



Eighth Army Is Near Catania

YOUNGEST 'MEMBER' OF SQUADRON



"Sgt." William Turner Funderburk, Jr., 2-days-old, born to the widow of a U. S. Air Forces master sergeant killed in England six weeks ago, has been listed on the roster of the over-seas squadron of the late father as an honorary member. The 213 members of the squadron wrote Mrs. Funderburk, shown with the "sergeant," in a Charlotte hospital, that they wanted to "adopt" the unborn child and contribute to its support. A check for \$180 has already arrived.

Britain-Based Bombers Again Raid North Italy

Power Facilities Feeding Railways Blasted Second Night in Succession

London, July 17.—(AP)—Britain-based RAF bombers smashed at Italy's transportation system with a second straight night assault across the Alps last night by blasting the power facilities which feed Mussolini's electrified railways, while Mosquito bombers battered Munich on the German-Italian Brenner line.

Last night's targets in Italy, as was the case the night before, were transformer and switching stations through which flow the current generated in the Alps to keep Italian rail supplies moving.

The strength of the raiding force was not given immediately, but the fact that the RAF bombers set alarms wailing in western and central Switzerland would indicate it was a powerful one.

The offensive against the continent was kept up in daylight raids today by fleets of American-type twin-engine bombers which started shuttling across the channel with the rising sun.

Abbeville, important French railway center, was the target for American medium bombers which struck at dusk yesterday to leave great fires burning in that control point for all rail traffic to the north.

The raid was made at the cost of one bomber and protected by a thick blanket of allied fighters.

Flying Fortresses had bombed Abbeville in three previous assaults. The dusk attack followed up night blows by the RAF which cut a path of ruin from northern Italy to the Low Countries.

In releasing additional information on the Thursday night raids over northern Italy, the air ministry said the attacks were on electrical nerve centers and were closely tied up with the battle of Sicily in crippling the Italian railway system.

FBI Chief Lauds Agents

Washington, July 17.—(AP)—J. Edgar Hoover, head of the federal bureau of investigation, declared today that "not a single successful act of foreign-directed sabotage has occurred to hinder our war effort."

Addressing the graduating class of the FBI national police academy, Hoover said the coordinated efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies have curbed activities of foreign espionage agents "before they could accomplish their fiendish aims."

"We have, by planning and coordination, avoided the hysteria which prevailed in World War I, when innocent persons were persecuted and harmed as the result of ill advised vigilante activities," he said. "We have kept the home front secure."

Dive Bombers Blast Munda Out Of War

Allied Headquarters in the Southwest Pacific, July 17.—(AP)—Munda is being dive bombed to destruction.

Eighty-two more tons of bombs burst Friday upon the Japanese air base whose defenders, from their fox holes, have seen 14 central Solomons skids darkened by Dauntless dive bombers and Avenger torpedo bombers from the first day of the American invasion on June 30.

More than 100 of these planes delivered the latest of these low level pick-your-target attacks which in a short while have exploded in excess of 300 tons of bombs on Munda.

Twenty-eight tons of 1,000- and 2,000-pound bombs blasted at Munda's guns and men on July 7; 70 tons on July 9; 67 tons on July 10; 52 tons on July 11; 31 tons on July 13. Other raids have been made without the communicative discharging bomb weights—but always the raiders are dive bombers and torpedo bombers.

Today's communique crisply reported: "One torpedo and dive bombers, in two strikes in close support of ground forces, dropped 82 tons of high explosives and fragmentation bombs on the enemy positions in the Munda area."

HEAD-ON COLLISION WRECKS TWO TRAINS

Morristown, Tenn., July 17.—(AP)—A head-on collision between two Southern Railway freight trains today left two engines dead, two more imprisoned in the wreckage and two others injured.

The wreck occurred near White Pine. First reports said one of the imprisoned men, a fireman, was alive. The other is buried under an overturned car of coal.

FORMER PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY DIES

Columbia, S. C., July 17.—(AP)—Dr. William Spencer Currell, former president of the University of South Carolina, died early today at the Pizhag hospital at Asheville, N. C., after a critical illness of a few days and an extended period of declining health. University officials have been notified. Funeral services will be held Sunday in Lexington, Va.

Fresh Nazi Forces Confront Reds

Soviets Say All Assaults Repulsed

One Red Army Wing Reported 25 Miles From Orel Despite Frantic Resistance

Moscow, July 17.—(AP)—The German high command has thrown two new divisions, one armored and one infantry, against the Russian spearhead now threatening Orel. Front line dispatches said today, but the Red army was reported repulsing all Nazi thrusts and continuing to advance.

One wing of the Red army's smashing counter attack was reported to have rolled to within 25 miles of the heavily fortified Nazi base as the Germans frantically rallied all available manpower and equipment in a desperate effort to stave off a major breakthrough.

The dispatches said the Russians were sending motorized infantry with tanks and mobile cannon to comb the forest clearings for Nazi troops.

One of the most stubborn battles took place around a village on the west bank of an unidentified river not far from the Russian wedge in the German line, it was reported. The Russians said they captured the village.

Dispatches reported that the northern column of the Russian counter offensive against Orel was advancing southward and had progressed another six to ten miles after overcoming heavy German counter attacks.

This would put the Russians anywhere from 27 to 31 miles north of Orel since originally this column reached a point about 27 miles north of Orel, dispatches indicated.

There is no indication of the present location of the other Russian column facing Orel from the east. Its original advance put it to within about 25 miles of Orel, dispatches indicated.

TWO NAZI MARSHALS MAY NOT GET ALONG

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, July 17.—(AP)—Friction between Field Marshal Baron von Richtofen, directing axis air operations in Sicily, and Field Marshal General Albert Kesselring, supreme axis commander in the Mediterranean, may disrupt axis defense plans, an allied air force statement indicated today.

Recalling that there has been friction between the two men in the past, the statement said: "Those who know the two men are wondering how Richtofen will get along with Kesselring who is now in supreme command of all armed forces, land, sea and air, German and Italian, in Sicily, Sardinia, Greece and Crete. In the past there has been friction between them."

"THAT FOREIGNER" New York, July 17.—(AP)—Col. Robert R. McCormick, editor of the published of The Chicago Tribune, replying to Wendell Willkie's challenge to run in the Illinois presidential primary next April, said, "I don't think that foreigner can carry the State of Illinois."

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Allied Successes In Sicily Confirm Formula For Assault

London, July 17.—(AP)—The imminent prospect of a clean-cut victory in Sicily has confirmed the allied formula for an amphibious assault on Western Europe and suggests strongly in the view of some observers that the same pattern will work against Adolf Hitler's Atlantic Wall in western France.

There is no intention to imply, these sources pointed out, that the Germans are relying on mere seaport defenses. However, reports from the Mediterranean front of surprisingly low allied casualties and rapid progress throw a clearer light on the Nazi theme of impregnability.

The ascendancy of allied air power leaves little doubt, it was said, that the RAF and the eighth U. S. air force will be able to lay down the same pattern preliminary bomb

THESE PRISONERS WADED OUT OF SICILY



Captured near Gela, crowds of Italian prisoners walk into the Mediterranean and wade to the Allied LCI (Landing Craft, Infantry) that will take them to prison camps in Africa. The LCI stands bow on toward the beach while the prisoners climb aboard by the two gangway ladders. U. S. Army Signal Corps radiophoto. (Inter national Soundphoto.)

Sicilian Invasion Sidelight

With the American Seventh Army in Southern Sicily, July 14 (Delayed) (AP)—Two mild looking American soldiers in stained and dirty uniforms sat in a little Sicilian barber shop patiently waiting their turn in the chair.

They were parachute troopers, and they had killed three Italian soldiers and helped knock off three German marines since they plunged 600 feet to earth Saturday night from a transport plane.

As they waited, Privates Wilfred J. Thomas of Milton, Ore., and Cecil E. Prince of Bartow, Fla., told their stories. Thomas, an expert rifleman, used both a rifle and a borrowed machine gun to pick off the three Italians.

Prince was with six other parachute troopers when they ran into three German machine guns.

"As we turned a corner they shot at us with a machine-gun, killing one of our boys and wounding another," said Prince. "Then the rest of us turned loose on them and blew two Germans to pieces. They third was shot directly between the eyes."

"He remained conscious and after a while got up for a drink and a smoke. We gave him a morphine shot to ease the pain. The bullet had gone clear through the center of his head and come out the back. We helped him all we could, but he bled so much nothing could save him. After about three hours he died."

As Prince finished speaking the barber turned toward the two Americans with a questioning look. The chair was empty. Thomas walked over to it and sat down. The parachute trooper who had slain three Italians in combat looked slowly at the little Sicilian barber waiting with a razor in his hand. Then he leaned back and bared his throat. "Shave," Thomas said calmly.

Rome Radio Rejects Surrender Demand

Nye And Smith Declare FDR Not To Run

Washington, July 17.—(AP)—Two out-spoken U. S. senators—a Republican and a Democrat—voiced belief today President Roosevelt might not seek or accept nomination for a fourth term.

Senator Nye, Republican of North Dakota, asserted that if the President "finds there's a large chance of his being whipped" he will step aside.

Senator Smith, Democrat of South Carolina, declared in another interview that "Roosevelt would win the nomination even if he should seek it, and by convention time, I think he'll be convinced of that."

"If he should be able to swing the nomination," Smith declared, "he'd be beaten for re-election, regardless of whether the war is in progress."

Nye said the principal job of his own party was to find a man behind whom "the party and the American people can unite."

Nye asserted that congressional reform in September after their summer recess and conversations with their constituents, "will have more definite ideas than now as to the type of candidate the people will follow."

Woman Admits Kidnapping

New York, July 17.—(AP)—The arrest of a 29-year-old woman on a charge of kidnaping a three-year-old boy was announced today by FBI Agent E. E. Conroy, who said she related that her purpose was to try to convince her divorced husband she had a son.

Conroy, special agent in charge of the New York office of the federal bureau of investigation, identified the woman as Mary Penora of 206 Forsythe street, a lower East Side neighborhood, and said her arrest unfolded a story as bizarre as any in police records.

Conroy said the woman had signed a statement that she had kidnaped Jimmy DeMaggio on July 3, had taken him to Nashville, Tenn., to live in a YWCA room, and had returned with him to New York on July 11, abandoning the boy in a 34th street restaurant.

Broadcast Intimates Italy Has Gone Too Far With Hitler to Turn Back Now

London, July 17.—(AP)—In the first direct reply to the Roosevelt-Churchill surrender demand, the Rome radio intimated today that Italy had struck along with Adolf Hitler to long to turn back now.

"Even if Italy surrendered," it said, "it would not mean she would have found peace once again. It is the British and Americans, say, their goal is Berlin, then their way to it is Italy."

"The Italian people would still be in the war; they would be asked by the invaders to turn their weapons against Germany."

"Italians know full well that to them this war is one of life or death."

The broadcast came soon after the Italian high command communique had announced that allied planes had over Rome last night and dropped 1,000 bombs.

Presumably the leaflets contained the Churchill-Roosevelt proclamation issued yesterday demanding that Italians capitulate or suffer the consequences.

The Rome radio unexpectedly went off the air last night, suggesting that an air raid alarm had been sounded.

Without mentioning the radio leaflets which are spreading the Roosevelt-Churchill ultimatum all over Italy, fascist propagandists blasted allied planes and their Italian captives.

The official Italian news agency Stefani was quoted in the London morning press as saying that "if Britain and the United States want to defeat Italy they must attack her with weapons in their hands and pay the price."

VERICK CONVICTED

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Continued warm tonight.

Prize Port Of Sicily Threatened

BBC Broadcast Says Montgomery's Force Less Than Six Miles From Important City

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, July 17.—(AP)—The axis situation around Catania in eastern Sicily was reported in front line dispatches tonight to be growing more critical by the hour.

The allied announcement that a joint British-American military government had been established ashore and was beginning to take control was interpreted as meaning that complete occupation of Sicily was considered to be only a matter of time.

Allied headquarters in North Africa, July 17.—(AP)—General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's main left wing army was believed to be approaching the outskirts of Catania today after smashing back the German Goering and elements of the 15th German armored divisions in the biggest battle yet fought for Sicily.

(A BBC broadcast from Algiers today said the British eighth army "is less than six miles from Catania." The broadcast was heard by CBS in New York.)

Going forward, with a powerful allied war fleet on his seaward flank gunning the enemy's positions, Montgomery has captured both Lentini and Scordia, at the entrance to the Catania plain, allied headquarters announced, while on other parts of the allied front the advance continued.

Lentini is about 15 miles below Catania, the prize seaport and air base halfway up the east Sicilian coast, and Scordia is nine miles inland from Lentini.

Rounding out the capture of four more towns by the allies, the Canadians took Castellana, 20 miles inland from the American bridgehead at Gela, and Granitochello, six miles to the east.

With Percy Goussiers, three times and twice award-winning warrior from the Moroccan hills on their left, the 1,000 Americans of Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr., were believed to have merged from the hill ground that lined their base to the beach and to have penetrated inland for perhaps 30 miles.

The Canadians had cut into the heart of the enemy's defense system in central Sicily by their capture of Castellana, about 20 miles due west of Montgomery's forces at Lentini.

The whole allied line in that sector had moved up almost a third of Montgomery and the new surge gave the allies possession of a lateral east-west highway and a valley running northwest which will greatly facilitate the task of maintaining unbroken communications with the British eighth army.

Abandoning that the Americans were pushing on a powerful push to broaden their coastal base to the east also, the Italian high command announced in its communique that

Army Bombers Raid Kiska

Washington, July 17.—(AP)—The Navy announced today that Army bombers raided Japanese positions on Kiska Island four times Thursday, starting several fires among the enemy's anti-aircraft batteries.

The air attacks fell the same day on the latest shelling of the enemy-held island, which had been reported by the Navy yesterday. A small American warship bombarded Japanese defenses at Gertrude Cove, southwest of Kiska harbor, in the early morning.

Apparently a break in the weather, which has held bombing operations there to a minimum since April, made it possible for the Aleutians command to coordinate the aerial assault with the surface attack.