

DUCE HOLDS BACK, PUZZLING ALLIES

Italy Believed to Be Waiting Hitler's 'Go' Signal; Churchill Hints Indirectly of Help From America Eventually.

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in the devastated French port and thereby held up the Nazi blow at Paris or London.

The final victory in the Battle of Flanders now has released the Nazi invaders for the new lightning blow which Adolf Hitler has predicted will be a "knockout."

The meeting today of Mussolini and his Council of Ministers failed to throw any light on the time of Italy's entry into the war, but it emphasized that the Fascist nation now was fully prepared to strike on a moment's notice. The Council approved several war decrees providing for strict war-time discipline in all war industries.

Indications were, assuming Mussolini has agreed to enter the war when Hitler says "go," that Hitler is in no immediate hurry for Italy to enter. Mussolini's position has much the same effect as if he were a belligerent, because it keeps heavy forces of French troops away from the Western Front and immobile on guard along the Alps and the Mediterranean.

Speculate on Duce's Course

Paris and London are speculating on several courses Mussolini may take. They believe it not impossible that before entering the war, he will present his demands on France in ultimate form, asking for Tunisia, Nice, Corsica, Gibraltar, French Somaliland and the Suez Canal.

If the demands are refused, Italy might enter the war simultaneously with a furious German drive on Paris and a new aerial blitzkrieg. Any such Italian proposal almost certainly would be rejected and Hitler's hopes of getting a separate peace with France balked.

The idea, widely held earlier, that Mussolini would venture into the Balkans is now regarded as less likely because of possible complications involving Turkey and Russia.

He might attack in North Africa or Egypt—at least one Italian paper already has spoken of Egypt as the next battleground—but there again Turkey enters into the picture. There is also a strong mixed Allied Army in the Near East to be overcome.

Use of Italy's Air Force Hinted

It has been suggested that the Italian air force might be used to join the Germans in systematic bombing of industrial southern France. However, such important northern Italian industrial cities as Milan and Turin are within easy bombing of the French naval-air base at Toulon and would have to be protected.

If Italy attacks France directly, it might be in conjunction with a German drive through or around Switzerland and up the Lombardy plains to the Alpine passes.

However, Italy's role is still a matter of speculation.

It may be that Mussolini would prefer to get what he wants and share in the spoils of the war without fighting, if he can. Therefore, the question of his entrance may be delayed until the outcome of the impending German drive on Paris becomes almost apparent.

That might take weeks, during which Mussolini would continue his role of keeping the French on the defensive in the southeast. Then, if Hitler finds he cannot whip the French alone, he might be expected to call on Mussolini to come in.

Nazis Capture Dunkirk

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down in air battles and 300 to 400 Allied airplanes were destroyed on the ground. It was admitted that nine German planes were missing.

The Germans were able to render French anti-aircraft fire ineffectual and through co-ordinated high altitude and low altitude attacks upon air fields and factories "to achieve most effective hits," the communiqué said.

It added: "Numerous fires and explosions were observed."

The communiqué said that Allied flights and bombing attacks on west and southwest Germany "continued with the usual insignificant success."

Earlier reports had said that eight persons were killed when an

Today's War Moves

Bombing of Paris Indicates Air Tactics Overrated

By J. W. T. MASON

United Press War Expert

Germany's air raid on Paris has demonstrated that modern air defense of cities now far exceeds the offensive bombing power of airplanes, compared with the results of the last war.

Anticipated devastating effects of air raids on civilians have not been

sustained by the attack on Paris, which gives the first reliable large-scale data for analysis since the beginning of the war.

If the Germans can do no better in future air operations against civilians than they accomplished in their assault on Paris, the expected terrorizing effect of air bombing against civilian centers will have to be written down as fiction.

The Germans have been credited with perfecting blitzkrieg air tactics to a degree far exceeding the efficiency of the last war, but the offensive against Paris shows no basis for any such claim.

In the Paris raid, between 200

and 250 planes are said to have

participated, the largest carrying one ton of explosives each.

A conservative estimate would give 200 planes actively engaged with an average of one-half ton of bombs each, or a total of 100 tons of explosives dropped on Paris and the suburbs. Yet, the French casualties were only 45 dead and 149 wounded.

The total casualties thus equals less than one for each German plane, a trivial number when compared with the German accomplishment in the last war.

During the whole of the World War German aviators dropped a total of only 74 tons of bombs over England. Yet the casualties were 857 killed and 2058 wounded.

That is to say, if 100 tons be accepted as the probable amount of bombs dropped during the Paris raid, it represents 25 per cent more than the explosives dropped on England in the World War. The total Paris casualties, however, were less than 7 per cent of the air casualties in England when airplane attack was first developed.

This decline in the striking power of airplanes, as shown by the Paris attack, is one of the most astonishing and unexpected results of the war to the present time. It seems to indicate that air raids have failed to show the major value on which army leaders were counting and which were so dreaded by

the principal reason for the de-

crease in the number of casualties is the scattering of the population over wide areas.

During the last war no such advance preparations to protect civilians from air raiders had been made as now.

The evacuation of children from crowded cities to far-off retreats and the provision of air shelters in congested areas enormously decrease the number of human targets. Too, anti-aircraft guns and defensive fighting planes compel the attacking aviators to seek safety by flying very high, in some cases over five miles in the air.

They cannot select objectives at will from such a height and must drop their bombs, to a large extent, promiscuously. The French report many bombs fell harmoniously in the Seine River.

It seems evident, therefore, that in cases where full advantage has been taken of the defensive devices against air raids over cities, the injury attacking planes can do to civilians is impossible.

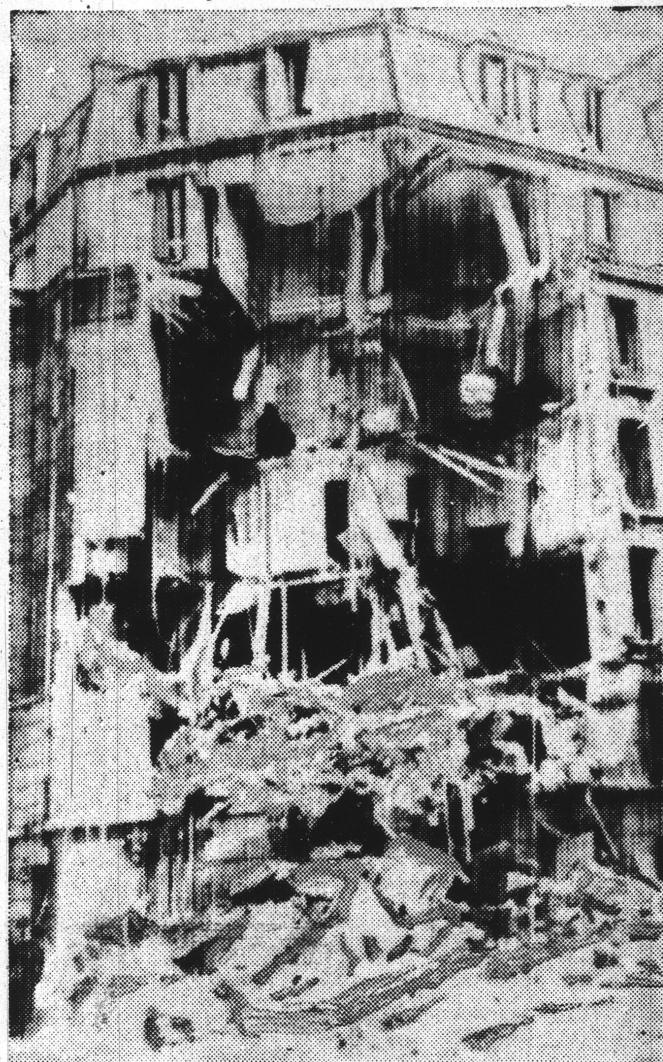
It may be different in the case of property damage. Though the British suffered so many air-raid casualties in the last war, yet the total property damage was less than \$7,000,000.

There is no information yet available of the destruction of property in the Paris raid, however. Until that is known, no comparison can be made.



Times Telepho-
War takes to the air. Cities are bombed by the French and Germans.

Paris Apartment Bombed



Times-Amer. Telepho-
One of the more than 1000 German bombs dropped on Paris yesterday blasts a gaping hole in an apartment house. The bomb shattered six stories of the building and piled the bottom one with wreckage.

French Airmen Strike Back, Raiding Northwest Germany

(Continued)

might be already—as the Army spokesman disclosed they were—raining death on Germany.

Air force experts asserted that at least 120 German bombing planes, escorted by an equal number of Messerschmidt fighters, executed yesterday's raids in the Paris region in which five schools and a hospital were struck, among other buildings, and at least 10 school children were killed.

In New York the National Broadcasting Co. and the Columbia Broadcasting System heard a British broadcast asserting that last night German planes made a three-hour raid in the La Haye region. The report said that high explosive bombs were used and although details were not available it was understood that a number of private houses were hit.

Le Journal reported today that one German bomb scored a direct hit on a thinly-covered air raid shelter trench and killed 20 children and wounded 20 among the hundreds who sought safety.

It was asserted that the five schools and one hospital hit made up 15 per cent of the total of buildings damaged.

A great blast of anti-aircraft fire sent Parisians to shelter again today. A single German plane was seen flying direct over the United States, surrounded by dozens of bursts from anti-aircraft shells, but no air raid alarm was sounded and no bombs were dropped. The plane was at about 25,000 feet altitude.

Workers at dawn began demolishing dangerously overhanging parts of damaged buildings.

An official survey brought the statement that only one bomb in each 14 dropped in Paris and one in each 11 dropped in the suburbs was effective: At least 40 bombs fell in the Seine, it was asserted.

A United Press survey showed that no German bombs struck any of the city's favorite tourist attractions such as the Louvre, Versailles Palace or the Arc de Triomphe.

Greatest damage was done in the most densely populated suburbs. In one suburban street, each house in a row of 12 had been set afire by incendiary bombs, and apparently one bomb had struck each house.

This was done, he indicated, to prevent destruction of the Belgian Army, but whatever chance it had for success was lost when Leopold surrendered.

From the moment that the Sedan and Meuse defenses were pierced, in the second week of May, it became necessary for the Allies to fall back on Amiens and southward in order to attempt to rescue the armies which they had sent into Belgium upon the request of Leopold.

But, he pointed out that the French were in command and that it was decided that a big counter-offensive should be launched from the Somme River to break through the German "scythe," instead of withdrawing the troops in the north when that was possible.

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A sudden blanking out during the night of the Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Munich and Nuremberg broadcasting stations had caused speculation as to whether military objectives at some or all of those German cities had not been bombed by avenging Allied planes or visited by reconnaissance planes preparing data for a raid.

Britons awaited eagerly some word from the Air Ministry which would tell them that allied attacks had been started.

Plane Driven Off Coast

Aviation experts had pointed out that the German Heinkel plane, seen off the southeast coast last night, sent anti-aircraft guns and fighter planes into action.

The plane was driven out to sea, where the sound of fire told of a British plane pursuit.

The immediate effect of the German raids on Paris was to intensify Britain's own defense preparations.

A strong military guard, with bayoneted rifles, took control of a key road near Nottingham, in the heart of the Midlands industrial area. Big tree trunks and a caterpillar tractor were placed in the road as obstructions, along with overturned trucks, so as to reduce traffic to a single line.

SLOAN INSPECTS ALLISON PLANT

Visit Follows Roosevelt's Request for Expansion Of Local Output.

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mediate new expansion of plant facilities. The main production plant in Speedway City, which was constructed only nine months ago, already is undergoing a \$2,000,000 enlargement project.

"Set-Backs" Reported

The inspection trip also was interpreted as confirming reports of serious set-backs in the production of the 400 and 500-mile an hour liquid-cooled motors which are America's bid for military world air supremacy.

It has been reported without confirmation that little more than 1,000 motors are coming off production lines daily at a time when the Division is swamped with more than \$40,000,000 in orders from both the U. S. Army and the Allies.

At a conference in Washington yesterday the Government asked General Motors, and four other automobile manufacturers, to expand their production of engines to power the armada of fighting planes contemplated under the defense program.

Other Officials on Hand

With Mr. Sloan for the inspection were Donaldson Brown, New York, vice chairman of the board; James D. Mooney, New York, vice president; and C. L. Moore, vice president of the board.

"Count on us!" the Ministers were said to have shouted.

An announcement later said that telephone communications between Italy and France has been suspended. The cause was not given.

Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano, reported to the Cabinet on the foreign situation.

The Fascist Grand Council will not meet tonight, it was stated officially despite previous reports that the session would be held and might decide the time for Italy's entry into the war.

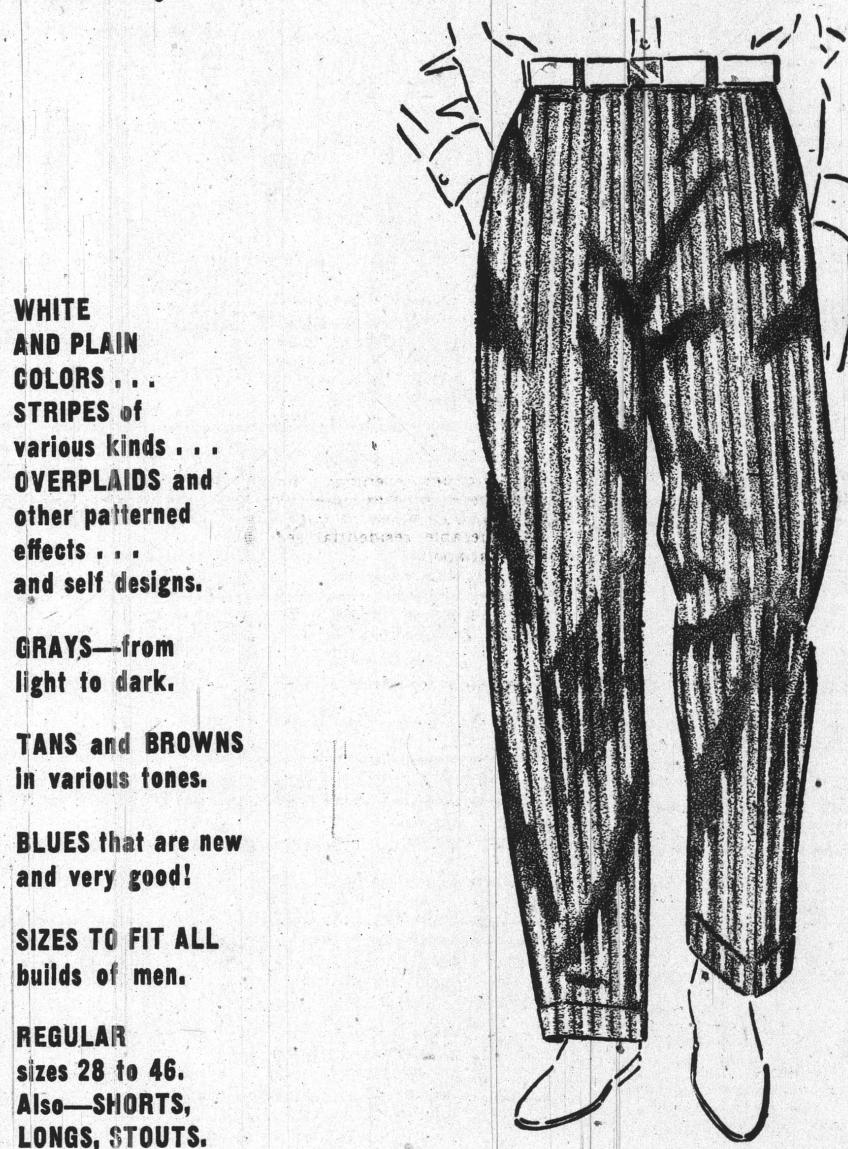
Approve Duce's War Stand

ROME, June 4 (U. P.)—Premier Benito Mussolini and the Council of Ministers approved a series of decrees completing Italy's preparation for war today and the ministers told the Fascist Prime Minister to "count on us" in any crisis.

The communiqué issued after the meeting merely approved of a number of decrees carrying forward the nation's already extensive preparations for possible entry into the conflict.

But, it was understood, the ministers told the ministers what he expected them to do in event Italy enters the war.

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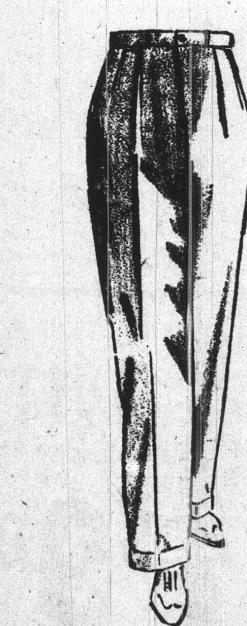
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