

THE ARMY SMASHES TOWARD NAPLES

Allies Reach Hills Looking Down On Plain

Break-Through In Mountain Area Appears Possible At Any Time

By NOLAN MORGARD
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP)—Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's American Fifth Army has fought its way onto hills looking down on the plain of Naples in a furious day and night offensive supported by heavy artillery batteries and resisted by German tanks as well as strong gun emplacements, Allied Headquarters stated today.

Meanwhile, Allied fighters shot down nineteen Junkers-52 transports in another sweep against the hard-pressed enemy's air-transport movement from Corvara where French patriots and regulars and American Rangers were pushing him into a tight corner.

AIR FLEETS TRAPPED
At least ten more of the evacuation planes were downed in the great air battle off Salerno in which RAF fighters laid siege to the German-held tip of the island and trapped the Nazi air fleets just as they did off Tunisia and Sicily.

The planes were crowded with technicians and key men. Allied reports said two of the seven other air transports shot down the day before had 100 men crammed into them.

HEAVY TOLL OF NAZIS
A French communiqué said this afternoon that combined action by Allied sea and air forces was taking a heavy toll of Germans being evacuated from Corvara.

French troops and patriots, exerting heavy pressure on Nazi forces still on the island, have pushed them back into the northeastern corner of the island, the announcement said.

Struggling forward over terrain so difficult that pack mules were used extensively to carry up guns and ammunition, Gen. Clark's men gained a foothold on the top of mountains extending from Vesuvius and Pompeii in their drive on Naples.

In the words of the headquarters spokesman the Allied troops could watch "our air forces knocking hell out of enemy communications in the area below."

GREAT ARTILLERY DUEL
Reports from the front said the whole rugged mountain area north and northeast of Salerno was brilliantly lighted throughout the night by the flashes of a terrific artillery duel between hundreds of Allied and German guns.

Clark, who appeared to have been springing somewhat eastward from his previous hard course due north of Salerno in

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GUNNER GABLE—It's the same old Gable grid of movie fame caught somewhere in Britain where handsome-as-ever Capt. Clark Gable is serving as gunner instructor to U. S. Army Air Force.

Attack Material & Manpower Waste

Joint Army-Navy Committee To Maintain Vigil Over Needs

WASHINGTON — (AP)—Actual strategic needs, as determined by a joint Army-Navy committee in the light of battlefield reports, hereafter will be the yardstick for war industry production.

The joint attack on material and manpower waste was announced yesterday by James P. Byrnes, War Mobilization Director, at the White House. He made known that the survey committee, ordered by President Roosevelt, already has been put to work by the joint (Army and Navy) chiefs of staff.

Two men each from the Army and Navy make up the committee.

"With critical shortages in manpower and material, we must see that we produce only what we need and that the waste, unavoidably present in war, is kept to a minimum," said a statement from the committee, made public by Byrnes.

The War Mobilization Director laid special emphasis on the shifting of manpower to production of material most urgently needed, with particular reference to the ever-growing demand for airplanes.

Byrnes also recalled the overfilled military warehouses with which the nation ended the last war and said the constant adjustment of production to military developments would be designed to avoid a repetition, in so far as possible.

CASH SAVINGS
Savings of cash as well as labor and materials are expected through cuts in manufacture of certain munitions as the shifting battle scene cuts the need for them or swings emphasis to other weapons.

No big increases in supplies for civilians are expected from the war effort.

CONSULTS F. R.
Hull interrupted his conference with Blumenthal, after 40 minutes of discussion, to consult with President Roosevelt.

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Rumania Is Negotiating For Peace, Say Reports

Talks Said To Be On At Ankara

MADRID — (AP)—Reports, some clearly of German origin, circulated here today that representatives of the Rumanian government are negotiating with Allied representatives at Ankara, Turkey, for an armistice.

The Rumanians first attempted, the reports said, to entice the Russians and negotiate only with the Western powers, but, failing in this, agreed to meet the tri-power representatives.

TENSION WITH HUNGARY
There was no indication of the progress of the Rumanian meetings, but Balkan representatives here feel that such conferences might be linked with Budapest reports of growing tension between Rumania and Hungary over Transylvania, northern Rumanian area ceded to Hungary under Axis pressure.

London broadcast a report from Istanbul today "that the Bulgarian envoy is expected there soon to seek a basis for Turkish intervention with the Allies on Bulgarian behalf."

(The Berlin radio, reporting on Axis activity in the Balkans, said an Albanian National Committee had been formed in that former kingdom to replace the Italian Government there "after the treason of Badoglio and the flight of the Albanian Prince Minister." Germany, it said, has recognized the committee.)

Mustafa Merikha Kruja, an Albanian who had spent considerable time in Italy prior to the Italian invasion, was named premier of the Albanian-dominated Government in 1941. The Berlin radio's reference to the "flight of the Albanian Prince Minister" presumably referred to him.)

The reports said that Rumania had accepted the Allies for an armistice shortly after Benito Mussolini's ouster as Italian premier, and that the Rumanians had sought an armistice conference immediately after the Italian capitulation.

TRANSYLVANIA ISSUE
Although reconciled to unconditional surrender, the Rumanians were said to be mainly concerned over the method of surrender and the fate of Transylvania.

Earlier reports had told of Rumanian insistence on moving her reserves toward the Hungarian frontier instead of replacing her heavy losses on the Russian front.

The reports said further that near-panic was aroused among Rumanian Government and military leaders when they heard the Rumanian armistice feelers and that Hungarian contacts with United Nations representatives may have been made also.

Greeks Battle Reign Of Terror
CAIRO — (AP)—Greek sources said today that many Germans being found in Greece, particularly in the Peloponnese, are being placed in Italian occupation troops in Greece of Trieste.

In reprisal, the Germans were said to be gathering hostages and burning villages of Aetolia and Rogkion.

Finally Quench New Haven Fire
NEW HAVEN, Conn. — (AP)—Firemen reported today that they had finally put out the fire which burned for 23 hours inside the clothing warehouse of the Yale Co. Storage Co.

Guinea Airbase Seized From Japs

Finschhafen Victory Gives Allied Planes Close Shot At New Britain

By BOB EUNSON
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC — (AP)—The Finschhafen airfield has been wrested from the Japanese, giving Gen. Douglas MacArthur a New Guinea base for his planes 75 miles from the enemy's strategically important bastion of New Britain.

Australians who landed from the sea in the face of mortar and machinegun fire six miles north of Finschhafen Wednesday captured the field and now are within three-quarters of a mile of the town, Headquarters reported today.

The impending capture of Finschhafen would add 60 more miles of shoreline—that between Finschhafen and Lae—to the New Guinea coastal region under Allied control.

From Finschhafen's airfield, unobstructed recently to the Japanese because of Allied air poundings, it is an 85 mile flight to the enemy base of Cape Gloucester and 165 miles to the Gasmala Airfield.

The bombers dropped many tons of incendiary bombs and a harbor capable of accommodating a good sized fleet.

Capture of the Salamaua airfield would add 60 more miles of shoreline—that between Finschhafen and Lae—to the New Guinea coastal region under Allied control.

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Russians Win Great Central Front Victory

Great German Forces Described As Taken In Hard Fighting

LONDON — (AP)—Smolensk, among Europe's most heavily fortified cities and backbone of German central Russian defenses, fell to Soviet forces today in one of the greatest victories of the Russian war, Moscow announced tonight.

Roslavl, 65 miles southeast of Smolensk on the Dvina River defense line, also has fallen to the smashing Russian attacks, the announcement said.

STALIN SPECIAL ORDER
The victory of Smolensk's recapture after German forces there had menaced Moscow for more than two years was announced in a special order of the day by Premier Marshal Joseph Stalin.

Marshal Stalin's announcement said the great fortress had been taken in stiff battles, in direct contrast to an earlier Berlin announcement that Nazi forces had evacuated the city after demolishing its war installations.

Stalin's announcement termed Smolensk "the most important strategic center of German defenses in the western direction."

It termed Roslavl, where it said Nazi defenses broke after two days of fierce engagements, "an important junction of communications and a powerful stronghold of German defenses."

VICTORY GUNS FIRED
In celebration of Moscow's greatest hour since the winter of 1941—when Hitler himself directed the German offensive from Smolensk—the capital echoed to salvoes from 224 victory guns, 100 more than touched off for any other victory.

Col. Ernst Von Hammer, Nazi military correspondent, had said earlier in a broadcast that evacuation of Smolensk had begun three weeks ago.

Von Hammer said the Germans had successfully removed all their war plant to the west, while the communique declared that they had destroyed all military installations in the city.

"In the general front sector west of the railway junction of Unecha and south of Smolensk violent defense fighting took place and is still going on," the communique added.

The German war bulletin said that Nazi columns were attacking in the Lake Ladoga region in the Leningrad salient and had repulsed Soviet tank-supported counter-attacks on the Murmansk sector in the far north.

SAY REDS HURLED BACK
Strong Russian attacks on German bridgeheads on the eastern bank of the middle Dnieper river were hurled back with heavy tank losses, the communique asserted, and Soviet columns operating north of Cherkass were smashed, it was claimed.

The fall of Smolensk was regarded here as one of the most disastrous defeats suffered by German forces in the current Russian offensive.

Berlin said Smolensk's evacuation was completed early today and that covering forces blew up bridges and important crossroads after the last German transport had left the city.

In the nine months since a battered Red Army threw back the Germans from Stalingrad, the Russians had accomplished two thirds of their task of hurling the invaders from Soviet soil.

Hitler's steadily-retreating forces have now given

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Badoglio Declaration Of War Against Germany Appears Ahead

By EDWARD KENNEDY
BRINDISI, Italy, Sept. 22—(Delayed)—The Government of Marshal Pietro Badoglio seems moving steadily toward a declaration of war on the Germans.

Badoglio in messages broadcast from the Government's radio station at Bari already has called on Italians to fight beside the British and Americans in the common struggle to rout the Germans from Italian territory.

The Government's newspaper, Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno of Bari, asserted that Italy in her "new resurgence" has "the same old historic enemy, the Germans, and the same old historic friends, the United Nations."

While Italy's efforts to be accepted as an ally and virtually as one of the United Nations seems

Retreating Nazis Are Stripping Italians Of Their Shirts, Pants

By JOHN LARDNER
North American Newspaper All-

WITH BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY ADVANCED FORCES IN ITALY, Sept. 16—(Delayed)—The British Eighth Army has been chasing and chivvying the Germans for approximately a year now, and the Germans have used every dodge in

their not inconsiderable repertoire from El Alamein in Africa to Polenta and Salerno in Italy to now their trail with knifecuts that explode or delay the pursuit.

As you have heard, the German forces, in their latest withdrawal, lingered longest in front of General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's troops, pulling out on the run cloverleaf along the Allied line from Salerno eastward, but giving the British from El Alamein their best attention. Axis from blowing every bridge in sight they dug into their bag of tricks before moving north.

Yesterday along the big, white road we met soldiers who had just won a scrap from a German jeep and killed more than a few. The British troops were bottled from mountains covered with evergreens. A half dozen pillars of smoke were rising from the mountain slope.

"I've been following Jerry all the way from Egypt," a Corporal said, "but every once in a while he still pulls something new. New to me, anyway."

He pointed across the valley at the smoke.

"These were delayed action bombs," he said. "They started going off just now after we pushed him north of the next bridge. I don't know why he planted them just there. Maybe he thought we'd be there, but we weren't—not here."

On the other side of the road ran a long rocky slope sparsely covered with scrub.

"Right along there," the Corporal said, "the long narrow trail of oil going right up that slope. An oil slick on land, you might say, like the wake of a ship. That went off, too, after he left here by some kind of delayed ignition, and there was a thin line of fire clear across the hillside from west to east. But it didn't bother us or even delay us. It's the bloody bridge that delays us. There's another bomb just

See NAZIS ROB on page 8

WEATHER

Continued

cool

tenight

and

temper

Today's Temperature

2:30 P. M. 70°

Sunset Today 7:16

Sunrise Tomorrow 7:14

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 8.