

WILMINGTON AND VICINITY: Partly cloudy and rather hot today. Temperatures yesterday: High 86—Low 73.

New Beachhead Greatly Extended

Red Surge On Prussia Increases

INVASION DRAWS NEAR 172,360 Nazis Reported Killed Or Captured By Single Army

LONDON, Wednesday, Aug. 16.—(AP)—Soviet field dispatches said last night that Red army troops had crossed the Biebrza river in northern Poland, striking through a 15-mile belt of Axis defenses guarding imperilled East Prussia, while Marshal Ivan S. Konev's Fourth Ukrainian army had killed or captured 172,360 Germans.

Konev's troops attacking through southern Poland toward German Silesia killed 140,000 Germans between July 13 and Aug. 12, the special announcement said. On the basis of Moscow accounts six Soviet armies have killed or captured a total of 781,886 Germans since the great summer offensive began June 23, and when three other armies presently engaged in shattering the Reich forces are heard from the total is likely to exceed 1,000,000.

Swarms of armored fighter-bombers covered the Russian surge toward East Prussia, spraying German positions at Grajewo, only two miles from the frontier in the attack along the Bialystok-Lyck railway.

The Russians already are endangering thousands of outflanked German troops fighting in the Suwalki triangle a short distance above the Biebrza river sector. The Suwalki triangle, annexed to east Prussia from Poland in 1939, recently was invaded by Gen. Ivan Cherniakhovsky's Third White Russian army.

When German reserves, flung into battle in the Suwalki area and along the East Prussian-Lithuanian border farther north, slowed Cherniakhovsky, the Second White Russian army went over to offensive now rolling dangerously close to the southern border of East Prussia on the fringe of the Masurian lakes famous battleground in the first World War.

The Soviet high command daily communique was silent about this sector, but Associated Press Moscow Correspondent Daniel De Luca said an invasion of the southern part of East Prussia was likely in the next 72 hours.

In the north Gen. Ivan Maslennikov's Third Baltic army had swept half way across southern Estonia and was on the verge of cutting the Pallin-Riga trunk railway — communications back-bone linking the 200,000 stranded Germans of Col. (Gen. George Lindemann's) two Baltic armies which are fast withering under the blows of this powerful contingent.

The Russians were only 70 miles from the Gulf of Riga.

Madise, less than five miles from the Tallinn-Riga railway and 13 miles west of Antsla on the road to the Estonian border city and rail junction, was captured, the bulletin said, in a seven-mile advance northwest of Antsla, taken Monday. The rail station of Anne, three miles west of Antsla on the road to imperilled Valga, also was seized, as well as Urviste, seven miles northeast of Antsla.

Striking northward along the Voru-Tartu highway another Soviet column swept through Mustajoe, 27 miles southeast of Tartu and 147 miles from Tallinn, Estonian capital on the Baltic. Ten miles north-east of Voru they seized Vastse-Koela. Pushing along the Petseri-Tartu railway another group took Ilumetsa, 12 miles northwest of Petseri. The advance point taken in the push northward along the west bank of Lake Pskov was Mikitamae, 13 miles north of Petseri.

For the first time in weeks the Russian bulletin mentioned the Warsaw area, saying that German counterattacks had been repulsed east of Praga, the east bank suburb of the Polish capital on the Vistula river. Russian units of Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's First White Russian army last were reported within 11 miles of Warsaw at Mostowka on the northeast. Besieged Warsaw is 100 miles southwest of the shattered Biebrza river sector, and Zakhharov's troops and those under Rokossovsky have been slowly driving a wedge between Warsaw and East Prussia.

French Patriots Aid In Invasion

LONDON, Aug. 15.—(P)—Complete disorganization of German communications throughout France was claimed by authoritative French sources today as patriot forces struck with new intensity to assist the Allied invasion in the south and the sledge-hammer blows in the west.

The independent French news agency reported from Bern that 10,000 French patriots were "advancing toward Vichy" and that hundreds more were joining them as they pushed ahead.

The agency said six other detachments of French forces of the interior were moving on Bordeaux.

The dispatch did not say where the patriots were coming from or how they were armed. A communique issued through the French press service reported that French forces of the interior killed 800 Germans, wounded 300 and took 100 prisoners during the past 24 hours

while seizing the towns of Breton, Serignac, Lannion and La Clarte, in Brittany.

The report said the delivery of equipment from factories working on German production had been halted by sabotage. It listed the Englebert works near Compiegne and the liquid air factory at Rheims as among the "many" whose output had been stopped.

The French were officially silent on E. F. I. activity in the area of the southern invasion but a spokesman said the Maquis had undoubtedly joined up with the Allies in large numbers at the beachhead, while ripping up roads, demolishing bridges and clearing minefields in the rear.

Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Allied commander in the Mediterranean, issued instructions to civilians in the south, warning them not to block roads, not to try to cross combat lines, to report on German movements and to maintain discipline.

City's Incinerator Ready In February

Completion date for the construction of Wilmington's proposed \$125,000 incinerator has been set for the last of February, J. A. Loughlin, city engineer, announced yesterday.

Although architectural plans have not been completed for the building, ground survey work has been started and construction is scheduled to begin within the next 30 or 40 days, Loughlin said.

The building, which was approved Monday by the War Production Board, will be constructed at the corner of Moore and Dickinson St. and will cover the lot from Dickinson through to Wood streets, City Manager A. C. Nichols said yesterday.

A preference rating of AA-3 has been granted for the purchase of necessary materials. The incinerator will be a three-story structure with two 112-ton units, either or both of which may be utilized at once.

ELLIOT REPORTS NEW TYPHUS CASE

One more case of typhus has been reported to the Consolidated Board of Health, Dr. A. H. Elliot, city-county health officer, disclosed last night.

This case brings the total number of typhus cases to develop within the past several weeks to nine, and the total for the year to approximately 13.

At the same time, Dr. Elliot said that the infantile paralysis situation in this vicinity has "greatly improved" in the past several days due both to the coming of cooler weather and the cooperation of mothers in limiting the activities of their children.

Two cases of polio now remain under quarantine in New Hanover county.

POLIO VICTIM DIES HICKORY, Aug. 15.—(P)—Henry E. Bengt, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bengt, died at the emergency polio hospital yesterday one hour after arriving. The Bengt child was the eighth patient to succumb at the hospital, where 230 cases have been treated.

Six Lumber Operators Fined \$39,000 For OPA Ceiling Price Violations

ELIZABETH CITY, Aug. 15.—(P)—Six individuals operating and controlling lumber companies in the south were ordered to pay fines totaling \$39,000 by Judge I. M. Meekins in federal court here today when they pleaded nolo contendere to Office of Price Administration charges of criminal violation of price ceilings set for southern pine and hardwood lumber.

Robert Scott Heads Insurance, Safety For ACL Railroad

The formal appointment of Robert Scott as director of safety and insurance of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad, with offices in Wilmington, was announced yesterday by C. McD. Davis, president of the railroad.

Scott was formerly director of safety, and was in charge of insurance. The new appointment places Scott in charge of the entire insurance department, in addition to his duties in the safety department.

ILLNESS FATAL TO W. H. HOWARD

W. H. Howard, Sr., of 316 South Third St., prominent Wilmington citizen who retired from the position of general passenger agent of the Atlantic Coast Railroad company last year, died at Bullock Clinic yesterday afternoon after a lengthy illness.

He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Harry T. Paterson, of this city; one son, W. H. Howard, Jr., U. S. Army now overseas; and two brothers, H. W. Howard of Cartersville, Ga., and A. N. Howard, U. S. Army. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

PRIORITY GROUP TO MEET RALEIGH, Aug. 15.—(P)—The state manpower priorities committee will meet here tomorrow to rule on manpower priorities and employment ceilings recommended by WMC area directors for essential employers of 25 workers or less and other essential employers. Dr. J. S. Dorton, WMC state director, said today.

Six Lumber Operators Fined \$39,000 For OPA Ceiling Price Violations

corporations large quantities of southern pine and hardwood lumber at prices in excess of ceilings." The indictments further charged the defendants with "causing lumber shipments to be misrepresented, upgraded, falsely invoiced and illegal commissions added, resulting in sales being made at wholesale in violation of ceiling prices." Each individual was fined \$6,500. At the same time, Judge Meekins took into consideration a treble damage settlement of a claim made by the OPA at Montgomery, Ala., in the sum of \$6,000 and paid by one of the companies. Total fines and penalties to the defendants totaled \$45,000. Norman C. Shephard, district OPA enforcement attorney,

Thousands Of Allied Troops Hit Mediterranean Coast Of France In Move To Join Normandy Force

TRAPPED ENEMY HAMMERED HARD

Eisenhower's Troops Get Strangle Hold On Foe In Coffin Corridor

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Wednesday, Aug. 16.—(P)—The Germans caught in the Normandy death trap were being hammered mercilessly today in the climatic battle for northwestern France and an American officer declared the enemy forces "have ceased to exist as an army."

Rain, which fell in sheets across the battlefield and sent the swarms of warplanes back to bases, was the only hope of Field Marshal Gen. Guenther Von Kluge trying to extricate his forces through a shell-fraught gap below Falaise now narrowed to nine miles.

As Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's troops in Normandy tightened their grip on the entrapped Nazis a new Allied invasion on the southern coast of France tore another breach in the crumbling walls of Hitler's European fortress.

British and Canadians on the north and Americans on the west and south closed in on the pocket for the kill which will mean the greatest victory for Allied arms in the west in this war.

Even should the bulk of the 50,000 or more Germans believed still in the trap manage to elude the Allied armies, they will be in no condition to stand and fight before Paris, for an officer declared the Seventh army had lost most of its equipment and material.

Americans advancing four miles or more were seizing great stores of ammunition and equipment, and hundreds of prisoners were streaming back through the American lines.

The roof of the German corridor in Normandy's hills and hedgerows was caving in, with Canadians storming to within a mile of pivotal Falaise, nine miles above where the Third American army is pounding north against fierce resistance in an attempt to close the trap.

American forces at the west end of the corridor drove forward two to four miles, while British troops pressing down from the north stormed the German citadel of Vassy, and were threatening Conde-sur-Noireau.

Squeezed on all sides, the Germans were probing the south limits of the trap for a weak spot through which their thousands of confused soldiers might escape.

Some of them braved the hail of shells and bombs sealing off the escape hatch and fled during the night, and unofficial estimates were that 50,000 or more of the 100,000 to 200,000 in the Seventh army still were held in the trap.

But as hundreds of the enemy, hands raised in surrender, trooped into the Allied lines, Gen. Eisenhower declared the Germans were "taking a sound beating."

TOBACCO FIRM TO SOME LOWER

FLORENCE, S. C., Aug. 15.—(P)—Flue-cured tobacco on the North Carolina and South Carolina border belt market was firm to one-cent lower today, the War Food Administration reported. The general average for Monday was the highest of the season, 4.104.124 pounds selling for an average of \$43.82.

New Invasion Front Opened



Allied troops scored a new victory yesterday when they invaded the southern coast of France between Marseille and Nice. Overall picture of the territory involved in the fighting is shown above.

ITALIAN FRONT REPORTED QUIET

ROME, Aug. 15.—(P)—A brisk engagement developed when Fifth army patrols made contact with German patrols three miles south of Pontedera yesterday but in all other sectors the Italian land front was quiet except for artillery duels. Allied headquarters said today.

German shelling of Florence almost ceased and the Allied position there "continues to improve steadily," headquarters added. Although there was some interference from snipers, food, water and medical supplies continued moving into the city in great volume for the civil population.

Allied tanks and mortars engaged the enemy on both sides of the Arno bend west of Signa. Eighth army troops mopping up pockets of resistance in the Empoli area killed at least 25 Germans.

At Florence it was learned that five of Florence's beautiful bridges were blown up without any prior announcement to Florence citizens who had been dealing with the Germans seeking an understanding with the Allies to save the city's historic and artistic treasures. Citizens along the river front were ordered out of their homes about 72 hours before the demolitions took place.

High Florentine sources said Field Marshal Gen. Albert Kesselring ordered the bridges destroyed because he was determined that the Allied pursuit of the Germans north of Rome should not be repeated north of Florence.

Great Aerial Fleets Batter Enemy Forces

LONDON, Aug. 15.—(AP)—Three thousand American and British planes, two-thirds of them bombers, cast 8,000 tons of explosives on a score of enemy air bases and airdromes in Belgium, Holland and Germany today, while another powerful force of Italian-based heavyweights hopped the Mediterranean to southern France and blasted a wide path for the new ground invasion there.

A force of 1,100 RAF Lancasters and Halifaxes and nearly 1,000 U. S. Flying Fortresses and Liberators churned up enemy air strips wrecked buildings, and left flaming wrecks of 180 to 270 Nazi planes caught parked on the fields.

Fighters escorting the American bombers also destroyed a number of planes on the ground, disabled 62 locomotives, and destroyed or damaged 188 railway cars.

Moderate enemy opposition in the air was encountered, the bombers knocking down 13 planes and the fighters bagging 14 for a total of 27.

Sixteen bombers and five fighters failed to return. Last night RAF Mosquitos again struck Berlin, hurling blockbuster on the battered Reich capital. Nois of the Mosquitos, which also laid mines in enemy waters, was lost.

The fresh daylight attacks were aimed at squelching any attempts by the Germans to gather their depleted sky strength for support of their desperate ground forces back-tracking before victorious Allied troops in France.

Patton Leads Third Army In Big French Offensive

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Aug. 15.—(P)—Flery Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., is the tactical genius who drove the rampart Third U. S. army across Brittany, through Le Mans and then northward through Alencon, completing the southern jaw of the trap on the Nazi Seventh army.

The controversial, gravel-voiced Patton, has been leading an army literally "born in battle" Aug. 1. It has been on the offensive since the day it was created and never has let up a minute.

Living down the soldier-slapping incident in Sicily which put him under a cloud last fall, Patton justified the conviction of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower that "Old Blood

and Guts" was one of America's finest field commanders. The supreme commander, revealing today that Patton was on the marching wing of the Third army, said it was "where he belongs."

(In Washington the Senate Tuesday confirmed Patton's promotion to the permanent rank of major general. The Senate military affairs committee had withheld approval of the nomination since last October over the soldier-slapping incident but indorsed it unanimously after disclosure of his new role. Reprimanded by Eisenhower, Patton publicly apologized to his troops.

(Senator Chandler (D-Ky) said committee members agreed Patton was "a great soldier" who had been "sufficiently disciplined.")

Heavy aerial bombardment preceded the invasion in a final installment of the aerial softening-up process that had been in progress for three days.

The air forces announced that

NAZI DEFENDERS QUICKLY ROUTED

Invaders Make Landings On 125-Mile Front In Toulon Area

ROME, Aug. 15.—(P)—Thousands of Allied troops, mainly Americans and French, swarmed onto the south coast of France on a broad front between Marseille and Nice today, seized and extended firm beachheads against inconsequential German opposition, and drove northward with the avowed intention of joining the Allies in northwestern France.

An Allied communique at 10:40 p. m., said American and French troops before dawn took the Sentinelle islands of Port Cros and Levant, 10 miles off the coast, and seized Cap Negre, on the mainland due north of the islands and 28 miles east of Toulon.

Other specific locations were not given, the beaches being placed merely in the 125 mile strip of coast between Marseille and Nice. The Germans said the focal point of the Allied invasion was at St. Raphael, 30 miles northeast up the coast from Cap Negre, and also said there were landings west of Toulon and at Bormes, 25 miles east of that onetime naval base.

American airmen who flew over the beaches late in the day said there was no sign of any concerted enemy opposition and that American vehicles were "running all over the countryside."

The official night statement said, "On the beaches of the mainland, where landings were successful against light opposition, the operation is proceeding satisfactorily," adding that "substantial numbers of Allied troops, together with guns, munitions and supplies, had been landed across the beaches of southern France by dark this evening."

"The beachhead has been extended and widened during the day's operation.

"Enemy opposition remains sporadic, and no enemy air attacks have yet been reported."

Word from the beaches indicated that German prisoners taken in sporadic, light fighting showed almost total demoralization, primarily as a result of the American breakthrough in northwestern France, which they realized meant that the fatherland's downfall was near.

One dispatch from a correspondent in the field said that by afternoon the invaders were well into southern France and going ahead fast against Germans who were caught entirely by surprise. Allied casualties were reported to have been slight.

Thousands of Allied paratroopers and airborne troopers landed well inland at 4:30 a. m., also against scanty opposition, following the important opening blow against the offshore islands. A picked force had neutralized the islands' big guns silently to pave the way for the tactical surprise of the main seaborne landings which followed.

Backed by more than 800 warships of all sorts — the greatest naval force ever assembled in the Mediterranean — the first seaborne troops went ashore in broad daylight at 7:30 a. m. (1:30 a. m. EWT) at several unidentified points between Marseille and Nice—a 125-mile stretch of Rocky coast.

"The army of France is in being again, fighting on its own soil," said a proclamation by Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, the Allied commander in chief. Distributed by plane, his proclamation told the French the primary aim of the new invasion was "to drive out the Germans and join up with the Allied armies advancing from Normandy," to form a solid front across France.

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