

WIN THE RACE TO FRANCE

ROMANIAN TROOPS MARCH TO SWISS FRONTIER

About-Face Dire Threat To Germany

Reich, Stunned, Calls New
Romanian Regime Communist

By WADE WERNER

LONDON.—(AP)—Bucharest dispatches today reported Romanian troops marching against Hungary in swift succession to Romania's sudden change of sides in the war in an about-face which directly threatened Germany throughout the Balkans.

Germany, stunned, called the new Romanian government a "Communist regime," reported rioting in the rich oil and wheat kingdom and appealed to Romanian troops "not to take orders from the traitor King... But to remain faithful to the German ally who sheds her blood for the defense of Romania."

At 7:55 A. M., however, a Bucharest dispatch relayed by the Swiss radio said Romanian troops "started a march into Transylvania last night." Transylvania is the mountainous province, half of which Hitler took from Romania and handed to Hungary in the Vienna Dictate of 1940.

Romania and Hungary have been at sword's edge ever since with large proportions of their armed forces drawn up at the Hitlerian boundary of 1940. Frequent border clashes have been reported. Diplomats of both Balkan countries have uttered inflammatory remarks, even the deposed Romanian dictator, Marshal Antonescu, who was reported to have fled to a German sanctuary.

Hungary, occupied by Germany and gravely threatened by the Romanian capitulation allowing Russian troops to reach her frontiers, abolished all political parties, apparently in fear of intrigue which might take that German-occupied country from the war.

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Paris Not Yet Freed, Army Says

Allies Fighting
Their Way In

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON.—Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters disclosed today that Allied troops were fighting their way into Paris, large sections of which are held by the French Forces of the Interior.

Fall of the city is expected momentarily, but so far as Allied commanders concerned it has not yet been liberated. Gen. Charles de Gaulle and the commander of the "Free Forces of the Interior," Lt. Gen. Joseph P. Koenig, had announced earlier that the city would be liberated and their statements were hailed by Governmental leaders the world over.

French underground leaders, after four days of street fighting in Paris, negotiated the "armistice" with the German garrison, presumably on the terms that the Nazis were to leave the city, Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force said. The Germans have apparently agreed to the agreement and kept on fighting and the underground called on the Allies for help.

While great popular interest centered on the struggle in Paris, an operation of far greater military import was going on down the Seine where Allied armies were attempting to destroy utterly the fleeing German armies.

WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE of the "armistice" negotiations by the French street fighters in Paris apparently were made without previous knowledge of the Supreme Command. A directive provided that no field commander could announce an armistice with the Germans unless Gen. Eisenhower gives his consent.

The feeling was expressed at Supreme Headquarters that the underground operations in Paris and the subsequent call for help resulted in the use of Allied troops which might well have been employed in operations of greater military significance.

It was expected at Supreme Headquarters, however, that German resistance before the city will be of "great tactical importance."

In announcing the "liberation" of Paris yesterday, Gen. Koenig said "about 100,000 men" reported by several hundred thousand unarmed "paratroopers" had gone into action.

Toward 8 P. M. yesterday, Aug. 22, after a four-day struggle, the enemy had been beaten everywhere and the patriots occupied all public buildings. Koenig said that the German representatives of Vichy were arrested or are in flight. Thus the people of Paris have taken a prominent part in the liberation of the capital.

Up to a late hour today, no word had been received at Supreme Headquarters that Allied forces actually had entered Paris. The French announced the capture of over 1,000 Germans in the first day of the four-day battle, they said, liberated Paris and declared that Nazi losses were heavy in bitter fighting which they said lasted for several days.

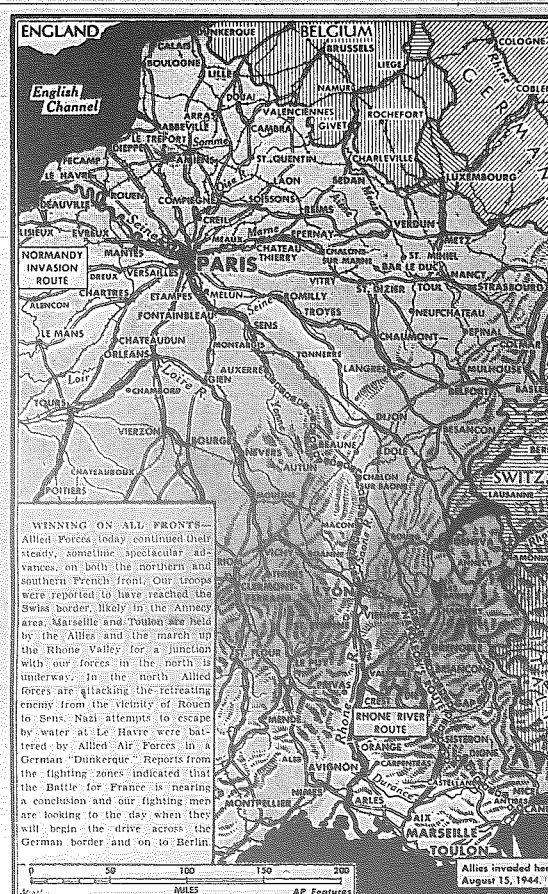
The Germans were said to have threatened widespread destruction to public buildings and installations. A French underground leader who came to London from Paris 8 months ago said the Germans then had at least 100,000 troops in the capital and strong forces of Gestapo secret police.

The Supreme Headquarters announcement was in complete surprise to French sources in London, who nevertheless there might be fighting showers, this afternoon, fair and cooler tonight and tomorrow.

Today's Temperatures... L. 70
Sunset Today... 8:01
Sunrise Tomorrow... 6:54
Additional weather Bureau data will be found on page 5.

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Berlin Goal Of Allied Troops As Battle For France Is Won

By HAL BOYLE

WITH U. S. TROOPS "SOUTHEAST OF PARIS, Aug. 21.—Delayed—The main battle for France already is over.

There apparently remains in France to German strength capable of long retaining the Nazi grip on this country, and the soul of every front-line doughboy and tankman facing the east to night in the German border—then Berlin and victory.

U. S. Infantry and armor, breaking through light ground resistance but fighting off swarms of Nazi planes, have driven beyond Sens to within about 150 miles of the German frontier.

I drove more than 50 miles to Sens and by today and never saw a corpse or a flaming vehicle. Trucks of German prisoners streamed back from advance elements. Beyond there size only a few German guerrilla outfits trying desperately to escape to east of the Seine.

The road from Paris to Sens and beyond is one long lane of captured tanks, French citizens. At every formerly-liberated village they swarm around every army vehicle that pauses and shower the troops with fresh apples, peaches, bright flowers and wine.

Many German units appear completely disorganized as a result of the widespread communications breakdown.

During the day German planes made a series of raids on front-line troops but Thunderbolt fighters and heavy anti-aircraft fire brought down a number of them and drove the rest away.

At every town they go through a town French Patriots want to turn over more prisoners to us.

Rapid Sweeps By Americans On All Sides

Patch's Men At Swiss Frontier;
Patton's 150 Miles From Reich

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON.—Adolf Hitler's grip on France slipped with almost unbelievable rapidity in almost every direction today.

Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's U. S. Seventh Army reached the Swiss frontier after a drive of 200 miles in ten days through the French Alps from the Mediterranean.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's U. S. Third Army had pushed fifty miles beyond Sens, 62 miles southeast of Paris, toward the German frontier, 150 miles away.

The two forces apparently were less than 200 miles from a junction leading all Southern France—but already much of Southern France is free.

An Algiers Broadcast said Bordeaux, big French port on the South Atlantic coast, had been captured by a combined force of Americans driving south from the Loire and French Maquis who had marched north from the Spanish border.

French Patriots were reported in control of the entire Lyon Region, the chief of southern metropolis on the Rhone in Southern France, and at Perpignan, just north of the Spanish border on the Gulf of Lions.

ROUT COMPLETE. A swift advance indicating the completeness of the German rout, the American Third Army thrusts 20 miles northwestern along the south bank of the Seine toward the sea and captured Elbeuf, one of the chief ferry points where Field Marshal Gen. Guenther Von Kluge had been trying to rescue his broken forces.

This thrust — to within 30 miles of the mouth of the Seine and only nine miles from the narrowest of the Channel — has put the pocket into which the splintered divisions of the German 7th and 15th armies were caught.

This and other advances cut the pocket down to half its former size. British troops, now fighting on the east side of the pocket, near the Nebourg, nine miles southwest of Lebeuf and twelve miles beyond Cherbourg, are cutting off the German 7th and 15th armies.

Along the Channel coast Allied troops were so close to the great port of Le Havre that German tanks there sent shells ripping across the Seine Bay into Allied positions.

The German communique declared American forces which had crossed the Seine northwest of Paris, La Roche-Guyon, near Mantes, had been thrown back across the river. Allied Headquarters, however, gave out no news concerning this spearhead which was driving northward toward the Somme battlefields of the First World War and the rocket coast.

The Germans also declared Americans had suffered a reverse north of Fontainebleau where they had crossed the Seine southwest of Paris.

On the contrary, Supreme Headquarters announced a fifteen-mile advance from Sens to the south east and beyond Montargis, thirty miles southwest of Sens. The Seine River has been crossed South of Paris the Americans.

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Says Nazis' Hopes Gone

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Secretary

Simon said today Allied military victories coupled with the rising of French forces have shattered German hopes of making a prolonged stand even in Northern France.

The Secretary of War told a news conference: "This has been an historic week—the climax of the Battle of Northern France. The liberation of the Allies in Southern France, the liberation of Paris and now Romania's abandonment of the Axis."

"On every side Germany weakens. Now is the time for us to master all our strength and unity for the final blow."

The liberation of Paris by the French people themselves after their own American forces had half-enclosed the city is a fitting demonstration of the waning power of the Nazis and the rebirth of freedom.

The Secretary's statement apparently was made before developments in Northern France had yet been liberated, in the view of General Dwight D. Eisenhower (Headquarters).

Simon said that already the great bulk of Metropolitan France has been liberated—for all practical purposes by the combined actions of Allied armies and the French people themselves.

In the midst of success, he reminded, it still is necessary to remember that a substantial number of divisions of the German Fifth Army in the Channel straits north of the Seine River are still there, they undoubtedly will seek to re-cross the Seine and re-enter France.

Simon said that the German forces, however, are completely disorganized and are being crushed by the Americans with teamwork and power.

Simon said, "are in the midst of effective action to undermine and crush the ability of the Germans to make a prolonged stand in Northern France."

Simon said the spectacular advance of an armored force of the 7th Army in Southern France, pushing beyond Grenoble, threatens to cut the Rhone in its upper regions, routing German plans for a hard fought withdrawal up the valley of that river from the coast. It also has sealed off all direct lines of communication between the German forces in France and Italy.

Pockets of German resistance, in some of which the Nazis are fighting hard.

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