

us into the army!), raised first of all by the young men, then by veterans, and even by women, who seem to have played an important, in fact a predominant part in Resistance, both by their own exertions, and by the clever use they have made of their children.

It is impossible to take a step without being besieged with questions like: "When will General de Gaulle order mobilization? When are we going to fight under General Koenig?" The first French town set free the day after the invasion without having suffered in the battle, is fired not with any ordinary enthusiasm, but with a tremendous eagerness to fight. That is the chief point which I cannot emphasize too strongly. When we left Bayeux to go back to the various theatres of operations which are quite close to the town, we had the greatest difficulty in preventing the young men of Bayeux from following us. Many of them have undertaken the most dangerous missions to further the operations. Several of them are very indignant because it seems to them that the B.B.C. did not describe the town's enthusiasm about the first signs of liberation in sufficiently lyrical terms. I can bear witness that the last German had hardly left the town before the first flags with the Lorraine Cross were hoisted on several buildings, noticeably, on the highest one, where two schoolteachers live, and on one of the lowest, where an old abbé — the Cathedral organist, lives.

Bayeux — liberated, and yet in the front line, is completely mobilized, and is waiting for the French Government to confirm this mobilization.

(French Information Services, London, June 12, 1944)

General de Gaulle in Normandy

On his arrival in France on board the destroyer "La Combattante," General de Gaulle, who was accompanied by several of his staff officers, was met by British officers, belonging to General Montgomery's staff. The few hours which the Head of the Provisional Government of France spent on French soil, were mainly devoted to visiting Bayeux, where General de Gaulle spoke with leaders of the Resistance movement. On his way to the small Norman city, General de Gaulle rode in a jeep, driven by a British liaison officer. The general passed through several villages, some of which were in ruins. The people recognized him immediately and he was enthusiastically acclaimed. Bayeux had been informed of his arrival one hour before; all the shops were immediately closed, and tricolor flags were hung on every window. When General de Gaulle's jeep arrived in the main street, crowds vibrant with enthusiasm were massed along the sidewalks. The Head of the French Government climbed out of the jeep and walked to the "Sous Préfecture", surrounded on all sides by wildly cheering crowds, who shouted "Vive de Gaulle! Vive la France!"

At the Sous Préfecture, General de Gaulle was met by General Koenig, the hero of Bir-Hacheim, Admiral

Thierry d'Argenlieu, Commander-in-Chief of the French Naval Forces, as well as the leaders of Resistance movements and city officials, with whom he had long conversations.

General de Gaulle was enthusiastically acclaimed as he went to the main square, where the population of Bayeux had gathered. He spoke first to young Frenchmen who had been wounded a few days before, while crossing through the German lines to bring valuable information to the Allied troops. Then, as "Tipperary" was broadcast over loudspeakers, General de Gaulle walked over to the speakers' stand. He was presented to the crowd by Captain Schumann, who was the Fighting France spokesman over the B.B.C. for four years. General de Gaulle stood erect, and bareheaded, and speaking for the Provisional Government of the Republic, he hailed with deep emotion the town of Bayeux, "the first French town to be liberated."

The people of Normandy, said the General, have never wavered in their patriotism. But what the French behind the German lines want to hear, is the battle cry, a cry which has continually been raised. The voice of France is, at the same time, the voice of struggle and of liberty.

What history has called the "Battle of France," has never ceased. France still lives through all her suffering and through all her efforts — the efforts of her armies on land, on sea and in the air. Today, these forces are valiantly fighting in Italy, and soon they will fight in Metropolitan France.

Behind the German lines, our people are engaged in the terrible battle against the hated oppressor, and now watch the flight of the enemy. The French people are waging this battle almost without arms. They will continue it, however, until the sovereignty of France is entirely restored. We shall gain the victory, side-by-side with our Allies, and the victory of the free world, will be the victory of France.

At the close of his speech, General de Gaulle asked the population to sing la Marseillaise, which he started himself. Then, surrounded by the enthusiastic crowd, he returned to a jeep in which he was to drive back to the beach, where "La Combattante" was waiting to take him back to England.

(Commissioner of Information, Alger, June 15, 1944)

II—ITALIAN FRONT

With Rome liberated, Allied and French troops continue their advance

Gustav Line broken through — From May 12, 1944, when the offensive for Rome was launched by General Alexander, the French Expeditionary Corps never ceased to play a major part within the Fifth Army's general plan of operations. The French Expeditionary Corps ensured the break-through in the Gustav line. Lashing out between Minturno and the Liri River, on a 12



Italy. In the course of the last offensive, several thousand prisoners were taken by the French.

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Italy — French troops continue their advance.

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kilometer front, our troops, who were under the orders of Generals de Montsabert, Brosset, Dodie and de Sevin, disrupted the Nazi defense system, after a daring maneuver that was accomplished on extremely difficult terrain. On May 15, Moroccan troops planted the French flag on Monte Maio (5000 feet), the highest of the Aruncci Mountains. This forced the enemy to withdraw. 1500 prisoners were captured. Our action greatly helped the British to take Cassino and the Americans to push on to Gaeta.

Break-through in the Hitler line — During the second phase, the French Expeditionary Corps broke through the Hitler line in the Alban hills. On May 17, the French took Oliva, one of the key positions of the German defense system. Continuing a wide outflanking movement over the peaks, our troops captured Lenola on May 23, in spite of desperate enemy counterattacks, thus helping the Americans of the Anzio bridgehead sector in their general offensive to the north, which was launched on the same day.



Italy. In a French sector, wounded arrive at a camp.

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From May 23 on, the enemy strove mainly to oppose the American Forces' advance towards Valmontone, and the French Forces who were threatening the Southern bank of the Sacco River. Closely following up the enemy, our troops continued their spearhead advance in the Lepini Mountains. They captured Vallecorsa; on May 24, Ceccano; on May 30 the peaks of the Lipini Mountains (4900 feet) were taken; and on May 31, the French took Carpinetto Romano.

Since the beginning of the offensive, the French had progressed 50 miles on June 1, 1944. On this date, the French Expeditionary Corps had captured over 4000 prisoners, and had pushed on to the heights overlooking Highway 6, thus aiding the Eighth Army's progress up the Sacco Valley on the road to Rome.

(General Staff of National Defense, Alger, June 6, 1944)

Allied and French troops have passed through Rome — ... American Infantry, with their British and French and Polish comrades, are in the streets of Rome. The first of the great Axis capitals has been liberated, its citizens bombarding the liberators with cheers and flowers.

(NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE, June 5, 1944)

Rome in the hands of the Allies — Naples, June 5, 1944 — A special communiqué: Troops of the Fifth Army occupied Rome on the night of June 4-5. The landing elements have passed through the city and are now across the Tiber in some places.

(NEW YORK TIMES, June 6, 1944)

French Colony in Rome sends Message to General de Gaulle

General de Gaulle received the following cabled message from the French colony in Rome, following an enthusiastic reception given to General Juin's soldiers by the Italian population:

The prisoners, escaped prisoners, political refugees, and all the lay and clerical members of the French colony in Rome, gathered around General Juin, whose entrance into Rome at the head of the French troops marks the tangible restoration of French prestige, wish to tell their leader, General de Gaulle, who embodies the traditional virtues of their race, that they are overjoyed to recover their liberty. They assure him of their attachment to France, and their loyalty to the sacred cause of National Liberation, which General de Gaulle was the first to defend."

(Commissioner of Information, Alger, June 13, 1944)

Allies and French continue their advance

The Allied forces are making progress in the plain northeast of Rome, using two principal axes: Route 1, skirting the coast, along which they have successively captured Civita Vecchia and Tarquina; and Route 2, from Rome to Florence, on which they have taken Viterbo. The French are advancing northeast of Tivoli,

which they have occupied, and they are close to the first lateral ridges of the Apennines.

(Commissioner of Information, Alger, June 10, 1944)

General Juin is made a Knight of the Bath¹

After the fall of Rome, the French Expeditionary Corps was honored in the person of General Alphonse Juin. In the course of an impressive ceremony attended by Allied and French military leaders, General Harold Alexander, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces in Italy, decorated General Alphonse Juin, and Major-General Geoffrey Keyes, commanding the Second American Army Corps, with the ribbon of a Knight of the Order of the Bath.

General Mark Clark decorated French and Allied Generals and officers who had participated in operations, with the Cross of a Commander of the Legion of Merit.

(Commissioner of Information, Alger, June 10, 1944)

III—NAVAL AND AIR FORCE OPERATIONS

The information published below is a summary of the French Naval and Air Force operations on all fronts during the month of May.

The French Air Force

During May, 1944, French crews of the Allied Mediterranean Air Force manning Airacobra fighters and Spitfires, fighter-bombers, flew over 2400 sorties, totaling 3200 flight hours. During these operations, three enemy planes were shot down, a Focke-Wulff 190, a Junker 88, and a Junker 188. Many land targets were bombed by our fighter-bombers. French bomber units of the Tactical Air Force flying B26s, flew 174 sorties, totaling 778 hours, and in 13 highly successful bombing missions dropped 350 tons of bombs on Italian military objectives in the Gulf of Genoa, the Anzio bridgehead, and Monte Maio. During these operations our planes met with stiff enemy opposition: in a single expedition, 14 of our planes were hit, but all succeeded in returning to their air-base. During May, 1944, French reconnaissance squadrons flying P38s totaled 200 hours of flight, mostly over France. French aviators in Italy are also flying Piper Cub observation planes.

The French Aviation is represented by fighter squadrons, and the Lorraine Bomber Squadron, equipped with light Havoc bombers, who are playing an increasingly important part in Allied air operations over Germany and the occupied countries of Western Europe. Four-engined heavy bomber squadrons have finished their training.

The "Normandie" squadron which the Allies have re-equipped with Yak 9s is getting ready to take part in the new Russian offensive.

(Commissioner of Information, Alger, June 10, 1944)

¹This is one of the highest honors which can be given by the British Crown. General Alexander informed General Juin officially that when he would be able to go to London, King George himself would perform the accolade.