

1941

Texts of the Day's War Communiqués

German

BERLIN, Oct. 27 (AP)—A communiqué issued today by Adolf Hitler's Headquarters:

Offensive operations in the east are making further progress, in spite of unfavorable weather conditions.

In the Donets Basin an attempt to retard our advance through counter-attacks was prevented by Italian troops. The enemy was thrown back with heavy and bloody losses and left several hundred prisoners in the hands of our allies.

Combat planes last night attacked an enemy convoy off the British east coast between The Wash and the mouth of the Humber. They sank an 8,000-ton freighter and so badly damaged three additional large merchant ships that their loss can be counted upon.

Additional air raids were directed against harbor areas in Eastern and Southwestern England.

German dive-bombers the night before last sank a large British warship through a bomb hit off the North African coast.

Last night the enemy dropped bombs at several places in Northwestern Germany. The civilian population in Hamburg and Bremen suffered dead and wounded. Nine British bombers were shot down.

Major Oesau, commander of a chaser squadron, scored his 100th air victory on Oct. 26.

Russian

MOSCOW, Oct. 27 (Distributed by Reuter)—The following communiqué was issued today by the Soviet Information Bureau:

During the night of Oct. 26-27 our troops waged battle in the directions of Kharkov, Taganrog, Mozhaisk and Maloyaroslavets.

MOSCOW, Tuesday, Oct. 28 (Distributed by The Associated Press)—The Moscow radio broadcast the following communiqué of the Soviet Information Bureau early today:

During Oct. 27 our troops fought the enemy in the directions of Mozhaisk, Maloyaroslavets, Kharkov and Taganrog.

According to precise figures, thirty-nine German aircraft were destroyed on Oct. 25 and not twenty-seven, as previously reported. On Oct. 27 eight enemy aircraft were brought down near Moscow.

A further considerable decline in morale among soldiers of the Fascist army took place within the last twenty days. Many German soldiers taken prisoner expressed distinct disbelief in victory for the Nazi armies.

Moral and physical strength of the Fascist soldiers is on the verge of exhaustion. The general appearance of captured German soldiers sharply differs from that of soldiers taken prisoner during the first weeks of the war.

All prisoners are extremely lousy, scratching themselves incessantly and picking lice.

A majority of the prisoners are shabby and look exhausted. Many Germans are dressed in tattered Summer uniforms and have no underwear at all.

Among Nazi soldiers taken prisoner of late there are many with serious physical defects, such as the absence of one eye since early childhood, severe cases of near-sightedness — as when a man sees absolutely nothing without glasses — lameness as a result of repeated operations and other similar physical defects.

All men aged from 17 to 30

have been called to the German Army, not excluding persons with physical defects that formerly would have prevented them from being drafted into the army.

British

LONDON, Oct. 27 (AP)—The Air Ministry issued this communiqué today:

Many squadrons of Bomber Command aircraft attacked Hamburg and other objectives in Northwest Germany last night.

After a difficult passage over the North Sea they found good visibility over Hamburg and heavily bombed the docks and other targets.

Coastal Command aircraft bombed docks and shipping at Egersund, in South Norway, and at Nantes, in Western France.

A supply ship was hit and set on fire off Egersund.

Enemy airdromes in Northern France were attacked by aircraft of the Fighter Command.

Four aircraft of the Bomber Command are missing from these operations.

Another Air Ministry communiqué stated:

Our fighters have carried out a number of offensive patrols over Northern France and the Belgian coast today. In the course of these, attacks were made on enemy ships and barges and on targets on land. Two enemy float planes on the sea were destroyed. Three enemy fighters were destroyed in combat.

Blenheim aircraft of the Bomber Command with a fighter escort attacked an enemy convoy off the Dutch coast.

From all these operations two Blenheims and nine fighters are missing.

Five members of the crew of one of our bombers, reported missing after last night's raid on Germany have been rescued from the sea and landed in this country.

A communiqué of the Air and Home Security Ministries:

In the early part of last night a few enemy aircraft flew overland, mainly in the southwest of England. The few bombs which were dropped at a small number of points caused only slight damage.

The Ministries also issued this communiqué:

This afternoon our fighters shot down two enemy bombers into the sea off the east coast of England. Apart from this, there has been nothing to report during daylight today.

CAIRO, Egypt, Oct. 27 (AP)—The Royal Air Force issued the following communiqué today:

Further raids on the harbors of Tripoli and Benghazi were carried out by R. A. F. bombers during the night of Oct. 25-26. At Tripoli a number of hits were obtained on the Karamanli Mole and searchlight positions were put out of action. At Benghazi fires on the Central and Juliana Moles followed the attack.

In daylight yesterday aircraft of the South African Air Force bombed buildings on Juliana Point in Benghazi harbor. Many bombs fell among the buildings and fires broke out in the harbor area.

In the Guramba area of Ethiopia enemy tents, huts and trenches were bombed and machine-gunned Oct. 25.

An Italian Macchi-200 fighter has been found crashed in the sea off Malta following an engagement Oct. 25, when our fighters intercepted a formation of enemy aircraft which attempted to approach the island.

From all the operations one of our aircraft is missing.

British Army Headquarters issued this communiqué:

Libya—At Tobruk during the night of Oct. 25-26 there was no wholesale activity.

During the previous night a strong enemy detachment overran a small listening post outside the eastern sector of our perimeter defenses and presumably captured the British garrison of four men. Our patrols operating the following night recovered the post, which had been evacuated by the enemy. One Italian colonial soldier was captured.

In the frontier area our patrols under the cover of darkness penetrated to enemy forward defended localities. In this operation enemy detachments withdrew without offering resistance.

NAIROBI, Kenya, Oct. 27 (AP)—British East African Headquarters issued this communiqué today:

The South African Air Force continued operations in the Gondar area [of Ethiopia] on Oct. 23-24. Trenches were bombed and a heavy anti-aircraft position silenced.

On Oct. 24 a CR-42 was shot down in flames by a South African fighter pilot. All our planes returned safely.

A second communiqué, issued jointly by military and air headquarters, said:

Offensive patrols by our ground forces yesterday drew fire from enemy forward positions on the Gondar-Asmara road. We suffered no casualties.

Patriot forces continued to harass the enemy in the whole Gondar area, and three more Kamant chiefs from inside the Italian line have come over to our side. Others have announced their intention of joining us.

The South African Air Force continued operations against the enemy in the Gondar area Oct. 25. Motor transports and a large concentration of tents south of Gondar were successfully bombed and machine-gunned.

Italian

ROME, Oct. 27 (AP)—Today's Italian High Command communiqué:

In North Africa, on the Tobruk front, British mechanized vehicles were hit and repelled by our artillery fire.

Off the Marmarica coast German bombers attacked an enemy naval formation, sinking a cruiser.

The British Air Force bombed Benghazi, Tripoli and Misurata. In the latter city they hit Arab quarters, with several killed and injured among the local population. Damage at Benghazi and Tripoli was not great and no casualties were reported.

A Blenheim plane was shot down by a German anti-aircraft unit. The crew was captured.

In East Africa, beyond our advanced positions, troops from the

149
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BRITAIN
AIR FORCE
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