

# ALLIES GAINING

IT SEEMS TO ME  
By Charles A. Sprague

Finally it came—the news of the great invasion—through the headlines of the morning paper for thousands, through the radio for those who listened late. Without flourish, with little dramatic flair, just the report from the German radio and then the communique of Gen. Eisenhower. That was the way it came, even as some had anticipated, with the first word coming through enemy channels.

The news, the real news, is more favorable than was feared: "allied naval losses have been very, very small;" "air-borne troops suffered extremely small losses;" "the highly vaunted German defenses much less formidable in every department than had been feared;" "losses of aircraft were extremely small." Beachheads have been established on the Normandy coast; paratroops have seized strategic bridges and are attacking German communications behind the westwall. Thus it appears that the dreaded D-day did not prove so disastrous to the attackers as was predicted. As is often the case, the fears so long nourished and built up flattened out somewhat at the actual climax.

However it would be a mistake to be premature in our conclusions. The Germans latterly have admitted it was possible for the allies to effect landings. Apparently their strategy has been to guard the perimeter as much as they could, but to depend in large measure on counter-attack. Rommel is said to command the armies held in reserve at Aachen in Belgium, ready to strike at the point where the invaders develop their real beachhead in the effort to roll them back into the sea.

It would be Anzio on a far more colossal scale. We dare not minimize the skill of Rommel or the punch he will pack in his fighting force, though there is the possibility that the German strength is bled in four and (continued on Editorial page)

## Exchange Ship SS Gripsholm Arrives in US

JERSEY CITY, N.J., June 6 (AP)—The sixth diplomatic exchange of reparations between the United States and axis countries were completed today when the Swedish liner Gripsholm arrived here with 131 passengers, 51 of them ill or wounded American soldiers who were prisoners of war in Germany.

The liner docked at 3:40 p. m. (EWT) after a nine-day voyage from Belfast which navy officials said was without incident. She left here May 2, carrying 700 German prisoners and civilians who were exchanged at Barcelona. In addition to the American soldiers, she also brought back 37 Canadian soldiers and 43 civilians.

Of the civilian repatriates, only eight were United States citizens. Among them was Larry Allen, Associated Press correspondent who was captured by the Italians at Tobruk September 13, 1942, when the British destroyer to which he was assigned was sunk.

Allen told interviewers the German peoples were confident their war machine could repel the allied invasion and "force a stalemate."

"That would be as satisfactory (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

## Oregon Hears Of Invasion With Prayers

By the Associated Press  
Allied invasion news set off a wave of prayerful enthusiasm throughout Oregon yesterday and one of the first results was early morning crowds in churches and synagogues.

Later in the day groups in shipyards and other war plants collected before bond booths to sign pledges for heavier purchases. In Prineville the fifth war loan campaign swung into action six days ahead of schedule, as W. B. Morse, Crook county war finance committee chairman, hastily reorganized his plans to coincide with the invasion reports.

Crowds in Portland collected around newspaper vendors all day long, and at Ashland carriers arose early to distribute complimentary copies of the Ashland daily tidings to every doorstep in the area. The 115,000 shipyard workers in the Portland-Vancouver area kept on their jobs, spurred on by regular public address system reports of the European attack.

# The Oregon Statesman

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## Nazis Retreat With Disorder North of Rome

### West Invasion Will Not Halt Allied Campaign for Italy; Clark's Men Gain Five Miles

By NOLAND NORGAARD

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, June 6—(AP) Remnants of the German army fled in disorder north and west of Rome today, as Fifth army troops swarming over the historic Tiber in many places and against weak resistance advanced another five miles beyond the river.

"The battle to destroy the enemy continues without pause," the allied communique said, and it was made clear that as the United Nations mount the great invasion of the west, there is to be no halt to the slugging Italian campaign.

## Allies Select Landing Spot Months Back

By LEWIS HAWKINS

Associated Press Correspondent Representing the combined American Press.  
LONDON, June 6—(AP)—The beaches across which the Americans drove into France today were selected many months ago but only recently did the Germans seriously start to build up the defenses there and the attack found them far less heavily gunned and fortified than the great port areas in Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and France.

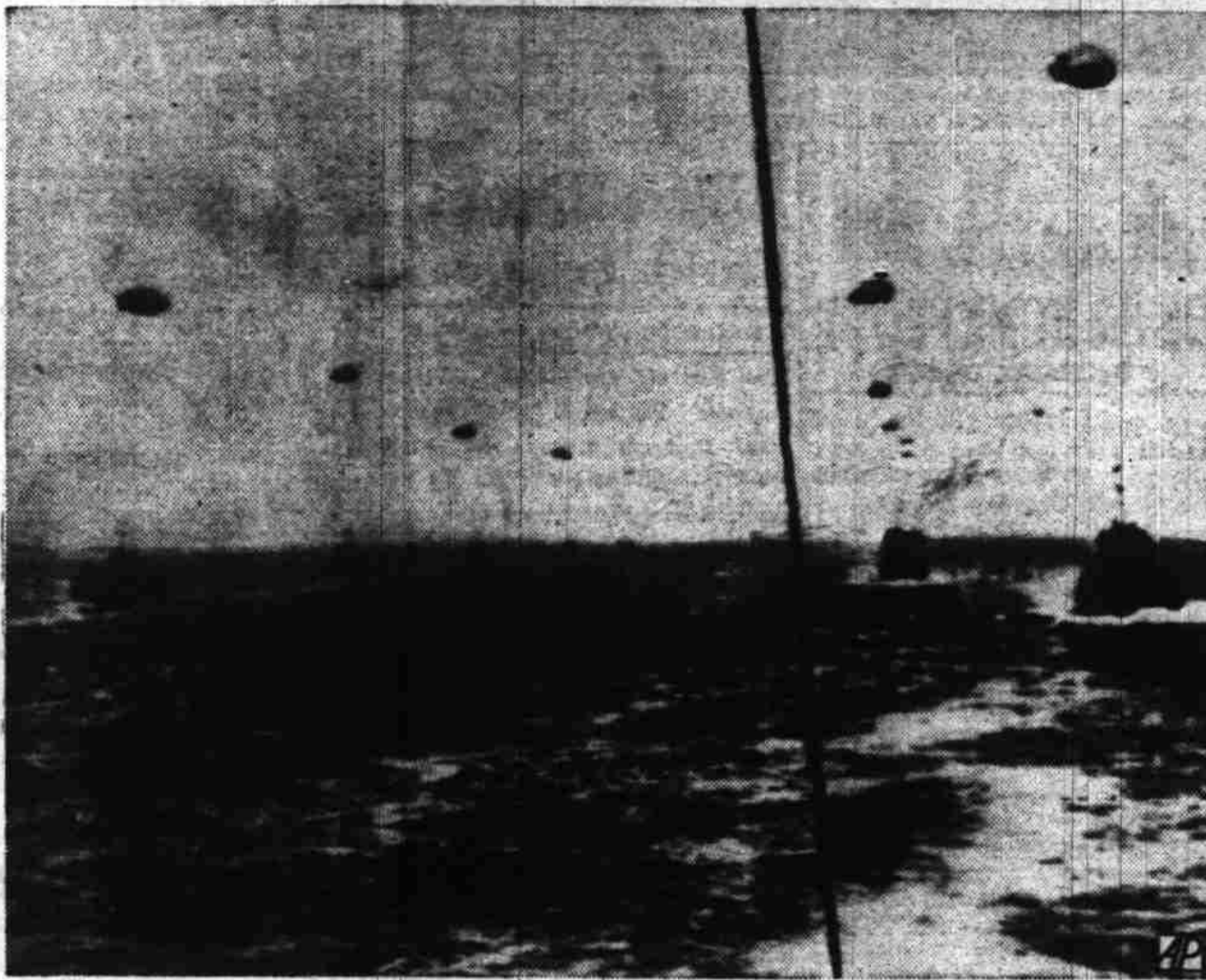
This chosen stretch remained almost without beach obstacles and the inshore defenses were nothing like as massive as those stretching for hundreds of miles on either side.

This left a breach of about 60 miles between the northern wing of the defenses keyed around the Elbe and Weser estuaries hook of Holland and the ports of Dunkerque, Calais, Boulogne, Dieppe and Le Havre, and the southern chain running from Cherbourg through St. Miho, Brest, Lorient, Nantes and Bordeaux.

The low priority which kept materials and weapons away from this area made it the Achilles heel of the Nazi defenses was due largely to the urgent necessity for protecting every port first and also to the lack of manpower, transportation and supplies to create a continuous wall from Denmark to Spain.

Week by week through the winter allied reconnaissance showed the slow progress in converting scattered houses into strongpoints and fingers were kept crossed in (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

## Invasion Armada Underway For France



Guarded overhead by barrage balloons, the allied invasion armada, composed chiefly of landing craft infantry, plows along through the English channel headed for beachheads on the French coast for the long-awaited invasion of Fortress Europe. (AP Wirephoto from coast guard via signal corps radio.)

## FDR Leads Nation In Victory Prayer

WASHINGTON, June 6—(AP)—President Roosevelt led millions of Americans in prayer tonight for divine aid for the great allied liberation assault on Europe which he said has "come to pass with success thus far."

From the White House, the president read in a solemn, strong voice over all radio networks his plea for God's aid for the men fighting for country and for freedom for humanity, and for those at home.

With him at the 10 p. m. (EWT) broadcast were Mrs. Roosevelt, their daughter Mrs. Anna Boettiger and the latter's husband, Major John Boettiger. Because of the solemnity, Mr. Roosevelt declined to permit photographs of the broadcast.

Earlier the president told a news conference the allied operation was "up to schedule."

Before beginning his prayer, Mr. Roosevelt made this prefatory remark:

"Last night when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our allies were crossing the channel in another and greater operation which has come to pass with success thus far."

His prayer, on which the chief executive had worked for several days, finishing it early this morning while American soldiers stormed the shores of France, asked divine aid in the "struggle to preserve our republic, our religion and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity."

Mr. Roosevelt's news conference (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

## 1000 Aircraft Deliver Allied Air Army

LONDON, Wednesday, June 7 (AP)—A great force of RAF bombers swept across the English channel last night, continuing the mighty aerial assaults that prepared the way for the allied invasion, during which more than 1000 troop-carrying aircraft at dawn yesterday dropped the largest air-borne force in history into France.

An official statement said the RAF planes had struck at targets in German occupied territory during the night, apparently in support of the ground troops fighting inland from beachheads in Normandy. A Reuters dispatch from Basle, Switzerland, said air alarms had sounded there.

In all yesterday, American warplanes alone flew more than 9000 sorties as allied airmen ruled not only the invasion beaches but (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

## French People Told to Fight

LONDON, June 6—(AP)—Gen. Charles De Gaulle called on his countrymen today to resist the Germans declaring that for the sons of France, "whoever and wherever they may be, the simple, sacred duty is to fight with all means at their disposal."

In his broadcast De Gaulle, who heads the French national committee, told the French people that it was "now necessary to obey orders of the true government of France, appointed by the legitimate representatives of the French people."

## Dubach Sees YMCA As Force for World Peace

"The YMCA is going to be one of the great forces to save us in the problems ahead," Dean U. G. Dubach of Oregon State college, told 250 members of three Salem men's service clubs and other guests at the centennial luncheon held at the YMCA Tuesday noon.

"When this war's over, hates are going to be so strong that it's going to be a difficult problem to make peace. The 'Y' will teach the world that love can be a reality in the minds of men."

"Supernationalism is coming. Race problems are going to be a beset in this country. We are in the greatest danger of class hatreds, hatred between labor and capital," Dean Dubach declared in enumerating some of the problems.

"The 'Y' will bring us labor and capital and professional men together and make us realize that our cause is common." He pointed out that the "Y" has always been practical in its approach to things spiritual, educational, and sportsmanlike.

## Invaders Move Inland While More Men Land

NEW YORK, June 7—(AP)—American and British troops have occupied a 30-mile stretch of the French coast and have advanced inland at some places to a depth of 12 miles or more, Herbert M. Clark, blue network correspondent, radioed today from London.

Clark said that American troops were moving inland rapidly to join with airborne forces landed in the first phase of the invasion.

LONDON, June 7—(AP)—Two British airborne battalions were almost wiped out at Deauville last night, while at Le Havre allied airborne units were pressed back to the coast, the Berlin radio said today. There was no allied confirmation.

The Berlin report said 45 men were captured at Deauville and more than 100 at Le Havre.

LONDON, June 7—(AP)—The German Transocean news agency said today in a Berlin broadcast that fierce German counter-attacks had been launched against allied invasion troops east of Cherbourg.

Just after midnight, the agency continued, strong German bomber formations attacked allied warships and landing craft off the Bay of the Seine and north of Le Havre. "Details are purposely kept back as yet, but results were good," the agency added.

Some reports reached here that Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's men had cut at Caen the Paris-Cherbourg railway, a main route supplying Hitler's defense forces in

ANKARA, June 6—(AP)—Ankara buzzed tonight with reports of an allied landing in the Peloponnese and, although there was no official confirmation, responsible quarters said "it could be true now or shortly."

(Peloponnese (Island of Pelops) is that part of Greece south of the Isthmus of Corinth and is a potential allied stepping stone to the Balkan mainland.)

A high source said, however, that an allied landing there definitely would not change Turkey's neutrality at this time. Turkish roads are closed to foreigners. A considerable part of the Turkish army is on its annual maneuvers.

Opening of the western front in Europe was heard in Ankara with interest but without manifestations.

(Later the United Nations radio at Algiers said Berlin had broadcast an Ankara report that allied troops had landed at Patras on the northwest coast of the Peloponnese. The German broadcast also quoted reports from Sofia as saying that allied air activity over Greece had been very heavy.)

the Cherbourg peninsula. The German high command, however, insisted that no allied troops had penetrated Caen.

Up to early morning, there were no reports from any quarter of a single major engagement.

Prime Minister Churchill first disclosed that allied troops were fighting in Caen, on the River Orne, nine miles inland, a hub of roads and railways radiating all over northern Normandy. He said the invasion was proceeding "in a thoroughly satisfactory manner" and with unexpectedly light casualties.

Returning RAF pilots said: "We could easily tell the beaches were secure—we could see our soldiers standing up."

In the first dispatch received from the soil of France, Canadian Press Correspondent Ross Munro said the Canadian invasion force won its beachhead and moved inland after just two hours and 45 minutes of fighting.

Caen was the only point specifically named here as a scene of fighting, although penetrations as deep as 13 miles were reported.

Nazi-controlled radios, however, reported allied landings at a dozen points, with the most important on both sides of the estuary of the River Orne.

From west to east along the 100-mile shoreline, axis accounts said allied sea-borne and air-borne forces struck at: The port of Barleur, 15 miles east of Cherbourg; the fishing village of St. Vaast La Hougue, five miles south of Barleur; both sides of the Valognes-Carentan highway, a section of an important supply road to Cherbourg running five miles inland from the peninsula coast; the 27-mile-long area between Carentan and Bayeux; the River Orne estuary; a 15-mile stretch of beaches in the Villers-Trouville region across the Seine estuary from Le Havre; and the town of Honfleur, on the Seine six miles southeast of Le Havre.

The German-controlled Vichy radio also said that a vicious fight developed last night north of Rouen, on the Seine 41 miles east of Le Havre, "between powerful allied paratroop formations and German anti-invasion forces."

A landing of United States airborne troops in a three-square-mile area near the coast was described by a fighter-bomber (Turn to Page 2—Story G)

## Invasion Week Set by 'Big 3'

WASHINGTON, June 6—(AP)—President Roosevelt disclosed today that the approximate time of the allied cross-channel assault on Hitler's European fortress was set last December at his Teheran conference with Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin.

It was agreed then that it should come the last of May or the first week in June, he told a news conference, adding that the decision was dictated chiefly by weather records. Those showed that in the late May-early June period there is usually small boat weather in the notoriously rough English channel.

The exact date, Mr. Roosevelt said, was fixed only a few days ago and was first set for June 5. Because of bad weather, there was a last minute decision to wait another day.

As a matter of fact, the planning for the invasion began right after this country was thrown into the war, Mr. Roosevelt said. He and Prime Minister Churchill began it when the British leader came to this country after Pearl Harbor. It was a question of getting the weapons and trained men ready to do the job.

## Pattern of Allied War Strategy



Allied landings on the north coast of France plus the drive in Italy and the potential new offensives on the Russian front confronted Germany with pressure from three sides. Shaded arrows and figures indicate strategic distances from Le Havre to Berlin, from Rome to Berlin and from Lwow to Berlin. (AP Wirephoto)

## Weather

Minimum temperature Tuesday 75 degrees; minimum 49; no precipitation; river -7 ft. Fairly cloudy Wednesday and Thursday; scattered thunder showers east portion, not much change in temperature.