

MIGs Shell British Bomber

Six Crewmen Killed in Crash; Tension Mounts

By the Associated Press.
LUENEBURG, Germany, March 12—Cannonfire of two Soviet MIG jets felled a four-engine British bomber in flames today in a swift, sustained attack above the Elbe River Valley at the East-West frontier of Germany. Six of the bombers' seven crewmen were killed.

West German witnesses said the two jets pursued the bomber from the direction of the Soviet zone, followed it over the British-zone town of Bleckade, on the Elbe's west bank, and continued blasting it with 7-millimeter cannon after it burst into flames.

The main wreckage, in which five airmen were believed trapped, plummeted down on the east bank just outside the Soviet zone town of Boizenburg.

The MIGs apparently strafed the British airmen while they were parachuting to earth; German police reported.

This heightened tension generated Tuesday in the destruction of a U.S. Thunderjet by two Czechoslovak fighter pilots, brothers-in-arms of the Russian airmen, and raised the spectre of crisis in a Europe still pondering implications of the rise of Georgi M. Malenkov as Stalin's successor in the Kremlin.

The British charged today's attack was deliberate. They drafted a stiff protest to Soviet Russia demanding reparations and punishment of "those responsible for this outrage."

A Moscow radio broadcast heard in London Friday charged the British bomber was violating the Soviet zone and said the British plane fired first as the Soviet planes tried to force the bomber to land. It said a letter charging violation of the air over the Eastern zone has been sent to Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, British high commissioner in Germany, by Soviet Gen. Vasili Chuikov.

Britain's Air Ministry said the fatal strike came in the Hamburg-Berlin air corridor less than two hours after two Soviet fighters had made a "threatening mock attack" on another British bomber 100 miles away near Kassel, well

Eisenhower Victor By 6,509,464 Votes

The official count for the 1952 presidential election was released yesterday. The final tally gave Dwight Eisenhower 33,824,451 votes, against 27,314,987 for Adlai E. Stevenson.

The clerk of the House of Representatives announced the totals, based on the official reports of all the 48 states. A record 61,551,978 votes were cast for presidential electors who were pledged to President Eisenhower, Stevenson, or one or more of a dozen candidates.

Retail Goods Price Controls Are Abolished

WASHINGTON, March 12 (AP)—The government today abolished all remaining price ceilings on consumer goods.

The most spectacular result may be an increase of as much as 10 cents in the retail price of a pound of coffee. The Office of Price Stabilization predicted as much, and New York coffee traders concurred.

The price of beer may go up slightly, although officials of the Rheingold Breweries in New York, a big Eastern distributor, said they saw no reason to expect a rise.

Today's decontrol order, affecting goods that sell at the rate of 40 billion dollars a year, brought to a temporary pause the six-week price-thawing drive of the Eisenhower administration.

Steel, machine tools, alloying metals, cans and sulphuric acid—mostly items which bulk large in mobilization spending—may remain under ceilings until April 20. On that date all controls go overboard with the expiration of price-wage control authority, and OPS vanishes.

within the British zone. Both bombers were on routine training missions.

The air corridor to which the British referred runs from Hamburg, in the British zone, to Berlin, 100 miles deep in the Russian zone. It is one of three such aerial lanes, 20 miles wide, used by Allied aircraft for eight years under fourpower agreement.

Ike Seeks 'Aid' Seat On Cabinet

WASHINGTON, March 12 (AP)—President Eisenhower today sent to an apparently receptive Congress a plan for a new, cabinet-rank department of health, education and welfare, designed to improve "the well-being of millions of our citizens." The department would be headed by Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby.

The Eisenhower administration's first government reorganization proposal would shift the ramified programs of the Federal Security Agency, now directed by Mrs. Hobby into the new department. These programs range from the vast social security set-up to federal aids to education.

The plan will go into effect automatically in 60 days unless vetoed earlier by either the Senate or the House.

First reactions indicated there would be no hitch. Leaders talked of passing affirmative resolutions approving the plan, in which case it could go into effect without waiting for the 60 days.

Chairman McCarthy (R-Wis.) of the Senate committee on government operations said he approved of the plan "over-all" but felt it did not go far enough.

Committee Orders Ammo Investigation

WASHINGTON, March 12 (AP)—The Senate Armed Services Committee today ordered a full-fledged investigation into ammunition shortages in Korea and declared that complaints by Gen. James A. Van Fleet have been "fully substantiated."

Chairman Saltonstall (R-Mass.) said the inquiry by special five-man subcommittee will attempt to pin down responsibility for the shortages.

"We want to see if the shortages resulted from too much butter and not enough guns," Saltonstall said. But the Massachusetts senator also made it clear that the investigation will get down to personalities, as well as economic factors, and is designed to meet a demand by Sen. Byrd (D-Va.) that any offenders be punished.

The committee's action topped off a Congressional furor over Van Fleet's sworn testimony that serious and at times critical shortages of ammunition handicapped American troops throughout his 22 months as commander of the U.S. Eighth Army in Korea.

The four-star general, who retires March 31, testified that shortages—notably artillery shells—exist even now despite the fact that he submitted almost daily reports on the subject to Washington.

The committee's order for an investigation came in effect as a rebuff to Gen. J. Lawton Collins,

Army chief of staff, who testified two days ago:

"There has never been a shortage of ammunition in Korea, either to repel an attack that actually developed or to conduct our own operations."


Unlike Collins, Secretary of Defense Wilson and Army Secretary Stevens both acknowledged there have been some shortages, but said steps have been taken to remedy the situation.

Sen. W. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), who served as secretary of the Air Force during the Truman administration, said in a Philadelphia speech last night that the Defense Department is "suffering from inside competition and the American people are suffering because of it."

Symington said if the American people knew the "whole brutal truth" about comparative U.S. and Russia armed strength they would demand "a wholesale reorganization of our Defense Department, so as to get more defense for less money."

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