

Messina Falls; End of Sicily Battle Presages Early Continent Invasion

Americans Take Last Stronghold Of Axis on Isle

Conquest Covers 38 Days Since World's Mightiest Armada Launched Invasion

By RICHARD McMURRAY
Associated Press War Editor

All Sicily was captured by the allies Tuesday. Messina (pop. 192,051) fell Tuesday morning to the Americans. The Germans then bombarded from Italy the last Sicilian city to capitulate. The allies replied with 155-millimeter shells. British and American navies clamped a shell-spitting blockade around the Italian toe. Sicily fell 38 days after the mightiest armada ever assembled touched its sunny shores.

Its position in the center of the Mediterranean was like the hub of a great wheel, with invasion spokes pointing in many directions. The atmosphere in London was heavy with speculation that another and more fateful lunge at the axis was coming. This was fortified by the impending conference in Quebec between President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill.

Beyond Sicily, the allied invasion drive could point to:

1. The Rhone valley of France, which the fortresses struck for the first time;
2. Italy itself, two miles away from Messina;
3. The Balkans, possibly through Crete and Salonika, where German disintegration was accelerated 25 years ago;
4. Sardinia and Corsica, large islands just north of Sicily, the latter 50 miles from southern France.

Final liquidation of the Sicilian campaign set in bold relief the ever present possibility that the allies would strike at Hitler from Britain either in northern France, Norway or the lowlands which are closest to Berlin.

The jittery Rome radio reported a large invasion fleet off Catania in eastern Sicily.

A special headquarters communique announcing Messina's capture said simply:

"American troops captured Messina early this morning. Some artillery fire is being directed on the city from the Italian mainland."

The Germans first announced their stunning final defeat on Sicily claiming, however, that all troops were evacuated with all equipment after military installations were destroyed. Their escape was facilitated by an eclipse of the moon Sunday night. They left the hapless Italians behind and it was against these that the final mopping up operations were conducted yesterday.

Gen. Patton's Seventh army sprinted 14 miles across the northeast coast to reach Messina's outskirts at 8 p. m. Monday. The third division driving up the east coast was not far behind. They made contact. The final balance sheet of the campaign has not been computed; at last accounts prisoners totalled 130,000.

Allied naval might had sped the conquest with four amphibious operations behind axis lines. Now the mighty grey warships steamed up to the Italian mainland and emptied salvo after salvo.

The Italian peninsula was blockaded from the gulf of Policastro, 150 miles up the west coast halfway to Naples, around to Capt Rizzuto on the heel of the Italian boot. The narrow Messina straits were swept nightly. Scales on the south side of the gulf of Policastro was set afire with 1000 shells fired in 20 minutes Saturday night. Slightly south, three armed ships were sunk off Cape Bonifati.

The next blow against Europe likely is still a few weeks off, even though the fall of Sicily has breached the continental walls. Shipping must be assembled, troops must be rested and regrouped; a preponderance of materiel must be assembled.

Britain's beaches were being cleared of all non-residents however, and the troops there are fresh and eager.

Army Takes Over Tonight Great Benefit Film Opens

The army—US army—takes over in Salem tonight, not with martial law but with martial music as soldiers and civilians join to make the premiere of "This Is the Army" one of the largest benefits to which the capital city has ever played host.

Doors of the Elsinore theatre open at 7:45 for the first presentation of the film production of Irving Berlin's famous stage show musical.

Impressive prologue will be the music of the cavalry band stationed in this area, directed by Chief Warrant Officer Marion C. Walter, commencing at 8:10 p. m. Salem residents, who have been delighted with the band's varied programs on previous occasions, have pleasing new musical experiences coming tonight when a series of specialties is presented by the army organization, those who have heard rehearsals declare.

Because all profits from the premiere of the picture, to which even actors and actresses donated their services, are to go to Army Emergency Relief, cooperation of the army in perfecting arrangements for the big Irving Berlin musical has been everything that could be asked, Gene Vandenberg, general chairman, said Tuesday.

The cause is worthy, Col. A. E. Stackpole, in command of a unit in active service here, declared. Money derived from this and similar benefits occurring this week all over the country will be administered through army chaplains, services to aid army families in the emergencies that arise through changed economic and geographical situations of wartime, he explained.

Col. Stackpole is chairman of the army personnel on the benefit's Salem committee. Serving with him are Lt. Col. Wayne M. Ebbin, Maj. John E. Gray, Capt. John W. Putt, Col. J. J. Fulmer and Capt. Douglas McKay. Ticket sales, good Tuesday, continue throughout today, as long as seats are left. The box office (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

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Yanks Destroy 170 Jap Planes

1500 Killed In Surprise Attack

Incendiary, Fragmentation Bombs Spread Havoc Among Japanese Reinforcements

By C. YATES McDANIEL

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Wednesday, August 18—(AP)—The allies won their most smashing victory of the Pacific war in the battle for air supremacy over New Guinea Tuesday by surprising more than 225 Japanese planes, many wing tip to wing tip, on the ground in the Wewak area, destroying or damaging 170 and killing 1500 enemy air personnel.

Bean Harvest Relief Comes, More Needed

Thanks to the aid of 150 state employees who were released for the afternoon from their regular tasks through action of the state board of control at the request of the emergency farm labor service, the bean harvest demand for workers was temporarily eased, it was reported Tuesday night.

However, Walter Snyder of the farm labor service said he understood this special dispensation applied only to the one day, and predicted demand for 500 to 700 more pickers today, since picking was scheduled to start at still more bean fields. This demand will continue at least through the week. An effort to obtain a heavy weekend turnout will be made but under present weather conditions "the beans won't wait," it was emphasized.

Prior to the afternoon turnout of state employees, who were routed to fields near Salem in view of their limited available time, 250 new pickers had reported at the employment office Tuesday morning in response to previous appeals.

3000 Adair Soldiers to Parade for Army Film

PORTLAND, Aug. 17—(AP)—A city of army pup tents sprang up at Dunway park today as troops from Camp Adair poured into Portland to participate in the premiere of the picture, "This Is the Army," tomorrow night. Some 3000 soldiers will parade prior to the showing of the film, which is for army emergency relief.

Record-Setting Jersey Herd Brought to Salem

As an event sharply in contrast with the trend toward reduction in the number of active dairy farms, the Salem vicinity has gained in recent days two internationally known dairymen and a herd which boasts a number of world records.

Norman and Merritt Nash, operating under the name Nash Brothers, have brought their herd of 102 dairy cattle, all purebred Jerseys, from the Coos River vicinity near Marshfield to Salem where they are established on the dairy farm southeast of the city formerly known as the Medo-lawn dairy, which they have purchased from the Frank Durbin estate. This was one of Salem's earliest, perhaps the earliest, dairy delivering milk to Salem.

The Nash Brothers herd, while maintained at Coos River, established a world's record for butterfat production on a per-cow basis. The herd includes the internationally known sire "The Challenger," recognized as the second greatest sire in the Jersey breed for butterfat production of offspring. In the herd also is "The Challenger's Trinitite," which set a world's record in the junior two-year-old class for butterfat production; 702 pounds in ten months.

Nash Brothers intend to increase their herd to include 100 milking cows, which will necessitate maintaining about 120 head altogether. They are at present producing milk which is routed through the Dairy Cooperative plant in Salem to Camp Adair.

Need for a more accessible location, in view of the fact that many persons come to see the herd and that their business involves some buying and selling which was carried on inconveniently in Coos county, prompted the move, Merritt Nash said Tuesday. Furthermore they discovered that while the OPA ceiling price in this area is more favorable, feed costs also are lower here, and conditions generally more satisfactory.

US Fliers Bombard Germany

Fortresses Run First Daylight Shuttle-Bombing

LONDON, Wednesday, August 18—(AP)—RAF bombers struck again at Germany last night after American Flying Fortresses, making their first shuttle raid from Britain to north Africa, had bombed the southwestern corner of the Reich by daylight yesterday.

By LEWIS HAWKINS

LONDON, Wednesday, August 18—(AP)—American Flying Fortresses, making the first daylight shuttle-bombing run from England to north Africa, capped a day of one of the greatest aerial onslaughts of the war yesterday by making their deepest invasion of the continent to blast the southeastern corner of Germany.

The big planes, homed an air-plant at Regensburg, northeast of Munich near the Austrian-Czechoslovakian border, and kept on going over the Alps for a flight of around 1500 miles, it was announced.

The Regensburg plant, Germany's largest Messerschmitt factory, was heavily attacked. Other fortresses, tearing through the stiffest fighter opposition the Nazis have mustered for weeks, blasted an important roller bearing works at Schweinfurt near Frankfurt.

Seventy-two closely-packed acres of ball bearing factory buildings—one of Germany's most vital links in the chain of war productions—were attacked in the Schweinfurt raid.

Returning crewmen jubilantly reported that smoke billowed up to 20,000 feet over the Schweinfurt target and drifted for 10 miles. The shuttle heavy bombing raid (Turn to Page 2—Story G)

London Rife With Invasion Speculation

By WILLIAM SMITH WHITE
LONDON, August 17—(AP)—The atmosphere in this oldest and greatest of allied forward bases in the European theater was hectic Tuesday night with speculation that another and more fateful lunge against the axis was coming now that the conquest of Sicily had made the first breach in the enemy's continental wall.

Only the high command had knowledge of where the next blow or blows would be struck, but a feeling persisted that a denouement in the war was approaching.

This was emphasized by Britain's emptying beaches as the government began clearing all non-residents from barricaded coastal areas and the fury of the allied round-the-clock air assaults.

There was a renewal, too, of cries for a second front in both Britain and Soviet Russia.

It was quite possible, however, that future operations, regardless of whether they fall on southern Italy, the Balkans, northern France, the low countries, northern Germany, Denmark or Norway, would be delayed for a few weeks.

This might be done, not only to permit the fullest preparations, but also to give the fullest opportunity for heavy bombings and psychological attacks to crystallize the Italian will for peace without further fighting.

Dimout

Wed. sunset 8:15
Thur. sunrise 6:15
(Weather on Page 7)

Crisis Grips Scandinavia

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 17—(AP)—The worst political crisis of the war gripped Scandinavia Tuesday night as the German-controlled government of Premier Vilhjam Quisling took stern, repressive measures against Norwegians, apparently through fear of allied landings.

Blistering reaction to German moves in neighboring Norway swept through Sweden and reached a head in Stockholm where the windows of the German tourist agency in the Kungsgatan were smashed.

Russians Gain On Bryansk; Kill 10,000

Germans Said to Be In Full Retreat, but Gird Other Defenses

By EDWARD D. BALL
LONDON, Wednesday, Aug. 18—(AP)—The red army smashed through stiffening German resistance Tuesday to make gains up to four miles toward Bryansk and improved their positions in the drives upon Smolensk and Khar'kov in fighting that killed over 10,000 Germans, Moscow announced today.

The Germans were falling back from position after position in the Bryansk area, where the red troops were last reported 15 miles east of the great German defense center. Over 60 towns and villages were taken and the Moscow radio reported that "Fierce fighting does not slacken for a moment."

The Germans, dislodged from their main line, were said to be in full retreat, covering their rear with tank and plane counter-offensives.

Soviet planes found military trains and concentrations of troops in Bryansk and pounded them heavily Monday night and Tuesday morning, a Moscow broadcast recorded by the Soviet Monitor said.

Bryansk was also menaced by Russian troops driving down from within 24 miles northeast of the city where perhaps the greatest threat to the Germans in this area lay.

The soviet midnight communique, recorded by the Soviet Monitor, reported heavy fighting southwest of Dmitrovsk-Orlovsky, 60 miles southeast of Bryansk.

Other soviet troops forged ahead in the Spas Demensk area to capture several hamlets, considerably improving their positions. Over 2,000 Germans were killed here and much enemy equipment destroyed. In this drive the soviets were about 75 miles southeast of Smolensk.

The German-controlled Vichy radio, however, reported Berlin dispatches saying that "very important Russian troop and armor concentrations have been observed north of Vyazma and Smolensk. A new Russian offensive with full strength is expected to be launched shortly in the Bely region (80 miles north of Smolensk)."

New German reinforcement slowed the pace of the soviet army fighting in the streets of the city itself and far to the west as well (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

Aluminum, Magnesium Production Adequate

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17—(AP)—Secretary of Commerce Jones said Tuesday that aluminum and magnesium are now coming out of government-owned plants at a rate which assures an adequate supply.

Two Minesweepers Launched at Seattle

SEATTLE, August 17—(AP)—Two 180-foot minesweepers were launched at the Associated Shipbuilders' yard here Tuesday with what company officials said were the first all-welded steel hulls to be built in the Puget Sound area.

Mother Of Victim On Stand

Witnesses Say Ruth Hildebrand Had Premonition

DALLAS, August 17—(Special)—Ruth Hildebrand, 17-year-old Dallas girl for whose alleged first degree murder Richard Harry Layton is on trial in the Polk county circuit court here, had a premonition of the fate which overtook her on the night of June 7, testimony of two witnesses indicated today.

Following opening statements by District Attorney Bruce Spaulding and Defense Attorney Roy R. Hewitt, routine testimony establishing the fact, place and approximate time of the girl's death was presented until late in the afternoon when tall, slender, subdued Mrs. Martha Hildebrand, mother of the drowned girl, took the stand.

She identified torn and blood-stained undergarments found near the spot where Ruth's body was taken from the river as belonging to her daughter, and revealed that Ruth, in telling her of her plans to go to Camp Adair to visit her soldier-fiance, had said she did not want to go along. Mrs. Hildebrand also testified that Ruth had told her of Layton's bringing her home on several occasions.

Mabel Friesen, a chum at whose home Ruth had stayed the previous night, testified that she had pleaded with her and another friend, Helen, to accompany her to Adair. Miss Friesen related that the three had seen Layton several (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Kiska Silence Is Good News, Knox Declares

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17—(AP)—Speculation that the drive to throw the Japanese out of their last foothold on the American side of the Pacific may be at least in its early stages was set off Tuesday by Secretary of the Navy Knox.

"No news is good news," he said when asked why there has been no navy report since July 30 on operations against Kiska island in the Aleutians.

Knox first turned aside press conference questions on the long silence about Kiska with a suggestion that the weather could have closed in and stopped operations. Reporters reminded him that weather which might stop bombing planes need not affect the surface ships which were pounding the Japanese installations almost daily when the navy suddenly stopped talking.

His reply then was a grin and the comment about news.

The Japanese radio has had little or nothing to say about Kiska in recent days, raising the question whether Tokyo itself is in the dark.

The circumstances point up a possibility that attacking Americans may have knocked out Japanese radio communications on the island. If that were the case, the American navy might withhold announcements in order to keep Tokyo in the dark as to what has happened to their orphans in the blockaded northern island.

Black Rock Fire Under Control

Heavy smoke which caused many Salem residents to fear that a serious forest fire was raging to the west, came from the vicinity of Black Rock, state forestry department officials said Tuesday night. The fire, despite appearances, was small and was under control early that night, these officials added.

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

What mothers are unable to accomplish by appeals, threats or clinging-donging, the navy and the army are able to accomplish in just two or three days—orderliness in young men's rooms. You know how it is: "Robert, please hang up your pajamas;" "Joe, I wish you wouldn't kick your shoes under the bed;" "Jack, won't you straighten up your chiffonier?" But Jack and Robert and Joe ("bless their souls, I wish they were home again") go blissfully along, their reforms of habit being transitory, their relapse into haste and disorder speedy.

In the navy though, or the army, it's different. There is that grim ogre "Inspection." No "please" about it now. Just curt commands to hang up your clothes; arrange your shoes in orderly manner; polish your boots; shine your buttons. The miracle works almost without the commands—the newly enlisted or inducted man just seems to absorb the information immediately that he must keep his sleeping space and his belongings neat and clean.

I saw the proof of this transformation in habit in a tour of the USS "Lausanne" where the naval training unit is now housed out at Willamette university. What a contrast from the usual dishabille of a boys' dormitory or a frat house. Everything in place; clothes hanging in closets; shoes in neat rows; books in line on uncluttered study tables. College was never like this! Mothers should visit their boys' rooms in army or navy just to see the change.

All of this is just introduction to the point: IT SEEMS TO ME that all youth in their teens should somehow get this discipline which they are now getting in army or navy; the feeling of authority, of responsibility; the sense of orderliness. The training would stay with them. This is not necessarily a plea for universal military training, but for some application of the disciplines of military life which are of abiding (Continued on Edit. page)

FDR Arrives In Quebec

War Talks to Begin With Churchill Today; Initial Plans Completed

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL
QUEBEC, Que., Aug. 17—(AP)—President Roosevelt came to historic, cheering Quebec Tuesday night to re-examine allied strategy for global war with Prime Minister Churchill of Britain and transfer it into a master war plan to blast the axis out of existence.

Thus began the final phase of the Quebec war conference, the sixth formal meeting of two statesmen who hold the fate of the allies, and perhaps of a staggering enemy, in their hands.

With them was Prime Minister Mackenzie King of Canada, whose troops have played a vital role in the conquest of Sicily and appear destined to take an even bigger assignment in tremendous smashes at the Nazi fortress on the European continent.

Tonight they were at their ease as guests at a dinner party given by the Earl of Athlone, Canada's (Turn to Page 2—Story E)