

For many months the Allies kept the Germans guessing as to where the Second Front would open; and so almost every yard of Europe's coastline had to be prepared with defences against our armies. One of the innumerable tricky and dangerous tasks which our Royal Engineers have to tackle is the neutralising of these invasion beaches. This is Ostend; there were thousands of wooden piles driven deep into the ground --- to hamper Allied landings. There were mines almost as countless as the sands themselves; there were huge shell charges set to explode if a boat touched against the rail. Incidentally, there's no waste in this demolition; the charges used were all captured from the Germans.

Inland in Belgium, the continental camera has recorded the Brussels demonstrations against the Pierlot Government. Various groups who dislike the Pierlot Government paraded the streets carrying rude words on sticks. It's hard for most of us to sort out exactly who's friend and who's foe in Europe. But let the voice of Britain say loudly that Britain will not tolerate any action that hinders our war against Germany; then our enemies and our Allies ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> alike respect us for it.

Now --- the war in Germany. First --- with the Ninth Army at Linnich. American troops have just moved in from the outskirts but the place is still under German artillery fire and machine gunners are still clearing out pockets of German resistance.

The city in the distance here is Saarlautern, ~~12/12/44~~  
~~will~~. As these pictures are being taken, it is under American  
and German artillery fire. The millions who have suffered at the  
hands of Germany will find a grim satisfaction in that. Hitler's  
false arguments before the war complained that Germany was  
encircled by enemies; now it's true; and the enemies of Germans  
encircle them with steel and flame. Even from the skies above.  
The air war continues, ever to higher peaks of ferocity. This was  
the night when Royal Air Force Bomber Command made a double attack  
on Heilbronn and Karlsruhe. This was Heilbronn. Lancasters,  
including Dominion aircrews, dropped a total of 3,500 tons of  
bombs this night.

We have not forgotten the merciless German air raids on  
the Allies' great cities all over Europe. Bomber Command  
are ~~to~~ <sup>helping</sup> to smash the German power and will to make that kind of  
war; or any other kind. And seeing that Germany, also, does  
not forget.

H. 15 P. m.  
12/12/44

H. Stone