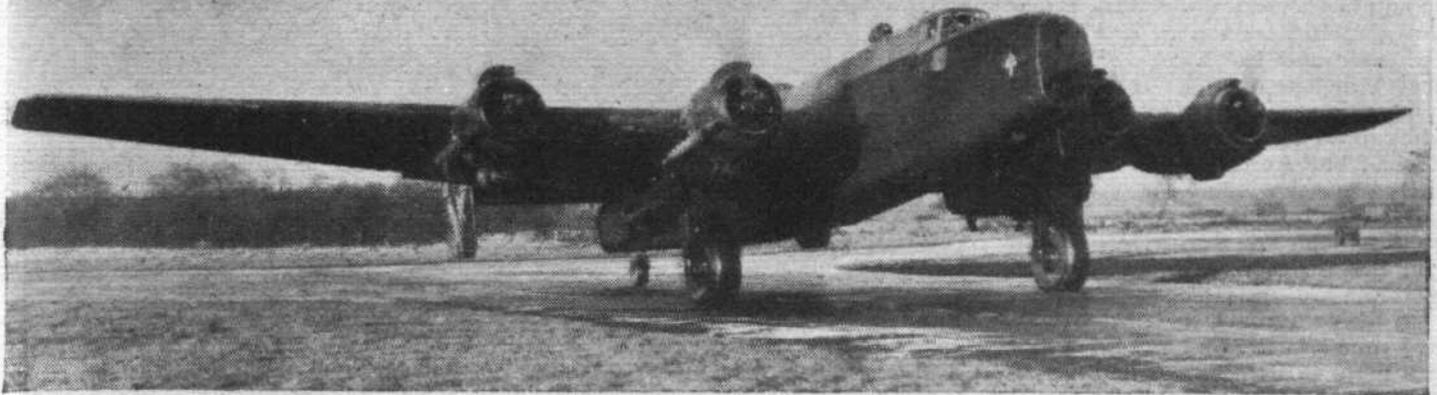


Map

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A Handley Page Halifax III of the French bomber squadrons operating from Britain under R.A.F. Bomber Command.

WAR in the AIR

Fall of Budapest : The Bombing of Dresden : Help from the West for Russia : U.S. Fleet Bombing of Japan

WAS the decision to fight for Budapest one of Adolf Hitler's intuitions? It has cost him 12,700 men in prisoners of war alone (a useful-sized army) apart from the numbers killed; and to this total must be added the great efforts made to relieve the place, which took up the time of strong forces, badly though they were needed elsewhere, and caused another large total of casualties.

Anyway, the Capital of Hungary is now firmly in Russian hands, and such prestige as the German Army still possesses has received another severe shock. It is not to be supposed that the Russians have not themselves lost many men in this hard fighting; but now Russia has brought her enormous man-power into play; while the Germans are beginning to suffer from a shortage and cannot afford casualties on a large scale. Their armies in East Prussia and Pomerania appear to be already as good as lost to them.

Once again the British and American aircraft have flown out to give tactical help to the Russian forces. Breslau is now surrounded and Marshal Koniev has by-passed it and pressed on westwards. The centre behind the German front on this sector was Dresden, the Capital of Saxony, famous for its elegant china pottery. It is the centre of a railway network and is a great industrial town. If the Russians had developed the art of strategic bombing themselves, Dresden would have been the natural place for them to raid at this juncture. But that is a job which Bomber Command and the U.S. 8th Air Force can do with much greater efficiency, after

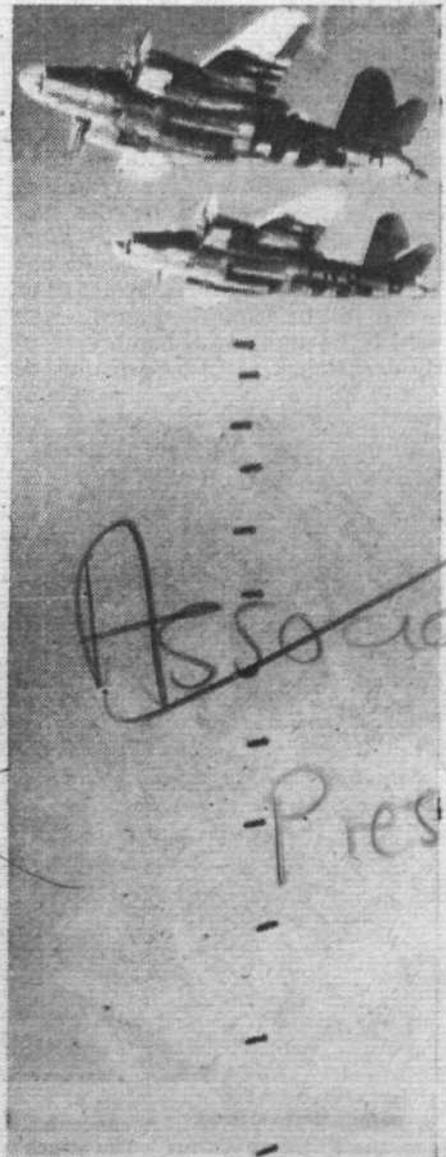
their long experience and their study of the subject. So one night last week a strong force of Bomber Command flew there—in fact, there were two attacks by the Command in the same night. This time, as on many previous occasions, the bombers relied on fire rather than on weight of bombs to do their work, and some 650,000 fire-bombs were showered down on the industrial parts of the city. H.E. bombs were not entirely absent, and a number of 8,000-pounders were released as well as hundreds of 4,000-pounders. Dresden had evidently not expected this, and there was only a small amount of *flak*.

No Peace by Day

LONDONERS will remember how in the great Blitz of 1940-41 the "All Clear" sirens used to go just before break of day; and the citizens felt safe for the next 12 hours or so. Probably the people of Dresden felt much the same when the British heavies left in the early morning. But the city's ordeal was not over. Soon after noon 450 Fortresses were over their city, picking out targets which the night bombers had not succeeded in hitting. They found many of the fires still alight. One can understand that after Dresden had had immunity from air raids all through the war, the civil defence services were not at the highest pitch of efficiency.

After Prussia, the two most important former States which have been absorbed into the German Reich are Bavaria and

LONG DOZEN :
A salvo of bombs leaves the racks of a Marauder of the U.S. 9th Air Force.



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