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ALLIES LAUNCH INVASION INTO NORTHERN FRANCE

Landings Concentrated Along Normandy Coast

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, Allied Expeditionary Forces, Somewhere In Great Britain, Tuesday, June 6.—(UP)—American, Canadian and British troops invaded western Europe today, landing on the northern coast of France to open the greatest military operation of all time.

Brilliant, battling Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery commanded the striking force which, two days after the freeing of Rome, made from the west its part of the three-way blow from west, south and east which is to free all Europe from the German yoke and carry the allied armies to Berlin.

German broadcasts, which for three hours before the official announcement had been carrying reports of an allied invasion, supported by air borne troops, said that heavy fighting was proceeding in the area of Caen, which is 8.6 miles inland from the Normandy coast.

The German reports described a gigantic operation which they said included powerful air forces and heavy warships—according to one version, battleships—which covered the landings with their fire.

According to the Germans, the invasion spearhead centered at the Seine river estuary around Le Havre.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the invasion in the following communique No. 1 from his supreme headquarters here:

"Under the command of General Eisenhower, allied naval forces, supported by strong air forces, began landing allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France."

He followed this with an order of the day to Montgomery's assault troops— a poignant, earnest message in which he said that the allied fighting men "were dedicated to the greatest military attack of all times, that they had overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions and that, though the Germans were tough and well equipped and would fight savagely, the allies would destroy the German military machine, free Europe and win security for themselves in a free world."

BLESSING OF GOD

Eisenhower invoked the blessing of God in a "Great and noble undertaking."

Next Eisenhower broadcast a message to the peoples of all Europe, and especially to France, urging them to continue passive resistance and to follow instructions but not to rise prematurely.

Soon after announcement of the invasion, it was made known that Gen. Charles de Gaulle, the man who came to Britain in 1940 to carry the French flag which the Vichymen were trailing in the mire after France collapsed, had returned to Britain — this time from Africa—and would address his people during the day.

Buckingham palace announced that King George also would broadcast a message, and King Haakon, of Norway, broadcast a special message to his own people.

Before the invasion announcement, allied supreme headquarters had broadcast instructions to the peoples of France and Holland.

The message to the French said that a new phase of the air war was starting and that people along the coast were to leave their homes for the open country, avoiding main roads, as soon as allied planes dropped leaflets warning them that their towns were to be bombed.

The assault troops, some of whom—especially the Canadians, always earmarked for an invasion spearhead—had been training for more than four years—landed at several points on the Normandy coast between 6 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. (midnight and 2:15 a.m. E.W.T.).

Supreme headquarters was unable to give further details because of the paramount necessity, upon which hung the lives of men picked from the flower of three nations, of keeping the Germans as much in the dark as possible.

ALLIES SUCCEEDING.

That the allies were succeeding to some extent the Germans admitted themselves in a DNB agency broadcast which said:

"The German defense forces, which were deceived by the dropping of dummies (paratroop dummies) in enemy air borne troops and already have made numerous British and American prisoners."

Londoners, as it proved later, heard their first invasion signal when allied planes in formation started roaring over London. The noise of the motors started many people from their beds, but long afterward London's wartime normal life was proceeding.

The planes were headed southward, where swarms of transport planes, supported by bombers and fighters, were landing their paratroops and glider troops on schedule.

It seemed possible that the Germans had been taken by surprise. Their air reconnaissance for the last few days, during which final invasion preparations were made, was described here as "marvelously small."

First reports to headquarters from the battle area, also, said that German aerial activity was slow in developing.

The Germans described a gigantic and ferocious allied attack, in which the DNB agency said that strong battleship, cruiser and destroyer formations were operating.

It looked as if the allies had got away to a good start. The timing for the invasion called for a crashing climax of air preparation against the critical coast line while the warships blasted it from the sea and special craft operated at low tide against the water obstacles, including mines, with which the Germans had sown the beaches between low tide and high tide marks.

Assault craft carrying troops from huge convoys of transports and landing craft followed in on the rising tide through channels swept through offshore mine fields by daring mine sweeper crews—a suicide fleet.

These sturdy little ships mowed a path for the assault craft so they could strike the shore in full force.

GERMAN FIRE WEAK.

First reports from the battle front said that the first fire from German coastal guns was weak and spotty.

Richard C. Hottelet, representing the allied press, watched the first landing barges hit the beach on the dot of H-hour of D-day.

From a Marauder bomber, Hottelet saw the allied troops going ashore. He could see the parachutes where air borne troops had landed.

The weather was good.

Reports to headquarters said that the allied planes had reached a new crescendo in their attack. The daylight shift followed immediately on a merciless night attack by the Royal air force. It was said that the attacks were unprecedented in power.

German broadcasts described a constant flow of reinforcements to the allies.

Constantly emphasizing the power and ferocity of the allied attack, the Germans said that some formations in a "massed descent" on river estuaries and around key air fields had been wiped out. Others, it was said, were badly mauled.

Reports to headquarters said that American Mitchell and British Mosquito bombers were smashing bridges and railroads, wrecking highways and cutting junction points to hinder the German concentration of troops at danger points.

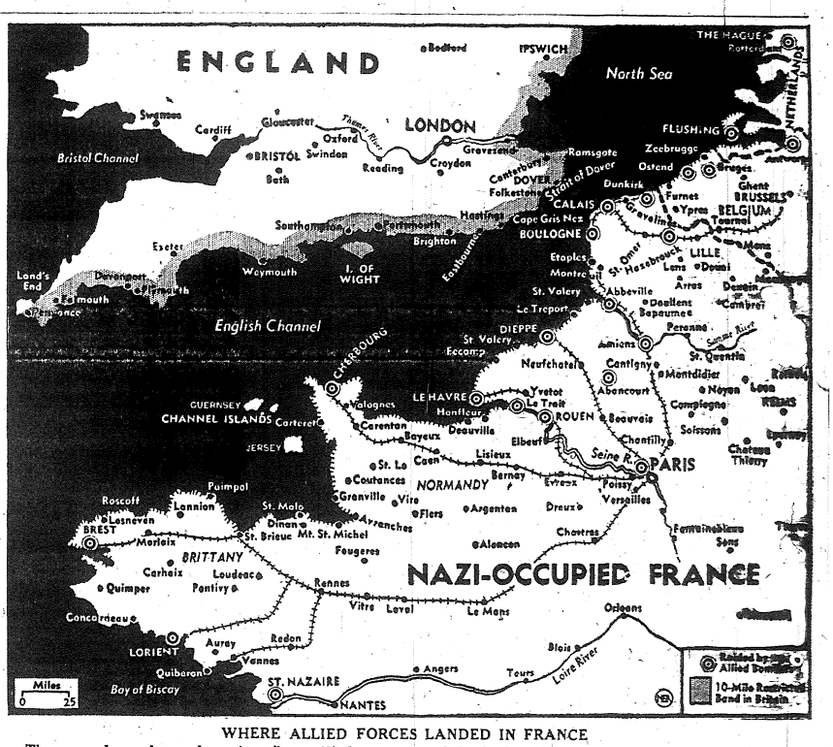
Netherlands, Polish and Australian as well as American, Canadian and British squadrons took part in the great allied aerial attack.

Pilots reported little movement on the roads.

The German DNB agency reported that landing operations between Le Havre and Cherbourg, a 75-mile stretch covering Seine bay, was made with at least American and British parachute or otherwise air borne divisions.

DNB CONFUSED.

DNB, apparently somewhat confused, said in the same broadcast first that fog as well as strong winds and rain were making the allied situation difficult, especially for small craft, and secondly that the ships were putting up a smokescreen—or fog—of their own to avoid "wild fire from the German coastal defense."



WHERE ALLIED FORCES LANDED IN FRANCE

The map above shows the point where allied forces struck in the invasion of Europe. The first landings were reported to have been made between Cherbourg and Le Havre.

way to Hitler-held Europe, the path William the Conqueror took and first Napoleon and then Adolf Hitler, in 1940, had hoped to take.

(A British radio broadcast heard by CBS reported that Hitler was taking personal command of the German defense forces.)

Among the first reports to headquarters were those of the casualties—the Doughboys and Tommies who fell under enemy fire as the first waves hit the beaches.

The wounded were being brought back in special hospital landing craft which nosed into shore close behind the assault troops. Naval doctors were reported saving hundreds of lives by performing emergency operations on operating tables anchored to the decks. Ashore, under fire, army surgical teams established first aid stations, giving emergency shock treatment and dressing wounds. Men seriously wounded were carried by litter teams to landing craft but many, after their wounds were dressed, turned back into action.

The naval doctors, in the early hours, were flashlights attached to their heads in order to get good light and leave both hands free. They worked swiftly and calmly as new patients were given them from the long lines of litters on the decks.

Landing craft moved the wounded to big ships, to be lifted aboard in slings so they could be taken to base hospitals in Britain.

NUMEROUS PARATROOPS.

A German DNB broadcast said that numerous paratroops and glider troops were seen around Trouville, 7½ miles south of Le Havre on the opposite bank of the Seine estuary.

DNB said that American paratroops were mainly in the "Normandy" area.

"In view of the present situation it is considered possible that the allied command, in recognition that it already has suffered high losses, will break off the large scale operation for the time being should that be possible in view of the promises to Moscow."

Invasion At A Glance

(By United Press)

Forces participating — allied assault armies of Americans, British, Canadians landed from allied naval forces supported by strong air formations.

Commanders — invasion under supreme command of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower; assault forces under command of British Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, hero of allied victories in north Africa.

Location—On the Norman coast of France, south across the English channel from Britain, according to an allied communique; German broadcasts say invasion concentrated in 75-mile stretch along north coast of the Normandy peninsula extending westward from the mouth of the Seine approximately to Cherbourg.

When announced—at 9:33 a. m. June 6, 1944, British daylight summer time (3:33 a. m. E. W. T.) from supreme headquarters, allied expeditionary forces, somewhere in Britain. By German broadcasts at 6:42 a. m. (B.D.S.T.) (12:42 a. m. E.W.T.)

The issues—according to an order of the day from General Eisenhower, "The destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world."

BULLETIN

LONDON, June 6. — (AP) — Prime Minister Churchill told the house of commons today that an immense allied armada of 4,000 ships with several thousand smaller craft had carried allied forces across the channel for the invasion of Europe.

Churchill also said that massed air borne landings had been successfully effected behind the Germans' lines.

coming to headquarters, in fragments. Fighter pilots returning from the beachheads reported that landing forces had gone ashore apparently without much opposition.

Headquarters announced at 11 a. m. (5 a. m. EWT) that German communications over northern France had been hit throughout the night.

A German broadcast admitted at 11:30 a. m. (5:30 a. m. EWT) that one German vessel had been sunk in violent fighting in the Seine estuary.

Up to this time the German radios had not reported the invasion in their home-service broadcasts.

(A DNB broadcast said that the allied landing operations started at 1 a. m. (7 p. m. EWT, Monday) when the first paratroops and glider men landed, and that at the same time landing attempts were made from the sea. This broadcast called the weather clear and said that many landing ships of up to 3,000 tons were in the ground forces part of the operation, along with smaller craft. This broadcast was heard in New York. It said that six battleships were around the Seine estuary along with 20 destroyers.)

Describing the dropping of paratroop dummies, DNB said that the dummies, in uniform, exploded when they were touched.

As the morning passed, observers on the England southeast coast reported furious aerial activity. Bombers and fighters criss-crossed the coast without cessation.

There was sunshine in the Dover strait but the outlook was unsettled. A shower had fallen at daybreak. Banks of heavy clouds started sweeping from the north west in mid-morning. The clouds were broken and high, however, and permitted sunny periods. The wind blew fairly strongly all night, but lost some strength at dawn. There was a moderate sea. Visibility was good and improving. The temperature was around the sixties. The barometer had fallen slightly in the preceding 12 hours.

High tide at Dover was 12:50 a. m. and 12:48 p. m.

A DNB broadcast shortly before noon said that the allied attacks were taking place "rather deep appropriate air forces into allied possession in order to permit planes and gliders to bring further troops with heavy weapons."

The allies were trying to cut off the Normandy peninsula toward the south and capture Cherbourg harbor, the broadcast said.

Reports to headquarters said, that every branch of the armed forces of the United States and the British empire were represented in today's operation. Americans included army, navy, air force and coast guard and some naval planes were engaged.

SHIPS SUNK?

Battleships, monitors, cruisers, destroyers, motor torpedo boats and other craft were in the battle.

DNB asserted that a cruiser and a large landing ship with troops aboard had been sunk.

(BBC heard in New York said that the proportion of warships was about three British to one American and that the proportion of all ships including landing craft was about three British to two American. BBC said that some bomber planes returned to their base without dropping bombs because of clouds over France.)

The first London afternoon newspapers said in great headlines: "We Invade."

"Six a. m. air and sea landings on Normandy coast—first reports are good," said one subsidiary headline.

For the first invasion spearhead, Eisenhower had selected in Le Havre a great base for the last war and one of France's most important ports, on the right (northern) bank of the Seine. Cherbourg, to which Le Havre ranks second, is at the north end of the Cotentin peninsula, on a shallow bay flanked by De La Hague cape on the west and Levy cape on the west.

Hills fringe the Le Havre coast, they are crowned by forts, the largest of which, Tourneville, commands the road leading inward. Farther north there is another fort, St. Adresse, overlooking St. Adresse village. The steep, rocky Route mountain with a fort commanding the town and dockyard dominated Cherbourg.

Fortified breakwaters enclose

Davis Warns Doc Goebbels Full Of Tricks

WASHINGTON, June 6.—(UP)—Elmer Davis, director of the office of war information, today warned the American public that the German radio may be trying to build up a reputation for accuracy in their news reports of the invasion so "they can put one over on the allies later."

Davis asked Americans to remember that "Mr. Goebbels is in business for his health—and not for theirs."

"The enemy radio is broadcasting reports in their own interests and not ours," the OWI chief said. "What they have said thus far may be entirely true. I don't know because I haven't been following it but the only information on the development of the invasion that can be relied on will be issued by allied headquarters.

"The Germans may be trying to build up the reputation for accuracy during the early period of the invasion so that they can put one over later."

Hoover Says End Of Nazis On Way

NEW YORK, June 6.—(AP)—Former President Herbert Hoover, commenting on the allied invasion of Europe, said in a statement today:

"The end of German tyranny is on the way. We have faith in our army. We pray for the safety of all our courageous boys."

He issued the statement from his suite at the Waldorf Astoria at 5 a. m. shortly after he had been apprised of the allied landings on the French coast.

Invasion Overjoys French In Algiers

ALGIERS, June 6.— (UP)— Frenchmen and women gasped, embraced and then wept this morning as the first reports of allied landings in France, as announced by the Germans, came from early morning radio programs.

Four Years Ago Today

(By The Associated Press)

June 6, 1940:

The second day of the battle of the Somme river raged two days after the last British soldier had escaped from Dunkerque and after Prime Minister Churchill had declared that Britons would fight on "until God's good time the new world with all its power and might steps forth to the liberation and rescue of the old"; French troops try to absorb German tank thrusts toward Paris with "feather pillow" system, but