

CONTINENTAL EDITION

1 fr.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

1 fr.

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Vol. 1 No. 32

Printed "Somewhere in France"

Wednesday, August 9, 1944

The Tortoise and the Hare

Armor Crawls, But You Can't Catch It!

By Andy Rooney

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

THE BREST PENINSULA, Aug. 8—If anyone tells you how far the American armored column has advanced in France, don't believe a word of it. The column is way past there. For the first time in the history of the draftee Army, rumors can't keep up with the action.

The armored vehicles making the advance have a white stenciled sign above their left rear wheels reading **MAXIMUM SPEED 20 MPH**, but you can drive 50 mph seemingly forever without getting to the head of the 20 mph column.

The second phenomenon of the swift advance is that any one individual soldier seems to spend most of his time doing what he has always done in the Army. He waits. Somehow armored columns seem to be able to travel 50 or 60 miles in a few hours by just waiting at the side of the road.

The front, today, is lovely, where two weeks ago the front was nothing but ruin smothering under the smell of dead animals. The infantrymen are miss-

ing a lot of the fun which should rightfully be theirs. It was no fun liberating a hedgerow, and now, after fighting inland yard by yard to get enough land between their front lines and their beaches so that the armor could come in and coil up behind them and wait to spring through the first gap, the infantry has been left behind and the armored boys are having the fun—taking the bows, the wines, the flowers and the kisses the French girls throw.

The front today is happier than it was. Armor has raced so quickly through France that the little towns have been left intact and the people have been left immensely joyful.

Even the French women seem to be prettier farther inland. They are beginning to look like the girls the American Legion talked about for more than 20 years.

It takes two men to drive any vehicle along a French road in the Brest Peninsula. One man drives and one man waves. The tough American boys in the armored cars and tanks laugh and toss candy and cigarettes to

the laughing French people. Every main road is crammed with vehicles. The American assembly line seems to be pouring directly into France, with the last vehicle at the beach-head pushing the first, 100 miles ahead, with a nudge which travels from nose to bumper the 100 miles.

The MPs left behind in little towns liberated by the passing columns of armor have a tough job. They are America to the French and as the only representatives left in town the collective hospitality of the whole town falls on them. That is a lot of wine to drink and a lot of babies for any MP to kiss.

The boys are finding time to change the names on their vehicles as the great French ovation hits them in the heart. No one ever seems to have the time to paint a new name on a jeep or a tank, but every day there are new names. **THE CALVADOS KIDS** replaces **MILD AND BITTER**; **CHERCHEZ LA FEMME** replaces **YOU CAWNT MISS IT**; and **NO GUM CHUM** is being repainted to read **NO CIGARETTE POUR PAPA**.

U.S. Forces Near Le Mans, Recapture Mortain After Smashing German Thrust

American armored columns were reported by Berlin last night to have covered the 45 miles from liberated Laval to the outskirts of Le Mans, 110 miles southeast of Paris, while other U.S. forces entered Barenton, six miles east of recaptured Mortain, after smashing a determined Nazi counter-attack.

Meanwhile, the Canadian First Army smashed four miles ahead into the first main German defense line south of Caen in a major armored offensive, officially described as "going very well so far."

The American entry into Barenton represented a fresh advance in the area where the Germans' counter-attack to split the Brittany and Normandy fronts had been beaten back by a coordinated U.S. blasting from tanks, emplaced guns and planes. It came in the wake of a Spanish report that the Germans were evacuating their troops from southwestern France.

In Brittany, American spearheads captured to mop up the peninsula and close in on the vital ports. Late dispatches said one of the two columns advancing on Lorient was less than five miles from the submarine base and that American troops were fighting in the suburbs of St. Nazaire and Nantes.

The heavy German counter-attack on the 18-mile wide Avranches corridor—after penetrating up to three miles within a triangle bounded by Mortain, Sourdeval and Cherence le Rousell—was crushed by hard-hitting tank destroyers, artillery and screaming rockets from one of the largest typhoon forces ever sent into the air and bombs from American fighter-bombers.

A high percentage of German armor was risked in the counter-attack and it was estimated that at least 107 enemy tanks were totally destroyed. Approximately 150 Luftwaffe planes sought to provide air support, but few reached the front. Ninth Air Force fighters intercepted two formations of Me109s and FW190s heading for the Mortain sector.

Canadians and British tanks moved so fast in their attack south of Caen that all the heavy bombers allocated to help them were not called on. Canadian infantrymen rode in specially-adapted armored vehicles used for the first time in battle.

The main object of the new drive was to cut down the effectiveness of German anti-tank guns in the open country sloping southward to Falaise, hub of the shortest routes to Paris. Heavy RAF and U.S. Eighth Air Force blows preceded the attack.

Anxious Hours End As German Tank Bid Fails

By Earl Mazo

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH AN INFANTRY DIVISION, Aug. 7 (Delayed)—Several determined Nazi tank-infantry combat teams, some of battalion strength, broke through a number of points in this division's sector early today and caused some anxious moments for American troops until they were pinched off and obliterated this afternoon.

Captured German troops said the action was a reconnaissance-in-force in preparation for a general Nazi attack in this area. The fighting, which was preceded by all-night Luftwaffe activity, became heated at 0500 hours when a massed German tank attack drove several units of American doughboys out of an important town which they had captured some time before.

One of the first signs of the seriousness of the breakthrough came at dawn when French civilians frantically stopped every American they could find and screamed "Boche, deux kilometres" or "Boche ici."

Meanwhile, the fighting went on furiously in pockets all over the sector. One regimental command post, on the verge of being cut off, mustered every available man—mechanics, clerks, cooks—to stave off the attack. Lt. Col. Walter M. Johnson, substituting for his regimental commander who is in a hospital, remained at his command post with one officer when it was cut off and almost overrun. Throughout the action, he commanded his unit from this position.

Lt. A. P. Adams, of Savannah, Ga., a regimental liaison officer, was almost hit a couple of times by a German tank. He had the satisfaction of seeing that tank knocked out by rocket-firing RAF Typhoons.

Aircraft came to the assistance of bazooka-firing doughboys at about noon when the mist that hung over the area all morning began to lift. Later the artillery went into action.

Lt. Gen. McNair's Son Dies In Guam Battle

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—The death in Guam of Col. Douglas McNair, 37, only son of the Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair who recently was killed by American bombs in Normandy, was announced today by the War Department.

A field artilleryman like his father, Col. McNair was serving with the Army's 77th Division now in action on Guam. The circumstances of his death were not reported in a message from his commander, Maj. Gen. A. D. Bruce.

HIMMLER DEAD, GOERING HURT, PRISONERS SAY

By Roger D. Greene

Associated Press Correspondent

ON THE BRITISH FRONT, France, Aug. 8—A newly-captured German intelligence officer said today that "Hangman" Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo boss, had been assassinated, and Reichsmarshal Herman Goering wounded in a new outbreak against the Nazi hierarchy.

Nine other captives, all Austrians, corroborated the statement. "We heard that Rommel had been wounded in the head by bomb fragments on the Normandy front but was recovering," the Austrians said. "The best news came on Sunday when we heard that Himmler had been killed and Goering wounded."

The British first heard the story of the alleged assassination from the Austrians. I asked a German intelligence officer who had been kept apart from the Austrians: "Do you suppose Himmler is stronger than Hitler these days?"

He said: "No, Himmler is dead. He has been assassinated. I heard it at my headquarters on Sunday. All our officers are talking about it."

Himmler, chief of all German police, was in charge of the purge which Hitler ordered after the attempt on his life July 20.

Meanwhile, Berlin Radio reported last night that eight German generals, implicated on the recent attempt to overthrow the Nazis, had been tried by the People's Court in Berlin, found guilty and hanged.

Among the eight was a lieutenant-general, commander of the Berlin garrison, who allegedly admitted having laid plans to seize the Wilhelmstrasse if the plot against Hitler had succeeded.

Griswold Named Chief Of 8th Fighter Group

Brig. Gen. Francis H. Griswold has been named Eighth Fighter Command chief in a general reshuffle of Eighth Air Force posts. Griswold, 39-year-old former chief of staff of Fighter Command, replaces Maj. Gen. William E. Kepner, who has been appointed commander of an ETO heavy bomber division.

Joyriding Jerry Gets Paris-England Junket

A German major who left Paris yesterday morning for a taxicab ride to see the country and review enemy forces is now en route to England as a war prisoner.

The major was nonchalantly gazing out the window as his cab approached the southern end of the Brittany peninsula. Suddenly he found himself surrounded by fast-moving American armored forces.

The be-medaled major, wearing his dress uniform refused to salute U. S. officers because he wasn't "legitimately" captured. Instead, he gave them a polite bow from the waist.

On Other Fronts

JAPS SAY FLEET WILL STAY HOME

Tokyo Radio said yesterday that the Jap fleet "will enter into naval battle only in waters comparatively close to the mainland" and expressed a fear of the American threat to Japan's ocean supply lines.

"Japan possesses but one combined fleet," the broadcast stated. "Should this fleet be destroyed, her sea lanes would be cut off, and this would be tantamount to leaving the narrow strip of land that is Japan to the mercy of her enemies."

Meanwhile, American troops in New Guinea cut the main Jap supply route to the Drinumor front, while U. S. forces on Guam pushed the enemy two miles farther into the northern tip of the island.

REDS CONSOLIDATE GAINS

Consolidating its gains after swift advances of the last weeks, the Red Army yesterday was reported to be preparing three massive drives on the East Prussian front which would take Russian troops onto German soil.

STORMS SLOW ITALY DRIVE

Stormy weather curtailed action on the most of the Eighth Army front in Italy yesterday, with only occasional Allied patrols crossing the Arno River at Florence to probe German docks in the city.

U.S., RAF HEAVIES SATURATE FRONT IN CAEN SECTOR

German troop concentrations and strong positions in the Caen sector, saturated Monday night by a 3,920-ton RAF assault, were plastered yesterday afternoon by more than 680 U.S. heavy bombers flying in support of the Canadian and British offensive.

Striking only 12 hours after the British attack by more than 1,000 Lancasters and Halifaxes, the Eighth AF heavies, sweeping in at a relatively low altitude only a few hundred yards ahead of the driving Allies, scattered great loads of fragmentation bombs without meeting a single Luftwaffe interceptor.

Some 400 other American heavies pounded robot installations and at least four French airfields, while fighters in addition to escorting the raiders, set an Eighth Fighter Command record by shooting up 1,000 boxcars.

At the same time, British-based Flying Fortresses on the second leg of their mission flew from Russia to Italy, en route hitting airfields defending the Piacenza oilfields.

'This Is The Battle For France'

By Robert Reuben

Reuter Correspondent

U. S. FIRST ARMY HQ, Aug. 8—There is a growing belief in the American sector in France that the war in western Europe has reached its turning point and the future may hang on current operations.

"I think the battle for France is being fought right now in Normandy and Brittany," an American officer said yesterday.

Following the daring American race through Brittany, these factors have become apparent and have caused the feeling represented in the officer's comment.

(1) The Germans apparently have not enough strength to defend a front as extensive as now faces them if they spread their forces thinly every place—as they seem to be trying to do now—American spearheads in force can break through, as they now are, very easily. If they concentrate in any one critical zone, other vital areas will be left unprotected.

(2) The German transport system appears to have completely broken down, principally because of the devastating Allied air attacks. The Nazis have been unable thus far to bring up supplies or many reinforcements, or properly maneuver their troops.

(3) The American and British ground forces operate under the protection of air forces providing complete mastery of the sky. Air-tank teams leading the American columns have been an unbeatable combination and even where the Germans have been able to concentrate a superiority of armor they have been ineffective because of their vulnerability to air attacks.

The phase now in progress may be the movement that will break the camel's back. A large amount of French territory has been liberated, but this is a secondary consideration. The prime objective is the destruction of the German army.

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. Material appearing in this publication has been written and edited by uniformed members of the Army except where stated that a civilian or other outside source is being quoted.

Vol. 1, No. 32, August 9, 1944

Straight From the Front

By Ernie Pyle
Scripps-Howard Correspondent

A FEW days after D-Day we spoke in this column of five early Phases the continental invader would have to take.

Phase No. 5 was to be the breakout from our beachhead after we had held it secure enough to build up vast quantities of troops and supplies behind us. And once we'd broken out of the ring of Germans trying to hold us in, and had completed Phase 5, the real war in western Europe would begin.

Surely, history will give a name to the battle that sent us boiling out of Normandy—some name comparable with St. Mihiel or Meuse-Argonne of the last war. But to us here on the spot at the time, it was known simply as "The Breakthrough."

We correspondents could sense that the big drive was coming. There are many little ways you can tell without being actually told, if you are experienced in war.

Then one evening Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley, commanding all American troops in France, came to our camp and briefed us on the coming operation.

It would start, he said, on the first day we had three hours of good flying weather in the forenoon. We all were glad to hear the news. There isn't a correspondent over here, nor an officer nor a soldier I ever heard of, who hasn't complete and utter faith in Gen. Bradley. If he felt we were ready for the push, that was good enough for us.

Outline of Attack

GEN. Bradley told us the attack would cover a segment of German line west of St. Lo about two and a third miles wide. In that narrow segment we would have three infantry divisions side by side. Right behind them would be another infantry and two armored divisions.

Once a hole was broken, armored divisions would slam through several miles beyond, then turn right toward the sea, behind the Germans in that sector, in the hope of cutting off and trapping them. The remainder of our lines on both sides of the attack would keep pressure on to hold the Germans in front of them so they couldn't send reinforcements against our big attack.

The attack was to open with a gigantic two-hour air bombardment by 1,800 airplanes—the biggest, I'm sure, ever attempted by air in support of a ground battle.

It would start with dive-bombers, then great four-motored heavies would come, and then mediums, then dive-bombers again, and then the ground troops would kick off, with fighters continuing the work ahead of them.

Combined Operation

GEN. Bradley didn't tell us that this was the big thing—that this was Phase 5, but other officers gave us the word.

"This is no limited-objective drive," they said. "This is the big breakthrough."

In war everybody contributes something, no matter how small

or how far removed he may be. But on the front line, this breakthrough was accomplished by four fighting branches of service, and I don't see truly how one could have been given credit above another.

None of the four could have done the job without the others. The way they worked together was beautiful and precision-like, showering credit upon themselves and Gen. Bradley's planning. The four branches were the Air Corps, Armored Force, Artillery and Infantry.

I went with the Infantry because it is my old love and because I suspected the tanks, being spectacular, might smother credit due the Infantry.

Spearheads Drive

TEAMED up with the Fourth Infantry Division, since it was in the middle of the forward three and spearheading the attack.

The first night behind the front lines I slept comfortably on a cot under a tent at the division command post and met for the first time the Fourth's commander—Maj. Gen. Raymond O. Barton, a fatherly, kindly, thoughtful, good soldier.

The second night I spent on the dirty floor of a rickety French farmhouse, far up in the lines with a nauseating odor of dead cows keeping you awake half the night.

The third night I slept on the ground in an orchard even farther up, snugly dug in behind a hedgerow so 88s couldn't get at you so easily.

And on the next day the weather cleared and the attack was on.

Historic Date

IT was July 25—and if you didn't have July 25 pasted in your hat I would advise you to do so immediately. At least paste it in your mind, for I have a hunch that July 25, 1944, will turn out to be one of the greatest historic pinnacles of this war.

It was the day we began the mighty surge out of our confined Normandy spaces, the day we stopped calling our area a beachhead and knew we were fighting a world war across the whole expanse of France.

From that day onward all dread possibilities and fears for disaster to our invasion were behind us. No longer was there any remote possibility of our getting kicked off. No longer could it be possible for fate or weather or enemy to wound us fatally; from that day onward the future could hold nothing for us but growing strength and eventual victory.

BYRD WINS GOLF TOURNEY

PONTIAC, Mich., Aug. 8—Sammy Byrd, Detroit professional, won the Michigan open golf tourney at the Orchard Lake Country Club with a three-round total of 208, five under par.

NELSON OPENS GOLF VICTOR

BEVERLY HILLS, Cal., Aug. 8—Byron Nelson, pro, captured \$1,500 first prize in the \$5,000 Beverly Hills open. Nelson's 277 came on rounds of 71, 69, 68 and 69. Tony Fenna, of Dayton, Ohio, was second with 279.

Private Breger



"Next time get a sign-painter who doesn't lip!"

News From Home

80,000 D-DAY LANDING CRAFT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—Eighty thousand landing craft were produced for the Normandy invasion, the War Department announced yesterday in disclosing that the Navy now has 14,000 ships and the U.S. output of vessels has reached an average of 1 1/2 daily.

Other war production figures released were: 1,160 million rounds of ammunition during the last two years; one rifle every 32 seconds; one machine gun every 34 seconds; 148,000 tanks in the last two years; 185,000 airplanes since Dec. 7, 1941.

EYELESS CHILD BORN

PLAINFIELD, N. J., Aug. 8—Birth of an eight and a half pound boy with both eyes missing, but otherwise normally formed, was reported by Muhlenberg Hospital here. The infant's face had indentations where the eyes normally are placed but there were no eyes under the skin and surgery would be useless, it was reported.

POSTPONE 4-POWER TALKS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—The four-power conference on post-war security organization has been postponed from Aug. 14 to Aug. 21, following a Russian request that the Soviet be given more time for preparation, the State Department announced.

HOW ABOUT CALVADOS?

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (ANS)—Black market liquor worth \$700,000 has been seized by Treasury Department agents in a nation-wide drive to curb illegal sales, the Treasury's alcohol tax unit reported today. There has been an upward trend in moonshining this year, it also said.

DENIES BRITISH ASK MORE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—Edward R. Stettinius, Acting Secretary of State, yesterday denied the National Association of Manufacturers' Publication report that the British Government had raised the subject of post-war Lend-Lease aid from America.

DENVER PREPARES

DENVER, Aug. 8—Several of Denver's oldest landmarks are being razed to make room for new buildings to be erected in the Wazee area after the war. Meantime, the land will be temporarily used as a park.

Old Hickory Div. Is Lauded After Fighting 49 Days

Special to The Stars and Stripes
WITH THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION—After 49 consecutive days of contact with the enemy, the commander of this division told his men they had met "face to face and licked the best the Germans had to offer."

The 30th, known since World War I as the "Old Hickory" Division, made one of the wedges that brought on the breakthrough above St. Lo and resulted in the current successes all along the American lines in France.

Previously the 30th had crossed the Vire River in a spectacular night move that brought infantry, engineers and artillery together in a close co-ordination than was ever thought possible.

The commander, in talking to his men, pointed out that despite as many as three vicious German counter-attacks at times in one day, the 30th had moved forward "and only forward from the day we went into action."

The Old Hickory, originally a Carolinas and Tennessee division, won battle honors throughout the first World War, received 12 of the 87 Congressional Medals awarded in that war and served as a spearhead in breaking the Hindenburg Line.

ARC Liberty Club Opens in Cherbourg

While a capacity crowd of over 1,000 GIs and officers looked on, Pvt. Herman J. Humble, Lebanon, Ind., formally accepted from Harvey Gibson, Red Cross commissioner, the new Liberty Club, second ARC service club in Cherbourg, when it was opened last night.

First Negro-staffed club in France, the Liberty Club is available to all American troops. It is located in the Ratti's department store.

Taking part in the dedication were Lt. Gen. John C. Lee, deputy ETO commander, Brig Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, the Army's highest ranking Negro officer, and Mayor Paul Renault, of Cherbourg.

Music and entertainment were furnished by a Negro port battalion.

VINCE KOZAK, ETO RING CHAMPION, KILLED IN ACTION

Pfc Vince Kozak, whose whirling fists earned him to the ETO heavyweight boxing throne last year, was killed in action during the early Normandy fighting, Army authorities disclosed last night.

The hard-punching, 190-pound citizen of Hazelton, Pa., died shortly after an enemy artillery shell burst near a bridge he was guarding. He was a member of a First Army MP unit which landed shortly after D-Day.

Fighting under the banner of the 29th Infantry Division, Kozak won the ETO title without extending himself during the four-day tournament in May, 1943.

Two Tourney Knockouts

He knocked out Pvt. Leo McClam, of Kansas City, in 1:27 of the second round, advanced to the semi-finals on default, out-pointed Cpl. Hal Raskin, the Eighth Air Force ruler from Chicago, and stopped Cpl. Rudolph Feh, of Ritzville, Wash., in the second round of the final.

When GI fighters traced haymakers with British gloves on June 10, 1943, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, it was Kozak's impressive victory in the last bout on the card that produced a 6-5 team triumph for the Americans. The decision which climaxed an undefeated season for him was registered over Bdr. George Preston, veteran Commando.

5 Rainbow Corner Victories

In his appearances at London's Rainbow Corner, Kozak fashioned an impressive record of five victories, including a kayo and TKO, in six appearances. The lone setback came at the hands of Raskin and squared accounts for Kozak's verdict in the May championships.

Transferred to the MPs, Kozak was kept busy with military duties and his training came in spurts, with the result his timing and stamina suffered. In his last bout before going to France, he suffered the first knockout of his career, succumbing to the punches of Pvt. George Albert, of Waynesburg, Pa., in the first round during quarter-finals of the ground forces tourney at Bristol.

Majors & Minors

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
No games scheduled.				
	W	L	PCT.	GB
St. Louis	62	42	.596	—
Boston	55	48	.534	6 1/2
New York	53	48	.525	7 1/2
Detroit	52	50	.510	9
Chicago	50	53	.485	11 1/2
Cleveland	51	55	.481	13
Philadelphia	47	59	.443	17
Washington	44	59	.427	18 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
No games scheduled.				
	W	L	PCT.	GB
St. Louis	72	27	.727	—
Cincinnati	55	43	.561	16 1/2
Pittsburgh	52	44	.542	18 1/2
New York	49	52	.485	24
Chicago	46	49	.484	24
Boston	41	58	.414	31
Philadelphia	38	58	.396	32 1/2
Brooklyn	40	62	.392	33 1/2

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE				
Newark 6, Toronto 4, (1st)				
Newark 2, Toronto 1, (2nd)				
Jersey City 15, Buffalo 6				
Rochester 1, Baltimore 0 (1st)				
Baltimore 9, Rochester 3 (2nd)				
Syracuse 8, Montreal 1				
	W	L	PCT.	GB
Baltimore	64	45	.587	—
Newark	64	50	.561	2 1/2
Buffalo	60	53	.531	6
Jersey City	56	54	.509	8 1/2
Montreal	52	57	.477	12
Toronto	52	60	.464	13 1/2
Syracuse	49	61	.445	15 1/2
Rochester	49	66	.426	18

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION				
Milwaukee 10, Indianapolis 3				
St. Paul 4, Columbus 3 (1st)				
Columbus 6, St. Paul 2 (2nd)				
Toledo 8, Minneapolis 1				
	W	L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	77	37	.675	—
Louisville	68	46	.596	9
Toledo	66	45	.595	10 1/2
Columbus	62	50	.554	15
St. Paul	59	49	.546	17
Minneapolis	44	68	.393	34
Indianapolis	38	73	.342	43 1/2
Kansas City	31	77	.287	49

BLONDIE

