

ENNA TAKEN, SICILY CUT IN HALF

Light Bombing On Outskirts of Rome Reported

Enemy Source Says British Attempt Landing at Bari on Italian Coast

London, July 21 (AP)—Several incendiary and light bombs were dropped in the Rome suburbs during a 65-minute air attack today, a Bern dispatch reported, but no planes appeared over the city itself.

A neutral source, cut off at 12:03 p.m. while telephoning Rome from Bern, later re-established contact with the fascist capital and was informed that the alarm ended shortly after 1 p.m., a United Press dispatch said.

There were no allied reports of a raid on Rome or its environs.

A Nazi broadcast reported coastal guns at Bari in southeastern Italy had beaten off the allied attempt to land on the Italian mainland.

The alarm sounded only a little more than 48 hours after more than 500 American bombers subjected the Italian capital to its first air raid in history Monday. An alert also was sounded Monday night but no raid developed.

British Officials Silent

Radio Zees in Germany reported that allied planes attacked Rome last night, but it was possible the station was referring to an air alert sounded Monday night, though no raid developed then.

A Paris broadcast quoted Berlin sources in reporting that British troops had attempted a landing near Bari, nearly 150 miles up the Adriatic coast of Italy. Coastal batteries opposed the landing attempt and the "venture proved a complete failure," the broadcast said.

As usual, British official sources declined to comment on the axis report. If a landing actually was attempted, it probably was more in the nature of a reconnaissance raid by commando troops than an invasion attempt.

The British made several commando raids on the Italian Mediterranean island of Lampedusa before launching the offensive that led to its capitulation last month.

Bern dispatches revealed that Italy was making additional preparations for anticipated invasion of the mainland. The command of the fifth army, whose jurisdiction includes Rome and Florence, announced that church bells would toll the event of an allied landing nearby shores.

Once the invasion alarm has been given, Bern said, all traffic would be banned and inhabitants would have to remain in their homes pending further instructions.

Renewed Italian invasion jitters coincided with the announcement that Premier Mussolini and Adolf Hitler had met in a northern Italian town Monday while American planes were dropping bombs on Rome.

The terseness of the communiqué announcing the meeting and the absence of the "friendliness" and "cordiality" phrases that marked announcements of previous meetings was interpreted here to mean that there had been a showdown between the two axis leaders on the increasing seriousness of the Italian situation.

Lava Rock Hard Problem for Troops Training In Central Oregon; Operations on Schedule

Headquarters, Central Oregon Maneuver Area, Camp Abbot, July 21 (AP)—A field signal corps construction battalion, fresh from a long tour of duty in a desert war games area, is finding its work in the Cascade range as Oregon maneuvers start the opposite of that just completed. Where previously the men have fought shifting sands, now they combat rough and rocky terrain left by volcanoes which once spouted lava about the countryside.

Setting thousands of poles for communication lines throughout the vast maneuver area, the soldiers find lava rock a real problem. The rock soon dulls ordinary tools. Officers say blasting is necessary in 90 per cent of the work. To keep up with the army schedule—and not because signal corps men cannot do the job—demolition

Capital Journal

55th Year, No. 172

Entered as second class matter at Salem, Oregon

Salem, Oregon, Wednesday, July 21, 1943

★ ★

Price Five Cents

Feeder Line Cut by Reds

Japs Unable to Break Through Allied Blockade

Allied Headquarters in the Southwest Pacific, July 21 (AP)—American bombers were credited today with sinking a cruiser and two destroyers of a Japanese convoy attempting vainly to run the allied sea and air blockade around the big Munda airbase in the Solomons.

A force of three light cruisers, six destroyers and two transports, undoubtedly seeking to aid the hard-pressed garrison at Munda, was spotted by Catalina flying boats shortly after midnight yesterday in Vella Gulf just west of Kolombangara island.

The Catalinas followed the convoy until strong formations of Liberators, Mitchells and Avenger bombers arrived with bombs which blasted at least three warships to the bottom and sent the remainder fleeing or limping northward.

A third destroyer was listed as probably sunk, and a transport and yet another destroyer were damaged.

Four bombers were lost—two Mitchells and two Avengers. Munda steadily pressed.

The action, described in today's communiqué from the headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur, served to maintain steady pressure on Munda, big airbase on New Georgia island, which has been hit by land, sea and air attack since the southwest Pacific offensive started on July 1.

This fourth attempt to crack the Munda blockade brought to 17 the number of Japanese warships listed officially as having been sunk in the fast-spreading allied offensive in the Solomons. Five more are considered probably lost.

Allied ground forces moving slowly in on Munda were aided yesterday by Dauntless dive bombers which dropped 18 tons of bombs on Japanese gun positions along a perimeter about two miles east of the airbase. An enemy destroyer at anchor in the harbor of Sarong, Dutch New Guinea, and a medium-sized cargo ship off the coast there were bombed with unobserved results.

U. S. bombers also hit the Kahili airbase on Bougainville island, starting numerous fires and explosions with 42 tons of bombs, and started large fires among supply dumps and installations at Madang, New Guinea.

Innkeeper Executed For Sheltering Flier

New York, July 21 (AP)—The Nazi-controlled Paris radio said today that an innkeeper in the French town of Cormeilles had been put to death by order of a German military court for giving overnight shelter to an American airman.



First Americans to Bomb Rome (AP)—First man to drop bombs on military objectives in the 500-plane American raid on Rome was Lieut. Fred G. Wheeler (right), Redwood City, Calif., who compares notes with his pilot, Col. Sam Gormley, Alhambra, Calif., after their return from their mission. (This Northwest African air force photo was transmitted to Washington by U. S. signal corps radiophoto in Algiers.)

Bombing of Paramushiro Described by Raid Crews

Headquarters, Alaska Defense Command, July 20 (Delayed) (AP)—Alaska pilots training in combat flying over Kiska celebrated today with the first successful raid on Japanese territory since the bombing of Tokyo. Aleutians-based bombers returned without the loss of a plane from a long distance bombing of Paramushiro, Japan's northernmost military base.

Strike Slows Ford Operation

Detroit, July 21 (AP)—A dispute between union shop committee men and a foreman disrupted production of aircraft engines at the Ford Motor company's River Rouge plant for several hours today.

The walkout began at 4:30 a.m. when 2500 men and women affiliated with United Automobile Workers (CIO) quit work in protest against the discharge of four committeemen.

Full production was resumed by the day shift at 7:30 a.m., but 45 minutes later 523 employees in the cylinder assembly division sat down at their benches.

However, these employees resumed work at 9 a.m. and production was back on schedule.

A company spokesman said the dispute began when the committeemen protested the presence of a foreman who had docked 17 women workers for quitting early July 1. The company transferred the foreman to its Highland Park plant, then discharged the four committeemen, the spokesman said.

General Admits Battle Tough

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, July 21 (AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower declared emphatically today he was confident of a complete allied victory in Sicily, but said the task facing British and Canadian forces was one of bitter fighting with a generally slow advance.

"Due to the nature of the terrain and the location of the enemy forces, the task facing the British eighth army, including Canadian forces, is one of bitter fighting with a generally slow advance," the allied commander in chief said.

"The (American) seventh army is making a more or less rapid advance through weaker resistance, thus over-running substantial portions of the island and confining the enemy to progressively smaller areas."

Two Warships Bombard Kiska

Washington, July 21 (AP)—The navy reported today that two small American warships bombarded the Japanese defenses on Kiska island in the Aleutians Tuesday and the enemy failed to return the fire.

In the south Pacific, meanwhile, the Japanese bombed the American base on Funafuti, Ellice islands, in the latest of a series of light attacks against advanced outposts guarding the supply lines to Australia. The enemy caused no damage or injuries at Funafuti so far as reports here showed.

Navy communiqué No. 446 said:

"South Pacific (all dates are east longitude)

"1. On July 20, during the early morning, three Japanese bombers dropped several bombs on Funafuti, Ellice islands. No damage was reported and no personal injuries were sustained.

"North Pacific:

"2. On July 20th, two U. S. light surface units bombarded the Japanese main camp in the Gertrude cove area on Kiska. The enemy did not return the fire."

The navy had not reported any raid by the enemy on Funafuti since April 26, at which time American occupation of the advanced position in the south central Pacific was disclosed. The Japanese bases closest to the Ellice islands are in the Gilbert group to the north.

Axis Gets Set for Last Ditch Stand at Mount Etna; Allies Hold All Roads Pound Catania

Capture Accomplished by Canadians and Americans; Axis Armored Divisions Forced to Fall Back; Half of 40,000 Prisoners Nabbed by Yanks

By Virgil Pinkley
Allied Headquarters, North Africa, July 21 (AP)—The axis is bringing in reinforcements for a last ditch stand around volcanic Mount Etna on the northeastern tip of Sicily, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower indicated today as allied armies stormed through the main enemy communications of Enna and slugged furiously at Catania on the east coast.

Americans and Canadians converged in a pincer with the aid of French Moroccan troops to capture Enna and occupy approximately one-half of Sicily's 10,000 square miles, cutting off axis rear guards and forcing the main enemy divisions back toward the northeastern peninsula opposite the toe of Italy's boot.

Eisenhower said "The enemy apparently plans to make a stand along a line at the base of the northeastern peninsula, including Mount Etna." He predicted bitter fighting and slow advances in the final stages of the conquest of Sicily. (Radio Algiers said Catania was being attacked from all sides and might fall at any moment.)

The fall of Enna, a town of 27,000 on a high horseshoe-shaped hill in mid-Sicily, cut off German and Italian rear guard troops and gave the allies control of a network of roads leading to all corners of the island. French Goumiers, native Moroccan troops, participated in the allied advance.

Canadians Close In

The Canadians closed in on Enna from the southeast, breaking through stubborn enemy resistance, while the American 7th army reached the road junction from the southwest, after flanking operations that carried some units farther northward toward the coast.

The effect of the capture of Enna was to split Sicily in half, with the allies controlling all territory south of a line running from Catania on the east coast to Enna and thence southwestward to a point beyond Agrigento, where the Americans were still advancing. Enna represented an advance of about 35 air line miles from the nearest south coast port of Gela, but the troops covered many more miles in their offensive over mountain roads.

Of greatest importance, however, was the seizure of the road network centering at Enna. The axis, with mid-island defenses crumbling, was being driven steadily back toward northeast Sicily and its main communication lines are vanishing except on the north coast.

The rearguard action fought by the enemy in the Enna sector and the fierce battle at Catania were regarded as designed to gain time while the main axis forces fell back toward Messina, only a few miles from the toe of the Italian boot.

Two axis armored divisions were among the enemy forces falling back from the Enna area. Eighth has stubborn foe.

At Catania, however, enemy resistance continued strong against the 8th army of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery. Field dispatches said that the battlefields south of Catania were strewn with German dead, and wrecked tanks of the Hermann Goering division, while allied warships and airplanes hammered at the coastal road leading northward to Messina.

Prisoners taken in Sicily were estimated to total around 40,000, more than half of them taken by the Americans. As usual, Italian prisoners complained that the Germans took their transport and fled, leaving the Italians to walk. They also complained.

(Concluded on page 10, column 7)

Free Germany Group Formed

Moscow, July 21 (AP)—Formation of a committee composed of German prisoners of war and refugees to work for a "free Germany" was announced in a manifesto published here today.

The manifesto was signed by 33 persons, including five described as former members of the reichstag, and was addressed to the German army and the German people.

President of the group is the German poet, Erich Weinert. Other officers include Major Karl Heitz, first vice-president, and Lieut. Heinrich Count von Einzeldt, second vice-president. Former members of the reichstag said to have attended the session in Moscow a week ago are Martha Arendsee, Edw. Hoernle, Walter Uubricht, Wilhelm Florin and William Pieck. The latter is the former communist leader in Berlin.

U.S. Force Bomb Mytinge Bridge

New Delhi, July 21 (AP)—Heavy and medium bombers of the U. S. 10th air force yesterday heavily attacked the Mytinge railway bridge on the important Japanese-held Mandalay-Rangoon rail line in south central Burma, a U. S. headquarters communiqué said today.

Almost 30 tons of bombs were dropped on the bridge during the concentrated attack. One formation reported that bombs were seen to straddle the 150-foot span for its entire length, but resulting smoke made accurate assessment of damage impossible. Other formations reported hits on the north approach and in the center, and additional possible hits.

The Mu river railroad bridge was attacked by B-25's, with both direct and near hits reported. The attacks were made without loss, the announcement said.

Raid-Free Night Enjoyed by Britain

London, July 21 (AP)—Britain enjoyed another raid-free night last night—the fifth successive night to pass without the sounding of an alert anywhere in the United Kingdom.

Disorderly Youngsters May Be Denied Gasoline Rations

"Wolves of the Home Front" who howled hilariously and drove automobiles accordingly about the streets Friday night, threatening a mass battle at a skating rink and later, when one of the leaders landed in the county jail, may find their fangs drawn and their lusty howls reduced to a whisper when they seek more gasoline.

License numbers were taken of 25 vehicles, most of which bore stripes of white tape, and today, under orders of Chief of Police Frank Minto, officers of the department checked with the secretary of state's office and obtained names of registered owners.

These names, together with the license plate numbers are being turned over to the Salem ration board and the OPA for future action.

Drivers of many of the cars, police state, herded their jalopies around the streets of the city, disregarded safety rules

Don't Miss Salem's
United Nations
Festival
Sunday, July 25, 5 p.m.
on the
STATE CAPITOL
LAWN
EVERYBODY WELCOME
(Bring your own chair
or pillow!)