

ALLIES LAND IN SOUTH FRANCE

Weather

Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight and Wednesday. Slightly cooler.
Highest yesterday 89
Lowest this morning 53
Precipitation past 24 hrs. 0

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Leased Wire

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Thirty-ninth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1944

NO. 123.

Iron Ring Crushes Nazi Armies



American and British forces near juncture in spearheads throw forward to entrap huge German forces in pocket beyond Vire, giving Allied forces according to General Eisenhower's special order of the day, a "fleeting but definite" opportunity for major Allied victory, one whose realization will mean notable progress toward final downfall of the enemy.

"Old Blood and Guts" Leads Yanks Racing To Trap Nazis

Washington, Aug. 15.—(U.P.) The senate today confirmed the promotion of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton to the permanent rank of major-general after nearly a year of delay resulting from criticism of his slapping of three American soldiers.

Washington, Aug. 15.—(U.P.) The senate military affairs committee today unanimously approved the promotion of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., to the permanent rank of major-general.

Sen. A. B. (Happy) Chandler, D. Ky., in announcing that members felt Patton had the committee's action, said he was "disciplined enough" for three soldier-slapping incidents which occurred during the Sicilian campaign nearly a year ago.

By Paul Ault
United Press Correspondent

Supreme Headquarters, AEF, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—Old Blood and Guts is on the road back.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower announced at his advanced command post today that Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, the blustery, rough-riding tank specialist with a gift for getting himself in the doghouse, is leading the American motorized spearheads in their race to trap the German army in western France.

The appointment, kept secret by the Allied command until Patton's troops had jammed the enemy into his present dilemma, showed Eisenhower's confidence that Old Blood and Guts is an inspired leader of motorized troops.

Long In Eclipse
Patton had been in obscurity after two mistakes which caused him to be denounced in Congress. First was when he repudiated a patient in a military hospital.

Phoenix Cyclist
Injured By Auto
William A. Hanson, 17, of Phoenix suffered bruises, cuts and abrasions early last night when the bicycle he was riding was struck by an automobile operated by George Rutherford, 16, also of Phoenix. The accident occurred on a sidewalk in Phoenix.

The injured youth was confined in Sacred Heart hospital today and was expected to be discharged to return to his home tomorrow.

According to state police the bicycle was struck by the right front fender of the machine. Both vehicles were traveling in the same direction.

SIDE GLANCES
By
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Don Bagley setting up a "pay as you go plan" for the use of certain pieces of equipment in his household.

Roe Sutherland outfitting herself in gala style for a long-awaited trip to Portland.

Glenna Hanner and Naomi Miller admitting they wouldn't mind appearing in this space.

SLEEPING CHILD STOLEN WITH CAR

San Leandro, Calif., Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—A widespread search developed today for six-year-old Shirley Ann Gillham, 6, who was kidnapped last night—perhaps inadvertently—by a thief who stole the automobile in which she lay asleep.

After a fruitless search throughout the night, police organized an extensive hunt over a wide area that encompassed highways leading from San Leandro.

The Gillhams drove with a friend last night to a night club one block from the San Leandro city hall and parked their car while they went inside. Since Shirley Ann was sleeping, they left her in the car.

Fifteen minutes later Mrs. Gillham came outside to see that the girl was all right. She found that both the car and the child had disappeared.

State Democratic
Chairman Coming

Henry Alken of Heppner, chairman of the Oregon State Democratic Central committee, will attend a meeting of the Jackson County Democratic Central committee in the Hotel Holland at 7:30 Wednesday night, V. D. Miller, chairman of the county committee announced today.

Porter J. Neff of Medford, state delegate to the Democratic national convention in Chicago, will make a report of the convention, and Mary Kelly and Moore Hamilton will report on the state Democratic meeting held recently. Committee organization work will be planned.

1944 is the 175th anniversary of the discovery of San Francisco Bay by Jose Ortega.

Battle of Annihilation Opens Against 100,000 Nazis Pocketed In Normandy

BOMB TORRENTS SEAL MOUTH OF ESCAPE CORRIDOR

Shuttling Warplanes Bomb and Strafe Enemy—Entire Area Flaming Mass

Supreme Headquarters, AEF, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—Allied planes, tanks and infantrymen opened the battle of annihilation on some 100,000 cornered, fighting Germans in the Normandy pocket today as veteran Canadian troops and the "blood and guts" armor of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's American third army virtually slammed shut the enemy's last escape route to the east.

Patton's slashing tank columns pounded up from Argentan to within eight miles or less of Falaise while the Canadian first army stormed southward to within about two miles of that town and cut across one of the two main highways eastward to Lisieux.

Lifeline Impossible
Front reports suggested that the escape corridor might have been cut to less than 10 miles, and the flaming guns of the Canadian and American forces already had made that narrow lifeline impassable.

Wave upon wave of allied warplanes shuttled incessantly over the doomed Nazi army, bombing and strafing every moving target and turning the entire area into a burning charnel house.

Headquarters reports indicated that Field Marshal Gunther von Kluge had abandoned all hope of extricating the remnants of his 12 divisions from the pocket and was reforming his battle-weary troops for a death fight against the allied armies pressing it from all sides.

The Germans appeared to be wheeling their remaining tanks into a stockade-type defense line similar to the covered wagon cordons once used by American pioneers, and massing their rifle, machine gunners, and artillery behind that barrier.

Break Try Hinted
The bulk of the Nazi forces were concentrated near the southern rim of the pocket, however, and there was a possibility that the desperate enemy might hurl his entire weight against the allied perimeter there in a last-ditch attempt to break through to Paris.

Headquarters sources predicted, however, that any such attempt would be crushed with bloody losses to the Germans, since they now are so heavily engaged on all sectors that they have little or no opportunity to regroup on the scale necessary for a successful break-through.

300 MEXICANS TO ARRIVE TOMORROW

Three hundred Mexican national laborers, for work in the harvesting of pears are due to arrive tomorrow, according to County Agent Robert G. Fowler.

The number is only about 30 per cent of what is needed for the harvest. The original request was for 750 Mexican nationals and 500 were promised.

The county agent is endeavoring to have the number increased, but is without definite word, as yet.

Some orchards will start picking tomorrow and some of the packing plants will open operations. The E. T. Newbury plant at Talent plans to start Wednesday, and all the rest plan to be in operation the next two days. Only a few Bartlett's have been picked so far this week.

Table Rock Gains In Battle With Mosquito Plague

Table Rock ranchers, organized a few weeks ago to fight a plague of mosquitoes reported to have reached health-menacing proportions in that area this year, have noted definite improvement of the situation since that time, John Nealon, spokesman for the group, stated today.

Nealon states that most of the ranchers in the area have cooperated in the association's efforts to drain bodies of standing water where possible, and in preventing irrigation water from providing breeding places for the insects by careful drainage from fields. Where drainage was impractical, surface oiling of the water was accomplished to kill larvae.

Efforts of the group will be continued through the current season.

RUSSIANS FORCE HUGE ARC ABOUT EASTERN PRUSSIA

Moscow, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—Two powerful Soviet armies forged a huge arc around East Prussia from the Niemen river to the southern approaches of the Masurian lakes today with one salient within less than 15 miles of German soil.

Driving rapidly northward through the Biebrza marshlands in a move to by-pass the Masurians, Gen. Georgi Zakharov brought his 2nd White Russian army into the fortress city of Osovets in the closest thrust to German territory from the south.

At the northern end of the tightening 138-mile semi-circle, Gen. Ivan D. Cherniakhovsky's 3rd White Russian army was battling against strong enemy resistance around Rasinai, 53 miles northeast of the East Prussian city of Tilsit.

(The Berlin radio said Russian forces had forged across the Vistula river north of Warsaw and captured an unidentified locality. The exact place of the crossing was not given. The Russians last were reported at Radzymin, 12 miles from the Vistula at the bend above Warsaw.)

BARBARA HUTTON AND GRANT PART

Hollywood, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—Dime Store Heiress Barbara Hutton, who inherited \$40,000,000 and married a prince, a count and a movie star, today admitted she has separated from Actor Cary Grant and declared there was "no chance of a reconciliation."

Miss Hutton said she and Grant had planned a separation last June but postponed it when her former husband Count Kurt Hauwitz-Reventlow refused to return her son to her custody.

"Cary decided to stand by me," she said. "But he isn't happy and I think it's best we part now. Besides, it's unfair and dishonest to take advantage of his name and protection because I am fighting to hold my child."

TO BERLIN
By United Press

The shortest distances to Berlin from advanced Allied lines today:

Russia—328 miles (unchanged for week).

Northern France—595 miles (unchanged, gain of 28 miles in week).

Italy—602 miles. (Gain of two miles in week).

Southern France—Possibly 638 miles. (Measured from point near Nice).

HALMAHERA BASE IS NEUTRALIZED BY YANKEE BOMBERS

Japan's Once Strong Stepping Stone to Philippines Target in Heavy Attack

Washington, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—Army heavy bombers struck Paramushiro island in the Kuriles on Friday, bombing shipping near the island and the airstrip at Suribachi, the navy announced today.

The raiders shot down three enemy planes, probably shot down another five and damaged two of 15 to 20 enemy fighters which attempted to intercept the American force. Two Liberators received some damage, the navy said, but all returned.

By United Press

Halmahera, once strong Japanese base 250 miles south of the Philippines, was reported "neutralized" today as the Japanese Dornier agency announced a force of 22 Liberator bombers had raided Iwo Jima island in the Volcano islands, 650 miles south of Tokyo.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported that the Japanese had lost completely the flexibility of the Halmahera base, once a key supply line running through the southwest Pacific, following a sustained Allied aerial attack.

The latest raid Sunday started great fires and explosions among enemy installations.

United Press Correspondent Francis McCarthy, reporting from advanced headquarters, said an estimated 25,000 tons of shipping had been destroyed or put out of commission during the Halmahera campaign.

MacArthur's communique also reported new air raids on other enemy bases in the area. Liberators attacked Manokwari on the northern coast of Dutch New Guinea Sunday, dumping 60 tons of explosives on the heaviest raid on that base since July 19.

Mitchell bombers hit the southwest coast of the Vogelkop peninsula in Dutch New Guinea, bombing barges and trucks.

The Japanese dispatch, recorded by FCC, claimed Japanese fighter planes shot two of the Liberators which attacked the volcanoes yesterday. The dispatch made no mention of damage to the island.

Two Jima lies midway between the recently conquered islands in the Marianas and the Japanese mainland.

Fourth Front Invaders Flabbergasted By Absence of Opposition From Nazis

By Herbert Matthews
Representing the Combined American Press
(Distributed by United Press)

With American Forces in Southern France, 2 p. m. Tuesday, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—A flabbergasted American army numbering many thousands is well into southern France this afternoon and going fast. It has been virtually without opposition and with amazingly small casualties.

The Jerries were caught completely by surprise and what few there were waiting for us have been scattered or captured. Men, tanks, artillery and materiel of all kinds have been pouring onto three separate beaches since 11 o'clock this morning and by now we have built up such strength that it seems almost certain we have not only come to stay but to push on.

Decisive Blow
This ought to be a decisive blow for France, and everybody is astounded that it went off so easily.

It had been a night of terror for all the French along the beaches and resort places and some paid with their lives and the destruction of their houses, but we held back the heaviest, tell-tale raids until daylight this morning.

Three hours of hell preceded the landing. Bombs, naval gunfire, and rockets flamed and roared into the beaches from daylight until 11 o'clock.

Before the smoke lifted, troops were swarming up the beaches, hardly believing their luck as the engineers blasted their way through cement walls and the tanks drove in and hardly a shot came from Jerry.

Now comes the build up and it is going to be tremendous and it is going to be quick. Americans can be proud that this was their venture from its inception to this successful outcome—perhaps our greatest single contribution to the war in Europe.

Not Another Anzio
The Germans will, doubtless, rally and throw in forces to stop us as soon as they can, but this is not going to be another Anzio, and meanwhile nothing counts today but jubilation at the almost bloodless success of a great operation.

The units on our flanks didn't have it quite so easy, but they too are well inland and moving fast.

I went straight to the prisoner-of-war cage where 125 Jerries were gathered to find out why they didn't put up a fight from their coastal emplacements and strong hill positions back of the beaches.

It didn't take long to find out what was wrong. There wasn't any fight left in them. One master sergeant said he knew the army in northern France had broken. For three months he had realized the war was lost.

"There's no reason to fight," he said. "For whom should we fight?"

"You mean you're not fighting for Hitler any more?" I asked.

"That's it," he replied, "anyway we've got nothing to fight with."

Their dejection contrasted remarkably with the happiness of the French.

War Bulletins

Madrid, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—Sporadic street fighting has broken out in Paris, reports from the border indicated tonight. The Germans were reported attempting to rule Paris with an iron hand but were unable to control the French populace.

AEF, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—Supreme Headquarters, German Seventh army lashed out in a desperate attempt to break the Allied trap in Normandy today but was turned back by a heavy crossfire of Allied bombs and shells after a number of tank and infantry units succeeded in escaping to the east.

London, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—The Red army, battling for Warsaw, has repulsed large German tank and infantry onslaughts in the vicinity of Praga on the outskirts of the Polish capital, radio Moscow reported tonight.

Canadian Army Headquarters, France, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—British bombing planes accidentally dropped a great weight of bombs, possibly 800 tons, on Canadian troops during a "saturation" raid on the German lines at Falaise yesterday, it was disclosed today.

Only 20 Work
This meant that only 20 of the shop's total of 115 machinists now were at work.

Rear Admiral Harold G. Bowen, who took control of the five shops to halt interference with war production, said it still was "too early" to draw conclusions about success or failure of the navy's return-to-work call.

The union had banned overtime work by its members at 104 San Francisco machine shops, in defiance of War Labor Board orders. The WLB and navy reported refusal of the men to work overtime interfered with war production. The walk-out was called at Federal Mogul in protest against company overtime work orders. The few "rebels" remained on the job to work 70 hours a week.

25,000 POUNDS
ROUNDED UP IN
TIN CAN DRIVE

About 25,000 pounds of salvaged tin cans were collected from Medford service stations Sunday morning by volunteers working for the county salvage committee and trucked to Camp White, where they will be shipped from the salvage depot there. The cans represented a week's drive conducted by the salvage committee with the cooperation of all gasoline distributing firms of the city and the station operators.

According to Wayne Jamison, salvage chairman, plans are completed for the paper drive with the exception of naming a collection depot. When final permission for use of a desirable location has been received, opening date of the drive and the location of the collection depot will be announced.

Mr. Jamison extended his thanks this morning to his committee workers, the oil distributors, station operators and collection volunteers who gave time and loaned trucks and other equipment for the tin can salvage.

COYOTE POPULATION MISSING IN COUNTY

There is a dearth of coyotes in the county, and few complaints are received of depredations. Last month a bounty was paid on just one coyote pelt, the county clerk's office reported. The stray dogs are also behaving and no reports of their slaughtering of sheep have been received.

HARMON WEDDING SET

Ann Arbor, Mich., Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—Lieut. Tom Harmon and Elyse Knox, movie actress, will be married Aug. 26 in St. Mary's Student chapel here, it was announced today.

Beachheads Are Established Along 100-Mile Strip Between Nice and Marseille.

Rome, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—A mighty Allied invasion force struck into southern France from sea and sky today and within a matter of hours overran the Germans' feeble shore defenses and established firm beachheads along a 100-mile strip of the Mediterranean coast between Nice and Marseille.

A miles-long sky train of gliders and transport planes swept in over the coast before dawn to shower thousands of American and British paratroopers across the rolling hills behind the Nazi coastal defenses, and the main assault force splashed ashore from landing craft at 8 a. m.

Germans Stunned
Between the two forces, the stunned Germans were rendered almost helpless and their once formidable fortifications were breached almost without a struggle.

"By mid-morning all the landings were proceeding successfully according to schedule, against only light ground opposition and no air opposition," a headquarters communique announced.

The supporting air-borne operation was also successfully executed.

First reports said American and French infantrymen, the pick of the veteran armies massing in the Mediterranean theater for months, made up the bulk of the assault force put ashore by an armada of some 800 warships and transport craft.

American and British paratroopers and air-borne infantry spearheaded the attack, but it was indicated that the initial British army participation was limited to this phase of the invasion.

Drive Inland
Reports trickling back from the thousands of Allied fliers who swept unchallenged over the beaches said the invading army was striking swiftly inland, in a drive aimed to the northwest at the Rhone valley, less than 30 miles west of Marseille.

Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, supreme Allied commander in the Mediterranean, declared that his forces would sweep the Germans from their path, march northward through the heart of France, and join up with the Allied armies closing in on Paris from Normandy.

"Victory is certain," he proclaimed in a ringing message to the people of France. "Remember 1918."

Even as Wilson's armies stormed ashore, Gen. Charles De Gaulle's French committee of national liberation broadcast a call to arms to all of France, ordering patriots throughout the country to rise against the Nazi occupation armies.

Blast Blow Due
"The blast blow is about to be struck," the committee declared.

A full battalion of American paratroopers, about 1000 men, landed in the St. Raphael area, the Nazi DNB News Agency said, while another landing attempt at Port Dramont, four miles to the east, was repulsed.

German reports of furious fighting along the coast appeared to be purely for home front consumption, however. Hitler's Mediterranean wall had been breached beyond hope of repair by the first shattering wave of Allied planes and shock troops and the thunderous bombardment laid down by British Admiral Sir John H. D. Cunningham's warships.

Planes Riddle Defense
The Allied Mediterranean air forces hurled some 2700 planes over the invasion beaches in their climactic D-day punch, riddling the enemy's coastal defenses and cutting their lines of communication to ribbons.

Some 500 Mitchell and Marauder bombers raced in before the landing craft to drop their bombs at the water's edge, touching off the land and sea mines strewn across the path of the invasion armada. Swarms of fighter-bombers followed the troops ashore and methodically knocked out enemy strongpoints at the direction of the ground commanders.

Milwaukee, Aug. 15.—(U.P.)—While Charles Mehlinger sat in front of his tavern cooling off today a thief entered the back door and stole \$1748.

INVASION FORCE SOON OVERRUNS FEEBLE DEFENSE

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