

# AMERICANS DRIVE TOWARD SEA

## RAF LASHES AT SUB BASE AT ST. NAZAIRE

Follows Up  
Heavy Raid  
By Yanks On  
Nazi Center

Wilhelmshaven  
Attack Target

LONDON—(AP)—Squadrons of the RAF's big bombers smashed at the German submarine base at St. Nazaire last night in the wake of a heavy assault on Wilhelmshaven by American Flying Fortress and Liberators yesterday afternoon.

British Whirlwind fighter-bombers also blasted railway targets in Brittany during the night's operations, which cost the loss of one plane, an air ministry communiqué said.

OFFENSIVE RESUMED

The assaults on St. Nazaire and Wilhelmshaven represented a resumption of the Allied air offensive against the nest from which Nazi under-water raiders were striking at vital United Nations supply lines.

St. Nazaire has been a repeated target of attacks by the United States air forces. The last big raid on the base was carried out by the RAF on Dec. 18, 1942, when 1,100 tons of bombs were unloaded on the U-boat pens.

The assault on Wilhelmshaven was described as one of the heaviest and most accurate yet delivered by the American fliers, who had attacked the big port city about twice before.

It was directed at shipping installations in a target area only a few hundred feet in diameter. Three bombers failed to return.

"The results were good," a communiqué stated tersely.

"The target was packed with hits and there were no survivors with none short or long of the target," said Lieut. Roger Caukin of Los Angeles. He was bombardier of the "Red Wagon," a Fortress piloted by Lieut. Charles Cramer of Akron, Ohio.

SENSE SMOKE BARRAGE

Wilhelmshaven has strengthened its anti-aircraft defense and it sent up a dense smoke barrage, returning fire, a report said.

The lay under heavy camouflage but Caukin declared "I don't see how we could have done anything but destroy it." He was under that large mass of camouflage.

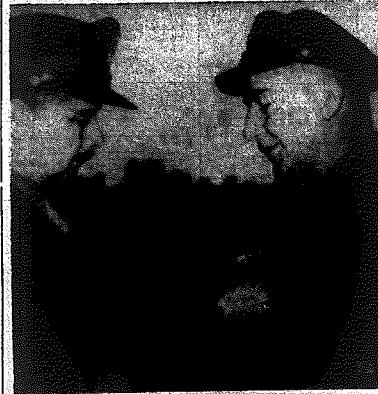
The German fighter interception was cautious, mindful of the punishment meted out by the unscathed bomber fleet that had attacked the port last Thursday.

A number of the enemy aircraft were destroyed by yesterday's bomber crews, the communiqué announced.

Lieut. Eddie J. Abel of Racine, Wis., called on the German "What's Cooking, Doc?" said the enemy fighters flew within about 300 yards of his plane and then shot off, unwilling to fight.

While the U. S. fliers were over Germany, the RAF sent bombers out in a daylight attack on Berlin, and the British and RAF fighters machine-gunned other objectives in Holland and northern France.

Two RAF Mosquitos also downed two Junkers 88's during its patrol over the Bay of Biscay, it was announced.



MISSISSIPPI HERO DECORATED—Major Alvin E. Key (right) of Meridian, Miss., receives the Distinguished Service Cross from Colonel John H. Hayes of Tampa, Fla., at an investiture held in the hangar of a U. S. airfield somewhere in England. Major Key was cited for extraordinary heroism while participating in a bombing mission over enemy-occupied Europe in December, 1942. He is one of the famous Key brothers who set an endurance record by flying over Meridian for 653 hours in their plane, "Ole Miss," in 1935.

### American Push Clears Out Japs

Steady Guinea Infiltration Costs  
Enemy at Least 700 Dead

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA—(AP)—The eastern Mamere River valley area on the northeastern coast of New Guinea 40 miles north of Buna and within 100 miles of the important Japanese base at Salamaua is in the control of Allied ground troops after a steady infiltration which has cost the enemy at least 700 dead and over 100 prisoners, Allied headquarters announced today.

"Many other Japanese are believed to have lost their lives of starvation and disease, the communiqué said. In the American push through the swampy river valleys of the Ambasi, Kumus and Opi, which were cleared of Japanese by the Soviets during the current advance.

Allied bombers and fighters continued, meanwhile, to pound at the Japanese strongholds in New Guinea and New Britain, giving particular attention to Gasmata, on the south coast of the latter island.

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See ACT TO KEEP on page 8  
See CLEAR JAPS on page 8

### Canadian And British Troops End "Mock Invasion" Operation

London—(P)—A ten-day "mock invasion" operation employing the greatest number of men, planes and ships ever used in a maneuver exercise in Britain has just been completed by Canadian and British troops with the invaders triumphing in a series of surprise and unexpected, revolutionary new tactics.

The forces employed on each side were so large that the Germans believed a real invasion of the continent was in the making.

British and Canadian troops, the part of the invaders, announced with new command and tactical use of planes in co-operation with ground troops, enabled the attacking Army to penetrate the maneuver area.

Under Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, commander-in-chief of the Canadian forces in Britain, and Lt. Gen. Sir Alexander G. Bennett, chief of the British forces, the maneuver was kept strictly on railroads and had to depend on supply trains, which in some cases had to be pulled by a team of 100 horses ahead of its supplies, went 40 hours without food.

As a result of the maneuvers, McNaughton said, the Germans' conclusion that "the Canadians are fat and ready to go" and that the British forces were equally well prepared.

No American troops participated, though American officers were present as observers. The maneuver was conducted with new command and tactical use of planes in co-operation with ground troops, enabled the attacking Army to penetrate the maneuver area.

Reds Turn  
Back Nazi  
Efforts To  
Cross River

Continue Drive  
On Smolensk

By EDDY GILMORE  
MOSCOW—(AP)—Battling numerically superior forces of Germans who continue to pour up to the front in long columns, the Red Army of the northern Donets pushed back every German effort to cross the waterway in force, while on the central front the Russians continue to drive toward Smolensk, it was announced today.

The Red Army also held its lines in the face of another tremendous German push north of Zhizhira, 40 miles north of Bryansk, where the Nazis had numerous big tanks and divebombers in operation over a sandy terrain similar to that around Pflugkurt, N. C.

Red Star said German tanks in the area opened up early on March 19 with mass artillery fire and were supported by big tanks and divebombers. The Germans, through the night, forced across the sandy soil as readily as across the deserts of Africa, the communiqué said. The Germans, the dispatch said, had not been able to overwhelm the defenders.

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DRIVE AHEAD

In another long-quiet sector the Red Army in the Caucasus, the Red Army again was driving ahead, breaking down frequent counterattacks after one of the worst stretches of fighting in the war.

Red Star said the Russians had forced an unnamed river emptying into the Kuban.

General and Belgorod sectors still were the centers of the most violent fighting in the Donets area, the Germans employing intensive use of mines, tanks and planes to break their mass tank and plane attacks, but there was no serious damage to the Soviet lines. Along long stretches of the front the Soviets continued to hold several positions on the western bank.

SEA NAVY LAZOSSES

The noon communiqué said that Soviet artillery fire dispersed one of the two main groups of Nazis at Chigiray, which is 22 miles southeast of Kharkov, and that the Germans were held back "with heavy losses."

Along the line, the Nazis attacked in one cluster of that battle.

Six tanks and 25 truck loads were wiped out by the Soviet forces.

Two Soviet tanks and 15 trucks were wiped out by the Nazis.

Two German batteries were destroyed in another.

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