

The Red Cross War Fund
ESTABLISHED 1888

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1943

RAID SWAMPS ST. NAZARE DEFENSES

30-Minute Attack on Submarine Base Made

West Germany Also Raided

LONDON — (AP) — Royal Air Force bombers smashed "very heavily" at the submarine base at St. Nazaire, France, and attacked targets in western Germany last night, it was announced officially today.

More than 1,000 tons of explosives were declared to have been used in a 30-minute attack, swamping defenses of the much-bombed submarine base and shipbuilding yard.

FIVE PLANES LOST

Five bombers were missing from the raid, which carried through the fourth night of the heaviest Allied aerial offensive against Germany and the Axis-occupied continental countries.

The Air Ministry communique said: "The enemy submarine base at St. Nazaire, in France, was attacked last night by aircraft of the bomber command. A great weight of explosive and incendiary bombs was dropped. Bombs also were dropped on objectives in western Germany."

"Five of our aircraft were missing."

With last night's attack the Allied bombers closed out February as a month of assaults unequalled since the start of the war.

St. Nazaire was left aflame and shrouded in smoke. The RAF is using an increasingly great number of two-ton and four-ton bombs in such attacks. United States bombers hit St. Nazaire Feb. 18.

Yesterday British Whittier bombers attacked the German airfield at Mappertun near Cherbourg, while eight Mosquitoes bombed factories at Hengelo in Holland and near Liège in Belgium—all without the loss of a plane.

Last night's raid brought to 23 the number of attacks on western Europe carried out by British-led Allied bombers in February, and well-placed observers estimated that the total amount of explosives they had dropped probably exceeded 10,000 tons.

Throughout 1942 the RAF was officially reported to have dropped over 100,000 tons of bombs a month on western Europe.

LOW OPERATIONS

Exclusive of last night's raid, the Allied operations over Europe during February were carried out at a cost of 171 planes, at a relatively low price for the scope of the raids, authoritative sources said.

American aircraft in the raid were on an increasing role in the Allied aerial offensive. U. S. Flying Fortress and Liberator bombers having struck at Europe five times during February at a cost of twenty bombers. No U. S. fighters were lost in these sweeps.

ITALIANS LEAP FROM SINKING SUBMARINE

Depth-charged and forced to surface by a British trawler, the Italian submarine Ema began to sink. Many of her crew members have already plunged into the water and others are preparing to leap from the sinking sub.

Finns Told To Fight On

President Nees No Signs of Peace

HELSINKI — President Risto Ryti declared at his inauguration for a second term today that "we cannot see any signs of an end to the war" and called upon Finland to continue their effort in the fight which she has waged for twenty months as a partner of Germany.

His statement made before Parliament followed recurrent rumors from United Nations and neutral sources that Finland was ready for a separate peace.

"The Finnish official wireless broadcast excerpts from the speech which were recorded by the Associated Press.

GREAT SACRIFICES

"We have had to make great sacrifices," the President was quoted. "Tens of thousands of our best men have given their lives or have become disabled in the service of their country. Nearly one-tenth of the country is left in ruins."

All these sacrifices obligate the Finns to exert themselves to the utmost in order to gain real national security. The goal of the Finns, however, does not go beyond security."

The wireless account said the president emphasized that "the Finns do not want to take part in the war."

See FINNS TOLD on page 7

Japan Air Force On "Downgrade"

WITH THE U. S. AIR FORCE IN CHINA, Feb. 28 — (AP) — Gen. Claire I. Chennault expressed belief in an interview today that the Japanese Air Force has "hit its peak and is now on the down grade."

Asked if he believed he could make his program work if the Senate upholds the House in refusing funds he has proclaimed necessary, McNutt said: "In time of war, you never say anything can't be done. We'll do the best we can with what we have."

Men And Ships Massed By Japan

Reinforcements Poured Into Island North of Australia; Action Expected

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA — (AP) — Japan is massing great forces of troops and powerful armadas of ships and planes in island bases north of Australia, it was reported today.

Allied planes which have been ranging far and wide over the Southwest Pacific in recent weeks, have been reported to be hammering at enemy bases from the Solomon Islands in the East to Dutch Timor in the West, have brought back reports of steadily growing Japanese concentrations, it was announced.

Jap Vessel Explodes

Struck By Bombs in Solomons Attack

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A Japanese cargo ship exploded and sank, the Navy reported today, when a force of heavy and medium bombers, with fighter escort, attacked Japanese positions at Kiska in the Solomons.

"On Feb. 27, during the afternoon, a force of heavy and medium bombers, with fighter escort, attacked Japanese positions at Kiska in the Solomons. The results were not observed. All U. S. planes returned."

"On Feb. 28, during the afternoon, enemy positions at Kiska were again attacked by U. S. medium bombers. Hits were observed in the camp area. All U. S. planes returned."

"On Feb. 28, a Hudson patrol bomber (P-51) was reported to have been shot down by enemy fighters in the area at Munda, on New Guinea Island."

"A force of Liberator heavy bombers was reported to have been shot down by enemy fighters in the area at Munda, on New Guinea Island."

See JAP VESSEL on page 7

Lifting of Restrictions on Workers' Travel Urged

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Joseph B. Eastman, Director of Defense Transportation, asked the states today in his annual message and other restrictions which hamper defense workers who have to move across state lines from one project to another.

Fractures Toe in Fall

AN ADVANCE BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, Feb. 28 — (AP) — Lieutenant W. E. Gay of San Diego, Calif. (no relation), returned to his carrier Sunday after shooting down a Japanese Mitsubishi bomber.

Red Army's Donets Area Offensive Is Stalled

But Gains Made West of Kharkov

LONDON — (AP) — A desperate German effort to stave off further disasters in Russia apparently has checked the forces of General N. F. Vatutin in the Donets Basin, but the Russians reported today the Red Army was continuing to grind forward west of Kharkov toward the rail junction of Poltava and the Dnieper River.

The Russian midnight communique did not concede the German claim that Kramatorsk and Loozova, south of Kharkov, had been recaptured by the Germans. But it did say the Germans were counter-attacking furiously and "hastily bringing up fresh troops and throwing them into action."

69 Coal Miners Still Entombed

At Least Five Known To Be Dead in Montana Disaster

BEAR CREEK, Mont. — (AP) — Numbered, silent relatives of 69 miners imprisoned in The Smith Coal Mine since an explosion Saturday waited today while rescuers combated deadly gases with an emergency air blower set deep in the hillside mine.

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Mass Slayer Dies in Chair

RAIFORD, Fla. — (AP) — Vincent J. Glavin, 38, indicted for the slaying of a man, was put to death in the Miami electric chair at the State Prison here today.

Gandhi Keeps Strength

BOMBAY — (AP) — Mahatma K. Gandhi, in the next to the day of his 21-day fast, was announced today to be maintaining his strength.

Housewives Appear Well Up On Rationing As Point Sales Start

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Point rationing went into operation in every one of the nation's thousands of food stores today with first reports indicating the American housewife had familiarized herself well in advance with the intricacies of the brand-new type of "money."

Enemy Makes Advance In North Tunisia

Bad Weather Restricts Operations On Southern Battlefield

By WES GALLAGHER

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA — (AP) — Axis attacks toward Beja, in northern Tunisia, were disclosed today to have progressed three miles beyond Sidi Nsir, which is eighteen miles northeast of Beja and 40 miles west of Tunis, despite great losses inflicted by Allied ground and air forces.

This disclosure came shortly after an Allied Headquarters communique announced that enemy attacks in the north generally were on a reduced scale but that northeast of Beja the Axis threw in tanks and infantry all day in an effort to pierce Allied positions.

Bad weather restricted operations in the south but flying Partisans carried out the heaviest raid of the campaign on Calgari, Axis supply port, where four ships were reported hit.

The Germans hurled their full weight into the Beja thrust after being thrown back initially, it was stated, and Allied forward units fought to the last man, taking a heavy toll, before ground was given up.

Air support by RAF Spitfires and Hurricane fighter-bombers was described as "magnificent" and pilots reported scores of hits on Axis trucks on crowded roads in the Medes-El-Bach, Ben Arada and Font Du Fahs areas.

French resistance at Medes-El-Bach, southeast of Beja, and along the Mediterranean was described as particularly stubborn.

The exact position of the Allied line remained in doubt but it was reported that in three days of steady fighting that the Germans had not been able to make a decisive beach in the Allied battlefield.

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McNutt Disagrees With Stimson And Opposes Labor-Draft Plan

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Disagreeing with Secretary of War Stimson, War Manpower Commissioner McNutt today voiced opposition to compulsory labor-draft legislation at this time.

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