

YANKS BOMB BERLIN FIRST TIME

LONDON, March 4 (AP)—American heavy bombers bombed Berlin for the first time today, the Berlin radio said, as United States headquarters announced without naming the target that Flying Fortresses and Liberators had struck at objectives in the Reich.

The German broadcast said the raid on the German capital was a repetition of an attack which failed yesterday. United States headquarters announced yesterday, however, only that American fighter planes had made an offensive sweep over Berlin and made no reference to bombers.

"This time the attack was flown from a westerly direction," the broadcast said. "Only a small part of the American formation—which was strongly escorted by fighters—reached Berlin," it continued.

"They encountered very strong defense and had to jet-

tison their bombs or were compelled to release them without taking aim as they were hard pressed by German fighters. Several USA planes brought down, crashed in the immediate vicinity of the capital.

"At the time when the bombers approached Reich territory, the sky was clouded. On their return the bombers once more were engaged in fierce air combats. Planes were observed to crash all over areas defended by anti-aircraft guns."

Berlin has been a goal for American fliers ever since they began operations in the European theater but this was the

first time they had an opportunity to take part in the destruction of the capital begun—and almost finished—by the RAF.

The daylight operation against the German capital had awaited development of P-38 and P-51 long-range fighters necessary to protect the bombers along the heavily-defended course to the target. At least 575 miles from British bases.

The bombers plowed through bitterly cold skies at temperatures as low as 45 degrees below zero in their daylight blow at the Reich.

"It was plenty cold," reported Lt L. R. Morgan of Worland, Wyo., a pilot. "The supercharger and the bulletproof tailgun froze up."

The American announcement said that the four-engined craft thundering into Germany for the third straight day were powerfully escorted by fighters.

The big bombers crossed the channel in a tremendous procession and headed toward Germany in clear, cold weather.

"The whole 8th Air Force was up there today," declared Sgt William DeBlasio of 414 South Trendon av., Pittsburgh, one of the first crewmen to return.

The third straight day of almost continuous Allied aerial thrusts was marked by the departure of one of the greatest armadas of bombers ever seen crossing the Strait of Dover. Almost immediately the

Air War

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WEATHER

Tonight:

**CLOUDY and
CONTINUED
COLD**

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CLOUDY



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