

Yanks Storm Into Blazing Aachen as Nazis Defend Heights

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ancient cathedral in the center of the city.

American 105's, 155 Long Toms and eight-inch Howitzers poured 3000 rounds into selected targets within the city yesterday in the first phase of preparation for today's infantry attack. The dive-bombers dropped 108 tons.

German broadcasts said flame-throwing tanks led the American advance into Aachen. The city, Berlin reported, was under assault by a "titanic array of planes, tanks and heavy artillery."

The Germans still were fighting desperately for the narrow, shell-

swept corridor through the American positions northeast of Aachen. A two-hour counter-attack supported by 15 to 20 tanks was broken up at 8 o'clock last night by U. S. artillery and small arms fire which inflicted heavy losses on the Nazis.

Far From Destroyed

Patrols entered the city last night, and reported "good" results in yesterday's bombing and shelling, but field dispatches said the city still was far from being destroyed.

About 275 of the city's estimated garrison of 1500 to 2000 Germans surrendered yesterday, and small groups were laying down their arms this morning. A dispatch from the

front said, however, it was indicated that the capture of Aachen will be "a far from easy job."

Among the targets hit by artillery and bombers yesterday was the Quelenhof hotel area, reported to be the headquarters of the Aachen command, and Lousberg hill in the northern outskirts, from which the Nazis had sent up considerable anti-aircraft fire.

A patrol which crossed the railroad tracks from the captured Forst-Aachen suburb last night was the first American unit to enter the city proper.

Though reconnaissance pilots reported some Nazi troops and vehicles attempted to run the gantlet from

Aachen through the escape gap late yesterday, the arrival of reinforcements at the front and the fury of German counter-attacks on both sides of the American siege perimeter indicated the Nazi command was determined to hold the city as long as possible despite the cost.

The Germans began their latest counter-attack in an attempt to widen the Aachen corridor at 9:30 a. m. east of Bardenberg, four miles north northeast of Aachen, and it still was continuing a half hour later. Ten tanks supported the enemy infantry.

Disperse 10,000 Nazis

A similar attack at 5:30 p. m. yesterday by perhaps 2000 German troops supported by tanks was broken up by American tanks and artillery without loss of ground before the enemy even reached our infantry.

American tanks and artillery also halted and dispersed two enemy columns of perhaps 10,000 men and appropriate armor which boldly sought to reinforce the garrison with a daylight advance through the escape gap yesterday.

Stunned by the relentless allied air and land bombardment, individual German troops were surrendering by the scores. Some 400 prisoners had been counted in the 24 hours ended last midnight, but for the most part the tough garrison of 1500 to 2000 appeared determined to fight to the end. Many were S.S. veterans of fighting on the eastern front.

Radio Berlin said bitter hand-to-hand fighting was raging in the Aachen area "against the advancing enemy." Another Berlin dispatch said the din of battle was audible in Cologne, some 40 miles away.

Clouds of smoke and dust, tinged with the red of raging fires, rose hundreds of feet over medieval Aachen.

10-Story Building Falls

One pilot told of seeing a 10-story building collapse into a great cloud of dirt and debris when hit. Not a single German plane attempted to interfere with the bombardment. Anti-aircraft batteries put up a heavy barrage at the start, but it waned as the cascade of bombs continued.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, A. E. F., Paris, Oct. 12 (U. P.).—The American 1st army beat down desperate efforts by one of Adolf Hitler's finest divisions to pry open a relief corridor to the city late today. An 8th air force pilot on reconnaissance over Aachen at 10:30 a. m. said 60 to 80 per cent of the buildings in the center of the city were "burned out from roof to cellar."

American military authorities estimated that 2000 to 3000 of Aachen's 160,000 civilians still were inside the city, but German prisoners placed the number as high as 15,000. Some slept in the outskirts during the night and came into work during the day, they said.

Southeast of Aachen, other American troops punched out limited new gains and cut the Monschau-Duren road about a mile southwest of Hurtgen, further limiting the Germans' ability to maneuver.

Fight From Basements

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's American 3d army, farther south, continued its house-to-house battle for Maizieres-les Metz, six miles north of Metz. Supreme headquarters reported in a communique that the Germans were using the basements of houses as anti-tank positions.

Patton's men also repulsed a strong German counter-attack near Lercourt, 15 miles northeast of Nancy.

On the Netherlands front, Canadian forces extended their bridgehead on the south bank of the Scheldt river to 7000 by 5000 yards, possibly by additional amphibious landings. However, a dispatch from 21st army group headquarters at 10 a. m. today said Canadian operations had been on a reduced scale during the past 24 hours.

German forces were revealed to have abandoned their bridgehead on the south bank of the lower Rhine west of the British 2d army's spearhead below Arnhem.

At the southern end of the front, American and French troops made limited advances in the Vosges foothills northeast of Epinal and in the Le Thillot area, where enemy counter-attacks were repulsed in hard fighting.

HERO'S WIDOW ENDS MYSTERY OF TRIP

LAWRENCE, Mass., Oct. 12 (U. P.).—The widow of an army private who disappeared from her home last Thursday and sent word that she was going to Normandy, wired her sister yesterday that she is visiting her husband's family in Valdosta, Ga.

Mrs. Rose Anne Webb, 23, of Lawrence had mailed a post card from Boston last Friday saying that she was on her way to France where her husband, Pvt. William Webb, was killed in action June 9. Mrs. Webb's message yesterday said that she was well and was staying with her husband's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Webb.

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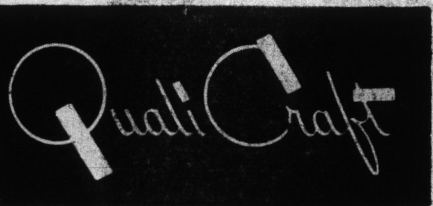


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