

ALLIES LAND IN FRANCE

Heavy Assault Launched On Northwestern Coast

(Compiled From Daily News Wire Reports.)

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, Allied Expeditionary Force, June 6.—American, British and Canadian troops landed in northern France this morning, launching the greatest overseas military operation in history with word from their supreme commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, that "we will accept nothing except full victory" over the German masters of the continent.

The invasion, which Eisenhower called "a great crusade," was announced at 7:32 a. m. Greenwich mean-time (3:32 a. m., eastern war time) in this one-sentence communique No. 1:

"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."

It was announced moments later that Britain's Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, hero of the African desert, was in charge of the assault.

The locations of the landings were not announced.

Eisenhower himself wished godspeed to the parachutists who were the first to land on the enemy territory.

The German radio for several hours had been sending a series of flashes reporting that the allies were landing between Le Havre and Cherbourg along the south side of the bay of the Seine and along the north coast of Normandy.

This would be across the channel and almost due south of such British ports as Hastings, Brighton, Portsmouth and Bournemouth.

The Germans also said parachutists had descended in Normandy and were being engaged by nazi shock troops.

In a special order of the day preceding the invasion, General Eisenhower warned the troops that the "eyes of the world are upon you" and the "fight will not be easy."

The supreme commander said the purpose of the invasion was the complete destruction of nazi tyranny. "The task," he said, "will not be an easy one."

"Much has happened since the German victories of 1940-41. The united nations has inflicted defeats on the enemy on several fronts."

The German agency DNB was the principal source of reports on the allied action. But its broadcasts were echoed by all nazi stations.

"Numerous landing craft of various types and light naval craft of the allies," DNB said, "are being employed in considerable number. Six heavy naval ships and 20 destroyers were sighted off the Seine estuary."

"About 12 miles southwest of Le Havre," DNB continued, "the allies dropped parachute troops and at the same time landed troops from the sea in the coastal sector between the mouth of the Orne and Vire."

"Strong enemy naval formations are now approaching this coastal stretch, while a naval escort is lying west of Boulogne."

"Considerable parts of parachute formations in initial attacks in the west of Europe, especially at river mouths and at important airfields in Normandy, have already been wiped out," the nazi said.

"According to preliminary reports the first British parachute division may already be considered badly mauled."

German coastal batteries engaged enemy naval and anti-aircraft ships offshore, DNB continued.

Caen, named by the Germans as one of the principal objectives of the onslaught, has a fine airfield which frequently has been attacked by allied aircraft. It was last pounded on Saturday by rocket planes which hit Caen's railroad yards, power station and factories.

The Germans, conceding the landings were being made on a broad front, resorted to all sorts of verbal descriptions to emphasize the allies' difficulties.

One nazi commentator said:

"Approaching the European coast the invaders are experiencing an inferno compared to which Dante's hell was mere child's play."

Berlin then went on to identify Caen as the "first focal point" of fighting by German troops against the invasion forces.

All night long London and England resounded to the roar of thousands of airplanes, some carrying bombs, some carrying men. Returning RAF bombers met big fleets of Flying Fortresses on their way out.

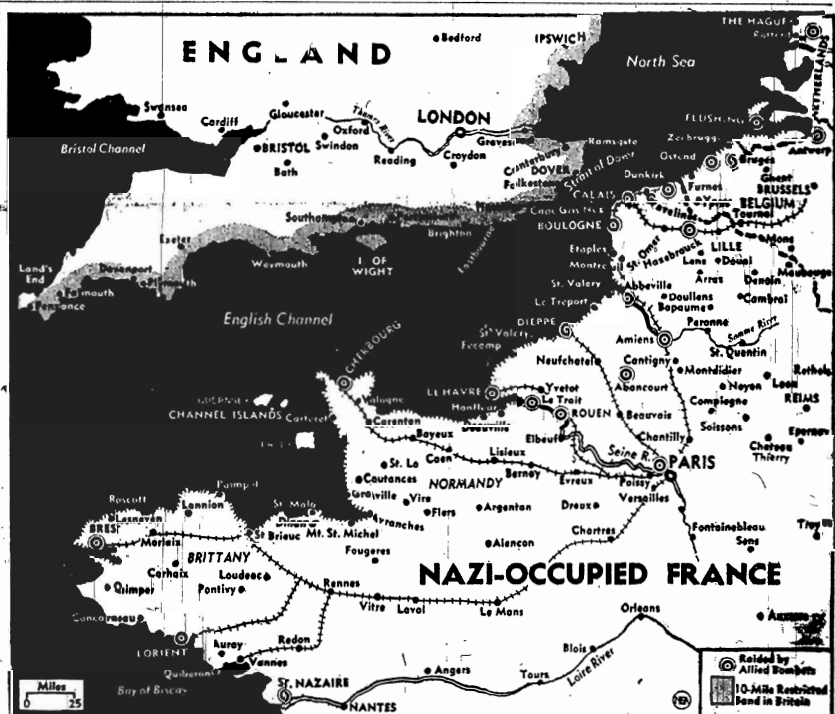
The forces thrown into operation were by far the greatest ever used in an amphibious operation. They had to be. An estimated million German troops waited in their fortifications for the great onslaught under crack nazi field marshals, Runstedt and Rommel.

It was reported earlier this week that Adolf Hitler himself had a special train ready to rush him to France to take over personal command as he did on the east front.

Despite these reports allied military men expected Rommel to be the main tactician on German defense but on the allied side were the team of Eisenhower and Montgomery—the men who chased Rommel from Africa.

All such amphibious attacks are the most difficult in war, a general feeling of confidence characterized the allied mood.

Just what element of surprise, if any, the landing troops achieved was not immediately announced by supreme headquarters. There was no chance to hide



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.

the great convoys with only about five hours darkness on the channel.

On several occasions thousands of troops, even with correspondents aboard, bailed out in great fleets to almost within shell range of German defenses in Europe as though they were going to attack while nazi reconnaissance planes closely checked convoys.

These feats have been carried out on widely separated points.

The landings had been in progress several hours before the allied communique was issued.

Allied soldiers leaped onto the shores which the Germans have spent nearly four years in fortifying, while allied planes and ships hurled into those defenses barges which the nazi admitted were terrific.

The fleet included several battleships, which the Germans said set the whole Seine bay area ablaze with their fire.

The Germans announced also that American reinforcements began landing at dawn, aided by artificial fog, and that in some places dummy parachutists were dropped to confuse the defense.

Occupied Countries Hear Message From Eisenhower

LONDON, June 6.—(INS)—Following is the text of a statement by General Eisenhower as broadcast by allied radios to nazi-occupied western Europe:

"People of western Europe! A landing was made this morning on the coast of France by troops of the

allied expeditionary force.

"This landing is part of the concerted united nations plan for the liberation of Europe, made in conjunction with our great Russian allies."

"I have this message for all of you. Although the initial assault may not have been made in your own country, the hour of your liberation is approaching."

"All patriots, men and women, young and old, have a part to play in the achievement of final victory. To members of resistance movements, whether led by national or outside leaders, I say 'follow the instructions you have received.' To patriots who are not members of organized resistance groups I say, 'continue your passive resistance, but do not needlessly endanger your lives until I give you the signal to rise and strike the enemy. The day will come when I shall need your united strength. Until that day, I call on you for the hard task of discipline and restraint.'"

"Citizens of France! I am proud to have again under my command the gallant forces of France. Fighting beside their allies, they will play a worthy part in the liberation of their homeland. Because the initial landing has been made on the soil of your country, I repeat to you with even greater emphasis my message to the peoples of other occupied countries in western Europe. Follow the instructions of your leaders. A premature uprising of all Frenchmen may prevent you from being of maximum help to your country in the critical hour. Be patient. Prepare."

Warn Norwegians Against Uprisings

NEW YORK, June 6.—(AP)—a broadcast from supreme head King Haakon, of Norway, in an quarters, allied expeditionary force, invasion broadcast today to his homeland warned his people to both organized and unorganized against premature uprisings, said resistance groups in Norway.