

July 11, 1944

== (Compiled by Overseas Branch, Office of War Information) ==

ITALY — The Allied Mediterranean air force Tuesday attacked naval installation at Toulon, achieving good results.

WESTERN EUROPE — More than 1100 fighter-escorted U.S. heavy bombers Tuesday attacked undisclosed targets in the Munich Area of South Germany, encountering heavy flak but no fighter opposition. Dispatches said the bombers flew through exceptionally bad weather.

NORMANDY — Allied troops opened two offensives Tuesday in Normandy, and at the same time recorded local gains along the entire front. An Allied spokesman said U.S. forces, in a new thrust in the center of the line, advanced to within two miles (3 kilos) of St. Lo against heavy resistance. At Caen, British troops opened a new attack east of the city and across the Orne River, pushing into the suburbs of Faubourg de Vaucelles in an advance of about one mile (one and one-half kilos).

Allied Headquarters disclosed that Allied air forces flew approximately 158,000 sorties from British and French bases in the first month after D-day. The Allies lost 1284 planes, and destroyed 1067 in the air.

DE GAULLE — President Roosevelt said at his press conference Tuesday that the United States has decided to accept De Gaulle's French Committee of National Liberation as the Civil Administration of liberated France pending selection of a Government by the French people. He said the new U.S. attitude toward the Committee is a direct result of his recent talks with De Gaulle. He also said there is no change in the U.S. policy of not recognizing the Committee as a Provisional Government of France. The President described the Committee's role in France for the immediate future as that of a "de facto authority". He said the Committee will function only in areas which General Eisenhower designates as non-military. He also said the agreement recently drafted between the British Government and the French Committee will be the basis of a new memorandum to be drawn up by the French Committee and the U.S. Government. The British agreement with the Committee covered administration, currency, reconstruction, and finance.

Roosevelt said the memorandum planned by the United States and the French Committee will apply only to Metropolitan France, and not to the French Empire. He said he saw no reason why the Committee should not be given the authority to issue temporary currency.

De Gaulle arrived in Ottawa from New York City Tuesday for a one-day visit, and was greeted at the airport by Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King and high Canadian officials. He plans to return to Algiers by Bastille Day, July 14.

RUSSIA — Tuesday's Soviet communique reports that annihilation of encircled Germans in Vilna is continuing and "liquidation of enemy group east of Minsk has been completed," after 2,000 more Germans were taken prisoner Monday.

Another German General, commanding the Twenty-seventh Army Corps, has been captured, making a total of 19 generals captured in 19 days.

Soviet troops took more than 390 localities Tuesday in advances northwest of Polotsk, south and southwest of Dvinsk, north and southwest of Vilna, south of Lida, west and southwest of Baranovichi and in the Pinsk direction. Karelian front troops also advanced against Finns north and northwest of captured Pitkyaranta.

(Over)

PACIFIC -- U.S. Pacific fleet announcement Tuesday said mopping up operations continued on Saipan Sunday and that small segments of enemy troops which continued to make futile attacks were killed or driven into temporary refuge.

Light surface units shelled Guam Island in the southern Mariannas Sunday, and shore based fighters attacked Pagan Islands in the Mariannas Friday.

The announcement also said that Paramushiro and Shumushu Islands in the Kuriles were attacked by Ventura search planes before dawn Monday, and that simultaneously U.S. Seventh Army Air Force Liberators bombed Truk.

COLOMBIA -- A dispatch from Bogota, Colombia, says an official Bolivian communique reports that a rebellion in which President Alfonso Lopez was seized and held prisoner at Pasto in southern Colombia, has been quelled, and that the leader of the revolt, Lieutenant Colonel Diogenes Gil, has fled. Late Monday dispatches had reported the seizure of President Lopez, and said that Vice President Dario Echandia had announced he had assumed the Acting Presidency.

ROOSEVELT -- President Roosevelt's decision to become a candidate for a fourth term was disclosed in a letter to Robert E. Hannegan, National Chairman of the Democratic Party.

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