

FLEETING BUT DEFINITE.

It was the beginning of perhaps the most fateful week in XX the war to date when the British and Canadians struck at Falaise, to close the gap. The Canadian C.in-C., General Crerar, discussed his part in Montgomery's master plan with the General himself. Once our forces were well over the River Orne, the hinge of the Nazi retreat was loosened and the position of the German 7th army became perilous in the extreme. Operations were given air support on a scale unprecedented. The heavies of bomber Command seemed to fill the sky. . . .

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(GAV bridge) A railway bridge at Etaples, ~~Over~~ the main railway linking the Pas - de - Calais to Normandy, was one of the R.A.F. objectives. Destruction here would delay German reserves until they could not be used.

(4 out)

Despite the tremendous program to R.A.F. found time 2 redouble
Attacks on the flying-bomb sites were re-doubled when ~~the visibility improved.~~ Many Australian pilots took part in ~~these attacks~~ *raids on the bomb-sites,* both in their own squadrons and with the R.A.F.

Now come the best pictures yet secured of flying bombs shot down by our fighter planes.

The unfortunately named town of Laval was one of the first places captured by the Americans when they switched eastwards in a brilliant race to cut off the German retreat. As in Rennes the allies found the people overjoyed to be free again. German posters were defaced and pulled down. While some troops remained to garrison the town the main American advance swept to le ~~MANE~~^{MANS}, North to Alençon and ^{to} the gap at Falaise. There was indeed good reason for everybody in Laval to feel on top of the world.

~~In the strong artillery fire against the unbroken hinge~~
Canadian 3.7's took part *in a bombardment*

A fortress was shot down,⁴ The Germans can still man their anti-aircraft. The crew managed to bale out.

There were congratulations all-round for the American airmen after their narrow escape.

The R.A.F.'s rocket firing *Typhoons* ~~have earned the admiration of all arms in Normandy.~~ *They fire a sizeable bomb very accurately. They not only make it next door to impossible for the Nazis to mount a daylight counter-attack; they spread chaos and disruption *far back.* ~~along the line of retreat.~~*

Sorry indeed is the plight of the Germans in France. As if they had not enough to contend with, now comes the new Allied landings on the south coast. All ranks responded to Eisenhower's eloquent appeal to take advantage ~~mm~~ of the fleeting but definite chance to win a major battle. The allies sweep triumphantly along the victory road.