

24/1/43 - No. 3

INDIAN JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE

The following joint communique has been received  
from India this morning:-

Last night January 23 Royal Air Force long range bombers attacked the Japanese airfield at Heho in Central Burma. Heavy bombs were dropped on the runways and bursts were also seen in dispersal areas.

Yesterday aircraft on offensive patrol along the Arakan coast attacked seven enemy steamers with bombs and machine gun fire.

From these operations none of our aircraft is missing.

WAR OFFICE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TALKS  
BEFORE 0030 B.S.T. (i.e. FOR MORNING PAPERS)

MONDAY JANUARY 25, 1943

THIS MEBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFERENCING  
ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE MEBARGO

CANNED FRUIT RELEASE: ADVANCE OF POINTS TO RETAILERS

As already announced, canned fruit is to be released for sale on points on the first day of Ration Period No. 8, Sunday, February 7. (Bottled fruit will not be on points). It is believed that retailers in general will have sufficient points available to purchase the necessary supplies of canned fruit to meet their customers' requirements in Ration Period No. 8.

There may be cases, however, where the canned fruit offered for immediate delivery to the retailer will represent his total share of the present distribution. To avoid unnecessary use of transport and to prevent the breaking of bulk, the Ministry of Food will, on application to the local Food Office, issue to retailers an advance of points for the purchase of canned fruit, provided the following conditions are satisfied:-

- (i) the average turnover in points in respect of each retail shop during Ration Periods 5 and 6 did not exceed 6,000 points per ration period;
- (ii) points equal to an amount of not less than one fifth of the points collected by a retailer in Ration Period No. 6 are used to acquire canned fruit.

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A retailer/to satisfy both these conditions should apply to the local Food Office, stating as well the total point value of all the canned fruit offered to him. He will then be issued as soon as possible with points vouchers, up to a maximum value of 5,000 points, to enable him to purchase his consignment of canned fruit. The points thus advanced will be recovered by deductions from later surrenders of points coupons beginning with Ration Period No. 9.

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MINISTRY OF FOOD

The following are extracts from a speech to be delivered by Mr. George Hicks, M.P., Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Planning at the Bristol Labour Party Meeting, at 2.30 p.m. today in the Olympic Cinema, Carly's Lane, Bristol:

We, who belong to the Labour movement, we the ordinary working folk of Britain, are all out in the war. We are working, and striving and fighting against the Powers of slavery and darkness; against the hideous Powers of Nazi-Fascism, which seek to dominate, oppress and plunder us as they have three hundred millions of men, women and children in Europe; Powers which - given a chance - would exterminate our Trade Unions, Co-Operatives and Labour Party, crush our Democratic Movements, eliminate our Democratic Institutions, rob us of our basic rights as human beings, and reduce us to monstrous degradation, ignorance and misery.

This is a people's war. It is a war for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. For all humanity. Not some - but all. And it is the inflexible resolve of the Labour Movement to make it such - to wage it as such, no matter the cost or sacrifice - and to ensure Victory.

... ..

If the Sam Smalls of today fail, at the right time, to pick up the modern equivalents of their muskets, Waterloos may be lost. A train derailed by a couple of unkerpt guerillas may have consequences beyond computation. A bomb dropped into the middle of a factory making the delicate parts of aero-engines may decide air supremacy over a wide region at a vital moment. A ship, suddenly torpedoed and sunk in a dark night, amid the murky wastes of the sea, may delay a campaign. If men and women working in a munitions factory become lax and dispirited, who can say what dire results it may have at the front? If miners slacken in coal production, or agricultural workers slacken in food production, or if dockers fail to unload quickly and turn ships about, who can tell what the consequences may be? So much, indeed, everything depends on individuals. The big and little factors inter-nix, and who shall say which are the most important?

But in a broad general way the pattern of the war becomes more distinct. War is a string of battles, all inconclusive until the last.

We are winning. There can be no doubt about it. The weight of man-power is on the side of the United Nations. The weight of metal - of the machines and weapons of war is on the side of the United Nations. The weight of aircraft, and of shipping - despite the assassin U-boats - is on the side of the United Nations.

These will tell in the final reckoning.

Greater still, the power of the spirit - the morale factor - is on the side of the United Nations. We are witnessing, amid the struggle and conflict, smoke and fire, agony and desolation, a tremendous upsurge of the will to be free, and whole-sonely, decently human. Despite the frightful organised powers of oppression and murder, humanity is rising to be humanity.

... ..

It will do us good - every now and again - to ponder on what would have been our fate if the people of the Soviet Republics had not withstood the onrush of Hitler's hordes, and had not, in the past weeks, so triumphantly hurled them back. Suppose Hitler's original claim to have broken the Red Army had been fulfilled? What then? Take a copy of "Front Line" - that remarkable book issued by the Ministry of Home Security - with its pictures of the Blitzes - and reflect on what would have been left of our houses, streets, neighbourhoods, our villages, towns and cities, if the Luftwaffe had been able, freely, to concentrate on reducing Britain to ruin and rubble. Reflect on what would have been our personal fate, or the fate of those near and dear to us - for how many would have been able to escape death or injury? The Russians have borne the major portion of the burden and the sacrifice. On them, on their homes, on their villages, town and cities, have been showered the bombs - the agonies of fire and destruction - which the Nazi gang would have delighted, with demoniac glee, to have showered on us and our homes. It will do us good to ponder, as I say, on the immeasurable debt we owe to Russia. It is just the deep consciousness of that debt which should make us give our utmost contribution to the war effort. It is just that which should spur us on to cement the closest relationship; which should make us internationalists, good citizens of the world.

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Our confidence of victory should not cause us to relax in effort, or become complacent. Our confidence should steel our resolve to leave nothing undone, individually and collectively, to achieve that victory as soon as possible. To bring victory a day nearer means the saving of many lives, of much treasure, of considerable needless pain and misery. Every energy, every thought, must be concentrated on victory in the war. Until that is won all other matters and questions are secondary, and must be relegated to the background.

But victory in the war will be only victory at half-cock; victory in the peace is equally essential. War and peace are indivisible. They are the two sides to the one victory. We dare not let the gains of the war run through our fingers as a handful of sand, to be lost and blown about willy-nilly. How can there be any substance to victory unless we hold and cherish the freedom won, the security won, the opportunities for building a new and better world won at so terrible and ghastly a price?

... ..

In this European night discontents, troubles, resentments, exasperations grow, accumulate, gather together, become more and more explosive. It is a night of gathering revolution. Who can doubt that? The dawn will break, red and furious.

Terrible will be that dawn of European liberation, when the Nazi Armies crumble after defeat - and the peoples rise in their wrath for vengeance.

... ..

Europe is mightily sick - economically, socially and politically deranged - inflamed with passionate hatred of Nazi barbarism and Quisling treachery - loaded with revolutionary potential as by a burning fever - Europe is bursting, longing, hoping, for the dawn of deliverance.

How are the starving to be fed - the homeless given homes - the dispersed families reunited - the livelihoods restored - the shattered economies rebuilt - the wounds of the war assuaged - the hatreds and passions appeased - the revolts conditioned and ordered along constructive channels? How is the coming revolution in Europe - this liberation of three hundred millions of crushed, tortured and plundered human beings - to be given conscious purpose and direction, imbued with the aims and ideals of the international Labour Movement, set in courses of practical reconstruction conditioned to build a New Order of peace, security, universal well-being and happiness?

In my view every other problem of the war and its aftermath pales beside this gigantic problem.

... ..

It rests with our Democratic Movement - local national and international - to ensure that the ordinary, common people rise triumphant from out of this war. The war will only be worth while if they do so rise. They will have paid the price in blood and tears, toil and sweat, suffering and sorrow. We must have a new birth of democracy. Or, rather, the fuller realisation of democracy. "Democracy is played out" say the Fascists. Democracy has never been played in. Certain forms of political democracy we have had, but never basic economic democracy in which the people democratically owned their means of life, and democratically distributed the wealth accruing from nature and labour so that every man, woman and child was enabled to have well-being and life's satisfactions and joys on the foundation of equal citizenship.

... ..

Ah, but can this be? Must not some go hungry in order that others may be fed? Must not some suffer want in order that others may be free from want? Must not some endure servitude in order that others may be free? Are not poverty and servitude and degradation obligatory on some in order that others shall have a monopoly of well-being?

The emphatic and challenging answer of the Labour Movement is NO.

We say, and can prove, that the human society in which we live has the knowledge, the organising capacity, the wealth, the land, industry, plant and machinery which, if intelligently ordered and used, can provide good food, good clothing, good homes, the culture and enjoyment of real civilisation, for all. The earth is rich. Harvests can be made overwhelmingly abundant. The wealth-producing capacity of modern industry is inestimable. Poverty is as much a result of social neglect and stupidity as is war. They are both unnecessary ..... The world is in transition. Let us move forward to the building of the New Order - the Co-Operative Commonwealth of the World - of free and glorious Humanity.

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MINISTRY OF WORKS AND PLANNING

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RATIONING OF CREWS OF CERTAIN MARINE CRAFT

The Ministry of Food has made provision for a modified weekly seaman's ration book, R.B. 6., to be available to men who, not being eligible for the weekly seaman's ration book, are engaged in marine craft and are habitually employed under conditions which keep them afloat for the greater part of the time, in circumstances which make it impracticable for them to be provided with normal catering facilities whether afloat or ashore.

The modified book has holes punched through the coupons for meat, sugar and points, and these coupons are valid for about one half the allowances obtainable against R.B. 6 coupons not so punched. The remaining coupons have the same values in both the modified and ordinary R.B. 6 books.

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES  
BEFORE 00.30 B.S.T. (i.e. FOR MORNING PAPERS) ON  
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1943

THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING  
ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO

MR. ERNEST BEVIN SUPPORTS ACTION BY FACTORY INSPECTOR

Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and National Service, has made enquiries into the recent prosecution and conviction of a firm in B. Anglia for employing women on Sunday as well as on the other days of the week, to which reference has been made in the Press.

He found that the firm in question were clothing manufacturers; that special hours for women had been authorised under emergency powers; that the firm had been previously warned as to non-compliance with the law, and that they had employed women on the two previous Sundays also.

It was pointed out from the Bench that a failure in the gas supply pleaded by the defence did not affect the two previous Sundays and that 21 days' work running was hardly a technical offence.

Mr. Bevin emphatically supports the action taken by the Factory Inspector in this case.

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MINISTRY OF LABOUR & NATIONAL SERVICE

24/1/43 - No. 11

MIDDLE EAST JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE

British G.H.Q. Cairo.  
January 24, 1943.

Yesterday our troops, after occupying Tripoli, continued their advance, and by evening were in contact with the enemy well to the west.

Following 72 hours of intensive attack the Allied Air Forces reduced their pressure yesterday, owing to the fast withdrawal and thinning out of the enemy's motorised columns.

During the night of 22/23 January our light bombers attacked the most easterly enemy landing grounds and started fires. Targets in Sicily were also attacked.

Fighter bombers continued the assault against targets in Sicily yesterday, and small shipping off Tunisia was bombed and machine-gunned.

From the above operations one of our aircraft did not return.

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WAR OFFICE

24/1/42 - No. 12

Air Ministry No. 9082

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

Last night aircraft of Bomber Command continued the attack on the submarine base at Lorient.

Visibility was good, and the docks were clearly seen. In twenty minutes a great weight of H.E. and incendiary bombs was dropped, and many large fires were left burning.

Another force of our heavy bombers attacked objectives in Western Germany.

From these operations three of our aircraft are missing.

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R.A.F. RAID WESTERN GERMANY AND LORIENT

The R.A.F. carried out two heavy raids last night, one on the submarine base at Lorient and the other on objectives in Western Germany.

The ground defences put up an intense barrage over the German objectives, but the flak at Lorient was only moderate.

The force which attacked Germany were all four-engined bombers. The last crews to leave saw the glow of large fires through the heavy cloud that hung over the target.

The Germans put up many night fighters along the route. A Messerschmitt 110 attacked one of the Lancasters, but the rear and mid-upper gunners returned the enemy fire and saw their tracers striking the attacker's port wing and port engine. Smoke poured from the fighter, which finally disappeared into cloud.

Cannon and machine-gun fire from a twin-engined fighter raked another Lancaster. The attack came from the port side shortly after the bomber had left the target area. The pilot took evasive action, and the enemy aircraft passed to starboard. For a few seconds the bomber crew thought they had lost it, but suddenly it returned to the attack. A burst of fire damaged the Lancaster's hydraulic system and holed starboard wing, rear turret, starboard tailplane, bomb bays and fuselage. However, by taking quick evasive action, the Lancaster pilot shook off his assailant and landed safely at base.

There was bright moonlight over Lorient, and our crews found no difficulty in picking out their objective. They started very heavy fires, which could be seen 150 miles away, and the pilot of a Halifax, who stayed over the town to make a reconnaissance report, said that he saw a huge explosion among the flames.

The rear gunner of a Halifax said that the raid on Lorient was "relatively peaceful".

"When we got to the port," he said. "we could see the docks and town very clearly by the light of the moon and the glow of heavy fires. I could see the reflection of the flames in the river. As the fires grew bigger, smoke began to drift over the target and made things rather more difficult for the bomb-aimer.

"I watched between 20 and 30 bombs bursting and when we left there were a good many fires well alight."

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MONDAY, 25th JANUARY, 1943  
THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY REFRAINING  
ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the  
Reverend Arthur Stretton Reeve, M.A., Vicar of Highfield, Southampton,  
to the Vicarage of Leeds, vacant by the appointment of the Reverend  
Canon Wilfred Marcus Askwith, M.A., to the Bishopric of Blackburn.

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10, DOWNING STREET.

RECIPROCAL LEND-LEASE

STATEMENT BY MR. E.R. STETTINIUS

Washington, Sunday

Mr. Edward R. Stettinius, U.S. Lend-Lease Administrator, today issued a statement on reciprocal lend-lease aid received by the United States.

The statement follows:

Lend-lease has never been a one-way affair. In addition to other benefits which the United States receives in return for lend-lease aid, our Allies are providing us with supplies and services as reciprocal lend-lease. These are provided without dollar payments on our part.

Reciprocal lend-lease aid to the United States has now reached very large proportions.

Reciprocal aid has already saved millions of tons of shipping space and hundreds of millions of dollars. Like outgoing lend-lease, reciprocal aid is speeding the process whereby the United Nations are mobilising their full offensive power for use against the enemy.

Records on what we have received are not yet complete. However, reports received by the office of Lend-Lease Administration up to January 15 of this year show:

- (1) Supplies, other than construction materials, received by the United States forces in the United Kingdom alone, from May to November, 1942, would have taken 1,200,000 tons of shipping, if shipped from the United States. This is more than the tonnage of supplies sent to American troops in the United Kingdom during that period. In addition, our forces received a vast quantity of other supplies, facilities and services.
- (2) Supplies received by our forces in the south and south-west Pacific areas, from Australia and New Zealand has already included more than 200,000,000 pounds of food, including beef, veal, pork, lamb, mutton, eggs, milk and butter. We are shipping almost no food to American forces in these areas. We are able to use the shipping space we save for tanks and guns instead.

The United States has received reciprocal aid under the terms of the Lend-lease act and master lend-lease agreements concluded with Great Britain, China, the Soviet Union and seven other governments. In addition, reciprocal aid agreements which apply specifically to aid furnished to United States forces overseas have been concluded with the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Fighting France. Most reciprocal aid is provided to the American forces outside the United States, although we have also received important aid in this country.

The United States has received reciprocal aid from the United Kingdom in the British Isles and from British Colonies throughout the world, in India, Egypt, the Middle East, North Africa, Iceland and the Fiji Islands. We are receiving aid from Australia and New Zealand in the south and south-west Pacific areas. We are receiving aid from China, from South Africa, from the Fighting French in New Caledonia and Equatorial Africa and from Belgium in the Congo.

The office of lend-lease administration maintains a complete as possible record of reciprocal aid. Records are kept on the basis of reports sent in from all parts of the world. These are not generally in terms of dollars. The value of some supplies and services furnished as reciprocal aid is not susceptible to dollar measurement. In many cases it is impossible to set down at this time dollar valuations for equipment United States forces receive in combat areas. Records do include statements of quantities and types, together with descriptions of supplies and services that are as detailed as it is possible to obtain.

A large proportion of U.S. troops and U.S. army supplies are carried from the United States to the United Kingdom on British transports and cargo-vessels. We don't pay for this service. Similarly U.S. troops and supplies are moved within the United Kingdom without cost to us.

All facilities for our forces are as reciprocal aid. Two-thirds of the civilian labour force available for military construction work have been engaged in building thousands of barracks, airfields, supply depots, hospitals, roads and other facilities for United States forces. In addition the British Government have been paying 240,000 dollars weekly in wages for civilian workers in the direct employ of the United States forces.

Maintenance costs of airfields alone are running at an annual rate of tens of millions of dollars. (The British Government estimates that construction cost to the British Treasury of airfields and other facilities for the United States air forces alone is already 500,000,000 dollars). The United States Army is equipped principally with American arms. But we have received and are continuing to receive great quantities of military supplies from the United Kingdom as reciprocal lend-lease, in addition to mutual aid in the broader sense.

For the North Africa campaign Great Britain provided two-thirds of the warships and transports employed in the original landing. Our air forces were provided with 160 Spitfires under reciprocal lend-lease, and we also received many other supplies, including 100 miles of portable airfield runways, more than half a million anti-tanks mines and grenades, 130 reconnaissance boats, and medical supplies for 100,000 men. One United States division was completely equipped with British twenty-five pounder guns. Many other supplies continue to be provided by the British to our forces in North Africa.

Following are the quantities of some additional military supplies that have been, or are in the process of being, furnished/our troops as reciprocal aid by the United Kingdom :-

2,000,000 Blankets  
4,000,000 pairs of socks  
1,000 parachutes  
300,000 camouflage nets  
15,000 bombs from 250 pound incendiaries to one ton 'blockbusters'  
70,000 rounds of six-inch shells  
500,000 electric batteries per month  
500,000 hand grenades  
Several score hospitals with 890,000 total bed capacity  
20,000 hundred-pound reels of barbed wire  
1,500 miles of pipe

Although our troops in the United Kingdom are principally on United States army rations, they receive important quantities of food as reciprocal aid. They receive more than 38,000,000 pounds of flour, potatoes, fruits, vegetables and mixed rations from June to December last year, and arrangements have been completed for them to receive more than 290,000,000 pounds this year. Principal items include more than 100,000,000 pounds of flour, 40,000,000 pounds of potatoes, 51,000,000 pounds of fruits, vegetables, marmalades and jams, and 55,000,000 pounds of sugar. U.S. Army canteen supplies are also lend-leased to us by the British.

British procurement and liaison officers are stationed with or near every American army unit in the United Kingdom to facilitate the provision of supplies and services for our forces. All available supplies, which must be purchased directly from commercial sources and cost in excess of 20 dollars, are now being furnished as reciprocal aid without dollar payment on our part. In addition we receive all services which include such items as heat, fuel, telephone and other communication needs as well as transportation.

American warships and merchant-ships damaged in action are repaired in British ports in many parts of the world under reciprocal aid. They are provided in the same fashion with fuel, stores and various harbour facilities without charge.

American forces in Australia and New Zealand are now receiving almost all their food rations as reciprocal aid.

Supplies of food already furnished us resulted in serious civilian shortages in both countries (Australia and New Zealand) of meat, dairy and egg products, vegetables and canned goods. In addition, both Australia and New Zealand have undertaken a large scale expansion of farm production in order to grow more foods that our troops need. They are also expanding the food processing industry in order to be able to provide more canned and dehydrated food rations for our forces in the Solomons, New Guinea, New Caledonia and New Hebrides.

Australia has already furnished United States forces such quantities as 26,000,000 pounds of beef, veal, lamb, mutton and pork; 20,000,000 pounds of potatoes; 25,000,000 pounds of fruits, and almost 5,550,000 quarts of milk.

New Zealand, a country with a population of less than 2,000,000 people, provided another 16,000,000 pounds of beef, mutton and pork, almost a million and a half dozen eggs, over 2,000,000 pounds of butter and 3,000,000 pounds of sugar.

Both Australia and New Zealand devoted a large part of their construction industry to building airfields, barracks, depots, repair plants, roads and many other army and navy facilities for our forces. All camp accommodations, supplies and service that can be obtained in the two countries are furnished as reciprocal aid. Port and loading charges and repairs and supplies for United States ships are handled the same way. In addition, many small vessels of the coastal type have been made available, and there is a building programme under way for the construction of lighters, barges and tugs for the United States armed forces.

Australia is also furnishing some munitions for our troops under reciprocal aid and has converted part of its munitions production facilities to the manufacture of American types and calibres of arms. In addition, uniforms and other clothing supplies for American troops are being made in Australian mills without dollar payment on our part.

New Zealand is also furnishing blankets and clothing to American troops, and has a programme in progress for the manufacture of 400,000 pairs of army shoes. In addition to building naval air bases, facilities, barracks, and depots, New Zealand has built two large new hospitals for U.S. troops and diverted so many medical supplies to the use of our troops in the Solomons area that for a time such common items as gauze bandages and surgical cotton were virtually unobtainable for civilian use.

The United States air forces in China are being supplied in part from reserve stocks of the Chinese Government, which also proposed that the famous P.40 fighter planes used by the A.V.G. "Flying Tigers" and originally purchased from the United States for cash, be turned back to our air force as reciprocal aid.

Our forces in Egypt, India and other areas in the Middle East received many miscellaneous stores and foods from British army stocks. In India we have also been provided with petroleum products, airfields, other facilities, construction materials, labour and stevedoring services as reciprocal aid. The Indian Government have undertaken a programme to manufacture uniforms at their own expense.

In North Africa we are continuing to receive supplies from British stocks as reciprocal aid. In the Fiji Islands and Iceland our forces are receiving food and fuel facilities, miscellaneous military stores and many services from the British.

Fighting France is providing supplies and services as reciprocal aid in New Caledonia and Equatorial Africa, and Belgium is furnishing reciprocal aid to our forces in the Belgian Congo.

Reciprocal aid furnished to our troops has already reached very large proportions. It will plainly multiply in volume this year as more and more of our troops move overseas as fighting forces. It is not possible now to estimate what

/its ultimate

its ultimate proportions will be. We do know that in the war from 1914-18 the United States War Department alone spent over 2,000,000,000 dollars in France and Great Britain for supplies and services of the kind that are being rendered in this war as reciprocal aid and without dollar payment by us.

In addition to the reciprocal aid our forces have received and are receiving overseas, the United States was provided by the United Kingdom with supplies and services that strengthened our home defences as well.

We received thousands of barrage balloons immediately after Pearl Harbour for use on the west coast. We also received many British and American anti-aircraft guns, some of which help defend the Panama Canal. Great Britain shipped to this country machine-tools and some other materials as well under reciprocal aid. Convoy escort and patrol vessels for anti-submarine work off the Atlantic coast have been provided as reciprocal aid, in addition to the assignment of British Navy units and Coastal Command Squadrons to our waters.

Among the most important reciprocal aids we receive from the United Kingdom is the full benefit of British scientific research and new war weapons that have been tested and proved by battle experience that began two years before ours. The famous aircraft detection system developed during and after the Battle of Britain is the best known example of this kind of aid.

There are many other cases that cannot now be disclosed, but these can be revealed. Predictors and fire-control gear, for instance, are now being manufactured on a large scale in the United States from designs principally developed in Great Britain. The results of all scientific and experimental work in this field and in the field of military medicine are freely provided to the United States, just as we make the results of our scientific war-research available to the United Kingdom.

For such aid there is no possible yardstick, either quantitative or financial. Just as we cannot measure by feet or by dollars the comparative value of the lives sacrificed by the United States and the other United Nations in the common cause of defeating the Axis. Yet this pooling of brains may well prove to be equal in importance to pooling weapons in shortening the war.

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U.S.O.W.I.