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U. S. Troops Enter Messina

GREAT BRITAIN CLEARS COASTAL AREAS

New Blows At Hitler Expected

New Moves Appear Directed at Invasion But No Hint is Given Of Possible Place

London, Aug. 17—(AP)—Great Britain began clearing all non-residents from her barriered coastal areas today as a conviction gripped the nation that the hour is near for a powerful new blow at Adolf Hitler's European fortress.

From every angle new moves appeared directed at invasion, but whether in the Mediterranean, the Balkans or across the English channel was the allied war chiefs' secret.

Significant, however, were these developments:

1. Heavy and repeated American air raids on Axis airfields in France—natural targets as a prelude to any new offensive.

2. Declaration of a state of siege in Norway by apparently jittery German occupation authorities.

3. Virtual isolation of Italy by severance of that country's telephone and telegraphic communications with Switzerland, giving rise to the belief that important developments might be in the offing.

(Dispatches from the Swiss border town of Chiasso quoted the Swiss Telegraphic Agency as saying that the situation throughout Italy "remained grave, with possibility of radical changes from one moment to the next.")

4. The British war cabinet was reported in constant session all day yesterday, keeping in direct touch with Prime Minister Churchill in Quebec.

5. The diversion of RAF heavy bomber attacks from German war industries to an all out attempt to knock Italy out of the war by destroying her industrial facilities.

Quebec Meet In New Vein

Publicity Given Parleys Believed Intended to Worry Axis Countries

Quebec, Aug. 17—(AP)—The Quebec war conference entered its second week today amid strong indications that the unique manner in which it has been handled has been designed deliberately to intensify axis nervousness over major military developments predicted by President Roosevelt.

Arrangements have been completed to receive the American Chief Executive here shortly for his sixth formal war cameo with Prime Minister Churchill.

In previous meetings of the two United Nations leaders, starting with the one two years ago at which they formulated the Atlantic Charter, secrecy has been the rule. There were no advance announcements and strict censorship control prevailed.

But this time the entire pattern was changed. It was pretty much of a certainty that Churchill again was coming across the Atlantic. His arrival in Quebec was announced. The press was allowed to state that he and Mr. Roosevelt had held a preliminary conference at the President's home at Hyde Park, N. Y., and that American chiefs of staff were here to confer with British staff chiefs.

The policy apparently has been one of encouraging all sorts of speculation on what was going on in this ancient provincial capital and on what was likely to occur.

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA
Slightly cooler this afternoon, tonight and Wednesday forenoon.

BOMBED NAZI PLANE PLANTS IN AUSTRIA



Here are members of the crew of a large force of American Liberators based in the Middle East that made a 2,200-mile round trip flight to blast aircraft plants in Wiener Neustadt, 30 miles south of Vienna, Austria. The men have just returned to their base from their successful mission. The pilot of the bomber is handling a target man in Colonel J. H. Humberlake (with glasses and service cap) acting command pilot. In the center is Major John Brooks III, co-pilot of the plane. The U. S. fliers made the trip in twelve hours. Signal Corps Radiophoto, (International Soundphoto.)

Reds Close In On Bryansk

Hull May Go To Quebec

Secretary of State Says His Presence Would Indicate Diplomatic Talks

Washington, Aug. 17—(AP)—Secretary of State Hull said today that he may go to Quebec to join conferences between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, explaining that his participation would mean that political aspects of the war situation were being discussed.

After Hull replied to the question about the possibility he might go to Quebec, another reporter at his press conference asked whether relations between the United States and Russia were involved in the Canadian discussions. The secretary replied he was not advised as to the particulars. Hull added that relations with Russia had been cordial and friendly, with a splendid spirit of cooperation in the prosecution of the war.

Hull said allied military successes in Sicily were remarkable, considering the relatively small number of troops, and that the occupation of Sicily was a vital step in the conquest of the Italian area.

No word has yet been received from the Italian government on the declaration of Rome as an open city, so far as he knew, Hull said. Neither was there anything new, he said, to indicate an early capitulation by Italy, although he had been watching closely for developments.

'Replacement' Is Big Word In Draft Rules

Washington, Aug. 17—(AP)—Paste the word "replacement" in your hat so you can keep it on your mind.

It's important in the new regulations issued by the war manpower commission to get all draft age men into war production or into the Army.

Because of "replacement" not all fathers—whether they moved from a non-essential job in a war-supporting one for patriotic reasons or just to stay out of the draft—will benefit equally.

A memorandum from selective service headquarters to local draft boards, pointing out that the Army's need for men must be met without hurting war production, says:

"To meet this problem it is necessary to have a system of replacement which will be fair to both the individual and the community."

Officials of the commission said they day they had paid approximately \$100,000 in cash and had taken title to the land, including all mineral rights and the small strip of land which has been working on gold and tungsten for several years.

Howitt West, president of Hiale, is on the ground in charge of operations, and officials said they are prepared to change facilities to handle whatever supply of ore proves to be available. Immediate plans call for equipment to sell daily and to start a small plant. Every bit of it

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Byrnes Says Air Warfare To Continue

Immediate Strategy Hinted in Address; No Hope of Axis Collapse is Seen

Washington, Aug. 17—(AP)—The nation and the world had from one of President Roosevelt's closest confidants today the outline of immediate allied strategy.

The war against Nazi-held Europe will continue to be by aerial bombardment, "for the time being at least, rather than by sea and land forces against numerically superior odds."

This was the inference drawn by capital observers from the stress which James F. Byrnes laid on Germany's remaining land strength in a broadcast last night.

Byrnes, director of the office of war mobilization and sometimes referred to as assistant president, called for greater effort and sacrifice on the home front in order to press home the initiative, already gained. In return, he promised a "substantial reduction" in the cost of living necessities and gave assurance of ultimate victory.

Byrnes, warning that there is "nothing to justify the hope of unconditional surrender" by the axis powers in the near future, said he had been authorized by the President to say "that in his judgment as of today the major battles lie ahead of us, not behind us."

Byrnes declared that in the land fighting in Africa and Sicily "we have met and defeated less than 7 per cent of the combat divisions which the enemy has in the European area."

"The strategic results of these victories are of major importance," he said "since they have given us the initiative, but the initiative is of no value unless followed vigorously with great forces."

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Rickenbacker Predicts Long War

New York, Aug. 17—(AP)—Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, just returned from a 55,000-mile inspection tour of war zones, predicted today that at the present rate of progress of the war, "Germany will not even crack before the fall of 1944 at the best."

"Then he said, if I could take at least another year to defeat 'another savage and treacherous enemy in the Pacific.'"

"Only a miracle can bring victory sooner," Rickenbacker predicted in a statement issued as he called newspaper men to his office here for a press conference.

But Rickenbacker added: "I have confidence in the possibility of that miracle and the accomplishment of that miracle lies in the hearts, heads, and hands of every American man, woman and child, and your faith in God."

Rickenbacker, who made his 97-day tour for Secretary of War Stimson

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Artillery Shells Italian Mainland Across Channel

'43 Robinson Crusoe



U. S. MARINE Corps flier, Staff Sgt. William I. Coffey, Jr., of Chicago, Ill., is shown at a Pacific naval base after he had been missing 72 days. Engine trouble forced Coffey to parachute from his plane to a South Pacific island. He lived the life of a Robinson Crusoe until rescued by a Navy plane. Official U. S. Navy photo. (International)

Axis Carries Out Demolitions on South Coast of Italy

London, Aug. 17—(AP)—The United Nations radio at Algiers announced tonight that "Messina has fallen."

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Aug. 17—(AP)—American forces entered Messina this morning, virtually ending the Sicilian campaign, and allied headquarters announced that the enemy was carrying out demolitions on the south coast of the Italian mainland, thus indicating his intention of withdrawing farther up the Italian peninsula.

The complete occupation of Sicily, the entering wedge in the fortress of Europe, was only a matter of hours as the American on the east coast of the island, helped up hapless Italian forces, were stranded by the German garrison.

American airplanes tonight hand to hand with the enemy through the bomb-scarred streets of the sprawling hillside port less than three miles from Italy.

Already their 155-mm. "Long Tom" artillery had shelled the enemy on the Italian mainland, said dispatches from the front.

The American third division, in which General Dwight D. Eisenhower once commanded a regiment, reached the outskirts of the city about 8 p. m. yesterday, then stormed into the city this morning. This was the division which was first to enter Palermo.

Meanwhile a regiment of the British eighth army, trained to deal with greater demolitions and to set back a strong enemy counter attack, had been brought to a point eight miles south of Messina by staging a continuous landing.

The main force, an allied headquarters command, said, was at a point approximately 20 miles south of Messina.

The German radio in a broadcast recorded in London, already had announced the fall of Sicily.

All German and Italian troops had been evacuated from Sicily with all their equipment, "the last machine gun" after destruction of all military installations and harbor works at Messina.

"Not only all wounded but also several thousands of British, American and Canadian prisoners of war were brought to the mainland," it said.

Although admitting that the withdrawal was effected only in the course of "heavy fighting," the Germans professed far evacuation as a "first class achievement" which had "concluded the fight for our outpost of Europe."

The lightning advance of the American, 11 miles from Messina yesterday, too was facilitated by a submarine force. The latest landing of amphibious troops by the U. S. Navy, the fourth such attack in the last ten days, was near Milazzo and was carried out yesterday morning without great difficulty.

Meanwhile, a naval communique announced that strong allied naval forces were blockading the foot of the Italian peninsula from the Gulf of Tarentum, 130 miles in the west coast and halfway to Naples, to Cape Bizze on the heel of the boot.

The sea forces have been sweeping nightly into Messina Strait, it was announced, and have carried out a series of bombardments of the Italian coast.

Yesterday morning warships sank an armored tug and two escort craft off Cape Bizze, slightly to the south.

There were in addition to daily bombardments of the Sicilian coast by gunships and destroyers.

American naval units drove off enemy motor torpedo boats north of Messina yesterday, the naval communique said, and British forces actively met to fight other torpedo boat units near Cape Bizze.

FRENCH OFFICERS OUT BECAUSE OF OLD AGE

Algiers, Aug. 17—(AP)—General Charles de Gaulle announced today that 430 French officers of the army, navy and air force, including 40 general, had been relieved of active command on the ground of old age.

Jap-Held Isle Taken

Americans Capture Vella Lavella Island In Surprise Thrust On Sunday

(By The Associated Press.) American sea-borne forces sharply imperiled Japan's last major strongholds in the Solomon Islands today as General Douglas MacArthur disclosed that U. S. troops had captured Vella Lavella island, 50 miles northwest of Tulagi Atoll, in a surprise invasion on Sunday.

Vella Lavella lies in the heart of the enemy's northern Solomon defenses, only 70 miles below the Japanese network of six air bases on and around Bougainville, the island in the upper tip of the Solomon Islands chain.

The capture not only threatened Bougainville but jeopardized the Japanese position at Vila on Kolombangara island, immediately above Vella Lavella, Japanese possession on two intervening islands between Kolombangara and Vella Lavella, are no longer being staffed out through lack of communications.

A communique said 25 Japanese planes were shot down during the landing on Vella Lavella. Two U. S. planes were lost.

Impressed Tokyo headquarters reacted without comment that Japanese naval air units and two large American transports, 400 crewmen, a destroyer and a landing boat left the island and stood down 26 miles.

On the New Guinea front, General MacArthur's headquarters announced Australian jungle fighters wiped out Japanese forces at Tambu Bay, only six miles south of the enemy air base at Salamaua, killing at least 200 Japanese.

U. S. fighter planes intercepted a force of 25 Japanese dive bombers over the New Guinea battle area and shot down at least 12 of them, a host of only one plane, while long range U. S. land-based bombers again new 2,000 miles round trip to blast the enemy oil port of Balikpapan in Borneo.

On the Burma front, allied warplanes continued their punishing attacks on Japanese troop concentrations, river shipping and other targets.

RIVAL UNIONISTS FIGHT IN DETROIT

Detroit, Aug. 17—(AP)—A fight between 25 AFL teamster union pickets and an estimated 800 CIO daily workers in front of the Johnson Milk Co. plant in a Detroit suburb this morning resulted in injuries to five men. Two men who preceded the fight and the pickets were injured in the struggle.