MORNING EDITION WASHINGTON NEWS BULLETIN No. 20 July 15, 1944 8:30 A.M. FINAL = = = (Compiled by Overseas Branch, Office of War Information) NORMANDY -- The American First Army, advancing along the entire western Normandy sector against scattered German resistance, has pushed southward from the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula. American units are closing in on Lessay and have taken two more towns. Other American units made a number of local advances in driving toward the communications center of St. Lo. The Americans in the Carentan sector advanced more than a mile from the southwest of Carentan to the sea against stubborn German resistance but otherwise the eastern error of the Normandy Front was quiet wise the eastern area of the Normandy Front was quiet.

Allied heavy bombers fighter-bombers and fighters destroyed twenty-five German planes in attacks on enemy transportation, supply and communication targets in Normandy. Seven Allied planes were lost in the operations. Royal Air Force bombers Friday night attacked flying bomb installations in France and Mosquitoes attacked military objectives in Hanover. HOLLAND -- British naval light coast forces intercepted a patrol of heavily armed enemy trawlers Friday off Ijmuiden, Holland, and sank one. The Netherlands military administration in England has completed training officials who will regulate the return to the Netherlands of Dutch citizens who were deported during the war.

Details of housing, feeding and transportation of the repatriated persons, when the Netherlands is liberated, will be regulated by the Netherlands Women's Auxiliary Corps.

ITALY -- Allied armies in Italy Saturday continued their steady drive toward the enemy's Goth defense line. American troops have advanced to within 21 kilometers of the Major enemy-held supply port of Leghorn, capturing Chianni and Peccioli, and have driven to within sixteen kilometers of the Arno River. In Central Italy, Allied Eighth Army forces have occupied Gualdo, Tadino and Fossa to Di Vigo, and are closing in on the town of Fabriano. On the Adriatic Coast Allied positions are unchanged.

Allied bombers based in Italy Friday attacked four oil refineries and the railway yard in the Budapest area of Romania; an oil refinery at Brod, Yugoslavia and the Mantua railyard in northern Italy. From approximately 2,200 sorties flown Friday, thirteen Allied planes are missing. PACIFIC -- General MacArthur announced Saturday that American forces are fiercely resisting Japanese attacks near Aitape in British New Guinea where trapped Japanese forces are trying to break through a flanking net. Allied forces captured the Sawar airdrome, three miles west of the Maffin Bay airdrome. Japanese resistance in the Mafern Bay area has collapsed. SICILY -- It was reported Friday that under the joint administration of Allied and local officials "the war is gradually receding from Sicily and prosperity is returning to the Island".

He said Allied forces are being supplied with an increasing quantity of food and building materials from Sicily.

PHILIPPINES -- The Philippine Government announced Friday in Washington the names of six members of the Philippine Rehabilitation Committee which, in conjunction with a similar U.S. Committee will consider rehabilitation of the islands as soon as normal government functions are restored. The chairman is Sergio Osmena, Vice-President of the Philippines. Doc. No. 396