

NEWSMAP

MONDAY, JULY 19, 1943
 WEEK OF JULY 12 TO JULY 15
 201st Week of the War—82nd Week of U.S. Participation
 Volume II No. 13

THE WAR FRONTS

SICILY:

The first step in the liberation of the European continent began with the successful invasion of the Italian island of Sicily by the greatest display of coordinated air, land and sea power ever known.

For weeks preceding the invasion heavy Allied air attacks deluged the enemy's "softening up" blows at the enemy's shipping facilities, internal communications lines and airfields. Intensive bombing of the island's Allied airfields, harbored coastal defenses, positions and units coordinated an effective pre-invasion effort for the successful amphibious landing of the invasion force.

More than 100,000 men landed on Sicily. American, British, Canadian and some French troops, together with great quantities of armor and equipment. This provided our ground troops immediately overwhelmed their positions along the southern Sicilian shore and drove inland to the north and west.

Hours before the invasion from the ship, American and British heavy troops landed in Sicily by parachute and glider behind the enemy's positions. Glider troops landed at the center sector of the invasion zone while the main troops landed on the west. High winds scattered the forces but despite this and the enemy's air attacks, for these units landed across with only small losses.

As the troops advanced the enemy was unable by surprise to the southeast coastline and in the area developed by the German and Italian troops were established at the

SENIOR COMMANDERS in the INVASION OF SICILY

GEN. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
 Commander in Chief, Allied Forces in North Africa

ADM. SIR ANDREW BROWNE-CUNNINGHAM
 Commander in Chief, Allied Naval Forces in North Africa

GEN. SIR HAROLD E. L. G. ALEXANDER
 Deputy Commander, Allied Forces Commanding the 15th Army Group, Landing Sicily

GEN. SIR BERNARD L. MONTGOMERY
 Commander, British Eighth Army

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR ARTHUR TEDDER
 Commander in Chief, Allied Air Forces in the Mediterranean

ADMIRAL SIR BERTRAM RAMSAY
 Naval Commander, the Eastern Task Force

VICE ADMIRAL HENRY K. HEWITT
 Commander, American Naval Forces in the Mediterranean

LT. GEN. CARL A. SPAATZ
 Commander, Northwest African Air Force

LT. GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR.
 Commander, U.S. Seventh Army

MAJ. GEN. JAMES H. DOOLITTLE
 Commander, Northwest African Tactical Air Force

AIR VICE MARSHAL HUGH B. LLOYD
 Commander, Northwest African Coastal Air Force

Scale of miles: 0 10 20 30

NEW GEORGIA:

The Jap air base at Munda was subjected to heavy air and artillery bombardment on our ground troops, 64 being severe landings on New Georgia Island, advanced to sea points to less than a mile from the Jap airbase.

New reports of the on the island of Kaka Gulf revealed that at least nine enemy carriers and destroyers were in the area.

This was the first report of the Jap fleet in the Pacific since the loss of one light cruiser on the U.S. coast.

The Jap warships apparently were blocked in an attempt to land on New Georgia. One of our two new landings was made north of Bairoko at Kaka, and from there our ground troops pushed north and down the coast.

At New Georgia 11 B-24 Superfortresses, 10 B-25 Mitchells, a carrier and three destroyers. Two other Jap destroyers were probably sunk.

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NEW GUINEA:

Heavy fighting in the drive toward the Jap base at Buna was before the enemy position at Buna where the enemy was getting up and ready to abandon and Australian troops moving in from the Salamaua area.

Our bombers attacked the enemy base at Rabaul and positions at Salamaua, Lae and Milne Bay.

ALEUTIANS:

New flights by our ground troops and aircraft to the island of Kiska were made on July 13. At this time the Jap forces on Kiska were estimated to be about 1,000 men.

Submarine activity in the North Pacific and the Eastern Pacific was added substantially in recent weeks. The Navy Department announced last week that at the same time a joint statement issued by the British and U.S. Governments revealed the fact that the United States Navy has resumed the war against the Nazi U-boats in the Atlantic.

Ten more Japanese vessels, including one large and one medium sized transport and a large cargo vessel were announced sunk by our submarines against the enemy's greatly extended supply lines.

LANDING ON THE UNDERSIDE

Allied pilots on missions over the Sicilian coast in the dawn of July 19 were ordered to fight they will keep them. Scheduled along the shipping beaches of Southern Sicily they were ordered to their greatest invasion armada ever assembled, a mass of more than three thousand units of all types including their military cargo on a 100-mile front. A portion of what they observed at dawn here, based on the report of an American reconnaissance plane who has the P-51 high over the Mediterranean sea.

Sunk and four captured on the island of Kiska were present and without interruption on the enemy's beach positions. Some dashed in close to the beach, and their ships, from seaward did not.

There were all kinds of ships, a few scuttled in the beach, from seaward did not.

Some destroyed several of the cargo vessels.

RUSSIA:

After nine days of what was generally the most spectacular air action since our entry into the war, the Russian offensive on the 100-mile central front appears to be continuing. Berlin played up "bad weather" as the reason for reducing the heavy attacks launched last week over the Karkh-Chel sector.

Soviet reports on the enemy's losses in transportation figures. They included a total of 272 tanks, 1191 planes and tons of thousands of supplies.

The Russian fighting appeared to have taken place near Belgorod, to the south of the Karkh bridge. There the Nazis could still gain but available information did not indicate that the small change in position was maintaining the enemy's membership in men and equipment. During the past few days, Soviet troops succeeded in halting the enemy's advance.

Our most generally noted was that Berlin did not speak of the action as an offensive until after Sicily was invaded, but referred to it only as a counterattack of a Russian thrust. This change of view may have been aimed at detouring German domestic attention from Allied success along the Mediterranean.

Accession Number M1726
Description
 An American map and the titled "Newsmap: Monday, July 19, 1943." The map of Sicily shows highways, roads, railroads, rivers, airfields, and the positions of the American 7th Army, British 8th Army, and Canadian forces. Printed text reveals news on multiple fronts. Included is an inset of the area surrounding Italy and another map that shows American and Japanese activity near the New Georgia Islands. Printed text on the back provides soldiers tips on how to handle gas attacks.

Date(s)
 July 19, 1943

Cartographer Army Orientation Course, Special Service Division Army Service Forces, War Department.

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 Thirty-Fifth Division Association Records

Restrictions Unrestricted

Scale 5 3/4 inches = 50 miles. Others: Various

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