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Japs Drive Nearer Australia

The Paris Renault Plant After RAF Raid



C. P. Radiophoto

A British reconnaissance plane made this photo, transmitted by radio to New York in two sections, of the Renault plant in the Paris suburbs on the day after RAF bombers blasted the huge munitions works. Vichy sources estimate the dead at 600 in the German-controlled area. Damage to the great factory may be seen plainly and many of the great sheds still standing are charred from the flames. British charge the plant was turning out war equipment for the Nazis.

Western Front Air Activity New Guinea Marks European War Zones; Footholds Russian Advance Continues Gained

British Bombers Hammer at Essen, Keeping up Round-the-Clock Schedule of Blows at German Industrial Centers.

London, March 9.—(AP)—The RAF hammered at Essen, the home of Germany's great Krupp munitions works, last night, keeping up a round-the-clock schedule of air blows at industrial centers behind the German lines, the RAF ministry announced today.

Essen, to which the RAF was returning for the first time since last November 3 and 9 when the Krupp works also were heavily bombed, was the chief target of night raids which spread over the industrial Ruhr district. Nazi airfields in occupied Holland and France and docks at Ostend and Le Havre also were bombed.

Eight British bombers failed to return.

The assault followed a daylight raid on the Matford plant at Poissy yesterday—the second RAF assault in six days on factories in the Paris area supplying the Nazi war machine—and was described as "on much the same scale" as the heavy pounding of the Renault works near Paris last Tuesday night.

Flames spreading so high that low-flying British planes could look up at them were left by the RAF at the Matford plant.

Boss of the Bombers



Brig. Gen. Willis H. Hale

Head of the reorganized Hawaiian air force bomber command is Brig. Gen. Willis H. Hale. He is boss of the big bombers, whose duty it is to make sure no enemy warships come close enough to the Pacific base for a repetition of the Pearl Harbor attack.

(Central Press)

Flurry of German Aerial Warfare Seen as Counter Blow Against RAF Raids; War Marks Time on Most Southern Fronts.

(By The Associated Press.) The Red army has struck the enemy a powerful blow on the Kursk-Khar'kov front southeast of Moscow, where a number of villages have been recaptured, the Moscow radio announced today.

The Russians said they broke fierce resistance in the area, where Berlin conceded earlier that the Germans were engaged in heavy "defensive battles" in the south.

(By The Associated Press.)

Possible materialization of rival war plans for spring, the conflict in eastern Europe remained generally today an offensive by the Russians and a defensive by the Germans, by their own admission, but in western Europe there was a flurry of German bombing as it to overtake the RAF.

In Africa, the war marked time once more with no fresh word of last week's Free French sortie which captured three fortified positions, at Fezzan oasis 500 miles south of Tripoli, the Libyan capital. From the main front, in eastern Libya, the British and the axis reported it passed calmly, each side claiming success.

As for the Mediterranean, the Germans reported continued day and night bombardment of Malta, British fortress island off Italy, and the Italians admitted new British attacks on axis-held island in the Aegean sea.

The Hitler command's report on the war with Russia told of "further heavy defensive battles" on the southern part of the front, continued Russian attacks at other places and claimed only "local successes" for German offensive actions.

The Red army, having reported a wedge driven into the Germans' central front between Rzhev and Vyazma, added today that 2,500 Germans had been killed in a batt ring, three-day Russian attack on the Leningrad siege ring in the north. Six German blockhouses were reported demolished by artillery fire.

The Germans reported heavy aerial blows not only at Russians, such as a night attack on the aircraft works at Rybinsk, but also against British harbor areas along the Tyne and Humber rivers.

Japan Apparently Faces Decision as to Whether to Prepare for Drive Into India or Attempt Conquest of Australia.

(By The Associated Press.) While a new tentacle of the Japanese offensive curled closer to Australia along the Coral sea, with two footholds gained in easternmost New Guinea and a third threatened, the Australian war cabinet struggled today with the problem of deterring a counter stroke.

Japan appeared to have reached a crossroads in her far spread operations—whether to attempt a move on Burma for a drive into India or to tackle the Australian continent. The possibility that she would try both at once was slim.

China, that the Netherlands East Indies had been lately conquered and that Rangoon, gateway to the Burma Road, was occupied were fiercely challenged by the Dutch and British.

The British war office said that it was still in contact with Rangoon, although the situation of the Burmese capital was described as critical. Authoritative Dutch circles, despite the black silence from Java, the last main bulwark of the NEI, declared, "There will be no surrender of Java in any circumstances whatever."

The Dutch said that, although the island was overrun by the Japanese, the defenders—a central force of Dutch troops with Australian, British and American allies—would "defend the Indies until the death." There had been no evacuation of troops from Java, they insisted.

A report by the Berlin radio said that Japanese shock troops and armored units had occupied the naval base at Seralanga.

Reports to London indicated that the fight on the Burma front still centered on the Pegu district, 40 miles north of Rangoon, where British tanks shouldered the burden of the defensive stand.

It was announced today that Lieutenant General Sir H. R. L. G. Alexander had succeeded to the Burma command in a March 5 displacement of Lieutenant General T. J. Hutton as commanding general officer.

The Japanese were admitted.

(Continued on Page Three)

Truck Blast Toll To Six

Workmen Search Ruins Near Smithfield for Other Possible Victims of Explosion.

Smithfield, March 9.—(AP)—With the known dead now listed officially at six, workmen today continued to sift through ruins near here at the scene of a munitions truck explosion which also injured scores, demolished a hotel and wrecked a row of filling stations and a tavern.

Seventeen families were left homeless by the blast, the Red Cross reported.

Sheriff Kirby L. Rose of Smithfield said he "wouldn't be at all surprised if some additional human remains are found."

Workmen yesterday discovered some human bones which were accepted by Edward E. Howell, of Goldsboro as the remains of his son, Willie Howell, 23-year-old Goldsboro taxi driver.

Sheriff Rose said that other fragments were believed to be the remains of Jessie Holloway, 30, missing Goldsboro cafe worker.

The other identified dead were Mrs. Minnie Lewis of Raleigh, driver of a sedan which collided with the truck, causing a fire which resulted in the explosion; Claud (Back) Mitchell, Dunn cafe worker; Cecil E. Probst of Lenoirville, a game and fish warden; and George Stroupe, of

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Attack Victim Near Death

Hickory, March 9.—(AP)—Victim of a brutal criminal attack at her home four miles east of Hickory, Miss China Heifer, about 62, lay at the point of death in a local hospital today.

Ralph Goins, 34, a local hosiery mill worker and part time farmer, was held in the Catawba county jail at Newby, charged by Sheriff Ray Pitts with the capital crime of rape and assault with intent to commit murder.

Miss Heifer was assaulted about 6 p. m. Saturday afternoon by a man who fractured her skull with blows from a claw hammer, leaving her bleeding and moaning.

British Quit Rangoon

Delhi, India, March 9.—(AP)—The British announced today that their forces were withdrawing from Rangoon, Burma, after carrying out essential demolitions.

The official statement said: "The reports from Burma indicate that on March 7 it was decided to withdraw our forces from Rangoon after carrying out essential demolition."

(The Japanese already had announced the capture of Rangoon.)

Offensive Is Demanded

London Press Sharpens Criticism of British War Effort; Total War is Urged.

London, March 9.—(AP)—The London press, whose editorial lines already pointed to Malaya and Java as signposts of the road to defeat, further sharpened its criticism today in an effort to whip the government into offensive action.

"Only an allied counter attack on a gigantic scale can stem the Japanese now," the Daily Sketch said. "In the short space of three months they have established a supremacy which nothing but a superhuman effort will displace."

The Daily Mirror wrote: "Throughout the allied nations the cry goes up for younger men, for vigorous men, for audacious men... Let us heartily welcome this crusade." "We can afford nothing less than an all-out effort against our enemies now," declared the Daily Herald. "We call upon our reconstructed, rejuvenated government to sweep away the last obstacles to declare total war."

TWENTY HOSTAGES EXECUTED IN PARIS

Vichy, March 9.—(AP)—The execution of 20 hostages in Paris in reprisal for the slaying of a German sentinel March 4 was announced today.

War Board Advocated

Senator Hill Urges Creation of Super Strategy Board Under One Commander.

Washington, March 9.—(AP)—A proposal that President Roosevelt set up a super war strategy board, headed by a single commander in chief for both Army and Navy, was made today by Senator Hill of Alabama, the Democratic whip.

Speaking as a veteran member of the senate military affairs committee, Hill told reporters that he had become convinced that immediate unification of command here over land, sea and air forces was necessary at the United States was to develop its maximum military striking power.

Applauding the recent reorganization of the Army which gave the air force equal rank with the ground and supply branches, Hill said he felt the appointment of one supreme commander for Army, Navy and air, operating under the President, would carry this principle to its logical conclusion.

TWO CONGRESSMEN FILE FOR PRIMARY

Raleigh, March 9.—(AP)—Two North Carolina members of the U. S. House of Representatives filed for renomination today with the State board of elections.

They were Graham S. Barden of New Bern, third district, and J. D. Clark of Fayetteville, seventh district.

Army Bomber Still Missing

Langley Field, Va., March 9.—(AP)—The Army disclosed today that one of its bombers had been missing since Thursday on a routine flight over North Carolina and its crew of eight men was believed to have been lost.

On the other side of the continent, a Catalina flying boat bomber crashed into the Columbia river near Tongue Point, Oregon, in an attempted takeoff, killing a naval lieutenant and seven enlisted men.

Caribbean Commission Is Created

Washington, March 9.—(AP)—Creation of an Anglo-American Caribbean commission, which will seek to encourage and strengthen social and economic cooperation between American and British outposts in the Caribbean, was announced today in a joint communication of the British and American governments.

The commission, which will make studies pertaining to economic and social problems, will have authority only to formulate recommendations for submission to the respective governments.

There will be three American and three British members with Charles W. Taussig, president of the American Molasses Co. of New York, as one co-chairman, and Sir Frank Stockdale as the other.

President Roosevelt also placed on the commission Rexford G. Tugwell, governor of Puerto Rico, and Court DuBois, chief of the State department Caribbean office.

JAPANESE CLAIM 52 SHIPS SUNK

Tokyo, (From Japanese Broadcasts), March 9.—(AP)—Japanese headquarters asserted today that Japanese naval forces in the battle of Java from March 1 to 8 sank or destroyed 52 allied ships totaling 210,000 tons.

No Appeal For Ellis

Smithfield, March 7.—(AP)—There will be no appeal for Joseph Ellis, 23-year-old Jersey City youth who late Saturday night was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment for the hammer slaying of Mrs. Bessie Brewer, 50, manager of the Salvation Army home here.

L. L. Lovinson, counsel for Ellis, indicated today that he did not plan to appeal from the sentence.

"We pleaded a plea of guilty to murder in the second degree originally," Lovinson said. "The State wouldn't accept the plea then. Since Ellis has been convicted of second degree murder, however, I don't think we will appeal."

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Clear, bright

Yamashita To Bataan

Japanese Conquerer of Malaya Succeeds Homma, Reported to Have Committed Suicide.

Washington, March 9.—(AP)—The War department announced today that the Japanese conquerer of Malaya, General Tomoyuki Yamashita, had been transferred to command of the invaders in the Philippines.

General Yamashita succeeds Lieutenant General Homma, who is reported to have committed suicide because of chagrin over his failure to destroy General Douglas MacArthur's outnumbered defending force.

The shift of commanders was reported in a communication which said for the past 24 hours fighting had ceased altogether on the Bataan peninsula front.

Some 600 miles to the south, however, brisk skirmishes were reported in the vicinity of Davao, on Davao golf on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

General Yamashita, the next conquerer of Malaya, has established headquarters at San Fernando, in Pangasinan province some 40 miles from the Bataan front lines.

Henderson Warns Nation Of Inflation

Washington, March 9.—(AP)—Leon Henderson, price administrator, warned today against inflationary trends in this country and suggested as preventives the purchase of government securities and the retiring of private debts and corporate debts and mortgages.

Henderson told the National Association of County Officials that his greatest concern was how to get the average American to understand the trend toward inflation. The average person, he asserted, must understand that there will be only a limited amount of goods that people will be able to purchase.

"We face a certainty of \$9,000,000,000 more purchasing power than last year, but there is a \$6,000,000,000 less purchasable goods available," he said.

Purchasing Board Urged

Congressional Committee Asking Creation of Agency Criticizes Production.

Washington, March 9.—(AP)—A single centralized purchasing agency to furnish all military supplies, by the "death grapple of total war" was demanded today by a congressional committee sharply critical of the nation's production effort.

"Failing to organize the domestic front of the battle of production has already been translated into serious defeat for our own armed forces," said a report by the House committee on defense migration, headed by Representative Tolson, Democrat, California.

The committee, which spent months studying problems of labor supply and material procurement, recommended:

1. Creation of a special technical division under the civilian procurement agency to maintain an up-to-date complete inventory on industrial facilities, the supply of critical materials, and the supply of labor.

2. Labor-management cooperation through joint national, regional and plant committees headed by a paid government official on production and management problems.

McCARTHY SIGNS FOUR HOLDOUTS

Columbia, E. C., March 9.—(AP)—Manager Joe McCarthy announced today the New York Yankees had signed four of their remaining six holdouts.

Three coming to terms for sale were Second Baseman Joe Gordon, Outfielder Charlie Keller, Pitcher Red Barber and Catcher Bill Dickey, leaving outfielders Joe DiMaggio and Third Baseman Red Rolfe as the only untraded players.

JAPANESE BOMBERS RAID PORT MORESBY

Canberra, March 9.—(AP)—Ten heavy Japanese bombers struck at Port Moresby at noon today, hardly more than 24 hours after troop landings had been effected at Salamaua and Lae.

Violent Death Toll In State At High Mark

Charlotte, March 9.—(AP)—The state's week-end violent death toll was peaked by a munitions truck explosion near Smithfield, resulting in the deaths of six persons.

There also were death-dealing traffic accidents, two suicides and deaths from fire.

Joseph Lee Parker, Jr., 13, son of an insurance executive at Raleigh, was fatally injured when his bicycle and an automobile collided.

Sergeant Ervin Seymour, 26, of New

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