

ADMIRALTY, WAR OFFICE AND AIR MINISTRY JOINT COMMUNIQUE

PARACHUTE RAID ON RADIO-LOCATION UNIT AT BRUNEVAL

The following details have been received from Combined Operations Headquarters in amplification of this morning's communique about the parachute raid carried out on the night of 27/28 February.

The raid, in which the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force each played an equally important and inter-dependent part, was directed against a valuable German radio-location unit at Bruneval, twelve miles north of Havre.

The carrying force of Royal Air Force bombers, Force Commander Group Captain Sir Nigel Norman, Bart., was led by Wing Commander P.C. Pickard, D.F.C., D.F.C.

The parachute descent force, under command of Major J.D. Frost, was dropped, in bright moonlight and slight mist, within easy reach of the objective, despite enemy flak concentration upon the low-flying aircraft during the run-up.

Diversionsary operations were carried out by aircraft of Fighter Command. The ground operations were carried out according to plan in the face of strong enemy opposition - which opposition, however, in view of the known value to the enemy of this particular radio-location station, was not unexpected.

In spite of all efforts by German defence troops the apparatus was completely destroyed and heavy casualties were inflicted by our parachutists.

Having completed their tasks, and carrying with them German prisoners, survivors of the garrison, our troops made their way to Bruneval beach under cover of fire from our light naval forces which had meanwhile approached from seaward. These forces were commanded by Commander F.N. Cook, the Royal Australian Navy.

The German beach defences, taken in the rear by the parachutists, and covered from seaward by the landing craft, military escort (found by the Royal Fusiliers and South Wales Borderers, Home Forces), were overcome.

The embarkation was completed in good order and all our naval craft returned safely to their bases escorted by aircraft of Fighter Command.

From this small scale but successful combined operation all our aircraft have returned.

Our casualties were very light: the next of kin are being informed.

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