

AIR MINISTRY NO. 933

22/6/40 - No. 3.

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE.

As already announced enemy aircraft crossed the East Coast during last night and air raid warnings were sounded in many districts.

Anti-aircraft defences were in action.

Bombs were dropped sporadically in several counties on the East coast. Most of them fell in the open country and caused little damage except for some that fell on a Suffolk town - one of which demolished a house and killed three people. Elsewhere, the only casualties reported are three people wounded.

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AIR AFFAIRS.

War Office not to be quoted
as official source.

HOW BRITISH TANKS HELD THE RIDGE.

A British officer states:-

At midday on May 23rd four Heavy, six Medium and four Light British tanks were ordered to prevent the Germans seizing the high ground overlooking Souchez. We took up our position on the crest of the ridge - we got better observation from there, and we were no more visible than we would have been elsewhere, owing to the complete lack of cover.

We were shelled by German field guns at about two or three thousand yards range, but no one was hit. Then we saw three medium German tanks accompanied by Infantry debouching from a wood at about one thousand yards range. We opened fire and I saw three tanks hit immediately by 2-pounder shells. With a tracer shell it is always possible to see a direct hit. The three German tanks remained stationary for the rest of the battle; they tried to put out smoke and cover themselves, but this was ineffectual.

The German Infantry continued to come on, and the fight continued for about one hour. We fired on them with our machine-guns, and they never got closer than 500 yards. I think that we succeeded in accounting for the lot. I did not see a single man get away.

Later on that evening the Germans got round our flanks, and we were ordered to retire. Just as we were moving off we were attacked by German tanks coming up the slope. I, personally, knocked out two light tanks with my 2-pounder. I saw these tanks three hours afterwards, and they were still burning.

War Office not to be quoted
as Official source.

22/6/40 - No.5.

THREE TANKS FORCE THEIR WAY INTO
GERMAN-OCCUPIED VILLAGE.

A British Officer states:-

On May 23rd, near Souchez, at about 6 p.m., three of our heavy tanks received orders to find out whether the Germans were occupying a certain village.

The three British tanks advanced. I was in a light tank and followed on behind. As it was nearing the village the leading British tank was fired on by four anti-tank guns sited in a ditch by the side of the road. The British tank was repeatedly hit, but the shells did not penetrate. With the assistance of the tank next in line the four anti-tank guns were knocked out and destroyed. As I passed later I saw that direct hits had been obtained on them. The crews were machine-gunned, and not a man escaped.

Meanwhile the third tank had continued to advance whilst the two other tanks were dealing with the anti-tank guns. On reaching the outskirts of the village it met a German motor-cyclist company coming down the road in a column. The British tank opened fire with its machine gun. I was behind and saw what occurred. At least fifty percent of the company were knocked out, and the remainder cleared off by a side road, or took shelter in the houses.

The other two tanks had now come up, and the three advanced together up the main street of the village. They met ten or twelve German light tanks coming down the street. Both sides opened fire simultaneously. Several of the German light tanks were destroyed and left on the road. The remainder turned tail. The British tanks, which had sustained no casualties throughout the action, now advanced to the further outskirts of the village. No enemy being in sight, and their mission accomplished, they then withdrew.

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

AIR MINISTRY No. 934.

22/6/40 - No. 6.

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE.

Aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm and Coastal Command aircraft of the Royal Air Force yesterday attacked enemy shipping, docks, naval storehouses, and an oil depot at Willemsoord, a German-occupied harbour in Holland. Two enemy vessels were sunk. One enemy fighter was destroyed.

One of our aircraft was shot down.

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THE GERMAN POLICY OF ECONOMIC RUIN AND EUROPEAN FAMINE.

Before the war the Germans, to prepare for their war of universal conquest, deliberately adopted a policy - the policy of guns before butter - which brought Germany to the brink of financial collapse and starvation.

In September, 1939, Germany wantonly attacked Poland, precipitated a European war and thus aggravated the situation in their own country. Poland was ruthlessly devastated with enormous loss to civilian life and large numbers of Poles were either deported to Germany in conditions akin to slavery or transplanted in order to make way for the Germans who, as the result of the Russian agreement, had to be moved from the Baltic States.

The other countries of Europe in fear of German aggression, which turned out amply justified, were compelled to mobilise their armies and so to diminish their productive capacity. A gradual deterioration in the economic life of Europe set in.

This process was accelerated by the invasion of Norway and Denmark in April. The deliberate scientific ruthlessness which characterises German methods of warfare is applied to their exploitation of the territories they acquire by these frightful means. Both these countries were systematically plundered, in order to feed the German war machine. The sufferings of the people in the conquered territories had never influenced the plans of the invaders.

In May the process was extended to Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg and subsequently to France. Wherever they came the German armies have spread misery and destruction. The entry of Italy into the war has enlarged the starvation area. Today almost all of Western and Central Europe lies under the German heel and is faced with famine as the result of the policy of Nazi Nihilism.

But just as Germany seeks to claim that Great Britain provoked the war, so she will attempt to ascribe the disaster she has herself created to the British blockade or to Britain's obstinate determination to prosecute the war.

The truth is that Germany aims at the enslavement of every country in Europe and there can be no liberty nor even a tolerable standard of living so long as Nazi philosophies prevail.

The German protest against the so-called "hunger-blockade" (which has been sounding ever since the last war) is not inspired by humanitarian motives. Just as she invaded Denmark and robbed her of her butter to feed her armies, just as she is now exploiting the dairy farmers of Holland to feed her war-machine, so she would fain have the blockade raised in order that the meat and wheat of the New World might be available to feed that same machine and strengthen it for fresh efforts.

The last bulwark of Western civilization and indeed of world civilization is the British Empire, upon whose efforts the future of mankind depends. It will be the aim of German propaganda so to distort the facts as to make it appear that Great Britain has wrought chaos on the Continent of Europe and that man's hopes must rest on the triumph of the very forces which have ravaged and impoverished countless millions and seek to impose a like fate on the remainder of the world.

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"GO TO IT" RIVALS.

This is a story of how men in a Ministry of Supply Ordnance Factory, "went to it".

It had become essential to strip out and replace a lengthy culvert, carrying gas from a producer to several furnaces used for heat treating big gun barrels. The furnaces, it was estimated, would need to be out of use for three weeks, and the gun makers had provided for this, when along came the call for speeding-up production.

The job involved a "heavy-gang" to remove the old culvert in sections and, assisted by millwrights, follow up with positioning the new steel casing ready to be brick-lined by a squad of brick-layers. The men were asked to show what they could do as a war effort. They worked twelve hours a day, seven days a week, each group determined to prove that it could go faster than the other. At the end, in the words of the heavy gang foreman, "the brickies swore they would catch us up, and tried hard to do it, but they never did".

They finished that job all square in two weeks.

Air Ministry News Service.

A LIGHTNING RAID.

A raid on the German-occupied harbour at Willemsoord, on the Dutch coast, by a squadron of Hudson aircraft of the Coastal Command yesterday afternoon lasted less than a minute. During that time nearly five tons of heavy and incendiary bombs were dropped. Two ships were sunk and another badly damaged, an oil storage depot was set on fire, naval store-houses were blown to rubble, and German machine-gunners received a dose of their own medicine.

Willemsoord is a small port containing a capacious harbour basin flanked by warehouses. The Hudsons came in low over the town, taking the defences by surprise.

"I was following the leader's aircraft" said one of the pilots. "He went down below 500 feet and I saw his bombs drop off. I watched them fall directly on the larger of the two ships. There was a terrific explosion. A large part of the ship's side was blown into the water - the bombs struck almost exactly amidships. Then we let go our own bombs and hit the other ship. We were so low that the explosion shot us forward and upward. It felt like a series of kicks from a horse."

The other aircraft followed in quick succession. The pilot of the last to attack found himself slightly out of position. He realised that if he dropped his bombs he might hit the town. He therefore made another circuit and came in to deliver his attack alone.

By that time all the ships in the harbour were a mass of smoke. Some of the bombs had struck the quayside against which the ships were moored, and several warehouses were burning. Another bomb apparently hit the oil storage depot, for a column of thick black smoke shot up to the sky and grew steadily larger.

From his seat in the rear turret, one of the air gunners saw grey-clad figures of German soldiers running for shelter.

"One machine-gun post was letting fly at some of our aircraft", he said. "So, as we came past it, I gave the post a pasting from my gun. The Germans leaped over their sandbags and ran. I saw two of them fall flat on the ground and stay there lying on their faces".

Aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm co-operating in the same raid carried out attacks on an aerodrome, docks, and barges in the region of Willemsoord and Texel. They were heavily attacked by Messerschmitt 109 fighters. One British machine, which came out of a cloud beside the Messerschmitt was shot down. Immediately afterwards, however, the Messerschmitt was in turn attacked by another British aircraft whose gunner, although slightly wounded in the side, sent it down to earth with smoke pouring from its fuselage. The petrol tank of this aircraft was holed and the observer was splashed with fuel. He held his hand over the puncture until sufficient petrol had been used to bring the level below the hole.

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22/6/40 - No. 10.

P R E S S N O T I C E

The Ministry of Home Security makes the following announcement:-

If an air-raid warning has been sounded or if an air-raid has taken place in your district, do not use the telephone, or send telegrams. These services are needed for defence purposes until a considerable time after raiders have passed. Similarly the public must refrain, during such periods, from telephoning or telegraphing to places which they believe to have been bombed.

MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY

Press Notice: Not for broadcast before 9 p.m. news bulletin Saturday June 22. Not for publication before Sunday morning papers June 23.

NEW NATION WIDE ANTI-WASTE CAMPAIGN.

COMPULSION TO BE USED.

Mr. Herbert Morrison, Minister of Supply, has decided to apply the principle of compulsion to the collection of salvage.

All local authorities with populations of over 10,000 will be required to arrange efficient systems of collection. All householders in the areas of these local authorities are to be required to co-operate in a new nation wide anti-waste campaign.

The Minister has come to the conclusion that while during recent months much good work has been done in collecting various materials by the voluntary system the time has now come when, in the national interest, more drastic measures are imperative.

Mr. Morrison has been recommended to take this new action by the Committee of women M.P.'s set up, under the chairmanship of Miss Megan Lloyd George, to advise him on salvage questions.

Miss Lloyd George and the vice chairmen, Miss Irene Ward and Mrs. Jennie Adamson, and members have been busy; and though the Committee was announced only on May 30th it has had a number of meetings. This is its first recommendation to the Minister.

Most urgently needed are waste paper and cardboard, scrap metals and household bones. Other materials such as waste food and rags may be added to the list from time to time.

It is to speed up the collection of these materials by mobilising millions of households and hundreds of local authorities that the new decisions have been taken.

It is pointed out that when, six months ago, the Ministry of Supply requested the local authorities to extend their refuse collection schemes, there was a good response and continuous improvement has marked the progress of the campaign.

Some Councils, however, have not yet organised any salvage work and among those that have done so there is a great disparity in efficiency of the schemes operating. Similarly some householders have done excellent work in separating and putting aside materials that can be used again, while others have given no help at all.

It is now essential that salvage collection of raw materials vital to the country's increased war effort should everywhere be tightened up.

The Minister of Supply, under the powers conferred by the Defence Regulations, will accordingly very shortly issue Directions to all local authorities representing a population meantime of over 10,000 requiring them to provide or maintain schemes to deal efficiently with the collection and disposal of the materials most urgently required.

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It is proposed to follow these Directions shortly with an Order requiring householders to make these materials available for collection. Details of methods of collection - which will be as simple as possible - will be made known in each district.

While responsibility for seeing that collection of salvage is properly organised will rest with local Councils, provision is to be made for utilising merchants, rag-and-bone men, and voluntary organisations who have already given important help. The machinery of collection will thus be fully used, and overlapping should be reduced, with saving in manpower, petrol and expenses and increase in efficiency.

In a statement emphasising the urgency of the new decisions, Mr. Morrison says:

"In the drastic reorganisation of our resources to meet the present situation we cannot afford to ignore a single potential addition to our fighting strength.

"We are mobilising our man power, and we have keyed up our industrial capacity. Now we must see to it that not one piece of raw material is wasted.

"Just as we are striving to use every pair of skilled hands and every machine tool capable of furthering the output of arms, so from now on we must strive to banish waste.

"Every piece of paper, every old bone, every piece of scrap metal is a potential bullet against Hitler. We would never fling away a bullet. We must never fling away one piece of scrap that can be salvaged.

"In this matter men and women in the home have a duty as vital as the men and women in the arms works.

"I call for more scrap - as I have called for more arms. I am certain that the whole nation will respond to an appeal which affects everyone equally and which none has good reason to evade. This is a war job for each one of us".

Ministry of Supply,
Press Office,
Adelphi, W.C.2.

June 22nd, 1940.

22/6/40 - No.14.

PRESS NOTICE.

Arrangements have been made whereby persons coming from France may exchange French francs in their possession for sterling with banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange. For the present, a limit of £20 (say francs 3550) per person per week has been fixed.

Persons wishing to avail themselves of this facility should bring with them to the bank their passports, National Registration Card or other documents of identity, and should be prepared to produce and declare all the French currency in their possession.

TREASURY CHAMBERS.

22/6/40 - No. 29

CORRECTIONS IN THE ERNEST BEVIN'S BROADCAST
(ISSUE NO. 16 today)

Page 2. Last paragraph, line 4, should read -
"partake of food without being thankful to the
Navy and Merchant Services, for their marvellous" etc.

Page 3. Third paragraph, last line should read -
"and Merchant Service fully fed. I know you will do
it."

Page 4. Last paragraph, Line 3 should read "that the
might and tenacity of the people of this nation will".

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Check by Delivery. Not to be published
before the actual broadcast at 9.20
to-night (Saturday, June 22).

BROADCAST BY MR. ERNEST BEVIN, M.P.,
(Minister of Labour & National
Service).

I get a very large correspondence from a variety of citizens in all walks of life appealing for direction as to what they should do to help the country at this critical hour. My task is the mobilisation of every form of assistance to win this war, but you will appreciate that it has to be organised.

As an old fighter, while I welcome the assistance in the struggle that everyone could give, I like to feel sure that in the last analysis the organisation we create must be capable of winning through even if it is left to ourselves. Therefore I repeat, from all quarters and from every lover of liberty we want help and to the extent that it comes we shall be grateful. But we are determined, even under the most extreme conditions, to achieve victory whatever the cost may be. I propose to show you the steps that have been taken, and the opportunities that are opening up for people to fit in this great organised effort.

I will deal with the Forces first.

By to-night two and three-quarter million in the prime of life and many of them breadwinners will have registered for service in the Fighting Forces.

Next month four more age groups will be registered in accordance with a considered and scientific plan which balances the requirements of industry on the one hand and the Services on the other. Many of the delays between registration and calling up are already liquidated, and those outstanding will be dealt with. Men who expressed a preference for the Navy and Air Force and have had to wait about, disappointed, will now be examined and released, if not required for those services, for enlistment in the Army. We must, however, keep an adequate number for these two vital Services and if they are registered and not called up I want the rest of the public to know that they are not shirking. They are serving the nation by working and preparing themselves for the requirements as they arise.

You are well aware of the powers that Parliament has passed. This was not necessary only to meet the new military situation, but the Government felt that nothing short of it could win the war. I have therefore - happily with the consent of all Parties - taken drastic steps to control and use civil labour up to the maximum capacity, so far as materials and orders allow.

And as the great call-up takes place for the Forces there will be a wider call for labour from less essential industries and for women to go into munitions. And this does not mean only working people, this law affects everyone.

Now these are the steps that have been taken. There is no need for strikes or lock-outs and they must not take place and interfere with the production necessary to win the war. But all this needs careful handling. Utilise the machinery in your own trades to its fullest possibility.

Act with reason, consideration, and, if you fail, arbitrate, but allow nothing to interfere with production.

I have issued orders forbidding employment in the engineering trade or civil engineering except through an Employment Exchange or the channel of an approved Trade Union. This arrangement was absolutely essential in order to get the difficulties of employment straightened out. I make an urgent request to the employers and management, particularly in the large works, to build up a personnel management so as to assist my officers in the Labour Exchanges and make the transfer of labour to the most important and urgent jobs effective.

In agriculture I have limited the employment of agricultural workers to their own trade, and also made available men employed by County Councils for transfer during this important season to help out with agriculture. I urge Agricultural Committees and the County Councils to effect this transfer as speedily as possible. I am still receiving complaints that it has not been dealt with as expeditiously as it ought to be.

Conscientious objectors are available for the land. Prejudices must be put on one side, farmers should utilise their services to produce food immediately in the national interest.

I am anxious that agricultural needs should be satisfied, but farmers must make their applications. I cannot guess where they want workers. They must act themselves. This applies to forestry and horticulture as well.

Coal production has become an imperative necessity and there are still more experienced men wanted to go back to the mines. You want to beat Hitler. This is the way to help. Report to the Labour Exchanges.

In the docks I have grouped the docks in certain specified areas so that the men can be quickly transferred should any of the ports be put out of action temporarily. The arrangements made are clear, and I am certain that my old friends the dockers, the moment my officer asks them to move, will go with speed, and discharge the precious cargoes. I am grateful to both sides for the way they have responded to the call for the more efficient handling of the ports.

And so in aircraft and the general munitions trade the reports which you see demonstrate how willingly you responded during these past weeks, and not only the nation but the world is grateful to you.

And now a word about shipbuilding and ship repairing. The position now is that your homes and your freedom from invasion depends on the success of our Navy, our wonderful Navy.

The world acknowledges how marvellously it has handled the situation - transport of troops, evacuation of them again, keeping the sea routes open. I can never sit at a table and partake of food without being thankful for their marvellous devotion to duty and their great courage. I want you to think of them in that way and when you retire to your rest never forget that your very security depends upon these marvellous men. But they must be equipped and equipped quickly and every man in the shipyard, whether he is working on a Naval or a Merchant ship is responsible for the effective maintenance of the Fleet. His duty when a ship is knocked about, or a new one is being built, is to put it into service at the earliest possible moment.

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And this does not only apply in the shipyards. It applies to the men and women working on marine engineering, gun mountings, electrical apparatus and everything else that is needed. I must urge that the most resolute effort should be made to give the Navy what it needs. And if a Merchant ship is torpedoed or damaged then it must be got back into commission as quickly as possible.

Unless the Navy keeps the sea routes open you would be unemployed and the blockade of the country made possible. They will do their part, but every man engaged on this work is now, as it were, behind the line, feeding the men with the munitions of war.

I say to every Trade Union delegate, every employee in the yards, shop steward and management alike, your first consideration has got to be, not any question of demarcation, not a question of who should do this or who should do that, but how quickly you can all combine to keep that great Navy fully fed. I know you will do it.

I have agreed with the industry to assist them by appointing National Service Officers to deal with the transference of labour to the most urgent work. These officers will be told what the most urgent work is. Some times you may be engaged on such urgent work and then you may see it standing by not being used. But that is only due to the fact that the strategy of war has changed and in a few days time it may be needed to play a part. So do not question it. I urge you to get on with it and let nothing stand in your way.

Every ship we can get in the water now is a contribution to winning this victory and you men in the shipyards and in the factories have as large a responsibility as if you were actually enlisted.

I recognise that all this effort we are calling for represents a great physical strain and I am not neglecting that side of it.

I am being assisted in that matter by a new Factory and Welfare Advisory Board. I have had offers of assistance from voluntary organisations in connection with welfare outside the factory. I have met them all together and they have formed a committee to advise me. This means that all the suggestions and help that are forthcoming can be concentrated and placed before my Central Board. But the main work of the voluntary organisations will be in the localities, and there I am appointing regional and local welfare officers immediately. They will serve as a pivot around which the great voluntary organisations can work in an organised manner.

Youth - I had, happily, ready at hand the National Youth Committee established by the President of the Board of Education and the Secretary of State for Scotland, and they have kindly consented to be my agents and undertake the job of looking after the recreative interest of young factory workers. I know that I can count on the support of the local Educational Authorities and the local Youth Committees.

I hope soon to publish suggestions to Industry for so arranging the hours that industrial fatigue can be reduced to a minimum. I recognise that overstrain is bad for output. I have to try and get the maximum production and regulations cannot be devised to apply universally. I must rely on a good deal of common sense application between representatives of men and management and secure in a general way the necessary rest periods and other facilities which will keep up the physical strength and morale of our industrial army.

In this matter I am concerned about the position of women and young persons.

Long hours for them are not good and one suggestion that I am submitting is that more women might work one or two days a week and thus provide a break for the regular workers.

This means a considerable amount of organisation but it has a double advantage. You get a relief for your ordinary staff and you are training thousands of other women to develop factory sense and make it possible to fill up gaps as the great call-up takes place. I urge the managements to consider this immediately.

Again, many managements could go through their shops and they could, by re-arrangement, get many more skilled men into the higher jobs. Please do it and fill up the less skilled jobs with other men or women. There need be no fear on the part of the Unions. I have arranged the compulsory registration of changes and provided adequate means to see that what you give up now is restored at the end of the war.

I have found it necessary in all the essential industries to put aside holidays and I thank you all for that response.

Dealing with physical strain I want to appeal to the housewife. Most of the work now is shift work. Many workpeople have to sleep in the day. Will you please turn your wireless off or place it very low. A disturbed rest period means a lowering of the productive capacity of the working person. Do not then have it blaring away and stop people from resting.

There is a further new development, a plan for health and recreation. It is the scheme of the Central Council of Recreative Physical Training which is working in close conjunction with the Football Association. Football grounds in all parts of the country are being placed at the disposal of the Organisation and physical training classes and games have started on the fields of Bradford, Reading, Fulham and Charlton Athletic. Everyone is invited to join, particularly arms workers and Civil Defence Units, and youths who want to keep fit and those about to be registered for military service.

The four grounds I have named, and twenty-four others, will be opening every evening next week and the numbers will be rapidly increased.

By these means we are all doing our utmost to relieve the war strain and equip minds and bodies for further strain.

Now take advantage of this and play your part. Everyone in this land is a soldier for liberty. Your part may be a small one and not so intimately concerned with fighting and production as that of a soldier, sailor, airman or arms worker, but you can find a lot to do. In the frame-work of the organisation that you see now being evolved in some capacity or another you will find a place to play your part as this great war effort increases.

We must regard ourselves as one Army, the Fighting Services, management, workpeople and the home, and if we do I am confident that the might and majesty of the people of this nation will prevail over the powers of Nazi darkness and bestiality. We are standing right up to it. Hitler's success will be brought to nought and the name of Britain will go down in history from now on, not as a great imperialist nation, but as a marvellous people and a wonderful island that stood in the critical history of the world between tyranny and liberty and WON.

REGISTRATION UNDER THE NATIONAL SERVICE

(ARMED FORCES) ACT, 1939.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service announces:

The provisional figures of those who registered to-day, Saturday, 22nd June, 1940, at the Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service were:-

England	283,268
Scotland	32,692
Wales	<u>17,035</u>
Total	<u>332,995</u>

Of the total the numbers provisionally registered as conscientious objectors were:

England	1,856
Scotland	272
Wales	<u>163</u>
Total	<u>2,291</u>

This figure represents .69 per cent of all those registering and the lowest per centage yet recorded. The men required to register were those who reached the age of 29 during 1939, i.e. the 1910 class, and men who had reached the age of 20 since May 25, 1940.

The figures do not include, (A) those who, because of the distance of their homes from the Local Office, will be registering by post, (b) seamen and fisherman who may have registered at Mercantile Marine Offices, and (c) persons unavoidably prevented from registering owing, for example, to sickness or being at sea.

The next registration under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act will be held on Saturday, 6th July, 1940, when the 1909 class (i.e. men born in the year 1909) will be required to register.

22/6/40 - No.19.

ADMIRALTY AND AIR MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

The 26,000 ton German battlecruiser SCHARNHORST has received considerable damage through attack by our naval and air forces. A German destroyer has also been hit by a torpedo.

One of our submarines sighted the SCHARNHORST soon after she had left Trondheim Fiord. The battlecruiser was clearly on passage to a safe port where she could repair the damage sustained when hit by at least one heavy bomb during an attack by aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm on June 13th. She was heavily escorted.

The submarine attacked the SCHARNHORST and obtained one hit with a torpedo.

As soon as the report of this attack was received, R.A.F. aircraft of the Coastal Command were dispatched to shadow and keep in touch with the enemy.

Shortly afterwards an attack was delivered by torpedo-bomber aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm. No hits were scored on the damaged battlecruiser, but one of the escorting destroyers was hit by a torpedo. Two of our aircraft failed to return.

An hour later a bombing attack was made on the SCHARNHORST by R.A.F. aircraft of the Coastal Command. In spite of intense opposition, resulting in the loss of three of our aircraft, bombing attacks were pressed home, and three direct hits with heavy bombs were made on the SCHARNHORST. Two enemy fighters were also shot down in flames.

Units of the Royal Navy were immediately dispatched at high speed to intercept the German forces, but with the visibility rapidly deteriorating, further contact was not made.

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ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.

22/6/40 - No.20.

The Secretary of State for War, the Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P., accompanied by Colonel C.E. Ponsonby, M.P. Parliamentary Private Secretary, visited Army units in South-East England today.

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

Gefreiter Army	Heinrich TATE	Holzhausen b. Bahrenborstel, Bremen	Aged 26
Unteroffizier Army	Ludwig SCHONER	Langenthalheim b. Treuchtlingen	Aged 24
Unteroffizier Army	Stephen KRUSCHINSKI	Recklinghausen S.2.	Aged 28
Feldwebel Air Force	Erich MAAR	Köln	Aged 26
Hauptmann Air Force	Herbert NOSTER	Stendal (Altmark)	Aged 34
Soldat Army	Heinrich LUBJEN	Karbshoefen Kreis Bremervoerde	Aged 27

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

22/6/40. - No. 23.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN NO. 937.

AIR MINISTRY NEWS SERVICE

R.A.F. BOMB SCHARNHORST

The German battle cruiser Scharnhorst has been effectively attacked by aircraft of the R.A.F. Coastal Command and Fleet Air Arm (already reported in issue No.19 of to-day).

Notwithstanding an escort of destroyers, and a guard of fifty Messerschmitt Fighters, at least three direct hits were made with heavy bombs. Two struck alongside Numbers One and Two gun turrets. The other was full on the stern, from which a great quantity of debris rose in the air.

The enemy ships were shadowed by relays of our Lockheed Hudson reconnaissance aircraft for nearly nine hours. Often, the Hudsons, with which a Sunderland flying boat co-operated, were themselves intercepted by enemy aircraft, and a number of firece combats took place.

The British aircraft continued observation of the movements of Scharnhorst until the light became suitable for a bombing attack, which was carried out by a mixed striking force of Beauforts and Hudsons.

What the pilots described as an avalanche of light and heavy anti-aircraft shells met the striking force as it went into position for the attack. Five of our aircraft failed to return.

All the time combats were taking place between the attackers and Scharnhorst's escort. At least two of the Messerschmitts were destroyed, one by a Sunderland flying boat. Other enemy fighters were seriously damaged.

AIR AFFAIRS

22/6/40. - No. 25.

Air Ministry No. 938.

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE.

During the daylight hours of yesterday, aircraft of the Royal Air Force reconnoitred North-West Germany and bombed two aerodromes and an oil refinery. All our aircraft returned safely.

Our bombers last night extended their activities over a wide area in Northern and Western Germany and attacked Military targets of major importance. Two of our aircraft are missing.

One of our reconnaissance aircraft today attacked and sank a large enemy supply ship in the North Sea.

AIR AFFAIRS.

22/6/40 - No.26.

C O R R E C T I O N.

In Issue No.24 of today's date the first two lines
should read:

"It is learnt in London today that the French Colony
in Syria and Lebanon have addressed the following
telegram from Beirut to the President" etc.

FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPT.

22/6/401 - No. 27.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN No. 939.

AIR MINISTRY NEWS SERVICE

ENEMY SUPPLY SHIP SUNK

A 6,000 tons German supply ship was destroyed in the North Sea to-day by a Hudson aircraft of Coastal Command.

Three bombs were dropped on the vessel, which was heavily laden and carrying a deck cargo. They scored direct hits and the ship began to sink by the stern in a column of flame.

When three Messerschmitt Fighters which had been escorting the supply ship came on the scene, the Hudson escaped into the clouds. Later it returned and observed the German ship sinking.

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AIR AFFAIRS

NIGHT ATTACKS ON GERMAN AIRCRAFT FACTORIES
AND AERODROMES.

Important German aircraft factories and storage buildings at Bremen, Kassel, Rothenburg and Gottingen, were attacked last night by heavy bombers of the R.A.F. in a series of raids lasting for nearly an hour and a half.

At Bremen the attack was directed against the large Focke-Wulf Aircraft Works. The first bomber reached the target five minutes before midnight, and in the bombardment that followed a large number of heavy and incendiary bombs were dropped.

Hits were registered in the centre of the factory buildings, and two violent explosions were observed. Fires were started at various points of the aerodrome which adjoins the works, and one of the hangars was extensively damaged.

The objective at Kassel was the Fieseler Aircraft Works, and in the course of the attack several bombs were seen to fall on the target.

Hangars were damaged at Rothenburg, as well as the aerodrome and military buildings.

An aircraft storage depot at Göttingen was also considerably damaged by high explosives dropped by another attacking force.

Another bomber attacked the aerodrome at Huntlosen, south-west of Delmenhorst, which was clearly visible in the moonlight, and set light to a number of aircraft lined up on the west side of the air base. Heavy bombs were also seen to burst on the runway. Aerodromes to the north of Hamburg and at Kassel were also successfully attacked.

Simultaneously with these attacks, other squadrons of heavy bombers were engaged in raids on railway junctions, marshalling yards and oil depots in North-West Germany. In the course of them, six supply and ammunition trains between Osnabruck and Bremen, and near the town of Rheine, were wrecked by direct hits from high explosives.

A salvo of bombs dropped by the raiders on a goods train at Furstenau, north-west of Rheine, completely wrecked it.

A direct hit was made with a heavy bomb on the station at Ohrtemesche, and when a second bomb hit a goods train which was standing in the station a severe explosion followed. This first explosion was followed by a series of minor explosions for fifteen minutes, as though ammunition in the wagons was igniting. A fierce fire resulted.

One mile to the north of Lemförde Station, on the line from Osnabruck to Bremen, the pilot of one of the bombers saw two trains near one another and moving in opposite directions. Several attacks were made, as the result of which both trains were wrecked.

The aircraft later found another goods train on the south side of Lamport, and this also received a direct hit.

Another squadron of bombers, attacking the station at Lingen, an important junction north-west of Osnabruck, made direct hits on a goods train standing in it.

The Krupp works at Essen, as well as railway sidings nearby, were bombed by another section of the raiding force, and several hits were registered on the factory buildings. A large oil storage depot near Hanover was subjected to high level attacks.

BROADCAST TO EUROPE.

Broadcasting in French in the European news in English at 11 o'clock this (Saturday) night, General de Gaulle said:-

The French Government after having asked for an armistice, now knows the conditions dictated by the enemy.

The effect of these conditions would be that the French land, sea and air forces would be completely demobilised and that our arms would be surrendered and that the territory of France would be wholly occupied and the French Government would fall under the dependence of Germany and Italy.

It must therefore be said that this armistice would be not only a capitulation but a submission to slavery.

There are many Frenchmen who would not accept either capitulation or slavery, for reasons which can be described as honour, common sense, and the highest interests of the country.

I say honour, because France has undertaken not to lay down her arms except in agreement with her Allies. So long as these Allies continue the war her Government has not the right to surrender to the enemy. The Polish Government, the Norwegian Government, the Dutch Government, the Belgian Government and the Luxemburg Government, although driven from their territories thus understood their duty.

I say commonsense, for it is absurd to consider that the struggle has been lost. Yes, we have undergone a great defeat. A bad military system, faults committed in the conduct of the operations, the defeatist spirit of the Government during these recent combats, made us lose the battle of France. But there remains to us a vast Empire, an intact Fleet, much gold. There remain to us Allies whose resources are immense and who dominate the seas. There remain to us the gigantic possibilities of American industry. The same conditions of warfare which resulted in our being beaten by 5,000 aeroplanes and 6,000 tanks could to-morrow give us victory with 20,000 tanks and 20,000 aeroplanes.

I say the highest interest of the country, because this war is not a Franco-German war which can be decided by one battle. This war is a world war. No one can foresee whether the countries which are neutral to-day will remain neutral to-morrow. Even the Allies of Germany may not always remain her Allies. If the forces of liberty triumph in the end over those of slavery what would be the destiny of a France which submitted to the enemy.?

Honour, common sense, the interest of the country demand that all free Frenchmen should continue the fight wherever they are and by whatever means they can. It is, therefore, necessary to group wherever this can be done the greatest possible French force. Everything which can be gathered together in military units and in means to produce armaments should be organised wherever there are any such.

I, General de Gaulle, ~~undertake~~ undertake this national task here in England.

I invite all Frenchmen of the land armies, of the naval forces and of the air forces, I invite the engineers and the specialist workmen of the armament industry who may find themselves on British territory or who can come there, to join me for this purpose.

I invite the leaders, the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen of the French forces, on land, on sea and in the air wherever they may find themselves to get into touch with me. I invite all French people who wish to remain free to listen to me and to follow me.

Long live France free in honour and in independence.

22/6/40 - No.31.

PRESS NOTICE.

There is no confirmation of the signature of an armistice by the French Government as reported by American and German sources this (Saturday) evening.

It is understood that the French Government have put forward counter-proposals.

Meanwhile, reports have been received in London from all parts of the French Empire, stressing their loyalty and making clear that feeling in the French Colonies is strongly in favour of continuing the war. Various Governors-General and commanders of troops have indicated that they are prepared to continue the fight against aggression side by side with the British Empire.

In one case, the Governor-General stated that he would never accept terms of capitulation, and others have indicated that if the French Central Government surrender they will continue the struggle if necessary under British orders.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
