

GERMANS TAKE ITALY

AXIS SUFFERS HIGH SICILY LOSSES

Why He Fell: Duce Would Have Given Up Part Of Italy

By CHARLES S. FOLTZ
MADRID—(AP)—Travelers arriving by plane from Rome today declared that Benito Mussolini fell because he supported a German plan to abandon central and southern Italy for a strong defense line in the north, and that he now is at a villa between Rome and Ostia.

The new Government of Marshal Pietro Badoglio insists that all of Italy must be defended if Italy is to remain in the war, and the Germans have been forced to agree, they declared.
DUCE OVERRULED
Hitler had first proposed a strong stand behind the Po Valley, and Mussolini, seeking to do his bidding, was overruled by the Fascist Grand Council by a vote of 19 to 6, it was asserted.

Carlo Scorza, Fascist Party secretary, was released under preventive arrest, with others of 11 Duce's collaborators confined to their homes.
On the issue of defense of all Italy, Badoglio for the moment at least has the support of the Army and the Crown, both of which enjoy tremendous popular prestige as successors to Mussolini, this late-hour account of the crisis in Rome said.

The first clear report of what happened after Mussolini resigned came with the first Ala Litoria plane to leave Rome since the event. It is significant of the swift changes that the plane arrived stripped of all Fascist insignia, marked only by the Italian national colors, and that "all Italy" was now under the Fascist name Ala Litoria had changed to Ala Roma in the line's offices.
ACCOUNT OF FALL
Some of these travelers were Italian. From them were obtained this account of Mussolini's fall:

When I Duce returned to Rome from his Verona meeting with Hitler, he called in his immediate party aides and told them that Hitler considered southern and central Italy undefendable with Sicily in Allied hands.
He said German plans called for a stand behind the Po Valley, and suggested evacuation not only of Italian arms and munitions and troops behind this line, but all possible rolling stock, food stores and harvests so that the Allies would be left with the problem of applying the population.

At Mussolini's suggestion, a meeting of the Fascist Council was called for Saturday. Meantime, although I Duce expressed his disgust at the German plan, other party leaders including Count Galeazzo Ciano, Mussolini's son-in-law, met separately with non-party men.
The Council meeting lasted until 2 A. M. Sunday. After Mussolini made a report, opposition formed to attack his conduct of the war and particularly his apparent acceptance of the German plan.

On the vote, only six Council members stood with Mussolini's argument that the only way open was to accept the Hitler scheme, while nineteen others were in open opposition.
MUSSOLINI STEPS OUT
This vote was taken early in the meeting and Mussolini announced that in the face of such opposition he considered it necessary to resign.

A long discussion followed concerning the fate of the Fascist Party in event of his resignation, but by the time the meeting broke up it was agreed that the Fascist organization was secondary to what the members believed was the Italian future.
Early Sunday morning, Mussolini went to the Royal Palace and handed his resignation to King Vittorio Emanuele who was kept informed of the progress of the meeting and had already talked with Badoglio.

Before the public was informed of the event, the party took steps designed in part to protect the leaders and in part to prevent the public from learning the truth.
The speech will explain it.

Allies Mow Foes Down As Counter-Attacks Fail

Americans and Canadians Drive
By BELMAN MORIN
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—American and Canadian troops, throwing themselves forward in the northeastern area of Sicily, have cut to pieces advancing German counter attacks in the central sector and advanced over ground strewn with Axis dead, Allied Headquarters announced today.

At the same time a headquarters communiqué announced that Allied Air Forces had smashed a new enemy attempt to bring reinforcements on a large scale into Sicily by shooting down 21 huge German bombers over the island in a battle over Messina Strait.
Two giant German StG-2 Messerschmitts were shot down by RAF Beaufighters. These planes are capable of carrying more than 100 men, but official reports did not say whether they were filled with troops.

TRY TO BUILD LINE
It was stated officially that German troops now have been identified in the entire front in Northeast Sicily where they are attempting to build a defensive line across the island to block the invasion gates to Italy.
Enemy losses skyrocketed in the central and southern portions of the line and a number of German battalions lost half of their effectives through their attempts to batter back the relentless forward rush of the Allied troops who swept in a wheeling movement from Central Sicily.

CANADIANS BEAR BRUNT
"The Canadians bore the brunt of the operation and made gains against the heaviest opposition, and the Allied command said the American advance, too, was proceeding according to plan. However, the Germans were managing to stiffen their resistance as the Allies moved forward.

F. R. Will Talk Tomorrow Night
WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Roosevelt will give a radio address tomorrow night to deliver a half hour address which the White House described as of "major importance."

The address will be at 9:30 P. M. (Eastern War Time).
Presidential Secretary Stephen E. Roy gave no hint as to its primary subject matter.
It will be Mr. Roosevelt's first talk to the American people since the downfall of Mussolini.

Asked whether the address will deal chiefly with the home front, Roy said that the content of the two, Early said "The speech will explain it."

RED STRATEGY
The strategy of the Soviet forces, which reported only general advance of three to six miles, apparently was aimed at consolidating positions. None of the 70 divisions were pulled to the north in an earlier communiqué were any nearer Orel than previously.

Raids On Kiska And Wake Made Americans Found At Northern Island With Pre-Invasion Thoroughness

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Army fighter-bombers, pounding Kiska Island with pre-invasion thoroughness, made ten more raids on Japanese installations, the Navy reported today, and this series of attacks was followed up Sunday night by an unusual single plane assault.

ITALIAN TROOPS SURRENDER NEAR ENNA—An Italian soldier holds his hands high and displays the white flag of surrender as he leads a group of fellow soldiers from their wrecked emplacement near Enna, Sicily. Allied troops stand guard with drawn guns as the Italians leave their demolished positions. This official British photo was radioed to this country by OWI.

Make Great Hit at Continent
Hundreds of Planes
LONDON—(AP)—Hundreds of Allied fighters and light bombers attacked industrial targets at Zebrugg and enemy airfields elsewhere in Belgium and in Holland by daylight today, the Air Ministry announced.

The day operations in the relentless air offensive against the continent followed upon the fifth attack in 48 hours on Hamburg.
The RAF sent Mosquito bombers to attack the Zebrugg area, and reported that Nazi fighters about 200 miles from the target were destroyed.

Even in the attacks on enemy airfields in Central Belgium and Westphalia in Holland, pilots reported that Nazi fighters about 200 miles from the target were destroyed.

Japs Raid U. S. Bases in China
CHUNGKING—(AP)—The Japanese Air Force, continuing an offensive against advance bases of the U. S. 14th Air Force in Kwangtung, China, against the island of Hainan, reported today that 13 planes shot down on Saturday and two others probably destroyed. Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's headquarters announced today.

On American plane was destroyed by enemy action but the pilot was reported safe.
Seven out of eight German fighters attacking a Kwangtung base were intercepted and shot down.
The Japanese fighters and fighters were intercepted over the target in Hainan, losing three fighters and two other planes probably destroyed.

Brother of Ibn Saud Dies
LONDON—(AP)—Amir Mohammed Ben Abdul Rahman, eldest brother of King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, has died in Mecca, according to a dispatch received today in London. The date of his death was not given.

He was associated with Ibn Saud in the latter's military conquests and assumption of power.

Mr. Mackenzie's Analysis:
Hitler May Have To Pull Back His Whole Battleline On East Front

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
The mighty moving Allied defenses in Russia and Sicily were crowding Herr Hitler into a mighty tight corner even before his Sicily offensive.
The point is, as previously pointed out in this column, that the Nazi effort is compelled to regard the assault on Sicily as the possible forerunner of an Allied drive up through the Balkans. The danger is multiplied by the Italian pullback which may mean a separate peace. An invasion of the Balkans would create a grave threat to the whole German right wing, which already is shaking under the hammering by the Red Army.

Says Country To Be Ruined If Fight Lasts

Allies To Continue To Strike Hard If Italy Still Sides With Germany
By E. C. DANIEL
LONDON—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill told a cheering House of Commons today that "Italy will be scarred and scarred and blackened from one end to the other" unless the new Government headed by Marshal Pietro Badoglio abandons Germany's war against the United Nations.

Speaking at a supreme moment in his career as Britain's war-time Prime Minister when his arch foe Benito Mussolini has disappeared from the scene, Churchill said orders to exert the "utmost rigor of war" against Italy already had gone out to Allied commanders.
No overtures of peace have been received from the elderly successor to Mussolini, the "first of the diktators" to go, Churchill said, and therefore no new decisions by the Allies were called for except to bring "the maximum advantage of fire and steel upon all targets of military significance throughout the Italian peninsula."

LET THEM STEW
The Allied course, he said, would be to "let the Italians stew in their own juice for a bit" and to "let the fire do the rest" with the aim of obtaining from the Italian Government full facilities for conducting its "unconditional war" against Germany.
These facilities, it was assumed, included air bases.

But in the interest of the whole outlook of the war, Churchill said, the British Government was in continuous contact with the Italian Government in the present situation.
The British Government, he said, was conducting its "unconditional war" against Germany, and then he uttered a "word of caution."

Germans Bolder With Comments
Say Italian 'Patriot' Must Continue To Oppose United Nations

LONDON—(AP)—German spokesmen became bolder today in commenting on the change of Government in Italy as Prime Minister Churchill said that the new proposals for armistice have just been received from Marshal Pietro Badoglio, the new chief in Rome, and that the Allied purpose was to bring about the unconditional surrender of all Italy.

As long as a patriot is at the helm of any he naturally must adopt the principle that the vital interest of Italy could be brought about by decidedly more attractive offers than those which the Allies, England, the United States and Bohemia; the German radio has been making such an offer, the remarks of a Foreign Office spokesman.

MEETING REPORTED
The spokesman was quoted as saying that the German Ambassador in Rome, Hans Georg Viktor Von Mackensen, undoubtedly also had talked with Marshal Badoglio but that no information could be given concerning the meeting.

Devers Received By King
LONDON—(AP)—Lt. Gen. James H. Devers, commander of the First Army, was received by King George VI at Buckingham Palace today.

WEATHER
Continued war clouds over this afternoon. Light and drizzle with widely scattered showers during the afternoon.

Sicilians Say That Italy Would Be Easier To Conquer Than Isle

By JOHN A. MOROSO III
SOMEWHERE IN SICILY: July 21—(Telegraph)—Sicilians have had with Italian troops during the last few days have given me a vivid picture of how hard he was under Mussolini—and they have left me with the impression that Italy will soon quit the war.
Sicilians told me that Italy itself would be easier to conquer than this island, because the Sicilian terrain is more difficult and because Italy is defended mainly by young soldiers. They said most of the veterans had been sent to Russia and France. Italian soldiers in Sicily, the natives claimed, were mainly elderly and untrained, or men who had been forced into the army and sent away because they refused to join the Fascist Party.