

Air Strength Prime Factor In Nazi Defeat

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (AP)—Twelve civilians declared today that allied air power was the decisive factor in the conquest of Germany.

Victory in the air cost the United States 79,265 flying men and 18,000 planes, the British 79,281 fliers and 22,000 aircraft, the committee said in a report to the war department.

But their air power killed some 300,000 Germans—more than the total of U. S. armed services dead in all theaters—destroyed or heavily damaged 3,800,000 dwellings, made rubble of principal German cities and kept 5,000,000 persons busy repairing bomb damage.

"Hindsight inevitably suggests that it might have been employed differently or better in some respects," the committee said in an officially titled "U. S. strategic bombing survey."

Victory Complete
"Nevertheless, it was decisive. In the air, its victory was complete."

The appraisers were named by former Secretary of War Stimson at the suggestion of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt to make an impartial study of the effects of aerial attack on Germany.

Their conclusion was that Germany lost the war by losing the battle of the skies in the early months of 1944. Thereafter her resources were exposed to all-out allied air attack.

Of allied air power, the survey set forth that:
"At sea, its contribution, combined with naval power, brought an end to the enemy's greatest naval threat—the U-boat; on land, it helped turn the tide overwhelmingly in favor of allied ground forces. Its power and superiority made possible the success of the invasion."

Virtual Collapse
"It brought the economy which sustained the enemy's armed forces to virtual collapse, although the full effects of this

collapse had not reached the enemy's front lines when they were overrun by allied forces. It brought home to the German people the full impact of modern war with all its horror and suffering. Its imprint on the German nation will be lasting."

Almost 2,700,000 tons of bombs were dropped. More than 1,440,000 bomber sorties and 2,680,000 fighter sorties were flown. The number of combat planes reached a peak of some 28,000 and at the maximum 1,300,000 men were in combat commands.

The survey noted that it was surprising how quickly the Germans could bring back industrial production after a raid. In the oil industry alone 350,000 men were assigned to the job of trying to see that production was kept going. But after Germany lost the control of the air repeat attacks defeated efforts of the repair crews.

Terrific Raids
The British experimented briefly with industrial bombing, then concentrated on bombing cities. The survey found that no city raid ever shook Germany as hard as one by the RAF on Hamburg in early August, 1943, when German estimates were that 60,000 to 100,000 people were killed and about one-third of the houses destroyed.

But the survey found that "the city attacks of the RAF prior to the autumn of 1944, did not substantially affect the course of German war production. German war production as a whole continued to increase."

As a rule industrial plants were located around the perimeter of the cities and were relatively undamaged. Production would receive a moderate set-back after a raid, but would recover substantially within a few weeks.

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Exam To Be Held For Civil Service Post

EUGENE, Oct. 30 (AP)—A civil service examination for the position of Oregon civil service director will be held in Portland, Salem, and possibly other Oregon cities.

Date of the examination has not been set. The examination is being drawn up by Herman Kehrl, director of the bureau of municipal research here; Mildred I. Fahlen, Portland; and William Griffith, Portland, Reed college professor.

Applications for the civil service post were due October 15.

FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES FAULTY

PORTLAND, Oct. 30 (AP)—Oregon coastal communities are in constant danger of forest fires because of inadequate prevention measures in the area, the governor's special committee was told today.

Judge Guy Boyington, Clatsop county, told the group "if we don't take action now to fight future forest fires, nothing will stop one from sweeping clear to the ocean."

Phillip Parrish urged naming of a sub-committee to seek congressional assistance in reforesting the Wilson river-Tillamook burn area. The committee expects to report to the governor in the spring after other meetings throughout the state.

Sessions will be held at Eugene November 8 and Roseburg November 9.

FALSE ALARM

KANSAS CITY, Oct. 30 (AP)—Four fire companies complete with a hook and ladder outfit, rushed to the scene of what appeared to be a grain elevator blaze.

At least witnesses thought they were seeing smoke pouring from the cupola atop the elevator.

However firemen who clambered to the top of the 200-foot structure found—a big swarm of bees.

STORM LASHES NOME; MARTIAL LAW DECLARED

NOME, Alaska, Oct. 30 (AP)—Military police are standing guard today over buildings which contain all winter supplies for this storm-buffeted town.

Martial law was declared here yesterday by Col. W. B. Morgan, commanding officer of the Nome army base, after gale-whipped waves undermined structures along the waterfront and piled water a foot deep on Nome's main street.

Winds swept down the Bering Straits at 50 to 60 miles an hour yesterday, leveled the village of Unalakleet, whipped a cross a Nome and then moved southward.

Buildings Damaged
Many of the buildings along the south side of Front street in this community were damaged and the Lincoln hotel was reported to be a total loss. Much of the winter supply of merchandise and foodstuffs was ruined as basements were flooded.

No reports were immediately available on damage here or at Unalakleet.

The motorship North Star is reported to have safely weathered heavy seas after being in danger near Gambell.

At a meeting with the mayor, council, city attorney and townspeople, Colonel Morgan explained that an emergency existed and the only way the army could help was by declaring martial law.

The army assisted in getting supplies into safe warehouses and in guarding open buildings, and was thanked publicly by Mayor Swidenberg.

By last midnight, the sub-Arctic storm was abating, the heavy seas receding and temperature had dropped to the freezing mark.

No property damage estimate was immediately forthcoming. Devastation wrought by yesterday's gales and heavy seas at Nome, Alaska, recalled today how the bleak outpost on the gold-rich Seward peninsula has periodically suffered from the hurricane-like winds that blow down across the flat terrain. Unlike yesterday's experience, these windstorms have been accompanied by the outbreak of disastrous fires such as the \$3,000,000 blaze which all but destroyed the city in September, 1934, and the \$40,000 and \$50,000 blazes which heavily damaged the little hamlet's business district in 1939 and 1941.

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