

Soviets Have 100 Mi. to Go To Warsaw

In the Russians' farthest advance west, Soviet tanks yesterday blasted their way to the railway between Brest-Litovsk and Bialystok, 100 miles from Warsaw.

Thus in 25 days since their summer offensive began behind the Vitebsk-Orsha-Mogilev line on June 22, the Russians have advanced three-fourths of the way to the Polish capital.

Advance units were reported already in the suburbs of Brest-Litovsk, even as Marshal Ivan Konev hurled a tremendous

As the fronts stood yesterday, the Russians were roughly 450 airline miles from Berlin and the western Allies about 550 miles.

weight of armor at Lwow and by German admission, penetrated deeply into the enemy lines north of that well fortified base.

Outflank Two Cities

The Soviet thrust to the lateral line between Brest-Litovsk and Bialystok, automatically outflanking both junction fortresses, was reported by German News Agency's Col Ernest von Hammer. He said bitter fighting was in progress.

Several Soviet infantry divisions led by two tank brigades and cavalry, attempted a "surprise" assault on Brest-Litovsk from the southeast yesterday, Col Alfred von Olberg of German Overseas News Agency said last night. He claimed the breakthrough attempt was foiled.

To the south, Konev hurled masses of armor into the battle for Lwow where the Germans admitted the Russians were gaining because of superiority in men and equipment.

winter drive from Kiev had swung Marshal Stalin's Order of the Day said the Russians had punched a hole 128 miles wide in the Nazi line and advanced 32 miles through "strictly fortified, deeply echeloned defenses."

436 Believed Dead In Navy Explosion

MARTINEZ, Cal., July 19—Up to late last night only four bodies of a mounting death toll unofficially placed at 436 had been recovered in the wreckage of an explosion Monday night of two 6,500-ton ammunition ships which shattered the Port Chicago naval ammunition depot.

Early estimates on the number of dead ranged as high as 650, but 12th Naval District headquarters subsequently announced that casualties would not run that high. Official figures listed the known dead as 250 sailors, nine officers, seven merchant seaman and four civilians. A party of 40 armed guards aboard the ships and a combined civilian crew list of about 130 were also presumed lost.

Between 600 and 800 persons, the majority of whom are Navy personnel, were reported injured. Material damage reports exceeded \$5,000,000.

U. S.-ITALY MAIL

WASHINGTON, July 19, (Reuter)—Resumption of civilian mail service for personal correspondence between the U. S. and Rome and the Vatican City has been announced.

BRITISH DRIVE IS BIGGEST SINCE D-DAY; AMERICANS CLEAN UP POCKETS IN ST. LO

But Captured City Is Under Heavy Shell Fire

U. S. FIRST ARMY HQ., July 19 (Reuter)—Battling fierce mortar and artillery fire, American troops mopped up important St. Lo today and severed another highway leading from the city, while the Luftwaffe made its first sizeable appearance.

Except for one stubborn pocket still holding out in the northern suburbs and occasional snipers, St. Lo had been cleared of Germans.

The St. Lo saucer, nestling in the center of a near-circle of high ground, was mopped up under savage pasting from German artillery and mortars from hills southwest and southeast of the city.

Simultaneous with the clearing of the town, doughboys pressing forward northwest of St. Lo slashed the important St. Lo-Periers highway at a point about six miles from the medieval cathedral city.

Meanwhile, the Luftwaffe, in a desperate attempt to halt the spreading American flood, sent over between 15 and 19 ME109s on strafing missions.

The daylight mission, which cost the Nazis two planes, was the first sizeable appearance of the Luftwaffe over the American sector since D-Day. One German plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire and another by a U. S. fighter.

Resistance along the entire front was, in the words of an Army spokesman, "stiff." Southeast of Carentan, veteran U. S. troops were meeting some of the fiercest resistance they have ever met—principally from crack paratrooper units. All fronts remained fairly static, the principal gains being made northwest of St. Lo, and southeast of Carentan.

'FOLDING BAZOOKA' IN USE

WASHINGTON, July 19—American jungle and parachute troops are being equipped with "folding bazookas" while Army planes in the China-Burma-India theater are using new large 4.5-inch bazookas, the War Department disclosed today.

The new 2.36-cal rocket launcher doesn't actually fold, as its name implies, but can be assembled in a few seconds to form a bazooka 61 inches long.

St. Lo 'Living Hell' Under German Fire

By Andy Rooney

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

ST. LO, July 19—This town, from which the Germans ruled the Cherbourg peninsula, is battered and broken tonight.

St. Lo was a town of 10,500 people, but there are no French here tonight but the dead. Down the main street the furniture hangs out of the broken buildings like the intestines of the cows in the field outside the town.

From the hills south of St. Lo the Germans are sending artillery and mortar fire into the town and U. S. troops walking through the streets are sticking close to the sides of buildings with an eye on the nearest door on constant watch for snipers.

The GIs who came in yesterday morning and who once pushed one-half mile south of town said St. Lo was "a living hell."

One of First Men to Enter St. Lo Is Borne Into City in Hero's Funeral

St. Lo, July 19—There was a strange funeral procession which entered this town when it fell last night. Riding in state, in an ambulance sandwiched between tanks and armored cars, was the flag-draped body of the major who a few hours before had led his men to take the last hill in front of St. Lo.

The commanding general of the division ordered that the body of the Virginia battalion commander who had died so that others might reach the town would enter St. Lo with the first troops.

The major, whose name is not releasable, was laid in state on top of yellow block stones which cascaded down from the arched Norman walls of a church in the center of St. Lo.

The pile of yellow rubble running down from the undamaged windows of the church was the highest and most prominent in the city and the sun seemed to shine more brightly on the yellow blocks of stone and the American flag over the bier.

The ambulance used as a hearse was driven by Pfc Emerson Ensor, of Texas, Md. when the armored vehicles formed on the road to go into St. Lo.

"We thought we were just going to treat casualties along the way," said Capt. Herman Tannebaum, the doctor in the ambulance. "Just before we went in they told us to take the major's body into the shrine inside the city and place it there. We thought we would pick some flowers on the way in."

Today, as German mortars fall through the American-occupied town, the major's body still lies on the high spot overlooking the town he died to free.

Byrnes Withdraws As Candidate For Vice-Presidency

CHICAGO, July 19—War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes withdrew from the race for the Vice-Presidential nomination as the 1944 Democratic National Convention opened today, saying he was acting "in deference to the wishes of President Roosevelt."

At the same time, Vice-President Henry A. Wallace arrived to take personal charge of his campaign for renomination, following a virtual SOS from Iowans of his home-state delegation.

Many delegates believed the announcement by Byrnes forecast a more positive move by Mr. Roosevelt to point out his preference for a running mate, as he did in 1940. Byrnes' withdrawal apparently left Sen. Harry S. Truman, of Missouri, as Wallace's leading contender, although Sen. Alben W. Barkley, of Kentucky, also had supporters.

The selection of a Vice-Presidential candidate and the delicate question of Negro rights were two of the principal matters before the convention.

144 Nazi Planes Bagged as Reich Is Pounded Again

LONDON, July 19—Unloosing the sixth paralyzing American blow against the Reich in nine days, about 2,700 warplanes yesterday raided more than 12 key targets in Southern Germany and boosted the toll taken of the decimated Luftwaffe in 48 hours to at least 144.

From Britain more than 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators conveyed by nearly 750 pursuits smashed at more than four plants feeding the enemy war machine as well as rail yards and Luftwaffe stations, while from Italy up to 500 15th AF B17s and B24s escorted by fighters struck aircraft factories, airdromes and ordnance plants near Munich.

As a smashing sequel to the previous day's assault in which the Eighth AF shot down 21 interceptors, fighter pilots and bomber gunners yesterday destroyed 59 Nazi aircraft, of which the P51s, P47s and P38s bagged 53—17 in the air and 36 on the ground. U. S. losses were 18 heavies and seven fighters.

Preliminary reports did not indicate how many had been destroyed.

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Monty Says Nazis in Normandy Lost 156,000

British and Canadian tank columns, spearheading the new Allied breakthrough toward the heart of France, smashed forward several miles through the breach in the German's Orne River defenses yesterday, while an estimate by Gen. Montgomery placed German losses in the 42 days of fighting in Normandy at 156,000.

The new offensive heaviest in weight of troops and armor that the Allies have unleashed in Normandy, penetrated six miles to Cagny, in the wide plain south-east of Caen and on the road to Paris—Highway 13 from Caen—German radio admitted.

A powerful German counter attack with armor has been launched, supreme headquarters announced, but it was stated that the battle was going extraordinarily well for the Allies.

British forces captured Holtot, long a stumbling block, two and a half miles southwest of Tilly-sur-Seuilles.

Montgomery, declaring that the Allied objective was to "bleed the German military machine to death," announced that the Allies had taken 60,000 prisoners and buried 8,000 German dead since D-day and estimated total German casualties at 156,000. He said that British and Canadian casualties in the first day of the new offensive were extremely light—"almost negligible."

Before the breakthrough south-east of Caen the allies slammed down 14,000 tons of explosives on various targets, one dispatch said yesterday, and near Colombelles, northeast of Caen, there was a gigantic pall of smoke 50 miles wide, 20 miles deep and five miles high. German defenders were left so shaken that many of those captured were not able to work the bolts of their rifles.

The fury of the greatest aerial bombardment ever dealt on such a concentrated battle area and the swift advance—after tanks surged across three Orne bridges which had been secretly built the night before—apparently left the German High Command confused as to the status of the battle and the depth of penetration.

2nd Nazi General In France Is Fired

Adolf Hitler has fired Gen. Von Falkenhausen, German commander-in-chief in Belgium and northern France, and also changed the administrative setup governing the two areas, a German News Agency announcement quoted by United Press said yesterday.

Von Falkenhausen is the second German military leader in the battle area dismissed in two weeks. The first was field marshal Gerd Von Rundstedt.

The German announcement said Von Falkenhausen handed over civil affairs to a new Reich commissar, Grobe, and military duties to Gen. Grase, who will take over in Brussels.

GERMAN 'WACS' SEIZED

CAEN FRONT, July 19 (AP)—German "WACS" were among the prisoners captured in the sudden onslaught yesterday east of the Orne River. They were the first women of the German Army captured on the British front in Normandy, and were a disheveled lot, too dazed to bother to put on any makeup.

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Army Notes

A set of twins—Pvt. Melvin and Alvin Ayers, 22, of Albany, Cal., are the cause of no small wonder along the roads of Normandy.

The brothers are truck drivers in an engineer unit attached to a large headquarters. Being identical twins and each driving the same type truck, Melvin and Alvin leave a trail of confusion and "double takes" in their wake.

An MP who directs military traffic at an important crossroads is still seeing double. "One twin came along and asked the way to a supply dump," he said. "I told him and he drove on. A couple of minutes later what looked like the same guy in the same truck stopped and asked the same question. Until he explained about their being twins, I thought maybe this Army life was affecting my mind."

Melvin and Alvin entered the Army at San Francisco in November, 1942. Melvin was sent to Camp Roberts, Cal., and Alvin to Fort Belvoir, Va. Since they had never been separated before, their parents wrote the President, explaining the situation. Shortly afterward, the pair were ordered to an engineer outfit and have been with it ever since.

A battalion of U. S. infantry cut off from its regiment during the fight for St. Lo, had several badly wounded men who needed blood transfusions in a hurry. A call back to the artillery support brought low-flying Piper Cubs over and blood plasma was dropped.

A U. S. Army staff officer revealed yesterday that the first "clear and definite case" of the Germans boobytrapping American dead in Normandy had been established.

Three dead American soldiers were found in a ditch somewhere south of Carentan with boobytraps fixed to their bodies, the spokesman said. Definite evidence that the bodies were boobytrapped was authenticated by signed statements of an American staff sergeant and another American soldier who removed the lethal weapons. Nearby, the spokesman added two more cases of boobytrapping American dead were found.

A Red Cross mobile unit of 31 girls, led by Virginia Ellis, of Brockline, Mass., are in Normandy to get around with doughnuts and coffee service, stage movies and distribute stationery, cigarettes, toilet articles.

ADD CLOSE CALLS: Pvt. Reuben Post, rifleman from Lindstrom, Miss., was standing behind a hedgerow when a mortar shell hit on the other side. A piece of shell fragment ripped through the lapel of his field jacket, through the sleeve of the jacket, shirt and undershirt—all without touching his skin. About 100 yards from Post, Lt. Wallace Riddick, of Demopolis, Ala., experienced the sensation of seven German machine pistol shells passing through the front of his helmet without touching his head. Believe it or not.

More than 12 hours after the drive into St. Lo got under way, and after hundreds of vehicles passed down the main road from Isigny, Pvt. Clarence Smith and Cpl. Mack Gosiewski, both of Akron, Ohio, detected a mine under the pavement.

Camille J. DeMonte, of Hartford, Conn., occupied a distinct position among the 54 Wacs in France. She is the only buck private in the detachment. How about a promotion for the little woman?

U.S. Scours Labor Mart For Women

WASHINGTON, July 19—Women who want to do strenuous work in the forge and foundry industry have only to step into the nearest Western Union office these days and before they know it they'll be weight lifting for the war effort at so much an hour.

War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt, announcing 20,000 workers would be needed for the industry this summer, said many of them might be women. Western Union offices to accept. To make it easy for them to apply, he authorized 48,000 collect telegrams to the W.M.C. McNutt pointed out that women already were helping to make 400-pound parts for the E29 super-Fortress at Harvey Ill., while others were doing forge and foundry work in factories near Chicago and in Cleveland.

The nation's manpower shortage also was reflected in the wheat belt, where lack of labor to transfer grain to elevators had forced railroads to impose temporary restrictions on shipments to the Kansas City terminal. An estimated 22,000,000 bushels were piled on the ground in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

TEXAS COUNTY VOTES DRY
 WACO, Tex., July 19 Residents of McLennan County voted to restore prohibition locally. Dallas and Tarrant Counties, in which Dallas and Fort Worth are located, will hold a similar election Aug. 5. Should the two counties vote dry, there will be no legal liquor for sale in Texas north of Austin.

THE CO RELENTS
 MIAMI, July 19—Screen actress Gail Patrick and her bridegroom, Navy Lt. Arnold Dean White, were reunited when White's CO removed restrictions confining him to quarters for going to Jacksonville without a pass to marry Gail. Neither was available for comment.

JUST A BEGINNING
 NEW YORK, July 19—The Army Air Forces have cancelled a contract for 499,000 yards of red tape. They have found olive-drab tape more satisfactory for sealing shipments of planes against sea moisture.

Air Assault . . .
 Continued from page 1.
 ed by the Italian-based planes. On Tuesday, however, they got 66.

Continuing the spectacular support of ground troops in France, which began Tuesday with a massive assault on German positions near Caen, the Ninth and Second Tactical Air Forces, although handicapped by clouds, attacked enemy military movements to the front. Led by pathfinder Mergaunders, Hawocs bombed a rail bridge at St. Hilaire du Harcourt, on a line leading to the Normandy battle area. All the A20s, escorted by P47s, returned.

Now to the Normandy Saga Add Deeds of 90th Infantry Division

HQ. 90th INF. DIV., July 19—The Army lifted the veil of secrecy today from the 90th Division, 43 days after one of its regiments landed at H-Hour with the Fourth Division and 41 days after the entire division was here ready for action.

For security reasons the story of what the 90th did in the Cherbourg campaign and the later drive to the south has never been made public.

The 90th, veteran of World War I, passed through the lives of the 82nd Airborne Division on D-plus-Four and established itself generally along the Merderet river where the 82nd had established a small bridgehead. The enemy was established along a main line of resistance extending from Gourbesville to Pont l'Abbe. Elements of the 90th advanced, pushing back the enemy's out-

Welles Advocates Splitting Reich

WASHINGTON, July 19—Summer Welles, former Assistant Secretary of State, predicted in a book published today that the German general staff, which has dominated German politics for decades, would turn to most radical Communism after defeat to hold its grip on the Reich.

He advised splitting Germany into three politically independent units so it never again could function as a unit under the military class.

Allies in Italy Take Leghorn, Ancona

Two prize Italian seaports—Leghorn on the Tyrrhenian Sea and Ancona on the Adriatic—were captured by the Allies yesterday.

American Fifth Army troops took Leghorn, third largest port in Italy, without opposition in the city itself after one of the stiffest fights in the campaign, while a Polish force of the Eighth Army took Ancona, following a 75-mile advance in the last fortnight through a mountainous region.

With the Eighth Army's capture of Montevarchi, about 24 miles southeast of Florence in the central sector, possession of the two port cities gave the Allied Armies along the entire 150-mile front a triple-threat shot at Kesselring's Gothic Line along the north banks of the Arno River.

Leghorn was reported to be more seriously smashed even than Naples. The Germans also carried out extensive demolition of Ancona's harbor installations, but repair work has already begun.

Morocco radio reported that the administration of Rome and the Rome area would be taken over by the Italian Government on Aug. 15 after Col. Charles Pollett, the U. S. administrator, moved to newly-liberated regions in the north.

Guam Bombarded 13 Days in Row

PEARL HARBOR, July 19 (UP)—American sea and air power softening the way for an expected landing on Guam are pasting the island with the heaviest bombardment since the outset of the Pacific War.

The 225 square miles of the island have been subjected to eight surface assaults, including three by battleships, and 18 carrier attacks in the last five weeks. A raid by carrier craft Sunday marked the 13th day running the Americans had hammered Guam.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced that land-based U. S. planes sunk or damaged four Japanese merchant ships, two south of Celebes in the East Indies, the other off Dutch New Guinea.

Andersson Runs 4:1.6 Mile, Sets World Track Record

St. Louis Blanks Yankees in Fight For League Lead

ST. LOUIS, July 19—The Browns jumped off to a roaring start in defense of their American League lead here at Sportsmen's Park last night by walloping the second-place Yankees, 8-0, in the first game of the vital series between the clubs. The outcome left Luke Sewell's men on top of the pack by three full games in their drive to bring the first A. L. pennant to St. Louis.

Six-hit pitching by Bob Muncrief and three home runs sent Emerson Rosar, Yankee rookie to defeat. The circuit blows were struck by Milt Byrnes with two on in the second, by Gene Moore with the bases empty in the sixth and Chet Laabs with one aboard in the seventh.

The third-place Red Sox continued their domination over the White Sox by winning, 4-2, in an 11-inning night duel for their 11th straight win over the Chisox in Chicago.

Newhouse Wins 14th
 Southpaw Hal Newhouse of the Tigers also notched his 14th by subduing the Senators, 6-5, in 11 innings at Detroit. Jimmy Outlaw's single drove in the winning run.

The Athletics shoved three runs across in the ninth but fell one short of their goal and lost to the Indians, 4-3, under the lights at Cleveland.

In the National League, the fast-moving Cardinals widened their margin over the idle Reds to 12 full games by whitewashing the Dodgers, 5-0, as Max Lanier humbled the Brooks with four blows.

Phil Weintraub's homer with the bases loaded gave the Giants a 5-2 decision over the Pirates in a night game at New York. Bill Voiselle was the mound victor, yielding only three safeties.

Majors & Minors

AMERICAN LEAGUE
 Detroit 6, Washington 5
 St. Louis 8, New York 0
 Cleveland 4, Philadelphia 3
 Boston 4, Chicago 2

	W	L	PCT.	GB
St. Louis	49	37	.570	—
New York	43	37	.538	3
Boston	44	40	.524	4
Washington	41	42	.492	6 1/2
Detroit	41	44	.482	7 1/2
Cleveland	41	44	.482	7 1/2
Chicago	36	42	.462	9
Philadelphia	37	46	.446	10 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE
 New York 5, Pittsburgh 2
 St. Louis 5, Brooklyn 0
 Only games scheduled.

	W	L	PCT.	GB
St. Louis	55	23	.705	—
Cincinnati	44	36	.550	12
Pittsburgh	41	34	.547	12 1/2
New York	40	41	.494	16 1/2
Philadelphia	34	43	.442	20 1/2
Chicago	32	42	.432	21
Brooklyn	34	46	.425	22
Boston	32	47	.405	23 1/2

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
 Baltimore 5, Jersey City 0
 Newark 5, Syracuse 0
 Toronto 3, Buffalo 2
 Only games scheduled.

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Montreal	46	37	.554	—
Baltimore	45	38	.542	1
Jersey City	45	40	.529	2
Buffalo	45	40	.529	2
Newark	45	43	.511	3 1/2
Toronto	44	45	.494	5
Rochester	39	49	.443	9 1/2
Syracuse	34	51	.400	12

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
 Columbus 9, Indianapolis 3 (1st)
 Columbus 4, Indianapolis 1 (2nd)
 Louisville 14, Toledo 9 (1st)
 Louisville 10, Toledo 4 (2nd)
 St. Paul 13, Kansas City 2 (1st)
 St. Paul 5, Kansas City 2 (2nd)
 Minneapolis 3, Milwaukee 2

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	62	28	.689	—
Columbus	52	32	.617	7
Toledo	51	35	.593	9
Louisville	51	36	.573	10 1/2
St. Paul	44	38	.537	14
Minneapolis	33	53	.384	27
Kansas City	25	52	.326	33 1/2
Indianapolis	25	61	.291	35

Swedish Teacher Beats Haegg

STOCKHOLM, July 19—Arne Andersson, fast-stepping 28-year-old school teacher, ran the fastest mile in track history here yesterday when he was clocked in 4 minutes, 1.6 seconds as he beat his friendly rival and fellow Swede, Gunder Haegg, at Nalco Stadium.

Andersson, whose performance revived thoughts of a possible four-minute mile, eclipsed his former world record by a full second. His time of 4:02.6, established July 1, 1943, was accepted as a world standard.

With more than 20,000 fans jammed into the 14,000-seat stadium, Andersson once again called on his sizzling stretch sprint to nip Haegg in the last 100 yards and win by a three-year margin. Haegg's time of 4:02 also broke the old record.

Lennart Strand, who paced Haegg the first three laps, collapsed on the final turn. Haegg took over the lead but for the second race in a week against Andersson, Gunder had consumed too much energy and was no match for Andersson as the pair raced toward the finish line.

Andersson's time by quarters was 56 seconds, 1:56.9, 3:46.1 and 4:01.6.

Since 1937, when England's Sydney Wooderson negotiated the mile in 4:06.4, trackmen have been pursuing the elusive four-minute dream. Andersson and Haegg have been trying for it more than anyone else. Haegg did it in 4:06.2 in 1942 and shortly afterward in 4:04.6. Gunder's record stood until Andersson registered his 4:02.6 last year when Haegg was running in America.

Shots in Arm — Ott's Bat Booms

NEW YORK, July 19—Baseball fans are asking how come Mel Ott hit only 18 homers last year but has clubbed 20 so far this season. And the best man to supply the answer is the Boy Wonder himself.

"I just didn't feel comfortable at the plate last year," the Giant manager says. "And for a while this Spring I couldn't get in the groove. Then suddenly I started to relax and the homers started coming. I honestly can't account for it."

One reason given for Mel's increased homer output is his daily submission to the needle manipulated by Dr. Francis Sweeney, club physician. Mel bares his arm to Sweeney and the Doc jabs vitamins into his system. The vitamins have worked such wonders for Ott the downhearted Dodger fans got up a petition to have every man on the Brooklyn team take them.

Ott's long-range hitting has been perhaps the biggest factor in keeping the Giants in the first division. His team is only a little improved over the 1943 cellar dwellers but his spirit has spread throughout the club and kept its head above water. There isn't a better competitive player in baseball than the diminutive Ott and his men are reflecting his fire.

DURATION TITLE MATCH
 BOSTON, July 19—Willie Pep, featherweight champion from Hartford, Conn., hooked and jabbed his way to a ten-round decision over Manuel Ortiz, bantam ruler from El Centro, Cal., here last night at Braves Field before 10,000 fans. It was Pep's 57th triumph in 58 bouts and his second straight verdict since being discharged from the Navy.

PEP BEATS ORTEZ
 CHICAGO, July 19—Promoter Jack Kearns announced today the Illinois State Boxing Commission had sanctioned his heavyweight match between Leo Savold and Joe Bakst for Aug. 7 and will recognize the winner as "the duration heavyweight champion." Bakst and Savold have met twice before in Madison Square Garden each winning a decision.