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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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AUGUSTA FALLS IN LIGHTNING ALLIED SWEEP UP EAST COAST OF SICILY

Jap Cruiser, 3 Destroyers Sunk By Yanks

Two Other Enemy Destroyers Probable Victims of Navy Guns

By C. YATES McDANIEL

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC—(AP)—A Japanese cruiser and three destroyers were sent to the bottom of the Kula Gulf—graveyard of at least nine other enemy warships—by guns of the United States Navy in a battle which began last night.

Two other enemy destroyers probably were sunk and enemy losses may be even greater when all reports are in. The battle still was in progress, it was indicated, at the time preliminary reports were received today by Gen. Douglas MacArthur from Admiral William F. Halsey.

HEAVY JAP LOSSES

But already Japan has expended between thirteen and seventeen cruisers and destroyers in two battles in the central Solomons while trying to hold apart the jaws of a mantrap which American jungle fighters are clamping on the enemy air base of Munda, on New Georgia Island.

Both battles in the Kula Gulf, which is fifteen miles long and eight miles across at its widest part, occurred as units of the Japanese Navy, moving down from the northern Solomons, encountered United States war vessels blockading New Georgia's coastline along the gulf. In the first battle July 5-6, loss of the Cruiser U.S.S. Helena was acknowledged. Available reports on the second

See JAPS LOSE on page 6

Nazis In Furious Attack On Soviets

Seek To Expand Belgorod Wedge And Open Big Breach In Red Lines

By WILLIAM McGAFFIN

MOSCOW — (AP) — Field Marshal Guenther von Kluge threw the entire weight of his armored columns into a furious attack today against the southern end of the 200-mile Orel-Kursk-Belgorod front in an action designed to enlarge the Belgorod wedge and blast a major breach in the Russian lines.

Dropping all efforts to break through on the northern end of the salient, Von Kluge fell back on the old Nazi power-house play, but the thick red defenses remained impenetrable, although fighting became so violent that even tank crews of the opposing forces broke into hand-to-hand fighting on one occasion.

(A German communique broadcast by the Berlin Radio and recorded by the Associated Press, claimed that the Nazi armored forces with the support of the German Air Force had gained further ground in the area just north of Belgorod and had smashed strong enemy counter-attacks on other sectors of the front. The Russians suffered "heaviest losses" the German communique said, including a total of 400 tanks and 123 aircraft.)

The tremendous success of the Red Armies was indicated by an announcement today that the Germans have "despaired" of breaking through on the Orel-Kursk sector, after suffering immense losses in one of the most determined attacks they have launched since the nine-day offensive started. Today, the Russians said, German forces on this sector have been considerably reduced in size and are being used merely to consolidate their present positions.

Only 10,000 Miners Idle

Four More Mines Resume Operations

PITTSBURGH—(AP)—Four more steel company-owned "captive" coal mines in Southwestern Pennsylvania resumed operations today on the eve of a Federal Grand Jury inquiry into a walkout which has tied up many pits since June 20.

The number of idle diggers dropped to approximately 10,000, with the return to work of employees of four Jones and Laughlin Steel Corp. Mines, and for the first time in three weeks there was no picketing anywhere in the Monongahela River Valley.

Fourteen mines remained down or only partially operating. Ten of these were pits of the H. C. Frick Coke Co., U. S. steel subsidiary, which reported today's coal production at about 32 per cent of normal.

Stimson Dinner Guest Of Premier Churchill

LONDON — (AP) — Henry L. Stimson, U. S. Secretary of War, was a dinner guest of Prime Minister Churchill at 10 Downing St. last night.

Others present included American Ambassador John G. Winant, Mrs. Winant and Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary.

Home-Based RAF Planes Attack In North Italy

Heavy Blow Is Struck At Turin

LONDON—(AP)—Home-based bombers of the RAF struck a heavy blow at Turin in northern Italy last night in operations co-ordinated with the Allied invasion of Sicily, the British announced today.

The raiders encountered bad weather both on the outward and return trips, the announcement said, but the sky was clear over the target area and they unloaded the "usual heavy concentration of bombs" on their objectives.

Taking a different route going and coming the big bombers flew a round trip of approximately 2,000 miles.

A communique, describing the attack as "heavy and concentrated," said thirteen bombers of the "strong force" were lost.

The planes were dispersed on the return flight because of the bad weather. The first announcement said the losses were "about normal" for such an operation.

Fighters and fighter-bombers attacked railway and other ground targets in France, Holland and Belgium, while the Turin raiders were engaged in the long-range operation.

The raid was described authoritatively as "part of the combined operations now going on in the Mediterranean."

Turin has been raided 28 times since the start of the war, the last time being the night of Feb. 4 when home-based British bombers delivered a heavy and concentrated attack on the city. Three planes were lost in that raid. Turin is the site of important Italian war industries.

An Italian communique, broadcast by the Rome Radio, reported that 101 persons had been killed and 203 injured in the raid on Turin and acknowledged considerable damage.

LITTLE DARKNESS

The long flight negotiated by the raiders last night was regarded here as particularly remarkable because there were only about six hours of darkness to cover the movement. It was indicated that the homeward route was well to the west of the direct air line.

Passage of the British planes over Europe touched off air raid alerts in Bern, Geneva and other cities in Switzerland shortly after midnight, the Berlin Radio disclosed. The alerts were said to have lasted about three hours.

A German broadcast recorded by the Associated Press said that bombs had dropped at four places in Switzerland, but caused no casualties. One British plane, the broadcast said, crashed near Bouveret on Lake Geneva, killing the crew of four.

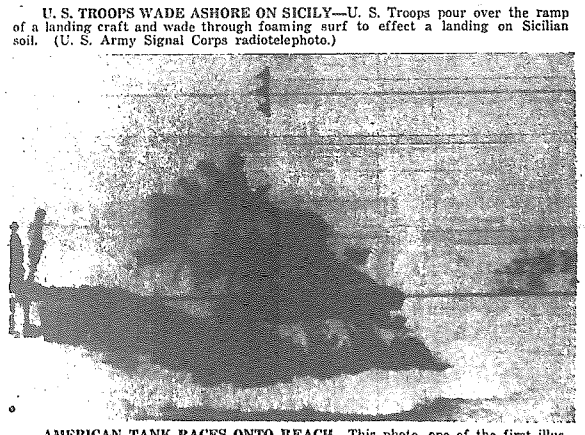
Dutch Airmen Hit Japs

NEW YORK — (AP) — Dutch, official Netherlands news agency, said today that fliers of the Netherlands East Indies Air Force flying American-built Mitchell bombers at dawn yesterday bombed and strafed the Japanese airdrome and enemy-occupied villages on the island of Selaru in the Tanimbar group west of Dutch New Guinea.

Postage Stamp Honoring Luxembourg To Be Sold

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A new 5-cent postage stamp honoring Luxembourg will be placed on sale here Aug. 10.

U. S. TROOPS WADE ASHORE ON SICILY—U. S. Troops pour over the ramp of a landing craft and wade through foaming surf to effect a landing on Sicilian soil. (U. S. Army Signal Corps radiotelephoto.)



AMERICAN TANK RACES ONTO BEACH—This photo, one of the first illustrating the invasion of Sicily by Allied troops, shows an American tank plunging into the surf from a landing craft. (U. S. Army Signal Corps radiotelephoto.)

AP Writer Is Wounded

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC — (AP)—William F. Boni, Associated Press war correspondent in New Guinea, received nine shell splinter wounds in an attack by Japanese planes on the Salamaua front, the AP's Australian Bureau was informed today. Boni is being treated at an advanced field hospital near the battle scene.

In a brief message dispatched here through General Douglas MacArthur's Press Relations Office, Boni described his wounds as "superficial." They resulted from the bombing and strafing by low-flying enemy aircraft of a barge in which the correspondent was leaving Nassau Bay, twelve miles below Salamaua and the scene of American landings June 30.

Acme Photographer Carl Thusgaard, who came through the Japanese attack unhurt, reached Port Moresby, New Guinea, yesterday with the information that Boni had been hit by shell splinters or fragments, probably from cannon such as some Japanese Zeros carry.

Thusgaard's message added that Boni was expecting to be moved to Port Moresby, on the Allied-held southern coast of the island, within a few days and that he then would tell his own story.

Boni, Thusgaard and other press representatives proceeded to Nassau Bay as soon as they were permitted after American troops made their surprise landing on the coast south of Salamaua. The exact date on which Boni received his wounds was not made known here, but communiques from these headquarters several times last week reported Japanese air attacks on the Nassau Bay area.

Boni, who is the first member of the AP's Australian Bureau to be wounded in action, arrived in the Southwest Pacific theater last November. After assignment with the Fifth U. S. Army Air Force in the Port Moresby area, he joined MacArthur's around forces to cover the closing stages of the Allies' successful Papuan campaign early this year.

Troop Transports Blasted By Allies

Heavy Blow Struck At Enemy Naval Units Trying To Reinforce Isle

By RELMAN MORIN

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP) — American and British sky fleets blasted enemy troop transports in Sicilian waters and battered supply centers on both sides of the Messina Strait yesterday as Allied invasion forces pushed rapidly up Sicily's east coast.

Liberators and Fortresses smashed at Messina, Sicily and the twin ferry terminal of Reggio Calabria and San Giovanni on the Italian mainland in heavy daylight attacks designed to wreck the main supply route for Axis defense of the invaded island.

TORPEDO PLANES STRIKE

RAF torpedo planes struck a heavy blow at Axis naval units trying to reinforce the Sicilian defenses by sea, sinking two merchant ships and damaging two destroyers and two large troop transports in daring attacks the past two days.

Throughout yesterday, Allied fighters and fighter-bombers kept up their withering assault against enemy troop columns and communication lines on Sicily; destroying large numbers of land troop transports.

An Allied communique said 28 enemy planes were shot down over or near Sicily yesterday and the preceding night. The Allies lost eleven planes during the same period.

"The Axis has been trying desperately to reinforce Sicily but the attempts have been frustrated to the extent of a considerable number of troops and tons of equipment which have been sent to the bottom of the Mediterranean," said an Air Force announcement at an Allied Command post.

This announcement said the RAF torpedo planes which attacked the enemy destroyers left the vessels "blazing from stem to stern."

Describing the operations of the torpedo planes yesterday, the official announcement said:

"The attacks were of a particularly hazardous nature and were carried out in the narrow strip of water between Corsica and Sardinia . . . The Beaufighters, often skimming over small islands in the

See BLAST TROOP on page 6

Complete American Army Fighting Nazis & Italians For First Time

By DA. EL DE LUCE

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP) — For the first time in this war a complete American Army is fighting in the field against Germany and Italy.

The new United States Seventh Army under the command of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. captured 60 miles of the 100-mile stretch of the Sicilian coast on which the Allies established the mighty bridgehead within 48 hours of the start of their European invasion.

The Seventh Army comprises some units from the former U. S. II Corps, which under Patton's leadership, slugged back the major share of Marshal Erwin Rommel's armored forces in southern Tunisia.

It includes also units which engaged in the original landings and fighting in Morocco last November, but never saw action in Tunisia.

STREAMLINED FORCE

Streamlined for super-modern warfare, units of parachute troops and glider-borne assault troops were added to the Seventh Army before it swept over the Mediterranean and they actually began the Sicilian attack three to five hours before the first seaborne forces landed.

In addition, the Seventh Army has units which never saw action in this war but were rated among the best trained of America's millions of soldiers.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied Commander-in-Chief, himself during his military career of more than a quarter-century served with one of the fresh units.

Addressing them at an African

See COMPLETE U. S. on page 6

Italians Admit Allies Driving Toward Messina At "Great Risk"

STOCKHOLM — (AP)—Rome dispatches to Swedish newspapers said today Italian commentators had admitted that the Allied invasion forces in Sicily were driving toward Messina but at "great risk."

Stockholms Tidningen quoted a spokesman as declaring that the Allies are "playing for very high stakes." Allessandro Pavolini, Italy's former Propaganda Minister, answering Italians who are asking how it was possible that the Allies could land on Sicily in such force in view of Premier Mussolini's recent invasion speech in which he was quoted as declaring they would be stopped at the sea, advised them "not to take Mussolini's words too literally," the paper said.

While the Italian press and commentators were taking a serious view of developments in Sicily, dispatches to the Swedish press from Berlin described German spokesmen as being "optimistic."

Stockholms Tidningen said Berlin asserted that "practically speaking," the American troops have been "liquidated," although a few American detachments are fighting in "hopeless positions."

A Berlin military spokesman declined comment on the Allied communique, mentioned the area around Syracuse alone as the center of fighting and avoided naming other places.

This would seem to indicate that the Allies have paralyzed enemy communications, making it difficult for them to keep abreast of developments.

Landing Made Near Catania By Invaders

American and British-Canadian Force In Junction As Ragusa Taken

By RELMAN MORIN

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—Allied invasion forces swept up the east coast of Sicily at a breathtaking pace today, capturing the port of Augusta, nineteen miles north of Syracuse, and piling ashore on the beaches near Catania, major city nearly halfway up the coastline to Messina.

British and Canadian troops fought their way into the two strategic communications centers of Ragusa and Palazzola in the southeastern corner of the embattled island, forming a junction with the American troops of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., at Ragusa as the latter rushed steadily northward and eastward from their original landing at Gela.

Again the veteran American troops repelled a fierce counter-attack by Axis forces, destroying a number of enemy tanks and taking prisoners, a headquarters bulletin announced.

Without giving details as to exact sectors, it later was announced that the Allies now have made contact with two regular field divisions of much sterner character than the coastal troops but these failed to offer much greater resistance.

LOSSES SLIGHT

Allied losses at Augusta were described officially as slight and port and harbor installations were undamaged.

Augusta, whose population normally runs between 20,000 and 25,000 persons, is a fine fortified port which has been used as a naval harbor.

Simultaneously with the rapid-fire announcements of Allied successes, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower returned to North Africa from his visit yesterday to United States and Canadian forces on Sicily.

He declared that co-ordination of the Allied forces there "could not have been better had all the forces been of some single nation."

The junction of Canadian and American forces outside Ragusa consolidated an unbroken Allied line. American troops reached the verge of the city from the west slightly before Canadians drove in from the east, it was reported.

FARTHEREST ADVANCE

Palazzola is 20 miles west of Syracuse and the capture marked the farthest point of advance inland by the invading forces. Ragusa is twelve miles southwest of Palazzola. Both are prizes of great strategic value, being junctions for virtually all the main and secondary highways in southeastern Sicily.

Loss of the two cities will deprive defending Axis forces of much of their mobility in their desperate efforts to head off the many-pronged Allied offensive. Ragusa is in the mountains and gives the forces in possession clear control of the surrounding countryside.

The capture of Augusta was preceded by a heavy bombardment from Allied warships, which stood off and lobbed high explosives into the town.

Details of the new landings near Catania were not given immediately, but it was assumed they were made by units of the veteran British Eighth Army which originally attacked that side of the island.

STILL POURING IN

Pilots of Allied bombers participating in the furious aerial onslaught against Axis targets throughout Sicily reported that the Sicilian Straits still were choked with transport and supply ships carrying reinforcements to the British, American and Canadian forces which spearheaded the invasion.

Axis forces which for the second time attempted to slow up the American advance from the south were reported to have used tanks of French origin. The counter-attack was known to have been smashed and reports from the front said Patton's men were making "good progress."

Ragusa, where the Americans and Canadians were reported to have made their junction, has a population of 50,000 and is the capital of the province of the same name. Comiso Airdrome, which was pounded continually by the Allied Air Force in the days preceding invasion, is only a few miles west of Ragusa and was expected to fall in a matter of hours.

Palazzolo, due west of Syracuse, is the terminus of a branch line from that port city. It has a population of about 17,000 and lies in the shadow of Mount Laura.

OVER 3,000 SHIPS USED

Allied Headquarters announced that more than 3,000 vessels of all types, including warships, were taking part in the tremendous task of transporting men, munitions and supplies to Sicily. The work was said to be "proceeding satisfactorily," despite a surf that had made operations difficult at the more exposed positions.

Allied invasion forces have been officially designated the 15th Army Group and are commanded by Gen. Sir Harold Alexander, who also was Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's deputy commander in the Tunisian campaign.

The position of the Allied armies—the Americans on the west, clusters of mountains between—dented the Axis as a central point at which to launch a counter attack and

See ALLIES TAKE on page 6

Report Drive On Catania Plain

LONDON,—(AP)—The Algiers radio in a broadcast to Italy reported today that British Eighth Army forces were advancing on the Catania Plain.

There were no details given in the broadcast but it had been announced earlier from Allied headquarters in North Africa that beach landings had been made near Catania, on Sicily's east coast, some 55 miles short of Messina.

The Catania Plain extends inland into the central part of eastern Sicily with Catania at the southeast corner of a vast rectangle. The eastern or coastal edge of the rectangle runs for about 60 miles south of Catania.

WEATHER

Continued Warm with Scattered Thunderstorms.

Today's Temp.: H. 81 L. 71
Sunset Today
Sunrise Tomorrow

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 2.