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Syracuse, In Sicily, Captured

U. S. Bombers Pounding Messina



A B-24 Liberator bomber is pictured above Messina, Sicily, during one of the hundreds of raids made upon the strategic island before the Allied invasion began. Bombs are shown bursting among oil tanks and naval barracks. Gigantic and continuous bombings such as the one above softened up Axis defenses for the invading Allied forces now fighting on the island. U. S. Air Corps Photo. (International)

Reds Beat Off Heavy Nazi Attacks

Kursk Area Feels Brunt Of Assaults

Russian Reports Say Nazis Are Fighting On Same Ground Where Drive Started

Moscow, July 12—(AP)—The battle of the Belgorod breach continued with undiminished fury today with the Russians insisting that they have effectively prevented German tanks from enlarging the wedge they drove into the Red army lines five days ago.

Field Marshal Guenther von Kluge's armored columns were also smashing with fresh emphasis on the Orel-Kursk end of the Kursk salient, but here, too, the Russians claim they were absorbing the best that the nazis could give.

The Kursk sector blazed into more furious action as the second week of the German offensive began, but it was not yet clear whether von Kluge has shifted the main weight of his attack from Belgorod in a possible search for an easier spot to breach the unyielding Russian lines.

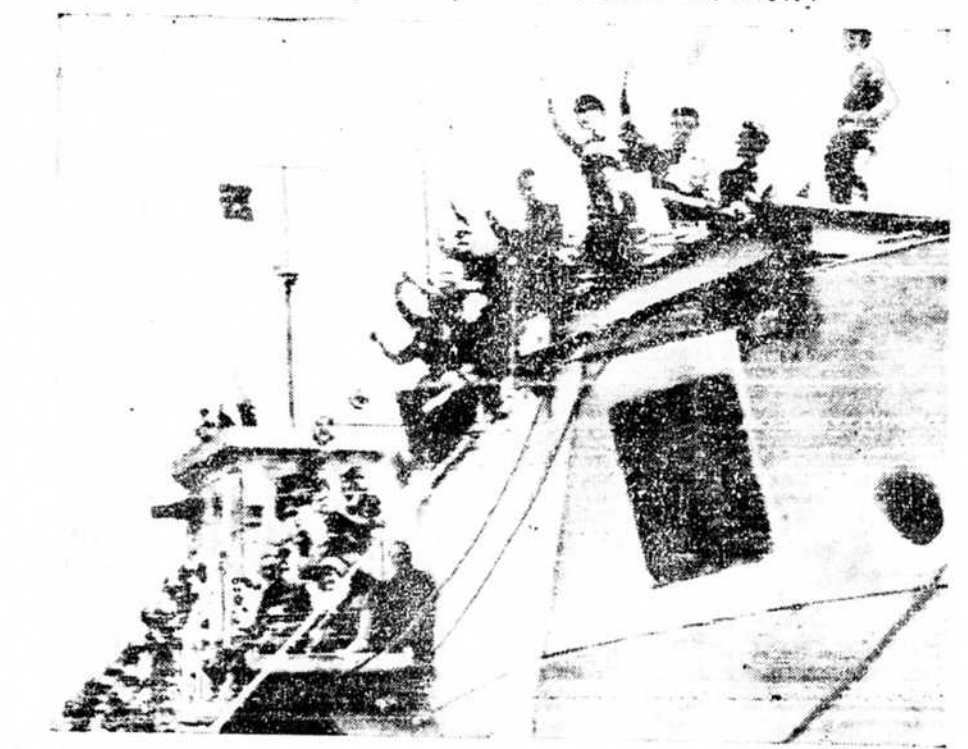
A German communique, broadcast by Berlin radio and received by the Associated Press, said an important Russian force had been encircled and wiped out between Orel and Belgorod. Several thousand prisoners were taken, the communique said, and 129 Red tanks were destroyed. Numerous guns and other war material were captured.

The communique claimed a total of 220 Russian tanks and 10 airplanes were destroyed in this sector and added that Red army losses since July 5 totaled 23,000 prisoners, 1,600 tanks and 1,800 guns destroyed.

In any event the Russians declared that the Germans were fighting in general on much the same ground as when they began their offensive which has cost them 2,500 tanks and 1,900 planes in a single week.

There are few details available on the present situation at the southern end of the 200-mile central front but the Russians have reported that they repelled a tank attack by more than 100 tanks, including the new 60-ton Tigers. Red army artillery and aviation protecting the Red infantry destroyed 34 tanks and dispersed the remainder, the Russians said.

Allied Troops Prepare to Leave for Sicily



Loaded to the gunwales with specially-trained amphibious shock troops, one of the many Allied invasion barges that participated in the invasion of Sicily is shown pulling away from a port in North Africa. The men aboard the craft wave to their comrades on the docks. This is one of the first photos to show the Allied troops embarking for the invasion of the strategic Italian island. This is a U. S. Army Signal Corps radio photo. (International Soundphoto.)

Nine Other Major Towns To Invaders

Seven Counter Attacks Repulsed as Invasion Progresses; Aerial Activity Increases

London, July 12—(AP)—The Morocco radio, in a broadcast recorded by Reuters, said today that the Catania airdrome had been captured. There was no immediate confirmation of the report but earlier dispatches from allied headquarters in north Africa said allied forces were near Catania.

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, July 12—(AP)—The British army swept into the ancient port of Syracuse, a city of 53,000 last night, while allied forces mopped up nine other major ports and towns in south-east Sicily, repulsed seven counter attacks by enemy tanks and took 2,000 prisoners.

Licata, 80 miles to the west on the south coast; Gela; Pachino on Cape Passero at the extreme southeastern tip of the island; Avola and Noto, midway between Syracuse and Pachino; Pizzallo, site of an important air base on the south coast; Scoglitti; Ispica, and Rosolini were among the captured places listed in today's allied headquarters communique.

American troops in the Gela area beat off counter attacks by the Italian's fourth Livorno division and fortified tanks in the heaviest of all the seven enemy counter blows.

The fifth Spanish division was defeated at Syracuse by the British—a lightning blow at the end of the second day of the island invasion which was followed by a series of hand-to-hand battles in bringing up the rear of the Italian army's fleeing retreat into the interior of the island.

The British 1st Airborne Division "seemed to be making a dash for the town of Licata," the Home Front said today.

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Farmers To Vote July 24 On 1944 Tobacco Quotas

Three-Year Quota Also on Ballots; 1944 Quotas Same as for This Year

Washington, July 12—(AP)—The war food administration said today farmers in the southeastern United States will vote on marketing quotas for the 1944 crop or for the three year period 1944-46, in a referendum July 24.

The states in which the three-year quota is proposed include Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

The WFA said the vote will be in accordance with trade and farm leaders in the area. The marketing quota, now in effect, was voted three years ago and expires a day before the start of the 1944 marketing year.

The WFA said national marketing quotas and state and farm acreage allotments would be the same as in 1943, with similar provision for adjustments.

Stimson In London

London, July 12—(AP)—Secretary of War Henry H. Stimson, who arrived here yesterday by plane from the United States, spent a quiet day today meeting separately with some of the American army officers and seeing a few other people, an announcement from his headquarters said.

Stimson was scheduled to meet later with Prime Minister Churchill for a conference on forthcoming moves, and the axis and will also inspect American troops based on the British Isles. He announced that he would hold a press conference later in the week.

PATTON IN COMMAND OF INVASION FORCE

Valletta, Malta, July 12—(AP)—Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr., is commander of the U. S. 7th Army in Sicily, which General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery is commanding in chief of the British forces, an official statement said today.

Patton was reported to have been telegraphed instructions from Washington, the State AAA headquarters here dismissed 37 temporary and per diem employees because of increased appropriations. H. A. Patton, executive assistant of the State committee, said.

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Negro Soldier Dies In Fight

Shenango, Pa., July 12—(AP)—One Negro soldier was killed and six others were wounded in an encounter between white and Negro soldiers at Camp Shenango Sunday evening, the Army press relations office announced today.

A statement from the post said: "Friction between white and colored troops which developed at Shenango personnel replacement camp Saturday evening resulted in the death of one Negro soldier and the wounding of six others. All the men are being treated at the station hospital."

Bombs Sink Jap Vessel

Army, Navy Planes Attack Four Ships Off Attu; Other Ships Are Damaged

Washington, July 12—(AP)—American bombers, battering four Japanese cargo vessels apparently attempting to supply the enemy base at Kiska, sank one Japanese ship, left a second in a sinking condition, and badly damaged the other two in the group.

The Navy, reporting this today, said that Army heavy and medium bombers and Navy patrol bombers intercepted the cargo fleet 200 miles southwest of Holtz Bay, Attu island. That location would put the ships on a direct line from Japan to Kiska.

The Navy also reported a few bombardment of Japanese positions at Gertrude Cove on Kiska and on morning. The enemy did not return Little Kiska island during Sunday the fire from the guns of a single United States surface vessel.

Eight Persons Die Violently

Charlotte, July 12—(AP)—At least eight persons died by violence in North Carolina during the week end. J. D. Adams of Greensboro, the engineer, and Fireman Charles Fairley were added to death when a Southern Railway passenger train derailed while going into the station at Raleigh. The engine and four cars of the train, en route from Asheville to Goldsboro, left the track.

U. S. Bombers Pound Jap Pacific Bases

Soviet Radics Tell Germans Of Invasion

New York, July 12—(AP)—The British have set up 100 planes in the eastern part of the island, opposing German troops. The British Bomber Command reported today that it had bombed four Japanese bases in the southwest Pacific, striking most heavily at Munda, the enemy's key defense point in the central Solomons.

More than 100 tons of bombs were dropped on the Japanese air base and at least 100 planes were destroyed. The Liberators carried 100 tons of bombs.

Torpedo and rocket bombers sank 100 tons of enemy tanks and other equipment at Munda. Sixty planes accompanied the bombers and destroyed 100 tons of enemy tanks and other equipment at Munda.

Entire Fortress Of Europe On Alert For New Invasion

London, July 12—(AP)—The British war effort is being stepped up to meet a possible new invasion of Europe. The British war effort is being stepped up to meet a possible new invasion of Europe.

NAZI RADIO COUNTS SEVEN DIVISIONS ALREADY IN SICILY

London, July 12—(AP)—The Berlin radio declared today that a total of seven British, American and Canadian divisions already had landed in Sicily.

Giving this figure in a broadcast recorded by the ministry of information, Captain Jaroslav Stary, Trans-European military correspondent, asserted that "General Eisenhower undoubtedly can, if he desires, double the forces already landed."

Coal Miners Resume Work

Pittsburgh, July 12—(AP)—A back-to-work movement apparently was under way today in the southwestern Pennsylvania soft coal fields where insurgent strikes last week prevented more than 17,000 diggers from going to their jobs.

Senator Vandenberg Demands Formation Of War Cabinet

Washington, July 12—(AP)—With the assertion that "the palace guard has got to be demobilized soon," Senator Vandenberg, Republican of Michigan, called today for the establishment of a war cabinet to help President Roosevelt direct activities on the home front.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Continued warm tonight, scattered showers, the afternoon mostly in west part.