

NORMANDY BATTLEFRONT --- PREMIER'S VISIT FOLLOWS THE BIG TANK ATTACK.

Prelude to a big attack; a thousand Lancasters and Halifaxes of Royal Air Force Bomber Command dropped thousands of tons upon the German troops ~~near~~ Caen. This was one of the most concentrated heavy attacks of the war --- the greatest ever made by the heavies in support of ground forces. Target indicators cascaded down to guide the bomb-aimers; and though you will see some of our planes shot down by flak, our losses were very small indeed.

As dawn brightened into day, Fortresses, Liberators, Marauders and Havocs of the 8th and 9th ^{American} Air Forces took over. You will see that they too, had their losses, but they too were small; and they left the defences dazed and shocked. Altogether well over two thousand Allied bombers ~~un~~ unloaded over 7,000 tons of bombs on these enemy positions.

~~The bombing had been done in such a way as to cause the least possible delay to the 2nd Army.~~ But this is a story which has for its main theme the great weight of our armour; and the Herculean efforts our soldiers made to get it into action. Bridges appeared as if by magic; but the magic was all in the brain and sweat and muscle of United Kingdom and Canadian soldiers. The advance is across the Canal and the River Orne; here the movement is towards ~~XXXXXX~~ Faubourg de Vaucelles; and in many places the white tapes are showing

where engineers have cleared a route through German ^{minefields} ~~mines~~.
So many tanks that in one place the road gave way.
Tanks, tanks and more tanks. ~~... ..~~
~~might built up into a single unit of fantastic~~
~~had to wait for the opening of the second front, we had to be able to~~
~~hit like this --- and yet keep every time as much power in reserve.~~

~~So many tanks in one place, the road gave way.~~

Now infantry mount upon them ~~tanks~~ to go into battle as a combination of armour and cavalry. All this is east of Caen, pushing out now towards Troarn. And when the tanks had broken through, the infantry went in to mop up resistance ~~where the tanks were~~.

Out on the left flank another part of this great armoured attack is proceeding --- a Colonel sits up in the ^{turret} ~~trunk~~/to wave on the spearhead of the central section; and the battle rages on.

Perhaps the result was disappointing to those who expected a break-through to Paris and Berlin; but it gave the Second Army room to manoeuvre in Normandy; and it paved the way to more offensives. This battle has ended. But nobody doubts that we shall keep slogging away in France until the Germans finally cracks.

Now the camera takes us to the Cherbourg sector, where Americans are completing their assault on St.Lo. It was grim fighting here --- attack, counter attack. But at last our Allies

took and held this valuable road and rail centre ~~And then it started raining~~

A few days after these tremendous events, Mr.Churchill paid a second visit to Normandy. The Premier inspected the port installation repair work, and discussed past and future tactics with several American Generals before leaving for the British Sector at Caen. For part of his tour, Mr.Churchill used an observer plane; which no doubt is safe to fly in, even if it doesn't look any too solid. Arriving at Caen, the Premier drove around with General Montgomery and General Dempsey, inspecting bridges and talking to men of the Second Army. It's rather amusing to notice that there's one soldier in Normandy who was more interested in the camera.

5.50 PM

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Mr. Berthoud