"... YOU WILL BE FIRST AMERICAN TROOPS TO LAND"—This remarkable photo, made in a plane winging its way from North Africa to Sicily, shows quiet, thoughtful U. S. Army paratroopers only a little while before they leaped into darkness to spearhead the Allied invasion. In their minds, no doubt, are the words of their commanding officer—"Your destination is the Italian island of Sicily and you will be the first American troops to land." They were halfway to Sicily before their destination was announced. (U. S. Army Signal Corps radio-telephoto from Algiers.)

GERONIMO! GERONIMO! PARATROOPERS LEAP OUT OVER SICILY! — One by one, in perfect order, U. S. Army parachute infantrymen bail out over Sicily in the wake of their commanding officer, Lt. Col. Charles W. Koung. As the men stepped out into the darkness they screamed the strange, spine-tingling war cry of the first American paratroopers—"Geronimo!" (U. S. Army Signal Corps radiotelephoto from Algiers.)

—Attack Commanders:—

# Patton Leads Americans In Sicily While Montgomery Heads British

VALLETTA, Malta — (AP) — Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. is commanding United States forces in Sicily while Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery is commander-in-chief of the British forces, an official statement said today.

The full list of senior officers commanding the present combined operation in the Mediterranean under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower follows:

Commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean — Admiral Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham.

Naval commander — Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay.

Deputy commander-in-chief, Allied forces—Gen. Sir Harold Alexander.

Commander-in-chief, British forces—Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery.

Air commander-in-chief, Mediterranean Air Command—Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder.

Commander, United States Naval forces — Vice-Admiral Henry K. Hewitt.

Commanding general, American forces—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr.

Commanding general, Northwest African Air Force — Lt. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz.

Commanding Northwest African Tactical Air Force—Air Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham.

Commanding general, Strategic Air Force — Maj. Gen. James H. Doolittle.

Air officer commanding Northwest African Coastal Air Force—Air Vice-Marshal Sir Hugh P. Lloyd.

PATTON — MONTGOMERY

The Helicopter can hover two or three feet above the ground, making it possible to even change a tire.

# Stimson In London

## Arrives By Plane From United States

LONDON—(AP)—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, who arrived here yesterday by plane from the United States, spent a quiet day today "getting acquainted with some of the American Army officers and seeing a few other people," an announcement from his headquarters said.

Stimson was scheduled to meet later with Prime Minister Churchill for a conference on forthcoming moves against the Axis and will also inspect American troops based on the British Isles. He announced that he would hold a press conference later in the week.

STOP IN ICELAND

Stimson's flight was broken by a stopover at Iceland, where he paused briefly to inspect United States troops and installations. He was greeted on his arrival in Britain by Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, American commander in the European theater; William A. Harriman, U. S. Lease-Lend Expediter, and other high officials. The trip was Stimson's first to a theater of operations since the war began.

In the Stimson party were Brig. Gen. Alexander D. Surles; Harvey H. Bundy, a special assistant; Lt. Col. William H. S. Wright; Lt. Gordon Grand, Stimson's aide de camp, and Cpl. William Ford, a clerk.

It was reported that Stimson had met with members of the British High Command shortly after his arrival and that there would be further conferences with British military and civilian leaders as well as United States officers.

—Mr. Mackenzie's Analysis:—

# Eisenhower Supported By Great Resources As He Strikes Sicily

By DEWITT MACKENZIE

NEW YORK — Our tight-lipped Allied High Command is doing much and saying little about the Sicilian invasion but our information is sufficient to tell us that we have established our bridgeheads along a 100-mile stretch of the southeast coast of the island and that thus have successfully inaugurated the greatest amphibious attack of history.

MacKenzie

Through these all-important gaps in the Axis defenses already are pouring the reinforcements, machines of war and supplies which will enable the troops of the United Nations to reduce one of the most important defenses of Southern Europe.

It's quite likely that we have a fierce and bloody struggle ahead of us before we master this battle ground of the ancients, but we would seem to have broken the back of the job already, for establishment of the bridgeheads was the crucial task.

OPENING WEDGE

So the Allied hoot at long last is jammed into a door of the Continent. To Messrs. Hitler and Mussolini this must signal strongly the approach of retribution, for the forces massed in the vast North African camp for invasion operations comprised not only Americans, English and Canadians, but men from occupied countries where the Axis has murdered and raped and plundered — France, Poland, Greece, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

American and other Allied troops are astride the peninsula which forms the southeast tip of Sicily, ending in Cape Passero. One German military analyst asserts that Commander-in-Chief Eisenhower apparently is bent on establishing a front across this southeastern corner, between the city of Gela on the west and Syracuse to the north. One would say that the general not only intends to establish such a front but apparently has done so already.

At least three Axis airfields were early in the invaders' hands—two at Gela and another at Pachino, near the Cape. Those fields should be invaluable to the attack in its early stages, and they likely are in use already. Latest reports from headquarters in North Africa say that fleets of Allied bomber-fighters have been slashing steadily at Axis troops and positions along the invasion coasts.

There naturally are no official figures for the forces involved. However, London observers place the Axis strength in Sicily at about 400,000 men, including considerable German reinforcements.

Berlin is toying with figures which indicate that they believe the Allies are drawing from a reservoir of close to a million men in Africa, and that there may be 450,000 effectives involved in the actual assault. The Nazis also place the Allied Air Force in the Mediterranean theater at about 4,000. The invasion fleet of 2,000 ships is the greatest ever assembled.

Whatever the exact figures may be, the essential point is that the United Nations seem to have sufficient resources of all sorts in the Mediterranean to turn the trick, and then some. Having said this, it must be added that the comparatively smooth going of the invasion thus far is too good to be taken as a gauge of what is to come.

We're likely to find it a costly business before we are through, for the rugged terrain of Sicily provides the setting for a fierce battle. It is a mass of mountains, slashed by valleys, and there are plenty of strong natural positions for Axis defense.

Where will the Allies aim for, now that their bridgeheads are established? You'll have to worm that out of General Ike, if you are smart enough. However, one logical line he might pursue would be to head up the coastal road along the eastern shore, through Syracuse to Messina, which lies on the narrow strait of that same name.

MESSINA IS KEY POINT

One would expect the Allies to get to Messina as quickly as possible. This is the terminus of the mainland railway, trains being ferried across the strait, which is only two miles wide at its narrowest point. Since Messina is the sole railhead on Sicily, its capture obviously would cut the island off from its main communication.

Actually Sicily must be pretty well isolated already. The Allies have complete mastery of the air, which means that any shipping which essays the zig-zags of the dangerous Messina waterway is unlikely to reach its destination. That is to say, the Italians and Germans on Sicily must depend largely on the resources already collected there. In this respect they are in a position similar to that of the Axis forces which surrendered in Tunisia.

# Turks See War Turn

## Say Sicily Attack Can't Be Overestimated

By FRANK J. O'BRIEN

ISTANBUL, July 11—(Delayed)—(AP)—Istanbul's fourteen newspapers, which circulate throughout turkey, announced the Allied invasion of Italy with screaming headlines today and editorially termed the action the turning point in the war.

The news pushed everything else—even the battle in Russia — off the front pages, and widely read commentators, including some who normally favor the Axis, told readers that the importance of the development could not be overestimated.

"Since 3 A. M. Saturday Italy has begun to reap the fruits of her alliance with Germany," proclaimed the pro-democratic Yeni Sabah. "The myth of discord between Russia and her allies has disappeared."

Another leading daily headlined its commentary: "We are face to face with events which will determine the destiny of the war."

The popular anti-Axis paper Tan said the Sicilian campaign was "the first step toward the invasion of Europe" and added that "the disappearance of Italy from the war would put both the Balkans and France in danger."

Even the normally pro-Axis Tanviri Efkar declared that "we are living in one of the most important stages of this war—the turning point in history is about to be passed."

The semi-official afternoon paper Aksham reminded its readers what changes the war has gone through since Dunkerque and warned them of other developments to follow.

"It is openly declared," it said, "that the French Army is not participating in Sicily. The French Army is being held in reserve for bigger affairs—for a veritable second front which will be opened in France. That is why General Giraud is in America."

# Axis On Alert For New Thrusts At Europe; Bigger Blows Seen

BERN—(AP)—The entire fortress of Europe was on the alert today for new lightning Allied thrust as Axis leaders in Germany and Italy anxiously watched the progress of the Battle for the Mediterranean Island of Sicily.

Dispatches reaching here today from Berlin and Rome conceded that the Allies had established at least four bridgeheads in Sicily and looked ahead gravely to a day not far distant when they expect invasion barges to grate upon other shores along the Mediterranean.

Of the two Axi capitals Berlin took the news of the invasion more calmly, pointing out that it had long been expected and declaring that advance Allied parachutists and airborne units had been annihilated or surrounded and captured. Axis sources gave few details, however, on the progress of the fighting in Sicily.

TENSION GROWS

There was mounting tension in Rome and on the mainland of Italy.

One dispatch from Milan said that Premier Mussolini and King Vittorio Emanuele had made a point of being seen publicly in Rome, where the "atmosphere is heavy," and private sources revealed that Mussolini had presided over a cabinet meeting yesterday.

It was also reported that there had been further expulsions in the Fascist Party in an effort to bolster crumbling morale and Italian newspapers were enlisted in a campaign to whip up enthusiasm for the fighting ahead.

The London Daily Mail reported that Mussolini had appealed to the people to address the Italian people in an effort to ease the tension which followed reports of the Sicilian invasion.

Swedish advices also said that many arrests had occurred in Genoa, where Alfred Cucco, vice secretary of the Fascist Party, had made an appeal to Sicilians and Italians. It was said that sharp measures were to be used to suppress rumors, speculation and defeatist talk.

A Berlin broadcast which appeared to weigh heavily in depressing the Italian state of mind as the crisis approached was a steadily worsening food problem brought about by the relentless Allied air attacks on Italian railroads.

Il Giornale D'Italia pointed out that for more than a month American and British air forces have concentrated on railway lines in both Sicily and Sardinia and on the mainland. There was no indication of how many trains had been smashed, but the newspaper said 182 trainmen have been killed and 341 others wounded.

The Courrier de Geneve said there seemed to be no lack of fruit and vegetables in the producing areas of Italy but that because of the "serious transport difficulty" there was no way to get it from the farms to the metropolitan areas.

The Germans also were well aware that on the transportation situation might well hinge the fate of the Axis. A Berlin dispatch to the Neue Zuercher Zeitung quoted Nazi military circles as being "confident of the Axis troops' ability to confront the Allied Forces provided they have normal facilities for supply lines."

There was ample evidence, however, that the Italian railroad system—a long delicate spinal column linking the agricultural areas of the south to the industrial north—could not handle the normal needs of the civilian population, much less bear the added strain which the Sicilian invasion has imposed upon it.

The colonel of a Swiss division pointed out that in addition to army and civilian supply lines the Italian coastal routes also bore a heavy share of the burden of defense against invasion. Italian defenses, he explained, included a number of armored trains equipped with long range naval and anti-aircraft guns which can be shuttled up and down the coast to make up in part for the inadequacies of the navy. These, he said, were dependent upon maintenance by the already harassed railways.

PREPARED IN BALKANS

While private sources in Italy said the Italians had accused Germany of failure to send reserves to the Sicilian theater and were instead maintaining a guard at the northern frontier, the Nazis themselves were preparing for an attack in the Balkan area.

German leaders, pointing to the heavy bombing of Crete, suggested that the Balkans might be the next stop listed on the United Nations' timetable.

German newspapers have been filled with stories quoting the determination of the Italian people to resist the Allied advance, but they concede there has been some damage to civilian morale in the fact that the landings have succeeded.

Said the Swiss paper "Die Tat": "Since the German and Italian people until now have been given assurances that an Allied attack on the continent would fail, the success of the landing effort naturally brings about a drop in the moral barometer of public opinion."

(From Madrid came a report that Axis garrison forces have been shifted to strengthen defenses from the Gulf of Lyon near Spain east to Italy. Coastal freighters, the report said, were being used to ship troops from French ports to Sardinia and Corsica.)

# Nazis Admit Ship Sinking

## Robin Moor Sunk Before War Started

NEW YORK — (AP) — The Berlin radio acknowledged today that the American merchant ship Robin Moor, which was torpedoed and sunk in the South Atlantic on June 9, 1941, was sent to the bottom by a German submarine, CBS reported.

The Germans previously had disclaimed all responsibility for the sinking and had refused to consider a claim for damages lodged by the U. S. Government. The ship was the first American vessel to be torpedoed and sunk in this war.

The torpedoing of the Robin Moor, a ship of about 5,000 tons, while bound for British and Portuguese ports in Africa with a general cargo, caused the U. S. Government to lodge a strong diplomatic protest with Berlin and was a factor in the rapid deterioration of relations between the two governments.

The owners of the vessel stated emphatically that she was not carrying munitions or other war materials. All persons aboard the vessel eventually reached safety, some in South America and some in Africa.

The first limited airway in Latin-America was inaugurated March 6, 1943, with night service between Los Angeles and Mexico City.

# Blast Japs In Akyab Region

NEW DELHI— (AP) —Royal Air Force Vengeance bombers unleashed new blows at Japanese installations northeast of Akyab and on the Chindwin River yesterday, while fighter patrols damaged three enemy steamers and other craft on the Irrawaddy River, according to a joint communique issued today. All British aircraft returned safely.

Minbya Village, 30 miles northeast of Akyab, was the chief objective of the Burma west coast while Mawlaik, important enemy post on the Chindwin River was blasted by a formation of Blenheim bombers. Installations in the Buthidaung area were strafed and machine-gunned by fighter planes on offensive patrol.

# Parachutists Play A Spectacular Role In Allied Attack On Sicily

By EDWIN SHANKE

STOCKHOLM — (AP) —British and American parachute troops are endangering Axis defenses in Sicily by operating in their rear, responsible Italian leaders conceded as they began to prepare the Italian people for invasion of the mainland, advices reaching here from Italy said today.

Allied parachutists are playing a very special role in the invasion of Sicily, former Propaganda Minister Alessandro Pavolini wrote in the Rome newspaper "Il Messagero", the Rome correspondent of the Swedish paper "Dagens Nyheter" said.

"There is some danger they may be able to cut communication lines of Italian and German defense forces and put important control centrals out of action," Pavolini wrote.

Pavolini thus gave the lie to German reports that Allied parachutists had been "liquidated" and made it plain they had become a menace to Axis defense plans.

Italians who have become more experienced at reading between the lines cannot find any optimism in the Fascist press, the "Dagens Nyheter" correspondent said. The press speaks of the Allies "concentrating enormous masses of men and material" and of "coordinating fleet, air and ground forces in a great concentrated offensive."

Virginio Gayda, writing in "Il Giornale D'Italia", took pains to tell the Italians that after the Allies have completed the "first period" of invasion by obtaining bridgeheads the Italians can expect rapid penetration and "widening action".

"The most important moment in the history of Italy and Europe has now arrived," he said. "At this moment there is no place for eloquence and agony but on the contrary only seriousness and force, because in these days the future of several generations of Italians will be decided."

The importance of all of this is clear, the "Dagens Nyheter" correspondent declared. "Authoritative Italians expect the invasion of the mainland."

Although Axis broadcasts said counter-attacks had been made against the Allied bridgeheads in Sicily, Berlin dispatches to Stockholms Tidningen quoted German military commentators as declaring the major German and Italian forces were still in the center of the island waiting for the commanders to determine how the Allied invasion will develop.

Neutral correspondents said the invasion had created tremendous interest in Berlin while life in Rome continued almost as usual, although some women with relatives in Sicily cried in the street as they listened to radio reports of the action.

From Berlin, Stockholms Tidningen's correspondent said "what happens now on Sicily for the ordinary German no longer is a war on the outside of Europe as he has been told by Propaganda Minister Goebbels."

"The ordinary German will learn in the defense of Sicily whether the Axis military bloc is a powerful one," he added.

The newspaper's Rome correspondent said the feeling among Italians was unlike the fear the Germans have of the Russians. The average Italian knows the Americans and British as tourists and from motion pictures and has a good opinion of them, he explained.

"That explains why the invasion of Sicily failed to create panic among the people although they fear the whole of Italy may be a battlefield," he added.

## Petain Calls Cabinet To Hear Pierre Laval

LONDON — (AP) — The German-controlled Paris radio reported that Marshal Petain had summoned his cabinet at Vichy to hear Chief of Government Pierre Laval make a long statement today on foreign policy.

some civet cats.

SIMMONS PROMOTED

CONCORD—Jesse R. Simmons, manager of the Concord and Kannapolis offices of the United States Employment Service, has received notice from State and National headquarters that he had been promoted to the managership of the Greensboro office, which is a Class 1 office.

# Better Squeeze That Rifle Right, Bud

CAMP EDWARDS, Mass. — (AP)—Two gadgets, the "Squeezit" and the "Squeez-ola"—inventions of Major William A. Strong of Atlanta, Ga. — are helping soldiers improve their marksmanship at the First Service Command's basic training center.

The "Squeezit" consists of a rubber bulb, a piece of tubing and a glass column filled with colored water. The bulb is placed behind the trigger of the rifle, permitting the instructor to see the amount of pressure exerted in the squeeze.

The "Squeez-ola" operates on the same principle, except that the rifle is mounted on a frame with a mechanical paddle attached. If the trigger is not squeezed correctly the would-be marksman receives a swift slap in the posterior.

ARMSTRONG TRANSFERRED

CHAPEL HILL—Lt. Roy Armstrong, former director of admissions in the University, now on leave, who was commissioned in the Navy about three months ago and then went through training at Columbia University and Fort Schuyler, New York, has been returned to North Carolina and has the post of Naval liaison officer at State Selective Service Board headquarters in the Department of Justice Building in Raleigh.