

SOUTH FRANCE INVAAED

Germans Squirm In Normandy Trap Resistance By Germans Scant

IN FOUR POWER POST WAR PARLEY



ARRIVING for the Four Power postwar security conference, Sir Alexander Cadogan (center) chairman of the British Delegation is shown at the Washington Airport with Undersecretary Edward R. Stettinius (left) and Joseph C. Grew, former Ambassador to Japan. (International)

Four Armies Squeezing Nazi Forces

Allied Strategy Is to Drive Force From All France

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, Aug. 15.—(AP)—Allied armies clamped a joint nut-cracker upon France today, hitting with a massive invasion in the south even as the dying German seventh army struggled in a tightening Normandy trap 150 miles to the north.

Four separate American, British and Canadian armies, spearheading upon Field Marshal Von Kluge's forces of perhaps 100,000 to 200,000 men, pinched his escape gap below Falaise to only ten miles, and sealed that off with a wall of bombs and shells.

The powerful new Mediterranean invasion, opening a fourth major front, is designed to chase the Germans from France, and link with General Eisenhower's warriors in Normandy and Britains. Americans who spanned the Loire river below Brittany already are only 400 miles from the latest Allied liberators.

Von Kluge waited in a coffin pocket already narrowed to half its earlier size, and apparently was pushing up a forced last stand. Little movement was observed overnight in the escape hatch.

(Berlin broadcast said "a violent battle unprecedented in living memory is being fought" for this narrow gap.)

Bitting off this final avenue of flight were the American first army commanded by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., and the Canadian first army pounding down from north of Falaise, and now within two and one-half miles of that communication center. Patton was a scant eight miles below Falaise.

The American first army pressed in from the west aided by the British second between it and the Canadians.

Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley is commanding the United States fourth army group, the greatest American force ever massed in battle, it was disclosed. This includes Patton's third army and the first army now headed by Lt. Gen. Courtney W. Hodges. Bradley had led it before becoming army group commander.



MEDITERRANEAN INVASION

The Allied Mediterranean invasion of southern France, which began today, was launched in the area between Marseille and Nice, and includes Toulon, where the French fleet was scuttled at the time of the Allied invasion of North Africa nearly two years ago. First reports were that all objectives had been achieved, and comparatively little enemy opposition was encountered. Allied airborne troops were sent over before dawn, with beach landings beginning at 8 a. m.

Last Major Island Before Philippines Is Now Neutralized

General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific, Aug. 15.—(AP)—Allied bombers, striking swiftly and with devastating accuracy, have "practically neutralized" Halmahera, the last major island block to the Philippines.

They accomplished the task in the record time of slightly more than two weeks, and with the record economy of only three major attacks upon airbases. Halmahera, 200 miles west of New Guinea, is about 300 miles south of Mindanao.

"Our air attacks upon Halmahera were continued, causing great fires and explosions," General MacArthur announced today.

"The enemy's air field at Halmahera and at intermediate bases are practically neutralized, his maritime forces largely interdicted and his ground troops immobilized in their present positions.

"The flexibility of this great base is now gone."

MacArthur's announcement today added this warning of deeper portages to come: "Should the enemy fail to retrieve his weakness on Halmahera, the main line of defense for his conquered empire in the southwest Pacific, extending through Halmahera and the Philippines, is threatened."

Earlier the general had said "should this line go, all of his conquests south of China will be imperiled and in grave danger of being enveloped."

New Russian Bridgehead Opens Route To Prussia

Moscow, Aug. 15.—(AP)—Under the protective wings of Soviet fighter squadrons, General Zakharov's second White Russian army has won a bridgehead across the Biebrza river and thrust an infantry-armed spearhead within a dozen miles of the East Prussia frontier on the southeast, field dispatches said today.

A German fortified zone three to six miles in depth lay littered with fire-blackened Nazi tanks and wrecked field guns behind Zakharov's vanguard.

Flat, boggy country, interceded by numerous creeks, now separates the Red Army from Lyck, East Prussian communications center, but the Biebrza was the last major lateral obstacle.

The crossing of the Biebrza came while Moscow's victory guns, sounding for the first time in nearly a week, were marking the fall of the fortress city and Ostrowiec, near the stream in northern Poland.

Zakharov's new menace to the Nazi province appeared likely to ease the pressure on General Cherniakhov's third White Russian army, which had been stalled a fortnight by desperate German resistance near the East Prussia-Lithuania border farther south.

All Allied Objectives Reached In Hour; Americans in Majority

Rome, Aug. 15.—(AP)—All the landings in southern France were successful, it was announced today.

A special communique at 1:30 p. m. (10:30 a. m. EWT) said, "by mid-morning all landings were proceeding successfully according to schedule against only light ground opposition, and no air opposition. The supporting airborne invasion was also successfully executed."

Rome, Aug. 15.—(AP)—The Allies have been missing men and materials for months on Corsica, about 130 miles southeast of the coast of France at Nice, across the Ligurian Sea, and only yesterday the Berlin radio reported large Allied convoys had been observed passing Gibraltar into the Mediterranean.

Rome, Aug. 15.—(AP)—A great Allied army swarmed over the beaches of southern France today between Marseille and Nice after thousands of airborne troops had dropped behind German coastal fortifications.

Field dispatches said American, British and French assault forces reached their first objectives within an hour.

Flying at 1,000 feet over the beaches, Associated Press War Correspondent Kenneth Dixon said that an hour after the landings began at 8 a. m. (2 a. m. EWT), "as far as twenty miles inland, a complete lack of any kind of a struggle marks the landscape."

The landings were made in calm, clear weather and went off exactly on schedule, it was announced officially.

All early reports indicated that resistance at the initial stages of the operations was much less than anticipated.

Pilots, from whose planes paratroopers jumped a little before dawn, said they encountered little or no ack-ack fire.

The greatest enemy force ever to strike a blow in the Mediterranean—more than 200 ships, including battleships—joined the troops and backed them up with an intense covering fire.

(Although there was no mention of specific units involved in the invasion, Donald Coe, blue network correspondent, messaged that he could disclose that "the major part of the landing forces was composed of American troops.")

The landings were made at several points along a broad section of the coast at places widely separated from each other.

The coast line from Marseille to Nice had bristled with big guns installed by the Germans to beat off just such an attack as came this morning, but these had been terrifically attacked by Allied air forces in an intensive four-day offensive in which thousands of tons of bombs were dropped.

The swarms of landing craft did not begin disgorging their fighters and armor until after daylight, but parachute troops were streaming into southern France before dawn.

The assault, which was in strong force, was led by specially trained Allied troops, many of them veterans of previous invasions and contained in the Mediterranean theatre," Allied headquarters announced.

Announcement of the invasion was accompanied by an appeal from General Sir Henry Maitland-Wilson, Allied Mediterranean commander, to the French people to "play their part" in the new battle of France.

Wilson declared the objective of the troops now ashore in the south was "to drive out the Germans and join up with the Allied armies advancing from Normandy."

South France Is Plastered For Invasion

London, Aug. 15.—(AP)—Allied war planes from the Mediterranean carpeted the coast of southern France with bombs today to pace the new invasion, while nearly 1,000 British-American heavy bombers scoured at the enemy air bases in Germany and Belgium.

Fortresses and Liberators, striking from the west were escorted by up to 1,000 fighters. They slashed at three operational airbases for the German air force and at even land operational stations which have clusters of workshops and various installations for maintenance and repairs.

The first announcement said the bombers landed bombs on the targets with good to excellent results.

Allied war planes were attacking the south of France for the fifth consecutive day, laying a path of blazing steel and explosives between the American, French and British forces swarming onto the Mediterranean beaches.

Flying Frenchmen Bomb the Soil of Their Own Nation

With Allied Air Forces Attacking Southern France, Aug. 15.—(AP)—Flying Frenchmen of the famous Lafayette Escadrille and other squadrons, unleashed their Thunderbolts over their native land today, supporting the Allied sea and airborne invasion which struck France's southern shore.

Each pilot of the P-47's with To, Colors painted on the tails, carried a leaf from a tree in France next to his heart as he flew. The French major who commands a fighter-bomber group supplied the leaves.

He flew a plane over France recently and swept so low that he struck a tree, but the powerful Thunderbolt carried through and brought him back with a big bunch of leaves decorating his plane. He divided them among his fellow pilots.

Churchill Was In Italy To Help In Invasion Efforts

Rome, Aug. 15.—(AP)—The invasion of southern France permitted the disclosure today that the main purpose of Prime Minister Churchill's visit to Italy was to be here for the final preparations of the operation.

Churchill spent the past week conferring with military leaders and seeing troops of this theatre off on their newest venture.

He also has given some attention to Balkan matters, conferring with Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia and others.

States Asked To Widen Unemployment Benefits

House Committee Says It Is Urgent For Reconversion

Washington, Aug. 15.—(AP)—Immediate action by State governments to enlarge the scope of their unemployment compensation systems to both the duration and level of benefits, was recommended today by the House postwar committee.

"Anything that is necessary in order to meet the reconversion problem that will come with the collapse of Nazi Germany," the committee submitted legislation to create an office of war mobilization and reconversion.

Without mentioning the current congressional controversy over Federal unemployment compensation systems, the committee said that "adequate protection for the worker, there should be increases in the duration of benefits in the weekly amounts in most states."

It added that the Federal Social Security Board had estimated that benefits are adequate in most states to provide increased benefits during the reconversion period.

The recommendations were filed in the House before two days of debate on another postwar measure dealing with disposal of billions of dollars in war-accumulated surplus.

Leaf Prices Are About Unchanged For Border Belt

Henderson, S. C., Aug. 15.—(AP)—Prices average, remained unchanged yesterday as the Carolina Border Belt tobacco market began the second week of auction sales, but lugs were unchanged to two cents higher, and best thin nondescript advanced three cents, the War Food Administration reported.

A slight decrease in the volume of lugs was offset by a corresponding increase in cutters. Most grades were unchanged but good lemon lugs were up one cent at 45 cents; fair lemon lugs up one at 41; low orange lugs up two cents at 43. Best thin nondescript averaged 33 cents, up there.

New Invasion Was Most Poorly Kept Secret About Far

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, Aug. 15.—(AP)—The invasion of southern France was perhaps the worst kept secret of the war.

Thousands of Frenchmen and Americans knew it was coming. Correspondents in Normandy and Brittany were constantly asked about it, both by Frenchmen and GIs.

The question was among the first asked by Frenchmen in towns which had been captured. The French underground probably was told of the impending invasion and they told every one else.

To Get Promotion



Lt. Gen. G. H. Patton, Jr.

Promotion Of Gen. Patton Is Approved

Washington, Aug. 15.—(AP)—The Senate Military Committee voted unanimously today to recommend Senate confirmation of promotion of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., to the permanent rank of major general.

The committee, which had held up the nomination since last October, because of a shell-shraping incident during the Sicilian campaign, acted after Patton's leadership of the American third army in Normandy and Brittany was announced by General Eisenhower at a command post in Normandy.

Senator Chandler, Kentucky Democrat, chairman of a subcommittee on the nomination, told reporters he would seek unanimous consent to have the nomination confirmed during the day, an unusual procedure.

"The committee was of the opinion that General Patton had been distinguished sufficiently," Chandler said. "There was unanimous agreement that he is a great soldier."

Lt. Gen. Devers Is Now in Charge Of French Invasion

London, Aug. 15.—(AP)—Reports were published in London that Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, U. S. Army, was commanding the forces which landed today in the south of France. General Eisenhower's supreme headquarters declined comment.

Devers is an expert in tank warfare and is deputy to the Mediterranean theatre command, General Sir Henry Maitland-Wilson.

Allies Reach Accord With French Group

Washington, Aug. 15.—(AP)—Virtual conclusion of British and American agreements with the French National Committee on civil administration for France, today filled up one gap in Allied diplomacy, with two ranking situations still on the books.

The French pact is to be signed in France this week, in time to take effect when Allied troops enter Paris.

Prime Minister Churchill, meanwhile, is giving his personal attention to difficulties of the new Yugoslav government, conferring with the premier and partisan leader Marshal Tito in Italy.

In London, Polish Premier Mikolajczyk reported on his inconclusive Moscow talks with Stalin and representatives of the pro-Soviet-Polish Nationalist Committee.

Both American and French officials expressed their satisfaction with the agreement negotiated in the War Department here, which General Dwight Eisenhower and French General Pierre Koenig are scheduled to sign. Eisenhower retains strategic authority over military areas, and control behind the active zone goes to the French committee. Definition of which areas can be left to French administration is up to Eisenhower.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Partly cloudy and warm to night, with scattered thunder-showers, mostly in afternoon or evening. Partly cloudy and moderately hot Wednesday.

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, Aug. 15.—(AP)—The invasion of southern France was perhaps the worst kept secret of the war.

Thousands of Frenchmen and Americans knew it was coming. Correspondents in Normandy and Brittany were constantly asked about it, both by Frenchmen and GIs.