

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final

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A War Reporter's Notebook

By Hal Boyle

ALGIERS, Oct. 26 (Delayed)—You can't get ahead of these Algerian stockholders. Two American artists in khaki, Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Slipon of Chicago and New York, and Sgt. Paul Boyle of St. Louis stopped to chat with a Syrian dealer in art and antiques. In his window was a small silver bracelet. Slipon asked the price. It was \$11.00.

"Eleven dollars!" he exclaimed indignantly. "Why do you know how much a little bracelet like that would cost in Mexico City?" "No," said the dealer, "how much?" "I could get one better than that for you for \$1.50," said Slipon.

"Look," said the dealer, "you go to Mexico City and open up a store. I will sell you in Algiers and make more money."

Finance officers have to listen to a lot of begging from disgruntled soldiers, angry at the personal trouble it causes them to have to handle foreign types of money. Capt. Nathan J. Newman of Lowell, Mass., got fed up with hearing too many complaints and questions as to whether there would be any further changes in the value of francs, so he put up the following sign in the window where the Army handles financial transactions for the troops:

"We know: This money looks like wallpaper. It doesn't fit your pocketbook. It would make a good blanket. You need a brief case to carry it. You would rather have 'real money.' We don't know: When the franc is going to change. Why the franc bills are so large. Why you want to hold your American dollars. What we can do about pleasing everyone."

SIGN WORKS "That sign has really worked," said Lt. Fred Loback of Astoria, Ore. "It has been up for about five months now and has saved us hundreds of squawks. New officers coming into the theater were smart at having to handle large-denomination bills read the sign and shut up. Usually helps them to get on and saves us a lot of arguments."

Capt. Carlsson A. Herkander of Bristol, Va., is a sound sleeper. He woke up one morning and thought the room looked strangely bare. It was not until he got up and started to dress, however, that he realized why it seemed so bare. His socks were gone. So were his pants, his shirt, his underclothing and every other garment in the room. During the night an Arab had climbed the wall—they found his footprints outside—entered the room and silently as a cat looted it of everything movable.

"You have to adapt to life as you find it," said the captain ruefully. "The only thing he overlooked was my pajamas and my toothbrush. What he didn't see for himself the Arab will probably dispose of on the black market, where cloth is as scarce as my brass knuckles and my pipe."

BIG JOB FOR POLICE In fact, the scarcity of clothing has stimulated local business in the city. The police are busy with Arab men who even in fatigued look like anything is a game of wealth. This petty thievery is an increasing problem to French police.

If any soldier gets to a room with a girl in Italy he can't say he wasn't officially warned. The Army's Guides in Italy warn that Italian women and girls are allowed less freedom than they enjoy in England and America, and points out that Italian men are jealous and handy with the knife.

"The main thing to remember," the guide books emphasize, "is that a respectable unmarried girl does not walk out with a man unless they have gone through the formality of getting engaged. If a girl breaks this rule she runs the risk of losing her reputation and her chances of getting married. This is especially true if she is married to a man of her family, who may also take offense at the most harmless approaches on your part."

Don't, therefore, think that you are going to find it easy to pick up a respectable girl in Italy without running the risk of a first rate row, and remember that a number of Germans came to an untimely end through trying. And that, the Army feels, is their warning.

WEATHER

Not quite so cool tonight and Sunday forenoon

ESTABLISHED 1888

Multiple Drive Made To Complete Nazi Trap

Cossacks Smash Through Towns

LONDON (AP)—Three Russian armies converging on the key stronghold of Nikolopol on the lower Dnieper River today in a multiple drive to complete the encirclement of German forces in the Dnieper bend.

Two other Red Army forces at the same time were surging west and south of Nikolopol to seal off the German positions in the Crimean Peninsula. One, paced by squadrons of hard-riding Cossack cavalrymen and tank units, smashed through 60 towns to take Nikolopol, 45 miles from the northeastern corner of the Crimea, while the second captured Torgovka, less than 50 miles from Perekop, which bottlenecks the escape corridor at the northwest edge of the peninsula.

Losses GAINING Gains of fifteen miles were reported in this sector by the Russian communiqué, with the demoralized enemy abandoning additional huge stores of military equipment.

Two prongs of the triple thrust to Nikolopol were led by Gen. Fedor Tolbukhin and Gen. Rodion Y. Malinovsky. The former was the strike German "defense-in-depth" line in the Balkan-Malaya-Balchasta, called the Stenocor bulletin said, and battled its way through the steep slopes of Sloboda-Balchasta, west and southwest of Nikolopol, a major producing center in South Russia.

Malinovsky, operating inside the Dnieper bend, south of Nikolopol, advanced about 40 miles to meet Aleksandrov, and a number of German units. More than 1,600 Germans were killed in this action in which 20 towns were captured.

The third thrust to Nikolopol was revealed by the Berlin radio, which said that units of the 1st and 2nd Armies were plunging across the Dnieper River just below Zaporozh'e, with the intent of cutting off the retreat of the German 17th Army, or driving down the west bank of the river to the city of Nikolopol. The Moscow bulletin did not mention this new thrust.

River Ukrainian Army 50 miles northwest of Nikolopol, was still holding out against the first Army. German paratroopers reportedly staged heavy tank and infantry attacks on the city, but the besiegers to gain time for battered remnants of the German force to escape to the west across the Nogatik Steppes.

Food Poisoning Strikes Over 100

DALLAS (AP)—More than 100 employees of the North American bomber plant were stricken by food poisoning early today and 20 of them were sent to hospitals. The company's information officer said that none was in a critical condition. The cause of the poisoning was not known immediately, but officials are working to identify what caused the illness.

Badoglio In Naples Visit

NAPLES (Delayed)—Prime Minister Benito Mussolini made his first appearance in Naples today since this port city was freed from German occupation. He was accompanied by American Minister Robert Murphy and British Minister Herbert Morrison.

Although Murphy described the visit as a "routine business," the presence of the American and British North Africa representatives lent prestige to Badoglio's arrival and caused speculation over whether it was an indication that the Italian premier has full British and American support for his government.

ALLIED ARMIES CONVERGE ON MONTRODRONE

Drive Made To West Anchor Of Nazis' Line

By NOLAND NORGAARD ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS — (AP)—British troops of the Fifth Army storming across the Regia Canal in a three-mile plunge have occupied the seaside town of Mondragone to run squarely against lofty Mount Massico, western anchor of the new German line in Italy, it was announced today.

Further inland, American forces developed a flanking threat against Mount Massico, capturing Pietravalle and the main Capua-Rome highway.

Simultaneously, the British Eighth Army to the east forced ahead to take Montemiro, on the lower bank of the Trigno River fourteen miles inland from their bridgehead in the San Salvo area, where the heaviest fighting on the Italian front still raged.

Some fifteen towns in all fell to the Allied advance, hindered by heavy rains and mud in all sectors. Mule transport had to be substituted for motor vehicles in some mountainous localities.

The British sprang from trenches and foxholes along the southern banks of the Regia Canal to take Pietravalle. They had been held to that line, paralleling the lower Volturne for more than a week by heavy enemy fire from the lower slopes of Massico Ridge. Mondragone was deserted, and an Allied officer said the town had become valueless to the Germans, who would make their really important stands from the ridge itself. Several bridgeheads forced across the canal along the line remained under fire of long-range German guns.

American troops drove forward four miles to capture Pietravalle, 15 1/2 miles north of Capua and five miles southwest of Rieti. Pietravalle was described officially as "a very important feature of the whole ground which gives the Fifth Army control of elevated areas on both sides of the upper Trigno and provides observation over the network of roads due west."

MAY SWEEP AROUND The town is 21 miles northeast of the Volturne and opened the way for a possible sweep around Massico. Also captured in this push were Pietravalle, 4 1/2 miles north of Sparanico, and numerous smaller villages including San Paolo, Ascano, Viciniano, San Felice, and San Antonio Abate.

It likewise yielded possession of the main road leading to the bridge over the upper Volturne and the entire lateral road from the center of Sparanico southwest.

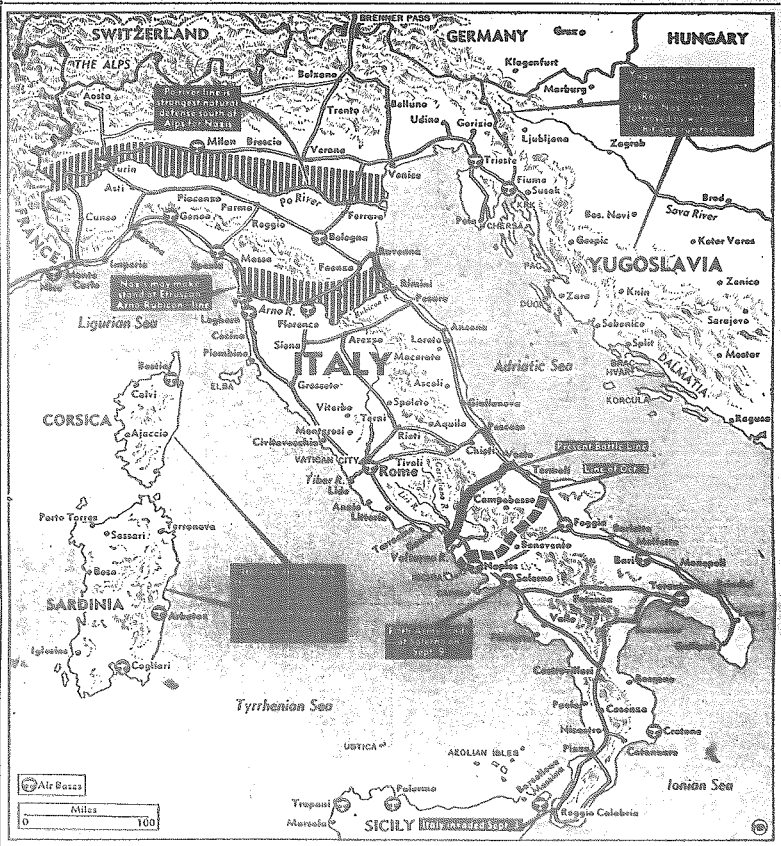
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A drive from the south carried on by the 1st Army, under the command of Gen. Mark W. Clark, was reported in an earlier dispatch.

Yugoslav Guerrillas Fighting In Hungary

LONDON (AP)—Audacious Yugoslav guerrillas fought the Hungarian frontier today in widespread battles against German and satellite troops, and some units now are fighting on Hungarian territory, a communique broadcast by the Yugoslav Army of Liberation announced.

The crossing was made from Zagreb Province, north of Zagreb. In the preceeding days, the Dalmatian coast, in which a German column was defeated after ten hours of fierce fighting, also was reported in the communique from Gen. Joseph Brody (Tito). Some 100 Nazi troops were killed, it was said. Twenty Allied planes assisted in the drive. Details of other operations were not given.



ITALY, TWO MONTHS AFTER INVASION—An Allied armies push their way northward on the Italian front, the flight grows steadily harder. Two months after the British Eighth Army's initial invasion of the toe of Italy, the Allies are a third of the way up the boot, but Rome is still many difficult miles away. Stiffened German resistance is indicated by the fact that in the first month of invasion the Allied Fifth and British Eighth Armies were able to take all the boot to the Naples-Termini line, while in the second month gains extended only to the Volturno-Vasto line.

Rescue Over 100 At Sea

French Naval Tanker Torpedoed WASHINGTON (AP)—Rescue of more than 100 officers and men and the ship's cat after a French naval tanker was torpedoed was reported by the Navy today.

The rescues were made by the USS Pilot, a high speed minesweeper which stood almost motionless in the water while the tanker, sinking, was pulled from the water. The pilot's crew dived into the sea to aid French men exhausted to swim bower.

David Alexander Borchgrevink, 39, of New Orleans, swam far across to rescue the captain of the French ship. The man who brought the news said that a line tied around his waist had been broken while he was being pulled up by the French ship. The officer was dead when brought aboard. The man's child mate of the French ship also died. Both were buried at sea. The date and place of the torpedoing and other details were withheld by the Navy.

Strikes Spread In Await Nazi Face Ultimatum Loss Report

More Than 100,000 Coal Miners Idle; F.R. Ready To Intervene WASHINGTON (AP)—Strikes spread further today in the soft coal fields, the number of idle miners rising well above 100,000 in the face of a promise of Presidential intervention unless union officials send them back to work Monday.

Most coal regions reported the number of men out of the pits, with the biggest increase in Kentucky where 22,500 were reported on strike against 12,375 reported yesterday. Pennsylvania showed another big drop in the number of men at work, with 31,723 yesterday to 14,307 today.

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Close Trap On Japs American Paratroopers Strike In Solomons

WASHINGTON (AP)—American paratroopers invaded the 63-mile-long chain of Solomon Islands, already the air fields laid to them there are largely in ruins. Latest war reports today told of the Americans landing unopposed on the southwestern tip of Choiseul Island, a maneuvering point of a trap closing around Japanese soldiers on invaded Treasury (Tonga) Islands and of hundreds of bombers and fighters dropping record tonnages of explosives on enemy runways and airfields.

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American Forces Develop Flanking Threat Against Mount Massico

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Cut Liquor Tax Boost

Proposed Rate Changed To \$8 A Gallon WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Ways and Means Committee today announced a 44 percent increase in the tax on alcoholic liquor.

The committee, which a month ago, changed the proposed rate from \$10 a gallon to \$8. The present tax is \$6 a gallon. Representative Cooper, Democrat, Tennessee, said the action would decrease the estimated revenue from that source by \$42,000,000.

Cooper said that the several changes from previous tentative decisions resulted in a net increase in revenue of \$40,000,000. The committee's actions included:

- 1. Doubling of the present tax on cigars, a move estimated to yield \$28,000,000. 2. A further increase in the tax on electric light bulbs and vacuum tubes from 15 to 20 per cent. The present rate is 15 per cent. The new proposal would bring in approximately \$10,000,000.

JEWELRY BOOST 3. An increase in the tax on jewelry to 20 per cent, against the present rate of 10 per cent. The committee also decided to raise the present rate of 8 per cent on the new silverware. The new proposal would bring in approximately \$10,000,000.

Say At Least 17 Nazi Ships Sunk Off Norway

NEW YORK (AP)—A broadcast broadcast recorded today by the Federal Communications Commission said that Allied air and surface forces had sunk at least 17 German vessels off the Norwegian coast. The broadcast said that the transit traffic across Swedish territory in Norway.

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