

YANKS BEAT TO REIMS AND BELGIUM

PLUESTI CAPTURED BY RUSSIAN TROOPS

Yanks Close To Valence In Rhone Valley

Americans Drive Well Beyond Rhone And Drome River Junction

By GEORGE TUCKER
ROME (AP)—U. S. troops forging up the Rhone Valley have reached within six miles of Valence, 27 miles upriver from captured Montelimar, and about 115 airline miles above Marseilles, headquarters announced tonight.
The push carried well above the junction of the Rhone and Drome Rivers. Doughboys hit last night at Germans attempting to escape across the Drome.
The heaviest fighting centered around Loriol, south of the Drome along Highway Seven. The Germans threw pontoons across the stream, but whether they succeeded in getting any sizable group across was unknown.
AMERICANS FORCED BACK
Meanwhile, due east near the Italian frontier, American troops were forced back to the outskirts of Brissoneau, a city on a 4300-foot elevation in the Matter-Alois 90 miles north of Nice, by an enemy force which was reported to have crossed into French territory from Italy.
(Whether this indicated the flight of any large force of German troops from north-west Italy was not made clear.)
The retreating German force in the Rhone Valley, remnants of the Nazi 19th Army, was seen fleeing north of the Rhone.
See YANKS CLOSE on page 6

Full-Scale Attack Launched In Italy

By NOLAN MORGAN
ROME (AP)—Smashing through veteran German paratroopers in the first full blown attack on the Italian front in recent weeks, British and Polish forces are driving the enemy off the last hill positions before the Adriatic and into the "Cassino" line and are within sixteen miles of the Po Valley rim.
Heavy fighting was reported as the British Army captured the town of Cassino, a strategic position on the main road from Rome to the north.
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Czech Army Opens Fight

A complete German collapse in the Balkans is being feared by Czechs as they see the fighting in the Rhone Valley.
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Communiqué

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Whole Oil Region In Red Hands

Stalin Tells Of New Triumph

LONDON (AP)—Russian troops have captured Ploesti, Premier-Marshal Stalin announced tonight.
The whole Ploesti oil region is in the hands of the Red Army, Stalin declared in an order of the day.
The capture of Ploesti, Romania's largest port, appeared likely to be followed within a few hours by a complete mop-up of southern German forces in the Balkans.
The capture of Constanta, Romania's largest port, appeared likely to be followed within a few hours by a complete mop-up of southern German forces in the Balkans.

Yanks Stage Paris March

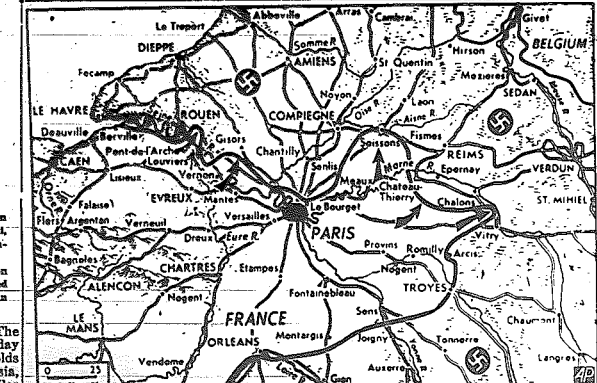
By GLADWIN HILL
PARIS (AP)—Parisians returned today to arranging the scrambled fragments of their pre-war lives.
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AMERICANS DRIVE TOWARD BELGIUM—Two columns of American troops drove within less than 40 miles of the Belgian border today after the smashing offensive of the past few days. The Americans had reached Laon and had moved to Reims and pushed ten miles beyond. The Germans announced the evacuation of the cathedral city of Reims.

Yanks Stage Bradley & Monty On Same Footing

By WILLIAM FRYE
WASHINGTON (AP)—A new command organization in France giving Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley equal status with Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery as an Army group commander was reported today to be nearly ready for formal announcement.
Such a command change previously was reported by correspondents at General Eisenhower's Headquarters. The report was received critically by some in Britain, however, who interpreted equal status for Bradley as a "demotion" for Montgomery. In the original invasion organization, Montgomery not only had field command of all British troops but also was senior commander of all Allied Ground Forces.

Reds Charge Turk Trick

By DANIEL DE LUCE
MOSCOW (AP)—The semi-official newspaper Pravda today accused Turkey of harboring German spies and turning her diplomatic break with the Nazis into a "friendly rupture."
With Russian troops closer to the Dardanelles than any other sea, Turkey's position is crucial. Pravda asserted German diplomatic, military, aviation and commerce attaches still were in Ankara twenty days after their scheduled departure from the city.
The article carried the details of a Russian broadcast appealing to Spaniards to assist the Spanish Republic in its fight against the Nationalists.

Yanks Thrust Nearer Reich

LONDON (AP)—Berlin radio declared today that American troops had driven more than 80 miles from the German border.
Such a thrust would mean the closing of the approach to the Reich's frontier, and an advance to the heart of Germany.
The German radio said that American troops had driven more than 80 miles from the German border.

Two Columns Less Than 40 Miles Distant

One Force Pushes 10 Miles Beyond Reims; Another Besieges Laon

LONDON (AP)—Two American armored columns were less than 40 miles from Belgium today.
One clattered into Reims, siege fortress of World War I and pushed ten miles beyond.
A second unit to the northwest battled on the approaches to Laon, within 28 miles of the city, carrying doughboys well across the escape path for German armies above the Seine and on the Pas de Calais rocket-bomb coast.
The United Nations radio said American troops had captured Laon, 36 miles from Belgium.

Nazis Give Up Rouen

LONDON (AP)—The Cathedral city of Rouen in France has been evacuated, a Berlin broadcast said today.
The Germans asserted their Seventh Army had crossed the Seine in what they described as a "strategic withdrawal" to a retreat northeast of Paris and said American attacking between Paris and Reims were "halted by bitter fighting."

Internees On Hunger Strike

PT. STANTON, N. M. (AP)—Twenty-five internees, including a former German-American leader, are on a hunger strike in the internment camp here. A M. Tenny, Department of Justice official in charge, said today.
Prison said the strike sought redress of some supposed mistreatment and the demands were "unjustified and unreasonable."

Allies Drive In West Burma

SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon (AP)—Allied troops driving into western Burma in pursuit of Japanese troops retreating from India reached the Chindwin River valley at Jivemane, an Allied communiqué announced today.
In the course of their advance, the communiqué said, the Allied forces captured Thanan, where 500 enemy dead were counted and much equipment was seized.
The Japanese also were said to have suffered heavy losses in a trap laid for their rearguard retreating down the Tiddim Road.

850,000 Worth of N. C. Cotton Is Hijacked
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A truck-trailer loaded with 850,000 worth of cotton material from North Carolina mills was hijacked here yesterday, Police found the empty truck near here several hours later.

WEATHER
Partly cloudy and moderately warm today, tonight, and tomorrow; scattered showers tomorrow.
Today's Temperatures
7:30 P. M. 59
Sunset Tomorrow
Sunrise Tomorrow