

# FOREIGN PRESS REVIEW

DAILY SURVEY OF WORLD COMMENT ON THE WAR

COMPILED FROM TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No. 59

25th March ..... 1940

## TURKEY: ALLIES' WAR AIMS ENDORSED.

A defence of the Allies' war aims and a condemnation of Germany's objectives were contained in the Istanbul Press during the week-end.

YENI SABAH declared: "The Allies do not desire anything for themselves from the present conflict. Their only aim is to ensure the prevalence of right and justice in international relations, that the small nations should live a free life and that Czechoslovakia and Poland should regain their independence. On the contrary Germany demands the retention of the spoils ravished from her neighbours, to obtain colonies and innumerable other privileges. It is even doubtful whether she would then be satisfied for she is cursed with insatiable greed and unlimited ambitions."

Discussing future peace CUMHURIYET stated: "Essential conditions for peace are the restoration of Poland, and a solution of Czechoslovak and Austrian problems in a manner satisfactory to the European conscience. There should also be obtained effective guarantees for a lasting peace and the recognition of the right of existence of large and small states."

ULUS, the Ankara newspaper, declared: "Before passing on to her final aim - the destruction of the French and British Empires - Germany deemed it necessary first of all to crush the small nations of Europe, hence the occupation of Czechoslovakia and Poland. Germany openly admits that she does not recognise the independence of small states and therefore these should not remain neutral for Britain while defending herself is also struggling in their interests."

## SWITZERLAND: INTENSIFICATION OF WAR FORESEEN.

The belief that the new French Cabinet is likely to result in an intensification of the war is expressed in today's Swiss Press.

The NATIONALZEITUNG, the Radical democratic organ, writes: "Even in France the impression prevails that the political crisis came too soon, but it cannot be doubted that the more determined elements seized their opportunity and came to the front. However, neither the unchanged British Cabinet nor the remade French Cabinet gives the impression of a real war Cabinet such as those of Mr. Lloyd George and M. Clemenceau during the last war."

The view of DER BUND, which is also a Radical democratic newspaper, is expressed in the words: "It remains to be seen whether the new French Cabinet represents a permanent or only a temporary solution. Not only is the work of the Prime Minister's office very heavy but M. Reynaud is new to foreign affairs. Most important will be his attitude towards Italy and the manner in which he will regulate and improve Franco-Italian relations."

After declaring that Germany had recently won more diplomatic successes, the GAZETTE DE LAUSANNE, the Liberal organ, asks: "Do the Western Powers intend to remain passive towards the combination now being worked out? They possess extensive means of action but are content to wait. It is always the same tale. Although their situation is worsened they can still hope. They have vast financial resources, facilities for supplies and good soldiers. The public spirit of France will not give way to discouragement. The British Empire is invincible, but has still a long way to go to victory."

NORWAY: ADMISSION OF SMALL NEUTRALS' DIFFICULTIES.

An admission of the difficulties facing small neutral countries was made during the week-end by AFTENPOSTEN.

In a leading article this paper wrote: "Mr. Chamberlain expressed his disappointment over the small nations' attitude to the Great Powers' war. His grounds for disappointment are not difficult to understand."

Approving Mr. Chamberlain's line of reason that Britain is the protector of small nations and that possibly a less rigid neutrality might have been expected, this paper wrote: "The Western Powers might have foreseen this attitude earlier. If Mr. Chamberlain, when bitterly attacked by the U.S.A. and the small Democracies for having betrayed Democracy, had asked them if they would consent to their own country's soldiers and resources being used to stop a new offensive against the small powers and Democracies he would have received an absolutely negative reply. What they wanted was - as we wrote then - that the Western Powers should be Europe's police and sacrifice their sons for the small powers concerned without thanks or help from the critics."

Referring to the possibility that Norway would in future have to reckon without help from the Western Powers this paper added: "To that we have nothing to say. When the small states will not, or cannot, join forces against aggression from the great Dictatorships which demand more Lebensraum from the small countries we must resign ourselves to the fact that we have only ourselves to depend upon and can become therefore one after another like Finland victims to the modern bandits."

DENMARK: BRITISH AND NAZI SEA WARFARE CONTRASTED.

A sharp contrast between British and German methods of waging warfare at sea has been drawn in the Danish Press.

In a leading article commenting on the Nazi sinking of six Danish ships SOCIALDEMOKRATEN wrote yesterday: "We in Denmark are still astonished at this form of warfare, which hinders the small neutrals' trade in an illegal manner. In this connection we cannot help mentioning the torpedoing of a German steamer. An English submarine meets a German steamer loaded with iron-ore in waters between Denmark and Norway. The crew are allowed fifteen minutes to get into the boats, the captain escapes capture by lying, and the whole crew is saved and are now on the way home.

"This is in contrast to the fate of 56 Danish seamen. Comment is quite superfluous. Even if we, in every way, recognise Germany's special position in her war against England, it is nevertheless our opinion that Germany is committing a crime against neutral ships, especially on those occasions where they sink neutral vessels without warning and without inspection.

"After the tragic news of the loss of six ships in two days we will now take upon ourselves to say these last words quietly and clearly to a neighbour state without caring very much whether the German Press is thereby offended or not."

In similar vein the NATIONALTIDENDE declared: "The Danish public cannot possibly understand these sinkings, which harm England as little as they benefit Germany."

An editorial article in the BERLINGSKE AFTENAVIS affirmed: "On Thursday evening an English submarine sank a German steamer off Skagen. The crew had been given good time to reach the boats. No-one was drowned. This incident in Submarine war history concerned an action between two belligerent powers, and the rules for this type of warfare were scrupulously observed. This is in every way vastly different from the shocking loss which during Easter has been suffered by the Danish merchant fleet.

"Something must be done to prevent the North Sea becoming for neutrals an area of death."

U. S. A: BRITISH PUBLIC DISSATISFIED WITH COURSE OF WAR?

A section of the New York Press has the belief that the British public is dissatisfied with the course of the war.

A leader in today's NEW YORK TIMES states: "In Britain there is heightened impatience with the progress of the war. From left and right come renewed cries that the dead wood be cut from the cabinet. Many questions are being asked of Mr. Chamberlain by a people as patriotic and self-sacrificing as any in the world.

"But one need not expect a spectacular reshuffle of the cabinet. Mountains of publicity regarding British 'shake-ups' seldom produce spectacular results."

According to a columnist in the NEW YORK MIRROR, Mr. J. M. Patterson, president of the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, is being considered by Mr. Roosevelt as the successor to Mr. J. P. Kennedy as ambassador to Great Britain.

Recalling Herr Hitler's message to the Czech Protectorate in which the Fuehrer said "we shall succeed in preserving this part of the Reich from the horrors of war" the NEW YORK TIMES wrote yesterday: "This is strangely unlike Hitler for it implies that the rest of Germany may soon learn what war means. What has happened to the 'front-line soldier' who assured his people repeatedly that the sufferings of 1914-18 would not come to them again? Where are Hitler's boasts of former years that he would achieve his aims 'without spilling blood, without bringing to my people the miseries of the Great War'?"

"How often the German people used to tell one another that their great leader would never bring war to German soil and to German homes. Perhaps the same trustful people will take note of what their Fuehrer now sees in store for them. It is the world's tragedy that they and he did not see it sooner."

Herbert Matthews, the Rome correspondent of the NEW YORK TIMES, cabled: "Rome is tense and is expecting a Balkan coup shortly. The Italians regard the nearness by which M. Reynaud escaped defeat last week as a sign of French weakness, of which they expect the Germans to take advantage. The general atmosphere in Rome is surprisingly tense and sensational rumours are prevalent, the latest and most startling being that Germany and Italy would invade Yugoslavia."

A correspondent of the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE writing from Ankara stated: "The loss of moral and material prestige that Germany has undergone in Turkey since the beginning of the war is obvious to anyone arriving in that country. It is common knowledge in diplomatic circles in Ankara that Herr von Papen is tolerated but not liked. The Turkish Press speaks quite openly against Nazism. The sympathies of the populations of Ankara and Istanbul can be surmised from the fact that German news reels are usually barred for fear of hostile demonstrations, whereas Anglo-French news reels are prominent."

Commenting on the R.A.F.'s raid on Sylt, the DETROIT FREE PRESS affirmed: "Stories from Denmark, where people have front seats as observers, suggest that the damage was even more extensive than the British airmen themselves realised."

The AUGUSTA CHRONICLE, supporting this belief, stated: "Neutral observers watched belching flames from a point in nearby Denmark and heard terrific detonations which bore witness to the success of the British bombing planes, despite efforts in Germany to minimise the attack. The Royal Air Force flyers were apparently far more successful in carrying out their mission than were the Germans in attacking Scapa Flow."

ITALY: ATTACK ON DEMOCRACIES.

The celebrations in connection with the foundation of Fascism have given rise in the Italian Press to comment unfavourable to the Democracies.

The REGIME FASCISTA stated yesterday: "The rise of Fascism confirms that success comes not to the rich and powerful but to those who believe in their cause and are prepared for sacrifices."

"Fascism showed the world the need for a new justice among the nations," declared the POPOLO D'ITALIA. "Signor Mussolini from 1919 urged international collaboration but the errors and obstinacy of the Democracies precipitated the world towards war."

The Democracies were also attacked by the GIORNALE D'ITALIA which stated: "Fascism arose as the defender of the peoples' rights. Italy's and Germany's need for territory were opposed by two demographically declining Democracies."

Commenting on the Brenner meeting RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI stated: "The Democracies' determination to destroy Nazism is destined to failure and represents a denial of the whole series of European events one of whose cardinal points is the foundation of the Italian Empire. Signor Mussolini and Herr Hitler are the leaders of two movements aiming at the renovation of Europe."

HOLLAND: MORE INTENSE WARFARE EXPECTED.

Speculation as to a possible speed-up in the war was contained in the Dutch Press during the weekend.

DE MAASBODE, the Catholic organ, thought that although the war would become more intensified it would probably not consist of an attack in the west nor of an attack on Holland and Belgium.

"Air warfare and trade warfare are however likely to be pushed to their limits", declared this journal. "There is also likely to be an intensified war of nerves with more propaganda and with political and diplomatic activity. But as to 'dynamic policy', those who stick to the elementary Christian principles will always be at a disadvantage compared with those who do not recognise these restraints."

HET HANDELSBLAD stated: "Everything indicates that it will be impossible to get peace along diplomatic lines, and both parties are anxious to attack and conclude peace as quickly as possible. However, there is no definite indication of this and it might remain only a wish. Europe watches anxiously as to whether one of the parties will try to break the steel line."

The opinion was expressed by HET VAADERLAND, the Liberal newspaper, that the British public desires an intensification of the war. This paper stated: "Although there is much esteem by the English public for the person of Mr. Chamberlain it seems that public opinion wants a more serious and active warfare, which means of course that Mr. Churchill's chances are rising. If ever there is a change of cabinet Mr. Churchill will come out on top."

BRAZIL: STALIN'S PROMISES REGARDED AS VALUELESS.

Scepticism as to the value of Stalin's promises was contained in an article in O JORNAL.

This paper stated yesterday: "The Russian denial of further territorial claims is valueless. The Communists' Ally, Hitler, made identical declarations. Stalin's word will have the same value as Hitler's."

This paper pointed out the significance of the All-Empire composition of the British crew which raided Sylt and added: "For years past the British Empire has constituted the only experiment ever made for international organisation and peace. Live and let live is the Imperial motto today."

GERMANY: ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCE GERMAN PUBLIC.

The Nazi Press, possibly because reliable reports have filtered through to the German people, continues to take the line that little damage to Sylt was done by the British raiders.

DER MITTAG, the Duesseldorf newspaper in a Berlin dispatch writes today: "No lengthy commentary is necessary on the lies of the British about the success of their attack on Sylt for the Press of the entire world with the exception of the British and French papers has advanced decisive proofs of the lack of truth in Mr. Churchill's and Sir Kingsley Wood's statements."

After these bald statements which ignore well authenticated neutral reports the paper adds: "Churchill prudently refrained from letting neutral journalists visit Scapa Flow to observe the results of the German air attack there. But Germany permitted a number of foreign correspondents to visit Sylt immediately. The reports of these witnesses are clear and unambiguous. The neutral observers were unable to find any trace at all of the alleged terrific explosions and tremendous damage."

DER MITTAG, completely ignoring the latest American dispatches on the subject, concludes characteristically: "American reports state that the journalists saw everything on Sylt but could not establish any damage worth mentioning."

The departure of the liner Queen Mary from New York is seized upon by the KOELNISCHE ZEITUNG to let loose a flood of abuse.

"The fact that Britannia, ruler of the waves, no longer possesses safe harbours for her biggest ocean liners has caused so much shame in England that two of these vessels have been removed from New York harbour in quick succession.

"The Queen Elizabeth whose shameful maiden voyage aroused world-wide attention has kept its entire crew on board from which has been deduced that this vessel will also soon depart. Obviously the British do not want to keep dangling this sorry display of 'control of the seas' before the eyes of the Americans. Since for understandable reasons they do not dare to fetch these luxury ships back to England they are fleeing from the German sea warfare to Australia. Since Scapa Flow is not very safe either we are inclined to give Herr Churchill the well-meant advice to send his battle fleet to America or Australia in so far as the ships are still capable of sailing."

The WESTFÄLISCHE LANDESZEITUNG writes today with surprising imagination: "Once again a collection has taken place in England this time under the motto 'England helps France'. The purpose was to assist French women and girls who were unable to buy themselves any more clothes. This collection raised the astounding total of about £2,200. But this sum is not going to be handed over to the necessitous French women. Oh no! on the contrary this money is going to be spent in England on buying up old clothes from Jewish hawkers in order that the profit may stay in the country. Nothing has yet been heard of any expression of gratitude from French women and girls for this amazingly generous act."

DER MITTAG publishes an interview with Dr. Goebbels under the headline "English arrogance" intending to prove that the English are bad psychologists.

"The English have never thought the German people worth studying, still less worth respecting and appreciating," declares this article. "The German worker as well as the German educated classes today know more about the English character, politics and methods than the gentlemen in London suspect. The English have always been bad psychologists. It is because of their long dealings with Colonial peoples which have made them forget how the biggest cultural people in Europe must be treated."

BULGARIA: FRENCH CABINET CHANGES VIEWED AS SIGN OF STRENGTH.

The French Cabinet changes are not viewed by SLOVO as a sign of weakness but rather of strength.

"The change of government in France does not signify the disintegration of the French State," declared this paper during the weekend. "Government changes have occurred in the past both in France and England which are not an indication of weakness but of strength and vitality and elasticity of the regime."

VECHER gave prominence to an American message from Berlin regarding the visit to Sylt by American journalists, and added: "British reports are probably true and the journalists only inspected the southern part of the island, whereas British aircraft attacked the northern part. It is in this district where the damage is to be found."

U.S.S.R: HOW RUSSIA SEES FRENCH CABINET CHANGES.

The Soviet Press during the weekend showed great interest in the change of government in France, and the PRAVDA attributed M. Daladier's fall to "the successive fiascos of the Anglo-French bloc in which, as a result of his policy, France has the subordinate position, although bearing the burden of war."

This paper added: "The French people are growing restive under the economic strain and the bourgeoisie fears the establishment of a military dictatorship."

The belief of IZVESTIA was along a similar course but was even more emphatic, this paper declaring: "Daladier is entirely dependent on England. France is in a state of economic chaos and the reactionaries do not consider victory worth achieving at the price of full state control."

25/3/40 - No. 1.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

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

A quiet night on the whole of the front.  
In the course of yesterday we made a few prisoners in a local engagement.

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25/3/40. - No. 2.

R. A. F. NOT OVER DENMARK

The Air Ministry announces:-

Reports have to-day (Sunday) been published in Denmark and Germany that one or more aircraft of the Royal Air Force violated Danish neutrality yesterday and fired on civilians.

There is no truth in these reports.

AIR MINISTRY.

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The following is issued by Naval Affairs to the Press for such use as they may wish to make of it.

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GERMANY AND THE DANISH SINKINGS.

German U-boats having sunk six Danish ships and one Norwegian ship in two days, the Munich broadcasts to Italy in Italian (2215/23.3.40) has the effrontery to sympathise with the Danish public in the receipt of "the sad news that in addition to the ships, losses of life also occurred". Seldom, if ever, has the civilised world been treated to a more revolting exhibition of the murderer tendering faked sympathy to the relatives of his victims.

The voice of Munich goes on to whine that British propaganda has been trying to set the Danes against Germany by saying that the ships were sunk without warning in flagrant violation of International Law. The height of unctuous hypocrisy was reached when the broadcaster added "In Germany it is categorically pointed out that the Reich strictly obeys the provisions of International Law".

Thus, as usual, the Reich Propaganda Ministry categorically points in the opposite direction to the facts. The facts, which are known to the whole civilised world, are:-

- (1) Every one of these ships was torpedoed without warning in violation of International Law.
- (2) None of the ships were in convoy, or near a convoy when they were attacked.
- (3) That "the Reich strictly obeys the provisions of International Law" was a ghastly jest long before Germany formally announced that she no longer considered herself bound by International Law, as expressed in the freely accepted Submarine Protocol.

The methods of the German U-boats in their murderous warfare against innocent and defenceless neutral seamen is in strong contrast to the British submarine which sank the German iron ore steamer HEDDERNHEIM. The German ship was an enemy carrying contraband, yet she was not sunk until the submarine

/was

was certain that the crew would come to no harm. As a result, there was no loss of life.

The Danish newspaper BERLINSKE TIDENDE yesterday (Sat.) printed a leading article comparing the gallant British submarine commander, who gave the HEDDERNHEIM crew plenty of warning and the inhuman lawless warfare of the German U-boats. The newspaper wrote of the German U-boat methods:- "This warfare is inhuman and lawless. Lawless not only in the sense that it is against the acknowledged rights of all nations, but also because it violates laws which are written in the hearts of those who navigate on the seas, and between whom the common life of the sea has created bonds stronger than the violence of war."

Here again is evidence that German methods of warfare are creating a world-wide revulsion of feeling against everything Nazi.

It is, incidentally, interesting to note that an American commentator broadcasting from Berlin stated last night that the news of the sinking of the HEDDERNHEIM had not been passed on to the German public. Perhaps the German High Command dare not admit that even German's iron ore imports from Scandinavia are vulnerable. It would certainly be difficult to reconcile such an admission with the repeated German boasts that the whole of the North Sea is dominated by the already depleted forces of Germany.

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IT IS REQUESTED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED  
UNTIL THE MORNING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH, 1940.

AIR MINISTRY CASUALTY COMMUNIQUE NO. 23.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The Air Ministry regrets to announce the following casualties on various dates:-

KILLED IN ACTION.

BISHOP	41657	Pilot Officer, L.G.
BUTCHER	515617	Aircraftman 1st Class, J.A.
CLINKARD	39855	Flying Officer, D.C.G.
GLASSON	580651	Sergeant, R.P.
HOBBS	740516	Sergeant, C.C.
MUTTON	551255	Leading Aircraftman, R.A.
SLOCUM	28166	Flying Officer, S.D.
WOOD	550803	Leading Aircraftman, W.K.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "MISSING BELIEVED KILLED"  
NOW PRESUMED, "KILLED IN ACTION".

BAIRD	91062	Pilot Officer, A.D.
GARNETT	90302	Flight Lieutenant, G.W.

WOUNDED OR INJURED IN ACTION.

ARKELL	40498	Pilot Officer, B.H.
ELLIOTT	542385	Aircraftman 2nd Class, J.T.
JOHNSON	37182	Flight Lieutenant, H.B.
PAYN	33367	Pilot Officer, A.J.
PICKERING	623635	Aircraftman 2nd Class, R.J.
REID	740945	Sergeant, J.A.M.
WALTON	812061	Leading Aircraftman, J.
WRIGHT	33351	Flying Officer, C.M.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

ADAM	39838	Flying Officer, W.W.
ADAMSON	40788	Pilot Officer, W.B.
ATKINSON	37340	Flying Officer, J.L.
BELL	70791	Acting Flying Officer, R.
BURKE	551687	Aircraftman 1st Class, H.S.
COVENEY	40291	Flying Officer, J.P.
DADSON	42808	Acting Pilot Officer, D.S.
FISK	41946	Pilot Officer, K.F.
GREENBERG	41919	Pilot Officer, A.A.
HARTLEY	580655	Sergeant, J.D.
HEWETT	41178	Pilot Officer, E.I.
LOMAX	512633	Sergeant, E.H.
MANATON	41600	Pilot Officer, A.C.
MANTLE	621138	Aircraftman 1st Class, F.J.
MAWDSLEY	580968	Acting Sergeant, A.E.
MOTTRAM	36164	Flying Officer, S.C.
MULLINEUX	610830	Aircraftman 1st Class, A.
NICCOLLS	42145	Pilot Officer, H.L.
NOBLSTON	28114	Flight Lieutenant, R.M.
PRICE	565189	Sergeant, N.J.
REES	611643	Leading Aircraftman, B.
SCOTT	37832	Flying Officer, W.T.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE (contd.)

SKIDMORE	40949	Pilot Officer, A.J.
STANLEY	580570	Sergeant, R.J.
TELFORD	517356	Corporal, A.S.
WARDMAN	41502	Pilot Officer, A.S.
WEST	41508	Pilot-Officer, R.E.
WOOLLEN	41238	Pilot Officer, J.A.

WOUNDED OR INJURED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

BELL	37312	Flying Officer, J.R.L.
BOWMAN	70793	Pilot Officer, E.R.
BROUGHTON	581168	Acting Sergeant, H.L.
DAVIS	41261	Pilot Officer, A.P.
ELSDON	41913	Pilot Officer, C.B.
EDMONDS	42376	Pilot Officer, W.G.C.
GOULDER	40383	Pilot Officer, P.S.
JENKINSON	526644	Corporal, W.
KENNEDY	552595	Aircraftman 2nd Class, A.L.
POSENER	41735	Pilot Officer, F.H.
RAISES	913822	Sergeant, B.

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

DOUGLAS	510876	Leading Aircraftman, S.
DOW	355626	Warrant Officer, D.C.
HANAGHAN	616195	Aircraftman 1st Class, J.V.
LEE	742543	Sergeant, F.L.
MEACHAM	644229	Aircraftman 2nd Class, W.T.
REID	702265	Aircraftman 2nd Class, H.J.
WADE	332190	Leading Aircraftman, J.C.
WILLIAMS	513598	Sergeant, W.D.

Press & Publicity Branch,  
Air Ministry,  
King Charles Street,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

26th March, 1940.

25/3/40 - No.5.

CONTROL OF CANNED FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

The Minister of Food has appointed Mr. B.E. Payne to be Director of Canned Fruit and Vegetables. He will be in charge of a new section of the Ministry, to be known as the Canned Fruit and Vegetables Section, at 14, Sherbourne Lane, London, E.C.4.

MINISTRY OF FOOD

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25/3/40 - No. 6.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEN

(Not to be quoted as an Air Ministry Announcement)

A large number of men are needed by the Royal Air Force to man the greatly expanded balloon barrage.

The recruits who are needed fall within two categories.

The majority, amounting to 75 per cent, are required as balloon operators. Their ages must be between 35 and 45.

The remainder who may be between 18 and 42, will be employed as drivers of balloon barrage lorries.

Men who have worked as tailors, upholsterers, mattress makers, scaffolders and winch and hoist drivers will be particularly suitable for training.

Those who are accustomed to driving lorries of 30 cwt. or heavier are also needed.

Work in the balloon barrage is exceptionally interesting. Training covers a wide range of subjects, because all members of a balloon crew are interchangeable when fully trained.

For both operators and drivers the pay on enlistment will be two shillings a day, in addition to uniform, food, accommodation, medical treatment etc.

Family and dependence allowances are also payable. Driving bonus of three pence a day is also authorized. When recruits have completed their training the pay will be increased to three and six a day, with, of course further increases on promotion.

Applications for enlistment should be made to the nearest recruiting centre, the address of which can be obtained from any labour exchange.

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TRADE UNIONS IN WARTIME (2)

BY

W. HOLMES

Chairman of the T.U.C.

Home Service Programme: Monday, 25th March, 1940: 9.20 p.m.

Mem. to Sub-Editors: As this script is being issued in advance, it is necessary to check it against the B.B.C. broadcast.

In the first talk of this series Mr. Hicks described the general background of the Trade Union war activities. Briefly, it comes to this: the Trade Unions are participating in the war effort. Six million Trade Unionists - and a lot of people who would do well to join a Trade Union - together with their families and dependants, expect the Trade Unions to defend their interests and promote their welfare.

You will - as we do - recognise this duty of ours as one which carries great privileges, and equally great responsibilities - responsibilities which, I assure you, the war has considerably increased.

When the war broke out we made no extravagant claims. We sought only to secure what our representative position entitled - and compelled - us to demand. We claimed the right to be taken into the fullest confidence and to be properly and regularly consulted before decisions are taken on matters that directly and vitally affect the working lives of our people. In fact, this right was conceded by the Government and operated before hostilities commenced.

Well, we're going ahead and I want to give you a very brief idea of how we're getting to work.

Now, collective negotiation is a long established feature of industrial relations in this country. The two sides of an industry meeting together discussing their common problems for many years, naturally provide the most experienced, responsible and knowledgeable body to advise and deal with matters connected with their industry.

That is why we advised the Government to utilise the existing machinery in each industry to the full. It is folly to create entirely new and inexperienced bodies when the old established bodies can do the job.

I am directly concerned in agriculture and so I will deal with that first. After consulting the Farmers' Union and the Trade Unions separately, the Minister of Agriculture agreed to meet representatives of the men and the farmers jointly and regularly.

Let me tell you what happens at these meetings. The Minister brings before the Joint Committee matters upon which he desires the advice of the representatives. Both the farmers and the Unions are also entitled to place questions upon the agenda. Now, of course, the Committee is purely advisory, but it does enable us freely and frankly to discuss the questions of common interest to all of us, before the Minister takes definite action.

On each County War Agricultural Executive Committee the Trade Unions are also represented.

On all these Committees we are united in a main desire to ensure that the fullest use is made of the land and the highest

possible return secured from it.

Practically every industry, with some variation as to methods, is now in the same position.

Let me give you another example - the Control of Employment Act. Now to workpeople and employers the "control of employment" sounds a tall order. And, as a matter of fact, the Act does confer upon the Minister of Labour great potential power to ensure that the manufacture of essential supplies is not handicapped by the fact that skilled labour is being employed in the manufacture of articles that we could, in the circumstances, do without.

But this power the Minister possesses is really only a power in reserve. In actual practice no action will be taken by the Minister until the appropriate negotiating body for a trade has considered the position and advised him as to the extent and the manner in which his power shall be used. There are also very proper safeguards for the liberty of the individual workman.

Now about the more general position, as it affects our Unions as a whole.

Now remember our double responsibilities - our members are producers and consumers. First let me deal with activities as representing our producer or working interests.

First, there is a body for the purpose of general consultation between employers, the Trades Union Congress and the responsible Departments of Government. This body goes by the name of the "National Joint Council". Fifteen representatives of the Trades Union Congress and fifteen representatives of the British Employers' Confederation with representatives of Government Departments meet once each month with the Minister of Labour in the Chair. Without interfering with matters concerning only particular industries, it does consider subjects of general industrial significance. I can only mention a few of the things it has already discussed: holidays in war-time, introduction of summer-time, the avoiding building new factories in over-populated districts; the general implications of the proper methods of financing the war; the Schedule of Reserved Occupations; and the Ministry of Labour Cost of Living Index, and so on.

Then, there are our contacts with the Supply Ministry. The Trades Union Congress has set up a Committee to advise this Ministry, which deals with army requirements.

Now, it is the job of the Minister of Supply to see that essential manufactured goods are sufficient for the country's war-time needs. Therefore, he must be in a position to keep the manufacturer supplied with raw materials, the maximum prices of which he fixes.

The Supply Minister maintains Regional Executive Officers, who work on a geographical basis. He has also appointed Controllers to exercise his powers and duties in respect of particular materials and commodities.

So, in addition to our Central Committee, the Unions in the district, together with the employers' organisations, form District Supply Advisory Committees.

Now, let me turn to what we are doing, which is of interest to you as consumers. You know certain of your foodstuffs are rationed and most of them are controlled as to price. These things are done to ensure that our food supplies are distributed fairly and used to the best advantage. This is the job of the Ministry of Food and we have a Committee composed of five members of the Trades Union Congress who meet the Minister and his officials regularly. We discuss freely with him all matters relating to the work of his Department: food rationing, food control, food prices, and so on.

Of course, that Committee deals with the more general aspects of the Ministry's work. To advise and assist the Minister in certain technical aspects of his work as it affects, say, meat distribution or the importation, storage and distribution of butter, and scores of other things, he has appointed a number of Committees composed of persons specially qualified to give him the technical advice he requires. On all these Committees the Trade Unions concerned appoint representatives.

Then there are Local Food Control Committees on which we have now secured provision for representation.

Now the thing running through your minds will probably be, "What are the Trade Unions doing about price control?" Well, we realise this is a really fundamental point.

The Prices of Goods Act is intended to control prices and check profiteering in the sale of articles in common use such as clothing, boots, ironmongery, pottery and other things.

To deal with this question a Central Committee and seventeen Area Price Regulation Committees have been set up. It is the task of these Committees to hear complaints of excessive prices.

As you can see, these Committees are a necessary part of the system of price control. Unless they do their work courageously and well the Act may well become a "dead letter". We think that representatives of Trade Union organisations on these bodies promote public confidence.

So, on all of these Committees, there is at least one and, in most cases, two or three members appointed after consultation with the Trades Union Congress.

Well, I've tried to cover a large field in a short time. It's not possible for me to mention in detail the purpose of other war-time Committees upon which we are playing our part either as direct representatives of the Trades Union Congress, or of specific Unions.

There are :-

- Hardship Tribunals
- Tribunals for Conscientious Objectors
- National Youth Advisory Committee
- The Export Council of the Board of Trade

and so I could go on.

But it should be remembered that our wider obligations are in no way limited. We are concerned with the Welfare Scheme for the Troops and the Red Cross Penny-a-week Fund. This latter Fund, because of the great service it can perform for our fighting forces and its particular functions for prisoners of war, has received our whole-hearted support. The Trades Union Congress has specially urged its members to assist and even at this stage over twelve thousand firms are co-operating. In four thousand cases the Scheme is actually in operation and this number is being increased at the rate of four hundred firms per day with an average of one hundred and fifty/

employees per firm. Well over three thousand pounds per week is being collected at present and the Scheme is gaining momentum.

I have only been able to indicate in outline some of the ways in which the Unions are carrying out their duty of service to the mass of people they represent and to the Nation of which they are an essential part.

We realise the size of the task in hand. We know this war will not be won on the easy philosophy that time is on our side. We must employ drive and initiative in all our tasks.

There are many things we don't like in Great Britain. The Trade Unions must continue the fight they wage in peacetime to rid our land of social evils and injustices.

The home front must be kept sound.

But no home front and, indeed, no real home in the world can be safe whilst Nazism rides roughshod over every principle upon which decent human relationships are based.

These relationships and the preservation of personal freedom are the vital concern of the British Trades Union Movement.

25/3/40. - No.8.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN.

GERMAN CLAIM REFUTED.

The Air Ministry announces :

The claims now made by the Official German News Agency to the effect that a considerable number of British aircraft were lost as a result of the attack on Sylt are wholly false.

As already announced, only one of the British aircraft engaged in the operation failed to return to its base.

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25/3/40. - No. 9.

SIR CHARLES BENTINCK TO BE SPECIAL ENVOY.

Sir Charles Bentinck K.C.M.G., H.M. Ambassador at Santiago, has been appointed Special Ambassador at the forthcoming inauguration of General Peñaranda as President of the Bolivian Republic on April 15th.

FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPT.

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25/3/40 - No.10.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE - EVENING.

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The following Communique was issued this evening from the French G.H.Q.: -

LOCAL ARTILLERY ACTIONS ON VARIOUS  
POINTS OF THE FRONT. INFANTRY FIRE  
ALONG THE RHINE. ACTIVITY OF BOTH  
AVIATIONS.