

SUPERFORCES RAID JAPAN

TANKS GAIN IN FRANCE

Surge Ahead In Cherbourg Neck Region

Advances Made Despite Furious
German Counterattacks

By WES GALLAGHER

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (AP)—American troops have surged powerfully ahead in their stab into the Cherbourg neck, Allied Headquarters announced today, and Berlin reported that less than six miles separated the spearhead from the last west coast communications linking Cherbourg with France.

The gains were hammered out in spite of furious counterattacks all along the 100-mile invasion front in which the Germans had thrown about twenty divisions and 600 tanks.

ALLIES HOLD FIRM
Allied Headquarters, confirming that American infantry and parachute troops, supported by tanks had scored further gains west of Caen, said the British were holding firm everywhere else despite the massive nature of the German counter-stroke and were inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

This was after it was acknowledged that the British at the eastern end of the line had been forced to give up Troarn, their anchor nine miles east of Caen, and Villers-Bocage, one of their two advancing points fifteen miles southwest of Caen.

Further heavy counterattacks in the Villers-Bocage area were turned back yesterday evening, headquarters said, and the British were still secure in their hold on Caumont, their other most advanced point, twenty miles southwest of Caen.

Seventeen German tanks, including eight 60-ton Tigers, were knocked out in the fierce armored battling yesterday, headquarters said. The other eight tanks were Panthers armed with 75 mm. guns.

At the western end of the line, the Americans first moved forward on a nine-mile front to the Les Sablons-Baillie area, south of Ste. Mere Eglise and only about seven miles from high ground overlooking La Haye Du Puits on the west coast road and rail line leading to Cherbourg.

FURTHER GAIN
The Berlin radio commentator, Ludwig Sartorius, then reported that they had gained another 3 1/2 miles to the west, reaching Protot, which is less than six miles from La Haye Du Puits itself.

The Americans also fought their way back into Montebourg, fourteen miles from Cherbourg and headquarters said street fighting was in progress. But the fighting here was fluid, and the Germans in mid-afternoon claimed they were again in possession of the town.

American troops also were engaged in heavy fighting in the Point L'Abe area, four miles north of Protot, and along the road from Montebourg to Quineville on the coast. The Americans hammered out gains both in the Point L'Abe area and around Quineville, which represents the Allied right flank, headquarters said.

The heavy nature of the fighting was plainly indicated by the German High Command, which said the battle is "approaching a climax" and growing more violent every day with the Allies hitting hard in all directions to enlarge their bridgehead.

MAIN FIGHTING

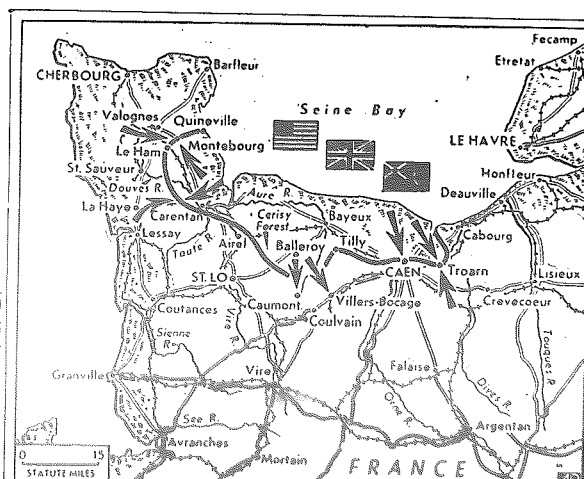
The main fighting was taking place in front of Villers-Bocage. Allied troops held high ground facing the town a quarter of a mile away. The River Seulles divided the German and Allied forces.

From this area northward to Montebourg the Ninth and Second Tactical Air Forces carried out what was officially described as "a great number of sorties" in support of the ground forces, many of them from a mounting number of Allied air bases set up with full facilities in captured territory.

Allied fliers reported more movement on the roads behind the German lines last night than at any time since D-Day.

While a great weight of Allied bombs was being thrown against this movement, an announcement came that

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TODAY'S BATTLE FRONT—Americans fought back into Montebourg early today and advanced counter-attacking Nazi tank divisions expelled the British from Troarn and Villers-Bocage. Americans miles of the last railroad from Cherbourg. On the outer approaches of the port, they shelled the heavily armored battleship 22 miles inland in Normandy on the left in a wooded quadrangle bounded by Caumont, Villers-Bocage, Tilly-sur-Seulles and Baillie.

Reds Take Finn Toll

LONDON (AP)—Russian troops, bearing down with tanks, artillery and air support, are inflicting heavy casualties on the Finns on the Karelian front and have advanced to within 25 miles of the capital of Helsinki, Moscow declared today.

With their capital city of Helsinki, 150 miles northwest of Vainpää, endangered by the Soviet offensive, the Finns have thrown strong reinforcements into a fierce struggle with the Red Army in the area of Kuusinka and Järvi, a broad communication from Moscow said.

The new reserves occupied defensive positions between the lakes and marshy ground. This made tank operations extremely difficult, the Soviet troops managed to capture several Finnish support points despite stout opposition, the communiqué said.

WIPED OUT
Evidence of the ferocity of the fighting was contained in the Russian announcement, which said one unit of the Red Army had in three days wiped out 3,000 of the enemy, destroyed 30 guns, 25 mortars and 70 machine guns, and captured 70 other guns. The Soviet Air Force destroyed six artillery batteries, blew up three ammunition dumps and smashed a mortar, tank column, the communiqué claimed.

German commentators persisted in regarding the battle on the Finnish front as a prelude to action on a grand scale elsewhere on the eastern front. A Berlin broadcast declared the Nazi High Command expected the Russians would strike in the east "only when fighting in western Europe is in full swing."

Moscow declared German reconnaissance units southeast of Stalinsburg in Old Poland had been repulsed, and said Soviet armor bombed enemy airbases at Brest-Litovsk, Białystok, Pinsk, Minsk, Bobruisk, and Orsha behind German lines on the eastern front, destroying "many German planes" and setting fuel and ammunition dumps afire.

**Red Cross Ship
Hits Mine, Sinks**

STOCKHOLM (AP)—The Swedish Red Cross ship *Panik* sank here on June 14, after hitting a mine in the Baltic Sea, Swedish officials said today.

Roosevelt Calls For World Body

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Roosevelt called today for creation of a world organization of all "peace-loving" nations to maintain peace and security—backed by force if necessary.

"We are not thinking of a superstate with its own police force and other paraphernalia of coercive power," the President said, "but added that member nations of the world organization would maintain adequate forces 'for joint action when necessary.'"

PROPOSALS
For the mechanics of a peace-keeping organization, Mr. Roosevelt proposed in a statement:

1. An international organization comprising all peace-loving nations.

2. A council elected annually, the members to include the four major nations and "a suitable number of other nations."

3. An international court of justice to deal primarily with disputes capable of settlement by peaceful means.

4. The Big Four are the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union.

5. An international force of peacekeepers to be maintained by the four major nations and "a suitable number of other nations."

6. The plan set forth in the President's statement will be the basis of negotiations for a treaty which Secretary Hull has invited Britain, Russia and China to send plenipotentiaries.

Mr. Roosevelt issued his statement after a conference with Secretary of State Hull, Undersecretary of State Edward R. Stettin, Jr., Dr. Isiah Bowman and Leo Passanick, officials of the State Department who have been working on postwar planning.

"It is our thought," the President said in his statement, "that the organization for international co-operation would be a fully representative body with broad representation."

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Fortresses Pulverizing Enemy Bases

Bombers Keep
Up Air Assaults

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS AEF (AP)—A force of between 1,000 and 2,000 American Fortresses and Liberators and escorting fighters swept over France this morning, bombing airplane plants, airfields and railroad facilities in a dozen places.

Berlin radio reported an attack on the great industrial city of Hannover in Germany while lighter Allied warplanes from bases in Normandy and Britain continued their widespread support campaign in a smashing follow-up to an 1,100-bomber operation overnight.

As a part of the latter operation several hundred Lancasters blasted E-boats pens at Le Havre with six-ton "factory buster" incendiaries.

Twenty-eight hundred tons of explosives were dropped on the port in two separate attacks, the first, just before dusk, being the RAF's heaviest daylight bombardment of the war and its first high altitude daylight precision strike.

STRIKE WIDE AREA
Targets of the American "heavies" today ranged from Nantes, La Poiteviniere and Angoulême to Beaulieu, La Frétille and Bordeaux. The force comprised approximately 1,000 bombers, several hundred more fighters, possibly approximating yesterday's record 1,500-bomber force.

The multiple attack, the deepest penetration of France since the invasion, took the bombers over a 300-mile expanse from Beaulieu, 40 miles north of Paris and 100 miles east of the battle line, to Bordeaux, 300 miles south of Paris.

Angoulême is 70 miles northeast of Bordeaux. La Poiteviniere 50 miles east of Nantes, which is 120 miles south of the battle zone. La Frétille is eight miles east of Tours.

American raiders, pushing the tactical support campaign up to within a short distance of the battle line, bombed the Villers-Bocage battle focus and also struck around St. Lo, attacking the main road into the town.

SMASH FUEL STORES
Reports indicated the bombing of nine fuel stores for the German army, hampering the advance of panzer formations into battle. In one attack by the RAF yesterday, six fuel stores were destroyed.

The fuller information which has come from the initial findings of our men on the French coast," the Secretary said, "is a clear point to illustrate the desirability of not reaching hasty conclusions. The West Wall was not a pushover. At various points the landings were relatively easy, thanks to an element of tactical surprise, a careful choice of the terrain, and the destruction of German communications by air."

"But everywhere German armor, tanks and pill boxes were a dangerous hazard."

Stimson noted that Allied forces suffered casualties in the operation "but not as many as our commanders were obliged to calculate upon beforehand."

Tracing the rapid northward advance of the Allies in Italy, the Secretary said that while the Germans had brought up some fresh troops to stiffen resistance temporarily on the west end of the line, the "Nazis' right wing" again collapsed. The condition of the Nazi forces, he added, "is such that they may require reinforcements to attempt a stand against their present positions. He concluded that any such reinforcements would have a bearing on the future of the campaign."

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**French Execute
Gestapo Officer**

BERN, Switzerland (AP)—Georg Meier, a Gestapo officer who had been captured by French Partisans, tried and sentenced to death after his refusal to sign an order releasing imprisoned Partisans.

Georg Meier, the Lausanne said, was captured near the town of Yverdon and that a group of his followers were killed in the skirmish.

New Planes Used For First Time

Giant B-29s Thunder Over Japan In
Second Attack On Nip Homeland

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Army threw a new fighting giant into the war in the Pacific today, turning loose the new B-29 Super Fortress in an air attack on the Japanese homeland.

A terse War Department communiqué said: "B-29 Super-Fortresses of the United States Army Air Forces 20th Bomber Command bombed Japan today."

It was the first fighting assignment for the sky mammoth, and the announcement also served to disclose for the first time the existence of the 20th Air Force (of which the 20th Bomber Command is a part) a world-roaming unit under the personal direction of Gen. H. H. Arnold, chief of the Army Air Forces.

The War Department withheld details on the new bombing of Japan proper—first such attack on the mainland since the Doolittle raid of April 18, 1942.

However, the War Department subsequently disclosed that planes taking part in today's raid came from the India-China-Burma theater.

The B-29, it was disclosed for the first time, is a heavily armored ship whose bomb load, range and ceiling exceed that of any other plane in the world. It is powered by four engines of 2,200 horsepower each, as compared with the B-17's (Flying Fortress) span of 104 feet.

There was no immediate hint of what part of Nippon had been hit, nor from where the B-29's went into action. But Arnold said in connection with the announcement:

"This employment of the B-29 makes possible the softening up attack on Japan very much earlier than would be possible with aircraft hitherto known to combat."

Arnold asserted: "The Super-Fortress is not going to win the war by itself. But has anyone thought it will do so. It will, however, like its predecessors, the B-17 and B-24, strike at the sources of enemy strength, and prepare the way for ultimate decision by our well-established team of land, sea and air forces."

"In our new strategic thinking, the B-17 and the B-24 will now become medium instead of long range bombers, and our B-29 and B-26 aircraft will become short range bombers. These smaller planes will travel no less distances than they do now, but the B-29 will attack much greater distance and with more power."

"The employment of the B-29 is just beginning. It goes directly into battle from the production line, and we have a lot to learn before its full power may be developed. Consequently the frequency of its use will be carefully determined for some time. From this circumstance, let our enemies take what comfort they can while they can."

General George C. Marshall, chief of staff, in a statement on the attack made public by the War Department, said that the Super-Fortress introduced a new type of offensive against the enemy and "also creates a new problem in the application of military force."

Because of the enormous range and heavy bomb load of this newest bombardment plane, said Marshall, they can strike "from many and remote bases at a single objective."

SPECIAL HARD-HITTING FORCE
Their power is so great, the Chief of Staff continued, that the (American) Joint Chiefs of Staff decided it

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**Tokyo Reports U. S.
Marianas Landings**

LONDON (AP)—A powerful, twelve Japanese units and enemy American task force, which has been harassing Japanese strongholds in the Marianas Islands since the capture of Saipan last Saturday, is now attempting to land troops on Saipan Island. The Japanese are now attempting to capture the island today—a daring operation which, if successful, would give the United States an ocean base within 1,500 miles of Tokyo.

The OWI said a Japanese Imperial Headquarters communiqué announced that a landing attempt also was being made at Tinian Island, the Mariana and that heavy fighting is in progress there.

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War Bulletins

STOCKHOLM (AP)—The German-controlled Scandinavian Telegraph Bureau reported from Zurich, Switzerland, today that the Germans have blown up harbor facilities at Cherbourg.

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Attendant dispatches from Berlin today said new Allied landings at Catania and Ostende were expected momentarily.

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