

## Hold Baltics At All Costs, Hitler Orders

### Hurls Reserves In To Halt Soviets At the Border

With Soviet troops on the very edge, if not already inside of the disputed Suwalki province that Adolf Hitler claims as part of East Prussia, the German High Command yesterday ordered its armies to "hold the Baltic States at all costs" and simultaneously threw in carefully hoarded reserves of bombers and tanks in a series of bitter counter-attacks.

The Red Air Force swooped over East Prussia and strafed targets with cannon fire. An unidentified East Prussian industrial city was strafed by nine Yak fighters.

Tanks and motorcycle storm troops meanwhile cut their way within 13 miles of the important rail hub of Kaunas, pre-war capital of Lithuania and last main hedgehog before the East Prussian capital of Königsberg. Soviet artillery already was shelling Kaunas' outer defenses with Grodno fallen and the way cleared for an advance across the border of the Reich, the situation on the central front became a battle for five cities—Pskov, southeast of Lake Peipus in the far north; Dvinsk, commanding the Dvina Valley to Riga; Kaunas; Bialystok 45 miles southwest of Grodno on the rail line to Warsaw; and Brest Litovsk.

## Car Manufacture Won't Get Early Start After War

NEW YORK, July 17 (ANS)—Nine of the nation's major automobile manufacturers dashed cold water today on a War Production Board scheme to get an early start on passenger-car production soon after Germany's defeat.

To get much of the paper work of reconversion done in advance, WPB proposed that manufacturers place so-called "blue orders" for parts and materials. They would not be filled, however, until after X day the day of Germany's defeat.

An initial production of 2,000-3,000 cars a year, about two thirds the 1939 output, was suggested.

## WPB Authorizes Aluminum Ware

WASHINGTON, July 17 (AP)—The use of aluminum for the manufacture of pots and pans was authorized today in the first of a series of orders intended to put into effect the program of Ronald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, for the limited reconversion of industry to peacetime production.

The program, opposed by the Army and Navy, approves the substitution of aluminum for other metals in any civilian goods now being manufactured. It does not, however, increase the production of any consumer item.

### 5 CONVICTED OF FRAUD

PHILADELPHIA, July 17—Five men have been convicted in Federal Court of using the mails to defraud hundreds of persons in a \$1,000,000 fake oil scheme.

## Roosevelt's Vice-Presidential Choice Is Jackson's Pre-Convention Secret

CHICAGO, July 17—Democratic National Chairman Robert E. Hannegan confirmed today that President Roosevelt had written a letter to Sen. Samuel D. Jackson (D-Ind.), convention permanent chairman, setting forth his views on the choice of a Vice-Presidential nominee.

Announcing that the message would be delivered to Jackson today or tomorrow, Hannegan declined to reveal in advance whether it would recommend the renomination of Henry A. Wallace.

Among arrivals in Chicago in advance of the convention's opening session Wednesday was former National Chairman James A. Farley, who refused to say whether he would permit his name to be submitted for the Presidential nomination as a protest against a fourth term nomination for President Roosevelt. "I am just reconnoitering," said Farley.

The convention program calls for a three-day session. Gov. Robert S. Kerr, of Oklahoma will deliver the keynote speech Wednesday night, the platform will come up for adoption Thursday, and the Presidential nomination will be made that night. Vice-Presidential balloting will begin Friday.

Meanwhile the National committee met to schedule hearings on delegate seating contests in Texas and South Carolina.

The Texas contest was between an uninstruced delegation named at the state convention and a pro-fourth term slate chosen at a rump session after a split with anti-administration forces at the state meeting.

The South Carolina contest was between an all white uninstruced delegation with 18 votes and a Negro contesting group styled the Progressive Democratic Party and advocating "a fourth, fifth or even ten terms" for Mr. Roosevelt.

## Americans Take Hill Overlooking Port of Leghorn

In a relentless drive aimed at Kesselring's vaunted Gothic line on which the Germans hope to halt the Allied advance into Northern Italy, American troops yesterday closed in on the west coast port of Leghorn, while the Eighth Army continued its march well beyond Arezzo on the road to Florence.

The Germans were rushing up heavy artillery to stabilize their lines south of the Arno River and delay the Allied threat against the Rimini Pisa line. Occupation of Monte Maggiore, strategic height overlooking Leghorn four miles away, gave the Americans the advantage of a downhill road into the port city.

Heaviest fighting occurred northeast of Volterra, near Arezzo, and on both sides of the Tiber. A U. S. force flanking Leghorn pushed to within five miles of the Arno Valley past Peccioli while farther inland other American elements captured Lorenzana and reached the villages of Cristina and Palaia. A town 15 miles inland and slightly north of Leghorn also fell.

In a rapid advance toward the Arno Valley, where a good road and railway run the remaining 25 miles to Florence, the Eighth Army took Civitella, Barda Agnano and Ambra and continued its pursuit of retreating Germans.

## Starr's Junior Artillery Gives Nazis A Taste of Their Own Mortar Fire

By Seaghan Maynes  
Reuter Correspondent  
WITH AMERICAN FORCES IN NORMANDY, July 17—There's a small mortar unit, which isn't listed in any Army table of organization and which isn't officially known now operating against German forces in the hedgerows near Lessay.

It is known among the front-line doughboys as "Starr's junior artillery" and consists of weapons captured from Germans.

The battery was formed by Lt. John Starr, of New York, after he had collected six German 81-mm mortars and one French mortar from the enemy.

With the aid of an infantryman, Starr trained three squads of engineers to man the guns and went into action for the first time a short time ago against the Ger-

## Doubt Raiders Were Executed

WASHINGTON, July 17—Some doubt was expressed here today as to whether a Japanese broadcast from Singapore reporting the execution of U. S. fliers following the first super-Fortress raid on Japan was anything more than propaganda.

In the absence of any direct word through reliable channels, the War Department and State Department withheld comment.

Only one B29 has been over Japan and there has been no official indication that its crew was captured. On the other hand Tokyo radio broadcast on June 21 a description of a "solemn burial service" for U. S. airmen it said were killed in a B29 crash.

The Singapore station, which told of the executions, frequently broadcasts propaganda by which it hopes to frighten or discourage U. S. and Australian troops.

## STIMSON IN U.K. MANEUVERS

LONDON, July 17—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson "took part in maneuvers of a unit preparing to move across the channel to engage the enemy," ETO-USA headquarters announced today.

Later he told the troops they had that spirit which "is the indispensable ingredient of a victorious army—the will to close with the enemy and to defeat him."

When the Germans finally began to fall back and the American troops captured the hill it was found that the "junior artillery" had knocked out seven German machine gun nests and one complete mortar section.

During the fighting, Starr's chief assistant, Sgt. Harold Dalbey was knocked out twice by 88mm shells, but recovered and continued his role as observer.

## U. S. Troops Battle Way Into Suburbs of St. Lo, 1 1/4 Mi. from City Center

### House-to-House Fighting Commences After Swift Blow from East; British, Canadians Gain

American troops fought their way yesterday into the outskirts of St. Lo, hinge of the German defense line in the western sector of Normandy, while a double-barreled British and Canadian assault in the eastern sector developed into a heavy battle southwest of Caen on a nine-mile front.

Doughboys also closed in on Lessay and other United States forces nearly reached the St. Lo-Perriers-Lessay highway at Le Masnil Vigot, between Periers and St. Lo.

House-to-house fighting raged in the outskirts of St. Lo after one First Army column drove down from eastern heights dominating the city and advanced in a new attack along the Bayeux-St. Lo road. The attacks—not preceded

by the usual artillery barrage—succeeded in pushing as far as a modern housing estate called the City of the Future, about a mile and a quarter from the heart of the city.

American forces attacking St. Lo from other directions were slowed by stiff resistance. On the seventh day of continuous siege, the Germans fought savagely to save the city, all field dispatches reported.

3 Counter-Attacks Stopped  
Before the new U. S. attack yesterday, three heavy German counter-attacks were beaten back—two northwest of the city near Pont Herbert and one to the east in the Caumont sector—and 30 German tanks were destroyed or damaged. One U. S. division knocked out 16 tanks.

With St. Lo, Periers and Lessay closely enveloped, supreme headquarters pointed out that Allied forces had thus far tried to avoid fighting inside French towns or shelling them unless compelled to do so from military necessity.

By bursting through the bristling German defenses on the outskirts of St. Lo, the U. S. forces began fighting one of Normandy's decisive battles, for the key power and communications center. The Germans were using some of their best troops to hold off the onrushing Yanks.

After a gain of several hundred yards, to the outskirts of the village of St. Croix de St. Lo, the Americans rolled down the main St. Lo-Berigny road and into the city's suburbs, about a mile and a quarter from the heart of the city.

The western push on St. Lo  
Continued on Back Page

## Air Fleets Rain Bombs on France

In one of the most widespread attacks ever launched against the Nazis in France, close to 750 Fortresses and Liberators yesterday struck flying bomb bases, supply dumps, five rail centers stretching from the Pas de Calais to the Swiss border, and more than a dozen rail bridges in a wide circle around Paris. One heavy bomber was lost.

Joining the British-based heavies in the offensive against enemy communications, which was called most significant at Allied headquarters, 15th Air Force Liberators pounded three bridges spanning the Rhone River in southeast France and Ninth AF P38 fighter-bombers slashed rail lines west of Paris and almost due south of the American fighting zone in Normandy.

At the same time Marauders set ablaze a fuel dump at Rennes—one of the largest in the battle area—while Havocs blasted a smaller one at Bruz, seven miles southwest of Rennes.

### RED HOT FLANNELS

BUSTLETON, Pa., July 17—Fireman Rudolph Whichelman lost his pants while standing atop a ladder playing a fire hose on the burning roof of the Methodist Church. Unable to drop the hose until the water was turned off, Whichelman stood there with his lower half exposed while the crowd cheered until another fire-



THE STARS AND STRIPES

Printed for U. S. Armed Forces... Contents passed by the U. S. Army and Navy censors...

Army Notes

Captured enemy instructions to some of Germany's sorely pressed troops on the American front gave the Jerries this advice...

LST 262, on a recent trip across the Channel, resembled Noah's Ark. She had on board 2,000 carrier pigeons for the Signal Corps...

T/5 Fred R. Vecera, of Vernon, Tex., is a guy who looks for trouble. As an armor artificer in the Second Infantry Division...

I/Sgt. John Koster, of St. Paul, Minn., poked his head into a dugout occupied by two lieutenants and observed two girls, aged about 15 and 25...

Wandering bands of paratroopers, roaming from camp to camp in one sector, have formed themselves into teams of "sniper hunters"...

Declining to return to rest camps when they completed their D-Day mission, they circulate behind the lines in groups of three or four offering to clear out sniper-infested areas...

Armed with submachine guns, they enter a wooded area known to contain Nazi sharpshooters and proceed, three abreast, to spray bullets up and down each likely tree...

"The German sniper is a pretty tough Joe," said a rifleman who has watched the teams in action. "but he's got a God-awful dread of these guys..."

There was a lot of hard work ahead when Capt Kenneth Fox volunteered to be a combat PRO. He trained long and late for the job...

One regiment of the Second Infantry Division takes exception to an item in The Stars and Stripes, claiming for the Red Cross the distinction of producing the first doughnuts in France...

But that's not all. Another battalion goes one better by telling of cake—chocolate and otherwise—it makes for the doughboys every day...

Air Service Planned for Small Cities

WASHINGTON, July 17—The Civil Aeronautics Board will foster air-passenger service to smaller cities in the U. S. on an experimental and temporary basis...

However, the service will be authorized only when there is a justifiable expectation of an efficient route at reasonable charges without excessive subsidies...

CAB announced that post-war dirigible service was likely. The board revealed that already on file were applications for 41,633 miles of foreign air routes...

SHASTA DAM OPERATING SACRAMENTO, Cal., July 17—Power from the \$87,000,000 Shasta Dam in Northern California has started flowing into the electric system...

Chindits Offensive Gains Momentum

CHUNKING, July 17—In an offensive which United Press described as rapidly gaining momentum, Chindits in northern Burma have advanced 25 miles in three days...

Behind the Chindits, Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's Chinese troops continued to round up Japanese stragglers and captured Sumkring, a village 10 miles southwest of Mogaung...

Allied forces also started a new drive on the few hundred Japs holding down the northern sector of Myitkyina, the enemy's last base in northern Burma.

WACs in Normandy Already Working Full Time — And Living Just Like GIs

By Selma Chapmond Stars and Stripes Staff Writer WITH THE WACS IN NORMANDY, July 17—Like the rest of the Army in Normandy, it didn't take the WACs long to get organized and working on a full-time schedule...

The group, commanded by Capt. Isobel Kane, of Tacoma, Wash., is billeted no better than a lot of GIs and, with the exception of being restricted to its area...

But they've brought the feminine touch, even into this combat zone. With lipstick and blue pencil they painted signs for their tents—"Mine Camp; Chat-eau a la WAC"...

Capt. Selma Herbert, of New Civil Affairs in France, was one of the first WACs to arrive in the ETO. She came overseas in April, 1943 with Lt. Col. Anna Wilson...

Job Boom Here

Liberated Normandy is enjoying an employment boom. Reuter reported yesterday that Allied forces were hiring all Frenchmen available...

Americans Enter Suburbs of St. Lo

Continued from page 1 was timed with intensified pressure on the German bastion from northeast, north and northwest, plus other advances in parts of the 50-mile front...

The doughboys rushed forward so fast along the eastern highway that in one sector units were several hundred yards apart. Northeast, north and northwest of St. Lo, however, the Germans fiercely contested every foot of ground...

In the Pont Herbert area, where the Americans succeeded in pushing a spearhead one mile into German territory, the Germans were falling back so rapidly under pressure that they were abandoning their own wounded, which is rare...

The British and Canadian assault on the Caen front—apparently planned toward the seizing of "jump-off spots" for a major offensive—was made by two columns both headed southwest.

British tanks pushed more than two miles down the Caen-Villers-Bocage road and captured Cahier and Haut des Forges, while other forces reached points ten miles southwest of Caen...

CAPTIVES AT ANNAPOLIS

ANNAPOLIS, Md., July 17 (ANS)—About 70 German prisoners of war are being employed at the U. S. Naval Academy, officials at nearby Fort George Meade announced...

The WAC detachment in France:

Capt. Dorothy L. Starbuck, Brigantia, Colo.; Selma Tacoma, Wash.; I/Sgt. Isobel Kane, Tacoma, Wash.; I/Sgt. Cora Lee V. Hicks, Watkins Glen, N. Y.; Jean G. Col, Los Angeles, and Nancy E. Sherman, Chicago; I/Sgt. Margaret Carrier, Los Angeles, and Helen E. Wilson, Pasadena, Cal.; I/Sgt. Esther M. Nesbitt, Sycamore, Ill.; I/Sgt. Jane M. Piotraschko, Toledo, Ohio; Elias Rayman, Long Island, N. Y.; Claire E. Dickinson, San Francisco; Carl Eaker, Hingham, Wash.; Mabel D. Plattich, Brooklyn, and Marion I. Hanna, Blue Earth, Minn.; Sgts. Nancy J. Messina, Baravia, N. Y.; Lillian L. Perkins, Perry, N. Y.; Marion R. Howard, Aiken, S. C.; Doris L. Lentz, Philadelphia; Anita C. Carter, Sanford, S. C.; Irene Marquardt, St. Louis, Mo.; Jean M. Thompson, Houston, Tex.; Margaret Eieger, New Cumberland, Pa.; Isobel T. Simbine, Ellsworth, N. J.; Nancy M. Beyor, Milwaukee, Wis.; Berka Tuomi, Baltimore, Md.

Opla. Lee T. Marcoux, Fall River, Mass.; Gladys H. Brent, Seattle, Wash.; Katharine DeNering, Marion, N. Y.; Betty Hupp, Audubon, N. J.; Mildred G. Meyer, New York; Selma Chapmond, Winters, Tex.; Anna Roscoe, Canton, Mass.; Aurelie M. Durkin, Danbury, Conn.; Irene M. Schafer, Grifton, N. C.; Phyllis Foley, Tuscola, Ill.; Agnes M. Kovarik, Charleston, W. Va.; Eva C. Spencer, Faith, S. D.; Jo A. Strickland, Tulsa, Okla.; and Ruth E. Clarke, Washington, Pa.; Goldie E. Johnson, Louisville, Ky.; Natsade Robinson, Brookline, Mass.; Margaret A. Wright, Atlanta, Ga.; Alice M. Murray, Jersey City, N. J.; Phyllis K. Berry, Burbank, Cal.; Edyth Hollender, Calogco, Madeine M. Bass, Houston, Tex.; June E. Prusti, St. Joseph, Mo.; Mary A. Kennedy, Brooklyn, Marcha D. Jones, Norfolk, Va.; Arvilla C. Johnson, Washington, and Lorene M. Cherkorian, St. Louis; Pvt. Camilla J. De Monte, Hartford, Conn.

Browns Conquer Indians Twice In Overtime Tilts

Majors & Minors

Table with columns: AMERICAN LEAGUE, W, L, PCT., GB. Lists teams like New York 7, Boston 1, Washington 8, Philadelphia 4, etc.

Table with columns: NATIONAL LEAGUE, W, L, PCT., GB. Lists teams like St. Louis 4, Cincinnati 2, Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 2, etc.

Table with columns: INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE, W, L, PCT., GB. Lists teams like Baltimore 9, Jersey City 2, Baltimore 10, Jersey City 1, etc.

Table with columns: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, W, L, PCT., GB. Lists teams like Columbus 7, Toledo 5, Toledo 2, Columbus 0, etc.

Table with columns: W, L, PCT., GB. Lists teams like Milwaukee 61, Toledo 50, Toledo 50, Columbus 49, etc.

Mehl Wins 1,500 In Allied Meet

ROME, July 17—Walter Mehl former Wisconsin track star and now a U. S. Navy lieutenant, won the feature 1,500-meter event here yesterday during the Allied track and field championships...

GORDON JOINS FLIERS

HONOLULU, July 17—Joe Gordon, former N. Y. Yankee second baseman, joined other major and minor league stars playing for the Seventh Air Force...

NAVY LANDING EMBLEM

A special emblem has been authorized for the sailors who man the Navy's landing craft—a gold and scarlet shoulder patch with an American eagle on an anchor, gripping a machine gun.

NEW YORK, July 17—A pair of rousing 12-inning triumphs over the Indians before 30,000 Cleveland partisans yesterday lifted the St. Louis Browns to two full games ahead of the Yankees in the blazing American League race...

The loop-leading Browns, playing desperately to stave off the threat of the rising Yanks, captured the opener, 8-7, and the nightcap, 2-1. Second Baseman Don Gutteridge scored the winning runs in both games...

The Senators marched into fourth place by dumping the lowly Athletics twice, 8-4 and 4-3, with Milo Candini and Mickey Haefner going all the way on the hill for the Griffs...

The National League-leading Cardinals protected their big lead by splitting a doubleheader with the second-place Reds but Billy Southworth, Cards' pilot, pulled the managerial boner of the year in the nightcap...

The Cubs and Pirates swapped 1-0 victories in a fast twin bill, Hank Wyse winning for the Brums in the first game...

The good right arm of Curt Davis finally carted the Dodgers back to the winning column after their losing streak had reached 15 straight. The Braves won the first of two games, 8-4, for loss No. 15 on the Brooks' record...

The Phils walloped the Giants, 6-2, in the first tilt of their doubleheader and the Giants were leading, 6-3 in the eighth inning when the Sunday curfew law forced postponement...

WASHINGTON, July 17—The Senators' chances of making a strong bid for the American League flag this year received a crippling blow today when outfielders Gilberto Torres and Roberto Ortiz and catcher Fermín Guerra left for Cuba because of Selective Service rulings...

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SENATORS LOSE CUBANS

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VOLO SONG INJURED

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