

### WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

## First Phase of Invasion Ended As Initial Foothold is Secured; French Hail "Liberation Troops"

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



This first picture made from French soil shows American doughboys, rifles ready, wading through the surf onto the French beachhead. The photographer who made the picture was in the first group to hit the beach. Note the invasion craft in the background. Soundphoto.

### THE INVASION:

#### First Phase Ended

The first phase of the Allied invasion of Europe was completed.

To a tense world, supreme headquarters of the allied expeditionary forces announced this phase as the "securing of a foothold and the defeating of local German reserves."

Against fierce, last-ditch resistance of 10 hastily massed Nazi divisions, totaling nearly 150,000 men, allied forces were plunging inland on a 100-mile front of curving shoreline from the Seine Estuary near Le Havre to the Cherbourg area.

Allied forces are now in the second phase, which is one of defeating the German "tactical reserves," said headquarters. The third phase, which must be won before the Allied position is completely secure, is that of defeating the German "strategic reserves."

(Tactical reserves are those in or near the combat area; strategic reserves are those held in readiness at a distance.)

#### The Air Umbrella

Headquarters announced that 27,000 individual air missions were carried out in the two and one-half days following the dawn of D-day. Great air fleets, probably greater than those of D-day, hammered Nazi strong points, transport and troop concentrations within a 150-mile radius of the beachheads. Nazi fighter opposition was weak. The German high command had not yet thrown its long-held fighter reserves into the battle for Normandy.

The battle was joined around Bayeux, first city of France to be freed from Germans, and Caen. A fierce tank battle raged in several wooded areas near Bayeux, where the Nazis were strengthened by parachute troops.

The navy supported foot troops with a gigantic bombardment of Caen. Nazi forces were attempting to hold the city as a pivot for counterattacks. But on the second day of invasion, the Germans were forced to admit street fighting already was being waged inside Caen.

#### Single Front

It became increasingly obvious that Allied positions were fast being welded together into a single front, stretching from Caen through Bayeux to just outside Carentan and some distance up the Cherbourg peninsula toward Valognes.

It was disclosed that the first forces ashore on D-day might have pushed ahead more rapidly than they did, but General Eisenhower's supreme command decided it was wiser to slow the advance somewhat while awaiting more adequate strength rather than make a risk having the spearheads choked off.

### OBJECTIVE PARIS:

#### By Bastille Day?

Bastille day, French national holiday, falls on July 14 and in the first days of the invasion of western Europe, veterans of the 1940 battle of France forecast that the Allies would be in Paris by that date to help the natives celebrate.

In New York the French language weekly, "France-America" carried a column by Ernest R. Bauer, which indicated that French military veterans familiar with the terrain over which the battles are now being fought predict rapid progress from the beachheads to Paris—120 miles away.

Meanwhile in London Winston Churchill urged the house of commons to guard against "the idea that things are going to be settled in a rush."

### AIR FIELD:

#### Near Philippines

A base within bombing range of the Philippines fell to General MacArthur's forces when the Mokmer airdrome on Biak Island was stormed and captured on the 13th day of the invasion of the Schoutens.

The beachhead on Biak was established late in May. A frontal stab was repulsed, following which American forces got in behind enemy positions and swept to the air field from the rear.

The Mokmer field is within 880 miles of the Philippines to the northwest and is within good fighter range of Palau, Japanese western Caroline naval base guarding the approaches of the Philippines.

The island also has two other airfields desired by the Sixth army invaders. The Americans immediately began a push toward the Borokoe airdrome a few hundred yards to the west.

### INDUSTRY:

#### Must Take Initiative

Warning that industry must find its own work when war contracts are no longer available, Donald Nelson, chairman of the War Production board, told the house postwar committee, that:

"... it won't be the government's job to find work for each company in its present expanded position. It's impossible to find a postwar market for the 8,900 airplanes we now produce monthly."

Stating that he was 100 per cent in favor of government's assistance in postwar planning for industry, he said that he was against government "running" small business. He urged that companies now engaged in war production use their own ingenuity and initiative in planning their postwar programs.

He forecast a postwar "expansionist" period in which private enterprise rather than the government would provide the necessary "spark." Government pump priming would be at a minimum under such conditions.

### Lookout



A German sentry pictured as he scanned the skies over Boulogne, France—looking for trouble that came unexpectedly. Boulogne was one of the cities hit by sea and air bombings, paving the way for landing of Allied forces.

### FOOT SOLDIERS:

#### Pay Increase

In reply to a request by War Secretary Stimson, Chairman May of the house military affairs committee introduced a bill to increase pay of skilled infantry men \$5 to \$10 a month.

Soldiers holding the expert infantry man's badge would get a \$5 increase and those having the combat infantry man's badge, \$10. Cost of the increase would amount to between \$5 and 71 million dollars yearly.

### ITALY:

#### 'Major Break' in Lines

The German high command in Italy was forced to admit a "major break" through their lines north and west of Rome as the Fifth army smashed toward Lake Bracchiano and Civitavecchia, key port of the Tyrrhenian sea.

German resistance was described by the allied command as "only light." It amounted to little more than disorganized activities by delaying infantry units and self-propelled guns.

The Fifth army had taken more than 18,000 prisoners and many more thousands were captured by the British Eighth army, which was meeting heavier resistance northwest of Rome, where the hardest fighting is being encountered.

#### The Vatican

"Whoever may be the military authorities actually having control of the city of Rome," the Vatican has announced its determination to maintain a policy of neutrality. Observers took this to mean that the holy see gave the Germans credit for correct behavior with regard to Rome in its final hours.



### America Through a Train Window:

The train clears its mechanical throat, rolls out of the depot, and the moving picture of passing scenery is framed in Pullman windows. . . . Fragments of smoke cruising over sprawling war plants that dot the outskirts of the city. A peaceful industrial scene where weapons are born that wind up in the hell of war. . . . Neat suburban homes on their best architectural behavior. . . . Church steeples pointing at the sky like hands in prayer. . . . Telephone poles whizzing by in Indian file. Birds perched on their wires—like notes on a musical scale. . . . The countryside knee-deep in Spring. A tapestry of greenery stretching toward the horizon. . . . Long lines of trees planted with Rockette precision—bejeweled with ripening fruits. . . . Attractive lady train conductors. . . . Weary travelers slumped in their seats marooned on an island of their thoughts.

Tree-lined small town streets, each house ornamented with manicured hedges. . . . Ribbons of roads wrapped around the landscape. They used to be covered with traffic, but now you can see miles of nude highways. . . . The eager anticipation in the orbs of servicemen on their way home to enjoy a furlough. . . . The train gobbling up miles of space as it roars through State lines. No passports are needed to cross them. One of the miracles too many Americans take for granted. . . . The haze that floats over the grass at sunrise when Nature is still drowsy with morning. . . . Old, unpainted houses on the wrong side of the tracks making their poverty plain. . . . Miles of undeveloped land blanketed with forests between big cities. Places where Nature has room to stretch.

The train whizzing by small, dusty stations surrounded by loneliness. You go by so fast you can't even read the station's name. . . . Cows grazing in Ohio's pastures—their tails continually swaying like a baton. . . . A feather of a breeze tickling a lake—causing it to dimple with a million ripples. . . . Piercing train whistles punctuating the night with exclamation points of sound. . . . Cross country trucks moving across the roads with the slow dignity of glaciers. . . . The increased tempo of traffic that heralds the approach to a city.

A stretch of flat land broken by the wide open mouth of a valley. . . . The lights of a lonely farmhouse twinkling in the dark night. . . . The train pulling into a station with the dignity of a dowager entering a tea party. . . . The eternal peacefulness of forests filled with a million leafy fingers reaching for the warmth of the sun. . . . Fields of wildflowers curtsying to the balmy winds. . . . Large signs announcing that you're about to enter this-or-that town. A sight as American as a home run.

Tremendous ranches monopolizing giant slices of territory. Some are almost as large as a small European nation. . . . Skeletons of ghost towns slowly being turned into dust by wind and rain, remnants of the wild West. . . . Modern cowboys who now spend more time riding in station wagons than on horses. . . . The brilliance of a Western night—a dark-faced sky flecked with stars. Much poetry and many songs have been written in tribute to its overpowering beauty. But nothing can match the first-hand view of this shimmering phenomenon. . . . The many peaceful sights that make you think the war is very far away. But a plane drilling its way through the sky reminds you nothing is beyond the war's reach. . . . Peaceful Indians now selling souvenirs at railroad stations. . . . Cattle herds in the sunset making a picture postcard to be filed in your memory.

Desert nights filled with romantic mysteries. . . . When you see the gigantic natural obstacles that still exist in the West you are filled with renewed respect and pride for the pioneers who built a civilization on the foundation of blood, sweat and tears. . . . Tiny villages with less population than in a Big Town apartment house. . . . The Deisel engine entering a tunnel with a loud cry, dragging the serpent of cars behind it. . . . The sage brush country, with an occasional motorist providing the only sign of life. . . . Tired tourists chewing the fingernails of their patience, eager to arrive at their destination. . . . Hot god stands planted in the middle of nowhere.

## Entertainers Travel Rough and Perilous Circuit Taking USO-Camp Shows to Remote Fighting Fronts

### One Hundred Troupes Play to Soldiers in Open-Air Theaters

That familiar truism of the trouper—"the show must go on"—has taken on a new and vastly different meaning since the advent of USO-camp shows—those traveling troupes that follow our troops all over the world. True to tradition, the show, of course, does go on—from the back of an army truck mired in the jungles of New Guinea, to the accompaniment of grinding winches on a dock alongside a troop transport, amid the icy glaciers of the Arctic, at base hospitals behind firing lines, in the shadow of smoldering Vesuvius, or on newly won territory in Europe.

No longer, however, does the audience go to the show; the show is taken to the audience—an audience, by the way, that now numbers more than 11,000,000 men and women of our armed forces to whom, by orders of the War department, the show goes on in combat zones in every area where our fighting forces are located.

It's something new for both the show business and the army to include traveling troupes in the army's special services. That is, it was new until Pearl Harbor. Now they're as much a part of the army fare as GI chow, and equally as essential. One is a physical necessity, the other a psychological stimulant.

In the last two and a half years, USO-Camp shows have grown from a mere experiment to a far-flung activity that would stagger the most traveled old trouper to contemplate. Today, USO-Camp shows operate approximately 100 units in combat zones in every sector of the fighting fronts. For obvious reasons of military expedience no estimate of the "house count" at these performances has been made public, but it's a safe guess that the "SRO" sign was out at every one. In the western hemisphere another 100 USO-Camp shows are appearing at army camps and naval bases, with an estimated monthly attendance of 2,000,000 men and women of the armed forces who are kept laughing by professional entertainers of stage, screen and radio.

USO-Camp shows are operated as an activity of USO (United Service Organizations) and are financed by the National War fund, of which USO is a member agency.

#### Stage Stars Volunteer

From headquarters occupying half a dozen floors in a building at 8 West 47th street, New York City, USO-Camp shows plan, prepare and direct the assembling of both talent and programs for the various units. Paid entertainers, recruited from theatres, night clubs and vaudeville booking agencies, constitute the permanent organization of the world-wide circuits. Augmenting the regular staff are stars of Broadway and Hollywood, together with well-known radio personalities, who volunteer their service for a limited period.

In obtaining volunteers from the screen colony, USO-Camp shows has the cooperation of the Hollywood Victory committee which has enlisted many of the foremost stars of motion pictures. Among notables of the cinema who have been members of USO-Camp shows to entertain our boys in combat zones were: Joe E. Brown, William Gargan, Marlene Dietrich, Adolph Menjou, Paulette Goddard, Gary Cooper,



Sgt. Robert Bank's pulse and respiration went up several points when this band of entertainers dropped into this hospital tent in the Aleutians. Players left to right are Naomi Stevens, Mary Lee, Grace and Harry Masters, and George Cerutti.

Una Merkel, George Raft, Phyllis Brooks, Frederic March, Louise Allbritton, Andy Arcari, Jean Clyde, Bob Hope, Keenan Wynn, Al Jolson and John Garfield.

Although the screen luminaries volunteer for a minimum of 12 weeks, some of them trouped the various circuits for as long as 30 weeks, enduring all kinds of inconveniences and hardships, but taking them in stride and actually enjoying the experience. Many of the lesser-known paid entertainers on "sleep-er-jumping" tours of 50,000 and 100,000 miles have been out for as long as 11 months, visiting little outposts in remote regions, isolated camps in Central and East Africa, army transport command stops in the Arabian wilderness, or lonely road camps in the snow-covered mountains of Iran.

The business of obtaining the talent and putting together a show unit is the function of USO-Camp shows, a function usually conducted on specific orders from the army special services division which requisitions entertainment by much the same method as GI supplies are ordered. In typical army terseness, a directive will be issued to camp shows for a certain type of entertainment to be provided by a specified number of performers for a designated area and time. USO-Camp shows follows instructions.

At the designated time and place, the show is turned over to the army, and thereafter it is practically as much a part of the army as the GI Joes. Where the show goes, when it goes, how long it stays and when it "does its stuff" are all prescribed by the army. Transportation, food, sleeping quarters are furnished by the army. Many performers give their service; others are paid nominal salaries.

#### Troupers Endure Heat, Cold.

Although details of the tours are handled by the army with characteristic military precision, putting on the show many times isn't exactly a cinch. In fact, it is often attended by difficulties, hazards or interruptions. Even the army isn't able to provide transportable theatres, stage "props" and equipment. "Tramping the boards," a familiar expression of the trouper, is exactly that with Camp show entertainers, for the show is usually given from a crude, improvised stage of boards thrown up wherever the audience is stationed.

The locale of a show may be in a jungle where the temperature climbs to as high as 130 degrees; it may be at a lonely mountain side outpost, or in the midst of desert wastes. One USO-Camp show unit, landing unexpectedly between



Comedian Joe E. Brown toured the south Pacific area for many months, pushing into remote jungle islands. Here he is shown entertaining soldiers at an open air theater in Australia.

bombings on the Island of Pantelleria, gave a performance in an underground airplane hangar. Another camp show troupe actually gave a show in a submarine.

Returning from an 11-month tour, members of one camp show unit announced that they had become authorities on the sands of the world. They had played in yellow sandstorms in Egypt; in red sandstorms in Tunisia that had dyed their hair, face and clothes a bright red; and in white sandstorms in Iran that made brunettes look like platinum blondes. While up in snow-covered mountains, they suffered sub-zero cold; down in the valleys, they had to wrap themselves in wet sheets in order to sleep in the 145-degree heat.

#### Travel Through Mine Fields.

Another troupe that spent months with fliers at advanced airfields never took a trip to a nearby encampment when they didn't have to pick their way through mine fields. Once they parked their trailer truck two feet from a live land mine. It was the heartbreaking experience of this troupe of getting to know some of the boys who were destined not to return from their missions. Once the troupe went miles in their truck to give an unscheduled show when they learned that a certain squadron's commanding officer had been shot down that day.

Another camp show unit that started a North African show with an audience of 1,500 soldiers, had the disconcerting experience of seeing ten men leave, then ten more, then another ten, until finally they were playing to a mere handful of restless soldiers. Afterward, they learned that a landing by enemy commandoes had been reported and their audience had been called out to track them down.

Camp show performances are often attended by hazards and perils as well as discomforts and inconveniences. One troupe played seven weeks at road camps in the Iran mountains that were maintained to keep open the routes over which supplies and arms were going to Russia. Bandits were in the neighborhood, and the trouper couldn't leave the camps without armed guards.

#### Air Raid Halts Show.

Sometimes sudden enemy action makes it necessary to halt a performance in the middle of its most dramatic or interesting moment. In Italy where the players are frequently close behind the front lines, such interruptions are not infrequent. In one instance when enemy planes roared over during a performance, the audience and the trouper sat in darkness for hours until the alarm passed and the show could continue.

One troupe touring the Iran valley outposts had to travel 140 miles, through mountains, in a caboose. There were 136 tunnels, and every time the train went through a tunnel it was like going into an oven.

At a mountain stop in Iran, the players learned that the boys stationed there hadn't had fresh meat in weeks. They organized a hunting expedition and, armed with army pistols, shot 11 wild boars. Their show was a great hit that night. "We gave them ham, and fed them ham, too," they said.

Thus, day in and day out, the show goes on—making every stop on the "Icicle Circuit" along the Alaskan highway in Alaska; the "Fox-hole Circuit" in the South Pacific; the "Desert Circuit" in Egypt, Africa, Iran, Lybia and Arabia. And as rapidly as our fighters advance, USO-camp shows are ordered up to entertain the battle-weary combat troops and provide an antidote for operational fatigue.