

FOREIGN PRESS REVIEW

DAILY SURVEY OF WORLD COMMENT ON THE WAR

COMPILED FROM TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No. 100.

13th May, 1940

BELGIUM: WELCOME TO BRITISH TROOPS.

Great relief is expressed in the Belgian Press at the swift aid given to the Belgian forces by British and French troops, and exploits by the R.A.F. are given great prominence.

In an article entitled "Soldiers of Liberty" LIBRE BELGIQUE, the Conservative newspaper, writes today: "They are always the same Tommies with round helmets, a broad smile and a slightly childish expression. They return with their little mannerisms which during the last war were the object of friendly jokes. They return with their silences, their Colonel Bramble, their phlegm, humour and sporting spirit, and especially their courage, which sometimes bordered on rashness. Finally they return with equipment the very sight of which strengthens our population's confidence in the efficaciousness of their intervention."

TURKEY: GERMAN OFFENSIVE NOT A SIGN OF STRENGTH.

"The German offensive is not a sign of strength but is prompted by the need to shorten the war."

This comment was made by TAN the Istanbul newspaper which took the view that Germany was beginning seriously to feel the effects of the blockade.

IKDAM declared, in condemning the German invasion of Belgium and Holland: "The reason invoked by Goebbels is not only ridiculous but impudent. For the sake of civilisation and in the name of Turkish interests we earnestly hope for victory by the Allies. Germany is the enemy of the freedom of nations. She has committed a fresh crime."

Declaring that three fresh victims had been added to "German rapacity" CUMHURIYET added: "Once more it proves the uselessness of adherence to neutrality. The neutrals should unite and prepare to face the aggressors. The German conduct is comparable to, but worse than the conduct of wild beasts in the African forests."

The Ankara newspaper ULUS stated: "The pretext for aggression used in Norway is again served up. It not only mocks but is a positive insult to world opinion."

YUGOSLAVIA: 300,000 READY TO DEFEND YUGOSLAV INDEPENDENCE.

The determination of Yugoslavs to fight for their independence was expressed in a message sent to all branches of the Sokol organisation.

This message was quoted in the Press as stating: "Despite the bitter disillusionments of the last decade the Sokols have preserved an unwavering and clear ideal. Only people ready at any moment to defend their freedom and dignity can look calmly to the future. The Sokols will place their entire organisation and the patriotism of 300,000 members at the service of national defence."

"Thanks to unwearying efforts, all Yugoslavs may now regard Yugoslav armaments with confidence and pride. Brothers and sisters! We have little time. Every day lost means a position lost."

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SWEDEN: "IMPROBABLE GERMAN WAR MACHINE WILL CONQUER".

"The German war machine is fearful but it is improbable that it will be able to conquer peoples defending their own earth, their own rights and the future."

This comment on the latest events in Holland and Belgium was made in the SOCIAL DEMOKRATEN, which, together with other Swedish newspapers, condemned the German invasion of the Low Countries.

SOCIAL DEMOKRATEN pointed out that Germany denied reports about the attack on Holland as late as Thursday evening, and added: "We now know, if we did not know before, how we must treat denials from that quarter. The German Reich put forward the usual excuses to motivate this fearful violation of international law. It will be difficult to convince the world that Holland and Belgium failed in their strict neutrality. A more acceptable explanation is that Germany was compelled to break the Allies' tightening blockade at any price."

"We as a small neutral country feel the deepest sympathy for Holland and Belgium. The Allies have promised rapid help and this has already come. The reconstructed English government, with the co-operation of the Labour Party and with Mr. Churchill at its head, will guarantee England's earnest warfare with the total resources of the British Empire."

STOCKHOLMS TIDNINGEN wrote: "The motive for Germany's action against the neutrals is the same as that given in the case of Norway. The Western Powers were accused of preparing a violation of neutrality and the small countries were accused of un-neutrality. Against these accusations we have the victims' word. What has occurred fills us with grief and horror."

Commenting on the British Cabinet changes the Liberal newspaper DAGENS NYHETER pointed out that Mr. Churchill for many years had been making every effort to mobilise the countries' defences against "the approaching danger". This paper added yesterday: "The Dutch and Belgians can now recall with bitterness that the propaganda of that country whose death-bringing weapons are now operating in their countries attempted to damn Churchill in his countrymen's eyes by stamping him as a war agitator, and tried to persuade them to listen to the doves of peace emanating from Berlin's Sport Palast and other similar oases of good honest co-operation between the peoples."

Referring to Mr. Chamberlain's appeasement policy this newspaper declared that such a policy had to be tried in order to establish beyond doubt where lay the responsibility for the misfortune which had come upon the world. It was added: "When the English people as one man rejected Hitler's offer of an alliance and a guarantee for the British Empire it did so in the knowledge that just as in 1914 everything had been done from the English side to spare the world this catastrophe."

In referring to Mr. Churchill's appointment as Prime Minister STOCKHOLMS TIDNINGEN affirmed: "English opinion in Great Britain played a trump card by placing herself under Churchill's leadership. One thing is certain - the British Government will no longer be accused of half-heartedness and tardiness."

SVENSKA DAGBLADET wrote: "Mr. Chamberlain did not hesitate to resign when it was necessary and the fact that he will remain in Mr. Churchill's War Cabinet is greeted in England with general satisfaction as a tribute to Mr. Chamberlain's unswerving loyalty and noble character."

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U. S. A: ALLIED AIR FORCES' PART IN STRUGGLE.

The part played by the R. A. F. and the French Air Force in the operations in Holland and Belgium is stressed in an editorial article in today's NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE.

Referring to air bombing of communications and troop movements this paper declares: "It is clear that in spite of the havoc they claim to have wrought on the Allied airfields the Germans have not kept the Allied aviation on the ground. For the first time in their destructive career Goering's men are meeting with opposition in kind, and German troops on the ground are learning to feel it. The Franco-British aviation has covered the advance of their ground troops at the same time raking German advance columns and bombing Rhine crossings, airfields and communications in Germany. This vital air phase has not been decided in favour of the Allies but it is certainly not yet decided against them."

Describing fifth column activities and the attacks by parachute troops this newspaper adds: "These tactics appear in the main to have failed. The Hague and Amsterdam were comparatively quiet yesterday. In Rotterdam the situation was obscure but the Germans apparently had come nowhere near mastering the city and there is no indication of parachute troops having proved a serious problem elsewhere."

The NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE continues later: "We are told that a great battle is developing east of Liege, which certainly does not suggest that the key has been lost. The dim outlines of the struggle suggest in a military sense that the opening days have not gone badly for the democracies. But the one thing about which there is no confusion and the one fact that comes through with starker clarity hour by hour is the loathsome overwhelming barbarity of this assault upon peaceful peoples - this bombing and burning of great cities, this savage infliction of the death agony upon the innocent, and this destruction of every civilised value. This is war. This is the hideous thing for which Hitler organised his people and which he has chosen to release upon the world. The battle may sway in one direction or the other but the enormous infamy of it stands ever darker and an ever more imperishable monument to Hitler's Germany."

There is no mincing of words by American newspapers in condemning the German invasion of Holland and Belgium.

The PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER wrote: "The gangster of Europe has struck again. For the moment the sympathies of America will mainly go out towards the most recent victims of Hitler's thuggery. The complete detestation in which he and his Germany are held will merely be strengthened and solidified. In face of this new manifestation of ill-gotten, ill-used power, we in the United States can hardly do less than look to our own defences and measure our own weaknesses."

The ST. LOUIS GLOBE DEMOCRAT declared: "This atrocious assault upon neutral countries is accompanied by mendacious excuses which are customary attendants on Hitler's inexcusable and abominable acts of aggression. That these preposterous pretensions can influence the world in his favour is one of Hitler's singular delusions but they undoubtedly have weight with his own people. Mankind is appalled by the horrors of the conflict into which the mad insatiable ambitions of Hitler are plunging Europe."

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ITALY: "ODIOUSNESS" OF ALLIED BLOCKADE.

Although much space is of course devoted in the Italian Press to reports of the latest events in Holland and Belgium, the newspapers find room for articles protesting in the strongest terms against the Allied blockade.

The VOCE D'ITALIA wrote: "The intolerable Allied policy on the seas offends and menaces Italy's interests. Eight hundred and fifty-seven ships were stopped and deviated in eight months."

The MESSAGGERO used the expressions "How the Allies ridicule liberty and justice"; "Arbitrary irritating methods of control of Italian ships"; "Material errors on deliberate intention of obstructing our traffic by tying the cord of luckless sanctionist memory round Italy's throat."

Even stronger were the headlines used by the POPOLO DI ROMA yesterday. Some of these were: "Piratical procedure of Allied naval control"; "Grotesque Anglo-French odiousness against Italy"; "Ships held for three months in verification ports - hundreds of millions worth of goods damaged or lost - enforced halts imposed upon fast ocean liners - absurdities! coffins subjected to sequestration - entire cargoes blocked for single ball of cotton."

The headlines in the Italian newspapers announcing the German march into Holland and Belgium did not describe it as a measure of "protection" though a Berlin communique was printed describing it as such.

Defending the German invasion Signor Farinacci wrote in the REGIME FASCISTA: "No-one can say that it was Hitler who imposed this duel. This was not the Reich intention when it vindicated Danzig and the Corridor taken from Germany by the iniquitous Treaty of Versailles against the criticism of Mr. Lloyd George, Marshal Foch and numerous French and British newspapers..... England has the war at her doors. Let us hope that no-one will suggest that the Allied situation is more favourable than in 1914. Then there was Italy to fight for all.

"We also hope that there will not be wonder at our present taking up of a position in response to the declaration that British ships are over-running the Mediterranean."

Writing in the GIORNALE D'ITALIA Signor Gayda declared that Belgian and Dutch neutrality did not exist since all fortifications were made against Germany. He added: "The speed of Allied intervention suggests the tacit understanding that they might cross these territories in order to attack the Ruhr. It is also useless for the propaganda of the Imperial Democracies to fling out grand words about international morality. Reality in Europe proves that justice and independence are menaced and attacked - above all by French and British policies. Is not the present regime in the Mediterranean, imposed by the coalesced forces of France and Britain, perhaps a permanent offence to Italy's liberty and independence? And is it not precisely upon this regime that France and Britain openly speculate when their newspapers declare boldly, but deludedly, that Italy would be at their mercy? Is not the exercise of the blockade..... an open contemptible violation of every elementary principle of the liberty of the seas and every rule of international law?"

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JAPAN: JAPANESE VIEW OF WAR'S EXTENSION.

The view that the extension of the war in Europe is "certainly not a godsend to Japan's national economy" is made in the TOKYO NICHU NICHU SHIMBUN which demands that the Japanese Foreign Office should start an active economic diplomacy.

"It is not wise just to await our fate," declares this newspaper. "It is the time for us to make the best use of our influence as a neutral country. Such a good opportunity will not recur."

Welcoming Mr. Churchill's appointment as Prime Minister a commentator in the TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN states: "Now that Churchill has become Premier even the Labour Party is offering its support. We now recognise that England has tightened her loins to wage really serious war against Germany."

This Commentator continues by declaring that the Allies dislike the idea of having the war forced to a quick finish and adds: "They are desirous of dragging the war out into a war of exhaustion of supplies. They want to induce the United States to take part in the war and bring it to an end in the same way as in the last war."

Speculating on the attitude of Soviet Russia this newspaper adds: "If Germany wins in a short time the Soviet with only half of Poland and a section of Finland will not feel very pleased at having such a powerful neighbour. However complete, victory by the Allies would **not** be welcomed either. The Soviet would like to see both sides tire each other out. Perhaps the Soviet will not support Germany so much as hitherto but will start making overtures to England for commercial negotiations."

EGYPT: "FORCE WILL BRING HITLER TO HIS SENSES".

The Egyptian Press does not attempt to disguise its feelings towards Germany's latest acts of aggression, and AL MASRI writes: "These events will not shake the faith of nations which know that they are in the right and the adversary in the wrong."

Stating that international law is "nothing more than a yellow leaf blown about by the wind" AL AHRAM adds: "Hitler has condemned peaceful peoples whose neutrality was guaranteed by international law to fight against the Nazis or become their victims." After a tribute to the courage of the Dutch and Belgian forces this newspaper concludes: "Force alone will bring this man to his senses, when he will realise to what extent he destroyed his own country after ruining half the world."

Commenting on Mr. Churchill's appointment as Premier AL MOKATEM declares: "It is most rare for one statesman to be in charge of a nation's fleet in two great wars. To take charge of the greatest fleet in the world in two great wars, then to preside over the National Defence Committee and later to take over the national leadership by agreement with all parties - this is the greatest testimony that he is gifted with the rarest qualities of leadership."

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CUBA: NAZI AGGRESSIONS CONDEMNED.

The German invasion of Holland and Belgium is condemned by the Havana Press, which expresses jubilation at the rapid advance of British and French troops.

EL AVANCE writes: "The invasion of Holland and Belgium is a desperate putsch by Hitler to carry the war to France and England and to unchain a death blow on London, disconcerting the English and obliging the acceptance of German peace terms before the great democracy on the other side of the ocean intervenes in the defence of liberty."

The left-wing newspaper EL PUEBLO writes in an editorial article: "Mr. Chamberlain prophesied it and it does not come as a surprise to the well-informed. Hitlerism's greatest enemy is still England, and Berlin justifies any risk to obtain submarine and air bases in Holland and Belgium."

EL PAIS declares: "The Western world again suffers hours of anguish. Belgium once more feels the terrible tread of the invader. There are no neutrals. Switzerland will be invaded. Right is bankrupt and human illusions are trodden down, but Germany marches on."

FRANCE: "GORT PLAN WORKED WONDERFULLY."

The general view of the French Press towards the operations in Holland and Belgium was expressed in the words "We have every reason to await the outcome with confidence" and PARIS SOIR declared: "Although the Belgian General Staff, over-careful of neutrality, failed to collaborate, the Gort plan worked wonderfully."

In a tribute to Mr. Chamberlain TEMPS wrote: "One cannot but pay tribute to the frankness and dignity of Mr. Chamberlain who, although having obtained in the House of Commons a majority which would allow him to remain at the head of affairs, resolved nevertheless to retire in order to allow the formation of a government of national unity which it was difficult for him personally to set up in view of the refusal of the Liberal and Labour opposition to lend him the necessary support. Mr. Churchill is now in a position to make his full weight felt and there can be no doubt that he will fulfil his arduous task with all the dynamic energy which is characteristic of him. But it would be profoundly unjust not to pay tribute to the Prime Minister who retires from office and who in all circumstances has shown those moral qualities which are typical of England....."

"History will do justice to the great part played by Mr. Chamberlain, to his honesty and sincerity, which have never failed in this most tragic international crisis which England has known since the end of the Great War. He remained a man of peace and of conciliation as long as there remained the slightest hope of saving peace, but when the fact had to be faced that Hitler and Germany wanted, and were preparing for and seeking war, that she intended to declare war at a time suitable to her, then Mr. Chamberlain courageously faced his responsibilities. He deserves the respect of his country and of all men of good will with ideals of order, justice and human solidarity."

44 BOMBS WERE DROPPED IN KENT.

The Air Ministry announces: -

It is now confirmed that the incendiary bombs dropped in Kent on Friday night, as already announced, numbered 24, and that in addition, 20 high explosive bombs were dropped which exploded harmlessly in a dense wood near Canterbury.

AIR AFFAIRS.

13/5/40 - No.3.

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE
FROM BRITISH GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

G.H.Q. 0005 - 13/5/40

The successful advance of the B.E.F. into Belgium in conjunction with the French forces is continuing as planned. Minor encounters between our cavalry and the enemy have ended to our advantage.

13/5/40 - No. 6.

FRENCH OFFICIAL (MORNING) COMMUNIQUE

The following Official Communique was issued this morning from French General Headquarters:

In Holland and Belgium enemy attacks redoubled in violence, particularly in the region situated north of the Albert Canal, between this canal and the Lower Rhine, as well as in the region south-east of Tirlemont and in the Belgian Ardennes.

On the Luxembourg frontier, from Longwy to the Moselle, no appreciable change, in spite of intense bombardment.

Further east nothing to report.

At the close of the day and during the night, German columns were bombed and machine gunned by our aviation. Twelve German aeroplanes were brought down in the evening of May 12th.

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WAR ORDERS IN CANADA£89,000,000 In The First Year

During the first year of the war, the British Government, through the Ministry of Supply and other purchasing departments, is spending £89,000,000 on buying war materials and other supplies in Canada. This sum, approximating £250,000 per day, has been appropriated for this purpose by the British Government.

Many of the orders have been placed direct from Great Britain through agencies in the British Isles, particularly for raw materials and foodstuffs.

The £89,000,000 appropriation includes the expenditures of the British Supply Board in Ottawa, which does most of its buying through the Department of Munitions and Supply of the Canadian Government - formerly the War Supply Board. According to a statement made by the British Supply Board, orders amounting to some £14,000,000 have already been placed with Canadian firms. It is expected that contracts aggregating a further £3,400,000 will be awarded very shortly.

This total of £17,400,000 is being used almost exclusively for the purchase of finished products, including munitions and other manufactured material required for war purposes, deliveries of which will extend beyond the first year of the war. The figure for munitions included in this total will be about £15,000,000.

The relatively small proportion of the £89,000,000 spent for munitions is due to the fact that the expenditure of shells on the war fronts has until the last few days been less than anticipated and because there has been no interference with the output of munition plants in the British Isles.

British orders placed in Canada, whether direct from Great Britain or through the British Supply Board, cover a wide list of commodities, including mineral agricultural and forest products, food supplies, aircraft supplies and a variety of other manufactured materials, as well as munitions.

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H.R.H. PRINCESS JULIANA.

It is officially stated that H.R.H. the Princess Juliana of the Netherlands arrived in London today accompanied by the two young Princesses Beatrix and Irene.

The people of the Netherlands will be very happy to learn that their beloved Princess is in safety. It is, of course, of paramount importance, even if the worst should happen, (for which fortunately there is no indication at present) that the Royal House of Orange-Nassau should be safe.

Prince Bernhard has accompanied the Princess and their daughters to London with the intention of resuming his duties as A.D.C. to the Queen of Holland as soon as at all possible.

ISSUED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT
AT THE REQUEST AND WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE
NETHERLANDS LEGATION.

R.A.F. HARASS GERMAN TROOPS.

The Air Ministry announces:-

Whitley and Wellington aircraft of the Royal Air Force carried out a series of attacks on enemy communications in Germany between the Rhine and the Dutch frontier during last night.

A force of Blenheim aircraft also heavily bombed enemy troops advancing through eastern Belgium.

All but one of the aircraft engaged in these operations returned safely.

AIR AFFAIRS.

13.5.40 No 11

(Belgian Embassy and Netherlands Legation in London not to be quoted as source)

JOINT BELGIAN AND DUTCH STATEMENT

In a long statement (given out by the German radio) occupying fourteen pages of closely typed foolscap, the German Government has now made public, over the signature of General Keitel, a strange concoction of misrepresentations calculated to convey the impression that, just before the German attack on Belgium and the Netherlands took place, the Allies were on the point of invading the Ruhr with the active or inactive help of the Low Countries.

Perhaps some German fanatics will be edified by this monument of painstaking and thereby typically Teutonic mendacity.

But even in Germany, where many know the Netherlands, or Belgium, or both it may set millions thinking whether this time the Lie has not been too "Kolossal".

On the thinnest semblance of evidence, a vast structure is placed, which being topheavy, falls and crumbles under its own weight

In Belgian and Netherlands authoritative circles here in London, when asked to-day what to think of the recent German attempts to prove that the Netherlands and Belgium had, in fact, since long relinquished their true neutrality and were conniving with Germany's enemies, the following comment was made:

The answer can be found in a nutshell when one succeeds in reading through the confused pages, marked by a peculiar form of immoral shrewdness, of Hitler's "Mein Kampf." "Lie, lie and lie again" he there says, "always repeat the same story over again and people will in the end believe the falsehood to be true". And he even goes to the length of adding: "Do not use small lies: the bigger the lie, the greater the success".

Even if this were a true statement on mass psychology, no decent person would deny that the application of that discovery is fundamentally evil.

Let us not waste any time on the details of the German statement. It is not worth it. The Germans know that themselves.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT

(NOT TO BE QUOTED)

13/5/40 - No. 12.

PRESS NOTICE

OPENING OF SCHOOLS.

The Government wish to make it clear that any arrangements that may have been made for closing schools this week are to be cancelled. All schools are to remain open for the rest of the working week.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION.

AIR TRAINING IN CANADA.

ORGANISED IN FOUR BIG COMMANDS.

Provision has been made for the creation of four Training Commands in Canada under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

No. 1 Training Command has its headquarters in Toronto and No. 2 in Winnipeg. No. 3 Training Command will establish headquarters in Montreal, and No. 4 Training Command in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Each of the four Training Commands will be self-contained for maintenance and supply, and repair and equipment depots will be under the direct jurisdiction of Command Headquarters.

The establishment provides for a Senior Engineer and Supply Officer in each Command, together with a staff responsible for the maintenance of aircraft and the supply of equipment required for pilots, air observers and air gunners.

The various units will be distributed as follows:-

No. 1 TRAINING COMMAND, with headquarters in Toronto: One Initial Training School, seven elementary Flying Training Schools, four Service Flying Training Schools, three Air Observers' Schools, three Bombing and Gunnery Schools, one Air Navigation School, one Wireless School, one Technical Training School, the School of Administration, the Equipment and Accounting Training School, the A.I.D. Inspectors School, one Manning Depot, one Equipment Depot, one Repair Depot, the Air Armament School, the Central Flying School, and seven Recruiting Centres.

No. 2 TRAINING COMMAND, with headquarters in Winnipeg: Five Elementary Flying Training Schools, four Service Flying Training Schools, three Air Observers' Schools, three Bombing and Gunnery Schools, one Air Navigation School, one Wireless School, one Equipment Depot, one Repair Depot, one Manning Depot, and four Recruiting Centres.

No. 3 TRAINING COMMAND, with headquarters in Montreal: One Initial Training School, seven Elementary Flying Training Schools, four Service Flying Training Schools, two Air Observers' Schools, two Bombing and Gunnery Schools, one Wireless School, the School of Aeronautical Engineering, one Repair School, one Air Stores Park, and Six Recruiting Centres.

No. 4 TRAINING COMMAND, with headquarters in Regina: One Initial Training School, seven Elementary Flying Training Schools, four Service Flying Training Schools, two Air Observers' Schools, two Bombing and Gunnery Schools, one Wireless School, one Repair Depot, one Air Stores Park, and three Recruiting Centres.

DOMINION & COLONIAL AFFAIRS.

R. A. F. RAID WAALHAVEN

The Air Ministry announces:-

Royal Air Force aircraft carried out a series of successful bombing attacks during the night against the aerodrome at Waalhaven near Rotterdam, which had again changed hands yesterday and was being used as a base by the enemy.

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AIR AFFAIRS.

DUTCH AERODROME BOMBED(NOT TO BE QUOTED AS AN AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT)

Diving through a smoke pall, aircraft of the R.A.F last Sunday night bombed the German occupied aerodrome at Waalhaven near Rotterdam.

The aircraft, Bristol Beaufort and Fairey Swordfish, swooped on Waalhaven in the dusk and took the Germans by surprise. They met no opposition of any kind either from anti-aircraft guns, searchlights or fighters. Their only obstacle was the smoke from many fires burning in Rotterdam itself.

This made it difficult for the observers to pick up objects on the ground or fully to assess the damage done by their bombs.

As they neared Waalhaven, the Beaufort - latest and best of British light, long-range bombers - broke formation and dived singly upon the airfield.

They roared down thousands of feet before they let go their bombs, and they saw the glare of many fresh fires they had started in the aerodrome buildings. A salvo of bombs from a Swordfish struck the railway lines along the boundary of the airfield. Other bombs pitted the landing ground

The attack lasted for twenty minutes, and then the raiders turned for home

A patrolling flight of Coastal Command Blenheims approaching Flushing a little earlier had beaten off Heinkels and Junkers which were making dive bombing attacks on an ammunition ship in the harbour.

The Blenheims scattered and engaged them at heights varying between 300 and 5000 feet. The dog-fight went on for ten minutes before the Germans broke away

In the middle of the fight, the pilot of one of the Blenheims saw salvos of bombs explode in the Channel about 100 yards from the jetty.

Looking up he saw a score of Heinkels and Junkers circling at 10,000 feet. They were sitting in the sky taking their turn with individual bombing attacks.

One of their bombs exploded in the town. Another burst about 50 yards from the ammunition ship but did no damage.

"Flushing", said the Blenheim pilots on their return, "was crowded with cars, lorries, carts and all sorts of obstructions across the road. There was only one clear lane left.

Other pilots of Coastal Command, reconnoitring over the Dutch Coast, saw four aircraft burned out at the Hague and half a dozen more charred and wrecked on Rotterdam aerodrome.

They could see many parachutes lying on the ground where they had been abandoned by German troops.

AIR AFFAIRS

(Note: This is an amplification of Air Ministry Bulletin 676, and of the Ministry of Information Bulletin Number 14. to day)

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call for civilians

13/5/40 - No. 16.

DOCTORS WANTED

The Army is short of Doctors. Men up to the age of 55 who are willing to volunteer for general duty should apply immediately to the Secretary, Central Medical War Committee, B. M. A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS.

NEW POTATOES

The first new potatoes, lifted this weekend by the Jersey and Guernsey Islanders, arrive in Britain tomorrow (Tues).

No matter where you live you will be able to buy them at 4d per lb. - a price which compares favourably with last year's.

The traffic expert of the Ministry of Food has put through a special transport scheme in order to get this flat rate into operation, Jersey and Guernsey potato growers believe that the scheme saves them £50,000 per year.

Last February the Channel Island potato producers asked the Ministry of Food for help in their war-time marketing problems. The Ministry suggested where savings could be made.

The expert saw, for instance, that in earlier years owing to fierce competition, freight boats capable of carrying away five or six hundred tons of potatoes from Jersey had had to leave with fifty ~~cr~~ a hundred tons.

He noticed that potatoes for towns in the Midlands and North of England were travelling by many different routes, some of them uneconomical.

Now the potatoes, no matter where they are going, are transported at a flat rate which includes war risk and even deterioration insurance. After allowing for these extra war time insurances, the saving on freight amounts to £2:10:0d a ton.

WAR REFUGEES.

In view of the present position in Belgium and Holland arrangements have been made by the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland, with the assistance of Local Authorities, for the reception and accommodation of any refugees who may come to this country as a result of the German invasion of Holland and Belgium. These refugees will be received upon their arrival at British ports at centres to be arranged for their accommodation in London, Lancashire, the West Riding of Yorkshire and Glasgow. By arrangement with the Government of Northern Ireland and with the Authorities of the Isle of Man, some of the refugees may also be accommodated at Belfast and in the Isle of Man.

From these centres, which will afford temporary accommodation only, they will in due course be dispersed to other accommodation of a more permanent character.

It is hoped to accommodate a proportion of the refugees in private households in the following areas:-

A. In the London Area:

In the County of London, excluding the Metropolitan Boroughs of Bermondsey, Bethnal Green, Deptford, Finsbury, Poplar, Shoreditch, Stepney, Southwark and the City of London: in all parts of Middlesex; in the following parts of Surrey, Banstead, Barnes, Beddington and Wallington, Carshalton, Coulsdon and Purley, Epsom and Ewell, Esher, Kingston, Malden and Coombe, Merton and Morden, Mitcham, Richmond, Surbiton, Sutton and Cheam, and Wimbledon; in the following parts of Kent, Beckenham, Bromley, Chislehurst, Orpington and Penge, and in the following parts of Essex, Barking, Chigwell, Chingford, Dagenham, Ilford, Leyton, Romford, Waltham Holy Cross, Walthamstow, Wanstead and Woodford.

B. In Lancashire, Cheshire and the West Riding.

Lancashire. In Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, St. Helens, Wigan, Eccles, Heywood, Leigh, Middleton, Prestwich, Swinton and Pendlebury, Crompton, Denton, Haydock, Newton-le-Willows, Urmston and Worsley.

Cheshire; Stockport, Bebington, Sale and Bredbury and Romiley, West Riding. In Barnsley, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Halifax, Wakefield, Brighouse, Baildon, Elland, Hoyland Nether, Knottingley, Rothwell and Wombwell.

C. In Cardiff and Swansea.

D. In Scotland: In Glasgow, Airdrie, Coatbridge, Hamilton, Motherwell, and Wishaw, Rutherglen, Paisley, Barrhead, Johnstone, Milngavie; in the Parish of Cathcart in the County of Renfrew; in the Parishes of Blantyre, Bothwell, Glasgow, Cambuslang, Rutherglen and Old Monkland in the County of Lanark; and in the Parishes of Old and New Kilpatrick and the Vale of Leven in the County of Dumbarton.

The areas selected are not receiving areas under the Government Evacuation scheme.

Householders in these areas who have accommodation available and are willing to offer it, should it be required for the lodging of refugees, should apply to the Town Clerk or the Clerk of the Council in their area. It is hoped that householders who are in a position to do so will make no charge for the accommodation offered. Those who undertake to accommodate refugees will be rendering a very valuable public service.

Offers of clothing, bedding and household utensils etc. will also be welcomed by local authorities in these areas.

Ministry of Health.

13.5.40 No 21

CLAIMS AGAINST DANISH VESSELS

In the case of Danish ships which have been seized in prize by, or on behalf of, H.M. Government in the United Kingdom, British creditors who, before the date of seizure had claims on such ships in respect of salvage, disbursement, bunkers, or other necessities are reminded that such claims should be registered with the Accountant-General at the Ministry of Shipping.

Claims so registered should not be submitted to the Procurator-General.

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

13.5.40. , No.22.

DIRECTOR OF COTTON TEXTILE PRODUCTION.

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY APPOINTMENT.

Mr. W. Lemkin of Messrs. Dunlop, Limited, who has been assisting the Ministry of Supply as Chairman of the Groundsheet Committee, has now been appointed Director of Cotton Textile Production.

He will serve in an honorary capacity and will be responsible for the co-ordination of all cotton textile requirements now being dealt with by the Ministry and for securing the necessary production of these supplies.

His office address will be Arkwright House, St. Mary Parsonage, Manchester.

Mr. J.A. Wither, Assistant Director for Cotton Textile Production and Mr. H.L. Robinson, Assistant Director for Cotton Equipment, will continue to operate in their respective spheres as at present.

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY.

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PRESS NOTICE.

Three important points in regard to air raid shelters are stressed in an announcement by the Ministry of Home Security.

The first concerns the Government steel garden shelters. It has been observed that large numbers of these shelters have insufficient earth cover. It must be realised that the purpose which the steel serves is to act as a strong support for the earth covering and that without the proper covering it does not give full protection. There is a simple way of finding out whether the earth on the shelter is sufficient. Take a stick or rod and mark on it two points, one 15" from the end and the other 30". Poke this stick through the earth at points round the curved top of the shelter until it strikes the corrugated steel. The earth should be at least 15" thick. Then poke the stick horizontally through the earth at the sides of the shelter until it strikes the upright steel side. Here the earth should be not less than 30" thick.

Another point is that the entrances to many shelters are not protected against blast and splinters. If the shelter is facing towards, and is within 15 feet of, the house, or some substantial wall, it is protected, but if not, a low wall or screen 3 feet from the entrance should be built. This can be just an earth mound, or boxes filled with earth, and should not be less than 30" thick; or if bricks or stone are available, half that thickness.

The third point is in relation to public shelters. People in the streets are in far greater danger than people in houses and it is for them, first and foremost, that public shelter has been provided. Accordingly, at hours when the streets are crowded, people in houses will best contribute to the common safety by staying there and leaving the space available in public shelters for those in the streets.

13/5/40 - No.24.

PRESS NOTICE.

The King has been pleased to approve that the dignity of a viscounty of the United Kingdom be conferred upon the Rt. Hon. Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., O.B.E., on his appointment to be Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

13/5/40 - No 25

OFFICIAL ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE

Since the German invasion of Holland and Belgium strong naval forces have been operating continuously off the coast of these two countries, in spite of repeated bombing attacks having been made on them.

Allied operations on land have been supported. Enemy troops landing from the air on aerodromes and beaches have been bombarded. Refugees have been evacuated from the war area and brought to this country.

ADMIRALTY. S.W.1.

MEM. TO SUB-EDITORS:

As this script is being issued in advance it is necessary to check it against the broadcast at 9.20 p.m. this (Monday) evening on 449 or 391 metres.

THE PAST FORTNIGHT

BY

"NORTH BRITON"

The B.B.C. announces that the following is the text of a talk entitled "The Past Fortnight" broadcast by "North Briton" this (Monday) evening at 9.20 p.m. in the Home Service programme:

Like most ordinary men I have spent a good deal of time since last September grousing at better men than myself who have been sweating at the work of running the war. When I was asked to give this talk tonight I said "Yes - on one condition." The condition was that I could say what I really felt and that I should not talk in support of any interest or party. That freedom was given to me - and I mean to use it, because I believe that the voice of the ordinary man - even if it is my voice - may be worth hearing, particularly if that man has not spent his life cooped up in a London office, is not a candidate for Parliament, and so has no voters to worry about.

What I am supposed to be doing is giving an Englishman's impression of the events of the past fortnight. I don't propose to be exact about the dates. I begin with the change of mood which came over us all when we learnt on May the 3rd that our forces were leaving Central Norway. When that news was made known, most of us jumped to the conclusion that our political and military leaders had let us down. We weren't quite sure whether the blunder was that they had not poured a large enough force into Norway, or that the force was not properly equipped, or that it had been withdrawn too soon.

I am quite clear in my own mind that the depression - and, let us face it, it was depression, - was largely caused by a wave of optimism which swept over us when the German invasion of Norway was first countered by British naval and military action. That optimism was fed by all kinds of reports and rumours of dramatic Allied victories. Most of us knew that to land an effective force in Norway, with its difficult coast line and lack of harbours, and under the aerial attacks of an enemy which had collared all the air bases, was an almost impossible job. But we didn't stop to examine those unconfirmed reports and rumours. We knew that they were unconfirmed; we were told to "accept" them with "reservation." But with most of us there was a lot of acceptance and precious little reservation. We both believed and spread 'em. We ran about saying "I saw it in the papers," or "I heard it on the wireless," and when events proved that the news was exaggerated, we got down in the mouth. And so - I wonder if we were really so completely let down by our political and military leaders, or whether we didn't help to let ourselves down by not thinking enough about what was going on. People who really knew told us that once the Nazis had collared the aerodromes it would be impossible to establish ourselves on the central coast of Norway, but, of course, we didn't listen to the experts. People seldom do listen to experts in this country. Oddly enough experts are sometimes right.

/Well,

Well, the withdrawal from Norway looked very different last Friday morning when the Nazis flooded into Belgium and Holland. It will look very different as the weeks go by and every available man may be wanted for what is coming on the main Western Front. At this moment, as I sit here talking to you, we and our Allies are meeting the full strength of the German attack in the Low Countries. Perhaps those leaders who refused to lock up large bodies of troops in Norway weren't such fools as we thought 'em.

I do know this, that if a very large force had been locked up there, thousands of us would have turned on the Government and condemned it for dispersing its strength at the opening of the greatest battle in history.

Like most of you, I have done a bit of soldiering, but I don't pose as a military expert. Like every other free man in Britain, I do pose as a man with a right to his opinion about politics - and political as well as military history has been made in the past two weeks. A Government has fallen!

If, as many of us begin to suspect, the withdrawal from Norway was not the disastrous blunder it may have looked, was it right that there should be a change of Government over it? Well - the fact of the matter - as I see it - is that the change of Government didn't come about just because of Norway. For a long time past there has been a growing feeling all over the country that a change was needed. Mr. Chamberlain, after three years of unresting work, had about him colleagues equally tired. Through no fault of his, I suppose, his Government did not seem to be - and wasn't - representative of all shades of opinion. Because that Government drew criticism to itself, the impression was being given to the neutrals - and the Nazis were making use of it - that we were a divided nation, that we were lukewarm in our will-to-win, that we cared more for Parliamentary squabbles than for beating the Hun. It wasn't true, but any lie with a bit of colour to it is good enough for German propaganda.

A new Government uniting all Parties was needed. You may say that that could have been managed without swapping Prime Ministers in the middle of a battle. I am not going to argue about that. My qualifications for judging the points of a Prime Minister are as good as yours, and no better... and it certainly isn't part of my job to make comparisons. But I would stress one thing - Mr. Chamberlain himself - and it was like him - has frankly said - and you heard it - that a combination of the leaders of all parties that would not have been possible under Mr. Chamberlain is possible under Mr. Churchill. And I think there is no doubt anywhere that Mr. Churchill has special qualities as a war Premier at this time. For years he has been warning us of what the Nazis were up to, what they would do when their moment came, and for years he has been warning us that our own defences needed drastic repairs. We see now that he was right. He is a man full of drive and energy, and when he makes war - he makes war. He has about him now the leaders of organised Labour and the leaders of Liberalism as well as men of his own Party. Their one purpose is to break the Nazi menace of which the new Prime Minister has always warned us.

If the German propoganda machine tries to churn out the old lie that Britain is not united in that determination, we can now fling it back in their teeth.

Looking back over the past fortnight, I think we can say that it has cleared away a lot of the fog that was hanging over the actual conduct of the war, and it has cleared away a lot of cobwebs from our minds. We know now the full range of the Nazi plan of campaign - we know what to expect if ever the Germans see a chance of getting a footing here - and we know that we have a Government on which we can rely to push the war with all energy to defeat the Nazi hopes of ending the existence of Britain and France.

There is only one danger. It is the danger that people like you and me may say to themselves, - "Well, we've got a new War Cabinet, and everything will be all right!" Everything won't be all right unless every man-Jack of us, and every woman-Jill of us, gives the new Government every ounce of effort we've got in us. It's easy to kill Hitler with your mouth in "the local" or at the Mothers' meeting, and it's easy to cheer Mr. Churchill on a news-reel, but what matters is the work you put in against Hitler and behind Mr. Churchill.

In the past fortnight we've heard a lot of criticism. It's surely time to "cut the cackle and come to the osses." For, believe me, the strength of the new Government is going to be the strength that folks like you and me put behind it.

Hitler says "the Day has come!" Right! A united Britain is going to see to it that for Hitler and his Nazis it is the day of defeat.

EVACUATION SCHEME.
INCREASED BILLETING ALLOWANCES.
EXTENDED POWERS FOR PROVISION OF HOSTELS.

Increased billeting allowances for householders who are caring for school children under the Government's Evacuation Scheme are announced in a circular issued tonight to local authorities in England and Wales by the Minister of Health (Mr. Walter Elliot).

The circular also makes further proposals for the provision of hostels for the accommodation of school children where the local authority in the reception area are convinced that their billeting difficulties cannot be solved in any other way.

The new billeting allowances, which will be made available to householders during the week beginning Friday, 31st May, are as follow :-

Between 10 and 14 years of age, 10s.6d. per week;
 between 14 and 16 years of age, 12s.6d. per week; over 16 years of age 15s. per week.

(The rates at present in force are:

Up to 14 years of age, 10s.6d. per week for a single child, 8s.6d. per week for each child where more than one are billeted; over 14 years of age, 10s.6d. per week in all cases.)

The circular says:

"Recent events may well produce the contingency contemplated by the Government of heavy air warfare involving serious and continuing perils to the civilian population, which would make further evacuation necessary at short notice. But this makes it all the more necessary to continue to plan for an ordered development and to suggest such improvements in existing plans as experience has shown to be desirable".

In spite of the efforts of local authorities to bring home to parents the importance of coming to a decision now, the number of children who have been registered by their parents for evacuation in the event of air raids is only a small proportion of those now in the evacuation areas, and is much smaller than the number for whom plans have been prepared. The Government think, however, that the numbers registered cannot be taken as a true indication of the numbers who would present themselves for evacuation in the event of serious bombing. They have therefore decided not to make any alteration at present in the numbers for which plans have been made.

It is, however, important, adds the Circular, to bridge as far as possible the gap between the number registered and the number who may well present themselves for evacuation in the event of air raids. Evacuating authorities are accordingly urged by the Minister to take all practicable steps, if possible by personal approach, to obtain replies from parents who have not as yet sent any.

The quotas which have been allocated to the receiving districts represent the maximum numbers which can be conveyed under the transport arrangements which have been made, and it may well be that in some of the districts the numbers received will be less than these figures.

Householders' Goodwill.

"The Government are highly appreciative of the successful efforts which have been made during the last eight months by the receiving authorities and the receiving householders for the maintenance and care of those children who were evacuated at the beginning of the war. The fact that after eight months there are still over 300,000 children in the reception areas is a tribute to the efficiency and goodwill of those responsible.

"The war situation makes it necessary still to retain these children in the reception areas and the Minister recognises that this service continues to make a heavy call on the goodwill of householders in the receiving areas. Whilst it is not considered that the rates now existing are inadequate for the maintenance of children, the Minister has come to the conclusion that it would be proper to recognise this service by a further review of the rates of these allowances in the case of the older children, the cost of whose maintenance is inevitably higher than that of the younger children."

In recognition of the special difficulties of this task, and of the importance of the genuine goodwill of householders who continue to give this service, the Government have decided that the rate of payment in respect of the older unaccompanied school children shall be increased as stated above.

Provision of Hostels.

"The provision of hostels", the circular continues, "has formed an important part of the plans of receiving authorities and the minister has had under careful consideration the lines along which such provision can be developed. The Minister has been in consultation with the President of the Board of Education as to the provision of hostels for groups of evacuated children attending secondary, junior technical or central schools and in special cases, senior schools. Association of the teaching staff with the management of such hostels will be essential and it has, therefore, been arranged that such proposals should be formulated by the Local Education Authority and submitted by them to His Majesty's Inspector of Schools.

"In view of the importance of securing relief for householders who have cared for children for a long time and now desire some relief, and looking to the importance of a nucleus of hostel provision in connection with further evacuation, the Minister will be prepared to approve other suitable proposals for the provision of hostels for the accommodation of children, where the billeting authority are convinced that their billeting difficulties cannot otherwise be solved. Such proposals may be to a considerable extent by way of temporary provision for children for whom a billet is not immediately available or for children billeted with a householder who requires a rest but is ready to take back the children in due course."

Officers with special experience in welfare work are being added to the staff of the Ministry of Health for the purpose of organising welfare work among evacuated children. It will be part of their duty to seek to bring together the resources of all existing organisations, both official and voluntary, interested in the problems which necessarily arise from this large-scale transfer of the child population.

A similar circular is being issued by the Secretary of State for Scotland.

13/5/40 - No.30.

PRESS NOTICE

The War Office states that it has been decided that the use of railway concession vouchers may be extended to include mother, fathers, sister and brothers wishing to visit unmarried members of the Army lying ill or wounded in hospital in Great Britain, in cases where fare is paid by the relatives at the time of booking.

The concession will apply to the relatives of all ranks, including members of the Auxilliary Territorial Service and Members of Voluntary Aid Detachments, and will be available for not more than two relatives on the occasion of each visit.

Tickets at reduced rates will be issued upon the surrender at the booking office of Army Forms O1798, in the case of relatives of officers, and Army Forms B. 295 B, for relatives of other ranks, on payment of the appropriate fare.

The forms must be endorsed by the issuing officer:- "Mother (or other relative as the case may be) visiting soldier in hospital", and will be available for journeys in Great Britain only. These vouchers will not be available for Cross Channel journey.

This arrangement became operative from 1st May, 1940.

WAR OFFICE

CANADA'S WAR ON THE WING.

Canada's war mechanism is responding to the head of steam which her efforts have generated. She enters the seventh month of hostilities fully braced for the economic strain. In the coming fiscal year, the war will cost her £100,000,000 - about 12% of her income, as compared with Britain's proportion of 29, and Germany's 40%.

The prosperity of the Dominion is indicated by an increase of 20%, as compared with the first two months of 1939, in the volume of business; 13% in mineral production; 30% in manufacturing operations; 26% in exports and 69% in imports; while there are 21% less unemployed.

With the springtime softening of the frozen ground, building has been resumed, and the structures provided by the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan are being completed. Of these the Air Observers' School at Edmonton, Alberta, may be taken as a sample. It embodies two hangars, an instructional school, quarters and messes, a hospital, stores, garage, and other buildings.

Canada's Central Flying School at Trenton will mark an advance upon that whose canvas tents and sheds were erected on Salisbury Plain thirty-eight years ago. Here men, already familiar with aircraft, will be trained to instruct pilots from Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The system adopted will enable young men to take their place in any squadron, and to follow the operational routine essential for co-operation between flight and flight and man and man. Facilities for the speedy repair of aircraft are also provided at Trenton, where six workshops are being built beside a railway line, enabling aeroplanes to be brought in and overhauled without loss of time.

More than half a million sterling monthly is now flowing into the homes of Canadians on active service, the number of beneficiaries (wives, children, parents, and other dependents) being 55,000. The money, which will soon reach £600,000, represents assigned pay and allowances.

Within the past two months a million articles of hospital and surgical supplies and clothing have been shipped to Europe by the Canadian Red Cross Society.

13/5/40 O No. 33.

PRESS NOTICE

The King has been pleased to approve the following appointments:

Secretary of State for India
and Secretary of State for Burma: The Rt. Hon. Leopold Stennett Amery, M.P.

Minister of Health: The Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, M.P.

Minister of Labour and Minister
of National Service: Ernest Bevin, Esq.

Minister of Food: The Rt. Hon. Lord Woolton

The King has also been pleased to approve that Mr. Ernest Bevin be sworn of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council on his appointment as Minister of Labour and Minister of National Service.

10 Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

TODAY'S AIR OPERATIONS.

The Air Ministry announces:-

Intensive operations by the R.A.F. continue on all parts of the front.

Considerable numbers of enemy bombers have been encountered often escorted by fighters. Reports so far received indicate that over forty more enemy aircraft of various types have been shot down by our fighters at very small cost. The striking success of our fighters defence may explain the fantastic claims made by the enemy as to the number of Spitfires destroyed. Actually only one Spitfire was forced down after a battle near Rotterdam early this morning, in which a flight of Spitfires shot down three enemy dive bombers and at least one of the fighters escorting them. The Spitfire pilot escaped uninjured.

The attacks on our aerodromes have today been less intense. Little damage to aerodromes has been done and casualties have been slight.

The advance of enemy troops has been impeded by a series of successful night bombing attacks on both sides of the Dutch frontier.

The re-occupation of Waalhaven by the enemy has been followed by a series of bombing attacks which have restricted his use of the aerodrome.

Daylight bombing attacks have been successfully carried out against enemy columns in Belgium and Luxembourg. Intense opposition was encountered, resulting in some loss to our bomber squadrons.

Coastal Command aircraft have been engaged in patrolling the Dutch coast and have accounted for several enemy fighters. Attacks were also made on enemy patrol vessels.

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

AIR FIGHTS OVER ROTTERDAM.

A pilot officer of the R.A.F. Fighter Command had an anxious few minutes near Rotterdam early this (Monday) morning, when, after shooting down a JU. 87 Bomber in flames and attacking three more Junkers, he found that he had joined formation by mistake with two Messerschmitt 109 fighters.

He had used up all his ammunition in the four attacks he had made, and no method of defence was open to him but flight.

'On realising my mistake', he reported afterwards, 'I at once climbed into cloud and returned to my base'. He also reported that several JU's 87 had tried to make head-on attacks on his Spitfire, but without success.

In all, six Spitfire pilots took part in the action. Between them, they shot down two JU 87 for certain and probably a third, as well as a Messerschmitt 109 from an escorting flight of German fighters. A JU 88 was also attacked.

The Spitfire pilots fought in two sections of three each. One section encountered a formation of twelve JU's to the East of Rotterdam, some of which were already starting dive bombing attacks.

The escorting Messerschmitt at once tried to engage our Spitfires. 'I engaged a ME 109', the Sector Leader, a Flight Lieutenant, stated, 'And just as I ran out of ammunition, he broke off and went into a dive'.

The second section of Spitfires attacked another formation of Junkers, also near Rotterdam. A sergeant pilot told on his return how he had followed a Junkers as it turned and twisted only just above ground level, and, after his fourth attack, saw it crash. Later, he was able to engage two more of the Junkers. The escorting German fighters again tried to intervene, but without success.

Five out of the six Spitfires returned to their base. The sixth pilot landed in Holland and is unhurt.

AIR AFFAIRS.

THREE BLENHEIMS FIGHT TEN NAZI.

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

Three Blenheims of the R.A.F. Coastal Command searching for targets on the Dutch coast today (Monday), encountered six Messerschmitts 110's and four Junkers 88. The half dozen Messerschmitts alone should have been able to deal with the slower not so manoeuvrable Blenheims.

The three British pilots nevertheless engaged the enemy force of ten and a mixed battle followed. The British aircraft maintained a close formation and received every attack by the Messerschmitts and Junkers with concentrated fire. Several times the enemy aircraft were thrown into disorder by this reception. Thus the British formation could alter course to punish individual machines cut off from their fellows. In one manoeuvre, a Messerschmitt received a long burst at only 100 yards range and crashed into the sea.

Most of the other Nazi aircraft were damaged by the Blenheims' guns which gave the Germans nearly 7,000 rounds before the combat ended in cloud.

13/5/40 - No. 37.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

(EVENING)

The following official communique was issued this evening from French General Headquarters:-

In Holland and in Belgium the German troops continued today their massive attacks. Especially to the south of the Lower Meuse in Holland the Germans made progress.

In Belgium in the region of Saint Tront French counter attacks mostly led by tanks inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. In the Belgian Ardennes the Germans made a particularly important effort when they were able to advance. Our cavalry units after having fulfilled their mission to retard the enemy fell back on the Meuse which was reached by the enemy on a part of its course. The enemy has brought heavy pressure to bear on Longwy. These attacks were repulsed as well as those launched to the east of the Moselle and in the region of the Saar.

There is nothing to report along the Rhine. Allied and enemy bombers continued their activity in support of the land forces attacking the adversary's columns. Fifteen enemy aeroplanes were brought down during these encounters. In the rear of the lines continued enemy aircraft activity resulted in little damage from a military point of view.

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