

# 14 Nazi Airdromes Blasted by USAAF, RAF



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# Italy Tense as Sicily End Nears

## Air Assaults Hit Defenses For Invasion

### Fields in France, Holland Battered; P47s Get 17 in One Day

The Eighth Air Force hurled Flying Fortresses, Marauder mediums and Thunderbolt fighters across the Channel yesterday in the second straight day of Allied blitz on the Germans' air strength in the occupied countries.

The raids, third day of attack for the Forts this month, marked the last day of Eighth Bomber Command's first year of operations. Today is the anniversary of the Aug. 17, 1942, raid on Rouen, France, by 12 Flying Fortresses.

Six Luftwaffe installations were hammered by heavy, medium and fighter-bombers yesterday, bringing the two-day total to 14 as the RAF sent swarms of Typhoons and Spitfires to join the battle. Allied fighters and bombers were shuttling over the Channel from early morning through evening dusk, carrying through its second day the newest non-stop offensive.

Yesterday's attacks, all concentrated on Nazi fields in France, cost three heavy bombers, one fighter-bomber and eight fighters.

Destroyed in bitter day-long combats above the Channel and over France itself were approximately 40 enemy fighters—more than 20 by the bombers, 17 by USAAF Thunderbolts and two by Spitfires.

### One Bomber, One Fighter Lost

Sunday's box score, which showed USAAF attacks on eight enemy airdromes in France and Holland, cost one heavy bomber and one fighter, with eight enemy fighters shot down by the Forts, three by fighters.

Crewmen came jubilantly home from both days of raiding to report hits on every target.

As the last of the day bombers were sprinting home from alien skies, heavy bombers of the RAF roared out from Britain to the continent.

Fortress targets in the most sustained drive yet aimed specifically at the Luftwaffe's striking power and bases included Poix, Amiens, Vitry en Artois, Lille and Merville, in France, and Vlissingen, Holland, on Sunday, and Le Bourget, Poix and Abbeville yesterday.

The Marauders struck at St. Omer and Abbeville, including the railroad yards there, on Sunday, and at the Bernay airfield yesterday. Typhoon fighter-bombers hit the fields at Tricqueville and Amiens-Glisly yesterday.

Sunday's Fortress raids were the latest daylight blows ever delivered by the Eighth Air Force, with the bombers coming home to make their first operational after-dark landings.

Yesterday's big blow was at Le Bourget, (Continued on page 4)

## German Flak Destroys Attacking Nazi Fighter

By S/Sgt. George A. Good

Ball Turret Gunner of the Fort Mary Ellen

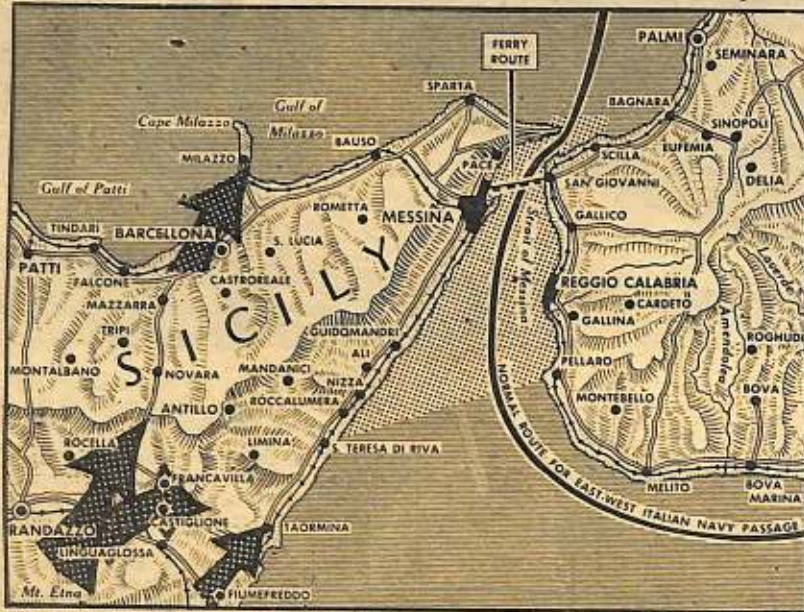
The prettiest thing I ever saw in my life happened the other day while we were coming back from a mission over Germany.

A Nazi fighter plane was blown up by Nazi flak. It was really something to see.

I recognized the fighter at 1,000 yards. He kept coming in for our nose. There I was behind my gun but I couldn't shoot. He was too high. From my ball turret position I would have shot through our own prop. So in those seconds, I sat and watched and prayed a little, I guess, as he kept coming on in. Then, just as he was about to shoot and wing over, a big burst of flak caught him right in the middle and blew him straight to hell.

That's the only piece of good German flak I've ever seen.

## Allied Guns Cast Shadow on Italy



The ferry route between Messina and Italy came within range of U.S. and British artillery yesterday as the Allies pursued fleeing Axis troops to Milazzo and Taormina. Meanwhile, the USAAF and RAF were striking at vital points along the coastal railways on the "toe" of Italy—overland escape route for the Axis forces heading for northern Italy.

## Yanks Who Went 'Over the Hill' To Canada Reinstated by Army

Scores of young Americans who took "French leave" from the U.S. army before Pearl Harbor and joined the Canadian army "to get into the war" have been "restored to duty" in London without court-martials.

They have been coming back from the Canadian ranks for almost a year, ever since the Army Regulation permitting their return was published, and have been given their old serial numbers.

The American army is taking them back—not welcoming them back. The attitude is that nothing condones desertion, the circumstances are just mitigative enough to allow their return, nothing more.

They number more than 75, mostly tough soldiers, who couldn't stand the inactivity of U.S. army camps while the soldiers of the Allies were fighting overseas. They went over the hill to Canada and some of them died at Dieppe.

Latest absentee to come back, and typical of most of them, is 22-year-old "Pvt. X," of Chicago, inducted March 5, 1941, who took off from Camp Forrest, Tenn., July 30, and joined the Canadians the next day.

### Six U.S. Naval Vessels Lost

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (UP)—The loss of six U.S. naval vessels was announced in a Navy Department communique today. The ships lost include the submarine Pickerel and the destroyer Maddox. The destroyer and three other ships were sunk in the Mediterranean during the Sicilian operation, the communique said.

## 3 Red Columns Near Bryansk

### Russian Drive on Kharkov Meets Stiffening Nazi Opposition

MOSCOW, Aug. 16 (UP)—The battle for Bryansk, one of the three biggest German bastions on the Russian front, has begun, according to the latest reports reaching Moscow.

Around Kharkov, where the Russians earlier were reported to be storming the gates of the city, German resistance has stiffened greatly and the Red Army's progress has become steadily more difficult because of increasingly heavy German counter-attacks.

A communique tonight said Russian troops had advanced another five to nine miles in the direction of Bryansk, occupying more than 130 inhabited localities.

In the Spas-Demiansk area, southeast of Smolensk, Soviet forces advanced five to eight miles. In the Kharkov area, fierce Nazi counter-attacks were repulsed, the communique said.

The battle of the Ukraine is developing on an unparalleled scale over hundreds of square miles, with thousands of heavy Russian guns in action day and night in what are probably the most intensive artillery actions since the war began.

Russian troops advancing on the Bryansk front today occupied another 20 inhabited localities and captured three strategically important heights. With three spearheads converging on Bryansk, the Reds have reached a point about 19 miles from the city after capturing Karachev and smashing the Germans back across the Svezhet River.

The three drives are being made from the northeast along the Moscow-Bryansk railroad, from the north along the Vyazma-Bryansk railroad, and from the southeast towards the Bryansk-Kharkov railroad.

## John L. Lewis Accused Of Wasting Gas for Trip

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (UP)—A Washington gasoline rationing board has been asked to investigate complaints that John L. Lewis, U.S. mine leader, was allowed to drive from Washington to Springfield, Ill., "to see his mother." This was admitted by the director of the local branch of the OPA in Springfield.

Lewis has refused to comment on the complaints.

## Contact With Swiss Cut as RAF Leaves Milan Flaming Ruin

### 'End of Campaign in Sight,' HQ Declares As Americans and British Sweep On And Planes Pound Beaches

With the Battle of Sicily virtually over and thousands of persons clamoring for peace in bomb-leveled Milan after a third consecutive night bombing, there was strong evidence throughout yesterday that big events were stirring inside Italy.

Telephone and telegraph communications between Italy and Switzerland, which remained open even through the events following Mussolini's downfall, were cut early in the morning. Rome radio's transmissions departed mysteriously from its normal routine, omitting the 5 PM news bulletins and broadcasting nothing except music and one statement in Maltese from 1 PM to late last night.

Unconfirmed Quebec reports said the U.S. and Great Britain had decided to reject the declaration of Rome as an open city unless Badoglio accepts the Allied demand for unconditional surrender. Whether this news had reached Rome through the Vatican was not known, but significantly informed circles in Berne received reports that Badoglio was swiftly carrying out the conditions necessary to make the capital immune from attack.

## Milan Leveled, Thousands Flee

Milan, biggest industrial city in northern Italy, was reduced almost to a heap of rubble, like Hamburg in Germany, early yesterday morning by the third consecutive night bombing by Britain-based RAF bombers.

The city's population was virtually in a state of revolution, according to reports reaching Switzerland. Thousands of people demonstrated for peace in the streets, and throngs were fleeing to the country in defiance of a government order forbidding evacuation.

The RAF bombers smashed the city in successive waves for an hour and 40 minutes early yesterday in bright moonlight. It was Milan's longest raid and the Italian communique conceded that "very grave damage" was done, in spite of violent anti-aircraft fire. Ten bombers were lost.

More than 100 two-ton blockbusters were dropped on Milan's railways and industries in the latest attack, the Air Ministry announced. Fires started 24 hours earlier were still burning when the first bombers arrived and, in addition, an extraordinarily bright moon made visibility "as good as our crews have ever known it," the report added. Flak, although stronger than before, was "by no means severe."

Photographs taken at midday Sunday showed three oil fires burning in a fac-

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## Messina Within Artillery Range

Smashing through German rear-guards in the most spectacular advances made in Sicily in weeks, American Seventh Army troops swept into the outskirts of Milazzo and Britain's Eighth Army crashed through Taormina and Castiglione yesterday, bringing the Axis escape port of Messina at last within reach of Allied long-range artillery.

Long-range coastal guns on the Italian mainland began a giant duel with the British across the Messina Straits late yesterday in a desperate effort to hold off the advancing Eighth Army now four miles north of Taormina, on the east coast, within 18 miles of Messina.

Increasing Allied pressure, speeding up the Axis retreat on all sectors, destroyed the Germans' last chances of clinging to their dwindling bridgehead and led officers at Allied headquarters to declare, a little solemnly, that "the end of the Sicilian campaign is now at hand."

Allied air forces immediately turned the might of their bombs against southern Italy, ripping a trail of destruction from the "toe" northward 300 miles to Viterbo—a non-stop offensive from dawn to dawn. In spite of ack-ack comparable only to the Ruhr, explosives rained down on the Messina beaches, barges and ferries.

Many Germans Escaping  
Air officers conceded that the Germans were succeeding in evacuating many of their troops—the crossing takes only 15 minutes and the small evacuation craft in use are needle-in-the-haystack targets for Allied bombers, especially at night. Nevertheless, an RAF senior officer said, "We have made quite a hole in Jerry's fleet."

The Americans, who raced forward more than 12 miles into Milazzo, the north coast town 16 miles from Messina, seized a port the Germans had found useful for evacuating heavy equipment and beaches suitable for small craft.

Prisoners were being rounded up too fast to count but the booty in U.S. hands now includes 293 75-mm. guns, some larger rifles and 188 tanks of all types.

British fliers returning to North African bases brought the first word of Taormina's capture after weeks of shelling from the sea. They reported Eighth Army motorized units moving into the

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## Launch New U.S. Cruiser, First of Larger Class

CAMDEN, N.J., Aug. 16 (AP)—The cruiser Alaska, first of a new type, was launched at the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Corp. yesterday.

No official statistics of the size, tonnage or armaments of the vessel were released. The U.S. Navy department said she was larger than the present 10,000-ton cruisers with their eight-inch guns but smaller than a battleship.

## Messina—30 Miles Away



Stopping outside Brolo, a small village on the northern coast of Sicily only 30 miles from Messina, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Seventh Army commander, gets first-hand information on the second American landing behind enemy lines from Lt. Col. Lyle W. Bernard, of Highland Falls, N.Y., who figured prominently in the daring expedition which was executed last week.





