

ALLIED ARMIES LAND IN FRANCE

GREATEST MILITARY OPERATION IN HISTORY IS LAUNCHED EARLY TODAY

Air-Borne Troops Play Major Part in Assault



SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, Allied Expeditionary Forces, Somewhere in Great Britain, Tuesday, June 6—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's supreme Allied expeditionary headquarters announced today that Allied armies were landing on the northern coast of France.

The announcement that the greatest military operation in the history of the world, one which is intended to crush Germany and her satellites and to liberate the oppressed millions of Europe, was made in **Communique No. 1** from Allied headquarters shortly after 9:30 a. m. (3:30 a. m. EWT), about three hours after German broadcasting stations had said the invasion was under way.

The Germans put the invasion front opposite the south England coast, centering around the Seine river estuary and the Seine bay, about 80 miles from the British side across the English channel, along a stretch of about 75 miles of the French coast. The Germans said that air-borne troops were playing a big part in the operation. It was announced at headquarters that Gen. Sir Ber-

nard Montgomery, the tough hero of the Allied victory in Africa, was commanding the army group which was carrying out the assault on the western side of Adolf Hitler's fortress Europe—an assault which, it has been promised, will be followed by deadly blows from east and south. American, Canadian and British troops are included in Montgomery's striking force, it was announced.

Gen. Eisenhower's historic communique No. 1 said: "Under the command of General Eisenhower, Allied naval forces, supported by strong air forces, began landing Allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France."

This was followed immediately by an order of the day to the assault troops, telling them that they were embarking on the "great crusade toward which we have striven these many months."

"The eyes of the world are upon you," the order of the day—issued by Eisenhower personally—said to the troops whose young lives are dedicated to the greatest military attack of all time.

"The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. You will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe and security for ourselves in a free world.

"Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened. He will fight savagely. But this is the year 1944. Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-1941. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans a great defeat in open battle, man to man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground.

"Our home fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned.

"The free men of the world are marching together for victory. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory. Good luck, and let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

WAR BULLETINS

LONDON—Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery is commanding the army group carrying out the assault of Allied invasion forces.

LONDON, June 6—The German DNB agency said today in a broadcast unconfirmed by Allied sources that six heavy warships and 20 enemy destroyers were lying before the Seine estuary off the coast of France.

LONDON — Allied aerial activity starting at daybreak was most intense in the London area and the roar of bomber planes flying southward brot many people from their beds.

WASHINGTON — Gen. John J. Pershing, in a statement headed "American troops have landed in western Europe," said today that he "every confidence" that the invasion "will win thru to victory."

GERMAN TEAM THAT FACES ALLIES



Surrounding above map, which shows approximate disposition of German forces in Europe, are pictures of the generals who command them and form the backbone of Hitler's defense against the Allied invasion.

WESTERN DEFENSES



The kind and disposition of German defenses against Allied invasion are mapped, above, from description given by Ralph E. Henzen, former UP director in France, after 13 months' internment in Germany. As described by the Germans, main defenses consists of three barriers, ranging back from the coast to the Rhine. First comes the "Atlantic Wall," stretching from Hendaye, on the Spanish frontier to the Hague, Netherlands, armed with thousands of permanent cannon behind steel and concrete and containing more thousands of mobile guns. In coastal waters before this, say the Germans, are "millions" of mines and anti-assault craft steel obstacles. Similar marine and coastal emplacements extend all along the coast of Norway to Petsamo, England. Second defense barrier, behind Atlantic Wall, is deep anti-tank and anti-personnel system across the planes of Picardy, straddling the Somme river and roughly approximating the battle line of World War I. Third barrier of German defenses consists of recently overhauled Siegfried Line, protecting the Rhine, and the Maginot Line. Germans also boast of a Mediterranean Wall, protecting south coast of France, anchored in the Pyrenees and Alps. Inset photo shows great gun, said by Germans to be one of many along coast.