

3/12/39 - No.1.

BHUTAN'S LOYALTY.

A message has been received from His Highness the Maharaja of Bhutan, with a silk scarf, offering his services and saying that he has instructed the Lamas of all Monasteries in his State to perform religious ceremonies in order that victory in the war may be assured to His Majesty the King-Emperor. His Majesty's deep appreciation of this loyal offer has been conveyed to the Maharaja.

(Bhutan is situated on the southern slopes of the central axis of the Himalayas, between Tibet and the northern border of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Ruler is His Highness Sir Ugyen Wangchuk, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. On the outbreak of the last war, the State made a donation of one lakh of rupees.)

-----OOO-----

INDIA OFFICE.

3/12/39. - No. 2

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

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

Nothing of importance to report -
some artillery action.

-----oOo-----

3. 12. 39. - No. 3.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR BROADCAST BEFORE THE MORNING OF
MONDAY, 4th DECEMBER, 1939 IN ALL COUNTRIES.

Viscount Halifax, Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs, has appointed Mr. Ralph Skrine
Stevenson, C.M.G., to be his Principal Private
Secretary in succession to Mr. Oliver Harvey, C.M.G.
who has been appointed to be His Majesty's Minister
in Paris.

---oOo---

3/12/39. - No. 4

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE (EVENING.)

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

A quiet day. Patrol activity on various points.

-----oOo-----

ROYAL AIR FORCE ATTACK GERMAN FLEET

The Air Ministry announces:-

A strong formation of Royal Air Force bombers to-day carried out an attack on German warships in the vicinity of Heligoland. Direct hits were obtained with heavy bombs. Considerable anti-aircraft fire was met and a Messerschmitt fighter - the only enemy fighter encountered - was shot down. All our aircraft have returned.

The Air Ministry also announces that a coastal reconnaissance aircraft of the Royal Air Force, while on patrol over the North Sea this morning, attacked and destroyed with bombs an enemy submarine surprised on the surface. A direct hit was obtained on the base of the conning tower.

3/12/39 - No.6.

Admiralty Official Communique.

A number of U-Boat prisoners were landed last night
at a Scottish port, the result of recent naval operations.

-----oOo-----

ADMIRALTY.

U-BOAT SUNK BY A SINGLE BOMB.
(Not to be quoted as an official Air Ministry
announcement.)

A Royal Air Force aircraft while on patrol to-day sighted and sank a U-boat with a single bomb. There were no survivors.

When a hundred and fifty miles from land, the pilot, who was flying a Coastal Command aircraft, sighted a minute object on the horizon eight miles distant. With binoculars he was able to satisfy himself that it was an enemy submarine, apparently of the large ocean-going type.

So that he might approach unobserved the pilot climbed into a cloudbank and stalked his quarry from there.

When the U-boat crew heard the engines of the aircraft above them, they made frantic attempts to close the conning tower hatch and crash-dive the submarine. It was too late. The pilot swooped down towards his target and released a bomb before the submarine could fully submerge. A direct hit was scored, the bomb exploding on the base of the U-boat's conning tower.

Parts of the submarine and other wreckage were thrown high by the explosion and the surface of the sea became coated with oil over a large area.

The aircraft remained over the position for five minutes to look for survivors, but none were seen.

When the aircraft left the scene a long oval patch of bubbling, foaming water covered the spot where the submarine had been.

Two members of the War Cabinet - Sir Samuel Hoare and Lord Hankey - were visiting the operations room at the R.A.F. Coastal Command headquarters when the wireless message announcing the destruction of the submarine was received from the aircraft..

For Monday's Papers.

3/12/39 - No.8.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY BOARD OF TRADE AND
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING.

WAR RISKS INSURANCE ACT, 1939.

1. Coasting Trade.

By virtue of a new Defence Regulation made under Section 1 of the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act, 1939, and of an Order under the War Risks Insurance Act, 1939, which will take effect from the 3rd December, goods covered by a policy of insurance issued under Part II of the War Risks Insurance Act will, when proceeding coastwise between two ports in the United Kingdom in a vessel which is not due to call at any port outside the United Kingdom, be held to be covered during the sea voyage by that policy without the need for additional marine war risks insurance. Accordingly, a policy under Part II of the Act will cover the goods in transit between any two United Kingdom ports including ports in Northern Ireland.

2. Transshipment.

Where goods are destined for, or exported from, the United Kingdom, and are insured against war risks with the War Risks Insurance Office, they will not after the 2nd December be subjected to additional premium for transshipment at a United Kingdom port where such transshipment is involved. Where insurance other than by declaration against open cover has been effected prior to the 3rd December additional premium for transshipment at a United Kingdom port will, however, continue to be payable, in accordance with the current published schedule of rates. In the case of declarations against open cover, additional premium for transshipment will be payable in respect of sailings to or from the overseas port prior to 3rd December.

2nd December, 1939.

3/12/39. - No. 9.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN.

ADD R.A.F. ATTACK ON GERMAN FLEET.

Not to be quoted as an Air Ministry announcement.

Two cruisers were among the German warships successfully attacked by a strong formation of Royal Air Force bombers in the vicinity of the heavily protected naval base at Heligoland to-day. They were lying close to a flotilla of six or seven destroyers.

The leader of the British attacking force has reported that Heligoland was first seen through a gap in the clouds. When he gave the order to attack, heavy anti-aircraft fire was opened on them. At this point, one of our aircraft fell out of formation but was able to regain height, rejoin its formation and return home with the others. There were no casualties to R.A.F. personnel.

Photographs were taken during the bombing. Among the German ships on which direct hits were obtained was one of the cruisers.
