

PLANNERS ROUT JAP FLEET CHERBOURG STORMED

Big Assault Is Opened By Americans

Doughboys Move In On Heels Of Great Air And Artillery Barrages

By WES GALLAGHER
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE—(AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's forces unleashed this afternoon their greatest assault since the storming of the beaches of Normandy—a combined land and air attack intended to crack the last defense of the fortified city of Cherbourg.

The attack began when waves of British and American planes swept in with a terrific aerial barrage lasting for

LONDON—(AP)—The Allies radio said tonight that Cherbourg was aflame.

minutes, a field dispatch from Associated Press War Correspondent Don Whitehead reported.

ARTILLERY THUNDER
Rocked back on their heels by the weight of this assault in which light and medium bombers dropped down almost to cannon-mouth level to drop their explosive charges, the Germans were immediately beset by a thunderous artillery pounding which left smoke and flame sweeping the German forts.

American doughboys of L. G. Omar N. Bradley, drawn up in position ten days waiting the effect of these blows, then swept forward.

They last were reported hammering at Fort Du Roule, only about 1,500 yards south of the military port, and at Fort Octeville, only slightly farther away to southwest.

The latest headquarters announcements showed that the concentric attack had virtually split the German garrison into three segments.

ENTER LARGE TOWN
Bradley's troops captured St. Pierre Eglise, 8 1/2 miles east of the port and the last road junction leading to Cherbourg from Cape Barfleur, isolating the Germans in the northeastern tip of the peninsula. Other troops coming up from the south had entered Querquehou, a large town near St. Vaast La Hougue on the east coast and thirteen miles southwest of Cherbourg.

On the west another spearhead had practically split the Germans in Cherbourg from those in the northwestern tip of the peninsula by advancing to within half a mile of Beaumont-Hague on the road to Cap De La Hague. Beaumont-Hague is 8 1/2 miles west of Cherbourg.

Nature's Headquarters said it lacked any knowledge of a reported American ultimatum by field radio to the Cherbourg garrison demanding surrender by 7 A. M. Greenwich Meridian Time, today (3 A. M. Eastern War Time). The London Daily Sketch said last night it had recorded such a broadcast.

"FINAL ATTACK"
It was assumed that if the ultimatum was made it was rejected and that L. G. Omar N. Bradley had ordered a final attack. Supreme Headquarters said it was possible the field commander might have made the demand on his own authority.

Except for the swift encircling drive on Cherbourg, there was little activity on the beachhead. The communiqué reported only naval activity elsewhere, although enemy artillery and mortar fire in the British zone.

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Yanks Catch Nazis
In "Singapore Trap"

By DON WHITEHEAD
The Americans tonight their way onto Normandy's beaches.

The doughboys were drawn up this morning waiting for the air bombardment and then the artillery barrage which covered their advance.

The barrage pounded the line until the infantry advanced within close range of its objectives and then was hit.

Late yesterday the doughboys, driving northward out of Cherbourg, broke through the German line to cut the Cherbourg-St. Pierre Eglise road and back up the German escape on any move by the enemy in reinforcements from that direction.

They were not alone the enemy tried to get off for they were attacking while the Germans were all confused and disoriented from the swift breakthrough across the peninsula.

One field officer said the Germans had been hit hard and that the Allies

had moved up and been attacking the German defenses.

The sea was the great aid in the attack as the last few miles of the beach were covered by a heavy land and air assault.

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Planes Aid Cherbourg Attackers

Rocket Grounds Raided Again

By GLADWIN HILL
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE—(AP)—

Flocks of light and medium bombers carried out a crushing offensive in support of American troops hammering into Cherbourg today, while

by forces of American heavy bombers, plowing through the German defenses, attacked the

Cherbourg rocket-bombing installations.

Members of the American 101st Airborne Division and the 82nd Airborne Division were reported to have landed in the city of Cherbourg today.

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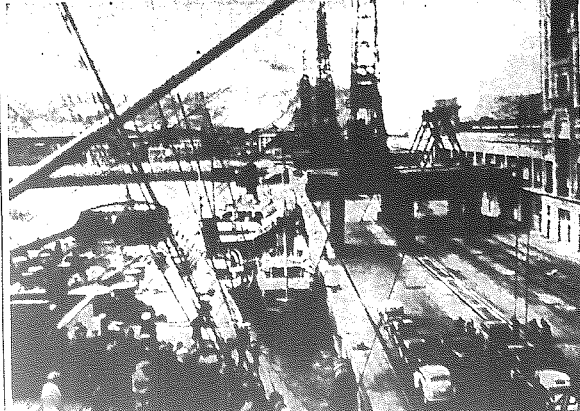
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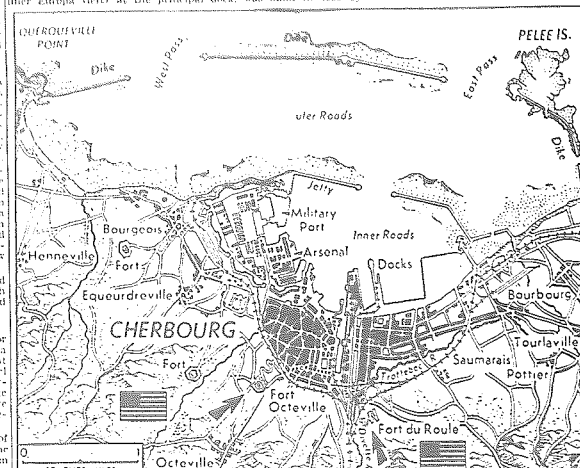
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GOAL OF AMERICAN FIGHTERS—Giant cranes on traveling bases line the dock side of Cherbourg harbor, focal point of the American drive in Normandy. This picture, which shows the bow of the liner Europa (left) at the principal dock, was made in 1938 by an American traveler. (AP wirephoto.)



AMERICANS CLOSING IN ON PORT OF CHERBOURG—This map shows strategic positions in France's great port city of Cherbourg, where American forces are battling to drive out German defenders. The map shows how the Americans attacked two fortress bastions, Fort Octeville and Fort Du Roule, and then cranked through the suburbs along the inland road between the forts. (AP wirephoto.)

Allies Near Italian Port Finns Face Crisis As Reds Advance

By LYNN HEINZELING
ROME—(AP)—Allied and Italian troops are within 32 miles of Ancona, port of the Adriatic coast, where the Red Army is advancing.

The Red Army is advancing from the north, and the Allies are advancing from the south.

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Nippon Force Trapped Off Philippines

Jap Aircraft Carrier & 3 Tankers
Sunk; Other Vessels Damaged

By CHARLES H. MCMURTRY
U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor—(AP)—Carrier planes of the United States Fifth Fleet inflicted smashing defeat on a formidable Japanese naval force trapped Monday off the Philippines, sinking four ships and damaging at least ten before the enemy escaped under cover of night.

The victory, the third great blow since Pearl Harbor against Japan's Navy, stemmed from Sunday's great air battle off Saipan Island, in which American carrier planes and warship guns shot down 353 enemy aircraft.

Because of this stunning aerial loss, the Japanese fleet, caught between the Marianas and the Philippines, could send up only a handful of interceptors from its five or six carriers. Of these 15 to 20 were shot down. The American loss was 49 planes.

The enemy lost an aircraft carrier and three tankers sunk; possibly a destroyer sunk; and nine or ten ships, including a battleship and cruiser, seriously damaged. Adm. Raymond A. Spruance's Fifth Fleet suffered no surface vessel losses.

The Japanese fleet, which for nearly a week dodged contact with the American force protecting the Saipan invasion, turned and fled with all speed toward the China Sea. Nightfall saved it from further battering and there was no indication from Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, who announced the victory today, that the battle had been resumed.

In the Sunday air battle preceding the bigger struggle, American plane losses were 21 against Japan's 353. The Sunday attack represented an arms-length enemy attempt to break up the American invasion of Saipan, principal island of the Marianas and

See AMERICAN on page 6

Victory Great But
Japs Not Crippled

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON—(AP)—Naval authorities estimated today that the Japanese fleet suffered a great but not crippling blow to Japan's naval power.

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