

BYRNES WOULD HOME FRONT OLDER BRITISH BOMBERS AGAIN ATTACK ESSEN

Strategy: Allied Drives In Europe And Pacific Loom

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON—(AP)—Conclusion of the strategy conference between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill was viewed in some quarters today as marking the beginning of the final phase of this global war—a phase in which the United Nations are destined to undertake full scale offensives in both Europe and the Pacific.

The end of the historic meeting was announced by Mr. Roosevelt late yesterday. He said simply that "complete agreement" had been reached on future plans. What those plans are will become known only as they unfold in action.

The very wording of the President's statement, however, suggested that when the conference began there were questions of vast strategic importance which required answering to the satisfaction of both British and American leaders. The fact that, as Mr. Roosevelt indicates, they have now been answered leaves no doubt that decisions of supreme importance have been made.

The President's statement said only this: "The conference of the combined staffs in Washington has ended in complete agreement on future operations in all theaters of the war."

That the war against Japan received the fullest consideration was made clear by Mr. Churchill in his address to Congress. Yet it was equally clear that there had been no change in the grand strategy previously agreed upon to smash Germany first and Japan second.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

In the absence of any hints as to what the conference accomplished in either the military or political fields, informed persons here speculated on the probability of several future developments:

The present strategical bombing of Germany will be followed by an Allied invasion of the continent this summer. It will develop at times and places where the Axis least expects it, just as the American drive to throw the Japanese out of the Aleutian Islands began with a surprise flanking attack on Attu rather than a frontal assault on Kiska.

The war in Europe is expected to be won by sometime next year at the latest, but the conflict in the Pacific may run on until 1945 or 1946, according to reliable estimates.

The forces available for use against Japan's Pacific flank have been greatly increased. President Roosevelt revealed at a press conference that the bulk of American strength already was in the Pacific. When those forces grow sufficiently strong and the time is right, there probably will be an American thrust which will so directly threaten Japanese vital interests that the Japanese fleet will be compelled to fight.

Destruction of that fleet is generally considered to be the primary objective of the American naval high command. Occupation of new island bases, now the main supply lines to the Southwest Pacific have been secured, is secondary to that purpose. But Japanese strategy has become so defensive within the last six months that they no longer appear willing to fight for a position which they do not need vitally.

Their failure to make a counter-attack by sea on United States forces at Attu Island—which stands in direct contrast to the long struggle they put up for Guadalcanal—not only doomed their garrison there but also at their main Aleutians base on Kiska.

CHINA WEAKEST SPOT

The weakest spot in the Allied ring around Japan at present, observers here agree, is on the continent of Asia. China, which could be made a formidable offensive base, is isolated from British and American arsenals except by air transports from India. Reopening of the Burma Road remains the number one task of the Allied forces in India in order that bulk supplies may be moved into China rapidly.

The presence of Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell, the Allied chief in India, and his staff of air officers in Washington for the Roosevelt-Churchill talks gave considerable weight to speculation that a drive to break the Japanese hold on Burma is a primary objective of the High Command.

Because of the monsoons which flood Burma's valleys in the summer, the job cannot be fully done before next Fall or Winter, but planning at this time would be necessary to assure its accomplishment then.

Participation of Russia in the war against Japan would quickly solve the problem of bases from which to bomb the main Japanese islands, but this may not be possible at least until the war in Europe is won. Prime Minister Churchill was at considerable pains to explain to a press conference Tuesday the enormous effort Russia had expended and would continue to spend in fighting Germany. He left the impression that nothing more could or should be asked of her now.

Large Air Fleet Hits Other Ruhr Area Points

Mosquitos Make Jena Assault

LONDON—(AP)—A great fleet of heavy RAF bombers attacked Essen and other targets in the Ruhr last night a few hours after speedy Mosquito bombers had made a daring dusk attack on important German war industries in Jena, the British announced today.

Twenty-three bombers were lost in the Essen attack, said the announcement, which declared the raid was carried out "in great strength."

Essen became the most heavily bombed city in the world after the last previous raid on April 30, when it was hit by 220 bombers in a smashing assault in the night before last.

Other British planes laid mines in enemy waters during the night.

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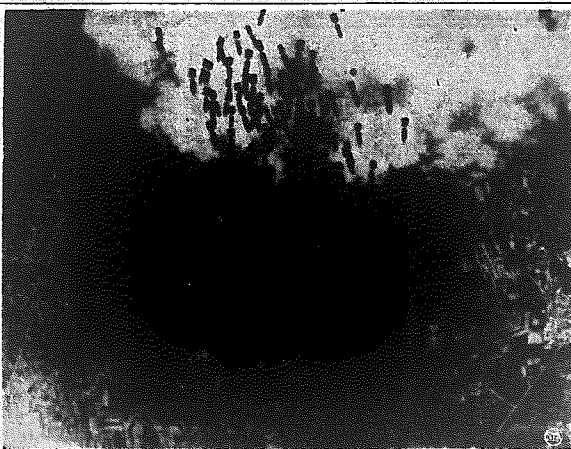
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Strike at Ship Yard Settled

SAN PEDRO, Calif.—An A-1 strike of 500 A-1F bombers at the Standard Shipbuilding Corp. yard which had virtually halted operations since last November was settled last night, an Army spokesman said. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.



AMERICAN BOMBS RAIN ON SARDINIA—This official U. S. Army Air Forces photo shows a rain of twenty-pound fragmentation bombs dropped by Flying Fortresses over Monserrato air field, near Cagliari, in Sardinia.

Attack Axis Air Fields

Strike at Sardinia And Pantelleria

By NOLAN NORGAARD
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA.—(AP)—Allied bombers and fighters slashed again yesterday at Villacidro and Decimomannu, important Axis air fields in Sardinia, and the island of Pantelleria. It was announced today.

Thirteen enemy fighters were destroyed in combat—all from a hornet's nest stirred up at Decimomannu—and many more on the ground in the continued softening up of Italy's outer defenses.

SMASH GROUNDED SHIPS
Speedy M-36 Marauders unloaded more than 4,000 fragmentation bombs over the Decimomannu air-drome. Crewmen said the explosions smashed a large number of grounded planes and damaged many more.

Strong enemy fighter groups intercepted the bombers, and a fierce, 18-minute running fight ensued. The Marauders gunned shot down seven of the attackers. The P-49 Warhawk escort accounted for six others.

The only American loss in the battle, in which enemy fighters pursued the bombers to within 25 miles of the North African coast, was a Warhawk which fell into the sea. The pilot was rescued.

Quake Shakes Big Area In Southwest Germany

LONDON.—(AP)—The German news agency DNB reported that a earthquake shook a large area in southwestern Germany early today, causing slight injuries to a number of persons near Stuttgart. DNB's report was broadcast by the Berlin radio and recorded by the Associated Press.

"A great number of chimneys, crashed and a number of roofs were blown off," DNB said. "The shock was felt throughout Wuerttemberg as well as Alsace."

Victory Expected In Attu Shortly

Fight on Aleutians Island May Be Won Before Week-End

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—United States troops have attacked the third main position which the Japanese held on Attu Island south of Lake Korys, the Navy reported today, and indications were that the entire enemy force on the island was being rapidly broken up into very small points of resistance.

Navy Communiqué 392, said: "On May 26th: 'A United States Army troops gained several important points along the ridge south of Chichagof Harbor. Fighting continues in order to clear the Japanese from the high peaks in the vicinity.'

"(B) The United States Army's northern forces have penetrated a part of Fish-Hook Ridge about one and five-eighths miles southwest of Chichagof Harbor. Fighting continues in order to clear the Japanese from the high peaks in the vicinity."

"(C) An attack by United States troops to eliminate the enemy from the ridge south of Lake Korys is in progress."

"(D) Army Liberators (Consolidated B-24) heavy bombers, Mitchell (North American B-25) medium bombers and Lightning (Lockheed P-38) fighters effectively supported ground operations."

"On May 26 Army Mitchell medium bombers and Warhawk (Curtiss P-40) fighters made three attacks on Kiska, bombing the Japanese main camp area and runway. Numerous hits were observed."

"In an attack on Kiska (reported in Navy Department Communiqué No. 391) the Warhawk fighters, participating, were manned by Royal Canadian Air Force pilots."

EXACT CONTINUES
The Navy issued no reports on Attu fighting later than Wednesday. A spokesman said, however, that "every bit of information we have indicates it is continuing."

The fight might be won before the week-end, authorities said. See EARLY ATTU on page 6.

Palmetto Man Head Of New War Agency

Vinson Succeeds Him as Director Of Economic Stabilization

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A six-man war mobilization board, with vast powers over the Nation's war effort on the home front, was set up today by President Roosevelt. James F. Byrnes was named to head the new super-agency—and thus became the czar of czars in this war capital.

The board's duty, President Roosevelt said, is to keep "both our military machine and our essential civilian economy running in team and at high speed."

"As I see it," Byrnes told a press conference, "it should save the President of many burdens. His time must necessarily be devoted to the conduct of the war and conferences with the staffs concerned with the military program. This order provides a place where all the various Government organizations and agencies can go to settle things around the conference table."

FULL POWER
Byrnes agreed that he would have full responsibility over the home front and he made it plain, too, that the War Mobilization Board would be an advisory body, that power to take action rested in him, as director, subject to the control and direction of the President. "It will be Byrnes who issues any directives on policy and procedure."

Specifically, the board is directed to unify activities of Federal agencies and departments "engaged in or concerned with production, procurement, distribution or transportation of military or civilian supplies, materials and products and to resolve and determine controversies between such agencies or departments."

While Byrnes, former Senator and Supreme Court Justice, outlined in general terms the extent of his authority, he also emphasized that he did not intend to become too much involved in detailed and squabbles that could be handled elsewhere.

POWER DIFFERENT
He told the press conference his new authority is completely different from that which he held as Economic Stabilization Director, and that the latter office would continue to handle any controversies that arise between OPA and the Food Administration regarding food, under and also any disagreements between OPA and the War Labor Board as to whether a wage increase would affect prices.

But on all general matters of determining policies and programs for production, procurement, distribution or transportation of military or civilian supplies, Byrnes indicated he would have the final say, subject always, of course, to the control of the President.

On matters involving oil, he said Secretary Tamm would be brought in, for example, in his capacity of Petroleum Co-ordinator. In matters involving labor, he said, conferences would be held with Secretary Perkins and probably Attorney General William H. Davis of the War Labor Board.

FOOD IN PICTURE
Asked whether food was outside his jurisdiction, Byrnes replied: "It is in the Government mobilization picture."

To an inquiry as to whether he would have "final authority on production," he cited the language of the order setting up his office and he said he would have determination over questions of production procedure, but not control and direction of the President, with the element present of conferences with the war mobilization committee and other Government officials concerned.

Byrnes said he hoped to call the committee together for its initial meeting next week, and that he would maintain his office, as at present, in the east wing of the White House.

It was announced at the White House that Byrnes is planning to make what was described as an important speech on production at his home town of Spartanburg, S. C. Monday at 7 P. M. EWT.

ARBITER IN DISPUTES
The power to resolve inter-agency disputes means that Byrnes will be the arbiter in any disputes between the various agencies.

See BYRNES on page 8

Praise For Byrnes Given

Both Factions Laud Appointment

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—President Roosevelt's appointment of James F. Byrnes as War Mobilization Director in charge of war activities on the home front brought praise from both Democrats and Republicans in Congress today.

Senate Minority Leader McNary of Oregon told reporters he has "tremendous confidence" in Byrnes' ability to "exercise the authority of war mobilizer" and Chairman Truman, Democrat, Missouri, of the Senate's War Investigations Committee said he is "very glad we finally have a centralization of authority."

Senator Taft, Republican, Ohio, suggested that Byrnes ought to head a war cabinet, a development that Senator Mead, Democrat, New York, said seems indicated in President Roosevelt's statement accompanying the appointment.

Other comment:
Senator Murray, Democrat, Montana: "I think such a control will go far toward overcoming the confusion that has developed under the present system. Without such over-all control, we would continue to muddle around."

Senator Van Nuys, Democrat, California: "I think it is a good move and I feel that former Senator Byrnes is eminently qualified."

Senator Guffey, Democrat, Utah: "Byrnes will make a great success of this post if he is not hampered by the Civil Service Commission in getting rid of the incompetents put in office by some other person."

Senator Green, Democrat, Rhode Island: "It's hard to keep track of all the organizations and a man who has to jump from one job to another may find this a complete relief."

OPPOSES MANPOWER DRIVE
Senator Ferguson, Republican, Michigan: "I hope this doesn't mean that the Assistant Secretary of War will have complete control over manpower in getting rid of the incompetents put in office by some other person."

Senator Moore, Republican, Oklahoma: "I think it is intended to move to apply common sense to the administration of matters affecting the civilian population. I should say we would welcome it."

Price Administrator Brown: "Any task that Justice Byrnes undertakes will be well done. This organization will help tremendously. It is needed and a better thing than the job would not be made."

WEATHER

Little change in temperature.
Today's Temp.: H: 79 L: 65
Sunset Today 8:29
Sunrise Tomorrow 6:11
Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 8