

GERMAN AIR RAIDERS KILL 11 IN LONDON

46 Wounded by Bombs Dropped from Airplanes in Thurs- day Night's Attack.

AURORA AIDS THE GERMANS

Sky Brighter Than in Moonlight— Only Two of Seven or Eight Machines Reach the City.

LONDON, March 8.—Seven or eight German airplanes made a raid over England last night. Two of them reached London and dropped bombs in the north, northeast, northwest, and southwest districts of the city.

Eleven persons are known to have been killed and forty-six injured in the metropolitan district. It is feared that at least six bodies are still buried in wreckage.

An official report says:

"The latest police reports state that eleven were killed and forty-six injured in last night's airplane raid. It is feared that, in addition to the above, six bodies are still buried in the wreckage of houses. All the casualties occurred in London."

The raid is thus described in an earlier official report:

"Last night's air raid appears to have been carried out by seven or eight enemy airplanes, of which two reached London. The first two raiders approached the Isle of Thanet at about 10:55 P. M., and proceeded up the Thames estuary. Both were turned back before reaching London.

"Meanwhile a third raider came across the Essex coast at 11:20 P. M. and steered west. At 11:45 P. M. it was reported over East London. A few minutes later it dropped bombs on the southeastern and northeastern districts. At 11:50 P. M. the fourth raider, which had also come in across Essex, dropped bombs to the north of London and then proceeded south across the capital, dropping its remaining bombs on the northern district between 12:20 and 12:30 A. M. The remaining enemy machines, all of which came across the Essex coast, were turned back before they reached London.

"A certain amount of damage was caused to residential property in London. Several houses have been demolished."

Greatest Damage in Northwest.

The greatest damage in London was inflicted in the northwestern section, where four bombs demolished several houses. All the damage and casualties in this district were confined to two parallel streets, although, as usual, windows were broken for a radius of several blocks. A single raider appeared over this area. Hundreds of persons were just preparing to desert their homes, most of which are three-story buildings, for the more substantial shelter of the two nearby subways when the bombs began to fall.

The first bomb made a square hit on a three-story dwelling of concrete and brick, crashing through two floors before it exploded. While the police, special constables, and volunteer rescuers were busy there three more bombs fell in the neighborhood in quick succession. Ambulances arrived speedily, and, notwithstanding the confusion, the rescuers worked effectively under the anti-aircraft barrage, which was continued for twenty minutes after the bombing of this district.

Several persons were killed by the destruction of private houses in northeastern London. The house of a vicar was partially wrecked, but the clergyman escaped. He is a special constable and had left home for duty when the warning came a few minutes before the explosion which damaged his residence. The vicar worked throughout the night, assisting his wounded and homeless neighbors.

A bomb which fell in a northern suburb destroyed two houses and damaged the windows of every residence in the street. Doors were wrenched from the hinges and chimneys collapsed. Not far away a dance was in progress. It was not interrupted, although the roar of the guns almost drowned out the music.

Rescuers Work All Night.

Rescuers, who included Red Cross women, continued into the daylight hours to pull living persons from the wreckage of their homes. In one district two aged women clinging to each other were dug out alive, while at midday an elderly man was brought out suffering only from bruises. He had been buried with his wife and daughter

who had been extricated earlier and who had thought him dead. As he was placed in an ambulance the onlookers cheered.

Several of the rescued persons still clung to frightened dogs and cats, while one woman carried a cage in which was a live canary. The woman had been caught in a basement when the upper floors of her house crashed down. A heavy beam protected her and her pet.

The hero of one neighborhood is a youth who borrowed a steel helmet to protect him from shrapnel and rescued his two elderly sisters and their maid after twelve hours' hard work.

The raid has demonstrated the fact that German aviators no longer depend upon moonlight. It was the first time the enemy had attempted a night raid over London when there was no moon. The stars were out, however, and there was little wind.

Londoners were taken by surprise when the warning signals were sounded. The theatres were just closing. The streets were soon cleared. The warning to avoid danger from shrapnel was generally heeded, everyone taking cover. For a time the gun fire was heavy.

There was a remarkable display of the aurora borealis last night, and it is believed by many that this furnished conditions under which the air raiders could work more effectively than under a clear, star-lit sky. Watchers on the Kent coast said that just before they heard the raiders approaching the whole northern sky became illuminated, in bands of red and white light which shone over the sea with far more powerful effect than the full moon. Then, as if to accentuate the brightness by contrast, the skies to the southward toward France and the English Channel grew pitch dark.

Another feature of the night was the strong breeze, which most persons believed hindered the operations of the hostile airplanes. Those who watched from high points the spectacle of the searchlights and gun flashes wondered how the enemy could face the wind and cold.