

YANK

THE ARMY



WEEKLY

May 26, 1944

Invasion Fever

AS the increasing aerial bombardment of Nazi-occupied Europe mounted in fury day after day, every American civilian was talking last week about when, where and how the actual land invasion of the continent would begin.

Newspaper editors already were dragging out their largest headline type, and, when more than 40 top Washington correspondents were called to the White House for what turned out to be a routine announcement, telephone lines from a dozen National Press building offices were being kept open in case this was "it." The incident in the national capital was typical of the nervous expectation everywhere.

The War Department for the first time explained to civilians the military meaning of "D Day" and "H Hour," and almost every newspaper used on its front page Army Signal Corps pictures of GIs in England carrying full field packs on maneuver, calling it "D Day Preview."

Newspaper publishers at their annual convention heard Richard Tregaskis, correspondent-author of "Guadalcanal Diary" in the South Pacific, who was wounded in Italy, say the U.S. must be prepared for heavy casualties but that enemy casualties will exceed our own.

From San Francisco, newspaperman Lawrence Davies reported that "despite its proprietary interest in the Pacific war, the West Coast is on tenterhooks for the start of the invasion."

Time Magazine published a nation-wide advertisement called "A plea for straight thinking on the eve of great events," asking more people to read Time during and after the invasion.

Actually, declared the Indianapolis News, the hour for the big strike is known only to one man, Gen. Eisenhower, and even Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin will learn the exact time only after it has passed.

In addition, the News guessed, the storming of the European continent will not be a single giant assault but many separate co-ordinated attacks.

But guessing was everybody's game.

There was even more speculation as to the exact time and place of the invasion than how Stir Up, Challenge Me and Lucky Draw would place in the Kentucky Derby.

And possibly even more betting.



Only Ike Knows?