

AMERICANS DOWN 87 NAZI PLANES

LONDON, April 7.—(AP)—American airmen shot down at least 87 German planes today in the greatest aerial battle over Europe in three months as the Nazis tried frantically to stop 1,300 American heavy bombers plowing an invasion path for Marshal Montgomery's drive on the North sea ports.

The Germans downed included a large number of jet-propelled Messerschmitt 262s.

Following the big American daylight raids, the German radio reported Allied bombers were overhead during the night, indicating that the RAF was out again after a two-night layoff due to bad weather.

In the day's air battles, American fighter pilots got 63 enemy planes while bomber gunners accounted for at least 24.

American losses were 27 bombers and three fighters, heaviest suffered by the Eighth Air Force since the Rhine crossing of March 24.

The RAF in a side operation in daylight raided Ijmuiden on the German-held coast of North Holland, where there is a submarine works and power station, and also a suspected site of Nazi rocket guns.

The big fleet of Liberators and Fortresses, escorted by 850 fighters, raced more than 100 miles ahead of onrushing British and American armies and blasted four jet airfields, two rail yards, two ammunition and storage plants, an oil depot and an ordnance depot.

Most of them were in the vicinity of Bremen, Kiel and Hamburg, three of Germany's greatest ports imperiled by Montgomery's drive.

The U. S. First Army staff officer declared confidently.

"The German army no longer is capable of maintaining a cohesive front. We are entering the final mop-up stage."

From the salient thrust up near the North Sea eastward for 300 miles the Siegfried Line in the edge of the Black Forest, this was the front by front situation in what the Germans themselves called "the battle of decision".

The Canadian First Army fanned out 35 miles south of the North Sea, cutting the road to the Dixiedowns of Holland which two hemmed-in German armies must have for attack or retreat.

Allied planes clamped an aerial seal-off on the 19-mile lane of retreat running up around the Zuider Zee from Amsterdam and Rotterdam and everything that moved.

The British Second Army in gains up to 35 miles was quickly sealing the fate of Bremen, seat of Germany's once vast sea traffic, and was threatening to cut off the Danish peninsula and every enemy naval base on the North Sea.

Early reports had placed the British within 12 miles of Bremen, but this later was corrected officially to 20 miles. This drive put the British 60 miles southwest of Hamburg.

Farther south, tough British parachute troops drove 12 miles beyond the Weser river to a point 20 miles west of Hannover, the city which gave them England's present royal dynasty.

The U. S. Ninth Army, besides outflanking Hannover in a drive 140 miles west of Berlin, crushed 13 miles through the roof of the Ruhr pocket, knocking out Soest—a city 16 miles southeast of fallen Hamm which the 125,000 trapped Germans had converted into a keystone for their stand-and-die defense.

American Soldiers Outflank Hannover, Roar Toward Berlin

The U. S. Third Army rammed a second armored spearhead 130 miles southwest of Berlin and from its menacing positions 165 miles east of the Rhine was building up power swiftly for renewed blows.

His forces were in the best position to link up with the Russians—170 miles to the east—and to cut Germany in half by driving the last 58 miles to the border of Czechoslovakia.

The U. S. Seventh Army was driving toward the Nazi Shrine city of Nernberg from positions 34 miles to the northwest amid indications that the once-strong resistance was sagging on this front.

The French First Army was clawing along the Siegfried Line south of Karlsruhe, driving the enemy from bunker to bunker.

The German armies were being sapped so swiftly—40,094 more prisoners being counted Friday—that it seemed highly unlikely they would even be able to stand on the broad Elbe River, 50 miles west of Berlin.

The pace of the advance had stretched communications so badly that supreme headquarters told correspondents that there was a considerable time lag between their reports and the actual advance.

DO WE HAVE TO DIE?

Thirty years ago, in Forbidden Tibet, behind the highest mountains in the world, a young Englishman named Edwin J. Dingle was desperately ill in mind and body.

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Thirty years ago, he was sick as a man could be and live. Once his coffin was brought, of almost continuous tropical fevers, broken bones, near blindness, privation and danger had made a human wreck of him, physically and mentally.

He was about to be sent back to England to die, when a strange message came—"They are waiting for you in Tibet." He wants to tell the whole world what he learned there, under the guidance of the greatest mystic he ever encountered during his twenty-one years in the Far East. He wants everyone to experience the greater health and the Power, which there came to him.

Within ten years, he was able to retire to this country with a fortune. He had been honored by fellowships in the World's leading geographical societies, for his

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CINCINNATI GROUP SELECTS OFFICERS

(Continued from Page One)

ernment and urged a return to the Jeffersonian principles on which "our government is principally based."

"An incessant attention to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties, without which the high rank of a rational being is a curse instead of a blessing, is the trust of every member of the Cincinnati," he declared.

"Five generations of our people have lived under our Constitution with results that have astonished the world. Our scientists have been the equal, if not the superior, of those of any other nation in discovering the resources of the earth, air and water. Our manufacturers have produced goods beyond the belief of man, and have brought forth labor and health saving machines for the benefit of all. Our poets and philosophers and songwriters have touched the inner springs of our natures and spurred us on to greater achievements, while our religious leaders have led us on to a firmer grip on the source of the ease, comfort and happiness all power. In our homes we have which comes from freedom and knowledge of unconquerable strength."

Many lands have greater natural resources than the United States, he said, and "we forget that we come very recently from the old countries of Europe. The fact is that our growth is due to the principles on which our forefathers founded this nation," he averred.

Col. Metcalf characterized various pressure groups as "vicious" bodies, well organized in concerted attacks on Americanism.

"The pride of our nation and our firesides is in uniform, fighting again for freedom. Let us, here at home, raise the standard of our fathers so high that when our boys return to our shores, they will have a rallying point from which to protect the liberty for which they fought so valiantly," he concluded.

The Cincinnati society was formed immediately after the Revolutionary War by officers of the Army of the Republic to promote human betterment.

There are thirteen different associations, in the thirteen original states forming one general society, of which Colonel Metcalf is the president general. He wore the original eagle and ribbon presented to Washington, the first President General of the society by the Marquis de Lafayette.

Members are eligible if eldest sons of descendants of ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War. They belong to chapters in the states from which three ancestors hailed.

Out of state members attending the meeting were William Mobley Beall, president of the Maryland society, and Lawrence Pinckney, president of the South Carolina society.

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