

# AMERICANS SEIZE AVRANCHES, GRANVILLE

On Other Fronts

## Red Armor Within 6 Mi. Of Warsaw

Soviet armored columns were only six miles from Warsaw yesterday, Berlin admitted last night. The Germans also admitted evacuation of Siedlce, 56 miles due east of the Polish capital, and said Russian forces attacking from southeast and northeast had linked up.

Meanwhile a new Soviet offensive west of the Niemen River between Grodno and Kaunas had smashed into the disputed Suwalki triangle that Hitler annexed to East Prussia in 1939, and thus for the first time Russians were fighting on soil considered by Hitler an integral part of the Reich.

Farther north the Reds were striking toward Riga in a bid to bottle up the German armies in Latvia and Estonia.

Moscow announced liquidation of the remnants of three Nazi divisions surrounded west of Brest-Litovsk when that city was captured last week—15,000 dead and 2,000 taken prisoner.

## U. S. Planes, Ships Using Guam Bases

American aircraft and warships are operating directly from former bases on Guam for the first time since the Japs took the island in 1942, Adm. Nimitz announced yesterday.

No new developments were reported in the land battle, but U.S. troops held firm to all their positions and were preparing further smashes inland. U.S. planes are using the Crote Peninsula airstrip and warships have moved into Apra harbor.

On the island of Tinian, Americans captured the town of Tinian and now control almost half the island, whose conquest, the Associated Press reported, is being "aided immeasurably" by "one of the most terrible instruments from America's arsenal of secret weapons."

U.S. Liberators attacked four Jap airdromes in the Sorong sector, off the northwest tip of Dutch New Guinea, a blow which Gen. MacArthur's HQ said "almost nullified the remaining enemy air strength in New Guinea."

## German Defenses Halt 8th's Drive

Heavily-reinforced Nazi infantry and armor delayed the Eighth Army's attempt to smash through the final German defense line south and southwest of Florence yesterday and in one counter-attack with Mark VI tanks, temporarily drove New Zealanders out of San Michele, five miles from the Tuscan capital.

German troops farther west maintained their positions on the bank of the Arno and resisted stiffly American stabs across the river in an effort to advance into Pisa.

## 'MISSY' LE HAND DEAD

WASHINGTON, July 31 (Reuter)—Miss Marguerite ("Missy") Le Hand, President Roosevelt's personal secretary for more than 20 years, died today at Chelsea, Mass.

## Aerial Support Saves a Doughboy; 80 Captors Become His Captives

By V. Wes Gallagher  
Associated Press Correspondent

WITH THE FIRST ARMY July 31—A private who turned the tables on his German captors and brought in 80 prisoners told today how Ninth Air Force fighters and fighter-bombers destroyed a two mile column of German armored vehicles.

Pvt. Anthony Blazus, of Fredrickstown, Pa., was captured at St. Denis le Gast while manning a machine gun position. The Germans took him north toward Roncey where they hoped to break through the Allied ring of armor.

Leading the column were two large self-propelled guns and behind them were strung out a column of vehicles stretching for two miles, bumper to bumper.

"A German high officer stood in the road giving orders," Blazus said. "He was a general of some kind and apparently very drunk. Other officers were running around him giving Hitler salutes. Then our planes came."

Ninth Air Force fighters and fighter-bombers raced up and down the column. They bombed the self-propelled guns and

blocked the road. Then they started strafing.

"The terrific blast ripped the big guns apart," said Blazus. "The tanks on our flanks took off across the fields. Our planes raked the column with cannon fire until the entire party was just a tangle of bodies and wrecked vehicles. When they had finished that the planes took off after the fleeing tanks."

"There was a sudden quiet and I got up out of the ditch where I had taken shelter. At first I thought everyone was dead but there were about 80 survivors. They came over to me and asked me to take them prisoners. They had had enough."

So Blazus marched his 80 prisoners back to the American lines

## HEAVIEST MONTH OF AIR ATTACKS

American heavy bombers struck yesterday from Britain and Italy in another co-ordinated assault on targets deep in Europe to round out the heaviest month of attacks against enemy industrial targets in USSTAF history. The record month was all the more significant because it proved to Germany that the opening of a continental front would not bring relief from air assault on the home front.

From Britain alone more than 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators and nearly 1,000 escorting fighters were dispatched to raid the Munich area and other points in Central Germany, as well as airfields in France.

In a simultaneous assault from the south, nearly 500 escorted heavies of the 15th Air Force battered oil installations at Ploesti and Bucharest.

There was no immediate announcement of USSTAF losses.

A recapitulation yesterday of P47 fighter-bomber activity in support of advancing American armored columns at the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula showed that the Ninth Air Force planes had destroyed 102 tanks, half-tracks and armored vehicles and damaged 60 more; destroyed 404 motor transports and damaged 94; destroyed 58 horse-drawn vehicles, 36 staff cars, 12 jeeps, four command cars and seven motorcycles.

Two P47s were lost in 1,100 attacks.

## WAC HEAD IN NORMANDY

Lt. Col. Anna W. Wilson, of Studio City, Cal., WAC commander in the ETO, is in Normandy to prepare the way for the arrival of more WACs in France. It was announced yesterday. The first detachment of 54 WACs reached Normandy two weeks ago.

## CAPTIVES TO PROCESS FOOD

CHICAGO, July 31—Approximately 10,000 German prisoners of war soon will go to work processing food and fruit crops in Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois. About half of the prisoners will go to Michigan.

## AIR-TO-GROUND LIAISON PRAISED

U.S. FIRST ARMY HQ., July 31 (Reuter)—Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley said tonight that the progress made by American armor in the last few days was possible only through the commendable work of the Ninth Air Force fighter-bombers.

Commending Maj. Gen. E.R. Quesada, commander of the Ninth fighter command, he said cooperation exceeding expectations had been attained between ground and air units.

"We could hardly keep those fighter pilots on the ground long enough to rearm and refuel. They were so anxious to keep after the enemy," Gen. Bradley said.

"These planes have continually come down to low-level to bomb and strafe German armor and transport, but what perhaps is not known is the close cooperation between the ground and air units. There was a continual direct conversation between the planes and the ground commanders with whom they were working."

"Now that we have that cooperation we intend to keep it."

## Second Armored (Hell on Wheels) Led the Dash Across Peninsula

By Earl Mazo

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer  
The Second Armored "Hell on Wheels" Division yesterday was officially identified as the spearhead of the smashing American drive that began last week and so far has trapped the biggest part of eight German divisions by cutting the Cotentin peninsula from coast to coast.

In a move that resembled the Second Armored's run from the beaches of southern Sicily to Palermo during the Mediterranean campaign, the division led the push through the German lines. Maj. Gen. Edward H. Brooks divided his forces by sending one combat command towards the base of the peninsula and another racing to the west coast.

The "point" of the force which raced across the peninsula to

## Lightning Advance Places Allies in Position to Open Battle for Brest Peninsula

A U.S. armored column made a 12-mile dash down the coastal road yesterday to capture Avranches, 25 miles south of Coutances at the northeast end of the Brittany peninsula, and British troops were more than eight miles ahead of their Sunday jump-off line in the Caumont area.

Another American spearhead captured Granville, about 16 miles southwest of Coutances, and cut the railroad from Granville to Paris. As the Yanks reached Avranches, it was said at Supreme headquarters that big possibilities now lay ahead of the Allied armies in France.

## French Take Over Avranches Crying 'Les Boches Kaput!'

By G. R. Hodenfield

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

AVRANCHES, July 31—The French were getting some of their own back in Avranches today. They were carting away German equipment, ranging from blankets and food to sleek cavalry horses which the Germans left behind in their headlong retreat from this market town at the foot of the Cotentin Peninsula.

Avranches suffered severe damage from our heavy and medium bombers, but the citizens who came streaming back into the city after the entry of American troops didn't seem to mind.

They stood on the street corners waving wildly and throwing bouquets of flowers at our men. They slapped their wrists and yelled: "Les Boches—Kaput!"

Outside Avranches, the roads were littered with German vehicles of all sorts, victims of our strafing fighter planes. In the forward slope of one hill just a few kilometers out of town, there were nearly 100 German horse-drawn carts lying right where they were hit, the dead horses still in harness.

Our troops entered Avranches before noon today, leaving many small pockets in the field behind them. But they weren't pockets of resistance. They were pockets of defeated soldiers who wanted only one thing—capture and the safety of a prison camp.

With the capture of Avranches, 34 days after the fall of Cherbourg, 60 miles north, they were in a position to launch drives to the south, southwest, southeast, east or northeast. Any push beyond Avranches would probably outflank the next German defense line, and the Battle of Normandy could turn into the Battle of Brittany.

A captured order from Field Marshal Keitel, chief of staff of the German High Command, said: "Our losses on both the eastern and western fronts have reached such proportions that we cannot easily replace them."

## Granville Port Wrecked

The hilltop city of Avranches was badly blasted, but firmly in American hands last night. Granville was also firmly in American hands but hardly touched by the war except for the port installations, which the Germans had systematically smashed.

Allied gains averaged more than three miles along a 50-mile front yesterday. British troops captured Galet, about six miles south of Caumont, more than 12 other towns and villages and about 400 prisoners.

Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's men were wiping out and gathering up German troops by the thousands, as the latest total of prisoners taken since the breakthrough reached 10,500. In some sectors the Germans were so eager to give up they surrendered to French civilians.

## Nazis Abandon Tanks

Roads to the south were choked yesterday with German vehicles and with German soldiers trying to escape on foot from the pursuing American tanks. Fields and roads were littered with German artillery and tanks, some of which were still in working order, abandoned before the Germans could carry out demolition.

As Sherman tanks roared ahead, they were garlanded with roses, tossed by cheering French.

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## POTTERY MINES

SYRACUSE, N.Y., July 31—Production of hundreds of thousands of new high-explosive land mines, made of pottery which cannot be located by electrical mine detectors, was disclosed today by Col. Frank J. Atwood, ordnance district chief. Both the mine and fuse were developed by the Onondaga Pottery Co. in cooperation with the Rochester ordnance district.

## 11 MILLION IN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, July 31—The number of persons of both sexes serving in the U.S. armed forces now totals 11,484,522, according to official figures released by the War and Navy Departments. In 1939 the total was 375,296.

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THE STARS AND STRIPES

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'Somewhere in France...'

Capt. Joseph J. McLachlan, of Detroit, Mich., knows how it feels to be shot at not only by ack-ack in the air but also artillery and rifle fire on the ground.

McLachlan, a P-47 pilot with the Ninth Air Force, was escorting Sherman tanks when a burst of German anti-aircraft fire hit his plane.

American patrols surrounded the barn and Sgt. Robert Kelley, of New York, spotted McLachlan and took a bead on him.

The Yanks brought him to division headquarters, gave him coffee and sent him back to an airstrip.

Lt. Preston B. Delcazal, S-2 of one of the 29th Division battalions, has a \$200 bet at five-to-one that he will be the first American of the ground forces to get into Paris.

While in England he went to Lloyds of London and tried to make the same kind of bet, at higher stakes. He was willing to wager \$2,000 that he would make it.

Armed with only a leather-handled cane, a regimental commander captured 12 German prisoners near Notre Dame de Corilly.

Accompanied by his jeep driver, Sgt. Ransyom Clark, of Charleston, S. C., and Sgt. Ralph S. Mareto, of Garfield, N. J., the colonel sighted the Nazi soldiers while trying to locate a forward CP near the front.

The colonel and the two enlisted men jumped a hedgerow and ordered the Nazis to surrender and they then marched the prisoners back to a command post.

From our contemporary, Time Magazine, comes this edifying report out of Normandy:

'In a battered Norman town, zealous U. S. sanitary officers pursued a putrid smell. They arrived at a storehouse, staggered back as the full power of 10,000 ripening Camembert cheeses oozed out the opened door.

Booby traps have been one of the principal interests of Cdr. Victor W. Buhr, CEC, USNR, of New York, commanding a regiment of Sea Bees here.

Groping alone in the dark Cdr. Buhr's hand closed over a cold, throbbing object. Scream-

News From Home

TELLS CONGRESS BE PREPARED FOR REICH COLLAPSE

WASHINGTON, July 31—Congress is supposed to go back to work tomorrow but can't, the Associated Press said today.

Aware that a sudden German collapse would catch the U.S. at least partially unprepared for tremendous economic adjustments and employment shifts, committees in both houses have been trying to engineer conversion preparedness measures.

Sen. Harley M. Kilgore (D.-Va.) and Rep. Emmanuel Celler (D.-N.Y.), who will sponsor one of the demobilization bills, asserted that Allied blows had brought the war in Europe "much closer to its end."

They said it would be necessary to find 15,000,000 more jobs than were available in 1939 and to produce at least 60 to 70 per cent more than the U.S. did in the same year.

OPPOSE LEWIS

TAMAQUA, Pa., July 31—The Tamaqua colliery local became the first regional union to vote against John L. Lewis for reelection as international president of the United Mine Workers.

SUB BUILDING CURTAILED

WASHINGTON, July 31—A cut in the U. S. submarine building program was announced today by the Navy Department.

A ROUGH TROLLEY RIDE

LOS ANGELES, July 31—Ray Saenz boarded a street car, claimed the conductor tried to short-change him, received 100 pennies for a \$1 bill in change and was socked with an air-brake control bar by the conductor when Saenz objected.

BOSTON WARS ON PIGEONS

BOSTON, July 31—Pigeons have been making such a nuisance on Boston Common recently that the city has made it illegal for the citizenry to feed them, under penalty of a \$200 fine.

2nd Armored Led Way Across the Peninsula

involved in the rolling offensive. The units identified by SHAEF were the 19th Corps under Maj. Gen. Charles Corlett, Second and Third Armored, and the First, Fourth, Ninth and 39th Infantry divisions.

Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters, in releasing names of other American units, said the following regiments were among the many which had taken part in the second month of the Normandy action: the Eighth, 12th, 16th, 67th, 115th, 116th, 120th and 134th Infantry, the 501st, 502nd, 505th, 506th, 507th and 508th parachute infantry regiments.

Rocket-Driven Fighter for Nazis

LONDON, July 31—The Germans are using a new rocket-propelled fighter plane, it was disclosed at U.S. Strategic Air Force headquarters tonight.

Small numbers of the rocket ships have been encountered by Eighth Air Force fighters which escorted heavy bombers on recent raids over Germany.

A single rocket ship was met on one occasion and five were encountered on another.

No further details of the planes were forthcoming immediately.

S & S Map Saves Army Craft Lost In a Channel Fog

How a tattered copy of The Stars and Stripes carried by a seagoing soldier probably saved him, his crew and passengers from falling into enemy hands was told today by S/Sgt. Alpha M. Chase, Denver, Colo., skipper of an Army launch working in Normandy waters.

Chase, who is attached to a Transportation Corps Harbor Craft Company, was piloting his tiny motor launch across the channel en route to France when a heavy fog broke up his convoy.

"I had an Admiralty current chart which helped, but it was on too small a scale," he related. "What really turned the trick was a Stars and Stripes map of the Cherbourg Peninsula which showed where our lines ended and the enemy controlled the beaches.

With Chase were his crew, T/5 Armand J. Jarrett, Holyoke, Mass., and Cpl. William Foster, Detroit, Mich., and three passengers.

Americans Capture Avranches, Granville

civilians, whose homes were left unburned, unlike many areas in Normandy, because war passed by them so quickly.

The rapid sweep of the American advance was also indicated in reports that troops who captured Brehal had advanced 26 miles in five days, and that Percy, now held by doughboys, was Rommel's headquarters less than a week ago.

Behind the armored spearheads, infantry and other tank units rapidly mopped up German pockets of resistance which ranged in size from a dozen Germans to several hundred, with tanks.

Heaviest German resistance was still around Tassy, where a strong counter-attack by the Second Panzer Division was beaten back.

On the west bank of the Vire River, the Germans were last reported to be holding only a small bridgehead. East of the Vire, Yanks made a slow gradual movement southward. The British thrust south from Caumont, 15 miles northeast of Tassy, developed into a serious threat to outflank the Germans holding the east bank of the Vire north of Tassy.

BURNING UP THE KEYS

NEW YORK, July 31—The New York correspondent of the London Daily Mail reported yesterday that a "jazz-and-jive" fever now sweeping the U. S. was wearing out so many pianos that a major crisis had arisen in the piano manufacturing industry, unable to meet the rush of new orders.

BROWNS TOP NATS TWICE, EXTEND A. L. LEAD TO 4 1/2

ST. LOUIS, July 31—If there is any doubt about the 1944 World Series being staged in St. Louis it isn't noticeable around the vicinity of Sportsman's Park.

The Browns gave their supporters something more to cheer about yesterday when they won both ends of a doubleheader from the Senators, 2-1 and 7-3, and thereby increased their American League lead to four and a half games.

The Cardinals, meanwhile, were splitting with the Dodgers at Ebbetts Field, losing the first, 10-4, and winning the nightcap, 9-7, but maintaining their 14 1/2-game lead in the National League.

At Cleveland, ninth-inning rallies decided both games as the Red Sox dumped the Indians in the first of two games, 5-3, and the Tribe bounced back to win the second, 3-2.

The Yankees and Tigers also divided after splattering 55 hits around the playing field of Briggs Stadium. The Yanks took the first, 10-2, behind Hank Borowy's 13th win, and the Tigers copped the afterpiece, 13-7, after building up a 13-0 lead.

The White Sox and Athletics also halved their pair, the Chi-sox winning, 6-4, before the A's came back to take the nightcap, 3-0, behind Jess Flores.

Majors & Minors

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT, GB. Includes American League and National League standings.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT, GB. Includes International League and American Association standings.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PCT, GB. Includes American Association and other minor league standings.

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