

15 August 44

Advances were made yesterday on both sides of the FALAISE-ARGENTAN gap.

Allied troops attacking towards FALAISE from the north quickly gained their first objectives and, having crossed the river LAISON, are now firmly established within 7,000 yards of the town.

On the other side of the gap, the thrust northward from LE MANS and ALENCON has reached the vicinity of ARGENTAN. Pockets of resistance left behind in this advance are being mopped up near ALENCON.

Inside the NORMANDY pocket advances were made.

Between the LAIZE and the ORNE an advance of some 5,000 yards brought our forward elements to the vicinity of the village of BONNOEIL. In the ORNE valley, THURY-HARCOURT was cleared of enemy.

North of CONDE the village of PROUSSY was taken and our troops are approaching ST. DENIS DE MERE.

Further west, Allied troops advanced to within a mile of VASSY, and southeast of VIRE an advance of a mile has brought us to a point about one mile from TINCHEBRAY.

Other units advancing south of VIRE are moving along the GATHEMO-TINCHEBRAY road against moderate resistance. Troops pushing eastward from MORTAIN have reached GER.

Along the southern boundary of the pocket our columns moving from the BARENTON area are approaching DOMFRONT and units which reached RANES are encountering increasing resistance.

In BRITTANY, fighting is still in progress at ST. MALO, where the situation remains unchanged, and at DINARD, where we have made advances towards the port. At BREST and LORIENT there is nothing new to report.

Throughout the third consecutive day of clear weather, massive formations of all types of Allied aircraft hammered at GERMAN forces in the NORMANDY pocket and attacked airfields, bridges and communications targets from western GERMANY to BORDEAUX, virtually without opposition.

Seven enemy strong points massing tanks, guns and troops north of FALAISE were attacked by more than 700 escorted heavy bombers in a concentrated bombardment preceding an advance of our ground forces. Three other strong points south of MEZIDON were hit by medium bombers in a precision operation only 3,000 yards in advance of our troops.

Six highway bridges over the TOUQUES river north and south of LISIEUX were attacked by more than 250 medium bombers which also pounded bridges and railway junctions at NOGENT-LE-ROI, LES FOULONS, EPONE-MEZIERES, FREVENT, ST. MARTIN and PONTOISE.

Escorted heavy bombers struck shipping and harbor installations at BREST in two attacks, and others ranged from eastern FRANCE to the BORDEAUX area, hitting three airfields near DIJON and the ANGOULEME and SAINTES railway yards with good results.

The day-by-day fighter bomber and fighter onslaught against enemy communications entered its second week with widespread attacks on road and rail targets in areas on both sides of the SEINE. At least 750 railway cars and hundreds of motor vehicles were destroyed and damaged in the areas of FALAISE, LAIGLE, DOMFRONT, EVREUX, CHARTRES, ST. ANDRE and east of the SEINE.

Light bombers harried enemy movements during the night, causing large fires and explosions at several points near FALAISE and south of PARIS. P/ Twenty-nine enemy aircraft were destroyed. Twenty-four of ours are missing. P/ A heavy battery on the island of ALDERNEY has been subjected to naval bombardment.