

Yanks Trap Thousands in 12-Mile Advance Down Normandy Coast

6 NAZI DIVISIONS TORN TO SHREDS BY HEAVY BLOWS

Violent Street Fight Under Way for Avranches; Big Port of Granville Taken.

Supreme Headquarters, July 31.—(U.P.)—The American first army stormed across the See river into the west Normandy anchor base of Avranches after a 12-mile advance today and engaged the German garrison in violent street fight, and 14 miles to the northwest captured the big port of Granville.

A Normandy broadcast for the British Radio said first army headquarters announced that American troops had captured Avranches.

Supreme headquarters announced that the foremost spear head of the first army striking down the west coast had established itself firmly in Avranches at the base of the Normandy peninsula, and a field dispatch revealed the capture of Granville, which already was under German artillery fire.

Six Divisions Lost

The collapse of the German left wing became a debacle under the triphammer blows of the first army breakthrough drive which headquarters said had decimated six Nazi divisions and laid open the way to interior France.

United Press War Correspondent Henry T. Gorrell reported the capture of Granville, and with it Torigny-sur-Vire, transport junction seven miles southwest of St. Lo. At the same time the British second army's new offensive on the Caumont front overran St. Martin des Descaux, 4 1/2 miles southwest of Caumont.

A headquarters spokesman said the 77th, 91st, 352nd, 243rd and 353rd German infantry divisions and the fifth paratroops division had been torn to shreds in less than a week of the show-down battle in western Normandy, and most of them now were probably more than a number on the German army list.

Air Fleets Help

Allied air fleets, taking advantage of improving but still hazy weather, swarmed to the attack on the retreating Germans. They concentrated their fire on bridges and rail yards behind the enemy lines, and hammered heavily at the scattered sectors where the Nazis attempted to mount rear guard counter-thrusts.

Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's first army and Lt. Gen. Miles C. Dempsey's second army were pumping heavy blows into the entire western half of the Normandy front, breaking the German grip on strong points and battering the enemy back to new sectors.

British Take Hill

Almost as significant as the American landslide was the British advance in the Caumont sector, where a new attack had overrun hill 309, its 1,000 feet the greatest elevation thus far achieved by the allies in Normandy, and drove some miles farther into Galet, six miles below Caumont.

The easternmost American troops and westernmost British forces swung toward each other from Torigny-sur-Vire and St. Martin des Descaux and were nearing a junction which would carve out a pocket of Germans to be mopped up at will.

The Avranches bridgehead across the river See was regarded at headquarters as extremely important. Its establishment in force was believed to have shattered any chance the groggy German left wing had of seizing a foothold anywhere near the present coastal positions at the base of the Norman peninsula.

Bradley, whose ready initiative has sparked throughout the breakthrough drive which wrecked the German positions in western Normandy, could be expected to exploit his new advantage quickly, moving up infantry and artillery to strengthen the spearhead while tanks fanned out south and southeast.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Deputy Sheriff Bill Grenbemer and wife taking to the hill country to play "pioneer" in a shack complete with red checked curtains and electric lights.

Claude Hoover having fun helping the Medford fire laddies put out a blaze.

City School Supe Eh Hedrick cutting weeds across from the city hall with his little pocket-knife.

MEDFORD

United Press—Full Leased Wire

Thirty-ninth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, JULY 31, 1944.

TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

Weather

Forecast: Fair tonight and Tuesday with slightly higher daytime temperature. Temp. Highest, yesterday — 78. Lowest this morning — 48. Precipitation past 24 hrs. — 0.

NO. 110.

Russian Armies Storm Warsaw



Soviet tanks and cavalry have reached southeastern outskirts of Warsaw and were reported storming defenses of the Polish capital after 25-mile dash up east bank of Vistula River. American fighter planes have joined Russians to harry retreating Germans in Poland in first such operation of war, which implements Tehran agreements for closer pursuit of war.

3,000 American Planes Hit Axis Europe Two-Way Blow

London, July 31.—(U.P.)—An estimated 3000 American warplanes struck a shattering two-way blow at Axis Europe today, smashing from the west at Munich and other enemy targets in France and central Germany and from the south at Romania's bomb-scarred oil refineries in Bucharest and Ploesti.

GERMAN BIG SHOT KILLED AS PLANES DIVE ON TROOPS

With U. S. 2nd Armored Division in France, July 31.—(U.P.)—A German general commander of either the 17th SS Elite Guard Division or the 243rd Infantry, was reported today to have been killed by allied bombing planes while attempting to rally his troops for a stand against the onrushing Americans in western Normandy.

News of the Nazi commander's death came from a doughboy of the second armored division who made his way back into the American lines today after having been captured near St. Denis Le Gast.

The American said he was being held under guard beside a big column of German tanks, guns, and caterpillar tractors—the wreckage of which a United Press correspondent saw along a side road near Roney yesterday—when the unidentified general was killed.

The soldier said he saw a general with red collar tabs on his uniform standing outside a farmhouse near the armored column outlining a plan of attack to his officers.

He was a big shot because every man hell-hithered him and clicked their heels, including the colonels, the doughboys said.

"Then our planes dived down and there was a terrific series of explosions. I saw a piece of shrapnel hit the general in the forehead. He staggered and then stumbled away alone."

THUMLERS BUY RANCH ON C. P. J'VILLE ROAD

Purchase of 50 acres of land, originally part of the Bursell place, on the Central Point-Jacksonville Road, off Ross Lane, has been announced by Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Thumler of Central Point. Mr. Thumler is a wholesale meat dealer.

A residence on the property, purchased from Dr. A. Bursell of Redding, Calif., is now being extensively remodelled by the Thumlers and it will be several weeks before the family will take up residence there.

REDS ATTACK PRUSSIA, WARSAW SUBURB

15,000 ON STRIKE SLOW PRODUCTION OF WAR MATERIAL

Aircraft Engine Part Makers in 5th Day of Detroit Walk-out; Protest Speed-up.

By United Press

Some 15,000 workers were out on strike today, slowing down the production of war material.

The country's biggest strike entered its fifth day at Detroit where 3,400 employees producing Pratt & Whitney aircraft engine parts at the five plants of the Chevrolet gear and axle division of General Motors Corp. joined 3,600 who struck originally protesting a "speed-up" in production rate.

More At Trenton

At Trenton, N. J., some 400 additional workers joined a strike of 3,000 employees at the aircraft division of John A. Roebling Sons company. The workers, members of the United Steel Workers of America (CIO), struck Friday after nine men, charged with slowdown tactics, were dismissed.

Approximately 2,400 striking employees of the Clayton Lambert Manufacturing company shell plant will return to work tomorrow, officials of the United Steel Workers Union (CIO) announced today. Employees voted to return to work, pending settlement of their protest against the reported dismissal of an employee which led to the walkout Saturday.

Claim Pay Shortage

At Buffalo, 1,200 members of the night shift at Houdaille-Hershey Corp. remained on strike over a "pay shortage" protested filed by 100 workers.

At Cleveland, 500 workers who struck at the John Harsch Bronze and foundry company Wednesday were still out.

Meanwhile at Hammond, Ind., municipal employees, members of the International Union of Stationary Engineers (AFL), informed city officials that unless a \$20 a month salary raise was approved by midnight they would walk out throwing into idleness the sewage disposal plant, city water works, storm sewer pumping stations, city hall and civic center.

NIGHT RAMBLING BY YOUNGSTERS WILL BE CURBED

A campaign to end promiscuous night rambling of local juveniles of both sexes has been launched, following a conference today between Sheriff Syd I. Brown, District Attorney George W. Neilson, and County Juvenile Officer Robert Elder. The action was taken following receipt of complaints from a number of mothers their children come home when they pleased.

The plan calls for city police and deputy sheriffs to obtain the names and addresses of boys and girls out after the curfew hours. A letter will be sent to the parents by the authorities. If the juvenile is again discovered violating the rules, the parents will be hailed into court for an explanation.

For the past several weeks the young folks have been showing laxity towards the curfew ordinance, officers declare.

Complaints have also been received from the rural districts that boy drivers, with auto loads of juveniles have been burning up the country roads. Officials have expressed some wonderment as to where the offenders get the gasoline for country trips. They plan to take it up with federal agencies.

TO BERLIN

By United Press

The shortest distances to Berlin from the advanced allied lines today:

Russia—345 miles.
Italy—607 miles.
France—623 miles.

HITLER'S ELITE REVEAL YELLOW IN TOUGH GOING

Professional Killers Who Officiated at Extermination of Jews, Quit in France.

By Henry T. Gorrell

UP War Correspondent With U. S. Tanks North of Gavrav, France, July 30.—(U.P.)—Hitler's professional killers, the dread Elite SS who bullied the occupied countries and directed the extermination of thousands of Jews, cracked up today.

They acted like they say all killers do by turning yellow when the odds turned against them. I saw the one-time "tough boys" cringing and surrendering by the hundreds.

In France they were supposed to have kept the Poles and Georgians fighting for the Nazis by holding pistols at their backs. They may have been tough once but the American bombers and fighters and tanks took the fight out of them.

Pathetic Picture

There is no adequate term to describe the pathetic performance of the members of the Nazi murder clubs. "Whipped puppy dogs" is too mild.

It was true that they had lost most of their tanks and artillery, much of which I saw as miles long masses of burning, twisted steel along the narrow dirt roads north of Gavrav.

But if they had any fight left in them, these Nazi strong-arm boys could have kept the American infantry busy for days stalking them in and out of the Norman hedgerows.

It was at Notre Dame Cemetery that I first heard of the astounding turn of affairs—the surrender in large numbers of remnants of Germany's most famous division, the second SS Division Das Reich.

The commanding general of a United States armored division, racing toward the front in a jeep, waved to me and shouted:

Story Scenied

"Come on. There's a good story ahead. The tough boys of the SS are tossing in the sponge."

We followed the general in a jeep, toward Roney where Americans were reported to have wiped out more than 500 wheeled German vehicles.

The road was clogged with American tanks, tank destroyers and half tracks rushing in every direction. There were bodies of many Germans in the ditches, most of them killed within the last 16 hours.

"U. S. Can't Face Another Period Like Roosevelt Depression," Warns Dewey

Pittsburgh, July 31.—(U.P.)—The United States cannot "face another period like the Roosevelt depression with 10,000,000 men unemployed continually over a period of eight years," Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, Republican, presidential candidate, told a press conference here today in opening his campaign.

Dewey is here on the first stop of a three-state swing into Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Missouri whose aggregate of 80 electoral votes are believed by his managers to be necessary for Republican victory next November.

He told a crowded press conference here that he had come to Pittsburgh to discuss reconstruction and political matters.

Administration Hit

Dewey struck hard at the Roosevelt administration on charges of failure to prepare for post-war problems. He said "we don't need to surrender our liberties to a totalitarian new deal" in order to protect the future opportunities of American citizens to work.

The Republican nominee will spend today in political, labor, industrial and agricultural conferences, proceeding to Springfield, Ill., tomorrow for similar routine. In St. Louis, Mo., he will meet with the other 25 Republican governors including John W. Bricker, of Ohio, the Republican vice presidential candidate, for a two day conference on domestic problems. Reconversion has a high place on the agenda.

He will confer with Missouri Republican leaders on Friday and entrain that day to return to New York. His press conference today was a slambang attack on the Roosevelt administration and the argument that the country shouldn't change horses in mid-stream—an indication that the Dewey-Bricker campaign will be based largely on domestic issues where the president is believed to be weaker than in the field of foreign affairs.

B-29 Raid on Manchuria



American B-29 Superfortresses smash by daylight at great Jap steel center of Anshan, 55 miles southwest of Mukden in Manchuria, after sending diversionary formation to pound Chinghsien railway yard, a bottleneck on Peiping-Hankow line, which Japanese were rebuilding.

Marines Use Secret Weapon In Annihilation of Nippons

By United Press

United States marines, aided by a secret weapon, began a battle of annihilation today against the Japanese, who were squeezed into a pocket on the southern tip of Tinian, while the fighting on Guam temporarily dwindled to patrol activity.

Marines used the devastating new weapon for the first time in taking Tinian town, where the island's 15,000 civilians were concentrated, and continued on to hem the Japanese troops in an area two to five miles square.

Details Withheld

Details of the new weapon were withheld, but a front line dispatch said it was "truly fearful" and that it was doubtful if a human being within a 100-foot radius of its target could survive.

On Guam, U. S. planes began operations from the newly captured Orate peninsula airstrip, and supply ships steamed into the completely cleared Apra harbor naval anchorage.

A communique from Admiral Chester W. Nimitz said Liberators strafed small Japanese craft in Truk lagoon and bombed Ponape, while other planes bombed enemy installations in the Marshalls and Nauru.

Anshan Shambles

American crewmen who took part in the Superfortress raids on the Manchurian steel and production center of Anshan Saturday told today of leaving the oriental "Pittsburgh" a burning and battered shambles.

Nearly every B-29 on the mission laid its bombs on the target, pilots said, and there "wasn't much left for the Japs to use."

On British New Guinea, allied ground crews supported by 100 planes, slashed at the outer rim of trapped Japanese forces. A

communique from Gen. Douglas MacArthur said 1,385 had been killed in the week ended Saturday bringing the Japanese death toll in the sector to 2,859 since July 11.

Dewey told newsmen and women. "But governmentally we are making no progress in preparing for what will follow."

Totalitarianism Unneeded

"It may not be long before the most vital thing facing every American is the opportunity to work. I am entirely satisfied that with competent government the opportunities in this country are still unlimited. But we don't need to surrender our liberties to a totalitarian new deal and we cannot afford to do so."

Asked whether a depression could be avoided with proper planning, Dewey replied: "Proper government policies can contribute enormously and successfully toward preventing the spectre of unemployment which many persons now think is unavoidable under an administration which for eight years spent enormous sums without results."

P-38 PILOT KILLED

Santa Maria, Cal., July 31.—(U.P.)—Second Lt. John W. Heat-on, 21, Philadelphia, was killed Saturday night when his P-38 plane crashed near Santa Maria army air field, the army air field commander announced today.

FIGHT FOR FIRST FATHERLAND SOIL SWIFTLY SHAPING

Fall of Kaunas Opens Door to East Prussia; Ability to Check Assault Doubtful.

London, July 31.—(U.P.)—Premier Josef Stalin in a third order of the day announced tonight that Gen. Ivan Cherniakhovsky's Third army of White Russia had forced the Niemen river and advanced 31 miles in three days, breaking through on a 143-mile front and capturing more than 1,500 localities.

Among the captured places were Shetakov and Maryampol, 26 miles from the east Prussian border.

London, July 31.—(U.P.)—The Berlin radio said the red army hurled a powerful attack at Praga, Warsaw suburb on the east bank of the Vistula, and the German high command admitted the loss of Kaunas, prewar capital of Lithuania and last key-stone battle before East Prussia.

Lt. Col. Alfred von Olberg, Nazi military commentator, said massed Soviet forces attacked at Praga in an attempt to break through to Warsaw proper, directly across the Vistula, but a German counter-blow broke up the onslaught.

Violent Fighting

"In the whole area of the Vistula bend, fighting continues with the same violence," von Olberg said, indicating that the red army had wheeled up its main forces for the final assault on the Polish capital.

Nazi broadcasts said the Russians were closing in on Warsaw from the south, east, and north-east, that the hard pressed German army had abandoned Siedlce, big rail junction 50 miles east of Warsaw, and that a battle was raging inside Jelgava, Latvian stronghold 22 miles below the gulf of Riga.

Gen. Ivan Cherniakhovsky's red army was bearing down on East Prussia from two directions, and the outpouring of bad news for the Nazis from Berlin indicated that the battle for the first strip of fatherland soil threatened by the allies was shaping up swiftly.

Cross Suwalki

Already Cherniakhovsky's troops were storming across the Suwalki triangle, a segment of Poland grabbed by the Nazis in 1939 and annexed to East Prussia. With Kaunas fallen, there was no sign that the battered Germans would be able to check the curving Soviet assault as closing against the entire southeastern frontier of East Prussia.

The German high command acknowledged the loss of Kaunas, erroneously reported abroad to have fallen last week. For the second time within a week Berlin reported the evacuation of Siedlce, indicating that the looping Nazi salient due east of Warsaw had collapsed, and admitting that the Russians were closing against the Polish capital from that direction, as well as on a broad arc from the south and northeast.

Kaunas, 42 miles east of East Prussia, was the Lithuanian capital until the Soviets shifted it to Wilno. This city of 90,000 and Grodno to the south were the watchdog bastions of the direct approaches to East Prussia, now laid open for the drive reaching within artillery sound of the frontier.

Far to the northeast all the Germans in upper Latvia and Estonia were threatened with imminent entrapment by the Soviet drive within striking distance of the Baltic. The trap already was sprung for all practical purposes, with the last rail line out of the pocket cut, and the Nazi-reported storming of Jelgava below Riga apparently put the seal of success on the drive.