

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENTGENERAL EISENHOWER'S JOB

The New York Herald Tribune states: as the Anglo-American forces pressed their advance yesterday through the Sicilian Hills against stiffening resistance, it seemed likely that the first phase of the landing was about to end in the expected major counter-attack. If so, and whatever the outcome may be, it cannot dim the brilliance of the initial operation or the credit which it properly reflects upon the Commander-in-chief, General Eisenhower. The landing was a remarkable achievement, strategically, tactically and logistically. The Germans were plainly outguessed, and through the selection of the south eastern beaches a local surprise achieved from which the enemy has clearly had difficulty in recovering. The air preparation was thorough and exact; the landings were pressed with great vigor and in fine coordination with the naval support and the airborne troops. But the colossal task of combining two armies, two navies and two air forces, with their many thousands of men, their hundreds of planes and their 3,000 vessels, big and little, into a single team, of keeping them all fueled, munitioned and supplied and running on their split-second schedules, outdoes every other aspect of the operation.

Obviously all ranks and services share the honors. General Eisenhower could not have done it without the loyal aid of everyone, without the hard-working staffs, without the help of such able commanders as Tedder, Spaatz, Anderson, Montgomery, Patton, Cunningham and Hewitt. But Eisenhower was the man who carried the final responsibility, and the operation is certain to enlarge his already very considerable stature.....

He it was who mixed the staffs and commands so thoroughly that there are no longer - "Americans" or "British" in the force, but only colleagues doing their common work. There are many stories of his insistence of unity, to the extent of making it almost a court-martial offence for one nationality even to speak slightly of another. The proof of his leadership and his administrative abilities is now recorded on the Sicilian beaches. General Eisenhower has done a great work, and he deserves recognition for it.

THEN AND NOW

The New York Times says:- Soviet reports that the Red Army has gone over to the offensive and is sweeping through the German lines in the Orel sector fit in with the story from the Sicilian front to draw a picture of the Axis war machine in 1943, that differs in all its proportions from the picture of 1942 and 1941.

The Allied forces have been in Sicily for a week. During the first crucial days on which the fate of every invasion depends, they have been steadily widening their hold on key positions in the island. Every day they have been expecting to meet the major forces of the enemy, drawn up in formidable strength to block their progress. But except for the fierce sortie of the Hermann Goering Panzer division that was overcome by the British Eighth Army at Augusta yesterday and the persistent attempts to halt the Americans moving up from the southern coast, the great counter-offensive has not yet developed.

The answer is not to be found in superior air power alone, decisive a factor as this is in the battle of Sicily. The answer is to be found in the clear limitations of German power in general, manifest now that it can no longer be massed at one point or deployed according to the unhampered plans of Hitler.

/This answer

This answer is written large in Russia, in the contrast between this year's hesitant, restricted and belated offensive and the scale and dash of previous drives.

Even this limited attack on a front Hitler insists is still the main battleground seems to falter and fall back.

It is true that Russia is the first front. The operation in Sicily, brilliant and significant as it is, is still small in comparison with the Battle in the East. But even as the shadow of a front, it is so real and threatening to Hitler that he dare not throw as much force as he possesses into Russia this year. The wavering giant is not yet as weak as he appears in Sicily and on the plains around Belgorod, but he cannot use his full strength in one battle or the other. For the first time he cannot lead off anywhere with power and assurance because he is actually mobilized on two fronts. He may stand in Sicily, he may strike in Russia, but never again with the same old prodigal confidence.

THE NEW POLISH GOVERNMENT

The New York Times also says: The new Polish Government in exile.... is democratic, liberal and moderate..... The new Premier, Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, has been acting as the representative of the underground movement. He knows what the Poles themselves are working for in the very teeth of the German occupation, and this is certainly not an understanding with Germany. He is a leader of the peasant party, which is anything but Communistic in its sympathies, but this does not preclude a political agreement with Russia. In fact, neither Poland nor Russia has any real choice in the matter. If they are not to play into Germany's hands they must reach an agreement.

What the agreement should be it is hardly for Americans to say. The boundary line drawn between a communist and a non-communist system must inevitably be a ticklish thing. Yet in the Europe of the future we may hope that there will everywhere be a recognition of cultural minorities, and that boundary lines will be drawn for administrative convenience rather than as possible battle lines. This is the only system of security that will protect the small ones, too. A free and democratic Poland, trading freely with Russia and with a regenerated central Europe, protected forever against attack and partition, ought to be one of the noble fruits of this war. May the new Government have success in working toward this objective.

U.S.O.W.I.