

TUESDAY, NOV. 14, 1944

TIRPITZ RAIDERS USED RED BASE

RAF Bombers Came From
Refueling Station Near
Archangel.

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loaded up with bombs and fuel, and then flew 700 miles northwest to their target.

Wing Commander James B. Tait, one of six crewmen who gave a detailed report on the mission to a special press conference, said the bombers went in over Tromso fjord at 13,000 feet and drew fire from the Tirpitz' main 15-inch batteries while they still were 10 miles away.

Brave Heavy Flak

Scores of anti-aircraft batteries lining both sides of the narrow fjord joined in the barrage, throwing up a wall of flak as intense as anything the Germans ever used to defend their former U-boat base at Brest.

The first two bombs fell a few yards to port of the battleship the next scored a direct hit near the bow, and the fourth blockbuster caught the wounded ship squarely amidships.

A great black plume of smoke and a blinding flash of white fire shot 300 feet into the air and the German guns stopped firing.

Other planes swarmed over the dreadnaught in waves of five, dropping their bombs into the rolling clouds of gray and brown smoke that prevented them from seeing any further damage.

As the last bomber turned back toward Scotland, the Tirpitz heaved up in the water, rolled over on her back and sank.

London observers believed the sinking of the Tirpitz probably would be followed by a transfer of another major portion of the British home fleet to the Far East, to participate in the war against Japan.

The destruction of the Tirpitz in a Norwegian fjord Sunday by a fleet of 29 four-engined R. A. F. Lancasters at last removed the most serious threat of all to allied convoys plying the sea lanes between the United States, Britain and Russia.

Many Already in East

It will free numerous British warships from escort duty for tasks in other waters.

The Berlin radio, in a long-delayed acknowledgment of the attack on the Tirpitz, said it was "put out of action" and "a large part of the crew was rescued."

Britain has 15 to 19 battleships ranging in tonnage from 29,150 tons to perhaps 40,000 tons plus and at least nine aircraft carriers of 14,500 to 23,000 tons in service.

Many already have sailed to the Indian ocean to join Adm. Sir Bruce Fraser's growing Far Eastern fleet, but others had been kept in Atlantic and Arctic waters to counter the ever-present menace of the Tirpitz.

The London Daily Mail jubilantly proclaimed that the royal navy now was "free to give its undivided attention to Japan."

The loss of the Tirpitz reduced Germany's naval striking power to two so-called pocket battleships of only 10,000 tons, the Lutzow (formerly the Deutschland) and the Adm. Scheer; three heavy cruisers and assorted light cruisers and destroyers, nearly all of them immobilized in the Baltic or in Norwegian fjords.

The Bismarck, a sister ship of the Tirpitz, was sunk in action in the Atlantic May 27, 1941, while the 26,000-ton Scharnhorst was sunk in battle in Arctic water in December, 1943.

FLOOD CONTROL UNIT ISSUES PRIORITY LIST

The Marion county flood control board today listed priority projects which it intends to present at a public hearing on the Wabash valley flood control program next Tuesday in Terre Haute.

They are:

Construction of flood wall and dikes along White river from 10th st. to the Belt railroad bridge near Victory field, thence along Fall creek to 16th st. Extension of the Warfield flood wall on White river from Northwestern area to the Indianapolis Water Co. dam. Levee construction and channel improvement along White river from 16th to 30th st. Reconstruction of Emricksville dam and rebuilding of highway spans at 16th and 30th st.

Construction of automatic pumping stations at White river and Fall creek drainage outlets. Possible purchase of periodically flooded property along Big Eagle and Little Eagle creeks from Raymond st. to near Washington st. for park and recreational purposes.

Yanks Threatening to Split Jap Defense Line on Leyte

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now are delaying the American advance down the main highway from Pinampano to the north from the main Japanese garrison around the west coast sea and air base of Ormoc in the south.

It also would cut the main link between Ormoc and Palawan, 16 miles to the northwest, an alternative reinforcement and evacuation port on the west coast, though several rough mountain trails between the two towns still would remain in Japanese hands.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur disclosed in his daily communiqué that the Japanese now have committed five of their best divisions—possibly 75,000 troops—to the Leyte front in an attempt to smash the American invasion of the central Philippines.

PEARL HARBOR, Nov. 14 (U.P.)—American warships blocked Ngerong Island in the south of Palau, already under daily attack by American planes based on Peleliu and nearby Angaur.

Blame Shortage Of Cigaretts on Lack of Workers

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has 1187 million pounds of flue-cured on July 1, but that this is not a factor in the present situation.

Manufacturers, on the basis of this year's crop, probably will get a little more tobacco in the next year than they had in the present year, Mr. Gage believes, but he thinks they're turning out all the cigarettes now that they have the labor to produce.

Growing tobacco is rated an essential endeavor, he says, but manufacturing tobacco products is not, and so some workers have been leaving the industry to take jobs elsewhere.

Manufacturers haven't been able to get new machines and can hardly keep their old ones in repair, he says.

Also, there has been a pinch in cartons and containers in some cases.

In 1939, the U. S. had the largest crop of flue-cured tobacco on record.

Great Britain, needing dollar exchange for munitions, pulled out of the U. S. tobacco market.

The U. S. government bought an amount about equivalent to what Britain had bought, but prices were generally low, and production controls followed.

When this country entered the war its own consumption climbed—consumption is related directly to industrial employment—and for a four-year-period more was needed, domestically and for export, than was grown.

MR. GAGE says not only consumption of cigarettes but of chewing tobacco and snuff, too, has boomed with war, though use of smoking tobacco was off in the first eight months of this year.

As the nation scrambled for cigarettes, the office of price administration heard reports that in some cases cigarettes had sold as high as 25 cents and 30 cents a pack, and although officials did not think the black market was extensive, they appealed to the public not to patronize the "west pocket and suitcase" vendors.

AN OPA official said that the "pattern" for possible black market operations in cigarettes was being set up—shortages, buying rushes, hoarding—and urged people "not to fancy prices or buy more than needed."

Also, it was pointed out, the fellow stocking up on all the cigarettes he can find may get fooled.

An OPA official reminded that cigarettes are "mildly perishable" and will not keep indefinitely.

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