

On Other Fronts

15th AF Hits
Nazi Oil Near
Soviet Front

More than 500 Italy-based heavy bombers of the 15th U. S. Air Force gave the slowing Russian campaign a shot in the arm yesterday by dropping high explosives on two synthetic oil plants in German Silesia, only 100 miles ahead of the Soviet front, now only 40 miles north-east of Cracow at its point of farthest advance.

Stiffening enemy resistance all along the eastern front checked the Red Army's westward surge and produced violent battles in which gains were limited.

Marshal Stalin, in an Order of the Day, announced the capture of Sombor, a junction 40 miles southwest of Lwow on the railroad running across the Carpathians at the Uzok Pass to Uzgorod, Hungary.

Some of the fiercest fighting raged on the edge of pre-war East Prussia, where the Berlin military spokesman admitted "an unprecedented all-out assault" broke through Nazi lines along the road from Kaunas to Tilsit and forced the line "back some miles."

Shelling and Sniping
In Florence

Under shellfire from the Germans in the north of Florence, Eighth Army troops were consolidating their positions on the south bank of the Arno River yesterday, while South African patrols crossed the Arno and made contact with the enemy in the main section of the city.

In spite of the enemy shelling, and sniping within the city, Allied artillery was not firing into Florence. Allied staff members said "there will be no need for the city itself to become a battlefield."

Tokyo Reports Allies
Hit Bonin Island

American forces on Guam have occupied the towns of Okudo and Lagan and now control three-quarters of the island, the Navy announced in Washington yesterday.

Meantime Tokyo Radio reported that Allied carrier planes battered the Bonin Islands, less than 600 miles from the Japanese mainland, Saturday and Sunday.

French Army Will Fight
In Normandy Very Soon

A "powerful French army equipped with the most modern material and battle-trained very soon" will be deployed on the Allied front in France, Gen. Charles DeGaulle, Free French leader, said last night.

Speaking over Radio Algiers, DeGaulle appealed to all men and women inside France to "rise and fight the German invader because the hour of supreme revenge has come."

ALLIES ON SCHEDULE

LONDON, Aug. 7—A senior British general disclosed today that the Allied campaign in France was not far off the schedule drawn up last February. He said that the plan was to occupy Brest on D-plus 50 and clean up the Brittany Peninsula by D-plus 60. Sunday was D-plus 60.

Brig. Gen. Walker
Is Killed in Action

Brig. Gen. Nelson M. Walker, 55, assistant commander of a U.S. infantry division, was killed yesterday while personally leading an assault on a German machine-gun position in a hedgerow. The general had gone to the front to encourage troops freshly thrown into battle. A machine gun bullet entered his thigh, severing the artery. He died within a few hours.

FIRST FIELD PXs
TO OPEN SOON IN
NEW REST CAMPS

The first field Post Exchanges in France will be opened by the U.S. Army Exchange Service in a few days in new rest camps for combat troops.

At these Post Exchanges, battle-tired soldiers will be allowed to purchase a two-week ration on their first visit to the PX. A week's ration will include four bars of candy, an ample supply of tobacco, a large variety of toilet articles, and such luxuries as honey-cured briar pipes.

Available to resting combat troops also will be a selection of captured German perfumes, eau de cologne, after-shaving lotion, hair dressing and French post cards just scenery and novelties.

"The whole scheme is designed to first benefit the soldiers in the line of fire," stated Capt. William Atkinson, executive officer of the Army exchange detachment, from Asheville, N. C., "and just as soon as ample supplies can be shipped over we will begin establishing PXs at other installations throughout France to service the other soldiers."

Also in use will be two-man mobile exchanges, of the type used in pre-invasion marshaling areas, equipped to serve 2,000 soldiers a day. They will serve isolated units with complete stocks of PX supplies.

Seven of the tent-housed field exchanges are situated in a French resort area on the Atlantic coast.

101,714 FEWER HEADACHES
U. S. FIRST ARMY HQ., Aug. 7—The Americans have captured 85,543 Germans on the whole front in France since D-Day, it was announced today. The number of German soldiers buried by the Americans totals 16,171.

Beer — Ice-Cold — Flows in Free Rennes

By G. K. Hodenfield
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

RENNES, Aug. 6 (delayed)—Here is Place De La Mairie people are packed together like sardines—cheering, laughing, shouting, shaking hands with themselves, sometimes weeping a little for sheer joy. They're letting loose the emotion that has been locked inside them since June of 1940.

The women came up and we almost pass out when they say in very cultured English, "We are very glad indeed that you came. It's been quite a long time, you see." It seems they can write about people being happy.

Here there has been no bitter street-to-street, yard-by-yard fighting. There is some damage, of course, but it is being cleaned up rapidly. The war always seems just a little bit nicer when you left England for France some years before the war, and were interned 39 months ago.

Speaking of happy people, the happiest of all is probably the garcon drawing beers at a cafe across the square. For every beer he serves, he drinks one himself. And he has served a lot of beer today. What a beautiful hangover he is going to have!

Incidentally, although the beer doesn't have much kick, it's ice cold (we drank some just to find out).

There is not only cold beer here; there are apricots. More than that, there are beautiful

NAZIS TAKE MORTAIN IN BID
TO SLASH U. S. SUPPLY LINESTanks Rescue Sailors and Newsmen,
Ambushed After 'Kamerads' Surrender

By Bud Kane
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

BRITANNY, Aug. 7—A Naval shore party, with four war correspondents and their GI driver, were ambushed by Germans and kept under a fierce crossfire of rifles, machine guns and mortars for three hours until relieved by three U.S. tanks summoned up by a naval officer, who made a heroic dash under fire to bring assistance.

The officer commanding the Naval unit was killed in the ambush while fighters off the enemy with a carbine, and the naval party suffered many casualties.

The incident, released only today, occurred last Wednesday when the correspondents and their driver, Pvt. Harry Wellman, of Chicago, were met by the Naval party in the course of a tour of armored positions. The correspondents were Donald McKenzie, of the New York Daily News, Duke Shoop, of The Kansas City Star, Phillip Grune of London Evening Standard and this reporter.

West of a town, the lead car halted and the lead officer jumped out, gun in hand to challenge two German soldiers half hidden behind some trees. Neither more than 18 both came forward, hands behind their heads calling "Kamerad." All crowded around making a good collective target.

Within three minutes, there was a rain of rifle fire from the neighboring fields and the party crawled into the ditches on either side of the road.

The officer commanding the Naval unit sent two officers to cover one side another to reconnoiter in the field. The skipper himself held down a key post in a culvert at the weakest point of defense and

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DEWITT SUCCEEDS
M'NAIR IN FRANCE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—Lt. Gen. John L. Dewitt has been appointed to succeed the late Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair, killed recently by an American bomb in Normandy, in an undisclosed command "of great importance" in Europe, the War Department announced today.

Dewitt, former commander of the Fourth Army and Western Defense Command with headquarters at San Francisco, has been commandant of the joint Army and Navy Staff College in Washington for the last 13 months.

When in charge of the West Coast command, Gen. Dewitt modernized the defenses there after Pearl Harbor and arranged for the evacuation of Japanese nationals from critical areas.

Gen. McNair's actual duties with American forces in Normandy were never disclosed.

B26s HIT BREST,
FO.L PORT BLOCK

A German attempt to block the harbor at Brest and hinder the use of the Brittany port after it falls to the Allies was frustrated yesterday by U. S. medium bombers as heavies hit Nazi targets over a wide area of France.

While American troops were fighting for possession of Brest, Ninth AF Marauders swept over the city and bombed and probably sank two freighters which the enemy apparently intended to scuttle in the harbor.

Following a day in which British-based U. S. heavies flew to Russia without loss after hitting an aircraft plant at Rahmel, ten miles northwest of the Polish port of Gdynia, between 500 and 750 Eighth AF Fortresses and Liberators yesterday attacked French fuel tanks and depots, bridges and railroad junctions.

Six Spearheads
Driving East
For Paris

As six American spearheads drove eastward toward Paris on a 53-mile front and other U. S. armored columns closed in on the great ports of Brittany, German troops last night opened a desperate counter-attack in force against extended American lines in Normandy and recaptured eight-held Mortain, 14 miles south of the Vire River and 20 miles east of Avranches.

The ambitious German counter-offensive—the largest undertaken against the Americans since the landings in France—was launched with at least four panzer divisions and obviously was aimed at capturing Avranches and cutting off U. S. forces seeking south through Brittany from their Cherbourg peninsula supply lines.

135 Miles to Paris

Another Nazi armored column was reported to have passed through St. Barthelemy, about two and a half miles north of Mortain on the road to Juvigny. The enemy attack came in the sector to the north of where American tanks, which had raced into Brittany, wheeled and started eastward for Paris.

Ninth Air Force fighters and RAF Typhoons made raid after raid on the enemy columns, which were attacking without Luftwaffe support. At least 88 Nazi tanks and 101 other vehicles had been destroyed in the Allied aerial attacks in the three hours before darkness last night.

Paris itself was less than 135 miles away from the advancing U. S. troops. The fall of the capital was even considered to be a matter of weeks, according to one optimistic report, which told of complete confusion among German ranks withdrawing eastward to the south of the new enemy attack.

Want to Give Up to Yanks

A Vichy Radio spokesman said that the French people believed the Allies would be in Paris in less than a month. A delayed report from the French frontier claimed that German technical services were already being evacuated from France.

Many groups of Germans in the Brittany peninsula have said they would surrender to American troops, but not to the French. The garrison at Lorient sent word it wanted to surrender to American forces approaching from Vannes 29 miles away. This U. S. column was last reported to be 20 miles from Lorient.

Another American column got a request from 1,200 Germans to accept their surrender, but the speeding column sent back word they would have to surrender.

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Nazis Say U. S. 1st, 3rd
Armies Now in France

A Berlin military spokesman said yesterday that four Allied armies were now engaged in France—the American First and Third Armies, the British Second Army and the Canadian First Army.

An Allied announcement that the First Canadian Army was in action in Normandy brought to three the total of Allied armies officially revealed to be in the fighting. The other two are the British Second and the U.S. First armies.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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'Somewhere in France...'

THE sergeant was like most non-com platoon leaders in his battalion; efficient, and he had the know-how that made men want to follow wherever he led. But none figured he'd ever be more of a hero than any other doughboy in the outfit—until the day he died.

It was during the 30th Infantry Division's Vire River crossing. The sergeant led a patrol that night immediately before the big crossing. Midstream his little boat tipped over, so he undressed and repeatedly dived to the bottom of the river to retrieve indispensable radio equipment and arms. At dawn he went back to his CP to lead another patrol across, and after that he returned for a third patrol.

It was after this third crossing that the sergeant was hit. He was probing ahead of his men when a German machine gun got him, and as he lay wounded he shouted back final orders to his patrol: "Go on, men. Don't bother about me, the Jerries are zeroed in on me and they'll get you if you come near. . . go on!"

They found his body days later. The Germans had planted 170-odd mines and bobby traps around it to "get" the men they were sure would come for their sergeant.

One American doughboy used a piece of German shrapnel to good advantage this week. The jagged piece of artillery shell from an 88 airburst lodged in the doughboy's helmet. A bit excited, he dropped his gun, and at that moment the Germans attacked. He took off his helmet and started swinging. Before the smoke had cleared at least one German lay dead—the victim of that piece of shrapnel lodged in the doughboy's helmet.

Lt. Col. Sam T. McDowell, of Rock Hill, S.C., a doughboy officer, figures his aching infantry feet have saved his life at least once. Recently some men in his unit got a box from home and opened it in a foxhole. They invited the colonel over, but he said, "sorry, my feet hurt too much." Just then a German shell screamed in and burst over the hole, killing most of the men around that box from home.

1/Lt. Nick Athenas, piper cub pilot attached to the 90th Infantry Division, came down after an observation mission the other day. Instead of rolling to a position close to the hedge for camouflage he stopped in the middle

of the field, got out and inspected his ship. There was a neat bullet hole through the gas tank. Athenas had plugged it with his finger and handkerchief while making the landing.

TWO Pfc's assigned to a Civil Affairs office in a Normandy town took on a seagoing role the other night when a civilian reported hearing cries for help from the sea nearby. The pair, William T. Miesse, of West Orange, N. J., and Milton A. Polz, of New York, awoke a fisherman and put out in his small boat. They found five men floating on a raft, two of whom spoke perfect English. Only when they reached shore did the soldiers discover that they had fished a crew of German fishermen from the water. The fliers had bailed out after their plane was damaged by flak.

A brand new second lieutenant went up to his crusty old 50th Division battalion commander and said, "Sir, I would like transportation to go back and get my bed roll." "Bed roll! Hell, man, we don't use those things up here," screamed the Colonel. "My advice to you is to get in a hole with a doughboy and a gun and to hug 'em both tightly."

SGT. Burton Hartman, member of a Signal Corps photo unit attached to the 90th Division, tells the prize story of the week. It concerns the patrol which was busy routing snipers out of a neighboring town even while MP's were posting a sign: "This town off limits to all troops."

Maj Arthur P. Smith and S/Sgt. Henry Lowe of the 90th Division Special Service section swear they have a dog who can smell Jerry. The dog, named "Lady," barks at all approaching German planes before the AA gets into action. The payoff is that Lady does not bark at Allied aircraft—at least that's what her masters claim.

Tanks Rescue Sailors and Newsmen, Ambushed After Komrad's Surrender

Continued from Page 1 began firing away, first with his pistol and, when ammunition ran out, a carbine. Other men also shot from points of vantage in the culverts.

German reinforcements appeared to have come up, because the fire from machine guns was getting heavier and the sound of mortars almost defeated those in the ditch.

While the firing was going on, several Thunderbolts appeared overhead, but passed on. They apparently did not see the abandoned column of vehicles in the road. Fifteen minutes later a Piper cub liaison plane came over, but to the dismay of the party it dived earthward from German machine gun fire. The plane was partly aflame and the pilot never had a chance to bail out.

The commanding officer then asked for a volunteer to return for help. A lieutenant made a dash for a heavy vehicle. Gunfire strafed the road as he ran. He maneuvered a jeep into position and drove madly down the road.

After a few minutes, the commanding officer ran out of ammunition and called for more carbine clips. They were tossed forward from one man to another.

"I can't hold this position much

longer," he said. "You men make a scramble for the rear."

We started to crawl to the rear, but at that moment heard a groan. One of the seamen returned to the skipper with an aid kit. He was dead.

From that moment we were covered by two seamen, whose steady fire helped us retreat in safety. Until this time, we had spent more than two hours lying face down in a broiling sun with even hotter conditions on the ground.

Suddenly a shout went up and the sound of tanks broke through the firing.

The lieutenant had reached the rear and aid was coming. Three tanks deployed around us, blasting a withering fire of 30-cal. at the enemy, turrets revolving in almost a three-quarter circle to encompass the area.

The lead tank commander called for us to retreat faster, saying that he had us covered. In a few minutes we were crawling, half running and stumbling to the rear, smoking with perspiration and almost near exhaustion.

Engineers and armored infantry units came forward as we retreated and helped stage an orderly retreat for the tank unit.

News From Home

5 TRAIN WRECKS IN 72 HOURS; 47 DEAD IN GEORGIA

LAKE CITY, Minn., Aug. 7—A dozen persons were injured today in the nation's fifth railroad accident in 72 hours when the Milwaukee Road's Olympian Express, heavily loaded with soldiers, sailors and civilians left its tracks and broke in half near here. None of the coaches overturned.

Earlier, 20 persons were hurt at Taunton, Mass., when the locomotive and two passenger cars of a New Haven Railroad train jumped the tracks at a switch near Camp Standish.

In three accidents in the South Saturday, 47 railroad workmen were killed at Stockton, Ga., when a passenger train ran into a freight. An Atlantic Coast Line train was derailed near Lane, S. C., and 25 freight cars left the track at Pembroke, N. C.

CAR STRIKE ENDS

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 7 (AP)—At 2:30 this morning the U. S. Army announced that Philadelphia transport lines were operating "at 100 per cent normal," with all vehicles manned by regular employees, to end the six-day-old transit strike.

Men straggled back to register for work before midnight. The deadline set by Maj. Gen. Philip Hayes.

'BEGINNING OF THE END'

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7 (ANS)—Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, chief of the U. S. Army Service Forces, said tonight that the Battle of France marks "the beginning of the end" for the Germans and "can well be the last round of the European War if Americans on the home front provide the Allied Armies with the brass knuckles needed to deliver an early knockout."

ASKS ARMY-NAVY MERGER

NORTHFIELD, Vt., Aug. 7 (ANS)—Merging of the Army and Navy into a single military force at the end of the war in order to facilitate quick mobilization for future wars was advocated today by Robert T. Patterson, under secretary of War.

PENICILLIN CURES V. D.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—Treatment of gonorrhea can be completed in 7 1/2 hours with the use of penicillin, the Public Health Service announced today. The procedure requires no hospital care for patients and can be used conveniently by physicians in private practice, or by clinics.

ASK MORE LEND-LEASE

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (ANS)—British leaders have told the United States that extension of Lend-Lease beyond the war in Europe is "absolutely necessary to stave off a serious economic situation in England," the National Association of Manufacturers publication said today.

Nazi Mouse Trap Sprung by Tanks After 5-Hr. Pinch

HUELGOAT, Aug. 7—An American armored column attempting to slice through a pass between two hills almost was mouse-trapped yesterday by a strong force of Nazi paratroops, but emerged victorious after a five hour battle—one of its longest encounters in the present offensive.

Small cannon, machine gun and rifle fire pinned down the Americans after they had been allowed to pass through the area. Answering a radio call, small medium tanks were sent forward and delivered 75mm. cannon and machine-gun fire for more than three hours before the defense finally gave away.

Starting at Lessay, this armored unit so far has covered more than 250 miles and its forward elements are passing ahead near Brest.

GI Favorite



warrior, Hit Parade songstress, hopes to come overseas soon to entertain U. S. troops. As anyone can see, she has plenty of reason.

LOSS OF MORTAIN TO Foe REPORTED

Continued from Page 1 rencer to somebody else—it was too busy.

Two more towns in Brittany—Auray, halfway between Vannes and Lorient, and Huelgat, 34 miles east of Brest—were captured yesterday.

The Brest garrison, asked to surrender to U. S. forces had not replied last night. There were no late reports on the advance of American armored columns on St. Nazaire and Nantes, two other potential gateways for reinforcements and supplies to clinch an early Allied victory in Europe.

U. S. formations fanning out from Avranches have now penetrated 150 miles west, 100 miles south and 50 miles southeast.

Plains Lie Ahead More than 100 miles of rolling plain—good territory for tanks—lay ahead of American forces advancing eastward toward Paris.

If U. S. armored columns continued to race east at the Brittany rate of speed it was possible that they could enter Paris before the Germans have time to improvise a defense line on any of the positions still left to them before the capital.

After American spearheads driving east toward Paris crossed the natural defense line of the Mayenne River about 140 miles from Paris at six points—Domfront, Ambriere, Mayenne, Laval, Houssay and Chateau Contier—it began to look as if the Germans could not establish another line anywhere west of Alencon-Le Mans, about 107 miles from Paris.

In Brittany, there was heavy fighting in a few areas—chiefly at Brest and inside St. Malo. The Yanks captured the southern port of Vannes as well as Redon and Carnaix and found that the German garrison had evacuated Mont St. Michel, Gibraltar-like rock off the northern coast.

Prisoners captured in Brittany totaled 13,300. Besides parts of four infantry divisions, the final haul was expected to include large numbers of flak troops, coastal defense soldiers, who had 300 miles of Brittany's seaboard to guard, and communication troops. Good airfields in the Brittany peninsula would give Allied aircraft more bases in France and new long range opportunities at German targets.

In Normandy the violently contested town of Vire was finally captured by American and British troops and heavy German counter-attacks between Vire and Esbry were thrown back. Farther north, Allied troops took 1,200-foot Mt. Pincon and eliminated a two-mile German salient. German troops recently transferred from south of Caen to the Vire area were caught in an ever narrowing pocket.

PIRATES WIN 2, SNAPPING CUBS' 11-GAME STREAK

NEW YORK, Aug. 7—The Pirates chilled the red-hot Cubs twice, 13-5 and 5-4, yesterday and returned the Bruins to fifth place behind the Giants in the National League race. Thus the Cubs' winning streak ended at 11.

A nine-run barrage in the seventh chastised the Cubs in the opener despite the efforts of five pitchers, including Paul Deringer, who absorbed the defeat. Preacher Roe, who replaced Art Cuccurullo in the sixth, was the winner.

Vince DiMaggio's single in the second inning of the windup scored two runs and a triple by Babe Dahlgren produced the others as the Pirates peppered Bob Chipman. Nick Strincevich was credited with the triumph, although Roe had to return in the sixth to quell a mild Cub uprising.

The Yankees pulled to within one game of the second-place Red Sox by sweeping a twin bill from the Athletics, 6-1 and 1-0.

A Homer by Johnny Lindell in the fourth frame of the opener broke a 1-1 deadlock and the Yankees collected four more off Luman Harris, Don Black and Carl Scheib as Atley Donald coasted to his 11th triumph. Jesse Flores outpitched Walt Dubiel in the windup but in the seventh Lindell swatted one of his offerings out of the park for his 12th circuit blow and the game's only tally.

Majors & Minors

Table with columns for League (AMERICAN, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, ASSOCIATION), Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Lists standings for various teams like St. Louis, Boston, New York, etc.