

Aug. 22 -
Friday, July 22, 1941

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NEWS BULLETIN NO. 472

COMFORTS FOR THE TROOPS

Since the outbreak of war, 3,054,742 gifts, in addition to 6,192,685 cigarettes, have been despatched from the Army Comforts Depot at Reading to British troops in various theatres of war.

"The gifts are splendid" - "I would be grateful if all the donors could know of the appreciation for the gifts" - "They will be a tremendous asset to life here."

These are extracts from three of the many letters that are continually arriving at Reading from Commanding Officers serving in widely scattered places. - War Office
M.o.I. 1.

"A.V." SHOULDER TITLES FOR ALLIED VOLUNTEERS

Approval has been given for platoons of Allied Volunteers in the A.E.S. to wear the shoulder title "A.V." on the service dress jacket and greatcoat.

The titles will only be worn by personnel of platoons which consist solely of Allied Volunteers; individuals serving with other platoons will not wear them. - War Office.
M.o.I. 2.

GIFTS FOR AIRCRAFT

The Minister of Aircraft Production acknowledges with gratitude the following gifts towards the purchase of aircraft.

From the East India Fund for fighter aircraft	£68,500
This brings the total contributions to date to	£508,500
Girls of Leachdale House Laundry, W.10.	17/-
Staff Naval Store Department, H.M. Dockyard, Chatham, towards the cost of a bomb.	£1.0.0.
Employees, Rodney Works, Bristol Aeroplane Co.Ltd., towards a Spitfire.	£100.
Dorothy Hobson, aged 12, of Chilwell, Notts. money made by sale of flowers	£5.0.0.
Air Ministry Directorate of Works, Works Repair Depot, 7th contribution. Total now	£3.17.0. £26.13.0.
Further gift of £4,019.14.4 towards the Chesham Aircraft Victory Fund. Total now £19,019.14.4.	
Bernadette Lund, aged 11, money raised by holding a bazaar and concert.	£15.15.0.
<u>Ministry of Aircraft Production.</u>	<u>M.o.I. 3.</u>

"V" FOR VICTORY

Post Office Telegraph Operators have been instructed to use "V" for Victory" instead of "V for Victor" when alphabetical analogy is used in the dictation and repetition where necessary of telegrams handled by telephone. General Post Office.

M.o.I. 4.

FOUR MILLION MILES OVER OCEANS

AUSTRALIAN AIRMEN'S RECONNAISSANCES

Reconnaissance squadrons of the Royal Australian Air Force have flown nearly four million miles over four oceans since the outbreak of the war and have covered an area of over 75,000,000 square miles on convoy work and general reconnaissance. - Issued by Australia House. (Through the Dominions Office Press Section.)
M.o.I. 5.

(continued)

"FIT IN EVERY RESPECT"

GENERAL'S PRAISE FOR THIRD CANADIAN DIVISION

Lieut.-General A.G.L. McNaughton, Canadian Corps Commander, has paid his first visit to the Third Canadian Division.

The purpose of the inspection, General McNaughton explained, was to satisfy himself that the basic training which the Division had undergone before leaving Canada had worked out as he had hoped.

After inspecting groups of almost every unit he declared that the standard of manhood and manliness of these recent additions to the Dominion's Overseas army was a credit to Canada.

"I am very happy about everything I have seen", he said. "There is a high standard of basic training and the men are ^{most} thoroughly fit in every respect."

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M.o.I. 6

LORD BEAVERBROOK'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Minister of Supply, Lord Beaverbrook, acknowledges with gratitude the following gifts towards the purchase of tanks and other war weapons:-

J.E. Hordern, Cobham Court, Canterbury	...	...	...	...	£2. 2. 0
Children of Linden Terrace, Ladywood, Birmingham	...	...	...	...	£2. 0. 0
J. C. Wills, Harcourt's Drive, Belfast, to help provide a land-mine to drop on Berlin	..	...	...	...	£9.16. 8
Elmswell Village War Savings Group	...	...	...	...	£141. 3. 8
March & North Witchford War Weapons Week	...	...	...	...	£92.15.11
Children, staff and friends of Oxford Day Nursery	...	...	...	...	£7. 0.0
G. Compton, Roydon, Essex	...	...	...	...	£5. 0.0

Ministry of Supply

M.o.I. 7

The following is from "Die Zeitung" the anti-Nazi German newspaper published in London:-

THE PUNISHMENT OF HUMANITY

According to the "Hamburger Fremdenblatt" a woman employed in a factory with French prisoners-of-war succeeded during the breakfast interval in slipping them a parcel of cakes. Later she even gave one of the Frenchmen some bread. She has been sentenced to 4 years imprisonment.

The "Kieler Neueste Nachrichten" get very excited at the fact that "many German Volksgenossen lined up outside the iron bars of the yard of a building in which Belgian and French prisoners-of-war, housed at Kiel, recently played football, and even applauded every goal. Such behaviour must not be repeated. Even if thoughtless, it is undignified and must hurt the pride of every German. This regrettable incident makes it necessary to point out that all prisoners of war remain our enemies.

Ministry of Information

M.o.I. 8

(continued)

GREAT WELCOME FOR GENERAL DE GAULLE

General de Gaulle, accompanied by General Catroux, proceeded from Syria to the Lebanon and reviewed the troops in Tripoli, including a battalion of infantry and a battalion from the Levant. He received notabilities at the Seraglio, and a dinner was given in his honour.

On his way to Latakia, he visited Cardinal Tappouni, the Syrian Catholic Patriarch of Antioch, and Monseigneur Rémy Leprêtre, the Apostolic Delegate, at their residence on the Cherfe Mountain, as well as the Maronite Patriarch, Monseigneur Arida, at Dimane.

General de Gaulle was given a moving welcome by the population, which lined up along the route and acclaimed him on all sides. Even the poorest houses were decked with French and Lebanese flags. Free France Information Service M.o.I.9.

RESISTANCE STORIES FROM ALSACE

In spite of the presence of the Gestapo, incidents continually occur throughout Alsace. Propaganda posters are quickly torn down. The "Marseillaise" is heard on every occasion. The swastika flag was burnt at the Sous-Prefecture of Thann and at Ribeauvillé and Saverne the big German flags flying over the castle ruins were pulled down and replaced by the tricolor. At Saverne the perpetrators of this courageous deed cemented the French flag-staff, surrounded it with barbed wire and pulled out the rungs for climbing the tower so that the next day, the local people had the satisfaction of watching the Wehrmacht try to destroy the French flag by machine-gun fire.

At the Colmar lycée, schoolboys also tried to replace the swastika by the tricolor and were arrested. At Thann a German emblem of wood was found one morning surmounted by a "vase de nuit" with the notice "Ersatz helmet offered to Hitler for his invasion of England!"

When German soldiers try to strike up conversation with young Alsatian girls and ask "Where are you going to in such a hurry Mademoiselle?" the usual reply is "To England!"

In geography lessons, children refuse to give Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Warsaw or Prague as German towns. Free France Information Service M.o.I.10.
