

8th Army Reaches Yank Forces

Forts Resting After One of Busiest Days

Sub Pens, Airfields, Rail Points Hit; Mosquitoes Attack Berlin

The Eighth Air Force was grounded yesterday after striking U-boat pens, airfields and railroad yards in one of the heaviest days of USAAF operations in the ETO.

Fortresses attacking airfields at Cognac and submarine docks at La Pallice in France flew more than 1,600 miles on their 11-hour round trip Thursday and landed at their bases after dark.

On their 59th and 60th missions, the Marauders swept over France, hitting airfields at Beaumont le Roger and Tricqueville and damaging the railroad yards at Serqueux and a power station at Rouen.

In its 58 missions in two months against German fighter forces and installations in western Europe, the Eighth Air Support Command lost only 11 planes. More than 2,700 tons of bombs were dropped in more than 2,500 sorties.

Marauder attacks on landing fields and airbase facilities have forced German fighters to withdraw from many front-line fields, Col. Samuel E. Anderson, a medium bombardment wing commander, said.

In heavy blows against German submarines the Fortresses bombed U-boat pens at La Pallice and the Marauders went to Cognac to smash the Chateaubriand airfield used by German fighters and by bombers on the anti-shiping patrol.

Intense Opposition

Intense fighter opposition, lasting for more than half an hour, was encountered by some of the groups attacking Nantes. Little fighter opposition was met over the other targets Thursday, but crews reported medium to intense flak over La Pallice.

Pilots reported the Luftwaffe appeared to be more anxious to fight than it has been during recent Allied attacks on industry and airfields in occupied territory. In the Beaumont le Roger raid, the Germans sent up their famous yellow-nosed FW190s.

"The Hun seemed fairly anxious to fight if he thought he had a chance," one pilot said. "He seemed to realize, however, that he was getting the worst of it."

Twenty-seven enemy fighters were destroyed by the Forts and two by escorting Thunderbolts. Thirteen heavy bombers and three fighters did not return.

Brig. Gen. Robert F. Travis, of Savannah, Ga., a Fortress wing commander, who led the large force on the Nantes raid, said: "Fighter opposition was vicious and sustained, but I'm sure

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'Paris Damage Heavy'—Berlin

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 17 (UP)—Fires were still raging in many parts of Paris this morning, more than 36 hours after the big U.S. Fortress raid on Wednesday, according to STB, the German-controlled news agency.

The raid was the heaviest the city has yet had, the agency said, reporting that destruction to lines of communication and houses was enormous and telephone communications were completely disorganized.

Casualties were estimated by the agency at 252 dead and 358 seriously injured.

'850 Killed at Nantes'

More than 850 persons were killed in Thursday's USAAF raid on Nantes, German radio said yesterday, quoting reports from Paris.

More than 150 persons are still buried under debris of wrecked buildings, the

Roosevelt Says Dates Picked For Next Landings in Europe

'Specific and Precise Plans' Were Made at Quebec; Work of U.S.-British Airforces Lauded; Reveals We Lost 7,445 in Sicily

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—The invasion of Italy is not the only one the Allies have in mind, President Roosevelt told the reconvened Congress today in a review of the progress of the war.

"At Quebec specific and precise plans were made to bring further blows of equal or greater importance against Germany and Japan, with definite times and places for other landings on the continent of Europe and elsewhere," he said.

"In recent months," said the President, "the main tides of the conflict have been running our way, but we could not and cannot be content merely to drift with this favorable tide."

"Places Picked, Dates Set" "The Congress and the American people can rest assured that the landing on Italy is not the only landing we have in mind. That landing was planned at Casablanca. At Quebec, the leaders and the military staffs of Great Britain and the U.S. made specific and precise plans to bring to bear further blows of equal or greater importance against Germany and Japan—with definite times and places for other landings on the continent of Europe and elsewhere."

President Roosevelt placed the Allied losses in Sicily at 31,158 killed, wounded and missing, of whom the Americans lost 7,445. The Axis losses were 165,000, including 132,000 prisoners.

"The unmistakably sincere welcome given to the Allied troops by the Italian people has proved conclusively that even in a country which had lived for a generation under a complete dictatorship—with all of its propaganda, censorship and suppression

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Reds Announce Navy to Double Strength in '43

6 Nazi Divisions Routed; Russians 55 Miles From Kiev

The capture of Bryansk by the Russians was announced in a special order of the day from Stalin, broadcast from Moscow last night, four days after the Germans declared they had evacuated the city.

Simultaneous blows from the north and south broke enemy resistance and resulted in the capture of the large industrial centers of Bryansk and Berzhitsa, the order said. Six German infantry divisions were routed, it added.

Russian forces last night were only 55 miles from Kiev, the Russian communique said. It reported the capture of Nosovka, 20 miles southwest of Nezhin and only 55 miles northeast of Kiev. The Russian advance towards Kiev now forms a broad wedge nearly 40 miles from north to south, and has cut all direct railway communications between the Germans in the south and those on the central and northern fronts.

Advances on practically all sectors of the southern fronts, as well as the recapture of Novorossisk and of the vital railway junction of Lozovaya, 60 miles from the Dnieper bend, were also reported by the Russian communique. Capture of Lozovaya will further hamper the German withdrawal to the Dnieper bend.

Berlin radio described the latest German setbacks in Russia as a large-scale straightening of the front.

James M. Curley Indicted In War Contract Racket

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—A Federal grand jury yesterday indicted Rep. James M. Curley, Massachusetts Democrat, and five other persons on 21 counts charging mail fraud. Curley is a former Governor of Massachusetts, a former mayor of Boston and a member of the Democratic National Committee.

The charges grew out of an alleged war contract brokerage racket. The indictments charged that the defendants as officers and directors of Engineers Group, Inc., with offices in Washington, Chicago and Boston, fraudulently represented themselves between June, 1941, and January, 1942, as experienced and competent consulting engineers with special facilities and qualifications for getting war contracts.

They further charged that the men had accepted fees as high as \$9,000 and had entered into



Associated Press Photo

'Further Blows are Coming'

Navy to Double Strength in '43

Knox, in ETO, Says Allies Have Sunk One Third of Jap Merchant Fleet

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, in England for a ten-day visit, disclosed yesterday at a press conference that the Navy would double the number of its fighting ships in 1943 and increase its total tonnage by approximately 60 per cent.

The number of combat vessels launched in 1943, he said, would equal the U.S. Navy's total strength in fighting ships at the end of last year. The Secretary revealed at the same time that Allied submarines in the Pacific already have accounted for roughly one-third of the Japanese merchant fleet. At the outbreak of the war, he said, the strength of the Nipponese merchant marine acquired through seizure, building or already on hand was estimated at 7,500,000 tons, of which 2,500,000 tons already have been destroyed.

To Inspect Navy Installations

Knox said he was in the British Isles to inspect Navy installations and to tell the British people of America's admiration for their standing off the Nazis all alone after France fell. "Through the years America always will owe Britain a debt for that," he said.

Knox's first act on arriving in London was to meet Adm. Harold R. Stark, commanding U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, and the officers of his staff. He presented them with his own flag in recognition of their greater than 95 per cent participation in the Navy's war bond allotment campaign.

Later, at his press conference, Knox cautioned newsmen against thinking the U-boat menace ended. German submarines have been given "a good shellacking," he said, but they will be back for another, "and we'll be waiting for them."

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One in 12 Pre-War Dads Needed, Hershey Asserts

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—Mai. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, national director of Selective Service, told the Senate Military Affairs Committee today that 446,000 pre-war fathers—one out of 12 in the nation—must be inducted before the end of the year if the army and navy were to maintain their man-power schedules.

Gen. Hershey opposed a bill by Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, Montana Democrat,

Fifth 12 Miles Inland After Smashing 3 Big Assaults by Germans

Important Airfield Site Seized by Clark's Heroes; More Reinforcements Land As Nazi Shelling Lessens

Germany's Wehrmacht, which had gambled desperately for a Dunkirk at Salerno, last night had a Stalingrad, bought and paid for with American blood.

Definitely smashing the probability of loss of the United States Fifth Army's bridgehead on the west coast of Italy, patrols of the British Eighth Army and Gen. Mark W. Clark's heroic Fifth established contact yesterday in the vicinity of Vallo di Luciana, approximately 16 miles south of American positions, Allied Headquarters announced officially.

Coupled with this news, feverishly awaited in tense Allied capitals for days, came word that the Fifth Army, after smashing back three frantic counter-attacks Thursday, had swung to the offensive, recaptured Albanella, and then reached out and seized Montecorvino, 12 miles northeast of Salerno.

Gaining of Italy's Fleet Big Victory; Five Battleships In

The surrender of the Italian fleet was one of the great turning points of the war at sea, First Lord of the Admiralty A. V. Alexander said Thursday in a radio review of the Mediterranean naval campaign.

Algiers radio reported the number of Italian ships in Allied hands had risen to 108, including at least five battleships, nine cruisers, 27 destroyers and 19 submarines. Complete Allied control of the Mediterranean has been assured by these additions to Allied naval power.

All of the seven battleships of the world's fifth largest fleet have been accounted for. The Italia, the Vittorio Veneto, the Caio Duilio, the Andrea Doria and the Giulio are in Allied possession. The Imperio is unseaworthy and the Germans sank the Roma when it tried to surrender to the British.

Royce Sees 400% Rise In Air Power by Spring

CAIRO, Sept. 17 (UP)—The bomber strength of the U.S. air forces will increase fourfold by the spring of 1944, Maj. Gen. Ralph Royce, new commander-in-chief of the U.S. Air Forces in the Middle East, declared yesterday.

"When we have northern Italy," he said, "there will be a shortening of about 300 miles in the distance of the shuttle-bombing carried out from the Mediterranean and Britain."

"It will be possible for the Allies to bomb any point in Germany or German-occupied territory from Italy or Britain."

Hell for Germans Soon In Italy, Marshall Says

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 17 (UP)—The Germans in Italy are "just delaying things—but we will soon give them hell," Gen. George Marshall, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, predicted here.

Speaking of the Allied bombings of Germany, the general declared: "They are badly disorganizing the population, and they will get worse."

Enemy's Rail Lines Into Italy Cut by Bombs and Guerrillas

The last railway communications from France, through which the Germans have been trying to funnel reinforcements into Italy, have been virtually cut off by RAF bombing and French guerrilla sabotage, it appeared from reports yesterday.

Attacks by RAF bombers on two railroad channels near the French-Italian border Thursday night were highly "effective," the Air Ministry declared yesterday. A heavy force of RAF bombers, penetrating deep into Europe, blasted the railroad yards at Modane, the French frontier town near the opening of the Mt. Cenis tunnel, and Lancasters made a low-level attack on the Anthior Viaduct near St. Raphael, on the French Riviera route.

French guerrilla detachments operating in Savoie also have disrupted the rail

France, Moscow radio said last night, adding: "This has stopped the Germans from sending troops from France to Italy."

German railroad routes into Italy were struck by American Flying Fortresses just before the Allies invaded the European continent, when Africa-based B17s knocked out the vital line from Germany through the Brenner Pass to Northern Italy and left it cluttered with wreckage. Three days later the RAF bombed Munich, another major railroad funnel into Italy.

Two other major lines—through the Gothard and Simplon tunnels—are closed to military traffic because they go through neutral Switzerland. The only unbombed route leading into Italy from the west is a secondary line along the Mediterranean coast, which reports say has been exten-

