

25/11/39 - No.1.

CALL TO PATROL

WHY THE AIRMAN'S TEA GREW COLD

Inside a hut at a Royal Air Force aerodrome somewhere in England, the 'phone bell rings.

"Squadron Ops.....right.....at once.....thank you", the officer hangs up, calls "Runner!".

The runner appears at the door, salutes.

"Go over to the mess", says the officer, "and bring back tea for six. It'll be ready by the time you get there, and chocolate biscuits, too,"

Squadron Ops - or to give him his full title, Squadron Operations - has been speaking. He is the officer who receives and passes on orders to fighter pilots. He is older, greying at the temples.

Wings, and a row of multi-coloured ribbons on his tunic, tell the story of the fighter pilot of twenty years ago,

Outside the hut, a morning mist lies clamily over the aerodrome. A touch of frost in the night has whitened the grass, but the sun is not yet through to set it sparkling. Shadowy aircraftmen are tinkering about the idle machines; first one engine, then another, is set roaring.

Half-a-dozen aircraftmen, off duty, are punting a football to keep warm.

The runner brings back the tray of teas. But this morning it grows cold. Within a couple of minutes the telephone has rung again.

"Squadron Ops.....Red Section patrol Sometown.....20,000 ft", repeats the officer. He notes it in the log.

Pilots of Red Section are already racing across the field to their planes. They know Sometown - the last spot of trouble was there.

FROM AIR AFFAIRS.

25/11/39 - No 2

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE. (MORNING)

The following official communique was issued by  
French G.H.Q. this morning:

Nothing of importance to report during the night.

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25.11.39/No. 3.

P.N. 1596.

PRESS NOTICE.

Telephone Directories.

Post Office Telephone Directories utilise about twelve thousand tons of paper every year. In view of the urgent need to conserve the supply of paper, the Post Office has decided to issue directories at less frequent intervals during the war. Owing to the altogether abnormal number of changes in telephone numbers, due to the great movements of population during recent months, the new programme cannot be brought fully into operation for some little time. In London the number of such changes each half-year is normally over 100,000, with proportional figures for other Areas, but at the present time this figure has considerably increased.

It is the standard practice of the Post Office to collect old directories, but with the present difficulties under which Postmen are working, their load is greater than usual and it is probable today that individual distributors are sometimes unable to collect the replaced directory. The copies which are not collected do, however, eventually find their way into the national wastepaper basket and are not lost.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

25th November, 1939.

KIMBERLEY TO BE AN AIR FORCE CENTRE.

The South African Government's choice of Kimberley to be a great new aviation training centre has been keenly welcomed throughout the Union.

The "City of Diamonds" saw the first practical flight by a South African, when in 1911 John Weston thrilled a large crowd on a local racecourse, flying his biplane 200 feet over their heads and encircling the grounds again and again.

In 1913 a school of aviation was established nearby, and the site was well chosen, for Kimberley has unbeatable natural and strategic advantages. Not only is the surrounding country particularly well suited as a centre for training pilots, but it has the added benefit of being a junction for the main northern and western commercial air routes, a condition which will be of as much importance in peace time as in war.

In the present emergency a strong air force in South Africa is a vital defence of the sea routes between East and West. It is these reasons, as much as South Africa's remoteness from the other Dominions, which were the outstanding factors in her decision not to participate in the general Empire training scheme for pilots in Canada.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN.

Royal Air Force request for public co-operation.

Information of Barrage Balloons breaking away and coming to ground.

The Air Ministry announces:

Any member of the public who may see a balloon grounded near at hand is requested to inform the nearest police officer or police station, if possible by telephone. The police should be informed as accurately as possible of the location of the balloon.

It is particularly requested that distant observers of balloons grounding should not telephone to the police unless for any reason it seems likely that no other person has noticed the occurrence and communicated with the police.

The public are warned that it is dangerous to touch the balloon or its cables in any circumstances. It is also dangerous to smoke in the vicinity of the balloon because of the risk of explosion and fire.

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE  
TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 1939.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

"On the State of the Public Health".

The twentieth Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, Sir Arthur MacNalty, for the year 1938 is published today (Tuesday).

There were 10,647 more births and 30,745 fewer deaths in 1938 than in 1937. The birth rate of 15.1 is the highest since 1932 when it was 15.3; the death rate of 11.6 compares with 12.4 in 1937. The infant mortality rate has fallen to 53 per 1,000, and is the lowest on record. The deaths of infants under one year was 32,724 which is almost half the number who died twenty years ago. The maternal mortality rate, happily, continues to fall and the rate of 3.08 per 1,000 live births (2.97 per 1,000 total births) is the lowest on record since 1911. The number of women who died was 1,917 as against 1,988 last year.

There has been a decline in the incidence of encephalitis lethargica ("sleepy sickness"), acute influenzal pneumonia and enteric fever, and a slight decrease in scarlet fever. There have been slight rises in the incidence of cerebrospinal fever, diphtheria, dysentery, and a considerable increase in acute poliomyelitis.

Artificial immunisation against diphtheria continues to make slow progress but its value is insufficiently appreciated. Prophylactics of proved worth are available, and public co-operation can make a drastic reduction in the deaths from this disease.

The Enteric Group of Fevers.

The prevalence of typhoid and paratyphoid fevers has decreased enormously: the death rate has been lowered from 371 per million living between 1871-5 to 6 in 1936. The prevention and control of enteric fevers requires ceaseless vigilance, and the most important single factor responsible for the improved position is the provision of wholesome water supply.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Despite the pressure of the emergency the services for the welfare of mothers and young children have been maintained and even extended. The improvement in the statistics is considerable but stillbirths and neonatal deaths still present problems for research. Present child welfare work includes health visiting, child life protection, welfare centres, day nurseries and homes, dental services, supply of milk and meals, and various voluntary work.

The Relation of Food to Health and Disease.

The Advisory Committee on nutrition has been engaged in three main investigations; a family budget inquiry, the distribution of the population in income groups, and dietary surveys. It has co-operated with the Technical Commission on Nutrition of the League of Nations. Researches on the antenatal composition of the blood and on growth rate in babies have been carried out.

In general widespread improvements in dairy practice have resulted from the milk grading scheme with consequent improvement of the milk supply.

#### Control of the Purity of Food.

Great Britain is one of the few countries which have not adopted a system of food standards, leaving the responsibility on the local authorities and the Law Courts. Growing difficulties have led to the insertion in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, of provisions enabling the Minister of Health to make regulations as to the composition of foods. The aim will be that no standards should be established without adequately protecting the consumers from commercial exploitation and ensuring that there is no undue restriction in the choice of foods.

#### Cancer.

Cancer mortality has again risen. There were 68,605 deaths in 1938, an increase of 1,614 over 1937. The National Cancer Service has been established for several reasons, two of which are to educate the public on the curability of cancer and to facilitate the specialised treatment of the condition.

#### The Insurance Medical Service.

The success of postgraduate courses for insurance practitioners continues; in 1938 there were 44 study courses attended by 910 practitioners. In 1938 the number of insured persons was 17,781,000 and the number of insurance practitioners was 17,050 - increases of 749,000 and 250 on the previous year.

#### Tuberculosis.

The rate of decline in tuberculosis mortality has been greater since 1931 than at any other time in this century and has been most notable amongst young adults and children. The improvement may be attributed to better housing and to improvements in the Tuberculosis Service made by many authorities in recent years. Primary notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis were 1,751 fewer than last year.

#### International Health Work.

During the year close contact has been maintained with the International Health Office in Paris with particular reference to the International Sanitary Convention, 1926, and the International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Navigation, 1933. Co-operation has also been maintained with the Health Organisation of the League of Nations.

Ministry of Health,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Issued 25th November, 1939, for publication on 28th November.

25.11.39

- No. 7.

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Minister of Shipping has appointed  
Sir Edward W. Beatty, G.B.E., K.C., LL.D., D.C.L., to be  
his representative in the Dominion of Canada.

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"THE LION HAS WINGS"

25/11/39 - No 8.

The film "The Lion Has Wings" is being generally released on Monday, the 27th November, in spite of the fact that it has been playing to packed houses at the Leicester Square Theatre in London until a few days ago.

It will be shown throughout the Odeon and Gaumont-British circuits, as well as by many smaller circuits, and by hundreds of independent exhibitors throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

This exceptionally early release was only made possible by close co-operation between the exhibitors and renters concerned.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

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THE KABAKA OF BUGANDA

MR. MALCOLM MACDONALD'S PERSONAL MESSAGE.

Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Secretary of State for the Colonies, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, has confirmed the Governor's action in approving the election of Mutesa, son of the late Sir Daudi Chwa, as Kabaka of Buganda.

Mr. MacDonald asked the Governor to convey to the new Kabaka his personal message, expressing the hopes that notwithstanding the present difficult times, his reign will be accompanied by good fortune and by the increasing prosperity of all his people in Buganda.

Air Ministry Bulletin.

25/11/39. - NO. 10.

R.A.F. OVER NORTH-WEST GERMANY.

The Air Ministry announces:-

Aircraft of the Royal Air Force made successful flights over north-west Germany last night and early this morning.

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CANADA'S OPINION OF GERMAN MINE CAMPAIGN.

Great indignation is expressed in the Canadian Press over Germany's unrestricted mine-laying campaign, and the loss of life involved. The "Gazette" heads its front page despatch "Outlaw Mines revolt the world"; and the "Montreal Star", under the title "Mark of the Beast" says;-- "True to its atrocious standards of inhumanity, the Nazi Government, driven to desperation by the failure of its U-boat campaign to affect, save in a decimal degree, the steady flow of supplies to Great Britain from Overseas, is now resorting to methods to which the term "Planned Murder" may justifiably be applied". There is a generally favourable attitude towards Great Britain's decision to retaliate by seizing German exports.

UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE ACT " AS ONE STATE".

The announcements of Anglo-French accord have also attracted much favourable attention in Canada. The "Gazette" refers to it as follows;- "United Kingdom and France to act as One State. Pool of wealth and might to beat Hitler".; and the "Toronto Star" sees in "the Allied Pool, the first step to a United States of Europe".

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PRIME MINISTER VISITS R.A.F.

The Air Ministry announces:-

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Chamberlain this afternoon visited the headquarters of the Fighter Command of the Royal Air Force.

They were received by Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Fighter Command, and were accompanied by Sir Edward Campbell, Bart., M.P., the Parliamentary Private Secretary of the Secretary of State for Air.

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POSTAL RATES TO FORCES IN FRANCE.

The War Office and Air Ministry announce:

Many people are reported to be under the impression that a 2½d. stamp must be affixed to letters for members of H.M. Forces serving in France.

This is not the case. The postal rates are - 1½d. for the first ounce, and 1d. for each additional ounce. Postcards go for a penny, and newspapers can be sent for ½d. for two ounces.

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25/11/39 - No. 14.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

The following **official** communique was  
issued this evening from French G.H.Q. :-

A quiet day on the Front as a whole.

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25/11/39 - No.15.

ADMIRALTY OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

Two bombing attacks by German aircraft were made on H.M. ships in the North Sea this afternoon.

Many bombs were dropped but no hits were obtained. There were no casualties.

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