

L.T.--SUNOCO. FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1943

SICILY

The Battle of Sicily continues to feature advances along the coasts of the island. The British are pushing up the coast toward Catania. The Americans are driving along the south coast ^{to} capture Arigento.

The British today were meeting with the toughest resistance. Powerful German Panzer Units are fighting desperately to block the way to the key harbor and railroad junction of Catania.

After repelling the counter-attack, General Montgomery's Eighth Army pushed on. It is reported that the British have captured Lentini, and are now battling to force their way through a pass, beyond which lies

an open plain, a level stretch of land in front of Catania -- and there the going will be much easier.

On the south coast, the Americans are closing in on Agrigento, ~~and~~ an important military base in that sector. Today they captured more towns, and one of these was a railroad junction -- the American seizure of which cuts the last railroad ~~connection~~ linking Agrigento with the rest of the island.

One most vivid hint of military prospects comes from the Italian side. -- a statement that Sicilians are helping the United Nations forces. This declaration is made in a number one Fascist newspaper by the notorious black shirt ~~leader~~ ^{leader} ~~Farinacci~~ Farinacci. This Farinacci was one of Mussolini's original leaders, and for years has been the voice of the Fascist extremists. Now, in his newspaper, Farinacci states that large groups of Sicilians, banded as guerrilla fighters, are cooperating with the invasion.

This is all the more interesting in the light of today's appeal to the ~~Italian~~ Italian people by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill -- their call

to the Italians to break with Mussolini and his gang and come over to the United Nations. ~~And here's another~~ ^{And here's another} bit of war news!--

The bombing goes on more intensely than ever. Today British and American high explosives smashed Naples. While they went on with their heavy air assault on Sicilian military centers, they switched a heavy blow in the direction of the city that lies in the shadow of Vesuvius -- and Naples took a flaming beating. ~~Further~~ ^{Further} violent emphasis of the American-British warning of what faces the Italians unless they yield.

ROOSEVELT FOLLOW SICILY

It is worthwhile to scan some of the phrases of that most eloquent and telling Roosevelt-Churchill proclamation to the Italian people.

"Mussolini" it states, "carried you to this war as a satellite of a brutal destroyer of peoples and liberties. This association with the designs of Nazi-controlled Germany," it ~~now~~ goes on, "is unworthy of Italy's ancient traditions of freedom and culture - traditions to which the people of Great Britain and America owe so much".

"We take no satisfaction," say Roosevelt and Churchill, "in invading Italian soil and bringing the tragic devastation of war, home to the Italian people. But we are determined to destroy the false leaders".

And then they present the ultimatum, saying: "The sole ~~—~~hope for Italy's survival lies in honorable capitulation to the overwhelming power of the military forces of the United Nations. "The time has ~~■~~ come for you to decide whether Italians shall die for Mussolini and Hitler or live for Italy and civilization."

PRISONERS FOLLOW ROOSEVELT

Here's a tale of invasion illustrating the weird adventures American soldiers have had in the storming of Sicily--especially the paratroopers.. Staff Sargeant Ronald Snyder of Philadelphia and Private Michael Zolvick of New York took the jump at night from their transport plane, went floating down-- and on the ground were separated from their unit. The Sarg and Mike started off through the darkness, and the next thing we hear may seem surprising. The American paratroopers encountered a couple of Sicilians and were completely defeated. Instead of charging the enemy, the Sarg and Mike ran away as fast as their legs could carry them. It was like this:--

"At dawn", relates the sarg, "We came ^{upon} ~~to~~ a peasant family. There was a man and ~~an~~ a woman. When they saw our guns, the woman started to sob. I thought," he continues, "That if I said we were Americans, she would be glad -- so I pointed to the flag on my arm. But she became hysterical; ^{so} ~~and~~ Mike and I ran." *They still don't know why she was hysterical*

Their next adventure was even more extraordinary. They were lost, and in wandering around ^{they} ~~had~~ came upon a trench near a road. They started to examine the trench -- never realizing that a force of Italian troops was on its way to take up a position in ^{the} trench. The first thing the two paratroopers knew about that was when three Italian soldiers came down the road. The sarg and Mike jumped out at them with guns ready, and the three Italians promptly surrendered.

"Shortly after this," relates the sarg, "Their Captain came up to look ~~at~~ for his soldiers, and I disarmed him too. Then groups of Italians came in threes, fours and fives from a nearby garrison, planning to man the trench. We disarmed them all and made them sit under a tree. Soon we had forty Italians."

They had, in fact, captured all the troops of the garrison, and the headquarters of these was nearby. So one of the prisoners made a request.

"He explained with gestures," relates the Sarg, "That he wanted to dress up in his best uniform, if he was going to be sent to America as a prisoner. Mike and I thought that was fair enough and, wishing to oblige, we let him get his uniform. Sure enough, he came back all dressed up. Then all of them wanted to do the same thing. So I let them go in twos -- Mike watching the main bunch and I keeping an eye on them while they got their uniforms. By now," the Sarg goes on, "they were pretty happy, and when the whole forty of them were dressed up, they began singing."

Next Sarg and Mike saw a platoon of American soldiers coming along, a forward unit of the American troops. "I thought I would hand the prisoners over to them," relates the Sarg, "but the platoon had an urgent mission and wouldn't accept them."

The two paratroopers were completely defeated by this, but not the Italian ~~XXXX~~ captain. He and his men in their Sunday

PRISONERS FOLLOW ROOSEVELT

best weren't going to be done out of their chance to see
America. So he showed the way down to the coast where the
Americans were. And in that ~~fast~~ fashion, the two heroes
marched in with forty of the snappiest looking prisoners in
the history of the war *up to the present date.*

RUSSIA

Tonight's late Moscow bulletin announces further advances in the Orel Sector -- new gains of from six to nine miles. Thus the Soviet counter-offensive smashes on, threatening to wipe out the salient the Germans have at Orel. The Germans admit the Red Army advance and talk of having repelled it -- "But only partly." Berlin says that the Russian drive continues with -- "unbated ferocity."

~~(Note: If necessary drop the short, they are not~~

~~important. The report will not be up on Saturday.)~~

DENMARK

We hear reports of anti-Nazi demonstrations in Denmark. That Nazi-occupied country is under ~~xxx~~ heavy enemy censorship, but ~~xxxx~~ word has been received in Stockholm that last week Copenhagen was a center of turmoil, with anti-Nazi crowds storming through the streets for four days.

SUBMARINE

The defeat of the Nazi submarine campaign is attributed, by the enemy as well as by ourselves, to air power guarding the convoys, And today we have a vivid illustration -- the story of a record-breaking performance by one of those new aircraft carriers that are now escorting cargo vessels across the Atlantic. They are a small type of craft from which planes take off -- baby carriers.

It was disclosed today that one of these, during a recent crossing, attacked eleven U-boats of a wolf pack. Of these, two were sunk, two very probably sunk, and four others just probably sunk. Forty-one prisoners were taken, crew members of the two U-boats that were ~~certainly~~ ^{definitely} sent to the bottom by ^sThe plane from the baby carrier.

STIMSON

Secretary of War Stimson today stated that the United States Army has, in his words -- "Virtually finished recruiting."

Which phrase would seem to indicate that the army has just about acquired as many men as it needs, and will not go on

any additional
drafting large numbers.

The Secretary of War is in London, and was talking to Representatives of the British press. He made his statement in these words: X "Now we have virtually finished recruiting, and are engaged in training the largest and best army the ⁵²United States have ever sent beyond their waters."

WASHINGTON

The word today from Washington was that a sudden quiet has descended upon the many quarrels that have been going on among the government agencies. Feuds became quiet -- after the chastisement that President Roosevelt gave last night to Vice-President Wallace and Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones. Those two had produced the loudest rumpus of all, and now the President has suddenly abolished Wallace's Bureau of Economic Warfare and taken away from Jesse Jones his authority in the purchase of foreign war supplies.

Washington believes that Wallace is through, so far as another Vice-Presidential term is concerned. He won't be renominated if the President runs in 1944 -- not unless he in some fashion or other is elevated to a state of grace again.

I suppose most of you have the war brought home to you in intimate ways, almost every day, experiences similar to one I had a few hours ago. A sailor was caught in a jam ~~is~~ at one of the train gates, at Grand Central. When ~~he~~^I tried to keep him from being buffeted by the crowd he remarked: It's not so easy to get around if you have five bullet wounds in your back, two or three more in your arm, and four or five in your ~~ne~~ leg!

On the train he told me that he had been shot up by the Japs in a naval engagement ~~of~~ the Solomon Islands, and was just setting forth on a ten day furlough after spending four months in a Long Island hospital. His name was Charles Williams, and he hailed from Pillsbury, Montana. Here in the East he had married a girl ~~me~~ named Helen Slocum in Patterson New York and was on his way there to catch a glimpse of his daughter he hadn't seen. In the Solomons he and his brother were members of the same gun crew on a U. S. Destroyer. ~~The~~ The destroyer ran into some bad luck, and was sent to the bottom by a concentrated attack of Jap submarines and dive bombers.

His seventeen year old brother was one of those lost. He himself while clinging to a life raft was machine-gunned by the Jap submarine, and afterward ~~XXXX~~^{given} up for dead.

And then, here is another picturesque example today:-

One of my neighbors, Captain Ross Beal, of the U. S. Corp of Engineers has been digging wells in the Sahara Desert.

When he's at home he lives in Brewster, New York and he ~~is~~ dug the well at our house. His wife showed me a picture today of Ross and the Sultan of Morocco. In fact, Ross has been digging wells for the Sultan and has just been entertained and decorated by the hooded and robed ruler of Morocco.

On my recent tour of South America, when I visited an island, far out in the Atlantic, an island where I little ~~ex~~ expected to see any Americans, to my surprise, I encountered hundreds of them. And one man came up to me and said: My name is Franklin Somers and I'm from Southbury, Connecticut just over the hill from your farm. I dug four wells on your place when I worked for the Stephen Church Company, and I ~~was~~ always wanted to meet you, but you were always away".

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And then he expressed amazement at meeting me on a
■ a lonely rocky island in the South Atlantic. Yes, this is a
strange war, and the scope of it is brought home to ■ many
of us almost every day.

BET

Tonight at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, Evelyn Wagner of the WACS, faces the charge of having promoted herself. She boosted herself in rank, and became an officer -- and that was because she had made a bet with her husband. They both joined up at the same time -- he in the army and she in the WACS. And she made him a bet that she'd become an officer before he would.

The other day, they were both furloughed and had a chance to meet back at their home in Elgin, Illinois. The Mrs. was still a WAC in the ranks -- but she was determined to win that ten dollar bet. So she spent forty cents and bought the insignia of a lieutenant, a pair of shoulder bars. Wearing these, she triumphantly appeared before hubby. He was still a buck private so he forked over ten bucks. That was all right -- nobody interferes to any extent when wifie chisels hubby out of a few dollars. But, unfortunately, the self-promoted officer couldn't overcome the feeling of authority that her new rank inspired.

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She went to a local tavern, and there presently a couple of soldiers dropped in for a drink. Her authority got

the better of her, and she walked up to them and demanded to see their papers. The two soldiers didn't like being bossed around by a WAC, and one of them gave her an argument -- and did she give him a first class military balling out.

Unfortunately, the soldier happened to be a Corporal Richard Johnson, son of a local policeman, and he became suspicious of all this brass hat court ~~strips~~ ^{martial business} handed out by a WAC. He asked his policeman father to investigate, and the result of the investigation was prompt.

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Shortly afterward the self-promoted lieutenant was confronted by two WAC officers, an army captain, and a police sergeant. Whereupon she admitted the whole thing -- she was just winning a ten dollar bet from her husband. So now she's in the guardhouse, or whatever kind of a ^{lockup} ~~house~~ the WACS have. ^{Moreover} She owes her husband the ten dollars, and the trouble is -- she spent it ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ while displaying her authority as an officer.

~~And now a final word from Hugh.~~
And s-l-u-Monday.