

FORTRESS EUROPE --- THE GREAT INVASION CONTINUES ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY.

The second instalment of the newsreel record of the invasion of Western Europe; this cameraman with British Paratroops and Airborne units surveys their assortment of weapons, (from knives to shrapnel mines) --- and ^{he} reproduces their air of calm good humour.

They painted their planes with the invasion recognition markings; and they packed their gliders with the million things that had to go with them on their journey over the Atlantic Wall --- to Nazi-occupied Europe.

Watches were checked to read alike, and those who were making the first night descent blacked up.

In the various harbours round Britain, a mighty fleet of little ships was ready for the great undertaking; anchored beneath a barrage of balloons; waiting for the soldiers to go aboard.

On board the ships --- Royal Navy, Royal Canadian Navy and United States --- all was ready; a final word from captains to crews was followed by a routine inspection; less an inspection than a kind of good-luck handshake; and a service on board, in which each man commits himself, and the adventure of which he is part, to the mercy of God. Two hour, and the Fleet weighs anchor; the machine has begun to move.

Following up the first airborne and paratroop landings in Normandy --- these British reinforcements prepare to leave. Already we have heard how magnificently they fought; it will be a long time before the full story of their skill and courage is told.

~~On the day of the invasion~~ A conference of the Invasion Chiefs ~~was~~ was held at headquarters; General Eisenhower left with ~~the~~ Admiral Ramsay, the Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief.

And here ~~was~~^{is} the Ninth Air Force Troop Carrier Command American Airborne and Paratroops are packing in, for their most hazardous flight. They, too, have fought with matchless skill and courage in the greatest invasion in history. ~~End of Part I~~

Going on ahead of the landings, Typhoons of the Royal Air Force have the job of shooting up gun positions, Radar Stations, and radio installations. These Typhoons are carrying rockets; watch the effect on plane and camera as the rockets leave, the effect when they arrive on the target must be left to your imagination.

Covering fire for the landings --- the mass of Allied warplanes in Britain kept up a non-stop assault. Thousands of tons of bombs unleashed upon a pin-point on a map; blasting the defences and opening the gate to Europe.

And far below, under the air cover, the great fleet of little ships --- marched on.

The time had come for the soldiers to go into action; they left the shelter of the Navy --- the comparative spaciousness of the mother-ships; and crammed tight into those bouncing boxes called landing craft; the only way to land an invasion army on beaches, before you have a port for big ships; you may guess the kind of steely, cold courage you need at this time; you may be a soldier, dressed in khaki and a tin hat, and loaded with guns and knives; but you're a man of warm flesh and blood underneath; and men need courage to do a job like this. These men had that.

Again the Ninth Air Force went out to smash opposition --- not only over the beachhead, but farther in where German reinforcements would need swift movement for the counter-attack. And on ~~these~~ those beaches [^] the Allied reinforcements still pound ashore.

There were casualties, of course. ^{But} We have the word of our Prime Minister that there were less than he had feared they might be.

^{and} everything was done for their comfort by the wonderful organization of the R.A.M.C.; soon they were coming back to Blighty, as in the last war. We thank them for what they have done in the effort to bring speedy victory. *Back over the other side, they were still fighting ashore.*

And now --- the first prisoners are coming in; the first line for of defence/the Nazi fortress of Europe; the outposts of Germany; the watchdogs outside the castle of a lunatic tyrant.

The final word on ~~the~~ ^{then} work is [^] that they held the beaches secure; such a tiny foothold we have gained in a vast continent full of enemy armies. We had done better than we hoped --- but there is so much more to do before victory is assured; pray again; as those little ships go on and on with their brave cargoes of men.

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