

SACRED SPOT IN NORMANDY



WHEN CANADIAN and British troops marched into Carpiquet, a Normandy village, it was a Sunday morning. There, white and glowing in the afternoon sunshine, they came upon the figure of the Virgin Mary, shown above, in a blasted crypt of the Church of Carpiquet. But for the severed right hand of the Child Jesus, it was untouched and Cpl. G. R. Clarke, of Sarnia, Ont., stands reverentially before it. (International)

Americans Advance Two More Miles Russians Storming Across Vistula

Infantry Is Dashing In On Germans

Last Big Natural Barrier to German Silesia Is Cracked

Moscow, July 27—(AP)—Russian infantry was reported storming across the Vistula river southeast of Warsaw today in thousands of amphibious trucks covered by mass artillery fire, negotiating the last great natural barrier before German Silesia and gravely threatening the whole German central front on the level plains.

The crossing of the 600-foot-wide Vistula was in the Deblin-Pulawy region, 57 to 66 miles southeast of the greatest Polish city (which had a peacetime population of 1,265,700). The surge across the stream posed an outflanking threat to the city. The area of the penetration is 355 airline miles from Berlin on an historic invasion route. It is 140 miles from the border of German Silesia.

There were no indications that the Germans have been able to destroy the permanent bridge at Deblin and Pulawy before falling back across the river. If Red army cavalry units moved fast enough—as they did at the Bug river—it was possible that the bridges were in Russian hands.

It appeared in Moscow that the Red army's sweep to the Vistula, 57 miles southeast of Warsaw, had smashed the Nazis' entire defense of the central front, and that Hitler's troops were unable as yet to form on the stream's western bank a force strong enough to halt a speedy crossing.

Meanwhile, capture of the Estonia city of Narva and neighboring towns on the south shore of the Gulf of Finland split the north Baltic front wide open, and additional successes were gained in the Stanislawow and Kolomyja sectors of the route to Czechoslovakia. In all, the Moscow communique announced the capture of more than 500 towns.

Of seven large cities impervious to Red army advances and by-passing tactics, four seemed likely to fall at any time. They were Dargavits, in the southeastern corner of Latvia; Bialystok, 47 miles southeast of the East Prussian border; Brest Litovsk on the western Bug, now many miles behind the front; and Lwow in southern Poland.

Large Towns Are Occupied By Russians

London, July 27—(AP)—Russian troops surged across the Vistula river southeast of Warsaw today, captured Bialystok, 10 miles northeast of the Polish capital, and were reported by the Moscow radio to have stormed into the streets of Brest Litovsk. Premier Stalin announced the capture of Bialystok in an order of the day.

"Troops of the second White Russian front, after two days of fighting, today captured by storm the town and large industrial center of Bialystok, important railroad junction and powerful fortified area, covering the road to Warsaw."

The announcement from the Moscow radio, recorded by the Soviet monitor, followed by several hours a German broadcast statement that the city of 91,000 had been evacuated.

Both the Russians and the Germans said the Vistula, last natural barrier to German Silesia, 140 miles to the west, had been spanned.

Brest Litovsk is 110 miles east of Warsaw and 80 miles southeast of Bialystok. Both cities were crucial defense points along a line which the Germans had strengthened over several years. Both have been bypassed and besieged for about two weeks.

The fall of both, following the announced Red army crossing of the Vistula river, 57 to 65 miles southeast of Warsaw, would indicate a virtual collapse of the German central front. Warsaw, a guardian city to German soil, was under threat from the south, northeast and east.

Battle Action On The Fast-Moving Russian Front



In one of the rare pictures that have come from the current sweep of Russia's armies, Soviet Tommy-guns are shown advancing on the rim through a street of Pshov against the fire of battered and retreating Nazis. Notice of the smoke of a shellburst (left), the ruins of bombardment, the debris littering the pavement—but notice also that the debris is relatively light and that some buildings stand almost intact. These details indicate the speed with which Pshov, last important enemy-held city on Russian soil, was snatched from the German invaders. Soviet Radiophoto. (International)

Nazi Flank In Normandy Is Menaced

British-Canadian Front Pushed Back Slightly by Nazis

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, July 27—(AP)—A powerful American armored offensive crashed more than two miles deep today through German lines at the center of the battle flamed 40-mile United States front in France, seized Caen below St. Lo, and drove beyond.

This deepening crash through the middle—picking up more than seven miles in two days and supported by fighter planes which alone wrecked or damaged seventy Nazi tanks yesterday, threatened to turn the enemy's whole western flank between Periers and Belsay.

Twin tank drivers speared ahead. One captured Camisy, two miles below St. Gilles, on the St. Lo-Contances road. Another, to the west, pushed a mile south of Marigny, just above that strategic lateral highway.

But on the British-Canadian flank in Normandy, the Germans hit with tanks, artillery and mortar fire. They recaptured Esquay, seven miles southeast of Caen and hills 112 and 113, headquarters and field reports said. Due south of Caen, the British second army held on to Verriers, smashing enemy counter attacks.

General Bradley's American first army battle front had broadened to forty miles. Doughboys won a town northeast of Perriers, and lashed out to Chaumont, 13 miles east of St. Lo; in all, at least fifteen villages and towns have been taken in 48 hours.

Front dispatches said tanks, bearing sharp-shooting infantrymen, snipers who cut down German rocket gunners, had advanced beyond Camisy, four miles southwest of St. Lo.

The other United States tank spearhead at Marigny was battling only eight miles from the Germans' supply road running north from Contances to the battlefield at Periers. The Allied spearhead which thrust into Camisy, two miles south of St. Gilles, threatened to cut off the Germans who have been holding out in the Vierre river bend, west of St. Lo, since the Americans penetrated the city ten days ago.

Gen. McNair Is Killed On French Front

Washington, July 27—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair, 61, until recently commanding general of the Army ground forces, has been killed in enemy action in Normandy.

Once called the "brains of the Army" by General George C. Marshall, McNair is the highest ranking American officer killed in action in the present war.

A War Department announcement here said:

"The War Department has been notified of the death of Lt. Gen.

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Tobacco Men Claim They've Just Begun Fight Over Prices

Governor To Washington In Protest

Broughton, Darden Asked to Assist; N. C. Is Doubtful

Washington, July 27—(AP)—Southern tobacco men stayed on the offensive today in their fight for higher prices denied them by the Office of Economic Stabilization.

Although Director Fred M. Vinson announced that rejection of demands for increased ceilings was final, spokesmen for flour-cured crop growers and warehousemen refused flatly to back down and called for help from at least two governors.

Vinson upheld late yesterday the recently announced ceiling of 39 cents a pound for loose, ungraded, tobacco, and 43½ cents for graded and tied leaf.

Saying they would take nothing less than a two-cents increase, tobacco men from Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida reiterated that the decision was only the beginning of the fight, undertaken, they said, because the ceiling provided scant profit margins.

The tobacco men, led by H. L. Wingate, of the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation, said the first new step would be an appeal to Governor Broughton of North Carolina and Governor Darden of Virginia for support of a "market holiday."

They wanted to know how far the governors would go in backing up their determination to keep flour-cured markets closed indefinitely. Georgia and Florida markets were scheduled to open last Monday, but a five-day holiday was ordered.

Governor Broughton said in Raleigh last night that he doubted North Carolina growers would favor indefinite postponement of the auction season.

Tobacco awaiting sale in the Georgia and Florida auctions might be damaged by continued suspension, government officials said, but they were reported as not concerned over delayed openings of later markets.

Wingate said he new attack will be well under way by next Monday, with the tobacco men seeking the support of senators as well as governors from the flour-cured belt and burley tobacco interests.

He suggested that burley growers should be interested because of a statement by E. G. Ragland, of the OPA tobacco section, that burley prices might be reduced from 45.5 to 41 cents.

DROUGHT IN MIDWEST BROKEN BY SHOWERS

Washington, July 27—(AP)—The weather bureau reported today that rain in the past 24 hours had gone a long way toward breaking a serious drought in the Ohio and middle Mississippi valleys.

Drought conditions, persisted, however, in eastern coastal sections from New England southward to Maryland.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Partly cloudy and continued hot today and Friday, with scattered thunder showers Friday.

New Fury in Italian Battle

Casualties Are 311,000 In This War

Washington, July 27—(AP)—Fierce fighting in two hemispheres has pushed the battle casualties of the United States past the 311,000 mark, with more than 63,000 dead. The cost in men in this war now far exceeds the 278,878 total for World War I.

The overall total is a compilation of official army and navy files, plus later figures which have been announced from the fighting in Normandy, Sicily and Guam, and air forces losses.

Here is how the casualty list now stands:

Army, reported through July 6, and covering casualties up to about three weeks earlier: 207,233, of which 32,237 are killed; 89,949 wounded; 40,736 prisoners; and 39,311 missing.

Navy, reported up to today, and presumably not much later than three weeks ago: 50,496, of which 21,433 are killed; 14,939 wounded; 9,655 missing; and 4,469 prisoners.

American casualties in Normandy in the period June 6 through 20634-162, of which 2,082 are killed; 13,121 wounded; and 7,939 missing.

(This, of course, does not include the recent heavy days of fighting in the St. Lo offensive.)

Sicilian casualties, including both Navy and Army, total 15,023. Of these Army infantry casualties total 3,498, of which 991 are killed; 2,435 wounded and 112 missing, leaving the heavy majority of the casualties among Marines, whose losses were not classified. (Two Marines and one Army division landed in the initial action at Sicily.)

Guam casualties to date total 3,013 for both services, with 443 killed.

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Round Trip Return



THIS NAZI PRISONER was a butcher in Brooklyn, N. Y., for ten years before he returned to Germany to fight for the Nazis. He was captured by American forces in Normandy and is shown aboard a Coast Guard transport which is headed back to the U. S. with war prisoners. Coast Guard photo. (International)

Luftwaffe Is Hard Hit In South Europe

Rome, July 27—(AP)—The Mediterranean Allied air force gave the German air force one of its heaviest jolts yesterday, knocking 78 enemy planes out of the air over southern Europe, and boosting the total score in the past three days to 193, a new Mediterranean record.

Simultaneously, it was announced that Lightning and Mustang fighters of the 15th U. S. Air Force have returned to their Italian bases after a shuttle operation to Russia, in which they shot down 64 enemy planes over Romania and Poland and destroyed many more on the ground. Twenty of yesterday's victims were claimed by the Lightnings and Mustang formations returning from the three-day shuttle.

Most of the other victories came in air battles when Fortresses and Liberators bombed an aircraft engine factory and two airfields, all within 35 miles of Vienna, an airfield in Hungary and an oil refinery in Albania.

In addition to the 78 enemy planes shot down, 20 were destroyed or damaged on the ground yesterday when Thunderbolts raided the Valence airfield in southern France.

ODDS ON ROOSEVELT ARE EIGHT TO FIVE

Chicago, July 27—President Roosevelt is an eight-to-five favorite to defeat Gov. Thomas E. Dewey next November, Frank Stone, loop betting commission, reported today. Stone said \$160,000 in "Roosevelt money" already had been placed with him.

Fierce Thrusts By Germans Smashed; Prize is Florence

Rome, July 27—(AP)—The battle for Florence, the last big Italian city in German hands south of the Gothic line, flared to a new fury today, with the eighth army smashing fierce German counter attacks eight miles from the heart of the historic city.

At the same time, indications grew that the ancient city of Pisa would become a major battleground. The Germans were observed erecting barricades in the main street north of the Arno river. It was officially reported the enemy was using the famous Leaning Tower as well as church steeples for observation posts.

The roar of heavy artillery resounded along the Fifth army front on the lower Arno from San Romano to the sea. American long range guns destroyed a big enemy railway column, several tanks and self-propelled guns, and a number of enemy dumps during the day-long shelling. The Germans continued to fight bitterly in the horse-shoe bend east of Pisa, their only stronghold on the south side of the Arno Fifth army front.

The last pocket of Nazi resistance along the railway embankment near San Romano was wiped out and the Americans also cleaned up a few groups of Germans who had been fighting from house to house in the same area.

WAGE ACT VIOLATORS PENALIZED IN TAXES

Atlanta, July 27—(AP)—A total of \$25,530 in wage and salary adjustment which the government charged were paid in violation of the wage stabilization act by 19 southeastern firms were recommended to be assessed as operating expense in computing income taxes by the fourth regional war labor board today.

The action, similar to that taken in previous cases, was announced after the firms had agreed to stipulations involved in violations and waived formal hearing. Chairman M. T. Van Hecke said.

Bombers Hit Targets In Belgium and in Hungary

London, July 27—(AP)—American Liberators attacked Belgian military targets in the Brussels and Ghent areas today, and Berlin said other United States bomber formations from Italy made a "terror attack" on the Hungarian capital of Budapest amid great air battles.

Lowered clouds and squalls limited tactical aerial operations in Normandy. During the night British heavies bombed the rail center of Givors-Baden, 12 miles south of Lyon in southeast France. Mosquitoes kept Hamburg awake, bombed

other German targets for the fourth night running and harassed troop movements in Normandy.

Up to 250 Liberators, with an equal escort of fighters, struck in Belgium, near the same general area where Thunderbolts late yesterday hurled high explosives and incendiaries on dozens of rail targets. Brussels and Ghent both are rail bottlenecks leading from Germany to Normandy. A single bomber and one fighter were lost to flak today. No fighters rose to challenge.