

CONTINENTAL EDITION

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"Somewhere in France"

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YANKS REACH PARIS' OUTER DEFENSES

GI Rotation Rule For ETO Is Unchanged

By Ben Price

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau
WASHINGTON, Aug. 11—The War Department announced today that no change in its furlough rotation policy that would modify the general status of troops in the European theater was contemplated at present because of one insurmountable obstacle—insufficient shipping space for the necessary replacements.

Under the present War Department policy only one-half of one per cent of entire troop complements in the Pacific, Mediterranean and the Caribbean theaters are eligible to return to the United States after serving at least two years in those theaters.

These standards do not affect the Air Forces, which have their own system of rotation.

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said last December, when the rotation plan was first announced, that troops in the European theater were not included under the furlough plan because (1) shipping was insufficient, (2) climate in the ETO was similar to that which soldiers were accustomed to in the United States.

U.P. Man Finds Himmler Killer

When Associated Press correspondent Roger D. Greene dug up from a captured German intelligence officer and Austrian prisoner the report of the death of Gestapo Chief Henrich Himmler and wounding of Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering, he scooped Richard McMillian, of the United Press. Last night McMillian filed the following Sunday-punch scoop-eroo:

"The 'man who killed Himmler' has turned up. He is a German lieutenant, captured during the British break-out from the Orne bridgehead. Asked if he knew anything about the rumor, he replied:

"I started it. I saw our men needed bucking up, so I began to think what news would buck them up most. I decided it would be the death of Himmler and the launching of the V-2 secret weapon. So I started the story."

On Other Fronts

REDS FORCE FOE BACK IN 3 AREAS

Berlin reported yesterday that the Red Army had forced the

U.S. Shifting Plane Output To Hit Japan

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11—A major shift in U. S. aircraft production to concentrate from now on against Japan instead of Germany was announced today—and two B29 super-Fortress raids on far-flung Japanese industrial targets plus a bomber attack on enemy airdromes in the Philippines forcefully emphasized the decision.

The War Department ordered the output of Liberator bombers, Commando transports and Thunderbolt fighters reduced—by what extent was not disclosed—in order to build more B29s and the newer B32s. Successes in the European operations set the production shift into motion, the Associated Press reported. It said the change was planned in May, but held up until post-D-Day developments and the importance of the Luftwaffe demonstrated that it could be done safely. Henry Ford's huge Willow Run plant is among those in which Liberator production will be curtailed.

At the same time, Vice Adm

Yanks in France No Inflationists

American soldiers are not causing inflation in France. Army records showing that they send more than ninety per cent of their pay back home in family remittances, war bond purchases and various savings, Secretary of Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr., declared in London.

After visiting the American sector in Normandy, where he went at President Roosevelt's suggestion, Morgenthau said U. S. troops were not doing any extensive spending there.

PT BOASTS FIGHT DUEL WITH NAZI MINESWEEPERS

By Jack Foster

Stars and Stripes Navy Writer

A FRENCH PORT, Aug. 9 (Delayed)—Racing to within a few hundred yards of Channel Island ports, tiny PT boats of the U. S. Navy this morning clashed twice in sizzling surface battles with heavier enemy ships.

Just before dawn a squadron under Lt. H. J. Sherertz USNR, of Roanoke, Va., sighted four

Nazis Periled As Units Push For Alencon

A new 50-mile advance from Le Mans yesterday brought American armored spearheads close to Chateau-Dun, 70 miles southwest of Paris, as other U.S. tank columns reached the outer Paris defenses in the Chartres zone, 50 miles from the French capital.

Some American units swung north from Le Mans toward Alencon, 33 miles from Falaise, in an encircling thrust which menaced German forces holding back the Canadian First Army offensive and which threatened to close a trap on all enemy forces to the west. Paris Radio said the Americans were "beyond Alencon."

German troops near Falaise and in the Mortain area, east of Avranches—where they again captured Mortain itself from the Yanks—battered savagely to save their positions, loss of which would mean the crumbling of the entire Nazi front.

Say Retreat Ordered

German prisoners said that Field Marshal Von Kluge had ordered a general retreat, but his troops were so badly engaged

States and (3) few others had been in combat.

14 Reception Centers

However, veterans of the outfits which took part in the Mediterranean campaigns and were shifted to the European theater before the invasion are eligible for furloughs in the States if approved by the theater commander according to a War Department statement issued Dec. 4, 1943.

Units disclosed recently by the War Department as now fighting in Normandy which are composed of veterans who have been in combat for nearly two years are the First Infantry Division, Second Armored Division and the Ninth Infantry Division.

Although several hundred thousand soldiers, not counting sick and wounded, already have trickled back to the States from overseas posts under the rotation and replacement system, the War Department has warned soldiers not to expect immediate results when their outfits become eligible to go home.

Approval Necessary

Returning soldiers are routed directly to one of 14 reception stations located throughout the U. S. depending on its proximity to the individual's home.

Upon his arrival at the reception station, called an "Overseas Discharge and Reassignment Unit," the individual is classified in order to determine his new assignment. He is given a three-week furlough before he resumes his new duties. As a general policy, men returning from overseas duty are assigned to posts in the U. S. or to units not scheduled for imminent overseas shipment.

Officers are computed separately from enlisted men. Under the present rotation plan officers account for 10 per cent and enlisted men 90 per cent of the number of men to be furloughed and replaced. Selections are based on efficient performance of duty and the length of foreign service. In general soldiers overseas the longest will be the first to go home.

Stressing the difficulties in connection the rotation-furlough plan Stimson said: "Eligibility by standards set up doesn't mean a veteran is to be returned home on a mandatory basis."

Adding that the system is simply a basis for selection Stimson said: "The actual relief is dependent upon the personnel situation, exigencies of the service and the prosecution of the war."

nearly ten days, had resumed its offensive along the whole front from Estonia to the Carpathians and forced withdrawals in three major areas, including the sector at the southeast corner of East Prussia.

An admission that German lines had been "withdrawn some miles" in the face of a "violent offensive" by ten Soviet infantry divisions and three tank corps on a 12-mile front south of Lake Pakov at the southern end of Estonia, came from German News Agency.

Nazis 'Abandon' Florence

The German News Agency said yesterday that Florence had been abandoned by the Nazis, but no change in the military situation before the city was reported by Allied sources.

A Reuter dispatch said that Gen. Leese's Eighth Army troops in the southern section of the city were "going through a period of watchful waiting."

Operating from secret bases near the equator, the super-Fortress flew the war's longest mission, estimated at 3,600 miles round trip, to pound an oil refinery at Sumatra in the Netherlands East Indies.

In their third raid on the Japanese home islands but their first on Nagasaki, main Japanese shipbuilding and repair center, the huge Forts bombed the shipway, dry dock and other military targets.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur disclosed that Liberators had attacked the Jap airfields on three successive nights this week at Davao, one of the largest towns on Mindanao Island in the southern Philippines. The raids came just 27 months after the fall of Corregidor and within a fortnight after Gen. MacArthur had conferred on Pacific strategy with President Roosevelt, who said "we are going back to the Philippines."

Nazi trawlers traveling southbound in convoy off Cobiere, Jersey. The PTs darted in, loosed several torpedoes and raked the enemy vessels with fire from deck guns before withdrawing under considerable return fire.

Later, two boats commanded by Lt. James A. Doherty USNR of Scranton, Pa., and Ens. Buell T. Heminway, USNR, Madison, Conn., encountered a pair of M Class minesweepers in broad daylight, also off Jersey.

Visibility Poor

"A heavy fog made visibility very poor," Ens. Heminway recalled, "and we had to run slowly. About a mile off St. Helier we ran into a clear pocket and there was the black bulk of the enemy ship right above us."

Both PTs attacked the same enemy ship as the two forces opened fire simultaneously. E. F. Sullivan, GM1c, of Cambridge, Mass., bow gunner on the lead boat smashed the charthouse of the Nazi minesweeper, firing several bursts at extremely short range. Lt. Doherty released a torpedo and wheeled away from

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Heroes Aplenty in a 'Hot' Tank Unit

By Earl Mazo

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION, Aug. 11—Independent units some of them the hottest in the American Army, are being lost to public notice in the shuffle of mighty divisions and corps.

Typical of these is the 30th's attached tank battalion made up almost entirely of northwesterners and commanded by Lt. Col. William D. Duncan, of Sioux Falls, S.D.

This unit fought its way ashore 10 minutes before H hour on D-Day, received a Presidential citation for subsequent operations, and since has "rested" altogether about 5 days.

A regular hell-for-thunder outfit which has developed tank operations in support of doughboys to a fine art, the men of this battalion point to four sergeants who were given battlefield commissions, a mass of DSC's and Silver Stars and well over 50 German tanks and self-propelled guns knocked out as proof they're good.

As they talk with pride about men like T/4 William A. Paulhamus a mechanic from Williamsport, Pa., who worked under the worst hell of enemy fire imaginable on the beaches to put five knocked-out tanks back into the battle; and Pvt. Irvin H. Reddish, of Lincoln, Neb., a tank dozer driver whose vehicle was the only one of six left ashore on D-Day. Reddish's dozer commander was wounded in the landing, so Reddish dragged him from the tank turret under fire to comparative safety 125 yards away, then returned to take command of his vehicle and lead it in every fight

from then on.

Orlyn H. Folkstad, a youngster from Clinton, Minn., is one of the battlefield commission men. When his platoon leader was killed on D-Day, Folkstad took over. He also took command of his entire company when the company commander was wounded.

Gerard B. Peterson, of Perley, Minn., Floyd M. Jenkins, of Jamaica, Iowa, and Millard A. Glantz, of Melbourne, Iowa, have won battlefield commissions by similar actions.

During a recent fight near Tessy, Lt. Harry F. Hansen's company, which had only five tanks left of the number it started with, was pinned in an "unhealthy" position by terrain and a couple of heavy German tanks up ahead. The Baltimore, Md., officer crawled from his tank and, with two bazooka-firing doughboys, sneaked into an empty building behind the German vehicles. Accurate bazooka fire knocked out both of them, but as Hansen and the doughboys headed back they noticed a concealed German 105mm self-propelled gun. The Germans spotted Hansen and started shooting with everything they had. He stuck, though, and directed artillery fire that wiped out the German gun.

Stories like that are a dime a dozen in the battalion.

Col. Duncan, originally the battalion's operations officer, took over on the beach after his CO was hit by shell fragments. In the next 12 days his unit fought in support of five different American regiments from the British sector to Carentan.

in a 40-mile triangle that there was no sign of an immediate withdrawal, nor any indication that a successful retreat was possible.

"The German term, elastic defense, does not look so silly from here," said a dispatch from the Falaise area.

As the Germans put up intense, bitter resistance in the Mortain and Falaise areas, there were fresh indications that they might be trying to establish a strong defensive line west of the Seine River before Paris. Allied fighter-bombers kept pounding German trains headed westward in a widespread movement from Antwerp, Brussels, Metz, Strasbourg, Lille and Sedan.

U.S. tanks approaching Chateaudun could strike three ways from there—northeast to Paris, due east bypassing Paris, or southeast to Orleans and the upper Loire River.

American units established a 50-mile right flank on the north bank of the lower Loire after occupying Nantes and Angers.

Thury Is Captured

Another crossing of the Orne River by British Second Army troops resulted in capture of Thury-Harcourt, which had been an important German hinge in the Falaise area. At the same time, other British forces struck southeast in a new attack near Conde-su Noireau, about 1 mile west of Falaise, in a possible out-flanking move.

Canadian First Army forces—including a Polish armored division—met fierce opposition to all their efforts at penetrating the improvised German defense screen five miles north of Falaise. British troops at Vimout, northeast of Falaise on a main road to Paris were reported once to have captured the town, but last

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Gen. Davis Sees Racial Unity Here

Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, of the Inspector General's department, reported after a tour of Normandy that there appears to be more harmony and lack of racial friction in the combat zone than you find behind the lines.

Davis told a press conference that he was thoroughly pleased with the performance and the conditions under which Negro troops are operating, especially the performances under fire.

extensive spending there.

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lot' Tank Unit

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River
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an imp

PT Boats Fight Channel Duel

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the enemy just as a bullet struck his helmet and bounced off without harming him.

"All guns on both boats were blazing away," said Lt. J. J. Daniel, USNR Jacksonville Fla., squadron executive officer who was aboard Ens. Heminway's vessel. "Shells and machine gun bullets whistled around us as both sweepers tried to repel the attack. We took a few hits but we handed out more than we took."

Away Under Smoke Screen

Black smoke and fire was visible in one enemy ship as the PT pair raced away at full speed under a smoke screen.

Robert Nieman, GM2c, USNR, of River Rouge, Mich., saw several shells from his aft gun smash into the German.

"I heard the forward guns rattle but I didn't know we were under fire until tracers went whizzing past my head and one bit into the deck near my foot," he said. "Then our boat swung around and I was looking up at the German gunners. They were tossing out plenty of lead at us"

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