



Punishing Aerial Blows Have Minimized Italian Chances To Halt Invasion

Supple System For Southern Italy And Sicily Wrecked by Allied Bombings; Reconnaissance Photographs Reveal Damage to Arsenals and War Industries

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, June 23.—Sweeping in with heavy bomb loads less than 12 hours after American bombers had joined the same targets by daylight, Wellingtons of the RAF smashed at Salerno Monday night in a continuation of Allied efforts to knock out the underpinnings of Mussolini's supply system for southern Italy and Sicily.

Two-ton blockbusters were planted squarely in the freight yards and near barracks at Salerno, 30 miles southeast of Naples, and huge fires broke out. Allied headquarters said.

Salerno is a key point on the main electric railway running southward from Naples to the Italian toe. The American raid already had caused extensive damage to the many railway sidings, repair depots and approaches to the yards there, and reconnaissance reports showed railway traffic already had been interrupted for 24 hours by the smashing of roundhouses, turntables and other installations at other points along the line.

The Wellingtons encountered only light anti-aircraft fire as they swept in over their targets, and no enemy fighters, so that all the raiders returned safely to their bases.

The only other aerial activity of the northwest African air forces yesterday was patrolling and reconnaissance, the bulk of the hundreds of bombers and fighters being inactive.

But a medium-sized enemy vessel, which was caught towing half a dozen barges 30 miles off the southeast coast of Sardinia the previous night, was sunk by RAF Beaufighters which swept through a barrage of an escorting destroyer and tug.

The Beaufighters scored two direct hits and the ship blew up. The Allied airmen then attacked the barge and destroyer, but the results were not observed.

One Allied plane was lost in all yesterday's operations, which included forays by Malta intruders over Sicily and southern Italy last night when railway stations and a factory were attacked with bombs and machine-guns.

Supplement to a Malta communiqué said Malta-based plywood mosquito bombers also harassed Sicilian airfields and railways last night, especially at Sirari, Licata and Trisacina.

At the same time a Middle East air communiqué issued in Cairo reported that RAF light bombers from that command sank a small sailing vessel off the coast of Sardinia on Monday.

The Wellingtons, in attacking Salerno, returned to targets hit in daylight Monday by a force of American twin-engine Mitchells.

The broadcast Italian communiqué acknowledged the raid on Salerno, said also that Castelvetrano and Milazzo in Sicily, and Olbia in northern Sardinia had been bombed and machine-gunned. Forty-one were reported killed and 50 injured at Salerno and five killed and 56 injured in the Messina Straits area.

The broadcast, recorded by the Associated Press, asserted that Italian planes had attacked a convoy off the northern African coast yesterday, sinking one 2,000-ton ship and damaging another of 7,000 tons. A third merchantman was reported hit in the Gulf of Tunisia.

CECIL W. MORRIS DIED IN ROCKY MOUNT SATURDAY

Final rites for Cecil W. Morris, 47, well known Farmville grocerman and World War Veteran, who died Saturday morning, 10:55, at Park View Hospital, in Rocky Mount, were conducted from the home on Wilson street Sunday afternoon at four o'clock by the Rev. E. D. Chambers, Baptist minister. Interment was in Hollywood cemetery.

Mr. Morris was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Morris. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Beulah Humphries Morris, a daughter, Mrs. E. L. Jones; a son, Wilbert Morris, both of Farmville, and a sister, Mrs. Lawrence Wolf, of Tampa, Fla.

Active pallbearers were: Jack Wilford, C. L. Jvey, Joe Flake, LeRoy Rollins, Joe Gregory and Andy Martin.

Honorary pallbearers were: Rev. C. B. Maaburn, Doc Russell, Tom Quinn, Flay Darden, G. E. Ballew, C. L. Beaman, J. B. Shearin, W. H. Winstead, L. E. Jones, Guy Baldero, O. L. Parker, A. C. Monk, L. E. Walema, S. A. Roebuck, J. B. Britley, J. C. Brock, W. A. Savage, R. R. Newton, G. W. Davis, F. G. Dupree, Jr., Ronald Nichols, R. O. Lang, L. W. Godwin, T. E. Joyner, P. K. Ewell, H. N. Howard, J. I. Morgan, Dr. Chas. E. Fitzgerald, J. H. Harris, Dr. P. E. Jones, R. H. Knott, B. L. Lang, Dr. J. M. Newborn, C. E. Modlin, J. Y. Monk, Jr., R. D. House, O. G. Spell, J. O. Pollard, R. A. Parker, W. H. Fisher, G. A. House, J. T. Thorne, R. A. Joyner, T. C. Turnage, C. H. Joyner, J. M. Whetless, Dr. R. T. Williams, F. A. Williams, Dr. W. M. Willis, W. R. Willis, W. C. Wooten, J. W. Munden, C. W. Blackwood, L. W. Allen, C. S. Hotchkiss, E. C. Carr, Frank Allen, T. E. Mizelle, J. C. Corbett, J. A. Carraway, Louis Alex, H. W. Kemp, H. C. Nicholas, B. S. Smith, R. N. Freeman, K. Cannon, N. Cannon, N. Thomas, Jack Freedman, J. W. Joyner, W. J. Raspberry, V. F. Julluck, W. D. Fields, El Ramey, M. Liles, T. T. Moore, J. W. Ellis, Hadley Bryan, A. J. Melton, V. M. Lockamy, J. S. Smith, W. G. Ward, Fred Smith, W. A. Allen, Dr. T. S. Williams, Milton Eason, John B. Lewis, R. T. Martin, Lee Corbett, W. C. Gay, Louis Creech, Claud Joyner, A. C. Letchworth, B. O. Turnage, Archie Cayton, R. B. Fields, W. M. Carr, B. A. Tyson, Bill Allen and S. W. Dunn.

A worker at a California aircraft plant has worked out a machine operation which can be performed by a trainee and triples output.

Miners Ordered Return to Work

Agreement Viewed As Only a Postponement Settlement of Issue

Washington, June 23.—The United Mine Workers decision to dig coal for the government until October 31 ended the nation's third general wartime mine strike today, but operators and others protested that the main issue was merely postponed, not settled.

The back-to-work orders of UMW President John L. Lewis and his Policy Committee was conditional and a prolonged fight was fore-shadowed. Besides fixing a new albeit more distant deadline, Lewis told the government in effect that if it wanted coal it could not restore direction of the mines to their owners.

His statement also carried a broad indication that the miners would resort to the courts to obtain the pay for underground travel time which they failed to get from the War Labor Board.

A statement issued in behalf of the Appalachian operators declared the action of the UMW Policy Committee "is in direct violation of the War Labor Board's directive of June 18th."

"If the President," said the operators, referring to Mr. Roosevelt, "permits the mines to be opened under the terms laid down by John L. Lewis, the main issue goes unresolved. Nothing is settled. The present strike is merely postponed. The main question now is, can Mr. Lewis continue to defy the sole agency designated by the United States Government to make final determinations in labor disputes."

The immediate reaction of WLB Chairman William R. Davis to the miners' decision was expressed in these words:

"I take Mr. Lewis' statement to mean that the production of coal will be resumed under the conditions outlined by the War Labor Board. I think that is a very good thing."

Stores Here To Close On Monday, July 5th

At a special session held on June 17th, the Board of Directors of the Farmville Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association adopted a motion providing for the closing of all stores and business houses in Farmville on Monday, July 5th, in commemoration of July 4th. Every store manager was requested to arrange such closing in that city.

It is reported that stocks of most rationed foods, together with prospective production, probably will be adequate to maintain the present level of consumption until the end of the year.

A Proclamation By The Governor

NORTH CAROLINA DAY OF DEDICATION, JULY 7, 1943

Work is no longer merely a privilege or opportunity; it is a high patriotic duty. No man or woman, white or colored, in North Carolina or indeed in America today has any moral right to loaf or be idle even for a part of the time. We are confronted with the most urgent need for productive manpower in the history of our nation. Farm labor and industrial labor are absolutely indispensable for the prosecution of the national warfare and for the success of our men in arms. Under these circumstances all citizens of all classes, groups and races have a public duty to engage in productive work, even though the individual financial necessity for such work may not exist.

Trustworthy reports have come to me from virtually every section of North Carolina indicating that hundreds, indeed thousands, of men, white and colored, are either not working at all or working only part of the time. Likewise, many women, boys, and girls above the age of sixteen who could be productively employed are doing virtually nothing in the way of productive work. The time has come when every able-bodied person should either be fighting or working.

I herewith call upon the citizens of our state to respond to this most urgent need. I have every confidence that our people will also to this need and I have in a manner worthy of our state and its traditions, I urge the citizens of North Carolina and our teachers and school principals generally, our civic clubs, representatives of the press and radio, and other public spirited leaders of the state to join in the high endeavor to get every citizen of our state productively employed on a full-time basis. I further urge the judges, jurors, and law enforcement officers to do everything within their power and within the law to end any idleness or vagrancy that may exist anywhere in North Carolina. Furthermore, I call upon the local selective service boards to study carefully the cases of those who have been deferred on physical grounds but who are able to work and are not working. I am also calling upon police officers and sheriffs to visit places in their cities and counties where loafers and idlers customarily congregate and inquire into the reasons why they are not at work. If these efforts fail to get the necessary response, I should feel it my duty to use the emergency powers granted me by the recent legislature for dealing with these problems so vital to our national welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, I, J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, do hereby set apart MONDAY, JULY 7, 1943, the day on which Independence Day will be most generally observed throughout the state, as NORTH CAROLINA DAY OF DEDICATION; and I urge that in the county seat of every county in North Carolina there will be held a meeting to be attended by mayors, county commissioners, sheriffs, police officers, ministers, farm leaders, health and welfare workers and other public spirited citizens, for the purpose of studying conditions in each of such counties and taking such organized steps as will effectually and with efficiency or loathing that may exist in such counties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, J. Melville Broughton, Governor of North Carolina, have signed and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed hereto, in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, this 23rd day of June, 1943, in the one hundred and sixty-seventh year of our American Independence.

J. Melville Broughton
J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON, Governor

Alston Stubbs
Alston Stubbs, Secretary to the Gov.

Too Much Rain Hurts Tobacco In Pitt Area

Several Farmers Have Started Harvesting Crop; Quality May Not Be As Good

Greenville, June 23.—The general condition of the tobacco crop, is not as satisfactory as it was two weeks ago, T. C. (Bob) Rankin, sales supervisor of the Greenville tobacco market, stated in an official report issued today.

"Following the extremely hot weather during the first week in June, rains fell over the entire belt, varying in intensity. Some sections received just the right amount of water and in these sections tobacco is growing and maturing satisfactorily with prospects of a good crop, but other areas had too much rain or, as one grower said, "too much in a short time," and as a result this part of the crop doesn't look so good, especially on light land. Light land tobacco is sharpening up, turning yellow, and presents anything but a promising look. It is said that the heavy rains depleted the fertilizer supply and growers are not very optimistic over the final outcome of this tobacco.

"So far there has been practically no hail damage; however, there are numerous complaints of cut, wire, bud and horn worm damage. Such complaints are almost general. There was some drowned and flooded tobacco following the rainy days, but the most of this will probably come out, developing into lighter leaf not so good in quality. Semi-clovely weather immediately after the rainy spell led into more of very hot weather. Ten days more of very hot weather has brought tobacco to a stage where showers or light rains would be welcome."

"The portion of the crop laid by varies. Growers in Halifax, Hertford, and adjoining counties have laid by 10 to 15 percent of their crop cultivation."

"Several barns of tobacco were housed in Pitt County Monday, but it will be July 5 before any great amount of curing is done. Labor during the housing season may prove to be a problem. Labor is scarce and inefficient, especially in most new government projects. I think that the government will be helping help curing operations will solve this problem for many, but if the crop comes in as fast as many expect it to, there is danger of some of it being lost in the field."

Activity Growing On Soviet Front

Sharp Reconnaissance Operations May Indicate Major Fighting Is Imminent

London, June 24.—Russian troops have intensified sharply their reconnaissance operations on the Eastern front and the Red Air Force has raided heavily the important Pakov junction on the Riga-Strary Russa Railroad which feeds German forces on the Lake Ilman front, Basieresced today.

The Russian midnight communiqué, recorded here, reported that more than 300 Germans had been killed in Russian reconnaissance raids in force on the Staraya Russa-Lake Ilman front, the Smolenak front and the Belgorod sector at the lower end of the Kursk salient.

A special Russian communiqué broadcast from Moscow reported the air raid on Pakov. Russian planes bombed the rail junction and German airbases in the vicinity, it was said, destroying a considerable number of German planes and leaving many trains and the entire main station ablaze. Many fires and explosions were observed, the communiqué said. Two Russian planes were reported missing.

Offensive Opens.

German-dominated Radio Vichy reported that Russian troops had started offensive operations north of Moscow. The front lies far west of the area north of Moscow, but it was believed that Vichy might have meant the Staraya Russa-Lake Ilman area.

In addition to bombing Pakov, the Wednesday midnight communiqué reported, Russian engaged in extensive reconnaissance operations on this front. Groups of scouts penetrated to the enemy rear in several sectors to capture prisoners for the intelligence staff. In one sector, the communiqué said, a group of 25 Germans was disposed of, 15 being killed and five captured.

Much larger reconnaissance operations were carried out in the Smolenak and Belgorod areas.

After an artillery bombardment, a scout detachment rushed enemy positions and captured a machine gun. (Continued on page 4)

Gov. Broughton Issues "Work Or Fight" Call

Mayor Geo. W. Davis Pledges Cooperation In Rounding Up Idlers

Designating Monday, July 8, as "North Carolina Day of Dedication," Governor J. M. Broughton on Wednesday issued a proclamation, calling upon the citizens of the State to observe Independence Day by seeing that every able-bodied person is employed productively upon a full-time basis. The Governor expressed confidence that the people will respond to the need for a full utilization of manpower and womanpower but declared: "If other efforts fail, I shall feel it my duty to use the emergency powers granted to me by the recent Legislature for dealing with these problems so vital to our national welfare."

Commenting on the Governor's proclamation, Mayor Geo. W. Davis, said he did not believe conditions are as bad in Farmville as in some other sections but pledged full cooperation of all local agencies with the Governor and the Manpower Commission to round up idlers and put them to work.

"Work is no longer a privilege or an opportunity; it is a high patriotic duty," said the Governor. "The time has come when every able-bodied person, of whatever financial, social or racial status should be either fighting or working." He said he had received reports of thousands of men, both white and colored, either not working at all or working only part of the time. He called upon ministers, teachers and civic leaders to join in the endeavor to get everybody productively employed on a full-time basis. Judges, mayors and law enforcement officers are urged to use every legal means to eliminate idleness and vagrancy. Sheriffs and policemen are instructed to check all customary loafing places in their communities to round up the idlers. Local selective service boards are requested to review all cases of deferred registrants who are physically able to work and are not regularly on a job. If those measures fail, the Governor says he will resort to the far-reaching war emergency powers which he can suspend or extend many times.

AXIS SHOWS GROWING FEAR OF ATTACK FROM THE SOUTH

WAR IN BRIEF

With invasion tension increasing in Europe, Axis fears now seem to be turning again to the Mediterranean, with reports that the British Ninth and Tenth armies in the Near East are preparing to attack the Italian Dodecanese Islands. Meantime, the Allies warned Hollanders to stay away from Axis war plants and the French not to act prematurely in aiding an invasion.

British and American bombers continue relentless air war upon German targets, the RAF big bombers devastating Muelheim in the Ruhr while the Americans made daylight sweeps over the Northern France invasion coast.

Allied bombers in the Mediterranean continue blasting Sicilian and Italian mainland targets, especially in the Naples area. London warns Italians that Rome is not immune from Allied bombs.

Growing reconnaissance activity on the Russian front may indicate imminent big-scale fighting.

Italian-born war hero gets highest honor—Congressional medal—for heroism in Guadalcanal fighting.

BLUE STAMPS

Washington, June 23.—Blue stamps N, P and Q from Ration Book No. 2 will be valid for buying processed foods from July 1 to August 7, inclusive, the Office of Price Administration announced today.

The June stamps, K, L and M, will remain valid through July 7. Thus, for seven days, six blue stamps will be valid.

OPA, in announcing that the July stamps would remain valid through August 7, said that similar carry-over periods would be provided for subsequent months.

In continuing the overlap of one week, OPA said it made shopping more convenient, particularly for persons living in remote sections.

Red stamps J, K, L, M and N, used for the purchase of meats, fats, oils and cheese, expire next Wednesday, and OPA urged "householders to spread out their purchases to avoid last-minute rushes at retail stores. Validity dates of red stamps to be used during July will be announced soon.

Rickenbacker Is In Moscow

Moscow, June 23.—Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker has been in Moscow since Sunday on a mission as the representative of Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. It was disclosed today.

Rickenbacker arrived at 1:00 P. M. Sunday in a four-engine Liberator. The news of Rickenbacker's presence in Moscow was made public in these present yesterday at a Kremlin ceremony where United States ambassador William H. Stanley presented 60 American military awards to Russian soldiers and sailors.

His visit to Russia is a continuation of his tour of world battlefronts. It was assumed that he will see various high-ranking military people and officials, possibly Premier Joseph Stalin himself.

The flier was accompanied by his personal physician, Dr. Alexander Duhl, and two representatives of the War Department, Col. William Nichols and Maj. A. B. Sherry, the plane was piloted by Capt. W. F. Richmond and the crew included co-pilot Lieut. H. H. Cargle and navigator W. R. Hicks.

The party was greeted at the airport by ambassador Stanley, Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Nichols, American military attaché, and others of the embassy staff, as well as high-ranking Russian officials.

Famous Flier Is On Mission For War Secretary

The German-controlled Paris radio admitted that if the Allies bombed Italy with sufficient effect, they would provide a certain degree of safety for an attempt to land men on the Italian mainland or elsewhere in the Mediterranean. Paris predicted that Sardinia would be a prime invasion target.

The Allied High Command broadcast an "urgent warning" to Hollanders last night to stay away from Axis war plants in their homeland because they soon will be subjected to greatly intensified aerial bombardment "to hasten the final victory."

The warning followed a message to the French people broadcast by the United Nations radio in North Africa, telling them to "be ready for whatever you will be called on to do . . . when your active help is needed," presumably when Allied troops land on the Continent.

The BBC, heard by United Press in New York, said an Allied High Command spokesman had appealed to Frenchmen, particularly those in the former non-occupied zone, to hold their patience and discipline, which are "the more necessary as the next big-scale Allied military operations begin to take shape."

These warnings were others in the series of broadcasts to peoples of occupied countries and Italy with the dual purpose of sparing them suffering in air raids and enlisting their aid for the day of invasion.

The British broadcast said a certain number of persons in Southern France had chosen to disregard previous broadcast instructions and insisted "they must be followed by all who are able to do so."

Attacks To Come.

In Holland, aviation, locomotive, motor vehicle and submarine plants will be singled out for the heaviest attacks yet, the Allied High Command broadcast said, and from now on the Dutch "will be exposed to great danger," if they work in such plants.

Dutch workers were urged to send their families away from bombing zones, stay safe themselves if they could or otherwise demand adequate alarm and shelter systems.

A Netherlands government statement introducing the High Command message said that destruction of war plants through air raids on Germany itself had been production in occupied countries more important to the enemy and that there were three ways marked for more concentrated attacks.

A man you love his shirt but a dog never loves his pants.

COMPLETE REPORT

The Flag Day Drive for the promotion of War Bonds and Stamp Sales here, \$13,445.75 actual cash investment, was authorized by 294 citizens of Farmville—180, white and 114, colored.

R. A. Joyner, general chairman, wishes to express appreciation for the efforts put forth by the Brick Lenders of the Citizen's Service Corps who secured the Irving Building.