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Not War—Only Defeat—Destroys the Freedom Of Men And The Privileges Of Democracy

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ESTABLISHED 1868

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1943

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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Stalino Is Captured By Advancing Red Army

Berlin Admits City Lost

By LEWIS HAWKINS LONDON—(AP)— Capture of fiercely-defended Stalino by the Russians was acknowledged by the Germans today, restoring the last of the great industrial cities of the Donets Basin to the Red Army which already has won back two-thirds of the Ukraine's rich grain lands.

The Red Army advance also crossed the rail line to Mariupol, 65 miles southwest of Stalino on the Sea of Azov, making it almost certain that Nazi forces which have been fighting east of that town must withdraw to escape entrapment by the southward turning move.

The Red Army newspaper Red Star reported that other units had severed the main railroad from Stalino.

NEW YORK—(AP)— Marshal Stalin triumphantly announced in a special order of the day today that "the Donets Basin is cleared of the Germans."

The announcement, broadcast by the Moscow radio and recorded by the Federal Communications office, "our troops captured a number of cities, including the city of Stalino."

The action came, the Soviet Premier continued, "as a result of skilled maneuver and a determined offensive in the last six days."

The Donets Basin to Dnepropetrovsk, 115 miles west of Stalino. The German communique, recorded by the Associated Press, said Stalino, Russia's twelfth largest city, had been evacuated "to the rear and taken from" after all military installations had been destroyed.

FLANKING MOVES Russian dispatches indicated Stalino fell in flanking moves rather than by direct assault. This new strategy followed upon Dettmer's announcement that the Red Army had killed more than 425,000 Germans, wounded 1,600,000 and captured 1,000 tanks on page 9

Hitler's Southern Flank In Danger As Italy Gives Up

By WILLIAM SMITH WHITE LONDON—(AP)— The war for the western world entered its final and decisive phase tonight with the fall of Italy, bloodily and prolonged though that phase may be.

It was a collapse that laid the whole German position in the south open to attack over the full course of the Mediterranean, along whose shores immense Allied forces were marshaled and ready for campaigns of destiny now ahead.

It was the first great payment on Hitler's bill of defeat. The loss to him of what was by far the strongest of his European Allies. The loss was perhaps as punishing and fatal

as was the Kaiser's loss in 1918 of his southern flank when Bulgaria, and then Turkey and then Austria-Hungary, collapsed, then came catastrophic.

The capitulation was the greatest turn of the war since the Russians demonstrated their ability to hurl back the Germans.

It had the immediate effect of stripping Hitler's Balkan defenses of an estimated 27 Italian divisions and putting him in imminent peril in such vital areas as Rumania, where he is believed to have been getting a fourth of his entire oil supplies.

The longer range effects of the Italian surrender were evident among the White House staff when news dispatches gave the story to a jubilant American captain.

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Surrender Brings Up Questions

By ASSOCIATED PRESS These questions arose from the Italian surrender today:

1. What becomes of the Italian fleet, which is built around seven battleships and is split between Pola on the Adriatic and Spezia on the Italian west coast?

2. Will the Germans retire from the Po Valley in the north, where they have been reported to have as many as fifteen or twenty divisions?

3. What happens to the 25 or 30 Italian garrisons in the Balkans and France? And to the 250,000 Italian workmen estimated in Germany?

4. What effect will the Italian surrender have on the wavering morale of Hitler's Balkan satellites of Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Croatia? Hungarian policy has been linked most closely with Italian. Will Germany make all the Balkan states into war-weapons?

5. Does the surrender include the French island of Corsica, barely 20 miles from the Italian coast, which the Italians occupied when the Allies landed in North Africa?

6. Will the scattered German units still in southern and central Italy be allowed to return to Germany?

Greatest Of Allied Triumphs Scored

Government Orders Soldiers To Quit Fighting Allies But To "Oppose Attacks From Any Other Quarter"

By EDWARD KENNEDY ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)— Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower today announced unconditional surrender of Italy in the greatest knockout victory for Allied arms in four years of war.

Simultaneously, the Italian Government ordered its troops to drop the fight against Allied forces, but to "oppose attacks from any other quarter."

Russia as well as the United States and Britain approved the granting of the armistice, Eisenhower announced.

It was signed in Sicily last Friday—on the very day that Italy was invaded—and Italy, accepting all the terms, agreed that would become effective "at a moment most favorable for the Allies."

"That moment has now arrived," an official statement declared.

Italy will be obliged to "comply with political, economic and financial conditions" which the Allies will impose later.

Simultaneous announcement by the Allies and the Italian Government was agreed upon in view of "the possibility of a German move to forestall publication of the armistice" by the Italians.

Hitler's "European fortress" was cracked, the way was opened for new offensives, the course of World War II has been newly shortened.

Eisenhower called on the Italians to join the Allies in helping to eject the Germans from their country, and promised that all who do so will have the "assistance and support of the United Nations."

Marshal Pietro Badoglio's proclamation for the Italian armed forces to cease fighting and oppose attacks "from any other quarter" was closely related to this.

Surrender of Italian armed forces "unconditionally" was made by the Government of Marshal Badoglio, successor of Benito Mussolini, the architect of Fascism.

Thus the Casablanca "unconditional surrender" ultimatum received its first application.

Allies Might Get Powerful Fleet

Seizure of Italian Ships Depends On Speed and Luck

By JOHN A. MOROSOFF NEW YORK—(AP)— The unconditional surrender of Italy may mean that the Allies will get a still powerful fleet... a fleet that refused to fight more than a year ago.

If the Germans follow their usual practice already have taken measures to destroy these ships by time bomb or mines and torpedoes.

When the Allies invaded Italy eight of its battleships were still intact. The Italians also had fifteen cruisers, 33 destroyers and three carriers.

They had about 70 submarines, 11 torpedoes boats, 115 motor torpedo boats, 27 armed sloops and escort vessels and a number of armed merchant ships and tankers.

The report that the Navy base at Taranto has been evacuated recently by the Germans made the Italians call their ships from that port. Two 25,000-ton battleships, the Andrea Doria and the Carlo D'Amico, and a number of smaller vessels were sheltering at Taranto. If they were serious about getting away they probably fled to Pola on the east coast or to Trieste.

OUT OF REACH The rest of their ships are still out of reach of the Allies and subject to scuttling.

The 35,000-ton Littorio, Vittorio Veneto and Roma are at the Spezia base on the northwest coast.

The 25,000-ton Giulio Cesare was still there. The Impero and the Trento, both better than 35,000 tons, and east of the city to the north.

Allied leaders have long thought that the Italians have been trying their best for bargaining power. They also realize that the Nazis will attempt their destruction in a manner similar to that of the French ships at Toulon.

United Nations In Greatest Victory

Italy's Surrender Will Have Effect On Morale Of Other Axis People

By RICHARD G. MASSOCK (Chief of the Former Rome Bureau of Associated Press) WASHINGTON—(AP)— An Italian people broken in morale by bombs and defeats on land, sea and in the air, capitulated to Allied might today to lop off the weakest link in the Axis.

How much Italian will the Nazi forces of Hitler attempt to hold? What of the future of the Italian people that has held Italy's capitulation, announced from North Africa by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, probably shortened the war.

Italy's surrender means the United Nations have won a major battle in the global war, and will hasten the surrender of others.

The Italian victory is a glorious turning point in the war and great state-ship will hasten the surrender of others.

We have now quickly to show the Italian people that this is their redemption from oppression; that it is the reconstruction, not the destruction of their national life.

Our future of these speedy ships depends on speed and luck. We will have to grab them before the Germans make them.

WEATHER Slightly cooler tonight and Thursday afternoon.

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Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 9.

Italy's Surrender Fits Pattern Set By Bulgaria In World War I

By ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON—(AP)— World War I pattern of unconditional surrender of Bulgaria in 1918 was repeated today in the First World War.

The first Axis power to collapse in the current conflict, Italy, was forced to surrender on Sept. 8, 1943, after a year and a half of war.

Greeks Are Cheered Up

Italian Action Seen as Beginning Liberation

LONDON—(AP)— News of Italy's surrender was greeted happily by the Free Italian organization here and by the Greeks, who called it the biggest step yet toward liberation of their countries.

But before the Greeks can be happy they must see the Free Italian movement, said it is perhaps too soon to talk, but it is happy that Italy is out of the war.

Badoglio word from the Government sent in Cairo, Greek sources were cautious, but stressed that the Axis would be unable to continue.

Badoglio instructed the Italian, however, to oppose attacks from any other quarters. That German attempt to interfere would be met.

There still are sizable German forces in Italy.