

RUSSIAN ARMY GOES OVER TO OFFENSIVE

Invasion Luck: Seas Calmed Just Before Yanks Land

By H. R. KNICKERBOCKER
Representing the Combined American Press
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WITH AMERICAN TROOPS IN SICILY, July 10 — (Delayed)—We landed with cheers, but with our General's face grimmer than ever, shortly after dawn today with famous troops, and by nightfall American boys from every state in the Union had driven the Italian and German enemies back beyond adequate bridgeheads.

It was a unique experience to steam silently and in an utter blackout into this southern Italian port and ride gently at anchor after a day's storm which had seemed to menace our entire expedition with destruction. Chosen for its almost uniformly good weather in this part of the world, this month of July proved the exception that proved the rule. Our immense convoy was caught at noon in gradually ascending trouble, beginning with a light breeze, through a stiff breeze into a moderate gale. By late afternoon it appeared certain that if we continued we should be unable to disembark. Yet to turn back would be only slightly less disastrous.

Our decision was made for us, luckily, by the highest Allied authorities. We were to go ahead. Until long after dark waves beat spray clear over the highest signal bridge of a Coast Guard transport, and the stoutest spirit was seized with anxiety as we measured the size and crashing power of the white-plumed seas against our fragile landing craft.

It "will take six hours for this sea to die down," remarked one who took a dim view of almost everything. But it didn't.

At midnight, as we entered the approaches to the port, the sea had become so quiet we could stand without support and watch without strain the spectacular bombing by our air force of tactical positions around the port and beach we were about to assault. The sky was lit for miles around by the flames from the airport and docks.

Presently a huge Italian coast guard searchlight flung its vast beam into the darkness of the horizon and swept across our bows. We held our breath. Around us were an immense number of convoy craft. We had several times more vessels than had ever before been used in a single military operation—even many more than in the Allied landing on North Africa.

The great fleet of these vessels lay around us and beyond as far as the eye could see. To our eyes the Italian searchlight silhouetted all these forest of masts and smoke stacks against the glittering star-hung sky but apparently the searchlight operators were dazzled and unable to see us. Not a sign came from the shore that we had been discovered.

We hovered many hundreds and thousands and tens of thousands strong, awaiting only the hour to invade and to capture or destroy the enemy who had been on many years committing crimes without punishment.

That enemy had life and death reasons for being alert but now he seemed only aware that his airport and harbor were being harshly "softened" by Allied bombers.

Just a few miles away men crowded the decks of innumerable warships, transports and landing craft watching their victim turn with bewilderment in his searchlight and seek somewhere on the surface of the sea an answer to the question that troubled him.

The enemy knew something was wrong but couldn't see SEA DIES on page 5

Open Drive Upon Orel; Long Gains Registered

Central Front Campaign On

LONDON (AP)—A special Russian communique announced tonight that the Red Army had gone over to the offensive against Orel, 200 miles south of Moscow, and advanced twelve to fifteen miles on a 25-mile front north of Orel and captured over 50 populated places. The communique broadcast from Moscow and recorded by the Soviet Monitor, said a second drive upon Orel from the east resulted in an advance of twelve to fifteen miles on an eighteen-mile front, and the capture of 60 inhabited localities.

Two thousand Germans were captured east of Orel and 12,000 killed, the announcement said.

In the three-day drive, the district center of Lyanovo and the other populated places of Staritsa, Boronkino, Blizhovo, Budaryshy, Z. g. r. 117, Prifilovo, and Voznesensk, Vapnashki, and Kites were captured north of Orel.

East of Orel the Red Army occupied the large populated places of Yashki, Orlovka, Ysyokovo, Podbenedo, Sykhuka and Brezovychi. In the course of the offensive the German 56th, 262nd and 23rd Infantry Divisions were routed along with the 27th 5th and 10th Tank Divisions, it was said.

HEAVY NAZY LOSSES

Heavy losses also were inflicted on three other German infantry divisions and two motorized divisions.

Captured booty included 60 tanks, 210 guns and 187 mortars, the announcement said, and 102 tanks, 47 guns and 294 planes were destroyed.

"The offensive of our troops continues," the communique said in concluding its account of the attack, but it said Russian troops also attacked German positions to the south in the Orel-Kurs area and had repulsed German tank and infantry attacks in the Belgorod sector.

Says U. S. Has Won Supply War

PEARL HARBOR, T. II.—(AP)—

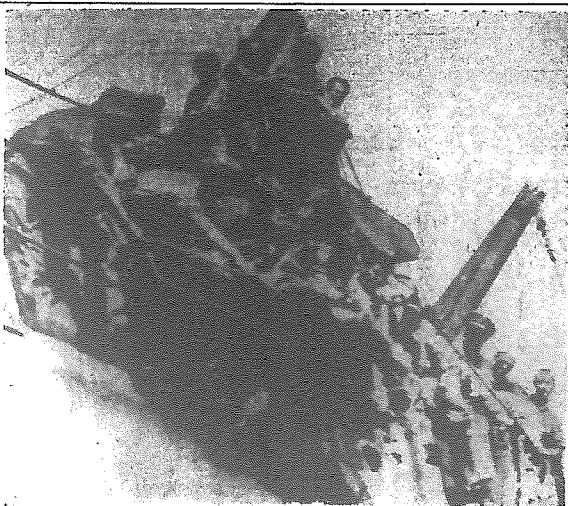
Problems of supply and reinforcement for America's fighting men in the Pacific have been overcome in large measure, says Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, and with "forces of our own" even more than in the Pacific in satisfying numbers to insure the continuing initiative. Nimitz said.

Both had their precedents in the campaigns of last winter to eliminate the enemy from Buna, New Guinea, and from Dundak, the Munda action, at least, had even greater hopes for quick success.

BARGE METHOD FLOPS

"The Japanese defenders of Buna, who faced a less formidable American force, probed the light with men and supplies, meeked to them at night on coastal barges. The enemy tried the barge method yesterday in the Munda sector, with dire results.

Our alert Mitchell bombers, one of several categories of planes now on hand in considerable strength, spotted two See U. S. ANP on page 5



AMERICAN WOUNDED EVACUATED TO AFRICA — The first American wounded to be evacuated from Sicily are shown arriving at an unidentified North African port. (Army Signal Corps radiotelephoto.)

Yanks Shell Kiska Again

Fourth Attack In Eight Days Made

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Navy reported today that an American light warship bombarded Japanese defense positions on Kiska Island Wednesday, making the fourth surface attack on the enemy base in an eight-day period.

"I. On July 14th, during the early morning, a United States light surface unit bombarded Japanese positions in Gertrude Cove on Kiska. Enemy guns did not reply."

Kiska was shelled previously on July 4, July 6, and July 11. The attacks were the first by surface craft since August, 1942, and might prelude an amphibious assault designed to crush the strong Japanese garrison on Kiska and restore the island to American control.

The war for an American offensive against the Japanese base on Kiska Island in the North Pacific is moving ahead. Responsibility here is that of the strategic base is to be recaptured from the enemy this year weather conditions make it essential that operations begin as soon as possible.

An amphibious attack on Kiska, where the Japanese have elaborated defense installations, an unlighted airfield and a force estimated as high as 10,000 men, would be a logical follow-up to the conquest of Attu Island, completed a month and a half ago. But, whether and when it will be made is a high command secret which the bomb-battered out-thanked Kiska garrison may try to figure out as best it can.

The basic elements with which the American commanders have to work have been busy on the record, however, and in the absence of more recent official information on the subject are currently arousing interest.

REST OF ATTU

The battle of Attu required about three weeks, beginning on May 11. The enemy force there numbered only about 3,000 men and defenses were not nearly so well developed as on Kiska.

Quits OPA With Red Tape Protest

Maxon Issues Farewell Blast As He Leaves Price Administration

By KARE R. BAUMAN

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dynamic, red-headed Lou R. Maxon, Detroit advertising executive who bounded into Washington several months ago full of confidence that he was just what the Office of Price Administration (OPA) needed, bounced right out today with the firm conviction that Houdini himself couldn't untangle OPA's "legalistic red tape."

All that remained on his once busy desk were a Washington street car token and a partly-filled bottle of eye-wash.

A secretary who handed out Maxon's farewell statement last night, in which he criticized "confusing," "indefinite," "compromise, miles of legalistic red tape, and the presence of the-oria in policy-making positions, said she attached no significance whatever to these comments.

After weeks of consultation, Maxon said, he "decided that I cannot accept the position of general manager of OPA and have also reached the conclusion that I cannot continue to be associated with OPA in any capacity."

Maxon had demanded that he be given almost absolute powers over policy and personnel, and his resignation "as of this date" was taken to mean that Price Administrator Prentiss Brown refused to agree to a setup that would have left him little more than a figurehead.

Almost from the day of his arrival as a non-salaried deputy administrator in charge of public relations, Maxon found himself in sharp conflict with other key figures in OPA — "professors and 'side-saddle boys," he called them. J. Kenneth Galbraith, deputy administrator in charge of price, quit after a row with Maxon, but most of the others whom he had criticized are still there.

Veterans In First Battle: Yanks Parachute Into Axis Strong Points And Fight Way To Victory

By JOHN THOMPSON
Chicago Tribune Correspondent
representing the combined American Press. Distributed by the Associated Press.

WITH AMERICAN AIRBORNE TROOPS IN SICILY—(Delayed)—It's quiet today, eddy quiet, in the cool shade of our Sicilian orchards. The noise of battle has passed and overhead a Spitfire patrol which appeared for the first time yesterday, replacing what seemed to be the ever-present enemy fighters and bombers.

U. S. Soldiers Enter Sicily Hilly Country

Longest Advance Made In Center By U.S.-British-Canadian Force

By REELMAN MORIN

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA (AP)—The jaws of an Allied clamp have taken a deeper bite on eastern Sicily after a furious battle in which the British Eighth Army hurled back a powerful counter-attack by Nazi armored forces, headquarters reports said today.

The greatest advance was scored by a combined American, Canadian and British force in the center where a gain of six or seven miles was made in the Ragusa-Vizzini sector on a line parallel with the British east coast. Pushed back by the British, the American force on the western flank dug into the difficult mountains, marking up a gain of about four miles, capturing another important airfield and taking important heights.

Another Italian general, commanding the 54th Napoli Division, surrendered with his staff south of Vizzini. Vizzini is about 25 miles west and slightly south of captured Augusta, and about the same distance northeast of Gela.

Major Fight Expected

May Be Shaping Up On Flanks

LONDON (AP)—London military observers "expecting heavy fighting" between the British and Allied and enemy command, from the Sicilian fighting front, expressed the opinion that a major battle might be shaping up on one or both flanks of the Allied advance into the island.

Although there was no hint that the Allies had encountered a setback at any point, it was thought in London that the "Axis" had yet been smashed enough to remove the possibility of the Germans and Italians making a stiff stand, or counter-attack, in strength.

Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth Army was known to be encountering German armor for the first time as it edged into the Catania Plain. The impressive news here was that General Montgomery's force consisted mainly of troops placed under his command since the fighting in North Africa ended, with many of his veteran, battle-toughened units.

The concerted assault by enemy forces in which the crack German armored Hermann Goering Division looked par, indicated that the Italian and German command had shifted the bulk of their forces from positions confronting the American troops to block the British path up the east coast.

YANKS MAILED NAZIS
The Goering outfit, previously known for its brutality, had been shifted to the hands of the Americans. Consequently, heavier opposition is expected along the route of the Eighth Army, and the latest developments indicated that the Axis commander has firmly decided to commit his main forces in battle to hold the British and Canadians below Catania, 25 miles up the coast from Augusta.

Italian divisions, too, were reported making a more determined stand in the Catania sector. However, new waves of British and American parachute and glider troops had been dropped out what the communique called "successful operations, and it was disclosed that the British had advanced to the coast from Augusta.

It was their first fight, but you would have thought they were old hands at it. Some mistakes naturally were made, but those who were distinguished themselves by their own initiative.

They have just seen them in their first combat. They are unaccustomed quiet you glance through the night into Axis strong points. They battled their way along the coast and inland, fighting as guerrillas, and then, drawn together into a single combat team and reinforced with tanks and artillery, they fought as well as they could.

It was their first fight, but you would have thought they were old hands at it. Some mistakes naturally were made, but those who were distinguished themselves by their own initiative.



WEATHER
Little change in temperature today. Light showers.

Today's Forecast
Sunset Today
Sunrise Tomorrow
Temperature Today
High
Low
Wind
Direction
Speed
Sea
State
Weather
Forecast
See ATTACK AXIS on page 7