

U. S. Troops Overcome Early Reverses To Advance on All Fronts During 1943; Italy's Surrender Cracks Axis Bloc

Japs Pushed From Pacific Outposts After Jungle Fighting; Aleutian Victory Removes Threat to West Coast.

By AL JEDLICKA

On July 25, 1943, the world was electrified by the news that Benito Mussolini had resigned as premier of Italy. Although details of the Duce's downfall were meager, there was a feeling that the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis had cracked, and this was confirmed September 8 when Gen. Dwight Eisenhower announced Italy's surrender.

Thus did events shape in accordance with Prime Minister Winston Churchill's calculations of Italy being the "soft underbelly" of Europe. From January 14 to 24, Churchill and President Roosevelt had conferred with their war chiefs at Casablanca, North Africa, where military as well as political plans for the year were laid, and the general principle of "unconditional surrender" was established. There was further development of these plans when the Allied leaders met again at Quebec, August 17.

The year 1943 saw a new phase in World War II, with the Allies swinging into the offensive and the Axis resorting to rearguard action to slow the drive on their main bastions.

Not only was this phase exemplified in Europe, but it also was brought to the fore in the South Pacific, where dynamic, imaginative Gen. Douglas MacArthur began the push to oust the enemy from their outposts in the Solomons and New Guinea and clear the path for the reconquest of the Philippines and the defeat of the Japs.

Even as Churchill and Roosevelt conferred in Casablanca, Gen. Bernard Montgomery's British Eighth army was pursuing Nazi Marshal Erwin Rommel across the North African desert. To the west along the Tunisian border, U. S. forces were moving into position to pinch off the enemy as they fought back toward Bizerte and Tunis. On May 7, these two seaports fell, and five days later organized Axis resistance in North Africa ceased, with the Allies taking 150,000 prisoners.

General Montgomery had begun his drive at El Alamein in Egypt, where Rommel, famed fox of the desert, had held up, just 67 miles away from the great British naval base of Alexandria. U. S. troops



Leaders of U. S. armies on world's far-flung fronts: Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who pushed Japs from Pacific outposts; Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff; Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, invader of North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

his release from captivity by Nazi paratroopers September 12. On September 20, the Italian government of King Victor Emmanuel declared war on Germany.

On the Russian front, February 2 saw the end of the great battle of Stalingrad, with the repulse of Nazis, but only after the big industrial city had been pounded into ruins. The Reds claimed virtual destruction of the German Sixth army and Fourth tank army, and capture of Field Marshal Frederick von Paulus and 14 other generals.

June 26, the Nazis launched heavy attacks at Orel and Belgorod, at the two ends of the big bulge in the rich agricultural and industrial province of Ukraine. But the Reds broke through their lines and they slowly fell back to the banks of the Dnieper river.

Below Kiev, the Dnieper swings due east before curving southward for some length, and then cutting back toward the west again, forming a huge bulge. To trap the German army in this bulge, the Russians spilled over the Dnieper below Kiev, but strong German rearguard action at Krivoi Rog gave their forces time to escape encirclement.

During the height of the Russian advance in the south, U. S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull met with British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden and Russian Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov in Moscow, where with China, the representatives of the three great powers signed a historical pact, agreeing to fight Germany and Japan until they surrender unconditionally, and determining to establish an international organization based along the lines of the old League of Nations to assure collective security.

While battles raged on land in Europe, they raged in the air, too, with U. S. and British bombers battering Germany's great industrial cities of Hamburg, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Essen and Berlin, and dwarfing the Luftwaffe's early attacks on London. Port and manufacturing center, Hamburg, was virtually wiped off the map, and, in all, it was reported 1,200,000 Germans were killed as a result of Allied air raids.

In the distant Southwest Pacific, with the memory of heroic resistance on Bataan and Corregidor still impressed in his mind, and with them his vow to return to the Philippines to avenge the U. S. setback, Gen. Douglas MacArthur struck out against the Japanese in the Solomons and New Guinea. Following their rapid conquests after the paralysis of Allied forces at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, the Japs had surged within striking distance of Australia, before they were stopped short in the historic battle of the Coral sea in May, 1942.

Ousting of the Japs from southeastern New Guinea, January 24, and the smashing of all organized resistance on Guadalcanal, February 10, giving U. S. control of the southern Solomon islands, set the stage for General MacArthur's big push to drive the enemy from his remaining advance posts in the two areas.

The first gun was fired June 30, with U. S. forces landing on Rendova island in the central Solomons. On the following day, U. S. troops set foot on Nassau bay, New Guinea, to fight inland for a junction with Aussies moving northward through the jungles.

Jungle Cover Slows Fighting
Jap troops made use of the dense tropical foliage and rocky, mountainous country, for cover to slow the advances. But especially in New Guinea, General MacArthur adopted the policy of concentrating against enemy bases only and cutting off Jap supply sources for cross-country fighting. Salamaua fell September 15, Lae three days later, and Finschhafen October 3.

Meanwhile in the Solomons, U. S. forces hacked their way to Munda airfield on New Georgia island, August 6, after 38 days of bitter fighting. On October 9, it was reported that the Japs abandoned their last big base of Kolombangara in the central Solomons.

During the Solomons fighting, U. S. naval and air forces took a high toll of Jap ships and barges used to supply or evacuate troops, especially at night. As a result of the New Guinea and Solomons campaigns, U. S. and Aussie forces stood squarely between Rabaul on New Britain island, the enemy's nerve-center for resistance in their advance positions in the Southwest Pacific. Even as the Japs rushed naval and air reinforcements to Rabaul to hold it as a supply center and strategic fortress to threaten the flank of any Allied movement to the north toward the Philippines or Tokyo,



One Russian soldier aims and fires the heavy anti-tank rifle while another hands him the ammunition to blast at an oncoming German tank on the Soviet battlefield.

U. S. airmen dumped hundreds of tons of bombs on the big base. On October 11, doughboys swarmed ashore on Bougainville, in a fight to throw the Japs from their last northern holding in the Solomons.

The Japs' direct threat to the American mainland posed with their occupation of the Aleutian islands June 12, 1942, was ended August 15, 1943, with announcement of U. S. occupation of Kiska. Doughboys setting foot on Kiska found no trace of 8,000 Japanese, with evidence their evacuation had taken place within the two weeks prior to the island's fall. The enemy had quit their Aleutian holdings of Attu and Agattu October 7, 1942.

Star Dust

By VIRGINIA VALE
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

SEEMS as if, these days, you can't swing a cat in Hollywood without hitting a Cinderella. Jane Powell's the latest. Fourteen years old, she is under contract to MGM, but will be launched on her movie career by Charles R. Rogers in a starring role in "Song of the Open Road." Meanwhile she's Charlie McCarthy's leading lady on Edgar Bergen's Sunday night radio show. She was Oregon's Victory Girl before she went to Hollywood last August, and Deanna Durbin gets credit for discovering her.

Ruth Warrick's motion picture career has been haunted—she's played one matron after another, and she's just 24! She was lucky to get the role of the first "Mrs. Kane" in "Citizen Kane"—but it was a middle-aged role, done so well that she



RUTH WARRICK

was cast as Joseph Cotten's wife in "Journey Into Fear"; then she was Joan Carroll's guardian in "Obliging Young Lady," and "Forever and a Day" did no better by her. In "The Iron Major," with Pat O'Brien, she's herself for a while in an early sequence, so maybe the tide's turned.

Alan Carney, in "Gangway for Tomorrow," feels that RKO has helped him to realize a lifelong ambition. He's always wanted to do a trained animal act, but had neither the patience to train an animal nor the chance to get the right one. Now fortune has smiled on him at last. In "Gangway for Tomorrow" he plays a hobo whose constant companion—is a trained hen!

Rosalind Russell's all set to play Nurse Kenny in "Elizabeth Kenny"; she spent a week in Minneapolis with the renowned Australian nurse, talking with her and familiarizing herself with the Foundation named for her and with the Kenny technique for curing infantile paralysis. She also studied pictures of Miss Kenny at different stages of her career, to make her portrayal authentic.

A check for one million dollars has been turned over by Warner Bros. Pictures to the Army Emergency Relief, that being the first installment of proceeds from the film version of Irving Berlin's "This Is the Army."

Making Barbara Stanwyck look so seductive that it would seem reasonable that Fred MacMurray would enter into her plot to murder her husband for his accident insurance—that's the problem faced by Director Bill Wilder in Paramount's "Double Indemnity." First he had her wear a sun suit, but sun suits are now so widely worn that they're no longer obviously seductive. She had to jolt MacMurray at first glance. So—now she wears a bath towel!

Marian Shockley, who created and has played the role of "Nikki Porter" for five years on the Ellery Queen NBC radio series, was off the air recently for nine weeks because of serious illness. But her voice apparently was heard; Helen Lewis, who came to New York six years ago with Marian, and with her tried out for the role, is an expert mimic; she stepped in and imitated her friend Marian!

When word got out that Patrice Munsel, 18-year-old winner of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions of the Air last year, had landed a \$120,000 concert contract before ever she sang at the Met, literally hundreds of young singers rushed to try for this year's auditions. In Chicago alone Wilfred Pelletier heard 141 girls and boys, all of whom had high hopes of following in Patrice's footsteps.

ODDS AND ENDS—If Roy Acuff, singing star of "Grand Old Opry," is elected governor of Tennessee he won't be the only office holder in his family—his dad is Neill Acuff, a General Sessions court judge. . . Alexis Smith and Dolores Moran have been chosen to be Jack Benny's leading ladies in the Warner Bros. comedy "The Horn Blows at Midnight." . . Alan Ladd, who recently received a medical discharge from the army, has been named by Paramount for the lead in "And Now Tomorrow," replacing Franchot Tone. . . Corp. Billy Halop, one of the original "Dead End Kids," visited CBS' "Let's Pretend," which gave him his start.

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Home Front Interest Focused on Economic Stabilization

During 1943, interest on the home front was focused on economic stabilization, as set forth by President Roosevelt in his "Hold the line" order of April 7.

The President asked no ceilings be raised on food except to the minimum extent required by law, and he directed the reduction of excess prices, which was eventually accomplished by the cutting of costs to

consumers through subsidies. The President also forbade wage increases except to improve substandard rates or accompany promotions.

Leading the fight for higher wages, John L. Lewis and his 400,000 United Mine Workers maneuvered for seven months before finally reaching an agreement with the government November 3, allowing a daily

wage increase of \$1.50, and recognizing the miners' claim to underground travel time.

During the hectic maneuvering, the workers left their pits four times and the government took over the mines twice. Following the second seizure, Lewis negotiated his \$1.50 settlement with U. S. Mine Custodian, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes.