but this big talk—it got to be a pain in the Pratt.

Cpl. John D. Kelly, of Grove City, Pa. got into combat when the 79th Infantry Division assaulted Cherbourg. He got his big chance to make the boasts stick when his platoon was pinned down by heavy machine-gun fire from a strong point. Kelly volunteered to knock out the strong point.

Carrying a TNT pole charge on a ten-foot board as nonchalantly as if it were hung on a shovel, Mr. Kelly walked cool as a Cuba Libre through the field of fire, and placed the charge. It was ineffective. So he did it again, calmly walking. The second charge blew the end off the enemy machine guns. Then Kelly strolled up with a third charge, placed it at the rear of the strong point, blew out the entrance tossed in a couple of grenades for good measure, and the Jerries gave up.

But Kelly wasn't satisfied. He had a heluva lot of popping-off to live down. Next day he volunteered to accompany his platoon commander, to kayak another strong point which had the unit pinned down halfway up the Fort du Boule cliffs.

Out they went, crawling through machine-gun fire, Kelly with a ten-pound beehive charge of TNT, the lieutenant covering him with a BAR. Besides the machine gun, they were catching hell from hand grenades, small arms—and there was wire to boot.

They didn't get all the way. The Lt. was fatally wounded and, without covering fire, Kelly couldn't proceed. But they dived the enemy's fire so that the platoon was able to withdraw safely and Kelly returned unscathed.

Two Negro soldiers found themselves in a seagoing role yesterday when the lines securing a barge they were loading parted from a ship in Normandy waters. Choppy seas carried the vessel out into open water and the port battalion pair spent an unhappy half hour until a Navy tug retrieved their powerless craft.

In the battle for La Haye du Puits, S. Sgt. Benjamin H. McElhinney, of Beaver, Pa., impersonated an officer, became an acting officer, and before you know it he'll really be an officer.

Mayor Kelly Bars Dewey's Photo From Chicago Servicemen's Center

CHICAGO, July 28—A six-by-eight-foot photograph of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, presented to the Chicago Servicemen's Center to be placed alongside a large portrait of President Roosevelt will not be hung during the Presidential campaign, Mayor Edward J. Kelly and Center officials have decided.

"We appreciate the gift," said the Center's director, Daniel L. Flaherty. "If Dewey becomes President, we will hang it."

The Republican nominee's picture was given to the Center by George W. Fisher, Cook County Republican chairman.

Kelly, sponsor of the Center, told newsmen: "We have never allowed any politics in the Center and we are not going to permit the hanging of any candidates' picture now."

He said Mr. Roosevelt's picture, measuring 56 square feet, had been hanging in the Center since it opened, "because he is the country's commander-in-chief. If

McElhinney's platoon was in a tight spot when a tank element arrived in support. A Jerry 88 stopped the lead tank and discouraged the others. That didn't suit Mac. He ran to the tank and yelled, "Get the hell going." The armored boys looked him over. A sergeant, eh? They stayed put.

McElhinney sprited to his captain "Lend me your helmet, captain?" "Sure." The sergeant put it on, ran back to the tanks, half-concealed his face with one hand and yelled "Now get the hell going." And the tanks rolled.

All the officers but one in McElhinney's company were killed just prior to or during that action. Next night his company commander got it and McElhinney was put in command. Later two second lieutenants were sent to the unit as replacements. They weren't too battle-wise but they didn't lack wisdom.

"Let the sergeant remain in command," they suggested. "He knows the situation better than we do. We'll take orders from him."

McElhinney led his temporary command with distinction and has been recommended for a commission.

Front line Annie and Lizzie, two donkeys pressed into service during one of the Second Infantry Division's attacks, have been turned out to pasture as a reward. They were used by members of an ammunition and pioneer platoon to carry water, rations and ammunition and were found to be the most practical means of transportation for the terrain. "They would walk along wild-out urging and were calmer under fire than many of the men," 1/Lt. George Seeman, of Denver, Col., explained.

T/Sgt. Thomas E. Smith, of Houston, Tex., intends to wear his old torn field jacket for the rest of the war—just for luck.

Three machine-gun bullets went through Smith's field jacket, fatigue jacket and shirt but didn't touch him. Two days later a piece of shrapnel tore a four-inch gash in his field jacket and ripped his fatigues. Again he wasn't touched.

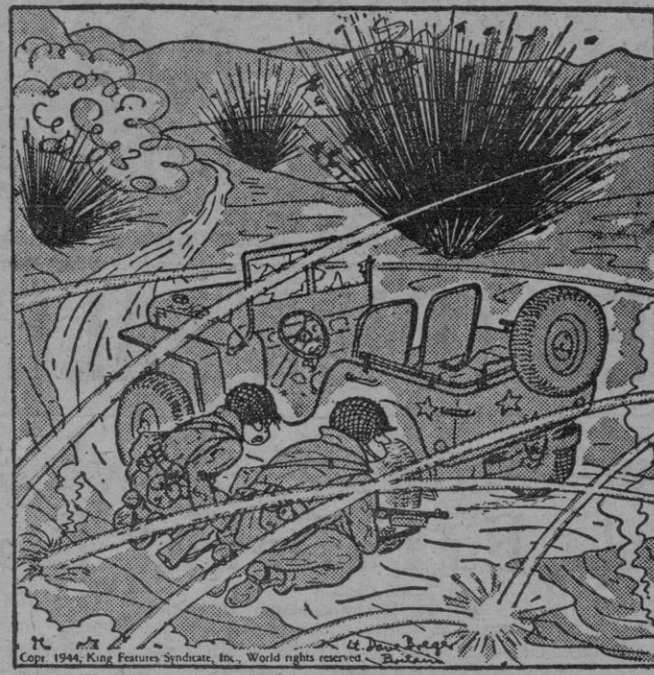
Smith, a member of the Second Infantry Div. swapped the shirt and fatigues for new clothes but intends to hang on to the jacket.

we had a Republican President his picture would be up there."

DIES REPORTS ON CIO WASHINGTON, July 28—The House Committee on un-American activities headed by Rep. Martin Dies (D-Tex.) was disclosed today to have prepared a report on the CIO Political Action Committee probably for submission to the Justice Department. Rep. J. Parnell Thomas, of New Jersey, ranking Republican member of Dies committee wired the chairman yesterday proposing that the material gathered by the committee on the CIO group be turned over to Attorney General Francis Biddle.

VALLEE DIVORCED LOS ANGELES, July 28—Actress Bette Jane Greer obtained an uncontested divorce here from Rudy Vallee after testifying that he called her "beautiful but dumb" and said she "had the mind of a child." They were married last December.

Private Breger



"Sir, about my ten-day furlough next week—could I trade it for a one-day one, starting now?"

Crossing From U. S. Sector to British Like Entering Different War Theater

By Tom Hege Stars and Stripes Staff Writer WITH THE BRITISH FORCES. Caen Area, July 28—Crossing over from the American operational sector of Normandy into the British area is like entering a different war theater. You first realize this when an MP stops your jeep and informs you that you are approaching the British battle zone. If you have no definite business here, back you go.

As you proceed down the narrow highway cluttered with camouflaged English army lorries carrying troops and supplies you sense that something is missing. You look again and realize what it is. There are no tin hats. Unlike the American, the English soldier doesn't wear his helmet unless he is in the line. In the rear areas, you'll see overseas caps berets and a number of men with no hats at all, but rarely a helmet. Even when you get in range of the big German guns, tin hats are conspicuously absent.

Driving through the heavy traffic, you see army road workers staring curiously at your jeep. During one of the frequent stops you talk to a couple of them.

What! No Cabbage? Yes, they tell you, they like France all right but it's pretty difficult to get used to the spiced food in the restaurants. Unlike the GI who gets a genuine kick out of eating French meals and sampling French drinks, the English soldier misses his fish and chips and, above all, his mild and bitter. He's not resentful about it—just homesick. He also displays less curiosity about the Normandy girls, which probably explains why he is given a freer run of the town than the Americans.

One grizzled campaigner, asked how he was getting along with the local ladies, scratched his head a moment, as though the subject hadn't occurred to him. "Nothing along that line, chum," he said finally. GIs near the front have a tendency to sprout ragged mustaches and beards, but the Tommy is almost invariably clean shaven—his hair plastered down with vaseline. Even work gangs digging along the road-side have a spit and polish air about them.

In Bayeux, a picturesque little town untouched by the war you see hundreds of British and Canadian troops on leave. Sporting French berets and loaded down with trinkets they wander along the streets window-shopping and trying to read the French signs. The distinct cleavage between British officers and enlisted men, so studiously observed in England, is quite absent in this holiday town. Passing along the main street, you see a major and a private pooling their knowledge of French to try to pur-

chase writing paper. A distinguished looking officer is standing with a crowd of soldiers in front of a novelty shop chuckling at the display of comic postcards. His shoulder bears the insignia of a major general.

All through the town colored posters announce variety show featuring soldier performers. Entertainment for troops is well organized in Bayeux.

As you proceed from Bayeux toward Caen the atmosphere of war gradually becomes more prevalent and, if you veer over toward the front lines, you are nearly deafened by the barrage sent up by the 25 pounders. There is a rolling roar to the British artillery that practically lifts you out of your jeep.

Caen itself is a shambly rivaling the ruins of St. Lo. Entire blocks were levelled. British ability for organization has maintained a surprising degree of order in the shattered city, however. Immaculate MPs direct you along the scarred streets. Like his civilian counterpart back in London the British soldier maintains a calm, almost fatalistic attitude about enemy bombs or shells. He takes all available precautions to avoid danger, but rarely anticipates it. And like the Yank, he gets a kick out of recounting the narrow escapes he has had.

A kitted Scottish colonel in charge of Civil Affairs told us about a close call he had had while conferring with the French Prefect. "There we were quietly conversing," he said, "when a Jerry shell came in the window and passed right through the room." Ther with a hearty chuckle, "It made us nip back in our chairs all right."

Rain and Enemy Fail to Halt Push

Continued from page 1 are some who say they would like to continue the fight.

This road yesterday was packed with German vehicles of all types and the Air Force had a field day. You could see the sort of hunting they had by the wrecked and abandoned tanks and automobiles pushed into ditches along the way. And whenever the clouds broke even for a few minutes today you could hear the roar of the fighters and fighter-bombers as they renewed the attack.

A report came into the CP today that five Mark VI Tiger tanks had been abandoned in a field adjoining the road about halfway to Coutances. The report wasn't immediately confirmed and there was great speculation as to just how many booby traps the Jerries had been able to leave on each one. They know around here that it's hard to overemphasize the booby-trap danger. One medical aid man lost two fingers yesterday going through a hedge-row—and there wasn't a souvenir in sight.

CARDS WIN TWO, STRETCH STREAK TO 8 STRAIGHT

ST. LOUIS, July 28—If anybody thinks the Cardinals are going to slow down and have pity on the rest of the National League they have another think coming. The Redbirds apparently are going to grab the flag with as wide a margin as possible for they stretched their lead to 14 1/2 games and a red hot winning streak to eight in a row last night by clubbing the Phillies in a doubleheader, 8-7 and 5-0. Harry Breechen was the winner in the opener and Mort Copper, who notched his 12th victory, in the second.

In the only other N.L. game not washed out by rain, the Reds climbed over the Pirates into second place by trouncing the Braves, 4-2. Ray Mueller's two-run double in the eighth scored the winning runs.

The American League race, meanwhile, was drawn tighter when the rising fourth-place Indians thumped the Yankees, 8-1, behind Allie Reynolds; the Athletics, thanks to a neat relief job by Bobo Newsom, whipped the league-leading Browns, 7-5, and the third place Red Sox gained a full game on the pace-setters by beating the Tigers, 6-1. Tex Hughson, Bosox ace, also became the first major league moundsman to win his 16th game.

Myril Hoag, an ex-Yankee, was the offensive thorn in the Bomber's side by contributing a pair of doubles and two singles to the Indians attack.

A four-hit pitching job by Orval Grove and a pair of two-run triples by Leroy Schalk and Thurman Tucker gave the White Sox a 4-0 verdict over the Senators in the other A.L. game.

Majors & Minors

NATIONAL LEAGUE Cincinnati 4, Boston 2 St. Louis 8, Philadelphia 7 (1st) St. Louis 5, Philadelphia 0 (2nd) Other games postponed

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

AMERICAN LEAGUE Chicago 4, Washington 0 Philadelphia 7, St. Louis 5 Cleveland 8, New York 1 Boston 6, Detroit 1

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

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE Buffalo 15, Newark 5 Baltimore 8, Montreal 5 (1st) Baltimore 6, Montreal 5 (2nd) Toronto 4, Syracuse 3 (1st) Syracuse 2, Toronto 0 (2nd) Jersey City-Rochester (rain)

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

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION No games scheduled

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

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE Portland 3, Seattle 1 Hollywood 4, Oakland 2 San Francisco 4, Los Angeles 3 San Diego 2, Sacramento 1

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Rows include Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Hollywood, Portland, Seattle, Sacramento, San Diego.