

MORNING EDITION

M T. WASHINGTON NEWS BULLETIN

No. 29

July 19, 1944

8:30 A.M. FINAL

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

NORMANDY -- The British Second Army is striking out to the southeast of Caen against heavy German armored formations, and other British units to the west (around Tilly-sur-Seulles) are driving southeastward Wednesday morning as the American First Army completes mopping-up St. Lo after liberating that vital communications center Tuesday. The Americans also cut the St. Lo-Periers road Tuesday.

Medium and light bombers Tuesday afternoon swung into inland France and attacked communications targets on rivers and rail lines which feed into the German lines in Normandy. Other bomber formations attacked enemy concentrations near the battle lines and then ranged to the east where communications, airfields, supply dumps, and transports were attacked on a perimeter from northeastern France to the Cherbourg Peninsula. German shipping off Helgoland was attacked as well as Ruhr Valley oil installations.

ITALY -- The Allied armies in Italy Wednesday advanced swiftly along the entire battlefront. Polish troops of the Allied Eighth Army, on the Adriatic Coastal sector, have captured the key supply port of Ancona and have also seized the towns of Agugliano and Camerano. The Allied Eighth Army infantry, supported by armored units, continued beyond Ancona in relentless pursuit of the retreating Germans. In Central Italy British troops of the Eighth Army have driven the Germans from the town of Montevarchi, twenty-five kilometers west of captured Arezzo, situated on the main Arezzo-Florence highway. The British also extended their bridgehead across the upper Arno River, running southeastward through Pisa-Florence and Arezzo, to a width of ten kilometers.

On the Italian west coast, American troops of the Allied Fifth Army are now engaged in hard fighting on the slopes of Monte Della Poggia, a dominating hill five kilometers from the center of Leghorn (Livorno) to the east. The capture of Pontedera, on the south bank of the Arno northeast of Leghorn, places the Fifth Army troops across the direct Pisa-Florence road, thereby dividing German forces south of the river.

In a Tuesday attack by Italy-based bombers on the German cities of Friedrichshafen and Memmingen, 66 enemy aircraft were destroyed. 19 Allied planes are missing.

RUSSIA -- Moscow radio said Wednesday that the Government of the White Russian Soviet Republic had been moved back to Minsk from Gomel. Minsk was liberated July 3.

REFUGEES -- A dispatch from Italy Tuesday said 985 European refugees, most of them Jews, are en route from a transient refugee camp in Aversa, Italy, to a new temporary home at Fort Ontario, near Oswego, New York, on orders from President Roosevelt. The refugees include 19 nationalities, the largest group of which is 365 Yugoslavs who had been in enemy concentration camps in Italy.

ALBANIA -- The German-controlled Albanian radio Tuesday reported that Fiqri Dine has replaced Rexhep Mitrovica as new Premier of the puppet Albanian Government. The broadcast said also that Mitrovica had resigned and that new appointments to the Cabinet have been made by Dine.

(Over)



COSTA RICA -- A dispatch from Costa Rica says the Nicaraguan Government has closed the frontier with Costa Rica, prohibiting exports of Nicaraguan products to that country. It says that since Costa Rica buys large quantities of food from Nicaragua, the frontier closing will have considerable effect on its food supplies.

GERMAN MILITARY ADMINISTRATION -- Berlin radio announced Tuesday that the present military administration in Belgium and Northern France has been replaced by a civil administration headed by the new Reich Commissioner of that territory, Gauleiter Joseph Grotte. This action was the result of a decree issued by Hitler on July 13. No reason was given for the change.

EGYPT-FRANCE -- Radio France in Algiers Tuesday quoted a Cairo announcement as saying that the Egyptian Government has broken off diplomatic relations with Vichy and has recognized the French Committee of National Liberation.

ITALY -- Rome dispatch says the Italian cabinet under Premier Ivanoe Bonomi has declared that groups of Italian patriots fighting inside German lines are to be considered part of the regular Italian army.

DOMESTIC -- The American Federation of Labor Tuesday made public a letter to United States Secretary of State Cordell Hull denouncing the action of the Argentine military government for imprisoning Juan Antonio Solari, champion of labor legislation.

The letter said the jailing of Solari, revealed several days ago, was "further evidence of the dangerous character of the regime which is now administering the political affairs in Argentina."

\* \* \*