

RAF DEALS HAVOC IN BERLIN; GREEKS PERIL ITALIAN BASE

R. A. F. Also Strikes at
Hamburg; Await Axis
Mediterranean Blow.

(Continued from Page One)

early Axis attempt to strike in the
Mediterranean.

Nazi sources in the past have
suggested that Gibraltar or Suez or
possibly both would be the goals of
the impending Axis offensive, but
the Greek counter-attack into Al-
bania and the British aerial blast
against the Italian fleet at Taranto
may have forced readjustment of
the program.

The British Admiralty said that
three of Italy's battleships had
been crippled in the Taranto at-
tack and Greek messages reported
that Fascist transports plying from
Italy to Albania had been dra-
matically reduced by British and
Greek aerial and naval action.

French Fleet Watched

Wide attention centered also on
the French fleet, although the
Vichy Government denied reports
that it had left Toulon for the Far
East or that France had received
an ultimatum demanding that the
Axis be permitted to defend French
colonial territory from attack.

The French naval forces could
play an important role in the west-
ern Mediterranean if the Vichy
Government decided to co-operate
closely with the Axis in naval af-
fairs, regardless of whether French
units actually opposed the British.

The strong fight put up by Greek
armies against the Italians aroused
speculation on whether Germany
might strike in other southeastern
areas in order to support the Fascist
war machine or might yet join in
the invasion of Greece. But for
the time being the fury of the Ger-
man air attack on Coventry over-
shadowed other military develop-
ments. It was perhaps the greatest
assault in aerial warfare, Nazis re-
ported.

Indicating the extent of the Brit-
ish attacks the Air Ministry ad-
mitted that 10 British planes were
missing.

Rail Station Is Target

The Air Ministry announced that
high explosive bombs fell on and
around the Schlesischer railway station
and Goods yards, which had been
raided heavily the previous
night before departure from Berlin
of Soviet Premier-Foreign Com-
munist Vlacheslav M. Molotov.

Also raided last night were the
Pulitzstrasse railway yards, the
Lehrter station on the northern
fringe of the center of the city and
the Anhalter railway station south-
east of the center of the German
capital, it was claimed.

Invasion Ports Fired

In addition to heavy damage at
Berlin, great fires and explosions
were caused in German "invasion"
ports and the submarine base at
Lorient, which the British have
been trying to render useless to
U-boats operating against British
shipping in the Atlantic, London
said.

Coventry was not the only Brit-
ish city attacked by the Germans
last night but other bombing was
scattered and light. London had
a fairly quiet night but consider-
able activity developed today and
a long-distance gun duel was fought
by British and German cannon
across the sun-sparkling Straits of
Dover.

Twisting, circling airplane
trails streaked the sky over
London, indicating that an air
battle was in progress during the
city's second daylight alarm.

Bombs Strike Homes

It was revealed that a bomb ex-
ploded on the grounds of Buck-
ingham Palace recently. The
bomb damaged a flat normally oc-
cupied by stablemen and chipped
the face of the clock in the tower
overlooking Buckingham Palace
Road. All palace staff members
were in shelters at the time and
the King and Queen were absent.

Two hospitals were bombed in
the London area yesterday and at
one of them, doctors, nurses and
porters worked all night beside res-
cue crews to move brick and fallen
masonry to get into a section where
a number of bed-ridden patients
were trapped. A number of pa-
tients were killed instantly.

The staff from the undamaged
section of the hospital rushed
through clouds of dust to start res-
cuing the trapped patients, whose
cries could be heard plainly.
Rescuers worked under shielded
flashlights while raiders were still
overhead. Houses near the hospital
also caved in, trapping their occu-
pants.

The other hospital damaged was
a maternity home in the London
outskirts. Ground floor windows
and doors were blown in, but the
upper floors escaped serious dam-
age. The matron said 18 mothers
and 14 children escaped injury.
They were in an especially protected
ground floor ward.

A London school used as a fire
and ambulance station was hit di-
rectly by a bomb, with some casu-
alties.

The Germans said that eight



War Moves Today

By J. W. T. MASON
United Press War Expert

German disquietude over the initial failure of
Italy's offensive in Greece is indicated by Berlin's
announcement today that Field Marshal Wilhelm
Keitel, Chief of the German High Command, and
Marshal Pietro Badoglio, chief of the Italian Gen-
eral Staff, have met at Innsbruck for a conference.
The fact that each commander is accompanied by a
number of other high-ranking plans of military sig-
nificance are being discussed.

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Keitel, however, is faced with a
difficult situation in trying to devise a
way to help the Italians out of their
trouble. If German troops were to be sent to the Albanian
frontier to take over the offensive from that direction, the effect on
Italian morale would be bad, since it would involve humiliating ac-
knowledgement of Mussolini's failure.

Too, it is by no means certain that
the Germans could accomplish the
task of overwhelming the Greeks, now heavily entrenched in
the mountains and with the Italian advance bases reported to have been
made useless. If German troops are to be used to aid the Italians, the
natural strategic way into Greece would be through Jugoslavia.

The eastern border between Jugos-
lavia and Greece is free of mountain
barriers. A plain runs from the
frontier to the Gulf of Salonica, about 50 miles away, following the
course of the Vardar River. But for
the time being the fury of the Ger-
man air attack on Coventry over-
shadowed other military develop-
ments. It was perhaps the greatest
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Whether Russian Foreign Com-
missioner Molotov's conversations with
Hitler may apply to any change in the
Balkan situation is uncertain. Russia
may hold the key through her power over Turkey; but that too
can be known only by future
results.

The first result of the new Russo-
German entente points primarily to
some solution of the armed frontier
situation. This is shown by today's
report that German troops are
being withdrawn from western Fin-
land, where they were recently con-
centrated as a counter-gesture fol-
lowing Russian military concen-
trations in northwestern areas.

British planes were shot down over
Berlin. They admitted that four
persons had been killed and one
wounded and that the attack had
been made in greater force than
previously had been employed by
the British against the German
Capital.

The Italians admitted that the British
had attacked Bar, transportation
port for Italian supplies going to
Albania, and Monopoli, near Bar. The Italian
communications mentioned air fighting over
Greece but was silent on land operations
in which the Greeks were continuing advanced into a fringe of
Albanian territory just north of the
Greek frontier.

Of possible significance in the
Axis Mediterranean drive was a
conference at Innsbruck near Bren-
ner Pass of Wilhelm Keitel, chief
of the German Supreme Command
and Marshal Pietro Badoglio, top
Italian commander.

Suner and Laval Confer

At the same time Ramon Serrano
Suner, Spain's Foreign Minister,
and Vice Premier Pierre Laval of
France went to Paris.

Suner soon will visit Berlin on
invitation of the German Foreign
Minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop,
the official news agency D. N. B.
reported.

The British Admiralty reported
that it had been confirmed with
certainty that three Italian bat-
tleships were damaged in the attack
on Taranto and it was revealed that
the British Mediterranean fleet
stood off Taranto during the at-
tack in the hope the Italians would
come out and give battle.

Stockholm reported that German
troops were leaving Finland, pos-
sibly in response to suggestions by
Molotov, and the Domesi Japanese
news agency alleged that the
French in Indo-China had repulsed
an Armistic Day incursion by well-
armed and equipped Chinese troops.

The War Ministry in Athens said
that Greek forces still held the
offensive in infantry, artillery and
aerial battles raging along the
whole 125-mile length of the Greek-
Albanian frontier.

Greek naval sources reported
that Italy was encountering great diffi-
culty in transporting men and material
across the Otranto Straits from
Italy to Albania because of
the British and Greek naval and
aerial attacks.

Fewer Italian transports
recently has been drastically re-
duced, it was reported. These
sources said also that the entire
Aegean Sea was free of Italian naval
craft except for a few submarines
and that the Greek naval vessels
were patrolling the coast un-
molested.

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Reporter Describes How British Trapped Snug Italian Fleet in Taranto Harbor

(Continued from Page One)

way, and was shown beyond doubt
that the British control the sea.

After steaming to every corner of
the Mediterranean, and loitering in
the narrow Straits of Pantelleria off
Sicily in a vain effort to lure the
Italian fleet from port, it was de-
cided that the only chance to get a
decisive battle would be to make a
rousing blow on Taranto, where the
main body of Italy's Navy was

We approached the Greek islands
at night at 30-knot speed, all crews
at battle stations. Against the sky
line I could see big battleships out-
lined against the moonbeams, their
heavy gun turrets looming like
floating fortresses on the shimmer-
ing waters. In the lead were a dozen

destroyers churning the ocean until
it seemed to boil. On both sides of
us, our cruisers, light and heavy, loomed
out as far as I could see.

Our cruiser knifed the turquoise
waters and hooded men moved
around the guns. They worked si-
lently. Some of them wore lamb
wool coats with hoods like those
of the Arabian burnous; others
wore white anti-flash gear resem-
bling asbestos diving suits to pro-
tect their skin from cannon flashes.
Slinking about the guns, they
seemed like creatures from another

planet. Suddenly pompos fire lit the sky.
A false alarm had been given. In
the distance there was a shudder
of heavy gun at the advance force
of the Taranto Straits encountered
an Italian convoy bound for Al-
bania. Simultaneously the air was
filled with SOS calls from sinking
Italian ships.

In reporting on this incident, the
Admiralty in London said British
units had sunk two and damaged
the third ship of an Italian convoy
and had driven off two escorting
Italian destroyers, one of which was

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