

# ALLIES RACE TO SYRACUSE CAPTURED

## Reds Keep Nazis From Widening Line Wedge

### Battle Rages In Belgorod Area

By WILLIAM McGAFFIN  
MOSCOW — (AP) — The battle of the Belgorod breach continued with undiminished fury today with the Russians insisting that they have effectively prevented German tanks from enlarging the wedge they drove into the Red Army lines five days ago.

Field Marshal Gueanter Von Kluge's armored columns were also smashing with fresh emphasis on the Orel-Kursk end of the Kursk salient, but here, too, the Russians claim they were absorbing the best that the Nazis could give.

The Kursk sector blazed into more furious action as the second week of the German offensive began, but it was not yet clear whether Von Kluge has shifted the main weight of his attack to Belgorod in a possible search for an easier spot to breach the unyielding Russian lines.

### NAZI REBS TRAPPED

A German communique broadcast by Berlin Radio and recorded by the Associated Press, said an important Russian force had been encircled and wiped out between Orel and Belgorod. Several thousand prisoners were taken, the communique said, and 122 Red tanks were destroyed. Numerous guns and other war material were captured.

The communique claimed a total of 229 Russian tanks and 70 airplanes were destroyed on this sector and added that Red Army losses since July 1st included 23,000 prisoners, 1,674 tanks and 1,400 guns destroyed.

Even if the Russians declared that the Germans were fighting in general on much the same scale as when they began their offensive which has cost them 2,500 tanks and 10,000 planes in a single week.

## American 7th, British 8th Armies Attack

LONDON — (AP) — Correspondents' dispatches from North Africa identified the main forces invading Sicily as the American Seventh Army and the British Eighth Army.

The American Seventh, commanded by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., was believed to have advanced largely of the troops previously known as the U. S. Desert Army, which fought in Tunisia, plus some armor, and infantry and airborne units.

The famous British Eighth Army, commanded by Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, was believed to have been considerably reinforced, with many of the greatest combat veterans still standing by its side.

## Canadian Troops Win Pachino Area And Establish Bridgehead

By ROSS MUNKRO  
Canadian Press War Correspondent  
Distributed by the Associated Press  
MONTREAL, July 11 — (Delayed) — Sicilian troops fled in night and dawn in a series of incidents, it is reported, as Canadian troops won the long crescent beach, Canadian assault troops with a crack British formation, the night flank over Pachino Peninsula within 24 hours and established an invasion bridgehead.

It has been an success after another in this Canadian-British sector as the greatest combined operation in history was launched.

The Canadians now have advanced into hilly country northwest



**'YOUR DESTINATION IS ITALIAN ISLAND OF SICILY'** — High over the Mediterranean, halfway to Sicily, U. S. Army parachute infantrymen who spearheaded the Allied invasion learn their destination from their commanding officer, Lt. Col. Charles W. Koons (standing). They listen intently as Col. Koons announces, "Your destination is the Italian island of Sicily and you will be the first American troops to land." (U. S. Army Signal Corps radiotelephoto from Algiers.) More paratroop pictures are on page 6.

## Bombs Smash Yank Bombers Hit Italy Hard

### Liberators Inflict Big Damage On Air Field

CAIRO — (AP) — American Liberators blasted Southern Italian airbases in a dash yesterday in support of the Allied storming of Sicily's defenses and a U. S. communique announced today that their explosives created "great damage" on the air field at Reggio Calabria, a base for aerial defense of the vital Sicilian ferry terminal.

Striking from bases in the Middle East, the four-engine Liberators also attacked the airfield at nearby Vibo Valentia, severely damaging administration buildings, hangars and parked aircraft.

Although strong formations of enemy fighters attempted to intercept the attackers, all American planes returned safely. Two enemy planes were destroyed and two others damaged.

The communique said many hits were scored on hangars, barracks and motor transport at Reggio Calabria.

"Dispersal areas were well covered with bursts and a large number of planes were seen burning," the communique said.

## Yank Bombers Hit Japs In Pacific

### 176 Tons Of Bombs Stream Down On Enemy Strongholds

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC — (AP) — American bombers pounded four widely scattered Japanese bases in the Southwest Pacific Sunday, striking most heavily at Munda, the enemy's key defense point in the central Solomons.

More than 176 tons of bombs were hoisted on the Japanese strong-holds and at least nine Zeroes which attempted to interfere were shot down. One Liberator and two Allied fighters were lost.

Torpedoes and dive-bombers smashed 52 tons of heavy bombs upon anti-aircraft positions and bivouac areas near Munda. Stormy weather hampered the Avengers and Dauntless bombers as they poured in on Munda in another of the series of raids designed to soften the sector for ground forces already gathering in the jungle to storm the Japanese stronghold.

The communique from General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters said results of the attack were unobserved. Pilots who took part in the raid, however, were credited.

See U. S. PLANES on page 8.

## Hull Talks Of Invasion

### Sicily Attack Second Great Step In Drive

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of State Hull today cheered the Allied invasion of Sicily as the second great historic step toward invasion and occupation of Europe.

He told his press conference it was not surprising, but nevertheless a matter of great gratification that the military operations on Sicily thus far had progressed favorably.

Asked if the State Department, through the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, had formulated plans for feeding the inhabitants of Sicily, Hull replied that Director Herbert Lehman of the OFRRO was cooperating with Army authorities, but that he was not in a position to discuss the details.

In reply to other questions, Hull said the first meeting of the Interim Commission created by the United Nations Food Conference at Hot Springs, Va., last month would hold its first meeting in the Archives Building here July 15.

The interim Commission's task is to draw up plans for a permanent international organization to deal with food and agricultural problems.

## Invasion Highlights

### Say Seven Allied Divisions Landed

LONDON — (AP) — The Berlin radio declared today that a total of seven British, American and Canadian divisions already had landed in Sicily.

Giving this figure in a broadcast recorded by the Ministry of Information, Capt. Ludwig Serterius, Transoceanic military correspondent, asserted that "Gen. Eisenhower undoubtedly can, if he desires, double the forces already landed."

Serterius reported that a British Army of four divisions was operating on the coast between Cape Passero and Cape Croce (Augusta). The Allies have announced that the British already have taken Syracuse, main city in this strip.

An American force of two divisions, plus one Canadian division, is operating from Licata to Cape Scaramia, the broadcast said.

The Allied objective, Serterius said, is to encircle German and Italian forces in the southeast Sicilian mountains or force them to retreat beyond Palma and Catania.

See HIGHLIGHTS on page 8.

## Montgomery Leads British Offensive

### Patton's American Forces Smash Axis Counter-Attacks in Locata-Gela Area and Move Northward

By DANIEL DeLUCE

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP) — Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's British armies raced toward Catania from captured Syracuse in a tremendous push up Sicily's east coast today after American and Allied forces had captured nine other important ports and towns, turned back seven counter-attacks by enemy tanks and captured 2,000 prisoners, mostly Italians.

Leading the western crescent of the Allied attack, Americans under Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. crushed the heaviest of the enemy armored counter-attacks in the Licata-Gela area some 80 miles west of Syracuse and advanced northward of Gela.

Heading units of his famous British Eighth Army, which fought in epic battles from El Alamein, Egypt, across North Africa, General Montgomery plunged toward Messina and the strategic straits some 80 miles northward after securing firmly the advantageous port of Syracuse, a city of 53,000 and potential springboard for invasion of the Italian mainland.

## Counter-Attacks Made By Axis

### Italian Report Says "Fighting Continues Fierce and Uninterrupted"

LONDON — (AP) — The Italians asserted in a communique today that Axis forces in Sicily had counter-attacked successfully against Allied invasion forces and that "fighting continued fierce and uninterrupted."

The communique, broadcast from Rome and recorded by the Associated Press, also said "the Allied forces vainly tried to increase the size of the occupied coastal areas."

"Italian and German troops decisively went over to counter-attacks, beat off enemy units at several points, and in one sector compelled them to retreat," the war bulletin added.

## MASS AIR RAIDS

Algiers advices reported mass air raids near Gela which inflicted heavy damage on airfields and communications. The attackers were said to have met heavy anti-aircraft and fighter opposition. Concentrations were shelled intensely.

The Moroccan radio, in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press, quoted pilots returning from flights over Sicily as confirming that "violent fighting now is in progress at eight miles from Gela."

In the sector invaded by American forces.

The Berlin radio declared that the fight for supremacy in the air over Sicily and the Mediterranean had not yet started, although the greatest scale of violent air encounters taking place over Sicily and surrounding waters yesterday and today.

## Allied Planes Now Operating From Captured Airfields Upon Sicily

### By EDWARD GILLING

Representing the Combined British Press  
(Distributed by Associated Press)  
AN ALLIED COMMAND POST IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA, July 11 — (Delayed) — Allied planes were operating today from captured airfields in Sicily.

German troops have been driven in, in an endeavor to hold up our advance.

Later in the day Allied mine-sweepers cleared the beach approaches of the south.

On the southern coast American troops have captured the ports of Licata and Gela and equipment already is being unloaded there.

The bridgehead held by the Americans is 25 miles in length and ten miles deep.

Between them and the British Eighth Army on the right are the Canadians, who took a big part in the capture of Pachino Peninsula yesterday.

Today Allied troops were fanning out as they advanced inland and up to midway there

was no sign of an enemy counter-attack.

Our troops are meeting only light opposition so far and the civilian population is reacting well to our landing and cooperating in every way.

One illustration of this occurred when an official of one town which our troops occupied without much trouble offered to go to a nearby town in which the enemy was refusing to advise them to surrender.

More than 4,000 prisoners were taken yesterday and an Italian coastal regiment was

perched four Allied cruisers were torpedoed, three by Italian planes and another, one of 10,000 tons, by a submarine. Of the one reported hit by the undersea craft, the communique said: "She blew up."

Four other Allied craft were reported hit by the torpedo planes and two of them, both steamships, were listed as sunk.

Italian and German air formations also were said to have sunk five steamers and several landing craft. The communique continued, "hit and set on fire more than 49 merchantmen, transports of various tonnages."

"The fighting spirit of British and German units is very high," the communique continued. "The behavior of the population of the island and that of the proud Sicilian soldiers, who are great numbers belong to our units, is especially to be praised."

The Rome bulletin asserted that Axis fighters had shot down 10 Allied planes and that eight more were seen.

See AXIS FORCES on page 8.

## Red Loudspeakers Tell Germans About Sicily

NEW YORK — (AP) — The Russians have set up loudspeakers along the Eastern front to inform German soldiers of the progress of the Allied invasion of Sicily, the British Broadcasting Corp. said today in a broadcast reported by U. S. Government monitors.

The broadcast, directed at many in the German lines, declared that Soviet planes were dropping leaflets over the lines surrounding the Italian Office of War Information staff.

## WEATHER

Confined steam with scattered showers.

Today's Temp. 71-81. Sun. 70-80. High 80. Low 60. Wind S. 5-10. Clear.