

CAEN IN OUR HANDS

The British Second Army has followed up the American capture of Cherbourg by taking Caen. That desperately held bastion of the German defence system in Normandy was assailed on two sides. The worst June for many years turned the roads into quagmires, which ~~slowed up~~ ^{retarded} the advance but could not stop it.

Peasants trudged the muddy highways, returning to the farms from which the war drove them out. All this time in Cherbourg itself the Americans ~~are~~ ^{were} clearing away the war damage and demolition which, in one way and another, held up full Allied use of the port. ~~Small charges of dynamite effectively got rid of tank traps.~~

The airport at Cherbourg was got into shape more quickly than the docks and harbour. Wreckage of German planes destroyed on the ground was disposed of in the modern way.

Rather like a relic of the last war was a ~~captured~~ ^{small} tank captured by the Americans as they mopped up the countryside west of Cherbourg.

German emplacements, concreted and camouflaged, showed signs of the battering sustained before the enemy surrendered. In addition to losing nearly sixty thousand men taken prisoner the enemy squandered much of his diminishing armour in the fruitless defence of Normandy. Onto the scene of Allied victory came Supreme Commander General Eisenhower. He congratulated General Collins,

to whom it will be remembered the Germans surrendered at Cherbourg. Eisenhower took the opportunity to decorate some of his men. He told them that a grim fight lies ahead before Germany goes down to complete defeat.

The RAF played a gallant part in the capture of Caen. Rocket firing Typhoons, newest departure in the science of ground strafing, attacked gun emplacements, tank concentrations and transport columns with deadly effect.

Heavy bombers helped in the final assault on Carpiquet airfield. It is now permissible to show the spectacular target indicators, which are part of the secret of RAF pin-point bombing by day or night.

When the long days of preparation were over our armoured divisions moved forward against Caen. It was the confident attack of an army already scenting victory. A tremendous bombardment had shattered the enemy, and our troops still had the support of Priest guns.

New potatoes and green peas were much appreciated after a hard spell at the guns. Though it has not been stressed, much credit is deserved by the commissariats for keeping the army ~~thoroughly~~ well fed since the first, anxious hours of landing. From two ^{sides} the British ~~army~~ ^{were} now closing in, ~~up~~. The enemy had fallen back on both *flanks* ~~at~~ but was still holding the town itself.

(dusk) Bomber Command, afterwards thanked by General Montgomery, co-operated with the army in bombarding Caen.

In the early morning the infantry pushed ~~us~~ into the outskirts of the town. After ^a long and hard ~~fight~~ ^{battle} the prize fell into our hands, ~~at last~~. But Caen was not ^{fully} occupied without severe fighting. Years of training in street warfare now bore fruit. The Germans were ^{systematically} routed out from the ruins, ~~in which they took cover~~.

(82 BV tanks) The capture of this important town brings

to a happy close the first phase of the ^{liberation} ~~invasion~~ of Europe. *It is*

indeed a vain hope of German army to ever
expel us from France
~~It is six times as strong as it is it could~~

~~expel us from France~~. The French once again see their old enemies beaten. The utmost for which the ^{oppressed} ~~enemy~~ can now hope is to delay ~~the defeat~~ ^{to inevitable defeat}.