

29/10/39 - No. 1.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE (MORNING)

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

"Very reduced activity during the night".

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WAR NEWS ITEMS FROM INDIA

Indian Troops Overseas.

The Government of India are now in a position to state that all troops that have proceeded out of India have arrived safely at their destinations, and that no Indian units have so far suffered any loss. The considerable and unavoidable delay in the transmission of mails has affected those serving abroad, but special arrangements are being made for the mail of Indian troops Overseas.

Indian Officers in the Royal Navy.

Some Indian officers of the Royal Indian Navy are working with the Royal Navy for the war duties, but the exact number has not been announced.

India's Gold and Silver

The Government of India have prohibited the importing ^{/of} or exporting gold coin, bullion or ingots, whether refined or unrefined, by sea or land to or from British India (with the exception of Burma) except on the authority of a license granted for this purpose by the Reserve Bank of India.

There is no truth in reports published that the Supply Department of the Government of India has decided to purchase silver in large quantities. The Government of India have no need or intention of purchasing any silver; on the contrary they have of late been selling it at their Bombay mint.

India and the Sugar Industry

The Government of India have decided to convene an All-India Sugar Conference representing all interests at an early date. It will consider measures for the rationalisation and stabilisation of the sugar industry.

29/10/39 - No.3.

THE CALL OF THE NAVY

In the early days of the war, our Royal Naval and Royal Marine Recruiting Stations in all parts of the country were besieged by young men and boys volunteering to join the Navy; and thousands more applied by letter to the Admiralty.

Letters of application still arrive by post at the Admiralty, or at the office of the Director of Naval Recruiting; and they come from all parts of the world.

Among those received recently was a joint letter from two Mohammedan Boy Scouts at the Dufferin Muslim Hostel, Dacca, Bengal. The address on their envelope - "The Recruiting Staff Officer, The Royal Navy OF THE EMPIRE" - was significant.

Another came from Coffs Harbour, New South Wales. It was written by a boy aged 16 who begged that he might be allowed to join the Royal Navy proper as he was still several months too young for entry into the Royal Australian Navy.

A third letter came from a British subject aged 18 living in Istanbul, Turkey. He addressed it to "The First Lord of the Admiralty", whom he described in his letter as "a true British Officer and Commander of the Admiralty." So desperately anxious was he to join that "failing receipt of a reply within a fortnight" he would "stow away on a ship."

These are but typical examples of many such letters. They show not only the fine spirit of British youth to-day, but that the call of the Navy carries far and wide. It is, in fact, those living in our far-flung dominions and colonies, or among the British communities of foreign ports, who fully realize their dependence upon the Navy - for their prosperity in peace, and for their very existence in war.

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FROM MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

SOUTH AFRICA'S "UNION UNITY FUND".

THE WIDENING STRUGGLE AGAINST NAZI PROPAGANDA.

It is reported in the South African Press that sponsors for the "Union Unity Fund" propose forming branches throughout South Africa, South West Africa, the Rhodesias, Nyasaland, Kenya and Tanganyika, "to assist in the war against Nazi paganism".

They also intend inaugurating a truthful Service Bureau to give effect to their aims by widespread distribution of pamphlets; by an "Ideological Exhibition" of the Union's history (photographs, maps, and cinematograph films, which will travel from place to place) illustrating the political idea of National Unity; and by a special "Lies Detector Department" staffed by economists, historians, and students of international affairs, to combat Zeesen and other Nazi propaganda.

Good response to the first appeal for funds is reported.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.

29/10/39 - No 5

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Minister of Health (Mr. Walter Elliot) has appointed Miss E.M.R. Russell Smith and Miss E.A. Sharp to be Assistant Secretaries (Acting) of the Ministry of Health.

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

29th October, 1939.

29.10.39 - No.6.

For Monday's
Papers.
30.10.39.

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.

Export Licences.

The Board of Trade have made an Order amending Article 3 of the Export of Goods (Prohibition) (No.2) Order 1939. The effect of the Order is that goods indicated by the letter C in the schedule to the Principal Order no longer require an export licence in order that they may be exported to Egypt or to Palestine. The opportunity has also been taken to make it clear that export licences are required for such goods when consigned to the Canary Islands, Madeira, the Azores, and the Cape Verde Islands. The Order comes into force on 30th October, 1939.

Board of Trade,

28th October, 1939.

CONVEYANCE OF INFORMATION TO THE ENEMY.

NEW WAR OFFICE ORDER.

Valuable information might be conveyed to the enemy by ingenious methods to adapt the commonplace, and apparently harmless, service of news, advertisements, photography and literature to the use of espionage. Familiar goods and commodities can also be employed to carry hidden messages.

Revelations, during and after the Great War, shows that personal paragraphs could serve a sinister purpose, that by means of an agreed code, words could change their meaning, and the movements of men and ships could be detailed in the guise of a contribution to the correspondence column. Recently a gramophone record was found to be so manipulated that beginning with a speech by Hitler it ended with something quite different.

Spies, like smugglers, are expert in the concealment of vital messages in quite innocent looking articles, messages that might mean the loss of a ship, the slaughter of a battalion, or the destruction of a munitions factory. Hence the need for increasing our national security by preventing valuable information from reaching the enemy by methods either obvious or ingenious.

A new Order made by the Secretary of State for War supersedes the control of Communication Orders which prohibited the export and import otherwise than by post of certain prohibited articles such as newspapers, books, maps, memoranda otherwise than by post to most of the neutral countries in Europe, and also applies to the carrying and shipping of printed matter to all destinations outside the United Kingdom.

Under the new Order a permit is no longer required for sending or conveying printed matter to any British Dominion, Colony, or Mandated Territory, or to Eire, France or to any country in North or South America.

Furthermore, passengers to or from countries other than those enumerated, may convey "prohibited articles" without a permit, provided they are examined and approved by a Customs Officer or Immigration Officer at the port of arrival or departure in the

United Kingdom.

The list of prohibited countries has been altered by the removal of Slovakia, Danzig and Poland which must now be treated as enemy countries; and by the addition of San Marino, Manaco, Andora, and Lichtenstein, and the Baltic States; Finland, Esthonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The scope of the Order, broadly speaking, embraces all neutral countries in Europe, as well as China, Japan and Russia. No prohibited matter can still be posted, carried or shipped to any of these countries without a permit.

Permits are granted to the Trade and applications should be made by the Trade to the Deputy Chief Censor, Permit Branch, Aintree, Liverpool 9.

Private individuals are not allowed to send prohibited articles to these banned countries except in special circumstances, and then they must place their order for transmission with the appropriate section of the Trade which will be able to post or ship such articles from their stock under permit.

Many firms who ship goods are not clear as to whether the inclusion of a certain amount of trade literature might result in it being classified as printed matter. They are assured that no objection will be taken to literature packed with and commonly associated with exported goods, as, for example, catalogues, leaflets, show cards, instructions for the assembly of machinery or in connection with playing games. Similarly no objection will be taken to ordinary instructions which are usually wrapped or gummed to boxes of goods, patent medicines and the like.

The Order does not interfere with the legitimate methods of Trade; its aim is to prevent vital information being transmitted to the enemy by the means of code, invisible writing, or concealed messages introduced into ordinary articles of commerce.

The New Order, which is now in force, may be bought for twopence from His Majesty's Stationery Office.

WAR OFFICE,
Whitehall,
S. W. 1.

From the Foreign Affairs Section
for the Ministry of Economic Warfare

29/10/39 - NO 8.

BELGIAN SHIPPING AND CONTRABAND CONTROL

In view of reports from Belgium and in order to relieve any anxiety that may be felt over detention by the British Contraband Control of cargoes of foodstuffs for neutral countries, the Ministry of Economic Warfare wish to make clear what is the procedure with regard to grain consigned to Belgian ports from overseas.

Ships carrying nothing but cereals covered by the Belgian Government's guarantee against re-export, which is based on that Government's prohibition of cereal exports, are not detained by the Contraband Control. For instance, the "Richard de Larrinaza" and the "Pennland" were released on October 17 and 18 respectively within a few hours of their arrival at the Contraband Control base. Information has also been received that three more ships containing bulk grain cargoes are on their way to Antwerp. They have not yet arrived at a Control base, but when they do so, there is no reason to suppose that they will be detained.

The only ships carrying grain to Antwerp that are being detained at British Control bases are detained there because they are also carrying either other cargoes, such as lead and linseed, which may prove to be contraband destined for the enemy, or else cereals consigned to a country other than Belgium. Immediate release of the ship is not always possible in these cases, as it is necessary first to make sure that the commodities accompanying the cereals covered by the Belgian guarantee are not destined to reach the enemy.

29/10/39 - No.9.

PRESS NOTICE.

The British Institute in Paris.

The British Institute in Paris is to open next Monday (November 6th). Mr. Hugh Sellon, the new Director has been in Paris for some weeks past, and has arranged with the Ambassador, who is the President of the British Institute, and with the University of Paris, of which the Institute is a foundation, to receive students on Monday, November 6th.

For those British students who are unable to go to Paris under present circumstances special correspondence courses are being organised, but for French students who wish to study English and for British students who are able to obtain the necessary permit, special classes and lectures have been organised in order that they may take the examinations of the University of Paris. Miss M.K. Burt, B.A., the Directress of English Studies, will be in charge of the English classes. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. B.S. Townroe, at the London-office, 7, Old Burlington Street, W.1. telephone Regent 6979.

ISSUED THROUGH PRESS BUREAU.

29.10.39 - No.10.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

The following communique was issued by French
G.H.Q. this evening.

All quiet generally during the day.

FROM FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Not to be quoted as an A.M. announcement.

German pilot surrendered, "Please see to my men".

British fighter pilots are speaking with admiration today of the enemy pilot who was shot down in Scotland yesterday. Contrary to earlier reports that he was uninjured, it appears that he had received a number of wounds, nevertheless, he managed to "pancake" his machine safely on the Scottish hillside, which in the circumstances was a fine achievement.

When he staggered from the aircraft, he was assisted by his navigator, who was the only unwounded member of the crew. Shortly afterwards a policeman appeared and the German pilot said in excellent English: "We surrender as prisoners of war. Please see to my gunners in the back of the aircraft". But both were dead.

Preliminary investigation of the aircraft establishes the efficiency of British fighter aircraft and their pilots.

Every part of the German aircraft bore traces of devastating machine-gun fire. Even the two metal propellers were drilled with holes.

When the fighters intercepted, the pilot dived to escape, but they swooped after him and his machine was crippled by the first burst of fire.

Half way down his port engine petered out and it was clear that he was going to land. The fighters held their fire after that and returned to their station.

The German aircraft was apparently quite new and had many appliances for the comfort of the crew. But the food discovered in the machine was the only thing the Royal Air Force could not admire. There were a few dry biscuits and two small tins of meat.

FROM AIR AFFAIRS.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.