

17/10/39. - No. 1.

NOT TO BE ISSUED FOR PUBLISHING OR
BROADCAST BEFORE 9 a.m.

In view of continued disregard of an earlier announcement the War Office finds it necessary to repeat the fact that in the National interest it is not proposed to extend the use of abbreviated telegraphic addresses beyond those contained in the official list for the use of Government departments.

There is no objection to the use of short addresses when these are clear to the censors. For instance, "Reuters London" would be passed, but "Hallo Southampton" would not.

It will greatly facilitate the work of the telegraphic censors and consequently reduce the delay on cable messages if the senders, when handing in messages, would add a short explanation of their purport. For example "attached cable refers to the wool trade", "Merinos is a trade term", "refers to stocktakings", or "refers to a policy number".

Many telegrams are now accompanied by such explanatory note. If this practice were extended much delay would be obviated.

From: Military Affairs Section, P.R.1, War Office.

ISSUED THROUGH NEW DIVISION.

17th OCTOBER, 1939. NO. 2.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE NO.6.

MORE SCOPE FOR THE PLOUGH.

TRUSTING THE MAN ON THE SPOT.

The permission for the County War Agricultural Committees to use their discretion in recommending roots, kale and other green crops as suitable crops to be grown in certain instances on newly ploughed up grassland is important. Many cases have been brought to the notice of the Ministry where it would obviously be more sensible for the newly ploughed land to be put into roots and corn grown on existing arable than to risk a corn crop where wireworms are rampant.

County Committees are providing scope for a combined effort in agricultural administration. Landowner, farmer and farm worker are working together for the national welfare and the common good of the industry. There is nothing surprising in this. They have always found agriculture and its problems common ground, as anyone will realise who has been to an agricultural show and seen these three partners in the land meeting without self-assertion or self-consciousness on either side.

But a particular tribute is due to the representatives of the farm workers on these committees. They have been taking a broad view of their responsibilities. They have not sat at the end of the table and only intervened when questions of labour arise, but have brought a full measure of wisdom and shrewd knowledge to the technicalities of farming to the discussions. It is evident that to them, no less than to others who live by the land, farming is still not only a trade but a way of life.

DEFEATING THE WIREWORM.

Wireworms are the pest most likely to be troublesome on ploughed up land. As many as 500,000 per acre may be present. They continue to feed for a time on turf that has been ploughed, but as it decays they move to a new crop.

If the land has been ploughed in summer and sown in autumn, the time of greatest risk is during the following spring - normally, therefore, to the first crop. But if the land has been ploughed in late winter or early spring the first crop may escape and the second crop be the sufferer. With autumn ploughing the result will depend on the rate of decay of the turf, which varies according to its nature and soil conditions.

The best way to defeat the wireworms at this season is to harrow the ground as much as possible so as to break up the turf and to give the birds the best chance to deal with the pest at the same time consolidating the ground.

Consolidation is of the utmost importance in order that the seed may lie in a compact, solid bed with no "pockets" caused by loose lumps of turf. The object of this is to give the seed the opportunity to germinate and grow in a strong healthy condition, fitted to resist such attacks. With wheat, consolidation may easily spell the difference between success and failure.

Wheat, oats, barley and potatoes are all susceptible to wireworm attack. Winter wheat, because of its tillering power, can overcome a considerable attack provided the soil is solid and fertile. Potatoes holed by wireworms are spoiled for the market, but they can be used for animal feeding and not wasted.

Rye is somewhat resistant, and on very light land difficult to get firm it offers less risk than wheat. Peas will usually succeed on wireworm infested land, also such crops as kale, rape, turnips, mangolds and sugar beet.

"THERE IS A TIME FOR SOWING"

Wireworms are most active from late winter or early spring until the beginning of summer, with a shorter period of activity from early to mid autumn. Winter wheat sown at the right time should almost escape the autumn activity and be well established before the spring. But late sown winter wheat is liable to checks by cold weather and the plant will then be so small in spring that it falls an easy prey to wireworms. Plenty of seed should be used when cereals are sown late.

Spring oats are bound to be at the state of greatest susceptibility when the pest is at its maximum. Therefore if oats are to follow grass, they should be sown in fields ploughed after Christmas so that the wireworm can feed on the turf and leave the oats alone while the plant is becoming established. The same applies to spring wheat. Barley, which can be sown later than spring wheat or oats, may escape an attack that would have ruined these other crops because it has not to cope with the pest for so long.

Frit flies are abundant in leys containing much rye grass. But spring oats alone suffer from them appreciably, and they may be ruined if sown late. In the south of England, where Frit attack is most to be feared, it is folly to sow oats late if there is any danger of this pest. Barley should be chosen if the land cannot be got ready in good time and a cereal is required.

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FARM MEN FOR THE FORCES.

21-Year Olds and Upwards Mostly Exempt.

Farmers are reminded that, although all men within the age group 20 to 22 will have to register, the only men to be called up from agriculture will be those who are now 20 years old, and younger men as they attain that age. The Schedule reserves farmers and most classes of farm workers at the age of 21 years.

Men registered this year under the Military Training Act who have since attained the age of 21 years will not be called up; and none of this year's class will be called up until November.

So far as can be foreseen, the annual loss to agriculture in future years will be not more than about 15,000 men, or some 3 per cent. of the wage-earning men and boys regularly employed in farming.

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THE MAN WITH THE SPADE

News From The Diggers' Front

Reports continue to come in relating how local authorities, great and small, are making their arrangements to provide the extra 500,000 allotments that Britain needs now. The London Passenger Transport Board are offering 20,000 acres of land bordering their railway lines; Middleton Park Golf Course are digging up 1,600 square yards; Sunderland contemplates 2,000 plots; Ramsgate 300 acres; a proposal has been made to plough up part of Newcastle's Town Moor. Scores more might be mentioned. Ilford schoolchildren evacuated to Ipswich are report to have set themselves the task of trebling the number of allotments in that town. The Mayor (Mr. E.L. Hunt) is offering prizes to the best gardeners and Ipswich Council has given them a free hand in the matter of land.

A teacher says that the children are writing home at night to compare notes with their parents who have allotments.

The local authorities' response is most encouraging. So far there are more reports of available allotments not taken up than of would-be allotment holders who cannot get land, but it is essential that there should be no applicant willing to "Dig for Victory" whose need for land cannot be satisfied.

FEEDING THE LAND.

Manure is certain to be a problem for allotment holders. Less horse manure will be available from city streets than in the last war. But the difficulty can be overcome by using compost, made by rotting down waste vegetable matter in heaps. Any vegetable matter that is not diseased will do. Stinging nettles, for example, or other fresh green herbage, are particularly good because they generate heat. Since the process of decomposition will take some time, the sooner the heaps can be started the better.

There are various methods of composting. Some of them include the use of chemicals to hasten the decomposition, and proprietary materials are available for this purpose. They add to the expense, but very greatly speed up the process. Fairly good results can be obtained by adding an occasional spadeful of nitrogenous fertiliser, for example, sulphate of ammonia, when the materials are brown and fibrous, such as, dead leaves, cabbage stalks and hard stemmy plants and by adding an occasional spadeful of lime when the material is green and succulent - lawn mowings, potato tops, cut grass, green weeds or other plants. Again, if any farmyard manure can be obtained, much good will be done by incorporating it in the heap.

HOW TO MAKE COMPOST.

Collection of garden waste is easy enough, but kitchen waste needs more care. Potato peelings, cabbage leaves, egg shells, orange peel and such things are all right. Broken glass, tins and china are not. It will be easier to separate them at once, throwing the unusable stuff in the dust-bin and the usable in a separate heap.

A useful size for a compost heap would be 3 yards by 1 yard; if you make it larger or smaller, keep roughly to these proportions. Arrange the refuse available along the edges of this oblong and so make a kind of "frame" enclosing a rectangular piece of ground. Make the height of the frame about 18 inches,

building up to it as the material comes to hand. Then, when the "frame" is complete, dump any more material inside it.

When the "frame" is full, sprinkle with some unslaked lime, after which cover lightly with soil. Continue in the same way with a third, fourth and fifth layer, but slope the sides gradually inwards, like those of a pyramid, except that a pyramid goes to a point and the heap will go to a line.

All that remains now is to cover the heap lightly with soil, both top and sides. Pat it gently into shape with a spade and leave it. A trough stamped out along the top will collect rain-water and help decomposition. At the end of three or four months, turn the heap over and build it again into a similar heap but without making layers or adding more lime.

At the end of eight or nine months you will have a black mass of life-giving compost, an organic fertiliser that would cost £2 a ton to buy or considerably more in smaller quantities.

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FUEL FOR GRASS DYRING.

No Restriction Likely.

Owners of grass-drying plants are likely to be able to obtain their fuel supplies to operate to normal capacity next year. They have naturally been anxious about the position, which of course, affects their ploughing up plans this autumn in many cases.

The Ministry of Agriculture has been in touch with the Mines Department, and although no definite guarantee can be give that all the supplies required will be immediately available, no real difficulties are anticipated.

Local Fuel Overseers have been instructed to give special treatment to premises used for growing or processing food, and they have power to grant complete exemption from rationing in certain cases. Owners of grass-drying plants should therefore communicate with their Local Fuel Overseer and explain their position.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

PROTECTION OF SPAWNING SALMON.

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries desires to call attention to the importance (in connection with the policy of husbanding all natural sources of food supply) of protecting the salmon and migratory trout that will soon be spawning in numbers in the breeding grounds of the rivers of England and Wales.

Owing to the fact that the national emergency has entailed the withdrawal, for military and naval service, of a large proportion of the men comprising the watching staffs employed by Fishery Boards, the difficulties involved in affording protection to the breeding fish on the spawning beds are likely to be increased.

Although the practice of destroying such fish at this season of the year is, generally speaking, less prevalent than it was formerly, it has unfortunately to be admitted that it still continues in certain parts of the country, where this offence against the Law (and, indeed, against the public interest, in that it results in the senseless destruction of stock on which future supplies depend) is still regarded lightly.

It is to be noted that, under the provisions of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1923, Fishery Boards are empowered to appoint honorary water bailiffs. Under the conditions at present applying, this power might usefully be put into effect. Among those who are directly concerned in the maintenance of the national salmon fisheries (including those who draw a livelihood therefrom as members of the public fishing in the tidal and common waters), there may well be a number of people who might be prepared to offer their services in that capacity. Offers should be made direct to the Clerks of the Fishery Boards concerned, whose names and addresses may be obtained on application to the Fisheries Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, (Dept. O.J.), 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT

POULTRY IN WARTIME

Miss Kidd and Mr. Hurd discuss feeding problems.

Difficulties in feeding poultry in wartime were discussed in a wireless talk last Saturday afternoon between Mr. Anthony Hurd, who runs about 2,000 birds on his mixed farm in Wiltshire, and Miss Eunice Kidd, who needs no introduction to poultry farmers.

Here are some of the leading points.

The hen, said Miss Kidd, is much underestimated as a food producer in war-time. A decently bred bird will produce ten times her own weight in edible produce in one year, and will make a good meal after that. Her egg can be more economically cooked than any other class of protein food. Poultry can be well kept in the town or country garden, or the orchard, where household scraps can be used for food.

Mr. Hurd stated that he was moving his slatted floor houses regularly over the grass fields. This would help the feeding question, for the birds would find much of their food for themselves, especially when the grass was growing fresh. They would still need corn, however, and for a start he was replacing wheat with oats. He grew his own oats, and tail corn at threshing time would also help things out.

Cod Liver Oil.

Both agreed that the shortage of Cod Liver Oil would hit the battery people hard, because it is essential to birds kept intensively. Miss Kidd suggested that less oil could be used if it were mixed with a grain or wet mash immediately before feeding; some experienced intensivists consider that even a quarter of the normal quantity will do fed under these conditions. Ample supplies of green stuffs would also be a help in this respect.

Making up the Ration.

Miss Kidd thought that the general farmer and garden poultry keeper could help out the position by using free range and house scraps as much as possible, so that the commercial poultrymen could have a fair share of available supplies of meal and grains. "I am going to suggest", she said, "that wet mash is definitely more economical than dry. Now that house scraps are to be used, we shall sometimes find that the water in which vegetables, meats and fish have been boiled can be spared for the fowls. This is just the thing to add nourishment to a mash that is possibly otherwise rather short of protein or vegetable matter.....Bread, scraps, potatoes or anything containing flour or rice are in the starch class and should be used according to the amount of maize or oats that they replace." Turnip and celery tops, outside cabbage leaves, and green pea pods may be used. Swedes, turnips and all roots except potatoes can be fed raw, said Miss Kidd, but are actually better when cooked. Even the stems of kale are good, but they should be nailed to boards or chopped up finely. Just throwing them into the run is wasteful.

Miss Kidd recalled how her father kept a productive flock in the last war largely on house and garden scraps. The birds were fed on half a bucket of mixed meals, a quarter of a bucket of mixed house scraps and a quarter of mixed vegetables and green stuffs.

17/10/39 - No. 5.

For publication in the press on
the morning of Wednesday, 18th October.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPORT TRADE.

In reply to previous correspondence and inquiries,
the President of the Board of Trade, after consultation
with the other Ministers concerned, has sent copies of the
attached memorandum to the Federation of British Industries,
the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, and the
National Union of Manufacturers.

Board of Trade.
17th October, 1939.

MEMORANDUM.

It is essential in the national interest that exporters should be encouraged to maintain and increase their export trade to the greatest extent consistent with vital war needs, and the Government are anxious to assist exporters in every possible way.

Some Government direction of the flow of materials for manufacture has inevitably become necessary, but this does not mean that supplies will not be available for the export trade.

No general system of permits or priorities in the allocation of materials is in force, and for the great bulk of manufactured goods which form the normal export trade of the United Kingdom supplies of the required materials can, so far as can be foreseen, safely be relied upon for a period of the next three months at least.

Many materials are not subject to Government control at all and manufacturers should experience no special difficulties in obtaining supplies of these materials.

As regards controlled materials, there should in most cases be no difficulty in obtaining the supplies necessary for manufacture for export and it should only be in exceptional cases that there is insufficient for export needs.

The Board of Trade are opening discussions with representatives of major exporting industries with a view to facilitating their operations and in particular their purchases of raw materials.

Meanwhile the Minister of Supply has issued instructions to controllers and their staffs to make every effort to allocate supplies where it appears to them that the controlled materials are for the manufacture of goods for export, especially where those exports are to be in the form of highly finished goods in which the cost of the raw materials forms a comparatively small part of the value of the goods. Exporters who have any

difficulty in obtaining their requirements should communicate with the Board of Trade, giving full particulars, including the nature of the goods to be exported, the market for which they are destined and the terms of payment.

Existing and future contracts for capital goods which take a considerable period to fulfil will receive special consideration, with a view to arrangements being made for the supply of materials and issue of export licences, if and when required.

Some manufactured goods cannot be exported without a licence though there are many classes of goods not subject to this control. As regards goods subject to export licence, the issue of licences has been greatly accelerated. To meet the requirements of exporters, the issue of general licences has been increased, and these will be granted wherever practicable. In certain cases applications have been received for licences to export to neutral countries adjacent to Germany quantities of raw materials and semi-manufactured goods greatly in excess of the normal flow of trade and it may, of course, be necessary to limit such exports pending the signature of satisfactory War Trade Agreements by the countries in question.

Board of Trade,
17th October, 1939.

ISSUED THROUGH NEWS DIVISION.
17th October, 1939. No. 6.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

WEIGHING OF CATTLE.

Certain functions relating to the weighing of cattle and weighing facilities at livestock markets, which had been exercised by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, were in January last delegated to the Livestock Commission under Section 21 of the Livestock Industry Act, 1937.

Having regard to the contemplated suspension in the near future of all the functions of the Livestock Commission in accordance with the Defence (Agriculture and Fisheries) Regulations, 1939, the Minister has made an Order under which he now resumes those functions which had been delegated to the Commission.

M. A. F. 64.

17.10.39 - No. 7.

WAR OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The attention of the War Office has been called to the fact that troops in France are being asked in letters from home to give information which it is most **undesirable** to disclose. This is unfair on the men and imposes a great, and unnecessary burden on the Field Censorship. Relatives and friends of men serving in France are reminded that if the information that they ask were to come into the possession of the enemy the result might well be the death of those dear to them. They should, therefore, refrain from inviting information about the following matters:-

- (1) The location of units
- (2) Movements of units
- (3) Arrival of reinforcements
- (4) All particulars of the military organisation, equipment, or armament of the British forces or of their Allies.

It is not desired to prevent soldiers indicating any supplementary comforts they may require, or what their personal experiences may be, as long as they do not disclose anything which might bring danger on themselves if it were to reach unfriendly ears.

The War Office,
London, S.W.1.

17/10/39 - No.8

CANADA ANSWERS LINDBERGH.

The Canadian Press continues to answer the recent speech of Col. Lindbergh straight from the shoulder. In a national broadcast, it may be remembered, he challenged the right of Canadians to draw "this hemisphere into European war simply because they prefer the Crown of England to American independence".

The Ottawa Journal says; "One wonders how seriously to take the utterance of a stunt flyer turned political gigolo when given over a national chain of U.S. radio stations. Canada has never presumed to tell the U.S. what it should do in any given circumstances. It is not Lindbergh's business to tell Canada what to do".

The Montreal Gazette calls the speech shocking and disillusioning by "a man whose factitious importance may give his utterances considerable weight in his own country. Canada, however, will give some thought to his record".

Other comment is "They once called Lindbergh 'the flying fool'. He is now the talking fool ... Profound as are Canada's friendship and affection for the great Republic to which she is so closely united by the common language, traditions and culture, probably the one conceivable thing that would infallibly disrupt that friendship would be any attempt to make it supersede the even stronger ties that bind the Dominion to the Mother Country".

Issued through Press and Censorship Bureau

17/10/39 - No. 9.

French Official Communique Morning

17 October, 1939.

Towards the end of yesterday afternoon the Germans, supported by heavy artillery fire, launched a second attack over a front of 30 kilometres in the region east of the Saar. Our light advance elements withdrew gradually as planned, but our fire held up the enemy on the prearranged line. In anticipation of this resumption of the German offensive the French command a fortnight ago decided to withdraw to other positions those French divisions which had taken the offensive on German territory in order indirectly to assist the Polish armies. The whole of the necessary movements were completed by October 3rd. Thereafter we had only light advance elements and a few supporting units in contact with the enemy.

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FROM FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT.

17/10/39 - No. 10.

P R E S S N O T I C E .

M O R E W I R E L E S S L I C E N C E S .

The Post Office issued 683,368 wireless receiving licences during September, 1939. This figure represents a nett increase of 41,323 in the number of licence holders during the month after making allowance for expired licences and renewals.

The approximate total number of licences in force at the end of September, 1939, was 9,085,650 as compared with 8,757,480 at the end of September, 1938, an increase during the year of 327,570.

G E N E R A L P O S T O F F I C E .

17th October, 1939.

17.10.39. - No. 11.

ROYAL AIR FORCE FLIGHT OVER GERMANY

The Air Ministry announces that a number of Royal Air Force aircraft carried out successful daylight reconnaissance flights over western and north-western Germany yesterday.

One aircraft has not returned.

AIR AFFAIRS

17/10/39 - No.12.

The Air Ministry announces:-

Unidentified aircraft were reported in the neighbourhood of Hull and Grimsby shortly before 11 a.m. today. Precautionary measures were taken and an air raid warning was given. No enemy aircraft were identified and the all-clear signal was given at 11.50 a.m.

From Air Affairs Section.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT

Resumption of Bull Licensing

On the outbreak of war it was found necessary for administrative reasons to announce the suspension of bull licensing. It has, however, now been found possible to overcome the initial difficulties and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Secretary of State for Scotland have accordingly decided that it would be desirable to arrange for the resumption of bull licensing in order that the progress which has so far been achieved should be maintained, and to prevent any deterioration in the standard of cattle. This decision has the approval of the National Farmers' Unions for England and Wales and for Scotland.

At the same time, in order to effect economy in expenditure on staff and to save the time of farmers in complying with their obligations under the Licensing of Bulls Act, certain simplifications in procedure will be introduced. The essential features of the Act, which are the inspection and licensing or rejection of every bull attaining the specified age and the farmers' right of appeal in the event of rejection, will be maintained unchanged, but it is now proposed that owners of licensed bulls and purchasers of such bulls shall be absolved from the obligation to notify the Ministry or the Department of Agriculture for Scotland in connection with the transfer of licences.

Farmers should, therefore, now make application in the usual way for licences to keep a bull. Application forms may be obtained by farmers in England from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Department X.A., 23-25, Scho Square, London, W.1., by farmers in Wales from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 17, Eastgate, Aberystwyth, and by farmers in Scotland from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture for Scotland, St. Andrew House, Edinburgh, 1. A fee of five shillings is payable in respect of each application.

17/10/39 - No. 14.

PRESS NOTICE.

The Postmaster General, Major G.C. Tryon, M.P., to-day stated in the House of Commons:- "I have been reviewing the scale of postage rates charged on parcels for members of His Majesty's Armed Forces serving overseas, in consultation with the Service Departments, and I am glad to be able to announce that the following reduced rates will be brought into force tomorrow:-

For parcels up to 3 lb, 9d. - a reduction from 1/3d.

For parcels from 3 lbs to 7 lbs, 1/6d., - a reduction from 2/6d.

For parcels from 7 lbs, to 11 lbs, 2/- - a reduction from 3/3d.

For parcels from 11 lbs to 22 lbs, 3/6d., - a reduction from 6/-d.

Major Tryon added:- "I hope that the low rate fixed for the smaller parcels, which I regard of particular importance, will meet with general approval: for these the charge of 9d. up to 3 lb. compares with a charge of 1/- in the late War.

In the late War the rates for parcels over 3 lbs. for British troops in theatres of war other than France were appreciably higher than those for France, but the rates I am now introducing will apply to parcels for members of all the Armed Forces overseas wherever they may be serving, including His Majesty's ships in Foreign waters.

Letters for Forces overseas are charged at the Imperial postage rate of 1½d. for the first ounce, and 1d. for each subsequent ounce.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.
17th October.

17/10/39 - No.15

PRESS NOTICE

As announced in Admiralty Press Notice of 10th October, central recruiting for the W.R.N.S. in London has been suspended until further notice as there is already a long waiting list for all categories, and it is impossible to hold out hopes of early employment to future applicants. At the Home Ports and new Naval Stations, however, names of local residents are still being registered and there is a chance for such women to join the W.R.N.S.

Admiralty, S.W.1.

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.WAR RISKS INSURANCE.COMMODITY INSURANCE SCHEME.Exclusion of certain further goods from insurance.

On the 22nd September, 1939, the Board of Trade announced that an Order had been made under the War Risks Insurance Act, 1939 (The War Risks Insurance (General Exceptions) Order, 1939), directing that goods of certain descriptions should be deemed not to be insurable for the purposes of Part II of the Act. Following the consideration given to further representations made to them by responsible bodies requesting exemption of other goods from the scope of the scheme on the ground of indestructibility or unsaleability, a further Order (The War Risks Insurance (General Exceptions) (No.2) Order, 1939), has today been made directing that goods of the descriptions specified below shall be deemed not to be insurable for the purposes of Part II of the Act.

The list of goods excluded from insurance by the Order is as follows:-

- (1) Cement and cement clinker.
- (2) Lime.
- (3) Slates for roofing.
- (4) Pavement kerbs and setts of granite.
- (5) Ores, concentrates, drosses, and residues for smelting of aluminium, antimony, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc (or spelter), and drosses and residues of tin.
- (6) Scrap of the following metals and alloys thereof:- aluminium, antimony, copper, lead, nickel, tin and zinc (or spelter).
- (7) Copper, unwrought, whether refined or not, in ingots, bars, billets, wire-bars, blocks, slabs, cakes, cathodes, anodes, and rods, and copper shot.
- (8) Aluminium, antimony, lead, nickel, tin and zinc (or spelter) unwrought, in ingots, pigs, blocks, cakes, bars and slabs.
- (9) Lead in white lead stacks and chambers.
- (10) Alloys of aluminium, antimony, copper, lead, nickel, tin, zinc (or spelter) unwrought, in ingots, pigs, blocks, cakes, bars and slabs.
- (11) Unmounted diamonds, whether rough or polished, and industrial diamonds, mounted or unmounted.
- (12) Natural pearls, mounted or unmounted.
- (13) Other precious and semi-precious stones, unmounted, cut or uncut.
- (14) Gem set jewellery, that is to say, precious and semi-precious stones mounted in gold or platinum, palladium, iridium, rhodium, osmium and ruthenium.
- (15) Jewelled watch cases.
- (16) Findings and other articles made solely (except for fittings and embellishments) of gold or platinum, palladium, iridium, rhodium, osmium and ruthenium.
- (17) Settings, stampings, draftings, spinnings, castings and pressings of silver.
- (18) Printed books, being not less than 50 years old, and manuscripts.

Board of Trade,
17th October, 1939.

17/10/39 - No.18.

AIR MINISTRY STATEMENT.

The Air Ministry states there have been a number of air raid warnings on the east coastal districts during the morning and early afternoon.

As and when additional information is available a further statement will be made.

Issued through News
Division.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

17th October, 1939. No.19.

Ploughing Up Bushy Park.

Land that has been Grass since Napoleon's Day.

The first furrows were turned in Bushy Park to-day, Tuesday, part of the contribution of the Royal Parks to Britain's "plough-up" campaign. The land being ploughed is in the part known as "The Wilderness" and the records show that it has not been ploughed for at least a hundred years, although the marks of very old furrows can still be traced. Probably the last time it grew corn was in Napoleon's day, when Britain at another time in her history had to use her resources to the full.

The newly turned furrows promise a rich, dark tilth, with a gravelly sub-soil that will make for good drainage.

Mr. W. J. Hepburn, Park Superintendent at Bushy, said that most of the land would probably be sown with oats, although he hoped to grow some wheat as well if weather conditions were favourable.

M.A.F. 66

17/10/39 No. 20.

FOR MORNING PAPERS ONLY, NOT FOR EVENINGS, BROADCAST OR TAPES.

EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

RAJAH BROOKE'S GIFT

1,000,000 DOLLARS FOR OUR WAR BUDGET.

The Rajah of Sarawak sends a message to the Secretary of State for the Colonies saying:-

"On my return to Sarawak" (the Rajah has been in England) "I have learned of the deep concern and sympathy felt by the people of my State for the great cause in defence of which the British Empire is now at war, in the struggle to maintain those principles of freedom and liberty on which the future civilisation of the world must be built. In order that the people of my country may share with the Colonies and Dependencies of the Empire the honour of upholding these high principles, and in practical recognition of these feelings: and as a token of the desire of my subjects to contribute towards the defence of that great cause, I offer to present to His Majesty's Government securities to the par value of 1,000,000 dollars.

"At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the heartfelt gratitude and appreciation of the people of my State for the peace and safety accorded to them by the close ties which bind them to the Empire."

The Secretary of State has replied;-- "I have received Your Highness's message which is deeply appreciated by His Majesty's Government. The generous contribution which Your Highness has offered towards the defence of the principles of freedom upon which the foundation of the British Empire has been laid is gratefully accepted by His Majesty's Government as a mark of the active association of Your Highness and the people of Sarawak with His Majesty's Government, in the war in which we are all partners."

ISSUED THROUGH NEWS DIVISION.
17th October, 1939. No.22.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA

ORDER NOW TO ENSURE SUPPLIES AT LOW COST.

Farmers should make application as soon as possible for their Spring requirements of Sulphate of Ammonia as the usual full facilities for transport during the Spring sowing season may not be available.

Hitherto it has only been possible to release supplies required for immediate consumption, but arrangements have now been made for a limited period to enable farmers to obtain supplies at a favourable price, provided they take immediate delivery. Any farmer who has suitable storage accommodation will be well advised to make early application through his usual merchant.

Those who take advantage of this arrangement, the Ministry of Agriculture states, will have the satisfaction of knowing that their requirements are assured to them whatever transport difficulties may later arise, and at a price 7/6d per ton lower than that ruling during last Spring.

M.A.F.67.

17/10/39 - No.23.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENT.

Borax-Packed Bacon and Hams.

An Order has been made by the Ministry of Food requiring all owners of borax-packed bacon and hams in the United Kingdom to make returns forthwith to the Ministry of the quantities of such bacon and hams in their possession and the addresses of the premises where the supplies are stored.

MINISTRY OF FOOD.

17/10/39. - No. 24.

Ministry of Food Announcement.

REGISTRATION OF HIDE MARKETS.

The Ministry of Food announce that the managers of unregistered Hide Markets in England and Wales who wish to participate in the proposed scheme for the collection, care and preparation for sale of Hides, Kips, Calf Skins and Sheep Skins, when control of the slaughtering of livestock comes into operation, should apply for registration to the Hide and Allied Trades Improvement Society (J. Lowden, Esq., Manager and Secretary, 22, Balliol Road, Liverpool 20.)

In Scotland, application should be made to the Scottish Hide Inspection and Improvement Federation, (E.G. Walker, Esq., Secretary, c/o J. Hewit & Sons, City Tan Works, Edinburgh).

Every application should be accompanied by full particulars of business transacted by the applicant during each of the past three years.

Ministry of Food.

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17/10/39

No. 25.

AIR RAID WARNINGS.

The Air Ministry announces that the Observer Corps reported enemy air reconnaissance activity along the East Coast during this morning and afternoon. Air raid warnings were issued to some districts on the Lincolnshire, East Anglian and Kent coasts.

Immediate action was taken by our Fighter and Anti-aircraft defences. No bombs have been dropped on any of these districts.

One enemy aircraft was intercepted on the Yorkshire coast and pursued to sea.

FROM AIR AFFAIRS.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR
BROADCAST BEFORE THE
MORNING OF WEDNESDAY
THE 18TH OCTOBER, 1939.

Royal Air Force - Rewards.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned rewards for gallant and distinguished services rendered in connection with the operations in Waziristan during the period 16th December, 1937 to 31st December, 1938 :-

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Igor William BRAYE

Flight Lieutenant Wilfred Edward SURPLICE

Distinguished Flying Medal.

562045 Corporal Leonard Edwin COWAN.

515389 Corporal Eric James FUDGE.

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

17th October, 1939.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR
BROADCASTING BEFORE A.M.
WEDNESDAY, 18/10/39.

17/10/39 - N9.27.

THE FOLLOWING IS PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE PRESS
BY THE ADMIRALTY FOR SUCH USE AS THEY MAY DESIRE TO MAKE OF
IT. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

THE NEW WEAPON.

It occurs perhaps to the German High Command that the psychological moment has arrived to use the new weapon against which "no attack would avail". It is not a new weapon. It is as old as humanity. It is the weapon of untruth, blatant, reiterated. Hitler rightly admits no attack avails against it. None is necessary because it is a weapon that in the end brings disaster only to him who wields it. This is not only a law of warfare. It is the law of life.

The official German claims that the British themselves torpedoed the ATHENIA with the loss of life of 127 civilians, men, women and children, was, in fact, the Germans first hostile act and their first ghastly blunder in this war. Admiral Raeder was compelled to demean the dignity of his uniform by suggesting that the British would probably cause the destruction of the American S.S. IROQUOIS on her voyage to the United States. The British Seaplane carrier ARK ROYAL has been claimed to have been sunk daily in a Pentecostal variety of tongues, although no enemy missile has yet touched her. The REPULSE is claimed to have been torpedoed, although she remains scatheless. A bombing raid on the Forth Bridge which cost the enemy possibly as much as 60% of his air forces engaged, failed to hit the Bridge. Two cruisers are claimed to have been hit, whereas one was struck by a bomb (possibly a Czechoslovak bomb) which failed to explode on contact. And so the dreary stream of falsehood flows on, carrying the German Nation - but assuredly none other - swimming feebly with its current: swimming as a pig swims, cutting its throat in the process.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS AND CENSORSHIP BUREAU.

17/10/39

No. 28.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCASTING BEFORE A. M. WEDNESDAY, 18/10/39.

THE FOLLOWING IS PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE PRESS
BY THE ADMIRALTY. FOR SUCH USE AS THEY MAY
DESIRE TO MAKE OF IT.

IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The British Admiralty has told the world of the loss of the aircraft-carrier "Courageous", and the battleship "Royal Oak". One out of Britain's six aircraft carriers has thus been lost, or, in terms of tonnage, 22,500 tons out of 122,900. Five other aircraft-carriers are in various stages of construction.

In capital ships Britain has lost one old vessel out of her total of fifteen, or 29,150 tons out of a total of 474,700 tons. Seven new British capital ships are in various stages of construction.

In spite of the loss of the "Courageous" and "Royal Oak", the British Fleet still has a handsome superiority over the German in all classes of vessels.

The fact that torpedoes fired by a German submarine took hours to sink the "Athenia" on September 3rd has no bearing whatever on the fact that the "Royal Oak" was sunk by other German torpedoes on October 14th. Various ships happened to be in the neighbourhood of the "Athenia" because she happened to be near a well-defined trade route. The allegation that she was sunk by a time bomb placed on board by some person or persons unknown is not borne out by the evidence of survivors who actually saw the submarine.

Ministerialrat Hans Fritsche, who broadcasts in Germany, should really verify his facts and sources of information. He reiterates the familiar old falsehoods that the "Ark Royal" and "Repulse" have been sunk, and the "Hood" severely damaged. A Swedish fisherman, he asserts, saw two British ships taken in tow during a recent engagement when a portion of the Fleet was in action with German aircraft off the coast of Norway. Taking a ship in tow, as every seaman knows, is rather a complicated manoeuvre during which the ships must remain stopped. If such easy targets were presented, one is tempted to ask what the German aircraft was thinking about to allow them to escape.

Ministerialrat Fritsche theorises over the effect of bombs bursting in the water, and says they do not cause splinters. He should rub up his knowledge of such projectiles. The splinters of a bomb bursting in the water near a destroyer during an air raid on the Firth of Forth yesterday - Monday - caused 25 casualties.

If, as has been said in messages from Berlin, photographs of the Firth of Forth raid taken by German aircraft are being rushed to the German capital, they will show that the damage inflicted upon British ships was strictly in accordance with the British official communique issued on Monday evening. But in these days of artistic license even photographs can be made to lie.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS & CENSORSHIP BUREAU.

17/10/39 No. 29.

ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE

A second air attack was carried out over the Orkneys from approximately 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. today by two formations of six and four aircraft respectively. No damage was done and no casualties were sustained. One German aircraft was reported to have been destroyed.

Admiralty,
Whitehall, S.W.

ADMIRALTY ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Secretary of the Admiralty regrets to state that, in addition to the 15 Officers and men whose deaths have already been announced, one further death has since occurred as a result of the enemy air raid on the Firth of Forth on the 16th October. The name of the rating is given below, together with a list of the Officers and men who were wounded in the raid:-

Died of Wounds.

Bernard Roebuck, Ordinary Seaman C/JX 154016

Wounded.

A. L. Harper	Lieutenant, R.N.	
J. C. Pope	Midshipman, R.N.R.	
R. L. Ayton	Boy	P/JX 153498
T. H. Benson	Able Seaman	P/SSX 19817
C. H. Blundell	Stoker 1st. class	D/KX 93510
Donald Bomas	Marine	PL/X 2067
J. L. Brassick	Boy	P/SSX 28544
J. A. Burton	Marine	PL/X 2055
Roy Care	Signalman	P/JX 15140
A. Churcher	Petty Officer	P/J 95300
W.A.G. Darlow	Corporal R.M.	CH/X 840
R. A. Dodimead	Able Seaman	P/JX 127455
F. Dowdall	Signalman	P/JX 130839
Claude Dunstable	Able Seaman, R.F.R.	D/279
C. Evans	Leading Steward	C/LX 12525
A. W. Fernley	Leading Steward	C/L 14584
V. Gissing	Petty Officer, Writer	P/MX 45139
J. R. Gooderson	Marine	CH/X 678
James Goodhew	Ordinary Seaman	C/JX 151094
G. W. Gould	Leading Seaman	P/JX 139812
Leonard Greaves	Petty Officer	P/J 104032
S. Halewood	Petty Officer	P/J 100012
A. H. Haras	Musician	RMBX 258
H.G.F. Hazelgrove	Chief Petty Officer	P/J 95670
H. Hibbard	Able Seaman	P/SSX 22497
A. M. Hickling	Stoker	P/KX 85697
A. L. Holley	Leading Seaman	P/JX 131278
W. Irvine	Ordinary Seaman	D/SSX 27839
W. T. Jasper	Petty Officer	P/J 104832
A. Johnson	Signalman	P/JX 128733
C. W. Judd	Leading Seaman	P/J 101672
J. Ken	Able Seaman	P/SSX 24159
J. A. Mason	Able Seaman	P/JX 127929
Peter Massey	Stoker, 1st. class	D/KX 91242
C. Mitchell	Engineroom Artificer 3rd. class	P/MX 50817
John Motherwell	Able Seaman	P/SSX 18303
R. C. Needham	Supply Petty Officer	P/MX 46784
G. H. Pearse	Able Seaman	P/JX 140437
S. Robinson	Cook	P/MX 55720
H. E. Smith	Ordinary Seaman	D/SSX 27747
A. Stanworth	Able Seaman	P/JX 130897
J. T. Steele	Leading Seaman	P/JX 130991
J. E. Wallis	Leading Stoker	P/KX 76680
H. M. Wicker	Officers' Cook 3rd.cl.	C/L 14240

17/10/39.

No. 31.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE (Evening)

There has been local activity on the whole front which since this morning has remained stationary in spite of sharp infantry engagements at certain points.

A German merchant ship has been captured by our Atlantic patrol.

17/10/39 No. 32

ROYAL AIR FORCE

ENEMY AIRCRAFT BROUGHT DOWN

Subsequent to the reports of enemy activity on the East Coast this afternoon two enemy aircraft were later observed on the North-East coast and were attacked by Royal Air Force fighters. Both were shot down by our fighters and fell in the sea.

The crew of one has been rescued. Our aircraft returned safely.

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Air Ministry.

TEAM WORK BROUGHT DOWN GERMAN BOMBERS.

Victory over the first German bombers to raid Great Britain since the war began has been largely shared in by men who a few weeks ago were Scottish stockbrokers, lawyers, and sheep-farmers.

At least two of the four enemy raiders accounted for during yesterday's raid on South-East Scotland were shot down by British fighter aircraft. They beat off the raiders in such a way that not more than half the German aircraft are believed to have returned home.

Apart from four which were brought down by British fighters, anti-aircraft and naval gunfire, several are thought to have been too crippled to complete the passage of the North Sea.

No pilot claims to have brought down one of yesterday's raiders single-handed. Their defeat was a team job. One running fight began over the Pentland Hills, a few miles south of Edinburgh. British fighters chased a German bomber away from the Pentlands and it crashed into the sea over Port Seton. Shots from several aircraft helped to cripple it, but the coup de grace was delivered by an Auxiliary pilot who before the war practised as a lawyer.

He had taken a bet that he would be the first member of his squadron to bring down a German 'plane.

Swooping low over Edinburgh a squadron leader, who was a stockbroker in civil life, chased another enemy raider out to sea. Two other members of his squadron, a sheep farmer and the manager of a firm of plasterers, shot down a bomber off Crail, a Fifeshire fishing village. Engaged with other raiders were a student, a mining engineer, and another lawyer. One of the bombers chased by them flew at 50 feet from Kirkliston to Dunbar. Banking round church spires and chimney tops the German bomber with one engine out of action was seen "hedge-hopping" over the Lothians. It probably crashed before reaching Germany.

Only one hit was registered by the Germans - an armour piercing bullet through the cowling of one of our fighters. It did no damage and is now in the pilot's possession.

The most surprised men in yesterday's action were two British officers who happened to be flying an unarmed civil type of two-seater aircraft over the Firth of Forth. Seeing a large aircraft diving near them they thought that the pilot was being sportive and dived themselves. German bomber and British aircraft then suddenly recognised each other. A burst of fire sent the two British airmen back home in a hurry and the German bomber, apparently just as startled, disappeared into a cloud.

AIR MINISTRY.
