

14/8/41 - No.1.

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE

There is nothing to report.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CIUB

TAPES BEFORE 0030 B.S.T. ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1941.

HER MAJESTY INAUGURATES AIRGRAPH SERVICE

Today (Friday) Her Majesty The Queen will inaugurate the new Airgraph Service to the Middle East, by the dispatch of the first airgraph service letter from London. The letter is addressed to General Sir Claud Auchinleck, C.-in-C., Middle East and is in the following terms:-

"Buckingham Palace.

15th August, 1941.

My Dear General Auchinleck,

In this first message by the new Airgraph Service to the Middle East, I wish to tell you, on behalf of all the women at home how constantly our thoughts turn to all those under your Command.

I know how grievous is the separation which parts wife from husband, and mother from son, but I would assure those whose achievements have already filled us all with pride that their example is an inspiration, and I do not doubt that even greater accomplishment lies before them.

Many of them come from homes in our Dominions, and to them I send a special message of greeting. Their Valour has been the admiration of the World, and to one and all I wish a speedy Victory, and a safe return to their homes and those they love.

I am, Yours Very Sincerely,

ELIZABETH R."

WAR OFFICE.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR BROADCAST OR CABLED ABROAD UNTIL

1500 B.S.T. TODAY, THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1941

14/8/41 - No. 7.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

UNTIL BROADCAST BY THE LORD PRIVY SEAL

STATEMENT

(To be issued on Thursday, 14th August)

THE President of the United States and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's Government in United Kingdom, have met at sea.

They have been accompanied by officials of their two Governments, including high-ranking officers of their military, naval and air services.

The whole problem of supply of munitions of war, as provided by Lease-Lend Act, for armed forces of United States and for those countries actively engaged in resisting aggression has been further examined.

Lord Beaverbrook, the Minister of Supply of British Government, has joined in these conferences. He is going to proceed to Washington to discuss further details with appropriate officials of United States Government. These conferences will also cover supply problem of Soviet Union.

The President and Prime Minister have had several conferences. They have considered the dangers to world civilization arising from policy of military domination by conquest upon which Hitlerite Government of Germany and other Governments associated therewith have embarked, and have made clear the steps which their countries are respectively taking for their safety in facing these dangers.

They have agreed upon following joint declaration:-

The President of the United States and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

/First

First, their countries seek no ~~aggrandisement~~, territorial or other.

Second, they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned.

Third, they respect right of all peoples to choose the form of Government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

Fourth, they will endeavour, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity.

Fifth, they desire to bring about fullest collaboration between all nations in economic field, with object of securing for all improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security.

Sixth, after final destruction of Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.

Seventh, such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance.

Eighth, they believe all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armament.

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14/8/41 - No. 9

The King has been pleased to approve a recommendation of the Home Secretary that Mr. Hubert Llewelyn Williams, K.C., be appointed Recorder of Carmarthen, to succeed Mr. D. Rowland Thomas, K.C., who has been appointed a Metropolitan Police Magistrate.

HOME OFFICE

14/8/41 - No. 10

MIDDLE EAST WAR COMMUNIQUE

The following official communique was issued from G.H.Q., Cairo,
today, Thursday:

LIBYA

No change in the situation.

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14/8/41 - No.12

The Polish Telegraph Agency announces:

According to recent information received by the Polish Government, German authorities in the occupied as well as in the part unlawfully incorporated into the Reich territories of Poland, have imposed on Polish citizens conscription for auxiliary military service.

The lists of those conscripted have been prepared by the so-called Arbeitsamt (Labour Exchange) and the conscription notices are sent personally without any official publication. Refusal to obey involves heavy penalties. The conscripted are described as "volunteers", and in many instances protests against such a description resulted in the disappearance of those protesting.

The actual aims of this conscription are not known, and in some cases the so-called volunteers have been informed in an unofficial way that they will have to serve in the Auxiliary Police, in the "Luftschutzdienst" or in the Ambulance Corps at the front.

The Polish Government has decided to draw the attention of the Governments of the Allied and Neutral countries and of the world opinion to this new flagrant violation of the internationally recognised provisions of the Fourth Hague International Convention of 1907.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB

TAPES BEFORE 0030 B.S.T. ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1941.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

His Majesty The King desires that Sunday, September 7, being the Sunday following the second anniversary of the outbreak of war, should be observed as a National Day of Prayer.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

14.8.41 - No. 17

HOURS OF MILK DELIVERY

The Ministry of Food announces that by a General Licence made under the Milk (Retail Delivery) Restriction Order, 1940, retailers in boroughs or urban districts in England and Wales, outside the Metropolitan Police Area, with a population of less than 150,000 will be permitted to deliver milk free from the restrictions of the Order. The Licence will be in force from August 17 until further notice.

Under the Order the retail delivery of milk has been prohibited before 7.30 a.m. in boroughs or urban districts with a population of over 10,000. It is now permissible for all dairymen, except those in towns of over 150,000 population, to begin milk deliveries at any time.

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MINISTRY OF FOOD

14/8/41 - No.18

HOP PICKING

The Ministry of Agriculture appeal to all experienced hop pickers who are not at present engaged on full time work of national importance to get in touch with the farmers for whom they have picked hops in the past. In the national interest it is desirable that every available picker should be employed on this work.

All hop pickers should take with them their gas masks, identity cards, ration books and papers deposited with their tradesmen, some cooking utensils and some rations.

Pickers who are accommodated in billets should consult the Chief Billeting Officer of the area in which they are staying if they wish their billets to be kept for them while they are away. It is important that they should do this before leaving for the hop-fields.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

ANGLO-U.S. DECLARATION

Satisfaction in Belgian Circles

The joint declaration of the President of the U.S.A. and the Prime Minister of Great Britain has made a deep impression in Belgian circles. It was received by Belgians in London with the greatest satisfaction.

The declaration prescribes principles, of which the peoples who are fighting at the side of Great Britain can only give their entire approval.

Some of these principles, such as those which aim at collaboration in international affairs, the improvement of working conditions, and the development of international trade, are among those that Belgium firmly pursued for several years.

Several of the principles which were the object of the declaration, have already been confirmed by the resolution adopted at the conclusion of the meeting of the Allied Governments at St. James's Palace, on 12th June, 1941.

It is considered extremely important that a solemn agreement on such principles between Great Britain and the U.S.A. should be made, for this has emphasised the solidarity which unites them and which unites all nations fighting for the cause of liberty, not only in the waging of war, but in the organisation of peace.

Therein lies one of the essential conditions of victory and of the realisation of a better world.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

WAR COMMENTARY

by

MAJOR-GENERAL R.J. COLLINS, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.BROADCAST AFTER 9 p.m. NEWS, 14th AUGUST, 1941

I'll start tonight with Russia. But I'd better admit straight away that, with the scanty information that we have, it's still impossible to give any opinion worth having as to how things are really going, or what the outcome of this third offensive will be.

There's no use shutting our eyes to the fact that the German territorial gains are enormous, but all the same they don't appear to be any nearer Moscow than they were some time ago. In fact they seem to have been forced to abandon - at any rate for the time being - the direct advance on MOSCOW via SMOLENSK and to have decided to make their big effort South-Eastwards in the Ukraine, with the object both of taking Kiev and of cutting off Odessa, the big Russian port on the Black Sea.

That, if they can do it, will certainly be a big success, worth for once in a way the blare of trumpets and roll of drums which have recently ushered in so many mythical Hitlerian victories. But, even then, it will be a second-best success, and, though a serious set-back to Russia, not a vital one. For even if all goes swimmingly, by the time they have got Kiev and Odessa we shall be nearly into September; which means that there aren't many more weeks of safe campaigning weather left.

The value of the success to Germany too must depend upon its cost in German lives. The daily reports of their heavy casualties reminds me of a story of the last war. It was told me by a Belgian lady whom I met just after the Armistice.

For a year or more an officer of the German General Staff had been billeted in her house. By October 1918 the German Army was in full retreat and Germany itself was breaking up. As this officer was packing up to go back home she ventured to ask him when he had first realised that the German Army was beaten and that Germany had lost the war. "Oh, on March 23rd" was the astonishing answer.

"But", said the Belgian lady "that was seven months ago when you had just broken through the British 5th Army and it looked as if you had won the war".

"Yes", was his reply, "it looked like that, but our casualties had been so appalling in the first two days of that battle that we, on the general staff, knew even then that we had lost it".

I wonder if history will repeat itself and that the casualties the German Army is suffering day after day and week after week will prove to have sounded the death knell of Hitler's dreams of conquering Europe, if not the world. Let's hope so.

That reminds me of another story of the last war, this time of the great French Marshal Foch who had a vivid way, all his own, of describing a battle situation. In June, 1918, when the Germans were making desperate attempts to break through our line in the West just as they are doing now in Russia, he was often asked how things were going.

In reply he would say "Pas mal, pas mal". "Not so badly". "Les vagues diminuent". The waves diminish - grow less. For in the nature of things after each hold up it becomes more and more difficult for an Army to get going again.

I think Foch's description "The waves grow less" might be applied to-day to the Northern and Central sectors of the vast battle area though not to the Ukraine.

You might like me to give you some of the reasons why these waves of attack tend to make less and less progress. First, after each advance, it becomes more and more difficult to bring forward the supplies of all kinds required to maintain the effort, particularly the colossal quantities of ammunition and the tons of petrol and oil used up in hard fighting which must be replaced.

/The Russian

The Russian guerrilla fighter on the German lines of communication has made this supply business particularly difficult and costly. Next the Russian roads are not good. Most of them are mere earth tracks with no foundation or metalling, quite unfit to carry the ceaseless flow of tanks, guns and heavy lorries. That's why the German communiques, in an unguarded moment, have mentioned now and again both dust and mud, two factors which can play havoc with big troop movements, be they horsed or mechanised.

Take it from me these two - dust and mud - are playing a bigger part than the midges which were said to be worrying them.

I remember only too well on manoeuvres in India a few years ago my Division being brought to a sudden halt by the wall of dust raised by our own movement. It was as thick as a London fog. Dust certainly, and mud at any rate on roads, are practically unknown in England nowadays; in fact I doubt if many of our present day soldiers at home have ever been troubled by either. But they are serious problems and mud can at times have a decisive effect.

There's^a further trouble too in the shape of a break of gauge on the railway, the Russian gauge being broader than the German. Owing to the poor roads the Germans are dependent on railways to carry the bulk of their supplies. So they were faced with two alternatives, either to relay the Russian lines to fit the German trucks and engines, or to get rolling stock to fit the Russian gauge.

There are even stories of their trying to buy rolling stock from Spain and carting it all the way across France and Germany to the old Russian frontier. This is such a colossal task that they will probably be forced to narrow the line.

Either way the Germans are faced with a very serious transport problem. But probably what is causing the German staff, especially the Administrative side, the greatest anxiety, is their inability to forecast the situation as it will be say October, when the rainy season sets in, to be followed soon after by ice and snow.

It is already late to begin preparing winter shelter for the troops, but since no-one can say how many of the millions of Germans now fighting will be alive in two months time or where they will be, the staff can't do much about it.

Stalin's "scorched earth" policy, which is being so ruthlessly and so bravely carried out, may have a terrible winter aftermath - for the German Army. And between Russia and Germany lies Poland, the laying waste of which in 1939 the Germans must now bitterly regret. In fact the outlook this winter for the German Army in Russia is a grim one. Anyone who spent the winter of 1916 on the Somme will know what I mean.

But, by and large, the outcome of the campaign probably depends on which Army has the greater reserves. By that I don't mean remnants of broken divisions, withdrawn from the battle line for a breather, and then flung in again to stop up a hole, but proper, fresh, reserve formations.

We don't know which side is the better off as regards such reserves. And that's why it's hard to give you any opinion worth having on the Russian situation.

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From Russia, I propose tonight to make a long jump straight to the Far East, leaving out the Middle East for once as the situation there hasn't altered much since last I broadcast.

Actually the Japanese move into French Indo China concerns the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force at present more than the Army. For between Saigon the ex-Vichy capital of Indo China and Singapore lies 600 miles of sea. Let's assume for a moment that Siam, or Thailand as it is now called, surrenders to Japanese pressure, as the Vichy Government has done, and that Japanese troops march into Thailand.

/Even then,

Even then, from the extreme Southern tip of that oddly shaped country, they will still have some 400 miles of British Malaya to get through before they reach Singapore. And that 400 miles won't be easy going. A mountain range runs down the centre of the peninsula, so the roads are few and for the last 150 miles there is only one line of railway. Both roads and railways too can be easily blocked and the rest is just mountains, rivers, jungle and paddy or rice-fields.

For at least six months of the year these paddy-fields are as good a tank obstacle as any infantryman can ask for. Lastly somewhere in that welter of obstacles waits a strong Imperial force which has had ample time to prepare its defences.

As for Singapore, despite serious interruptions in the development of its defences in years gone by, recently no effort has been spared and it is now a mighty fortress, in the holding of which all three Services will play their part. An assault on it by sea or land, therefore, is not to be undertaken lightly.

Like the Germans the Japanese too must keep their eye on the calendar as, apart from rain, the typhoon season, a most unsuitable time for campaigning, is due to open in November. Meantime our garrison in Malaya grows steadily stronger, better equipped and more skilled in jungle and mountain warfare. The troops there merit every sympathy though, as the damp heat is very trying practically all the year round, while outside the cantonments malaria is rife. And there's no week's leave home every three months for them, alas.

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Should Japan occupy Thailand - Burma which is to the North-West of it - will also be threatened. But the country on the frontier between the two is practically roadless being a tangle of thickly wooded mountains and valleys. Rangoon and Mandalay the two chief cities in Burma will certainly be well within bombing range and these are vital links in China's last life-line, the Burma road, by which she gets her war supplies. But the Japanese will have to think several times before they attempt an invasion of Burma by land or sea.

And, goodness knows, their commitments in China and on the Russo-Manchukuo frontier are heavy enough as it is.

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Week after week, for want of time, I've had to put off talking, as I've so wanted to do, about our isolated outposts. These may be small but they are none the less important links in our Imperial chain of communications. The garrisons of one and all of them are holding on, grimly and stoutly, at their posts. I've already mentioned Singapore, but there are of course many others - Hongkong, Aden, Malta, Gibraltar and, a more recent addition, Iceland.

No doubt you heard the recent broadcast on Gibraltar. There's only one word I would like to add. Many of you probably know the Old Gib saying that, so long as the monkeys which live on the Rock increase and multiply, the Union Jack will fly from its summit. For a long time the numbers were, I believe, steadily going down. But I heard that the latest monkey census shows an increase of nearly 50%. So all should be well with Gib.

Tonight I propose to say something about Malta. I think you will agree with me that Malta should have pride of place. All along it's been the key-point in the long drawn-out battle for the Mediterranean. It's only some 20 miles long by 10 wide, a bit smaller than the Isle of Wight. But it has stood up to nearly two hundred and forty air attacks since the war started. This must be pretty well a world's record. Anyway it's more than any other spot in the British Empire.

Malta is so small and rocky that not many aircraft can operate from the island which lies only 60 miles from Sicily - only a quarter of an hour's flying. Here vastly superior air forces have long been located, German as well as Italian. But although generally outnumbered, and with their small aerodromes often heavily bombed, the Royal Air Force squadrons on the Island have time after time gone gaily into the attack.

Fortunately, too, Malta is well provided with Anti Aircraft Artillery, manned both by British and Maltese gunners. Their standard of shooting is as good as, anything we have at home and the Royal Malta Artillery is as good as any. Between the R.A.F. and the A.A. they have taken a heavy toll of all attacks and their combined record of air-craft shot down is a splendid one.

In fact it's said that the Germans lost 50% of their strength in two days, when they were making desperate but unsuccessful attempts to put our new aircraft-carrier the "Illustrious" out of action. The few days which the "Illustrious" spent in Valetta harbour were perhaps the most unpleasant that the Island has had to face.

Recently Malta had its first sea attack by Italian "E" boats and small torpedo boats. The coast defence gunners seem to be just as good shots as the Anti Aircraft and the attack was smashed in a few minutes. What's more most of those vessels which escaped the guns were sunk by the Royal Air Force. An encouraging action, highly creditable to all concerned.

We musn't leave Malta without paying tribute to the gallantry both of the garrison and of the Maltese themselves. In their never-failing courage the Maltese deserve to rank with the Londoners and one can pay them no higher compliment than that. Under their stout-hearted and god-fearing Governor, General Sir William Dobbie they can be relied upon to stand fast. And we know we can say the same of all our other outposts too.

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But those two stories I told you about 1918 may be worth remembering!

GOODNIGHT.

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

14/8/41 - No. 25

STATEMENT BY THE RT. HON. P. FRASER, PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND.

The Declaration of the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is a striking and most important document and will give great satisfaction to Democratic and Progressive people everywhere.

It embodies in brief form the principles for which the British Commonwealth, and all our Allies, are fighting, and to the triumph of which the United States is contributing so notably.

In every respect it is worthy of the two great Democracies which to-day stand on common ground with a common cause - nothing less than the preservation and furtherance of Freedom for all men in all lands, with that freedom based on the essential democratic rights of self-government; restoration of sovereignty to the nations temporarily dominated by Nazi and Fascist tyranny; access to raw materials for victors and vanquished, and the further objective of improved labour standards, economic advancement, and social security, without which the Democracy for which we are fighting would degenerate into a hollow sham.

The abandonment of the use of force as an aim of the war, and the disarmament of aggressor nations, preliminary to "the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security", will have the support of that great body of public opinion based on deep conviction, and drawing strength from the moral and spiritual forces of Mankind which, in spite of the collapse of the League of Nations, still believes in its fundamental principles as the only hope for the future of the world.

The Declaration by Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill will be cordially welcomed in New Zealand.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

POLISH SQUADRONS IN GLORIOUS DOG-FIGHT

Polish fighter squadrons of the Royal Air Force achieved a notable triumph today against Me.109 fighters.

Three Polish squadrons, flying as a wing, went out in the late afternoon with a number of other squadrons of Fighter Command over Northern France.

The Poles discovered enemy fighters in the neighbourhood and at once went to engage them.

When they returned to their bases in England they had a story to tell of 13 Mes. shot down. Their own casualties were three fighters missing.

A graphic description of this Polish-German air battle - which lasted for nearly 13 minutes and involved scores of aircraft on the German side - was given afterwards by a squadron leader whose Spitfire squadron shot down eight of the thirteen destroyed.

"We were flying very high," he said, "when we saw a formation of Messerschmitts in the distance, making towards us. We turned in their direction and after a bit climbed into the sun and then turned again to meet the enemy who were now facing the sun and us.

"We have only been an operational squadron in the south for a few weeks and have only once before today had a chance of shooting up German fighters - that was last Saturday when we destroyed two Messerschmitts. But we have been waiting and training so long to meet the Luftwaffe that today, when we saw so many Messerschmitts, we let them have it. The squadron attacked so fiercely that the enemy formation was broken up and several of them went crashing in flames.

"We turned immediately after the first clash and attacked again, chasing those Germans all over the sky.

"The other Polish squadrons had followed us and while we were delivering our attack other formations of Messerschmitts were attacking our compatriots.

"Soon the three Polish squadrons were all mixed up with scores of German aircraft in a glorious dog-fight. When the battle was over I found that my squadron had shot down eight altogether.

"Another Polish squadron who had been very heavily engaged shot down two Messerschmitts and the third Polish squadron destroyed three Messerschmitts.

"Naturally we are gratified to feel that the German pilots have nothing on us. But, that apart, we thoroughly enjoyed the business and are waiting for some more of it."

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14.8.41 No. 28

DUTCH GOVERNMENT PLEASED WITH DECLARATION

In Dutch Government circles, Mr. Attlee's announcement was greeted with considerable satisfaction. It had long been felt in these circles that - always on the assumption that Hitler's aggressive regime be extirpated - some constructive plan should be held before the world, to which all nations and individuals of goodwill and especially those now oppressed by the Nazis could give their sincere adhesion.

Such a plan has now been drawn up in broad outline and the two leading statesmen of the U.K. and of the U.S.A. have announced their countries' intention to act upon it.

It will find wide endorsement everywhere except with those elements in the world which still stand for aggression and the law of sheer force. Of course, it is only a beginning (for everything depends on elaboration and application) but as a beginning it is thought to be very good.

If ultimately the U.S.A. were found ready to join in guaranteeing peace terms drawn up on this basis new hope would be given to the world for an era of real international peace, economic advancement and social security.

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION (FOREIGN AFFAIRS)

WAR OFFICE ORDERS

No. 33 issued on 14th August, 1941

PART III

HOME GUARD

The undermentioned members of the Home Guard to be appointed as follows :—

To be Col. and Group Comdr. :—

Charles Edward EDWARD-COLLINS, C.B., C.I.E., (Maj.-Gen., ret. Ind. Army), 21st July 1941.

To be Lt.-Col. and Zone Medical Adviser :—

George Francis Rawdon SMITH, (Col., late R.A.M.C.), 1st Feb. 1941.

To be Lt.-Col. and Staff Off. :—

Lt.-Col. J. Kirtland, from Bn. Comdr., 1st July 1941.

To be Lt.-Cols. and Bn. Comdrs. :—

Charles William FRIZELL, D.S.O., M.C., (Hon. Brig.-Gen., ret. pay), (Col., Res. of Off.), 1st Feb. 1941.

Lt.-Col. R. Hoskyn, from Staff Off., 1st July 1941.

Maj. C. R. B. Chiesman, from Second in Comd. Bn., 27th May 1941.

Maj. G. Carpenter, O.B.E., D.S.C., from Second in Comd. Bn., 3rd July 1941.

2nd Lt. W. F. Sleath, from Pltn. Off., 12th July 1941.

The undermentioned members resign their commns. in the Home Guard :—

Col. and Group Comdr. N. R. Colville, M.C., 21st July 1941.

Lt.-Col. and Bn. Comdr. F. H. Clark, D.C.M., 27th May 1941.

Lt.-Col. and Bn. Comdr. H. O. Knox, C.M.G., C.I.E., C.B.E., 5th July 1941.

Lt.-Col. and Bn. Comdr. W. G. Wright, 12th July 1941.

A. N. FLOYER-ACLAND,

Lieutenant-General,

Military Secretary.