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GENERAL AMERICAN TROOPS RETREAT ON SICILY ENNA & CANADIAN TROOPS CAPTURE ENNA

Half Of Sicily Is Now Held By Allied Forces

British Eighth Army Units Hammered At Doors of Almost Isolated Catania

Enna's Fall Cut Off Catania From Western Sicily Except For One Long, Rough Northern Coastal Road

Enna's Loss Is a Critical Point of Collapse. To the east, British Eighth Army units hammered at the doors of Catania—last Bastion protecting the entire east coast—chattering another Nazi counter-attack with heavy casualties and advancing on the seaport, it was officially announced.

Half of Sicily now is in Allied hands, for all tactical purposes.

Enna's fall cut off Catania from western Sicily except for one long, rough northern coastal road.

Allied observers reported a general retreat along all roads leading from Enna to Catania.

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Red Armies Advancing On Front of 400 Miles

Capture Town After Town

By WILLIAM MCGAFFIN. MOSCOW—(AP)—Fighting along the Russian front spread to the southern Donets and Mius River sectors yesterday as Red Army troops recaptured town after town in their drive to encircle the Germans at Orel on the central front, the Russians reported today.

Russian armies, thus were on the move on a front extending some 400 miles south from Orel to a point southwest of Voroshilovgrad, where the Soviet mid-night communique said.

Close in on Orel. Heaviest fighting still raged, however, in the vicinity of Orel, where the Soviet Army was closing in around the German supply base.

Among the towns captured by the Russians in the vicinity of Orel, the communique said, were six miles were reported during the day's fighting which saw the German high level battle counter-attacks in an effort to halt the Russian advance.

The Red Army force operating directly east of Orel meanwhile, the communique said, is reported pushing on to the west.

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Yanks Storm Air Base Complete Victory

Fierce Battle Leaves Many Axis Dead

General, However, Cites Hard Job Facing Eighth Army

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—General Dwight D. Eisenhower declared emphatically today he was confident of a complete Allied victory in Sicily but said the task facing British and Canadian forces was one of bitter fighting with a generally slow advance.

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BIG INCH IS COMPLETED—Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes (right foreground) inspects the Big Inch pipeline after the final welding of the last joint in dedication ceremonies at Phoenixville, Pa.

Hitler Wonders If Italy Is Good Risk

Mussolini Believed To Have Appealed for Aid in Italian Defense

By THOMAS HAWKINS. BERLIN—(AP)—Informed diplomatic circles expressed belief today that Premier Mussolini had made an urgent appeal to Adolf Hitler for more help in the defense of his gravely threatened country when the Axis partners met Monday somewhere in Northern Italy—perhaps Verona.

These sources agreed that immediate events in the battle of Sicily as a lost cause. They pointed out recent Axis statements hinting that both Germany and Italy already regard the defense of Sicily as a lost cause.

The observers reasoned that if the Axis has given up hope of holding the island the next line of defense must be on the Italian mainland and that ways and means must be found of withdrawing the remnants of the Sicilian force and reorganizing to resist an Allied landing.

AIR POWER PROBLEM. Obviously, informed sources said one of the big problems of effective resistance to the Allies is air power. They pointed out that even the Axis press has acknowledged Allied air superiority over the Sicilian theater, while the Allies have re-

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Marching Through Sicily: Next Bridge, Next Valley, Next Town--That's What Men Think Of

By DON WHITEHEAD. WITH THE U. S. SEVENTH ARMY IN SICILY, July 17—(AP)—The hell struggle on the gray church spire a long shaft of shadow over Mazzarino as we bounced over the cobble streets in a jeep and turned down the steep road to the plains stretching below.

For a moment, the grandeur of the scene made you forget the wretched poverty of the people on this island and the dull look in their eyes. We forgot for a moment about the war, the night of blood spilled on streets, the bullet-riddled bodies lying in roadside and the stench of death that clings to a land cut by war.

LOVELY PLAIN. This plain below was a lovely place, stretching to the hills beyond. The fields were dotted with that peculiar yellow brightness which suggests cornfields mat on the landscape. White roads wound lazily through the valley and disappeared into the dark, rolling mountains.

meanwhile, except to the generals in headquarters, whose thoughts are on the broad mirror of war which reflects the entire scene. Background below Mazzarino. They can juggle time and mark the days as they check the progress of the men in the front line the hours runs into further notes the fingers and thoughts are on the next bridge, the next valley, the next town.

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Enna Loss Admitted

Italians Announce That Town Evacuated

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NEW WAVE OF GUERRILLA FIGHTING IN BALKAN AREA. CATHEDRAL—A new wave of guerrilla fighting is reported here to have broken out in the Balkans with partisans taking full advantage of softened Italian mood to strike at occupation troops.

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