

## THE NOOSE TIGHTENS

That is the grim situation facing the enemy: the allies battle victoriously on all fronts. Scarcely had palest dawn emerged from the ~~short~~ summer night than the British moved forward on Caen. ~~In~~ In the dim light of the early hours (captured here in the best war-action pictures yet taken in Normandy) the surprised enemy surrendered or fell back. This was the start of the taking of Caen; the start, it may be, of a western front battle dealing a mortal wound the armed might of Germany.

(one out)

(after LV tracer) Nerves were taut. The curtain was rising upon the act wherein the most significant drama in history will ~~show~~ <sup>sweep</sup> to its tremendous climax. The Noose tightens. The free world has fixed the ~~man~~ halter round the neck of Germany.

(one out)

In Normandy the Allies now fight on a hundred mile front. Against the British sector the Germans vainly massed their armour. They failed to stop the advance. On the map the liberated territory is but a small portion of France; but the map is deceptive. The enemy is on the ~~run~~ <sup>retreat</sup>. His western front ~~shows signs of cracking~~ <sup>shows signs of cracking</sup>. The shabby remnants of the Wehrmacht are being pushed back towards Germany.

Caen was the ghost and shell of a city when at last it was wrested from the enemy. Terrific bombardment by planes and artillery had been necessary to blast the Germans out. With great care the Allies spared the famous Church of St. Etienne, in which thousands of the townspeople took refuge. Some of them told our troops of places where Germans were still in hiding.

What few there were were snipers and it was not long before they were rounded up.

(After CU) In the battered centre of the town signposts indicated that Paris is still a hundred and forty miles away, but as the ring of fire and steel contracts round Germany and the war accelerates distance is measured in fewer days. <sup>It is given to Caen</sup> ~~The hand of war fell heavily on Caen, but it is given to this city~~ <sup>to be one of the first cities</sup> to erase the foul memory of Nazi rule.

German propaganda posters depicted Winston Churchill declaring that the blockade was his last hope, ~~though the French should starve.~~

Outside the theatre the flags of France and Britain were ceremoniously hoisted. <sup>members</sup> The Caen Underground leader saw <sup>their</sup> heroic ~~work~~ work of resistance triumphantly concluded. After 4 years the people raised ~~their voices~~ in the Marseillaise.

French military courts have lost no time in dealing with the few traitors who spied for Germany. The two men here, one 20 the other 22, were tried at Cherbourg. The evidence against them was conclusive. In the crowded court they hid their faces from the camera as witness after witness unfolded the story of their guilt.

(After CU) The spies were sentenced to hard labour for life. They were fortunate not to be executed.

On the West flank in Normandy the Americans gave great help in relieving the German pressure on Caen.

(7 without)

(72 SV) After a severe struggle the U.S. forces fought their way into La Haye, a little market town, militarily important as the junction of roads and railways.

(GV) La Haye, was a great loss to the enemy. Many experts believe that the Germans, ~~in their present mood,~~ will give ground anywhere rather than on the Western Front, for if ~~the North coast of France~~ <sup>that</sup> is lost to them the much-hinted second secret-weapon cannot be used against us.

Uncomfortable pressure is being applied in Italy. On that front the enemy has ~~no~~escape from his dilemma: if he is forced back he lays Southern France and Yugoslavia open to the Allied armies; if he attempts to hold his ground he must call upon reserves desperately needed in Russia and Normandy. In Italy too the Germans face ~~unpleasant~~ <sup>unpleasant</sup> ~~confrontation~~ proof that the military power of France is reborn. The historic town of Siena, little over 30 miles from Florence, was brilliantly captured by French troops, Colonial regiments amongst them. They took the city without damaging the famous 12th Century Cathedral or other buildings of artistic value.

*To liberated Italians*

~~To the Italian~~ people it comes as a great relief to be freed from the grip of the Nazis. Before this year ends many towns in Europe will resound with the cheers of liberated peoples.

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On the greatest of all fronts, the air, the enemy can nowadays hardly put up a fight. One ~~minimum~~ incident in the vast ~~world~~ drama of the skies is shown in these pictures, a brilliant exploit by Coastal Command. Beaufighters encountered an enemy convoy off the Frisian Islands. Two merchant vessels were torpedoed, three set on fire. Five naval vessels were also damaged.

~~Torpedoed merchant vessels were set on fire and one was directly hit.~~

(5 out)

One of the Beaufighters was set on fire by flak and eventually crashed. Coastal Command, nowadays seldom on the front pages, has done one of the very big jobs of the war.

Patrolling from the Bay of Biscay to the Arctic Circle it has won a decisive battle against the U-boat, and latterly Coastal Command barred both ends of the Channel to Nazi E-Boats.

The Luftwaffe began the war; Allied airpower is ending it.

On the Eastern Front Nazi defeat is catastrophic. The Red Airforce rules the sky.

Captured German pictures show the Nazis vainly trying to resist.

(7 out)

(GV lorries retreat) The enemy falls back on East Prussia. Perhaps while this newsreel is still showing, the Red Army may be well over the German border. Into great towns lost three years ago the Russians have come back. Kovel, Tarnopol, Minsk, Vilna - from all and many more the beaten Germans are blasted out. These astounding pictures - the latest received from the eastern front - show the triumphant Red Army on the flood tide of victorious advance.

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Nothing in military history matches the fighting on the Eastern Front. ~~its changing fortunes, the size of armies, the~~

~~death toll, the number slain.~~ The Russian campaign dwarfs everything that has gone before. From Stalingrad the Red Army has advanced a distance greater than that which separates Cherbourg from Berlin. And with increasing speed it marches forward still. ~~Fittingly it will be the first to invade Germany.~~ The allied noose tightens round the Nazi throat. In the inevitable end, German survivors will lay down their arms in history's most shattering defeat.