

Hitler Changes Leaders on Normandy Front

VON RUNDSTEDT IS SHELVED FOR MARSHAL KLUGE

German Resistance Stiffens On American Front; Nazis Move Up Reinforcements.

Allied Supreme Headquarters London, July 6—(U.P.)—Adolf Hitler announced tonight that he had removed Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt from the supreme command of the breached Atlantic wall defenses, behind which American troops were fighting for the transport center of La Haye-Du Puits in the developing battle of Normandy.

Coinciding with Berlin's disclosure that Hitler had turned over the "supreme command in the west" to Marshal Guenther Von Kluge, who once commanded an army on the Russian front, Normandy dispatches said German resistance on the American front had stiffened greatly, slowing the U. S. offensive and stopping it in some sectors.

Reinforcements Sent
Long columns of German reinforcements were bombed and gunned by allied planes as they moved northward toward the U. S. section of the Normandy battle line, possibly for a full scale effort to rub out the 1,313 square mile beachhead.

Marshal Erwin Rommel, in charge under Von Rundstedt of two army areas embracing Belgium and most of France, was not mentioned in the order displacing Von Rundstedt and presumably continued in command of the Germans in front of the American and British invasion troops. There have been reports of friction between Rommel and Von Rundstedt but they never were confirmed by any official or semi-official Nazi source.

Rundstedt Militarist
Rundstedt, 68, son of a general and an aristocrat, is the epitome of Prussian militarism and is said to neither love nor hate the Nazis, obeying them as he would any government of the Reich. He commanded his army groups in the Polish, French, and Russian campaigns always with conspicuous success, and his campaign in the northern Ukraine in 1941 is frankly called a "masterpiece."

Kluge, 62, entered the army as a youth and was a captain in the general staff at the outbreak of the first World War. He served with conspicuous success in that war and was made commander-in-chief of the Fourth Pomeranian army during the Polish campaign in 1939. He became field marshal general on July 19, 1940.

Headquarters sources said that by latest account the Americans still were fighting in the streets of La Haye, apparently after recapturing its rail station, which had changed hands several times, and by-passing the town on each side in gains which captured a number of villages and hamlets.

JAPANESE USING GAS ON CHINESE

14th U. S. Army Air Force Base, China, June 29—(U.P.)—Capt. Ralph F. Thompson, a U. S. army chemical warfare intelligence officer, confirmed today that the Japanese were using poison gas against the Chinese defenders of Hengyang.

Thompson found evidence of use of both mustard and Lewisite gas, he reported on his return from a special trip to Hengyang to investigate Chinese claims that death-dealing gases were being employed by the Japanese.

Though the Chinese on several previous occasions have made similar claims, this was believed to mark the first time that they have been investigated on the spot and confirmed by an American army officer.

(A Chinese high command communique last week charged the Japanese were using poison gas at Hengyang, which since has been encircled. The Japanese claimed to have captured the city.)

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Mildred Hornecker enthusiastically describing her pet sunburn cure.

Coach-Elect Al Simpson of Medford high taking a "breather" from his summer job of herding a taxicab.

Pvt. Ned Liebman describing the life in a big army hospital.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire
Thirty-ninth Year
MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1944
Press—Full Leased Wire

Weather

Forecast: Fair tonight and Friday with mild temperature.

Highest yesterday 85
Lowest this morning 52
Precipitation past 24 hrs. 0

Briefing Before Battle for Saipan Ridge



Under shell-pocked roof of former Jap buildings on Saipan, this infantry officer briefs his platoon non-coms before attack on Natutan Ridge. Their faces, gaunt and grim from strain of endless fighting, the men listen attentively. Signal Corps photo.

Churchill Discloses Heavy Toll Taken In London By Buzz Bombs; No Interference With War Plan

London, July 6—(U.P.)—Prime Minister Churchill disclosed today that the Germans were bombing London with robot bombs at the rate of 100 to 150 a day and in the first three weeks of their assault had killed 2,752 persons, a high proportion of them in the British capital.

Some 8,000 other persons have been hospitalized for injuries, but a large proportion of them were discharged after only a few days, Churchill told commons in his long-awaited statement on the pilotless plane attacks.

Many Bombs Fall
Altogether, he said, the Germans discharged 2,750 flying bombs from their launching platforms on the French coast from the start of the assault June 13 through 6 a. m. today, but a very large proportion of them either failed to cross the channel or had been shot down.

"The house will be favorably surprised to learn that the total number of flying bombs launched have killed almost exactly one person per bomb," he said. Churchill said he could give no guarantee for the future, but assured the house that the government was doing "everything in human power and we never have failed yet."

"That's the only promise I can make yet," he said. "I must, however, make it perfectly plain and I do not want there to be any misunderstanding about it, that we shall not allow the battle operations in Normandy or the attacks we are making on special targets in Germany to suffer."

Retaliation Urged
"They come first and we must fit our own domestic arrangements into the general scheme of war operations."

Churchill thus disposed of the cry raised in parliament and in the press in the past week for some form of retaliation against the Germans, possibly the indiscriminate bombing to destruction of some of their cities, including those not essential to the war effort.

The prime minister also revealed that:

Some 50,000 tons of bombs have been dropped by the allied air forces on flying bomb and rocket targets in France and Germany, the latter objectives including the experimental station at Peenemunde on the Baltic coast. As new sites are constructed or existing ones repaired, new attacks are made.

Repairs Rushed
Large numbers of building workers are now engaged in repairing damaged buildings and "copious reinforcements" are arriving daily from the provinces.

Robot bomb casualties henceforth will be announced monthly by the home security ministry "as this battle may be a somewhat lengthy affair."

Churchill's speech drew back the veil of official secrecy that has forced newspaper correspondents to report only that the robot bombs were falling in "southern England" when actually London was under day and night bombardment of the death-loaded robot missiles.

The attacks continued even

TRAPPED MINERS TO BE SEALED IN BURNING SHAFTS

Bellaire, O., July 6—(U.P.)—Mine officials today gave up as dead 64 miners trapped five miles inside the burning Powhatan coal mine, 14 miles south of here, and began sealing the mine shafts.

Hope for the men was abandoned when the fire at one of the four entrances which had been extinguished broke out again and forced weary rescue crews to return to the surface.

Mine officials said it was necessary to seal the entrances to the mines to put out the fire, which began yesterday, before it destroyed the entire mine.

Believed Dead

Roy Fox, supervisor of the Pawhatan Coal Mining company, owner of the mine, largest in Ohio, said that in "my opinion the men are dead. How they died we do not know. Their supply of oxygen may have run out, or they may have been trapped by the spreading fire."

Fox said that if the entrances were not sealed now, it would be a week or perhaps longer before the mine could be entered.

Earlier, the doomed men had answered the tapings of rescue workers on a water pipe running through the mine, and some hope was held then for their rescue.

COUNTY OVER TOP ON GRAND TOTAL; "E" DRIVE SHORT

Jackson county sales in the Fifth War Loan drive were "over the top" today as far as the grand total quota is concerned, with sales this morning reaching \$2,555,052.25, as reported from the drive headquarters on North Central avenue.

However, the quota on "E" bond sales is still considerably short, according to Charles Clay, Sr., headquarters manager. The "E" sales totaled \$460,744.25 while the quota assigned to the county was \$600,000.

Mr. Clay stated that the drive headquarters would close tonight, and that in the future purchases could be made through banks and other authorized agencies. He urged everyone to continue buying "E" bonds since the committee members are most anxious to reach this quota also.

A boost toward the grand quota of \$2,555,052.25 was received yesterday with receipt of certain corporation allotments, Mr. Clay said. The drive officially closed July 8, but totals will not be complete until after July 25, it was stated, when official figures are released through the federal reserve banks.

Sales to date in the Fifth War Loan Drive —	
\$2,555,052	
"E" Sales	\$460,744
Quota	\$600,000
Total Quota for County	\$2,262,000

40 OR MORE DIE IN CIRCUS FIRE

KOWEL CAPTURE GIVES RUSSIANS NEW SPRINGBOARD

Fall of German Stronghold Opens Path for Drive in Warsaw Direction.

London, July 6—(U.P.)—The Red army announced tonight that it had captured Kowel, German stronghold 40 miles east of the Bug River defense line on the south-central invasion route to Warsaw, 175 miles to the northwest.

Premier Josef Stalin, in an order of the day disclosing the capture of Kowel, attributed the victory to Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's first army of White Russia, which now apparently had hurdled the Pripiet Marshes and won a springboard for a flanking drive against either Brest Litovsk or Warsaw.

Front Aflame

Berlin said yesterday that the Germans had evacuated Kowel, 75 miles southeast of Brest Litovsk, and followed through today with a report that the 125-mile front southward from that stronghold to the upper Dniestr river had flared up.

Together the Moscow and Berlin reports indicated that the Marshal Stalin now had his vast forces deployed all around the offensive area stretching from the Latvian border far down into lower Poland and aimed westward across the Polish plains at Berlin.

There was no immediate explanation of the route Rokossovsky's left flank troop took to score the victory at Kowel. It apparently swung in below the Pripiet Marshes and took over the positions held by Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's first army of the Ukraine when action last was reported in that sector three months ago.

"Troops of the first White Russian front today took possession of the important stronghold of German defenses and large rail junction, the town of Kowel," Stalin's order to Rokossovsky said.

Cake Appointed On Dewey Committee

Portland, Ore., July 6—(U.P.)—Ralph H. Cake, republican national committeeman from Oregon and former pre-campaign manager for Wendell Wilkie, has been selected to serve on the executive committee of 15 which will direct the presidential campaign of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, it was learned here today.

Announcement of Cake's appointment to the committee was made by Herbert Brownell, Jr., national chairman of the republican party.

Jews Herded To Slaughter Is Charge Against Germans

London, July 6—(U.P.)—British Minister of Information Brendan Bracken charged today that the Germans are setting up "public slaughterhouses" in Europe into which thousands of Jews are being herded to their deaths.

"This is the biggest scandal in the history of human crime and the responsibility rests on the German people," Bracken said at a memorial luncheon held in honor of the late Brig. Gen. Kisch, a Jewish officer who was killed in north Africa while serving as chief engineer for the British 8th army.

"What the Germans are doing," Bracken said, "is nothing less than setting up abattoirs in Europe into which are shepherded thousands of Jews... they are dispatched with the sort of brutal efficiency in which the Prussian delights... the German people have the responsibility, also the German general staff, which could have stopped it."

"I hope that when the time comes when exemplary punishment is given the people responsible for these outrages, the German general staff will be the first to be dealt with."

WAR TO CONTINUE UNTIL VICTORY IS CHIANG'S PLEDGE

Generalissimo Tells Chinese Situation Grave But Fight For Freedom to Go On.

By George Wang

United Press War Correspondent

Chungking, July 6—(U.P.)—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek told the people of China today that the nation's military situation is "grave," but he pledged that the war against Japan, now entering its eighth year, will be continued until victory is attained and lost territory recovered.

In a message to Free China on the eve of the seventh anniversary of the Sino-Japanese war, Chiang solemnly emphasized the danger posed by the rapid Japanese advance through the Canton-Hankow railroad.

Big Scale Operation

"The enemy obviously planned the present campaign with great care," Chiang said. "The scale of operations is the largest since the assault on Hankow and Wuchang in 1938."

"It is of no use to ignore the fact that the enemy made rapid advances in his new drives and that the situation is grave."

He said Japan fully realized its defenses on land and in the air are weak and that a "general counteroffensive" from China is imminent.

"In order to divert attention of her people from the gathering threat to her home front, Japan recently mustered all her available forces and made a synchronized attack on our troops in Honan and Hunan."

Jap Success Told

This drive now has carried Japanese troops approximately 50 miles south of encircled Hengyang in Hunan province, and north of Canton in Kwangtung province. The Japanese have captured all but approximately 175 miles of the Canton-Hankow railroad.

Chiang said the enemy's three objectives in the present campaign were:

1. Reduction of Chinese field forces before the Chinese general counteroffensive.

2. Destroy air bases along the Canton-Hankow railway and the Hunan-Kwangsi railway, minimizing the danger of an air offensive against the Japanese homeland.

3. Most important of all, gaining control of Chinese trunk lines as avenues of eventual Japanese retreat now in Burma, Indo-China, Thailand, Malaya and the South Seas islands.

Legislature Call By Governor Snell Remains Undecided

Salem, Ore., July 6—(U.P.)—Officials today said it was uncertain whether Gov. Earl Snell would call a special legislative session to enact legislation assuring Oregon overseas veterans an opportunity to vote at the November election.

It was believed, however, that a decision would be made after a meeting of county clerks here next Monday.

Snell said he had received a number of letters urging the special session but declined to comment further.

More than 7000 requests for November election ballots already have been received by the state department.

LIEUT. SWANCUTT, SLAYER OF THREE, SUICIDES IN CELL

San Francisco, July 6—(U.P.)—Lt. Beaufort G. Swancutt, sentenced to death by an army court martial for the murder of his sweetheart, another girl and his commanding officer at Camp Anza, hanged himself at Letterman general hospital today.

After he committed the triple murder at Anza, Swancutt shot and killed a policeman who attempted to halt him at Arlington, Cal.

The lieutenant, who rose up from his table at the Anza officers club and committed the wholesale slaughter exactly four months ago today, was found suspended from a pipe with a bedsheet around his neck by hospital attendants this morning, according to reliable reports.

Swancutt succeeded in his attempt despite heavy guards assigned to him at Letterman since his transfer there.

Swancutt ended his own life in the same manner prescribed by the army court martial which found him guilty of the murders of Dorothy Evelyn Douglas, 19, Lourndine Livermore, 18, Capt. Aubrey G. Serfling, 27, Preson, Minn., and Police Officer Arthur B. Simpson.

After shooting Miss Douglas and Miss Livermore at the Officers' Club, Swancutt left the clubroom and went to the officers' quarters where he aroused Serfling, his commanding officer, and shot him twice in the abdomen.

Civilian defense units responded to the calls for volunteers and made use of their painfully acquired knowledge of first aid and stretcher bearing.

A circus attendant whose name was not given, said the fire broke out at the end of an animal act and that it was necessary to shoot several of the lions because trainers could not get them back to their cages.

Mrs. George Bissell, East Hampton, Conn., who suffered burns, said she was sitting in the general admission seats when the fire started under the bleachers and flashed to the top of the tent.

"Everybody started for the exits," she said. "It seemed as if they all made for the exits at one time, and the screams were awful."

She said she became separated from her husband and that families were calling to each other during the mad rush to get away from the flames.

BLAZE FOLLOWS BLAST IN PENNZOIL CO. PLANT

Oil City, Pa., July 6—(U.P.)—Three persons were killed, nine injured and four others overcome by fumes when fire, following an explosion, swept through part of the \$1,500,000 octane plant of the Pennzoil Co., one mile north of Oil City.

BURNING BIG TOP COLLAPSES UPON MATINEE CROWD

Ten Thousand, Including Many Children, Caught in Ringling Bros. Holocaust.

Hartford, Conn., July 6—(U.P.)—Forty or more persons died under the burning "big top" of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey circus today during a matinee performance before approximately 10,000 persons, including many children, an eyewitness reported.

A reporter for the Hartford Courant said he had counted at least 40 bodies taken from the ruins of the collapsed main tent and laid out awaiting removal to the morgue.

Hospitals Swamped

All Hartford hospitals were swamped with the injured taken to them in trucks, passenger cars, buses, horse-drawn wagons—every vehicle which happened to be passing the grounds at the moment of the disaster.

An eyewitness said the fire broke out in one corner of the tent, one of the largest, if not the largest tent in the world, while the attention of the audience was riveted on the shows in the three big rings.

With unbelievable speed, the blaze raced up the walls of canvas and within seconds, it seemed to them beneath, its entire top was ablaze. Then the blazing canvas began falling toward them as ridge poles and guy ropes gave way and there was a mad scramble to get out from under.

Panicle Held Down

Circus authorities, wise in the way of crowds, took immediate and firm control and were credited with holding down the panic, but many were trampled in the rush for the outside.

The injured arrived at Hartford and St. Francis hospitals faster than they could be counted and hurried calls for all available physicians and nurses were sent out to care for them. Those with only minor injuries were treated at makeshift first aid stations set up on the circus grounds. Nearby army camps sent fleets of trucks to the scene to help out as they could.

The dead were being taken to the state armory.

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PORTLAND WAREHOUSE IS SWEEPED BY BLAZE

Portland, Ore., July 6—(U.P.)—Damage from fire that for nearly an hour swept through a waterfront plumbing supply warehouse here was estimated at \$12,500.