

NAZI DAM BROKEN Kiska Likely To Be Next U. S. Objective In Aleutians WLB IN HEAVY CONFLICT WITH LEWIS

Italian Crisis: Duce Seeks To Bolster His Defenses

BERN—(AP)—Italy's grave position in an Allied-controlled Mediterranean, was being hammered home to her people today as a part of Premier Mussolini's redoubled efforts to tighten his defenses, reports reaching neutral Switzerland said.

At the same time the situation confronting Mussolini gave rise to a flood of rumors concerning the internal situation in Italy, the most sensational of which was a report by the Morocco radio that King Vittorio Emanuele would abdicate in favor of Crown Prince Umberto. These reports were without any confirmation, however, and telephone calls later in the night by neutral journalists gave no indication of any unusual situation.

(The rumor was received skeptically in London, where it was pointed out that King Emanuele's prestige was no higher than at any time since the Fascist march on Rome in 1922. It was recalled that the Rome radio's accounts of the final fighting in Tunisia had closed with "Long Live the King—Long Live Italy," conspicuously omitting Mussolini's name.)

SAY CABINET OUT
(Other unconfirmed reports included an assertion by the Dakar radio that the Italian Cabinet had resigned, and a Moscow broadcast that more than 300,000 people had fled from Southern Italy to Rome within the past two weeks in hopes that Rome would not be bombed.)

The Swiss newspaper Die Nation, commenting on Italy's defense preparations, said that Italy does not expect further help from Germany in case of an invasion, since Germany's own preparations to beat off an invasion attempt are demanding her full attention, and because Swiss neutrality would bar the use of rail ways through Switzerland for military preparations.

(Two London dailies went further—declaring that Hitler in preparing to withdraw his troops through Brenner Pass and leave Italy to the mercy of the Allies. The German Gestapo and army officers have returned already, and there are unmistakable signs that the army will follow shortly, the newspapers said.)

Mussolini's realistic attitude toward the Tunisian defeat—apparently designed to bolster Italian morale for a last-ditch invasion stand—has been accompanied by further purges and a tightening of his control.

STAGGERED DEFENSES

Describing Italy's defense preparations, it was pointed out here that Italy's geography prohibits the defense-in-depth strategy. The High Command has constructed long, staggered defenses in the north and south protecting the Po Valley plain and the passes beyond. A natural defense line exists between Genoa and Venice, along the lower course of the Po, and much recent attention has been given to the Po line.

In the past, Italian defense plans have been centered on fleet and aircraft to meet an invasion before it could reach Italian beaches.

Italy's fleet is still potent, with six or eight battleships, heavy and light cruisers and 50 to 60 destroyers. But it would be highly vulnerable to air attack by superior Allied forces based on North Africa or on Sicily and Sardinia should those island outposts be overrun.

Following its strong showing in the Ethiopian and Spanish wars, the weakness of the Italian air force is described in the Swiss press as one of the surprises of this war.

The most serious threat to Italian land forces, Die Nation said, consists of air attacks on the transportation network in upper and central Italy, already feeling the

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Board Risks Existence in Clash With Mine Leader

Industry May Be Tied Up Again

By JOSEPH A. LOFTUS
WASHINGTON—(AP)—The War Labor Board risked its existence today in an all-out, head-on conflict with UMW President John L. Lewis.

Interpreting the mine leader's refusal to appear at a WLB meeting to arrange a resumption of collective bargaining in the coal wage dispute as a defiance of the lawfully established procedures of the Government, the board instructed the soft coal operators not to proceed with negotiations "until both parties are ready to proceed under the instructions of the division of the board."

"No other agency of Government," the statement added, "has the authority to force a settlement of this dispute."

The possibility of another tie up of the industry this time because of a coal strike, which would shut down fifteen-day truce under which the mines have been operating due to the strike, was a possibility.

LEWIS STAND
The board made no official reference to the truce, and Lewis has declined to say whether he would extend it, or said yesterday he was ready to bargain with the operators at New York but refused to make his arrangements through the board as it directed.

The WLB made known its views, first, in a formal statement declaring the issue is whether Lewis is "above and beyond the law" applying to other citizens and secondly, in a transcript of a closed meeting held by division of the board with the operators.

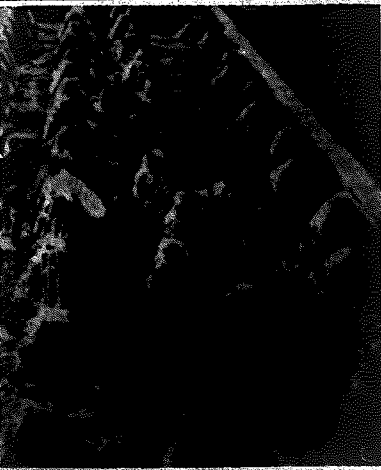
The issue, now confronting the nation in this dispute is whether Mr. Lewis is above and beyond the laws which apply to all other citizens of the United States.

"The labor dispute in this case, like all other labor disputes, is within the jurisdiction of the National War Labor Board under executive order 9017 of Jan. 12, 1942. Under the national policy of economic stabilization established by the Act of Congress of Oct. 3, 1942 and the President's executive order of Oct. 3 and its supplements, issued in accordance with the act, no adjustment or adjustment is justifiable on the merits it must be approved by the National War Labor Board, and it is such as to require an increase in the price of the product produced by the coal mines, and it is put into effect until it is also approved by the director of economics stabilization."

APPLIES TO ALL
This law applies to the coal miners and coal operators as well as to every other citizen of the United States.

"In demanding a wage increase and at the same time refusing to appear before the board, Mr. Lewis is in violation of the National War Labor Board law."

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HERE'S PHOTO OF 'ATLANTIC WALL'—Joe Goebbels had this photo made and published in order to boost the morale of Germans who fear imminent invasion by the Allies. It shows the Atlantic wall, supposedly 5,000 miles of anti-tank fortifications and minefields along the channel and Atlantic coasts. German soldiers are shown carrying mines.

Allied Bombers Roar Over Rome

Seaplane Base 15 Miles From Italian Capital Attacked

By WILLIAM B. KING
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—(AP)—Allied bombers roared over Rome in bright moonlight last night and blasted the Lido Di Roma seaplane base at the mouth of the Tiber fifteen miles southwest of the Italian capital, it was announced today.

RAP Wellingtons which carried out the attack bombed and machine-gunned the Lido Di Roma harbor, moorings and planes at the mouth of the Tiber. The attack was a surprise and almost no anti-aircraft opposition.

"Bombs were seen among parked aircraft," the communiqué said. Two hangars were set afire.

No bombs were dropped upon the Eternal City, but the raid marked the closest announced approach of the Allied aerial offensive to its outskirts.

ALLIED ATTITUDE
Prime Minister Churchill announced Sept. 30, 1940, that he would not hesitate to bomb Rome if the course of the war should render such an action convenient and helpful, and this attitude has been reiterated ever since in high Allied quarters.

President Roosevelt last Dec. 8 said a report that Pope Pius XII had appealed to the United States and Britain to spare Rome from aerial bombardment should be taken with a grain of salt. The 10-acre Vatican City, seat of the Holy See, lies at Rome.

(The Italian capital experienced its first air raid since June 12, 1940, a few hours after Italy entered the war as a partner of Germany, but no planes were

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The entire crew, including more than 100 German Navy personnel, were rescued.

The other ship was the 8,068-ton Regensburg, also heavily laden and inbound from the Far East. It was intercepted between Greenland and Iceland by the cruiser Glasgow, patrolling in the Denmark Strait.

SIGNS OF PANIC
Warnings shots brought her to a halt and signs of panic immediately were apparent aboard, the admiralty said. The crew started jumping overboard. The Regensburg signaled "I stop," and the Glasgow ceased fire.

"Soon afterwards, the Regensburg was fired with scuttling charges and her crew abandoned ship," the admiralty said. Due to icy waters and a heavy sea, only six of the large company was saved, the admiralty said.

Attu Isle Victory in Short Time Predicted

Must Wait for Better Weather

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Naming Kiska as the likely next objective of the American forces in the Aleutians, Army officers predicted today that troops who landed on Attu Island would be able to sweep the Japanese from that far outpost as soon as the weather cleared sufficiently for combined sea-air-ground operations.

Colonel R. Ernest Dupuy, in a review of the week's operation on all war fronts, described the surprise landings on Attu, at the tip of the Aleutian chain and within 700 miles of the great Japanese base at Paramushiro, as "the critical step in the process of sweeping into the sea the Japs on both Attu and Kiska." The first step was the occupation in January of the islands of Agasshi and Adak.

HEAVY FOG
Fog, which had been on the Attu fighting, Dupuy said, but at last reports a heavy fog still was impeding operations, not only preventing the use of air and surface bombardment, but bringing to a virtual halt the movements of American shore forces. However, a complete American success is inevitable, and one full day of good weather is about all that is needed to achieve that success.

Tokyo Reports More Americans Landed

NEW YORK—(AP)—The Tokyo radio quoted a Japanese newspaper as saying that attacking United States forces were landing a steady stream of reinforcements on Attu Island under cover of a naval and air bombardment.

Japanese troops, however, are holding on to their positions and have made a number of damaging counter attacks against the invaders. The acknowledgment that American troops still are pouring ashore at Attu was subordinated at the beach that the Japanese were making a series of successful counter attacks against the invaders.

The Japanese spokesman, Maj.-Gen. Makino Yashiji, chief of the army press section, was quoted in the Tokyo broadcast as saying that the Americans had landed a third group of troops against the strategic island at the western end of the Aleutians.

The main attacking force, he said, effected a landing on the southern coast on the morning of May 12, and succeeded in moving inland and attacking Japanese positions only to be driven back to the beach that day.

A pitched battle is now in progress, Yashiji said, between Japanese troops and another American force which landed simultaneously on the northern coast.

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Heavy Toll Of Casualties In High Waters

Bombers Strike in Ruhr and Eder Valleys; New Attack Made on Berlin

LONDON—(AP)—British bombers attacked Berlin the environs of Rome, the Ruhr and the Rhineland last night and burst two of the largest dams in Germany, flooding the valleys of the Ruhr and Eder in huge waves.

Sir Archibald Sinclair, air minister, said walls of the Mohne and Eder dams were broken. One backed up 134,000,000 tons of water and the other 202,000,000 tons, he said. Their destruction constituted a powerful blow to industrial Germany, he added.

The Germans themselves reported officially on the Berlin radio that the floodtide took a heavy toll of casualties.

Both dams produced hydroelectric power for Ruhr Valley industries. The German warbook lists only 30 dams, so the RAF's night work probably was a great blow to German industries. It was stated. Repeating dams is a lengthy process.

ROTOR STATION GONE
Subsequently, an Air Ministry communiqué said the Mohne dam had been breached for 100 yards and the Eder dam was swept away by resulting floods. The dams were attacked with high explosives.

The Eder Dam, controlling the head waters of the Weser and Fulda valleys, also was breached and "photographs show the river below the dam in full flood," the Ministry said. The communiqué said the two dams controlled two-thirds of the water storage capacity of the Ruhr basin.

The attack was greeted here from very low level with great determination and coolness in the face of fierce resistance," it said.

Sir Archibald called the RAF attack on Germany "a trenchant blow for victory of the Allies."

"He celebrated the crowd by saying: 'I have got news—great news—for you today. The Bomber Command—the Japanese and the American—has just tonight heavy blows of a new kind at the sources of German war power.'"

The Minister praised the Bomber Command staff and "those superbly daring and skillful crews who make the Germans so heavily last night."

IMPORTANT DAMS
Both dams were considered even more important for their strategic value than for power.

The Mohne Dam was near the town of Soest. It was the largest source of water for Ruhr industries and homes. It backed up a 125-foot deep lake four miles long.

The Eder Dam was near the town of Kassel. It was the largest source of water for Ruhr industries and homes. It backed up a 125-foot deep lake four miles long.

The destruction of the dams made up of a man and two women, was reported to have been announced in Prague.

Nazis Execute Czech Family

LONDON—(AP)—The Czech government-in-exile today announced that for the first time since the Munich repatriate for the assassination of the German Chancellor, Adolf Hitler, the Czechs had executed a family on a charge of having aided a Czech engaged in anti-German activities.

The execution of the family made up of a man and two women, was reported to have been announced in Prague.

WEATHER
Continued
warm.

Red Planes And Guns Harass Nazi Preparations For Any New Drive

By WILLIAM MCGAFFIN
MOSCOW—(AP)—The Red Army employed planes and artillery to good effect in further harassing German preparations for any new offensive as another week of the war opened today with still no definite sign of the expected great Summer campaign.

During the past week the Soviet Air Force spread fires and explosions in raids behind the German lines along almost the entire length of the long Russian front.

At indication of the ferocity of the aerial warfare was given in the midnight communiqué which said that Red airmen had destroyed 1,300 German planes in combat on airfields during the last two weeks while losing 300, better than a three-to-one Soviet advantage.

In the latest series of raids Russian bombers attacked Bryansk, Dnepropetrovsk and Kremenchuk. Bryansk, important German supply base, was heavily blasted, and Red airmen counted 13 fires and powerful explosions as they dumped their bombs on the city which links the central and southern fronts. Kremenchuk, 140 miles southwest of Kharkov, and Dnepropetrovsk, 120 miles southwest of Kharkov and also on the Dnieper River, also were reported with supply depots ablaze.

At the same time, Soviet dispatches told of artillery attacks all the way from the Kuban to the Baltic Sea in which German pillboxes were destroyed.

Last week's destruction of 370 German planes was considerably below the previous week's total of 530, but bad weather which mentioned in dispatches from the front undoubtedly was partly to blame.

(The Russian midday communiqué as broadcast from Moscow and recorded by the Soviet monitor in London said that Russian artillery was continuing the assault in the Eastland area which has resulted in a Russian breakthrough for a new toehold on the west side of the Donets River.

Southwest Pacific Air Activity Dwindles To Rather Small Raids

AUSTRALIA—(AP)—Aerial warfare in the Southwest Pacific dwindled to comparatively minor raids yesterday after Saturday's 100-plane Japanese assault against Allied positions in New Guinea.

Today's communiqué said nothing of ground fighting in New Guinea. Sharp clashes in the Bougainville-Mubo area had been reported the day before.

The Japanese base at Lae, where enemy planes frequently stop to refuel, was hit three times Saturday. The first attack caught six bombers and ten fighters on the ground. That night a small force of Mitchell's twice hit the airfield, starting numerous fires and coming away without loss to themselves.

Approximately 2,000 miles to the west, four-engine Liberator bombers attacked late last week at Bobdubi were repulsed and the Allies counter-attacked. Last night the battle was continuing, with the Japanese still trying to drive out the American and Australian forces who had virtually cut off the Japanese advance position at Mubo from their supply base at Salamaua.

The Bobdubi attack was supported by 64 planes. Nine bombers, escorted by fifteen fighters, hammered the ground positions. Hardly a day had passed since the Japanese had been driven out of the area.

Today's Temp: H. 80 F. S. 70 F. Wind: S. 10 to 15 mph. Sunshine: Tomorrow.

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