

The Texts of the Day's Communiqués on Fighting in Europe and Africa

German

BERLIN, Friday, April 18 (AP)—The German High Command issued this special communiqué early today.

The whole Yugoslav army in so far as it is still armed, surrendered unconditionally April 17 and laid down its arms.

BERLIN, April 17 (AP)—A special German communiqué issued today stated:

As reprisal for destruction inflicted by the British Air Force the night of April 9 on the Berlin and Potsdam residential and cultural centers. Numerous German fighting squadrons assaulted the British capital in a ten-hour rolling attack. The port and industrial areas were heavily hit.

Later the High Command issued this communiqué:

In retaliation for the British air raid on the residential and cultural section of the Reich capital the night of April 9 the German Air Force last night made a major attack on the British capital. Numerous German combat squadrons throughout the entire night unintermittently dropped numerous explosives of all calibers and incendiaries. Good visibility favored the observation of bomb explosions and their effects.

Big fires that combined into extensive conflagrations started upon the departure of the first units in harbor areas and other city districts. The flare of these conflagrations already was visible from the Channel and partly even from the Belgian coast.

In the future every British air attack on residential sections of Germany will be retaliated in an increasing manner.

As already announced in a special report the Second Serbian Army which has been in dissolution capitulated in the region of Sarajevo. Mopping up of remnants of army groups is continuing on schedule. Resistance still flaring locally was subdued quickly.

In Dalmatia Italian units are advancing southeastward via Spalato. In Southern Albania Herzeg close to the Greek border was taken. Additional forces attacked from the North Albanian region and crossed the Serbian border at several points on both sides of Lake Scutari.

In Greece troops of the German Army continue to attack southward and took Servia south of the Aliakmon (Vistritza) River. Numerous prisoners were taken.

Units of the German Air Force attacked ship concentrations on the Greek east coast and sank a total of 19,000 tons of merchant shipping space and damaged additional ships.

The air force also scored special successes in the fight against supply shipping of the British mother country. Armed reconnaissance planes damaged four ships totaling 28,000 tons in St. George's Channel and in the region 400 kilometers (250 miles) west of Ireland. A 5,000-ton freighter was so effectively bombed from a low altitude that the destruction of this ship is considered certain.

Further air raids were directed against port and wharf facilities along the Lower Thames, as well as against a number of airports. In an attack on Great Yarmouth heavy-caliber bombs struck a large mill and adjacent warehouses.

The enemy last night dropped incendiaries and explosives at several places in Northwestern Germany which caused immaterial damage. The losses among the civilian population were small.

Four British planes were downed by night chasers and anti-aircraft. During the capture of Skopje April 7 Colonel Buschhausen chief of a company of an infantry regiment especially distinguished himself by personal bravery in the face of a manifold superior enemy.

A fighting group composed of engineers, air force units and special formations commanded by Colonel Bazing at dawn on April 6 crossed the Danube at the Iron Gate near Orsova under most difficult conditions.

The Yugoslav embankment was taken in an audacious surprise move, stubborn resistance was broken and all the enemy's attempts to block the channel were frustrated.

ITALIANS TAKE LAND AS YUGOSLAVS COLLAPSE



The Fascists continued their occupation of the Dalmatian coast from two directions. The troops that had seized Spalato were on their way to Ragusa (1), while other units moving toward the same region from the south took Antivari and Cetinje. In Albania, Rome reported, the Italian advance continued all along the front between the lakes region and the Adriatic (2). The Germans meanwhile, hurled heavy forces against the Allies in Northern Greece (3). (A detailed map of the operations in Albania and Greece appears on Page 6.) A Berlin communiqué disputed the claim that the Yugoslavs had blocked the Iron Gate passage of the Danube (4), thus shutting off a vital German supply line, the German story was that such action had been forestalled.

Lake Prisa to the Adriatic despite strong enemy reaction and numerous highway interruptions. Troops of the Eleventh Army occupied Klisura and proceeded after fierce fighting. The enemy suffered considerable losses and left numerous prisoners and an enormous quantity of material in our hands.

Two British bombers that attempted to fly over Albanian territory were attacked by our fighter planes. One Blenheim plane was shot down.

At Piraeus our aircraft carried out an intense attack against the harbor works and ships in the bay on the night of April 15.

Action by torpedo-launching planes reported in yesterday's bulletin, which resulted in the sinking of a large 15,000-ton steamer, was carried out by Captain Pilot Buscaglia and Lieutenant-Observer Castagnacci.

In Cyrenaica pressure of Italian and German troops on Tobruk and in the Solum region continues. On the Cyrenaican Gabel (plateau) mopping up of enemy units cut off during our overpowering advance continues.

In East Africa enemy forces that attempted to cross the Baro River in Galla Sidamo were violently counter-attacked and put to flight. They left their encampment in our hands. We inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in

fierce fighting west of Dembidollo north of Gambala.

A special Italian communiqué stated:

The first line of Greek resistance having been broken through on April 14, 15 and 16 after bloody fighting divisions of the Ninth Army resumed their advance this morning with extraordinary vigor. The entire front is British.

British

LONDON, April 17 (AP)—The Air and Home Security Ministries issued the following communiqué today:

Last night enemy aircraft made a very heavy and sustained attack on London. The attack began soon after dark and continued throughout the night until shortly before dawn. Early reports show that casualties were heavy and that there was considerable damage.

Bombs were dropped outside London mainly in the home and eastern counties and the southeast. Nowhere in these areas were the numbers of casualties large or was the damage extensive.

LONDON, April 17 (AP)—The Ministry issued this communiqué today:

The weight of last night's attack

by aircraft of the Bomber Command fell upon a number of North German towns but mainly on Bremen. Though a haze made it difficult to observe the full effect of the bombing the fires were seen to be spreading in many parts of Bremen.

Wilhelmshaven, Cuxhaven and Wesermünde were among the other objectives attacked.

Aircraft of the Coastal Command bombed the docks at Brest during the night.

In the course of widespread operations in daylight yesterday a formation of Blenheim aircraft of the Bomber Command attacked the island of Helgoland.

Other Blenheim bombers escorted by fighters attacked the airfield at Berck-Surmece and did considerable damage.

From all these operations one aircraft of the Bomber Command and three aircraft of the Fighter Command are missing. One of the fighter pilots is safe. An aircraft of the Coastal Command is missing from patrol yesterday.

The Ministries of Air and Home Security issued this communiqué:

It is now known that an enemy fighter was destroyed over the French coast yesterday.

Four more enemy bombers were shot down last night in a raid on London making six in all three by fighters and three by anti-aircraft fire.

Two enemy aircraft were shot down into the Strait of Dover this morning by our fighters. A single enemy aircraft dropped bombs on a town in Northeast Scotland today. The damage was small but casualties include several persons killed. Elsewhere there was no enemy activity to report.

The text of an Admiralty communiqué:

The Commander in Chief of the Mediterranean reports that an extremely successful naval bombardment of Fort Capuzzo in the Bardia area [of Libya] has been carried out. A large number of salvoes were fired and there were all seen to burst upon a concentration of about 100 enemy tanks and motor transport vehicles.

The airfield at El Gazala and its supply dump have again been successfully bombarded from the sea.

Our naval units in the Mediterranean have recently shot down at least two Junkers 88 dive-bombers and damaged two others.

No damage or casualties have been sustained by any of His Majesty's ships in these operations.

CAIRO, Egypt, April 17 (AP)—British Air Force Headquarters issued this communiqué today:

Greece. Enemy pressure all along our front is increasing.

Libya. One of our patrols successfully penetrated an enemy position outside the defenses of Tobruk capturing seven Italian officers and 189 men. A further attack on the defenses of Tobruk was repulsed by artillery fire. The enemy again suffered heavy casualties. During yesterday's operations a total of 25 officers and 767 of other ranks were captured. In addition over 200 enemy dead were left on the field.

In the Solum area our patrols

have continued their vigorous activity. In one encounter a considerable body of the enemy was surprised and sustained severe casualties.

Ethiopia. Further progress has been made by our columns converging on Dessye. A number of additional prisoners have been taken. Prisoners of war returned to Addis Ababa now number over 5,000 Italians and 4,000 colonial troops.

In the Alge area a number of deserters from Italian colonial units have voluntarily formed themselves into irregular bands to cooperate with our forces whose advance is continuing.

A communiqué issued by the Royal Air Force:

Bomber and fighter aircraft of the R. A. F. maintained punishing attacks throughout yesterday and the previous night on enemy mechanized units, troops and landing grounds in Cyrenaica. Near Capuzzo a motorized column was attacked and a number of vehicles destroyed. Casualties were caused among the troops.

During the night of April 15-16 our bombers attacked landing grounds at El Gazala, El Adem and Derna, where one aircraft was destroyed by direct hits.

Convoys in the same area were bombed and subsequently machine-gunned from a low altitude. Many of the vehicles being damaged. Our fighters maintained continuous offensive patrols.

In Greece R. A. F. bombers carried out unceasing attacks on enemy supply columns, particularly in the Kozani and Bitolj-Ptolemais areas, much damage being caused.

The railway line near Korinos motor transport on the road near Kitros and the railway station southeast of Katerini also were successfully bombed. Fire was started at Seres (Serrai) airfield and a convoy east of Salonika was heavily raided.

Large formations of enemy aircraft which attacked shipping in Chalcis harbor yesterday were engaged by our fighters which shot down one JU-88. Another was destroyed by anti-aircraft fire.

Enemy aircraft raided the airfield at Erakellon (Candia) on April 15. Negligible damage resulted. One enemy aircraft was shot down the pilot being captured.

In Ethiopia yesterday our bombers raided Dessye airfield and on the previous day aircraft of the South African Air Force bombed and machine-gunned enemy troops and encampments at Uadara and in the Alge area. From all these

missing.

Another British communiqué stated:

On the night of April 16-17 a heavy raid was carried out on shipping and harbor installations at Tripoli by aircraft of the Royal Air Force and the Fleet Air Arm. One medium-sized tanker was hit. A heavy explosion followed and the vessel burned fiercely for over an hour.

There were many near misses on other shipping. Vessels anchored outside the harbor were also attacked. Several direct hits were registered on the Spanish

mole. One large white flash was observed at a big fire started at the town's end. Searchlight positions also were machine-gunned. All our aircraft returned safely.

Greek

ATHENS, April 17 (AP)—The Greek High Command communiqué follows:

In Western Macedonia no essential changes in the situation have taken place.

On the Albanian front certain movements of evacuation have been carried out without impediment. Klisura and Herzeg have been evacuated in consequence.

The Greek Home Security Ministry communiqué:

German aircraft bombed a region in the Gulf of Euboea today. There were no casualties. There are indications that two raiders were shot down.