

Report Landings On Channel Isles

LONDON—(AP)—Allied troops have landed on the Channel Islands of Guernsey and Jersey, the German agency Transocean said.

Allied tanks have landed in the Aromanches area, midway between Cherbourg and La Havre, the agency added, but it said the greatest concentrations of landing craft were observed off Cherbourg and La Havre.

"The enemy, who had thrown its main parachute troops in the small hours of the morning, is now incessantly employing assault boats off Cotentin," Transocean continued.

"Several advanced islands off the coast around the particular interest of the invaders and they were the first points where they established a foothold."

"Many thousands of North Carolinians in the armed services are involved. Numerous communications received by us today indicate that the people throughout the State, in churches and other public assemblies, are engaged in prayer for the success of the Allied effort and safety of our men in every activity on the home front there should be the highest spirit of dedication and unity."

German counter-thrusts by all kinds of units are in progress, the Transocean report declared.

"On many points of the Channel, numerous balloons are floating at great altitude continuously, probably they constitute artillery observation posts."

Thousands of persons gathered at churches for prayer.

Gaston Cuts Tax Rate

GASTONIA.—Gaston County's board of commissioners, in its regular first Monday in June session yesterday, slashed the county tax rate five cents, lowering it from 80c, the level at which it had been for several years to 75c on the \$100 worth of property.

County officials explained the fact that Gaston County, which struggled through high peaks of bonded indebtedness for a long number of depression and post-depression years, has now reached the point where its bonded indebtedness is comparatively light, thus making possible the reduction in the tax rate.

Announcement of the five-cent reduction was hedged by officials who further explained that the new 75c rate is only tentative and cannot be fixed as a definite rate until after adoption of the 1944-45 county budget in July. But observers expect the tentative 75c rate will become definite.

County tax collectors announced they will immediately begin acceptance of payment of taxes at the tentative rate—75c, the preliminary entailing tax-payers the customary two per cent discount.

Atlanta Industrialist, Coca Cola Man, Dies

ATLANTA—(AP)—Ernest Woodruff, 81, Atlanta industrialist and philanthropist who helped develop the Coca-Cola Co., died today in Emory University Hospital. He had been ill several months.

Woodruff and a group of associates bought the Coca-Cola Co. from the founder, the late A. S. Candler in 1919 for \$25,000,000. Until his retirement several years ago, Woodruff was a director and member of the company's executive committee.

His son Robert W. Woodruff of Wilmington, Del., has been chairman of the company's executive committee for several years.

Invasion News Is Given World In 26 Words

By DON WHITEHEAD
A dramatic ten-second interval preceded the official announcement today that the invasion had begun.

Over a trans-Atlantic radiotelephone network, Allied Expeditionary Force, to all major press headquarters in the United States came the voice of Col. R. Ernest Dupuy, Gen. Eisenhower's spokesman.

This is Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, Puy said. "The text of Communication No. 1, will be released to the press and radio of the United Nations in ten seconds."

"Then the seconds were counted off—one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten."

"This is the command of Gen. Eisenhower," slowly read Col. Dupuy. "Allied naval forces supported the invasion from the sea. The Allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France."

"The official word was told the world which it had been awaiting for months. The message, broadcast in Britain at exactly 7:32 A. M., Greenwich Meridian Time (3:32 A. M. Eastern Standard Time), lasted the 26-word message twice.

The American news services and broadcast news agencies reported that an important announcement had been made. Further comment on the broadness of Allied landings indicated what the announcement would be.

U. S. Morale Runs High

By DON WHITEHEAD
ABOARD AN INVASION SHIP—(Delayed)—The morale of American troops is running high as they await the first preparations to move through the Channel to storm Hitler's Fortress Europe.

"They feel this is the road back home, home which most of them have not seen for many months. They feel that they are here in battle before, but their ranks are touched by a hand of veterans who have been in the battlefields of the Mediterranean."

The quality, the variety and the amount of equipment are almost beyond belief. Never has the United States sent so many into battle so well equipped. Capt. Victor Briggs of New York City, summed up the situation in a few words: "I've been better right now than we were in Sicily. We're really getting the stuff. It takes months to knock out one of our companies now than it would have taken to knock out a battalion in Sicily."

For weeks the Allies have been assembling the invasion fleet in every port in England. We boarded our ship at midnight today after all the troops were loaded. They lounged on bunks in holds reading, sleeping or playing. Some played cards, others rolled dice.

In the bottom hold the Army had set up a miniature specimen rubber model of the beach and countryside which our troops are to attack. Made from hundreds of aerial photographs, the model shows in detail each hedgerow, tree, house, barn, church and home.

Sprawled around it were soldiers studying its features. With them were Lt. Bennett Atkinson of Chester, S. C., and Lt. Marion Skinner, Paducah, Ky.

Four British Chute Divisions Make Landing

LONDON—(AP)—The German radio reported today that four British parachute divisions had landed between Le Havre and Cherbourg in France.

This was four times the size of the Nazi parachute force dropped on Crete in the Mediterranean.

Montgomery Weighs Foe

By DON WHITEHEAD
A T. G. MONTGOMERY'S HEADQUARTERS—British Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, who whipped Marshal Rommel in the African sands, predicted on May 15—22 days before the invasion—that he would not commit himself on the beaches.

Montgomery said he foresaw bitter fighting on the beaches because he had come to know Rommel as an impulsive commander who preferred to reach a quick decision rather than engage in long slugging matches.

He described his old foe as a "disrupter" and a "disorganizer" who had favored a few minutes of "disruption" and "disorganization" before he would attack.

"He will try to knock us back into the sea. He is a disrupter and to disrupt the invasion he will try to hit us early."

"It is terrifically important to know human nature," he added. "The commander who heads the ground invasion forces made the statements in a talk with a group of correspondents assigned to his command."

Wearing his familiar battle dress, he spoke in sharp, clipped sentences and declared "I have absolute confidence" in the outcome. In praising the leadership of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, he read the British and American forces close together for the invasion he declared, "We are the only peoples in the world who could have done it," teamed up for this great "show."

He gave warning, however, that the battle will be hard. "Put a German on some ground and let him stay there long enough and it takes a bit of doing to get him off. It takes a bit of doing to get him off."

Cub-Parent Body To Meet Tonight

The program committee for the Cub-Parent picnic, set for July 8, will meet tonight at 8 o'clock in the Boy Scout Headquarters to outline plans for the big event.

Meeting will be E. A. Little, chairman, H. B. Gardner, and W. T. James. Also present will be J. J. Faulk, chairman of the Cubbing Committee, and Mr. Fitzgerald.

German Report Cruiser Sunk

By Associated Press
The Berlin radio broadcast a DNB dispatch today saying that one Allied cruiser and a large merchant vessel carrying troops had been sunk in the area of St. Vaast La Houbaire, Belgian miles southeast of Cherbourg.

After inspecting parachute troops before they went into the fray, the director of Hitler's greatest amphibious strike stood on the roof of a house watching the huge air armadas roar across the Channel.

Reporter Watches Battle Royal Rage On Sea And In The Air

By GLADWIN HILL
Associated Press Correspondent
Representing the Combined American Press

A MARAUDER BASE IN ENGLAND—From the cockpit of a bomber I watched a battle royal rage on the sea and in the air. The fields along the French Channel coast were dotted with hundreds of Allied airborne forces who had landed a few minutes before, and interspersed among the parachutes were aircraft—probably bombers.

The first signs of battle were flashed from the channel below, which through the mist and a Naval smoke screen gradually became distinguishable as gun detonations on warships shelling the coast.

The channel wasn't jammed with shipping as might have been expected. The channel is a big place, but on every hand there were forces of ships either patrolling the coast line or bringing up forces to take advantage of breaches.

The aircraft dotting the fields bore the distinctive Allied invasion black and white stripes, which was hurriedly slapped on the aircraft late yesterday.

A broadcast from Supreme Headquarters said the black and white identifying stripes on the planes were one step toward preventing confusion and repetition of such mistakes as Allied gunners firing on friendly planes, as happened in Sicily.

United Nations convoys are bringing up additional reinforcements to support this initial invasion drive, and thousands of Allied planes are hammering the coast.

For three, the opening of D-Day was a strange combination of routine and unusual thrill. Like everyone else they had felt it was imminent. If tasks assigned were similar to missions they have been executing.

Eisenhower Watches From British Rooftop

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, Allied Expeditionary Force—As the battle opening the Western Front raged in Northern France, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower occupied a lonely post on this side of the Channel.

After inspecting parachute troops before they went into the fray, the director of Hitler's greatest amphibious strike stood on the roof of a house watching the huge air armadas roar across the Channel.

For months in the aerial perfuming campaign. They expected their hold-up movements with expert assurance, yet a tremor of excitement ran through this base when—after 11th hour orders—the runner spread through the headquarters mess coffee messengers of a briefing in just a few hours—the earliest briefing in their whole year of operations.


Fifteen minutes before briefing time, the mess hall for the first time in history was deserted. Every one had hurried down to catch something big.

A wave of exclamations and low whistles ran through the packed room of muddy-and-brown faces in their canvas chairs, when the commander said abruptly:

"May I have your attention please? This is what you have been waiting for. This is the invasion. I can't tell you all about it, but you've got to get ready to support landing operations of the ground forces."



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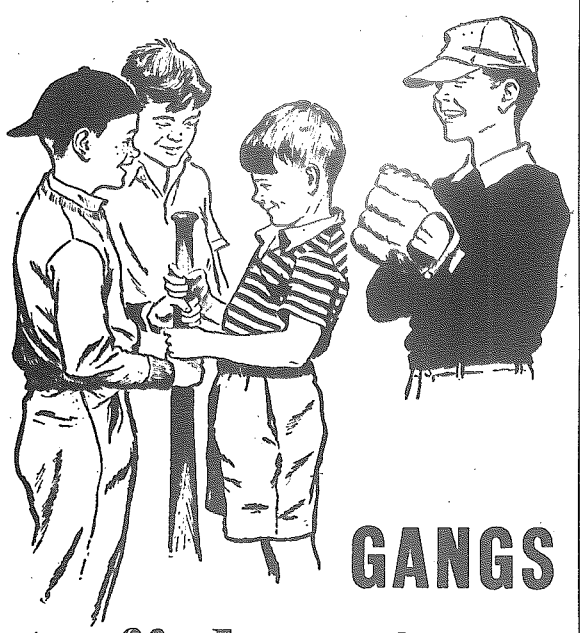
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BUY INVASION BONDS TODAY


Gives Warning Of Axis Stories

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Director Emeritus Davis of the Office of War Information, advised Americans today to be wary of Axis reports on the progress of invasion fighting.

"Anything the Axis radio puts out, is in their own interest. Davis told a handful of correspondents gathered in his office in early morning hours.




As soon as General Eisenhower's first communique was received, 17 of OWI's 20 transmitters at New York began beaming it to Europe. Other transmitters, including those in London, started broadcasting the air waves in 27 languages.

Persons interested in being employed in the Police and Fire Departments contact the Chief of the department in which you are interested for full particulars. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, City of Charlotte, N. C., 1410 N. E. Hoffman, Secretary.



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