

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 resource 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 breakthrough 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 Rethel.

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 4 Accidents 8

Dead 6 Arrests 28

TUESDAY TRAFFIC COURT

Cases Convicted Fines

Violations 17 16 \$113

Speeding 17 16 \$113

Reckless driving 5 5 31

Failure to stop at 13 12 27

through street 13 12 27

Disobeying traffic 3 3 15

signal 3 3 15

Drunk driving 2 2 40

All others 23 19 10

Totals 63 57 245

MEETINGS TODAY

Y. M. C. A. Camera Club, Y. M. C. A.

8 p. m. Club, Claypool Hotel, noon.

Young Men's Discussion Club, Y. M. C.

A. S. D. M. Apartment Owners' Association, Claypool

Hotel, noon.

Purdue Alumni Association, Hotel Sever-

in, noon.

Twelfth District, American Legion, Board

of Trade, noon.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Board of Trade,

noon.

Beta Theta Tau, Seville Tavern, noon.

Co-Operative Club of Indianapolis, Colum-

biana Club, noon.

Indiana Motor Traffic Association, Hotel

Antler, noon.

Junior Chamber of Commerce, Canary

Cottages, noon.

40-Plus Club, Indianapolis Chamber of

Commerce, 7:30 p. m.

Indianapolis Athletic Club, noon.

Archery Club, Board of Trade, noon.

Caravan Club, Murat Temple, noon.

Old Club, Hotel Severin, noon.

Construction League of Indianapolis,

Architects, Board of Trade, noon.

Indianapolis Camera Club, 110 E. 9th St.,

8 p. m.

Beta Theta Tau, Canary Cottage, noon.

Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association,

Russell, Calhoun, noon.

Indianapolis Motor Transportation Club,

Inv. Fox's Steak House, noon.

Sigma Nu, Hotel Washington, 12:15

p. m. Indianapolis Conference of Bank

Auditors, Hotel Washington, 8 p. m.

BIRTHS

Girls

Emil, Edith Muesel, at St. Vincent's,

Fred, Ruth Merrill, at Coleman,

Albert, Mary Breitenbach, Coleman,

James, Katherine McKinnis, at City,

Rev. Roy C. Sylvia Carlson, at Meth-

odist.

William, Mary Daugherty, at Methodist,

Herbert, Juanita Skaggs, at 224 Station,

Carl, Ellen Diley, at 226 Kenwood,

James, Frances Tucker, at 1909 S. Persh-

ing, Paul, Effie Brumley, at 4700 Massachu-

setts.

DEATHS

Wendell, Evelyn Brown, at St. Vincent's,

Fred, Norma Grimm, at St. Vincent's,

William, A. Boxer, 88, at 718 E. 64th, ar-

teriolecerosis.

Shirley Leavelle, 74, at Methodist, ar-

teriolecerosis.

Max D. Henley, 46, at Methodist, bron-

chopneumonia.

Gertrude Coleman, 51, at 789 W. 25th,

acute myocarditis.

Ona R. Hays, 41, at 4509 N. Keystone,

concomitant occlusion.

Thomas Fox, 58, at 803 Park, chronic

myocarditis.

John C. Gilliam, 15, at Long, mitral in-

competency.

Flotsam of Battle



Noel Murphy, an American volunteer, comforts a crying French refugee while her aged husband sleeps in exhaustion against a pile of belongings they rescued from their home.

Like Scars on Lovely Face, Broken Villages Dot Fields

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guns into blazing action as the bombs crashed.

At his headquarters outside Brussels, General Reichenau told me and a group of other foreign correspondents that the fighting so far had been only preliminary to the decisive battle.

"We have won the first tricks, but we have yet to meet the body of the enemy," he said.

"I can imagine our forward march being halted for a while now, and that the next few days will see hard fighting, for Weggand (the Allied Commander in Chief, Gen. Maxime Weggand) will surely give orders to every man to stand his ground."

"I need not say, however, that we look confidently to the future," Reichenau said he talked frequently with Adolf Hitler by telephone, and gave Hitler periodic reports on troop movements.

"He is not only the political, but the military leader of the German people in the full sense of the word," Reichenau said of Hitler.

Germany has no illusions about this war, Reichenau said, and is indulging in no unjustifiable celebrations in advance.

"We know a greater battle must come," he explained. "We will prepare for it and win it."

Germany Determined to Win

Asked to make some sort of prediction as to the probable course of the remainder of the war Reichenau said:

"I cannot prophesy anything about the end of the war. I was four and one-half years in the World War and there were then many false prophecies."

He said, however, that Germany was determined to win and this determination was backed up by outstandingly good morale among the German troops. The troops, he said, were inspired by their successes so far in Holland, Belgium and France, and had in addition the advantage of practical experience of war in Poland and Norway.

Reverting to the battle to come and its possible result, the battle that he said was now developing, Reichenau said that at Waterloo a military decision of world importance was reached within eight hours on a very small space of ground. But again he declined to prophesy.

He said that the British and Belgians had two army corps drawn up opposite him. (At least one corps may be of two or more divisions, numbering perhaps 30,000 men.)

The German losses since the start of the offensive were less than one-tenth the number of Allied prisoners taken, he asserted. He did not give figures. But the Germans have asserted that they had taken between 110,000 and 120,000 prisoners, which would mean German losses of from 11,000 to 12,000.

Reichenau said that he and many of those about him had been

amazed at the "lack" of air activity by the British. He said he traveled about 125 miles a day and had yet to see a British plane attack. He said that two bombs dropped Monday night near his headquarters but that they were not near enough to wake him.

"The English might be holding back for a decisive show-down," he predicted.

Either the British planes were not good for bombing or British pilots were not adequately trained, Reichenau held.

"Either they can not find targets or, if they do find them, they can not hit them," he said.

The German air force, he said, had been trained carefully for a good many years before it had had practical experience of war.

Out in front of the German artillery, I saw the way in which the Germans are trying to cut Allied communications and trap a big Allied army between Reichenau's army and the Somme Valley wedge.

The British, holding the rear, were striving to keep their positions along the Scheldt River as they fought their way back to France and the main Allied armies.

I could see plainly the German shells exploding in a road along which the British were retreating.

Timing Seems Perfect

From observation posts in their own lines, the British could see the unending lines of German supplies and reinforcements moving to the front. The whole business of the blitzkrieg seemed to be proceeding with perfect timing, without a hitch. Every unit in a great intricate machine clicked into place. Every man had a task to do in an appointed time and every man seemed to be doing it.

On the way from Brussels to the battle zone I saw how bitter must have been the fighting as the Allies stubbornly retreated.

The town of Ath, down by the French border, showed the effects of a blasting.

Bridges over the Scheldt at Ath had been blown up by the Allies.

As we passed to the other side of the town, we saw the evidences of the savage fight that had taken place Sunday between German and British and French tanks.

Tanks Strew Main Road

Disabled and abandoned tanks strewn the main road all the way from Lueze to Renaix.

The bodies of the horses and the French field guns which had been caught in surprise flank attacks dotted the fields along the road.

Even up in the battle line to which I went the fields close by remained undisturbed now and cows stood chewing the cud, unmindful of the roar of the guns.

Peasants who had fled their villages and farms trudged back with bundles on their backs or sitting on top of heavily laden carts.

Retracing my route, I saw innumerable long columns of infantry reinforcements and supplies moving into the war zone.

Prisoners Amazed to See Him

I saw also several columns of prisoners, Belgians and Britons.

I talked with a group of about 35 British prisoners, several of them wounded, and gave them a package of American cigarettes.

These men were from the Cheshire regiment. They were amazed at the sight of American cigarettes. They said I was the first Yankee they had ever seen in their lives and apparently they were surprised to see me there talking to them.

(Mr. Oechsner, manager of the United Press Berlin Bureau, is a native of New Orleans.)

They were obviously apprehensive about the treatment they were to receive from the Germans and a German officer who spoke English observed:

"Apparently they think we are barbarians."

Tension among the peasants of the smaller towns in the area that had been fought over, obviously had been relaxed somewhat. Belgians in these parts seemed convinced that for them the war was over, that there would be no Allied counter-attack and that their land would not be overrun again and again by fighting armies.

There were few smiles to be seen but people were going doggedly back to piece their lives together. The white flag that hung in windows when the Germans came are being taken in. Cement is being mixed in ruined villages and children are collecting souvenirs of the war.

F. D. R. ACTS TO BALK RISE OF 5TH COLUMN

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for the transfer of the Immigration and Naturalization functions from the Department of Labor to the Department of Justice.

"I am convinced . . . that under existing conditions the Immigration and Naturalization activities can best contribute to the national well being only if they are closely integrated with the activities of the Department of Justice."

"While it is designed to afford more effective control over aliens, this proposal does not deflect any intention to deprive them of their civil liberties or otherwise impair their legal status."

"This reorganization will enable the Government to deal quickly with those aliens who conduct themselves in a manner that conflicts with the public interest."

Mr. Roosevelt said no monetary savings are anticipated as a result of the transfer, since immigration personnel, including approximately 1000 inspectors and 800 patrolmen, merely will be shifted to the Justice Department.

"I realize that the Congress may adjourn before the termination of the 60-day period provided under the Reorganization Act, but in that event and in view of the urgency of this matter I hope that it will take such action as will permit this plan to go into effect," Mr. Roosevelt said.

Hitler Needs Quick Victory

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Times Foreign Editor

PARIS, May 22.—Military observers here are now convinced that Hitler intends to force a decision in the war this summer, even though its costs Germany seven million men.

Shortly before the war began, a high personage with excellent connections in Berlin told me the Nazi general staff viewed the coming conflict with serious misgivings, believing that it probably would drag for years and that Germany would be unable to stand the long strain.

Germany, he said, was short of raw materials for an extended war and was especially deficient in high-quality lubricating oils, without which airplane engines burn themselves out.

That is why Hitler is said to have decided to throw everything into one gigantic battle while the advantage was still on his side. He figured that the first World War cost Germany seven million casualties, of which 1,700,000 were killed, and resulted in a defeat which drained her financially, economically, physically and morally.

So, the Fuehrer is reported to have reasoned, it would be better this time to risk all on one colossal blow, with seven million killed or wounded a cheap price for victory. Defeat would leave Germany no worse off than at the end of the other war. In fact, she would be better off for having been spared years of demoralizing conflict.

Observers here, therefore, are confident that if the Allies can defeat Hitler in the present battle the Nazi doom will be sealed. Germany, they believe, could not make another such effort. The war would drag on and sooner or later—prob-

REPUBLICAN LEADERS DRAFT PARTY PLANKS

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the ground that it is not a major party issue this year.

Meanwhile, 32 candidates seeking the 11 nominations to be made at the convention took over the downtown hotel lobbies today with campaign ballyhoo.

Tomorrow, most of the six candidates for Governor nomination will hold demonstrations in the streets with their "home-town" bands drilling with banners.

The hot contest for Governor is all but eclipsing the Senatorial nomination contest which has been generally conceded to Raymond E. Willis, Angola publisher and 1938 nominee.

However, some party leaders still were talking the possibility of bringing up a strong "dark horse" candidate on the convention floor. This possibility seemed to fade as convention time draws nearer, however.

Other Senatorial candidates include Walter Bossett of Liberty and Straude E. Wiseman of New Albany.

QUINTS' GUARDIANS REJECT BROADCAST

CALLANDER, Ontario, May 22 (U. P.).—The Dionne quintuplets, already veteran movie actors, won't start broadcasting for a couple of years at least.

That was the decision reached by their board of guardians, as officers to broadcast their sixth birthday party on May 28 were rejected. The children's inability to speak English prompted the rejection, it was said. The children speak only French.



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