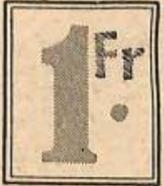




# THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations



Vol. 4 No. 244

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Tuesday, Aug. 15, 1944

## Allies Straining to Close Trap

### Reds Bridge River Before East Prussia

#### Fortress Town Captured; Von Paulus Calls on Reich to Give In

Major Soviet forces, after jabbing at the defenses of East Prussia for two weeks to find a soft spot, drove the Germans out of the fortress town of Osowiec 16 miles from the province's southeastern corner yesterday and apparently smashed beyond the Biebrza River, last natural defense in front of the Reich frontier.

This first success of the revitalized Russian campaign came a few hours after Field Marshal Gen. Von Paulus, captured at Stalingrad 19 months ago with his German Sixth Army, sounded a call to his countrymen over Moscow radio to get rid of Adolf Hitler and make peace.

"Further continuation of the war is useless bloodshed," he said in a message read for him by an announcer. "Germany has lost the war."

**Turning on 'Benefactor'**  
Von Paulus's turning upon Hitler was noteworthy, because the Fuehrer made him a marshal only after his capture and Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels thereafter built him up to be a German national hero. He is the only German field marshal in Allied hands.

"Neither in the east nor in the west has Germany the reserves that could retrieve the situation," his statement said. "The enemy's superiority in the air and on the sea is so overwhelming that the resulting situation becomes more and more hopeless."

"Germany is in this position . . . because of Hitler's state and military leadership. The treatment of the occupied (Continued on page 4)

### The War Today

**France**—American infantry and armored forces drive north within artillery range of Falaise, as British and Canadians battle south to squeeze German escape gap . . . Two allied pincers less than 20 miles apart . . . Canadians launch new major operation toward Falaise with powerful RAF support . . . German retreat described as orderly . . . U.S. troops capture Ger. important junction in Vire-Mortain area . . . German troops still hold out at St. Malo . . . French armored division fighting with Allied troops.

**Russia**—Russians drive Germans out of fortress town 16 miles from southeast corner of East Prussia, apparently smash beyond Biebrza River, last natural defense before border . . . Marshal Von Paulus, captured with German Sixth Army at Stalingrad, calls upon countrymen to get rid of Hitler and make peace.

**Pacific**—Nimitz says Japan may be defeated without invasion, but calls occupation necessary to insure peace . . . American bombers sink 3,000-ton freighter in Davao Gulf, in Philippines, and pound Halmahera . . . Navy announces raids on Bonins, Marianas and Kuriles.

**Italy**—Empoli cleared of Nazis . . . Gen. Alexander foreshadows assault upon Gothic line in message to Italian patriots asking assistance . . . Kesselring distributes pamphlets threatening retaliation against civilians who jeopardize Nazi supply and communications lines.

**Asia**—Chungking announces heavy fighting in the outer ring of Hengyang . . . Allies progress on Tiddim road and Kabaw Valley sector of Burma against light resistance . . . South of Myitkyina, Chinese units and Kachin Levies consolidate positions in Kazu, and Allied patrols reach Mingon, five miles southwest of Taungni.

### Way Home From ETO? Lear Points to Tokyo

CINCINNATI, Aug. 14 (AP)—Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, commander of the U.S. Army Ground Forces, said today that "much of the Army now in Europe may return home via the Suez Canal and Tokyo."

He told the annual meeting of the veterans of the Spanish-American War that "victory in Europe is in sight . . . and when this victory is gained we shall turn much of our fighting force and all our strength and hatred against our enemies in the Pacific."

### Need to Invade Japan Doubted

#### Nimitz Says Occupation, However, Is Necessary To Insure Peace

Belief that Japan may be defeated without an actual invasion of the Japanese homeland was expressed by Adm. Chester W. Nimitz at Pearl Harbor yesterday, but he added that occupation of Japan would be necessary to insure peace.

The U.S. Navy Department, meanwhile, announced new American air raids against enemy positions from the northern Kuriles to the Marianas, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported the sinking of a 3,000-ton Japanese freighter in Davao Gulf in the Philippines, and another raid upon Halmahera, between the Philippines and New Guinea.

"I am not sure or convinced that invasion will be necessary, but I do believe that the occupation of Japan would be necessary to insure peace," Nimitz told a press conference.

**Greater Unfolding Necessary**  
"I do not believe anybody can definitely say that invasion—invasion by assault—will be necessary until the time comes and the situation is unfolded more than it is at present," he said.

Nimitz made the reservation, however, that "we should keep in mind the possible necessity of invasion and be prepared for it." He disclosed that he was anxious to move his headquarters to the fighting area.

Chichi Jima, in the Bonin Islands, was attacked by Liberators which bombed an airfield and a cargo ship in the harbor. Gun positions and a runway on Pagan Island in the Marianas were hit by Mitchells, while an enemy patrol vessel was sunk and another damaged near Paramushiro, in the Kuriles.

MacArthur's communique revealed that night air patrols again pounded Halmahera. A 1,000-ton freighter was left burning and a 3,000-ton vessel was hit. Other occupied ports were raided, while a Reuter dispatch said that MacArthur's armies in New Guinea "are coiling up like a giant spring for an assault against the Philippines."

### USAAF Planning to Dump 700,000 More Tons by Jan. 1

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14—The USAAF's bombing plans for the balance of 1944 call for the dropping of 700,000 tons of high explosives, the War Department announced yesterday. The figure exceeds by over 3,000 the total dumped in all theaters since the U.S. entered the war.

### Rotation Furlough to U.S.? It Still Is TS for the ETO

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14—The War Department officially pulled the chain today on latrine rumors which have circulated recently to the effect that the ETO might be brought within the Army furlough rotation plan now that the troops here have been in combat.

Insufficient shipping space to provide the necessary replacements, the department said, still precludes the extension to this theater of the plan under which one-half of one per cent of the combat troops in the Pacific, Mediterranean and Caribbean theaters have been going home to the U.S. on furlough after two years' foreign service.

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said last December, when the rotation plan was instituted, that ETO troops were not included because: 1—there was insufficient shipping space; 2—the climate

## Yanks in Gun Range of Falaise; Nazis Battle Fiercely to Escape

### Ike Calls for Supreme Effort To Achieve Major Victory Now

The following Order of the Day was issued by Gen. Eisenhower at an advanced command post in Normandy:

**Allied Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen:** Through your combined skill, valor and fortitude you have created in France a fleeting but definite opportunity for a major Allied victory, one whose realization will mean notable progress toward the final downfall of our enemy. In the past, I have, in moments of unusual significance, made special appeals to the Allied forces it has been my honor to command. Without exception the response has been unstinted and the result beyond my expectations.

Because the victory we can now achieve is infinitely greater than any it has so far been possible to accomplish in the west, and because this opportunity may be grasped only through the utmost in zeal, determination and speedy action, I make my present appeal to you more urgent than ever before.

I request every airman to make it his direct responsibility that the enemy is blasted unceasingly by day and by night, and is denied safety either in flight or in fight.

I request every sailor to make sure that no part of the hostile forces can either escape or be reinforced by sea, and that our comrades on the land want nothing that guns and ships and ships' companies can bring to them.

I request every soldier to go forward to his assigned objective with the determination that the enemy can survive only through surrender: Let no foot of ground once gained be relinquished nor a single German escape through a line once established.

With all of us resolutely performing our special tasks we can make this week a momentous one in the history of this war—a brilliant and fruitful week for us, a fateful one for the ambitions of the Nazi tyrants.

## Aerial Armadas Ravage Foe in France and Reich

Mindful of Gen. Eisenhower's Order of the Day to blast the Nazis from the air unceasingly by day and night and deny them safety either in flight or flight, Allied airmen yesterday pounded the enemy escape corridor in France's Falaise sector, struck inland against Germany's weakened communication lines and carried the war to the Reich itself.

### Peace-Police Plan Suggested

By John M. Hightower  
Associated Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14—The creation of special new military units which would operate beyond the traditional limits of international law has been suggested in official quarters as possibly the most effective way of organizing post-war forces to maintain peace.

The proposal, it was learned today, was developed by military and naval authorities and is steadily growing in importance as American plans for four-power peace organization talks here take final shape. It is expected to be put forward during the talks, although it is not necessarily considered part of the formal American plan.

Should the proposal not be favorably considered for general adoption by the other conferees—Russia, Britain and, later on, China—authorities predict it may still supply the answer to the question of how the U.S. can help preserve world peace by force without basically (Continued on page 4)

Falaise sector, struck inland against Germany's weakened communication lines and carried the war to the Reich itself.

At the same time, nearly 750 heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force flew from Italy to hit the coast of southern France for the third straight day.

As aircraft of the U.S. Eighth and Ninth Air Forces and the British Second Tactical Air Force bombed defense positions of the fleeing Wehrmacht and blew its rail lines, bridges and vehicles sky high, four contingents of Eighth B17s, numbering between 500 and 750 heavies in all, thundered to southern Germany.

Escorted by P51s and P47s, the Forts bombed the I.G. Farben chemical plant at Ludswigshafen, an electrical equipment factory at Mannheim and Luftwaffe stations at Sandhofen, near Mannheim, and Echterdingen, near Stuttgart. Bombing was visual. Three Forts and one fighter were lost.

Spearheading the offensive against front-line targets, Marauders late Sunday night, attacking by the light of flares, heaped more than 30 tons of high explosives and fragmentation bombs on troops and ammunition stores dispersed in the Fort d'Halouse, about 15 miles east of Mortain. Heavy flak was encountered, but all the B26s returned.

Hours later, more than 250 Ninth Air Force medium and light bombers battered highway bridges, potential escape routes for the Germans in the Falaise-Mortain bulge, and struck inland at rail junctions and bridges. No planes were lost.

Eighth fighter-bombers, renewing at dawn the onslaught against transportation which in the previous 48 hours had destroyed or damaged almost 600 locomotives, more than 6,000 rail cars and about 900 military vehicles, struck north of the Seine and east of Paris.

Reports on missions completed up to 1 PM showed that the raiders had destroyed or damaged 29 locomotives, 301 rail cars and 22 military vehicles. Three German aircraft were shot down for the loss of three U.S. planes.

Ninth fighter-bombers, too, after a week in which they flew approximately 7,500 individual sorties over the battle (Continued on page 4)

### Retreat Is Orderly Despite Ceaseless Aerial Attacks

American infantry and armored forces, swinging their southern pincer north to within artillery range of Falaise yesterday, closed in for the kill on German troops trying frantically to escape encirclement in a desperate race eastward through the closing Falaise gap.

The northern pincer of British and Canadian armies smashed ahead to squeeze the Falaise gap at the same time, narrowing it by more than two miles. A major operation by the Canadian First Army—supported by a powerful RAF attack—took the Canadians within three miles of Falaise.

Estimates of the distance between the two Allied pincers variously set it at from 15 to 20 miles last night. As thousands of Allied planes pounded away at the German escape roads, junctions, and other positions, a Canadian Army spokesman said:

"The 15-mile stretch between Falaise and Argentan is a real no-man's land, and everything that moves in there is fair game for our air forces."

One U.S. column—after a 40-mile advance northeast from Mayenne toward Falaise—was at a point roughly 20 miles from the Canadians last night. This big advance helped to create an inner ring of armor, which was closing in on elements of five German panzer divisions still holding out in the vicinity of Mortain.

**12 Divisions Periled**  
Battlefront dispatches said that at least 12 German divisions, including six armored and six infantry divisions, would have to get through the gap if they were to escape annihilation.

Allied troops pressed grimly ahead on an "all-out for victory" Order of the Day from Gen. Eisenhower, who said there was now a "definite opportunity for a major Allied victory, one whose realization will mean notable progress toward the final downfall of our enemy," and emphasized to ground forces:

"Let no foot of ground once gained be relinquished, nor a single German escape through a line once established."  
Allied soldiers, sailors and airmen "can make this week a momentous one in the history of this war—a brilliant and fruitful week for us, a fateful one for the ambitions of the Nazi tyrants," Eisenhower declared.

A broadcast from Eisenhower's headquarters emphasized, however, that capture of the German Seventh Army—the aim of the present battle—would not mean an immediate end to the war in western Europe, since there are still three German armies not yet engaged in France which have great firepower and several broad river lines making good defensive positions.

Reports that U.S. doughboys captured Argentan were not confirmed by SHAEF. (Continued on page 4)

## 'La Prestone' Melts Hearts Of the French

Word that the Second French Armored Division, commanded by Gen. Jacques Philippe Leclerc, is now fighting with the Allies in France was released at SHAEF last night. It was formed in North Africa after the final liberation of Tunisia in May, 1943.

Released at the same time was this yarn from Tom Hoge, Stars and Stripes reporter who saw the division wildly welcomed by the populace of a town in Normandy on Aug. 7:

"As each tank rolled by, crowds lining the sidewalks would read aloud the name stenciled on the front and shout it to those in the rear.

"Vive Bordeaux!" they shouted, and a cheer went up. "Vive Lorraine!" Another cheer.

Somewhere along the route a GI supply truck had slipped into the convoy. Stenciled on the radiator was the familiar sign, "Prestone 1943," indicating that Prestone had been put into the cooling system.

"Vive La Prestone!" shouted the crowd wildly.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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General Ike's Call

At a crucial moment of unusual significance General Eisenhower, from his advanced command post in Normandy, has issued a ringing call to Allied soldiers, sailors and airmen for supreme efforts that will result in "a major Allied victory" and "mean notable progress towards the final downfall of our enemy."

In words that will thrill every Allied soldier participating in the triumphant march to victory, General Ike says in a dramatic Order of the Day, "Because the victory we can now achieve is infinitely greater than any it has so far been possible to accomplish in the West and because this opportunity may be grasped only through the utmost zeal, determination and speedy action, I make my present appeal to you more urgent than ever before."

Our Supreme Commander declares that vigorous all-out efforts now from all our forces can make this week "a momentous one in the history of this war—a brilliant and fruitful week for us, a fateful one for the ambitions of the Nazi tyrants." Every member of the Allied forces will heed this call.

Sweeping through the skies to carry out their order our airmen will see that "the enemy is blasted unceasingly by day and by night"; on the sea our sailors will block any escapes attempted by the enemy and render every support needed by our armies; on land our soldiers will take their assigned objectives without relinquishment.

Moving forward in response to General Ike's battle cry the Allies will exploit the advantage their brilliant advances have given them. In this great hour of decision they will grapple with the enemy as never before. They will make their Commander prouder still of their "combined skill, valor and fortitude," which will be used to the utmost to seize the opportunity he has pointed out.

Future in Pacific

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT minced no words in his clear-cut statement of Allied intentions in the Pacific when he spoke of the prospect of operations in China, the recapture of the Philippines and the carrying of the war to the shores of Japan.

"We have no desire," said the Chief Executive in his Pacific Coast address, "to ask for any possessions of the United Nations. But the United Nations who are working so well with us in the winning of the war will, I am confident, be glad to join with us in protection against aggression and in machinery to prevent aggression."

Commenting on these statements The Times of London says: "The President thus lays down a policy, not of exclusiveness but of joint effort and benefit, on terms which should be sure of cordial and confident assent from all the Powers concerned in the security and economic progress of the Pacific regions."

Today more than a million American soldiers are fighting in the Pacific to prepare the ground for these constructive ideas—in which Japan will be able to participate, as the President says, "only after years of proof" that we can trust her.

Liverpool Lights Up

ALL belligerent Europe is looking with envious eyes at Liverpool where, for the first time since September 2, 1939, the blackout has been lifted and street-lamps turned on throughout three miles of streets in the center of the city.

Liverpool has thus become the first city in Britain to banish the blackout in part with "moonlight," which is described as "100 times more brilliant than London's starlight." To young children who never had seen lighted street lamps the new street lighting was as good as a "cinema" and late homegoers rejoiced in being able to read newspapers as they waited for buses and trams.

Meanwhile the rest of the British Isles waits hopefully for Allied arms to make it possible for them, too, to turn their lights on in a victory celebration.

Hash Marks

Modern Proposal: "Baby, I'd like to make your post-war plans!"

A German prisoner in Normandy, asked how the Nazi soldiers felt about being forced to give the Hitler salute in-



stead of the military salute, replied, "We have a saying for that. We say it will not take much effort now to raise the other hand also!"

Overheard in the Blackout: "Boy, was that girl ugly. She must be a professional blind-date!"

At the risk of repeating an old gag, we remind you that the mosquitoes in France are as bad as in New Jersey and everywhere else—they are so fastidious they turn over a GI's dogtag and check his blood-type before devouring him.

Sgt. Theo Lundberg received a letter from his girl back home asking if a Hashmark was "something you got for being on KP a lot."

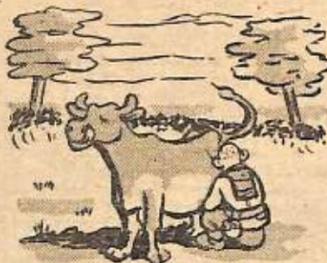
And a little girl surprised S/Sgt. Urban C. Zimmer by asking: "Got a hankie—Yankee?"

Whoever leaves these unsigned verses in our typewriter is getting better, judging by today's contribution.

If Little Red Riding Hood lived today, The modern girl would scorn 'er. She only had to meet one wolf, Not one on every corner.

Fun on the Home Front. It was a hot summer day and the pretty young girl could not resist taking a dip in the mountain pool, despite the fact she had no swim suit. After a few cooling dives, she spied a mischievous youngster tying her clothes in knots. Furiously she swam to the bank, grabbed up an old galvanized tub for a shield and confronted him. "Young man," she snapped angrily, "do you know what I'm thinking?" "Yes," he replied with a twinkle in his eye, "you're thinking that tub has a bottom in it!"

Speaking of novel uses for the good old GI helmet, Ensign W. H. Lobenstein reports this gith as he jeeped up the Cher-



bourg peninsula. There in a pasture surrounded by hedgerows was a soldier sitting on the fibre liner of his helmet, using it as a milking stool, as he milked a cow—letting the moo-juice fall into the steel part of his "Stetson."

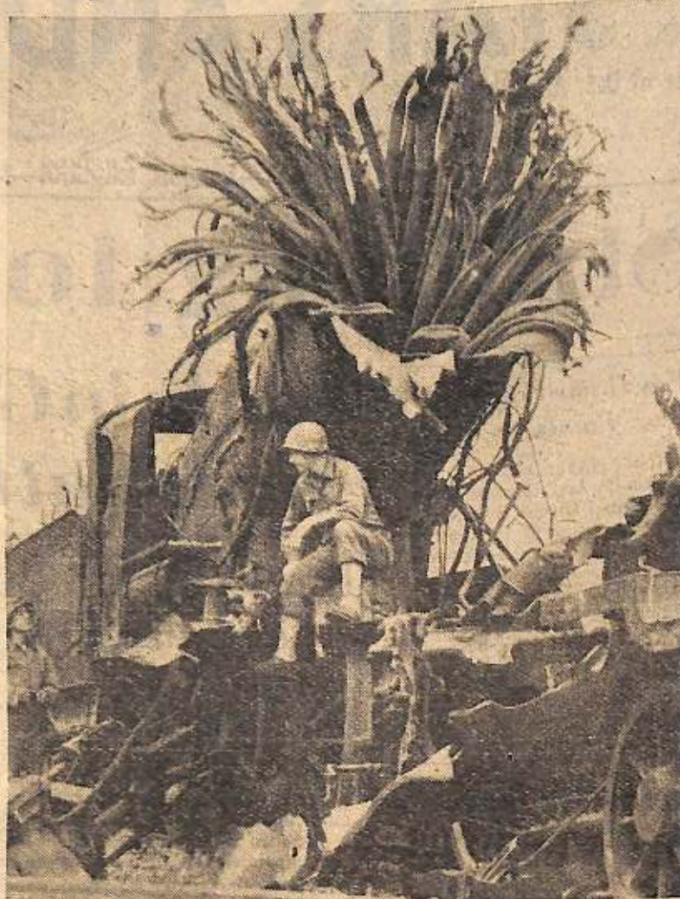
Punch just came through with a wonderful joke indeed. An Englishman sitting at his desk consults a score sheet and remarks cheerfully, "Nice day today—nine 'all clears' to four 'alerts'."

PRIVATE BREGER



"No wonder we're lost! WHERE the devil did you get this map of northeastern Illinois?"

Engine Bombed Into a Brussels Sprout



This locomotive was literally torn to shreds in air bombardment at Canisy, France. Crumpled flues in smokestack look like big bunch of vegetation.

Straight From the Front

By Ernie Pyle

NORMANDY—All of us correspondents have tried time and again to describe to you what this weird hedgerow fighting in northwestern France has been like, but I'm going to go over it once more, for we have been in it two months and some of us feel that this is the two months that broke the German Army in the west. This type of fighting is always in small groups, so let's take as an example one company of men.

Let's say they are working forward on both sides of a country lane and this company is responsible for clearing two fields on either side of the road as it advances. That means you have only about one platoon to the field and with a company understrength from casualties, you might have no more than 25 to 30 men in the field.

Here fields are usually not more than 50 yards across and a couple of hundred yards long. They may have grain in them, or apple trees, but mostly they are just pastures of green grass full of cows.

Fields All Surrounded

The fields are surrounded on all sides by immense hedgerows which consist of an earthen hedge, waist high, all matted with roots and out of which grow weeds, bushes and trees up to 20 feet high. The Germans have used these barriers well. They have put snipers in trees. They dig deep trenches behind hedgerows and cover them with timber so that it is almost impossible for artillery to get at them. Sometimes they will prop up machine-guns with strings attached so that they can fire over the hedge without getting out of their holes. They even cut out sections of hedgerow and hide a big gun or tank in it, covering it with brush.

Also they tunnel under hedgerows from the back and make an opening on the forward side, just large enough to stick a

machine-gun through. But, mostly, the hedgerow pattern is this—a heavy machine-gun hidden at the end of the field and infantrymen hidden along the hedgerow with rifles and machine pistols.

Now it's up to us to dig them out of there. It's slow and cautious business and there is nothing very dashing about it. Our men don't go across open fields in dramatic charges such as you see in the movies. They did at first, but they learned better.

They go in tiny groups, a squad or less moving yards apart and sticking close to hedgerows on either end of the field. They creep a few yards, squat, wait, then creep again.

Wouldn't See Many

If you could be right up there between the Germans and Americans, you wouldn't see many men at any one time. Just a few, here and there, always trying to keep hidden, but you would hear an awful lot of noise.

Attacking squads sneak up the sides of hedgerows, while the rest of the platoon stay back in their own hedgerow and keep the forward hedge saturated with bullets. They shoot rifle grenades, too, and the mortar squad, a little farther back, keeps lobbing mortar shells over onto the Germans' little advance groups set up to the far ends of the hedgerows at the corners of the field. They first try to knock out machine-guns at each corner. They do this with hand grenades, rifle grenades and machine-guns.

Usually when pressure gets on, the German defenders of the hedgerow start pulling back. They'll take their heavier guns and most of the men back a couple of fields and start digging in for a new line. They leave about two machine-guns and a few riflemen scattered through the hedge to do a lot of shooting and hold the Americans as long as they can.

Our men now sneak along the front side of the hedgerow, throwing grenades over onto the other side and spraying the hedges with their guns. The fighting is very close, only a few yards apart, but it is seldom actual hand-to-hand stuff.

Sometimes the remaining Germans come out of their holds with their hands up. Sometimes they try to run for it and are mowed down. Sometimes they won't come out at all and hand grenades thrown into their hole finish them off and so we have taken another hedgerow and are ready to start on the one beyond.

This hedgerow business is a series of little skirmishes like that clear across the front. Thousands and thousands of little skirmishes. No single one of them is very big, but add them all up over days and weeks and you have got a man-sized war with thousands on both sides.

This Is The Army

PFC. Arthur W. Falor reports that barbering in France offers more excitement than his former Treat-U-Rite shop in Seattle, Wash. He landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day plus sign immediately.

The excitement came one afternoon recently while cutting a sergeant's hair. The planes, "We both dived for a rock-shed across the road and got inside just in time to miss the strafing and the falling shrapnel," Falor related.

Hard Run, but Nazis Finally Caught Up With Some Captors

ON THE ORNE RIVER FRONT, Normandy, Aug. 14 (AP)—Three British Tommies on a night patrol in enemy territory east of the Orne had completed their mission and were returning when they were spotted by a German sentry, who raised the alarm.

As the British took to their heels, eight more Germans came tumbling out of a near-by farmhouse. Then began a wild race through moonlit orchards and across hedges and streams, with the Germans shouting furiously and the British silently tearing off yardage.

Finally the leader of the patrol pulled up.

"There's something phoney about this," he said. "Those blokes aren't shooting at us. Let's see what the score is."

A few seconds later the nine Germans caught up. Puffing and panting, they clicked heels, saluted, and chorused: "We wish to surrender. But—wuh—wuh—we cannot run much longer."

French Greet Allies In Middle of Battle

WITH U.S. FORCES, France, Aug. 14 (UP)—Some French people were killed when the town of Laval was freed from the Germans because they dashed out into the streets to welcome their liberators while the fighting was still going on.

"If it hadn't been for the mob of celebrating French we should have captured Laval far sooner," Capt. Charles Freeman related.

"With bullets flying in all directions, and with German staff cars racing through in an effort to get away, the crowd refused to get off the streets. They rushed out with American and British flags, kissing and hugging our men."

Notes from the Air Force

FOURTEEN victories in two separate engagements, each involving eight Mustangs led by Capt. Wallace N. Emmer, of St. Louis, Mo., against 40 Nazi planes, brought the total of kills by the group commanded by Col. George R. Bickell, of Nutley, N.J., to 404 in less than eight months of combat. In addition, the group claims 45 probables and 237 damaged.

In the first air battle, the eight P51s destroyed nine Me109s without loss. While escorting B26s later the same day, this same flight bagged five more, but one Mustang pilot bailed out.

T/Sgt. Peter S. Becker, of Louisville, Ky., an engineer-gunner on the Liberator Stolen Moments, recently received the Silver Star for "gallantry in action." Brig. Gen. Edward J. Timberlake, of San Antonio, Tex., wing commander, made the presentation.

Following vicious attacks by waves of Nazi Me109s, Becker, although badly wounded, remained at his post and not only assisted in warding off further fighter attacks but materially aided in making repairs vital to the return of the plane to base. He also holds the Air Medal with two clusters.

In citing a photographic reconnaissance group commanded by Lt. Col. C. A. Shoop, of Beverly Hills, Cal., for "extraordinary heroism, gallantry and determination," Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle, Eighth Air Force Commander, revealed the vital and hazardous role played by unarmed photo pilots before and after D-Day. The group's photo laboratory turned out almost a quarter of a million prints in June.

Pictures were taken so low that signs on store fronts are legible. Lt. Robert E. Moss, of Huntington Park, Cal., clipped a church steeple with the tail boom of his Lightning, and landed at his stuck in his wing. Another P38 pilot, 1/Lt. John L. Anderson, of Littleton, Colo., flew so low leaving the enemy coast that he dipped one wing in the water.

1/Lt. Charles R. Woodrum, Fortress pilot from Silver Springs, Md., returned from Berlin without fighter escort after four crew members had bailed out.

The Fort was hit by flak just before it bombed an aerial engine factory at Genshagen, several miles south of Berlin. When the No. 4 engine caught fire, the navigator, co-pilot, bombardier and top-turret-gunner jumped. Woodruff side-slipped the plane and then flames.

A NEW oil which keeps machine-guns low as 80 degrees below zero is now being used by the U.S. and British air forces. Col. Philip Schwartz, ETO Air Service Command ordnance chief, dis-

The oil will pour freely at 70 degrees below zero, Schwartz said. At altitudes of 30,000 feet, when ice and frost collect on machine-guns, a combination of this new oil and heating device effectively prevents jamming.



# NEWS FROM HOME Fourth Big Fire In East Sweeps Palisades Park

## Over 150 Injured in Blaze Near Hudson River; Loss \$1,250,000

NEW YORK, Aug. 14 (ANS)—The fourth major fire in three days in the New York City-New Jersey area yesterday swept through the Palisades Amusement Park overlooking the Hudson River, resulting in injuries to more than 150 persons and damage estimated at around \$1,250,000.

Officials said that 80 per cent of the park's property was destroyed, including the scenic railway, funhouse and sky-rocket. In addition, 100 automobiles in an adjacent parking lot were burned, their exploding gas tanks leading many to believe bombs were going off.

The fire came as a temperature of 100 degrees broke all New Jersey heat records for the fourth consecutive day. It was the third resort blaze in as many days, coming after flames wrecked a block of the boardwalk and buildings Friday at Wildwood, N.J., and part of Luna Park at Coney Island Saturday.

Meantime, at Pier No. 4 at Hoboken, N.J., the \$4,000,000 fire which started Friday was still smoldering and flaring up. Police announced that two firemen were missing.

### 12 Die in Illinois Fire

SHAWNEETOWN, Ill., Aug. 14 (ANS)—Twelve persons, six of them children, died here when gasoline fumes held inside the Ohio River levee burst into 300-foot flames. Ten of the victims were members of the Joseph Rider family.

### 7,220 Volts, but He Lives

ANAMOSA, Ia., Aug. 14 (ANS)—Ray Seeley, lineman for the Iowa Electric Co., grabbed a wire carrying 7,220 volts of electricity and escaped with a burned right hand and a hole in his sock where the charge left his body. Experts said that only one person in 10,000 could live through such a jolt.

## Peace - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

altering the division of foreign policy and military powers between the President and Congress.

Essentially the proposal is that each nation should earmark part of its land, sea and air power as its own peace police organization. Each organization would retain its separate national identity. An important part of such a U.S. organization might be the world-roving 20th Air Force of Super-Fortresses.

In event of a threat to peace which the world organization could not stop by political and economic measures, units of the various peace police organizations could be ordered into joint action by their respective governments in much the same way as many different Allied divisions to-day fight together under a single commander.

Such use of military forces would not be considered an act of war, in the view of those sponsoring the plan, since it could only be taken by peace-preserving nations after common agreement and in accordance with their declarations for maintaining peace. The peace police might be said to have the same sort of special legal status that U.S. marines occasionally have invoked in their peacetime operations.

### Radio Highlights

AFN in the United Kingdom—1000 hours—2300 hours—On Your Dial—1375 kc. 1402 kc. 1411 kc. 1420 kc. 1447 kc. 218.1m. 219.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.3m.

#### Tuesday, Aug. 15

- 1000—Headlines—Victory Parade with Will Osborne.
- 1015—Personal Album with the Delta Rhythm Boys.
- 1100—Headlines—Morning After (Command Performance).
- 1130—Duffie Bag—Cpl. Johnny Kerr's Musical Hit Kit.
- 1315—John Charles Thomas with Victor Young's Orchestra.
- 1345—Bandwagon—Lawrence Welk Orchestra.
- 1400—Headlines—Visiting Hour—Front Line Theater.
- 1545—On the Record—Pfc. George Moilagan, the AFN Record Man.
- 1700—Headlines—Grand Old Opry House.
- 1730—Raymond Scott.
- 1755—American Sports News.
- 1805—GI Supper Club—Sat. John McNamara sings your requests.
- 1905—Gracie Fields.
- 1935—Take the A. I.
- 2030—Burns and Allen.
- 2105—Report on the Western Front.
- 2115—Here's to Romance—Jim Ameche, Ralph Block and his Orchestra, the Swing Fourteen and Harry Cool.
- 2145—Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians.
- 2200—Headlines—Ten O'Clock Special—With Cpl. Ben Hoberman.
- 2300—Final Edition.

AEF on the Continent—0555 hours—2300 hours—On Your Dial—1050 kc. 285m.

- 0600—Headlines—Rise and Shine.
- 0830—Music in the Modern Manner—With Freddie Martin's Orchestra.
- 0900—News, Program Summary at Dictation Speed.
- 0920—Combat Diary.
- 0935—Harry Leader's Orchestra.
- 1400—Headlines—Variety Bandbox.
- 1725—Sandy MacPherson at the Theater Organ.
- 1815—The American Swing Sextet.
- 2005—American AEF Dance Band.
- 2115—Ann Shelton.

\*Indicates programs heard on both networks.

## FDR Orders Seizure Of Five 'Frisco Plants

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (Reuter)—President Roosevelt today directed James V. Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy, to seize and operate five strike-bound plants at San Francisco producing materials for the U.S. fleet.

The dispute had been certified to the White House as involving the refusal of the workers in five machine shops to work longer hours as directed by the War Labor Board.

The President's order said that Forrestal should operate the plants, but should give the management full opportunity to continue managerial functions.

## Warship Texas' Heroism Bared

### Old Battleship, Crippled By Direct Hits, Blasted Forts of Cherbourg

WITH ALLIED NAVAL UNITS IN THE CHANNEL, Aug. 14 (AP)—It may now be revealed that in a three-hour duel with powerful German coastal batteries of Cherbourg harbor, the old U.S. battleship Texas fought back, despite crippling direct hits, to beat the Nazi coastal defenses. In addition to two direct hits, the Texas survived innumerable near-misses.

Three times she came on, twisting and turning through a lane of shell-bursts with her 14-inch guns blasting a trail of death at the enemy forts on the mainland with half-ton projectiles.

In the middle of her second run, German gunners scored a perfect hit. A nine or 11 inch shell hit the top of the conning tower, which blew up with a terrific explosion, also wrecking one-third of the navigation bridge eight feet above.

The commanding officer, Capt. Charles A. Baker, of Washington, D.C., miraculously was unhurt and carried on from what remained of the conning tower.

## Six U.S. Labor Leaders In Britain on a Tour

Six American labor union leaders have arrived in Britain to visit U.S. Army installations and to obtain first-hand information on how war equipment is being put to use, it was announced last night.

They are R. J. Thomas, United Automobile Workers; David J. McDonald, United Steel Workers; Sherman Dalrymple, United Rubber Workers; Frank J. Fenton, assistant to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; Albert Wegener, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Eric Peterson, International Association of Machinists.

## Air - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

area in close support of ground troops, were out again yesterday in the drive to hurray German movements on French roads.

With the railroads northeast of Paris paralyzed by relentless air attacks, between 500 and 750 Fortresses and Liberators bombed bridges northeast of the French capital, as well as airdromes in northeastern and eastern France and rail yards in southwestern France.

No Luftwaffe craft rose to intercept the fleets and only one heavy was lost. All the escorting Mustangs and Thunderbolts returned.

Proof of the havoc wrought by the Allied assault was given by fighter pilots, who reported that some areas flown over yesterday were littered with torn-up tracks, wrecked cars and burning vehicles on the deserted highways. Other airmen told of convoys fruitlessly trying to escape bombing and strafing attacks.

German panzers trying to escape encirclement were being pursued and punished by American tanks and Ninth Thunderbolts. P47 pilots, reporting on Sunday's operations, in which more than 1,700 Ninth aircraft were engaged, said tanks flushed the panzers out of cover so that fighter-bombers could dispose of them on the roads.

### Tunnell Succeeds Truman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (ANS)—Sen. James M. Tunnell (D.—Del.) has been named by Vice President Henry A. Wallace to replace Sen. Harry S. Truman (D.—Mo.) on the Senate War Investigating Committee.

## 25,000 Truckers Vote to Return On Seized Lines

### Drivers Will Receive Pay Increase; Disputes in Detroit Settled

NEW YORK, Aug. 14 (ANS)—Approximately 25,000 Midwestern truck drivers who struck more than a week ago for a seven-cent-an-hour pay increase voted unanimously to resume work today under U.S. control. The government had seized the truck lines Saturday.

Ellis T. Longenecker, of the ODT and federal manager of the seized lines, said the drivers would receive the additional pay which had been ordered by a WLB directive.

In Detroit, labor disputes involving 7,000 men at the General Motors Chevrolet Gear and Axle plant and 3,000 employees at the Briggs Manufacturing Co. also were settled over the weekend. The Briggs walkout had suspended manufacture of ball turrets for Army bombers.

Meantime, an Associated Press survey showed there were still over 61,000 workers away from their jobs in the U.S. and Canada.

William Green, president of the AFL, urged all unions to increase their output of war materials "in order to help clinch victory which now seems near at hand."

Green said that Army and Navy heads had stressed to him the need for increased production of heavy artillery, ammunition, heavy guns, bombs, radar equipment, tank construction, tires, tentage fabric and penicillin.

## Empoli Seized, Gothic Line Next

With Empoli, rail and communications center 16 miles west of Florence, in Allied hands, New Zealanders of the Eighth Army were clearing the banks of the Arno River yesterday preparatory to an attack against the Germans' Gothic line.

Gen. Sir Harold Alexander foreshadowed the move against the next Nazi bastion beyond Florence in a broadcast to Italian patriots, whom he asked to "carry out harassing actions to hamper the enemy while he is trying to entrench himself in new positions."

Alexander said the Germans were expecting an assault against the Gothic defenses, "but they know neither when nor where it will be launched." Alexander's headquarters also announced that Nazi Field Marshal Kesselring had distributed pamphlets threatening harsh retaliation against Italian civilians for attacks which jeopardized Nazi supply and communications lines behind the front.

## Old Friend of Gen. Patton Dies in Normandy Action

SHAEF, Aug. 14 (UP)—Col. Harry A. Flint, a Vermont cavalry officer and an old friend of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, under whom he served in North Africa and Sicily, has been killed in action in Normandy.

The official announcement of his death said a lieutenant general, three major generals and two brigadier generals, all from the cavalry, were honorary pallbearers when Flint was buried in a military cemetery at St. Mere Eglise.

## Madman of St. Malo Swaps Doughboys for Medical Aid

By Allan Morrison

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH U.S. FORCES NEAR ST. MALO, Aug. 14—The "mad" commander of the Nazis' beleaguered garrison at St. Malo's Fort de la Cite—known to townspeople as The Citadel—has received American medical supplies in return for surrendering seven captured U.S. soldiers, who reported the "fort will hold out as long as the colonel's cognac and champagne hold out."

This was revealed yesterday as one of the most dramatic sieges in the American campaign appeared to be nearing its end with a division's forward assault group poised for a decisive thrust against The Citadel, the only strongly-fortified German position holding out east of the Rance River.

The exchange took place Friday when a German chaplain came over to the American lines and offered to appeal to the colonel commanding the garrison to surrender. A truce was called as the

## Good Noose?



Stars and Stripes Map

## Allies Strain to Close Trap; Nazis Battle Fiercely in Flight

### Russia - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

countries arouses the disgust of every real soldier and every sincere German. . . . Germany must remove Adolf Hitler and set up a new leadership which will end the war and bring about conditions that will guarantee our nation a future existence. . . .

Fall of Oswiec, beyond the Biebrza 33 miles northwest of Bialystok, on the road running northwest from Bialystok to the East Prussian frontier town of Lyck, was announced by German News Agency. It said the town had been "evacuated" and the German lines had been "taken back to the west a few kilometers" (possibly two miles).

Only an hour or two earlier, Moscow reported the Germans hurriedly switching troops from East Prussia to reinforce the Oswiec garrison, but Soviet cavalry, making surprise attacks through the marshy country bordering the river, apparently was too fast for them.

Berlin said "a major battle" was slowly gathering momentum on the Eastern Front "and will soon lead to the greatest trial of strength." The Germans' Overseas News Agency reported "fighting on all the main sectors has increased in intensity in the past 24 hours."

It said the Russians were "steadily pumping reinforcements into the two Vistula bridgeheads" and at the same time had "greatly increased their pressure northeast of Warsaw."

The enemy conceded that the Red Army made "some headway" on the Estonian front south of Pskov. Gen. Maslennikov's army, striking west from Pskov, took the rail town of Voru, 36 miles east of the junction of Valga, where the line from Pskov meets the main line connecting the Estonian capital of Tallinn with Riga.

Sixty miles south, Gen. Andrei Yermenko's army stabbing into Latvia captured Madona in the heart of that Baltic state, about 80 miles east of Riga.

### Churchill Meets Tito

Prime Minister Churchill is conferring in Italy with the Yugoslav prime minister and with Marshal Tito on "political and military questions," it was announced last night at No. 10, Downing Street. No details were given.

chaplain walked across to the gates of The Citadel and told the colonel that defense would be hopeless and suicidal for his men.

"I am a German soldier and German soldiers do not surrender," the colonel—a steel-willed, fanatical Nazi—replied.

However, the colonel conceded that the garrison was desperately in need of medical supplies and said he would consider turning over seven U.S. doughboys captured by his unit in return for first-aid equipment.

The exchanged Americans said they were placed in tunnels more than 50 feet below sea level. They said German soldiers told them that most of the 500 or more men of the garrison were in favor of giving up, but the colonel and his staff were forcing them to continue fighting. The Nazis were said to have large stocks of food and ammunition.

American artillery and heavy bombers have dropped tons of explosives on The Citadel, which is reported to have a concrete roof 60 feet thick and walls 30 to 40 feet wide.

## Retreat Orderly Despite Air Pounding; Yanks in Gun Range of Falaise

(Continued from page 1)

and Berlin claimed that Argentan was still in German hands.

One dispatch said, however, that American armor smashed through Argentan, forward units beating on beyond.

But Sertorius, German commentator, said that Allied troops were pressing strongly against Argentan and on Carrouges, 15 miles southwest of Argentan—the first indication that Allied columns were not only striking forward to close the Falaise gap, but also tending to compress the German forces struggling to get clear before the gap closed.

An all-out German effort to hold open the Falaise gap amounted to savage resistance and—on some sectors—orderly withdrawal, despite the advance of Allied ground forces and the blasting by Allied planes. The Germans were fighting hard all along the British and Canadian fronts, and their withdrawal farther to the west was said to be effective.

Field Marshal Von Kluge was expected to defend "the narrowing escape route between Falaise and Alencon until the end," a Berlin dispatch said, and it was stated at British Second Army headquarters that this was "in no sense the kind of retreat one hears of on the Eastern front," according to observation by Allied planes.

"The enemy managed to preserve order extremely well," said a British staff officer. "He used side roads and hedgerows. Armor was interspersed with 'soft' vehicles. There were seldom more than 30 vehicles in convoys making for the Falaise gap."

Only a few secondary roads and no major roads were open for retreat yesterday, however.

### March 27 Miles in Day

An American general, watching an unending stream of U.S. tanks and trucks roll ahead north of Alencon without any German opposition, said, "Hell, this is more of a rat race than a battle." Pointing toward two columns of sweating infantry filing past, he said proudly that they had marched 27 miles yesterday and "will probably do as much today."

The general said that in 18 months of combat he had never seen such an operation. "A case of breakthrough and pursuit," he said. "We broke through at Periers in Normandy and have been pursuing the Germans ever since."

After occupying Alencon, one dispatch said, Allied troops surged onto the town of Sees, about 12 miles northeast of Alencon and about 40 miles north of Le Mans.

The Adolf Hitler SS division was cut to ribbons by a U.S. armored column, an Allied dispatch declared.

In the center of the front—the Mortain-Vire area—125 square miles of devastated terrain were choked with German dead, wrecked and burned-out German vehicles and stacks of enemy equipment. In some places German equipment was piled so high on the roads that engineers had to use bulldozers to clear a path for advancing U.S. tanks and trucks.

One of the most important road networks in the entire Mortain-Vire area was captured by U.S. troops punching eastward when they seized Ger. about seven miles east of Mortain.

In Brittany, German troops were still holding out in the St. Malo citadel.

The attack on Dinard continued to meet strong resistance, but slight advances were made in the vicinity of Brest. There was no change in the situation at Lorient.

### Dotage

PAMPA, Tex., Aug. 14 (ANS)—Twice in as many days last week police were ordered to Central Park to chase out adults wading in a children's pool.



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