

Mussolini's Exit Marks End of an Era For Fascism; Italy Ponders New Setup; Reds Continue Strong Westward Drive; WMC Rule Effects 'Super Critical' Jobs

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
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Seated at right, General Cotti-Porcinari, commander of the Napoli division of the Italian army in Sicily, fell as prisoner of war to the advancing British army. Allied armies finally encountered stiff resistance in the northeastern area.

MUSSOLINI:

No Caesar

Biggest news story of the war—that was Benito Mussolini's resignation as Italy's prime minister and strong man for 21 years. Taking his place was Fascism's shadow, Marshal Pietro Badoglio, avowedly Mussolini's bitter enemy, yet the builder of his armies and his conqueror of Ethiopia.

Mussolini left the scene with Italy's empire lost; with Axis armies pocketed in the northeastern corner of Sicily by Allied forces, and with the Italian mainland afire from bombs. As he left, King Victor Emmanuel called on all Italians to stand firm in the most fateful hour of the country's destiny. Italy again will find the road of the future, he said.

Twenty-one years ago, Mussolini took over the Italian government following a march of 8,000 of his Blackshirts on Rome. Italy writhed in disorder, her industries crippled from strikes, and her unemployed war veterans in riot. In the crisis, King Victor turned to Mussolini, and thus did the strong man come to power.

He restored order. He created public works and set up the corporate state, in which all economic groups are represented in government. He settled papal claims to the amount of 92 million dollars and recognized the Vatican's sovereignty. But it was over empire that Mussolini stumbled.

Take Up Last Line

At the beginning of the final stage of resistance in Sicily, the Axis line roughly ran from the east coast port of Catania westward to the mountains, and then curved northward to the shores of the Tyrrhenian sea.

Near Catania, strong Axis forces held firm after early tank battles had failed to pierce their lines. To the west, Canadian troops picked their way through rugged terrain to advance on the Axis outpost of Regalbuto, which huddles behind mountainous ranges.

After seizing the big Sicilian port of Palermo, Gen. George S. Patton's American Seventh army drove westward along the Tyrrhenian coast toward the last Axis defenses defending Messina, which lies at the extreme tip of the island, two miles from the Italian mainland.

German attempts to reinforce Axis troops in Sicily by means of giant Junkers and Messerschmitt three- and six-engined transport planes met stiff opposition from the Allies.

RUSSIA:

Reds Press In

With three columns driving in from the north, east and south, and another force swinging wide to the west to cut off the rear, Russian armies tightened their hold on the German held bulge of Orel.

The westwardly drive threatened the railroad linking Orel with the great Nazi supply base of Bryansk. Severance of the line meant interruption in the flow of supplies being shunted to German troops stubbornly resisting the Reds' three-cornered drive on Orel.

While the Russians pressed slowly against German defenses at Orel, the Nazis told of a massive Red offensive south of Lake Ladoga on the Finnish front and below Leningrad. The Germans also said strong Russian attacks at Novorossisk in the northwestern Caucasus had been repelled.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC:

Jungle Fighting

Working their way through jungle brush, Japanese doughboys gnawed hidden Japanese machine gun outposts to advance within range of the enemy's main perimeter of defenses around the strategic airfield of Munda in the Solomon islands.

As the troops crept closer to their objective, the U. S. air force continued furnishing heavy support, dive-bombers roaring in to pound the Japs' nest of wooden and earthen pill boxes.

In New Guinea, Liberator and Mitchell bombers gave Salamaua a going over, dropping 250 tons of explosives in two days. As the air force softened up this important enemy base, Allied ground troops fought off Jap patrols to advance eastward to the town.

MANPOWER:

'Super-Critical'

Over and above the 3,000 jobs that the War Manpower commission has designated "essential," it has prepared a list of "super-critical" occupations for which draft boards will be asked to give especial consideration, WMC chairman Paul V. McNutt announced.

The new "super-critical" list will not replace the old list, McNutt explained, but rather will be given preferential ranking above it. Draft boards will not be ordered to exempt workers in the "super-critical" occupations because the boards have this power under law.

The new "super-critical" classification followed WMC plans for allowing workers to transfer to other plants to receive higher pay for the same jobs.

HARVEST:

Production Down

Despite unfavorable spring weather, the nation's farmers have all but completed their harvesting of spring wheat, being but only one week behind normal schedule, according to federal crop statisticians. But as of July 1, total production for 1943 was estimated at 790 million bushels against 981 million last year.

Only in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio did harvesting fall back to any extent. Through Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas the wheat was cleaned up according to schedule, and work in Nebraska and Missouri progressed favorably.

Estimations of the winter wheat harvesting showed Kansas with a crop of 150 million bushels, against 206 million last year; Nebraska with 53 million against 68 million; Oklahoma with 32 million against 57 million, and Texas with 33 million against 47 million. Illinois with 17 million against 12 million was credited with the biggest advance over last year.

RATIONING:

Mark Up Butter

To keep purchases in line with supplies, the point value of butter was raised by 2 to 10 points per pound for the period ending September 4, the Office of Price Administration announced. The action followed civilian purchases in excess of allotments during the last few months.

Housewives switching to other fats will be able to obtain shortening, lard and cooking and salad oils at one point less. Margarine remains unchanged at four points.

BOMBERS:

Strike Nazi Industry

Heavy round-the-clock raids on Hitler's European fortress got under way again with a U. S. raid on the Nazis' Norwegian submarine port of Trondheim and a neighboring aluminum plant.

No sooner had the bombers alighted than fresh squadrons took off, this time for northern Germany. The RAF pointed bomber noses toward the great North sea port of Hamburg and dropped 2,300 tons of explosives. Another British force struck hard at the gigantic Krupp arms works at Essen.

Following in the wake of the British, U. S. airmen worked over Hamburg in daylight. Continuing the concentrated assault on German industry, other formations plastered rubber factories at Hanover and the Focke-Wulf aircraft assembly plant at Warnemuende. Shipyards were hit at the German naval station of Kiel.

Almost 60 Allied planes were lost in the raids, the bombers encountering heavy anti-aircraft fire to a height of from 20,000 to 35,000 feet, and fleets of fighters.

95 Billion!

The American home front's tremendous effort is best grasped by congressional appropriations for U. S. war spending for the next 12 months.

Approximately 88 billion dollars was appropriated for expenditure on tanks, planes, guns, etc., and for the purchase of food, etc., for our battle allies. In the fiscal year ended last June, 73 billion dollars was spent for war purposes.

Besides the 88 billion dollars for the war, an additional seven billion dollars was appropriated for other government expenditure. Of the total amount, three billion dollars will be used for payment of interest on the public debt, which amounted to 140 billion dollars last June.

All told, government expenditures have been estimated at 95 billion, 330 million dollars for the next 12 months, greater than the total national income in peak years of prosperity.

WHEAT:

Stocks for Feed

Feeling that the present corn shortage is the gravest emergency facing the country, and that any future civilian wheat scarcity can be met out of Canada's record production, the Commodity Credit corporation has determined to raise practically all limits on its sales of wheat stocks for feeds.

Under the new regulation made in agreement with the War Food administration, only 30 days trade and 90 days feeders inventories will be held. The CCC had 215 million bushels of grain with which to start the program, and it was expected that stocks would be augmented by purchases of excess elevator supplies. Since wheat generally was selling above the CCC loan rate, it was not thought that stocks could be built from this source.

At the same time, CCC divulged it was seeking to import additional grain from Canada by rail. Approximately 154 million bushels are to be shipped over the Great Lakes. Coastal shipment from Canada to American Pacific ports also was being sought.

TREASON:

Broadcasters Named

Eight American citizens charged with broadcasting Axis propaganda from Germany and Italy were indicted by a federal grand jury for treason. To secure the indictment, the government presented phonograph recordings of talks, and acquaintances identified their voices.

Among the eight, six of the accused are native Americans and two are naturalized citizens of German birth. Most prominent of those in-



Indicted for broadcasting enemy propaganda were (from left to right) Douglas Chandler, Wilhelm Kaltenbach and Ezra Pound.

dicted is Ezra Pound, 57-year-old poet and writer who has lived in England, France and Italy since 1911. He was said to be the only one of the group broadcasting from Italy.

Three of the group, including a woman, were former newspaper reporters. According to the indictments, the broadcasts included denunciation of communism and the Jews, criticism of the American war program, and praise of Germany and Italy.