

HEART OF BERLIN BOMBED

DIRECT HITS ON POTSDAM STATION

ANOTHER HEAVY ATTACK ON BARGE CONCENTRATIONS

The R.A.F. struck again at Berlin on Tuesday night, when the Potsdam railway station, one of the main termini, was repeatedly hit with heavy bombs and incendiaries.

Attacks were also made on docks, harbours, and barge concentrations.

INCENDIARIES IN SHOWERS

GLIDE ATTACKS ON TERMINUS

The Air Ministry issued the following communique yesterday:—
The Potsdam railway station, one of the main line termini of Berlin, was bombed by the R.A.F. last night (Tuesday). Fires followed direct hits.

Attacks were made on the docks and on the Focke-Wulf aircraft factory at Bremen. At Wilhelmshaven the naval barracks was hit.

In spite of bad visibility and strong opposition from searchlights and anti-aircraft batteries, widespread operations were carried out successfully against barge concentrations, docks, and harbours on the French, Belgian, and Dutch coasts. Gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez, railway targets at Duisburg, and Brussels, and aerodromes in German-occupied territory were also attacked.

Four of our aircraft have not returned. The crew of a bomber reported lost yesterday has been rescued.

MANY HITS ON STATION

The Air Ministry News Service states that the Potsdam station was repeatedly hit with heavy bombs and several hundred incendiaries. This station handles traffic for Magdeburg and South-West Germany.

The R.A.F. bombers delivered their attack with great precision. Although there was ground haze over parts of the city the aircraft located the station, and at a quarter to 12 began their attack.

The pilots of all the machines engaged claimed direct hits on the station and its yards. Several of them made glide attacks through the anti-aircraft barrage.

As showers of incendiaries followed the heavy bombs fires broke out. One was particularly large, and several smaller ones were seen. The raiders left for home after releasing all their bombs.

FLIGHT IN DENSE CLOUD

The aircraft of the Bomber Command which attacked the Potsdam Station had to fly across the North Sea in dense cloud which was as high as 10,000 ft. When they crossed the German coast the cloud fell rapidly, but after a while it began to thin out. Over Berlin itself there was still a certain amount of broken cloud and a heavy haze, but the reflection of the moon on the city's lakes enabled the pilots to obtain their bearings with little difficulty. Moreover the large open mass of the Targarten-Berlin Hyde Park—which is close to Potsdam Station, was an excellent landmark.

The first aircraft of the sortie met with only scattered and desultory A.A. fire but during the time that the raids continued the barrage grew in intensity. Later reports showed that the guns in the north-west and south-west of the city were firing furiously. Between Potsdam, 18 miles south-west of Berlin, and the capital itself there was a haze of searchlight lights, some of which had twin beams of vivid violet light.

Arrived over the Potsdam Station and its yards of sidings, the planes dropped fires by which they identified their targets. Showers of heavy bombs and hundreds of incendiaries fell on the station and it quickly caught fire. The flames spread fast.

DOCKS AND SHIPYARDS

While Berlin was being raided other sections of R.A.F. bombers attacked the docks at Bremen and the naval yard at Wilhelmshaven. Several hits on the docks were made, in spite of bad weather, and one bomber sank four small fires and several explosions follow one of his salvoes. Another target was the Bremen Focke-Wulf aircraft factory. Three buildings were on fire after the attack.

At Wilhelmshaven weather conditions were rather better. In an early morning attack one of the heavy bombers was especially successful. The pilot began to bomb a few minutes after 2 a.m. In just over a quarter of an hour his bomb-dropper had landed a heavy bomb on the naval barracks just south of Wilhelmshaven, which on a large building west of the barracks, which at once burst into flames. Other bombs fell on the docks, but their effect could not be seen. This raid had to cope with violent opposition from the defences.

The aerodromes at Weiermunde and Barge, where there were several explosions, and the Duisburg railway centre were also bombed. The night's operations included attacks on military objectives in Belgium.

REICHSTAG HIT

GERMAN LAMENT OVER ART TREASURES

The following German News Agency reports were broadcast yesterday:—

The English bombed non-military objectives in Berlin again on Tuesday night. Aided by clear moonlight they dropped a great number of bombs on the centre of the city and the western residential area—in fact they just missed the United States Embassy. Fires and explosions damaged offices, hotels, and public and private buildings. Roof fires were quickly extinguished. A number of works of art and quantities of fine furniture were, however, damaged. The walls of some buildings were seriously damaged. Blast covered in the streets several houses and, as objects threatened to collapse, whole blocks in the centre of the city had to be evacuated.

While Britains were at work in the morning they could see that a bomb had hit the Brandenburg Tor. Another bomb struck the Reichstag building. Damage was also done to the Victory Column in the centre of the Tiergarten. This stands in the middle of the Grosser Stern, the crossroads intersecting the big east-west Berlin arterial road. In a thickly populated part of the city a row of houses was destroyed. A bomb struck the world-famous house of the Society of German Engineers, where representatives of all nations have enjoyed hospitality. Another building struck was the Academy of Arts on the Parthenon near the Brandenburg Tor, which has been the residence of both German and international art. The Helwig's Hospital,

which lies in the most thickly populated part of Berlin, was also hit by a bomb.

The whole character of the British attack and the list of objects struck show very clearly that the British pilots have received orders to bomb Berlin ruthlessly and without any regard for military targets. This conclusion is inescapable because no military or militarily important objectives were either targeted or hit. This deliberately indiscriminate bombing was only intended to objects of international importance but also threatened that part of Berlin where the American flag flies—the American Embassy.

Bombs fell in the garden of the American Embassy, near the Brandenburg Tor. As yet these bombs have not exploded. It is hoped they are "duds" and can be removed, but it is quite possible that they are time bombs which may yet damage the Embassy. Extensive measures of precaution are now being taken to save the Embassy building. If these bombs should explode they will only destroy American property but also one of the treasures of Berlin as well, for the Embassy is an old Prussian Palace.

Five persons were killed and a few more injured. Thanks to the damage done by the population of Berlin, the number of killed and injured has been small in spite of the considerable number of incendiary and high-explosive bombs dropped on the capital. Two British aeroplanes were shot down, one by anti-aircraft fire and the other by night fighters.

Bombs were again dropped at random on Dutch territory. Three bombs of heavy calibre fell near Appeldoorn, damaging a farm and causing several casualties.

This new attack on Berlin reveals a definite plan to terrorize the civil population. The Russian Churchill has the order to the Royal Air Force to avoid all targets of military importance and to destroy as many monuments as possible. There can be only one answer to these cowardly crimes—the answer of the German Air Force.

"GERMAN CHIVALRY"
The *Denkmal diplomatisch-politische Korrespondenz*, the organ of the German Foreign Office, reverted yesterday to the delicate question of the effect of the German bombings on world opinion.

The raids on London (it writes) are likely to bring to their senses the people who were unscrupulous enough to insist on fighting out the decisive round of the war between Britain and Germany.

These people embarked on a war which has now taken its turn quite different from the one they had imagined. The warmongers had relied on the help of foreign mercenaries and such time as they could exert the full resources of the British Navy. Their whole war machinery was directed to the aim of halting the German people. In spite of the many sanctimonious statements made at the outbreak of the war, England has preferred the perpetration of its more hazardous ones of the same kind.

The same English publications which now appeal to sentiment of British propaganda is trying to place on Germany the blame for losses among the civil population, although she has done everything in her power to involve the enemy in the war. German chivalrous attitude is diametrically different from the cowardly methods to which Britain has resorted.

"GERMAN CHIVALRY"
The *Denkmal diplomatisch-politische Korrespondenz*, the organ of the German Foreign Office, reverted yesterday to the delicate question of the effect of the German bombings on world opinion.

The raids on London (it writes) are likely to bring to their senses the people who were unscrupulous enough to insist on fighting out the decisive round of the war between Britain and Germany.

These people embarked on a war which has now taken its turn quite different from the one they had imagined. The warmongers had relied on the help of foreign mercenaries and such time as they could exert the full resources of the British Navy. Their whole war machinery was directed to the aim of halting the German people. In spite of the many sanctimonious statements made at the outbreak of the war, England has preferred the perpetration of its more hazardous ones of the same kind.

The same English publications which now appeal to sentiment of British propaganda is trying to place on Germany the blame for losses among the civil population, although she has done everything in her power to involve the enemy in the war. German chivalrous attitude is diametrically different from the cowardly methods to which Britain has resorted.

FIRE BOMB 10 FEET FROM GOEBBELS'S HOUSE

The official German News Agency (quoted by the British United Press) announced last night:—

During the British raid on Berlin on Tuesday night a 150 lb incendiary bomb fell 10 ft from Dr. Goebbels's residence and set a deep hole in the garden.

It is, however, well known that all the leading Nazis have deep air raid shelters near their private houses.

Smoke could still be seen coming from the Reichstag early yesterday, reports the Berlin correspondent of *Abendblatt* (quoted by Reuters). A bomb had crashed through the roof, setting fire to the inner chamber. Tuesday's raid is generally believed to have been the most destructive which Berlin has so far had to report.

Flares dropped by British aircraft illuminated the Unter den Linden as though it were daylight. Gunfire was particularly heavy over the inner part of the city.

Fires were started in the Dorotheenstrasse, the Hemmann Geringstrasse, the Potsdamerplatz, and the Mennickenstrasse, according to the Berlin correspondent of *Stockholm Tidningen*.

AUSTRALIAN AID FOR LONDON VICTIMS

MONEY POURING IN FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

MELBOURNE, Sept. 11
Melbourne City Council has given £A.25,000 to the Lord Mayor's Fund for the victims of the raids on London, the list for which opens to-morrow, and thousands of pounds more have been promised.

The Lord Mayors of Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, and Hobart are opening similar appeals. Brisbane subscribed £A.10,500 in the first hour.

£37,500 GIFT FROM INDIA FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

SIMLA, Sept. 11
The Viceroy has called to the Lord Mayor of London five lakhs of rupees (£37,500) from his War Purposes Fund for the relief of air raid victims in London.

HURST PARK MEETING ABANDONED

Messrs. Weirby state that the Hurst Park meeting on Saturday next is abandoned. The meeting to be held at Ripon on that day is not affected by this decision.

OBITUARY

The Times list of Fallen Officers will be found on page 7.

Heart Of Berlin Bombed.

The Times (London, England), Thursday, Sep 12, 1940; pg. 4; Issue 48719. (1682 words)

Category: News

© Times Newspapers Limited

Gale Document Number:CS68106028