

Whole American Army On the Move in France, Headquarters States

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, July 14 (AP).—The American 1st Army pushed south tonight with gains up to three miles, took more than a dozen French towns, pinned down the coastal stronghold of Lessay with artillery fire and hurled back the stubborn enemy in the centre with a blow that menaced the lateral road linking up the German front. "The whole United States Army front from St. Lo to the sea is on the move," said headquarters, and the night communique declared salients had been driven into enemy defenses before the Lessay-St. Lo road. Some of these positions were less than two miles from the highway.

Caen Lull Continues.

A stalemate continued on the British-Canadian section of the front, around the battered city of Caen. In this area the British 2nd Army, which includes the Canadian forces, is building up for fresh battles.

Ross Munro, Canadian Press war correspondent, said it was the quietest day since D-Day in this zone.

However, a concentration of 40 enemy tanks preparing to attack British positions south of Eterville, about eight miles southwest of Caen, was smashed by British and Canadian artillery Thursday, before they could move into action.

Headquarters disclosed that British forces have withdrawn from Hill 112, a dominating height in the wedge between the Odon and Orne Rivers southwest of Caen, and described this as a withdrawal from an untenable position left in no-man's-land.

Stalled before St. Lo, the American forces began sweeping around

to the north, and Supreme Headquarters said one thrust carried to the outskirts of Le Mesnil Durand, 3½ miles northwest.

The biggest gains came northwest of Lessay, where the Americans pushed three miles south and captured St. Germain-sur-Ay, Lessay's harbor. Germans, on a spit of land jutting out 2½ miles west, had escaped the trap and retreated across the Ay River.

Fire Into Lessay.

Closing in from the north, where Americans in Beauvais, less than two miles away, were firing into Lessay, other troops seized Laulne, three miles northeast of the coastal anchor.

At St. Germain-sur-Ay the enemy blew all bridges across the river, which is a formidable barrier, and took up positions on high ground to the south.

Cleaning up the north bank of the river, the Americans took Angoville, 2½ miles northwest of Lessay. Pierrepont, four miles northeast, also was captured.

The general advance averaged approximately 1,000 yards all along the line, even in the marshes of the centre, which have proved a bottleneck for Americans trying to break out of the peninsula.

The supreme command said the Germans appeared to be conducting an orderly withdrawal before the American 1st Army.

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