

ALLIES BREAK THROUGH

It is now open warfare in France. While the Germans desperately held on ~~in the~~ Caen Sector they were flung out of St. Lo and, as these pictures arrive, are in full retreat. The Americans are exploiting the tremendous opportunity created by their lightning drive into Brittany, and the country due south. The Nazi ~~right~~^{left} flank is open, unprotected, split up - almost at the mercy of allied armoured divisions threatening to envelop ~~them~~^{it}.

Through Marigny the offensive swept, on its way to Coutances. Marigny was in ruins, for the enemy had clung to the town till sheer fire-power drove him out. ~~The~~^{Returning} inhabitants had cause to be dispirited when they returned to the devastated scene, ~~the~~ ruins ~~of~~ that represented to some of them a lifetime of toil. Modern ~~war~~^{war} has scant respect for bricks and mortar, but the churches, houses and farms, ~~damaged by the tide of battle swept over,~~ will be quickly repaired.

The advance was gathering the momentum of real tank war. On the road west towards Granville - a useful little port - and the important Avranches our allies had first to occupy Coutances, to which the enemy held ^{on just} long enough to withdraw divisions from the closing jaws of the trap. Like Marigny, Coutances was battle-scarred as Bradley's men marched in, but we shall soon have pictures of open country and undamaged towns, now that the war has swept past the state of siege operations. On the right of the allied front.

~~Allied front~~ More than 70,000 prisoners have been taken!

On the British and Canadian front the enemy resisted with all the strength he could muster.

Broadly the British-Canadian position is the pivot of the German swing-back on the west. But the pivot is giving way. RAF heavies weigh in with strong support. The Lancaster is used as a day bomber with paralyzing effect.

Our progress on the left of the front spells disaster to the Nazis. Marshal Kluge himself admits that the situation is critical. Nazi commentators talk of the supreme crisis of the war. Passing through Caumont the British and Canadians have turned east and if the Germans make their familiar mistake of hanging on too long, they may find themselves with their backs to the Seine, facing disaster on the scale of Stalingrad, and the Baltic. Already 100,000 prisoners have surrendered to the Allies.