

FOREIGN PRESS REVIEW

DAILY SURVEY OF WORLD COMMENT ON THE WAR

COMPILED FROM TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No. 34

.....22nd February,....., 1940

PALESTINE: COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

WELL RECEIVED.

The British Colonial Development Statement has been featured prominently in the Palestine Press, where it has been welcomed by both Hebrew and Arabic newspapers.

The Hebrew newspaper DAVAR, published at Tel-Aviv, wrote yesterday: "The Statement is the best evidence of the economic force of the Empire and is the more to be appreciated as it is made at a time of the heaviest expenditure in connection with the war effort. It not only proves the financial power of Britain but it also shows her political efficiency and the psychological steadiness enabling British statesmen to extend their concern to matters not directly connected with the war."

All the Hebrew papers emphasised particularly the extension to include mandated territory and in this connection DAVAR added; "This seems to be the consequence of the decidedly pro-British stand taken by the populations of British mandated countries."

HABOKER wrote: "There is no doubt that the policy will be received with gratification and admiration. The Colonies, Protectorates and Mandates will see in the action of the British Government, that system of continuous progress which characterises British administration."

The view taken by HA'ARETZ was that Britain did not allow war to interfere with her policy of helping the colonies.

This paper declared: "War cannot change the traditional attitude towards constructive assistance which the British Government usually grants her colonies. Moreover, it is revealed precisely, that the war which showed the stability of the British Empire, has stimulated the British Government to continue with increased tempo the development of the countries for which it is responsible."

A similar line was adopted by the Arabic newspaper AL-DIFA'A and the editor of this paper wrote: "The importance of the statement lies in the fact that it has been declared in wartime, when the need of funds is urgent."

Describing the statement as a great comprehensive scheme, this paper added: "As a result of stages through which this country has passed, coupled with the outbreak of war, Palestine urgently needs economic recovery. It is hoped that full consideration will be given to our needs."

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Another Arabic newspaper AL-SIRAT AL-MUSTAQIM affirmed: "The British Government has done well to declare this policy. We urge that special attention be given to the needs of Palestine - a request which would be supported not only by Parliament, but by the Colonies themselves."

VENEZUELA: UNITY OF BRITISH EMPIRE.

The view that the new British Colonial Development Policy shows the complete unity of the Empire - in contra-distinction to German claims - has been expressed in a section of the Venezuelan Press.

A leader in AHORA declared: "The substantial document disproves completely, not only Nazi but other totalitarian propaganda, accusing Britain of oppressing her Empire. The solidarity of the Empire is unbroken and was actually strengthened by the last war. In the present conflict, the perfect union of the Empire is a key for victory.

"The British Empire forms a granite-like block each time circumstances require it, but this unity would be impossible if the Empire was enslaved as German propaganda alleges. Britain can count on precious and decisive cooperation in the Empire because of her well-conceived policy, which has spread civilisation and progress to all corners of the world,

"By a mere reading of the statement, one can see the magnitude of the effort to stimulate the prosperity and welfare of the Colonies and it is obvious why the Colonies now cooperate gratefully. Britain, in spite of the war, does not forget the problems of Empire and with tenacity, concentrates her efforts to improve the Colonies, thus proving her confidence in the eventual victory."

U.S.A: ALTMARK -- BRITISH ACTION UPHELD.

The British action in rescuing prisoners from the Altmark, has been upheld by a former German Legal Adviser.

Writing to today's NEW YORK TIMES, Mr. R.M.W. Kempner, who at one time held the post of First Legal Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior in Berlin, states: "Why the Nazi Government regards the Altmark incident as a British breach of international law, is hard for me to understand. According to Dr. Franz Von Liszt, late professor in the University of Berlin, and a leading German authority on international law, the liberation of the British, even in neutral waters, was justified. Von Liszt pointed out that the recognised conceptions of self-defence and self-help in international law, exclude the illegality of such an act. It is nothing but self-defence if the British liberated British seamen who were German prisoners, after the Norwegians had failed to release them. The German Criminal Code, Para. 53 and the Civil Code, Para. 227 may be referred to.

"Apart from that the present German regime is not usually so petty in questions of respecting foreign territorial sovereignty."

Mr. Kempner then goes on to cite the arrest of Berthold Jacob on Swiss soil in 1935, the arrest of alleged British agents on Dutch soil last autumn and German violation of Czech soil in 1935 to destroy a secret broadcasting station.

The writer concludes: "Himmler has even boasted of the shooting of the broadcaster on that occasion, by a German policeman. These are only a few cases among many."

The MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL wrote in a recent issue: "The British rescue is a naval war story more exciting than the cornering of the Graf Spee. Germans were violating international law by having prisoners of war on a ship in neutral waters, the Norwegians by letting them do so, and the English by going into Norwegian waters to make the rescue."

"The ranting of Hitler and his lieutenants does not alter the facts of the case," declared the INDIANAPOLIS STAR. "The Germans tried to get away with something irregular and were caught in the act. Hitler was enraged because his plans to celebrate the arrival of the Altmark with a load of British prisoners were frustrated."

The MILWAUKEE JOURNAL affirmed: "Neither Norway nor Sweden has been able to prevent abuse by the belligerents. Norway let her territorial waters be used by Germany as a protected waterway to avoid the British blockade. It is difficult to see how Norway has a leg to stand on in her protest to Britain."

"American sailors have done similar things and been praised for them."

In an article entitled "Sharp Reminder to the Neutrals," the BOSTON HERALD wrote: "Britain has evidently reached the conclusion that she can no longer allow Norway, and perhaps some other European States, to pursue a policy of neutrality which is kinder to Germany than to herself. Pious words about Norway's duty to civilisation will not change that attitude, but a few definite steps such as the Cossack's raid might."

The MACON TELEGRAPH declared: "Even under such remnants of international law as remain, Norway had no right to permit an armed German vessel to use her territorial waters to escape and she does not come into court with clean hands when she enters her protest."

The opinion of the CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER was given in the words: "Whether the Altmark carried guns or not, the British are well aware that Germany has played fast and loose with the rights of her small neutral neighbours. The Germans are not likely to get far in a legalistic dispute."

SWEDEN: MR. CHAMBERLAIN CRITICISED.

Mr. Chamberlain's statement on the Altmark affair has aroused criticism in the Swedish press.

The AFTONBLADET wrote last night: "We have learned to regard Mr. Chamberlain as a balanced politician whose good will towards Scandinavia could be counted upon. His aggressive tone against Norway yesterday is all the more surprising because he judged the Altmark affair very one-sidedly.

"It is clear that England is more interested in the British Navy's feat than in the legal aspect of the case."

This paper declared later: "German political circles, with satisfaction, connect M. Koht's declaration and King Gustav's proclamation. Both statements assert Scandinavian neutrality and independence. This neutrality and independence must be defended when attacked. We have the right to demand from Germany an understanding of Scandinavian problems and we will greet such understanding with satisfaction".

The GÖTEBORGS HANDELS-ÖCH SJÖFARTSTIDNING declared: "Mr. Chamberlain is no lawyer. Consideration for the neutrals required that someone like Sir John Simon should give the Government statement. Mr. Chamberlain's speech has angered Norway. His argument fell like a house of cards after M. Koht's further statement. Perhaps it would be better for Downing Street to avoid legalities and build the whole case on another basis."

Protests from all sides regarding the Altmark incident were reviewed by the DAGENS NYHETER.

"The German Press at first asserted that the Altmark was an innocent vessel. The English replied that the boat was in fact a state vessel and must be regarded as a war ship. This was admitted in official German quarters. The English said that a vessel with prisoners was not allowed to pass through neutral waters. Have not English vessels passed through the Panama Canal with German prisoners?"

The London correspondent of the DAGENS NYHETER, referring to Mr. Chamberlain's speech, wrote: "It strengthened the impression that the British action was a demonstration of power politics designed to warn Norway and the neutrals against showing submissiveness to Germany in the preservation of neutral rights."

Turning to the Finnish question, the SOCIAL DEMOKRATEN stated that King Gustav's proclamation would unite Sweden, which was threatening to split into two camps. Urging an intensification of help for Finland this paper wrote: "Perhaps it is no accident that King Gustav stresses that military help cannot be supplied in the present situation. The viewpoint is dependent on present risks and not on national cowardice or indifference to Finland's fate".

The Soviet attack on Finland has greatly increased Germany's difficulties, according to NY TID, which added: "Germany is now more dependent on Russia's good will regarding deliveries. Germany's need of undisturbed connections with Denmark, Sweden and Holland is now greater. Finland used to provision Germany".

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SWITZERLAND: REICH HAS BEEN WARNED.

"The Reich has been warned by the daring exploit of the British destroyer, and it is to be hoped she will consider herself less at home in neutral territorial waters".

This comment on the Altmark affair was made yesterday by the JOURNAL DE GENEVE, the Conservative paper, which went on to state that the incident originated in a Norwegian error of the interpretation of the duty of neutrals.

The Berlin correspondent of the Radical Democratic NATIONAL ZEITUNG stated: "Nobody here has any doubt that Germany has decided further to intensify sea warfare. There lack signs that this will begin in the immediate future, but it must be remembered that before the Altmark affair the intensification had already been manifested by submarines sinking various neutral vessels".

FINLAND: BITTER COMMENT ON LACK OF ASSISTANCE.

The question of help for their country has again occupied the Finnish newspapers and the HUFVUDSTADSBLADET, referring to the shortage of man-power, wrote yesterday: "Our neighbour understood and helped us but inspired by much wisdom has withheld full-hearted support from political reasons. He stood at the door giving us encouraging greetings and a basket of provisions. But before the door was shut we thought impatient voices could be heard wishing to follow us into the dark Karelian forests".

The HELSINGIN SANOMAT stated that the other Northern countries would not be able to maintain their neutrality in the long run and added later: "Twenty years ago Germany assisted us against Bolshevik destruction but now, following imaginary interests, she allows Finland's annihilation by the same forces... Sweden is compelled to a policy insufficient to the protection of her vital interests. When orthodox neutrality restricts nations from the possibility of protecting their imperilled vital interests then neutrality is untenable".

The admission of Socialists to the Civil Guard was viewed by UUSI SVOMI as an affirmation of Finland's unity.

U. S. S. R: HOW RUSSIA VIEWS ALTMARK AFFAIR.

The Altmark affair has been represented in the Soviet Press as a move by Britain to involve Norway in war.

A Tass message from Oslo published in IZVESTIA stated: "English warships tried to capture an unarmed German merchantship in Norwegian territorial waters".

There was no mention in the message that British prisoners were on board the Altmark.

HUNGARY: NORWAY ACCUSED.

The belief that Norway did not fulfill all her obligations as a neutral has been expressed in a section of the Hungarian Press commenting on the Altmark incident.

The PESTER LLOYD wrote: "The maintenance of neutrality depends upon the strictest observance by neutrals of international law. While Britain committed a breach of international law by penetrating into Norwegian territorial waters for Naval operations, Norway failed to observe her rights and obligations as a neutral State".

BELGIUM: BERLIN "DISPLEASURE WITH NEUTRALS".

The position of the neutrals is being given much thought in the German Press according to the Berlin correspondent of the INDEPENDANCE BELGE.

This correspondent declared yesterday that the Nazis are displeased with the attitude of "certain countries", and added: "The Geneva resolution regarding Finland has been taken up and there are rumours that Britain will apply the League's Article 16 and impose the right of passage to Scandinavia. This is considered very grave in Berlin".

The Left-wing organ, LE PEUPLE, commenting on King Gustav's declaration, said: "No-one will dispute the King's loyal accents but the real question is if the attitude taken can save Sweden and others from the ordeal they fear".

EGYPT: BRITISH ACTION JUSTIFIED.

The British action in rescuing British prisoners from the Altmark was fully justified, stated AL AHRAM yesterday.

This paper ridiculed German Press threats regarding attacks on Britain's coasts as well as on Allied and neutral ships.

An article in AL NOKATTAN emphasised the value of British wireless reports and stated that German propaganda had failed owing to the fact that lies were broadcast.

PORTUGAL: BALANCED VIEW OF ALTMARK INCIDENT.

A balanced view of the Altmark incident has generally been taken by the Portuguese Press, and Britain and Germany as well as Norway were thought to have erred.

The DIARIO DE LISBOA, whose tone was representative of the majority of Portuguese newspapers, wrote in a recent issue: "By those who, following in the wake of Machievelli and Frederick II, believe that all acts of aggression are justified when crowned by victory, the action of the British Navy must be considered irreprehensible. To others it will give rise to objection occasioned by a breach of the law.

"Norway will have difficulty in finding arguments to justify the negligence shown by the authorities entrusted with the inspection of the Altmark."

BRAZIL: REACTION TO ALTMARK INCIDENT.

The JORNAL DO BRASIL, the old-established Rio de Janeiro newspaper, declared yesterday that the Altmark position was obscure, but the prisoners who spent weeks of discomfort aboard the German ship would always applaud the action.

After summarising the main facts of the case the JORNAL referred to the Norwegian protest and said that Britain could not have hesitated in taking action.

RUMANIA: FOREIGN POLICY.

In a leading article on Rumania's foreign policy, the editor of *TIMPUL* writes today: "The basic lines of Rumania's foreign policy have scored a happy result in the last 14 months, thanks to the untiring efforts of M. Gafencu, who has set up as the main objects of Rumania's policy the defence of the country's rights and interests against any aggression and at any price.

"The more Rumania's efforts of peace, based on liberty, independence and unity, are better consolidated, the more Rumania is entitled to reckon that she is and will always be a factor of order.

"Only a strong determined country with a clear policy and faithful friends can stand up to such difficult times. The recent events have reaffirmed that Rumania knew how to explain her position, to state clearly her international relations and to affirm her determination for peace within a policy of strict neutrality."

ROMANIA declares: "Italo-Rumanian friendship represents one of the basic factors of Italy's foreign policy. The spreading in the Balkans of the Italian sphere of influence responds fully to Rumanian feeling and wishes. We wish the Italo-Rumanian rapprochement to be deepened and widened in every sense because it is a natural one".

ITALY: LEGAL ASPECTS OF ALTMARK CASE.

The legal aspects of the Altmark case were fully examined in a leading article in yesterday's *OSSERVATORE ROMANO*, which gave the British and other points of view at length.

This paper declared that the situation was irregular from the very beginning. International law allowed the transit through territorial waters of war-ships as well as merchant vessels, but a neutral must free a prize brought into port - except in certain cases of necessity. The most important legal point was therefore whether the ship did actually stop in the port of Bergen.

"The Norwegian version admits that she did", it was added, "Assuming this initial violation of international law, the subsequent developments are its consequences. Neutrality must be impartially applied. The British action was directed to restoring a breach of law by an illegal method, but it was the original breach that caused the incident."

Mr. Chamberlain's statement was recorded fully by the Italian Press, and a London message in the *TELEGRAFO*, citing the opinion of diplomatic circles, affirmed that the Prime Minister's words would probably embitter relations with Norway.

The *LAVORO FASCISTA*, in a London despatch, reported the return to normal of Anglo-Rumanian relations, and a London message to the *CORRIERE DELLA SERA*, referring to Britain's economic war declared that it might in some cases become a menace to other nations.

Anglo-Egyptian relations were reviewed in a Cairo despatch to the *MATTINO*, and it was declared that Britain was more influential than ever in Egypt.

NORWAY: ASSISTANCE FOR FINLAND.

The question of obtaining assistance for her fight against Russia has again occupied the Finnish Press.

The UUSI SUOMI wrote: "We believe Finland and Sweden could live peacefully so long as the Russian Government was aware that the attack on Finland also meant war with Sweden. We understood Nordic cooperation in the same way as M.Sandler, but the Swedish Government is in the happy position of being able to decide freely, knowing that no danger threatens Sweden so long as we fight.

"It is clear we need all the assistance we can get, from any source and we cannot receive too many men or too much material. This cannot be said too often."

Referring to the admission of the Socialists to the Civil Guard, the SOSIALI DEMOKRAATTI declared: "The old quarrels are now forgotten and the only problem left is the protection and existence of the Finnish people"

An article in this paper, referring to the Altmark incident, stated: "Anarchy has progressed so far that England and Germany are able to involve Norway in great power intrigues."

HOLLAND: DUTCH PRESS ON "BRITISH FAIR PLAY. "

The Dutch Press today continues to comment on the Altmark affair and the NIEUWE ROTTERDAMSCHER COURANT, under the heading "Equity before Law", states: "Mr. Chamberlain's standpoint is highly precarious for the neutrals, but is in accordance with British ideas of fair play."

HET HANDELSBLAD attacks the BOERSEN ZEITUNG for its conception of neutrality and writes: "Obviously a country which takes neutrality so seriously, cannot follow such misconceptions. The neutrals feel that the unlawful destruction of ships and goods, and sometimes lives, is more than unlawful delays and confiscations."

FRANCE: PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH WELL RECEIVED.

Mr. Chamberlain's speech has been fully reported and very well received by the French Press. The PETIT JOURNAL said he spoke with his usual clearness and firmness and PAYS in the EXCELSIOR that his vigorous reply to Norway expressed the joint views of England and France and the equal resolution of the two Governments no longer to allow the abuse of Norwegian territorial waters by German warships. PARIS SOIR wrote: "The 'new order' to submarines is nothing new except the anger which it betrays, and that seems to be an expression of powerlessness rather than of strength. How will the Scandinavian countries, who are the most directly threatened, react? Their Foreign Ministers are to meet on Saturday at Copenhagen. The clearer and firmer their attitude is, the more they will be respected. Independence is not secured by compromise - nor is peace."

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ANNEXE TO ISSUE OF FEBRUARY 22nd 1940.

NORWAY: NEWS SUPPRESSION ALLEGATIONS.

The Norwegian Press today insinuates that Norwegian official statements have been deliberately suppressed in the British Press and the B.B.C. news bulletins.

The NORGES HANDELS OG SJOFARTSTIDENDE, under the heading: "What the British Public must not Get to Know", prints the following extract from the British memorandum of May 23rd 1938: "His Majesty's Government have always maintained and must continue to maintain the existence of the right of entry in neutral territorial waters for the purpose of innocent passage."

A leading article comments that B.B.C. news bulletins did not quote M. Koht's reply to Mr. Chamberlain given to Reuter's agents and asks: "Why is the full truth of what Koht quoted kept from the British public?"

The AFTENPOSTEN writes: "It is very regrettable that Koht's last testimony of what England's own legal experts assert, is not reproduced in any other paper except the TIMES. We can well understand that this information could have a distressing effect after Mr. Chamberlain's declaration, but for people who have made a rule of fair play, it should not be impossible to print it."

The MORGENBLADET deduces from Mr. Chamberlain's speech that the version of M. Koht's Storting speech which the Premier had to work on was "just as garbled as British Press versions of the interview with M. Hambrø".

The paper concludes: "We shudder to think of the garbled state in which M. Koht's Reuter interview will reach Mr. Chamberlain."

The DAGBLADET declared yesterday: "King Gustav's declaration is of course, to a certain extent, directed against British propaganda. It is with amazement that we in Scandinavia have seen how a number of British newspapers, instead of objectively reporting the Scandinavian countries' difficult position, carry on propaganda against Norway."

NORGES HANDELS OG SJOFARTSTIDENDE stated: "We see the matter in this light. The British have, with their Government's permission, freed their comrades from imprisonment which had lasted for months and might last for years if they came to Germany. To achieve this, they committed a deliberate violation of neutrality. We can understand it but we do not understand the attempt to make it out as though Norway had broken neutrality."

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FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

(MORNING)

Paris, Thursday, February 22, 1940.

The following official communique was
issued this morning from French G.H.Q.:-

"East of the Moselle an enemy
raid was driven back. Two German
non-commissioned officers were made
prisoners by one of our patrols.

LABOUR AND WAR FINANCE CAMPAIGN
MINISTERS' PLATFORM CAMPAIGN
REMARKABLE FIRST RESULTS.

The Minister of Labour, the Rt. Hon. Ernest Brown, M.P., will address a meeting at Exeter tomorrow, February 23, in furtherance of the War Savings Campaign.

This is one of a series of public meetings to be addressed by members of the Government and other prominent personalities. These meetings will run parallel with the provincial meetings at which members of the Cabinet are expounding Britain's war aims.

Tomorrow also, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Captain the Rt. Hon. H. F. C. Crookshank, M.P., will speak at Stockport. Other meetings of the series include:-

Sir Francis Joseph, K.B.E. at Northampton on February 23rd.
Sir George Paish, K.B., the eminent economist, at Dover
on 28th February.

Mr. Vernon Bartlett, M.P., at Kensington on 8th March.
Lord Mottistone, P.C., C.B., Chairman of the National
Savings Committee, at Winchester on March 11, and
at Maidstone early in April.

Mr. Anthony Eden, Minister for the Dominions, at Leamington
on April 6.

The speeches of the Minister of Labour and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury are awaited with special interest in view of recent discussions on the Means Test and on the limitation on individual holdings of Defence Bonds.

The War Savings Campaign was launched on November 22. In the first 12 weeks, over £86,000,000 was raised. It is expected that under the stimulus of this meetings campaign, and the other activities of the National Savings Committee, the first £100,000 will soon be reached. This figure is specially significant. If in the first 12 or 13 weeks of the Campaign the voluntary Savings Movement can raise nearly £100,000,000, in a full year it should raise £400,000,000 - the total given by Mr. Keynes as the aim of his Compulsory Savings Scheme.

In the 13 weeks of its campaign, the National Savings Committee has formed over 13,000 (thirteen thousand) new Savings Groups, mostly in places of industry, bringing the total number of such Groups to over 55,000.

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MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ANNOUNCEMENT.

H.M. COASTGUARD.

(1) REPORT ON LIFE SAVING ACTION IN 1939.

In 1939 the Coastguard Organisation took action in 1001 cases in which vessels or aircraft were either observed or reported to be in distress or difficulties or to be overdue, off the coasts of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In 118 of these cases, the Coastguard or watcher on duty, observing a vessel standing into danger, was able by means of appropriate signals to warn her of her danger and so enable her to alter course and avoid possible disaster.

The Rocket Life Saving Apparatus Companies took action on 43 occasions and 122 persons were brought to safety by means of the life saving apparatus. These rescues were efficiently effected by the Life Saving Companies concerned, generally in severe weather and under trying conditions.

The Coastguard are trained in the treatment of the apparently drowned and they applied artificial respiration in 12 such cases during the year. In 10 of these cases they were successful.

The Coastguard were also instrumental during the year in rendering assistance in 47 cases in which persons were in difficulties on the cliffs or had been cut off by the tide, and 44 persons were brought to safety, mostly by means of the special cliff life saving apparatus.

The Coastguard organisation includes the Coast Lifesaving Corps which consists of upwards of 6,000 members of Rocket Life Saving Apparatus Companies, Auxiliary Watchers, etc., who are enrolled for the purpose of assisting H.M. Coastguard in taking measures to afford assistance to ships and persons in difficulties and distress round the coast. Much valuable assistance has been rendered to H.M. Coastguard by the Corps during the past year.

The devotion to duty of the members of the Coastguard and Life Saving Corps concerned in the above rescues has been recognised by public organisations by awards to the personnel concerned.

(2) BEST WRECK SERVICE OF THE YEAR.

An official shield is awarded annually for the most meritorious service performed during the year by any Rocket Life Saving Apparatus Company in saving life endangered by shipping casualties off the coasts of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The award for 1939 has been made to the Trebetherick and Port Isaac Companies for their fine performance in bringing to safety 3 persons from the s.s. "MEDEA" which went ashore on Greenaway Rocks, Padstow Bar on 23rd January, 1939.

The shield will be presented to the Companies by Captain V.S. Rashleigh, C.B.E., R.N., the Chief Inspector of H.M. Coastguard, on the 28th February, at Rock, Wadebridge, Cornwall.

Particulars of this service are as follows:-

On the 23rd January, 1939, the "MEDEA" was being towed to Newport, Mon, when she broke adrift off Trevos Head. The vessel, powerless, and at the mercy of a strong gale - for the force of the wind was 9-10 - and of the heavy seas, sent up distress

signals, which were observed at 0202 by the Coastguard at Trevoze Head. The Padstow lifeboat was launched but was unable to go alongside owing to the heavy weather and one of the crew of the "MEDEA" was swept overboard and lost before the vessel was driven on the rocks at 0320.

The Trebetherick and Port Isaac Lifesaving Companies, which were immediately called out, proceeded to the Greenaway Rocks, Trebetherick, where the vessel was located in a dangerous position about two hundred yards from the shore. Owing to the blinding rain, bad visibility, and position of the casualty, the effecting of communication with the vessel proved extremely difficult, particularly as the rocket machine had to be operated from a cliff sixty feet high. The vessel, being broadside on to the sea, acted as a breakwater, and heavy seas were constantly breaking over her. With the aid of the searchlight, which was brought to the scene by the District Officer at 0600, the remaining crew of three were seen to be huddled together under the lee of the funnel. Their position was a very perilous one, for, had they ventured to leave it, they would most certainly have been swept overboard. Thus the only means of effecting a rescue was by having the good fortune to place the line almost in the hands of the crew.

Six rockets were fired without effective communication being established, because the line either became jammed on the rocks or was carried away by the strong wind from this small target. Four of the lines had, in fact, fallen over the ship, and the third had been secured by the crew but the whip parted when being hauled out, owing to its catching on the jagged intervening rocks.

After six rockets had been fired, the rocket machine was lowered to its fullest extent until only a few inches from the ground in a position about six yards from the cliff edge with elevation to a point just clear of the bulwark.

The firing of another rocket was held up for a short time on account of the seas continuously breaking over the vessel and hiding her from view. During a temporary lull in the sea, however, the crew could be seen still in the same position under the lee of the funnel, and the seventh rocket was fired at 0630. This time, the line fell between the funnel and the mast. It was alongside the crew and one man ventured away from his shelter to a lower position and commenced hauling in the line. The other two members of the crew went to his assistance, but the hauling out of the whip was a long operation, and had to be done in stages, as the crew did not appear to have the necessary strength to haul it out. The vessel had throughout been bumping her way nearer the shore and had become fast on the rocks about sixty yards from the shore. The hawser and whip were secured without delay and the crew of three men hauled ashore in the breeches buoy, the first man being landed at 0650, and the last at 0707.

All three men were exhausted when landed, and two were found to be suffering from shock.

The two companies worked in excellent co-operation in this service throughout the whole of which they were exposed to extremely bad weather conditions. The visibility was bad and driving spray and rain made the rescue operations extremely difficult and arduous.

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The National Savings Committee requests
the following correction:-

In today's issue "Labour and War Finance
Campaign" No. 2. please correct figure £100,000
in last paragraph but one to read £100 ,000,000.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 3-30 P.M. THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22nd

LORD DE LA WARR OPENS NEW SCHOOL AT WREXHAM.

Lord De La Warr, President of the Board of Education, this morning (Thursday) made a tour of several schools in North Wales. In opening a new block of premises for the Wrexham County School for Girls in the afternoon he said:-

When the world looks at the British War effort it is, I believe, impressed - and rightly so - more than anything else by the gathering momentum of the might of the Empire. The world is impressed not only by the Empire's strength, but also by the unity of purpose that it represents, a unity based on that very thing for which we are fighting, namely, liberty. If this is true of the Empire, surely it is equally true of this small island of ours, where three separate peoples- the English, the Scots and the Welsh - for generations and for centuries have shown how racial freedom and peculiarity can exist and even be encouraged side by side with national unity. Nor indeed is it right to say only "side by side", for this freedom is in fact the very foundation and essence of our national unity. To those whom we are fighting Wales with its own culture and its language would be a perpetual challenge. In Great Britain they are an important enrichment of our joint national idealism. If anyone desires to question our sincerity in saying that we are fighting for small nations they need look no further than our own island and compare the relations between the English, the Scots and the Welsh with those between the Germans and the Poles.

Today we are met here to formalise the opening of a school. Here again, if we look either at the school itself or at the educational system of which it is to be a part, we see before us in microcosm those things for which we are fighting. For whether it be in the relations between the Board and Local Education Authorities, the Local Education Authorities and the teachers or the teachers and the children, freedom with its inevitable concomitant, initiative, is an outstanding feature. The result is a machine that is immensely flexible and immensely strong, producing as its result men and women who have learnt not merely a number of facts from books and teachers, but also how to think for themselves. And the result of that is a nation that is slow to go to war, but that once having been convinced of its necessity can understand what it is all about and will continue until its ideals have triumphed.

War is no longer a matter merely of armies and navies and even the most remote hamlet of Wales has already had to play its part. To the householder in Wales has frequently fallen the most difficult and important task - that of holding the home front by taking children from the crowded towns. It has been difficult for all householders to surrender the intimacy of their homes to strangers. But to Wales it has been especially difficult, partly because of the type of child that has sometimes come, and partly also because of differences both of religion and of language. The burdens of war are seldom equal, thus some lose their loved ones and others don't. All I can say is that you householders who have been hosts and foster-mothers to these English children should regard yourselves as amongst those who have been making a daily contribution to the conduct of the war.

To/

To remove children from the nervous strain as well as the actual danger of bombing is not a policy of cowardice. Everything points to the desirability of their removal from the danger areas. Children are not meant to be the cannon fodder of war. As a nation we are going to need them in the future, healthy in mind and body, to make good the loss and wastage of this struggle. So I appeal to those of you who still have children to keep them. I appeal also to those who have no children to enrol now both to relieve your neighbours, who are now carrying the full weight of the burden, and in order to be ready to take more children if the great cities are made uninhabitable.

The problems of the Board of Education are twofold. Firstly, we have to care for the children in the Reception Areas, not only the visitors but those who are already there. If I may say so, some people are just a little prone to forget the local child in the excitement of discussing evacuees, re-evacuees and non-evacuees. But of these well over 90 per cent, if not more in Wales are working full-time and although facilities can and should still be improved in some ways the children in these areas are not our immediate anxiety.

Our chief concern at the moment is the problem of the danger areas, where today there are something well over $1\frac{1}{4}$ million children. These have got to get back to school and as quickly as possible. You have seen some of them after only five weeks' holiday. Now they have had five months. Local Authorities are busy now getting back schools from other uses and protecting them. Our children are the raw material of the future and nothing must be allowed to stand between them and their proper place in school.

Once again, I ask the Authorities in the Evacuation Areas to tackle this problem as one of real urgency and as constituting a definite danger to the future of the country if it is not so tackled. We cannot and must not put ourselves in the position of facing the post-war world with a generation that has been let down. Schools must therefore be reopened, attendance at them enforced and the full medical services and feeding be resumed. Not only do I appeal to the Authorities concerned, but I offer them the full authority, help and support of H.M. Government in the difficult task that we have set them.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

CANADIANS' HUGE MAIL.1,000 BAGS OF PARCELS IN A WEEK.

Record mails have been reaching the Canadian troops stationed at Aldershot, and keeping the men of the postal unit busy twenty hours a day. Last week 1,000 bags of parcels, in addition to hundreds of letters and newspapers, beat the record even of Christmas and New Year mails.

Among the parcels received was one, from the Meaford, Ontario, branch of Canadian girls in training, addressed to "The Youngest Soldier with the Canadian Forces". The lucky recipient was a private aged 21 (the minimum age for enlistment), but who was voted to look much younger.

By no means all the mail comes from Canada. Nine hundred letters were received from people in the United Kingdom who hope to get in touch with Canadian relatives or friends who may be serving with the C.A.S.F. They want to offer the hospitality of their homes, and to learn the history of members of their family who emigrated years ago and forgot to write home.

One optimist writes to say that the man he is trying to find borrowed 52 shillings and sixpence from him in the last war. "I haven't heard from him since", he adds, "but probably if I can locate him he won't mind repaying me with a little interest".

EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

22/2/40 - No. 7c

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN

ENEMY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN.

The Air Ministry announces:-

An enemy aircraft was engaged and shot down by Royal Air Force fighter aircraft off the North East coast shortly after mid-day to-day.

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Second enemy aircraft crashes.

The Air Ministry announces:-

A second Heinkel attacked by Spitfires, of Fighter Command, crashed today on land near St. Abbs Head.

AIR AFFAIRS.

PRESS NOTICE.

Entertainment in London for the ships'
companies of H.M. Ships Ajax and
Exeter.

Free admission has been arranged at the following theatres and cinemas for the officers and men of H.M. ships Ajax and Exeter on Thursday evening, 22nd February, 1940.

<u>Theatre</u>		<u>Seat Tickets</u>
<u>Palladium</u>	"The Little Dog Laughed"	40(officers)
<u>Gaumont</u>	"The Hunchback of Notre Dame"	75 (ratings)
<u>New Victoria</u>	"First Love" and "Charlie Chan at Treasure Island"	75 "
<u>Astoria</u>	"The Stars Look Down" and "Charlie Chan at Treasure Island"	50 "
<u>Dominion</u>	"First Love" and "Every Other Inch a Lady"	75 "
<u>Plaza</u>	"The Great Victor Herbert"	74 "
<u>Empire</u>	"Ninotchka"	50 "
<u>Warner Theatre</u>	"On Your Toes"	150 "
<u>Carlton Theatre</u>	"Gulliver's Travels"	50 "
<u>Leicester Square</u>	"Destry Rides Again"	50 "
<u>Marble Arch Pavilion</u>	"The Real Glory"	26 "

In addition, the Chelsea Football Club have kindly placed 50 seats at the disposal of the ship's company of H.M.S. Exeter for their match versus Tottenham Hotspurs on Saturday, 24th February, 1940

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ADMIRALTY,
22nd February, 1940

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION & ANSWER

Question by Mr. Weldon Robinson.

To ask the Secretary to the Overseas Trade Department whether in view of the importance of increasing British exports to the U.S. of America, it is proposed to reopen the British Pavilion at the New York World Fair.

Answer by Mr. R. S. Hudson.

This question has been under the most careful consideration of H.M. Government, who necessarily had to take into account many factors including the financial implication of participation for a second year. The British Pavilion was an overwhelming success last year, and we have received strong representations from many influential quarters in the U.S. of America in favour of reopening. Moreover certain financial arrangements have been suggested by the Fair Authorities towards covering the cost and subject to the satisfactory settlement of outstanding details, it has been decided to reopen the Pavilion.

Not to be published in this country or in any other country and not to be broadcast before the morning (G.M.T.) of Friday, 23rd February.

COLONIAL SECRETARY FOR THE BAHAMAS.

It is announced by the Colonial Office that Mr. W.L. Heape, Colonial Secretary, Grenada, Windward Islands, has been selected for appointment as Colonial Secretary, the Bahamas, in succession to Mr. J.H. Jarrett, whose appointment as Chief Justice of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands was announced recently.

(Mr. Heape commenced his service in 1919 as Assistant Secretary, Somaliland, where he served until appointed to Tanganyika Territory in 1929; as Colonial Secretary and Registrar General Grenada, 1935; and was Acting Administrator St. Vincent (B.W.I.) in 1938.)

PRESS NOTICEPOST OFFICE COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTSNOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE FRIDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1940.

The Commercial Accounts of the Post Office for the year ended 31 March, 1939 have now been presented to Parliament by the Postmaster General.

The Account for the Post Office services as a whole shows a surplus, after charging interest on capital, of £10,254,578, a reduction of £973,302 on the surplus in the previous year. The lower surplus is due very largely to the increase in staff costs arising from the improved rates of pay awarded by the Arbitration Tribunal. Post Office business as a whole continued to grow, but there was a marked slackening in the rate of growth in some of the services. This was especially noticeable in the case of letter traffic; but the rate of growth of parcel traffic was well maintained. For the Postal Service alone the surplus declined from £11,537,463 in 1937-38 to £10,808,259 in 1938-39, a reduction of £729,204.

Telegraph traffic as a whole showed a small increase due to the growth in "Greetings" messages. Telephone traffic expanded at a somewhat lower rate than in 1937-38, especially as regards local calls. The net addition to the number of telephone stations was approximately 185,000, less by about 35,000 than the corresponding increase in 1937-38. The surplus on the Telephone Service fell from £429,460 in 1937-38 to £269,639 in 1938-39.

Figures showing the volume of the principal classes of business are given below:-

	<u>Year ended 31 March 1939</u>	<u>Percentage variations during 1937-38.</u>
Letters etc.	8,150,000,000 - an increase of 2.0%	3.9 increase
Parcels	184,832,000 - " " " 2.9%	3.0 "
Money Orders (including Cash-on-Delivery Orders)	17,155,000 - " " " 1.9%	4.5 "
Postal Orders	422,527,000 - " " " 5.8%	16.1 "
Telegrams - Inland	50,395,000 - " " " 2.4%	0.1 decrease
- Overseas and Ships	8,915,000 - a decrease of 2.6%	0.9 "
Telephone Calls		
Trunk - Inland	111,553,000 - an increase of 5.4%	6.9 increase
Local	2,122,400,000 - " " " 3.1%	9.4 "

Transactions of all kinds with the public amounted during the year to £1,062,217,000 as compared with £1,026,064,000 in 1937-38.

Capital

Capital expenditure on plant, sites and buildings during the year amounted to £21,585,156 mainly for the development of the telephone system. This compares with £17,152,873 in 1937-38. As at 31 March 1939 the net capital liability of the Post Office amounted to £198,841,000 the assets being:-

	£
Freehold land and buildings	34,240,000
Leasehold " " "	2,671,000
Telephone and Telegraph Plant	152,598,000
Post Office (London) Railway	1,178,000
Light, heat and power plant	1,934,000
Engineering stores	6,220,000

The figures quoted below further illustrate the extensive range of Post Office activities:-

(1) Total number of Post Offices	24,855
(2) Telegraph Offices	14,006
(3) Telephone Exchanges (of which 2,925 are automatic)	5,715
(4) Telephone Call Offices	49,518
(5) Telephones	3,235,498
(6) Mileage of Wire	15,299,000
(7) Motor vehicles owned by the Post Office	17,384

The personnel employed by the Post Office at 31 March 1939 numbered 283,371, having increased during the year by 4,376 (1.6%).

22nd February, 1940.

No. 13.
M.A.F.155.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

POULTRY ON SHORT COMMONS.

Making the Most of Wartime Rations.

The difficulties of the poultry farmer in wartime lie not only in having to go short of the ample supplies of imported feeding stuffs that he enjoyed in the years of peace, but often in having to make the best of feeding stuffs to which he is unaccustomed.

The new "Growmore" Leaflet No. 14, Poultry Rations in War Time, (Single copies free on application to the Ministry of Agriculture, 10, Whitehall Place, S.W.1.) aims at simplifying this difficult problem for the man who has come to rely upon receiving a complete balanced ration from his merchant at any time he might ask for it.

It deals with Growing Rations and Laying Rations and the various substitutes that can be used in them. There is also a list of 31 substitute feeding stuffs, with directions as to their use and the part they can take in the whole ration. To quote one of the shorter examples:-

"Rye Meal. May be used in laying and growing mashes as a substitute for other cereals up to 40 per cent in the mash. Rye meal is not suitable for inclusion in rearing mashes."

22nd February, 1940

No. 14
M.A.F. 156

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN LINCOLN (LINDSEY).

The existence of foot-and-mouth disease was confirmed to-day amongst sheep at Thorganby, Lincs.

An Order has been issued and is now in force, prohibiting the movement - except by licence - of all cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and deer within approximately 15 miles of the infected premises. The area subject to restrictions lies wholly in the county of Lincoln (Lindsey).

IMPORT LICENSING DEPARTMENT

Notice to Importers No.42

Domestic Glassware

1. The Import Licensing Department of the Board of Trade announce that they are now prepared to issue licences for the importation of certain quantities of domestic glassware of the following kinds:-

Stemware
Tumblers (including Ponies & Tots)
Plain Jugs.

Licensing will be carried out with the co-operation of the London Chamber of Commerce. All enquiries, and applications for the necessary forms connected with the licence, should be addressed to the Secretary, London Chamber of Commerce, 69, Cannon Street, London, E.C.4.

2. The total value of the licences to be issued will be limited, and there will also be certain restrictions on the kinds of articles which may be imported. Importers should, therefore, make sure that a licence will be available before they make arrangements for goods to be dispatched to this country.

Import Licensing Department,
Board of Trade,
25, Southampton Buildings,
Chancery Lane, W.C.2.

22nd February, 1940.

22/2/40 - No.16.

RUBBER SHIPPING PERIOD EXTENDED.

The United States Government have agreed to extend until September 1940 the period during which rubber furnished by the British Government under the Agreement for the exchange of cotton and rubber may be shipped. This extends the existing date by three months.

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MINISTRY OF SUPPLY.

22/2/40 - No.16.

RUBBER SHIPPING PERIOD EXTENDED.

The United States Government have agreed to extend until September 1940 the period during which rubber furnished by the British Government under the Agreement for the exchange of cotton and rubber may be shipped. This extends the existing date by three months.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

ALLOTMENTS IN WAR TIME - A NEW CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL.

Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, stated in the House of Commons to-day

"The Government are anxious to see the utmost possible extension of allotments in war time, and early in the war I made a public appeal for a further 500,000 allotments. All statutory allotment authorities were circularised by my Department and urged to acquire land to meet the increased demand which I believed would arise. Simultaneously, the Ministry initiated a campaign for supplying the necessary expert guidance, this campaign being based administratively on the establishment of horticultural committees in all the larger urban areas.

These efforts, backed up by the work of voluntary organisations, particularly the National Allotments Society and the Society of Friends, have made considerable progress and I feel that the time has arrived when the various aspects of the movement should be fully co-ordinated and organised. I have, therefore, decided, in consultation with my right hon. Friend the Minister of Food, to set up a Co-ordinating Council with the following terms of reference:-

'To advise and assist the Minister of Agriculture on the development in war-time of the production of vegetables and fruit in allotments and private gardens, and of such other forms of food production as may be appropriate to the home; to organise, where necessary, supplies of seed, fertilisers, stock or equipment; and to advise as to such measures as may be practicable for the effective use of produce found to be surplus to the producers' home requirements.'

I propose to invite organisations concerned with this important aspect of increased food production to nominate representatives to sit on this Council, and I am glad to be able to announce that my friend the right Hon. Lord Bingley has accepted my invitation to act as the Chairman of the Council.

Meantime the urgent need is for the turning over of as much allotment land as possible during the next two months, to secure vegetable crops during the coming season."

The following bodies have been invited to nominate representatives to the Council:-

National Farmers' Union
National Poultry Council
National Allotments Society *Society*
Society of Friends
Trades Union Congress
British Legion
National Federation of Women's Institutes
Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Congress
Chick Producers' Association
County Councils Association
Association of Municipal Corporations
Urban District Councils Association
Agricultural Education Association

Horticultural Education Association
Poultry Education Association
Federation of Accredited Breeders
National Council of Social Service
Royal Horticultural Society
Institute of Parks Administration
National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs
Clubs and Institutes Union

The list is not yet final and further organisations may be invited to nominate representatives if it is thought desirable.

The Secretary of the Council is Mr. J.H. Dutton to whom all communications should be addressed at 83, Baker Street, London, W.1.

The War Office,
London, S.W.1.
22nd February, 1940.

MORE BOOKS FOR THE FIGHTING SERVICES.

The War Office announces that the demand for books and literature in the Navy, Army and Air Force so far exceeds the supply that The Lord Mayor of London and The Lord Provost of Edinburgh now appeal for a further supply of books and literature and the money with which to buy them.

Over half a million books and periodicals have so far been sent to the forces at home, at sea, in France and in the Near East through The Service Libraries and Books Fund for which The Lord Mayor and Lord Provost are appealing. This fund which is under the patronage of the King and Queen, is controlled by an executive committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Herbert Creedy, until recently permanent Under Secretary of State for War. The Council of the Fund includes the Earl of Athlone, the Earl of Lucan, the Earl of Cork, Viscount Trenchard, Lord Birdwood, Lord Stamp, Mr John Masefield, Dr. Arundel Esdaile, and others.

Money contributions should be sent to the Lord Mayor, the Mansion House, London E.C.4., the envelope being marked "Books".

Books, periodicals, and other literature for presentation to the forces should be sent to The City of London Territorial Army and Air Force Association, Finsbury Barracks, City Road, London E.C.1., which is the only official centre for the reception and distribution of books and literature to the fighting services.

CANADIAN TROOPS' MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LORD TWEEDSMUIR.

On every parade ground within the boundaries of the Canadian training camp a solemn tribute was to-day paid to the memory of Lord Tweedsmuir.

The unit's gesture of remembrance, marked by a full turn-out of personnel, with officers wearing mourning bands, synchronized with the National Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey.

In every camp the order of service was identical in simplicity and impressiveness. Typical of the parades was one addressed by Captain Norman Coll, formerly of Parkdale Church, Ottawa.

Speaking to the massed ranks of the Toronto Scottish and the Saskatoon Light Infantry from the flag-draped stand, Captain Coll said that the Dominion had been well-served by a long line of distinguished and efficient Governors-General, but none had been better than Lord Tweedsmuir.

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TWO HEINKELS SHOT DOWN.

(Not to be quoted as an Air Ministry announcement.)

Two Heinkel raiders were shot down by a Royal Air Force Fighter Command patrol off the North-East coast shortly after noon today.

One was seen by British Pilots to break up and dive into the sea. The second crashed on land near St. Abb's Head, Berwickshire, and was burned by its crew.

A thirty mile chase through the clouds by Hawker Hurricane Fighters ended in the destruction of the first Heinkel. The Hurricane pilots were members of the regular squadron which recently brought down three Heinkels in two days. The Flight-Lieutenant who led the formation helped to shoot down the raider which crashed near Whitby three weeks ago.

The Hurricane pilots sighted their enemy ten miles off the Northumberland coast. The Heinkel turned South-East, and climbed into the clouds. For a time the Hurricane lost him.

Then in a clear patch, the Flight-Lieutenant sighted the Heinkels again. He dived to the attack while the German rear gunner fired back ineffectively. The Hurricane bullets struck home.

"The Heinkel's under-carriage immediately dropped" said the Flight-Lieutenant in his report. "It dived steeply to about 10,000 feet, when its wing tips were seen to drop off. Then it turned on its back and dived vertically into the sea."

Further North, Spitfires of an Auxiliary squadron were attacking the second Heinkel, 25 miles out to sea. Pursued by the Spitfires, and with one engine out of action, the German pilot decided to make for land. He crashed his aircraft a mile inland near St. Abb's Head. The crew succeeded in setting it on fire.

Later the four members of the Heinkel's crew were made prisoners by police from Berwick-on-Tweed.

WAR COMMENTARY. No. 18

by

Major-General Sir E.W. Swinton.

Mem. to Sub-Editors: As this script is being issued in advance, it is necessary to check it against the broadcast this evening at 9.15 p.m., on 391 or 449 metres.
FOR PUBLICATION AFTER 9.30 p.m. THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING
(FEBRUARY 22, 1940) -----

All hearts have been stirred by the gallant rescue last Friday of our merchant seamen on board the German auxiliary Altmark.

What a dramatic series of events - the Altmark furtively slinking down the coast within Norwegian territorial waters, with its cargo of prisoners battened down under hatches: her discovery during the afternoon by our aircraft: her retreat into Joessing Fiord: the approach of the British destroyers: the appearance of the two Norwegian gunboats, and the withdrawal of our vessels. Then, we can picture the scene after dark, when H.M.S. Cossack, guided by her searchlights, carefully nosed her way forward towards the hulking vessel, which tried to ram her, and ran aground instead. We can see the Cossack laying herself alongside the German, boarding her in the good old-fashioned style, and releasing the cheering prisoners, who are not going to grace a Nazi triumph in Berlin, Hamburg, or any other "blue pencil" place where Hitler intended to march them!

Yes, a heartening and gallant exploit to cheer us on our way in these drab days of inactivity.

And now, what of the means which enabled us to seize our opportunity so efficiently and quickly on that Friday afternoon and evening? On what did the goings and comings of the British aircraft, destroyers and cruisers, the Norwegian gunboats, and indeed the Altmark herself depend? On OIL.

Last week, after briefly outlining the evolution of land fighting machines, I promised to say something about the substance which has made this evolution possible. I don't suppose that many of us have ever thought much about oil until the petrol ration came into the news. Yet it is one of the most important factors in our daily life, for it has revolutionized the whole of the transport of the world. I realise that my promise was a rash one for the subject is large and many aspects of it have already been well covered by Mr. Robert Byron in his recent broadcast "What oil means to us".

I am going to deal with the subject chiefly from the point of view of the enemy, and I want, as far as I can, to avoid statistics. I'm afraid I can't avoid them altogether. In oil I include all the crude stuff that gushes from the earth and the whole range of products up to its highest quality of aviation spirit. I don't need to tell you that oil is one of the most vital factors of modern war. Without it in some form or other for fuel and lubrication no warships, no submarines, no aeroplanes, no tanks, and practically no mechanised transport of any kind could move a yard.

/Now

Now what is Germany's position in regard to oil? We don't know: we can do no more than estimate, and you will understand that the estimates are purely my own. She foresaw long ago that in a major European struggle - for which she was preparing - she would be cut off from her normal overseas sources of supply - the U.S.A., Mexico, Venezuela, the Dutch East, and West, Indies, Iran to name the most important; and she started to produce oil from coal at home. No exact figures are available of her production by this means, but it has been estimated that by the end of this year she may be providing herself with this synthetic supply at the rate of two and a half million tons a year. In addition, Greater Germany - which includes Poland - now produces about one million tons of natural oil. She also makes use of certain homemade alternative fuels for road transport, such as benzole, alcohol, and producer and compressed gases. The amount of such substitutes is not known.

Broadly speaking, she produces from internal sources some three and a half ($3\frac{1}{2}$) million tons.

Her peace-time consumption is estimated to have been eight million tons a year, which leaves a balance to be imported of four and a half million tons for her full peace-time needs.

Her war-time requirements for a war carried on at full pressure - which she has not yet experienced - have been estimated at totals varying from twelve to fifteen million tons. This means that to carry on such a war Germany would need to import either eight and a half or eleven and a half million tons.

As to the possible imports to make up this deficiency, she is now cut off by the Allies from her overseas supplies, and is limited to obtaining oil from Roumania and Russia and a small amount from Estonia. Roumania has promised to let her have one and a half million tons. Russia, though she is the second greatest oil-producing country in the world can for various reasons let her friend have at the very most one million tons. And the actual figures will probably be far less.

Well/

Well, if these calculations are about correct, Germany will be able to obtain from importation and production a total of under six million tons, to meet a possible full-war demand of ten, or even fifteen million tons per annum. In either event, we can see that she is going to be hard put to it to carry on a protracted war, even making allowance for the reserves she may have amassed before the war or saved since. These figures, remember, are based on promises, and may not correspond with the amounts likely to be received, which, owing to the great difficulties of transport from Roumania and Russia, will probably be much less.

For instance, in 1938, as against the two-and-a-half million tons now estimated to be available from those two countries, Germany received by rail and the Danube little more than half a million tons.

So much for Germany. Now a word about the Allies. It was quite common before the war to read the most pessimistic forecasts of Great Britain's oil position in wartime. We were told that we should be short of all oil products. Well, what has happened? We are not short of oil, in spite of petrol rationing, which, I should like to emphasise, is entirely due to expediency. Nobody who needs petrol for really essential purposes goes short, although I can well understand that views as to what is an "essential purpose" may differ widely. Unlike Germany, the Allies have the world's oil markets open to them and have adequate stocks. The British Empire itself, also, has a considerable oil production of its own. In 1938 this amounted to nearly seven million tons, and showed every sign of increasing. Remember, also, that the oil used by the overseas units of our Navy, Army and Air Force can be obtained from neighbouring sources and need never come to this country. So far our access to supplies of natural oil has made it unnecessary for us to rely so much as the Germans have done on the production of oil from coal, although we do in fact obtain quite a useful amount from both coal and shale. In 1938 this home production of petrol amounted to seven per cent of our consumption.

The largest oil tanker fleet in the world sails under the British flag, to which additions are continually being made. As to our accumulated reserves, I do not think I am betraying State secrets if I say that we - as well as the enemy - had the foresight to build up large stocks of oil before war began. How large these were I must leave you to guess, but they are certainly enough to carry us over any temporary interruption of supplies. We can face the future in confidence that our military action will not be hampered through lack of this vital factor - Oil. Can Germany be equally confident?

So far I've been talking about oil - mineral oil - the stuff that drives machines. But there are other oils - animal and vegetable - which do an equally important job in helping to drive the human machine. There's a lot that might be said on this subject - about fats, butter, margarine; oil cake for cattle, and whale oil. Well, there's no time for me to talk about all these, but there is an interesting story to be told about the last of them - whale oil.

/In

In April 1938, occurred a dramatic move in the "fight for fats" as we might call it. The Food (Defence Plans) Department, which after the outbreak of war became the Ministry of Food, was watching events within its own sphere in case of war. It took a wise step. In anticipation of the sanction of Parliament it made a substantial purchase of Norwegian whale oil. For this action a Bill of Indemnity was passed by Parliament in July. In April, 1939, when the exportable surplus of the Norwegian annual crop was again in the market, the Germans met the Norwegians in conference at Copenhagen, with a view to buying their surplus. The transaction hung fire. The Nazis tried to drive their usual hard bargain, and the Norwegians broke off negotiations.

Then our Government took a further step. It had been keeping its eyes skinned as to the situation and had already taken steps to see that the British and Japanese whale oil was secured for the United Kingdom. All that remained on the market was the Norwegian supply. At the crucial moment our Government jumped in under the nose of the Germans and bought up the whole of the Norwegian crop without haggling.

This prompt action reminds me of what Disraeli did in 1875, when without warning or fuss he bought for the British nation the shares in the Suez Canal owned by the Khedive of Egypt. Quite apart from the increase in money value of the shares, most of us can appreciate what Disraeli's foresight has meant to the British Empire.

The two cases are comparable. In both the advantage of acting quickly was clear. In both there was ample excuse for talk - talk - talk, which would have meant delay and the missing of an opportunity. In neither case was there talk: there was action. And so we got the Canal shares and the whale oil. One result of our purchase of the latter has been the comparative cheapness and abundance of our supplies of margarine, from which we are all benefiting now.

Well its always been the custom with us to criticise the Government of the day for lack of foresight and decision - this is of course one of our most cherished privileges - but for its whale oil scoop last year we must give the Government full marks.

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BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION.

22.2.40 No 22.

SMALL DETONATION AT WALTHAM ABBEY

When waste explosives were being burnt at the Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey, this evening, a small detonation occurred. No-one was injured.*

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

See con.

PRESS NOTICE

The following have received personal invitations from the First Lord to be present at the Ceremony on the Horse Guards Parade on Friday, 23rd February.

Prime Minister, and First Lord of the Treasury.
 Chancellor of the Exchequer.
 Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
 Lord Privy Seal.
 Minister for Co-ordination of Defence.
 Secretary of State for War.
 Secretary of State for Air.
 Minister without Portfolio.
 Lord President of the Council.
 Lord Chancellor.
 Secretary of State for the Home Department and
 Minister of Home Security.
 Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.
 Secretary of State for India and Secretary of
 State for Burma.
 Secretary of State for the Colonies.
 Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Min. of Food.
 Secretary of State for Scotland.
 President of the Board of Trade.
 President of the Board of Education.
 Minister of Health.
 Minister of Labour and Minister of National Service.
 Minister of Supply.
 Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries.
 Minister of Transport.
 Minister of Shipping.
 Minister of Information.
 Minister of Economic Warfare.
 Minister of Pensions.
 First Commissioner of Works.
 Secretary for Mines.
 Attorney-General.
 Solicitor-General.
 Postmaster-General.
 Paymaster-General.

The Speaker.

Earl of Selborne.
 Viscount Lee of Fareham.
 Viscount Monsell.
 Mr. Reginald McKenna.
 Mr. L. C. M. S. Amery.
 Mr. Alexander.
 Mr. Duff Cooper.

Admiral of the Fleet The Earl of Cork & Orrery.
 Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Oliver.
 Admiral of the Fleet Sir Osmond de B. Brock.
 Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keyes.
 Admiral of the Fleet Sir Frederick Field.

Marquis of Crewe.
 Lord Snell.
 Captain Margesson.
 George Lambert.
 Major Attlee.
 Mr. Greenwood.
 Sir Archibald Sinclair.
 Sir Percy Harris.
 Chief of Imperial General Staff.
 Chief of Air Staff.

Lord Lloyd.

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22/2/40 - No. 24

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

(EVENING)

Paris. Thursday. February 22nd, 1940.

The following official communique was broadcast this evening from French G.H.Q.

ARTILLERY ACTION ON BOTH SIDES, ESPECIALLY TO THE WEST OF THE SAAR AND TO THE EAST OF THE BLIES.

INCREASED ACTIVITY OF BOTH AVIATIONS BETWEEN THE MOSELLE AND THE RHINE, ALSO OVER ALSACE.

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22/2/40 - No.25.

OFFICIAL ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE.

The Secretary of the Admiralty regrets to announce that H.M. trawler Fifeshire acting Sub-Lt. J.V. Searles-Wood, R.N., has been sunk as the result of enemy aircraft attacks. It is feared that there is only one survivor, Able Seaman Albert Edward Blowers. Two officers and nineteen ratings are missing and are feared to have been lost. Next of kin have been informed.

H.M. trawler Solon Lt.Com. W. Gillett, R.N., was also attacked by bombs and machine gunned, but the enemy aircraft were driven off and the vessel returned to port.

ADMIRALTY,
S.W.1.

Corr to
22

22/2/40. - No. 26,

CORRECTION.

The last sentence in to-day's issue No. 22 referring to the small detonation at Waltham Abbey should read:

"No one was seriously injured".

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY.