

Major Roger Mangin Dies in Battle

Just outside Calais, on September 30, while accompanying the attacking Canadian troops in order to be the first to bring the French uniform back to Calais, Major Mangin had already succeeded evacuating the population whom neither the German command nor the Mayor could persuade to leave. The next day the Canadians attacked and Major Mangin, accompanied by Captain Vendreux who was to take over the command of the Military District of Calais, went with them in order to negotiate the surrender of a few isolated German elements. Caught under a very heavy bombardment, he fell fatally wounded, murmuring: *Vive la France*.

(Ministry of Information, Paris, October 11, 1944)

American Award to General Koenig and Vice-Admiral Longaud

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, September 11 (Reuter) — General Dwight Eisenhower presented General Koenig, Commander of the FFI, with the Legion of Merit for the outstanding leadership he had shown. (FRANCE, London, September 12, 1944)

The General commanding American troops in North Africa, personally presented Vice-Admiral Longaud, commander of the French Navy in Tunisia, with the Cordon of Commander of the Legion of Merit.

(FRANCE, London, October 6, 1944)

France's Price for Victory

Le Havre (By Anne O'Hare McCormick) October 8 — *Le Havre* is a city of mourning. It is a place of incredible devastation. Officials say that two fifths of the city has been destroyed. Of the normal population of 170,000 only 40,000 are left. It is estimated that 600 civilians were killed and the rest fled. By a tragic irony of which the townspeople speak with dull resignation rather than bitterness 3,500 are said to have been killed and 1,500 to have been wounded in the last air raid which took place after the Germans had left. . . .

(New York TIMES, October 9, 1944)

Rouen (By Anne O'Hare McCormick) October 8 — *Rouen*, too, is sad and silent. Mayor Guillaume Mortier says that the population shrank from 120,000 to 80,000 but refugees are now coming back and there is no place to put them. One fourth of *Rouen* was demolished, including the historic Palace of Justice. The famous Cathedral is a shell. Its interior is completely burned out and the stones were baked so that they crumbled when touched. The roof and one tower were damaged and two chapels were demolished, but M. Mortier declares the town is planning to rebuild it. Two bombs hit the Church of St. Ouen one of the gems of Norman Gothic architecture, but the damage can be repaired. The people seem to feel the loss of their historic monuments more than the human toll of the bombings, though the dead are estimated at 5,000.

Today *Rouen* is without coal, wood or gas, and all the factories are shut down. The Mayor complains that he can do nothing because he has no material with which to work. . . .

(New York TIMES, October 9, 1944)

Four Million Lack Homes in France (By David Anderson) Paris, October 8 — Between 4,000,000 and 6,000,000 persons in France are believed to be homeless as a result of the Allied bombings during four years and the fighting of the past four months, which have destroyed or seriously damaged 1,500,000 houses. The coming of winter and the nation's low stocks of coal ready for consumers have made the housing problem grave.

These estimates like so many others in France today are rough, because the country is not yet organized for the free transmission of such facts. There seems to be general agreement among architects, however, that several million French men, women and children are presently still camping in the ruins of their homes. . . .

(New York TIMES, October 9, 1944)

Tulle, Martyr Town — When the activities of the French Patriots, the Maquis, Franc-Tireurs et Partisans, and the Secret Army, reached their peak, that is when,



Signal Corps Photo

Ruins of Vire, Normandy



Signal Corps Photo

The Cost of War. An American soldier comforts grief-stricken relatives of one of the 27 men executed by the Germans in Saint-Pol-de-Leon

after the month of June, the national liberation forces grouped in military formations as the French Forces of the Interior, the Germans, realizing that they were lost, gave free rein to their rage. Atrocities committed by the Nazis in the Vercors and Paris regions, especially at Fort de Romainville, have already been described in preceding dispatches. The horrible tragedy of Oradour-sur-Glâne is remembered by everyone.

There is still no complete record of crimes perpetrated by the Germans in their collapse and still being perpetrated on the civilian population, women, children, and upon prisoners. Nevertheless, the heart-rending story of the town of Tulle can today be added to this already overlong list whose details have little by little become known to the world.

The Division "Das Reich" arrived in Tulle on the afternoon of June 9. The German General learned that three days earlier the FFI had taken the town and that the population, far from resenting this occupation demonstrated their undiluted joy, rejoicing on being liberated at last. This word "liberation" threw the Boche into a rage and he decided to show the French just what it would cost to spurn German protection. All the men of the town were immediately summoned to the square for a "verification of papers." The people of Tulle, knowing that this verification was only a pretext, a convenient way to assemble the men, asked themselves what was going to happen afterward.

The men arrived in groups, the women and children following at a distance. The square was jammed. The Boche began to check the papers, returned each identification card to its owner, and pushed him off into a corner of the square in a haphazard way, or so it seemed. However, three distinct groups were soon formed. Then these groups were put in a definite order, the men being lined up in three rows. A heavy silence, a sort of anguish seized the crowd.

The officer who had started the procedure returned and issued an order immediately translated by interpreters: the men on the left, fathers of at least three children, were released, those in the center column, married men, were to be deported to Germany; as for the single men in the last column, they were to be hung.

Cries and sobs arose, but the Boche had already arranged the spectacle: a firm branch was selected, a hangman's rope was brought over. The officer sat down at the terrace of a café, ordered drinks for himself and his party. The ceremony would last a long time for there were 120 Frenchmen to hang. The rope was put around the neck of the first martyr and slowly he was raised. Why hurry, it's such fun to watch a man suffer for a long time. One, two, three, four bodies have fallen to the ground. Suddenly three ropes move; will the prisoners try to escape? No. The horrible truth is suddenly revealed: to add interest to the show the Germans are playing a macabre game of puss in the

corner with the prisoners. The father of a family who was glad to have escaped danger suddenly finds himself in the column of single men while a married man is freed. The bodies pile up at the foot of the gallows and the living are pulled and pushed from the ropes on the right and on the left and then on that in the middle. The spectacle goes on and time passes. However, the officer is tired of sipping his aperitifs, the hangman has had enough of yanking the cursed Frenchmen up and down: 99 have so far been killed, 21 are left. Just too bad. But after all the Fuehrer's soldiers have had their fun. . . .

The "Das Reich" Division packed up and moved along the road to the North.

(French Information Services, London, October 9, 1944)

Massacre of the Town — On June 9, after having demanded a surrender, the German armored Division "Das Reich" invaded the town of Tulle which was celebrating its liberation; the Germans arrested every man for execution. The Prefect intervened and 120 men were detained by the Gestapo to be hung. One hangman, Walger, alone is responsible for hanging 99 of the prisoners. Those victims who died too slowly to suit the Germans were machine-gunned.

One old man, a M. Cacsud, sacrificed himself for a 16-year-old boy by changing places with him but the hangman grabbed hold of the child and hung them both. Having had enough of his outrageous work, Walger stopped. No one else volunteered to take his place; thus 21 hostages were saved.

A few hours later the German Division left Tulle and passed through Oradour-sur-Glâne, forever famous for the atrocities committed there by the German Army.

On August 16, the "Das Reich" Division surrendered to the FFI.

(Ministry of Information, October 13, 1944)

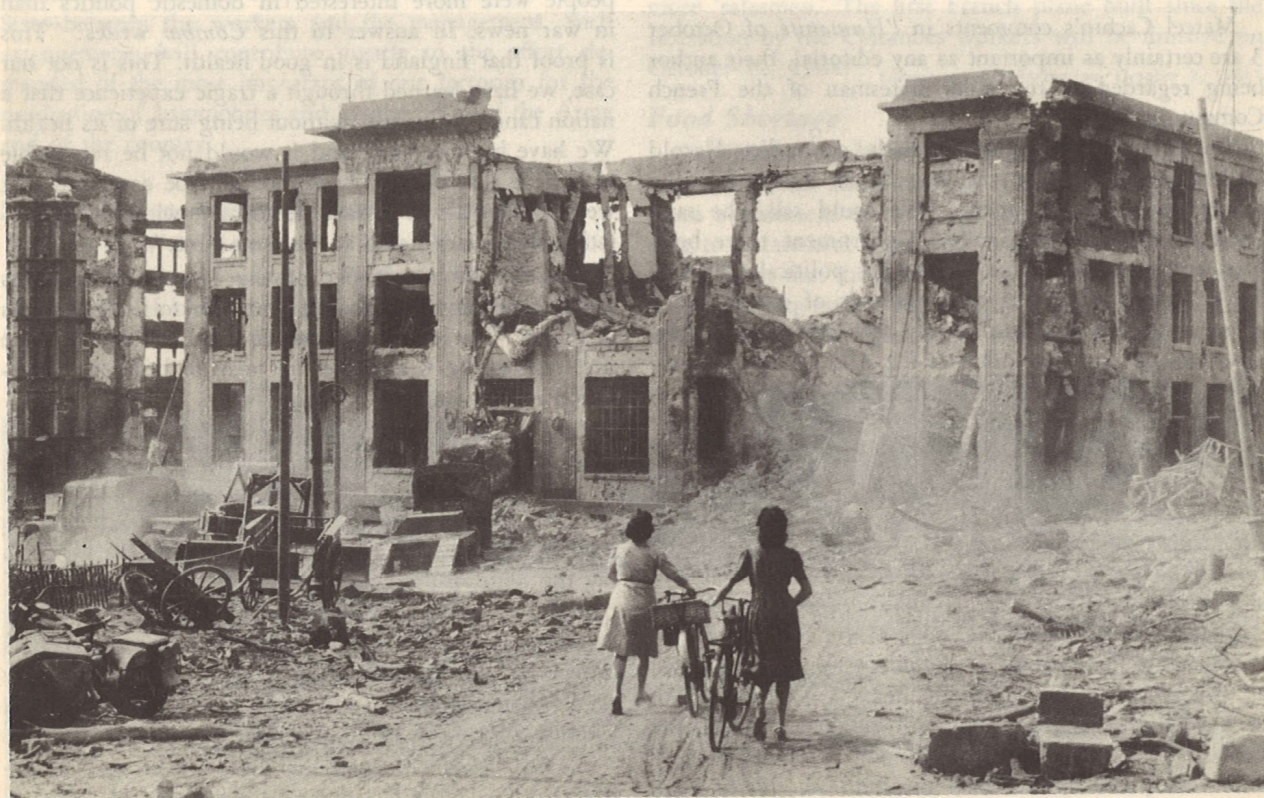
Report by Raoul Dautry on War Victims — Four-fifths of Caen has been destroyed. Three quarters of both Coutances and Avranches has been destroyed as well as one half of both Pont-Lévêque and Lisieux. There is a total of 35,000 homeless in the vanished city of Le Havre. A great many villages are in ruins. In Calvados more than 100,000 persons are homeless; in Manche, 135,000; in Seine-Inférieure, 100,000; in Orne, 50,000; and in Eure, 30,000.

The wounded cannot leave hospitals owing to the lack of clothing. In Brittany the situation is no better: there is a total of 55,000 homeless in Ille-et-Vilaine; Saint-Malo has been completely destroyed; in Fougères there are 14,000 homeless out of a population of 20,000, and in Brest, 80,000 homeless out of a population of 120,000.

(Ministry of Information, Paris, October 14, 1944)

France Has Paid Heavily, Says General de Gaulle — France has paid a heavy price in the war: 300,000 casualties on the battlefields and before firing squads; all ports destroyed; railways paralyzed; 4,000 bridges destroyed.

(Broadcast from Paris, October 14, 1944)



Signal Corps Photo

French refugees return to their home in Brest