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AMERICANS TAKE PORT OF MARSALA IN WEST; OTHER UNITS SWING EAST

Reds Bore Ahead 2 To 4 Miles Into Ore Lines

Hurl Back Nazi Counter-Attacks

By WILLIAM MCGAFFIN

MOSCOW (AP)—More than 4,500 German soldiers died yesterday at the approaches to Orel where Russian forces closing a pincer about that bastion continued to throw back Nazi counter-attacks and forged ahead two to four miles, front line dispatches said today.

As the fierce battle of attrition raged into its 12th day with reports of mounting German losses, Red Star, the Army organ, said the battle not only had crushed Hitler's plan for a new general offensive on the eastern front but was causing him to lose the battle for Sicily.

The Red Army offensive is breaking down the entire German defense in Europe," Red Star said. It makes the German rear vulnerable.

The newspaper said that Hitler had been unable to assemble forces to combat the drive as he was so heavily engaged on the Russian front.

Dispatches describing the furor of the German counter attack at Orel, where the Russians have quoted German prisoners as saying Hitler has ordered his forces to hold to the last man, told of a Russian smash across a river directly east of the city.

Eleven German counter attacks were launched against the position, the dispatches said, and the Russians announced officially that more than 2,000 Germans were annihilated in the attempt to dislodge the Red Army forces.

NAZI AIR BOMBS

The Germans also stepped up their aerial defense of the city by sending 250 bombers and Italian fighters to the area, but the dispatches said Soviet fighter planes beat them off before they reached their objective. The Germans lost 52 planes in a single day, the Russians said.

In their apparent drive to encircle this pivotal German position, the fighting Red troops also pressed on in the north and south, parrying German counter attacks and inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment.

The Russian communique reported that the German 10th Army, which is fighting from the Dnieper River north to the Orel sector, but the dispatches said the Red forces are now in Orel and Belgorod.

CAPTURE TOWNS

On the Belgorod flank, in the area where the Germans made gains when they first launched their first offensive July 5, the Russians reported they had captured seven towns, 1,000 Germans and disabled eighteen tanks.

The communique said the Germans were a "greatly" defeated.



CRETE NEXT—Scene of one of the bitterest battles of 1941, Crete, Greek island in the Mediterranean, was occupied by the Germans after their blitzkrieg through the Balkans, now looms as a potential new battleground. With the Allies completing their conquest of Sicily, observers looked for them to strike eastward to link their campaign with the Red Army's drive in Russia.

Patton Waives Ashore — With his ever-present pearl-handled revolver strapped to his hip, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., commander of U. S. troops invading Sicily, wades knee-deep in the surf as he goes ashore to rally his forces for the attack against the Axis forces. (Associated Press photo from U. S. Army Signal Corps.)

Japanese Seaplane Tender Sent Down

One Of Four Escorting Destroyers Damaged By Bombers

By MURLIN SPENCER

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC — (AP) — American bombers sank a 9,000-ton Japanese seaplane tender off Bougainville Island and damaged another Japanese attempt to reinforce their hard-pressed Solomon positions.

The action was announced today in Gen. Douglas MacArthur's command, which also told of naval battles that cost the Japanese 23 planes destroyed or damaged.

A large force of bombers—Libertys, Avengers, and Dauntless—was sent after the seaplane tender and destroyers. They were provided strong fighter cover, for their goal was deep in enemy territory.

While the fighters took care of intercepting Zeros shooting down five, our bombers pressed their attack in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire from the warships. We lost three fighters.

The tender was one of the Mitsubishi class which carries about fourteen planes and repair facilities.

JAP'S BADLY HURT

Apparently badly hurt by the Allied incessant bombing and strafing attacks in the Salamaua-Lae area, the Japanese in recent days have sent stronger air fleets to protect their holdings.

Yesterday a total of 63 Japanese fighters attempted to intercept heavy bombers attacking Bougainville, 25 miles south of Madang, New Guinea.

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Rail Strike Called Off

Pacific Firm Workers To Stay On Job

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A strike of some 2,000 employees of the Pacific Electric Railway set for today morning, was called off today pending a conference in Washington.

Announcement of the cancellation of the strike call was made by William P. Nutter, president of the local Grievance Committee of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, who said he acted on the request of Alexander P. Whitney, international president of the Brotherhood.

Whitney advised Brotherhood officials here he had been assured by President Roosevelt that Fred M. Vinson, Economic Stabilization Director, would name a committee of three members to seek an adjustment of the union's wage demands.

It was Vinson's rejection of a wage increase of 13 cents an hour already granted by the company and his approval of only a 2-cent increase that precipitated the strike call, authorized by the president of the National Brotherhood.

Widespread Raids Made On Crete

Ferocity of Allied Attack Suggests Island May Be Target of Offensive

LONDON (AP)—It was officially disclosed today that a powerful armada of RAF and Greek planes smashed at Nazi-occupied Crete in widespread raids yesterday, striking with such fury as to suggest that an invasion of that strategic stepping-stone island off the southern tip of Greece might be on the calendar.

Istanbul dispatches last night reported a growing conviction that the Allies were about to launch a new offensive in the Eastern Mediterranean to link up with the Soviet drive in Russia—presumably springing from Middle East bases where strong American and British forces have been gathered for months.

"SOFTENING UP"

In a typical "softening up" attack, Allied raiders silently pounded the enemy's defenses on Crete, shelling up tented camps, positions and wireles and communication stations and exploding ammunition dumps.

Berlin said German airfields on Crete were a particular target and asserted the raid was "obviously made for the main purpose of softening up the defenses on Crete."

It was Middle East Headquarters described the attack as "a large-scale offensive operation." Seventeen Allied planes were lost.

The communique also disclosed:

Move To Join British Forces For Knockout

Total of 60,000 Prisoners Taken And Yanks Expected To Get 50,000 More

By DANIEL DE LUCE

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—American forces have captured the western Sicilian port of Marsala, Allied Headquarters announced today, and units were believed swinging eastward to join British troops in a knockout blow at Axis defenders clinging to the island's northeast corner.

"A rapidly diminishing portion of the island is all that remains to the Axis," said the Allied Headquarters communique, disclosing that the Americans were mopping up enemy resistance in western Sicily and had captured "large numbers of prisoners and huge quantities of enemy equipment."

WARSHIP GUNS BOAR

South of Catania, the Germans still were fiercely resisting the British Eighth Army, although Allied warships drawn up along the coast poured a destructive naval bombardment into the enemy's shore positions.

It was disclosed officially that the Allies have taken a total of 23,859 prisoners while the Americans are expected to total an at least 50,000 more. The American Seventh Army accounted for 40,000 of the enemy troops already in Allied hands. These were said to average about three per cent Germans.

The Germans were trying frantically to reinforce their divisions on northeast Sicily but the Americans cut the north coast road "well east" of captured Palermo, blocking the land route from the west to Messina, Headquarters said.

The first Canadian Division under Maj. Gen. Guy Simonds was reported making progress against the tank troops of the 15th German Armored Division.

All airdromes in Sicily now have been either captured or neutralized and enemy air power is virtually nil. Allied planes kept all enemy reinforcement routes unworkable since yesterday.

In an attack on enemy shipping, Allied torpedo planes sank one merchant steamer, severely damaged two others and left a destroyer in flames.

American medium bombers battered Italy's mainland air bases at Aviano and at Crotona on the Gulf of Taranto yesterday, following up on a night attack on rail installations at Salerno, south of the British beachhead at Anzio, and an airfield at Rafia Di Sarno.

Enemy Flying Fortresses rained Levegaro air field, also on the mainland, scoring many direct hits and destroying a number of grounded aircraft, the communique said. Intercepted by fighters, the four-engine Flying Fortresses shot down twelve of them.

Other Allied airmen hammered road and rail communications in the dwindling enemy-held portion of Sicily and American fighters destroyed ten enemy bombers off the north coast.

Only one enemy plane was shot out of the air over Sicily yesterday but night fighters destroyed three during their patrols. All the operations, including the attacks on mainland targets, cost the Allies four planes.

Allied warships continued to assault the Sicilian Strait, knocking out enemy surface craft and shelling the route by sea to the north coast.

See AMERICANS on page 7

Praises Red Generals

Stalin Cites Liquidation of Nazi Drive

LONDON (AP)—Premier Joseph Stalin in an order of the day to three of his generals congratulating them on "complete liquidation" of the German July offensive said today that the enemy had suffered 70,000 officers and men killed in the abortive drive.

The order of the day, recorded from the Moscow radio by the Soviet Monitor, said 2,000 enemy tanks were destroyed or disabled and 444 guns, 1,222 planes and more than 3,000 trucks were destroyed from July 5 to July 23 in the fighting about Orel and Kursk.

"Yesterday, July 23, through the successful operations of our troops,

Over the Goal Line American Troops Go

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN SICILY, July 23—(Delayed)—An American force commander yesterday sent this message to Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., the American commander:

"Can we make a touchdown on our own initiative, this reply."

Thirty minutes later the answer came in the form of the ball. Call a touchdown play.

With this go ahead the American armored column swung north toward Palermo, the capital of Sicily.

General Keyes Deputy Commander To Patton

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—Lt. General Keyes is heading one of the American units in Sicily and is deputy commander to Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., it was announced today.

Heavy Raids Hit Kiska

Precede And Follow Surface Ship Attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Navy disclosed today that heavy American air raids preceded and followed the American warships' bombardment of Japanese positions on Kiska Island Thursday.

As a result of the combined operations, the Japanese anti-aircraft positions and buildings were hit, many fires were started and one large explosion was observed.

The communique also disclosed:

See HEAVY RAIDS on page 7

Late Bulletins

CHINESE ATTACK

CHUNGKING (AP)—Chinese troops in Chongqing Province have made successful attacks on Japanese-held points north of Yuhang, destroying defense works and forcing the Japanese to abandon their facilities, the Chinese High Command announced today.

QUAKES RECORDED

WESTON, MASS.—(AP)—A 2.5 magnitude earthquake station reported two earthquakes were recorded within the past 24 hours—the first on July 23 at 11:12:02 A. M. yesterday, about 5,000 miles from Weston, and a second, "slight," at 1:19:23 A. M. today, about 50 miles south of Long Island, N. Y.

STRIKE SETTLED

JOHNSTOWN, Pa.—(AP)—A 12-hour strike of the local coal miners ended with a settlement of some 1,200 jobs, health and mill workers of the Babcock and Wilcox Corp. last night averted a possible shutdown of the plant employing many thousands.

GENERAL IN PUERTO RICO

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Brig. Gen. Earl Jacomy, newly-appointed general officer in charge of the French, British and French Guiana, arrived in San Juan by plane today for conference with the island's military and naval officers prior to taking over control of the island.

Italians Mourn About Sicily

MADRID (AP)—Italians reaching Rome from Sicily are spreading gloomy stories about the "unhappy struggle of that terrible war," dispatches from the Italian Press from Rome reported today.

All press dispatches from Italy emphasize the overwhelming superiority of Allied forces and make no doubt that Allied bombers are heavily attacking all strategic points from Sicily.

"At the present moment," wrote one correspondent, "nothing will change the appearance of the Italian people."

U. S. Bombers Raid Norway

LONDON (AP)—Heavy United States bombers attacked Norway for the first time today, according to an official U. S. Headquarters communique announced today.

Large formations of B-24 planes flew a round trip of 1,200 miles to the coast of Norway, raiding Berlin in carrying the assault along the coast.

The communique also said the targets.

WEATHER

Little change in temperature tonight and tomorrow.

Today's Temp: High 75, Low 55, Sunrise Tomorrow 6:45, Sunset 8:15, Moonset 10:15.

See CITY MALL on page 7

Only 2 Men Injured By Snipers' Bullets As Yanks Take Marsala

By HAROLD V. BOYLE

WITH THE AMERICAN SEVENTH ARMY IN SOUTHWEST SICILY, July 23 — (Delayed)—An American troop formation moved toward captured Castelvetrano today, with only two casualties a couple of men injured by snipers' bullets.

Salem, miles north of Castelvetrano, proved to be a hot action point to the hard-fighting troops. The town, which is one of the main road networks focused in the sponge without a struggle.

Describing Marsala, a town of 30,000 population, Lt. Col. John T. Tooley of Wessling, Ohio, said: "We got in last night and the last few days that they had Italian troops surrendered by the thousands. There is getting to be a lot of them now they are cluttering up the highways and getting to be a real military traffic problem.

"Major H. P. Tucker of Winston-Salem, N. C., set up an artillery battery in the rear and the tanks were taken to the surrender. A few shots convinced them and they began coming toward his position in droves, waving white flags. It was all we could do to keep them from jamming the roads as they came on back."

Among the prisoners were two Italian battalion colonels and one German battalion colonel, who ran the port.

The soldiers were so busy pouring up prisoners and resting after their long marches of the last few days that they had little time to sample the famous Marsala sweet wine, one of the town's best known exports.

Major Roy A. Murray of Berkeley, Calif., took 130 Italian and twenty German prisoners in seizing a small Nazi airport on which some planes were captured in operating condition. Other planes also were taken to the general area by other troops.

The Germans were forced to pull out so fast they apparently were unable to organize a retreat well enough to get out all equipment and supplies.

The fact that relatives of few Germans were captured was taken as an omen of their defeat. The Nazis had withdrawn to the Messina Peninsula at the northeast corner of the island.

One German prisoner said he doubted that German troops would make a last ditch stand in that last corner of the island. He said they probably would try to break across the strait in the mainland, leaving the Italians behind as a holding force.

Most Of 400,000 Palermo People Cheer As Yanks Warm Through

By DON WHITEHEAD

PALERMO, Sicily—(Delayed)—The Yanks are swarming through this great capital of Sicily today with most of the approximately 400,000 inhabitants cheering their presence and welcoming them with an amazing show of hospitality.

Even an old campaigner like Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. is slightly bewildered by the enthusiastic reception given him and his men.

"They're even their flowers, lemons and watermelons," he chuckled. "But it should be emphasized that all the fruit was tossed to us in a spirit of friendliness."

Patton termed the drive on Palermo the "greatest blitz in history."

Eighteen hours after a great armored column began a drive on Palermo, it was officially surrendered by General Molino, Italian commander of Palermo, (The American General Same to the point quickly, demanding unconditional surrender.

"General Molino said he was a very remarkable job."

When a corps commander entered the outskirts of Palermo at 7:24 P. M. he found a carload of Italian officers waiting his arrival. Among them was General Molino, who had tried to surrender to advance patriots to the American General Same to the point quickly, demanding unconditional surrender.

"General Molino said he was a very remarkable job."

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