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Virtual Ultimatum To Italy

Soviets Strike Fresh Blows

Ten German Divisions Driven Back

Nazi Losses Mount to 3,052 Tanks and 1,686 Planes With 54,000 Casualties

Moscow, July 16—(AP)—The Russians struck fresh blows at the Germans today from points 37 miles north and 25 miles east of Orel, sending elements of ten Nazi divisions reeling back and scattered in rain-swept forests and fields.

Other Red divisions whittled down the minor German gains in the Belgorod bulge some 135 miles south and repulsed all fresh enemy attacks which continued at a furious pace, dispatches said.

German tank losses had reached the enormous toll of 3,052; 1,686 planes had been destroyed; at least upwards of 54,000 men had been killed or captured in the twelve-day battle of attrition, on the basis of official Russian estimates.

The German communiqué boasted in calling the Russian offensive north and east of Orel "relief attacks" but said the drive was on a 90-mile front between Orel and Smolensk. The Berlin broadsheet said 330 tanks and 49 planes were destroyed there yesterday. The Nazi command asserted that their army made additional gains north of Belgorod and encircled a strong Soviet group. Russian counter attacks were said to have weakened.

In a special communiqué last night announcing the counter offensive launched three days ago the Russians said their swift thrusts north and east of Orel, 200 miles south of Moscow, had recaptured 110 towns, but more than 12,000 German dead and destroyed 169 Nazi tanks, 243 planes and 47 guns besides capturing 10,000 of supplies.

The special bulletin said the column attacking from the south of Orel had penetrated 23 miles into the German line to within 15 miles of the Orel-Bryansk railway and the other columns driving from the west had pushed ahead 15 miles to within 10 miles of the city.

Dempsey Decree Filed

White Plains, N. Y., July 16—(AP)—An interlocutory decree of divorce, expressly permitting Lieutenant Commander Jack Dempsey to remarry and prohibiting the former Hammill Williams from marrying again without court permission was filed in the Westchester County clerk's office of noon today.

The terms of the decree, which becomes final on October 16, included the order by supreme court Referee J. Addison Young that "the plaintiff (Dempsey) may marry, but the defendant (Mrs. Dempsey) may not marry any other than the plaintiff during the plaintiff's lifetime except by express permission of the court."

The document contained no provisions for alimony nor for custody of the two Dempsey children, whose custody was awarded to the former heavyweight boxing champion after a hearing yesterday.

They Pass the Ammunition to Sicily Shores



KNEE-DEEP IN THE SURF, British troops form a human chain to speed the landing of ammunition on Sicily. A heavy tank plows through the water from a landing barge while other craft line up, breaking the swells and easing the work of the struggling shell passers. Teamwork like this made early success in the invasion of the Italian island. (International)

18,000 Axis Prisoners Captured

Allies in Sicily Take 13 More Towns; Enemy May Be Forced to Rear Guard Fight

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, July 16—(AP)—The British eighth army in eastern Sicily took within 15 miles of Catania after breaking back the German division north of Lentini. It was announced today.

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, July 16—(AP)—The allied command announced the capture of 13 more towns all along the moon-shaped Sicilian front today and observers said the enemy might henceforth be compelled to fight a defensive rear guard action while withdrawing from the island.

Surging ahead toward Catania halfway up the east coast in a drive to chop off Messina, the visible evacuation port, the veterans of General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery "made further progress against German troops who desperately contested every inch of the ground," said today's commanding from allied headquarters.

Severe loss were inflicted upon the enemy by the American columnary of Lieutenant General George S. Patton Jr., which advanced several miles across difficult hill country and captured further important positions, the communiqué added.

Although the communiqué noted the slow speed of the advance it added "despite" it called attention to the landing factor in Hitler's transport and supporting weapons at this stage of the operations.

The reorganized Hermann Göring tank division of the Germans suffered heavy losses in attempting to support the British push toward Catania, headquarters reports said, but the German 15th armored division was shown to be in action.

However, observers expressed the opinion that the enemy were so limited and doubling forces at his disposal had placed most of his resources in this effort to hold off the allies in Sicily and that he defences were disintegrating.

They expressed confidence that with "an appropriate number of tanks" already in Sicily the Allies would be able to deal effectively with any counter attack the enemy might mount.

Must Go



BENITO MUSSOLINI

Mussolini and his regime must be thrown out by the Italian people to avert the country's long blight out of the war, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill said today in a joint statement giving Italy her choice of honorable surrender or "the consequences of your own choice."

Surrender Or Death Are Terms

Statement Broadcast to Italian People by Roosevelt and Churchill

Washington, July 16—(AP)—President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill today gave Italy her choice—to surrender honorably or be blasted out of the war.

In a virtual ultimatum, the allied leaders said the time has come for the Italian people to "decide whether Italians shall die for Mussolini and Hitler—or live for Italy and civilization."

The statement added: "The skies over Italy are dominated by the vast air armadas of the United States of Great Britain" and "the only alternative is to submit to the overwhelming power of the military forces of the United Nations."

"Italy cannot afford to submit to the British," the statement broadcast to Italy said. "Italy and other allied powers, said the heads of state, "will not be compelled to fight for the Italian people."

Italy, now under the command of the President of the Republic, the President of the Italian government, the Prime Minister, and other officials, said they could take no action in attacking Italy without bringing the tragic devastation of war to the Italian people.

Italy claimed that they were determined to defend their country.

The allied leaders said they were determined to destroy the Italian economy.

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