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Sicilian Mt. Etna Line Broken

Fall Of Axis Bastion At Orel Appears Inevitable

Reds Drive Five Miles From City

German Retreat North and South of Orel Proceeds Steadily, Reds Say

Moscow, Aug. 4—(AP)—The fall of the German stronghold of Orel appeared inevitable today as a smashing Red army offensive carried to within five miles of the city.

The German retreat westward from points north and south of Orel proceeded steadily and it seemed only a question of time before Orel itself would be abandoned, eliminating the entire enemy salient on the central front.

(The British radio, quoting a Reuters dispatch from Moscow, declared that the Germans' escape corridor west of Orel had been narrowed to 13 miles, threatening the nazis with another disaster perhaps equal to that suffered at Stalingrad.

(The broadcast, recorded by the CBS, said that the Germans "are in full and hasty retreat toward Orel, with the three main Russian armies driving after them."

(The German high command communique dismissed the Orel fighting with the assertion that violent Russian tank attacks southwest of the city had been "repulsed everywhere," but told of heavy fighting on the Mius river front on the southern end of the line near Kulybyshevo.

Frantic counter attacks, into which the desperate Germans threw their full strength of manpower and mechanized forces in an effort to stave off encirclement, have failed to halt the Russian advance, a Soviet communique said.

The sector north and northwest of Orel, where the Red army is cutting in to pocket the German forces, was the scene of particularly heavy fighting as the Germans aimed sharp blows at the attacking forces only to be forced back with losses estimated in the communique at 2,000 dead.

TO REVENUE JOB

Greensboro, Aug. 4—(AP)—Official confirmation of the appointment of Charles A. Pope as assistant collector of internal revenue for North Carolina was received today by Collector Charles H. Robertson. Pope has been connected since 1922 with the office of P. M. Sawyer, internal revenue agent in charge.

Army Tells Of Air War Over Sicily

Washington, Aug. 4—(AP)—The Army, casting its usual reticence to the winds, today put out a blow by blow description of how its air forces swept the skies clean of axis craft over Sicily, Sardinia and the Italian coast in July and summed up with these statistics:

In four weeks, U. S. planes flew 12,383 offensive sorties in the Mediterranean theatre. A sortie is one flight by a single plane. The bombers dropped 12,469 tons of explosives. Gunners destroyed 342 enemy planes, probably destroyed 54 more. Three axis ships were sunk and ten damaged.

U. S. aircraft losses totaled 193. High point was the bombing of Rome by 272 heavies and 219 medium bombers July 19. They cascaded 1,101 tons of bombs on railroad yards. The northwest African air forces, commanded by Lieutenant General Carl Spaatz, and the U. S. Army ninth force, under Major General Lewis H. Brereton thus "cleared the Sicilian sky of the enemy's planes in July, blasted his airfields to the point of uselessness and pulverized his lines of communications," the War department summary said.



RUSSIAN TROOPS, pressing their relentless drive on the Nazi bastion of Orel have advanced another seven miles, recapturing 100 villages. They beat off counterattacks, leaving 3,000 German dead on the field. In the Donets basin, near Izium and above Rostov, seven Nazi attacks were turned back by the hard-fighting Reds. (International)

U. S. Troops Gain Slowly

Japanese at Munda Resist Stubbornly as Infantrymen Gain Edge of Air Strip

Allied Headquarters in the Southwest Pacific, Aug. 4—(AP)—United States infantrymen have backed their way out of the jungle through nests of fierce fighting Japanese to the eastern edge of the Munda air strip but the main enemy defense line and much bloody battling still lie ahead. The air strip runs east and west.

A spokesman for General Douglas MacArthur, in announcing today the slowly continuing envelopment of that key enemy base on New Georgia island in the central Solomons, emphasized that the Japanese resistance is stiffening rather than crumbling despite the poundings the defenders have taken from the air, sea and land for more than a month.

The Japanese are dug in, manning guns in coral caves and log bunkers in that sector where the Americans' nearest objective, after advances along the coast.

The whole jungle battle line continues to inch ahead.

Another corps of Japanese resistance on New Georgia at Bairoko harbor, twelve miles north of Munda, was given a pounding by Flying Fortresses and Mitchell medium bombers.

The big news from the western hinge of the Pacific offensive, where Australian and American jungle fighters are within artillery shelling distance of Salamatta, New Guinea, was the aerial destruction within the past ten days of nearly 200 Japanese barges.

Seven Killed In Rail Wreck

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 4—(AP)—Seven men were killed and twelve injured in a Milwaukee Railroad train wreck at Warden in central Washington at 1 a. m. today. M. A. Meyer, superintendent of transportation, reported. Meyer said a westbound Milwaukee passenger train sidwiped a train from the Moses Lake barge line and that both locomotives were overturned. The dead and injured all were riding on the passenger train and all were reported to have been military personnel.

Border Belt Sales Start Tomorrow

Conflicting Opinions Among Farmers on Eve of Opening; Crops Are Short

By the Associated Press. Tobacco growers in North and South Carolina looked today with conflicting forecasts to the opening of sales on markets in their respective states tomorrow.

North Carolinians, part of whose crop goes on sale in seven border belt markets, are depressed by the fear that the government's price ceiling of 41 cents a pound on the weighted average will not be enough to enable them to show a profit on their crop, estimated to be 7,000,000 pounds short of the 70,150,000 production of 1942.

Their fellow farmers in the state to the south, however, were optimistic over prospects for the free-market opening at Pamlico, Darlington, Lake City, Kingstree, Mullins, Dillon, Lenoir, Conway and Timmonsville. They crop is short, too, about 85,000,000 compared with last year's 97,000,000, but warehousemen agreed with Lawson Jordan of Mullins, supervisor of sales for the South Carolina markets, that the best grades of leaf this year would bring about \$9 per hundred, as compared with last year's top of \$55.

The pessimistic Tar Heels, who put their crop on sale at the five-cured type 13 markets at Chadbourne, Clarkton, Fair Bluff, Farmington, Lumberton, Taber City and Whiteville, may have gotten some encouragement from action of the state Grange, which yesterday formally requested Meredith Kohlberg, chief of OPA's tobacco section, to set a \$48 per hundred pounds price ceiling on the border, Eastern, Middle and Old tobacco belts.

The increase is necessary, the Grange contends, because labor and production costs have increased that it costs at least 25 per cent more to produce the crop this year than last.

Aged Convict Gets Parole

Raleigh, Aug. 4—(AP)—Arthur Peedin, 70, Johnston county man, who was under sentence in 1918 for murder but later received a commutation, was one of eight prisoners paroled today by Governor Brantley.

Peedin was sentenced in August, 1918, and sentenced to die in the electric chair. Three months later the sentence was commuted to life and on December 30, 1940, the term was reduced to 39 to 40 years.

Others freed included: Earl Sidlett, sentenced in 1912 in Robeson to three years for possessing and two counts of assault with a deadly weapon.

Georgia Votes To Lower Age For Voters

Atlanta, Aug. 4—(AP)—Georgia apparently has become the first state in the Union to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 years and Governor Ellis Arnall today announced his intention of seeking a plank in the next Democratic platform to extend this throughout the nation.

The governor led the campaign for adoption of this constitutional amendment under the slogan "old enough to fight, old enough to vote."

He was referring to the fact that the draft age is 18. Incomplete returns from yesterday's general election showed a margin of about three to one in favor of giving the franchise to teen age youths. The count stood 16,810 favorable and 5,280 votes against the proposal. If the final count shows the amendment adopted, an estimated 160,000 voters would be added to the registration lists, which now total 425,000 voters.

YANK TROOPS MOVE ON AFTER CAPTURING CEFALU



ADVANCING SEEMS LIKE a daily habit for these Yanks shown leaving the fallen city of Cefalu, Sicily, for their next engagement. Note the sign post with the name of the city. The battle for Sicily is fast approaching a finish. The U. S. 7th Army has captured nine key towns, while the British First Army breached the Nazi defenses in front of Catania. Army Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International)

Big Bombers Take Rest

Intruder Planes Carry Out Forays Over Continent During Last Night

London, Aug. 4—(AP)—RAF intruder planes carried out their usual forays over the continent last night but Britain's heavy bombers took a rest after having been in almost continuous action for the past two weeks against Hamburg and other objectives in Germany.

The sound of large numbers of planes over the channel during the night has led to a belief that the bombers were out again.

The navy news service announced that the Lynxons set a supply ship and one of seven escorting vessels ablaze in a low level attack on an enemy convoy off Le Havre, France, yesterday. One plane was lost in the attack which was carried out at a height of only 20 feet.

Whirlwind bombers also attacked the airfield at Guipavas near Brest yesterday evening and three Spitfires and Typhoons escorting the bombers are missing.

The British air ministry review announced yesterday that allied air fleets based on the British Isles dumped a record 21,520 tons of high explosives on Germany and German-occupied Europe during the month of July—more than 35 times as much as the nazis ever dropped in their heaviest raid on any English city.

Draft Dodger Coach Held

Washington, Aug. 4—(AP)—The Department of Justice today announced the arrest of a man accused of teaching New Yorkers how to evade the draft by soundbite decisions, mental incompetence, and organic disorders.

The man under arrest was listed as Stephen Weinberg, 50, and was termed by the department "a notorious impersonator and deceiver of World War days."

However, said Weinberg, through fraudulent schemes, had caused the rejection of a number of a number of New Yorkers, that he operated under the name of Stanley C. Weisman, and his offices in a mid-town New York hotel where he consulted "clients."

"In several instances he so thoroughly misled slackers in the manipulation and reactions of mentally incompetent persons, that they were rejected as being unfit," he aver declared.

He aver declared that Weinberg had only successfully arranged for a man of his clients to evade military service but at the time of his apprehension was attempting to bring about the discharge of men already in the service.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Continued rather warm this afternoon tonight and Thursday forenoon.

Italian Surrender Now Less Likely

Italian Troops Leave Greece

Istanbul, Aug. 3. (Delayed)—(AP)—Movement of Italian troops out of Greece toward Albania has reached the proportions of a general withdrawal, reports from the Balkans indicated today.

Italians leaving Greece apparently were being concentrated in Albania for evacuation across the Adriatic sea to Italy. Other Italian units reported to be leaving Montenegro were heading north in the direction of Trieste and France.

It was believed that no Italian troops remain in Greece south of Corinth.

These advices suggested the possibility that Italian withdrawal from the Balkans might so weaken the Germans that they would be forced to abandon any idea of retreating Greece, Bulgaria and southern and central Yugoslavia.

Eisenhower's Headquarters On Malta

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Aug. 4—(AP)—The island of Malta was supposed today to have been General Dwight D. Eisenhower's operational headquarters for the allied attack on Sicily.

The general and his staff were there four days before the simultaneous beginning of the offensive and he stayed in a palace built in 1500 by the Knights of St. John. There, it was stated by Field Marshal Lord Gort, general commander.

These facts were disclosed today as the allied commander in chief said special tribute to the island's people, "the most bombed and shot on earth," to Lord Gort and to the Malta air base.

Covering the invasion of Sicily, 10,000 bombers shot down 200 enemy aircraft.

Before going in United Nations offensive operations, the Malta air command, equipped with the anti-aircraft defenses, downed more than 1,000 axis planes from the time the island came on the direct firing line with the entrance of Italy into the war in 1940.

Malta increasingly became the "batterymaster" for the island's anti-aircraft defenses, fought on nearly 2,000 axis air raids.

ITALIAN SHIPS SEIZED

Istanbul, Aug. 2. (Delayed)—(AP)—The Germans have seized three Italian ships loaded with Italian troops en route to Italy when they stopped in Suda Bay in Crete to refuel.

The Italians protested, but the Germans ordered the ships interned pending further developments in Italy.

Final Drive For Island Nears End

Fire Concentration on Axis Line Called One of Greatest of Present War

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Aug. 4—(AP)—The Mt. Etna line tumbled under one of the greatest concentrations of fire in the war today as huge formations of allied bombers and fighter-bombers joined with British and American warships and hundreds of batteries of field artillery in hammering the axis' fixed defenses.

The full fury of the tremendous air, sea and land bombardment was unleashed in support of the big push of land troops which General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters communique announced, marked up an advance of six miles in the American's northern sector and a gain of "several miles" in the central zone flanking Mt. Etna.

Rested veterans of the allied victory in Tunisia took over from some of the weary advance guard in Sicily to give punch to the final allied offensive.

The presence of heavy American cruisers in Sicilian waters was disclosed for the first time in an announcement which said they pumping heavy shells into axis defenses built into the high ground west of Cape Orlando, about 43 miles west of Messina.

The case is on the extreme left flank of the American seventh army. The shattering bombardment, coupled with a blanket of fire from American field artillery, was proceeding in the direction of the broken mountainous country.

At the same time the communique from General Eisenhower's headquarters announced that very satisfactory progress was being made by General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's British eighth army on the southern flank toward Catania.

Higher Income Taxes Sought

Washington, Aug. 4—(AP)—The preliminary search for new billions of war financing revenue appeared narrowing today to two major potentialities—increases in individual and corporate income taxes, or a "retail" retail sales tax.

Capital Hill issued informal reports that Treasury and congressional tax experts in joint conferences were leaning heavily toward income tax increases, possibly with an excess profits levy against individuals with swollen wartime incomes, and were putting little if any emphasis on a retail sales levy.

Eden Denies Peace Terms Are Offered

London, Aug. 4—(AP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden reiterated in the House of Commons today that the allies had offered Italy no peace terms when asked how it happened that General Dwight D. Eisenhower had spoken of "honorable conditions of peace" in his recent broadcast to the Italian people.

Declaring that the allies continue to demand unconditional surrender, Eden said shortly: "I do not want to argue this matter now, but I can understand circumstances in which unconditional surrender might not be dishonorable to those who made it."

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