

Reds Closing Trap on Nazis So. of Minsk

Brest-Litovsk, Pinsk Targets of Dive

MOSCOW, July 6 — The Red Army today launched a new powerful offensive toward Brest-Litovsk and Pinsk in a determined drive to trap German forces in the salient south of Minsk. Brest-Litovsk is 70 miles north of Kovno which the Germans said they abandoned under a curtain of fire, and is on the main rail line from Minsk.

Further north on the huge front vanguards of the Third White Russian Army were reported to be within 45 miles of Vilna, 25 miles from the Lithuanian border, and rolling on toward that gateway to the Baltic Republics.

The Third Army's sweeping advance on Vilna from the southeast carried through Smorgonie, where cavalry units were only 140 miles from the borders of East Prussia.

Soviet troops which liberated their great city of Minsk on Monday proceeded to mop up enemy forces in the area and to liquidate the trapped Nazi remnants of the 12th and 27th Corps and the 39th Tank Corps.

The Third Red Army, which is forming the steamroller on the push to Vilna, yesterday recaptured Molodeczno, one of the German mainstays of defenses along the 90-mile front in Vilna and appeared to pave the way for a simultaneous advance by the Third Army and the First Baltic Army into Latvia and Lithuania.

M'Arthur's Men Capture Another Major Air Base

PEARL HARBOR, July 6 — American and Australian troops which invaded Noemfoor Island off the Dutch New Guinea coast yesterday captured their second important air base since they swarmed on to the beaches five days ago.

In the official communique from Gen. MacArthur's headquarters in the southwest Pacific, the air base was reported to be 800 miles from the Philippines. Both airfields can be readily remodeled for use by heavy bombers in the future air assault on Jap positions in the Philippines.

Paratroopers, who dropped near the airfield on two successive days, aided units of Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger's Sixth Army in capturing the base.

In the Central Pacific, where American forces on Saipan Island in the Marianas are preparing for the impending slaughter of Japs making a last-ditch stand, it was reported that remnants of the island's 25,000 population were massed with Jap army troops and squeezed into the northeast corner of the island.

73,000 DEATH CLAIMS PAID

NEW YORK, July 6—The Veterans' Administration through April had granted 73,000 National Service Life Insurance awards for deaths in World War II, Administrator Frank Hines reported today. He told the convention of Catholic War Veterans that some 195,000 claims for disability pensions had been allowed through May.

Gen. Bradley Presents 14 DSCs To Officers, Men of 29th Infantry

29TH DIVISION HQ, July 6—Fourteen officers and men of the same regiment in this division yesterday received the DSC, America's second highest military decoration, during a presentation ceremony at a forward command post.

Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, commander of U. S. forces in Normandy, presented the awards and cited the men for "extraordinary heroism in action, courage, initiative and determined leadership." Ten other officers and men of the regiment will receive decorations at a later date.

The men, who participated in the D-Day assault at H-Hour and who received DSCs, included the assistant division commander and a regimental commander. They were:

Maj. Sidney V. Bingham, Dallas, Tex.; Capt. John J. Cotter, West Wyoming, Pa.; Archibald Sproul, Hillbrook, Va., and For-

rest Zantlow, Madison, Wis.; 1/Lt. Verne V. Morse, Reynoldsville, Pa.; 2/Lt. Leonard A. Anker, Lovelock, Nev.; T/Sgt. L. M. Armstrong, Staunton, Va.; S/Sgts. Ralph S. Coffman, Mt. Sidney, Va., and Oslos Ritter, White Post, Va.; Sgts. Lyman K. Patterson, Warrenton, Va., Howard W. Rogers, McGeheysville, Va., and Elmer G. Shindle, Lancaster, Pa.

The men who will receive decorations at a future presentation are 1/Lt. Edward N. Gearing, Woodstock, Va.; Leo D. Van de Voort, Bessemer, Ala., and Robert C. Hargrove, Shreveport, La.; 2/Lt. Forest K. Ferguson, Stuart, Fla.; 1/Sgt. William M. Pressley, Tarentum, Pa.; T/Sgts. Carl D. Proffitt, Charlottesville, Va., and John A. Roach, Lynchburg, Va.; Sgt. Douglas Orndorff, Winchester, Va.; Pfc William C. Riggs, Lafollette, Tenn., and Pvt. James A. Clark, Philadelphia.

Balloon Umbrella Raised on D-Day Has Sheltered the Beachheads Since

By Allan Morrison
(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

A U. S. BEACHHEAD, July 5—During and since D-Day barrage balloons flown by a Negro barrage balloon battalion have provided a screen of rubber several miles long on the two main beachheads, assisting in the protection of troop landings and the unloading of supplies.

There are two significant aspects of this outfit's work. First, the VLA (very low altitude) balloons confounded skeptics by their part in keeping enemy raiders above effective strafing altitude.

Second, the unit has the distinction of being the only Negro combat group included in the first assault forces to hit the coasts.

The balloons were flown across the channel from hundreds of landing craft, three men to a balloon, and taken ashore under savage fire from shore batteries. Some of the men died alongside the infantrymen they came in to protect, and their balloons drifted off. But the majority struggled to shore with their balloons and light winches and set up for operation in foxholes on the beach.

The balloons still fly as protective umbrellas, some from the sites taken under 88 fire, others snugly established in former German hill fortifications. Many of the crews live in German pillboxes built into the cliffs and man their balloons around the clock.

The balloons are armed with a lethal device attached to the cable. Should an enemy pilot try to fly through the barrage and strike a cable, the device releases a "flying mine" which explodes against the plane.

The unit's first kill came recently when a JU88 ran afoul of the cable supporting the balloon commanded by Cpl. George Alston, of Norfolk, Va.

Pride of the battalion is a group of medics who covered themselves with glory on D-Day by landing in the face of heavy fire to set up a first aid station on that beach.

The men praised by the unit's CO, Lt. Col. Leon Reed, of Middleboro, Ky., are: Capt. Robert E. Devitt, Chicago, Ill.; S/Sgt. Alfred Bell, Memphis, Tenn.; Cpl. Waverley B. Woodson Jr., Philadelphia; Cpl. Eugene Worthy, Memphis, Tenn., and Pfc Warren W. Capers, Kenbridge, Va. All have been recommended for decorations.

Patrol's Prisoner Looked the Part, But Wasn't a Jap

One company of a crack U.S. division thought the Germans had called in Japanese reinforcements just outside embattled La Haye du Puits. A patrol returned to the main lines with a little yellow man with oriental eyes trotting in front of their guns. He was dressed in the green German uniform but he looked like the average American's conception of a Jap.

Investigation by the battalion S-2, 1/Lt. Charles Paterson, of Boston, disclosed that the captive was a Mongolian fighting with Georgian troops.

Only about one out of every three prisoners taken Wednesday were German. They were surprised at not being shot when captured. They had been told the Americans took no prisoners alive.

Georgian soldiers explain that they were put to work in Germany for little or no money and after they became destitute were given an opportunity to join the Army.

Les Pieux Folk Still Honor Graves Of 10 U. S. Airmen Lost 2 Years Ago

Lt. John W. Horan of a tank destroyer outfit, heard in the small town of Les Pieux a story of humanity in a world at war. Here is his story:

"As I drove through Les Pieux I was hailed by one of the first English-speaking Frenchmen I met in Normandy. I joined him in a glass of wine and he told of his visit to the States 20 years ago, and of his brother, who lives in Wilmington, Del.

"I had heard from a woman in Benoitville that an American had been buried in Les Pieux. I asked if this were true. He assured me not one, but ten, Americans were buried there and offered to guide me to the cemetery. As we walked he told me the story.

"On the afternoon of Nov. 12, 1942, a flight of American bombers passed overhead. German AA batteries opened fire. Two planes were hit and crashed in a woods nearby.

"People rushed to the wrecks and found all the Americans

We Hope He Has The Inside Dope

The war in France will be over in seven weeks because the Germans can't get any supplies through, according to a prisoner taken yesterday near La Haye du Puits. The prisoner, a Pole taken by the Germans, said the French underground was so strong around Paris and the Allied bombing and strafing missions so effective that almost no supplies were getting through to the German forces here. Other prisoners taken yesterday, including many Russians, said they hadn't had food supplies for three days.

Allies Checked Ten Miles Out From Leghorn

ROME, July 6—Lt. Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army has been brought to a standstill by fierce German resistance after sweeping advances up the west coast of Italy brought it within 10 miles of the port of Leghorn, Allied HQ announced today. American advance units were reported encountering heavy fire from all types of German weapons, including artillery with a 20-mile range.

The Germans launched four counterattacks yesterday against Americans holding half of the town of Rosignano but all were beaten off. In another sector heavy fighting was reported in the vicinity of Castelina but white starred U. S. tank forces succeeded in driving a mile and a half northeast of Monte Catini under sharp fire from enemy troops lodged on high ground outside of the town.

An official spokesman said the enemy was particularly nervous about the movements of the Fifth Army and was keeping all highways under constant artillery fire.

Further inland, Eighth Army troops continued to advance toward Florence and were threatening the main road west of Arezzo.

Heavy bombers of the RAF and U. S. 15th Air Force, meanwhile, were busy hammering rail yards at Verona in northern Italy and targets in southern France. Fortresses also hit rail yards at Montpellier while Liberators struck at sub pens in Toulon, France.

Les Pieux Folk Still Honor Graves Of 10 U. S. Airmen Lost 2 Years Ago

dead except one; he died soon afterward. Willing hands lifted the bodies onto makeshift stretchers while others searched the debris for identifications.

"Next day a mass funeral was held in the little Catholic church. The townspeople turned out in their finest, but they were not allowed to attend the services. A cordon of German soldiers guarded the church and forced all the French to remain outside. The cemetery lies inside the churchyard and, after the Germans had gone, the people filed past and placed flowers on the graves of the Americans, a gesture that has been repeated every Sunday since. The local butcher spends one or two hours each week tending the graves.

"A freshly-painted white cross marks each of the ten graves and marble headstones inscribed in French stand at either end of the plot. One bears these words: 'Those who died for our country deserve our prayers; the others: 'Eternal regret.'"

U. S. Pincers Closing In on Haye du Puits

Stubborn Foe Still Holds the Town

Under a hot sun blazing from an almost cloudless sky, sweating doughboys slowly bottled forward hedge by hedge yesterday in the third day of attack aimed at bursting through marshland bottlenecks and enveloping La Haye du Puits, according to Associated Press dispatches.

Greatest advance during the day was southwest of Carentan, where American troops fought their way south for 2,000 yards. The Germans threw in a counterattack to meet the threat and pushed the doughboys back about 500 yards, but the Yanks contained the enemy thrust and held onto their 1,500-yard gain.

Around La Haye the fighting was savage and advances were measured in yards as the Germans strived desperately to stem the southern drive which threatens to encircle the town from west and east. The pincers movement is slowly closing in from both sides, leaving the Germans only a narrow escape corridor along the main road leading south from La Haye to Lessay.

Tough Job for Infantry

The difficulty of the job given the infantry cannot be appreciated without seeing this marshy lowland country, green with thick foliage in which the enemy has dug his defenses.

The Carentan sector of the peninsula is virtually an island because of marshlands stretching from Carentan to the sea. Recent heavy rains have made the bogs even more difficult and actually there are only three narrow corridors down which attacks can be made.

Opposing the Yanks on the marshland corridors are infantry dug into hedgerows, heavy mortar fire supporting machine gunners and an increasing amount of artillery. But despite bitter resistance our troops made gains against an enemy showing no signs of cracking under the heavy pressure.

Counterattack Halted

An enemy counterattack southwest of Carentan reached a point roughly five miles from the town on the main highway linking the Carentan sector with the central beachhead, but the thrust was held and the doughboys went back on the offensive behind heavy artillery fire pounding German positions and concentrations.

The Germans brought up additional medium and some heavy artillery but their firepower even yet cannot match the hitting power of the American guns which are blasting away day and night.

While enveloping action continued around La Haye one unit of doughboys sat in defensive positions on the northern outskirts of town as another unit captured the railway station and yards yesterday and held them a few hours, but pulled back without a further attempt to make a frontal assault against strong opposition in the town itself.

There was heavy fighting for the heights southwest of La Haye and around Foret Mont de Castré west of town. Doughboys control part of a thickly-wooded area but the Germans are holding on as long as possible while bringing up reserves from the south.

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Army Notes

PVT. Alton W. Walker, a paratrooper from Leesburg, Fla., who was captured on D-Day and escaped, made his way over hills and fields for three weeks to a liaison post commanded by Lt. Col. Milton J. Binckley, of Los Angeles.

According to Walker, the men ahead of him hesitated too long at the hatch opening with the result that he and several others landed beyond their mark.

While the prisoners were being taken to the German rear several days later, British tanks attacked. In the confusion more than 200 prisoners escaped. Walker among them. A French girl supplied him with a beret and other clothing and, traveling only at night, he reached the American lines.

After firing several rounds with his trench mortar and temporarily knocking out a Nazi machine gun nest, Pfc Raymond B. Chastaine, of Greenville, S. C., received lacerations of the leg when the weapon backfired. Coming up at the moment was Lt. Col. Edward van Bibber, of Bel Air, Md., who assured the boy that medical aid was on the way. "That's all right, Colonel," said Chastaine, "you go on. I'll be back with you soon."

When the lead tank of a unit attacking La Haye du Puits was damaged by a direct hit from enemy shellfire, Capt. James Iartzell, of Peru, Kansas, unit commander, escaped by jumping reef. Learning that the tank behind was low on gas, he took off through the fields, under heavy fire although burned about the legs and hands.

He hitch-hiked a ride to a collecting station where, disdaining treatment for burns, he borrowed a jeep. When last seen he was heading toward the front with cans of gasoline.

The Stars and Stripes is ready and willing to be of any service and since it arrived in Normandy has published and circulated the paper, sheltered and fed tired and hungry wanderers, showed movies, distributed books and phonograph records, willingly listened for hours to TS stories when chaplains were not available.

But there's a limit to everything.

A couple of engineers walked into the S&S office yesterday armed with a written request from their commanding officer for "two or three CASES of cognac and as many CASES of wine as you can spare for our company party tonight."

It seems somebody circulated a rumor that all cognac and wine in Cherbourg was turned over to The Stars and Stripes for distribution to troops.

Brethren, the truth is we're just as thirsty as you are.



Bathing Girl Finds Panties are Gone With Tide That Swept Her From Coney

CONEY ISLAND, N. Y., July 6—Miss Marion Hans, attractive 26-year-old daughter of Donovan Hans, prominent Baltimore lawyer, slipped out of her clothes on a deserted section of beach today and slipped into the surf in flimsy pink silk panties.

When Miss Hans finished her swim she was a mile and a half from Coney, at Manhattan Beach, carried there by the changing tide. And she was somewhat embarrassed—not because the tide had carried her away but because she had lost her only garment, the pink silk panties.

Emerging from the water nude as a mermaid, Miss Hans sprinted to a nearby cottage where she acquired a sheet from a clothesline. Thus modestly shrouded, the comely bather knocked at the door and an unidentified man invited her in for tea, gave her clothes and called the police.

Police charged Miss Hans with violating a local ordinance which it seems, does not recognize pink silk panties as sufficient bathing attire.

FOUR MILLION 4FS

WASHINGTON, July 6—There are four million men classified 4-F by their draft boards, according to figures released by a Senate health committee which will meet next week to draw up proposals for a national health program. In addition, one million men have been discharged from the armed forces for medical deficiencies. The committee, headed by Sen. Claude Pepper (D.-Fla.), hopes to establish medical programs and extensive facilities for returning war veterans.

FASTER TAKES FRUIT JUICE

ST. LOUIS, July 6—Fruit juice went on the menu today for Chester Lake, former field representative for the Rural Electrification Administration—his first nourishment since starting a hunger strike a week ago. Otherwise Lake asserted he would con-

tinue his resolve not to eat "until Roosevelt or Congress frees REA from politics." Shortly before his job was abolished by the Department of Agriculture last Saturday, Lake wrote President Roosevelt of his determination to fast in protest of what he termed "political domination" of REA.

FATE OF 64 MINERS SEALED

BELLAIRE, Ohio, July 6—A desperate struggle to rescue 64 coal miners trapped by fire in the Powhattan mine was abandoned today when fresh flames drove back rescue squads. Fifteen hours after the fire broke out Richard McGee, state mine inspector, announced there was no chance of bringing the men out alive and that the burning area two miles from the shaft was being sealed. Before the fire got out of control rescue workers had tunneled 500 feet through coal and rock in a vain effort to bypass flames and reach the men.

PRE-MEDS FACE DRAFT

WASHINGTON, July 6—President Roosevelt yesterday declined to interfere with the Selective Service order banning draft deferments for pre-medical students after July 1. The President said that while he was keenly aware of the need for maintaining medical standards, he was also aware of the needs of the armed forces.

The Medical Journal, published in Chicago yesterday, declared that the draft-board policy would result in a shortage of 2,000 doctors a year after the war. Declaring in an editorial that the situation was alarming, the Journal added that draft boards, the President and Congress would have to take the responsibility for the shortage.

NAME WARSHIP FOR HERO

WASHINGTON, July 6—A new destroyer will be named in honor of Marine Pvt. Henry Gurke, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously, the Navy announced today.

Reds Gain In N.L. Race; Bums Lose 9th Straight

Majors & Minors

AMERICAN LEAGUE
 New York 6, Cleveland 2
 St. Louis 4, Philadelphia 2
 Washington 3, Chicago 1
 Detroit at Boston (night)

	W	L	PCT.
St. Louis	42	32	.563
Boston	39	34	.534
New York	35	34	.507
Chicago	33	33	.500
Washington	35	37	.486
Cleveland	35	38	.479
Detroit	35	38	.479
Philadelphia	32	40	.444

NATIONAL LEAGUE
 Boston 7, Chicago 2
 Cincinnati 4, Brooklyn 1
 Philadelphia 9, Pittsburgh 4 (1st)
 Philadelphia 12, Pittsburgh 2 (2nd)
 New York at St. Louis (night)

	W	L	PCT.
St. Louis	48	19	.716
Cincinnati	39	31	.557
Pittsburgh	33	30	.523
New York	34	36	.486
Brooklyn	33	39	.458
Philadelphia	30	38	.441
Boston	29	42	.408
Chicago	25	38	.397

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
 Newark 2, Jersey City 0
 Rochester 6, Montreal 4
 Only games scheduled.

	W	L	PCT.
Baltimore	39	30	.565
Montreal	40	31	.563
Jersey City	39	34	.534
Buffalo	39	34	.534
Rochester	35	39	.473
Toronto	34	41	.453
Syracuse	30	38	.441
Newark	32	41	.438

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
 St. Paul 13, Minneapolis 0
 Only game scheduled.

	W	L	PCT.
Milwaukee	50	24	.676
Columbus	43	26	.623
Louisville	45	26	.616
Toledo	42	28	.600
St. Paul	32	32	.500
Minneapolis	28	39	.418
Kansas City	19	48	.284
Indianapolis	18	53	.254

Thomas Outpoints Henry Armstrong

LOS ANGELES, July 6—Hammering Henry Armstrong's comeback campaign ran into a snag here last night when he dropped a 10-round decision to John Thomas, local welterweight. The former triple titleholder won only three rounds.

The decision was unanimous and squared for Thomas a setback received against Armstrong last month.

ALL STARS GET FOX

CHICAGO, July 6—American League President Will Harridge announced that Pete Fox, Red Sox outfielder, will replace George Case of Washington in the 12th annual All Star game at Pittsburgh next Tuesday night. Case suffered a shoulder injury in the Senators-Indians game Sunday.

WIEMAN TO COACH LIONS

NEW YORK, July 6—Elton (Tad) Wieman, former head football coach of Michigan and Princeton, will coach Columbia linemen this year. Wieman received a leave of absence from Princeton to become civilian head of the Army's college physical training program and obtained another leave from the Army to accept the Columbia position. Princeton has put football on the shelf for the duration.

NEW YORK, July 6—The Cincinnati Reds climbed over the Pirates into second place in the National League yesterday after walloping the hapless Dodgers 4-1, behind the gilt-edged, three-hit pitching of Ed Heusser. It was the Bums' ninth straight setback and was accomplished in one hour and 23 minutes.

The Pirates, who held second place behind the high-riding Cardinals for the last month, were forced to yield the spot to the Reds after dropping two games to the Phillies.

Heusser issued only one walk while subduing the Brooks and the lone pass led to the only run scored off his delivery. Goody Rosen drew the pass in the fourth inning, went to third on Dixie Walker's safety and scored when Jack Bolling forced Walker at second.

Ray Mueller, catching his 133rd straight game for the Reds to equal the record set by George Gibson of the Pirates in 1909, started the Reds' winning rally in the second with a single. Eric Tipton's single followed by Eddie Stanky's miff of a throw from the outfield and Chuck Aleno's single produced two runs. Woody Williams carried the other two runs across the plate in the third when he doubled and rode in on two outs and the fifth when he singled and crossed on Max Marshall's hit.

Kewpie Dick Barrett, Phillies' righthander, was the fly in the ointment for the Pirates when he was credited with winning two games in the same day. He finished out the ninth inning of a suspended game to win, 9-4, and then went on to toss a regulation Victory, 12-2. Only six plays were needed to finish the one inning of a game suspended May 21st by Sunday curfew law. Glen Stewart, Phils' third baseman, led a 14-hit assault against Ray Starr, Art Cuccurello and Xavier Resigno in the second game with two triples worth four runs.

After enjoying one day out of the N. L. cellar, the Cubs were right back on the bottom of the pile after losing to the Braves, 7-2. Jim Tobin, Braves' hurler, had a one-hitter until the seventh when the Cubs raked him for four good for two runs. Connie Ryan paced the Braves with four singles.

The St. Louis Browns fattened their American League lead to two and a half games by subduing the Athletics, 4-2. Pitcher George Caster winning his own game by driving in two runs in the ninth. Gene Moore opened the ninth with a single to center and Milt Byrnes was safe on Russ Christopher's error. Mark Christman moved them up with a sacrifice before Pinch-hitter Al Zarilla was passed to get at Caster. The Browns' hurler promptly slapped a single to left to win his game.

The Yankees moved back into third place by beating the Indians, 6-2, as Atley Donald bagged his fourth straight mound victory. The Yanks shuffled their lineup after a double defeat the day before and the shakeup proved successful. Mike Milosevich, new leadoff man, collected a triple and single. Bud Metheny joined the league's leading home run hitters by clubbing his ninth off southpaw Al Smith in the fifth. George Stinnewiss, Yankee second sacker, also stole his 18th base.

The Senators downed the White Sox, 3-1, with Dutch Leonard outpitching Bill Dietrich.

BLONDIE

by

Chic Young

