R. Sees Axis Doom

Says Sicily Attack Beginning Of End

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Africa—gradually the opposition has cooled and the older regime is breaking down.

"We have seen what has happened or is happening at the present moment in Martinique and Guadeloupe."

This was a reference to the Vichy-controlled islands in the Antilles, now in the process of coming under control of the French Committee of Liberation.

STATE DINNER

The state dinner, which started quietly about 8:15 P. M. (EWT), wound up with dramatic excitement after the President disclosed the attack on Sicily and General Giraud, responding with a toast to the President's toast to France, which climaxed his comments, proposed the health of the President and the glory of the United States. Giraud referred to this country as the great nation through which peace and freedom will be restored in the world.

White House Secretary Stephen Early today reported the Chief Executive's remarks at the dinner and told in general terms of General Giraud's reply.

Early related that the dinner ran quietly until about 9 o'clock when the President received word that the actual landings had been made on Sicily. All persons in the dining room were officials in some capacity or other. All but two of them were military or naval officers.

General Giraud sat on the President's right and General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, sat on his left.

Across from Mr. Roosevelt were a lineup of notables including Secretary of State Hull, Admiral William D. Leahy, the President's Chief of Staff, and Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. Fleet.

EXCITING TIME

For almost an hour Mr. Roosevelt kept his exciting news to himself—at least he made no open announcement of it. Then at the conclusion of the meal, shortly before 10 o'clock, the President prepared to propose a toast and this gave him the opportunity to announce the invasion and discuss the present situation in Europe.

"I have just had word of the first attack against the soft under-belly of Europe," was his terse, exciting first remark.

He then asked those present not to say anything about the news until midnight.

This restriction was necessitated because of arrangements already made for a joint disclosure in North Africa, Washington and London by the military authorities.

The President then told what he knew of the landings and continued:

"The operations have begun. We won't get definite news until later, but the news will be coming in from now on."

The Chief Executive added:

"This is a good illustration of the fact of planning not the desire for planning, but the fact of planning.

FULL CO-OPERATION

"With the commencing of the expedition in North Africa, with complete co-operation between the British and ourselves, that was followed by complete co-operation with the French in North Africa. The result after landing was the Battle of Tunis. That was not all planning. That was co-operation and from that time on we have been working in complete harmony.

"There are a great many objectives. Of course, the major objective is the elimination of Germany. That goes without saying. As a result of the step which is in progress at this moment we hope it is the beginning of the end.

"Last autumn the Prime Minister of England called it the 'end of the beginning.' I think you can almost say that this action tonight is the beginning of the end.

"We are going to be ashore in a naval sense—air sense—military. Once there, we have the opportunity of going in different directions and I want to tell General Giraud that we have not forgotten that France is one of the directions.

ONE OF MAIN AIMS

"One of our prime aims, of course, is the restoration of the people of France and the sovereignty of France. Even if a move is not directed at this moment to France itself, General Giraud can rest assured that the ultimate objective—we will do it and in the best way—is to liberate the people of France, not merely those in the southern part of France but the people of northern France—Paris—and in this whole operation, I should say rightly, that in the enormous planning we have had the complete co-operation of French military and naval forces in North Africa—Gradually the opposition has cooled and the older regime is breaking down. We have seen what has happened or is happening at the present moment in Martinique and Guadeloupe. That is a very major point toward the big objective.

"We haven't won the war yet but one of the happy things is that with the help of General Giraud we have a unified military situation that goes a long way.

"We want to help rearm those French forces (Early explained the President referred to the forces in North Africa) and to build up the French strength so that when the time comes from a military point of view when we get into France and throw the Germans out, there will be a French Army and French ships working with the British and ourselves.

"It is a very great symbol that Gen. Giraud is here tonight; that he has come over to talk to us about his military problems, to help toward the same objective that all of the United Nations have—the freedom of France and with it the unity of France."

The President spoke extemporaneously. Early said that the quotations which he gave were on the basis of notes and did not represent the President's complete remarks.

GIRAUD TALKS

Direct quotations on Giraud's reply were not given out but Early summarized it in this manner:

The General first thanked the President for support of France and expressed his deep gratitude for the fact that through America's assistance rearmed soldiers of France would have their share in the liberation of their country.

The French leader then lifted his glass, gave his fellow diners the health of the President, and the glory of the United States, and described this country movingly as the great nation through which peace and freedom would be restored.

Allies Push Forward On Sicily As Battle Of Europe Started

(Continued from Page One)

tempt had begun was issued by his headquarters in this spare, sharp and single sentence:

"Allied forces began landing operations."

"D" DAY

This was "D" day—the day that Eisenhower had promised privately as early as the middle of June—when, in one of the greatest confidences ever entrusted to reporters, he declared calmly that he was going after Sicily even though he might be "riding for a bloody nose."

(Whether "D" day might involve something more than Sicily, great as is that campaign, was not yet known. Delayed dispatches from neutral Turkey, written on Friday, told of persistent reports that the week-end might see activity in the Balkans as well).

As in the case of Pantelleria—a much smaller and much softer target, of course, and one that fell before a landing was necessary—an Allied air offensive always vast and rising at last to a fearful power opened the last great drama of the struggle for Sicily.

These were saturation raids in the full meaning of that term—raids that began in earnest shortly after Pantelleria had fallen and went on and on in volume and in scope until, during the last week, there was scarcely an hour that Allied bombers or fighters were not snarling somewhere over that tense and shaking island.

Yesterday and last night the end of the air phase merged thunderously with the beginning of the last phase—the hour of the frontal assault with the gun and the raw bayonet in the hands of charging men.

While Liberator bombers from the Middle East Command based on Cairo were pouring it down on Taormina and tearing apart one of their favorite targets, the Comiso Airdrome in Sicily, planes of the Northwest Africa Air Force were sweeping widely over other centers of enemy power.

AXIS RESISTANCE

The Italians and Germans, perhaps sensing what was coming, offered what Gen. Eisenhower's communique called resistance "on a slightly increased scale," but nevertheless a good many of their planes burst apart under exploding Allied bombs, unable even to get off the ground.

These and all the other successful Allied Air attacks, however, great and damaging as they were, were not believed here to have materially reduced the fighting efficiency of the Nazi and Fascist divisions standing now against a storm for the first time blowing directly at the Continent of Europe.

The British Navy carried the main burden of transporting the military forces to the island and guarding supply lines to African bases but some United States warships sailed with the invasion fleet, it was disclosed.

Gen. Eisenhower was believed by observers to have drawn on veteran units of the Tunisian campaign for a share of the invasion force, but the presence of the Canadians, who were last officially reported in Britain, may have surprised the Axis.

Naval bombardments covered the snub-nosed, shallow-draft landing vessels as they slipped from convoys a mile or more offshore and headed for the rocky, precipitous coast.

STRIKE TO INTERIOR

Through wire and hot machine gun fire the Allied forces cut out their bridgeheads and then, with hardly a moment's pause, began battering their way toward the interior of the island.

As the alert fighting men piled from barges and other landing craft, booming guns of naval units offshore bombarded enemy defenses in a thunderous accompaniment and swarms of aircraft kept up the attack they had begun even before the landings started.

FIRST NEWS

The news of the bold stroke was first told in this terse announcement:

"Anglo - American-Canadian forces, under command of General Eisenhower, began landing operations in Sicily early this morning (July 10), North African Time). Landings were preceded by an air attack. Naval forces escorted the assault forces and bombarded the coast defenses during the assault."

Gen. Eisenhower, the American commander-in-chief of this first major land blow to crush enemy Europe, informed the peoples of the occupied and enemy countries of the attack in a statement read from the Algiers radio.

The announcer followed up the statement with these dramatic words:

"The Battle of Africa is over; the Battle of Europe has begun."

(A Reuters correspondent, however, cabled from North Africa to London that "the first line of Allied troops are this morning locked in combat with the enemy after clambering over mines and barbed wire fences to attack pillboxes and machinegun nests.")

GOOD WEATHER

The lightning - quick landings were begun in good weather in full moonlight.

The troop ships and their escorting naval vessels defied minefields and strongly-placed enemy shore guns to reach the objective.

Sicily, only 260 airline miles from Rome, is believed here to be the most heavily defended part of Italy.

Although it may prove a tough nut to crack, General Eisenhower had powerful land, air and sea forces—steadily increased since the American-British landings in French Africa last year—to sustain his offensive.

Some of the newest weapons in the Allied arsenal are believed receiving their first battle tryout.

The Italians, expecting the invasion for weeks had already inaugurated a scorched earth program in Sicily by destroying harbor installations at Trapani, along the main base for the Italian fleet and nearest important Sicilian port to Africa.

(A broadcast by the Algiers radio to North America, recorded by U. S. Government monitors, said landings had been carried out on the rock-studded western tip of Sicily near that port.)

FEW GOOD BEACHES

The triangular-shaped island offered few accessible beaches to the invaders except along the 180-mile southwest side, where the shore spreads back some distance before the first hills appear. High cliffs protect most of the northern and eastern shores.

Gen. Eisenhower's personal message announcing the start of the offensive was first read in French by Allied radio announcers and advised the people of France that this was "the first stage in the liberation of the European continent." It urged them to remain calm and avoid exposing themselves to Nazi reprisals.

The general indirectly promised the French they eventually would get their chance to help strike back at their Nazi conquerers.

"When the hour of action strikes we will let you know," the commander-in-chief declared.

The statement later was read in Italian, German and English.

(Radio Algiers said in a broadcast heard in London by the Associated Press that it would keep repeating the announcement all day and all night. To the Italian version, it added this postscript:

("The words of Roosevelt and Churchill have now become a reality. Italy, dragged in this German war by Mussolini, has become a battleground.")

("The German rearguard action will now be fought on Italian soil.")

General Eisenhower's message to the French said:

"The United Nations' armed forces have today launched an offensive against Sicily.

"It is the first stage in the liberation of the European continent. I call on the French people to remain calm and not to allow themselves to be deceived by false rumors which the enemy might circulate.

"The Allied radio will keep you informed on military developments. I count on your sangfroid and on your sense of discipline. Do not be rash for the enemy is watching.

"Keep on listening to the Allied radio and never heed rumors. Verify carefully news you receive. By remaining calm and by not exposing yourselves to reprisals through premature action you will be helping us effectively.

"When the hour of action strikes we will let you know. Until then help us by following our instructions. That is to say, be calm, keep calm, conserve your strength. We repeat: When the hour of action strikes we'll let you know."

The communique announcing the start of the landings gave the first information that Canadian troops had been moved into General Eisenhower's area of command. For three years large contingents have been guarding Britain.

It has long been expected they would spearhead any invasion as they did the attack on Dieppe.

(In Ottawa, Prime Minister MacKenzie King declared "all Canada will be justifiably proud to know that units of the Canadian Army are a part of the Allied force engaged in this attack.")

TWO STRIKING BASES

In addition to their North African bases, the Allied attacking forces had two major strongholds in the Mediterranean from which to spring against Sicily—captured Pantelleria, some 60 miles southwest on the direct route across the 90-mile-wide Sicilian straight from Tunisia, and the impregnable British naval stronghold of Malta, even closer due south of the eastern end of the island.

Ten major air bases of Sicily are among the military prizes immediately at stake in the Allied invasion.

As many as 300 enemy aircraft once rose from these fields in a single day to dispute the Allied challenge for air domination, but continued raids trimmed that number considerably.

ZONES OF FIGHTING

(London quarters said the Italian communique's report that the landing parties struck at southern and eastern coasts suggested two zones of operation might be the large Catania plain and the Anapo Plain.

(The Anapo Plain lies southwest of Syracuse. The Catania Plain centers about the port of the same name 40 miles off the toe of the Italian boot. It is one of the most favorable areas on the island, which is ridged from east to west by mountains.

(The southern wing of the invasion may have to depend on beaches as supply inlets for a while, since the five best harbors—Trapani, Palermo, Messina, Catania and Syracuse—are all on the other coasts. Licata is suitable only for small vessels and Gela provides anchorage only.)

The Axis in the past has boasted of mobile reserves kept at central points to be hurled into any threatened breach in Hitler's "fortress of Europe." (A Reuters dispatch from North Africa said some Axis reinforcements were moved across Messina Strait last night.

TOUGH PROBLEM

Close friends say General Eisenhower has always considered an amphibious attack the toughest problem a general could face because the weather was added to all other uncertainties. But the weather in the western Mediterranean proved favorable.

Competent military strategists said that in an amphibious invasion the first three days—not the first three hours—are the critical period. The physical act of getting troops ashore is a lesser phase, they say, and the success or failure of the whole attempt really depends on deepening of bridgeheads so services of supply and air fields can be established behind the fighting men.

Every Allied soldier who embarked for Sicily last night did so with the belief that the opening of the second front in Europe is the most important action in store for Allied arms.

Once Sicily could be occupied, the whole course of the war in the west might be altered to hasten the defeat of both Italy and Germany.

ITALIANS DEFEND OWN SOIL

The Italians, for the first time since the first World War, have been forced to fight on the soil of their native land. Whether this would stiffen their courage and induce them to surpass their record in Africa was a question that only further combat could answer.

Despite the round-the-clock air offensive's effect on Axis morale and severe damage to Sicilian communications, military quarters said German and Italian ground forces were believed to have suffered only a minor loss of their original fighting efficiency.

The invasion came two months after Allied forces had crushed the resistance of 250,000 Axis troops in Tunisia. Ever since then, Axis broadcasts have talked nervously of transports, warships, and supply vessels moving in a steady stream eastward past Gibraltar.

In weeks of feverish preparation for defense, the Axis had strung rings of minefields around the island, installed strong coastal batteries, and submarines constantly lurked in its waters.

BOMBER BASES NEAR

Another hazard confronting Eisenhower's amphibious offensive was the nearness of enemy bomber bases on the mainland. Many of these, however, like the many airfields on Sicily itself, have been pounded steadily in recent weeks.

Sicily, densely populated with 4,000,000 persons in peacetime, was denuded of many of its residents as the invasion became more imminent, Axis reports saying they had been evacuated to the mainland.

The Italian mainland itself, less than two miles away across the narrowest point of the Messina Strait at the eastern corner of the island, would be the next logical step for the Allied Armies.

Successful Allied invasion armies, observers believe, would have no more difficulty spanning that slight expanse of water than the Japanese had in crossing the Johore Straits to Singapore.

Sicily, 9,860 square miles in area, roughly the size of Vermont, is mountainous and hilly. Its western and southern coastlines, nearest Africa, are mostly flat, although there are few points where other than shallow-draft vessels can approach.

Good harbors abound in the northern coast, but it is steep and cliff-bound, difficult to assault. Along the east, also fringed by bold cliffs, Mt. Etna towers into the sky.

The major part of Sicily's transportation system skirts the coast, making it subject to crippling attack. Mountainous tracts, with many natural defenses, spread through the interior and there are comparatively few transportation routes.

Russians Joyous Over Landing on Sicily

MOSCOW, —(AP)— **The Russian people joyously welcomed news of the Allied landing on Sicily today.**

Even before the newspapers had time to comment editorially, the people entered into excited discussions, calling the new offensive "a fine gift" for the Red Army, now striving to block the Summer offensive of the Nazis.

"It is not the second front, of course," they were saying. "But it is another important blow to the Axis."

The public apparently recognizes the potent possibilities of the Sicilian landing as another step toward a Continental invasion and as an important action in making the Mediterranean still safer for Allied shipping.

The Russians are vitally interested in any development which can increase and quicken the supply ships of the Allies.

Orleans Spot Cotton

NEW ORLEANS—(AP)—Spot cotton closed quiet 25 cents a bale lower. Sales 167. Low middling 16.10; middling 20.60; good middling 21.05. Receipts 1,355; stocks, 171,860.

Use Strong War Units

Assist In Assaults Upon Island

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on the ground and in the air. Fighting is still progressing."

It was 1 P. M. when the Rome Radio broadcast a brief communique telling the Italian people that the invasion of Sicily had begun.

The bulletin announced only that "violent fighting" was in progress following an Allied attack in Southeast Sicily by air forces and parachute troops supported by naval units.

Immediately after this brief announcement the Rome radio began broadcasting music.

An earlier Rome broadcast, recorded by the Associated Press, made no mention of the Sicilian landing and advised listeners that "the second front is still a dream and BBC is indulging in wishful thinking."

FIGHT PROMISED

Still earlier, a Rome commentator said in a breakfast time broadcast heard here by the Ministry of Information:

"When the enemy lands on our shores we shall meet him man to man. The harder we are hit and bombed the harder shall we resist, fighting tooth and nail. We do not underestimate the enemy but he will learn what fighting means if and when he comes."

The invasion came as the Italian press was intensifying its campaign to prepare the people for an Allied assault.

Mario Appelius, prominent Rome editor, wrote that Allied troops had been waiting aboard ships off North Africa for the past few days and the only big question was why the invasion was being postponed.

Stockholm's afternoon newspapers printed extras telling of the invasion. Morning papers had given prominent display to Reuters reports from Washington that the Allies would strike soon in the Mediterranean or against Norway.

PLANS IN NORWAY

London observers pointed out that the Germans have made elaborate anti-invasion preparations in Norway the past several weeks.

The Berlin correspondent of Stockholm's Aftonbladet observed that first reports of the invasion were taken calmly and that German military commentators had expected such a move in the Mediterranean.

Other Stockholm dispatches pointed out that reports in recent days said large bodies of German troops have been moving toward Italy and the Southeast Coast of France.

Although short on details of the day's events in Sicily, the Berlin radio kept up a stream of commentary concerning the latest Allied blow, devoting thousands of words to assurances that the Axis was fully prepared for defense.

"Let weapons speak," said a spokesman of the Wilhelmstrasse in a broadcast declaring that the new development was accepted in Berlin with cool headedness and tranquility.

He emphasized that "the fight of our Italian ally is also our fight, especially in the present hour."

Another Berlin broadcast said the Allied landing "in no way came as a surprise to Axis troops." It declared that Axis reconnaissance had established that concentrations of Allied troops and landing craft were in Allied ports from Gibraltar to Cyprus and reminded listeners that "for weeks Sicily has been the focal point of British and American air attacks."

CLAIM AIR CONTROL

But, the broadcast declared, "supremacy in the skies over this southernmost point in the central Mediterranean is held by Italian and German air defenses."

Still another broadcast from Berlin asserted that the Italian people could not possibly have been taken by surprise by the invasion because they had been "thoroughly prepared for such an eventuality by the press."

At an hour when the Italian public had not yet been informed of the landing operation, the broadcast went on, Popolo Di Roma wrote: "The zero hour has struck already for us. It is the hour which the enemy has selected at which his convoys protected by naval units and aircraft and preceded by landing parties, must cross the sea to approach our coasts. No matter where it may be—Sicily, Sardinia, Calabria or Apulia—we are ready."

One German broadcast quoted Guenther Weber, correspondent of the Transocean Propaganda agency, as writing from Sicily before the attack began that "the German and Italian staffs have jointly worked out defense plans, one subordinating itself to the other as circumstances demand."

SPANISH STORY

Madrid dispatches called attention to a story in Spanish morning newspapers, apparently written in Berlin last night, saying that the German International Information Office ventured the opinion that the British "will occupy the eastern sector of the Mediterranean while the western section will be reserved for the Americans."

This guess apparently was based on German information that British units in Tunisia and French Africa had been moved to Egypt and near eastern bases while American forces had been reinforced.

Since Sicily generally is considered to be the dividing line between the east and west sections of the Mediterranean, observers in Madrid speculated that Berlin's worries were increased.

An Ankara dispatch, written yesterday, said reports in that neutral capital pointed to a strong possibility that the approaching week-end might see a new flare-up of activity in the Balkans.

As the Berlin radio made its first announcement of the Sicilian landings, a ghost twice interrupted with this foreboding remark:

'Beware. The invasion of Europe has begun.'

Perhaps 450,000 Men Engage In Operation

(Continued from Page One)

ule worked out weeks ago and was not moved up by the fresh outbreak of fighting in Soviet Russia.

United States units which were announced as having fought in Tunisia—the First, Ninth and 34th Infantry Divisions and the First Armored—may possibly be assumed to be taking part in the offensive with the probability that additional strength, including a substantial airborne and parachute force, is available, if needed.

So far, according to these impressions, it does not appear that the bulk of the American Fifth Army, the British Eighth Armies or French forces are being called upon—so they remain, along with the British Ninth and Tenth Armies as major menaces to other Mediterranean points.

It was assumed that the U. S. Navy participated much more fully in the attack than it did in the latter stages of the Tunisian campaign where the work at sea was done almost entirely by the British.

Amphibious units trained extensively along the American East Coast were believed, according to these impressions, to be a substantial part of the American naval contribution.

It was considered noteworthy that the Allied aerial bombardment seemed to follow a pattern of concentration on airfields and communications—rather than on a small area of the coast in an effort to demoralize the defenses at that particular spot to bring about an unopposed landing such as at Pantelleria.

It was widely suggested after the unique victory over Pantelleria that there was the pattern for future attacks, with bombs making an "island" of any selected strip of coast.

Most military men, however, seemed to regard this as impractical against a large island or continent because there would be no way to prevent swift reinforcement of the bombarded area when the attack came.

ITALIAN NAVY'S PROBLEM

The Italian Navy which so far has avoided a major battle test is built around three modern battleships of the Littorio class last reported at La Spezia and four old but rebuilt and reasonably efficient battleships o fthe Cavour class based somewhere east of the Messina Strait. One of these hit in the British air torpedo attack on Taranto may still be out of commission.

No aircraft carriers supplement the capital ships and the Italians have no more than one or two of the original seven heavy cruisers left, naval sources said. Light cruisers number six to eight, destroyers probably less than 50 and submarines probably between 60 and 80.

The combined British and American naval strength in the Mediterranean was believed adequate to deal with the Italian Fleet—even if the main units are able to join and in case Premier Mussolini decides to gamble.

The best guesses in London were that he wouldn't take the risk at this stage although it was considered likely he would use E-boats, of which the Italian Navy has plenty, as a harrassing force by night.

Other Allied Moves Hinted

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readers to prepare for heavy losses and possible setbacks before Sicily is taken.

"There must be no deluding ourselves with hopes of a speedy occupation of Mussolini's front door island," cautioned the Star. "For though this is Italy it also is Hitler's outer gateway and the Nazis have shown every determination to hold it.

"We must be prepared for losses."

The Evening Standard commented:

"We are committed to an historic and hazardous adventure in which there will be setbacks to mourn as well as successes to praise and from which there can be no turning back."

The News said that "no easy victory lies ahead" and added:

"This is a stern business of invading a large country well defended, alive to the prospect with which it now is faced. It is a hazardous and complicated duty."

Workers in war factories cheered announcement of the invasion news over loudspeaker systems.

"This news gives us heart. We know we really are working for something now," was a typical remark.

Selection of Sicily for the first assault was no surprise, for a cleanup of the Mediterranean islands had been plainly hinted as the Allies' next step.

"Sicily is the only target in the Mediterranean against which the full weight of Allied material superiority could be brought to bear upon the enemy," said The Evening Standard's military correspondent.

With dozens of other Allied divisions standing by between Morocco and Syria, it was emphasized in London that this landing is not likely to be the only one of the Summer.

Unofficial hints from Washington, reported by Reuters, tended to confirm London correspondents' estimates that neither the veteran British Eighth Army nor the eager American Fifth Army had been thrown into the Sicily assault. There was nothing to suggest that the French Army—75,000 of whom are reported fully-equipped—had joined the attack, and the British Ninth and Tenth Armies also are standing by in the East for new jobs.

The threat of action from these forces is likely to deter the Axis from heavily reinforcing the Sicilian garrison from either Italy or the Balkans.

"Even larger forces" than those of the Mediterranean were disclosed by Prime Minister Churchill to be gathering in Britain, and on June 30 he promised that "very probably there will be heavy fighting in the Mediterranean and elsewhere before the leaves of autumn fall."

As with the landing in North Africa eight months ago, the Sicilian offensive coincided very closely with renewal of heavy fighting on the Russian Front, but it was regarded as questionable that such timing had been intended. London sources said the time of the Sicilian landings had been fixed long before the renewal of the Russian Front struggle.

But the Allies are working ever more closely together and there is no doubt that they will make the most of the relationship between their two campaigns.

Stalin's past reactions to American and British efforts have not suggested that he would be satisfied with the Sicilian venture alone. Nonetheless, Hitler now is presented for the first time with the reality of a second front on European soil.

An Evening Standard editorial declared that "our invasion brings the war of coalition to a new point . . . a point at which all the United Nations are engaging every enemy and all Allied resources are converging on Hitler's fortress."

London awaited the reaction not only of Russia but neutral countries and forces within occupied countries. The first official Vichy French reaction was the summoning of the Cabinet by Marshal Petain, and the Swiss radio.

The Algiers radio remarked that "British soldiers have set foot on Italian soil for the first time since the Napoleonic wars in the nineteenth century."

For Americans, it was the first opposed landing in force they have ever attempted against European territory. The Canadians with the strongest assault force in their history went back to avenge the rough handling they underwent at Dieppe.

Highlights Of Sicily Attack

(Continued from Page One)

announced in London that Allied forces began landing operations in Sicily this morning."

A few minutes later the Germans broadcast a second bulletin under a Washington date line. It said simply:

"British, American and Canadian troops have landed in Sicily."

Only a few hours before the Allies struck, however, German overseas broadcasts declared that "the biggest enterprise in history may begin at any moment," adding that Allied preparations for the invasion of Europe had been completed.

Axis Reinforcements Rushed Across Strait

LONDON.—(AP)—Heavy Axis reinforcements were rushed across narrow Messina Strait from southern Italy last night to combat the Allied invasion of Sicily, a Reuters dispatch from Allied Headquarters in North Africa reported today.

Tough Struggle for Island Expected

LONDON.—(AP)— The attack on Sicily early today came where the Axis had expected, and military observers here said it would be a tough struggle.

The long-awaited assault came as Germany faced a terrific life and death battle on the Eastern Front against Russia.

In the fiercely-blazing Russian battle the Germans appeared to be throwing everything they had, and it was the view of some quarters here that the new German offensive was a desperate attempt to get the Soviets to sign a separate peace.

The Moscow radio and even Stalin himself in recent weeks repeatedly warned against possible Nazi peace offensives, saying over and over they would fail.

Bulk of U. S. Fifth Army Believed Used

LONDON, July 10 —(AP)— A Reuters dispatch from Washington said today it was presumed there that the bulk of the United States Fifth Army, which has been training in Algeria, was engaged in the Allied invasion of Sicily, along with units of the British First Army.

There was no indication thus far, the Reuters dispatch said, that air borne troops had been employed.

First reports reaching Washington, the dispatch said, indicated the operations were going "according to plan."

Nazi Fig[hter] Bases Hit

U. S. And British Planes Make Assault

LONDON — (AP) — Strong formations of U. S. heavy bombers and flights of RAF light bombers attacked German fighter bases in France today.

Flying Fortresses bombed airfields at Caen and Abbeville and a joint announcement by the U. S. Army's European theater headquarters and the British Air Ministry said bomb bursts were observed on both targets.

Another formation of Fortresses, finding its target in France obscured by heavy clouds, refrained from bombing the objective but experienced persistent fighter opposition.

RUHR ATTACKED

The daylight foray followed a "very heavy attack" on the central Ruhr last night by four-engined bombers of the RAF.

A considerable number of German fighters were destroyed by the heavy bombers, which were escorted by squadrons of RAF, Dominion and Allied fighters and U. S. Thunderbolts. The fighters knocked down one enemy plane.

RAF Venturas and Typhoon bombers, escorted by Spitfires and Typhoon fighters, attacked enemy air fields at St. Omer and Maupertus.

The joint announcement said three bombers were missing from the daylight operations.

Axis Command For Sicily

LONDON — (AP) — An Italian general in Sicily apparently leads the defense of that island against the Allied invasion, military sources said today, with two German field marshals possibly sharing in the general command from the mainland of Italy.

Italian forces in Sicily are commanded by Gen. Alfredo Guzzoni, 74, who led Italian troops in the Albanian campaign of 1939.

He was appointed Undersecretary of the War Ministry and Vice-Chief of Army Staff in November, 1940, when Mussolini shook up his Government in an effort to cover the humiliation of Italian reverses in the war with Greece. He resigned both appointments six months later.

ABLE OFFICER

Formerly Vice-Governor of Eritrea, Guzzoni is reputed to be an able officer and one of the strictest of disciplinarians.

The two German officers mentioned most often in connection with Italy's defenses are Field Marshal Gen. Albert Kesselring and Field Marshal Baron Von Richthofen.

Only four days ago both were reported by the German radio to have been sent to southern Italy to cope with the increasingly violent Allied air attacks.

Soviet reports last November said Kesselring had been dismissed as air chief in the Mediterranean for failure to foresee the Allied invasion of North Africa. He was first put in command of the German air force in Sicily in March, 1942.

With Von Richthofen, he directed German aerial operations during the Battle of Britain and earlier played an important role in the Polish and French campaigns. Von Richthofen was sent to Russia in 1941.

Field Marshal Erwin Rommel has been reported in command of German troops in southern France, but there is nothing to indicate that he is again matching wits in the Sicilian campaign with Allied forces which brought disaster upon his armies in Tunisia.

Land In At Least 3 Areas

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Axis and Allied reports indicated today that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's sea-borne invasion forces landed in at least three areas of Sicily.

Italian headquarters said Allied troops, spearheaded by parachutists, landed on the southern and eastern coasts.

A German broadcast said the Allied landed "in the southeastern part of Sicily," and declared it could not be stated whether landing attempts had been made at other points on the island.

An Algiers radio report said Allied forces also swept ashore on the rock-studded western tip of the island, near the bomb-ruined port of Trapani.

The Weather

WEATHER BUREAU OFFICE
Charlotte July 10, [illegible]

North and South Carolina: Continued warm with scattered thundershowers this afternoon and tonight.

Temperature

City Office		Airport	
8 A. M.	71	7:30 A. M.	[illegible]
9 A. M.	72	8:30 A. M.	[illegible]
10 A. M.	72	9:30 A. M.	[illegible]
11:00	73	10:30	[illegible]
12:00	75	11:30	[illegible]
1:00	78	12:30	[illegible]
2:00	80	1:30	[illegible]
2:30	84	2:30	[illegible]

Highest yesterday, [illegible]; lowest this morning, [illegible]; average yesterday, 75; deficiency for month, [illegible]; excess for year, [illegible].

Precipitation

Total for 24 hours ending [illegible] A. M., .17; total for month, [illegible]; excess deficiency for year, [illegible]; normal for month, [illegible].

[illegible]