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SOVIETS LAUNCH COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST GERMANS

Recapture Territory In Belgorod Area As German Offensive Bogs Down

London, July 15.—Counter-attacking at the moment when the German offensive was bogging down, the Red Army recaptured several villages Wednesday in the battle-scarred Belgorod area and killed about 2,000 Germans in savage fighting, Russia reported today.

The Germans failed to attack at the Orel-Kursk end of their offensive front during Wednesday, a Russian communique reported as recorded from the Moscow radio.

Nazi Tanks Stopped. At the Belgorod end, they continued to send tanks and infantry against the deep Russian defenses, but they were stopped in their tracks, the communique said, and lost more than 100 tanks and 47 planes.

Tuesday night, a special communique revealed, the Red air force attacked Orel, one of the great German anchor points, and, without the cost of a plane, started fires which merged into a gigantic blaze covering the entire center of the railroad-junction city. Heavy explosions mingled with the flames as the planes rained explosive and incendiary bombs on enemy train concentrations and war supply depots.

Official reports of evidently big scale Russian counter-attacks in the Belgorod area followed Moscow dispatches which said that the Russians were now counter-attacking with intensifying vigor all along the Orel-Kursk-Belgorod front, that they were slowly gaining the initiative, and that they might yet turn their thrusts into a counter-offensive.

The Russian communique indicated that the German attacks around Belgorod were diminishing in size and determination. It was emphasized that the Germans were stopped cold and achieved no success whatever.

Heavy German losses in tanks and men continued. On one fiercely contested height the Russians destroyed 35 German tanks, including seven Tigers, in addition to five self-propelled guns. More than 600 Germans were killed here, the communique said.

A tank-buster detachment penetrated the enemy rear at night, the communique said, and when the Germans started to attack with tanks and infantry they opened fire.

Twelve enemy tanks and 10 troop trucks were burned, the communique said and about 200 Germans were killed.

"Our men and officers of the Red Army fighting in the Belgorod direction are inflicting heavy losses on the German Fascist troops," the communique noted.

German broadcasts head here said that the Russians were attacking in great strength north and east of Orel. It was admitted that the Russians had penetrated German defenses but Berlin said that later the attackers were thrown back.

The Russian communique said that complete reports showed that 153 German planes were shot down Tuesday instead of 130 as at first reported.

It was too early to conclude that the German offensive had been broken, dispatches said. But for days the enemy had made no gains, the Red Army had retaken much ground and the Russians were now aggressively seeking battle at many points.

From their strong defensive system, the Russians threw new tank units, infantry and artillery forces at the tiring Germans still wedged into their lines, dispatches said.

COAL STRIKERS TO FACE COURT

Pittsburgh, July 14.—The Government made its first move under the Connally-Smith Anti-Strike Act on Wednesday by convening a special session of the Federal Grand Jury here to inquire into the lingering coal strike that began June 20.

Nearly half the 10,000 still idle miners in the rich southwestern Pennsylvania coal field, most of whom do not go directly to new work but output goes directly to war-bond steel mills, were scheduled to return to work as the inquiry began.

All the others among the nation's 221,000 miners returned previously, but more than half were out on June 25 when Congress passed over President Roosevelt's veto, the act which provides stiff penalties for interrupting production of Government-owned plants.

District leaders of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) have insisted that miners' work stoppages since they were ordered back to work by the U. S. National Labor Relations Board.

Ordination Service At Baptist Church

Featuring the services at the Baptist Church on Wednesday evening, when four additional deacons including A. J. Melton, Walter Jones, Ben M. Lewis and J. R. Shearin were ordained, was the sermon by Dr. L. G. Greer, of Thomasville, President of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

Dr. Greer said that "deacons are to be 'good helpers' in the Church, assisting the pastor with detail matters leaving him free to give all his time to the ministry of the Word. Deacons are to interpret the pastor to his congregation and the congregation to the pastor. A deacon, too, can preach the Gospel as he goes in and out among the people by the life he lives. The greatest preaching, perhaps, is done not from the pulpit but in ministering to the spiritual and temporal needs of the people."

Deacons and pastors from Baptist Churches in Fountain, Greenville, Winterville, and Nashville, together with those of the local church, comprised the ordaining Council. Among others taking part on the program were Rev. Edward C. Chambliss, pastor of the Farmville Church, who as moderator read the Articles of Faith; Rev. Edward G. Cole of Winterville, who offered the Ordination Prayer; Rev. Roy D. Keller of Fountain, who gave the Charge to the Deacons; Rev. A. Hartwell Campbell, of Greenville, who gave the Charge to the Church; J. W. Holmes, Chairman of the Board of Deacons of the Farmville Church, who introduced the speaker; and Carl L. Bestman, who served as Clerk.

Germans Deny Report Of Rommel Shot Down

Stockholm, July 14.—German authorities denied today a report broadcast yesterday that Field Marshal Erwin Rommel had been shot down by Allied fighter pilots while en route to Sicily in a transport plane, a Berlin dispatch to Aftonbladet reported.

The report, said to have originated from a broadcast by a German underground radio station, was carried by the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet.

Will Vote On Quotas For Flue Cured Tobacco

Referendum To Be Held On Saturday, July 24; Greater Profits Have Come From Less Acres

North Carolina farmers will vote on flue-cured tobacco marketing quotas for the 1944 crop, or for the three-year period 1944-46, in a referendum to be held on Saturday, July 24th, in accordance with War Food Administration regulations, announce Extension Service officials at State College.

National marketing quotas and state and farm acreage allotments will be the same as in 1943, with similar provisions for adjustments as have prevailed in the past, it was explained. Before the quotas can become effective they must be approved by a two-thirds majority of all eligible farmers voting.

At a meeting held in Raleigh, July 14, representatives of all the agricultural agencies in the state, war-housemen, bankers, merchants, and other groups allied with agriculture expressed the opinion that the present marketing quotas should be continued by all means in the interest of the farmer and all business connected with agriculture in North Carolina.

Dean I. O. Schaub of State College said: "It would be a great calamity for the farmers of North Carolina and the state as a whole if quotas were discontinued at this time and growers were allowed to plant an unlimited acreage of tobacco. Prices would probably drop to a very low figure and it would be years before the state could recover from the shock. Also, we must maintain our acreage of food and food crops in winning the war." Commissioner W. Kerr Scott and Governor J. Melville Broughton heartily concurred in this statement.

Some crop quotas have been in effect, crop production has greatly increased; tobacco, 9 percent; peanuts, 22; wheat, 31; oats, 30; corn, 23; and hay, 60 percent. Larger yields and broader profiles have come from less acres.

Japanese Bases At Munda Are Near The End

Reinforcement or Supply of Garrison Rendered Virtually Impossible by American Fighters

Allied Headquarters in the Southwest Pacific, July 14.—Green-clad United States troops, in frequent gunfire exchanges with the enemy, moved steadily forward through New Georgia's jungles Wednesday upon Munda.

It might well mark the beginning of the end of that Japanese air base. The enemy's garrison there appeared doomed to fight it out with what men and weapons were on hand. Reinforcement by sea had failed. Remnants of a Japanese tank force fled the disastrous scene of the Kula Gulf above Munda, leaving behind the sunken hulks of a cruiser and from three to five destroyers to add to nine others lost there a week ago.

Support by the Japanese Air Force also failed. Tuesday afternoon enemy dive bombers, protected by 10 Zeros, came over but on pounding U. S. positions. The raiders never reached their objective. American Corsairs and Lightnings slashed into them at Langsdale Point on New Georgia. Four Zeros and Corsairs, whose pilot parachuted to safety, were shot down. The bombers jettisoned their loads and fled.

Death rains daily on the garrison from Swarms of American Avenger torpedo and Dauntless dive bombers. Tuesday 32 tons of bombs burst among encamped troops and upon anti-aircraft batteries.

Garrison Cut Off. Reinforcement or supply of the imperiled garrison by land was rendered virtually impossible by the wily American fighters.

Wednesday's communique from Gen. Douglas MacArthur told of the annihilation of 150 Japanese trapped 10 miles northeast of Munda at Enogai Inlet. The heavy artillery and machine guns this force manned in Munda's defense were seized.

Another 150 Japanese lost their lives off the coast of Vauzang Island to the Southeast of Munda but they do longer were defending the air base. They had been ousted from that island by our troops and were trying to escape in barges.

In the jungle premier of defenses before Munda itself, two strong points were knocked out by our advancing jungle fighters despite stiffening resistance of the enemy.

On Northeastern New Guinea, at the other end of the Pacific offensive, Allied bombers dropped over 50 tons of bombs on Salamaua, the enemy air base toward which our jungle troops are fighting and 21 tons on nearby Lae.

More detailed accounts of the second battle Kula Gulf confirmed that the enemy broke off the naval engagement after losing a cruiser and from three to five destroyers.

WAR IN BRIEF

British troops swarm into plain before Catania; town under artillery fire; Allies seize eight more towns and two airfields; thousands of prisoners taken; Allied warplanes drop hundreds of tons of bombs on Sicily and southern Italy.

Red Army intensifies counter-attacks along eastern front, gaining initiative; Germans admit heavy attacks in Belgorod region and north and east of Orel.

American Flying Fortresses spearhead assault on Luftwaffe's installations in northern France; blast Le Bourget and Villa Coublay airbases and Gley fighter base at Amiens; RAF attacks airfields at Abbeville and Tricqueville.

American troops send patrols to within one mile of Munda, described as a "mound" to Japanese after repeated bombings; fall of base expected soon; enemy position made more precarious as result of new U. S. naval success in second Kula Gulf battle.

American airmen make five attacks in seven days on Japanese in Indo-China; sink shipping and wreck military installations; include heavy raid on Canton; Chinese guerrillas resist Japanese offensive in Taihang mountains.

U. S. Liberator bombers drop 13,000 tons of bombs on Japanese railroad installations at Myingyan, southwest of Mandalay, in Burma.

Experiments have shown that gains made by pigs are most economical at the lighter weights, up to 220 pounds. Many growers will market their pigs at about 200 pounds.

Now Plan To Register Adult Men and Women

To Be Subject of Extensive Hearing When Congress Re-convenes In September

Washington, July 14.—New draft legislation, including a proposal to require adult men and women to register for service in the war effort, will be the subject of extensive hearings by the House Military Committee when Congressional recess ends in September.

By that time, Chairman May (D-Ky.) said Tuesday, the committee hopes to have available more data bearing on the prospect of inducing fathers.

"Whether we shall expedite legislation already passed by the Senate, to boost the Government payments to dependents of drafted men, will depend in a large measure on the outlook two months from now," May said.

May said he shared a general belief among committee members that the induction of fathers would be put off for some time, perhaps indefinitely. In that event, he explained, the need for boosting federal payments already provided would be lessened.

However, he added, should the outlook in September indicate the early induction of fathers, additional provisions for them would have to be made speedily by Congress.

Also on the committee's docket for early consideration is the Austin-Wadsworth National Service Bill under which all men and women would be required to register for assignment to services where there was a need for them—in the Armed Forces, industry or agriculture.

Fresh interest was aroused in the proposal after Rep. Wadsworth (R-NY) co-author of the Selective Service Act, visited the White House recently.

While not able to commit the President to the service bill, Wadsworth said, he left the White House with the feeling that it was being given serious consideration by Mr. Roosevelt.

Rev. Edwin S. Coates Begins Pastorate At Presbyterian Church

Will Also Serve Ballard and Carraway's Chapels

Rev. Edwin S. Coates, who recently accepted a call from the Farmville Presbyterian Church, arrived with his family, Wednesday to begin his duties as pastor of the local church and Ballard's and Carraway's Chapels.

Following his graduation from the Columbia Theological Seminary in 1925, Rev. Coates held a pastorate in Timmonsville, S. C., for four years, following which he was called to McColl, S. C., where he has served for the past 14 years.

Mrs. Coates, formerly Miss Geneva Quinn of Wallace, is an alumna of the East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, which their daughter, Margaret, plans to enter in the fall. Their son, Edwin, Jr., will be a student of the Farmville High School.

They are guests of Mrs. J. M. Hobgood, while getting settled in their new home, the Presbyterian Manse on Pine Street, which has been newly decorated for them.

Rev. Coates will preach his opening sermon in the Farmville Church on Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock hour.

Citizens join in extending a cordial welcome to the new pastor and his family.

DIES IN JAP CAMP

Mrs. George B. Roebuck of Stokes and Farmville, has recently received notice from the U. S. Navy department that her son, George Benjamin Roebuck, age 23, died in a Japanese prison camp in the Philippine Islands. He had been a prisoner of the Japanese since the surrender of Corregidor. Surviving are his mother, one brother, Elmer Louis Roebuck, and one sister, Mrs. Jerome Perkins, all of Stokes.

He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Gurgense, of Farmville, and the nephew of Mrs. R. L. Spivey, also of Farmville.

TOBACCO

Farm leaders hope of a wage wage scale for the harvesting of tobacco for the harvesting of 3,500 acres of tobacco in Bedford County, says County Agent J. M. Ballentine.

Working safely and keeping well help war production.

Heavy Bombers Open Drive On Italian Airfields

Allies Also Spread A Flaming Carpet of Destruction On Airfield In Sicily

Cairo, July 14.—Heavy Liberator bombers from the Middle East Command dropped nearly 425,000 pounds of high explosives and incendiaries on Crotona and Vibo Valentia airbases in Italy causing huge fires and "great damage," a United States communique announced today.

Hits were scored on three Langars in the daylight smash at Vibo Valentia, the communique said, and other direct hits were observed on the administration building and munitions sheds which exploded. The airfield is located near Reggio Calabria on the Italian toe.

At least eight aircraft were seen burning on the ground after the attack.

Many Fires Started. At Crotona, which is one the southern coast near the Gulf of Taranto, numerous oil fires were started and huge columns of black smoke were seen to rise from the air-drome.

Although Crotona is supposed to be the base for enemy fighter aircraft no fighters rose to meet any of the raiding formations and all the U. S. bombers returned to their bases, the communique said.

Allied aircraft shot down 42 Axis planes, sank two more enemy merchantmen north of Sicily and damaged two more destroyers in continued heavy air action, a communique from the Allied Command Post announced Wednesday.

Allied bombers spread a flaming carpet of destruction on two of the enemy's remaining airfields in Sicily, at Milo and Catania, and successfully beat off enemy aircraft which attempted to interfere with the Allied invasion operations, the communique said.

American and RAF fighter planes carried out sweeps and patrols over the invasion area, the beaches and shipping from dawn to dusk the announcement said, at a cost of seven Allied planes.

Many vehicles carrying enemy troops were destroyed by the Allied fighters which attacked Axis troop movements throughout Sicily during the day.

Day-Long Raids. The day-long raids followed attacks by Allied night bombers on enemy airfields and communications in Sicily and southern Italy, the Allied communique said.

Milo airfield, which the Allied planes bombed heavily Tuesday in a short distance southeast of the important Italian naval base at Trapani on the western coast of Sicily.

The Trapani airfield, also bombed heavily, was a possible hindrance to the British Eighth Army's drive northward along the eastern coast for Messina, key island city.

Organize To Collect War Funds In Pitt

Formal organization of the United War Fund of Pitt County was completed in a meeting held in Greenville Tuesday. The Pitt county organization is part of a national movement, organized at the direction of the President of the United States, to coordinate and combine all agencies raising money for relief, recreation and community service into one campaign later this fall.

The meeting was conducted by James T. Litch, Pitt county chairman, and Willard F. Jones of Rocky Mount, district chairman. Officers of the organization are James Monk, vice-chairman; O. C. Stroud, secretary and E. Graham Flanagan, treasurer.

Members of the County Committee are Grady Dixon, O. C. Stroud, J. R. Turnage, Mac G. Smith, Robert Holland, F. L. Blount, J. B. Bunting, W. F. Stokes, Dr. C. H. Spiggle, G. H. Pittman, J. W. Holmes, Dr. Paul Jones, A. C. Monk, J. I. Morgan, R. A. Fountain, Jr., J. H. Noynt, J. G. Clark, J. S. Ficklen, E. Graham Flanagan, R. M. Garrett, J. B. Kitzell, M. E. Long, M. O. Minges, B. E. Suggs, J. H. Waldrop, W. H. Woodard, Dr. W. I. Woods, J. P. Davenport, J. H. Harvey, Ima Bixette, Hugh Stokes, A. W. Ange, J. Knott Proctor, Floyd Hendricks and D. H. Conlay.

RATION DEADLINES

Coffee: Stamp 2, 1 lb., July 21. Foods: NPG blue stamps, Aug. 7. Meats: PGR red, July 21. Sugar: Stamp 18, 5 lbs., Aug. 15. Shoes: Stamp 18, October 31. Gasoline: No. 5-A coupons, July 21.

12,000 AXIS TROOPS TAKEN BY ALLIED SOLDIERS IN SICILY

Restrictions Are Removed From Potato-Shipping

Plentiful Supplies Result In Permit Plan Being Lifted In N. C. Counties

Washington, July 14.—Fifty-two North Carolina and Virginia counties—the remaining areas operating under the potato-shipping permit plan—were removed today from these shipping restrictions by the War Food Administration.

With plentiful supplies of potatoes coming to market, there is no further need of the shipping permit order which was issued originally to assist the armed forces in meeting their requirements, the WFA announced. The program has been in operation in various southeastern areas and in Maine, all of which have been removed previously with the exception of North Carolina and Virginia.

Although Food Distribution Order 49, which established the shipping permit plan, is no longer operative, it remains in effect to meet any emergency that may arise in the future.

The Tar Heel counties removed from the territorial scope of the order through the action taken today are:

Northampton, Halifax, Martin, Pitt, Greene, Wayne, Johnston, Hertford, Currituck, Robeson, Hertford, Gates, Bertie, Washington, Beaufort, Craven, Lenoir, Duplin, Sampson, Bladen, Columbus, Brunswick, Camden, Currituck, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Tyrrell, Dare, Hyde, Pamlico, Jones, Carteret, Onslow, Pender and New Hanover.

LINTERS

One bale of cotton linters will make 20,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition. Civilian rayons are also made from linters and they serve as the basic part in the production of plastics.

189 District Of Rotary To Meet in Wilson July 28-29

Ray Tiffany to Address Annual Assembly

J. Raymond Tiffany, of New York, first vice-president of Rotary International, will be the principal speaker at the annual assembly of the 189th District of Rotary at Wilson July 28-29, according to an announcement just received by officers of the local Rotary Club from District Governor R. W. Madry.

A prominent New York attorney, Mr. Tiffany has been actively identified with Rotary for many years. He is also a former Chairman of Rotary's Magazine Committee.

He has spoken at Rotary Conferences in North Carolina twice in the last few years, and his addresses were received with great enthusiasm.

Mr. Tiffany will share the program with Edmund H. Harding, of Washington, noted humorist and song leader, at the opening session of the annual assembly, to be attended by incoming club officers and chairmen of major committees, on Wednesday night, July 28. The occasion will be a fellowship banquet at the Cherry Hotel.

Mr. Tiffany will be accompanied by Mrs. Tiffany, and after attending the Assembly they will go to Camp Davis to visit their son who is in training there.

"Rotarians in our District should feel extremely fortunate in securing Mr. Tiffany for our Assembly," District Governor Madry said. "He is always enthusiastically received. His address at the recent International Assembly in St. Louis was regarded by most Rotarians attending as the best presentation of Rotary during the four days of the Assembly."

The program for the two-day Assembly, opening with the fellowship dinner July 28 and concluding at 5 o'clock the next afternoon, are rapidly shaping up, the District Governor said.

"All phases of Rotary's program for the new year, which begins July 1, will be covered by competent discussion leaders who have done outstanding jobs in Rotary themselves," he added.

British Eighth Army Crashes Through To Plains of Catania, Second Largest City In Sicily; Americans Take 8,000 Captives, Including Many Germans, In Tough Battle

Allied Headquarters, North Africa, July 14.—The British Eighth Army today swept onto the open plain before the big Sicilian port of Catania, already a base from Allied air and naval bombardment, and Allied headquarters announced 12,000 prisoners have been captured so far in the invasion.

Sicily's second city thus appeared for the next likely prize in the rapid development of the invasion bridgehead which now was an unbroken arc six to 30 miles deep across the southeastern end of the island.

Americans Capture 8,000. Eight thousand captives, including many Germans from the crack Hermann Goering Division, fell to the U. S. Eleventh Army during fierce fighting in the southwest sector here American troops are now in firm control of a 60-mile line from eight to 20 miles deep.

The rest were captured by British and Canadian troops an announcement said and it was disclosed here for the first time—on the occasion of the first untrammelled celebration of Bastille Day since the fall of France—that French forces also are taking part in the Sicily campaign.

The Allies' bridgehead now extended more than 175 miles from north of Augusta, which an Allied communique announced fell this morning, around Cape Passero to within a few miles of the big enemy south coast base at Agrigento. Two more airfields, Comiso and Ponte Olivo, were added to the lengthening list of conquests.

Dispatches to headquarters said land fighting had not yet reached Catania. But official reports that the city was under heavy air and naval bombardment "immediately ahead" of the Eighth Army indicated that Gen. Sir B. L. Montgomery's men were moving rapidly northward from captured Augusta, 25 road miles below Catania.

(Madrid dispatches, quoting reports from France, said that Montgomery's spearhead had reached the outskirts of Catania, and had brought the city under artillery fire.

(Axis communique are recorded in New York and London said fierce fighting was raging on the Catania plain as well as in the mountains to the southwest where the enemy admitted the Allies had succeeded in extending their coastal gains. The German DNB agency asserted that at least a full regiment of British parachute troops landed on the Catania plain Tuesday night but claimed they were all killed or captured.)

Becks Undamaged. The Eighth Army captured Augusta this morning, an Allied communique said, meeting only isolated resistance and finding installations in the fine naval harbor undamaged.

Tribute for "materially assisting" the capture of Augusta was paid to Allied naval squadrons, cruisers and destroyers, which shelled the port heavily Monday and again Tuesday. Front dispatches said a Greek destroyer and a British destroyer steamed in later to accept the city's surrender and the Eighth Army arrived shortly afterward.

En route to Augusta the Eighth Army swept through the little town of Priolo, five miles inland to the south, and all along the invasion front new conquests were reported.

The once busy Comiso airfield, now a mass of pitted landing strips, and debris from Allied bombings, and the railway junction of Ragusa, seven miles to the east, fell to American and Canadian troops in the first joint operation since they combined their forces south of Ragusa.

Medica, five miles southeast of Ragusa, also was captured by the Canadians, who were disclosed to have joined their right flank with the British, thus forming a solid Allied line along the entire invasion front.

It was announced officially that French forces also were participating in the Sicilian operations but their part in the invasion was not disclosed.

Brilliantly supported by U. S. warships which shelled enemy objectives beyond their lines and on their flanks, the Americans scored new gains in the mountains although still accumulating the critical resistance of the entire front.

PORK

Pork quotas for local slaughter in July are 55 percent of the amount they slaughtered in the corresponding month of 1941.