

R. A. F. HAMMERS ITALIAN FLEET, WRECKS 2 FASCIST BATTLESHIPS

Third Fascist Battleship Is Reported "Seriously Damaged"

COLD WAVE TO TIGHTEN GRIP; 15 BELOW SEEN

All-Time Low Mark for Mid-November Set at Des Moines

DES MOINES, (P)—The weather bureau predicted that the record-breaking cold wave would tighten its grip on Iowa Wednesday night, with 15 below temperatures a possibility for the northwestern part of the state.

The somber forecast followed a minimum reading of three degrees above zero in Des Moines early Tuesday to crack the all-time low record for mid-November temperatures.

The bureau also advised shippers to protect consignments of goods against possible 10 below readings in northeast Iowa and 5 below temperatures in the southern half of the state.

Sioux City reported a minimum of 6 degrees below zero overnight. Red Oak had a 5 below minimum and Mount Airy 1 below. It was 6 above in Des Moines at 9 a. m. Wednesday.

Only glimmer of hope for relief from winter's first severe prelude was the bureau's expectation that the weather would not be "quite so cold" in the west portion of the state Thursday afternoon.

British Win Biggest Sea Fight of War

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

Crippling of at least one-third of Italy's first line battle fleet with damage to other fascist war vessels, at Taranto by British bombers must rank as the most important naval success of Europe's war.

The serious reduction of Italian sea power, coupled with the added strategic value of the new British naval stations at Crete, now gives Great Britain overwhelming predominance in the Mediterranean.

Detachments from the Mediterranean fleet can now be made. If the London admiralty desires for running down armored German raiders in the Atlantic.

The Taranto victory is the war's first major success of airplanes over heavily armored naval vessels. It may be the warships at anchor are vulnerable to large bombs aimed effectively.

The British success, however, must be attributed primarily to the apparent lack of efficiently operated Italian fighting planes. The Taranto engagement shows the vital necessity of protecting naval bases with defense planes capable of driving off attacking squadrons or keeping them so high in the air that the targets become confused.

Simultaneously with announcement of the British success in the Mediterranean comes the official British report of the attack in mid-Atlantic by the armed British merchantman Jervis Bay against an armored German raider.

The safe arrival in British ports of 80 per cent of the convoy disproves the German claim of last week that the entire convoy had been destroyed.

Virginia Gayda, Italy's unofficial spokesman, writing Wednesday states that "the decisive war against England's empire is essentially naval."

It is unfortunate for Germany that the two incidents at sea, so favorable to Great Britain, together with Signor Gayda's confession, come at the moment when Commissar Molotov is in Berlin.

The Russians have shown realism and strict impersonality in judging the various developments of the war. It is not to be supposed they will neglect to take serious note of the sudden strengthening of British Mediterranean power and the difficulty of reconciling German claims of crippling Britain by convoy sinkings with the actual facts.

FEAR SABOTAGE IS ENDANGERING DEFENSE OF U. S.

By UNITED PRESS

The federal bureau of investigation, strengthened to meet the threat of sabotage against the national defense program, intervened Wednesday in the investigations of mysterious explosions, accidents and fires in public and private enterprises that have caused estimated damage of \$1,600,000 in the last week.

The acts of sabotage in connection with recent explosions in plants working on national defense orders were charged by Representative Martin Dies, chairman of the congressional committee investigating subversive activities.

Representative J. Parnell Thomas (D-N. J.), a member of the committee, said that three explosions in Pennsylvania and New Jersey yesterday "can hardly be placed in the category of coincidence" and warned that other districts might be expected "until the federal government gets hard-boiled."

"We need a shake-up in our government so that there will be no more cooing of subversive groups or activities," he said. "The federal government should cooperate with the employers so that they can get tough about whom they hire and fire."

The three powder plant explosions occurred within an hour of each other Tuesday. An explosion destroyed a \$10,000 barrel of storage tank in Canton, Ohio, Tuesday night.

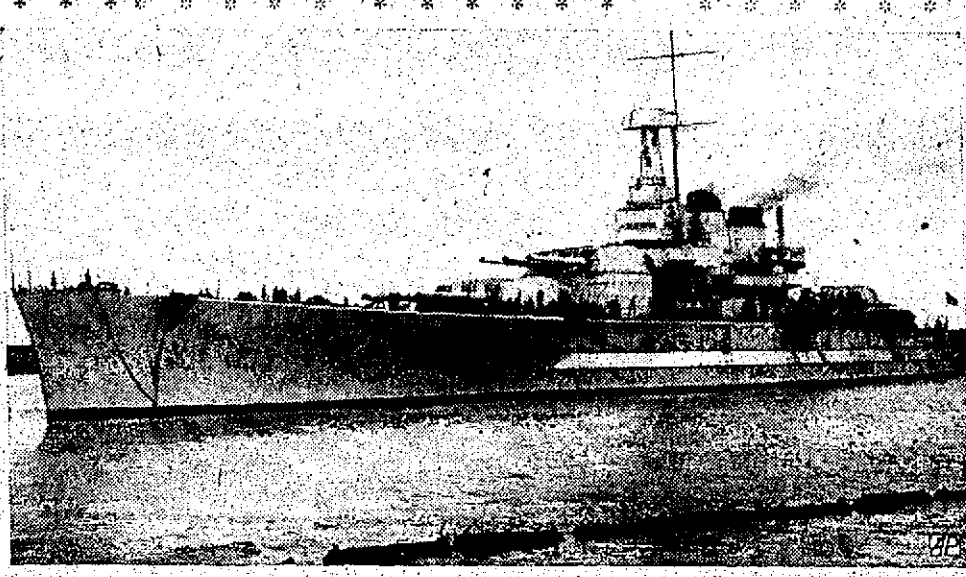
Fourteen persons were killed and at least 26 were injured in the powder plant explosion.

Six women and two men were killed in a blast at the United Railway Signal corporation in Woodbridge, N. J. A state inspector said "this definitely was sabotage."

Three men were killed at the Allentown, Pa., plant of the Trojan Powder company, working on contracts totaling \$900,000 for the army and navy.

Three men were killed at the Burton powder works of the American Cyanamid corporation at Edinburg, Pa. This plant had no government contracts but an FBI agent was sent to Edinburg to act as an observer at the local investigation.

The three powder plant explosions occurred two months to the day after a mysterious explosion killed 51 persons at the Kenil, N. J., plant of the Hercules Powder company, on Sept. 12.



Pictured above is the 35,000 ton Littorio, Italian battleship which may have been a victim of the ferocious R. A. F. bombing attack at Taranto. The attack was admitted by Rome.

Report Bremen Is Sunk

SAN FRANCISCO, (UP)—The German liner Bremen, queen of the rich merchant marine, which dashed to freedom from New York at the outbreak of the war, is on the bottom of the Kattgat, four miles off the coast of northern Denmark, according to reports received here Wednesday.

The editors of the Danish-Norwegian newspaper Bilen reported receipt of a telegram stating the Bremen apparently was sunk by the torpedo.

A letter to a member of the Scandinavian colony written by relatives in Denmark, added details. The letter said excursion trips to the ship are available to the public for the equivalent of 25 cents, and that hundreds ride out to see the superstructure piercing up from the sea.

The letter added that swimming had been abandoned in the Ore-sund between Denmark and Sweden, at the lower end of the Kattgat, because "hundreds of bodies are floating in the sound."

They were brought into port late Tuesday by a Swedish freighter, one of the convoys whose captain, Sven Olander, went back after dark the night of Nov. 5 because "they did so well for us that I did not like to leave."

The identity of the freighter and the number of missing crew members of the 18-year-old, 14,164-ton Australian liner converted into a lightly-armed convoy guardship were kept a military secret.

Survivors of the fight—of which the world had its first inkling last week when distress calls crackled out over the Atlantic—told how the Jervis Bay headed without hesitation into the "hopeless fight," laid a smoke screen under which the convoy scattered, and plowed through a storm of shells straight for the raider until she was sunk by the latter's power.

Capt. E. S. H. Fegen remained in command "with one arm almost shot away," even though the fore part of the bridge was blown from under him. He went down with the blazing ship.

64 Heroes of British Fight Reach Canada

Seamen Took Part in Battle Against Nazi Raider in Atlantic

LONDON, (UP)—The admiral said Wednesday that six more merchant ships from a convoy of 38 vessels attacked by a German raider in mid-Atlantic had arrived in port and that only three were still missing.

AN EASTERN CANADIAN PORT—Sixty-five seamen, most of them wounded, were Canada's heroes Wednesday—scared, exhausted survivors of the armed merchant cruiser Jervis Bay, which saved at least 29 ships of a convoy of 38 before sinking, guns still roaring, in a mid-Atlantic battle with a powerful German raider.

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A British admiralty communique credited the saving of three-fourths of the convoy, which the Germans reported completely destroyed, largely to the "very gallant action" of the Jervis Bay.

It said that despite "greatly inferior armament" the Jervis Bay "continued to engage the enemy after she had been severely hit and was burning furiously, and exploded after a two-hour fight."

Molotov, Hitler in Parley

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. BERLIN—Soviet Premier-Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov held a four-hour conference Wednesday with Adolf Hitler—their second—and informed sources said that much of this time was devoted to "negotiations."

The nature of these negotiations was not disclosed. The discussions previously had been described broadly as aimed at developing a long-range program of soviet-Nazi collaboration.

German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Reichsmarschal Herman Goering were among the German dignitaries present.

Molotov spent the morning in conferences with Goering and Deputy Nazi Party Leader Rudolf Hess.

Wednesday night, the Russian statesman and his staff will be hosts to the Nazi leaders at a banquet, returning the honors accorded to them Tuesday night by the Nazis at a state dinner.

Official circles were silent on the subjects discussed, but informed sources said it was believed the conferences were aimed at developing a long-range program of German-Russian co-operation.

Informants declared both German and Russian spokesmen at the dinner given Molotov Tuesday night emphasized the friendly nature of relations between the two nations.

The avenue leading from the Bellevue palace, where Molotov is staying, to the chancellery was guarded closely by police as the Russian statesman was escorted to his second day of conferences with Nazi officials.

Balance of Power in Mediterranean Changes as Result

Victory Will Release Powerful Units of British Armada to Join in Hunt for "Phantom" Nazi Surface Raider

CAIRO, (UP)—A Royal Air Force communique Wednesday said that British bombers again raided the big Italian port of Durazzo in Albania on Tuesday and started huge fires.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. Britain's royal navy "has struck a crippling blow at the Italian fleet," the London admiralty reported Wednesday, seriously damaging two fascist battleships and probably a third as well as two cruisers "smuggling behind their shore defenses" at the Taranto naval base.

In addition, two auxiliary warships there were reported "lying with their sterns under water."

Prime Minister Winston Churchill told a cheering house of commons that "the result of the action decisively affects the balance of power in the Mediterranean."

London naval experts said the victory would release powerful units of the British Mediterranean armada to join in a world-wide hunt for a "phantom" German surface raider—possibly the 10,000-ton pocket battleship Admiral Scheer or the Luetzow—which attacked a convoy in mid-Atlantic Nov. 11.

Still another British naval victory at the expense of Italy was reported by the London admiralty later in the day. The admiralty said British warships sank an Italian supply ship, set two others afire, damaged another, and blasted an Italian destroyer in an attack off Valona, Albania, Monday night.

With her growing command of the seas, the British government also announced the extension of its blockade to three sides of Africa, including Syria, French West Africa, Liberia, Portuguese Guinea, Madagascar and Reunion Island.

London naval circles said the attack on Taranto was made by planes carrying aerial torpedoes, which are launched by dive bombing. Ordinary bombs, it was said, would have been ineffective against the heavily-armed Italian battleships.

Taranto, described as Italy's main sea base, lies at the "hinterland" of the Italian boot. The admiralty said the attack, eliminating fruitless months in which the British Mediterranean fleet has sought to engage the Italian fleet in open battle, "probably" left only one-half of the fascist navy's six capital ships still effective.

Royal navy planes, flying from undisclosed bases, carried out the assault on the night of Nov. 11-12, the admiralty said.

A British admiralty communique gave this picture: Bomb hits caused such havoc aboard two of the battleships they had to run ashore to prevent sinking. One of these, belonging to the 23,622 ton Conte di Cavour class, was under water "from her stern up, including the after turret."

Another battleship of the 35,000-ton Littorio class was "badly down by the bows" with "irretrievable" under water and "a heavy list to starboard."

The Weather FORECAST

IOWA: Fair Wednesday night and Thursday; not quite so cold west portion Thursday afternoon.

CHAMBERLAIN CREMATED

LONDON, (AP)—The body of Neville Chamberlain, former prime minister who died Saturday, was cremated Wednesday at Golders Green mortuary in North London. There was no ceremony.

Gabby Hartnett Fired by Cubs

CHICAGO, (UP)—Owner, Phil K. Wrigley of the Chicago Cubs announced Wednesday that the contract of Manager Leo "Gabby" Hartnett will not be renewed when it expires Dec. 31.



Gabby Hartnett, manager of the Chicago Cubs, is shown in a portrait.

Rome Admits RAF Raids on Bases

ROME, (AP)—British planes attacked three big Italian naval bases at Brindisi, Bari and Taranto, the Italian high command reported Wednesday.

Identify Frozen Body of Transient in Iowa

CARROLL, (AP)—The frozen body of a transient identified by Coroner A. F. Smith as that of James Conway, about 55, of St. Joseph, Mo., was found in a stalled truck near here Tuesday.

BRANDEIS IS 81 WASHINGTON, (UP)—Louis D. Brandeis, retired justice of the supreme court, was 81 Wednesday.