

RUSSIAN SLASH TO BE "POPULAR" Russians Smash Way Into Streets Of Kharkov EVACUATION OF SICILY IN FULL SWING

Enemy Broken With Capture Of Randazzo

Germans Are Retreating Behind Strong Rearguard Action

By RELMAN MORIN
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP)—Pelted by everything from blockbusters to machine-gun bullets from the air and artillery fire from the sea, the German army has begun a full-scale evacuation in an effort to save as much material and manpower as possible from the wreckage of Sicily for the Battle of Italy.

With their center caved in, by the Allied capture of Randazzo, north of Mt. Etna, the Germans put their evacuation machinery into full swing, it was officially announced today. They were retreating behind a strong rearguard which fell back rapidly in front of victorious British and American infantry attacks.

Firm Hold Obtained By Soviets On Ukraine City

Menace Bryansk And Smolensk

MOSCOW — (AP)—The Red Army has battered its way into the streets of Kharkov from several directions and obtained a firm vice-like hold about that Ukraine steel center, front line dispatches said today.

To the north where Russian forces had piled on another offensive in the gradually developing Summer campaign, two other German defense hubs, Bryansk and Smolensk, were menaced by the smashing of strong fortifications in the Spas Demensk sector.

May Free Coal Mines

Government Control Might Be Dropped

WASHINGTON — (AP)—Secretary of Interior Ickes announced today that the coal mines administration has begun surveying the efficiency of a large number of coal mines, looking toward their release from government control.

Subsequently, John L. Lewis, the miners' chief, said the UMW Policy Committee ordered the mines back to work contingent upon continued government operation of the mines.

Japs' Salamaua Base In Ruins

American Bombers Smash Enemy Rampart In Northeast New Guinea

By C. YATES McDANIEL
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC — (AP)—Much of Salamaua, Japan's vital air base on northeastern New Guinea, lay in smoking ruins today, devastated in 45 minutes by 177 tons of bombs dropped from Liberators, Flying Fortresses and Marauders.

Debris littered the waterfront of the one-mile long isthmus on which Salamaua sits into the Moon Gulf; the big airfield, two miles inland, was the scene of widespread damage; Chinatown and the village of Kela, which faces Salamaua across a bay, were covered with dust and smoke.

Heavy Yank Air Assaults Prompt Action

Badoglio Government Reported Taking Steps To Have City Spared Attacks

By JAMES M. LONG
LONDON — (AP)—The Italian Government announced today that as a result of yesterday's American raid it has "decided publicly and formally to declare Rome an open city without further delay and the Italian Government is taking the necessary steps according to international law."

The announcement, made over the Rome radio, said such a decision first was communicated to the Vatican two weeks ago and that the Government "has been waiting to know the circumstances in which this declaration would be accepted" by the Allies.

Red Drive Opened By Great Barrage

Artillery Bombardment Considered By Soviets As History's Mightiest

By HENRY C. CASSIDY
WITH THE RED ARMY ON THE BRYANSK FRONT — (AP)—It can now be told that the Red Army Summer offensive was opened by a tremendous artillery barrage rated by the Soviet Command as the greatest in history.

The bombardment of the German lines touched off at 3 A. M. July 12, was estimated at least 10 times heavier than the fire at Verdun. About 3,000 gun barrels were massed in each mile of the front for the breakthrough. Artillery so concentrated would form two or three lines (hub-to-hub).

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Asks Foreign Move Unity

Hatch Would Consolidate Agencies

WASHINGTON — (AP)—Consolidation of American economic activities in foreign countries under a single agency was proposed today by Senator Hatch, Democrat, New Mexico, who said "lack of accord and conflicting authority have hampered the war effort."

Noting that Senator Brewster, Republican, Maine, had criticized such agencies as North Africa, Hatch said the Truman War Investigating Committee might recommend unification of the overseas bureaus as an outgrowth of an inquiry Brewster and Senator Mead, Democrat, New York, are making behind the fighting fronts.

Austria Reached By Air Offensive

Raids Coincide With Shattering Blows Rained On Rome By Yanks

LONDON — (AP)—American Liberator bombers striking deep into Hitler's hitherto almost unreachably southeast European war industries, yesterday attacked Vienna, Neustadt 27 miles south of Vienna in former Austria, a Middle East communiqué disclosed today.

It was the first time since September, 1942, when Russian planes bombed Vienna, that Allied bombs had fallen on Austria.

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 epics of modern journalism. "Moscow Dateline" is based on his personal knowledge of the Russian situation.—Editors, The News.

CHAPTER 12
Out of Vienna we turned off the Mojiblat chaussee on the muddy road to Yaffa, a village which no longer existed as such, but only as a heap of ruins, a tactically important spot which had been recaptured July 27 and was still held as an advanced point by the Red Army. Through a forest, we drove up to a divisional headquarters, three miles from the German lines, and forty miles northeast of Smolensk. As we entered a clump of woods there, we could hear the artillery thumping in the distance.

Steel Workers Vote To Return

BUFFALO, N. Y. — (AP)—Striking workers of the Republic Steel Corp. Buffalo plant today voted to return to work, according to a dispatch which a company official said.

Joseph T. McNichols, district director of the CIO United Steelworkers of America, said the 2,300 workers, which began their strike Wednesday night in one work shift and spread throughout the plant.

Bombs Drop In Thickly-Populated Rome Area; People Stage Exodus

By FRANK BRITTO
BERN — (AP)—The Rome correspondent of the Basler Nachrichten said today that a number of bombs dropped by American fighters yesterday fell in the most thickly populated area of the Italian capital and the movement of the people to safer quarters made the streets "a picture of desolation."

Small groups and carts were used to carry belongings, areas near the Vatican were especially favored and many had their valuables and documents packed in anti-aircraft defenses opened an

WEATHER

Forecast:
Clear, light
breezes,
pleasant.
Temperature:
City 65-75
Country 60-70
Sea 55-65