

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

The German wireless continues to allege that the British Government has addressed to neutral Governments a note to which it applies the epithets "ultimatum", "lawless pressure" and "hypocrisy".

German propaganda further pretends that numerous protests have been made in neutral countries against the British contraband control system.

The truth is that the British Government announced during the first days of the war that they would do all in their power to facilitate bona fide neutral trade, and that to this end they had informed neutral Governments that they would at all times be ready to consider any suggestions put forward by the latter.

This initiative has since led to the opening of discussions with a number of neutral Governments with the object of reducing to a minimum the dislocation inevitably caused by war conditions. These discussions are proceeding in the most friendly manner, and the British Government will continue to make every effort to take account of the trading needs of neutral countries.

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NAVAL AFFAIRS.

The following statement has been issued by the Admiralty:-

The First Sea Lord has received the following telegram from the Chief of the French Naval Staff.

"La Marine Francaise a appris la fin glorieuse du Courageous. Elle eprouve dans cette circonstance combien sont vivants et sensibles les liens qui l'attachent a la Marine Brittanique."

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MILITARY AFFAIRS.

Warrant Officer pensioners of the Armourer and Armament Artificer Sections of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps are invited to apply to the Under Secretary of State, the War Office, (A.G.9.), for war emergency commissions as Assistant Inspectors of Armourers and Assistant Ordnance Mechanical Engineers.

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AIR AFFAIRS.

CIVIL AIR GUARD.

The Civil Air Guard was designed to provide in peace time a pool of personnel with a knowledge of flying who could give useful service in connection with aviation in war. Its function is accordingly at an end for the time being and the enrolment of new members has ceased.

Qualified Members are being advised as to the steps they should take to join the Royal Air Force if they wish to do so. Thus, "starred" pilots and "unstarred" pilots, are being invited to attend for interview by AVIATION CANDIDATES SELECTION BOARDS.

Other members are being directed to apply to Royal Air Force combined recruiting centres for enlistment into the Royal Air Force and full consideration will be given to their Civil Air Guard service and qualifications.

It is the intention to make the fullest possible use of the services of Civil Air Guard members in support of the national effort.