

# Canadians Thrust Deeper Into Holland

London, Oct. 2 (AP).—The United States 1st Army, loosing a powerful drive under an earth-shaking barrage of bombs and shells, smashed two miles into the Siegfried Line on a new front today, and a furious battle raged tonight as the Germans fought from pillboxes barring the way to the Rhineland.

Infantry with bayonets, tanks and mobile guns hurled the tiny Wurm River north of the frontier fortress of Aachen and fought into Germany on a six-mile front, advancing behind an artillery barrage paced by 10-inch howitzers.

Further north the British 2nd Army moved up assault forces on an 18-mile front in Holland after smashing back two vicious counterblows aimed at the narrow Nijmegen corridor.

Thirty miles north of the American thrust, another drive appeared to be gathering as British forces pushed southeast eight miles from Deurme to the Netherlands town of Meijel, 20 miles east and slightly south of Eindhoven. Meijel is only 10 miles north of Roermond, where a good bridge spans the Maas (Meuse) River on the road to Germany.

## Canadians Gain 4 Miles

Formations of the 1st Canadian Army, pounding the south flank of an estimated 200,000 Germans pinned down in western Holland by the British thrust to Nijmegen and the Neder Rhine beyond it, drove four miles north into Holland at a point northwest of Turnhout, despite stubborn enemy resistance.

Lt.-Gen. Hodges' 1st American Army infantry jumped off two hours after the first of 500 medium and fighter-bombers came hammering out of the clouds, shattering a comparative lull of two weeks while the 1st Army mustered strength for the blow.

The bombers wiped from the map two German villages, Merkstein, a mile inside Germany, and Palenberg, four miles north, both in the path of the push, which may be aimed at the enemy's fifth largest city, Cologne, 35 miles east of the crossings, or Dusseldorf, to the north, standing at the gate to the Ruhr industrial valley.

The Americans also threw two other punches at the Germans. One was at Havert, just inside the Reich, 12 miles northwest of Meijel, and the other at Overloon, in Holland, just south of British positions on the west bank of the Maas.

The Germans again struck back with flame-throwing counterattacks, striking at Berg, 24 miles southeast of Aachen.

The focal point of fighting was

between Ubach and Herzogenrath, nine and five miles, respectively, north of Aachen. They were about four miles from the main highway to Julich, a road junction 22 miles from Dusseldorf and an equal distance from Cologne.

Supreme Headquarters cautioned correspondents not to expect a quick breakthrough.

The entire 460-mile front showed signs of restlessness, and indications were that soon the furious fighting would spread.

British 2nd Army forces moved out menacingly toward the German stronghold of 'S Hertogenbosch, 25 miles southwest of Nijmegen, and were in assault positions only three miles to the east in what may be a drive against the Germans walled off to the west.

(The Germans asserted this five-mile push was paced by the veteran

"Desert Rats" British 7th Armored Division, which helped to chase Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps out of North Africa.)

Gen. Eisenhower broadcast a warning to the Netherlands to clear out of two islands in the Schelde Estuary which the Germans have fortified to keep the Allies from using the great port of Antwerp. He asserted massive air blows were impending.

There were signs that the Germans, sensing peril in these positions, were preparing to pull out of Western Holland, but a British staff officer emphasized there was as yet no wide-scale withdrawal, only a number of truck convoys moving north.

In Holland the Germans first struck toward the Nijmegen crossing of the Waal Rhine from the area of Huissen, eight miles northeast of Nijmegen, but their tanks were driven off by artillery and RAF rocket-firing Typhoons.

Another attack came rolling from the area of the Reichswald Forest, southeast of Nijmegen, the Germans charging with flame-throwers.

Reconnaissance showed the Germans east of the corridor were digging in along the Maas River to defend the homeland.

They were also strongly entrenched on the west side of the corridor, where the British extended their assault lines to within three miles east of the enemy strongpoint of 'S Hertogenbosch.

## Drive North of Oss

British troops drove five miles north of Oss, a town 15 miles southwest of Nijmegen, to the Maas River where it turns west and runs parallel with the Waal Rhine. From there the assault line extends south through Nuland and Berlicum, five to three miles east of 'S Hertogenbosch.

Units of the 1st Canadian Army, hammering against the southern flank of the Germans in Western Holland, struck a hard core of resistance northeast of Antwerp, but pounded on into Holland.

They were cutting across the Antwerp-Turnhout Canal, a 25-mile water barrier where the Germans had deployed about 25 battalions.

In their northerly thrust the formations under command of Lt.-Gen. Crerar captured the Village of Baarle-Hertog, an enclaved bit of Belgian territory three miles inside the southern boundary of Holland on the Turnhout-Tilburg railway line.

Ross Monro, Canadian Press war correspondent, said in a field dispatch that the 25 enemy battalions equivalent in combat strength to nearly three German divisions, are a mixed collection gathered together from troops which escaped over the Scheldt Estuary from Southwestern Holland.

These forces constitute part of the 200,000 Germans still in Western Holland. The enemy forces are strung along the Netherlands islands of Walcheren and Zuid Beveland in the Schelde Estuary and it is estimated 15,000 still are stationed on the south bank of the estuary, where Canadian formations face them.

## Heavy Air Support

The American 1st Army push north of Aachen was the largest of three main attacks levelled by Lt.-Gen. Hodges' troops at the enemy on a 50-mile front extending northward into Holland, where British forces were poised in position to strike at the Siegfried line's northern terminal at Kleve.

It was the biggest air show since the July break-through at St. Lo. The first bombs plummeted down at 9 a.m., and then 10-inch guns of a big American artillery concentration opened up a furious barrage.

Patrols also had been out during the night knocking off the pillboxes from which the Germans could oppose the crossing at the small Wurm River, but despite all this, strong German forces survived the cyclone of explosives dumped upon their positions.

After the infantry had stormed through the first shocked and stunned defenders, they struck

heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire from pillboxes.

Farther south, the U.S. 3rd Army swung sharply northward close to a junction with the 1st Army.

Driving through Luxembourg, the 3rd seized the little Duchy's seventh century village of Grevenmacher, only 12 miles southwest of the German Siegfried fortress of Trier, scene of the 1st Army's original entry into Germany.

At the southern end of the long front, the United States French 7th Army was slowed to an advance of a few hundred yards at the southern entrance to the Belfort Gap, which leads 30 miles east to the Rhine and Germany's Black Forest of Bavaria.

## Preparing For 10 Days

For 10 days the United States 1st Army had been massing materials and men for its great blow at the centre of Germany's industrial might.

The main push came after 2,700 Allied planes had pounded at front positions and ranged inland into Germany.

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