

16 Aug 44

Allied troops are in the outskirts of FALAISE and dominate the communications in this area.

All along the northern flank of the enemy pocket our forces are driving steadily forward in spite of attempts to delay us with mines and booby traps.

The villages of COSSESSEVILLE and TREPREL between the rivers ORNE and LAIZE were taken.

CONDE was by-passed by a thrust across the river NOIREAU a few miles east of the town. TINCHEBRAY has been captured.

Our troops along the western and southern flanks of the pocket have also advanced generally.

DOMFRONT, GER and LA FERTE MACE have been freed. Our forces have entered YVRANDES, three miles south of TINCHEBRAY.

Further east, other units are pushing northward beyond RANES, where strong enemy opposition is being met. Southeast of RANES and in the vicinity of ALENCON, mopping-up operations are proceeding against enemy groups cut off by the advance northward.

In ARGENTAN, we hold a portion of the city and enemy resistance is stubborn.

In BRITTANY, the citadel at ST. MALO continues to hold out. Organized resistance has ceased at DINARD. There are no changes to report from BREST or LORIENT.

A massive force of Allied heavy bombers was thrown against key German airforce stations in western GERMANY and the LOW COUNTRIES yesterday. Twenty-one main Luftwaffe headquarters, control stations and airfields were attacked by 1,900 four-engined bombers, with fighter escort in great strength.

Key installations bombed were at COLOGNE/OSTHEIM, WIESBADEN and FRANKFURT, all in the RHINE valley; airforce stations at WITTMUND, BAD ZWISCHENAHN, VECHTA, HANDORF, HOPSTEN and PLANTLUNNE in northwest GERMANY; FLORENNES in BELGIUM, and TWENTY/ENSCHEDÉ and VENLO, in HOLLAND.

Other targets attacked were at LE CULOT, ST. TROND, TIRLEMONT, and BRUSSELS/MELSBROEK in BELGIUM and GILZE-RIJEN, DEELEN, SOESTERBERG, VOLKEL, and EINDHOVEN in HOLLAND.

Communications targets and an ammunition dump in northern FRANCE, and defenses in the ST. MALO area, were attacked by medium bombers. Heavy damage resulted from the bombing of the AUVERS-SUR-OISE and L'ISLE ADAM bridges over the OISE. The SERQUEUX rail center was attacked and fires resulted from a medium bomber mission against a fuel dump in the FORET DE CHANTILLY, twenty miles north of PARIS.

Fighter bombers and rocket-firing aircraft continued to seek out targets in the NORMANDY pocket. Eighteen tanks and more than 175 vehicles, including half-tracks, were destroyed, and an equal number damaged in the area.

Thirty locomotives were put out of commission in a fighter bomber sweep against the rail yard at BRAINE-LE-COMTE, in BELGIUM.

Thirty-seven enemy planes were destroyed in the air.

From all of these operations 20 bombers and 16 fighters are missing.