

Tank-Riding Yanks Score Break-Through West of St. Lo; Reds Sweep to Vistula With Aid of American Air Force

PARALYZING BLOW ENDS STALEMATE ON NORMAN FRONT

Greatest Tank Charge in American History Supported by Artillery, Planes

Supreme Headquarters, AEF, July 26—(U.P.)—Tank-riding American troops spearheading a general offensive by the first army broke through the German line in western Normandy today and surged inland for early gains of four miles to storm into Marigny, big highway town seven miles southwest of St. Lo.

Front dispatches reporting that Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's armor had knocked a four-mile wide breach in the German fortified line west of St. Lo, opening the way to the heart of Normandy, described it as a paralyzing blow which broke the weeks-long stalemate in France.

Greatest Tank Drive

The greatest tank charge in the history of American warfare had the thunderous support of 155-millimeter Long Toms and swarms of Dive Bombers which paralyzed the German defenses and wiped out entire Nazi units.

Coinciding with the pile-driver assault in the narrow sector west of St. Lo which carried down to the Coutances highway at Marigny, other elements of the first army attacked across the Seves river in the Periers area and on the other wing pushed down to Montabot, 9½ miles east of St. Lo, to find it deserted.

Front dispatches said the entire American line moved forward an average of two miles, meeting only sporadic resistance at many points.

Most Significant

Sherman tanks clustered with doughboys riding Russian fashion, self-propelled Long Toms, and every kind of battle vehicle charged the German fortifications to score the break-through. It was hailed by front correspondents as perhaps the most significant single development on the French front since D-day.

"This was the second breach in the wall of fortress Europe since the invasion," United Press War Correspondent Henry T. Gorrell reported.

"I saw the tanks go forward into the assault behind an artillery barrage and dive-bombing by Thunderbolts and Spitfires. At the same time, rocket-carrying planes patrolled the battle area, searching for the German Panther and Tiger tanks reported in the path of our armor."

Spaced 50 yards apart, the tanks churned forward in a symmetrical phalanx. Doughboys astride them did their fighting from their bucking mounts, under orders to dismount only when necessary. Their heavier weapons were loaded on the vehicles swarming in the wake of the tanks.

Directly behind the advance guard came the self-propelled artillery, then more infantry mounted on half tracks, then more tanks and finally another layer of mobile infantry.

Giant bulldozers accompanied the cavalcade, gouging out passageways in the Normandy hedgerows and toppling fortifications in the path of the massed armor.

Public Debt Now Over \$209 Billion

Washington, July 26—(U.P.)—The U. S. public debt moved past \$209,000,000,000 today, settling at \$209,002,582,064.31, an increase of \$64,403,200,984.08 in the past year.

Total spending in the first 24 days of July, the initial month in the 1945 fiscal year, was approximately \$5,960,000,000 compared with about \$5,368,000,000 in the corresponding 944 fiscal period. Total spending to date has been at the average daily rate of \$248,333,000, while a year ago the daily rate was \$223,563,000.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Sid Reed applying for the position of water boy on the "Ashland businessmen's softball team."

Thirteen-year-old Mary Bragg spending 4½ hours in the Red Cross bandage room folding gauze dressings.

Bill Chrysler and Clark Gable doing some heavy reminiscing after learning that both used to work on a Portland newspaper, though at different times.

MEDFORD 7 TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1944

Assassination Attempt Singes Hitler



Adolf Hitler, flanked by Mussolini, Goering and Adm. Doenitz, poses for this picture shortly after attempted bomb assassination, according to caption on photo radioed from Stockholm. A small patch on Hitler's left hand is shown and his right hand and arm, reported more seriously burned, is carefully hidden.

Record Air and Artillery Bombardment Leaves Germans Numbed in St. Lo Sector

By James McGlinchy
United Press Correspondent

With Allied Forces in Normandy, July 26—(U.P.)—German prisoners captured west of St. Lo by American infantrymen today were suffering from shell shock as a result of yesterday's aerial assault when some 3,000 planes dropped 6,000 tons of bombs in the war's greatest air bombardment in support of ground troops.

Two of the first prisoners captured following the two and one half hour bombardment said German officers in some sectors abandoned their troops, leaving orders to "shoot any man in the back who attempts to surrender." The all-out aerial bombardment was the most hellish thing they had ever experienced, the two prisoners said.

25 Planes Lost
A fleet of 1,500 heavy bombers

ROAD COMMISSION PLANS WORK FOR COMING OF PEACE

T. H. Banfield of Portland, chairman of the Oregon State Highway Commission, predicted in Ashland today that more than \$50,000,000 of jobs would be programmed by the end of this year for post-war construction projects, though as yet the commission "has made no commitments as to the extent of the after-war program."

Banfield was one of a group of up-state officials who had lunch with the Jackson county court. Others in the party were R. H. Baldo, chief engineer of the commission; J. M. Devers, chief counsel; Herbert Galsky, secretary; Commissioners A. W. Schaubert and Merle R. Chessman; W. H. Luntz, district engineer of the Public Roads Commission, and his assistant, Tom Davis, and two Portland newspapermen, Ralph Watson and Wayne Pettit.

Also with the group was Harris Ellsworth of Roseburg, representative from the fourth Oregon district, who told the gathering that he would support wholeheartedly a congressional bill under which the state of Oregon would receive approximately \$12,000,000 annually for road construction operations during the three years following the war's end.

The party left for Klamath Falls immediately after the luncheon, which was presided over by Ralph Koozer of Ashland, president of the Pacific Highway Association.

TWO DIE IN CRASH

Steelville, Mo., July 26—(U.P.)—A navy ensign and an army lieutenant were killed yesterday when a navy scout bomber crashed in an electrical storm near Butts, Mo., 70 miles southwest of St. Louis.

ers paced some 3,000 planes in reducing to pulp everything and everybody throughout the wide attack strip where they were estimated to have dropped a bomb every 15 yards. Twenty-five aircraft were lost, but it was officially announced that 30 German planes also were shot down.

It was the most concentrated aerial assault in history, and as in the attack the day before, some bombs fell on our own boys—not many but enough to shake some of the troops. Onlookers held their breath and prayed and hoped it would go well—and as it came it seemed it would never end.

There were many moments indeed when one thought "truly this must be the end of the world."

Flight After Flight

The Flying Fortresses came in flights of 12, four abreast, 48 at a time, and they came in flight after flight. Everytime one looked back there was another half hundred planes thundering across the gray horizon.

With puffs of black smoke bursting around them, they headed unswervingly for the targets, then wheeled away majestically to the west. There was never a let-up in the death symphony, for when the bombs were not falling our artillery was firing.

After the first batch of bombers came over and the bombs fell directly on the targets, in-

FORGERY, MORALS GUILT ADMITTED

Allen H. King, Ashland, charged with forgery, and Robert Deweyne Griffiths, charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor girl, entered pleas of guilty before Circuit Judge H. K. Hanna yesterday on waiver of indictment and district attorney informations. Passing of sentence in both cases was continued until further investigation is made.

Griffiths was arrested last Saturday night after a dance, while, disporting on the city playground green with a 17-year-old Central Point girl. Both were in the nude. Nearby neighbors advised the city police. The girl is held awaiting action by the juvenile court.

Griffiths has a bad conduct discharge from the navy, and has been here several weeks, the district attorney reports.

King is specifically charged with the passage of a \$37.50 spurious check in Ashland.

TO BERLIN

By United Press

The shortest distances to Berlin from the advanced Allied battle lines today:

Russia—370 miles.
Italy—608 miles.
France—623 miles.

fantrymen began swearing for the fliers instead of swearing at them. They waved the bombers on, or talked and laughed, or were silent, nodding their heads solemnly as the target area rocked and the air was filled with a crazy cacophony of whistling bombs, tremendous explosions and roaring guns.

Prisoners collected at a point within rifle fire of the advancing front told of the deterioration of morale among the nazis under the bombardment, but some said the experience was too awful to talk about. The two young nazis who told of officers abandoning their troops were asked if they knew about the attack on Hitler.

"They said they knew, but that no one in the front line cared a damn either way because they were too busy fighting for their lives to care much what happened in Berlin or elsewhere."

FALLING BOMBER HITS FIVE HOUSES

Kansas City, Mo., July 26—(U.P.)—A four-motored bomber from the Lincoln, Neb., army base crashed and burned, devastating a 400-foot area in a populated suburban area today and killing six fliers.

Reports from the crash scene varied as to the number of men in the plane. Some said that several remained unaccounted for, while others said that there were only six men in the plane.

Witnesses said the big ship circled the district for several minutes before the crash at an extremely low altitude while members of the crew waved.

It was understood at the crash scene—where five homes were either destroyed or damaged—that the father-in-law of the pilot was present when the body of the officer was removed from the burning wreckage. The father-in-law's home reportedly was one damaged somewhat by the plane as it plowed to earth.

Witnesses said the plane seemed to explode in air after five civilians were hurt as the wreckage of the big plane cut a one-half mile swath through the district.

STRETCH WAR PLANT DAY TO CATCH UP ON ORDERS

Washington, July 26—(U.P.)—The war department today ordered a one-hour increase in the daily working schedule of all war industries which have backlogs of accumulated orders, and issued a similar edict for military and civilian personnel in certain administrative and service army offices.

The working day increase in both cases is effective immediately.

NAZIS TO CROSS "ROAD TO HELL" SAYS GOEBBELS

Hitler's Propaganda Head Warns Of Hard Times—Pledges Herculean Effort

London, July 26—(U.P.)—Nazi Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels told the German people today that they must cross the "road of hell" to hold off the Allied armies closing in on them from the east, west and south, but promised a herculean effort by the "loyal" German army to stabilize the situation on all fronts.

Speaking to the war-weary and revolt-shaken German people over the Berlin radio, Goebbels dismissed the plot against Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime as the work of a "few criminals" within the Wehrmacht and declared that the loyalty of the army is unshaken.

To Reinforce Front

"Fresh troops will be sent to the front," he said. "The front will be stabilized."

Goebbels asserted that the leaders of the conspiracy against Hitler were court-martialed and executed within a matter of hours after the bomb explosion that wrecked Hitler's headquarters last Thursday.

He admitted, however, that some of the conspirators still were at large and declared that they and any other army men who attempt to challenge the Nazi leadership will be "annihilated."

Goebbels took to the air to still the many rumors coursing through the Reich on the scope of the anti-Nazi revolt within the army.

Details Evaded

He carefully evaded detailing the measures envisaged by the desperate Nazis in their sweeping conscription of all the enslaved continent's manpower and resources for total war but he made clear that the demands will be hard.

"No effort can be great enough that results from the attempt to win victory," he said. "Our enemies will not shrink back from any means of devilish action. We must cross this road of hell before we reach the end of the road."

"We have to win all or else all of us are lost," he added in a grim warning that the Nazis intend to drag the entire German nation down with them.

Struggling to soften his pronouncement, Goebbels spoke vaguely of "secret weapons" now being readied by German war industries for use against the allies, and assured them that the reich's armament production actually has been increased in spite of the shattering allied aerial offensive.

VIENNA BOMBED BY YANK PLANES

London, July 26—(U.P.)—An estimated 500 Italian-based American Flying Fortresses and Liberators struck through low-hanging clouds over Vienna today to bomb and burn German military installations surrounding the old Austrian capital, while a smaller force of heavies blasted Nazi oil installations in Albania.

Strong formations of Lightning and Mustang fighters escorted the Vienna raiders and beat off repeated attacks by German fighters.

The U. S. heavies bombed through a thick overcast that prevented immediate appraisal of the bomb damage.

A second task force of Liberators struck across the Mediterranean from their Italian bases at the Kuvove oil refinery in Berat, Albania.

BASEBALL

National

Cincinnati 2 9 2
Boston 9 14 2
Walters, DeLacuz and Mueller, Just, Barrett and Hofferth.

under Storms Set Six Fires in National Forest

Temperatures in the nineties the past two days resulted in thunder storms in this region, with six small fires set in the Rogue River National forest, two in the Applegate section, one in the Butte Falls area and three in the Union Creek district.

Last evening the entire area experienced light thunder storms with lightning and scattered showers. No rain fell in the Medford district, but scattered rain was reported in the Ashland, Jacksonville and Applegate districts.

At the forest service office here it was said that none of the fires exceeded an acre in extent. Some were set Monday afternoon and evening and the remainder yesterday afternoon, the thunder storms starting in mid-afternoon.

Medford weather bureau predicts additional thunder storms for tonight with little change in temperature.

MARINES CAPTURE HIGHEST PEAK ON ISLAND OF TINIAN

Aboard Expeditionary Flagship off Tinian, July 26—(East longitude time)—(U.P.)—(Via Navy Radio)—American marines captured the highest peak on Tinian island today, 60 hours after they came ashore.

Seizure of 564-foot high Mount Lasso gave the invaders a vantage point a third of the way down the island from the northern tip where they first landed.

Since the first waves swept over two narrow beaches on the morning of July 24, the marines had captured three and one-half miles of Tinian's 34-mile coastline and knifed inland through two miles of canebrakes.

By United Press

American invaders, killing Japanese at a ratio of eight to one on Guam and nearly 100 to one on Tinian, appeared in position today for decisive blows against the defenders while indications grew that Gen. Douglas MacArthur might point his next objective at Halmahera Island, 250 miles southeast of the Philippines.

A Japanese communique broadcast by Radio Tokyo acknowledged today that a task force of Allied cruisers, aircraft carriers, destroyers and submarines steamed in close to the northern tip of Sumatra, northernmost of the Dutch East Indies, yesterday and bombed Batang. The communique claimed Japanese forces sank two destroyers and a submarine in repulsing the attack.

Palau Isles Hit

Another Tokyo broadcast recorded by FCC said an Allied task force including several aircraft carriers, appeared off the Palau islands in the western Carolines, 600 miles east of the Philippines, yesterday, and sent more than 30 planes against the Japanese base. Two planes were shot down and "Japanese damage was very slight," the broadcast said.

Crash Near Klamath Kills Solon's Son

Seattle, July 26—(U.P.)—Ensign Ballentine J. Goehring, son of B. J. Goehring, Congress, N. Y., was killed instantly near Klamath Falls, Ore., when the small naval plane he was piloting on a training flight crashed near Goose Lake, 13th naval district headquarters announced today.

Bricker Sees Change When Votes Counted in November

Albany, N. Y., July 26—(U.P.)—Gov. John W. Bricker, Republican vice-presidential nominee, said today that the "American people are ready for a change and will make a change in November."

Bricker made the prediction at a press conference prior to meeting with Governor Thomas E. Dewey, the party's candidate for president.

Bricker and Dewey met newspaper reporters on the front porch of the state executive mansion. Dewey declined to answer questions, emphasizing that "this is Governor Bricker's press conference."

Asked whether he thought the Republican ticket would win if

FRESH PEAR PRICE CUT 20 PER CENT BY CEILING ORDER

Jackson County Product To Go At \$3.60 Per Standard Box, F.O.B., This Year

San Francisco, July 26—(U.P.)—Ceiling prices have been placed for the first time on fresh pears sold for table use in all markets except sales made by retail stores, the office of rice administration announced today.

The new maximum prices will effect about a 20 per cent reduction from last year's retail prices, the OPA said. Retail mark-ups will be established shortly.

\$3.60 Per Box

Pears produced in California and in the counties of Josephine and Jackson in Oregon are set at \$3.60 per standard pear box, f.o.b., for the period from beginning of the season to September 10; \$1.50 per Washington pear lug, and 7½ cents per pound for pears graded and packed in all other containers.

The maximum prices became effective yesterday on sales f.o.b. country shipping point, but the effective dates at other levels in California, Oregon and Washington is July 29.

The ceiling prices listed above are the results of discussions and studies made by the Fresh Pear Advisory Committee, the Office of Price Administration and the War Food Administration, a Medford member of the committee stated. He said the committee would have a further explanation of the prices upon receipt of the official ceiling-price order from the OPA.

COTTON ED SMITH SENT TO SHOWERS

Columbia, S. C., July 26—(U.P.)—South Carolina Democrats retired the Anti-New Dealer, Ellison D. (Cotton Ed) Smith from the United States senate after 36 years today, replacing him with Gov. Olin D. Johnston who presented himself to the voters in yesterday's primary as "pro-Roosevelt but disagreeing on certain domestic policies."

"Another veteran Democratic senator—and the senate's only woman—was retired in yesterday's primary in Arkansas where Mrs. Hattie Caraway, a member since 1931, was defeated for renomination."

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Wreckage of other patients

escaped death or injury almost miraculously, largely because the projectile exploded in an anesthetic dispensary which was empty at the time.

Other flying bombs continued to fall on the southern districts through the early daylight hours one of them damaging an apartment house and trapping a number of tenants in the ruins.

The hospital disaster followed a night of almost incessant bombardment during which swarms of lethal German missiles fell at random across the London area and southern England.

The attacks began shortly after midnight, ending an 18-hour lull in the robot bombing. Air raid wardens reported that the nazis appeared to have armed their pilotless bombers with a new weapon of terror, asserting that many of the missiles which fell on the country districts last night carried some form of incendiary bombs.

STAGGERING NAZIS BLASTED, STRAFED FAR BEHIND LINES

26 Stukas Downed in Flames In Lwow Area; 12 Others Destroyed in Sorties

London, July 26—(U.P.)—Premiere Josef Stalin announced tonight that the Red army had captured Narva, Estonian stronghold guarding the corridor between the Gulf of Finland and Lake Peipus.

London, July 26—(U.P.)—American fighter planes roared across the plains of central Poland today, blasting Nazi planes and ground defenses in the path of a Red army advance that Berlin acknowledged had reached the Wisla (Vistula) river barrier, 150 miles from the eastern borders of Germany.

Entering the battle of the east for the first time, American Mustang and Lightning fighters of the U. S. Eastern Air Command swept out on their initial assault yesterday to hit the staggering German armies with bombs and gunfire and rake their communications as far as 100 miles back of the battle line.

Down 26 Stukas

The Americans pounced on a big formation of German Dive-Bombers returning from an attack on Russian troops in the Lwow area and sent 26 of the Stukas spinning down in flames. Twelve other German planes were destroyed in the far-ranging sweep without the loss of a single American plane.

German gun emplacements, motor traffic, and railway targets came under the American fire. Part of the big attack formation swooped down to tree-top level to bomb and strafe an enemy airfield at Mielec on the Wisloka river, 100 miles northwest of Lwow. Nine of the German planes bagged yesterday were destroyed on the ground at that field.

From Italy

The raiders were units of the U. S. 15th Air Force flown from Italy to Russia to join in the great westward drive of the Soviet armies. They returned to their new Russian bases after yesterday's mission.

The Red army juggernaut, with the Polish Bug and San river barriers far behind it, was sweeping the German armies westward across Poland at a pace rivaling that of peacetime maneuvers.

Massive Russian armored forces advanced on the Wisla river along a 50-mile front, driving forward 22 miles in a single day and reaching the water barrier at the medieval fortress city of Demblin, 56 miles south-south-east of Warsaw.

Moscow said the preliminary battles for the river crossings already had begun, and it was indicated the Soviets were aiming at a wide flanking sweep on Warsaw.

BUZZ-BOMB HITS LONDON HOSPITAL

London, July 26—(U.P.)—A 2,000-pound German robot bomb fired blindly from somewhere on the French coast, crashed into a London hospital at dawn today, killing at least two patients and trapping a number of others under tons of flaming wreckage.

Hundreds of other patients escaped death or injury almost miraculously, largely because the projectile exploded in an anesthetic dispensary which was empty at the time.

Other flying bombs continued to fall on the southern districts through the early daylight hours one of them damaging an apartment house and trapping a number of tenants in the ruins.

The hospital disaster followed a night of almost incessant bombardment during which swarms of lethal German missiles fell at random across the London area and southern England.

The attacks began shortly after midnight, ending an 18-hour lull in the robot bombing. Air raid wardens reported that the nazis appeared to have armed their pilotless bombers with a new weapon of terror, asserting that many of the missiles which fell on the country districts last night carried some form of incendiary bombs.