

## REPORTS NAPLES IS 'CITY OF THE DEAD'

ANKARA, Turkey, July 1 (U. P.).—A traveller arriving from Italy today claimed that 300,000 fresh German troops had moved into the Fascist boot since the fall of Tunisia and said that the great port city of Naples had suffered tremendous damage from air bombardment.

He described Naples as a "city of the dead" and said that parts of it were so flattened that it would be a waste of time to drop any more bombs.

The royal palace has been destroyed, he reported.

HEADQUARTERS, 8TH AIR FORCE, ENGLAND, July 1.—The 8th air force has emerged from the token and experimental stage. Today for the first time it has the planes and crews—not on order, but here in fighting trim, in England—to throw its real share of weight into the devastating air war which is being unleashed against the Nazis.

More responsible than any other single person for this vitally important achievement is its commanding general, Ira C. Eaker. When Maj. Gen. Eaker arrived in Britain in February, 1942, the

## U. S. 8th Air Force, Out of Experimental Stage, Ready to Hit Hard at Nazi Europe

By TOM WOLF  
Times Special Writer

United States air force here consisted of himself and six other officers. There were no planes, no crews.

Building the outfit in Britain was no simple matter. The 8th air force had been activated in Savannah, Ga., and was scheduled for an entirely different theater. The planes arrived here slowly. When they did arrive, the Americans at home got cockeyed notions that the token force here was setting the continent afire—a notion which played into the hands of those exerting pressure to divert to other theaters aircraft scheduled for Britain.

It has been only by ceaseless,

tenacious plugging, by small-scale demonstrations of the value of daylight bombing of Europe, that Gen. Eaker—first as boss of the bombers here, then as commander of the whole air force—at last has a real force at his disposal.

"Satisfied? It's impossible to satisfy me until Germany is defeated," Gen. Eaker said. "But I'm cheerful about the rate of building. We now have a bomber force big enough to do a real job. Today we are meeting four times as much fighter opposition as we met last fall. That's how Germany estimates our importance."

Not being satisfied is typical of the soft-spoken general. His quiet,

almost casual, manner masks his driving, keen, ruthless mind. He deals in blacks and whites, never grays. It's either "yes" or "no," never "maybe." It was his forceful "yes" rather than a "maybe" that finally defeated the critics of daylight bombing.

Months of long days of ceaseless work are behind Gen. Eaker's victories. His day starts with breakfast with six staff officers who live with him in a handsome stucco house in a London suburb close to his office.

He is at his office at about 8:30. It is a spacious corner room in one of the sprawling temporary buildings which houses the headquarters

of the 8th air force. One of the light yellow brick walls is entirely covered with a huge map of the European theater of operations. Other walls have pictures of planes and operational charts. On one side of the room there's a long table where the general lunches daily with his staff and guests.

The general's desk is small and piled high with papers. He's short, stocky, with a dimpled chin and dark brows which accentuate his baldness. He talks quietly and easily, rocking gently in a leather swivel chair and drawing on his ever-present pipe. One of the army's most articulate, he can dictate a speech straight off and never look

at it again before delivery.

After work, he likes to exercise before dinner. He plays fair golf and tennis and likes to catch a baseball. Essentially gregarious, with a quiet, dry sense of humor, he is invariably entertaining a host of British friends. He's a top-notch bridge and poker player. When he can, he gets into bed at 10:30 and reads until midnight.

He likes best his twice-weekly inspection trips. Not one for white gloves, heel-clicking or parades, he's fond of the company of his combat crews, of whom he is inordinately proud. "The only publicity I want is for the combat crews," the general says.

## BYRNES TURNS DOWN REPORTERS' REQUEST

WASHINGTON, July 1 (U. P.).—Reporters and photographers who tried to cover the Wallace-Jones-Byrnes meeting at the White House yesterday couldn't get closer than 100 yards to it.

The White House is patrolled these days by military police and secret service agents, well armed with pistols or rifles and bayonets, and the new east wing of the White House where Byrnes' office is located is forbidden territory even for reporters and photographers who hold White House credentials.

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