

Surrounded Sky Troops in Holland Relieved by British Forces

Baltic Campaign Almost Won By Red Armies

Riga Neared—200,000 Nazis Trapped

Moscow, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—The government newspaper Izvestia said today that the red army campaign to liberate the Baltic states is almost won. Four Russian armies were wheeling through the Baltics on a 200-mile front, riding down the rear guard of an estimated 200,000 German troops threatened with imminent death of capture.

Gen. Ivan C. Bagration stormed the suburbs of Riga. Marshal Leonid A. Govorov swept toward Tallinn. Gen. Ivan Maslennikov deepened his thrust toward the sea northwest of Valca. Gen. Andrei I. Yermenko pushed against Riga from the east.

Writing against that backdrop in sarcastic vein, Izvestia's military commentator said that "the Germans soon will be compelled to announce the 'successful' conclusion of the Baltic campaign."

Front dispatches indicated that main barriers in the path of Govorov's two-way thrust through Estonia already had been hurled, leaving before him a relatively clear coastal plain stretching to the capital city of Tallinn.

The veteran Leningrad army under Govorov was revealed last night to have joined in the Baltic campaign, completing an assault arc swinging down from the Gulf of Finland to the suburbs of Riga.

Nazi Line Smashed
An elaborate system of German fortifications, based on a chain of rivers and swamplands hugging the west shore of Lake Peipus, was smashed by a massive air and artillery bombardment.

The Govorov's assault forces broke through of Narva and north of Tartu and swarmed through the flattened German positions for advances up to 44 miles.

Radio Berlin said the soviets also launched their big assault on Warsaw, forcing several crossings of the Vistula river and winning a foothold 500 yards deep in the streets of the capital. Berlin said the bridgehead was sealed off after a wild battle that jammed the quarter-mile wide river with dead.

Soviet Premier Josef Stalin revealed last night that his Leningrad army, freed for action by the capitulation of Finland, had been thrown into the battle for the Baltic states, joining the offensive opened by the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Baltic armies.

Pearl Harbor Probe Refused

Washington, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—Assuming republican demands for a congressional investigation of the Pearl Harbor disaster as "pure political bunk," Chairman Sabath (D., Ill.), said today he has no intention of calling the rules committee together to consider resolutions demanding an inquiry.

Sabath disclosed his stand as chairman May (D., Ky.) of the house military committee turned a deaf ear to a request for a joint military-naval committee investigation and as verbal repercussions from the Japanese attack continued to echo through the halls of congress.

"It's politics, pure political bunk," Sabath said in an interview concerning a resolution introduced earlier this week by Rep. Harness (R., Ind.) proposing creation of a special committee to determine who, if anyone, was negligent at Pearl Harbor. Harness says he wants it shown whether persons "in high places" were negligent.

The resolution was referred to the rules committee, and unless Sabath is overruled by his group, it will gather dust there until forgotten.

"They knew there wasn't time to consider it before the recess we expect to start this week," Sabath declared. "They are just making a gesture for political reasons."

Road to Berlin

(By the Associated Press)
1—Western front: 305 miles from near Arnhem.
2—Russian front: 312 miles from outside Pultsk.
3—Italian front: 580 miles from 25 miles below Bologna.

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Allies Advance In Hard Fighting In North Italy

Rome, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—Greek troops of the eighth army fought to within 2000 yards of Rimini on the Italian Adriatic coast yesterday but rain slowed down the fifth army's offensive after American forces had captured the heights dominating Firenzuola, an important junction on the road to Bologna.

Headquarters described fighting on both ends of the front as intensive and declared the Germans were "clinging desperately" to their defensive positions.

Break Through in Po
The enemy's hold on Rimini and the gateway to the Po valley was jeopardized by the Canadians, who broke through German defenses southwest of the port and advanced to San Lorenzo, less than two miles south-west of Rimini.

As a result of this breakthrough, the Canadians were in position to outflank Rimini on the west and isolate its defenders. They were within a mile of the Marecchia river which flows into the Adriatic at Rimini and only three miles from the coast northwest of the city.

A mile behind the farthest point of the Canadian advance a large enemy force still was waging a desperate battle on San Marino ridge.

Peaks Captured
American troops, meanwhile, beginning their drive down the northern slopes of the last mountain barrier guarding the plains of northern Italy, drove the Germans off the heights of Monte Montale, Monte Acuto, Monte Frena and Barco. They were 25 miles northeast of Florence and only two miles southeast of Firenzuola, which is a junction of roads extending northward through the remaining Nazi defenses.

The doughboys also fought their way toward the key town of Santa Lucia, which is part of the Futa pass defenses of the Gothic line.

In the Ligurian coastal sector fifth army troops approached the outskirts of Pietrasanta, 19 miles north-northwest of Pisa, in a steady advance which reached the foothills at the western extremity of the northern Apennines.

Held to Last Man
A partial explanation of the resolute German opposition to the fifth army was seen in this order found on two captives:

"I am detailed to guard this position and to notify platoons of all enemy attacks. This position is to be held to the last man and bullet, even if the enemy breaks through on all sides supported by strong artillery and mortar fire. Only on the authority of the company commander will this position be abandoned."

Two Capture Seven Germans
Portland, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—Lt. John L. Lucas and his sergeant crept stealthily up to a German infantry patrol in France and captured seven men one night, he wrote his wife here. Afterward he felt a prickling sensation in his feet. Completely bare, they were full of thorns.

Eastern Peleliu Veritable Gibraltar of Fortifications

By Richard W. Johnston
Aboard Expeditionary Flagship, Palau, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—The marines who conquered southern and eastern Peleliu foot by foot and yard by yard tonight fought for inches in the western peninsula against the best fortifications they have encountered since Tarawa and over the worst terrain in the Pacific.

The Japs have dug in along an incredible network of connecting caves equipped with steel doors. These natural fortifications range from ridge to ridge, and the Japanese are able to give one another mutual support with cross-fire from the entrance of every ravine. Their mortars and artillery cover the peaks.

The caves are hollowed and floored five levels deep, making the entire chain or coral cliffs into a gigantic bombproof shelter.

This is the first Japanese stronghold in the Pacific which literally, as well as figuratively, is comparable to Gibraltar. The ridges on the western

7645 Japanese Killed in Battle On Palau Isles

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—American invasion of the Palau has cost the Japanese the small island of Angaur, most of Peleliu and 7645 lives, but Adm. Chester W. Nimitz reported last night that "the enemy resistance is better" on rocky and rugged Peleliu.

The Nimitz communiqué spoke of "slow progress being made" in heavy fighting by the First Marine division on Peleliu, where the invasion of the vital Palau line of defenses started a week ago today. The Japanese had the advantage of rocky, timbered elevations.

Most of Peleliu Won
(A more optimistic report came from the battle scene last night in a Blue network broadcast by Wesley Edwards, representing the combined American networks. Covering one day more of fighting than was encompassed in the official communiqué, Edwards said the marines have won all but a small strip on the northeast coast of Peleliu.)

The announcement of 7045 Japanese killed on Peleliu and 600 on Angaur came after a communiqué told of the virtual conquest of the latter, where only mopping up action remained for the 81st army division.

Three-fourths Slain

The casualty estimate for Peleliu covered virtually three-fourths of the estimated 10,500 enemy on the island when the invasion was launched. Officers on Peleliu described its rocky, cave-pocked terrain as the worst yet encountered in the drive westward across the Pacific.

A small, unnamed island off the northeast corner of Peleliu was occupied by the marines without any report of resistance.

Hitting again at the inner rim of Japanese defenses, Liberator bombers from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's command pounded installations in the Davoa area, at the southern end of the Philippines, with 120 tons of bombs. Many explosions and fires were reported. There was no interception.

New Airfield

A new airfield was reported started on Angaur. The invasions of Peleliu and Morotai, in the Molucca islands west of New Guinea, provided ready-made airstrips for the allied forces. Small planes were reported already using the Peleliu field, and the Morotai field, 300 miles south of the Philippines, presumably has been put into shape.

Prohis Approved For Oregon Ballot

Portland, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—Claude A. Watson of Los Angeles, the prohibition party's candidate for president, and his running mate, Andrew Johnson of Willmore, Ky., were approved for the Oregon ballot at a nominating assembly here last night.



Yank Marines Storm Ashore on Peleliu (U.P.)—Troops of the First Marine division stormed ashore from beached "Alligators" as one of the early waves of assault troops hit the beach at Peleliu island in the invasion of the Palau group which began Sept. 14. Smoke is from burning "Alligator." (Photo by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal on assignment with Wartime Still Picture pool. (Picture radioed from Honolulu to San Francisco.)

Bombers Aid Army in Invasion of Holland

London, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—American planes bombed rail yards supplying the Siegfried line at Mainz and Coblenz today, struck an oil plant on the Rhine at Ludwigshafen and "supported allied aircraft in the continuing airborne invasion of Holland," a U. S. Eighth air force communiqué said. A thousand or more heavy bombers and fighters were employed.

Medium forces of more than 400 Flying Fortresses and Liberators bombed visually at Mainz, on the Rhine near Frankfurt 75 miles behind invested Trier in the main German frontier defenses, but used instruments at Coblenz and Ludwigshafen. Coblenz is on the Rhine 70 miles southeast of surrounded Aachen. Ludwigshafen lies about 100 miles east of Thionville, France, where Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army is battling the Germans.

The heavy bombers attacked other unspecified targets in western Germany. Hundreds of Thunderbolt and Mustang fighters escorted the bombers and also supported the fifth successive day of airborne landings in Holland.

From Italy, other Flying Fortresses and Liberators supported the Russians by bombing rail communications in Hungary leading to the eastern front.

Throughout the day at intervals, the German radio shouted warnings of bombers approaching west and southwest Germany.

With Mainz and Coblenz bombed again, allied air forces have announced since Tuesday blows at 13 railroad yards directly used in the intensifying battle for Germany and Holland.

Even young children are giving the V-sign to passing troops.

An older boy said he had been a member of Hitler's Youth but he was glad he could be a Pathfinder (Boy Scout) again.

One young woman whose husband is serving somewhere in the Wehrmacht said the "little" Nazi regime was vicious but that she still believed Hitler, himself, meant well.

Polish Paratroops Dropped in Warsaw

London, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—The German DNB news agency reported today that allied planes dropped Polish paratroops in Warsaw.

"On the fifth anniversary of the unconditional surrender of Warsaw, a large formation of Anglo-American bombers carried out a demonstrative raid for the purpose of encouraging remnants of the underground movement in its desperate struggle," DNB said.

"They dropped a number of Polish shock troop leaders who were all shot down in the air. The dropping of Polish paratroops took place at midday."

Later Paper Delivery

Because of the opening of school, delivery of the Capital Journal by carrier will be a little later, except Saturdays, than during vacation time, as the boys have to wait until school is over.

U. S. Casualties Pass 400,000

Washington, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—American combat casualties in this war, as officially announced here, passed 400,000 today to reach a total of 400,760 as compared with 389,125 a week ago.

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announced that army casualties through Sept. 6 totaled 337,743, including 64,468 killed, 177,235 wounded, 48,725 prisoners of war, and 47,315 missing.

The army total was 10,020 greater than that announced by Stimson a week ago.

Navy, coast guard, and marine casualties as announced today contributed 63,017 to the overall total. They included 25,152 dead, 23,867 wounded, 9,532 missing and 4,466 prisoners.

The navy total was 1,508 larger than that of a week ago. Stimson announced that of the army wounded, 72,563 have returned to duty.

Nazis Removing Rhine Factories

By Don Whitehead
In Germany, Sept. 12 (U.P.)—The Germans have begun dismantling factories west of the Rhine and are shipping the machinery to eastern Germany to prevent its falling into the hands of American troops.

The Yanks meanwhile held firmly to their breaches in the Siegfried line against continued counterattacks.

Forward observers in the Aachen area saw the Germans dismantling a factory and loading the machinery on a train and trucks. They immediately called for air and artillery missions to blast the transport.

In Stolberg the doughboys still fought house to house, cleaning out stubborn resistance. The Germans had made every house a stronghold but the town was almost cleared as American troops reached high ground on its eastern side.

Russians Accuse Finns of Helping Germans to Escape

Moscow, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—The Russian press today angrily accused Finland of violating armistice terms and of treacherously helping Germans to escape the country. The naval organ, Red Fleet, described the situation as "intolerable" and demanded "strict unconditional fulfillment of all armistice terms."

"Izvestia said 'every day, every hour is precious,' and accused Finland of duplicity in aiding in a leisurely German evacuation."

"The Soviet people cannot forget that for a long time Finland used its geographic position permanently to threaten our northwestern borders," Izvestia said.

"Finland was granted independence by the Soviet Union in 1917, but twice violated not only the principles of gratefulness but the laws and principles of peaceful neighborliness."

Allies Capture Nijmegen Bridge Across Rhine for Invasion Uses; Tank Battle Rages On Moselle

Eastern End of Nazi Rhine River Defense Line Punctured Except for Its Last Water Course—French Advance on Southern Front in Lorraine

London, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—British armor and American parachute troops have captured the Nijmegen bridge across the main branch of the Rhine in Holland, saving the important span from German destruction and paving the way into Germany.

Today the allied forces swung across the bridge toward Arnhem, where surrounded sky troops had been battling grimly for control of the last river crossings before Germany. German broadcasts tonight said the cutoff forces had been relieved by troops of the British second army. The Germans claimed—with no allied confirmation—that 2800 of the British First airborne division had been captured.

With the northern end of their historic Rhine river defense line punctured except for its last watercourse by the sweeping threat, the Germans scraped up a large part of their remaining armor and hurled it into battle along the Moselle, 200 miles to the south. There the U. S. Third army was engaged in its greatest series of tank battles since the invasion of France.

Fighting through rugged hills and forests northeast of Nancy, veteran American tankmen destroyed 105 Nazi tanks, field dispatches stated, as the Germans struggled desperately to save at least their upper Rhine line.

134 Tanks Destroyed
Despite the ferociousness of the German effort, however, French troops of the Third army drove close to Flin, five miles north of Bacarrat and 20 miles southeast of Nancy.

The Nijmegen bridge, a mile and a half long concrete structure, was seized intact by British armor striking swiftly from the south and American elements of the First allied airborne army which hit from the north.

The British tanks then crossed the Waal, the Rhine's largest arm, and streamed northward to the relief of the beleaguered air-borne pocket at Arnhem, key to the Emmerich gateway to the Ruhr and northern Germany. Arnhem, on the Neder Rijn, is eight miles north of Nijmegen. Some Germans were reported still holding out in Nijmegen itself, however.

Coblenz Bombed
American Flying Fortresses and Liberators flew to bomb Coblenz and Mainz, central Rhine distribution points behind the front as the fighting flared to a decisive stage with the allied armies a month ahead of their timetable.

The Germans counter-attacked by land and bombing from the air in a desperate attempt to save their historic river defense line, but some of the western front's hottest fighting virtually set the seal of doom on perhaps 100,000 enemy troops caught in western Holland.

The whole fate of the Germans' Ruhr valley and the safety of their entire northern flank was turning on the outcome of this first victory and the unfolding of a second battle about to take place for control of the crossings of the northern branch of the Dutch Rhine at Arnhem.

The seventh army, closing in on the last 12 miles to the Belfort gap, also made gains all along its front.

Siege of Calais Begun
With the fall of Boulogne, the allies began a real siege hammering of Calais. A 3,000 to 4,000-ton bomb attack was made on the town yesterday.

About 1,000 German marines were still holding out at Le Portel, approximately two miles south of Boulogne, a position dominating the entrance to the harbor, and there still was some fighting at Wimereux, two miles north of Boulogne. The Canadians, in working through the chain of concrete forts at Boulogne, had taken 6,000 prisoners.

But "the line is in top form again today," the broadcaster said, "and the sparks are flying about getting this thing over with."

"We are well over a month ahead of schedule, which is wonderful for the tactical operations, but a first class headache for the strategic planning," Mueller said.

"For the past two weeks the fullest concentration has been given the supply line and servicing parts up to the stage line of the present operations. This Herculean task has been accomplished only by the most concentrated effort of each individual in those seldom heralded but vitally necessary organizations."

Army Denies Opening Of Soldiers' Ballots

Washington, Sept. 21 (U.P.)—The army today officially denied charges that its censors had opened envelopes containing soldier votes in state primaries.

Secretary of War Stimson, asked at a news conference about the charges, said the war department had investigated them and that the inquiry "has not disclosed to date a single ballot envelope opened by an army censor."

The Weather
Scattered thunder showers tonight, occasional rain. Cooler Friday. Max. 81, min. 54. Rain. -7.4. River, -3.2 ft.