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More American Break-throughs Menace Whole Siegfried Line

Capital Journal

56th Year, No. 222 Entered as second class matter at Salem, Oregon Salem, Oregon, Saturday, September 16, 1944 ★ ★ Price Five Cents

Bitter Battle Given Yanks by Peleliu Japs

Marines Secure Beachhead and Hurl Back Counterattacks

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Sept. 16 (AP)—Marine heroes of Guadalcanal drove against 8,000 furiously fighting Japanese today on Peleliu in the invaded Palaus, closing in on a big airdrome within 515 bomber miles of Davao to the west.

Even nearer that principal city of the southern Philippines, Yank Lightning conquerers of Morotai, 375 miles south of Davao, worked feverishly on air bases within fighter plane range of Mindanao.

Gain Mile and a Half

These coordinated drives of Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and Gen. Douglas MacArthur were launched simultaneously Friday (Manila time) against bases from which it will be possible to spring the all-out push into the Philippines.

Marines of the first division, led by Maj. Gen. William H. Rupertus of Washington, D. C., hurled back counterattacking Japanese soldiers and tanks to gain a mile and one-half long beachhead on Peleliu near the south end of the Palaus. So strategic is Peleliu that it promises to unlock all the Palau islands, a big naval base Japan has spent 25 years building and which is defended by an estimated total of 40,000 Nipponese.

Airdrome Sought

From Peleliu airdrome, American planes could prevent reinforcements from being sent to the Palaus and interfere with enemy regrouping attempts among those islands known as "Japan's Singapore." One of two usable airfields in the Palaus, its capture would isolate the other on Angaur to the south.

Hon Morotai, northest of Halmahera in the Moluccas, where General MacArthur landed with his men, he announced today all objectives were won in a matter of hours. MacArthur put ashore army engineers with the assault troops and they were expected at any moment to have Pitoe, an unused enemy airfield, ready for powerful aerial blows against Mindanao, 300 miles to the northwest.

Overwhelming air and naval cover at both invasion scenes

(Concluded on page 10, column 5)

Japs Say Only Foothold Gained

(By the United Press)

The Japanese acknowledged Saturday that a steady stream of reinforcements, including tanks, was going ashore at Peleliu island to aid the marines fighting in hand-to-hand combat with the defending garrison.

Tokyo radio reported in a broadcast recorded by United Press, San Francisco, that American invasion forces on Peleliu now total a battalion but claimed the assault troops gained a foothold only after two bloody unsuccessful landing attempts had been repulsed with heavy American losses.

"Despite two preceding setbacks," said Tokyo, "enemy troops for the third time attempted to land on the southwest extremity of the island under cover of gathering dusk.

"It was observed enemy landing boats suffered heavy losses, having been caught in our mine fields. Enemy troops which managed to land received a steady flow of reinforcements until his forces totaled one battalion, supported by tanks.

"Entrenched behind strongly constructed fortifications, our garrison troops purposely permitted the enemy troops to draw near. Suddenly unleashing a furious close range assault, our troops succeeded in disabling several enemy tanks. It was revealed that since the night of Sept. 15 fierce hand-to-hand battles have been going on between our garrison and the invaders.

Road to Berlin

(By the Associated Press)

1—Western front: 315 miles (from Stolberg).
2—Russian front: 312 miles (from outside Pultusk).
3—Italian front: 583 miles (from below Rimini).

Russians Repel Counterattacks Warsaw Area

London, Sept. 16 (AP)—The red army has entered Sofia, Bulgarian capital, Moscow announced tonight.

Moscow, Sept. 16 (AP)—Red army patrols have crossed the Vistula from captured Praga and scouted German positions at Warsaw while Russian and Polish troops hurled back the first big nazi armored attack upon their positions in the east bank suburb, field dispatches said today.

Eleven localities north of Praga were declared seized by Russian and Polish units, increasing the pressure from Warsaw.

The patrols were reported to have brought back information on the disposition of nazi defenses in the besieged Polish capital, but Moscow had no information on whether a crossing had been accomplished in force.

110 Tanks Destroyed

Tank warfare in the Praga sector is becoming the most severe of the entire war. Most of the 110 tanks which the midnight Russian communique reported destroyed were in the Praga area.

The army paper Red Star said the blazing, smoking city of Warsaw was in full view of the Russian forces on the banks of the Vistula at Praga.

First photographs flown back from Praga to Moscow showed that many of Warsaw's buildings were shattered and where the flames and smoke were not billowing the buildings looked gutted and ruined.

Along Eastern Front

Meanwhile there was reason to believe that violent fighting was breaking out in many new sectors of the eastern front.

Preparations were said to be complete for the Russians' autumn and winter campaign. It was believed to be only a matter of days before German forces from Finland to Yugoslavia will bear the brunt of drives by veteran Russian armies refreshed and eager to march into the reich.

Moscow reports said the soviets were particularly eager to resume their Baltic campaign.

(A Berlin broadcast said the Russians in a new offensive crossed the Nyemanek river 37 miles below Riga, the Latvian capital on the Baltic sea. There was no confirmation from Moscow of the new drive, aimed at crushing two German armies of the north.

(The German report said the Russians employed 40 divisions, upwards of 400,000 men, on a curving 150-mile front extending from Bauska, south of Riga, into Estonia on both sides of the key rail junction of Valga.)

Arthur H. Devers, Industrialist, Dies

Portland, Sept. 16 (AP)—Arthur H. Devers, retired Portland co-founder of the Oregon Manufacturers' association and president emeritus of the Columbia Valley association, died last night at the age of 86.

Devers, chairman of Red Cross drives here from 1936 to 1941, was head of a business firm until he retired in 1929. The widow and two granddaughters survive.

Final Session Held of Quebec War Parley

Quebec, Sept. 16 (AP)—President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill held a plenary session with their military staffs today and—with official pictures of the second Quebec conference to be taken afterward—postponed until late afternoon the press conference which closes their meeting

Churchill has decided to return to London, a British official indicated, leaving further talks to another time and place. The prime minister's movements will go off-the-record after this afternoon's press conference, the official said, "until his return home."

Blackout Due

A possibility remained that Churchill and Roosevelt could cover some other subjects in brief informal talks after concluding the Quebec conference agenda, which was devoted largely to winning the Pacific war. Officials yesterday indicated there would be an early resumption of their meetings.

The president's movements as well as Churchill's are to be "blacked out" late today, it was announced.

A formality listed ahead of the press conference was an award of degrees to the president and prime minister by McGill university of Montreal. Roosevelt was awarded a doctorate of honoris causa in law, and Churchill a doctorate of honoris in letters.

Eden's Mission

A reporter asked Robin Cruikshank of British information if he could say anything about "sensational reports" from London about the reason for the presence here of British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

The newsman said the reports were that a crisis had arisen in Polish-Russian relations and Eden wanted to come here to try to help solve them, and that the end of the war in Europe was imminent.

Cruikshank said he did not believe Eden had come to discuss any specific issue.

37 Death Toll In Hurricane

Boston, Sept. 16 (UP)—Hundreds of small communities from North Carolina to Maine restored their communications with the rest of the country today and their reports increased the death toll of the hurricane to 37 and the approximate damage to more than $40,000,000.

The principal damage was to crops but thousands of buildings were destroyed on the islands off the North Carolina, Connecticut, and Massachusetts coasts and along the shores of those states and New Jersey. Reports of officials inspecting the devastation indicated that it would be months before all the communities were restored to what they had been.

Seventeen were dead in New York City and adjacent Long Island communities. Six deaths were attributed to the hurricane in Connecticut, five in Massachusetts, four in New Jersey, two in Maine, and one each in North Carolina, Virginia and Rhode Island.

Nazis Resume Robot Barrage Either From Holland or Planes

London, Sept. 16 (UP)—Britain's ten-day respite from the flying bomb terror ended explosively just before dawn today when a number of robots hurtled down on London, spreading death and injury throughout the sleeping city. Some blind bombs landed in southern counties, causing damage and casualties. It was the first terror attack since 5:30 a.m. on the morning of September 5, when the nazis fired a few parting salvos from their now-captured robot base in northern France into southern England. London had not been hit since August 31.

There was no immediate indication whether the new attacks were directed from the northern Dutch coast, 200 or more miles from London, or from nazi "pick-a-back" planes operating at closer range.

The bombs were described as the same type as those with which the Germans had been bombarding London from bases in France, dispelling the idea that the enemy might have brought his promised "V-2"—long-range rockets—into action.

Thousands of women and children have been pouring back into London from safe evacuation areas out of range of the robots, and most of them were expected to leave the capital again.

Lord Woolton, minister of reconstruction, told a press conference that the nazi robots had destroyed 23,000 houses in London and damaged 1,104,000.



Yanks Reach German Soil (AP)—This photo, first to be received of American troops after they penetrated the German border, shows members of Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' First army marching on the road to Aachen. (AP wirephoto via signal corps radio.)

G-I Men Want Hershey In Front Line Trenches

Washington, Sept. 16 (AP)—Rep. Jennkings (R., Tenn.) today made public a letter which he said he had received from 11 soldiers overseas, asserting that "right now we think that Gen. Hershey (the national selective service director) could be voted the man with whom we should like most to share a slit trench in the front lines." Names of the writers were withheld. The letter, dated "somewhere in Europe, August 23, 1944" said in part:

"Everywhere in the blood stained hedgerows of France, the fox holes of Italy, the damp darkness of the jungle and in the shrapnel torn skies of the world, tired grim American soldiers stood up to cheer the latest morale booster of our beloved friend Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey. I quote from the Stars and Stripes of August 23, 1944:

"'We can keep people in the army about as cheaply as we could create an agency for them when they are out.'

"Right now we think that Gen. Hershey could be voted the man with whom we should like most to share a slit trench in front lines, for we believe him to be a man of vision; a man of understanding—especially of the wants, hopes and dreams of the common soldier. It is this keen understanding, and the general's well known ability of expression and timing that will swing President Roosevelt back into the White House with the certain vote of every mother, father, sweetheart and wife who has a man serving overseas. That is why I urge you to support Mr. Roosevelt—he has such men around him to guide and counsel him in his moments of decision.

"As you can see I can hardly control my enthusiasm, for we love it here and will love it even more so after the war is won. We love the simple life of ease and quiet dignity, far from the clamor and turmoil of America and home. Our only wish is that we can have an end to this dreadful talk of demobilization, this awful spectre of returning home over the storm-tossed waters of the gray Atlantic. We want to stay here forever and forever among our pleasant European friends. (Yeah, friends.)

"We are certain that none of us would ever consider returning home to America and taking work away from the poor fellows who have so nobly stood up under the strains of gasoline rationing, cuffless trousers and union scales."

Rep. Woodruff (R., Mich.) had the letter entered in the Congressional Record with the names of the signers reduced to initials and home states—two each from Tennessee and Illinois and one each from Michigan, Kentucky, California, Illinois, Virginia, Oklahoma, New York and Maryland.

Motor Boat Gas Reduced

Portland, Sept. 16 (AP)—The district OPA announced that gasoline rations for motor boats not used for occupation purposes will be reduced on October 1 to a maximum of 24 gallons for three months.

Chinese Factions In Stalemate

Chungking, Sept. 16 (UP)—Negotiations between the central government and Chinese communist party are deadlocked over the question of how many army divisions the communists would be authorized to maintain if they joined Chungking in a coalition for the duration of the war, Lin Tsu Han, communist delegate to the third peoples political council, said today.

Lin, in a frank discussion of Chungking - communist problems, complained to the council that Gen. Yeh Ting, commander of the communist 4th army, has been held in jail without trial since 1941 by Generalissima Chiang Kai-Shek's government. Lin expressed the hope that Gen. Lin "will be brought to a speedy trial."

Lin revealed that at the recent conference at Sian, the communists requested authority to maintain 18 divisions. The central government, he said, countered with a proposal that the communist army be reduced to 12 divisions. Yenan then suggested 16 divisions as a compromise, but this was not acceptable to the Kuo Ming Tang and the conferences moved to Chungking, Lin reported.

At the present time, this discussion has reached a stalemate.

Highway Board Keeps Bid Policy

Hood River, Sept. 16 (AP)—State highway commissioners completed a six day inspection tour of central and eastern Oregon roads here yesterday by voting to continue the sale of materials on high bids even if they exceed ceiling prices.

Commissioners contend they are governed by state laws rather than by federal directives.

Hood River residents urged the proposed relocation of the Columbia river highway through their city. T. H. Banfield, commission chairman, said the project would entail considerable expense for right of way and construction operations.

General Strike in Denmark Called

Stockholm, Sept. 16 (UP)—The Danish freedom council has proclaimed a general strike throughout Denmark beginning at noon and lasting until noon Monday, the Danish press service reported today.

Finns Join in [illegible]k Upon Germans

2536 University of Oregon Library 15Jan45 EUGENE, OREGON

London, Sept. 16 (AP)—Adolf Hitler declared today that German troops in Finland were unable to clear out by the Sept. 15 deadline and Berlin broadcasts indicated fighting already had broken out in Finland between the Germans and Russians.

Finland apparently was on the verge of beginning a new war with her erstwhile co-belligerent, Germany, even before formally concluding peace in her old war with Russia.

Hitler's Statement

A special communique from the fuehrer's headquarters declared the Germans in Finland would continue to "protect their security" against any attackers as Stockholm dispatches reported that Finland apparently was moving toward a declaration of war on Germany.

Berlin broadcasts said German detaching movements were being carried out in Finland despite Russian efforts to interfere.

(A British broadcast recorded by OWI said the Russians already had encircled two German divisions in "fighting their way through Finland.")

Finns Join Russians

Finland is pledged by agreement with Russia to use her own troops, with red army assistance if necessary, to round up nazi divisions remaining on her soil after last midnight.

The broadcast German bulletin said that both the Russians and the Finns knew Sept. 2 when they presented the demand for evacuation of the German divisions that such a movement could not be completed by Sept. 15. The Germans said 20 to 35 days would have been required for the evacuation.

Austrians Mutiny

This challenge followed an abortive German attack upon the Finnish island of Suursaari (Hogland) in the gulf of Finland. (A London broadcast recorded by CBS said the Finnish garrison on the Ahvenanmaa (Aland) islands at the neck of the gulf of Bothnia "has received reinforcements." The gulf is one of the German escape routes.

(The British radio said a Finnish broadcast to Austrians of three Alpine divisions in Finland—the 2nd, 6th and 7th—urged that they lay down their arms and "refuse to be transferred to Norway or be sent to Germany to fight Germany's last battle." The British transmission was recorded by the OWI.)

Seventh Army Now Under Eisenhower

Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, Sept. 16 (AP)—Lt. Gen Alexander M. Patch's seventh U. S. army is now under the command of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, it was announced last night.

Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers has been made commander of the American sixth army group on the western front. This group is composed of U. S. and French units.

Patch's seventh army presumably is in this command.

1st Army Thrusts 12 Miles Into Reich As Patrols Enter Aachen; 3rd Uses Captured Maginot Line

Four Break-throughs Completely Penetrate Siegfried Defenses—German Guns at Thionville Turned on Nazis—Brest Captured

By James M. Long

London, Sept. 16 (AP)—U. S. troops have made several penetrations completely through the Siegfried line below Aachen, putting that whole defense system in peril, and thrust as deep as 12 miles into Germany, front dispatches announced tonight.

Patrols entered the fortress city of Aachen itself.

To the south of French soil, Third army troops captured part of the Maginot line on the west bank of the Moselle before Thionville, and turned the German-installed Krupps 105 mm guns on the nazis in an offensive which further threatened the fortress of Metz to the south.

Paris radio declared Brest, big Atlantic port on the tip of Brittany, had been captured with 12,000 prisoners.

Berlin broadcasts suggested an American breakthrough was nearing the Rhine east of Nancy.

A new crossing of the reich frontier sent the U. S. First army into a four-pronged invasion of Hitler's home domain.

Supreme headquarters late today declared the Siegfried line had been completely penetrated by forward elements, and an Associated Press front dispatch a few hours later said there were several penetrations south of Aachen "to points beyond the line's last fixed fortifications." Tanks were beating forward east of surrounded Aachen, it added.

Complete Penetration

Complete penetration means that troops have gone through the whole previously-prepared fortified line.

But headquarters stressed that this did not necessarily mean a breakthrough of the vaunted Siegfried defenses had been accomplished, though it suggested such a fact. A breakthrough is not regarded as achieved until the breach has been sufficiently exploited so more troops can be poured through freely, preventing the enemy from sealing off the gap but hurling in mobile reserve forces.

10 Mile Wide Breach

The thrust through a 10-mile wide breach beyond Aachen was one of four developing invasions of the reich. The Berlin radio meanwhile indicated a breakthrough approaching the Rhine 150 miles to the south in France.

The Siegfried line was completely penetrated by First army elements just 24 hours after Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' forces battered into its outer defenses, headquarters said.

The drive carried the hard-hitting First army onto a super, 80-mile-an-hour speedway on the last 30 miles to Cologne and the Rhine—a speedway built by Hitler to invade the west and now likely to be used against him.

Aachen itself—once the capital of Charlemagne's empire of the west and keystone of the whole northern arc of the Siegfried line—appeared to be toppling. The by-passed fortress town was held in a tightening American ring of iron. Germany broadcasts reported fighting inside the city, but later claimed the troops that fought their way in had been repulsed.

To the north, Americans swept on through slight German resistance beyond liberated Maastricht in Holland, and Berlin said the First army had broadened its front north to Mechelen, eight miles above Maastricht, and driven across the Meuse-Schelde canal "in force."

Japs Evacuate Mindanao

(By the United Press)

Tokyo radio reported Saturday that civilians are being evacuated from Davao, Mindanao, in anticipation of an American invasion of the Philippines.

Yanks Using Maginot Guns

By Robert C. Richards

Inside Maginot Line, Sept. 16 7 p.m. (UP)—Americans manned guns in the old French Maginot line today and shelled German positions at Thionville, across the Moselle river near the Luxembourg border.

Dirty-faced infantrymen from an artillery company enthusiastically loaded and fired the Krupp weapons, corresponding to the American 105-mm guns.

They poured at least 300 rounds into German emplacements at Thionville, and we saw smoke above the rooftops. The guns were used for the first time at 4 p.m. yesterday, when each of them fired one round.

The Germans were well aware of the fort's position and they replied with several short bursts of 88-mm gunfire. They pinned me, Henderson and Robert Cromie of the Chicago Tribune against the side of the fort for 20 minutes.

We climbed atop the fort into the observers' tower to see what effect the American fire had on the town, and the Germans who already had the range wasted no time in firing shell after shell near us. We fell flat in the mud until the firing ceased.

Snipers Cause Town's Burning

Third Army Headquarters, Sept. 16 (AP)—Wallendorf, first German village captured in the first army sector northwest of Trier, was set aflame Thursday and every building burned because of persistent sniping.

Another nearby village was subjected to similar scorching Friday for the same reason.

Over a field radio set manned by Sgt. John W. Wallace of Pardoe, Pa., came word from tanks at a village a couple of valleys away that vicious sniping was going on and that it was necessary to burn them out.

Soon black smoke was billowing up from that direction.

In the rear, smoke still was rising from the ruins of another village that came to a similar end for the same reason.

Snipers with burp guns still were potting at the Americans from hills surrounding the latter village.

Villagers emerging from the hills trudged back through the American columns toward what had been their homes, looking neither to the right nor left, any saying nothing. Their gaunt peasant faces looked like other faces seen about devastated villages in France.

British Advance in Italy After Breaking Nazi Gothic Line

Rome, Sept. 16 (UP)—British Eighth army troops advanced along the whole Adriatic front today, capturing nine villages and launching a battle for the strategic air field three miles below Rimini, gateway to the Po valley. Resistance stiffened on the western end of the front where American, British and Indian troops were engaged in fierce fighting with the Germans within the depths of the Gothic line. Only small gains were made in that sector on the right flank of the U. S. fifth army.

Although the Gothic line has been breached and 5,500 Germans have been taken prisoner since the offensive started on the Adriatic front 21 days ago, Field Marshal Albert Kesselring still was concentrating his forces in that sector to prevent the allies from perfecting the breakthrough and pouring out into the broad stretches of the Po valley northward.

Greek troops of the 8th army took the town of San Lorenzo-Instrada, on the coastal road four and a half miles from Rimini, then crossed the Marano river and reached the edge of the Rimini airfield in a single day.

Canadian troops of the 8th army, who established a bridgehead across the Marano some two miles from the coast, engaged in stiff fighting with panzer grenadiers and captured 150, including one battalion commander. Still other crossings were made to the southwest, at the village of Ospedaletto, four miles from the coast, and Patrignano, five miles from the coast. Both villages were captured.

Pershing Suffers Severe Setback

Washington, Sept. 16 (AP)—Gen. John J. Pershing was confined to his bed today after suffering a "severe setback in his physical condition," but the war department reported an overnight improvement.

A brief announcement said the Walter Reed hospital, where the aged World war commander lives, "reports improvement in the condition" of the general this morning.

When Gen. Pershing celebrated his 84th birthday anniversary last Wednesday, hospital attaches reported he was then suffering from a cold.

The Weather

Partly cloudy tonight and Sunday. Little temperature change. Max. 71, min. 53. Rain, .08. River, -2.9 ft.

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