

Moscow Dateline

By Henry C. Cassidy

Mr. Cassidy, one of the outstanding foreign correspondents of the war, 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 episodes of modern journalism. "Moscow Dateline" is based on his personal knowledge of the Russian situation.—Editors, The News.

Chapter I

Spring came late to Moscow in 1941. Well into April, the heavy Winter clouds that fell lower and lower, until every breath of the damp, compressed air rasped like a file in the lungs, hung over the Byzantine towers of the Kremlin. Not until June 6 did the last snow fall. Those who had to stay with it cursed the dirty coat of ice, the soggy piles of snow that clung to the cobblestoned streets, and longed for the warmth of Spring, not knowing that with it would come war.

Everyone, except those who should know, realized that the two greatest powers of continental Europe, Russia and Germany, were about to come to grips. For two cents you could read in all the newspapers of America reports from Ankara, Bern, and London that Germany was to attack the Soviet Union. For nothing, you could hear in the chancelleries of Europe, reports from Rumanian military attaches, Hungarian secretaries of embassy, and Finnish counselors of legation that conflict was coming to the Eastern front.

But, in the censor-tight cylinder of Moscow, no one knew, not the foreigners, not the Russian people, not the Soviet leaders. The reason we did not know there would be war was that we did not know the Soviet Union wanted peace at almost any price, would make almost any concession, was unprepared to escape war. What we could not know was that Germany was determined in any case, to attack.

So we went on, cursing the tardiness of Spring, and leading the strange life of that last Winter of peace in Moscow.

The Kremlin carried out all its customary rites. The Communist Party opened its eighteenth all-union conference, Feb. 18, and the Supreme Soviet held its eighth session, Feb. 23, and adopted a 1941 budget of 121,000,000,000 rubles, up from 119,000,000,000 in 1940, with about one-third of the appropriations, or 70,900,000,000.

See MOSCOW on Page 5

Red Army Grinds Out New Gains

Soviets Move Forward Around Orel and in Donets Basin

MOSCOW—(AP)—Red Army troops, continuing the slow, relentless investment of the German defenses around Orel, yesterday hurled the Nazis out of 100 villages and tightened the pincers threatening that base with advances at five to seven and one-half miles, the Russians reported today.

Soviet troops operating to the north and northwest of the city beat off counter attacks in a drive which took 40 miles, leaving 3,000 German dead on the field and smashing a number of tanks, machine guns and tanks and heavy artillery, a communique said.

The repeated operating to the northwest of the city, aiming at cutting the Orel-Bryansk railway, feeder line for the Orel base, Soviet reports in the last few days indicated that the line is under fire of Soviet artillery.

Front line dispatches reported the Russian Air Force was re-

lently harassing the Nazis in an attempt to prevent them from consolidating new lines. Bombers continued their attacks on a forest a mile square within which the Germans were concentrating troops, tanks, munitions and other supplies.

Pravda declared the aerial attack had caused heavy destruction and had broken up the German motor columns. The Soviet advance to the south of Orel was somewhat

See SOVIETS on page 8

What Allies Face:

German Army With An Estimated Strength Of 18 Divisions In Italy

By CHARLES S. FOLTZ

MADRID—(AP)—A German Army estimated at eighteen divisions garrisoned points in Northern Italy today with apparent confidence that if Marshal Pietro Badoglio surrendered anything, he could surrender only that part of Italy lying south of the Po River line. Nazi troops have been on the move all during the last week of shilly-shallying by the Badoglio Government, according to dispatches to Madrid.

Strong German units were reported today to have occupied the Upper Adige River valley — the scene of furious fighting in the first World War—both above and below Trento, 100 miles south of the Brenner Pass.

A Swiss dispatch said that Milan, the industrial heart of Northern Italy, had its first air raid rehearsal in six days yesterday and that heavy anti-aircraft fire and searchlight activity indicated the German specialists who have manned the equipment throughout the week were back on the job.

Milan lies twenty miles north of the Po, which rises below Turin and cuts a rugged channel 250 miles eastward to the Gulf of Venice.

Italian divisions along the Dalmatian Coast were reported to have begun to concentrate at Zara and move toward the Port of Fiume, which is now largely in German hands. An Italian source said this mov-

Naples Hit As Allies Carry Out Grim Threat

Move To Knock Italy From War

By CARL C. CRANMER

Associated Press War Editor Allied heavy bombing, fulfillment of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's threat to bomb Italy and the temporizing Badoglio regime out of the war, threw their great destructive power against Naples yesterday.

Masses of Allied aircraft appeared today to be bringing down the European roof of the Axis' head.

Catching a contagion of near panic, Berliners not essential to the war effort were reported to have been ordered to leave the German capital.

Nazi officials were reported in Stockholm dispatches to have been convinced that Allied air fleets were about finished with knocking down Hamburg and were ready to go on to the next target—perhaps Berlin.

In a forecast of terror, 2,000,000 Italians were reported in Serbia dispatches to have fled their city homes to seek refuge in the country following the solemn warnings repeated many times over the radio, that resumption of a violent air offensive had been ordered.

From Cairo's Middle East Command about 175 four-engine American Liberators yesterday carried out what was reported to have been one of the most decisive raids of the war—a destructive attack on Rumania's oil center, Ploesti, which supplies a great percentage of German's aviation gasoline.

As the bomber, abandoned with low fuel from the greatest mass level air attack in history, returned, observers reported the little loss of twenty of their number. But they had shot down at least 21 of the enemy's fighters and were convinced that the blow would "materially affect the course of the war."

Other developments highlighted the news: Italy—Allied warships, too, battered the Italian mainland. Gen. Eisenhower's Headquarters announced, Shells screamed into the harbor of the Venetian Marina just above the Italian toe, a railway bridge across the River Adige, 22 miles farther north and the harbor of Crotone on the Gulf of Calabria.

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Siely—American naval forces also bombarded the north Sicilian coast, blasting a way for the American Seventh Army which had captured almost more towns, one of them within two miles of San Stefano, northern anchor of the Germans' Mt. Etna line. The Americans appeared to have planned a serious threat to the German flank. American motor troops were reported to range the waters to the north

See GREAT AIR on page 8



SIMPSON TALKS WITH DOOLITTLE—Gesturing to emphasize a point, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, (left) discusses the war's progress with Maj. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, of Tokyo raid fame, and now chief of the North Africa Bomber Command, during Stimson's visit to North Africa. (U. S. Signal Corps photo.)

Berlin May Be On Blitz List Next

Tremendous Attacks on Hamburg Considered as Completely Successful

By JOHN COLBURN

STOCKHOLM—(AP)—Spurred by the stupendous air attacks on Hamburg, which have left that once great port a heap of smoking rubble, German authorities were reported speeding the evacuation of all non-essential civilians from Berlin today in fear that the city may be next.

Advices from the German capital said leaflets were being circulated instructing women, children and elderly people to find homes with relatives outside Berlin or to go to special evacuation areas prepared in eastern Germany.

The instructions, these dispatches declared, were issued during a day of frantic preparations as Berlin papers warned the population it must be prepared to meet bomb attacks on a scale never before seen in the capital.

"NEAR PANIC"—Stockholm's Aftonbladet reported that "near panic" prevailed in the city and that Berliners were not only yesterday in parks, squares and yards digging trenches and preparing family air raid shelters.

"All Germany is now impressed that a new phase of the bomb attack is in hand and that for the first time a really serious situation confronts most people at home," the Berlin correspondent of the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter wrote.

He said that all schools had been closed in Berlin and that pupils were being moved as rapidly as possible to the eastern evacuation area. Mothers and small children were being given priority in the evacuation of the students, the correspondent said.

Leaflets told women not employed in war work and elderly people that "it is in your own interest to go to less threatened places."

At the same time those remaining in Berlin were urged to

See BERLIN MAY on page 8

Open Offensive To Conquer Isle

Americans Take San Stefano as Axis Flank Is Broken; British Eighth Army Moves on Catania

By RELMAN MORIN

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—Allied forces "have started an offensive" in Sicily, with U. S. troops seizing San Stefano to crumple the north flank of the Axis and the British Eighth Army reported making a big push against Catania.

An official statement declared the offensive had begun, and British, American and Canadian armies obviously were making an all-out drive to fold up the Messina bridgehead.

San Stefano is the northern anchor of the Axis Etna line, and its loss threatened to roll the Axis armies rapidly back in the dwindling Messina bridgehead.

Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery's Eighth Army has gained important new positions near Catania—the other anchor of the Axis defenses on the east coast—in a series of furious assaults, the French and German radios admitted.

The Allied communique failed to mention the Eighth Army drive. (A message by Montgomery indicated his troops were in action.)

ALL ADVANCE—The American advance also swept up Messina, six miles directly south of San Stefano as the troops of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. cracked through the Etna defenses.

Steady progress was reported officially along the Sicilian front, and the British Army was said to have repelled strong German counterattacks with heavy losses. Canadiana battling ahead in the central area were engaged in heavy fighting, but their advances continued.

The Americans took 10,000 more prisoners in the fall of Messina alone. The majority were Nazis, giving the Americans their largest bag of German captives.

Both American and Canadian forces were battling through high ground frequently reaching 4,000 feet, and the British Army with German machine-gun positions and covered by Axis heavy artillery.

CONTROL ROAD—The capture of San Stefano put the Americans in full control of a major road running from their outposts through the mountains and save them a strategic artery for quick transport of troops and guns through the vital Rome central region. This news followed yesterday's announcement that the Americans had captured 11 towns and possibly turned the Axis north flank.

Montgomery, in a personal message to his troops remaining in Sicily, said the Allies had knocked Mussolini "off his perch," and "we will now drive the Germans from Sicily." His message was dated July 30.

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Six Killed In Harlem

201 Injured in Wave of Disorders

NEW YORK—(AP)—Mayor F. H. LaGuardia imposed a 10:30 P. M. curfew upon the Harlem district today after declaring the disorders in which six persons died and 201, including 40 policemen, were injured, had been brought under control.

At the same time the Mayor announced that a committee of 1,200 persons, mostly Negroes, armed with nightsticks and wearing identification bands, would aid authorities in patrolling Harlem's streets tonight in an effort to prevent recurrence of the disorders.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Terry, commanding the Second Service Command, said he would not declare Harlem out of military bounds. Gen. Terry, who conferred with the Mayor, said, however, that all soldiers in the district would be asked to state

See SIX KILLED on page 8

Attack In Rumania:

Terrific Pasting Is Given Axis Chief Oil Artery By Liberators

CAIRO—(AP)—An armada of 175 Liberator bombers of the U. S. Ninth Air Force flew a 2,400-mile round trip yesterday to dump 200 tons of explosives in a low level attack on the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania, one of the chief sources of the Axis fuel supply.

Announcement of the raid, described as the "biggest low level mass raid in history," was made last night by Major General Lewis H. Brereton, commander of the Ninth Air Force.

A communique issued by the Eighth Army command today said that "20 of the Liberators are reported to have been shot down over the target area and a number have not yet returned to base."

At least 51 enemy planes, including Messerschmitt 109's and 110's and Focke-Wulf 190's, were claimed destroyed, the bulletin added. It described

Italians Warned Invasion To Start

Allied Land Forces Soon To Attack Continent, Broadcasts Say

LONDON—(AP)—Italians were warned in radio broadcasts from Algiers tonight that Allied land forces would soon invade the mainland to follow up resumption of the aerial offensive, caused by the temporizing of Italian military government on demands for surrender.

"We warn you that the Allied land forces will strike at you in the near future," the broadcasts said. "The Allied land forces will strike at you in the near future," the broadcasts said.

Radio interference—generally signifying that Axis operators are attempting to block out a transmission—suddenly jammed the broadcast from which Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Headquarters in the Italian Peninsula said that the war would go on.

The demand for unconditional surrender was reaffirmed.

"We insist on the unconditional surrender of the Axis war forces," the broadcast said. "You have been betrayed by the Italian military government. Badoglio is betraying you."

Dispatches from Madrid said apparently indicated a flurry of activity at the Vatican and some advice was considered with some sort of peace discussions, but there was no evidence that Badoglio had made any move to deliver a direct request for armistice.

The impression grew here that nothing short of a direct request would satisfy the Allies and the possible attempt to put peace feelers through an intermediary was not seen. Italy was the only Axis power whose government continued to have German soldiers on Italian soil.

An immediate psychological effect of the broadcast was that it would "materially affect the course of the war."

"We bombed the refineries, storage tanks, distilleries and cracking plants," General Sirrah said. "Between 150 and 200 Liberator bombers went over their targets and dropped high explosive bombs and wrecked installations with machine gun fire."

The raiding party was commanded by Brigadier General U. G. Bunt who flew in plane No. 140 and was the sixth to return from the mission.

Yesterday's raid was the second "low-level" mission on the Ploesti fields and it was by far the biggest. The first American mission was carried out in June 1943 by B-24 Liberator bombers, four of which were forced down by enemy fighters on the return trip. The area has been bombed intermittently by the Ret Army Air Force.

WILL AFFECT WAR—Brigadier General Victor H. Strahm, chief of staff to General Brereton, said the 2,000 special-trained airmen who took part in the attack and predicted that