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NORTH AFRICAN COMMUNIQUE NO. 310

Allied Force Command Post
18th September, 1943

NAVY

While Allied naval forces in the Salerno area continue to land troops with their supplies and equipment, warships of the British and United States Navies are actively supporting the army with their gunfire.

Battleships were again in action on September 15th. Allied forces occupied the islands of Procida and Ponsa on September 15th.

ARMY

Taranto area. There is nothing fresh to report on the Eighth Army front. Our troops are continuing their advances, and have made contact with the Fifth Army.

Fifth Army sector. Our forces have been active and hold the initiative. Reinforcements continue to arrive. Roccadaspede has been occupied.

AIR

During the night of September 16/17 medium and light bombers of the N.A.A.F. attacked roads at Caserta and Benevento and enemy transport and an ammunition dump in the battle area. Yesterday heavy and medium bombers attacked the enemy airfields at Ciampino and Pratica di Mare south of Rome destroying many aircraft on the ground.

Once again no enemy aircraft were encountered. These recent heavy bombing attacks, including the extreme concentration of September 14 at a critical period of the battle in the Salerno area, have been virtually uncontested by the enemy. His available strength has been concentrated in intermittent small scale efforts against shipping.

Medium and light bombers and fighter bombers attacked enemy movements on roads around the battle area, while fighters maintained patrol over the beaches. Fighters and fighter bombers are now operating from airfields on the Italian mainland.

Last night the enemy airfields at Cerveteri and Furbara were attacked by our night bombers, while medium and light bombers attacked enemy transport round the battle area.

Two enemy aircraft were destroyed off Salerno on the night of September 16/17.

Three of our aircraft are missing.

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