

ALLIES ADVANCING IN SICILY AS MORE BLOWS ARE HINTED

American, British and Canadian Shock Troops Swarm

Ashore as Battle Proceeds According

To Eisenhower's Plan.

(Continued from Page One)

landings were preceded by allied air attacks. Allied naval forces escorted the assault forces and bombarded the coast defenses during the assault.

The crossing of the 90-mile "moat" from Tunisia to the rugged island of Sicily, which once had 4,000,000 population, was made in all types of naval craft, including special landing barges brought under their own power from the United States to strike at Italy just three years and one month after Mussolini stabbed France in the back. (There was no mention of French troops taking part in the invasion of Sicily.)

For two weeks huge allied air fleets based in northwest Africa and the Middle East had hammered at Sicily with thousands of tons of bombs, seeking to knock out axis air power, demolish air bases, destroy railroad, facilities and ports and isolate the island from the Italian mainland. For the last seven days the air attack had been almost continuous, day and night.

Then the converted freighters, the big battleships, the fast destroyers, the heavily armed cruisers and the new type landing barges—heavily armed and heavily protected assembled by the hundreds and put out in darkness from the African coast. Crouching in the barges and jammed aboard the transports were American troops that had been practicing invasion assaults for weeks and were toughened and ready for the hardest battle of their lives.

There were Canadian troops, too—the rough-and-ready soldiers who had been waiting (presumably until recently in England) for the chance to avenge their comrades who fell at Dieppe and had long been promised the honor of spearheading the invasion of Hitler's European fortress.

Engineers Led Way

The British forces, which chased Nazi Marshal Erwin Rommel across Africa and into the sea, were the third part of the allied team which struck at Sicily in an operation that found land, sea and air forces cooperating magnificently under Eisenhower's command.

Crouched in the landing barges, with their heads tucked down against their shoulders turtle-fashion, the allied troops led by engineers and sappers were off the Sicilian coast in the dark hour before dawn came over the Mediterranean.

The engineers, given the toughest jobs in such a hazardous operation, carried Bangalore torpedoes—a gadget about 15 to 18 feet long and encased in a two or three-inch pipe—used to shove into barbed wire entanglements in order to blast open a path for the assault troops.

Reserves Brought Up

Allied forces from Malta, only 60 miles away from Sicily, were presumed to have joined the invasion units somewhere off the island coast.

And then, in the last period of darkness, the big guns of the naval armada opened up.

The guns flashing out in the darkness may have been the first sign that the nervous axis defense forces received that the battle to knock Italy out of the war had begun.

Hoosier Heroes

Lt. Robert Allen McConnell Dies in Oklahoma Air Crash

(Continued from Page One)

structor at the Altus field at the time of his death.

Lt. McConnell was a native of Lebanon. He had lived in Indianapolis most of his life and was a member of the Center Lodge, F. A. & M. He was an employee of Stone, Stafford & Stone, insurance firm, before he enlisted.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Anita McConnell of Clayton, and the parents.



Marshal Albert Kesselring . . .
heads Luftwaffe in defense of
Sicily.

NEED SICILY FOR CONTROL OF SEA

U. S. Military Expert Says Fall of Isle Necessary Achievement.

WASHINGTON, July 10 (U. P.)—Allied capture of Sicily would give the United Nations undisputed control of the Mediterranean sea, according to Col. Conrad H. Lanza, U. S. army, retired.

Lanza is considered one of the best informed military writers in this country. He is the owner of a valuable military library and contributes regularly to the military journals.

Writing in the current issue of the Field Artillery Journal on "the routes to Europe: the islands of the western Mediterranean," Lanza emphasizes the importance of Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica, asserting that their "relative ease of capture is probably in the order named."

Need All Three

"The fall of one will facilitate the fall of the others," he said. "The capture of these three islands would seem to be requisite before an invasion of the mainland can be undertaken."

Lanza said that Sicily would serve as an excellent base for operations against either Italy or Greece.

"After its harbors and airfields were reconditioned," he said, "very large forces could be based on this island."

ITALY MAY BE THE NEXT STOP

France Would Follow as Allied Plan Begins to Shape Up.

(Continued from Page One)

news, but their joy was tempered with the knowledge that heavy casualties must be expected during this and coming phases of the Mediterranean war. The populace referred to Prime Minister Winston Churchill's warnings that complex amphibious operations are "necessarily hazardous."

The capture of Sicily and rehabilitation of its ports and airfields is however the most important step in extending bombardment to the Italian mainland, it is believed here, and must be carried out at once, since the allies are determined to knock Italy out of the war and no longer believe that Italians will give in without putting up a fight.

But the invasion there does not exclude the possibility of other amphibious operations being launched elsewhere.

President's attention was concentrated on the war; in legislators' minds home front was uppermost.

Sardinia, Corsica Vital

That it is important for the allies to establish themselves in Sardinia and Corsica as stepping stones toward France and north Italy, seems militarily obvious.

Equally important is the liberation of Greece to give Britain a foothold in southeastern Europe, a liberation which would be facilitated by the 30,000 well organized and equipped Greek guerrillas now awaiting action in that country.

But for the present Sicily is the main issue and the difficulties of conquering this island are sharpened for Britons by memories of the commando raid made last summer upon Dieppe which showed British and American troops that "opposed landing" must always be the costliest form of military operation.

Germany also learned this hard fact of war when it attacked Crete in 1941. Indeed it is now known that the Nazis would have abandoned that attempt if the defenders could have held on a few days longer.

Defenders Have Advantage

For the defense of Crete Britain had to bring supplies and reinforcements 400 miles across the sea, while Sicily adjoins the Italian mainland, which gives its defenders a big advantage.

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, the Turks seem to be getting more and more nervous and more and more determined to preserve their neutrality as war's shadow draws nearer to Turkey, despite the great extent of military equipment handed over to them by the allies in recent months. If the allies ultimately expect to use Turkish bases and airfields, it now seems they will be compelled to couch their demands in firmest terms. But that moment has not quite yet arrived.

Sicily Is Separator

"Sicily separates the Mediterranean into its west and east sections . . . with certain islets which naturally belong to it, Sicily in enemy possession is a major obstacle to control of the Mediterranean—much more so than enemy-held Tunisia."

From airfields in Sicily the seas can be covered in all four directions, and from its ports submarines and light naval forces raid the sea lanes."

Lanza speculated that the enemy might elect to make his main defense in the center of the island, but added that "no matter where invaders may land they will have to fight an uphill battle."

City school 8 and Ben Davis high school.

Surviving besides the father are his stepmother, Mrs. Sadie Fislar; a sister, Mrs. Thelma Hutchinson and a brother, Max Fislar, all of Indianapolis.

Lt. Hal Godfrey Plummer, son of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Thomas H. Plummer, formerly of this city, lost his life while on patrol duty June 7 when his pursuit plane crashed in San Francisco Bay, Calif.

Although search is being continued, neither the plane nor his body have been recovered, according to a telegram received by his parents.

A graduate of Shortridge high school in 1940 and a former student at Butler university, Lt. Plummer left school in April, 1942, to enlist in the army air forces. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Called to active duty last July, he attended flying schools at Kelly field, Tex.; Santa Ana, Tularcito and Lemoore, Cal., and Luke field, Ariz., where he received his wings and commission May 20. He was attached to a fighter squadron of the army air force at Haywood, Cal., at the time of his death.

Survivors, besides his parents who are in Marysville, Cal., are a sister, Patricia Ann Plummer; two grandmothers, Mrs. Minnie E. Plummer and Mrs. Wilson W. Godfrey, and two uncles, Clifford R. Plummer and Culver C. Godfrey, all of Indianapolis.

Prisoners

PVTs. HAROLD H. Gibson, Elkhart, and Larry W. Wozniak, South Bend, are reported to be held as prisoners of war by Japan.

Their names were released with those of 336 additional men held prisoner.

CITES SUPPORT OF CHINA AID

CHUNGKING, July 10 (U. P.)—Madame Chiang Kai-shek, at her first press conference since her return from the United States, declared today that all American people—even the so-called isolationists—support the program of aiding China.

WASHINGTON Calling

A Weekly Sizeup by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

WASHINGTON Calling

A Weekly Sizeup by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

(Continued from Page One)

Gen. Eisenhower in Tunisia, Gen. Giraud says German troops are well trained and disciplined, morale is good. And in 1918, he recalls, Germans fought well up to the last minute of the last day.

In Tunisia they quit only after they had been out-generaled, outmaneuvered, out-fought, and overwhelmed with more and better equipment. Giraud corollary, therefore, is that the allies must not count on an easy victory; must count on winning only by making ourselves superior to the enemy on the fighting front, the home front, production line, communications, and in soldier and civilian morale.

PRESIDENT IS QUIETLY PROBING Jesse Jones-Henry Wallace controversy, but it is not likely he will rebuke either one. If any action is taken, some reorganization, shifting of powers, is more in the Roosevelt tradition.

NOTE: CANCELLATION OF A LUNCHEON probably cost Jones formal support of the Texas congressional delegation in his fight against Wallace.

Delegation usually lunches en masse on Wednesdays and Jones showed up at the Capitol expecting to attend. But the luncheon had been called off, due to rush of last minute business.

ANTI-ADMINISTRATION revolt in congress went far beyond bounds expected by president. He looked for some trouble but none.

President's attention was concentrated on the war; in legislators' minds home front was uppermost.

Urge Byrnes to Build Staff

INSIDE ADVISERS urge a more effective staff organization for Jimmy Byrnes' OWM. At present, they say, it's only "putting out fires." They want it to stop them before they start.

Byrnes is being urged to build a staff like that Lloyd George used during the other war. It was a staff of competent, trusted, personal friends. Each member was assigned to watch one segment of the war effort constantly. Lloyd George met this staff at breakfast each day, got reports from them of what was going on everywhere. Same staff acted as his liaison with the war cabinet, attending all sessions of that body.

NAZI INABILITY to use women workers effectively is given here as one reason for falling off in German output of munitions and planes; they've hammered home idea, for years, that women should concentrate on kitchens and children. Americans and British, in contrast, can credit much of their swelling production to women in war industry.

Nazis are learning, too, that shooting and hanging don't get much work out of laborers from conquered countries.

THE 300,000 SOLDIERS France will put into the field all must have American equipment, Gen. Giraud says. Of these, 125,000 will be Europeans, 50,000 Sengalese, 50,000 Moroccans, and the rest Algerians and Tunisians.

ADD PHONY RUMORS: That one about the army's glider program being abandoned. It's not true. Glider program, instead, is picking up new steam. One of the latest wrinkles developed is a method by which a flying plane can pick up a glider. Previously, both had to start on the ground. Army will unveil to the public some of its glider tricks within 30 days.

Higher Taxes Are in Order

HIGHER TAXES in virtually all categories are in program the treasury expects to have ready for congress in September. Present prospects are that treasury will renew its fight for the spending tax; will recommend increasing corporation taxes from 40 per cent to 50-55 per cent, increasing personal income taxes, particularly in lower and middle brackets; will ask for higher excises on liquor, tobacco, where last increases didn't halt buying.

NEW DEAL fourth term promoters aren't overlooking the south, whence have come rumbles of discontent with the administration. David K. Niles, right-hand lieutenant to Harry L. Hopkins, recently journeyed to Louisiana to examine into threats of revolt made by Governor Sam Jones.

Regular politicians don't expect a southern bolt at the '44 convention but New Dealers are taking no chances.

CONGRESS SURRENDER to Mr. Roosevelt on rollback subsidies is only a recess truce. Anti-subsidy bloc purposely limited life of commodity credit corporation to Dec. 31, will reopen the battle in September unless what members learn at home changes their minds. President will have something to say about this soon.

OPA ANTICIPATES little difficulty with so-called "anti-professor" provision in its appropriation. Original clause approved by house called for dismissal of price-policy officials lacking five years' business experience. Final compromise leaves discretion with administrator, specifies merely that executives must be qualified, in his judgment, by experience in business, industry or commerce.

HEARINGS BEFORE COX committee investigating federal communications commission will be Capitol Hill's biggest—and probably longest sustained—show during the recess.

BIGGEST FLOP—Dies committee "expose" of Jap resettlement policies and subversive influence in Detroit race riots. (Riot investigation has been abandoned completely.)

MCNUTT FOR THE SENATE? Indiana politicos point out that the backing Senator VanNus is getting from McNutt organization is intended to deadlock the state convention, stop Governor Henry F. Schricker, who may seek the senatorial nomination. And then they see McNutt emerge as compromise candidate.

SUNMAN POSTMASTER DIES

BATESVILLE, July 10 (U. P.)—Harry Behlmer, 58, postmaster at Sunman for the past six years, died at hospital yesterday after a three-month illness. Surviving are his wife, a son and a daughter.

ANGUS TO SPEAK

D. J. Angus of the Scientech club will speak at the noon meeting of the club Monday in the Y. W. C. A.

STRAW HAT **SALE** **VALUES UP \$1.45** **TO \$2.85** **HARRY W. KRAUSE CO.** **21 N. PENNA. ST.**

Sears

OPEN TONIGHT

★ UNTIL ★

9 O'CLOCK

* Two Free Parking Lots

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.

ALABAMA AT VERMONT ST.

Urge Requests For Gas Books

MOTORISTS' applications for their A gasoline books should be mailed now, Alex L. Taggart, county rationing administrator, urged today.

"Any motorist who does not have his application in by July 15 may have to wait a long time for his book," Mr. Taggart said.

Application should be made out on OPA form 570, and mailed with the tire inspection record of the applicant and the back cover of the old A book to the local rationing board or plant transportation committee.

BALL TO TRAIN CADETS

MUNCIE, July 10 (U. P.)—Ball State college officials said today that a contract had been signed establishing an army specialized training program at the school. The first battalion of cadets was expected to arrive within the next few weeks.

DIES IN CYCLE CRASH

LOGANSPORT, July 10 (U. P.)—Marjorie Jones, 12, was killed last night and her aunt, Mrs. Mary Pherson, seriously injured when the motorcycle they were riding collided with a semi-trailer truck a mile west of here.

ASK YOURSELF
A FAIR QUESTION