

Monday, March 17, 1941.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NEWS BULLETIN NO. 316.

IMPORT OF EGYPTIAN ONIONS.

The Ministry of Food recently announced the terms under which consideration would be given to applications for licences to import Egyptian onions. The allocation of shipping space to exporters will now be made by the Egyptian Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Food will recommend the grant of import licences on the basis of these allocations.

In view of the limitations of shipping space importers are requested not to make application for licences until they have received confirmation of purchase and shipment. It must be emphasised that any licences granted on the strength of information supplied under a misapprehension will be cancelled.
Ministry of Food. M.O.I. 1.

"JOHN PEEL'S HUNTER" WILL HUNT NAZIS.

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

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| Canadian Paper Trade Association | £400 |
| Employees of Betts & Company and its subsidiary, Betts British Foil Factories, Ltd. | £500 |
| Chipping Norton & District Spitfire Fund | £1,000 |
| Olives and Hurlingham District of Buenos Aires | £5,000 |
| People of West Cumberland (plane to be called "John Peel's Hunter") | £5,060-13-0 |
| Manchester Aircraft Fund (total to date £59987-8-11) | £15,500 |
| <u>Ministry of Aircraft Production.</u> | <u>M.O.I. 2.</u> |

PRESS NOTICE.

Engineer Lieutenant-Commander M.J. Speer, R.N. (Retired) has been awarded a Greenwich Hospital Pension of £40 a year in the vacancy caused by the death of Engineer Lieutenant-Commander W. Dalton, R.N. (Retired), on 4th February, 1941.
Admiralty. M.O.I. 3.

ANCIENT GUILDHALL IS EVACUEES' GUEST-HOUSE.

Peace-time visitors to Lavenham, one of the show places of East Anglia, never missed seeing the Guildhall. Mellowed by the centuries, ^{with} targeted brickwork, old beams and mullioned windows, it is the crowning glory of this quaint old Suffolk village.

Holiday-makers often heard the story of the bishop who was imprisoned in the Guildhall's "dungeon" in the days of the Armada. Now the old Guildhall has become a guest-house. It has opened its doors to London mothers and children who, under the Ministry of Health Evacuation Scheme, have found war-time homes in Lavenham. A neat painted sign outside says: "The Guildhall Club".

What was the kitchen in the hey-day of the Guildhall (which was once the home of the Guild of Weavers) has been converted into a general dining room and rest room. The tremendous fire places, almost big enough to roast an ox, have been turned into cosy nooks where evacuee mothers can rest and knit and write letters to their husbands.

(Contd)

The Guildhall is not only a club in which to meet and talk. Daily a communal table is spread, and cheap meals are served for war-time visitors and village folk alike.

The cooking is done in a small room which has been equipped as a modern kitchen. A meal costs only eightpence and a typical menu is: Fricassee of mutton and rabbit; savoy and mashed potatoes; Eve's pudding. The sweet is an old friend under a new name:- baked sponge pudding with jam.

Despite the low price, it has not been overlooked that an evacuee whose husband is trying to keep his London home going, has little money to spare, and if she has two or three children, even this charge per dinner would be a steady drain on her purse. So children get the full menu at half price.

A clinic and a nursery centre for "under fives" are already installed in the Guildhall. As the building is in private ownership, every care has been taken in adapting it to its present use to preserve the historic interior.

Hot meals and rest rooms meet only part of the needs of evacuated mothers. Equally important are hot baths and a laundry and to provide adequately for these is one of the problems of billeting.

The local council have solved this difficulty by erecting in a small garden at the rear of the Guildhall two temporary buildings. The first contains two baths. Evacuees bring their own soap and towel and have a pennyworth of hot bath for fifteen minutes. The second and larger shed has become the laundry. It is big enough for six mothers to do their weekly wash at the same time. When fully equipped the laundry will have six pairs of hot and cold taps, drying facilities, flat irons, a wringer and rubbing boards.

Ministry of Health.

M.o.I. 4.

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Air Ministry News Service.

A HOME FROM HOME FOR THE W.A.A.F.

WAR WEAPONS WEEK EXHIBIT

An exhibit which will attract much attention at the R.A.F. Stand at the war weapons week display which opens today at Selfridge's, is a model of a W.A.A.F. hostel, made and furnished by W.A.A.F. and R.A.F. personnel at the R.A.F. station at Cranwell. The furnishing has been done in great detail.

In the hall, miniature anti-gas clothing is hanging ready for instant use.

The model shows the type of house which has been taken over for use as a W.A.A.F. hostel when it has not been possible to accommodate airwomen in official quarters on a station. In such cases private houses in the neighbourhood have been requisitioned.

The house which was the original of the model is an attractive one of modern residential type, consisting of eleven rooms. One of these is comfortably furnished as a rest room for airwomen when off duty. It contains a wireless set and piano. These are provided from the funds of the President of the Service institute, the R.A.F. Comforts Fund or the Nuffield Fund.

Another room is devoted to active recreation, such as table tennis, darts and other games.

One room serves as the airwomen's mess. All meals are served here. The N.C.O.'s mess at a separate table from the airwomen but are served from the main kitchen by W.A.A.F. orderlies.

The model of the kitchen shows a W.A.A.F. cook preparing a meal.

Other sections of the model show the bathrooms, sleeping quarters and ironing room. Running hot and cold water is provided in most hostels, and hot baths are plentiful. Each airwoman is given four blankets and three sheets. Extra supplies are kept in the airing cupboard. Beds are stacked to ensure sufficient airing. Each airwoman has a locker of which she keeps the key. In the ironing room, found in most hostels, airwomen can do any washing which they do not send out. Laundry is free of charge.

The model shows that the N.C.O. in charge of the hostel has a room to herself, and various other privileges.

NOTE: Photographs of the model hostel may be obtained from B.I.P.P.A.

17.3.41. - No.3.

AIR MINISTRY NO. 3306

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE

A town in the West of England was attacked by enemy aircraft last night in a raid lasting some hours.

Considerable damage was caused both by H. E. bombs and by fire but all fires were under control early this morning.

There were a number of casualties, including people killed.

Bombs were also dropped in a number of other districts, but the total damage was small and very few casualties were caused.

One enemy aircraft is known to have been destroyed.

17/3/41 - NO.5.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST BEFORE 2 p.m. MONDAY
17th MARCH.

SPEAKING TO-DAY AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY THE 1st ARTILLERY
DETACHMENT OF THE 1st CZECHOSLOVAK BRIGADE, MR HUGH
DALTON M.P., MINISTER OF ECONOMIC WARFARE, SAID:-

"I remember President Benes saying to me in 1934, when Hitler's bloodstained hands had held power for a year, 'If war should come, I know that, where England is, there is victory'. I recalled those words with a sense of shame in September 1938. I recall them now with a thrill of pride. I have seen to-day some of the Czechoslovak troops, sturdy and resolute, who will play their part in winning this war, and liberating your countrymen from the bestial German tyranny, which to-day holds them in its grip. After you regained your freedom in 1918, you tasted 20 years of freedom and achieved great things in many fields. You set a civilised example, which our German enemies of to-day might well have followed.

"Your freedom, and your right to live your own national life, shall be restored to you in the New Europe of to-morrow. But in that New Europe, as the bitter history of many generations shows, no state can safely stand alone. Least of all, if it has Germans for neighbours. I wish, therefore, to congratulate most warmly President Benes and General Sikorski on the intimate collaboration of the Czechoslovak and Polish Governments. A close Polish-Czechoslovak union would, not only have great value in itself, but might become the nucleus of a much wider federal structure in Central Europe".

Mr Dalton concluded his speech, speaking in Czech as follows:-

"Czechoslovak soldiers, Britain will be always your faithful ally. Down with the Germans! We shall conquer. Long live Free Czechoslovakia."

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE

THREE COLONIAL ITEMS

FILJIANS FOR ROYAL AIR FORCE

Twenty-three young men from Fiji, including the son of a leading Chief, have been selected for training with the Royal Air Force. They are shortly to proceed to R.A.F. stations overseas.

Since the outbreak of war, Fiji has been most anxious to play an active part in the struggle, and last year the Legislative Council asked the Governor to seek permission from the United Kingdom's Government for the Colony to raise and equip a token force of 100 men for service overseas.

It was decided, however, that these men could better serve the Empire's cause by remaining with the Fiji Forces for the defence of the Island. This decision, though well understood, naturally caused disappointment, which has now been allayed by the knowledge that the Colony's young men will soon participate in the exploits of the R.A.F.

TRINIDAD'S GIFT FOR BOMBERS

After subscribing £100,000 for the purchase of fighter aircraft, the people of Trinidad have sent a further amount of £10,000 as a first instalment for the purchase of bombers.

RHODESIAN MINERS' GIFT

A further sum of £640 has been received from the Employees' Committee of the Roan Antelope Copper Mines, Luanshya, Northern Rhodesia, in respect of their sliding scale contributions for February, towards the prosecution of the war.

COLONIAL OFFICE PRESS SECTION.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE MORNING PAPERS OF
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1941

BRITAIN SPEAKS

-by-

RT. HON. J.C. WEDGWOOD, D.S.O., M.P.

Following is the text of a speech to be broadcast by Mr. Wedgwood over the B.B.C. Overseas Transmission at 2.30 a.m. B.S.T., Tuesday, March 18 :-

One of the foolish things about our otherwise excellent Government is its comic nervousness about what Americans will think and say.

This will never do, if we are ever to be one family, or seek truth and freedom together.

You know it. Listen to these:

"No matter whose the lips that would speak, they must be free and ungagged", said Wendell Phillips.

"I announce as the glory of these States, that they respectfully listen to propositions, reforms, fresh views and doctrines from all men and women," wrote Walt Whitman.

"The safety of our form of Government comes from the clash of conflicting opinions," declared Senator Borah.

And, of course, I can give just as impressive quotes from England. I happen to be a follower of Henry George, the prophet of San Francisco. I have preached his Gospel all over America, as Henry George did all over the British Empire; as his son and Louis Post did on my election platform in Staffordshire.

Fools, no doubt, being "touchy", said: "What have we to learn from foreigners? No propaganda!"

No doubt there are idiots in Scotland who object to being addressed by an Englishman, and their counterparts in England who resent propaganda from a Scot. If I prove that two and two make four what on earth does my accent matter?

Anyway, I am not in the pay of any Government.

First, thank you for the Lease and Lend Bill. Last war, in lordly manner, we said "Certainly, charge it up to us. Our credit is good enough, thank God!" This war you say, "Oh! Cut it out! No thanks! We are damned sorry for you. Of course, this isn't charity. We are really doing this to help ourselves. Absolutely! Don't hesitate to ask for anything you want."

This is just plumb carelessness - or else something quite new and great in the history of the world. Great faith on one side, and as great need on the other. The "need" we can take as read.

The nearest approach to this was Churchill's offer of Union to France.

Why do you feel like doing it? Your opinion of us was never lower than in the years 1934-9, during which we constantly surrendered to Hitler and Mussolini.

/Don't

Don't I remember Harold Ickes saying:

"Nations that still are powerful and once were proud, with heads humbly bowed, back meekly from the Presence." That jab got thro'.

Such contempt made you inclined at least to applaud, when we ceased to be isolationist. Now pride has taken the place of shame. We were out of date, old, cowardly and finished; and now, in a trice, you are proud of us. More, you have faith in us and in Churchill. We reflect credit, not discredit, on the United States of North America. We are of one blood once more, and trust each other as never before.

While this natural reaction has played a big part in changing the picture, far more has been effected by these things: the Prime Minister, the Air Force, and the martyrdom of London.

Winston Churchill and his country stand alone - with up-flung head. His courage in carrying on when France went out, his oratory, which restored courage and united this people, have been heard with mounting enthusiasm by you and us. It is inspired leadership. Cromwell, saint and soldier, had no such hold on England. Half-American himself, I place first, Churchill's share in the miraculous conversion.

Next, I put our airmen. Just at the time when the whole world was gasping at German military efficiency and power, just when it seemed impossible that anyone could resist such might successfully, our airmen suddenly proved supreme.

Desperately outnumbered, recruited mostly from the common people, they seemed to surpass in courage all our previous history. You expected it no more than I did. Boys of a supposedly decadent race took a weight off all our chests.

"Never in the whole history of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few."

Then, on the top of this, came the martyrdom of London - nightly death and destruction; each morning more ruins and charred corpses; no chance of stopping the slaughter or of hitting back at fate.

After all the talk of the inevitable breakdown in the nerves of the civilian population, the civilians, especially girls and women, were actually "taking it" better than soldiers. They jeered at the lightning of Jove. Hitler little knows the exhilarating glow given by survival after hideous danger. To you it looked like martyrdom, and you sent across a wave of sympathy and affection such as we had never had or even imagined before.

You know - plain Jane - plain and homely - nobody has ever kissed her. She just runs the family for years, doing all the work, getting all the cusses - just expecting them.

Then someone comes along at last - and says, "Poor old Jane, you've had a rotten time," and puts his arm around her and calls her "My own old Jane", and says he's going to look after her in future, and she needn't ever worry, ever any more.

Well, at first she's a bit flustered of course, and doesn't believe it; and she says, "Shucks!" And "none of your nonsense."

And then her eyes begin to open wide, and she sees it's her last chance - of happiness, and gets pretty grim and determined about it.

Her last chance! She'll fight for it like a tiger-cat.

Oh! We are grateful for your loans and planes and rifles, and for your good opinion; but far, far more for this revelation which warms our hearts and catches us by the throat.

In future,

I do not believe that it is any more difficult to get than was the union between England and Scotland in 1707. Vested interests by the hundred, in both our countries will no doubt oppose; but the need of mutual aid in arms, and of economic support afterwards will become ever more obvious, even to the "interests" as the Mississippi "still goes rolling along."

Can such Union of the English-speaking peoples not be extended by holding an open-door for all democratically governed countries to come in? India and our Colonies - some as States, some as Territories under Federal rule - might find their place. You have a chance to think; you only can reconstruct the world. This is your "Rendezvous with Destiny" - not ours.

Sympathy from Chicago of all places! Sympathy with the stream of little children arriving penniless, cast on the great charity and love of America.

What Churchill's leadership, or the young men in the air had left undone, was achieved by love. The worse our plight, the closer the bonds were drawn.

Friends still write from America, praying for our sake for the end of the 'horrible' war. Horrible! My goodness! They never knew the horrible peace of appeasement, when our governing class beamed upon dictators and we saw our freedom ebbing away.

This is a grand, and exhilarating war, and now in grand company. As for the killings, unexpected death does not matter. Last war every man who went to France painfully expected death. This war all have an equal chance of survival, and cannot possibly avoid fate.

I hope you have faith in our resolution, that we, like you, will never make peace with Hitlerism; that we shall never back out like France; that we shall not convert a crusade into imperialism by a mean use of your help. May the Lord do so to us and more also if once we break that faith.

As for Peace Aims - most of us would, I suppose, insist on the removal of the Nazi and Fascist Governments, and on adequate measures to prevent Germany doing it again.

What? How? that will depend on you. You pay the piper, you can call the tune. You have a chance to think; you only can reconstruct the world. This is your "Rendezvous with Destiny" - not ours.

I am on the top floor; I am in the front line; I am disturbed by alerts and bombs and fears. I cannot think.

We have our job to do; to hold the fortress - at any sacrifice. If I know my Churchill, he doesn't mind what happens so long as we hold out for two, ten or twenty years.

Let someone else get on with the planning of a new world.

Only let the planners remember that the League of Nations failed for three reasons, and each adequate:

One, America took no part; two, it had no all-powerful police; three, it was a league of fearful governors, and not of unselfish peoples.

If I pin my hopes to union with America, it is because union is the strongest bond, leaving no loophole for evasion of duty, or responsibility, or sacrifice in future.

I do not believe that it is any more difficult to get than was the union between England and Scotland in 1707. Vested interests by the hundred, in both our countries will no doubt oppose; but the need of mutual aid in arms, and of economic support afterwards will become ever more obvious, even to the "interests" as the Mississippi "still goes rolling along."

Can such Union of the English-speaking peoples not be extended by holding an open-door for all democratically governed countries to come in? India and our Colonies - some as States, some as Territories under Federal rule - might find their place.

/Holland,

I am on the top floor; I am in the front line; I am disturbed by alerts and bombs and fears. I cannot think.

We have our job to do; to hold the fortress - at any sacrifice.

Holland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, China, might well welcome such a Union, whose power would establish peace and safety, whose spaciousness would secure prosperity, whose admixtures would fertilise the stock of freedom.

Free internally, bound externally, each democracy could combine freedom with fraternity, and an equal right to the use of God's earth.

How about Germany? I refuse to believe that great people are welded to the cult of the bully. The old Weimar Republic showed no such signs. I refuse to believe that the hideous persecution and enslavement of Jews and Poles is the natural beastliness of the German people, or that even today they do not hate it in secret. Once democratically governed, once they have exterminated Hitler and his gang, and wiped out his memory and his crimes, why should not they too come in and merge in the union of the free?

Would this be adequate to prevent Germany doing it again?

Union, whether federal or confederate, means, at the least, one Executive responsible to one supreme Parliament, controlling army, navy, air, force and foreign affairs, with revenues to meet the cost thereof.

Such a Union would be too mighty and too attractive for a Germany outside ever to attack. With Germany inside, as one of the Confederate States, secession would be our only danger and - well I had better not say anything more about that.

Union, with the open door for other free countries, offers to the millions now under all tyrants, hope for after the war, hope for our victory. That hope is the one bit of worth while propaganda which must in the end break Hitler, and restore to mankind peace, justice, security and that freedom under which alone Mankind can march on to the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

This is indeed America's Rendezvous with Destiny - not alone their own destiny but that of the human race. You will greatly save, or greatly lose - for all.

By all means write and tell me that it is hopeless, or hopeful. But please do not think that I speak for the British Government or even for Parliament. I speak for myself. I see no reason to be afraid of America. "The man," said Lincoln, "who is not prepared to hear both sides of a question is dishonest."

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BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

17/3/41 -- No. 9.

CAIRO COMMUNIQUE.

The following communique was issued at G.H.Q. Cairo, today:-

LIBYA. No change in the situation

ERITREA. British and Indian troops have captured important heights in positions covering Keren.

ABYSSINIA. The general advance of Imperial and Patriot forces continues in all sectors.

BRITISH SOMALILAND. The British flag again flies over Berbera which was yesterday recaptured after our troops had made a successful landing in co-operation with units of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

MILITARY AFFAIRS (MINISTRY OF INFORMATION)

Air Ministry News Service

S.A.A.F. FLY CAPRONI OVER NAIROBI

H.Q., R.A.F. Middle East.

The only Italian bomber to fly over Nairobi, did so the other day piloted by a South African Air Force pilot. As the aircraft, a Caproni 133, circled over the town, the Italian marking, a white cross on the tail, was easily discernable, but no air raid warning was sounded for on the fuselage and wings were roundels bearing the colours of the S.A.A.F.

The Caproni, a three-engined monoplane; had been flown 650 miles from Mogadishu, where it was left by the Italians in the process of overhaul when they made their hurried departure.

A member of the crew said that his first flight in an enemy machine was most enjoyable.

"The engines of the Caproni", he added, "had just been put back, as they were loosely bolted down. Other parts which had been taken off the aircraft for inspection were found near at hand. It was clear that the Italians had downed tools suddenly and fled. We walked in and completed the overhaul."

A S.A.A.F. mechanic with ten years experience described the Caproni's superstructure as "primitive". He added that although the general performance of the aircraft was not good it was particularly steady in the air. The Caproni was flown to Nairobi by a Lieut-Colonel of the S.A.A.F. who was awarded the D.F.C. some months back.

SALE OF KOSHER BUTTER.

The Ministry of Food has again made special arrangements to meet the ration requirements of Jews during the Passover (12th - 19th April).

Kosher butter for the Passover Feast will be available for sale by retail in specially printed wrappers at a price not exceeding 1s. 7d. per lb. Kosher sugar will also be available, but no special arrangements will be made in respect of kosher meat, since it is assumed that those persons who require such meat are already registered with kosher butchers.

The Jewish customers of any retailer who is not willing to supply kosher butter and sugar will be allowed to purchase their requirements from another retailer. For this purpose applications should be made to the local Food Office and should be accompanied by the ration books, or by the relative deposited pages of coupons which must be recovered from the retailers. Emergency ration cards will then be issued and the appropriate ration book coupons will be cancelled.

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MINISTRY OF FOOD.

17/3/41 - No. 13.

The Minister of Pensions, the Right Hon. Sir Walter Womersley, has appointed Mr. F. Yeomans as his Assistant Private Secretary in place of Mr. W. J. Parsons, promoted.

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MINISTRY OF PENSIONS

AIR MINISTRY No. 3310.

MIDDLE EAST COMMUNIQUE.

H.Q., R.A.F., Middle East, Monday.

ALBANIA.

A formation of Royal Air Force bomber aircraft made a successful attack on an aerodrome and other military objectives at Tirana in the early hours of yesterday morning. Although intercepted by a large number of enemy fighters, our bombers pressed home their attack and dropped more than ten tons of bombs on their targets. Direct hits were obtained on hangars and other military buildings starting large fires.

The attack destroyed a number of dispersed aircraft which were both bombed and machine-gunned.

Another R.A.F. bomber formation raided Valona aerodrome and then dived in face of intense anti-aircraft fire to machine-gun dispersed enemy aircraft.

While returning from an operational flight, one of our aircraft encountered a large enemy seaplane (Cant. 5066) near Corfu and shot it down into the sea.

TRIPOLITANIA

On the night of March 15-16th a heavy attack was carried out on the aerodromes at Castel Benito and Makina in Tripolitania.

A direct hit was registered on an ammunition dump at the Benito aerodrome and other fires were started on the south side.

At Makina bombs were dropped amongst dispersed aircraft starting a number of fires which destroyed at least four enemy aircraft. Others were severely damaged by bomb blast. Fires were also caused among buildings and as the last bomber left a violent explosion occurred among dispersed aircraft.

ERITREA.

Very heavy attacks were carried out on enemy positions in and around Keren both yesterday and on the previous day. Our aircraft bombed and machine-gunned motor transport and troop concentrations as well as railway and roads.

MALTA

Malta was raided by enemy aircraft on night March 15th-16th but no damage or casualties resulted.

It is now reported that in a very successful attack on Diredawa aerodrome (Abyssinia) on March 15th in which the enemy lost eight aircraft (as reported in our communique yesterday) two of our aircraft did not return. The pilot of one, however, is safe.

From all other operations our aircraft returned safely with the exception of one bomber.

17/3/41 - No. 15.

FLASH.

It is now known that an enemy bomber was destroyed by A.A.
fire over the South coast on Saturday night.

17/3/41 - NO: 18

GENEROUS GIFT TO BRITAIN FROM FRENCH CAMEROONS

The Governor of the French Cameroons has put at the disposal of the British Consul General at Duala two boxes of gold amounting in value to £5,000 for the purchase of a Spitfire. Already one such gift has been made by public subscription and it is understood that yet another donation of a similar amount for the purchase of a third Spitfire is well on its way to completion.

FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT

It will be recalled that when Sir Edward Peacock went to the United States at the end of January on behalf of the Treasury, his mission was to examine the possibility of making the best use of British investments in the United States represented by subsidiary companies and other enterprises whose shares are not quoted on the Stock Exchange, in order to realise such investments with a view to providing dollar funds for the prosecution of the war.

The first fruits of Sir Edward Peacock's mission are shown by the announcement that the bulk of the holding of Messrs. Courtaulds Limited in the American Viscose Corporation (amounting to 448,000 shares of the Corporation) has been sold on behalf of the British Treasury to a syndicate of American investment bankers. The purchase price to be paid to the Treasury will be 90% of the proceeds of a public issue which it is intended to make shortly in the United States; and an immediate minimum payment of \$ 40 million will be made on account of this purchase price.

The sale of this valuable holding to American interests is evidence of the determination of the British Government to use every possible means of self-help at a time when they are receiving from the Government of the United States the measures of assistance set out in President Roosevelt's great speech of last Saturday and in arriving at this transaction Sir Edward Peacock has acted with the full knowledge and approval of the United States Administration.

In order to enable the Treasury to carry out this sale Messrs. Courtaulds Limited have consented to place their investment at the disposal of His Majesty's Government and the Treasury wish to acknowledge the ready co-operation which the Company have afforded them. In view of the necessity for speedy realisation of assets of this kind in the United States and of the absence of a market quotation for the Viscose shares, it has been arranged for the shares to be transferred to the Treasury forthwith. Negotiations will take place between the Treasury and Messrs. Courtaulds regarding the sterling price payable to the latter and failing agreement on this point recourse will be had to arbitration.

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TREASURY CHAMBERS.

S.W.1.

LIMITATION OF SUPPLIES.

GOODS FOR THE ARMED FORCES.

The Board of Trade have made an Order removing from the third schedule to the Limitation of Supplies (Miscellaneous) (No.5) Order 1940 the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes and the members of the Council of Voluntary War Work.

An open licence has been granted allowing unrestricted supplies to the Institutes of articles covered by Classes 1 (braces only) 3,4,6,7,8,9 (other than office furniture) 10,11,13,16, and 17 of the Order. Classes 2 and 14 will not be covered by the licence and accordingly the Institutes will, with regard to articles covered by those classes, be in the same position as other unregistered persons.

Sales by the Institutes of articles controlled under the classes included in the licence will, by agreement with the Institutes, be governed by their sales in a recent period reduced by the appropriate quota proportion under the Limitation Order. Certain apparel covered by Class 3 of the Order, sports bags covered by Class 10 and sports bags covered by Class 13 will, moreover, not be supplied by the Institutes to individuals in the forces. They may, however, be supplied to units without restriction.

In order to place retailers of sports goods in the same position as the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes, an open licence has also been granted by the Board of Trade enabling retailers who supply sports goods to units of the home forces to replace those goods to the value supplied outside their registered supplier's quota. For this purpose a certificate, in a form schedule to the licence, acknowledging the receipt for the sole use of the unit of sports goods of a specified description and value and signed by the Commanding Officer of the unit must be furnished by the retailer to his registered supplier.

The Order, S.R. & O. 1941, No. 348 will be obtainable from the Stationery Office in a few days.

BOARD OF TRADE.

17/3/41 - No. 22.

HONOUR FOR C-in-C GREEK ARMY.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the following honorary appointment:-

To be an Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Lieut-General Alexander Papagos, Commander-in-Chief, Greek Army.

WAR OFFICE.

The following biographical note may be of use to Editors:

General PAPAGOS, Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army, who is so brilliantly seconding and executing the policy of that great statesman and strategist, General Metaxas, is a man of about 55 who has been a soldier since his youth.

He did his Staff training in France and Belgium. Amongst his other accomplishments he speaks excellent French and good German; he has long been known as a warm admirer of England and as bitterly Italianophobic, so that his role in the present war accords perfectly with his personal views.

His army promotion in recent years has been rapid. In 1932, as Brigadier General, he was Assistant Sub-Chief of the General Staff, became Inspector of Cavalry in 1933 and in the following year was made Major General; in 1935 he took command of the III Army Corps, but almost immediately was appointed as Lieutenant General, Minister of War in the Metaxas Government. In 1936 he took over the Inspectorate of the IInd Army, and in 1939 became Chief of the General Staff.

In person he is a tall thin man with aquiline aristocratic features, a very intelligent expression and a pleasant manner. "Very Likeable", says an observer, "although possibly too austere to command affection or popularity; but I liked his quiet confident manner, which cannot fail to communicate itself to his Staff and subordinates. Though when I saw him he was obviously tired and suffering from lack of sleep", (this was in the anxious days just after the Italian invasion) "I was most impressed by his patience and his grasp of detail."

Another acquaintance says; "General Papagos is exceptional among Balkan military personalities in breadth of outlook, and I have never heard him express views other than those which are sound and moderate from a military point of view". "He knows what he wants, thinks big, and gets straight to the point", says another.

Soundness and moderation do indeed seem the salient characteristics of the General, who has never allowed his cool judgement to be shaken by the overwhelming successes of his troops. It is true that in his case "everything has gone according to plan" but he is not over-elated by a victory for which he had made full provision in advance.

17/3/41 - No. 23

Shamrocks, the generous gift of
H.R.H. the Princess Royal, were presented to the
Irish Guards to-day (St. Patrick's Day).

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WAR OFFICE.

17/3/41 - No. 24.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN No. 3311.

Air Ministry News Service.

FIGHTER PILOT DRIVES OFF RAIDER.

A JU.88, one of the few enemy raiders which tried to attack this country in daylight today, was pounced on by a pilot of Fighter Command and driven off in a crippled condition before it could drop its load of bombs.

The enemy aircraft was sighted by a Hurricane pilot ten miles from the shore off the N.E. of Scotland and only 50 feet above the sea. The pilot immediately attacked, diving towards his quarry he was seen by the German pilot who put his aircraft into a steep climb towards cloud. But he was not to be allowed to escape so easily and within a matter of seconds the fighter pilot was within range.

"My first short burst silenced the rear gunner", the fighter pilot later reported, "and my second burst smashed the glass panelling of the crew's cockpit, sending the glass flying in all directions.

"He slowed up and I had to turn hurriedly to avoid a collision. Turning again for another attack I saw the bomber limping into low cloud. I did not see him again."

17/3/41 - NO: 25.

Foot and Mouth Disease was today confirmed among cattle at HAZELBURY PLUCKNETT, SOMERSET.

The movement, except by licence, of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and deer within approximately fifteen miles of the infected premises is prohibited.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

17/3/41 - No. 26

BRITISH PRISONERS IN ENEMY HANDS

"Next of kin, if able to identify the men from the information published, are requested to advise the Casualty Branches of the Services concerned, forwarding Regimental or any other details."

The following is a special announcement regarding a British prisoner of war as received from enemy sources:-

IN GERMAN HANDS

We regret to announce that Sergeant Eugene Patrick Corrigan died in hospital on the 2nd March, 1941 of Peritonitis.. The late Sergeant Corrigan's service number was R.A.F. 580641 and his home address:

Mr. J. Corrigan,
Kells,
Co. Meath,
Ireland.

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

AIR MINISTRY NO. 3312

17/3/41 - No. 27.

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE

There has been very little enemy activity over this country during daylight today. A small number of enemy aircraft crossed the coasts of Kent and North East Scotland and penetrated a short distance inland but there are no reports of any bombs having been dropped.

It has now been confirmed that an enemy bomber was destroyed by anti-aircraft gunfire over the south coast on Saturday night.

AIR MINISTRY No. 3313.

17/3/41 - No. 28.

ADDITIONAL MIDDLE EAST COMMUNIQUE.

HEADQUARTERS, MIDDLE EAST, MARCH 17th.

Bomber and fighter aircraft of the Royal Air Force actively co-operated in the capture of Berbera yesterday.

Enemy aerodromes were heavily raided throughout the previous night and during the day, a particularly heavy attack being made on Diredawa aerodrome.

Royal Air Force armoured cars took part in the capture of the town.

There were no R.A.F. casualties.

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