

WILMINGTON AND VICINITY: Partly cloudy today; little change in temperature. Temperatures yesterday: High 82—Low 66.

Allies Almost Cut Off Cherbourg

Clark's Troops Mop Up Towns

5th Army Races Ahead At Breakneck Speed To Seize Three Communication Centers

ROME, June 9.—(AP)—Pursuing the shattered German 14th army at continued breakneck pace northwest of Rome, Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth army forces swept through the communication centers of Viterbo, Vetralla and Tarquinia today as Nazi troops in the Adriatic sector joined the general enemy flight up the Italian peninsula.

U.S. Planes Hit Germany From South

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, June 9.—(AP)—Between 500 and 750 American heavy bombers roaring over the Alps from Italy hammered targets in the Munich area of southern Germany today, but the weather over the channel was so bad that for the first time since D-Day there was no report of any daylight operations from Britain in support of the Normandy invasion.

The weather, a source of constant anxiety, crippled the aerial offensive with rain and low clouds cutting visibility. Late today there had been no reported improvement in the situation.

The headquarters communique at midnight said "poor visibility and stormy weather reduced Allied air activity to a minimum over the battle area today."

The Italian-based bombers flew into the Munich area for the first time, and their escorting Lightnings, Mustangs and Thunderbolts fought through swarms of German fighters. Swiss dispatches said explosives were dropped in the Munich and Augsburg sectors.

Other U. S. heavy bomber formations attacked Porto Marghera near Venice, and fighter-bombers pounded German columns retreating above Rome.

ACTION FLARES IN OLD POLAND

LONDON, Saturday, June 10.—(AP)—A spurt of fighting northwest of Tarnopol in Old Poland was announced early today in the Russian communique.

The announcement came after earlier Moscow dispatches had indicated the Red army is ready to open its expected offensive from the east in coordination with the Allied invasion of Europe from the west.

In the Tarnopol sector German infantry broke up a populated place yesterday but was driven off by fierce Soviet counterattacks which inflicted heavy losses on the Nazis, Moscow said.

Bankhead Amendment Passed By Senators

WASHINGTON, June 9.—(AP)—The administration suffered a major reverse tonight when the Senate passed a price control extension bill bearing the controversial adjustment of textile ceilings with a view to raising the price of raw cotton.

First Photo Of Allied Troops Marching Through French Village



There they are, our own lads and our Allies marching through a French village following the invasion landing. Walking beside their heavy military equipment they appear to have the town to themselves. Canadian official photo via U. S. Signal Corps. (International Newsphoto).

MacArthur's Mitchell Bombers Sink Four Japanese Destroyers

U-BOAT ACTION AT LOWEST EBB

WASHINGTON, June 9.—(AP)—Allied shipping losses from U-boat action in the pre-invasion month of May were "by far the lowest for any month of the war," an Anglo-American statement reported today.

The joint statement, issued by the Office of War Information under authority of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, said cargo-ship losses in May were but a fraction of the destruction inflicted on Axis shipping.

Several U-boats are being sent to the bottom for every merchant ship destroyed, the statement noted, whereas "formerly each U-boat accounted for a considerable number of merchant ships before being destroyed."

A hint that new electronic detection devices are contributing to the anti-submarine campaign was given in the statement. Allied successes were attributed not only to the vigorous efforts of the armed forces, but to "the scientist who support them in a brilliant manner."

CABINET IN MAKING

ROME, June 9.—(AP)—Ivanhoe Bonomi, 71-year-old pre-Fascist premier, today undertook the task of forming a new Italian cabinet.

Troops Hit Beachhead Under German Fire



Here is one of the most remarkable pictures yet taken of the bitterly fought invasion of continental Europe by the Allied forces of liberation. The huge steel tank obstructions, like monstrous jacks little girls use in play, are used as shelters by Allied fighters as they make the beach under withering German fire.

400,000 Fighting In Normandy Area; Tank Battle Rages

STAFF CHIEFS FLY TO LONDON

Marshall, King And Arnold Cross Ocean To Get Invasion Data

WASHINGTON, June 9.—(AP)—At a critical stage of the invasion of Europe, America's three top commanders arrived in London today for a close-up review and possible major decisions on the strategy of the grand offensive.

President Roosevelt through his secretary, Stephen Early, announced the arrival in Britain's invasion capital of General George C. Marshall, United States Army chief of Staff; Admiral Ernest J. King, commander-in-chief of the American fleet, and General Henry H. Arnold, chief of the Air Force.

The four-star officers went to Britain, Early said, to attend a meeting of the combined chiefs of staff which had been planned to be held "as soon as possible after D-Day," which was Tuesday.

The President, Early said, is "happy to announce" that the officers have "arrived safely in London."

The trio had conferred with President Roosevelt on Tuesday a few hours after the invasion began. Like other military officials here, they are understood to have been extremely well pleased with the progress to date.

Nevertheless it was possible to figure out weeks before the invasion that critical decisions affecting the success of the whole operation would have to be made immediately after the first limited beachheads were established.

While the Allied strategy remains one of the great secrets of the war, the map of developments to date suggests that one possibility facing the leaders is this: Whether to concentrate on exploiting the areas already attacked or to make an equally heavy assault at some other position.

This is the question which undoubtedly has the Nazi high command most seriously worried at the moment. Whether Allied plans are already fixed or not, the Germans cannot commit their forces until they know where the weight of the attack is directed.

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PREDICT NEW INVASION

LONDON, June 9.—(AP)—German broadcasts predicted today that the Allies would invade Belgium soon "between Dunkerque and Ostende," and said that airborne reinforcements on the invasion front were helping to pack an Allied punch in an increasingly bitter battle of Normandy.

Allies Smash 4 Nazi Ships Off Brittany

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Saturday, June 9.—(AP)—Eight British, Canadian and Polish destroyers intercepted four German destroyers apparently bent on a sneak smash at the Allied Normandy coast line before dawn yesterday, blowing up one of them, chasing another aground in flames and scoring hits on the other two which escaped a communique announced early today.

The grounded enemy vessel was believed to have been finished off later by bombing attack. This point-blank engagement—which cost the Allies damage and a few casualties on only one ship, the British destroyer Tartar—was the most dramatic of three surface actions announced, and was fought off the tip of Brittany near Ushant island. The other two actions were minor ones.

RAF RESUMES BOMBING AID

Stiff Battle Near Caen Termed Heaviest Along Coast

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Saturday, June 10.—(AP)—An American flying wedge of parachutists and infantrymen has cut the main German communications lines to the potentially great landing-port of Cherbourg by capturing the town of Ste Mere Eclise and sweeping across the broad-gauge Cherbourg peninsular railway and the parallel highway in heavy fighting, supreme headquarters announced today.

Axis broadcasts said 400,000 men were fighting in Normandy, about 200,000 on each side, and that Allied reinforcements had been pouring into the beaches all Friday night with many tanks.

A late front-line Allied dispatch from the Gaen area, scene of the heaviest armored combat of the whole front, described Allied tank convoys coming through in endless columns.

The Allied communique, reporting the fourth day of the invasion of Normandy, gave these additional points: Further Allied gains have been made west and southwest of captured Bayeux.

Heavy fighting continues in all areas. Fighting is severe in the area of Caen, where the Germans are making a desperate effort to stem the British-Canadian advance; The weight of armor on both sides is increasing;

Numerous enemy strong-points that originally were by-passed have now been eliminated; The weather has deteriorated but the beachheads nevertheless are being developed steadily;

Poor visibility and stormy weather cut activity to a minimum during the day but late Friday night RAF bombers roared over the Channel again towards France.

Eight British, Canadian and Polish destroyers blew up a German destroyer, ran another aground near the Brittany peninsula before dawn Friday; and an American-led destroyer force intercepted a force of heavy armed German light craft, and drove them off the beachhead area in the vicinity of the St. Marcouf isles in the Seine bay.

The previous communique, issued Friday shortly before noon, had announced continuing gains in all sectors.

The Germans said the Americans had advanced another mile beyond Ste Mere Eclise, which is 18 miles southeast of Cherbourg, and intimated that the weak secondary roads left to the Nazis in the peninsula were already threatened.

Major Wicker Named To Head Fort Fisher

CAMP DAVIS, June 9.—Major Robert L. Wicker, director of the intelligence and security division at this military post, today was named temporary post commander at Fort Fisher, in the absence of Major Leo S. Jobe, according to an announcement by Col. Adam E. Potts, camp commander.

Major Wicker, whose family resides on Market street, Wilmington, is a native of Sanford. He is a graduate of University of North Carolina, where he starred as a football and baseball player.