

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE
00.30 D.B.S.T. (i.e. FOR MORNING PAPERS)
ON FRIDAY JUNE 5, 1942.

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

LAST NIGHT'S COMMANDO RAID

From Edward Gilling Exchange Telegraph Co's War Correspondent.

For nearly an hour this morning German defences on the French coast between Boulogne and Le Touquet were put into a state of confusion by a 'smash and grab raid' by the Commandos. When the British troops went ashore on the beach just before three o'clock this morning they rattled the Germans so badly that the latter at times fired at one another.

The Commandos, many of whom had to wade waist deep from their assault craft advanced over the dunes, some of them reaching some distance inland after cutting their way through the barbed wire defences.

A pill-box at the edge of the dunes put up a stiff resistance until the Commandos concentrated Bren-gun and anti-tank gun-fire upon it, and, then in a matter of minutes, it was completely silenced and never fired again throughout the Commandos' stay.

It was not until the Commandos had actually established themselves on the foreshore that the German defences opened fire, following upon the firing of a white Very light which illumined the beach and threw a spotlight on the Commandos racing towards the dunes. The defences tried to set up a cross-fire, but, in the end, tracer bullets from one German machine-gun post could be seen streaking across the sands point blank at a fellow gunpost.

The Commandos were able to get through the wire defences and carry out their reconnaissance and gather the information which they were there to seek.

Two searchlights were switched on by the defenders and the German machine-gun posts directed their fire against the assault craft lying off, obviously with the object of preventing the re-embarkation of the troops that had landed.

The Army Commander who led the assault up the beach ordered the withdrawal after the Commandos had completed their task, a single bugle note ringing out above the rattle of machine-gun and rifle-fire.

Immediately the Commandos began to make their way back to the boats, the last party to leave consisting of a lieutenant, who comes from Carmarthenshire, and half a dozen men.

Under cover of a smokescreen the troops were re-embarked and made their way out to sea with the German defences still firing wild and sporadic bursts at the diminishing targets.

After putting out a mile off-shore it was decided that in order to ensure that no-one had been left behind, one of the craft should put back to the beach for a final look round. Finding no one waiting on the beaches, the commander of this craft decided to enjoy a partthian shot with long bursts of fire from Bren guns and every ^{other} type of armament aboard.

/This

This craft had only just left the beach when in the brilliant moonlight we suddenly spotted R.A.F. machines overhead diving low to the shore and a series of heavy explosions followed as they dropped their bombs all along the foreshore in and about the defences.

Shortly after dawn as we were making our way from the French coast we saw a squadron of Spitfires flying low over the water towards us and for the remainder of the voyage home the R.A.F. fighters continually circled the convoy.

One or two straggling craft, however, fell astern a little and these were made the object of a sudden swoop by four Messerschmitts which attempted to dive-bomb and machine-gun them. The enemy aircraft were met with a fusillade of fire from the boats and after a few minutes were driven off. Apart from this incident the return voyage to a south coast port was without incident.

Small crowds gathered at the port and watched the Commandos come ashore and drive to their billets where they were served with a hot meal and cigarettes.

The voyage to the French coast on Wednesday night was equally uneventful. Weather conditions were absolutely perfect with the red glow from the setting sun flooding a calm sea.

The Commandos wearing shorts and stockings and with their toggle ropes round their waists and soft woollen hats sat quietly in the assault boats talking in whispers.

As we neared the French coast searchlights were switched on and swung low over the sea. We held our breaths many a time when it seemed certain that we must be picked up, but after a few anxious seconds the lights were switched off and it was not until the boats had actually run ashore that the searchlights picked them up.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1942

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

ECONOMIES IN THE WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION OF GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS

The Ministry of Food's Sector Scheme to effect economies in the wholesale distribution of groceries and provisions will come into operation on August 24, 1942.

For the purposes of the Scheme the country has been divided into 9 Sectors, as follows:-

	<u>Divisions</u>		<u>Divisions</u>
Sector 1	London	Sector 5	N. Midland
	S. Eastern	Sector 6	N. Western
	Southern		N. Wales
	Eastern I	Sector 7	N. Eastern
	Eastern II	Sector 8	Northern
Sector 2	S. Western	Sector 9	All Scottish Divisions
Sector 3	S. Wales		Northern Ireland
Sector 4	Midland		

There are certain exceptions to this arrangement: Dorset and the County Borough of Bournemouth are neutral to Sectors 1 and 2; Radnor and Cardiganshire are neutral to Sectors 3 and 6; Cumberland and Westmorland are neutral to Sectors 6 and 7; Berwick-on-Tweed is neutral to Sectors 7 and 8; the Chesterfield and Matlock Districts of the North Midland Division are neutral to Sectors 5 and 6; and the North Staffordshire and North Shropshire areas in the Midland Division are neutral to Sectors 4 and 6.

The Scheme ensures that traders selling by wholesale may sell only to retailers in the same sector. In a neutral area a retailer can draw supplies from either of the two Sectors named. In order to operate under the Scheme, the seller must occupy premises, situated in the same sector as those of the purchaser, at which the seller can take delivery, provide storage, handling and transport facilities, and from which he must supply any goods sold by him. A seller may, however, supply consignments of not less than 500 lbs. of any one food in its original packages by means of a delivery order on any premises in the same sector, although they may not be occupied or used by him. First hand distributors also may deliver from any premises, consignments of not less than 500 lbs. of any one food in its original packages to any multiple branch which is situated in the same sector as the multiple's central depot.

Notwithstanding the Sector Boundaries, a wholesaler may deliver to any customer whose premises are within a radius of 40 miles from those of the seller.

The Scheme applies to all food and drink (including vinegar, spices, condiments and flavouring essences) subject to certain exceptions. The more important of the foods exempted are bread, aerated waters, fruit juices and cordials, beer, chocolate and sugar confectionery, fish, fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh meat, liquid milk, mineral waters, poultry, game, rabbits and sausages.

The Sector Scheme is the first step to securing economies in the transport of groceries and provisions. Further steps, including the zoning of the distribution of manufactured foods and a reduction of cross-hauls within the sectors are being investigated by the Ministry.

/Limitation

Limitation of Supplies

The Sector Scheme will also limit the number of suppliers from whom a retailer may obtain rationed foods. There will be no restriction on the number of suppliers for points foods or of the total number of suppliers for foods in general.

The following will be the limitations:-

Not more than one supplier for each of the following:-

- Sugar (except speciality sugar);
- Cooking Fats;
- Butter (excluding farm butter);
- Cheese;
- Margarine;
- Eggs;
- Syrup/Treacle.

Not more than two suppliers for:-

- Bacon
- Tea (if less than 24 lb. per four-weekly period is sold).

Not more than three suppliers for:-

- Jam/Marmalade/Mince-meat/Fruit Curds/Imported Honey.

Not more than four suppliers for:-

- Tea (if not less than 24 lb. per four-weekly period is sold).

Every nomination must conform to the Sector Scheme. There are also certain minor exceptions of which the trade will be notified.

MINISTRY OF FOOD