

Exhibit #50... July 1944

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS
MONTH-END SUMMARY

D-plus-55 -- which is July 31st on the wall calendar --- sees the German war machine reeling backward from the shank of the Cherbourg peninsula under the sledge-hammer impact of the American offensive there; while in the center of the Normandy line the British front has exploded into action and Rommel's defenses are being rolled slowly backward onto the heels of a bulky and badly pounded support system; and still further east the Canadians have anchored the bloody line on Caen and have refused to budge in spite of murderous counter assaults.

This, in a paragraph, is the picture which Marauder and Havoc crewmen see on the ground thousands of feet below them as the sum-total of a difficult month of invasion warfare.

If the pre-invasion month of May could be described as a "softening-up period", and the invasion month of June labeled a "close-in-support month" -- then July might well be a month devoted to strangulation of the enemy's life-lines, choking off the battle front from reserves and supplies, confusing and disrupting his movements, forcing him to expend vital fuel and equipment, and generally "tripping him up" where the fall would hurt him most. Perhaps, in a sense, the month of July was a combination of the strategy and tactics of both June and May before it.

July has been a month in which the first feverish surges of the invasion battle settled into a more stabilized situation; in which both invader and defender more or less retarded tempo in order to "catch a second wind". Battle lines straightened and solidified and ground progress was at first slow, while supplies and re-inforcements came up and the generals marshalled their forces for the all-out fight that now appears to be in development.

For the medium and light bombers of the Ninth Air Force, here was a special task. While Montgomery arrayed his forces on the ground, their job was to make life miserable for Rommel --- disrupt, delay, destroy --- wear him down.

In a summer month which Britons declare to be one of the filthiest weather in nearly a half century, the Marauders and Havocs went at it, day after day, from early morning missions to those which saw them swarming their home fields in partial darkness; flying in weather so bad that not many months ago they would not have ventured off the ground; bombing through heavy clouds --- and all the while maintaining a remarkable record of accomplishment.

Now, thirty-one days later, it is obvious that without this aggressive type of operations, the present ground drive doubtless could not have been mounted.

In the early part of July, Ninth medium and light bombers began operations with a series of attacks on bridges, railheads, communications and fuel dumps, climaxing this on July 6 with assaults on AA targets --- more than in any other single day in the Ninth's history in the ETO. The Marauders and Havocs already had smashed the bridges over the Seine and wrecked or rendered useless most of those over the Loire. The Germans were frantically attempting to repair the broken spans or swing temporary structures

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SECRET

S E C R E T

LATE RECONNAISSANCE

F L A S H

1st phase interpretation of PRU reconnaissance
on six targets attacked on 1 August 1944 dis-
closes:

CINQ MARS - (Bombed by 322 BG) The bridge itself remains undamaged. A near miss has caused possible slight damage to tracks of the Southeast approach. A concentration of craters is seen Northwest of the bridge.

LES PONTS DE CE - (Bombed by 397 BG) The south 1/3 of the bridge has been destroyed, with only one supporting pile remaining. Suspended in the water, the North 1/3 has received severe damage. The bridge has been rendered unserviceable.

GOULARD PORT MARTINEAU - (Bombed by 386 BG) With only the supporting piles remaining, the bridge appears unserviceable. One direct hit and two near misses have cut the rail lines Northwest of bridge. Another near miss Southeast of the bridge has possibly damaged the tracks. Approximately twenty craters are seen in fields West of the span.

NOGENT-SUR-LE-LOIR (Bombed by 386 BG) The bridge has been severed at both ends, with a direct hit on the cut Northeast end throwing the entire bridge out of line. The Northeast end is suspended in the water, while the approach to that end has been cut by one direct hit. Approx. 20 craters are seen concentrated Northeast of the target.

CHARTRES - (Bombed by 323 BG) Traffic is now impossible, two direct hits and two near misses having been scored on tracks at each side of probable single span bridge.

BOURTH - (Bombed by 391 BG) Although this bridge remains undamaged, through traffic has been rendered impossible by a direct hit causing a large crater on tracks East of the bridge. Approximately 30 craters are visible in the target area.

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