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NORTH AFRICA COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED FORCE COMMAND POST COMMUNIQUE No. 280

4th August, 1943

Very satisfactory progress has been made, especially in the left sector of the 8th Army front where the enemy is fighting desperately south of Catania.

Patrol activity has increased while further inland our troops have pushed forward in some cases several miles.

The capture of AGIRA and CATENANUOVA has strengthened our position in the centre. Bitter fighting has taken place in this sector and the enemy has had heavy casualties inflicted on him.

In the Northern sector advances up to six miles in some cases have been made in spite of rugged and difficult country. CARONIA on the north coast road has been taken.

NORTH AFRICA NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

Reports just received indicate considerable naval activity in Sicilian waters. On the north coast of Sicily, west of CAPE ORLANDO cruisers and destroyers of the United States Navy have continued to bombard the coast road and enemy positions on the left flank of the 7th Army. P.T. boats continue to operate against the enemy's communications by sea. During the night of July 31/August 1 a small detachment of British light coast craft had a sharp engagement with E-boats off CAPE ARMI, on the toe of Italy, at the south end of the Straits of Messina. Before contact was lost in the very low visibility one E-boat was damaged and all her guns put out of action. On the same night British destroyers bombarded the coast road near TAORMINA on the East coast of Sicily. E-boats were also engaged and driven off. The destroyers then proceeded to bombard the coast road near CAPE MOLINI, about 17 miles to the southward of TAORMINA.

OFFICIAL AIR COMMUNIQUE

Simultaneously with the land offensive heavy attacks were carried out yesterday by medium and light bombers against ADRANO, and gun positions and roads in the ADRANO area. Many enemy vehicles were destroyed and damaged. Our fighters were active throughout the day patrolling the battle area. Enemy shipping off the Sicilian coast was attacked and hits scored on a merchant vessel. On the night of August 2/3 our bombers attacked railway communications at Naples. Intruder aircraft operated over Southern Italy during the night. Four enemy aircraft were destroyed during the day's operations. Two of ours are missing.