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Marsala Falls To U. S. Invaders

U. S. Planes Sink Tender In Solomons

Jap Ship Is Sunk and Destroyer Hit in Routing Attempt at Reinforcement

Allied Headquarters in the Southwest Pacific, July 21.—(AP)—American bombers sank a 9,000-ton Japanese sea-plane tender off Bougainville island and damaged one of four escorting destroyers Thursday in disrupting another Japanese attempt to reinforce their hard-pressed central Solomons positions.

The action was announced today in General Douglas MacArthur's communique which also told of new air battles that cost the Japanese 23 planes destroyed or damaged against loss of six American planes.

A large force of bombers was sent after the sea-plane tender and destroyers. They were provided strong fighter cover, for their goal was deep in enemy territory.

While the fighters took care of intercepting Zeros, shooting down five, our bombers passed their attack in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire from the warships. We lost three fighters.

The tender was one of the Mishima class which carries about 14 planes and repair facilities.

Apparently badly hurt by the Allies' incessant bombing and strafing attacks in the Salamaua-Lae area, the Japanese in recent days have sent stronger air fleets to protect their holdings.

Yesterday a total of 60 Japanese fighters attempted to intercept heavy bombers attacking Bogadjim, heavy bombers attacking Bogadjim, Guinea. The bombers were escorted by P-38s, however, and the enemy force "was decisively defeated and dispersed," the communique said. Thirteen Japanese planes were shot down.

TEXTILE ACTIVITY INDEX LEVELS OFF

New York, July 24.—For the first time in more than four years, Textile World's index of textile mill activity has leveled off. After four consecutive years of record-breaking performance, during which the index advanced from 105 in 1938 to 198 in 1942, this advance has been arrested. On the basis of still incomplete statistics, it appears that textile activity during the first half of this year was approximately the same as that for the first half of 1942, and probably very slightly lower. The tentative estimate for the 1943 index is 197 as against 198 in 1942, but this may be revised slightly when complete figures are in. The revision will be likely to be downward rather than upward.

Rail Crash Kills Three

ACL Streamliner Pullman Section Hits Forward Section at Fayetteville

Fayetteville, July 24.—(AP)—At least three persons were killed and six injured early today when the Pullman coach section of the Tamiami Champion, Atlantic Coast Line streamliner en route from New York to Miami, Fla., crashed into the observation car of the forward section at a pass track one mile north of here.

The dead: Sergeant James H. Ledford, Kershaw, Col. Charles Chester Foley, a soldier, Pittsfield, Mass.

An unidentified woman, about 20, was killed. The bodies of the woman were recovered from the wreckage of the observation car some time after the body of Ledford and the injured were removed, and Chief of Police Neil Wethering of Fayetteville said the possibility was that another body might be buried in the wreckage.

The forward section of the Champion was composed of day coaches. It was at a switch of the pass track when the Pullman unit plowed into it from the rear. None of the cars was derailed.

U. S. BOMBERS CAN TAKE IT



EXAMINING THE SHATTERED RUDDER of a B-25 Mitchell bomber at an African airfield is Sgt. Henry B. Mick's (top) of Orange, Va. The craft returned safely from a raid on Gerbini, Sicily, with 500 holes in it. Among the key parts badly damaged was the lower turret. Looking it over (bottom) are (l. to r.): Pilot Walter E. Cook, Graham, Texas; Sgt. Mick; Lt. Claude A. Weaver, Brewton, Ala. (International)

Lewis Recognizes War Labor Board

UMW Chief Agrees to Defend Contract of Illinois Miners Before Board

Washington, July 21.—(AP)—The dove of peace fluttered over a strange new course today—between the offices of John L. Lewis and the War Labor Board. To get a contract he likes for his half-million coal miners, the United Mine Workers' chief-tain at last was ready to talk turkey with the board he long has scorned.

And the board was ready, too. In one of the most sensational form reversals of his stormy career, Lewis officially recognized the board late yesterday and offered to come before it in defense of a contract signed three days ago between the UMW's District 12 and the Illinois Coal Operators' Association.

The board promptly accepted and notified him to attend a public hearing starting August 3. During the mine labor dispute which led to government operation of the pits, several previous board requests for Lewis' appearance went unheeded. The only official explanation of Lewis' action came from a UMW official who said that in the past the board had no statutory standing, but that it received legal status through enactment of the Smith-Connally labor disputes act.

Cotton Closes 35-45 Lower

New York, July 24.—(AP)—Cotton futures closed 35 to 45 cents a bale lower.

Middling spot, 21.35	Open	Close
October	20.06	20.00
December	19.89	19.81
March	19.72	19.63
May	19.55	19.32
July	19.40	19.35

Reds Forge Ahead At Orel

Soviets Say German Rear Vulnerable

Red Star Declares Hitler Is Unable to Defend Sicily Because of Drive

Moscow, July 21.—(AP)—More than 4,500 German soldiers died yesterday at the approaches to Orel where Russian forces closing a pincer about that bastion continued to throw back Nazi counter-attacks and forged ahead two to four miles, front line dispatches said today.

The Orel battle of attrition raged into its 12th day with reports of mounting German losses. Red Star, the army organ, said the battle not only had crushed Hitler's plan for a new general offensive on the eastern front but was causing him to lose the battle for Sicily.

"The Red army offensive is breaking down the entire German defense in Europe," Red Star said. "It makes the German rear vulnerable."

The newspaper said that Hitler had been unable to release forces to combat the Allied invasion of Sicily because he was so heavily engaged on the Russian front.

Dispatches describing the fury of the German counter-attacks at Orel, where the Russians have quoted German prisoners as saying Hitler has ordered his forces to hold to the last man, told of a Russian smash across a river directly east of the city.

Fleets of German counter attacks were launched against the position, dispatches said, and the Russians announced officially that more than 2,000 Germans were annihilated in the attempt to dislodge the Red army forces.

The Germans also stepped up their aerial defense of the city by sending 250 planes over the Russian positions, but the dispatches said Soviet fighter planes beat them off before they reached their objective. The Germans lost 52 planes over Orel in a single day, the Russians said.

Touchdown Is Scored

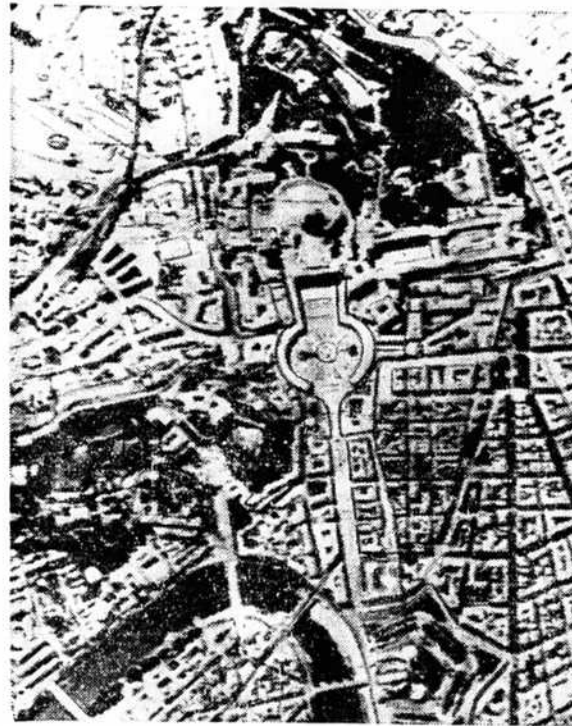
Washington, July 21.—(AP)—Selective service is looking in every direction for enough manpower so that it can continue to delay general drafting of men it defines as fathers—or, if possible, avert it entirely.

But no official will say that permanent general deferment for such fathers (of children born before last September 15, provided the fathers are not in non-deferrible jobs) is very likely.

Right now the drive for draftees is concentrated on getting all the men possible out of the nearly 3,000,000 currently classified as 4-F (rejection).

Newest angle of the drive is pointed at those rejected for syphilis. Local boards have been told to check on these men closely—working with public health agencies—and call them up without delay if they refuse to take treatment which would make them fit for service. Then, of course, they would be sent to camps for treatment.

VATICAN UNSCARRED BY BOMBING



PICTURED ON THE SAME DAY as the bombing of military targets in Rome, from a U. S. warplane on reconnaissance hardly three hours after the bombers left, Vatican City is shown untouched and St. Peter's stands unscathed. Signal Corps radiophoto. (International)

RAF And Greek Planes Raid Crete

Duce Studies Geography

Madrid, July 21.—(AP)—Press dispatches from Rome indicated today that the Hitler-Mussolini meeting this week was prompted by it due to desire to learn Germany's idea of where the boundaries of Europe begin.

The Rome correspondent of the Efe, official Spanish foreign news agency, wrote that the Italian press, taking cognizance of Berlin dispatches which have noted with monotonous regularity the insular character of the Sicilian campaign, had answered that the invasion was part of the Allied plan for the invasion of Europe.

"Therefore, aiding Italy's defense contributes to the defense of the continent," the press articles said.

Another major part of the drive is aimed at psychiatrists' rejections. Induction station psychiatrists have been rejecting 23 per cent of recent examinees, virtually all of them physically fit on the basis of belief that they are unable to stand the mental strain of shifting from civilian to military life.

Too, selective service officials see a strong possibility that, after the harvest season, local boards which find themselves pinched to meet quotas will reclassify into 1-A many of the 705,000 single and childless married men now deferred as necessary workers on farms.

Coordinated Sea-Air Raid Made On Kiska

Washington, July 24.—(AP)—The Navy disclosed today that heavy American air raids preceded and followed the American warships' bombardment of Japanese positions on Kiska Island Thursday.

As a result of the combined operations, enemy coastal batteries, anti-aircraft positions and building areas were hit, many fires were started and one large explosion was observed.

The communique also disclosed that Canadian fighters are participating in the campaign to soften up Japanese defenses on Kiska, stating that some of the fighter planes in the attack were piloted by FCAF fliers.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Little change in temperature this afternoon, tonight and Sunday forecast.

Allied Army Holds Most Of Island

U. S. Seventh Army Swings Eastward to Join British in Knockout Blow

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, July 21.—(AP)—American forces have captured the western Sicilian port of Marsala. Allied headquarters announced today, and many of Lieutenant General George S. Patton's seventh army unit were believed swinging eastward to join British troops in a knockout blow at axis defenders clinging to the island's northeast coast.

"A tactical situation of a portion of the island, all that remains to be taken," said the Allied headquarters communique, "indicates that the Americans were meeting no enemy resistance in western Sicily and had captured large numbers of prisoners and huge quantities of enemy equipment."

South of Catania, the Germans still were fiercely resisting the British Eighth Army, although Allied warships driven up along the coast poured a destructive naval bombardment into the enemy's shore positions.

It was disclosed officially that the Allies have taken a total of 60,000 prisoners while the Americans are expected to round up at least 50,000 more. The American seventh army accounted for 40,000 of the enemy troops already in Allied hands. These were said to average about three per cent Germans.

The Germans were trying frantically to reinforce their divisions in northeast Sicily but the Americans cut the north coast road "well east" of captured Palermo, blocking the land route from the west to Messina, headquarters said.

The first Canadian division under Major General Guy Simonds was reported making progress against the tank troops of the 15th German armored division.

All hindrances to Sicily now have been either captured or neutralized and enemy air power is virtually nil. Allied planes kept all enemy reinforcement routes under smashing assault yesterday. In an attack on enemy shipping, Allied torpedo planes sank one merchantman, severely damaged two others and left a destroyer in flames.

American medium bombers battered Italy's mainland air bases at Aviano and at Crotona on the Gulf of Taranto by daylight, following to a night attack on rail installations at Salerno.

Stalin Says Drive Ended

Soviet Premier Congratulates Three Generals on Successes

London, July 21.—(AP)—Premier Josef Stalin in an order of the day to three of his generals congratulating them on "complete liquidation" of the German July offensive said today that the enemy had suffered 70,000 officers and men killed in the abortive drive.

The order of the day, recorded from the Moscow radio by the Soviet monitor, said 2,900 enemy tanks were destroyed or disabled and 844 guns, 1,392 planes and more than 5,000 trucks were destroyed from July 5 to July 23 in the fighting about Orel and Kursk.

"Yesterday, July 20, through the successful operations of our troops, completed liquidation of the German July offensive carried out in the area south of Orel and north of Belgorod and in the direction of Kursk," said the order of the day addressed to Generals Rokozsovsky, Vatutin and Popov.

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