

BERLIN SAYS YANKS 22 MI. FROM PARIS; SOUTH-INVASION FORCES 24 MI. INLAND

On Other Fronts

Japs Expect Blow by Force Superior 3-1

Even as Adm. Chester W. Nimitz declared at Guam yesterday that the American Third and Fifth fleets "were ready to wage non-stop war against Japan" with the use of "powerhouse tactics," a Japanese spokesman warned of a two-pronged American offensive in which the Japs will face "an enemy superiority of three to one."

The Jap statement, made on Tokyo radio, prepared the Japanese people for "a decisive battle between the Philippines and Japan proper," adding that the twin Allied pincers would consist of "11 divisions of ground troops" under Nimitz and "24 divisions, 17 of them Americans," under Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

The spokesman added that "the American air force in the Pacific area is superior to the Japanese. Ours is one-third of the enemy's."

Earlier, Tokyo radio reported three American air raids on widely scattered Jap bases—Chichiyama in the Bonins island group, 600 miles south of Tokyo, Halmahera, Molucca base between New Guinea and the Philippines; and the Java port of Sourabaya in the Dutch East Indies.

Nimitz named Saipan, Tinian and Guam the "strategic springboards" from which American fleets will "move in various directions we have in mind." He said that while he foresaw "in the favorable European situation reinforcements from that area in the not too far future," the American offensive would not wait. "We cannot sit and wait. We never have. We have used what we've had all the way through," he declared.

Reds Reach Border Of East Prussia

Moscow reported last night that Russian troops had reached the frontier of East Prussia after Berlin had admitted a Soviet breakthrough less than four miles from the pre-war border.

Meanwhile, German Panzers, 200 miles to the south, launched a series of frenzied counter-attacks east of Warsaw after wresting the suburban town of Ossow from the Russians.

The loss of Ossow was the first town the Red Army admitted evacuating in two months, but Moscow's communique described it as "insignificant" and dispatches from the Soviet capital said the Germans had driven only a narrow wedge into the Red lines seven miles east of the capital.

The Soviet break-through apparently was achieved west of Virbalis in Lithuania. Meanwhile, Moscow reported the German garrison of Sandomierz, 120 miles south of Warsaw, almost completely surrounded and likely to fall soon.

BROWN GETS ROME POST

ROME, Aug. 17—Brig. Gen. Thoburn K. Brown, former assistant commander of the 88th Infantry Division, has been appointed Allied commander in Rome. He succeeds Maj. Gen. Harry H. Johnson, now with invasion forces in southern France.

Churchill Watched So. France Invasion

Prime Minister Winston Churchill, puffing his inevitable cigar, witnessed the landing operations in Southern France from the deck of a destroyer, Allied Headquarters announced last night. Others aboard the ship included Under-Secretary of War Robert Patterson and Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, commanding Army Service Forces.

LINE-UP OF ARMY, NAVY, AIR CHIEFS IN NEW INVASION

ROME, Aug. 17—This is the line-up of Army, Navy and Air Force officers thus far announced in command of the Allied invasion of southern France:

Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers is in overall command of the invasion forces under British Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Allied commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean.

Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch Jr., veteran of Guadalcanal and New Caledonia, is commander of ground forces. His command comprises the American Seventh Army—led in Sicily by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr.—and French troops under command of Gen. Jean de Lattre de Tassigny.

Invasion air forces are under the command of Maj. Gen. Gordon Saviile, commander of the 12th Tactical Air Force.

Naval forces participating in the landing operation are under Vice Adm. H. K. Hewitt, who also is commander of all Allied naval forces in African waters.

Gen. Montgomery Heads All Ground Forces Here

SUPREME ALLIED HQ., Aug. 17—The appointment of Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley as commander of the 12th Army Group "in no way affects the position of Gen. Montgomery as overall commander of all Allied ground forces in France under Gen. Eisenhower," it was officially announced here.

Beachheads Joined, Form 50-Mi. Front

Fanning out steadily from their beachheads along a 70-mile stretch of France's Mediterranean coast between Toulon and Cannes, Allied troops last night were reported 24 miles inland on the main highway running up the Rhone River valley.

At the same time, a special communique announced that all beachheads in Southern France have been joined to form "a continuous front inland with anchor points more than 50 air miles apart." Some 500 square miles of coast are in Allied hands, the communique added.

Reinforcements continued to swarm ashore without interruption, and latest field dispatches indicated that the Allied troops driving inland still had met no serious resistance. The Luftwaffe made its appearance for the first time, but in small numbers.

The latest official summary of the three-day-old Riviera operation placed the coastal towns of St. Tropez, St. Maxime, St. Raphael, Frejus and Le Vandou—as well as the inland towns of Le Muy, Le Luc and Mora—"firmly in our hands."

The official statement said Allied forces "are now within ten miles of both Toulon and Cannes." Berlin dispatches reaching Stockholm reported Cannes and Nice had been captured, and German News Agency announced new Allied landing attempts on both sides of the fortress of Toulon, but claimed they were repelled.

German Overseas News Agency said that "airborne troops who landed northwest of Cannes penetrated into the town after bloody fighting. They were attacked by German formations posted on the heights at the fringes of the town and are being attacked with heavy artillery fire and infantry."

However, German News Agency (Continued on Back Page)

Yanks Will Occupy Reich, Japan—FDR

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (Reuter)—President Roosevelt told a press conference today Allied troops would drive in and occupy Germany and Japan even should resistance collapse short of the enemy borders. Mr. Roosevelt made the statement on his return to the White House after his 15,000-mile Pacific trip.

PLANES HAMMER ROADS, BRIDGES WEST OF FALAISE

Eighth Air Force fighter-bombers hammered enemy communication lines in Germany, France and Belgium and railway lines south of the Rhine yesterday as Marauders and Havocs of the Ninth Air Force poured over 400 tons of explosives on roads and highway bridges across the Risle River west of the Falaise battle area.

Figures released by the Eighth AF on its second anniversary of flights across the channel into occupied Europe disclosed that its individual airmen had made 1,750,000 crossings into enemy territory in two years.

From the date of the first venture Aug. 17, 1942—when 12 Forts dropped 18 tons of bombs on railway yards at Rouen in France—the Eighth has flown 301,000 sorties, 162,000 by Forts and Liberators and 139,000 by Mustangs, Lightnings and Thunderbolts.

Over 8,500 enemy planes were shot out of the air, 5,688 by bomber gunners and 2,913 by fighter pilots, apart from 1,150 parked enemy planes strafed and those destroyed in frequent bombing attacks upon enemy airdromes. The Eighth losses in the two-year campaign were 31,000 men listed as killed or missing in action—a large number are known to be prisoners of war—and 2,900 bombers and 2,000 fighters due to enemy action.

Yesterday's raid was the eighth since the Allies began closing the Argentan-Falaise gap.

French Paratroopers

Hiding, Fighting, Killing Since D-Day

By Andy Rooney
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

VANNES, Aug. 17—A French paratroop battalion dropped near this city on D-Day, and its remnants fought savagely for two months to disrupt German communications and to organize the French Resistance Army in Brittany.

Its story can be told now that U. S. forces have broken through the German resistance to free the isolated paratroopers. Roving, hitting, hiding and fighting all over Brittany from June 6 until the day the Sherman tanks showed up in Vannes on Aug. 3, the French paratroopers armed loyal Frenchmen with Sten guns. They took up miles of railroad track, tore up cable lines and generally played havoc with German communications and transport.

The battalion was divided into squads, each led by one officer. The men had light machine guns of all descriptions, Sten guns, Bren guns, Tommy guns, pistols and carbines. They had mortars and bazooka guns when they landed and it wasn't long before they had captured more mortars.

Their biggest battle came June 18, more than six weeks before they hoped for help from the beachhead landing troops.

The paratroopers had been living near Maledroit on a large French farm. The Germans began to notice that Allied planes circled over that particular farm and they soon discovered that supplies were being dropped in the fields nearby.

The German commander assumed that the farmhouse garrison was a routine gathering of parts of the French Resistance Army. Underestimating the

size and strength of the force, the German commander proceeded as usual. He rounded up a large force of Georgian soldiers and ordered them to march on the farmhouse and wipe out the group there. It was 0400 hours when they first attacked. They went forward singing and marching in open file, unaware that behind the farmhouse walls waited one of the world's toughest fighting units.

The paratroopers waited. Finally, with the upright marching German soldiers only 20 yards from the muzzles of their machine guns, they opened fire. The withering bursts cut the German ranks in two and the remainder retreated in disorder.

There were 120 paratroopers and about 400 French patriots in the farmhouse garrison and when the German commander realized its strength he reinforced his attacking party until there were 3,000 German soldiers with him. The battle continued with wave after wave of German infantrymen attacking. Each time they fell back badly beaten. At 1000 hours the following morning the paratroopers took advantage of the confusion in the German lines to launch a counter-attack. For the loss of only two paratroopers, the counter-attack further depleted the German force by almost 100 men.

That midnight, after the paratroopers had killed 500 Germans and wounded 600 more, they withdrew with the patriots and vanished into friendly Brittany where the Germans couldn't find them.

The cruel Georgian troops were offered a standard price of one million francs for every French paratrooper officer they captured and 500,000 francs for every private.

3 Key Cities Captured by Patton Army

American troops were reported within 22 miles of Paris by the German High Command last night after Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third U. S. Army had captured Chartres, Orleans and Dreux—three key cities on three main roads into the former French capital.

The sensational American advance broke through on a 60-mile front between Orleans and Dreux in what Berlin termed "an all-out drive for Paris" by strong tank and motorized artillery formations.

Paris was already becoming a front-line city, said a German report, as the people there heard gunfire from U. S. columns racing toward it. The Nazis said that Paris policemen were on strike and that the city's subways were not operating.

As Berlin reported that three American columns were advancing on the capital, a United Press dispatch from the U. S. front said that one column jumped the Aunay River and had a bridgehead across it only 32 miles from Paris, 13 miles beyond Chartres. Another spearhead crossed the Eure River, the UP said, and a third captured Chateaudun, southwest of Chartres.

When first reporting the new American drive, Berlin spoke significantly of the drive being met by German "covering forces"—a phrase that usually means screening forces not in very great strength.

It was officially announced, said an AP dispatch from the front, that the U. S. Third Army had accounted for about 100,000 German casualties including 11,000 killed, 41,300 captured and 47,000 wounded.

On the Falaise front, dispatches indicated that confusion was still spreading in the German ranks. Prisoners captured during a 12-hour period represented 12 different divisions and many of the captured Germans had had no food while some had no shoes. "The German army is completely disorganized," a British staff officer told a Reuter correspondent.

Armored drives by Canadian and Polish forces fanned out eastward from Falaise, one force driving ten miles northeast through St. Pierre, and another smashing eight miles southeast to within two miles of Trun, only about seven miles from American-held Argentan—which probably meant that Canadian and American patrols were very close to each other in that area.

A Canadian Army spokesman said that "a number of Panzer and infantry divisions" were still inside the pocket and added that

(Continued on Back Page)

'That's Just Wonderful,' Mrs. Patton Exclaims

HAMILTON, Mass., Aug. 17—Mrs. George S. Patton Jr. exclaimed "that's just wonderful" when told yesterday her husband was commanding the American Third Army in France. She said she had letters from him now and then but that he never discussed his duties or whereabouts.

Mrs. Patton added she did not intend to send any message to her husband on his new command "because when two people have been married as long as we have—34 years—there is perfect understanding between them."

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Printed for U. S. Armed forces under auspices of the Special Service Division ETOUSA. Contents passed by the U. S. Army and Navy censors. Continental edition. Entered as second class matter Mar. 15, 1943, at the post office, New York, N. Y., under the Act of Mar. 3, 1879.

A Bill of Goods

Persuasive Sergeant Spiels Sales Talk Netting 400 Prisoners in 24 Hours

By Bud Kane, Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

ON THE BRITANNY FRONT, Aug. 17—Using only his tongue as a weapon, a fast-talking, German-speaking sergeant from Pittsburgh personally bull-boozled more than 400 Germans into surrendering in a period of less than 24 hours.

The sergeant was Alexander Balter, member of an armored unit sweeping up through the Brittany peninsula. His haul of prisoners was more than twice the number of men in his company.

On request of his company commander, Capt. Allen A. Scullen, of Boston, Mass., Balter took a jeep with a white flag and rode into an enemy stronghold.

Taken to the German commandant, Balter spied off an eloquent word picture of the situation. The description was phonetic, but the Germans didn't know that.

"You are surrounded on three sides," Balter said, "and our Air Forces are awaiting the time, one hour from now, when they will bomb your entire area. In addition, our artillery will deliver a barrage guaranteed to destroy your forces. You can surrender now and avoid all this."

The German officer, suspicious of a trick, asked how these facts could be proved. Balter handed his field radio receiver over to the Nazi. The receiver was tuned to Capt. Scullen.

"The captain will corroborate my statements," Balter said. The captain did, and added: "Twenty minutes have already passed. You haven't much time left to make up your mind."

The Nazi still argued that this might be a trick, whereupon Balter reminded him of a recent bombardment which had taken place several miles down the coast.

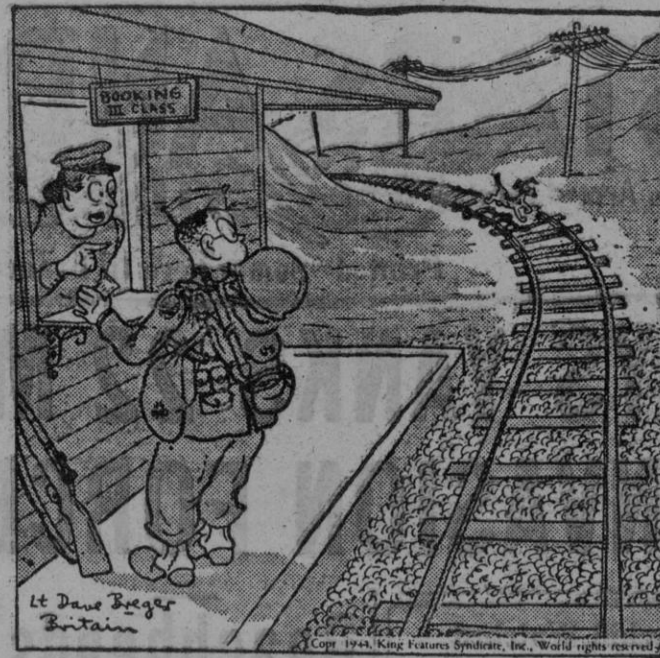
That barrage evidently was fresh in the Nazi's mind. He considered a minute and said, "I surrender."

In less than 20 minutes more than 240 men comprising the garrison were marched out into the waiting hands of a U. S. reconnaissance unit.

Within three hours two other garrisons, with a total of 160 men, had surrendered after Balter had given them the same line of talk.

Total prisoner bag for the day: 406 Germans.

Private Breger



"The train's due any minute—in fact, there's the engineer's dog approaching now!"

News From Home

Single Army-Navy Command Is Urged By Truman to Avoid 'Waste, Wrangles'

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17—Sen. Harry S. Truman, of Missouri, Democratic vice-presidential nominee, cautioned tonight failure to consolidate the Army and Navy under a single command would not only continue the present system of "waste and wrangles" but would leave the nation wide open for another Pearl Harbor.

Writing in Colliers Magazine, the former chairman of the Senate War Investigating Committee said the "root cause" of the Dec. 7, 1941, tragedy was the two-department system which permitted the Secretaries of War and Navy to issue "their separate commands to field commanders each reared in the tradition that cooperation carries the risk of endangering independence."

He quoted from a report by the Presidential commission which investigated Pearl Harbor to show that neither Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short nor Adm. Husband E. Kimmel informed the other of action he was taking with respect to "joint Army-Navy plans and procedures."

with respect to "joint Army-Navy plans and procedures."

ICKES WANTS LAND JOB

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17—Calling upon Congress to enact a surplus property disposal law that would prevent a repetition of the "speculator's Paradise" that followed World War I, Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes proposed today that his department be given the job of handling government land disposition.

26 HOURS TO ANYWHERE

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 17—Jack Frye, president of Transcontinental and Western Air, tonight predicted that post-war air transport service would bring any point in the U. S. within 26 hours flying time of any other part of the world.

DEWEY TO MICHIGAN

LANSING, Mich., Aug. 17—Gov. Harry F. Kerby announced that Thomas E. Dewey, GOP Presidential candidate, would visit his home state of Michigan on a campaign tour.

Berlin Says U. S. Troops Only 22 Mi. From Paris

(Continued From Page One) most of these forces were committed to fierce fighting with very little hope to escape.

However, a British United Press report from the U. S. front spoke bluntly of "the failure to trap any considerable body of Germans" and attributed it not only to stubborn German resistance but also "leaks regarding plans." The majority of the German forces escaped from the Falaise-Argentan pocket, the BUP report stated, adding that the Allies "have largely failed to destroy more than a fraction of the German Army in the West."

As Canadian troops captured Falaise itself and drove more than a mile south of the town, other Allied forces seized Flers and Conde, two western strongpoints inside the pocket. American and British patrols linked up near Flers and British troops advanced from Conde westward to Falaise.

American forces entered Chartres from the east behind an armored spearhead which sped on through the city to meet another armored column driving down from the north after taking Dreux. The first wave of motorized infantry moved in at 9 AM Wednesday and had the situation in hand by 4 PM.

Yesterday SHAEF communique said the German garrison in the St. Malo Citadel was maintaining stubborn defense. The port of Dinard has been occupied.

FREDDY SCHMIDT PITCHES CARDS TO 80th VICTORY

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 17—Freddy Schmidt, relief pitcher making his third start of the season, yesterday hurled the Cards to a 5-0 victory over the Giants. It was the Red Birds' 80th victory, and the mark had been attained earliest in National League history. The Dodgers of 1942 set the former record.

In the first inning, Ray Sanders singled with the bases loaded, scoring two runs, and George Kurowski's single added another.

Singles by Augie Bergamo, Johnny Hopp and Stan Musial and Sanders' fly netted two more in the sixth and sent Bill Voiselle to the showers with his 14th defeat.

Johnny Allen followed Voiselle on the mound and allowed one hit of the Cardinals' total of ten.

Ott Fines Medwick, Kerr \$100 Each for 'Loafing'

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 17—Joe Medwick and Buddy Kerr, Giants' outfielder and shortstop, respectively were fined \$100 each by Manager Mel Ott for failure to hustle against the Reds at Cincinnati Tuesday night.

Medwick was fined for holding the ball in the outfield while a runner scored from second on a single and Kerr for failure to cover second, on a stolen base and later standing on second while a grounder was pounded through the hole he vacated at shortstop.

ALL-STARS BARRED

CHICAGO, Aug. 17—Seven members of the College All-Star football squad chosen to oppose the Chicago Bears Aug. 30 have been declared ineligible by the Ninth Naval District, in keeping with a Navy directive prohibiting its personnel from participation in any event requiring more than 48 hours absence from their station. The players are Bill Daley, Bill Godwin, Meredith Cushing, Alex Kapur, Vic Schleich, Jim White and Ziggy Czarboski.

Majors & Minors

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GH. Rows include St. Louis, Boston, Detroit, New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Washington.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GH. Rows include St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Boston.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GH. Rows include Toronto, Jersey City, Rochester, Buffalo, Baltimore, Newark, Buffalo, Jersey City, Toronto, Montreal, Syracuse, Rochester.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GH. Rows include Milwaukee, Toledo, Louisville, Columbus, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Kansas City.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT., GH. Rows include Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle, San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego.

137 NAZI SAILORS GIVE UP ISLAND

By Jack Foster, Stars and Stripes Navy Writer

ST. MALO, Aug. 17—Continuing shelling, storming and bombing of Nazi strongpoints commanding the harbor of St. Malo paid off yesterday when 137 German sailors, defending the small island of Le Grand Bey, surrendered as American infantrymen prepared to attack.

Surrender of Le Grand Bey left only The Citadel, one large island and two isolated pillboxes in enemy hands.

Lt. Martin Flaherty, of Battle Creek, Mich., led the wave of doughboys who precipitated yesterday afternoon's surrender.

As the tide went out, Flaherty and his men started across the open expanse to storm the island. Before they reached their objective, however, the German garrison marched out under white flags.

All but ten of the men were German sailors. They said that after their ships were lost, they were posted on the island to release soldiers for line duty. The ten non-sailors were Russians, employed at menial tasks by the Nazis.

Details of Black Widow Night Fighter, Revealed

HAWTHORNE, Calif., Aug. 17 (AP)—The War Department has disclosed some heretofore secret details of the P61 Black Widow night fighter, described as the largest and most powerful pursuit plane in existence.

Special armor plate protects the crew and ammunition from 30 and 60 caliber machine gun fire. It has bullet-resistant glass and deflector plates and the first full-span landing flap for low landing speed. The Black Widow also has a new type aileron which retracts into the upper section of the wing, making it easy to maneuver.

The plane's speed is still secret but the War Department said it was as swift as a fast pursuit plane and capable of shooting down anything that flies.

French Paratroops Hid, Roved, Shot Nazis Since D-Day

(Continued From Page One)

for each enlisted man. One of the Frenchmen wounded in the Maledroit battle was hit in the throat and stomach and in the thigh, but he managed somehow to crawl to a nearby woods. A French woman treated his wounds and while he lay helpless on the ground a party of German soldiers discovered him and filled his dying body with slugs from their machine pistols.

The philosophy of the Georgian troops, according to the paratroopers, was that if they were captured by the Germans, the French people would kill them; if they did not fight, the Germans would kill them.

Of the French fighters who are left, most plan to settle down in a Free France after the war, but one Frenchman who spent 15 years working in a Los Angeles restaurant plans to return to the U. S.

Press Wireless Unable To Service Yanks Here

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17—Press Wireless Inc., only radio communications agency operating between France and the United States, announced today that it was unable to handle transmission of soldiers' business or personal messages from northern France to New York because of inadequate traffic facilities.

A Warren Norton, president of Press Wireless, issued a statement regretting that a channel has not been opened to troops, saying further that no definite time has been set for this type of service.

At present Press Wireless is handling between 40,000 and 50,000 words daily for war correspondents filing stories directly from First U. S. Army Headquarters to the States. In addition, Press Wireless handles all news from other war theaters and America for the Continental Edition of The Stars and Stripes

11,000 Japanese Killed on Guam

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17—Approximately 11,000 Japanese dead were counted on Guam, Acting Navy Secretary Ralph Bard disclosed today. The figure, he said, brought to 40,000 the total of enemy losses in the Mariana Islands campaign, exclusive of the unknown number the Japs buried themselves.

Allies In South France Drive 24 Miles Inland

(Continued From Page One) (separate from the Overseas Agency) reported flatly that Allied forces had "established themselves in Cannes."

Gen Sir Henry Maitland Wilson revealed from his Mediterranean headquarters that the landing forces had made contact with the paratroops, dropped behind the German defense zone at dawn Tuesday.

Allied warplanes continued to provide an umbrella for ground troops blasting a path for the advance. Pilots of RAF Bostons from Italy reported large fires in Nice harbor and also along the Italian Riviera, an area where the enemy apparently looked for new landings near Genoa.

The famed gambling resort of Monte Carlo has been bombed for the first time, German Radio said.

BLONDIE

