REVENTIETH YEAR

MONROE, N. C., UNION COUNTY, MONDAY, JULY 12, 1943

SEMI-WEEKLY, \$2.00 A YEAR

House Rejects Corn Ceiling

Committee Refuses To Act On Price Hike Of Commodity

MEMBERS FAIL TO AGREE

A Senate-approved plan to entice stored corn into the market by raising the ceiling from \$1.07 to \$1.40 a bushel, Chicago basis, was pigeon-holed Friday by the House agriculture committee before Congress adjourned for a recess until September 14.

Committeemen thereby left up to the administration the task of remedying the current shortage of purchasa-ble corn. They tabled the bill, 9 to 6, after discussing the subject in executive session with Marvin Jones, the new War Food administrator. Committeemen who fought the bill

had predicted that if it were passed President Roosevelt would veto it, presumably on the ground that it ran counter to his "hold-the-line" order. At first there was talk of drafting some alternative legislation, but later

least for the time being.

Representative Hope, Republican of Kansas, quoted Administrator Jones as saying he did not see how the ceiling could be broken unless some steps were taken to reimburse farmers who sold corn since April 14, the date the \$1.07 ceiling was set. Hope recalled that former Food Administrator Chester C. Davis had stated, in setting the ceiling, that there would be no further increase in the maximum corn price in the present crop year.

Legislators disagreed as to whether it would be feasible to pave the way for an increase in the ceiling by reimbursing farmers the difference tween prices obtained since April 14 and any new ceiling.

of the ceiling by Congress "would play into the hands of speculators" now holding corn sold by farmers since April 14.

On the other hand, Representative Hope, ranking minority member of the since April 14, I think Congress would back up the administration.

corn now in storage. They say hold-ers are able to realize as high as \$1.37 tailed, the needs of the armed forces and hence are unlikely to place it on; the \$1.07 ceiling.

only la way to get the corn moving is to raise the price, adding, "The law of supply and demand must be allowed to operate in this case."

56th PIONEER INFANTRY TO MEET IN SMITHFIELD

Twelfth Annual Reunion To Be Held August 7-8

Veterans of World War I from several Atlantic Seaboard states, members of the 56th Pioneer Infantry who fought in the Argonne and later served with the Army of Occupation in Ger-many, will gather in Smithfield on week-end of August 7-8 for their 12th reunion. This will mark the third reunion

of the regiment in Smithfield. The ex soldiers having met there in 1939 and again last year when by unani-mous vote they accepted an invitation to return to Smithfield for their 1943 convention. Other reunions have been held in Tyrone, Pa., and in Monroe? The 56th Pioneer Infantry was com-

posed of 3,600 officers and men, approximately 1,900 of which are registered members of the reunion asso-ciation. Most of the members live in the Carolinas, Pennsylvania and

William H. Wilson of Sanford, Maine, is president of the association and Jonas R. Smith of Philadelphia, is acting secretary. W. M. Gaskin of Smithfield, who presided at last year's reunion, is in charge of arrangements for this year's meeting.

The 1943 reunion program will include an address by Albert Coates, a native of Smithfield, who has received national recognition as creator and director of the Institute of Government at the University of North Car-

The 56th Pioneer Infantry trained at Camp Wadsworth, S. C., and went overseas during the summer of 1918. Upon its arrival in France, the regiment moved immediately into the thick of the fighting in the Argonne the summer of 1919 when it returned

to the United States.

Members of the 56th Pioner Infantry to who expect to attend the 1943 reunion may make reservations by writing W. M. Gaskin, Smithfield,

HELICOPTER TO GO INTO QUANTITY PRODUCTION



This Sikorsky type of helicopter, which will be built in quantity for the Army Air Forces by Nash-Kelvinator Corporation, peacetime manufacturer of automobiles and refrigerators, can alight on land, water, snow, thin ice, a rooftop or a parking lot. The craft can hover motionless in mid-air; descend and ascend vertically without forward motion and fly backward, sideways or forward with equal facility.

some alternative legislation, but later in the day the idea was dropped, at least for the time being. On East Coast Brown's Order Lifting Ban Is Slap

Recent Low Level

Eastern petroleum stocks, slowly in-Representative Cooley, Democrat of the highest point in four months, the North Carolina, contended that lifting Petroleum Administration for War er, he said, Secretary of the Interior reported Friday.

Stocks rose from 29.5 per cent of normal to 31.5, the best level sicne March 6, but acting PWA Administrator Ralph K. Davies cautioned: "Even though the volume of oil agriculture committee, said that if now reaching the East coast every the government lifted the ceiling and day is almost at prewar levels, this "gave the farmers some assurance of does not permit the relaxing of restric-reimbursement on corn they have sold tions upon consumption for the rea-

son that this oil must supply military as well as civilian requirements. Corn State congressmen estimate "However, the public will find con-there are about 800,000,000 bushels of siderable satisfaction in knowing that, bushel for it by feeding it to hogs, are being met in full and on time." Eastern supplies are still 8.5 per market without an increase in cent below what the oil industry views \$1.07 ceiling.

as "a safe working level," Davies said. Chairman Smith, Democrat of South Railroad tank car loadings for shipCarolina, of the Senate agricultural committee, author of the higher cellrels daily for the week ended July 3 work.

Railroad tank car loadings for shipsional support for the administration's farm labor, and competition of some other crops.

vious week, but Davies commented "We are going to bring in more oil, ended June 26, the total overland movements was 1,366,939 barrels per day compared to 998,960 barrels daily in the same period last year. That lectivist tendencies. is an increase of 36 per cent, but we are not stopping there. With each to have confused local ration boards. succeeding month, the figure will be considerably higher.

1,199 NAZI PLANES HIT

Report Of First Year's Operation

Shows Huge Nazi Losses.

Losses were 276 American heavy bombers. However, in addition to the boards enemy aircraft confirmed as destroyed gunners of the Eighth air force probaply destroyed 525 more, and damaged

The losses of American planes averaged only 3.91 per cent in 7,067 sorties against Germany and German-occupled Europe, a sortie being a single flight by one plane.

American bombing operations in the European theater began July 4th last year when American crews manned six A-20 Bostons (light bombers of the Royal Air force) and accompanied six RAF-manned planes on a daylight attack against Nazi objectives in the

Netherlands. Twelve months later, on Independence day this year, the operations had grown until formations of several hundred heavy bombers attacked Le Mans, Nantes and La Pallice, dropping 544 tons of bombs. In the operation they shot down 46 German planes scored 35 probables, and damaged seven, while losing eight.

The first heavy bombardment missector. Following the armistice, the sion by the Eighth air force as such unit was stationed in Germany until occurred last August 17, when fighterescorted hombers dropped 18½ tons of bombs on Roffen. The early mis-sions of the Eighth air force were con-fined to occupied France, and nine of them, all with fighter escort, were flown without the loss of a single

The organization's first mission Onion county, in the summer of the organizations are successful to the Seth Pioneer Infantry. A Wilhelmshaven, which were blasted number of them will attend the rewith 186½ tons of bombs. This miswith 186½ tons of bombs. This mis-

RATION SQUABBLE ON OVER VACATION GAS

At Ickes

Rationing officials are hot under the Supply Slowly Rising From collar, D. C. Speaker said today, at States during the 12-month period Prentis M. Brown's easing up of the ending July 31 is expected to be northeast pleasure driving ban to permit vacation motor trips.

HIGHEST IN 4 MONTHS the advice of his rationing aides in the Office of Price Administration, said Speaker, mythical District of Cocreasing their rate of recovery from lumbia spokesmen for authentic dangerously low levels, have risen to sources who may not be quoted. Furth-Ickkes, as petroleum administrator, had turned down a request for more gasoline to permit the move. Speaker explained:

Many OPA staff men felt that, even hough only accumulated A-card rations may be used, it would encourage unessential motoring by those who decide to "take vacations at home."

Brown requested Ickes only a day or wo before the vacation plan was an-

location of 15,000 barrels a day for acation use, but Ickes said no. And if in bowing to the congressional group headed by Representative Fred M. Hartley, Republican of New Jersey, who sponsored the plan for one vacation trip a year, Brown

had any thought of gaining congres-

nounced for an additional civilian al-

Hartley was granted the privilege of announcing the vacation plan Tuesmonth by month. In the four weeks day, but Thursday he oroadcast speech entitled "Let's Liquidate OPA." He accused Brown's agency of incom-

petence, madadministration, and col-The vacation plan was reported also

which are uncertain how to judge which drivers are eligible. Hartley's announcement said any

accumulated A rations could be used for one round trip to a resort or sum-BY EIGHTH AIR FORCE mer home. OPA's subsequent statement said this was true only if "adequate alternative means of transportation were not available. Angered, Hartley checked OPA and

soon came back with the report that The Army reported recently this he had been given assurances that summary of the firts year's operations the phrase was a "regular consideraof the Eighth air force over Europe- tion" in ration regulations, that any-68 daylight bombing missions, 102 in- body who had the necessary A coupons dustrial targets, naval bases and war could get a vacation certificate, and plants destroyed or damaged by a that "all hell is going to break loose total of 11,423 tons of bombs, and if these assurances proved wrong.

1,199 enemy planes shot down.

Although this seemed to satisfy Hartley, it reported has left local in a quandary, uncertain whether to apply rigidly the "adequate alternative transportation" yardstick or be generous. An OPA spokesman said it was being "left up to the

boards' experience" to decide. No instructions have gone from Washington to local boards, but OPA'S legal staff has sent a memorandum "boards must decide each case on its own facts, using their judgment to obtain a reasonable answer" as to what constitutes adequate alternative

transportation. Factors to be considered include the availability of and accommodations of train or bus to within reasonable distance of the destination," the age and physical condition of the vacationists, and the amount and nature of baggage.

Eleven and one-quarter billion yards was that his flying visit was connect-of cotton were produced in 1942, which ed with coming moves against the miles. If you remember the battle of

Cotton linters products are used for mattresses, .upholstery, absorbent cotton and gauze, wicks, twine and carpets, paper, cellophane, lacquers and enamels, plastics for automobile and electrical parts, fountain pens, toilet ware, jewelry, safety glass, motion picture films and phonograph records.

docks and naval base installations at docks and naval base installations at Wilhelmshaven, which were blasted with 1364 tons of bombs. This mission cost the Eighth air force three planes, but 26 enemy planes were shot down, five were scored as probables and 10 damaged.

German fighter opposition has increased markedly as operations of the Eighth air force have increased, the department related, but Major General in C. Eaker, commanding general of the force, reported that the morals of the force, reported that the morals of the force, reported that the morals of the bomber crews has a feeling that they are overmatched," Eaker wrots. "The bomber crews have a land 121 damaged.

Complete confidence in their ability to take a heavy toll of German fighters."

A monthly box score isnoe August ander D. Surless, Harvey H. Bundy, a special assistant; Lieut Colonel Wm. H. S. Wright; Lieutenant Gordon Grand, of Millbrook, N. Y., Stimson's destruction of enemy interceptors—

The costilest month to the American bombers while dropping that they are overmatched," Eaker wrots. "The bomber crews have a land 121 damaged.

WPB aide says papers face a sharp cut in newsprint supply. complete confidence in their ability to

Cotton Yield **Drop Expected**

Harvested Acreage May Be Smallest Since Year 1895

REPORT SHOWS DECLINE

The Agriculture department reported Friday that this year's harvested acreage of cotton may be the smallest since 1895, although the War Food administration had asked for a fairly substantial increase over last year. In its first report of the season on cotton, the department estimated the acreage in cultivation on July 1 at 21,995,000 acres, or 5.6 percent les sthan the 1932-41 average

Assuming abandonment of coston land equivalent to the 10-year period would be 21,576,000 acres, or the smallest in 48 years. The department made no forecast at this time as to the possible produc-tion. However, should the per acre yield equal the 10-year average, the

crop would total about 9,500,000 bales compared with last year's about-average crop of 12,824,000 bales. On the other hand, should the yield equal last year's unusually good one, production would total about 12,100,

000 bales. Cotton consumed by the United about 11,250,000 bales. This year's crop will be supplemented by a reserve of about 10,900,000 bales from Brown made the decision against previous crops. However, much of this old cotton is of low grade and short staple length which is unsuited for many manufacturing purposes.

The War Food administration last winter made grower planting allotments which would have permitted as much as 30,000,000 acres to be planted It sought extra production of long staple types needed in greater supply for the war effort. It also sought cottonseed for vegetable oil. Livestock eed and other purposes.

The department's report said unfavorable weather in some sections of the cotton acreage to follow government recommendations. Rather sharp decreases were reported for Texas. Oklahoma, Georgia, Alabama and Arkansas. Floods in May and early June destroyed some acreages and prevented plantings of others. Deficient painful caused a sharp reduction in the acreage in New Mexico. Only in Mississippi and North Carolina were this year's averages larger

than last year. Other factors in the short acreage situation were said by farm officials

MEETING AUGUST 8-15

Rev. Harold Robinson Will Be The Visiting Revivalist.

nounced today, that Rev. Harold his brother follows: Robinson, one of the best known Methodist revivalist ministers, and a Hello Slim: man who needs no introduction to the How are you these nice hot days? people of this section, will do the Fine I hope, and I sure hope the army preaching at the camp meeting this isn't too hard on you. As for myself year, beginning August 8th and con- I am still doing fine. inuing through August 15th. Rev. E.

been transferred to Florida Prof. J. A. Lesley of Bluefield, W. one week singing school at the camp been years since I left home. ground beginning Monday night, Au- should think you are lucky to be in gust 2, and will be in charge of the a non-combat unit. music during the meeting. "With this We can at last gust 2, and will be in charge of the a non-combat unit.

music during the meeting. "With this We can at last tell part of what throughout the big wheat-producing good man on the camp ground for a has gone on here. So I will try to areas of the State. In many sections, no preachers. He is a great man and a great music teacher. We are all set for a great time at the old camp there. We traveled about one hundred ground this time," says Rev. Mr. Fitz- miles to Glasgow, Scotland, where we

"All neighboring pastors are invited to come with their people and join hundred miles, and were stationed with us for a great revival," consixty mile from London. We stayed cluded Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald.

STIMSON IN LONDON:

War Secretary In London After Invasion Starts

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson arrived in London from Washington cept wines. We had plenty of fruit less than 48 hours after the invasion of Sicily began, and the assumption we left what we called our camp. of Sicily began, and the assumption

mander in the European theater of on our way to the battle along the operations, Lieut. Gen. Jacob L. Dev-coast, about 200 miles to drive. We

losed airport. greeting Stimson.

States entered the war.

THE LATE WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

A hint that General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's famed British Eighth army which booted Axis out of the Middle East in one of history's most brilliant military campaigns, may be participating in the invasion of Sicily came today in the first press dispatch from the Sicilian landings.

Flying Fortresses scored numerous hits on the key German airdromes at French fields in Caen and Abbeville, the Eighth U. S. air force announced last night after studying photographs. A large concentration of bombs hit ad-ministration buildings and barracks at Caen in a raid yesterday Numerous bombs were dumped on the storage area and a direct hit was made on an adjacent railroad. One or two antiaircraft positions were hit at Caen.

The Flying Fortress Wabbit Tracks shot down nine German fighters out of a swarm of 25 which riddled it full of holes in a running half-hour battle Saturday American raid on France Wabbit Tracks limped back to it base without a single crewman hurt, the Eighth U. S. Air force disclosed last night. The Fortress was piloted by Capt. Walter E. Flagg, of Susanville, Calif. It was forced to fight it out with a Focke-Wulf when its number one engine failed 4 miles above France compelling it to turn away from its targets.

A. Alexander, first lord of the Admiralty, praised Allied seamen last night for "the wonderful feat" in taking "the largest armada of merchant ships and naval craft" across the Mediterranean "This is a great occasion for saying 'thank you'," Alexander said in an appeal for contributions to King George's fund for sailors.

A 400-tank German assault perhaps the greatest of the war, failed to budge the Rer army from its osition on the Orel-Kursk front Sunday and the Russians were able to throw the disorganized mechanized masses from two populated places in that sector to climax the first week of the great summer offensive, Moscow an-nounced today. Nowhere along the 165-mile Kursk Sallent from Orel to Belgorod colud the Germans achieve anything resem a break-through, the mid-night communique said, adding that through the day Red army troops continued to beat off massed enemy tank and infantry assaults.

Union County's

Tells Of Fighting In North Africa Some interesting sidelights on the fighting in North Africa are given by Pvt. Vance Griffin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Griffin of the Faulks community in a recent letter to his Rev. J. B. Fitzgerald, pastor of brother, Mace "Slim" Griffin, who is Pleasant Grove Methodist church and in non-combat service. The letter to North Africa, June 8, 1943

I haven't heard from you since pe-E. Snow, who had formerly been fore you were at home, in fact, I scheduled to conduct the services, has haven't heard from any one in over a year's month except two letters from the wife. But I suppose every one is do-

spent the night. We left there the next day for England. About five there for four months. On Thanksgiving Day we sailed for North Africa. and were on water for twelve more VISIT HINTS NEW FRONT few miles of Aron for ten days and moved near Sidlelle Abbes, and were there for a while. We were allowed to go to town once a week. I only went three times. That was enough for me. There was not very much you could do, and nothing to buy ex-

is about 6,392,045 miles of cloth, or enough cotton to wrap around the equatorial circumference of the earth approximately 257 times.

He will confer with top military two days, and I must say our outfit and civilian authorities in Britain, particularly with the American comparison over we had a few days rest, and were ers. The general and other ranking officers met the secretary at an undising but mountains every mile of the William L. Harriman, expediter of way. I have gone over a few of the lease-lend to Britain, was among those mountains that we gained one by one and what I saw was unbelievable, but

It was the secretary's first visit to a you understand that I can't write theater of operations since the United about that. It didn't seem possible. but we never got to see the place we wanted so much—Tunis. If you re-With him were Brig. General Alexander D. Surless, Harvey H. Bundy, a special assistant; Lieut. Colonel Wm.

H. S. Wright; Lieutenant Gordon, Grand, of Millbrook, N. Y., Stimson's aide de camp, and a clerk, Corporal William Ford.

The knapsack a soldier carries, now known as a combat kit, which contains trench tools and iron rations, is made to fiscult cotton canvas. His canteen is covered by the same material.

WPB aide says papers face a sharp cut in newsprint supply.

We wanted so 'much—Tunis. If you remember about the long range artillery shelling Matur that was our guns. It was torn to bits; that was as far as we got. I have seen German guns and all their equipment, and what I can't say. Planes that we found on the ground are made into rings. Most every soldier has every finger full of rings. So that leaves it up until now. Would like to tell you where I am now but that is impossible. The next thing is where to next? I hope you never leave the U. S. A. I have been hearing that cut in newsprint supply.

WPB aide says papers face a sharp cut in newsprint supply.

Allies Crush Axis Tanks To Seize Three Sicilian Airfields

PACIFIC WAR HOLDS JAPS FROM SIBERIA

Allied Pacific Action Will Prevent Tojo From Aiding Axis Friends.

Whatever the real Nazi objective in he new and stupendous battle in Russia is, the fighting is raging under circumstances tending to forbid any present Japanese intervention to aid er fellow conspirators in Germany nd Italy.

Russia has small need to fear tab-in-the-back attack from Japan at in the south and southwest Pacific and n Aleutian theaters make it all but Siberia.

The Japanese war lords are definitely confronted today with what Prime Minister Churchill so recently called the "supreme challenge" of American sea power. He had a hand n Washington high strategy councils alculated to lure the Japanese main leet to decisive action.

It probably would be going much too offensives are actually coordinated the peninsula with the sea on both flanks. That they were timed in relation to what was being prepared against the and the British Isles is obvious.

Taking the weight of Axis pressure Russia was an officially stated ncluded in that pressure, as Moscow Allied beachheads, neet Axis needs in Europe.

regret has not yet succeeded in inte-grating its own and Russian opera-highly successful in its first large-scale grating its own and Russian operaional planning.

It is permissible, therefore, to asare tying down Japan are a part of what General George C. Marshall, army chief of staff, calls the "pattern of victory" followed by the United Nations. They are an integral part of what Moscow and Berlin now stress as "the battle of Kursk," remote as

are geographically. armies in Russia are waging, still was described as an error resulting leaves doubt as to its strategic or from faulty transcription.) tactical objectives. It implies that it is only reduction of the Kursk salient.

WHEAT CROP TO BE BETTER THAN AVERAGE fact the real thing.

Be Harvested In State. and May cut back wheat "rather extensively" throughout the State, the crop this year should be larger the crop this year should be larger than tion on the Gulf of Gela, the Ameri-Morgan, with the State Department of

Agriculture, reports. North Carolina ordinarily produces approximately five and one-half million bushels of wheat. This year's will run over six million. Last year's harvest was 8.014.000 bushels. There are around 5,500 combines now used in the wheat harvest in this Va., who has taught several singing ing fine. I sure would like to be home schools in this section, will teach a form a while now. It seems like it's that "there is browned war, and Morgan said that "there is browned war."

that "there is insufficient competent You labor to operate these machines." But Morgan pointed out that the throughout the big wheat-producing he explained, threshing machines are good camp meeting, even if he had York August 5th, and were on the in use, and in some of the mountain counties the cradle is still employed in

cutting the grain. Indications point to a yield of 14 bushels to the acre for 1943 as compared with the 10-year average of 11.8 bushels.

"It is virtually impossible at this time to get a clear picture of the wheat situation. The late freezes cut back the stalk, but the stands are apparently good. We have received some reports to the effect that the We have received heads of the wheat are not as good as we had anticipated," said Morgan. Nearly half North Carolina's annual wheat crop comes from the northern and central counties of the piedmont section.

In 1940 Iredell county led in total wheat production with 372,780 bushels, but in 1941 Union county went into first place with 371,320 bushels to Iredell's 365,920.

Arthur Price, a negro soldier stationed at Camp Sutton is dead and two negro men and a woman are being held in the county jail, charged with murder as a result of a fight that took place at the home of Harley White, negro, in the Faulks commun ity Saturday night about 10 o'clock. According to reports, the soldier accompanied Hurley, Johnson and Leary White to the home of Harley White Saturday night, where an argument took place during which the negro soldier was stabbed and shot at several times during the melee, dying

All Forces Advancing Along 100 Miles Of Italian

Coast TAKE MANY PRISONERS

More than 2,000 vessels were involved in landing operations in Sicily, a special correspondent representing the combined British press reported Sunday night.

Storming Allied assault troops, parachutists and glider-borne infantryhis stage. American offensive moves men were firmly established along 100 miles of Sicily's southeastern shores nconceivable that Tokyo could be Sunday night and held off limited fragooned by Berlin into striking at counterattacks, it was announced from

the Allied command post. Invading American forces smashed through enemy tanks and trench positions at Gela, 90 miles west of the island's southeastern corner. and captured two Axis airfields while the British formed a function with the shaping of events in the Pacific Canadian troops across Cape Passero and seized the Pachino Airdroce which

lies at the tip of the cape. This meeting gave the Britishar to say that the Ameerican Pacific Canadian forces a strong position on

Everywhere the advance continued against enemy resistance which as yet Axis for delivery this year from Africa had not become serious wut was expected hourly to grow in power, General Dwight D. Eisenhour's headquarters announced. Meanwhile tremenrime purpose of the Washington ad- dous volumes of supplies and reinrised strategy directives, however, And forcements were being poured into the

must view it, has been the possibility
Onrushing ground forces were said
to have met American air-borne troops as was the attack on Pearl Harbor, to in an undesignated sector, an anneet Axis needs in Europe.

A global war calls for global strategy, even if there is much to indicate that Angio-American leadership to its that Angio-American leadership to its

application.

The Americans collided sharply with ime that the Pacific offensives which an enemy tank column when they landed near Gela but they smashed through easily with the assistance of a barrage of shellfire from Allied warships supporting the action offshore. Capture of three important airfields gave the Allies import points from which to press their aerial superiorita against the Axis at close quarters. (An And that Berlin phrase, contained earlier broadcast from CBS Correthe first time admitted it was an of- giers asserting that the British had fensive, not a defensive fight the Nazi taken the Catania Airport subsequently

Men In Service thrusting deeply westward between Belgorod, that is aimed at. the southeast coast landings consti-tuted an Allied feit to cover a real invasion from another point or were in

> "With our beaches firmly held and More Than Six Million Bushels Will our troops advancing, the Allied navies' most important task during the day

> > cans established their beach objectives in three hours after the predawn landing Saturday, fanning out to the right and left to contact other forces on their flanks. Gela was the first city to be disclosed officialls as a point attacked in the invasion of the island, 300 square miles larger than Vermont.

(A Stockholm dispatch quoted reports from Axis capitals as saying the Allied invaders had landed at seven points in Sicily after establishing superiority which isolated the island from the Italian mainland. These reports said the first landings were made at Canicatti Aragona, Licata and Syracuse and that bitter fighting was raging around Ragusa late Saturday.)

Although few details were contained in Sunday's communiques, they served to round out the picture of the gigantic operation in which synchr nized land, sea and air forces carried out their tasks with the precision of American and British parachute

troops and glider-borne forces preceded the ground units, attacking inland objectives on the island in the biggest operation of this kind since German capture of Crete. They went over in huge transports flown by troop transport command pilots who actually were over the ob-

jectives before Axis antiaircraft crews spotted them and opened fire.
Although heavily loaded with men and equipment, the planes maneuvered through the antiaircraft fire and began unloading. Gliders were cut loose from the transports just over the ob-jectives. All this was three or four hours before the zero hour for the

hours before the zero hour for the sea-borne infantry to come ashore. The British gliders landed on eastern targets while the American paratrooppers balled out over targets to the west in the invasion zone.

These air-borne forces achieved success with "negligible losses," an official announcement said.

An air force communique said the filers covering the Sicilian landings protected shipping and the beastes where the troops came ashore and also hammered enemy transport convoys and railways in the interior. Heavy bombers and powerful new A-36 fighter-bombers were used lavishly in the attacks against those enemy airfields "still in operation," the builstin said. It was stated officially that the entire strategic and tactical air forces were employed in the further agents.