

# DOUBT LOOMS IN NATION'S VOTE OUTCOME

By EDWARD CREAUGH  
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NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (AP)—Because 11 states will not count their soldier votes on election day, November 7, it is possible that the outcome of the 1944 presidential election will remain in doubt for several weeks after the polls close.

Should the election be unusually close, the winner might not be known until as late as December 7, when the canvass of Nebraska's absentee vote could determine whether the state's seven electoral votes would be cast for President Roosevelt or Governor Thomas E. Dewey.

### Two Million Absentees

These possibilities grow out of an Associated Press survey which indicates that more than 2,000,000 men and women in the armed forces have applied for absentee ballots and that, by the most conservative estimates of state election officials, approximately twice that number will vote in November.

The soldier vote is likely to be decisive in most of the 11 states which do not immediately tabulate it, and the 11—including Pennsylvania with 36, California with 22 and Missouri with 15—have a combined electoral vote of 116. President Wilson's electoral margin over Charles Evans Hughes in 1916 was only 23.

### November 22 Counting

In Pennsylvania, where officials expect 200,000 to 300,000 soldier ballots, the absentee vote will be counted November 22.

California, whose secretary of state predicts a service vote of 175,000 to 200,000, will not canvass it until November 24. Missouri, receiving more than 1000 ballot applications daily, will start counting absentee votes Friday after election day.

### Will Defer Count

Of the states which will defer their soldier vote count, eight gave President Roosevelt a total of 99 electoral votes in 1940. The other three gave Wendell L. Willkie, 17.

Besides Nebraska, Pennsylvania, California and Missouri, the states which will add up some or all of their soldier votes after election day are: Colorado, six electoral votes, November 22; Delaware, three, November 29; Florida, seven, November 17; North Dakota, four, December 5; Rhode Island, four, December 4; Utah, four, November 27; and Washington, eight, November 27.

# CZECH OIL PLANTS SMASHED BY BOMBS

ROME, Aug. 24 (AP)—A strong force of heavy bombers, probably numbering 750, attacked Czechoslovak oil refineries at Kolin, 40 miles east of Prague, and at Pardubice, 55 miles east of Prague today.

The airfield at Pardubice, the railway at Vinkovici on the main rail line from Zagreb to Belgrade in Yugoslavia, the rail bridge at Szeged, Hungary, and the Ferrara rail bridge over the Po river in northern Italy also were bombed.

It was the second bombing of the bridge over the Po in two days.

Enemy opposition was on a smaller scale than on the past two days when 102 Nazi planes were shot down over Austria.

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After wedding ceremony in St. Augustine Chapel, Bari, Italy, this slicked-up jeep carried the bride and groom, WAC Cpl. Florence L. Bauer of Lyndhurst, O., and Capt. Wilson W. Hopkins, Jr., of Durham, N. C., to a mountain camp where they spent five-day furlough honeymoon. G. I. paint job added white sidewall tire effect.

## Stimson Says Nazi Hopes Of French Defense Waning

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24 (AP)—Secretary Stimson said today allied military victories coupled with the rising of French forces have shattered German hopes of making a prolonged stand even in northern France.

The secretary of war told a news conference: "This has been an historic week—the climax of the battle of northern France, the forward surge of the allies in southern France, the liberation of Paris and now Romania's abandonment of the axis."

"On every side Germany weakens. Now is the time for us to muster all our strength and unity for the final blows. The liberation of Paris by the French people themselves after our own American forces had half-circled the city is a fitting demonstration of the waning power of the nazis and the rebirth of freedom."

### Nearly Liberated

Stimson said that already the great bulk of metropolitan France has been liberated, for all practical purposes, by the combined actions of allied armies and the French people themselves. In the midst of success, he reminded, it still is necessary to remember that a substantial number of divisions of the German fifteenth army in the Calais area were not yet in combat. Standing north of the Seine river, he said, they undoubtedly will seek to reorganize such seventh army units as manage to escape from Normandy and increase their strength.

"Allied air and ground forces, with their superior power," Stimson said, "are in the midst of effective action to undermine and crush the ability of the Germans to make a prolonged stand in northern France."

### Menace to Rhone

Stimson said the spectacular advance of an armored force of the 7th army in southern France, pushing beyond Grenoble, threatens to cut the Rhone in its upper regions, ruining German plans for a hard fought withdrawal up the valley of that river from the coast. It also has sealed off all direct routes of communication between the German forces in France and Italy.

Pockets of resistance, in some of which the nazis are fighting

bitterly, still exist in southern and western France, the secretary said, but they soon "will be as isolated as the Japanese in the eastern Marshalls or New Britain."

### Defense Area

Stimson said the only area left for a German attempt at a real defense is a region of the last war's battlefields in northern France. But the enemy's supply and reinforcement routes into this territory are under constant air patrol and attack, he added, as far as the interior of Belgium and the German border.

In the past week, Stimson said, allied planes destroyed 277 of the enemy's cars of all kinds and destroyed or damaged more than 800 locomotives. Now they are concentrating on barges and small boats, while keeping up their attacks on German trucks, tanks and troops concentrations.

## Moose to Celebrate Loan Payment

Saturday night, August 26, the Loyal Order of Moose, Klamath Falls lodge No. 1106 will celebrate the complete payment of the Moose Heart loan with a joint class initiation of Merrill lodge No. 306 and Klamath lodge No. 1106. This will be the last initiation with the \$5 initiation fee of the present membership campaign, as the fee will be \$10 after September 1.

Entertainment will be furnished by Jerry Owens and his troupe of entertainers from Portland and refreshments will be served. Visiting members and local members and their families are invited. Initiation will start at 8 p. m.

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# AIR ARMADA HITS DOZEN NAZI TARGETS

LONDON, Aug. 24 (AP)—A vast armada of 2300 American planes smashed a dozen targets in Germany and on the Czech border today while the RAF bombed and strafed a Nazi "Dunkirk" attempt from the great port of Le Havre at the mouth

of the Seine, only a few miles beyond advancing allied lines. The attacks in Germany by 1300 heavy bombers and 1000 fighters constituted one of the greatest assaults ever mounted by United States air forces.

### Oil Plants Hit

Targets included synthetic oil plants at Merseberg, Misburg and Ruhland in Germany and Brux on the Czech-Slovak border. Also bombed were an oil refinery at Freital near Dresden; two airplane plants at Brunswick; German air force stations at Kolleda near Merseberg and Langenhagen near Hannover; a radio factory at Miemmar and other industrial targets at Kiel. As American armor slashed 25 miles down the Seine in new lightning advances, the harried Germans put out a big fleet of

light service warships and other vessels from the threatened port on the Seine estuary.

For eight solid hours, RAF coastal command planes in relays bombed the fortilla, sinking and damaging an undetermined number of ships. Many were set afire.

The air forces announced late today that 50 German warplanes were destroyed in operations from British and French bases yesterday and that in the first 70 days of the invasion, 3641 German planes had been destroyed in the air and on the ground. In the same period 2959 allied craft were lost. The figures included strategic bombing attacks on Germany itself. Swift Mosquito bombers made a "concentrated" attack on Cologne last night.




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