

EVENING BULLETIN

M T. WASHINGTON NEWS BULLETIN

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== (Compiled by Overseas Branch, Office of War Information) ==

NORMANDY -- Front-line dispatches say some of the heaviest fighting since D-day raged Wednesday in Normandy. U.S. forces smashed a heavy tank counterattack in the center of the line near St. Lo, and advanced to within one and one half miles (two kilos) of that city. In the Caen sector, where German resistance was especially stiff, part of the area between the Odon and Orne Rivers became a no-man's land. British and Canadian troops lost the village of Louvigni in heavy fighting. To the west, Americans captured Angoville Sur Ay and La Bourdonnerie, about three miles (5 kilos) south of La Haye, and advanced to within about 2 miles (3 kilos) of Lessay. A Supreme Allied Headquarters spokesman said German armor is still strong, especially in the Evrecy-Caen area, but is being worn down.

COLOMBIA -- A dispatch from Colombia says President Alfonso Lopez has resumed power there and that leaders of the rebellious army clique which kidnapped him -- Colonel Diogenes Gil and Major Paz Figueroa -- were seized at a frontier town trying to flee to Ecuador. They personally surrendered to Lopez, who was unharmed. Normalcy has been restored throughout the nation.

SECRETARY OF STATE CORDELL HULL -- At a press conference Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull called suppression of the revolt "gratifying", and praised the Government and people of Colombia, as "staunch allies in this great struggle for freedom."

BURMA -- Allied troops in the Mogaung Valley of northern Burma have broken the last enemy resistance on the road between the former Japanese bases of Kamaing and Mogaung. An Allied spokesman said Wednesday that by freeing the road, Allied troops have extended the cleared section of the route of the Ledo road to about 300 miles (480 kilos). On this route about 250 miles (400 kilos) of road already have been built. Present end of the road is north of Kamaing, which, in turn, is about twenty-five miles (forty kilos) northwest of Mogaung.

LONDON -- British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden announced in Commons Wednesday that Britain and Germany, with Switzerland as intermediary, have agreed to the exchange of a majority of imprisoned civilian nationals. Excluded are merchant seamen, persons not wishing to be repatriated, those whose repatriation may be considered dangerous to the detaining power, and those imprisoned for breaches of common law.

Eden also said the U.S. decision to accept the French Committee of National Liberation as the Interim Civil Administration of liberated France coincides with British views. He said: "Formal agreements between the French National Committee and the British and United States Governments will be signed and published shortly."

U.S. SECRETARY OF WAR HENRY L. STIMSON has arrived from Italy and will visit military installations and hospitals.

AIR WAR -- A London dispatch says more than 1200 U.S. heavy bombers Wednesday attacked communications and other targets in the Munich area of Southwest Germany. It was the second attack in two days on that area.

A Rome dispatch says Italy-based U.S. heavy bombers attacked rail targets in France Wednesday for the second straight day. Wednesday's attacks were directed at targets in Southern France. Allied Headquarters in London announced that in six months

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United States Strategic Air Forces, flying from Britain, Italy and Russia, have hit fifty-one oil refineries, thirteen synthetic oil plants, and eighty-nine aircraft factories in Germany and occupied Europe. Since January 7, 655 German planes have been destroyed as against United States losses of 3,425. In the same period, United States Strategic Air Forces alone have dropped 266,277 tons of bombs.

RUSSIA -- Marshal Stalin said in an Order of the Day Wednesday that the Red Army has launched a new offensive on the second Baltic Front, east of Latvia, which has advanced thirty-five kilometers in two days; breached the German lines along a 150 kilometer front; captured the fortress of Idritsa, which protects the eastern approaches to Riga; and liberated more than 1,000 other localities.

Idritsa, a junction of the Moscow-Riga double track railway with the Leningrad-Pskov-Polotsk line, is 300 kilometers east of Riga.

Wednesday's Soviet communique said the Red Army is still fighting in Dvinsk; has cleared the enemy from two lakes above Lake Ladoga; and advanced closer to Pinsk, in the Pripet marshes.

PACIFIC -- United States Secretary of Navy James V. Forrestal said Wednesday in Washington that United States casualties in the conquest of Saipan were 2,359 killed, 11,481 wounded, and 1,213 missing -- a total of 15,053. He said Americans had buried 11,948 enemy dead, and estimated that "probably ninety-five percent" of the Japanese garrison, which probably numbered "in excess of 20,000" had been killed.

A United States Pacific Fleet announcement said more than 1,000 Japanese troops -- a new high for a single operation in the Pacific -- were captured on Saipan.

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BULLETIN -- NORMANDY: Wednesday night's Allied communique says steady Allied pressure in all areas continues to force back the Germans in Normandy. Allied gains are small but widespread, and the enemy suffered considerable losses in counter-attacks, including forty tanks knocked out Tuesday.

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