

THE WAR REVIEWED

By W. R. PLEWMAN

(Wednesday, June 16, 1943)

The war continues to go well for the Allies. A great Allied attack on Italy is about to begin. To cheer the troops on their way as they got set to seize the main stepping stones to southern Italy, the King (God bless him!) visited African headquarters and was given the wonderful reception that he deserved. His Majesty flew to Africa with the British air minister and secretary of war, arriving on Saturday. Since then he has inspected British, American and French troops and invested General Eisenhower of the U.S. army, the Allied commander-in-chief, with the insignia of the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. His majesty wished to congratulate the victorious Allied armies on their successes in Tunisia, tell them of the pride of the folks at home and wish them good luck in their new ventures that take them Rome-ward and Berlinward. During the King's absence the Queen will preside over a council of state of five made up of those nearest to the throne. Since the war began the King has travelled 36,000 miles in 252 trips to war camps, ports and factories.

Hailed by Bathing Beauties

The official announcement of the King's trip said that he went to visit the 1st and 8th British armies, the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean and the R.A.F., and to see the U.S. and French armies and air forces. For once soldiers were

George made a formal visit to Allied headquarters.

Not Ready in North

Much of the air activity over northern invasion areas and up and down the Russian front is of a character that would precede invasion. So far there is not evidence that it is on a scale to warrant the launching of great offensive attacks this week. London announces that British medium and fighter-bombers bombed and strafed railroad and water transport through France, Belgium and Holland last night. An airdrome near Dunkirk, a tugboat and barges in the Ghent and Lys canals were attacked; also a torpedo boat off Ostend and various railroad targets. A Berlin radio says Ruhr and Rhine cities still are smouldering from recent British air raids. Mass evacuations by civilians are reported to be in progress.

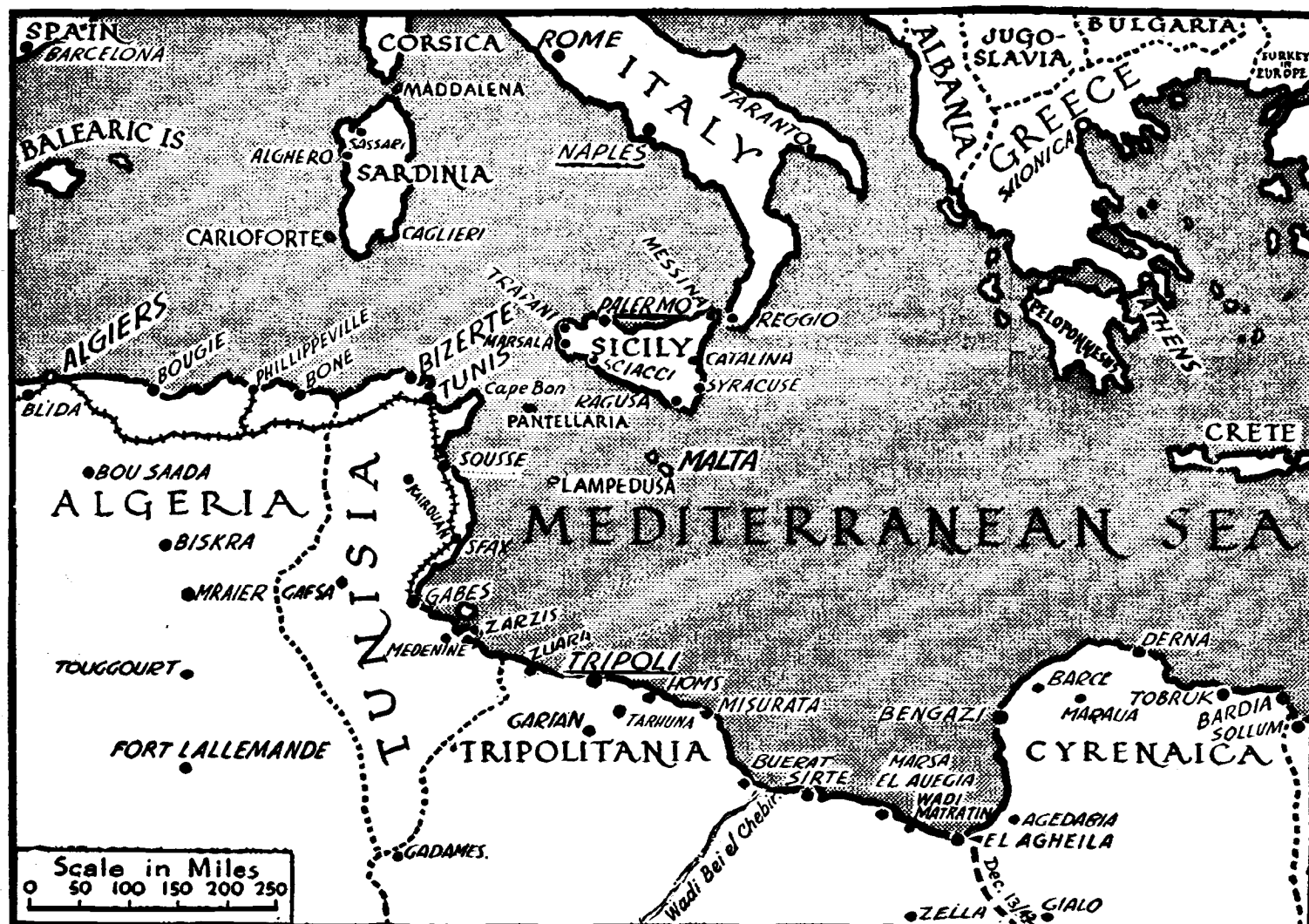
Radio Leningrad tells the world that the Red Army is preparing a "crushing blow" to coincide with an Allied invasion of western Europe. The writer regards that statement as much more than propaganda. Russian planes made a series of raids in the Ukraine that started big fires and explosions among military trains and ammunition dumps. Four German planes were destroyed over Sevsk. Stomovik planes raided a northern port held by Germans, sank a transport and two smaller boats, set on fire warehouses and piers and shot down two intercepting enemy planes. Nine German planes that tried to attack a valuable Soviet

and possibly some monitors and old battleships or specially devised armored ships, will batter the enemy's coastal batteries as the troops move ashore. Here there was a deficiency in the Dieppe attacks as that attack was a reconnaissance in force rather than a genuine invasion attack. Because Dieppe was neither a raid nor an invasion attack its preparations fell "between two stools."

Typhoons Will Aid

The A.P. dispatch states that Typhoons, long range fighter planes, will be used to swoop low over the landing beaches and deal with opposing enemy troops. The landing craft support will include little armed and armored destroyers carrying mortars. "Armored" destroyers that carry mortars are distinctly something new. Only one destroyer was sunk during the Dieppe affair, although ordinary destroyers have scarcely any armor protection. The destroyers also will have twin machine-guns in revolving turrets to bring a heavy covering fire to bear and to deal with enemy aircraft. The lack of a covering fire on an adequate scale was very noticeable last August. These destroyers apparently are included in the L.C.P.S. or Landing Craft Personnel Support.

The L.C.T.S. or Landing Craft Tank Support has barges that carry light tanks and Bren gun carriers. Behind them come larger landing barges with heavier tanks and more troops. Marines serve on the L.C.P.S. craft. Other details may be kept secret for military reasons.



mentioned ahead of sailors, which was fitting, having regard to the sufferings of desert warfare. On Sunday His Majesty visited a bathing beach where 3,000 troops were bathing. When word passed that His Majesty was present, a grand race ashore took place. The half-nude dripping men sang the national anthem and "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," with rare enthusiasm.

His Majesty's visit abroad was the first since he inspected the ill-fated British expeditionary force in France and visited a part of the accursed Maginot line in December, 1939, during the "Bore" war, when Canadian and American manufacturers could not pry a contract for war material from the lethargic Chamberlain government, although the Allies already were terribly behind Germany in war equipment.

Concerted Attacks

Simultaneous and concerted attacks by Russian armies in the east and by British, French and American armies in the south and possibly by British and American armies in the north of Europe may come and may yield surprisingly good results, although some local setbacks necessarily would occur. The southern Allies undoubtedly are about to launch strong blows, probably against Sicily and Sardinia in the first place. Their bombers today are making very intensive attacks on enemy dromes and ports. The Sciacca airdrome and that at Castelvetrano, not far away, were raided, as well as three others in western Sicily. The south shores of Sicily provide favorable invasion terrain. The enemy may have cleared all his bombers off the islands so as to give more room for fighter planes that would attack invasion forces.

Spain hears the bomber planes in Sicily, Sardinia and the toe of Italy are being moved to points north of Naples. There they would be almost useless, so we may speculate as to the truth of the story. Undoubtedly the enemy is pulling back some equipment out of harm's way, not being very confident of his ability to hold southern Italy and the big islands. U.S. planes raided Marsala. Sixteen Axis planes were shot down yesterday, which is proof that the enemy's air forces have not given up the fight. The Allies lost seven planes. On the accompanying map Sciacca and Marsala are located; also Algiers where King

convoy in the north were shot down in a three-hour battle. Four more German planes were destroyed southwest of Moscow.

Enemy Morale Sagging

Italian prisoners are making a football of pictures of Mussolini. The morale of new German troops is not up to standard. German morale at home is on the skids. Allied military plans rightly ignore the possibility that Germany may collapse or undergo revolutionary changes. The writer fully expects dramatic psychological changes in Axis countries before Christmas. In the meantime the Allies should press on with purely military operations, using their air power to the limit to keep down Allied casualties.

Owing to the lessons taught at Dieppe, the British forces poised for the invasion of northern Europe have adopted many new ideas. These will remove many of the weaknesses that made the Dieppe raid more or less of a failure. Stronger warships and more suitable planes, both using revised tactics, will support the landing parties, and these will be able to bring a much stronger support fire of their own to bear, which is most desirable. There will be landing support boats as well as landing boats; also landing craft tank support units. The task assigned to the advancing landing parties will be the seizure of a bridgehead so that big warships can go into harbor or close to shore in company with large troopships carrying the Allied main body.

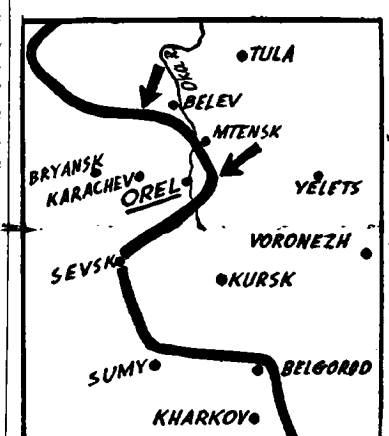
Improving on Dieppe

James M. Long has given details of recent Allied invasion manoeuvres in an A.P. dispatch that has passed the various censorship authorities. In this he indicates that the landing parties will be able to provide their own smoke screens to supplement those that may be laid by small naval craft and planes. We are told that big warships will cover the inland heights with turret guns and riddle the skies and intercepting enemy planes with their A.A. batteries. This suggests that cruisers,

One may wonder whether even the details given here should be revealed before an invasion attack, but those who are in the best position to know think no harm could be done thereby. The revelation of some of the improved methods tends to comfort people at home with the thought that their men in the forces are being given sound leadership and every possible chance for their lives and victory.

Russians' Local Gain

Moscow and Berlin report that the Russians have made their heaviest local attack of the spring to the northeast of Orel. Here they



captured four villages and drove to some depth into German defences. Many German counter-attacks failed. Some day soon a local attack of this character may expand into a major offensive. The Russians apparently have crossed the Oka river near Mtsensk. The Orel salient is not quite as acute as we had supposed, the Germans having gained some ground in that region not hitherto reported. The battle-line appears to go close to Mtsensk and Belov, places shown on the accompanying one-column map.

Madame Chiang at Ottawa

Axis planes continue to attack Allied invasion ships south and west of Sicily. Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, the world's outstanding woman, speaking at Ottawa, said

Japan had carried 100,000,000 tons of raw material from the Asiatic mainland and was increasing her military might. She called Hitler a "demonic Mephistopheles nurturing persecution and miasmic hate." She urged that the vanquished should be treated as neighbors. Chungking reported that the Japs were using poison gas again. Premier Tojo of Japan said terrific battles were developing from the counter-offensives of the Allies. He pledged Germany to fight shoulder to shoulder with Germany and Italy, which may point to an assault upon Siberia. U.S. planes raided Rabaul. The Japanese attacked new Allied landing fields in New Guinea, northwest of Lae, showing Allied troops in an area not hitherto occupied by them.