

THE FINAL BATTLE THE AMERICANS TAKE MESSINA

Shows World Yank Daylight Bomber Forays Devastating

By ROBERT N. STURDEVANT

LONDON—(AP)—The United States Eighth Air Force has demonstrated to the world its ability to reach the heart of Germany at will with devastating daylight precision raids. Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Frederick L. Anderson Jr., declared today in a review of the Force's combat operations which began exactly one year ago.

In that year the Eighth Air Force has developed from a tiny nucleus to a powerful striking force, has showered 15,733 short tons of bombs in 82 missions on Axis targets, and has proved its efficiency by blasting European objectives in the face of the strongest opposition, Gen. Anderson asserted.

For a loss of 419 bombers, planes of the Eighth Air Force have destroyed 1,728 enemy craft, possibly destroyed 671 and damaged 870 since a formation of twelve Flying Fortresses launched operations with an attack on the railway yards at Rouen on Aug. 17, 1942, his review said.

Despite a slow start, Anderson said, the first year of combat had proved:

- THREE THINGS!**
- 1.—The ability of our combat crews to destroy their objectives by the accurate concentration of bombs from high altitudes.
 - 2.—The ability of our formations to penetrate at will to the heart of Germany in daylight.
 - 3.—The defensive power of American heavy bombers against the strongest Axis fighter opposition.
- The report paid high tribute to the B-26 Marauders, which were first used as a unit of the Eighth Bomb Command on May 14, 1943. To date they have carried out eighteen missions with the loss of two planes.
- P-47 Thunderbolts came in for equal praise. Since March groups of these fighters, organized as the Eighth Fighter Command under Brig. Gen. Frank (Old) Hunter, have bagged a total of 90 enemy aircraft for certain, 28 "probables" and 59 damaged—with a loss of 38 pilots.
- The big bombers "decisively won the first round in the daylight battle of Germany during July," Anderson said, when they unloaded 3,600 short tons of high explosives, certainly destroyed 506 planes, possibly destroyed 159 more and damaged 351, while losing only 104 bombers.
- "But we are far from complacent," the general said. "Our immediate problem is to make the most effective use of the strength at our disposal. As our force grows we shall be able to attack an increasing number of vital targets, simultaneously thus bringing closer the end of the war with Germany."

LISTS TARGETS

The report listed the main targets of the bombers during the year as German air bases, war industries, submarine yards and transportation lines.

Describing the first attempt at high altitude daylight precision bombing on Rouen, the report said that "many military officials did not believe that daylight operations against Western Europe would be feasible, and many more maintained that the Flying Fortress was definitely unsuitable in the Luftwaffe's hands."

For that reason, the report continued, "important issues of policy and strategy were involved, but all twelve aircraft in that first attack returned safely without casualties, rearing that all their bombs were dropped on or close to the target."

From then on the Eighth Air Force under Maj. Gen. Ira C. Eaker embarked on a program of painstaking and painful experimentation.

It was a test by trial and error, by bitter experience. Liberators and Fortresses were tried together and separately, with fighter escort and without; with British Spitfires.

See YANK AIR on page 2

Moscow Dateline

by HENRY C. CASSIDY

Mr. Cassidy, one of the outstanding foreign correspondents of the press, has been in charge of the Associated Press service in Russia since before the war began. His letter to Stalin, the latter's reply constituted one of the epics of modern journalism. "Moscow Dateline" is based on his personal knowledge of the Russian situation.—Editors, The News.

Chapter 14

The "caviar" conference met again for its second and final session Wednesday—two days ahead of schedule in another closed meeting.

Four Douglas passenger planes took the delegates north Oct. 3, 1941, to July 1, 1942. When that date passed without incident, it was inferred that the British de-planes were not being held in the White Sea. The destroyer, however, was not a battle in the wild waves, brought them out to the cruiser London, which was promptly to be of more ship as she came alongside.

Behold them the delegates left a protocol in English and Russian, fixing the amount of supplies which the United States and Great Britain engaged themselves to make available to the Soviet Union for nine months, from October 1, 1941, to July 1, 1942. When that period ended, it was inferred that the British de-planes were not being held in the White Sea. The destroyer, however, was not a battle in the wild waves, brought them out to the cruiser London, which was promptly to be of more ship as she came alongside.

Nineteen convoys delivered these goods to Russia, starting with the first.

See-MOSCOW on page 7

Red Thrust At Bryansk Moving At Record Pace

Soviets Slash Ahead Savagely

By HENRY C. CASSIDY

MOSCOW—(AP)—The drive on Bryansk, the hinge of the German front southwest of Moscow, is moving at the fastest pace of any of the three current Red Army thrusts, the Russian Army newspaper Red Star indicated today.

With Soviet troops meeting stiff resistance in the battle for Khar'kov, other Russian divisions were moving steadily ahead toward Bryansk supported by the push further north from Spas Denensk.

Around Khar'kov, Red Star said, the Germans were hurrying large concentrations of reserves backed up by units of from 40 to 50 tanks and air squadrons in an effort to improve their precarious position.

The Germans were meeting with little success in the counter-thrusts despite the use of piecemeal troops, Red Star said, and the Soviet Army was throwing the Nazis back and inflicting heavy losses.

The Russian troops driving through the shattered German defenses west of Karachev are approached to within fifteen miles of the important Nazi base at Bryansk, Moscow announced in a communique last night.

The red bulletin reported Red Army successes all along the 300-mile front from Spas Denensk, 200 miles southwest of Moscow, to Bryansk, described by the Russians as "the largest German base of operations on the Soviet front." The fall of Khar'kov was expected almost any time.

ADVANCE RAPIDLY

Russian divisions attacking on the Bryansk front, the communique said, advanced rapidly yesterday through heavily mined territory, capturing 120 villages and capturing a spearhead well to the northeast of the city which may be the start of a new breakthrough such as the one which led to the capture of Orsk.

Americans Down 13 Axis Planes

CAIRO—(AP)— Large formations of United States Liberators, bombing Axis airfields at Foggia in southern Italy yesterday and shot down 41 enemy fighters which attempted to intercept them, a Middle East communique announced today.

Eight United States planes also mission from the day's operations, which included attacks on the landing ground at Tricarico and San Nicola in southern Italy, the communique said.

Lancers were treated to a

See BOMBERS HIT on page 2

Hurricanes Hit Japs in Burma

NEW DELHI—(AP)—RAF Hurricanes attacked Japanese troop concentrations and installations in Burma in the Mungwe and Butlerdanga areas and at Sinoh on the Mayu Peninsula yesterday, a joint Allied communique said today.

Other aircraft, the communique added, scored down on long supply vessels on the Kalladan River north of Akyab, destroying six and damaging others.

U. S. Alarm Clocks Arrive in Britain

LONDON—(AP)—Sixty thousand alarm clocks are being made and purchased in Britain—have arrived here from the United States, it was disclosed today.

The board of trade, however, still is undecided how to distribute the alarm clocks, as they are getting into the hands of war workers.

Entering Wedge Sicily Gives Us Base For Attacking Europe

By RELMAN MORIN

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—The wedge-shaped island of Sicily is the center wedge driven into the fortress of Europe.

Tactically, the Mediterranean doors are wide open now.

With the complete occupation of Sicily, which won't take many more hours, the Allies possess a big advance base from which they can hop over into the Italian mainland, slip off Sardinia and Corsica or immobilize southern Italy while Greece is retreating.

The possibilities for the next move are virtually unlimited.

The Sicilian harbors of Palermo, Catania, Augusta and Syracuse are fully capable of accommodating the huge fleet necessary for another operation. But that's one advantage in having such an accumulation of Allied shipping there would necessarily mean the main thrust was coming from there.

It might dispute an expedition moving out from Tunisia toward Greece, Sardinia or even southern France. It might work one assembling in the Middle East and aimed at the Balkans. Our possession of Sicily automatically

Bombers Hit Axis Bases Italy, France Lashed In Powerful Attacks

LONDON—(AP)—Large formations of Allied aircraft—including many twin-engine American planes—bombed Axis bases in Western Europe by daylight today after the RAF's big bombers had hammered Turin in their third successive night assault on Northern Italy.

Reports from the British southeast coast said that squadrons after squadrons of bombers headed out across Dover Strait in mid-morning to continue a great offensive which has been under way for nearly 48 hours with aircraft disclosed yesterday.

The RAF attack on Turin last night represented the fourth raid on Northern Italy in five nights.

TURIN HIT HARD

The Turin shot cost the British four bombers. One of the bombers, which was hit by a German fighter after initially being marked down as lost.

Turin got what was officially called a "well concentrated" attack which meant that many tons of explosives fell upon it, although perhaps not with such a paralyzing effect as in the recent attack on Milan.

Axis troops using the main Mont Cenis railway route must pass through Turin going north.

British fighter planes simultaneously attacked the communications in France and the Lowlands, and destroyed one enemy bomber over its base.

The three previous assaults on Northern Italy all were directed against the industrial center of Milan, which was reported in ruins as a result of the repeated concentrated bombings. Milan, supposedly expecting another bombardment, had an alert siren last night.

Joint Allied communique said Turin, Swiss radio reports said, but it proved a false alarm.

Two American Divisions First To Enter Captured Messina

By HAROLD V. ROYLE

WENT AN AMERICAN COLUMN IN ROUTE TO MESSINA, 12,000 A. M.—Military leaders today divided the honor of capturing Messina, ordering elements of two American divisions which had knocked back the Nazis all the way along the Northern coast from Palermo to enter the city simultaneously.

Although three American divisions and one British column closed in together for the kill, battalions of the Third and 4th Dossous divisions were the chief combat units in the Northwest were told to envelop and take the port, which has been the chief embarkation point for Axis forces escaping to the Italian mainland.

Messina, ordering elements of two American divisions which had knocked back the Nazis all the way along the Northern coast from Palermo to enter the city simultaneously.

As they cut across the peninsula toward Messina, another column

British Talk Of Invasion

Believe Allies Ready To Open New Front

By JAMES F. KING

LONDON—(AP)—Great Britain began clearing all non-residents from the island of Crete today as a conviction gripped the nation that the hour is near for a possible new blow at Adolf Hitler's European fortress.

Invasion talk was heard everywhere and circles in both Britain and the United States were busy speculating on the possibility of whether the Mediterranean the Balkans or across the English Channel was the Allied war chief's secret.

Significant however, were these developments:

- 1.—Heard and repeated American air raids on Axis airfields in France—natural targets as a prelude to any new offensive.
- 2.—Declaration of a state of siege in Norway by apparently Hitler German occupation authorities.
- 3.—Vital isolation of Italy by severance of that country's telegraphic and telegraphic communications.

Japs' Solomons Holdings Doomed

By C. YATES McDANIEL

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC—(AP)—Japan's holdings throughout the Central Solomons are virtually doomed, and the enemy bases still barring the way to his fortress of Rabaul are gravely menaced as the consequence of a surprise invasion of Vella Lavella island.

United States forces in considerable strength seized at Sunday in a move of surprise, seen by the enemy that the invaders accomplished the surprise unharmed, Gen. Douglas MacArthur disclosed yesterday in a new note to his commander.

(In a delayed dispatch from Lt. Erickson, A-1, reported that the Japanese had been driven ashore from a landing base with the troops, first objective was made that the Japanese planes tried to break up the invaders after the first boats had been unloaded. The Japanese, escorted by Zeppelins, failed to hit a single boat but did so on the island of Vella Lavella.

Trained on in future decisions of the enemy plans were shot down at a cost of only two of our own.

ISLAND-BY-ISLAND

The Japanese obviously hoped that the Americans, now advanced but better-armed enemy troops, would be able to capture the island of Vella Lavella, which would be a strategic base for the capture of the island of Vella Lavella.

Instead, the Americans bypassed Kolombangara Island, on which Vella is situated, and overwhelmed Vella Lavella, 45 miles northwest of New Georgia. Since this northernmost island of the New Georgia group seems to seal the fate of all other islands in the Solomons.

See JAPS DOOMED on page 2

Axis Lost 2,000 Planes in Sicily

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)— The Axis lost nearly 2,000 planes in a futile attempt to defend Sicily, the Northwest African Air Force disclosed tonight as the campaign drew to an end.

WEATHER

Cooler tonight.

Today's Temperature: 91 F. 77 F. 73 F. 70 F. 68 F. 65 F. 62 F. 59 F. 56 F. 53 F. 50 F. 47 F. 44 F. 41 F. 38 F. 35 F. 32 F. 29 F. 26 F. 23 F. 20 F. 17 F. 14 F. 11 F. 8 F. 5 F. 2 F. -1 F. -4 F. -7 F. -10 F. -13 F. -16 F. -19 F. -22 F. -25 F. -28 F. -31 F. -34 F. -37 F. -40 F. -43 F. -46 F. -49 F. -52 F. -55 F. -58 F. -61 F. -64 F. -67 F. -70 F. -73 F. -76 F. -79 F. -82 F. -85 F. -88 F. -91 F. -94 F. -97 F. -100 F.

See TWO AMERICAN on page 2

"Escape Port" Captured By Seventh Army

Indications Point To Retreat of Axis Forces Up Coast of Italy

By RELMAN MORIN

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—The American Seventh Army surged into Messina today, writing a spectacular finish to the 38-day campaign in Sicily.

In the scarred streets of the sprawling hillside port of Messina invincible dooghoys of the American Third Division smashed at lingering enemy resistance in hand-to-hand fighting after reaching the outskirts at 8 o'clock last night.

They were the first to reach the city, but eight miles to the south British Commandos, after a devil-may-care landing from the sea in defiance of the enemy's guns on both sides of the Strait, had cleared the way for the approach of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's British Eighth Army.

American "Long Tom" artillery had already opened fire on the enemy in Italy across the two-mile wide Strait.

Fearful of immediate Allied amphibious attacks against the exposed Italian toe, Axis forces were hurriedly evacuated and demobilized in the Calabria region across the narrow waters.

This first indication of a possible enemy withdrawal up the Italian Peninsula came as British naval batteries built a wall of gunfire around the foot of Italy within 100 miles of Naples.

NAZIS CONCEDE DEFEAT

The enemy conceded the end of the Sicilian campaign although Allied Headquarters at 3 P. M. (A. P. Eastern War Time) had been waiting for hours for official confirmation that all enemy resistance had ceased.

In the darkness before dawn the enemy struggled to evacuate his last troops from embattled positions inside Messina and speed them by 15-minute motor boat trips across the Strait.

Even though American naval forces blocked the northern channel, the Strait and British light surface forces sallied into the channel waters repeatedly during the night the enemy evacuation could not be broken up.

LASHING STRAIT

The sea forces have been sweeping since last night toward Messina. It was announced, and have carried out a series of bombardments of the Italian coast.

Scales on the south side of the Gulf of Policastro was heavily shelled Saturday night, with 1,000 shells thrown into the port in the space of twenty minutes.

Yesterday morning warships sank an armored lighter and two enemy craft off Cape Bonifati, Sicily, and the south, and Vice Admiral Marston still further south again was bombarded.

These were in addition to daily

See AXIS ROUTED on page 2

Nazis Admit Defeat

Confess Being Knocked Out of Sicily

LONDON—(AP)—The Berlin radio in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press said today that all German and Italian troops have been withdrawn from Sicily.

The broadcast said that the retreat from the island was carried out in the early hours today and that they reached the mainland of Italy with "their entire material and supplies."

Major General Hube, whom the German broadcast described as the German commander in chief in Sicily, was one of the last to leave the island, the Berlin radio said.

The German announcement said the Axis withdrawal had been so successfully conducted that "now on the Italian mainland an army is ready to strike."

The Italian Tuesday communique broadcast by Rome and recorded by the Associated Press made no mention of the retreat across the Strait of Messina but it limited its announcement to rearguard actions fought yesterday.

"The Axis evacuated 4th a city of Messina yesterday were bitterly contested by Italian and German squadrons," the communique reported.

The Rome communique asserted that 18 German Allied bombers were shot down by fighter planes and anti-aircraft fire during the raids on Turin, Viterbo and Foggia yesterday. It claimed that the British lost five torpedo planes in "raids" attacks on Axis convoys and that Italian dive bombers sent on fire two Allied merchantmen in the raid on Sicily on the southeast coast of Sicily.

Axis Lost 2,000 Planes in Sicily

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)— The Axis lost nearly 2,000 planes in a futile attempt to defend Sicily, the Northwest African Air Force disclosed tonight as the campaign drew to an end.

WEATHER

Cooler tonight.

Today's Temperature: 91 F. 77 F. 73 F. 70 F. 68 F. 65 F. 62 F. 59 F. 56 F. 53 F. 50 F. 47 F. 44 F. 41 F. 38 F. 35 F. 32 F. 29 F. 26 F. 23 F. 20 F. 17 F. 14 F. 11 F. 8 F. 5 F. 2 F. -1 F. -4 F. -7 F. -10 F. -13 F. -16 F. -19 F. -22 F. -25 F. -28 F. -31 F. -34 F. -37 F. -40 F. -43 F. -46 F. -49 F. -52 F. -55 F. -58 F. -61 F. -64 F. -67 F. -70 F. -73 F. -76 F. -79 F. -82 F. -85 F. -88 F. -91 F. -94 F. -97 F. -100 F.

See TWO AMERICAN on page 2