

THE GREAT ASSAULT GOING WELL

ALLIES SEVERAL MILES INLAND

BATTLE FOR TOWN OF CAEN

MASS ATTACK BY AIRBORNE TROOPS

CONTINUOUS FIGHTER COVER OVER BEACHES

The Allied Expeditionary Army was fighting last night several miles inland from the beaches of Normandy where it had landed in the morning after the greatest operation of its kind in history.

Mr. Churchill announced last evening that the sea passage had been made "with far less loss than had been apprehended" and the operation was proceeding "in a thoroughly satisfactory manner." Mass airborne landings have been made behind the enemy lines, and the Germans report landings in Guernsey and Jersey.

Upwards of 4,000 ships, together with several thousand smaller craft, are engaged in the operations, and during Monday night more than 5,000 tons of bombs were dropped on ten enemy coastal batteries.

LANDINGS ON A BROAD FRONT

4,000 SHIPS

First official news of the allied assault on the Fortress of Europe was given in the following statement from Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, yesterday:—

COMMUNIQUE No. 1.

Under the command of General Eisenhower, allied naval forces have

targets in northern France. During the night more than 1,000 troop carriers and gliders of the United States 9th A.A.F. and the R.A.F. flew paratroops and airborne infantry into the zone of operations.

Mass airborne landings have been made behind the enemy's lines: German reports speak of them as being "in great depth." The first statement from Allied Supreme Headquarters defines necessarily only in the most general terms the area in which landings are taking place. It is described as "the northern coast of France." German reports are more detailed—and perhaps tendentious. A late report spoke of a bridgehead having been set up on both sides of the estuary of the Orne and northward of Beligny and

WAITING FOR THE WORD

A VAST GATHERING

FINAL MOVES TO THE SEA

From Our Special Correspondent
AN ENGLISH PORT, JUNE 5

The time has come. All we await now is the word to go forth and strike the terrific blow in Western Europe, of which General Montgomery writes in his valediction to the assault troops under his command. When this despatch appears that blow will have been struck; and as one gazes out over an anchorage of fond remembrance in which, framed by the sweep of England's green shore, countless invasion ships lie at their stations, the mind recoils from the dimensions of it all.

For these tight-packed ships represent only one of the rivers of men and machines that all along the coast are pouring out into the sea. Four years ago, almost to the day, the tide of war had flooded from the east into the French channel ports before swirling back on Paris and far beyond. Now the tide has turned, and in this suspended moment of history the first mighty wave is gathered before it crashes down on the enemy's beaches. And the near observer gets no more than the fleeting, awesome glimpse of it that a solitary swimmer would have of a great breaker in an angry sea.

THE MIGHTIEST ARMADA

The mightiest armada of all time—such phrases come glibly but say very little. Words, indeed, pale before the vastness of the reality; and writing aboard an American landing craft, a veteran of Sicily, Salerno, and Anzio—a happy omen, this—I can attempt no more than to sketch in some of the impressions that have crowded upon us during the embarkation period.

To drive down into the "sealed" marshalling areas and on in endless columns to the yawning doors of the landing craft that lay stern on to the "hards" has been to enter a new world in which one saw the smiling countryside, its woods and lanes and rolling farmlands with different eyes. Quite suddenly you were in the battle zone—the rear areas it is true. The normal conception of peace on one side of the Channel and war on the other no longer held good. And one never ceased to wonder why the German Air Force, whatever the cost, had not launched full-scale attacks on this enormous concentration of troops and material.

CLOSELY GUARDED

For weeks past large areas of England have been a gigantic cage, closely guarded