

MANY KILLED IN MASS AIR ATTACK ON BELFAST

German Raiders Cause Havoc DISTRESSING SCENES IN HARD-HIT CITY Refugees Pour South

MANY people were killed and great damage was done to property in Belfast when large formations of German bombers made the city their principal target in widespread and prolonged raids on various parts of Northern Ireland on Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

Industrial premises and residential and shopping areas in Belfast were severely damaged, and it is reported that the mass attack caused a heavy death toll. Many fires were started as high explosives and fire bombs rained down on the city for several hours.

The German News Agency claimed last night that hundreds of bombers took part in the attack, the effects of which could be compared to the heaviest hitherto inflicted on British armament centres and ports. A communiqué issued in Belfast described the attacks as "vicious and indiscriminate."

WORKING CLASS AREAS IN BELFAST SUFFERED SEVERELY AND MANY PEOPLE WERE KILLED. A HOSPITAL, A LIBRARY, AND A CINEMA WERE AMONG BUILDINGS DAMAGED. LATE LAST NIGHT RESCUE WORKERS WERE STILL BUSY SEARCHING AMONG THE DEBRIS FOR VICTIMS.

Distressing scenes were witnessed in the city yesterday, as weeping women, children, and old people crowded the streets, all seeking areas of safety. Many carried packs, parcels, and bundles of clothes.

A large number of refugees arrived in Dublin from Belfast and other affected areas in the North. Red Cross workers worked all through last night catering for those arriving. Many people also travelled to other parts of Eire.

Most of the arrivals were women and children, haggard after a night of terror.

"Irish Independent" Special Representative.

The Official Communiqué

THE following joint communiqué was issued by the Ministry of Public Security and H.Q. R.A.F. Northern Ireland, yesterday:—"Belfast bore the brunt of the indiscriminate enemy air attacks carried out against Northern Ireland last night. Shortly after the alert had been sounded, high explosives and incendiary bombs were dropped at random over the city."

"A considerable number fell in residential and shopping areas, causing numerous casualties, many of which it is feared are fatal. Other bombs caused damage to industrial and commercial premises."

"In other areas in Northern Ireland the intensity of the attack was not so severe, and the casualties were on a correspondingly smaller scale."

A tribute was paid to the work of the various units of the Civil Defence Service.

augmented by auxiliary fire fighters, worked feverishly all through the night to bring the fires under control.

Along the main thoroughfare lines of the city, and out of the debris of broken glass and rubble, the road was deserted, all traffic having been diverted. Here and there firemen and rescue workers with blackened faces threaded their way in and out of the wreckage, and on occasion still smoking ruins, and occasionally a body was discovered in piles of bricks and collapsed beams.

During the worst period of the attack many people abandoned their homes and ran into the street shelters.

Many lives were saved because

of the prompt action of the Civil Defence Service.

Many houses in residential areas were rendered uninhabitable through blast from bombs bursting in the vicinity.

Hundreds of Belfast firemen

were engaged in the task of clearing up the debris.

Many lives were saved because

Spraying For Safety



A Department of Agriculture official spraying disinfectant on a lorry arriving at the Mullingar Bull Sale yesterday.

HEAVY RAID ON LONDON

WAVES of German planes droned their way over London from all directions last night as the sound of the sirens died away, breaking a five night's lull, say the Press Association.

They were met by the heaviest A.A. barrage of the year. The sky was brilliantly lit by flares, large numbers of which also lit up the streets in one area. Many planes were heard flying much lower than in previous raids. Searchlights swept the sky, groping for raiders dropping flares and fire bombs which were put out before any damage was done.

INCENSANT BARRAGE. R.A.F. night fighters swept into action to engage the raiders.

The raid went on for hours. The crash of low-flying planes and the crash of guns were almost incessant. Raiders came in, circled, and dropped their bombs and went off, others taking their place.

Four persons were believed killed in one area and 16 others were dragged from the debris by rescue squads using a mobile crane to remove concrete slabs.

Heavy bombs were dropped, and one watcher said: "I think it is the heaviest raid we have had in this part."

LONDON MOBILISED. More and more bombers came over as the raid went on. A number of persons were believed trapped beneath the wreckage of a house. Damage from blast was considerable in several districts.

Hungary's Premier



Dr. Laszlo de Bardossy, the Hungarian Premier, successor to the late Count Teleki.

BASES IN EIRE NO PRESSURE FROM UNITED STATES

Washington, Wednesday. — Mr. Cordell Hull, U.S. Secretary of State, indicated today that the U.S. Government has no intention of asking Eire to give up naval bases to the United States.

COCOA TO BE RATIONED

The Minister for Supplies has made an Order prohibiting a retailer from supplying cocoa and after Saturday to any person who is not a householder registered at his shop for the purpose of law.

AFTERMATH OF RAID

War has come to-day with all its terrors to Northern Ireland, says another Irish Independent representative telephoning from Belfast.

To-day on my way North I had just crossed the border when I was brought face to face with the horrors which bombing can bring in its wake. There I saw people waiting for trains to evacuate them to places of safety.

Clinging to bundles—in many cases the whole family belongings—their faces told of the terrible ordeal.

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To Advertisers

OWING to the necessity for conserving the stocks of newspaper in the country, it will be impossible in the future to allot to advertisers as much space as has been given to them up to the present. Particularly it will be necessary to curtail to a very great extent the space given to display advertisements.

To prevent disappointment and cause as little inconvenience to our advertisers as possible, we are anxious to inform them in advance of the reduction in space which must be put into force in the near future.

LIBYAN COAST SHELLED

CONTINUED shelling of German operations along the Libyan coast; aerial bombing of German concentrations, and vigorous patrol action in the Sollum area were reported in yesterday's British communiqué.

The R.A.F. communiqué said that considerable damage was caused to German troops and motor concentrations in the El Adam-Tobruk-Bardia area by continual air action. Earlier it had been learned, states the Press Association, that the British forces in Libya had successfully attacked the rear of the German position in the Gazala area.

A military spokesman in London admitted that the situation in Libya was serious, but that, broadly speaking, it was considered that there was no immediate threat to Egypt.

Dealing with Abyssinia, the Cairo C.H.Q. communiqué stated that in the main Italian road, British columns advancing from the North and South towards Dessie were making steady progress. "Further South," it added, "our pursuit is continuing. It is stated to General Smiley, a commander of 40 officers, 200 Italians, and 1,600 Colonial troops have been captured within the last few days."

ENVOY FROM DUKE

An envoy from the Duke of Aosta, Viceroy of Abyssinia, has arrived at the headquarters of General Cunningham, British G.O.C. in East Africa, states the Press Association. The arrival of the envoy has aroused considerable interest. Military circles are reticent regarding the exact nature of his mission.

AXIS COMMUNIQUES

Yesterday's German communiqué stated:—"In North Africa an attack by British armoured units in the Sollum area, supported by warships, was repulsed."

"The Italian communiqué stated:—"We have laid siege to Tobruk, where the enemy is heavily defended. The Italian communiqué stated:—"The British Navy, Operations continued in the neighbourhood of Sollum. Our Air Force, with the German Air Force, continued hammering the enemy's positions in the harbour. Five Hurricane fighters were shot down in air combat, and two Italian planes failed to return."

ROME STATEMENT

Rome Radio yesterday stated, reports the Associated Press, that the Egyptian Government had decided that "should the German and Italian troops continue their advance in Africa, we will take active steps to support the British forces."

Convoy and Warships Sunk

BRITISH CLAIM

THE sinking of an entire convoy bound from Sicily to Tripoli and three escorting destroyers was announced in a communiqué issued last night by the British Admiralty.

The British destroyer, Mohawk, the communiqué added, was torpedoed and sunk, but the majority of the crew, including the commanding officer, were rescued.

The Admiralty communiqué stated:—"British Naval forces on Tuesday night intercepted and annihilated a south-bound enemy convoy between Sicily and Tripoli."

"The convoy consisted of five supply ships escorted by three destroyers."

"Two of the supply ships were vessels of about 5,000 tons heavily laden with motor transport. These were sunk. Another was an ammunition ship of about 4,000 tons, which blew up with a terrific explosion."

The other two ships were vessels of about 3,000 tons, probably transports. These were also blown up."

The convoy escort consisted of the Italian destroyer, Luce, 1,800 tons and two smaller destroyers. All three were sunk."

During the operation, the commander, H.M.S. Mohawk (Commander, W. M. Eaton, R.N.) was hit by torpedoes and sank. The majority of the ship's company, including the commanding officer, were rescued.

Heavy Fighting In Greece ALLIED LINE ATTACKED

STRONG German attacks on the Allied lines, which run from Mount Olympus to Koritza, were reported yesterday. Berlin claims that gaps were forced in the front "for the advance of the main force," were denied in London and Athens.

"There is no confirmation from the Greek or British Commands in Greece of the rumour, derived from German sources, that the Allied line has been broken in the Mount Olympus sector, and that the Plain of Larissa has, in consequence, been laid open to the German advance," said a British War Office statement. "Heavy fighting is, however, taking place in more than one sector of the Allied line."

The British communiqué said that their troops "are now in contact with the enemy along the whole of our front." Well-informed quarters in Cairo last night described the operations as mainly a "feeling forward" by the Germans. They said the Germans were endeavouring to ascertain the disposition of the British forces.

Yugoslav Resistance Crushed

A German High Command announcement last night claimed that the Yugoslav Second Army had capitulated at Sarajevo and laid down its arms.

Latest news received in London from Yugoslavia indicates that the position there is bad, says the Press Association. "There is no confirmation of rumours that the Yugoslavs have sought an armistice, but it is known that unified control over the different Yugoslav armies no longer remains. There is little doubt, however, that small units will continue to resist in the mountains."

The Germans announce the capture of Sarajevo, historic Bosnian capital, where the murder of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, on June 28, 1914, led to the outbreak of the Great War. Italian claims included the occupation of Split, the Yugoslav Adriatic naval base, and the continued advance of their troops on the Greek front, following the occupation of Erzek, 80 miles southwest of Monastir.

ATTACK ON GREEKS

THE Greek Army, which has borne the brunt of a fresh German attack in Western Macedonia, has inflicted serious losses on the Germans, said Athens Radio last night.

The battle in Western Macedonia, which began on Monday, is in full progress. The Germans attempted to make further progress and brought very considerable forces into play, supported by the German Air Force.

"All the ordered movements of our forces in repulsing the German attacks were effected without loss," the announcer added, quoting a Greek Press Ministry bulletin.

"The British and Imperial forces succeeded in repulsing the German mechanised columns at many points, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy," the bulletin adds.

"While the situation on the northern Greek front is still serious, there are good grounds for hope. On the Albanian front the Greeks have beaten back local Italian attacks, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy," the Press Association.

GERMAN PUSH

Berlin, Wednesday.—"The German Army advancing from the west of Bulgaria through Serbia, has come in contact with British troops on Greek territory," says a German News Agency despatch.

"Although the British had taken up strongly fortified positions at strategic points, the German forces succeeded in driving the British out of their positions without the aid of tanks or planes."

"Supported only by a force of the German soldiers, the German forces attacked troops thrust their way into the enemy's front line and opened gaps for the advance of the main force."

"After hard fighting the enemy was driven from his positions, and the passage forced for the German troops through a narrow road."

"Hundreds of prisoners, including pioneers from the Midlands, Austrians, and many members of the New Zealand Division were captured. Considerable booty, arms and ammunition, was also taken," the Press Association.

SLAV PRISONERS

Berlin, Wednesday.—"The German News Agency claims to-night that eight Yugoslav generals, many officers and 50,000 troops were taken prisoner by the Germans when six Yugoslav divisions were annihilated."

"Eighteen thousand Serbian soldiers, 30 guns, 25 trench mortars, and other quantities of war material fell into the hands of the division as a result of the powerful blows dealt by the German Army," it continues.

"A Serbian General is among the prisoners captured by another German division, which has also captured large numbers of tanks, artillery and a vast amount of equipment."

"A third German division, which has captured two generals, three colonels, 51 officers and 6,000 Serbian soldiers during the last few hours, had temporarily to halt its advance as the roads were choked with masses of prisoners, and there were insufficient conveyances for them."

"Reports of fresh capitulations

NO ARMISTICE IN YUGOSLAVIA

Berlin, Wednesday.—"Rumours current abroad of negotiations for the cessation of hostilities in Serbia, not confirmed in political circles here," said a German Foreign Office spokesman to-day.

"Military events in Serbia have entered a stage where an armistice is out of the question, as the Serbian Army as such is completely annihilated."

"With regard to the fate of the former Yugoslav Ministers, it was learned in Berlin that the ex-Prime Minister Tsvetkovitch had been liberated by a leading German quarter and was in safety," the Press Association.

"KEY" BRIDGE DEMOLISHED

Athens, Wednesday.—"The German Army is held up in the centre of Southern Serbia as the result of the successful bombing by the R.A.F. of the 'key' communication bridge across the Vardar River at Veles."

"When the planes arrived over the target searchlights stabbed the sky and German anti-aircraft batteries hurled tons of exploding shells at the bombers. One of the bombs was hit, although each in turn dived through the barrage to dump its load of bombs."

The bridge was demolished, and the German forces, which had been pouring across it, are now held up," the Press Association.

BERLIN CLAIM

Berlin, Wednesday.—"The German News Agency claims to-night that Allied columns and troop concentrations were destroyed yesterday in Greece, in the area embraced by Servia (Western Macedonia), Larissa, and Thessalonica (Thessaly) and Greece (Western Macedonia)," the Press Association.

YUGOSLAV ARMY SPLIT UP

Guerilla War Likely

There is little doubt that small units of the Yugoslav armies, separated one from another by the swiftness of the German advance, will continue to fight, adopting a type of guerilla warfare in which the Serbs are particularly adept, writes the Press Association Diplomatic Correspondent.

"The British Government foresaw the probable course of events, and sent Mr. Eden, Foreign Secretary, to the Balkans in an effort to secure unity among the small countries of South-Eastern Europe. The Government's action had passed."

Athens, Wednesday.—"British lighter units of Prince Paul, which signed the time for staff talks and when the political change in Yugoslavia took place Greece transferred her divisions from the West to the defence of Eastern Macedonia," the Press Association.

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