

The Texts of the Day's Communiques on the Fighting in Various War Zones

United Nations

A special communiqué of Allied Headquarters in North Africa, as broadcast last night by the United Nations radio at Algiers in French and reported to the Office of War Information:

The Seventh United States Army and the Eighth British Army have effected their junction in Messina. All organized resistance is at an end on the island. The number of prisoners captured by the two armies has not yet been ascertained, nor the amount of enemy material that has fallen into our hands. Enemy batteries situated at the foot of Italy are shelling Messina.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Aug. 17 (UP)—A communiqué:

The advance continues successfully. Leading elements of the Eighth Army reached San Teresa di Riva, while in the early morning Monday a daring Commando landing was made farther up the coast at a point only eight miles south of Messina.

Seventh Army troops continued their advance and reached Monforte, San Giorgio and Gesso and are within easy artillery range of Messina. The enemy again relied chiefly on demolitions, although at least one unsuccessful counter-attack was launched against Eighth Army troops on the east coast road. The Seventh Army also reports some resistance northwest of Messina.

A special communiqué: American troops captured Messina early this morning. Some artillery fire is being directed from the city from the Italian mainland.

An air communiqué: The Northwest African Air Forces continued their heavy attacks against the enemy yesterday and during the previous night. Communications and concentrations of motor transport in southern Italy were attacked throughout the day by fighter-bombers. A large merchant vessel in the same area was attacked by bombers and left in flames.

Medium bombers with fighter escort bombed road and railway bridges in southern Italy. During attacks on enemy shipping in the Tyrrhenian Sea, torpedo-carrying aircraft scored hits on two merchant vessels. Intruder aircraft operated over Italy on the night of Aug. 15-16. From all these operations four of our aircraft are missing.

A special air communiqué: Strong forces of heavy bombers attacked the airbases of Lérès le Tube and Salon northwest of Marseille in southern France.

A naval communiqué: 1. Latest reports show that there has been intense naval activity in and around the Strait of Messina, off the north and east coasts of Sicily, and off both coasts of the Calabrian Peninsula.

2. Gunboats and destroyers working on the right flank of the Army have daily bombarded the coast road to Messina. Light coastal forces have been operating each night in the Straits. 3. Destroyers on patrol toward the southern end of the Straits on the night of Aug. 14-15 saw demolition in progress on the Sicilian coast near Scatola, and on the south coast of Calabria. Engaged by enemy batteries, north of Cape Pellaro, they returned the fire.

4. On the same night another force, engaged in a sweep of the Italian coast to Cape Rizzuto met three E-boats. After firing a torpedo the enemy fled at high speed. 5. Scalo, on the south side of the Gulf of Policastro, was heavily bombarded from the sea on the night of Aug. 14-15. One thousand shells were fired into the port in twenty minutes.

6. In the early hours of Aug. 16 south of Cape Bonifati a British naval force sank an armed lighter and two escort craft. The port of Vibo Valentia was again bombarded from the sea.

7. The United States Navy, on the morning of Aug. 16, landed an amphibious group from the American Seventh Army near Milazzo. The landing was made without great difficulty. This was the third such landing conducted by the United States Navy in co-operation with the Seventh Army in the past ten days. During the day a light formation of enemy E-boats was driven off by American naval units north of Messina.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Aug. 17 (AP)—A communiqué:

Northwestern Sector

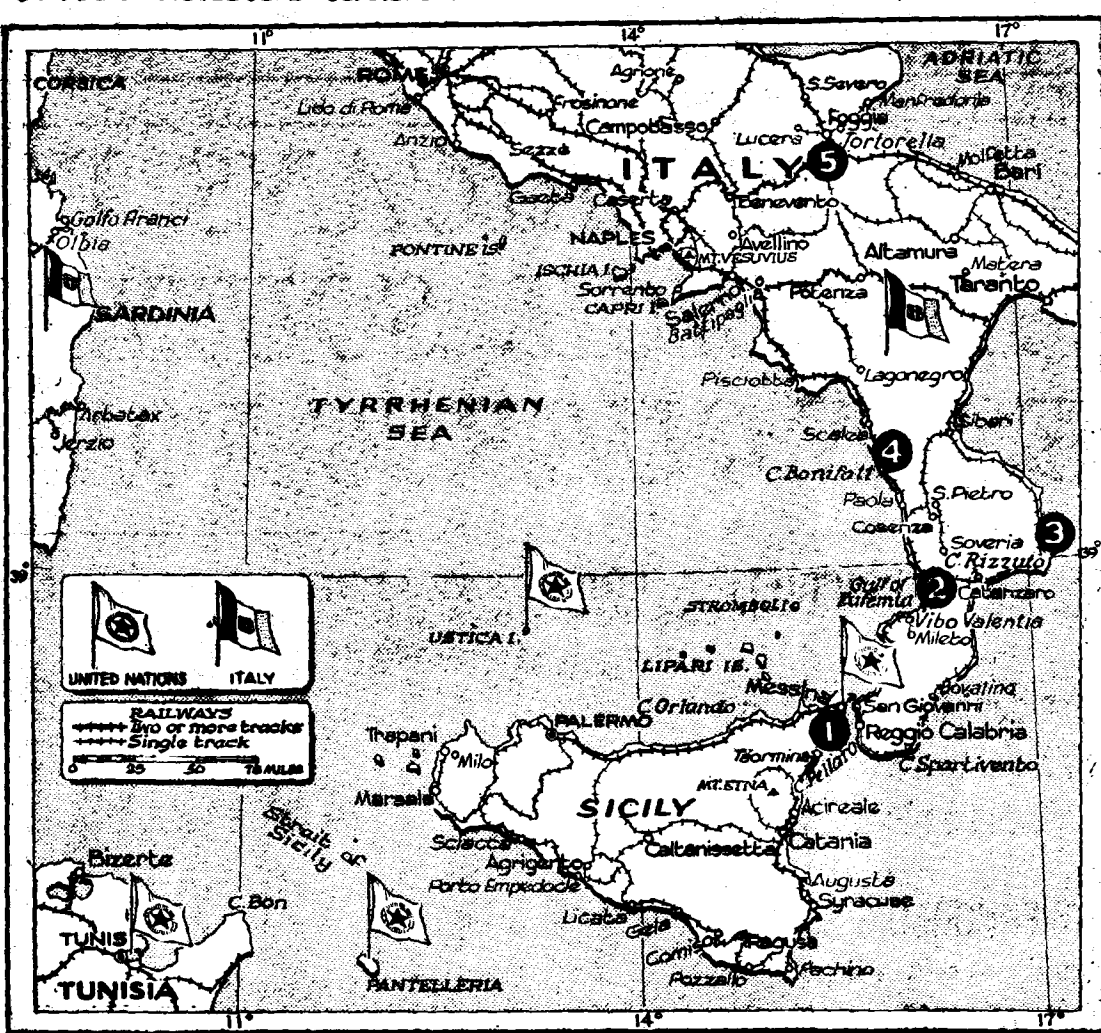
Borneo: Balikpapan: Our heavy units on reconnaissance to assess damage caused by our recent attack on a 6,000-ton tanker in the harbor, setting it on fire. They also hit the oil storage tanks, kindling the smoldering fires. Six enemy fighters intercepted over the target were shot down, four being definitely destroyed, one probably destroyed and one damaged. Our planes returned safely. Kel-Tenember Islands: Our medium units at night bombed Langguar and Saumlakki despite bad weather.

Borneo

A single plane dropped five bombs aimlessly in the area, causing neither damage nor casualties. **Northeastern Sector** **Solomons** (South Pacific Forces) **Kolombangara**: Our medium units at night bombed the airbase. **Santa Isabel**: Rekata Bay: Our medium units bombed supply areas and military installations at Rekata Bay, starting fires. **Vella Lavella**: Our ground troops have seized the island of Vella Lavella, surprising and capturing there approximately 350 enemy refugees. This places our forces north of enemy positions at Vila on Kolombangara Island and renders its continuous supply problematical.

New Britain: Our long-range fighters and attack planes on a sweep along the southern coastline set on fire a small enemy coastal ship and barge and bombed the dump area near Gasmata. **New Guinea**: Sakor—Our medium units on night patrol bombed and strafed five enemy barges offshore, destroying or damaging them all. **Lae**—Our heavy reconnaissance

UNITED NATIONS CARRY FLAG FORWARD TO GATE OF EUROPE



Sicily fell with the capture of Messina (1) by the Americans, who promptly turned south as Cape Rizzuto (3). Allied bombers continued to hammer southern Italy. Liberators pounded Foggia (5) and near-by Tortorella, shooting down at least forty-three of 100 fighters that rose to attempt to intercept the raids.

units bombed enemy installations at Vaco Point, causing fire. Watut Valley: A force of twenty-five dive-bombers and fighters forty miles southwest of Lae was intercepted and defeated by our high-altitude fighters in a fierce twenty-five-minute combat in which the enemy lost twelve planes shot down and destroyed and two probably destroyed. Our losses were one fighter destroyed and four slightly damaged.

Tambu Bay: Our ground forces continued to advance on the ridge near the bay and now control it. More than 200 enemy dead were left in our lines.

United States

CAIRO, Egypt, Aug. 17 (AP)—A Ninth United States Air Force communiqué:

Liberator heavy bombers of the Ninth United States Air Force during daylight Monday carried out a successful attack against enemy airbases in the vicinity of Foggia in southern Italy. The attack was in strength. A total weight of more than 300,000 pounds of high explosive and fragmentation bombs literally was sprinkled on all targets.

At the Tortorella landing ground many fires were started, including two large oil fires. Rail lines alongside landing grounds received several direct hits.

Hangars, barracks, workshops and administration buildings at San Nicola received hits in addition to those which blanketed the landing ground there. Other satellite fields also were hit.

Swarms of enemy fighters rose from the landing grounds to intercept the attackers. Forty-three fighters were destroyed and at least twelve others probably were destroyed or damaged. The destroyed included twenty-nine Me-109s, four FW-190s, seven Me-210s, two Me-262s, and one Me-110.

From these operations eight of our aircraft are missing.

NEW DELHI, India, Aug. 17 (AP)—A Tenth United States Army Air Force communiqué:

B-25 medium bombers of the Tenth United States Air Force were active yesterday with a series of attacks on targets in central Burma.

At Sagging the railway station was bombed. Rolling stock was destroyed and a large explosion was seen between buildings near sidings. Shore installations were also hit and possible damage was done to several small river boats.

At Alon, direct hits were scored on warehouses and a lumber mill. Railway tracks were demolished and probable damage was done to rolling stock at Ywataung.

At Chang-u huge explosions marked by heavy brown and black smoke were observed. From these operations all of our aircraft and crews returned.

LONDON, Aug. 17 (UP)—An Eighth United States Air Force communiqué:

Strong formations of Eighth United States Air Force bombers attacked the important industrial target of Schweinfurt in Germany and an airplane factory at Regensburg in central Germany today.

Meanwhile USAAF Marauders, supported by RAF Dominions and Allied Spitfires, hit German airfields at Bryas Sud and Poix in France.

British

NEW DELHI, India, Aug. 17 (UP)—An RAF communiqué:

Yesterday RAF Hurricanes on offensive patrol machine-gunned Japanese army huts and troops in the Boungdaw and Buthe-daw areas and at Sinoh on the Mayu Peninsula. Other aircraft attacked loaded supply sampans near Minbya and on the Kaladan River north of Akyab, destroying six and damaging others.

In the Kalewa district, Mohawks attacked a river steamer and supply dumps at Kongyi with bombs and machine gun fire. None of our aircraft is missing.

CAIRO, Egypt, Aug. 17 (UP)—A Middle East Air Force communiqué:

A large force of Liberator bombers of the Ninth United States Army Air Force carried out a successful attack on enemy airfields at Foggia in daylight yesterday. The landing ground at Tortorella, one of the targets, was heavily covered by bombs and fires were started, including two large oil fires. Railway lines alongside the landing ground were also hit.

Similar effective results were

scored at the airfield at San Nicola, where in addition to numerous hits on the landing ground, workshops, administration buildings and living quarters were damaged.

Upwards of 100 enemy fighters attempted to interfere with the operations, and of these forty-three are claimed as destroyed by our bombers. These included twenty-nine Me-109s, four FW-190, two Me-210s, one Me-110 and seven Macchi-202s.

Eight of our aircraft are missing from these and other operations.

LONDON, Aug. 17 (UP)—An Admiralty communiqué:

His Majesty's submarines destroyed nine more vessels in waters around metropolitan Italy.

Off Corsica one of His Majesty's submarines engaged a minelayer of the Fasana type and drove her ashore. The enemy vessel ultimately was destroyed by torpedoes. Two large transport barges, one of the German design and an escorting naval auxiliary vessel were sunk by gunfire in the same area.

North of Corsica, in the Ligurian Sea, an armed anti-submarine yacht was sunk by torpedo. A motor minesweeper and naval trawler, both wearing the Italian ensign, were sunk by gunfire.

East of Italy, in the Adriatic Sea, a large, three-funnelled transport was torpedoed while inward bound for Brindisi. She sank within three minutes. A supply ship of large size was intercepted in the same area and also was sunk by torpedo.

In addition to these successes, another of His Majesty's submarines damaged a medium-sized supply ship which was intercepted while outward bound from Durazzo, Albania.

Submarines which carried out these attacks were under command of Lieut. J. S. Stevens, DSO, DSC, RN; Lieut. J. Wraith, DSO, DSC, RN; Lieut. R. B. Lakin, DSO, DSC, RN; and Lieut. J. N. Whittington, RN.

An Air Ministry communiqué:

Last night aircraft of the Bomber Command attacked Turin. Preliminary reports indicate the bombing was well concentrated.

Fighter Command intruders destroyed an enemy bomber over its base in France and made many attacks on railway targets and airfields in France and the Low Countries.

Four bombers are missing.

A Royal Canadian Air Force communiqué:

Last night RCAF fighters on intruder operations over northern France were very active bombing airfields and railway targets over a wide area and attacking many trains. RCAF Halifax aircraft were part of the force of the Bomber Command which attacked Turin.

From the night's operations one of our bombers is missing.

A Joint Air and Home Security Ministries communiqué:

There was a little enemy activity last night over the Thames Estuary. A few bombs were dropped at scattered points on the coast. Damage was done and there were some casualties.

A later joint Air and Home Security Ministries communiqué:

During daylight today there was nothing to report.

It is now known that a second enemy aircraft was destroyed near the south coast of England last night.

Chinese

CHUNGKING, China, Aug. 17 (UP)—A communiqué:

Enemy troops at Hwangmai attempted to attack our positions at Wangchichiao, southwest of Hwangmai, but were hurled back by our forces, who immediately advanced from different directions on Hwangmai and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy there. In the engagement over 300 enemy troops were killed and wounded and several others were taken prisoner.

Enemy forces at Wangchichiao drove on Taiyangshan and Fushan, but also were repulsed by our troops after inflicting 100 casualties on the invaders.

Russian

A special Russian communiqué, as broadcast yesterday from Moscow to the Soviet Union and reported by the Federal Communications Commission:

During Aug. 17 our troops in

der tropical heat achieved superhuman tasks, the enemy was compelled to hurl into battle new forces again and again in order to replenish his great losses in men and material.

During the fortnight the evacuation of the island had been in progress according to plan. The heaviest losses were inflicted on the pressing enemy and by fierce counter-attacks. All enemy attempts to cut off our troops in Sicily by consecutive air attacks against the crossing of the Straits or by the action of naval forces in the Strait of Messina failed.

Enemy landing forces were destroyed in the rear of our front. Despite strongest enemy air superiority our forces succeeded in carrying out systematically the huge crossing action to Calabria, with the result that by Aug. 17, at 8 A. M., all German and Italian tanks, including heavy weapons, guns, motor vehicles and war materials had been transferred across the Messina Strait to the mainland. General of Armored Troops Hube, who had been in charge of the fighting, left the island as one of the last.

This huge military and organizational achievement was possible owing to the gallantry of the troops, which had prevented all break-through attempts in the land fighting, owing to the indefatigable and heroic action of the German Navy in carrying out traffic with small vessels only and which protected the flanks by light naval forces and owing to the strong umbrella which the Luftwaffe with fighters and anti-aircraft artillery had spread over the Strait of Messina.

The command and the troops fulfilled an achievement which will enter military history, just as would have a victorious offensive battle.

Yesterday's regular German communiqué, as broadcast from Berlin radio and recorded by The United Press:

On the Mius front local Soviet attacks were repelled.

On the central Donets, the enemy, after fierce and repeated attacks, launched an expected offensive in the Izum area with strong infantry and tank forces. All Soviet break-through attempts failed. The enemy had heaviest losses in men and material.

In the fighting zone southwest of Belgorod the enemy carried out local attacks only and was repelled everywhere. During the German counter-attack reported yesterday, 4,200 soldiers were killed and over 1,600 prisoners, twenty-five tanks, 112 trench mortars, 110 guns, numerous weapons and a great number of war materials captured.

While in the sector west of Orel the Soviets carried out weak and vain attacks only, they continued their strong attacks south and southwest of Vyazma, as well as southwest of Byelyi and on Lake Ladoga. These attacks too failed in the face of stubborn German resistance. Two hundred and eighty-three tanks were destroyed.

The Luftwaffe attacked enemy troop concentrations on the Central Donets and in the area southwest of Belgorod and destroyed nine transport trains.

During Aug. 15 and 16, 140 Soviet planes were shot down, while six of our planes are missing.

In Sicilian waters, two enemy medium-sized merchant ships were heavily hit by bombs of fast German bombers. Thirteen four-engine planes were shot down by German fighters without losses during the warding off of a raid on southern Italy. Thus, German air defense destroyed thirty-six British and North American planes in the Mediterranean during the period between Aug. 13 and 16.

German E-boats torpedoed one enemy destroyer off the Sicilian east coast. In the Strait of Messina, one British motor torpedo boat was sunk by escort vessels of the German Navy. One gunboat was destroyed by coastal artillery. One motor ferry of the German Navy, used for the supply of traffic for Sicily, shot down four enemy planes during a daylight raid. Other vessels of the German Navy shot down four out of eight torpedo-carrying planes in waters north of Sicily.

In formation of German long-range bombers sank three transports aggregating 25,000 tons, and damaged two more large ships by torpedo hits out of a convoy steaming in waters west and northwest of Lisbon under the protection of cruisers and destroyers. All German planes returned to their bases.

Day and night attacks by enemy air formations on several localities in the western occupied territories, including the outskirts of Paris, caused considerable losses to the civilian population. According to reports so far received, twenty enemy planes were shot down during fierce air combats and by anti-aircraft defenses.

German bombers last night attacked selected targets on the English southeast coast and near the Thames Estuary with bombs of heavy caliber.

Italian

Yesterday's Italian communiqué, as broadcast from Rome and recorded by The United Press:

Positions of Axis troops before the town of Messina were contested fiercely yesterday by German and Italian rear guards.

In Syracuse Harbor our dive-bombers set fire to a merchantman. One steamer of large tonnage was severely damaged by one of our torpedo planes off the Tunisian coast.

Enemy planes raided Turin, the outskirts of Viterbo and the outskirts of Foggia. Damage and casualties are being ascertained. In the outskirts of Foggia, thirteen four-engine planes were shot down by German fighters and two by anti-aircraft. Another three planes were shot down over Turin by anti-aircraft and night fighters.

Isolated actions carried out by enemy planes in the province of Lecce, Salerno and Reggio Calabria caused slight damage and few casualties.

In unsuccessful attacks against our convoys five British torpedo planes crashed into the sea. Four were hit by the fire from escorting vessels and one by our reconnaissance planes.

Finnish

Yesterday's Finnish communiqué, as broadcast domestically in Finland and recorded by the Federal Communications Commission:

On Maaselka Isthmus an enemy detachment about a company strong attacked an island in the

hands of our forces early yesterday morning under cover of darkness and using boats.

Supported by fierce artillery and trench mortar fire, the enemy succeeded in penetrating into our positions, where they were to a greater part destroyed by our fire. The enemy which was forced to retire left behind about forty killed.

There have been patrol skirmishes in the central and northern sectors of the eastern front. There is nothing special to report from elsewhere.

Japanese

Yesterday's Japanese communiqué, as broadcast from Tokyo and recorded by The Associated Press:

Imperial Japanese naval air units, which had been keeping close watch on the movement of an enemy convoy fleet with escort vessels moving westward since Aug. 13 from the direction of Guadalcanal Island, having detected signs of the convoy fleet moving toward Vella Lavella Island since the night of Aug. 14, launched early in the morning of Aug. 15 repeated attacks on the enemy convoy and obtained the following war results:

Firstly: Off the southern coast of Vella Lavella our first attack plane unit launched an attack on the enemy convoy fleet escorted by approximately fifty enemy fighters which was approaching the coast and sank instantly one large-size transport set ablaze. Three large and medium size transports and shot down thirteen enemy fighter planes.

Secondly: Our second attack

plane unit attacked the aforementioned enemy convoy fleet again and, defying the resistance put up by enemy fighters, sank two large-size transports and one landing motorboat, scored near hits on one large-size destroyer and one amphibian truck, strafed approximately ten landing motorboats and shot down eleven enemy fighters.

Thirdly: Our third attack plane unit, engaging in aerial combats with enemy fighters, raided the vicinity of the enemy landing points and scored one near hit on one cruiser, set afire two landing places and shot down four enemy fighters.

Fourthly: Our fourth attack plane unit assaulted the enemy convoy fleet in waters ten nautical miles north of Simbu Island, as well as in waters fifteen nautical miles southeast of Biloa, and sank one large-size destroyer and heavily damaged another destroyer.

Fifthly: Another attack plane unit which moved out to attack another convoy fleet at midnight Aug. 14 spotted the enemy convoy fleet in waters ten nautical miles east of Gatakal Island and, launching a torpedo attack, sank instantaneously one large-type cruiser, sank one large-size transport and another enemy warship which was either a light cruiser or a large-type destroyer. In addition it scored one direct torpedo hit on one cruiser and one destroyer.

In the above attacks seventeen of our planes either deliberately crashed themselves into enemy objectives or have not yet returned to base.