

2 Red Armies Within 50 Mi. Of Warsaw

Nazis Quit Siedice As Lublin Falls To Soviets

Two heavily-armed Russian armies, bypassing lesser strong points in an all-out punch for Warsaw, drove a 150-mile wedge deep into Central Poland yesterday and by Berlin's admission rolled back the Germans to within 50 miles of the Polish capital.

Moscow announced last night the capture of Lublin, 100 miles southeast of Warsaw.

Brest-Litovsk and Lwow were left far behind as the military machines of Marshals Konstantin Rokossovsky and Ivan Konev pushed 50 to 70 miles west of the Upper Bug and, at their nearest point, within 45 miles of the Vistula River.

German News Agency announced the evacuation of Siedice, 50 miles east of Warsaw on the railroad from Lida, and Yaroslav, on the San River, 120 miles east of Cracow on the Lwow-Cracow railway. An hour before, the agency admitted the Reds had reached the 150-mile line between Siedice and Yaroslav.

Clear Road to Warsaw
With the evacuation of Siedice a communication hub for Warsaw, Brest-Litovsk, Lublin and Bialystok, the Russians won virtually a clear road to Warsaw through ideal country for tanks. No natural obstacles intervene short of Praga, the Warsaw suburb on the east bank of the Vistula.

At Siedice, the Russians had covered 320 miles in 31 days, an achievement in the maintenance of supply lines that Allied observers in Moscow marveled at.

Though the main drive undoubtedly was aimed at Warsaw, there was still bitter fighting around the bypassed strongholds of Lwow, Lublin, Brest-Litovsk and Bialystok.

Winchell Denies Digs at 2nd, 29th; Blames Germans

By Jack Feisic
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
NEW YORK, July 24—Walter Winchell today asked The Stars and Stripes to help him stem a "continuous flood of mail from soldiers overseas who contend the Broadway columnist has taken nasty cracks at their outfits.

Most of the complaints have come from the 2nd and 29th Infantry Divisions in Normandy. Members of the 29th seem to remember an alleged Winchell crack about how the division was "hiding in the hills" during maneuvers several years ago. One letter writer told Winchell "the fighting 29th now is definitely in a position to make you eat those words."

The 2nd Division, in a mimeographed newspaper, published a battlefield cartoon showing soldiers of the unit in action and the caption: "I wonder if Walter Winchell knows where we are now?"

Winchell categorically denied that he ever had mentioned a specific outfit by name or number in connection with an uncomplimentary remark, and claimed the soldiers had been duped by an organized enemy plot to circulate unpatriotic or morale-lowering statements among combat troops.

Higher Pay Goes With Transferees

LONDON, July 24.—Infantrymen eligible for extra monthly pay of \$10 or \$5 are entitled to continue receiving pay increase even if transferred to other branches of the combat ground forces, the ETO Finance office disclosed yesterday.

These branches, as specified by the War Department, are field artillery, coast artillery, armored and tank destroyer units and combat engineer units of the engineer corps. Transfer to any part of the Army other than these will disqualify infantry EMTs for the extra pay.

Qualified infantrymen will continue to draw the pay increase while hospitalized with a detachment of patients, the finance office said.

British, Canadians Gain; Yanks Lose Small River Point

Limited operations in the slowly-drying mud of Normandy resulted in small gains on the British and Canadian fronts and a minor setback on the American front.

The salient which U. S. forces drove across the little Seves River toward Periers Saturday was shoved back to the north bank by a German counter-attack and the village of Seves was lost, but it was said at supreme headquarters that American defensive positions were intact.

Field headquarters announced that a total of 60,958 German prisoners—the equivalent of ten to 15 full Nazi divisions—had been taken since D-Day. Four hundred additional prisoners were captured in the mopping-up of the Maltot area, southwest of Caen. Most of them, supreme headquarters disclosed, were from one of two German infantry divisions which were recently transferred to Normandy from the French Mediterranean coast. This was the first indication the German Army group holding southern France had been tapped to bolster the northern front.

British and Canadian troops gained important high ground west of Maltot, about four miles southwest of Caen, and took a small forest near Etevaux, across the Orne River from Maltot.

KING VISITS ITALY

NAPLES, July 24—King George VI arrived in Italy yesterday for his fourth visit to a war zone. His party, including the Queen and Princess Elizabeth, made the trip by plane.

Veteran and Labor Groups in Accord On Job Priorities for Returning GIs

WASHINGTON, July 24—An agreement designed to adjust the claims and priorities of returning servicemen with the rights of civilian workers was reached over the weekend by a committee representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars and officials of the CIO and AFL. The details are expected to be announced this week.

The conferences are understood to have been inspired by a Selective Service ruling that a returning serviceman is entitled to reinstatement in his former position or one of like seniority, status and pay, even though such reinstatement necessitates discharge of non-veterans with greater seniority.

HITLER BOMB GOT 2 GENERALS; CHURCHILL SEES EARLIER END

Battle Jackets Are Ordered for Yanks To Replace 'Impractical' Field Jacket

WASHINGTON, July 24—The War Department has ordered the manufacture of a huge quantity of "urgently-needed" battle jackets—somewhat similar to Canadian and British battle dress—for U. S. troops in Britain and France to replace the present field jacket, which has been found "impractical."

This was revealed today by Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson in announcing that a rarely-used section of the Selective Service Act had been invoked to force six reluctant clothing manufacturers to produce 152,000 of the jackets. The remainder of the order totaling 4,600,000 was contracted for by 86 other manufacturers.

The garments are of a new design requested by Gen. Eisenhower, Patterson said. The buttons are concealed or covered so that they cannot be torn off by brush. Extra room is provided in the sleeves.

Some American troops in France, Patterson said, already have been issued Canadian-type battle jackets to supplement the present U. S. jacket. (Patterson apparently referred to a number of Air Force personnel to whom combat jackets of this style have been issued. In the North African campaign, Canadian-style jackets were widely used by American troops.)

Navy Is Increased by 194,000 Men To Keep Up Pace of War in Pacific

WASHINGTON, July 24—President Roosevelt has approved a plan to increase the number of personnel on active duty in the U. S. Navy by 194,000 to a total strength of 3,200,000, the Navy Department announced today.

RAF Pounds Kiel With 3,000 Tons

American fighter planes ranged southwest Germany yesterday after a night in which the RAF hurled close to 3,000 tons of explosives on Kiel in the first major British attack since D-Day on a great enemy industrial area, and Mosquitoes dropped 4,000-pound blockbusters on Berlin.

Nearly 500 escorted American heavy bombers flew from Italian bases in a widespread attack on enemy airdromes, a harbor in southern France and other objectives in northern Italy and southern Yugoslavia.

Attacking German airfields and strafing transportation and communication facilities, Eighth Air Force pursuits destroyed more than a dozen planes on the ground and shot three observation craft out of the air.

At Russian bases of USSTAF's Eastern Command, meanwhile, 15th Air Force planes were being groomed for new attacks after the first all-fighter flight from Italy to Russia. Escorted by P51s, Lightnings landed on Soviet territory after strafing Nazi airfields at Bazau and Zilistea, in Rumania.

Navy Here Plans To Carry Some Troops to Pacific

WASHINGTON, July 24—A European victory over Germany will not provide measurable relief to the Navy's immediate need for more manpower in the Pacific for two reasons, the Navy Department said today.

1. Because a substantial number of men on duty in the ETO, when hostilities end, will be immediately engaged in the huge task of transporting military forces and equipment over 12,500 or more miles from Europe to the Pacific.

2. Because the war in the Pacific has progressed so rapidly that personnel who may be released from the ETO cannot be counted on definitely for transfer before the peak requirements in the Pacific area will have been reached.

STARK HAILS 'SWEEPERS'

Adm. Harold R. Stark of the U. S. Navy, paying his second visit to France since D-Day, praised the work of U. S. and British minesweepers yesterday.

"I take off my hat to all minesweepers whether they are British or American," he declared. "They have done a great job."

Stark visited Cherbourg and said he found the port in better condition than he had expected.

German Army Told Troops Quelled Outbreak

Berlin announced yesterday that two top generals were killed in the Hitler assassination attempt and that troops were used to crush an anti-Nazi plot, while in London Prime Minister Churchill commented that the war "might come to an end earlier than we have a right to say."

The Prime Minister, expressing the first official British view on the sensational developments inside Germany on a visit to the Normandy battlefield, said "there are grave signs of weakness in Germany. They are in a state of great turmoil inside and none can measure the extent."

Hitler's Double Dies

The deaths of Col. Gen. Guenther Korten, Luftwaffe chief of staff, and Maj. Gen. Heinz Brandt, first general-staff officer in the operational department of the Army, in the bomb blast in which Hitler escaped death were announced by German News Agency. Collaborator Heinrich Berger, Hitler's double, died on the day of the explosion.

An announcement that troops had been used to quell the anti-Nazi outbreak came for the first time from the Nazi radio in a broadcast to the German Army. It said that "without the cooperation of formations of troops the attempt of the small clique of conspirators to seize power and the apparatus of the government in the Reich could certainly not have been nipped in the bud."

Purge Incomplete

While the Nazis claimed the opposition had been stamped out, an Associated Press dispatch detailed from the "German Frontier" reported that Heinrich Himmler's purge "has barely touched the real organizers and leaders of resistance."

"Germany on the surface is quiet with SS and Nazi officered units in apparently uncontested command," the dispatch continued, "but most reliable information received here through secret channels says the leadership of the internal opposition to the Nazis—except for a few gaps created by the blood purge—remains intact."

A report from Sweden described the weapon used in the attack on Hitler as a special flat type of mine which was hidden under the papers on his desk. It went off when Hitler was in the middle of the room and injured his right shoulder and hand.

Allies 12 Miles From Florence

As Allied spearheads north of Poughonzi reached a point 12 miles from Florence, American troops were preparing yesterday to smash their way across the Arno River into Pisa after occupying Marina Di Pisa, the port on the southern bank of the river.

German defenders planned to contest bitterly the crossing at every point since capture of the city by the Allies would constitute a grave threat to the western flank of their Gothic Line.

East of Pisa and north of the Arno, British Eighth Army troops captured Terranova, other forces moved up the Elba valley to within five miles of the road junction of Sansepolcro.

The units nearest Florence were composed of French soldiers of the Fifth Army.

