

# 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.

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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—came in from the sea. They were 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.

Crouching 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 flashed 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.

But the enemy had been predicting the assault for days, reporting the massing of allied troops and barges and trying desperately to guess where the first blow would fall.

Although the steady pounding of allied airplanes had knocked out the main Sicilian harbors closest to Italy, there were late reports that Nazi and Fascist reserves had been rushed to the island and there was little question that the struggle for the mountainous stronghold would be a costly and probably a long one. Preliminary reports indicated that the axis resistance was fierce and that the enemy airplanes were attacking desperately, often diving through their own anti-aircraft fire in their efforts to get at allied bombers.

Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, the Nazi air expert who had commanded an air fleet on the Russian front, was reported directing the axis aerial defenses with the aid of Baron Wolfram von Richtofen, who also had been on the eastern front.

Reports from the battle front in the early stages were meager, but allied headquarters said that information would be issued as regularly as possible. The axis reaction by radio also was slow. The Rome radio had been warning the Italian people that a desperate defense must be made of the island, repeatedly emphasizing Mussolini's warning that peace at this time meant dishonor and disaster.

The first great allied assault against the European fortress was started after a coldly scientific day and night aerial bombardment that accelerated steadily for two weeks. The allied attacks met steadily decreasing axis aerial opposition but it was uncertain whether the enemy was holding back his main strength despite the allied efforts to force him to fight in the air.

As the aerial assault reached a crescendo, fighters and fighter-bombers in large numbers joined in the attack to shoot up axis trucks and railroad equipment in order to hinder or halt the movement of enemy forces when the invasion began.

Meantime, Canadian forces had been moved into the Mediterranean theater. They included infantry, men and tank crews, which had been training in England.

United Press Correspondent William Wilson, who accompanied the Canadians to this theater, described the speech of a brigadier as the men prepared for their big test.

"You're the equal of any troops in the world in training and equipment," the brigadier told one tank regiment. "But there's one thing we don't know a damn about—what it's like to be on the actual battlefield. That's what we've got to experience. Use your heads!"

(Radio Algiers, broadcasting to Italy, said that "the battle of Africa is ended and the battle of Europe has begun. The warnings of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill have come true. Italy, dragged by Mussolini into Hitler's war, has become a battlefield. The German rearguard action is being fought on Italy's soil.")



Marshal Albert Kesselring, head of 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."

## Sicily Is Separator

"Sicily separates the Mediterranean into its west and east sections . . . with certain islands 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 up-hill battle."

City school 8 and Ben Davis high school. Surviving besides the father are his stepmother, Mrs. Sadie Fialar; a sister, Mrs. Thelma Hutchinson, and a brother, Max Fialar, 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 July 6 when his pursuit plane crashed in San Francisco Bay, Cal.

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, Tulare and Lemoore, Cal., and Luke field, Ariz., where he received his wings and commission May 26. He was attached to a fighter squadron of the army air force at Hayward, 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.

## ITALY MAY BE THE NEXT STOP

France Would Follow as  
Allied Plan Begins to  
Shape Up.

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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 recalled Prime Minister Winston Churchill's warnings that complex amphibious operations are "necessarily hazardous."

The capture of Sicily and re-habilitation 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.

## 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 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.

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.

## 'INVASION BARGES STREAMED TO SHORE'

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into the shore and then swung away. It was a damn good show. The invasion barges kept coming in a never-ending stream.

"About 6:30 a. m. (several hours after the invasion began) it was easy to appreciate that a tremendous battle was in progress on the island. For 30 minutes, I watched our curtain of fire searing the coast."

Bleile's comrades listened excitedly as he told the first bird's-eye story of the greatest sea invasion of history.

"I suppose this was your most exciting operation," I said to Bleile as he kicked off his fur-lined boots. He grinned and said: "Well, this was only my second operation."

"Were you disappointed with what you saw?" "I never hope to see anything more exciting. I flew over the island and the coastline for 35 minutes. Everywhere over the island I saw smoke curling and mingling with the early morning haze as the battle raged."

## ANGUS TO SPEAK

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

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-generated, out-maneuvered, 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 themselves 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 not the all-out variety he got.

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, attended 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 Senegalese, 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.

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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 politicians point out that the backing Senator VanNuys 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, 59, postmaster at Sunman for the past six years, died at a hospital yesterday after a three-month illness. Surviving are a son and a daughter.

ALEXANDER RITES TODAY BLOOMINGTON, July 10 (U. P.).—Services will be held today for William Alexander, Indiana university librarian for 25 years, in the Memorial Union building on the campus. Mr. Alexander died Friday.

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## 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

Does this  
Long Distance  
Call I am  
about to make  
Aid the War?

—If it is not really urgent, perhaps you can avoid using the over-burdened Long Distance lines.

—Give calls of the government, the armed forces and war industries the right-of-way.

—The one call you do not make may help clear the wires for a vital war message.

—Do your bit by cutting down on Long Distance calls, particularly to far-away points outside the state.

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Come First!



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## Prepare for Winter NOW

★ If you are going to insulate or weatherstrip your property, install storm sash and doors, or convert your heating plant, don't wait until fall when there may be scarcity of materials and labor. Conserving fuel is patriotic. Increase your comfort and reduce heating cost.

New FHA loan terms are temporarily available. Arrange for a loan now. Monthly payments on loans made before September 1 may begin at any time up to November 1. Loans are for periods up to 3 years.

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