

# YANKS IN BRITTANY, SPEED TOWARD RENNES

## On Other Fronts

### Nazis Wage Fierce Fight For Warsaw

In the face of stiffening German resistance outside Warsaw, the Russians yesterday hurled a new army into the battle north-east of the Polish capital, while Red forces far to the north breached enemy defenses 20 to 25 miles from East Prussia and still another column in Latvia cut its way within sight of the Baltic Sea west of Riga.

Thousands of Germans, massed in a strip of territory 20 miles long and five to eight miles deep east of the Vistula River, fought violently to repulse Marshal Konstantin Rokossovsky's advance into the Warsaw suburb of Praga. Deep minefields slowed his drive, which Associated Press dispatches from Moscow suggested might be "the biggest all-out offensive the Soviets have thrown against an objective since Stalingrad."

Fierce fighting also was reported in the south, where the Reds were driving for two Carpathian passes and at still another point were only 90 miles east of Cracow and 100 miles from the border of German Silesia, with its coal, metal and war factories.

### Florence Battle Like Cassino

The Eighth Army's push against Florence yesterday was meeting German resistance said to rival the desperate stand at Cassino. Gen. Alexander's H.Q. gave no further information on the nearest point of the Allied advance, last reported as four miles from the city, but announced that New Zealanders were firmly established in Larmola, six and a half miles to the southwest.

Enemy attempts to infiltrate Fifth Army positions on the low a half miles to the southwest. er bank of the Arno River were broken up by shellfire. Action elsewhere was confined to artillery exchanges and patrolling.

### Yanks in Control Of Tinian Island

Organized resistance by the Japanese on Tinian Island, in the Marianas, has ended after only eight days of fighting, Adm. Nimitz announced yesterday. U. S. troops landed there Sunday July 23. On Guam, Americans have captured four more towns and completed mopping up on Orote peninsula.

The new American beachhead on Dutch New Guinea has been extended in the Sansapor area to about 10 miles, Gen. MacArthur announced.

### ROMMEL 'INJURED'—BERLIN

The German News Agency reported yesterday that Marshal Erwin Rommel, commander of the Nazi armies in France, had suffered injuries in an "auto accident during an air attack" July 17 and that his condition was "satisfactory."

Information reaching First U. S. Army headquarters from Nazi prisoners and French civilians last week said Rommel had been mortally wounded when an Allied plane had strafed his car.

### APO Taking Action to Speed Letters; Direct U. S.-to-France Mail Possible

Steps are being taken to improve the mail situation both to and from the United States for soldiers stationed in France, Capt. Henry W. Gheesling, chief poste office of the Advance Section Communications Zone, said yesterday.

"At present," Gheesling said, "both V-mail and airmail letters are delivered in France from 11 to 15 days after mailing in the States. This mail is coming via the British Isles, but we hope to establish service directly to the United States very shortly."

Mail sent from one individual in France to another stationed here normally take about two or three days to reach its destination, Gheesling said.

The postal officer said that his organization was prepared to serve every unit immediately upon its arrival in France, but added that "in a few isolated instances we have been unable to deliver mail to units because of a lack of information as to their movements."

As for individuals who haven't received their mail, Gheesling said that it probably was due to improper addressing or the failure of home units to forward mail promptly to their detachments.

"Every soldier should be certain that his correspondents know his serial number, unit de-

### Average GI Here Gets 3 Letters in 2 Days

Although writing fewer letters the average soldier in France is receiving more from home than he did in Britain—about three every two days.

So reports Capt. Henry W. Gheesling, of Atlanta, Ga., ASCZ postal officer, who also states the APO's money order sections are being kept busier than ever before.

"Our soldiers are being kept so busy they haven't much time to write or spend money," he explains.

signation and full Army Post Office address. If assigned to a headquarters, it would help postal sorters if his mail bore the name of the section to which the addressee is assigned."

### HUGE ROBOT TOLL IN LONDON LISTED

LONDON, Aug. 2—The terror assault on Greater London by German flying bombs has taken a toll in a month and a half of 4,735 persons killed, 14,000 more or less seriously injured, thousands of others less severely hurt, 17,000 homes destroyed and 800,000 more damaged, Prime Minister Churchill told Commons today.

Mr. Churchill said that "every effort in human power" was being made to stop the robots, but said that occupation of the coast areas from which they are dispatched probably would be necessary before the menace could be ended. He recalled his February warning that rockets larger and more deadly than the pilotless planes might be sent against London and advised all non-essential persons in the city to leave for safer areas. Already, he said, more than 1,000,000, mostly women and children, had been evacuated.

Between June 13 and July 31, 5,340 bombs or about 4,500 tons of explosives had fallen in southern England and the London area, the prime minister reported. In the same period, Allied air forces had hurled 48,000 tons of explosives on Germany, he added.

"The only result of the use of this indiscriminate weapon, so far as they (the Germans) are concerned," Mr. Churchill asserted, "will be that the punishment, after their weapons have been torn from their hands by our fighting men, will be appreciably increased."

### HEAVIES OVER FRANCE

Nearly 500 Forts and Libs from Britain yesterday attacked numerous targets in north and central France, including a robot supply depot, fuel dumps, and several bridges, while other heavies from Italy bombed rail yards and oil storage dumps in the Rhone Valley.

### LUFTWAFFE USING 2-IN-ONE PLANE

A new German "secret weapon"—a composite aircraft in which a fighter releases a pilotless bomber loaded with four tons of high explosives—is now in use it was learned last night.

The plane apparently consists of a FW190 or Me109 joined to a Ju88 bomber in pick-a-back fashion. The fighter pilot is in control and can release the larger plane at will, either when the target has been reached or when an attacking enemy forces him to jettison his load.

One such aircraft recently was spotted off the Normandy beach head. The Ju88 crashed into the sea after it had been released by the fighter, which fled into cloud. The composite craft already has been shot down by night fighters and by anti-aircraft.

### FOUR STARS FOR STILLWELL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—President Roosevelt has recommended Lt. Gen. Joseph (Uncle Joe) Stillwell commander of the Chitra, Burma, India theater, for promotion to full general.

### The Major Went on a Furlough— And What a Helluva Time He Had!

By G. K. Hodenfield

WITH AMERICAN FORCES IN NORMANDY, Aug. 2—The next time Maj. Paul Gale, of Lynn, Mass., gets a 48-hour furlough he probably will spend it in some quiet foxhole. His last one was pretty rugged.

Gale wanted to see what was going on at the front so he had Pvt. Joseph Beckman, of Atlantic City, N.J., take him by jeep in the general direction of the fighting. It wasn't long until they found themselves in a town occupied by Germans—lots of Germans.

Gale traded his pistol to Beckman for a Garand rifle and they started shooting while Beckman did some fancy driving. Beckman picked off one Jerry at a crossroad and Gale accounted for five more with the Garand. Then they found a comparatively quiet spot for a moment and Gale sent Beckman hightailing back to camp with orders to bring reinforcements. Beckman did hightail, but he paused long enough to get four more Jerries or the way out, the last three with a rifle taken from No. 1.

Beckman brought back reinforcements but they didn't get through until the next morning. They entered the town figuring at best they would find a body. Instead they found Gale in possession of the town after a quiet night's sleep in a civilian home.

### U. S. Opens Drive to Cut Brest Peninsula; British Deepen Wedge to South

American armored spearheads, opening the Battle of Brittany in the western sector of the French battlefronts yesterday, raced toward the railroad center of Rennes, about halfway across the base of the Brest Peninsula, while the British break-through from Caumont in the central sector extended more than 15 miles to within four miles of the Vire.

As U.S. First Army men rounded the corner from Normandy into Brittany after capturing Pontorson, an advance of 13 miles from Avranches, Prime Minister Churchill told the House of Commons that German losses in Normandy have been about double those of the Allies.

"The latest news from the invasion front seems to me to be extremely good," Mr. Churchill said. "We are vastly superior to the enemy in men, armor and in the air, and in mobility once the front has widened out."

German sources expressed fear that the American drive would break through to the south of the Loire River, at the southeast base of the Brest Peninsula. Meanwhile the Germans continued to fall back on several sectors of the front, although there was no evidence of a general withdrawal.

American troops, by crossing the Selune River at Pontaubault, four miles south of Avranches, and at Ducey, five miles southeast of Avranches, rolled up the German flank so that it no longer rested on the sea. They strengthened their bridgehead across the Selune by capturing Montgothier, eight miles southeast of Avranches, and prevented the Germans from delaying their entry into Brittany by seizing two dams—La Roche qui Boit and Vezins, seven and nine and a half miles southeast of Avranches—which the Germans could have opened to flood the area.

The capture of Pontaubault gave the Yanks control of an important junction of three roads—the main road leading west to the port of Brest, a road leading east to Paris, and a road leading southeast into Central France.

American armored spearheads which raced southwest from the Selune bridgehead seized Pontorson, another important road junction 34 miles north of Rennes, key to the whole Brittany peninsula.

As the Yanks smashed into Brittany for the first time, air reconnaissance showed little German movement in the peninsula. The Germans were believed to have previously drawn back much of their strength from Brittany in a vain attempt to stem the

Continued on Back Page

### U. S. Bombs Killed McNair, Army Reveals

LONDON, Aug. 2—Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair was killed by bombs dropped from American aircraft on July 25 when the U. S. offensive in the southern sector of the Cotentin peninsula got under way, it was announced yesterday by Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters.

The 61-year-old former chief of Army Ground Forces, who was declared to have received an "important overseas post," was killed while observing the bombardment of enemy positions by U. S. bombers, the announcement



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'Somewhere in France...'

The men who saw them punching holes in hedgerows and shooting up Germans in the Carentan area call Sgt. John Smart and his tankdozer men a one-man crew armored force.

During a recent hot engagement the "contraption" spearheaded every tank and infantry hedgerow-to-hedgerow attack, first by clearing paths through the thick brushy rows, then by going in and shooting up everything visible.

"I guess we were the advance guard," Smart said. "We showed the Germans what our bulldozers and our Sherman tanks could do—that's what my tank dozer is, a combination of the two."

Smart fired an average of two dozen high explosive and 4,000 machine gun rounds daily, and he can't recall how many hedgerows he split up.

Once he was "almost nicked" when he reached out of his turret to throw a hand grenade at was shot from in front of his eyes; there were also several encounters with German self-propelled artillery and tanks, but the dozer came through with few scars.

After the first few days Smart developed a real tactical technique. At one point he plugged a hedgerow so skilfully that two Sherman tanks went in, encircled a German force and killed and wounded more than 146 of the enemy. Another time his "plugging" was on a mission of mercy—the hole relieved a platoon of trapped doughboys.

When American infantrymen couldn't get to German machine gun nests Smart was sent in to scoop them out. Frequently when Smart returned, his tank was filled with wounded, and there were dead on his blade.

A piano accordion is definitely not the thing to carry through enemy lines, but Pvt. Christian Anderson, a litter bearer with the Fourth Division, added one to his souvenir collection.

Sent to treat some wounded doughboys, he arrived at their foxhole and met three Germans face-to-face. One of the Jerries told Anderson in English: "I understand you Yanks are souvenir-hunters. Here's something you can have."

He hauled out a huge accordion. Anderson stayed with the Germans until some infantrymen arrived, then, dodging enemy rifle bullets, he made his way back to his own lines, lugging his accordion.

A set of carpenter's tools and an acetylene torch lugged from the U. S. by two GIs have provided what members of a Q. M. truck company call the finest portable shower in France. T/5 Harold E. Mix, Rupert, Ia., the carpenter and Pvt. Joseph S. Reid, Rosendale, N. Y., a former contractor, were so attached to their tools that they couldn't leave them when their outfit sailed from New York.

When the unit settled recently, Mix and Reid dug their equipment from B bags and went to work. They salvaged a 300 gallon harbor net tank, pumps from a landing craft and a motor from a wrecked British boat. Other GIs dug a 166 foot well and in no time the shower was up.

A gallon and a half of gas will heat the 300 gallons in 15 minutes, according to the pair, and

News From Home

GI VOTE SPONSORS WOULD LIFT LIMIT ON PUBLICATIONS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2 (AP)—Sens. Theodore Green (D.-R. I.) and Scott Lucas (D.-Ill.), authors of the Soldier Vote Act, today offered an amendment to relax the law's political propaganda restrictions by giving overseas servicemen access to the same publications and broadcasts they would get at home.

Sen. Green, chairman of the privileges and elections committee, said that "it is almost vital that members of armed forces be reliably, accurately and completely informed if their morale is to be maintained and enemy propaganda is to be offset."

The act, passed last Spring, made it unlawful for any officer or government employee to place at the disposal of the armed forces any literature which "when considered in its entirety contains political propaganda obviously designed to affect the result of a national election."

DEWEY RAPS SMITH

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 2—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, of New York, Republican presidential nominee, today charged Gerald L. K. Smith, head of America First Inc. with a "sinister effort to smear" the GOP's vice-presidential nominee.

Commenting on the action of the America First group in "nominating" Gov. John Bricker, of Ohio, as running mate for Smith, its presidential candidate, Dewey said "Gerald Smith is one of those rabble rousers who, like Adolf Hitler, makes racial prejudices his stock in trade."

CAPT. ROOSEVELT IN U. S.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—Capt. Quentin Roosevelt, son of the late Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt who died in Normandy three weeks ago, has returned for reassignment. Capt. Roosevelt attended his father's funeral near St. Mere Eglise.

AWOL TO AID FAMILY

CHICAGO, Aug. 2—Pvt. Albert Capozello, absent without leave from Camp Robinson, Ark., since July 5, surrendered today after having spent his unauthorized vacation repairing seven automobiles so his wife and child could be "financially secure for awhile."

LESS ICE CREAM IN U. S.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—Ice cream production will be cut still further for an indefinite period after today. The War Food Administration announced that manufacturers would be limited to 65 per cent of milk solids used in the corresponding months of 1942.

ARGENTINE ENVOY LEAVES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—Argentinian Escobar, Argentine ambassador, recalled by his government, left by plane for Buenos Aires yesterday. He told reporters he hoped for solution of the controversy between his country and the United States.

LONDON, Aug. 2—Prime Minister Churchill, in his report to Commons today, expressed regret and anxiety that Argentina "has not seen fit to declare herself on the side of freedom, but has rallied not only with the evil but with the losing side."

TURKEY SPLITS WITH REICH

ANKARA, Aug. 2—Turkey broke diplomatic and economic relations with Germany today following a request for such action by Great Britain, supported by the United States.

Yanks Liberate Villedieu, City Of Pots and Pans

By Jules B. Grad

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer VILLEDIEU LES POILLES, Aug. 2—This ancient city's cobblestone streets, which once echoed horses' hoofbeats as the Knights of Malta rode out to battle, today sounded with the rumble of American tanks and armored cars.

Advancing armored infantry last night wiped out pockets of resistance on the road to Villedieu—16 miles east of Granville—and this morning the city was in U.S. hands. Its citizens lined the streets and shouted: "Vive l'Amerique," and "Vive La France," as the Yanks came through.

With its winding narrow roads and its 15th Century church, it looked like a Hollywood scene. Founded in 1100, it is famous for its kitchen utensils, and up to 9AM yesterday, when the Nazi fled, four foundries were still producing brass utensils for German army kitchens.

Two Soviet Girls, Slaves of Troops, Left by Germans

Special to The Stars and Stripes

WITH U. S. FORCES OUTSIDE AVRANCHES, Aug. 2—Two Russian girls in their teens turned over to U. S. custody by the French when their German captors fled Avranches, told today how they had been enslaved after their village was overrun in 1941 and forced to be servants for the soldiers by day and submit to them at night.

The girls said they were sent to labor camps after their village had been burned and their relatives slain or sent to concentration camps.

An American lieutenant, born in Odessa, told them the Russians were nearing Warsaw, the Germans were being cut to ribbons on three fronts and they probably could go home soon, but the girls said they had nothing to go home to and wanted only to work in a safe place.

"What can you tell them? What can you tell them?" the lieutenant said, shaking his head.

Americans in Brittany, Push Toward Rennes

Continued from Page 1

American push southward from Cherbourg.

An American column racing eastward from Avranches continued to roll up the German left flank and captured Brecey, eight and a half miles from Avranches. A good bridge was found intact across the See River and it appeared that in the rapid retreat the Germans were not taking time to blow up bridges as they had north of Avranches.

Grim fighting north of Brecey for three hot spots—Villedieu Percy and Tassy sur Vire—ended in American capture of the three towns. By capturing Villedieu the Yanks began to wipe out the German salient in their east flank which two Panzer divisions battled violently to maintain.

Seven German divisions have been virtually destroyed since the big American push began and in one 24-hour period U.S. troops took nearly 8,000 prisoners.

The British drive southward from the Caumont area through Le Beny Bocage to Vire went so fast at one time that troops went beyond a target which the Army had asked the Air Force to bomb—before arrangements could be made to bomb it.

BROWNS TUMBLE NATS AS BOSOX AND YANKS LOSE

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 1—Designs on winning the American League race, a feat which has eluded the Browns ever since they entered the circuit at the turn of the century, were brighter than ever yesterday after Luke Sewell's current leaders widened their advantage to five and a half games by routing the Senators, 11-5, here in a night game. The challenging Red Sox and Yankees, meanwhile, slipped by 8-4 scores to the Indians and Tigers respectively.

The Browns swept their four-game series with the Nats by peppering Dutch Leonard and Wifred Lefebvre for 15 hits.

Four runs in the eighth carried Cleveland to victory over the Bosox and tagged Tex Hughson, who was seeking his 17th victory with his fifth setback.

The Tigers boosted their home attendance over the 500,000 mark when 26,000 turned out to see them overpower the Yanks and Ernie Bonham in a twilight tilt.

Irvin Hall and Hal Epps the same players who combined to beat the White Sox on Monday, did it again for the Athletics yesterday when Hall tripled in the 12th and scored on a fly by Epps to give the A's a 2-1 overtime triumph.

Majors & Minors

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Philadelphia 2, Chicago 1, Cleveland 8, Boston 4, Detroit 11, New York 4, St. Louis 11, Washington 6.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Pittsburgh 12, Boston 0, St. Louis 14, Brooklyn 3, Cincinnati 5, New York 4. Only games scheduled.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. St. Louis 69, 26, .726; Cincinnati 54, 42, .563 15 1/2; Pittsburgh 51, 40, .560 16; New York 46, 51, .474 24; Chicago 42, 47, .471 24; Boston 39, 57, .405 30 1/2; Philadelphia 37, 55, .402 30 1/2; Brooklyn 38, 59, .392 32.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Toledo 1, Milwaukee 0 (1st); Toledo 10, Milwaukee 7 (nd); Louisville 4, St. Paul 1 (1st); St. Paul 8, Louisville 1 (2nd); Indianapolis 5, Minneapolis 4 (1st); Minneapolis 8, Indianapolis 2 (2nd); Columbus 5, Kansas City 1 (1st); Kansas City 2, Columbus 1 (2nd).

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Oakland 3, Seattle 2; San Diego 9, Hollywood 6; San Francisco 8, Sacramento 4. Only games scheduled.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (continued)

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Milwaukee 74, 33, .692; Toledo 63, 41, .606 9 1/2; Louisville 64, 43, .598 11; Columbus 57, 46, .549 15; St. Paul 53, 46, .535 17; Minneapolis 40, 63, .388 32; Indianapolis 33, 70, .320 39; Kansas City 30, 72, .294 41 1/2.

BLONDIE



Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GB. Los Angeles 62, 53, .539; San Francisco 62, 54, .534 1/2; Portland 58, 57, .504 4; Hollywood 59, 58, .504 4; Oakland 58, 58, .500 4 1/2; Sacramento 56, 60, .483 6 1/2; Seattle 56, 61, .479 7; San Diego 54, 64, .458 9 1/2.