

11/1/40 No. 1.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE (MORNING)

The following official communique was issued this morning from French G.H.Q:-

Nothing to report during the night. Two enemy planes were brought down within our lines on January 10.

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11/1/40. - No. 2.

REPATRIATED GERMANS.

300 sent home from Tanganyika.

Of just under 1,000 Germans interned in Tanganyika at the outbreak of war, 165 have been released on parole. Other enemy aliens in that territory, not militarily efficient, are being repatriated.

Some 300 German men, women and children have already left Tanganyika in this way, and further parties will shortly be dispatched. Those Germans who cannot either be allowed parole or be repatriated will be kept in internment for the duration of the war.

The permanent Internment Camp is at Dar-es-Salaam, and there is a subsidiary camp on Quarantine Island.

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EMPIRE AFFAIRS

N. RHODESIA TROOPS' TREK.

A column reaches East Africa.

After travelling through 700 miles of bush country, and traversing the Chambeshi River by ferry, the First Battalion of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment and the Northern Rhodesia Army Service Corps have arrived "somewhere in East Africa" with no casualties. Their camouflaged lorries, equipped with tarpaulins for shelter from the rain and concealment from enemy aircraft, were reminiscent of the old tented wagons of the Boers, but they travelled 100 miles a day instead of 15. With them went food lorries, three mobile workshops, and the Northern Rhodesian Army Service Corps to nurse the column through possible mishaps.

At Broken Hill, the Governor of Northern Rhodesia entertained the European members to a farewell dinner. The askaris were presented with special rations of cocoa and sugar; and the natives, through the Native Welfare Association, added to this contribution 1,200 bags of tobacco, with sugar and razor blades for the non-smokers.

AIR ACTIVITY AT SYLT.

The Air Ministry announces:

With reference to the numerous reports of intense air activity and bombing in the region of Sylt during yesterday, no R.A.F. aircraft were in this area after approximately 1 o'clock yesterday (Wednesday) morning.

As already announced, there was an air engagement far out at sea, but the Air Ministry has no knowledge of any events which would account for the reports referred to.

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PRESS NOTICE.

Postal Communication with Persons residing or detained in
Enemy Territories and Prisoners of War.

Authority has now been given to permit postal communication with persons residing or detained in enemy territories subject to the following conditions.

Communications on private matters with Persons residing in enemy Territories.

(a) Letters and postcards on private matters may be sent to persons residing in enemy territories subject to the usual conditions of the censorship provided that they are despatched through a British firm or other association duly authorised for this purpose. Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son, Limited, Berkeley Street, Piccadilly, London, W.1., have been authorised to undertake this work as from the 15th January, 1940, and application should, therefore, be made to them by persons desiring to send such communications.

(b) Under arrangements made by the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John, with official approval, brief messages may be sent by relatives to persons residing in enemy territories. The messages are limited to twenty words; they must relate only to family matters and must be written in English, French or German. They should be handed in at the Citizens' Advice Bureaux which have for some weeks been undertaking this work in most districts in London. As from the 15th January, 1940, the scheme will be extended to provincial centres. The address of the nearest appointed Citizens' Advice Bureau will shortly be available at Post Offices.

Communications on business matters with Persons in Enemy Territories.

Correspondence on business matters with persons in enemy territories is permitted only in approved cases. Anyone who desires to communicate with such persons on business matters should forward the communication to the Trading with the Enemy Branch (Treasury and Board of Trade), Alexandra House, Kingsway, London W.C.2., or, in the case of communications regarding patents, designs or trade marks to the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London W.C.2 (enclosed in a stamped open envelope addressed to an intermediary in a neutral country), under cover of a letter explaining the circumstances in which it is desired to send it.

Communications with Internees and Prisoners of War in Enemy Territories.

Correspondence of this nature is subject to special regulations. Enquiry should be made at any Post Office.

11.1.40. No.6.

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.

The President of the Board of Trade has appointed Professor Alexander Gray, M.A., to be Chairman of the local Price Regulation Committee, set up under the Prices of Goods Act, 1939, for the South-eastern Region of Scotland. The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. C.D. Kinnear and the address of its offices 12, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

The Chairmen of all the 17 local price regulation committees have now been appointed, and their names and the addresses of their offices announced. The names of the members of the Committees will be announced shortly.

Board of Trade,
11th January, 1940.



MINISTRY OF LABOUR & NATIONAL SERVICE

Press Notice

7/11.1.40.

THE COTTON WASTE RECLAMATION TRADE BOARD (GREAT BRITAIN).

The Cotton Waste Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain) unanimously decided at a meeting in Manchester on 9th January, 1940 to give notice of proposal to increase the present minimum rates of wages in the trade by $1\frac{1}{4}$ d an hour for male workers of 21 years of age or over and by $\frac{3}{4}$ d an hour for female workers of 18 years of age or over, with proportionate increases for younger workers. The increases were proposed in the light of the present higher cost of living, and the employers' side of the Trade Board undertook to put the new rates of wages into operation from the first pay day in February, and to recommend all employers in the trade to do the same, without waiting for the making of a confirming Order by the Minister of Labour and National Service.

Press Office,
Ministry of Labour and National Service,
Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Telephone: Whitehall 6200.

H.Q. 192-480 A.J.

MINES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.

PETROL RATION COUPONS.

The current Basic Ration Books for private cars and motor cycles expire on 31st January.

New books, which will cover a period of three months ending on 30th April, will be available on and after Saturday next, the 13th January, at Local Taxation Offices and at Post Offices at which motor licensing business is transacted.

The Registration Book of the vehicle must be produced at the time of application.

Increased ration for large motor cycles.

Motor cycles will in future be divided into two classes, those with a cylinder capacity up to 250 c.c's and those with a cylinder capacity exceeding 250 c.c's.

The ration for the larger machines, which will include tricycles, has been increased from two units to three units a month.

A separate book for autocycles will be discontinued, and these vehicles will be included with motor cycles of the lower capacity.

Supplementary Allowances.

Applications may be made for supplementary allowances for a period of two months ending 31st March.

Owners of private cars and motor cycles are particularly requested not to submit claims for supplementary allowances unless these are needed for essential purposes. The exercise of the strictest economy in the consumption of petrol is necessary, and the allowance asked for should be kept as low as possible.

Where an application for a supplementary allowance is unavoidable the appropriate application form should be obtained from the same office as the Basic Ration Book and posted, together with the Registration Book of the vehicle, to the Divisional Petroleum Officer for the area in which the vehicle is normally garaged.

Divisional Petroleum Officers have to deal with hundreds of thousands of these applications. To facilitate their prompt consideration applicants are earnestly requested to send them not later than the 16th January.

Dean Stanley Street,
Millbank,
Westminster, S.W. 1.

11th January, 1940.

11th January, 1940.

No. 9
M.A.F.136

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT

THAT EARLY BITE

With more grassland under the plough and supplies of feeding stuffs restricted, farmers will be looking forward with greater eagerness than usual to "the time when the grass comes".

Spring weather determines the rate of growth of the young grass, but things can be speeded up by judicious management in the autumn combined with the use of nitrogenous manures early in the year.

"Early Bite", Growmore Leaflet No.15, free on application to the Ministry of Agriculture, 10, Whitehall Place, S.W.1., gives hints on this management and manuring, as well as advice as to the selection of suitable fields for the production of early grass.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN

11/1/40. - No. 10.

AIR RAID ON N. E. COAST.

The Air Ministry announces:-

Enemy aircraft crossed the coast near Newcastle shortly after 10 a.m. today. No bombs were dropped. Fighter patrols were sent up and anti-aircraft guns opened fire. The enemy aircraft were driven out to sea. One house was slightly damaged by anti-aircraft shell splinters.

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PROGRESS IN SIERRA LEONE.

Although defence questions loom large in the councils of the Government of Sierra Leone, measures envisaged before the outbreak of war for the welfare of the people of that Dependency are being carried through. These measures relate principally to labour conditions, hospitals, agricultural research, education, and Native Administration.

In a recent speech the Governor estimated that Sierra Leone, at the beginning of this year, had over half a million pounds in securities and cash.

EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

11/1/40 - No. 12.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

The following staff changes are announced:-

Mr.T.Fife Clark has been appointed Acting Press Officer to the Ministry of Health in place of Mr.E.R.Thompson, who has been transferred to an administrative post in the Department as an Acting Principal. Mr.Fife Clark was appointed as Assistant Press Officer last August.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.1.

IMPROVING SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

How First-aid Post Workers can Help.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Walter Elliot) in a circular to local authorities in England and Wales suggests that the staffs of first-aid posts will be ready to play their part in the Government's scheme - outlined in a Board of Education circular last month - for improving the health of school children.

They can help in two ways - by co-operating in the use by children of shower baths and other A.R.P. facilities which are available at most posts in evacuation areas and by assisting with the school health services at those posts which do double duty as School clinics and first-aid posts.

Mr. Elliot says that with the co-operation of the first-aid post personnel, the cleansing facilities could be extremely useful. He has no doubt that the personnel will not be unwilling to help as far as they can in the organisation of these services.

The Minister asks local authorities to co-operate to the fullest possible extent in putting this scheme into effect, and also to take steps to restore the school health services at clinics and feeding centres which are being used as first-aid posts in either evacuation or reception areas.

If the establishment of a post in a clinic is interrupting the ordinary work, each Council should consider as a matter of urgency what alternative arrangements can be made.

"In some cases it may be necessary to provide accommodation in which the full-time personnel at the post can be accommodated while sessions are taking place in the clinic, in so far as they are not sharing in the work of the sessions. Ordinarily, however, it appears to the Minister quite practicable for joint occupation to be arranged without interfering with the efficiency of the first-aid post as such, and without detriment to the essential work of the clinic. Indeed the work of the clinic should provide a useful training for the personnel at the post."

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Ministry of Food Announcement.

11.1.40

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No.14.

PURCHASES OF AUSTRALIAN WHEAT.

The Ministry of Food announce that they have entered into an agreement with the Australian Wheat Board to purchase 1,650,000 tons of wheat and flour. Arrangements for shipment are in hand, and loading has commenced.

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COMMENCEMENT OF MEAT CONTROL

The Ministry of Food are taking over complete control of all meat supplies in the country on Monday, 15th January. Although meat will not be rationed until a later date, it is desirable that customers should, in their own interests, obtain their meat only from the shop at which they are registered. This will assist both the butchers, who will be able more accurately to assess their requirements, and the customers, for whom the provision of an equitable supply of meat will be more readily assured.

AIR RAIDERS DRIVEN OFF.

The Air Ministry announces:-

There has been considerable air activity off the East coasts of England and Scotland this morning. In addition to the raid already reported at Newcastle-on-Tyne, enemy aircraft appeared off the Firth of Forth and the estuaries of the Humber and the Thames. They were driven off by anti-aircraft fire and fighter patrols.

Off the Norfolk coast, enemy aircraft made a bombing attack on a merchant vessel. They were intercepted and engaged by our fighter aircraft.

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INDIA OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT.
WAR-TIME RECRUITMENT IN INDIA.
AN OVERWHELMING RESPONSE.

From almost every district of India reports continue to be received which clearly indicate that there is no lessening of the desire so clearly shown by the bulk of people in the early days of the war, to render such assistance as they can. Countless numbers have offered themselves for enlistment and many have had to be refused, even if only temporarily.

To meet the overwhelming response and to mitigate disappointment, an explanation has once again been issued by the authorities in India, showing the many important respects in which the present war differs from the last one.

During the early days of the war, it is explained, many thousands of Indian soldiers were brought into full Army service. These included newly-enlisted men, reservists, and members of mobilised Territorial units, and the large intake was fully adequate for India's requirements at the time. It must also be borne in mind that the enlistment of greater numbers than are really necessary might entail interference with India's vital industries and with agriculture: for those not enlisted for service at once the registration system introduced at the outbreak of war has ensured that they will be called up when required.

11/1/40 - No 18

INDIA OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT

India Helps Turkey.

As a token of the deep sympathy of the Government and peoples of India in the terrible calamity that has overtaken Turkey, the Government of India have presented one thousand tents to the Turkish Government for the help of victims of the earthquake disaster.

The tents are being shipped immediately to Egypt for onward transmission according to the wishes of the Turkish Government.

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11/1/40. - No. 19.

NOT TO BE QUOTED AS AN
AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT.

HEINKEL BOMBER IN SINGLE COMBAT.

While on North Sea patrol yesterday (Wednesday) an aircraft of the R.A.F. Coastal Command sighted an enemy bomber on the starboard bow. It was a Heinkel - a big twin-engined finely streamlined monoplane.

The British reconnaissance aircraft pursued and overhauled the enemy. When close enough it opened fire with the front gun.

The Heinkel manoeuvred as if trying to escape but received more punishment as the British pilot pressed home the attack from below.

During the second encounter the German bomber's rear gun was silenced and the aircraft's retractible undercarriage drawn up in flying position - was seen to be dropping down. The impact of bullets had apparently smashed the release mechanism.

While the front gunner of the British aircraft was re-loading, the Heinkel dived almost to the surface of the sea. The British pilot dropped two heavy bombs which exploded behind the bomber's tail.

The German climbed sharply to 400 feet, as if to evade a repetition of this kind of attack. As it passed the British aircraft, its side gun fired continuously.

It appeared that one of the enemy's guns jammed, and that the hydraulic mechanism of the turret was so deranged by accurate fire that it was impossible to train the only other servicable gun.

Realising his hopeless position, the German pilot avoided further combat and vanished into the clouds.

AIR AFFAIRS.

11/1/40 - No.20

P.N. 1611

PRESS NOTICE.

The Postmaster General regrets to announce that parcels for Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia (via Beira) posted in London between the 1st and 5th January and correspondingly earlier in the provinces, and also a small number of parcels for Portuguese East Africa, have been lost owing to the sinking of the Dunbar Castle.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

11/1/40 - No. 21.

B.E.F. LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TROOPS ARRIVING IN LONDON.

It is officially announced that arrangements have now been completed to assist troops passing through London on leave from the B.E.F.

The Nuffield Trust has made it possible for Officers to have the benefit of a reduced rate for bed and breakfast at an hotel convenient to each of the London Termini. Officers should be provided by their Unit before departure with a voucher issued for the purpose by the Nuffield Trust. Where this has not been possible, Officers should apply in person to one of the following addresses:-

D.A.A.G. (Leave) London Area,
Room 29, Left Wing,
Duke of York's Headquarters,
Chelsea, S.W.3.

Railway Transport Officers,
at Victoria and Waterloo.

In the case of Other Ranks who arrive in London from Overseas too late to catch their connection to their homes, free accommodation is provided at the Rangers Drill Hall, Chenies Street, W.C.1. Men thus accommodated must pay for their meals out of the ration allowance which they are paid during their journey. Tickets entitling men to this free accommodation on the inward journey should be obtained from the R.T.O. travelling on the leave train from the port of disembarkation. In any case, where this has not been possible, men desiring to avail themselves of the free accommodation provided for the night in question, should report to the "Leave Guide" who will be stationed at the engine of the train by which they arrive in London from Overseas. The accommodation is limited and is reserved solely for those men who arrive from Overseas too late to catch their connection home.

In a similar way, free lodging is provided for those men for whom it is necessary to come to London overnight in order to catch the return train at the end of their leave. Accommodation for these men is provided at the Queen's Westminster Drill Hall, 58 Buckingham Gate and at the old Westminster Hospital, Broad Sanctuary. In neither case will this free accommodation be granted to men except on the presentation of a ticket which can only be obtained at the office of the R.T.O. at the station at which they arrive into London from their homes. At these military hostels men will have to pay for their own meals out of the ration allowance which they receive on arriving in this country.

Men requiring to avail themselves of hostel accommodation other than on the night of arrival or the night prior to departure can be directed to the several hostels available by application to any R.T.Os. office in London, where a list of hostels with the charge for accommodation, will always be available.

For the convenience of men who have to spend the day in London there is being arranged at each of the London Termini a military cloakroom where equipment can be deposited temporarily, free of charge.

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Horse Guards.
10th January, 1940.

11.1.40. No. 22.

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Board of Trade yesterday made the Prices of Goods (Price Regulation Committees) Regulations, pursuant to Section 19(5) of the Prices of Goods Act, 1939. These Regulations deal with the constitution of the Central and Local Price Regulation Committees set up under the Act and prescribe the procedure to be followed by these Committees in dealing with complaints which are made to them of contraventions of the Act. They are being printed and will be on sale at the Stationery Office shortly.

Board of Trade.

11th January, 1940.

11.1.40 - No. 23.

released for publication after
9.30 p.m. on THURSDAY, JANUARY 11th,
1940.

MEM. TO SUB-EDITORS.

As this script is being issued in
advance, it is necessary to check it
against the actual broadcast at 9.15 p.m.
this (Thursday) evening on 391 or 449
metres

W A R C O M M E N T A R Y

XII

Major-General Sir Ernest Swinton, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.

Thursday, 11th January, 1940: 9.15-9.30 p.m.

WAR COMMENTARY.

I must start by saying thank you once more to those who have sent me letters of appreciation, criticism, or abuse. They will realise, I know, that it is quite impossible for me to reply to each writer individually. May I also request my listeners not to send me money for the Red Cross or any other fund, and not to appeal to me for help in their own cases. Much as I should like to assist them, I am not in a position to do so.

The international events of the past week have been overshadowed in public interest by a domestic happening. The resignation of Mr. Hore Belisha - the Secretary-of-State-for-War - has excited much speculation and comment, but it is outside my province to discuss it. What matters to all of us is that the changes in the personnel of the Government are not going to make any difference to the determination and energy with which we shall continue to prosecute the war to a successful issue. We have been dealt a fresh hand and we play on.

In some quarters I am still accused of being pessimistic and of having unnecessarily alarmed many thousands of people - especially women - but after the Prime Minister's words of warning spoken at the Mansion House last Tuesday, I may perhaps be absolved from this charge. Mr. Chamberlain left the nation under no delusion as to the gravity of the task ahead of it. He described the New Year as opening in the quiet of the calm before the storm. In his opinion the risk of attack from the air had not been diminished. He was certain that the nation was ready to make sacrifices, but he was not quite sure that it understood what it was up against or that it would have to face a phase of this war much grimmer than anything it had yet seen. It was, he said, perhaps because the people had not been told enough about it.

The British people will welcome his frank statement. They have never been afraid of the truth, however unpleasant, have never failed to respond to it when they knew it, or to make the sacrifices demanded by it.

On the Western Front, one development is the reported decision of our Government to send out large reinforcements, so that our younger men can take the place in the front line of older Frenchmen, who will be released to go back to their normal work. This step should ease the production of munitions in France. Even now it is perhaps not realised in this country how greatly French industrial life has been dislocated by the number of men called up on general mobilisation.

In France, also, the better co-ordination of the work between the Army and the Royal Air Force has been ensured by the appointment of an Officer Commanding-in-Chief. This, I imagine, has been brought about by the lessons learned from the Nazi invasion of Poland, and is a great step forward. In the Near East the succession of disastrous earthquakes and floods suffered by the Turks, calls for our deep sympathy, which we are showing, I am glad to say, in a practical form.

The theatre of war most in the limelight continues to be Finland. There are two reasons for this: first, the potential eventual importance to the Allies of the result of this struggle: secondly, the spectacular and unexpected course taken by the operations up till now.

The latest news is of the destruction of two Russian divisions and the probable imminent defeat of another large force in the Salla sector.

The whole world is filled with admiration at the splendid struggle being put up by the dauntless Finnish nation. In the words of the Finnish Minister in England - "like the bully at school, Russia is not having things all his own way. The small boy Finland is punching back, and Russia is getting badly hurt - really badly hurt."

Most of us have read of the resistance made to the Russian invasion and know enough of the facts to appreciate the stupendous nature of the achievement. And many of us must be asking ourselves - how has it happened? How is it that the small boy has been able to stand up to the big bully for so long?

I will try to give you my conception of some of the reasons. First there is the moral side. The Finns are a highly educated, extremely well organised, clever, hardy, independent and courageous race. But they are a small nation, and once having won their independence devoted themselves to the task of preserving it. They have profited by their previous experience against the Bolsheviks twenty years ago, and since 1924, at least, have been making the necessary sacrifices to prepare themselves for such an invasion as has now taken place.

But, well trained and equipped as the Finnish army is, it is extremely small in comparison with the Red Army. It is fortunate in having at its head a leader of outstanding character and ability. Field Marshal Mannerheim has an unrivalled knowledge of the mentality and tactics of the Russian forces. He fought on their side in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, and during the first years of the Great War. Then he fought against them in 1918, when, with the assistance of the Germans, he led in the Finnish fight for independence.

The morale of the bulk of the Russian troops which have been operating in Finland, has, on the other hand, been inferior. It was said of the Red Army, even by those who criticised it, that its morale was high, because the troops had been taught that in any war they would be fighting for the "workers' paradise" against the "enslaving capitalists." This idea has been shown to be quite incorrect. The greater number of the men captured have been completely bewildered and apathetic. They seem to have been told by their Commissars and officers that they would merely have to walk into Finland as they had done into Poland. Some have admitted being threatened with death if they did not advance. They have not known what they were fighting about, foreven the most ignorant and stupid of

them.....

them couldn't believe that Finland had attacked Russia. In short, they had no guts for the war.

For the rigorous climate of the Arctic Circle they were unsuitably clothed and equipped, and they have suffered much from frostbite. They have been badly fed, and knew that if they fell they would die of cold. The effects of the frequent past purges of the officer class have been apparent. The standard of education and intelligence of officers captured seem to be extremely low and military knowledge and leadership almost entirely lacking.

It was supposed that the Russian artillery, at least, would be good, but this has not been the case. Its shooting has been bad and much of its ammunition useless. In spite of the number of their machines their mechanisation has been a failure. The Russian proverbially has no mechanical sense, and many of his tanks and armoured vehicles have broken down from lack of care and sheer ignorance on the part of the drivers.

Their tactics, the "new technique" of which we heard two or three years ago, when the Red Army was still an unexploded myth, seem to have changed little since the Crimean War, or Tannenberg in 1914, or the Polish War of 1920. Without imagination, they cling to their traditional practice of mass attacks in a country utterly unsuited for them. Their leaders relied on the blind obedience of their troops, who were in every way unfitted to be pitted against the initiative and mobility of the highly intelligent Finns. Their only advantage has been numerical - and that has often proved to be a disadvantage, for it has led them to herd together in difficult country where supply is almost impossible.

The Finns, on the other hand, in addition to their higher morale, have shown themselves better than the Reds in organisation and in the tactics suitable to their own country, in which they have been assiduously trained. They are superior, also, in marksmanship. Their favourite manoeuvre has been to allow the Russian masses to advance in the very difficult country, to outflank and surround them and cut their communications, and then to let the weather and starvation do the rest. They have shown themselves past masters in enlisting the forces of nature - country and climate - on their side. This has to a great extent made up for their numerical weakness.

Even more significant perhaps than their victories in the North-East and East has been the failure of the Reds to make any impression on their positions in the Karelian Isthmus, where the Russian front lies no more than fifty miles from Leningrad from which the lines of communication are both short and good. Here the Russians have had no excuse. The defenders of the Mannerheim position have played the part of the Spartans at Thermopylae.

What of the future? The Finns are still fighting as if inspired. They proclaim that they are in the front line of the defence of civilisation. That is true. It seems to me that if Finland goes, Scandinavia will be threatened - possibly by Germans as well as Russians. But it is impossible to prophecy, for if Russia were to overrun Finland and get inconveniently close to the Swedish iron mines, Germany might intervene on the other side.

I have been asked to say a word on the nature of the curious international and diplomatic situation which is created when two nations - such as China and Japan, or Finland and Russia - fight without having made any declaration of war. Finland and Russia are now carrying on a struggle - to the death so far as Finland is concerned - quite undeterred by the fact that they are not officially belligerents. This has the effect of leaving other Powers technically not bound by the obligations of neutrality, and it is open to them to supply the combatants with munitions of war, other material assistance, and possibly even troops.

We, ourselves, are giving the Finns all the material help we can. And in so doing, we are acting in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the League of Nations a few weeks ago. Similarly, Italy has been supplying them with war material. Unfortunately, however, her contributions have to pass through Germany, where it appears, the largest and last consignment has been held up on the grounds that to allow of its passage would be against the interest of Germany's good friend Russia. This has probably been done at the instigation of the Soviet Government. But now the Italians are protesting on the perfectly logical grounds that neither Finland nor Russia is at war. This incipient dispute between Germany's two good friends may have far reaching consequences and implications.

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PRESS NOTICE.

A deputation from the Building Industries National Council was received on the afternoon of the 11th January by the Minister of Supply. Mr. Burgin was accompanied by Col. Llewellyn, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry and Mr. Ralph Assheton, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, and by other representatives of these Departments and of the Ministry of Health, the Scottish Office and the Office of Works. The deputation was presided over by Mr. H.J.C. Johnston, President of the National Council, and included the following gentlemen:-

Representing

Mr. H.J.C. Johnston, President.	National Federation of Clay Industries.
Mr. George Hicks, M.P., Vice-President.	National Federation of Building Trades' Operatives.
Mr. Stanley Hall, P.R.I.B.A.	Royal Institute of British Architects.
Mr. Howard M. Robertson, M.C., F.R.I.B.A.	" " " " "
Mr. Sydney Tatchell, F.R.I.B.A.	" " " " "
Mr. John M. Theobald, PP.S.I.	Chartered Surveyors' Institution.
Mr. R. Coppock, L.C.C.	National Federation of Building Trades' Operatives.
Mr. George Parker	National Federation of Building Trades' Employers.
Sir Jonah Walker-Smith, M.P., M.I.E.E., F.S.I.	" " " " "
Mr. I. Ernest Jones, M.A. B.Sc.	" " " " "
Mr. Horace Boot, M.Inst.C.E.	National Federation of Clay Industries.
Lt. Col. C.W.D. Rowe, M.B.E.	" " " " "
Mr. H. Halliday, F.C.I.S.	" " " " "
Mr. C. Roland Woods, M.B.E., LL.B.	British Constructional Steelwork Association.
Mr. J.L. Gibson, B.A.	Lead Industries Development Council.
Major V. Lefebure	Imperial Chemical Industries Limited.
Mr. H.B. Bryant	Secretary, Building Industries National Council.

A full discussion took place on the problems of the industry generally and with particular reference to supplies of materials, and the Minister undertook to report to his colleagues the views expressed. It was arranged that certain of the matters raised should be discussed further with the Departments concerned.

Ministry of Supply,
The Adelphi,
London, W.C.2.

11th January, 1940.

11/1/40 - No 25.

Mrs. ANTHONY EDEN AT LONDON HOUSE.

Mrs. Anthony Eden paid a visit this afternoon to London House, Guilford Street, the headquarters of men from the Dominions and Colonies who come to the capital for a post-graduate and other studies. These headquarters are now being used as a hostel for officers of Dominion and Colonial contingents from overseas. Mrs. Eden was met by Mrs. Goodenough, widow of Mr. William Goodenough, founder of London House; Mrs. Crofton, the wife of Commander Crofton, Controller of the hostel, and Colonel Gaskell, who supervises arrangements for the welfare of overseas officers.

EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

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11/1/40 - No. 26.

SUGAR FOR THE NAVY.

Two well-known Natal men, Sir Charles Smith and Mr. George Crookes, have made a gift of 1,000 tons of sugar to the Royal Navy, equivalent to two million pounds weight in sugar.

The sugar will be refined Natal sugar and immediately placed at the disposal of the Naval authorities.

An attempt will be made to have shipments sent to units which do not visit South Africa.

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EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

11/1/40 - No 27.

BRITISH SHIPS SAVED FROM GERMAN RAIDER.

(Not to be quoted as an Air Ministry announcement)

Three Royal Air Force fighter aircraft saved three British cargo ships from damage by a German raider in the North Sea this morning.

After a running fight, the raider was last seen with smoke pouring from one wing and his port engine disabled.

The three pilots, all Sergeants, were on patrol off the Norfolk coast in their Spitfire fighters when they sighted a Heinkel bomber circling 50ft above the ships.

As soon as the enemy spotted the fighters, he hurriedly dropped a salvo of bombs, missing the ships, and fled eastwards.

The Spitfires, diving thousands of feet, chased the Heinkel for forty miles out to sea. Each fighter in turn fired bursts at the enemy as the Heinkel skimmed almost at sea level.

One British pilot, swerving round from the attack, could see the bullets of another Spitfire hitting the Heinkel.

When the enemy was last seen the propellor of his port engine was turning slowly, and smoke was coming from his port wing.

AIR AFFAIRS.

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RELIEF FOR FINLAND

Twenty five cases and four bales of Red Cross and relief goods for Finland have been released from the American steamer 'MOORMACSUN', at present detained at the Contraband Control Base, Kirkwall.

These goods will be transhipped
as soon as possible,

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE.

11/1/40 - No. 29

Not to be published or broadcast in this country or
in any other country before the morning of
Friday, 12th January.

SIR EDWARD JACKSON.

The Colonial Office announces that His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Edward St. John Jackson, O.B.E., Legal Secretary, Malta, to be Lieutenant-Governor of Malta in succession to Mr. John Adams Hunter, who has recently been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Honduras.

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(Sir Edward Jackson, who was born in 1886, was appointed Legal Adviser in the Gambia in 1918. After serving as Attorney-General and Judge of the High Court in Nyasaland, Attorney-General in Tanganyika, and was Attorney-General in Ceylon, he retired in 1936. He was re-appointed to the Colonial Service as Legal Secretary in Malta in 1937.)

EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

11/1/40. - No. 30.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

The following official communique was issued from French G.H.Q. this evening :-

"An increased artillery activity on either side, also a fair amount of activity on the part of both air forces was noticeable to-day.

An enemy reconnoitring plane was brought down within our lines."

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DETAILS OF AIR BATTLE OVER NORTH SEA.

(Not to be quoted as an Air Ministry announcement.)

Further details are now available of yesterday's clash over the North Sea between British aircraft and German Messerschmitt 110s, in which one British aircraft was lost and one enemy fighter was brought down. Another German aircraft made a forced landing in Denmark, its crew being interned.

The Messerschmitts concentrated their fire on the outside aircraft of the British formation.

"I thought at first there were only two of them", said one of the British Air Gunners, "they attacked in turn, obviously following a pre-arranged plan. Then we saw the others waiting up above to take their turn, and soon things got busy. We came down from 5,000 feet almost to sea level as soon as we were attacked, so that they could not get beneath us. We kept close formation."

"The fighters attacked in a shallow dive, usually from the quarter or from the beam, opening fire with cannon and machine guns from a distance of about 600 yds. but seldom closing to nearer than 200 yds."

"They seemed anxious to get out of range of our guns, and usually turned away when we opened fire. As they broke away, climbing for another attack, they showed us their bellies, and our tracers seemed to be going straight into them."

"Certainly some of them must have gone home heavier than they set out, because some of our chaps fired more than 500 rounds during the action and they didn't all miss."

The engagement was continuous for some 25 minutes, each fighter making from 8 to 10 attacks. The only British casualty occurred early in the action, when one of our aircraft - apparently hit in one engine - was forced to drop back and was immediately "pounced" on by a fighter which closed to within 100 yds, while a second fighter waited above to reinforce the attack.

A few minutes later a German fighter was forced down. In seeking to break up the British formation it dived between two sections of our aircraft, and, turning to launch a beam attack, it was caught by our fire and crashed into the sea at high speed.

Soon afterwards another fighter was seen to be in difficulties. This is believed to be the one which later in the day was reported to have made a forced landing in Denmark.

AIR AFFAIRS.