



Henderson Daily Dispatch



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Big Push For Sicily Is Opened

Civilians Flee From Main Axis Cities

Mass Exodus Of Italians Beats Raids

Allied Radio Stations Continue Warnings; Italian Peace Stand Still Not Clear

London, Aug. 2—(AP)—Hundreds of thousands of Italian civilians were reported today fleeing industrial centers in Italy, starting the mass exodus even before Flying Fortresses blasted at Naples Sunday to resume aerial assaults because Premier Pietro Badoglio's government failed to answer demands for surrender.

Dispatches from Madrid said Rome advised indicated a flurry of activity at the Vatican which apparently was connected with some sort of peace discussions, but there was no evidence that Badoglio had made any move to deliver a direct request for an armistice.

The impression grew here that nothing short of a direct reply would satisfy the allies and that possible attempts to put forth peace feelers through an intermediary would not sway Italy the pounding she has been pronounced.

Four after hour yesterday, allied radio stations dinned into Italian ears the ominous warning of General Dwight D. Eisenhower that aerial death and destruction would be the penalty if Badoglio's government continued to harbor German soldiers on Italian soil.

An immediate psychological effect on the populace was reported in Swiss-Italian dispatches through Rome, which said that some 3,000,000 Italians already had fled the cities.

Officially, however, the government's position was no clearer than it was when first formed after Benito Mussolini was ousted as premier.

The Alger radio reported that in one Italian town marching women shouted "peace" and "set free our prisoners," but press reports and broadcasts from Rome continued to criticize the ally for failing to offer Italy "a place of honor" among nations after fascism was ended.

"We want to negotiate but we don't want to capitulate," was the tenor of Italian press and radio reaction.

Reports that Badoglio's aim in folding out was to win a form of neutrality which would remove Italy from the war but avoid an allied occupation were met with a barrage of ridicule here. The press emphasized that Italy will be used as an allied base for striking Germany whether she surrenders or prefers to be taken by force.

Nazis Guard North Italy

Army Estimated At 18 Divisions Is Garrisoned Below Brenner Pass

Madrid, Aug. 2—(AP)—A German army estimated at 18 divisions garrisoned points in northern Italy today with apparent confidence that if Marshal Pietro Badoglio surrendered anything, he could surrender only that part of Italy lying south of the Brenner Pass.

Nazi troops have been on the move all during the last week of shilly-shallying by the Badoglio government, according to advices to Madrid.

Strong German units were reported today to have occupied the upper Adige river valley both above and below Trento, itself 70 miles south of the Brenner Pass.

Italian divisions along the Dalmatian coast were reported to have begun to concentrate at Zara and moved toward the port of Fiume, which is now largely in German hands.

An Italian source said this movement left the future of Fiume in doubt. (However, Fiume is a logical center through which to funnel back

Peace Demonstration in Milan Square



A huge throng of Italians demonstrate for peace in D. mo Square, Milan. It is reported that this and similar mass gatherings precipitated a revolt by Italian troops stationed in the city when they refused to fire upon thousands of compatriots taking part in the parades for peace. This photo was radioed from Switzerland to London and then radioed to the U. S. (International)

Liberators Raid Ploesti

Biggest Low Level Raid in History Made Against Rumanian Oil Fields

Cairo, Aug. 2—(AP)—An armada of 175 Liberator bombers of the U. S. Ninth Air Force flew a 2400-mile round trip yesterday to dump 300 tons of explosives in a low level attack on the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania, one of the chief sources of the axis fuel supply.

Announcement of the raid, described as the "biggest low-level mass raid in history," was made last night by Maj. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton, commander of the Ninth Air Force.

A communique issued by the Middle East Air Command today said that "20 of the Liberators are reported to have been shot down over the target area and a number have not yet returned to base."

At least 15 enemy planes, including Messerschmitt 109s and 110s and Focke-Wulf 190s were claimed destroyed, the bulletin added. It described enemy opposition over the target area and on the return journey as heavy.

The Ploesti area, 35 miles north of Bucharest, Rumanian capital, supplies about one-third of the axis oil requirements and according to General Brereton has a daily production capacity of about 18,000 tons.

BURMA JOINS WAR AGAINST ALLIES

(By The Associated Press) The Tokyo radio said yesterday that Japanese occupied Burma had "formally declared war" against the United States and Britain.

The broadcast, which was recorded by the Associated Press, said also that Burma's independence had been formally recognized by the Japanese government and that Burma's defense would now pass from the Japanese into the hands of the new State.

The broadcast said that Prime Minister Ba Maw had notified friendly governments of Burma's independence.

Ba Maw, long a leader of anti-British factions in Burma, was once sentenced to prison by the British.

SWISS FASCISTS BROKEN UP London, August 2—(AP)—Swiss radio broadcast said today that Italian fascists party headquarters in neutral Switzerland had been dissolved and the headquarters, "the house of fascism" closed and placed under police guard.

into Italy Italian troops who are being withdrawn from Balkan occupational assignments.)

Homeward movements of Italian troops in northern Greece and Montenegro, Serbia and Albania also were reported.

Soviets Tighten Pincers On Orel

Week's Sales Of Leaf Total \$9,792,753

(By The Associated Press) Tobacco farmers in Georgia and Florida, with nearly \$10,000,000 in their pockets from the first four days of the 1943 marketing season, swung into the second week of selling today with renewed optimism.

Total sales at the 15 Georgia and two Florida marketing centers were \$9,792,753, nearly a million dollars more than the returns from the opening week of the 1942 season despite the fact that this year's offerings were considerably lighter.

The war food administration reported all qualities in strong demand, with average prices by grades much higher than last year's opening quotations. The market season started off slow because of later than usual cutting, but sales mounted daily until by Friday they aggregated 22,239,255 pounds at an average of 43.2 cents a pound.

Compared with 1942's first week offerings of 23,159,604, which brought an average price of 33.60 cents.

Contentions in the sectors east of Orel were repulsed with heavy German losses, the war bulletin said, and Soviet troops advanced, capturing quantities of German war materials.

The Red army, principally occupied on the central front where the fall of Orel seems to be a matter of days, met with other successes in sharp fighting southwest of Voroshilovgrad in the Donets basin, the communique added.

Navy Bombers Pound Japs At Munda

Allied Headquarters in the Southwest Pacific, Aug. 2—(AP)—Navy bombers backed away Sunday at Japanese barracks commanding the approaches to Munda.

Escorted by Navy and Army fighters, the bombers dropped 27 tons of explosives on gun positions and supply dump areas around the strongly fortified central Solomon airbase. Many of the bombs fell squarely on their targets.

It was a light attack, compared with other recent raids on Munda in which the bomb weight has been as high as 180 tons.

For the second consecutive day the communique from General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters said nothing about how American troops were doing around Munda.

Five barges were destroyed off Cape Gloucester, New Britain, and a reconnaissance plane bombed Lae, New Guinea, with unreported results.

One Hundred Towns Regained in Gains Near Nazi Bastion; Nazi Losses Mount

Moscow, Aug. 2—(AP)—Red army troops, continuing the slow, relentless investment of the German defenses around Orel, yesterday hurled the nazis out of 100 villages and lightened the pincers threatening that base with advances at five to seven and a half miles, the Russians reported today.

Soviet troops operating to the north and northwest of the city beat off counterattacks in a drive which took 49 villages, leaving 3,000 Germans dead on the field and smashing a number of tanks, mobile guns and trucks and heavy artillery, a communique said.

The spearhead operating to the northwest of the city is aiming at cutting the Orel-Bryansk railway, reports here for the Orel base, Soviet reports in the last few days have indicated that the line is under fire of Soviet artillery.

Front line dispatches reported the Russian air force was harassing the nazis in an attempt to prevent them from consolidating new lines.

The Soviet advance to the south of Orel was somewhat hampered by numerous enemy mine fields, the communique reported, but Soviet engineering units in one day laid 4,000 land mines from 23 separate fields.

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Rally Boosts Stock Prices

New York, Aug. 2—(AP)—A rally brightened today's stock market. Bonds and commodities were steady.

Among the best supported stocks were General Motors, Goodyear, Phillips-Dodge, and Great Northern. Backward issues included American Telephone, Standard Oil of N. J. and Texas Co.

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FOR NORTH CAROLINA Continued moderate temperature today and tonight. Scattered showers and thunderstorms tonight and in west portion today.

Nazis Speed Evacuation Of Berlin

All Non-Essential Civilians Advised to Leave Capital; Schools Are Closed

Stockholm, Aug. 2—(AP)—Spurred by the stupendous air attacks on Hamburg, which have left that once great port a heap of smoking rubble, German authorities were reported speeding the evacuation of all non-essential civilians from Berlin today in fear that the city may be next on the allied blitz list.

Advices from the German capital said leaflets were being circulated instructing women, children and elderly people to find homes with relatives outside Berlin or go to special evacuation areas prepared in eastern Germany.

The instructions, these dispatches declared, were issued during a day of frantic preparations as Berlin papers warned the population it must be prepared to meet bomb attacks on a scale never before seen in the capital.

A Berlin dispatch to Stockholm's Alltidet reported that "near panic" prevailed in the city and said that Berliners were not early yesterday in parks, squares and yards digging trenches and preparing family air raid shelters.

"All Germany is now impressed that a new phase of the bomb war is at hand and that for the first time a really serious situation confronts most people at home," a Berlin correspondent of the Swedish newspaper wrote.

He said that all schools had been closed in Berlin and that pupils were being moved as rapidly as possible to the eastern evacuation area. Mothers of small children were being given an opportunity to accompany the students, the correspondent said.

Leaflets told youngsters not employed in war work and elderly people that "it is in your own interest to go to less threatened places."

Intangibles Tax Exceeds 1942 Total

Baleigh, Aug. 2—(AP)—A total of 17,992,998 in intangible taxes was collected by the State Department of Revenue during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942.

Commissioner Edwin Gill said the funds, part of which will be returned to county and local government units, were an increase of \$114,220.23 over collections for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942.

After a 4 per cent deduction for administrative purposes has been made, the fund will be divided with 75 per cent going to local government units and 25 per cent to the State.

Collections by counties, included: Vance, \$22,414.20; Granville, \$8,208.51; Franklin, \$3,299.74; Warren, \$6,913.41; Beaufort, \$29,611.99; Craven, \$8,932.70; Pamlico, \$17,162.34; Martin, \$6,515.21; Hyde, \$488.26; Washington, \$1,266.17; Edgecombe, \$13,259.44; Wayne, \$22,274.93; N. S., \$20,026.02; Pitt, \$19,648.95; Wayne, \$24,395.51; Johnston, \$9,472.02; Sampson, \$4,291.36; Duplin, \$4,957.64; Lenoir, \$14,978.90; Greene, \$3,022.26; Robeson, \$11,686.36.

Cotton Prices 30-40 Higher

New York, Aug. 2—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to 20 cents a bale higher.

Neon prices were 20 to 40 cents a bale higher. October, 1943, 19.75; December, 19.75; 1944, 19.75.

Back in Key Post



ACCORDING to a Japanese broadcast recorded by government monitors in New York, Prince Fumimaro Konoye has been named advisor to the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, the totalitarian government party. He was premier of Japan before Tojo. (International)

Eighth Army Makes Gains At Catania

Allied Bombers Renew Threatened Attacks on Mainland; Ships Bombard Harbors

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Aug. 2—(AP)—American forces have captured San Stefano on the north Sicilian coast, further an anchor of the axis line, it was announced today.

An allied communique also announced the fall of Mistretta, six miles south of San Stefano. It also made official the capture of Assoro, Nissoria and Nicosia.

The war bulletin said steady progress was reported in all sectors of Sicily, despite strong enemy counter attacks.

Ten thousand prisoners fell into American hands with the capture of Mistretta.

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Aug. 2—(AP)—The British eighth army has launched its long awaited big push against main axis defense lines south of Catania, and the French and German radios admitted that the British had gained important new positions near the city.

Allied bombers renewed the aerial war upon the mainland of Italy yesterday, carrying out the threat of Saturday's ultimatum, and blasted the dock area of Naples and the nearby airfield of Capodichino, allied headquarters announced today.

Warships bombarded two harbors in southern Italy and American troops slashing into the northern end of the axis line in Sicily swept up nine key towns and possibly turned the German right flank.

Both target areas at Naples and Capodichino were well covered by bomb bursts, the headquarters communique stated, and eight axis planes were shot down in aerial battles.

The Italian high command admitted considerable damage and listed ten persons killed and 63 injured at Naples. It said five allied raiders were shot down.

Other allied planes ranged ahead of the attacking ground troops in Sicily, with medium bombers hammering the port of Milazzo, used to bring in axis reinforcements, and other planes hitting the vital communications centers of Adriano and Randano in the diminishing axis bridgehead.

Allied sea power also again carried the war to the Italian mainland, with warships bombarding the port of Vado Valentia Marina, on the south side of the Gulf of San Eufemia 50 miles northeast of Messina, a midway bridge across the river Orta 22 miles to the north, and the harbor of Coroneo, on the Ionian sea to the southeast. These actions were carried out from Saturday night through early Sunday.

NORTH CAROLINA'S POPULATION DROPS

Washington, Aug. 2—(AP)—Due to the war, North Carolina's civilian population decreased from 3,562,592 on April 1, 1940, to 3,404,194 on March 1, 1943, the census bureau estimated today. The drop was 158,398, or 4.4 per cent.

The decrease for the country as a whole was 3,000,000, or 2.4 per cent. The increase in the size of the armed forces so outstripped the natural increase in population that there were on March 1, 1943, only about 122,200,000 persons in civil life as compared with about 131,300,000 on April 1, 1940.

Three Persons Die Violently

Charlotte, Aug. 2—(AP)—At least three persons died by violence in North Carolina this week-end.

Dewey Lutz, 21, of Whitell, died in a hospital of injuries suffered in an automobile accident near Lenoir.

Gordon Buck, 29, a timber cutter, was injured fatally when struck by a falling tree near Whiteville.

Calvin C. Jones, 18, of Goldsboro, was killed when an oil tanker truck in which he was a passenger and an automobile collided near Raleigh.