AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENT

CEMENTING FRIENDSHIP

New York Times: "The surrender by the United States and Great Britain of their extra territorial and related rights and privileges in China marks the dawn of an epoch in which a new China, exercising full soverienty over her own soil, takes her place as an equal partner in the family of the United Nations. That is a matter for congratulations - to China, to America and Great Britain, to all the United Nations, and to the world. It should prove an inspiration to all peoples aspiring to full sovereignty and independence.

"But the Treaties for the abolition of these rights signed at Washington and Chung King yesterday are also a model for the revision of antiquated Treaties by mutual agreement, which refutes the claims of the agressor nations that Treaties can be revised only by force. With goodwill on both sides the knotty problem has now been solved in a manner which reflects credit on all the parties involved, and not only avoids conflict but helps to cement their friendship."

A TIMELY RECOGNITION

New York Herald Tribune: "China has grown spiritually to a stature that makes the retention of extra territoriality a sad anachronism. It is a good riddance; and the surrender of it is a timely expression of British and American recognition not only of China's growth of military power through terrible sacrifices, but of the moral stamina which makes her one of the great reliances of the United Nations."

RECIPROCAL EQUALITY

Washington Post: "The Treaties signed at Washington and Chung King this week abolish all the limitations upon China's sovereignty arising from the special rights enjoyed by foreigners in China. It is the way that the peace can be won in war time. No happier way of showing our determination to see that the Atlantic Charter is carried out could have been found than by placing the legal relationship between China and the Western Democracies on a basis of full reciprocal equality."

STRUCTURE OF PEACE

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Exactly a century after the signing of the first agreements depriving China of the right to meet out equal justice to her own and other nationals on her soil that great nation has been restored to diplomatic equality with the other nations of the world. The signing of this treaty suggests that the structure of peace which is to follow a United Nations victory is already being created, so that when the victorious powers gather about the conference table the ground work for much of their accomplishment already will have been laid."

/PREFERENCE

PREFERENCE FOR RUSSIA

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "President Roosevelt's order giving preference in lease-lend military supplies to Russia is a significant and encouraging development. Weapons are effective only to the extent they are utilized in combat, and the President's action confirms popular judgment that the outcome of the fighting in Russia will decide to a great extent the success of the Allied cause in the months immediately ahead. The President is to be commended not only for his decision but for permitting public announcement. It will go far toward building morale".

BURDEN OF UNITED STATES

The Minneapolis Star Journal discussing the new War Budget says "Because we have the most productive resources - land, factories, machines, mines, skilled manpower - the economic burden of the United Nations falls primarily upon us. And we are now sophisticated enough to understand that there can be no post-war talk of monetary war debt owed us by our Allies 'because of what we are doing for them'. Aside from the great price Russia and Britain are paying in human lives for a United Nations victory they are contributing economically everything they can (even more than we in proportion to wealth and population). It is our obligation to contribute everything we can to the common victory".

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U.S. OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

W. A. A. F. OFFICER SAVES DROWNING CHILD

Diving into the swirling waters of the Taw estuary, Assistant Section-Officer Diana Godwin, a code and cypher officer at a station in Coastal Command, saved the life of a three-year old boy who was being swept away down the river.

Assistant Section-Officer Godwin, whose home is at Pulborough, Sussex, was travelling in a train approaching Barnstaple station when she saw a small boy struggling in the water.

Dashing out of the train as it reached the station, she rushed back to the spot where she had seen the child and, tearing off her greatcoat, dived into the water. A good swirmer, she reached the boy, then 15 yards from the river's edge. Railway officials helped her to carry him up the slippery bank and apply artificial respiration.

The boy had been playing 300 yards upstream, and had slipped into the water. He soon recovered and was taken to his parents, who have since written a letter to Assistant Section-Officer Godwin in which they say:

"We hardly know how to write this letter thanking you with all our hearts for your wonderful action in saving the life of our child. We do not know how we can repay you, but hope that we shall have a chance to some day."

"I just ran back and went into the river to get the child out," was all that the W.A.A.F. officer said, - but a man who was in the train declared: "It was an extremely fine effort."

NOTE - Name of child: Robert Ridler, 7, Paige's lane, Barnstaple.

A. S. O. Diana Godwin is the daughter of Mrs. Buchanan, Pulborough, Sussex.

NOTE - Picture available from P. N. A.

13/1/43 - No. 7

GLASSHOUSE HEATING

The Minister of Fuel and Power has given a Direction under the Control of Fuel (No. 3) Order entitled General Direction (Glasshouse Heating) No. 1.

This Direction, which comes into force on Friday, 15th January, prohibits the use or consumption of any fuel for heating a glasshouse or any part thereof except under permit in writing from the Minister or a Regional Fuel Controller.

Glasshouses which are used wholly for the production of tomatoes, lettuce, mustard and cress or for the raising of young vegetables do not come within, the Direction.

In addition, the Direction does not apply to a glasshouse used for producing food crops for sale if it is situated on a holding of agricultural land exceeding acre and the occupier complies with the provision of Article 4 of the Horticultural (Cropping) Amendment and Consolidation Order, 1942, or the corresponding Scottish Order, which applies to any glasshouse on a holding of agricultural land irrespective of size.

Where hot-water pipes forming part of a general central heating system of a house pass through a glasshouse and cannot be adjusted so as to prevent the heating of the glasshouse, such heating is not prohibited. But when a glasshouse is fitted with radiators or other heating appliances which can be separately controlled the restrictions contained in the Direction will apply.

For the purpose of this Direction fuel means coal, coke, paraffin, gas, electricity, liquid fuel and wood fuel - except such wood fuel as has not been acquired from another person by the occupier of the glasshouse for use as fuel. Glasshouse owners may, therefore, use wastewood from their own trees or garden rubbish for heating their glasshouses for growing any plants they wish.

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MINISTRY OF FUEL

MIDDLE EAST JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE

G.H.Q. Cairo, January 13

Yesterday patrol activity continued. Otherwise there is nothing to report from our land forces.

Although sandstorms hindered air operations over the battle area yesterday five enemy fighters were destroyed in combat.

Tripoli and Homs were successfully attacked during the night 11th/12th January.

Targets in Crete, Socily and on Lampedusa island were attacked during yesterday by our light bombers and fighter bombers.

From these and other operations two of our aircraft did not return but the pilots are safe.

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WAR OFFICE

13.1.43 No. 13.

Air Ministry No. 8957

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

Last night aircraft of Bomber Command again attacked targets in the Ruhr.

One of our aircraft is missing.

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CLO PHING DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

REMINDER TO RETAILERS

Retailers in the clothing trade who are affected by the Clothing Distribution Committee's scheme for ensuring to small retailers fair shares of the limited supplies now available, are reminded that to secure their supplies under the scheme for the first period (1st January to 31st March, 1943) they must send a formal declaration to each of their suppliers before the 31st January.

The declaration must state specifically

- (a) that the retailer desires to be included in the scheme;
- (b) that the total turnover of all his business in the standard year 1939 did not exceed £5,000, and
- (c) the value of his purchases from the particular supplier in the standard year 1939.

Retailers who do not send in these declarations by the closing date will not be able to claim the benefits of the scheme for the first quarter. They will, however, be able to enter the scheme for the second period, lst April to 30th June, provided that they are eligible and that they send in their declarations before the 30th April. Once a retailer has entered the scheme and his claim has been accepted by his suppliers, it will not be necessary for him to make further declarations for subsequent periods.

A leaflet has been published explaining the scheme in detail and showing which retailers are eligible to participate, what goods they are entitled to claim and how they should proceed to secure their supplies. It also gives particulars of the obligations resting on suppliers, both manufacturers and wholesalers. All classes of traders who are affected by the scheme, either as retailers or as suppliers, are advised to obtain a copy directly, or through any bookseller, from the Stationery Office, price 2d.

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 8966

BIG DAYDIGHT SWEEPS OVER FRANCE

As escorts to R.A.F. Bostons. Venturas and American Flying Fortresses and in fighter sweeps nearly 400 Spitfines flew over Northern France today.

American Spitfire pilots helped to escort the Bostons in an attack on an airfield at St. Omer. Polish squadrons with British and other squadrons in support escorted R.A.F. Venturas to attack an airfield at Abbeville and, British, Allied and Canadian Spitfire squadrons of Fighter Command covered the return of American Fortresses, which had attacked targets at Lille.

The bombing took place within a period of about two hours.

The first attack was launched shortly after noon when a force of R.A.F. Boston bombers raided the airfield at St. Omer. Norwegian, Belgian, Australian and Canadian squadrons of Fighter Command, as well as American fighter squadrons, were among the supporting formations but opposition was limited to anti-aircraft fire.

Pilots of one of the Canadian fighter squadrons reported seeing bombs from the Bostons bursting in the dispersal area of the airfield. The Spitfire pilots flying close to the Bostons saw no enemy aircraft on the way in . and the few seen on the way out kept at a respectful distance.

Ahout an hour later the enemy airfield at Abboville was attacked by a strong force of Lockheed Venturas of the R.A.F. Bomber Command, escorted by Polish squadrons and further supported by a fighter force which included New Zealand and Fighting French squadrons of the R.A.F.

After the attack on the airfield the West Lancashire Auxiliary Squadron and the Fighting French Spitfire Squadron fought about 20 F.W. 190s above it.

They destroyed three F.W. 190s and damaged others without loss to themselves.

A member of the Fighting French Squadron said: "We saw the F.W.190s when the bombers had turned for home. One of our pilots got on to the tail of one which dived straight down with our pilot following him.

"Our pilot blacked-out when he pulled out of the dive at about 5,000 feet. His air speed indicator was showing 430 m.p.h. before he pulled out.

"He did not see what happened to the F.W. 190 at which he had fired, but some of his colleagues saw it crash into the ground and break up.

"Another of our pilots set the engine of another F.W. 190 on fire and destroyed it."

The third F.W. was destroyed by a pilot of the West Lancashire Auxiliary Squadron who said: "There were three of them below us and we got a good 'bounce' on the one I destroyed. I did not see what happened to him but the squadron commander saw him blow up in mid air. The other two managed to break away."

While Canadian squadrons were patrolling the Dunkirk area in support of the American bombers returning from Lille, they saw about five F.W.190s as the Fortresses were coming out over the coast, but it was impossible to engage any of them except one which went away damaged.

Earlier in the day a Norwegian flight lieutenant in Fighter Command shot up two barges of about 200-tons each on a Dutch canal. He had to fly through intense flak before getting in his attack.

He and another pilot also hit a gun post on the coast near The Hague.

LORD GORT

Field Marshal the Lord Gort, V.C., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta, has arrived in this country for consultation.

Lord Gort, who left England in May, 1941, on appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Gibraltar, will return to Malta after taking a brief period of leave.

COLONIAL OFFICE

13/1/43 - No. 25

Air Ministry No. 8964

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOLE SECURITY COMMUNIQUE

Two enemy fighters this morning dropped bombs at a place on the south east coast of England.

Some damage was done and there was a small number of casualties.

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BROADCAST BY GENERAL DE GAULLE

Following is the text of a broadcast by General de Gaulle at 9.25 p.m. tonight in the B.B.C. French Service:-

On the French front of Southern Libya, French troops from the Chad, supported by French aircraft, have just completed, after a month's campaign, in the most difficult country and the worst climate of the world, the conquest of the Italian Fezzan. These troops, who have come from the very heart of Africa, are thus in a position to take part in the decisive engagements on the shores of the Mediterranean.

France's glory is and will remain great enough for us to avoid superlatives in referring to these events. To explain the military epic of General Leclerc and his companions, we will just say that it constitutes an exploit which is no less than the finest in our history.

But it may be that the efforts of these good soldiers have consoled France in some slight measure. Yes, the long and hard trials of minute preparation under a blazing sky, the deadly weariness of those columns driving into the stony or sandy desert a thousand miles from their bases, the exhausting work of the airmen, the bloody battles against the fortified positions, troops and aircraft of the enemy, each and every one of these men who have suffered these things, from their young and glorious General down to the private, offered them humbly as a gift from the depths of their hearts to the suffering and the pride of France.

By the victory of our Chad troops, the enemy has once more seen the French flame of war surge forth, that flame which he believed extinguished by disaster and treason but which has not one day ceased to burn and to grow under the inspiration of those who refused to despair. It is the same flame, quickened by the same breath, which has gradually inspired millions and millions of French men and women, fired henceforth by one ardour, one disgust, one fury. It is the same flame, quickened by the same inspiration, which now urges on to the same fight, our brave troops in Tunisia. It is the same flame, quickened by the same inspiration, which will one day arise from all the land of France, as well as from all over martyred Europe, to bring about the vengeance of the nation and the victory of the Motherland.

That part of the world which is fighting at our side, with such courage and at the cost of so many sacrifices, the great war of liberation, without having experienced invasion, or oppression, or misery, or hunger, can see in the victory of our troops from the Chad a sign which is the forerunner of that new France, that proud and unyielding France which grew out of her trials. That part of the world can perceive the widening abyss between the new nation and the old. That part of the world will understand that it would be ridiculous to seek the heart and soul of France under the system of tottering hierarchies and sordid calculations. That part of the world can feel that strict fairness and wisdom require that honour of a great nation such as ours should be respected.

But the masses fighting the world over, have seen in our French soldiers from the Chad, comrades in their great army; they have seen in the success of our soldiers a modest step towards common victory, in the ideals of these soldiers, a reflection of the ideal which today unites all men of good will. For, if Frenchmen have only one fight for one country, the United Nations on wage only one war in one cause.

EXTENSIVE OPERATIONS OVER NORTHERN FRANCE

It is announced to-day by the Air Ministry (A.M. No. 8965) and Headquarters, European Theatre of Operations, U.S. Army (Communique No. 33) that:-

The Royal Air Force, United States Army Air Force, Dominion and Allied Air Forces have carried out extensive operations over Northern France to-day.

U.S.A.A.F. Flying Fortresses (B.17s) made a high altitude bombing attack upon industrial plants in Lille, France, which are engaged in war production for Germany. Visibility was good. Numerous bursts were observed on the target; and in the railway yards. There were a number of encounters with enemy aircraft. From this operation three of our Fortresses are missing.

R.A.F. Bostons, escorted by U.S.A.A.F. Spitfires, bombed the airfield at St. Omer, and Venturas, with escort, bombed the airfield at Abbeville.

Many squadrons of R.A.F., Dominion and Allied sircraft carried out covering and supporting operations in the course of which three enemy fighters were destroyed.

13/1/43 - No. 30

Air Ministry No. 8967

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

This morning fighters, two of which are missing, attacked canal barges abd gun positions in Holland.

Late this afternoon, Mosquitos of Bomber Command, without loss, bombed railway centres in Northern France. The attacks were made from a low level and bursts were seen on engine sheds, locomotive repair shops and railway yards.