

# ALLIES BATTERING GERMAN FLANKS

French-English-Belgian Forces Recapture Key Railway Center of Arras; England Imposes Dictatorship; 'Now 55 Miles From Paris,' Berlin Says.

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behind each other's lines and across communications and supply routes at dozens of points military experts said almost anything might happen.

One thing was certain. The Germans were mustering every resources to hold and extend the line they have driven all the way across northern France to the English Channel. Their immediate objective was to crush the Allied army of the north—comprising the British Expeditionary Force, French units, the Belgian army and Dutch remnants—which has been cut off from the main French forces by the German drive across France.

## Recapture French City of Arras

The thrust of the German Abbeville forces toward Montreuil and St. Pol, in apparent disregard for their communications at Arras, is designed to tighten the steel ring around the Allied northern army. At the same time the German Air Force blasted at the French channel ports to hinder and disorganize any effort to remove the Allied army by sea.

In this dangerous situation the Allies were fighting back hard. Their recapture of Arras may indicate an attempt to blast a pathway through the German salient back to the main Allied positions south of the River Somme.

At the same time, other units of the trapped Allied force smashed at Valenciennes, near the northern hinge of the original German break-through on the Western Front. Here again the objective is to blast a corridor through the German salient, cutting the German lines of communication and enabling the isolated French corps to rejoin their main body which is south of the Aisne near Reuil.

Huge losses were being suffered on each side. French sources estimated that the Germans had lost 500,000 killed and wounded since invading Holland. A London source placed German casualties on the Western Front at 225,000, plus 200,000 in Poland and 25,000 to 30,000 in Scandinavia. The Germans claimed to have captured 110,000 to 120,000 prisoners but did not estimate Allied casualties.

## Royal Air Force Heavily Engaged

The Royal Air Force was heavily engaged in the Allied effort to extricate themselves from their dangerous position. R. A. F. planes last night bombed most of the line of German communications from Aachen, west to the fighting lines. Bridges across the Meuse were blasted and heavy attacks were made near Namur and Dinant.

German sources claimed the Allies had lost 2000 planes in 11 days fighting and predicted that the war's outcome would be determined in the space of weeks.

Paris believed that Arras might be the prelude to a major Allied offensive in northern France. The invaders, it was said, still face the enormous task of consolidating gains wrested in a blitzkrieg that put the Allies with their backs to the wall but not out.

The French conceded that German motorized units reaching Abbeville, 70 miles across the English Channel from Hastings, were attempting to fan out up the French coast to further isolate Allied armies in Belgium.

In connection with the situation at Abbeville, a French military spokesman said that the latest dispatches merely showed that the Germans had entered and killed the station master. Reports abroad quoting the spokesman as saying the French had re-taken the town were described as incorrect.

## Confidence Returning to Allies

But there were signs of returning confidence among the Allies, and on a visit to German Belgian Field Headquarters of Col. Gen. Walter von Reichenau near Brussels, Frederick C. Oechsner, chief of the United Press Berlin Staff, found that the Germans themselves realized that their overrunning of the Low Countries and northern France had meant nothing decisive.

Until the cheering word of the recapture of Arras came, civilian refugees were beginning to leave Paris. But their departures were calm and orderly and the exodus did not match the influx of weary, bedraggled refugees from Belgium and northern France, devastated by the blitzkrieg, and the crazy, confused fighting between invading and defending units.

Italian reports said the French Government was preparing to move to Clermont-Ferrand and already had transferred archives there. This was not confirmed in Paris.

United States Consular offices in Paris, including the passport and visa departments, were ordered to transfer to Bordeaux and Nantes.

## IN INDIANAPOLIS

### Here Is the Traffic Record

#### DEATHS TO DATE

County City Total

1939 ..... 19 18 37

1940 ..... 11 29 40

May 21, 1940

#### Injured

#### Accidents

#### Dead

#### Arrests

#### TUESDAY TRAFFIC COURT

#### Cases Convic. Fines

#### Violations tried Fines paid

#### Speeding

#### Reckless driving

#### Failure to stop at

#### through street

#### Disobeying traffic

#### signal

#### Drunken driving

#### All others

#### Boys

#### Violations

#### Speeding

#### Reckless driving

#### Failure to stop at

#### through street

#### Disobeying traffic

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#### Drunken driving

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