

1092

BEYOND THE BEACHES: THE KING VISITS NORMANDY WHILE TROOPS PRESS ON.

This is the little Normandy town of Isigny at the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula, a few miles east of Carentan; at the time these pictures were ~~taken~~ ^{secured} it had only recently been taken by American troops; now it is well back from the advancing forward line, as the hold on the beach-head grows daily stronger.

Here is the scene that we must expect to see repeated over and over again through the Continent of Europe; the desolation of ruined homes --- the homeless people. Tragedy stalks ahead of liberation.

Meanwhile, the most pushing piece of mechanism yet devised gets busy on a Canadian ^{Jeeps & a} carrier ~~and its~~ that came to grief in a minefield; nothing can be allowed to hold up our movement, and the bulldozer pushes the remains on one side to allow traffic to move on. A few yards away there is proof that letters from home are reaching the front line in France even though a German ~~88~~ ¹⁸⁸ mm. gun makes interruptions.

They are guarding some captured "Hitler Youth" S.S. men --- Or rather boys; some of them had been beaten up by French civilians. Overhead, another battle rages.

The volume of supplies reaching the armies in France, continues to flow in a great flood; mostly it comes by ships --- but this was airborne. And airborne also, are the more urgent cases of wounded; Britain's girls are doing a magnificent job, as you would expect, ~~and~~ looking after the patients; and ^{it's} ~~it's~~ no uncommon thing for a man to arrive in a hospital in Britain, two or three hours after being wounded.

An enemy tank, knocked out but not destroyed, was finished off by sappers: ~~and now the troops begin to roll in in strength.~~

~~All kinds of lorries, tanks and transport, the whole amazing outfit~~

our own mechanical equipment includes
~~of big scale invasion, including~~ this dear little thing like a baby elephant.

Not far away, a troop of artillery has been ordered to knock out a pocket of enemy resistance.

Now higher up at Montebourg, on the road to Cherbourg, a ~~duel~~ ^{duel} is developing

2 A German 88 mm. shell hits a church steeple and the church steeple hit one of our tanks; no casualties; but it's so untidy.

And now the Sixth Airborne Division gets ~~going~~ ^{going} with a heavy mortar barrage as the attack whips up. ~~These~~ ^{These} experts put up a terrific rate of fire

2 Into the air, with heavy bombers. Squadrons of Lancasters numbering about three hundred in all, made a slashing attack in late daylight on submarine pens, E-Boats and harbour installations at Havre. The attacking force included a squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force, and the result was a considerable reduction in German attacks on our sea traffic to Normandy.

○ Near Carentan --- the village of Sainte Marie Monte --- they're building a pontoon to bridge a canal. Almost as impressive as the Allied fighting strength in Normandy, is this colossal organization down to the last detail --- and the speed with which it is executed. They've got everything they want --- ~~including this~~ ^{there it is gain} ~~our little baby tractor~~. All the time, the forward troops were pressing on towards Cherbourg.

And now Carentan. The Germans put up fierce resistance at this point on the base of the peninsula; after ~~violet~~ ^{violet} fighting, the Germans were driven out.

BEYOND THE BEACH-HEAD:

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And now Caruban.

more ~~A still scene~~ --- the forerunner, we hope and believe, of many victories to come. German propaganda seeks to hide this kind of defeat in a cloud of dust about pilotless aircraft. If they need that kind of consolation, they can have it. But we shouldn't feel very happy if we could only do that to Germany, while German soldiers were ~~fighting~~ *fighting* --- in Kent.

You have your fun and fantasy, Dr. Goebbels; we'll have things as they are.

8:10 P.M.
20/6/44 M. Parthel