

'Desert Storm' Worries Nation, Students

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'Desert Storm' engulfs Iraqi military might

Allied bombing raids result in few casualties

CENTRAL SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — The United States and its allies followed up devastating midday air strikes with daylight attacks today in a furious bid to drive Saddam Hussein's armies from Kuwait and break his military night.

In the first reports of allied casualties, Britain's domestic news agency Press Association reported that a British Tornado fighter-bomber was lost. France said four of its planes were hit and a French pilot was wounded.

BAGHDAD RADIO claimed Iraqi anti-aircraft units shot down 4 attacking warplanes, but the report could not be independently confirmed. U.S. officials did not immediately report any casualties.

Saddam survived a night of fire that rained down on his capital. As the misty, smoke-shrouded day dawned in Baghdad, he spat defiance at the allied armies in a radio message from an undisclosed location.

"The mother of all battles is under way!" the Iraqi president proclaimed.

U.S. MILITARY officials indicated the allied strategy was to wage unstinting attacks by hundreds of warplanes to destroy the Iraqi military machine.

"We can put pressure on 24 hours a day," said Col. Hal Forbush of Dallas, commander of the 4th Tactical Fighter Wing in Saudi Arabia. Sand swirled wildly as fighter jets took off every few seconds.

The Pentagon today reported the first American casualty of the Persian Gulf war, an F-15 pilot whose plane was lost. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said allied aircraft flew more than 1,000 sorties against Iraqi targets in the first 14 hours of combat.

Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, expressed satisfaction with



PRESIDENT BUSH
'We will not fail'

Desert Storm — but both stressed that, there could well be other casualties in what is expected to be a protracted campaign to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

POWELL SAID the bombing "damaged the command and control capability of the Iraqi government," as well as airfields. Scud missile installations and other targets.

"I'm comfortable that we are able to achieve control of Iraqi airspace. That is not to say the Iraqi Air Force has been totally destroyed at this time ... The Iraqi Air Force is still out there, and we're going to work on them and their airfields," he said.

Cheney said the opening hours of the military campaign included the firing of 100 cruise Tomahawk missiles.

THE MILITARY said the initial air attack included elements of the entire U.S. Air Force: F-15 Strike Eagles, F-16 Fighting Falcons, F-4G Wild Weasels, A-10 Thunderbolts, F-111s, F-117 Stealth fighters and B-52s.

Navy and Marine aircraft included F-18 Hornets, AV-8 Harriers, A-7 Corsairs and A-6s and Intruders. Additionally, the United States Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopter took part in the operation.

Powell said the Israelis responded



PRESIDENT HUSSEIN
'The mother of all battles'

surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft fire.

PENTAGON OFFICIALS said earlier that they had no reports of ground clashes. Powell told reporters not to be surprised if they hear reports about repositioning of ground forces.

Japan's Arabian Oil Co. said Iraqi artillery shelled oil installations at the Saudi town of Khafji near the Kuwait frontier, blowing up an oil storage tank. No injuries were reported.

Saddam, whose armies overran Kuwait in a lightning strike 5½ months ago, had defied economic sanctions, threats of force and diplomatic appeals, declaring the oil-rich emirate to be irrevocably part of Iraq.

"OUR GOAL IS NOT the conquest of Iraq," Bush said in an address broadcast nationwide Wednesday night, after allied warplanes thundered off to seek out their targets. "It is the liberation of Kuwait."

"We will not fail," he vowed.

In the Iraqi capital, air raid sirens wailed as wave after wave of warplanes filled the night sky early today, and red-and-green tracer fire erupted. "This feels like we're in the center of hell," said CNN's Bernard Shaw in Baghdad.

TELEVISION carried sound



COLIN POWELL
Met no air resistance

American Telephone & Telegraph Co. said it had lost communication with Iraq.

At the United Nations, U.S. Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering promised that Iraq could avoid further punishment by beginning a complete, unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. The pledge came in a private meeting with the Security Council, according to a text of his statement obtained early today by The Associated Press.

Anti-war protests, which had grown in intensity in the days leading up to the fighting, redoubled in numbers and passion with the outbreak of war. Club-swinging police dispersed hundreds of demonstrators near the White House.

CHENEY, BRIEFING reporters in Washington, would provide no casualty reports from the initial attack. But he said the operation "appears to have gone very, very well."

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the allied offensive met "no air resistance" from Iraq's air force. Powell said Iraqi command and control centers were prime targets of the first wave of aircraft.

FRENCH MILITARY forces did not take part in the first assault,

Bush taps U.S. oil reserve to stabilize national market

WASHINGTON (AP) — The outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf is prompting President Bush to tap the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve for the next 30 days in an effort to keep oil markets under control.

Bush ordered the Energy Department on Wednesday night to put 1.12 million barrels a day on the oil market, or 33 million barrels during the sale period, from the 590-million-barrel stockpile.

IT IS THE FIRST time the stockpile has been drawn on for other than tests.

An administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Energy Secretary James D. Watkins would make the supplies available beginning today.

The government probably would offer the entire first month's allotment for sale all at once, the official said, and the authorization for pumping can be renewed after the 30-day period if the war isn't over.

BUSH SAID IN a statement he was taking the action in concert with U.S. allies "to promote stability in world markets" in light of the war in the Middle East.

The International Energy Agency is expected to announce today that it will activate a contingency plan agreed to on Jan. 11 that will free an extra 2.5 million barrels of oil a day.

The 21-nation agency's executive director, Helga Steeg, is consulting with representatives of member countries by telephone about activating the plan, a spokesman said.

IEA OFFICIALS said a statement likely will be issued later today stating member governments have agreed with that the contingency plan should be activated.

The Paris-based organization,

embargo, is composed of the United States, Japan, and most Western European countries.

In private cash trading after the announcement of war against Iraq, crude oil sold for \$40 a barrel in the United States, then settled to about \$35. Typical prices last week for U.S. crude were about \$28 a barrel.

THE U.S. SHARE represents nearly half of the total 2.5 million barrels a day. The International Energy Agency agreed at a Jan. 11 meeting to make that amount available to member countries in the event war routed the markets.

"The president's action was a precautionary measure, taken in concern with our IEA partners," the statement said.

Increased production from Saudi Arabia and other countries since the Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait by Iraq has more than made up for the 4.3 million barrels a day of crude oil that had been supplied to world markets by Kuwait and Iraq.

OIL SHIPMENTS from the two countries were halted by an international embargo against all trade with Iraq.

The world uses about 65 million barrels of oil a day; the United States alone uses about 17 million barrels.

While there's no shortage of oil, analysts feared the outbreak of war would drive consumers to stockpile, fearing their supply might be interrupted. That would push up prices immediately.

Bush last fall ordered a test run of selling oil from the reserves, stored in salt caverns in Louisiana and Texas. The sale of 5 million barrels in October was said to have gone well.

Reacting to the oil panics of the 1970s, the government has been accumulating crude in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve at a

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A flag, as well as a yellow ribbon, hang on the door of Mrs. Chase's room. Many teachers and staff displayed similar symbols of support for the troops in the Middle East.



Senior Mike Aynes wears one of the many Anti-Hussein shirts that became popular.