

## Yanks Land Behind Axis, Take 2 Towns

### Soviets Gain, 16 Miles to Go To Kharkov

City's Fall Expected Soon As Columns Advance 20 Miles a Day

MOSCOW, Aug. 9 (UP)—The fall of Kharkov, now within range of Russian guns, is inevitable within the very near future, observers declared here today.

Side by side with the advance on Kharkov, a motorized column is rolling across the Ukrainian plains towards the Dnieper at the almost unprecedented pace of 20 miles a day.

The German forces in Kharkov now are in a perilous position, as the great weight of the Russian attack bears round on them from north of the city.

The Russian spearhead has crossed the third railway leading from Kharkov to the northwest and have made their farthest advance so far in the present offensive.

Of the five main lines which run into Kharkov only two now are in German hands, one running south and serving the Crimea, and the other southwest to Poltava.

Another Russian column has wheeled sharply southwest in the encircling movement and is now beyond the town of Dolzhik, only 16 miles northwest of Kharkov.

A third column, punching its way forward along the Briansk railway, was last reported south of Zolochiv railway station, less than 18 miles northwest of Kharkov.

The tactics of the Russian high command are clear. They intend to sweep round on the city in a great encircling operation which will force its defenders either to retreat or to take the risk of another Stalingrad disaster.

Scores of Russian bombers are hammering at the western and southwestern railway exits of the city, especially the vital junctions at Liubotin and Merepta, the former 12 miles west of the city and the latter 12 miles southwest.

Fires were started in both areas and explosions seen. Enemy troops and supply trains were seen to be hit by Russian bombs.

### Midnight Ends Insurance Drive

Midnight tonight is the deadline for American soldiers who wish to take out National Service Life Insurance without a medical examination or without a medical history statement, the War Department announced yesterday.

All applications received prior to the deadline will be accepted regardless of the soldier's present medical condition or past medical history, and no physical examination of any kind will be necessary. After midnight a rigid examination will be required.

Tonight marks the expiration date of the 120-day extension allowed under Public Law No. 36, approved April 12. The War Department has advised soldiers in every Army hospital, post, camp and station throughout the world to take advantage of the National Service Life Insurance plan and take out the maximum \$10,000 policy.

### Knox, Hull Warn America Against Optimism on War

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9—Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox and Secretary of State Cordell Hull both warned U.S. citizens today against the optimism over war developments in the past few weeks.

Knox, speaking at a Portland, Me., navy yard, labelled as "foolish" the belief that the war would end this year. He said Sicily is only an outpost and its fall would not mean the end of the war. "We still have to gain a foothold on the European continent," he said.

Hull asserted it was more dangerous to underestimate the duration of the fighting than to overestimate it.

### President Back from Vacation

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (UP)—The White House announced today that President Roosevelt had returned from a one-week fishing vacation on the north shore of Lake Huron, Canada, accompanied by his official staff. Stephen Early, the President's Secretary, when asked if Roosevelt had seen Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King, replied: "He didn't see anybody to my knowledge."

### Rumbling Through Ruins of Regalbuto



Hot on the enemy's heels, an American tank manned by Canadians cautiously advances through narrow streets of Regalbuto, Sicily, which bear grim evidence of the ferocious land and air blows dealt by the advancing Allies in their drive through Regalbuto toward the mountain road around Etna volcano.

### Yank Meets Pilot He Downed And Gunner Who Then Got Him

ADVANCED ALLIED AIR BASE, Sicily, Aug. 9 (AP)—The story of one of the most unusual singing trios ever to sound an A was told here today. It was composed of (1) an American fighter pilot, (2) the pilot of an FW190 whom the American had just shot down, and (3) the anti-aircraft gunner who had then shot down the American's plane.

The pilot, Lt. Tom A. Thomas Jr., of Ada, Okla., told the story himself after he was rescued by American forces occupying Palermo, where he was being held prisoner by the Italians for shipment to Italy.

Captured by Italian troops after he had bailed out of his flak-damaged plane, Thomas was taken to a first aid station. There he met the pilot of the FW which he had just shot down, who also was receiving minor treatment. The German congratulated Thomas and was amazed when the American told him that he had had only ten rounds of ammunition left when he attacked the FW.

Later the gunner who shot down Thomas arrived at the station. He turned out to be a musical fellow and sang "Stardust" in English. Then the three men formed a trio and sang the "Beer Barrel Polka."

### Fortresses Operate Above 40,000 Feet, U.S. Reveals

SEATTLE, Aug. 9—The Boeing Aircraft Company disclosed today that Flying Fortresses can operate at altitudes up to 40,200 feet.

Military censorship previously had prevented officials from mentioning flights more than 35,000 feet. However, they were permitted to disclose that Lt. Col. W. R. Lovelace had made a record parachute jump of 40,200 feet from a Flying Fortress on June 2 in a test of new oxygen equipment.

Lovelace's successful leap, announced July 1 by the War Department, established a new United States record.

### FW Driven Off With Boots and Boxes

A USAAF BOMBER STATION, England, Aug. 9 (UP)—Throwing boxes of ammunition, tin hats, flying boots and debris is not a standard method of fighting off an enemy plane, but S/Sgt. Bill Marques, of Lynn, Mass., did it to divert a FW190 and probably save his neck.

Tail gunner in the Fortress Whaletail II Marques did not have any guns to fight off the FW as the crippled B17 staggered back from a USAAF raid on Hamburg so he tossed everything he could get his hands on at the Nazi plane, zooming in only 50 yards astern. The FW must have thought something new had been added to the Fortress' armor because it went into a dive.

Piloted by Lt. Dexter Lishon, of Newtonville, Mass., the Whaletail II returned to its base on two engines, damaged controls and minus most of its guns and everything else that could be jettisoned to lighten the ship. One waist gunner was killed and another wounded. Only a couple of buckets of gas were left.

Safely back at his base, Lt. Lishon gave credit for the survival of ship and crew to exemplary teamwork.

"They used to give us the old poop about teamwork and all that but it's exactly what got us through," he related here today. S/Sgt. Johnny Pedrosky, of Altoona, Pa., wounded waist gunner, told the crew to forget about him when it looked as if they would have to ditch the ship, Lt. Lishon said.

"We ran into trouble as soon as we reached Germany," Lt. Lishon related. "Our No. 2 engine was cut out but we didn't dare turn back because we could see fighters climbing from below. A few minutes later three FWs came through the formation, killing one of our waist gunners and wounding the other."

The Whaletail gunners evened the score by shooting down two of the attackers, S/Sgt. Clarence Madison, of Green, N.Y., getting one from the belly bubble and Marques another from the tail.

That was just the beginning of a lively day for the Whaletail and its crew. Drifting from one B17 formation to another, the ship finally went in over the target alone and had its No. 3 engine knocked out by flak. Lt. Donald J. Rutan, of Shreveport, La., co-pilot, passed out for

### Sneak Around Nazis In Barges at Night, Seize 300 Prisoners

### Bold Maneuver Captures San Agata and San Fratello, Obstacles for a Week; Acireale Falls, Randazzo Threatened

Powerful Allied thrusts—highlighted by American landings from the sea behind the German north coast defenses—drew the noose tighter around the Axis bridgehead yesterday, as three key towns fell and airmen hammered Messina Straits ports relentlessly.

Held up for nearly a week by strong German defenses along the San Agata-San Fratello line, units of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Seventh Army boarded landing barges Saturday night and under cover of darkness landed behind the Germans a few miles beyond San Agata.

They cut off a convoy of enemy reinforcements moving east, captured 300, then struck the German defenders in

the rear while the main force of the Seventh Army attacked from the front. The line folded up like cardboard, and the Americans swept into both San Agata and San Fratello, where the landing parties and the main forces joined.

On the southern front, the British Eighth Army, doggedly pursuing the remnants of the Germans who defended Catania, captured Acireale, eight miles north of the big port, and pushed on toward Taormina.

West of Mount Etna the Eighth Army forces which ran through Adrano and Bronte over the weekend pushed on toward Randazzo on the circular road north of the volcano and were reported yesterday to have that vital road junction within range of their big guns.

Repeated aerial bombings of Randazzo have left the town almost completely destroyed and have effectively blocked the

### American Navy Aided Landing Behind Enemy

### Troops Already Had Used Boats to Get Around Blasted Roads

By Daniel DeLuce  
Associated Press War Correspondent  
(Broadcast over Algiers Radio)

Superb American Naval co-operation paved the way for units of a famous U.S. infantry division which carried out a smashing two-fold attack on the northern shores of Sicily.

The U.S. forces already had been using small boats and barges to make detours around the blasted portions of a narrow highway running on the side of the beach and cliffs.

Slowed down and practically halted for nearly a week by tough German artillery, machine-gun and mortar crews on the high ground in the San Agata-San Fratello area, the American command adopted a tactical trick to by-pass the enemy position.

According to reports at headquarters, the U.S. assault troops, under cover of darkness so that enemy aircraft could not spot the maneuver, embarked in a small fleet, skirted the coast line for a short distance behind San Agata, and stormed ashore.

Along the highway near the new American beachhead a convoy of trucks probably carrying troops of the German 29th motorized division was sighted. The Doughboys attacked and wiped out the convoy. But some Germans may have escaped on foot back toward Messina.

In a perfect military vice the sea-borne force attacked the San Agata-San Fratello line from the rear while the remaining units of the division pressed forward frontally.

The line collapsed like cardboard. The survivors of the German Army in Sicily are now direly threatened with the disintegration of their bridgehead by thrusts

(Continued on page 4)



roads leading through it to Messina and the evacuation beaches, North African airmen reported.

On the right flank of the Seventh Army, Americans captured Cesaro, 15 miles due south of San Agata, after an advance of seven miles. The gain put them within 12 miles of Randazzo but it also brought them up against strong units of the German Goering division moved up to check the Seventh's forward march.

Allied headquarters said the Allied front line now runs from Acireale on the south coast to San Maria di Licodia, six miles southeast of Adrano on the circular highway running to the west of Etna, then north through Adrano and Bronte to within seven and a half miles of Randazzo, and from there through Cesaro to San Agata on the north coast.

Swarms of Allied planes swept back and forth across the dwindling Axis

(Continued on page 4)

### Bombing May Win War, Congressman Declares

Rep. Will Rogers Jr., Cal. (D), House Foreign Affairs committeeman who is making an unofficial visit to the ETO, yesterday praised the precision bombing being done by the Eighth Air Force and said, "I'm not so sure now that the war here cannot virtually be won by bombing."

Rogers said he was amazed by the photographic evidence showing the destruction done by American bombers in Germany and German-held territory, and declared that it isn't generally realized in the United States what sort of a job the Air Force is doing here.

### Ancient Boat Led Invasion

MALTA, Aug. 9 (UP)—A 28-year-old Chinese river gunboat called the Cockchafer landed the first invasion troops on Sicily. It covered the operation with six-inch guns, 40 years old, which had been used in six other ships and once were sunk and retrieved.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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Sweden's New Stand

"News that Sweden has decided to end the always unwelcome practice of allowing German soldiers and supplies to cross its territory furnishes additional evidence that all the world now knows who the ultimate victors in the present conflict will be," claims the New York Sun.

This, we believe, is a reasonable assessment, for Sweden has long been an island of Democracy in a morass of Totalitarianism. When Sweden first made her "passage agreement" with Nazi Germany she was a small nation with a gun at her head and had no choice but to accept the German demand to allow "soldiers on leave" and munitions to cross her territory to Norway and Finland.

But from King Gustav down to the most humble citizen, the Swedes have missed no opportunity since 1939 to assert that Sweden's flag was nailed to the mast and never would be lowered. For the way Sweden has conducted her affairs during the hard years, she has earned the sympathy of the whole family of Democratic nations, a family of which she has managed to remain a member, never having stooped to anything remotely approaching dictatorship.

Fellow Democracies now rejoice that she dares to say "no" to the Nazi bandits.

Goodbye and Hello

For some time we've been suspicious of the literary term "Weaker Sex." A tiny doubt struck the mass mind after we saw a fine looking Captain sail majestically over the head of an Army nurse when he innocently attempted to show her a new "Commando Hold."

Now comes word that in desert maneuvers, under simulated battle conditions, an Army nurse established the speed record for crawling over an obstacle course under fire. Matter of fact, astonished generals and abashed soldiers on those maneuvers discovered Army nurses outdid the rank and file in combat training. Crawling under machine-gun fire leveled at 36 inches above the ground and scrambling through barbed wire and over obstacles takes a hardy man, yet it was a nurse who made the best time.

These same Army nurses, by the way, did a twenty mile hike with full pack on temperatures above 120 degrees.

Still speaking of the "Weaker Sex," no officer or enlisted man has missed noting that, man for man and gal for gal, the WAACs and Army nurses in this theater are tops for military appearance and courtesy. Matter of fact we suspect they're tops in one or two other categories. So we bid farewell to the "Weaker Sex" so-called and present for your approval the modern Amazon.

Still cute isn't she?

Radio Money Home

GIs in various overseas theaters have quickly availed themselves of the recently accorded privilege of sending their surplus funds home by radio free of cost.

The new procedure, authorized March 16, 1943, for all officers and enlisted men overseas, has proved extremely popular. This is indicated by the rapid increase in the use of the service. For example, the week ending May 26 showed that less than two hundred thousand dollars was thus transmitted by approximately 1,700 soldiers, while more than 9,000 of them sent home a total of nearly a million dollars during the week ending June 16.

Money may be transmitted to an individual payee or to a bank or other institution. A soldier overseas may send ten dollars or more in this way, there being no maximum. He pays his money to the nearest personnel officer, who in turn transmits it to a finance officer.

Speed is an added advantage of the new method. Transmittal is a matter of days, ordinarily considerably less than a week; so try the new service next time you accumulate a bit of spare cash and become a satisfied customer. Remember, too, dollars sent home are worth more to you and the war effort than pounds squandered in the British Isles.

Hash Marks

Even wars can't dim the ingenuity and fun of American youth. For instance, the OPA ban on pleasure driving failed to stop one romantically inclined youth of Marion, Va. When his gasoline was exhausted he pushed his car to a street curb and left it there. Since then he and his girl come out every night and sit in the car. "It's pleasure," he says, "even if it isn't pleasure driving." Buddy, you ain't kidding!

Today's daffynition—Pajamas: clothing carried on a honeymoon in case of fire.

A big, burly, blustering merchant seaman guy (a petty officer, we think) strolled into the seamen's club the other



day and looked the place over. He was a barrel-chested guy who looked like he could tear a London telephone directory apart with his bare hands. Suddenly he eased up to the desk and stage-whispered, "Can I get some soap coupons?" "But you don't need coupons," said the clerk. "You can get all the soap you want aboard ship." Our he-man hero looked around nervously, then confided, "But I prefer Yardley Lavender."

A worried San Francisco mother took Lilla and Lolita, her 14-months-old identical twins to a hospital. One of them, said Mama, had swallowed some glue—but which one! The medics were puzzled; then they discovered Lolita couldn't open her mouth. Treatment followed.

FBI men of the Cleveland-office still blush if you mention a certain little black book, full of mysterious letters and figures. A stranger dashed into the office said he had found the book in the street and it was full of mysterious entries such as "K1, P2, CO8, K5, P2, etc." Unable to make heads or tails of it, the Cleveland office sent it to Washington. A woman expert in the code bureau soon put the baffled men straight. She notified the strong silent men that the code means, "Knit 1, purl 2, cast on 8, knit 5," and so on.

Residents of a certain mid-west city who can't get steak too often lose some of their disappointment over the way an



enterprising butcher dishes out the substitutes. The high hat meat slicer has engaged a magician to pull a rabbit out of the hat whenever a customer orders one.

Workers in Toronto, Ill., have figured out a way to stop absentees. When a guy shows up after missing a day or so they gang up on him and give him a choice of tangling with wooden paddles or treating the gang—usually the guy treats.

J. C. W.

U.S. 'Iron Men' Took Troina

First Division Fought For Every Yard in Five-Day Battle

The five-day battle for Troina is now established as the bloodiest, most stubborn fighting of the Sicilian campaign. What Maj. Gen. Terry Allen's "Fighting First" went through to storm their way inch by inch up a rocky ridge to wrest this citadel from the Germans, and the destruction and misery they found when they reached there, is told in a series of dispatches by Don Whitehead, Associated Press war correspondent with the Seventh Army. The first, written during the battle, follows.

By Don Whitehead

Associated Press War Correspondent WITH UNITED STATES SEVENTH ARMY, Sicily, Aug. 4 (delayed)—The bitterest, most savage fighting of the entire American invasion of Sicily raged today before the strategic crossroads town of Troina, where iron men of a fighting division clubbed their way forward yard by yard to drive a wedge into the enemy's strong defensive positions.

This is the beginning of the Germans' last stand on this mountainous island. They are making a desperate effort to stave off the relentless American advance that pushes ahead night and day.

The Germans are fighting hard and fighting well. They are fighting a suicide fight with heavy artillery support. They are dug into trenches, caves and gullies. They are sniping from trees and rocky ledges, and the hills, slopes and valley around Dead Woman hill before Troina are literally one vast graveyard, torn by shells, shrapnel, and bullets. The Germans' plight is hopeless, and they know it, as American artillery pounds them ceaselessly and American planes drone over to unload tons of bombs on their positions.

The fall of Troina is inevitable under the crushing weight of attack that is now under way, with pincers driving in along the ridges north and south of the town.

The attack on Troina began four days ago and since then doughboys literally have had to fight for each yard of the six miles between Cerami and Troina. Fresh troops relieving one tired combat team attacked towering Hill 1209 with forces from divisions on the right and left flanks.

Magnificent Endurance

The fresh troops battled their way to the top of Hill 1209 and along the ridge toward Troina, but heavy mortar and artillery fire pinned their advance down. And then the divisional commander sent his weary troops into the attack again on the flanks.

How these men keep going over these rugged hills is one of the magnificent stories of the Sicilian invasion. They keep pushing forward in the face of heavy enemy fire with dogged determination after 24 days' fighting, marching with hardly a break and certainly not enough rest to revive them.

Now they were fighting too far ahead of their own artillery—because the artillery was unable to advance over heavy demolitions which engineers were trying to repair while being shelled by enemy heavy guns set back in the hills north of Troina, out of range of our 155mm. Long Toms and howitzers.

"This is the first time we've run out of artillery deep support," said Lt. Col. Clarence Beck, of Daytona Beach, Fla. "Enemy demolitions were clever and well placed. There's only one road over which artillery can move and until we get it clear we cannot register on their heavy weapons."

Most of the enemy artillery fire plaster-



Maj. Gen. Terry Allen (left), commander of the First Infantry division, holds an out-door conference with Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley after giving Axis forces a sample of U.S. blitz tactics along the north coast of Sicily.

ing the ridges and valley over which the Americans were fighting was coming from Mount Soro and Mount Acuto, about ten miles north of Troina.

The Germans have counter-attacked three times in three days, trying to check the American advance. They have checked it in some places, stopped it in others but they have been unable to hold on all fronts.

Yesterday's counter-attack came against troops moving east of Dead Woman hill toward the height on which Troina sits, commanding an important road junction. Two companies suffered heavy casualties but the attack was contained and the flanking move continued.

Near the battlefield I found Cpl. James Eke, of New Mexico, who gave the most graphic description of the fighting to come from the front lines. He was in a heavy weapons company commanding a mortar squad.

"We went in the day before yesterday in darkness," Eke said as he wet his parched lips and blinked red, tired eyes. "We marched for two miles along the road to Troina while the enemy shelled us.

"And then, under cover of darkness, we went up Hill 1209. It was our job to support a rifle company in the attack. But when morning came we were pinned down by artillery fire and couldn't push on. Then, to complete things, the Germans attacked on our right with a barrage of 240-mm. mortar fire on our rifle troops.

Under Mortar Fire

"I fired two rounds but they began to drop mortars on us so fast we had to withdraw to the base of the hill to find better cover. There was only room enough for two good positions. My squad and another moved into them and set up for business.

Major Frank Gunn, of Crawfordville, Ga., climbed up the hill under fire and picked targets for us. Targets came in so fast all we had time to do was zero in one gun and begin firing. We fired one smoke shell to register in. Then enemy machine-gun squads started to change positions on the hill.

"As they came out of their holes we laid nine rounds right on them and wiped them out. That gave the rifle troops a chance to get straightened out again and they held off the counter-attack on their right.

"Yesterday morning we advanced again to a better position on the hill. My mortar began firing and we knocked out one machine-gun position and probably another. While this was going on two

snipers were firing on Maj. Gunn. They kept it up all day.

"They drove us out for about an hour with air bursts. Those snipers must have had communication with artillery. We withdrew about 100 yards for cover.

"Last night our other two mortar sections came around the mountain up the slope and we dug in. Then at 3 AM two rifle companies made a bayonet attack, supported by mortars and heavy machine-guns. In the darkness one company bypassed a strong enemy position. They discovered what they'd done at dawn and turned to make a flanking attack. They gave the Germans a chance to surrender, and when they didn't they let 'em have it. There are a lot of dead Germans in that position today.

"That's when we ran the Germans completely off Hill 1209."

Over beyond Dead Woman hill Pvt. Charles W. Tinsley, of Scotts Bluff, Neb., and his company of riflemen ran into the same sort of savage fighting, which temporarily balked the American advance.

Dawn Attack

"We marched on the hill at dawn today thinking it had been taken," Tinsley said. "We could see men moving on the skyline and we didn't figure they were Germans. But when we got two-thirds of the way to the top they opened up on us with machine-guns from the front and both flanks. A bullet went through my buddy's arm and nicked my arm as we lay side by side behind a rock. The fire was so heavy we fell back into a deep ravine. We'd shot up all our ammunition and there were several wounded. It was the damndest thing I ever saw.

"Those Jerries could have killed us all if they had fired on us when we first started up the hill."

Pfc Sebilo Galvan, of Santa Ana, Cal., a gunner in the same company with Tinsley, said, "When they opened up on us I ran for a hole but a friend beat me to it, so I dived behind a rock. Then a shell burst nearby and my friend was hit. I carried him down the hill and did as much as I could for him before the medics arrived."

As Galvan went down the hill into a streambed he saw where the Germans had laid a field of anti-personnel mines.

"I took out 35 mines," Galvan said. "In crossing the stream cows' hooves left holes in the mud. The Germans set mines in these holes and covered them with mud. But they'd done a bad job and it was easy to find them."

Tomorrow: Misery in Troina

Yanks in Sicily Demonstrating U.S. Regard for Others' Rights

WITH THE U.S. SEVENTH ARMY, Sicily, Aug. 9 (AP)—"To the victor belongs the spoils" is just a history-book phrase to the American soldier.

Doughboys fighting their way across towering Sicilian hills have neither the time nor inclination to loot or despoil homes.

"It seems to be a fundamental characteristic of the American soldier to respect the property rights of others," one high officer said. "It has been gratifying to see them go into a captured city and see them respect the rights of others. That's part of their tradition and home training."

This officer, from the office of the Seventh Army's Judge Advocate General, said so far as he knew there had not been a single case during the Sicilian invasion of American soldiers smashing windows of shops or breaking into homes in groups bent on looting unguarded property of Sicilian civilians, even though they are technically an enemy people. There have been isolated cases of individual soldiers succumbing to temptation, but these can be regarded as virtually negligible.

Palermo, Sicily's largest and richest city, was the best example in the invasion of the troops' observance of civil rights. Paris of three divisions poured into

Palermo the afternoon and night of July 22 in a great drive slicing the island's defenses in half. A few Sicilian police, frightened, worried and disorganized, wandered about the streets with no leadership or authority. During those hours from the time the city surrendered until American civil affairs officers were able to get the government functioning once again there was nothing to prevent soldiers from looting darkened stores and homes except the Army's known policy and the men's own restraint.

Yet there was not a single case of troops violating civil property rights.

They were interested in collecting souvenirs, such as gaudy Fascist emblems, flags, swords and insignia. No one objected to their taking such useless objects from a political party which was even then in the last stages of collapse. But in most cases soldiers paid for the souvenirs at shops which did a rushing business in the disposing of Fascist trappings.

The Army seizes government or Fascist property or materials for its own use without payment, but there is a rigid policy that civilians must be reimbursed for any properties requisitioned for Army use, such as buildings, hotels, automobiles, trucks and equipment.





