

COUNTRY IN PRAYER

President on Radio Leads in Petition He Framed for Allied Cause

LIBERTY BELL RINGS

Lexington and Boston's Old North Church Hold Services

By LAWRENCE RESNER

Led by President Roosevelt, the entire country joined in solemn prayer yesterday for the success of the United Nations armies of liberation.

Over the radio networks at 10 P. M. the President read the prayer which he had composed in the early invasion hours yesterday morning, the text of which had already been heard in both houses of Congress.

The prayer had been sent out throughout the country and printed in newspapers so that the millions who listened to the broadcast could recite the words with the President as he spoke.

The President's prayer that the Allied forces be led "straight and true" in the struggle to liberate the suffering humanity of Europe was the climax of a day marked both by the solemn appreciation of the human values involved and exhilaration over the fact that the great battle had been joined.

His expression of faith that with the Grace of God, "and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph," was echoed in the hearts of his countrymen, in special prayers offered in great cathedrals and small parishes, and in the ordinary conversation of Americans everywhere.

"Heartbreaking Days Ahead"

In Congress, after the prayer was read, Joseph W. Martin of Massachusetts, House minority leader, warned that "many heartbreaking days lie ahead," and Senator Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, the majority leader, said that "all we need or ought to do or can do is pray fervently and devoutly for the success of our troops and those of our allies."

At Albany, Governor Dewey, accompanied by Mrs. Dewey, attended St. Peter's Episcopal Church for a few brief moments of prayer, while here in New York City an estimated 50,000 persons who gathered at Madison Square were led in prayer by Mayor La Guardia.

The observance at Madison Square was typical of smaller gatherings called in many American cities and attended by persons of all faiths and creeds.

In Columbus, Ohio, Governor John W. Bricker called the landings in France "the beginning of the end of the forces of evil and destruction," and in Chicago Bishop Henry St. George Tucker, president of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, suggested the words for a D-day prayer.

In many communities the news of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's first invasion communiqué was greeted with sirens or whistles.

The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, which heralded the nation's independence, was rung six times to mark the landings. In Boston and Lexington services were held in historic churches.

Both The Associated Press and The United Press reported a generally undemonstrative reception of the news. Groups gathered at newsstands, or stood before radio loudspeakers, eager to learn the fullest details of the actual military events, but, with very few exceptions the thousands of war workers in the principal industrial areas were credited with receiving with solemn intentness the confirmation of the Allied invasion, and in many instances were said to have worked with extra zeal thereafter.

The news was brought to workers on night shifts over plant loud-

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PRESIDENT LEADS COUNTRY IN PRAYER

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speaking systems, but there was little shouting or any other demonstration.

Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, called upon the country to exert its "supreme effort." He said "we've got a long way to go," but also made the reassuring statement that the Allied forces were using secret weapons that "the public has never seen or even heard of" and which match "everything the enemy has been able to devise."

In Washington two men who might have been expected to be the busiest persons in the capital, Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, and Secretary Henry L. Stimson, were reported to have left their offices around 5 P. M. Monday and not to have returned until their usual hours yesterday morning.

General Marshall's work was said to have been done before the invasion started, a fact which seemed to sum up the War Department's D-day.

General Marshall had gone to the Soviet Embassy Monday night to receive the Order of Suvorov, First Class, the Soviet Union's highest military decoration, while Secretary Stimson was at home during the first stages of the landings.