

## Nazis Claim To Be Only 60 Miles From Paris; Antwerp Is Reported Taken Without Difficulty; 'Pacification' of The Netherlands Is Proceeding

### Paris Admits German Push Is Unchecked

#### Pétain Is Picked As Vice-Premier

PARIS, (AP)—Speeding German columns swung west across France last night toward the Oise Valley—the road to Paris—meeting stiff resistance from Frenchmen fighting under a new government headed by Premier Paul Reynaud and Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain, World War "Victor of Verdun."

The French high command's nightly communiqué said the Germans were "attacking in a west-erly direction with powerful re-sources, despite considerable losses."

"This was at the end of nine days of the battle in Belgium and Northern France which fighters and war correspondents say is like nothing ever witnessed in history."

#### Worse than Verdun

One French officer told H. Tay-lor Henry, Associated Press war correspondent:

"Two hours of this is worse than two days of the battle of Verdun." Yesterday, the Germans ad-vanced to Guise, about 14 miles west of Verduin, and to Landre-sies, about 12 miles west of Avesnes and some 85 miles east of the English Channel.

Avesnes heretofore had been the western edge of the salient into the northern French plains, its lower edges well within 100 miles of Paris.

Far ahead of the main German forces, advanced units struck in all directions. Six German motor-cycle soldiers who reached from 25 miles south of Guise, were cap-tured.

#### Chutluts Behind Lines

Other light units were reported to have reached Saint Quentin, 15 miles west of Guise. (It was in this vicinity, in a railroad car in the forest of Compiègne, that the World War armistice was agreed upon).

German parachute soldiers rounded behind the French lines, but "these can have no effect on the general development of opera-tions," declared a French war ministry spokesman.

The German objective in turn-ing to the west appeared to be: First, to try to cut off the main French armies from the Allied forces in Belgium; and, second, to reach the Oise Valley.

The sectors of Guise and Lan-dre-sies lie about 25 miles within France from the Belgian border, near the headquarters of the Oise River and roughly 100 miles north-east of Paris. Midway between the Germans and Paris, however, runs the Aisne River line.

#### Aisne Reached

Farther east, at the point of the triangle they have driven into France, the Germans were re-ported to have reached the Aisne in the Rethel sector, 30 miles south of the Belgian border where the French took their stand.

Most of the fury of the battle on the Western Front was con-centrated in the Guise and Lan-dre-sies sectors. To the north-west in Belgium, where Brussels and Antwerp have been aban-doned, and to the east on the Maginot Line where German as-saults have been repulsed, last night's communiqué said: "Noth-ing of importance to report."

German bombers visited the Paris region yesterday at the very moment Premier Reynaud was dropping a bombshell of his own with announcement of a cabinet shakeup, making himself war min-ister as well as premier, naming Marshal Pétain vice-premier and Georges Mandel, former minister

Continued on Page 2, Column 5

### SUMMER COTTAGE SEEKERS LOOK FIRST IN TIMES-DISPATCH WANT ADS

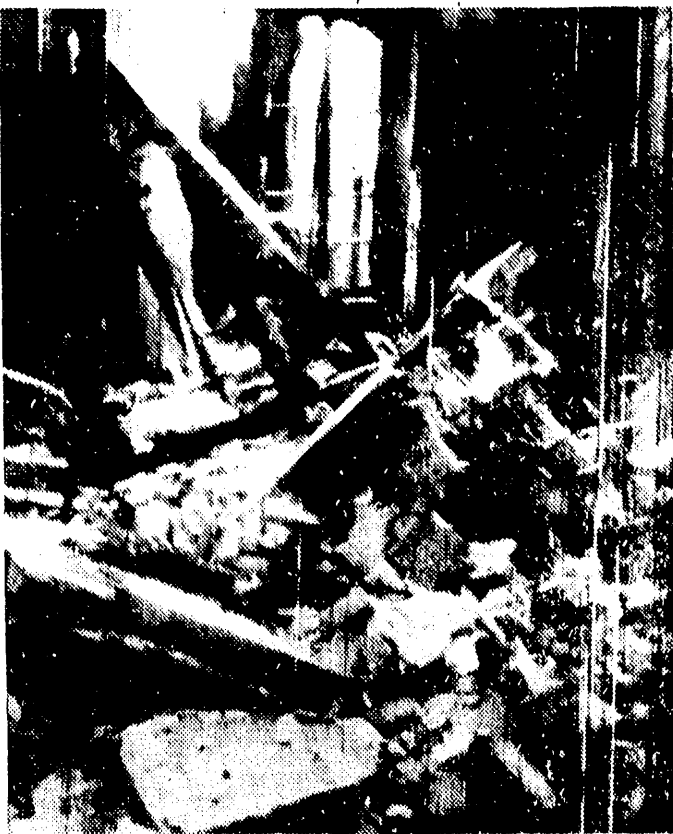
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The war is over for the French mother and child (top left) after a German bombing raid in France. German artillerymen on the Western Front (top center) are shown pulling a heavy gun into position after it has been brought up by a motorized unit. Wreck- age inside a French maternity hospital is shown (top right) fol- lowing a Nazi raid over North France. British motorcyclists (bot- tom left) cross the frontier into Belgium to meet their opponents while (bottom right) at Nancy, French children examine curiously a bomb crater in the street. (Acme Photos.)



### Swift Drive To Channel Appears Aim

#### Attack on Britain Likely Objective

BERLIN, (AP)—The iron legions of Adolf Hitler hoisted the Ger- man battle flag yesterday on the city hall of Antwerp, fortified North Sea anchor of the whole Allied line, and swept west and south toward the heart of France and the English Channel ports needed for frontal assault on the British Isles.

Antwerp fell to the German motor columns in 9 days, 57 days ahead of World War schedule. The troops of Imperial Germany en-tered the city on October 9, after shelling it for 11 days. They in- vaded Belgium on August 4, 1914.

The German plunge through Belgium and through The Nether- lands, to the north, is so swiftly fluid that it is difficult to pick out its immediate objectives.

But the thrust through the French fortifications of the Meuse and over Maubeuge and the Sambre, further northwest, seems aimed at Paris.

#### Germans Nearer Paris

Authoritative sources said Ger- man troops are within 60 miles of the French capital, but they declined to state just where.

What the authorities call com- plete "pacification" of The Nether- lands is proceeding rapidly, with Dutch resistance ended on Wal-cheren Island and more than 2,000 Dutch and French troops reported captured on the islands of Schouwen and South Beveland, all in Zealand above Antwerp.

When Zealand's cleanup is com- plete this will release 800,000 men for a drive on the Belgian and French Channel ports.

With these ports occupied, it is believed in some circles that the British will be given a chance to capitulate or deal with swarms of German bombing planes.

#### Old Plan Changed

The spectacle of the German armies of the left lancing straight toward Paris seems to justify the conjecture among military ob- servers here that Hitler has changed the classic Graf von Schlieffen plan for a flanking move on Paris.

Instead, it looks like the Ger- man "bullet troops" are taking a short cut to the heart of France without waiting for envelopment or retreating Allied troops by the right wing of the army.

The right flank, indeed, seems to be employed in seeking to cut off British forces from seaports and make their return to England impossible.

The German entry into Ant-werp, which is one of the world's 10 busiest seaports in normal times, was effected, DNB said, after the outer ring of the city's heavy forts had been broken in two places.

#### Divisions Reported Dispersed

On the left wing, in France, the high command asserted Ger- man armored forces penetrated French frontier fortifications, dis- persed two Allied divisions beyond the upper Sambre River and pur- sued "the retreating enemy" southward to the Upper Oise, more than 20 miles south.

This is on the western end of the deep and wide pocket which the Germans have gouged into Northern France. Infantry di-visions are at an end of the pa- tience with which they have en- dured eight months of measures and effects of the British-French blockade war. To establish free- dom of the seas for all is the task, accomplishment of which would bring good to all nations.

#### Noted Writer Quoted

From the glowing reports of operations in the west German writers are turning to Italy's po- sition in the Mediterranean.

One of the most influential of them, Karl Megele of the Boer- sen Zeitung, wrote:

"The government and people of Italy are at an end of the pa- tience with which they have en- dured eight months of measures and effects of the British-French blockade war. To establish free- dom of the seas for all is the task, accomplishment of which would bring good to all nations."

Possibility of Italy's entrance in- to the war again pushes the fate of Switzerland to the fore, because a campaign in Southern Europe, might, for strategic reasons alone,

Continued on Page 2, Column 2

### Conference To Consider Plane Speedup

#### President Would Rush U. S. Orders for Allies

WASHINGTON, (AP)—President Roosevelt was said authoritatively yesterday to have decided to put the Administration's force behind efforts to speed deliveries of American-made warplanes to the hard-pressed Allies.

Informed airmen said means to hasten completion of more than 4,000 planes which Britain and France had ordered since the war started would figure prominently in a conference of industrial lead-ers with Government officials to-morrow.

The feasibility of turning over to the Allies new planes manu- factured for the Army probably would be considered also, it was predicted, although officials said no formal requests that this be done had been received thus far.

#### May Ask for More

Mr. Roosevelt's extraordinary program to strengthen defenses at home made swift progress in Con- gress during the day, and word spread that the Chief Executive might ask still more millions for armament later if he deemed them necessary.

Working with rare speed, a Sen-ate appropriations subcommittee approved a \$1,827,491,724 Army supply bill currying the Army's share of the special defense fund proposed by the President earlier in the week.

The subcommittee provided that the money should be available the moment the law is signed, instead of next July 1, as most appro- priation measures specify, and sent the bill to the full Appropriations Committee for consideration to-morrow.

Many members of the Senate predicted that that chamber would approve the huge fund, and send it back to the House for ac- ceptance of the extraordinary ad- ditions, by midweek.

As Senator Hill (D., Ala.) told reporters after a White House visit that the defense program would involve "speed, more speed and still more speed," the House

Continued on Page 7, Column 2

### Several Die In California Earthquake

#### EL CENTRO, CAL., (AP)—

Scores of persons were injured and several killed last night as a heavy earthquake jolted the Imperial Valley. Heavy damage to build- ings was reported in Imperial and Brawley and the sides of several buildings in El Centro fell away.

More than \$100,000 damage was caused by demolition of build- ings in the border cities of Mexi- cal and Calexico, said reports to police here, fires raged in these two cities.

Bridges collapsed in some sec- tions of the valley, the largest vegetable producing area in the west. Fissures were opened in some sections of highways.

The telephone operator in Im- perial said that "virtually every building on the main street was wrecked" by the force of the earth- quake, which was recorded at 8:36 o'clock. Two persons were re- ported to have been killed there.

#### Killed in Hotel Collapse

One man was killed as the Hotel El Centro collapsed, showering bricks into the street. El Centro police said more than 30 persons had been taken to hospitals.

The Southern California Tele- phone Company said its El Centro office reported that "all the win- dows between Fifth and Sixth Streets" in the business section of El Centro were broken by the force of the quake, but that the buildings themselves did not col- lapse.

The two principal motion pic- ture theatres were filled with the Saturday night crowds, the tele- phone company source said, but all the spectators were evacuated without injuries.

Many women on the streets fainted with fright at the first heavy shock, it reported.

In Brawley, police said the quake was felt almost continuously from 8:36 P. M. to 9:16 P. M. Glass store windows were broken and walls cracked. No one was re- ported injured.

The shock was felt in Long Beach, San Bernardino, Pasade- na and other communities near Los Angeles, but was slight at those points.

### Duce Replies To Roosevelt On Peace Plea

#### Texts of Notes Are Kept Secret

ROME, (AP)—Premier Benito Mussolini has replied to President Roosevelt's latest efforts to pre- vent spread of the European war, it was learned from a reliable source last night. The nature of the reply was not disclosed, but it was believed to have been noncommittal without being alarming.

The reply, in courteous terms, was said in informed quarters to have been communicated to Mr. Roosevelt through William Phil- lips, United States ambassador, who delivered a personal message from the President to Il Duce May 15.

Italian and American authori- ties here have kept tight-lipped silence on the contents of the President's message.

Foreign circles assumed, how- ever, since it was described in Washington as "in the interests of peace," that Mr. Roosevelt told Il Duce again of Washington's de- sire that the war be kept out of other parts of Europe.

#### Allied Defeat Cause Joy

With Italy's entry into the war believed by most observers to be awaiting a Nazi death blow to the Allies, the Fascist press last night openly exulted at the advance of Germany's war machine into France.

A declaration by Premier Mus- solini's Il Popolo d'Italia that Fascist Italy "must reach its great predestined goal, legitimate im- perial aspirations and Mediter- ranean destiny now or never," was interpreted by some as perhaps a sign that Italy was about to strike somewhere.

Italians kept tab on the Balkans also.

Virginio Gayda, Fascist editor who often reflects the views of Mussolini, called attention in his newspaper, Il Giornale d'Italia, to the "natural naval bases" on the Adriatic Coast from Yugoslavia to Greece, with the declaration that Italy's protection depended on conditions along that shore.

### German Gains Laid to Planes, Flame-Throwing Shock Troops

[Editor's: H. Taylor Henry is back in Paris after nearly a week under bomb fire in the battle zone of Northern France. This 30-year- old war correspondent of the As- sociated Press with the French armies is a West Point graduate and former Texas-Oklahoma newspaper- man, in Palestine and Austin, Texas, and Blackwell, Okla. He has been attached to the Associated Press Paris bureau for two years.]

#### By H. Taylor Henry

PARIS, (AP)—German superiority in the air, backed by mass at- tacks of armored divisions of shock troops using flame-throw- ers, has been the main factor in carving out the pocket in the French line from Mons to Sedan. During the five days of heavy fighting which I have just seen on the Northern Front, I have learned how heavily air superiority counts.

German tactics have ignored the traditional artillery prepara- tion but have gained the long- sought combined effect of pre- paration and surprise by substi- tuting attack aviation for artillery.

The Germans made the initial opening in the pocket by attack- ing on a restricted front and then shifting the force of attack to a neighboring sector so quickly that it seemed almost a simultaneous action.

The action opened almost as

soon as the French had rolled into action in Belgium and dug their hasty combat trenches be- hind rocks and under trees.

Fleets of 300 to 400 German planes dived and bombed French nests in each sector.

As fast as they swooped—at some 200 miles an hour—to drop bombs from a height of some- times no more than 100 yards, they turned and swooped again to machine-gun soldiers who re- mained.

After the air attack, as many as 10 armored divisions of medium and heavy tanks crashed against the narrow front, spewing fire from their flame-throwers. Trail- ing the tanks, light motorized in- fantry rushed to take over the territory.

As soon as the crack blitz di- visions had smashed into one sector, they suddenly were shifted in an effort to strike a demoralizing blow against another.

The best defense the French brought against the constant air attacks was individual rifle fire. A staff officer explained that an infantryman in an advanced position had a better chance of using a light rifle, which he could swing about to follow the plane, than the more cumbersome machine gun.

The general opinion among

Continued on Page 3, Column 3

### British Claim Nazi Pressure Is Slackening

#### Belgian Retreat Called Strategy

LONDON, (AP)—Waning power of the Nazis' massive blows was re- ported last night to have eased some of the pressure on the West- ern Front but Britain steered it- self for bad news.

A calm military spokesman ad- mitted that the Allied armies in "the battle of the bulge" in north- ern France were being shoved back ever closer to the gates of Paris.

The British spokesman made no effort to minimize the "very seri- ous" situation but declared it was "certainly no worse and possibly a little bit better" than Friday.

German progress, he said, "has very much slackened, perhaps only temporarily, but exhaustion of German units taking part in the operations is apparent."

The situation in France neces- sitated the British and Belgian withdrawal in Belgium, he as- serted, and "there was no question of a break-through or of troops re- tiring in confusion." The moral of the troops is high, he said, and they were indignant at the with- drawsals, for which they saw no apparent reason.

While Germany's ponderous tanks were approaching the time when lack of fuel is expected to halt them, at least temporarily, British flyers harried German bases and communications lines and battled Nazi air fleets over the front.

The air ministry announced overnight aerial bombardments ranging from Bergen, Norway, to France and Belgium "on a very heavy scale" and said no British planes were lost.

At Bergen, Bremen and Ham- burg, it said, British flyers at- tacked German oil storage tanks,

Continued on Page 2, Column 3

### On the Inside

FIVE SECTIONS—78 Pages

SECTION I		22 Pages
Animals	Outrageous Elk Ark Ouray	22
Art	Juvenile Artists Display Work	18
Foreign	Petain Named Vice Premier	2-5
National	Byrnes Leads As Democratic Keynote	6-7
Obituaries	E. C. Reichard Dies at Home Here	20
Religion	Methodist Leaders Meet Wednesday	17
Science	Specialists Elect Dr. Hanks	16
State & City	G. O. P. Convention at Roanoke	8-15
SECTION II	Sports, Markets, Industrial News, Agriculture, Real Estate	16 Pages
SECTION III	Social Events, Clubs, Women's News, Pictures, Interior Deco- rating, Fashions and Children	12 Pages
SECTION IV	Editorials, Books, Commentators, News Review, Gardens, Radio and Amusements	12 Pages
SECTION V	Comics	16 Pages