

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

Morning Bulletin No. 29 - 18/9/39.

In a broadcast in Russian on Sept. 16th it was announced from Moscow, that twenty thousand civilians had been killed by German bombing in Lemberg; and that the Germans had machine-gunned the refugees from Lublin.

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Acting on the advice of the Polish Government Sir Howard Kennard, the British Ambassador at Warsaw passed into Roumania yesterday with the remaining members of his staff.

It is understood that the Polish Government are themselves either already in Roumania or about to move there.

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EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

China helps the British cause.

Interest in the fact that a thriving branch of the British Red Cross Unit has been established as one of Hong Kong's first efforts in support of Great Britain at war, is supplemented by the fact that it is receiving wide-spread and generous help from the Chinese in Hong Kong, and from China herself.

On this teeming island, Britain's only Crown Colony in the China Seas, there are 45,000 Chinese to every European resident; Hong Kong's population passed the million mark some years ago.

Thousands of Chinese families eke out a modest but contented existence in "sanpans", harboured in Aberdeen, and in many other picturesque creeks round the shores of the little 32-square mile island and of the strip of British territory on the mainland.

But for nearly 100 years, Hong Kong, ceded to Great Britain in 1842, has also proved an asylum and port of safety for Chinese victims of terror on the mainland; whether that terror be from typhoons, floods and famine, or from raids and civil strife.

There can be no doubt that thousands of Chinese friends of Great Britain will take this opportunity, and all further opportunities that the gallant little Crown Colony may provide, to help the British cause.

The Chinese are a grateful people. Confucius himself has taught them that faithlessness or ingratitude, to their family, their master or their friend, ranks among the cardinal sins. There is no more loyal British subject, owing his peace and security to the Union Jack that flies above his head, than the Chinese in Hong Kong.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTARY BULLETIN NO. 29A

18th SEPTEMBER 1939.

The following is for MORNING PRESS SEPT. 19TH and for
Broadcast only.

It is issued, for the convenience of the Press with early
editions, in advance of the Evening Bulletin (No.30-18/9/39)

AIR AFFAIRS.

THE R.A.F. WATCH AT SEA.

Work of the Coastal Command Squadrons on
Reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Patrols.

Since war broke out, a ceaseless watch has been kept by the squadrons of the Coastal Command of the Royal Air Force in the closest co-operation with the Royal Navy to prevent attacks on our shipping by enemy vessels. When the full story can be told it will be a stirring tale; but, for the present, much must remain secret.

While the majority of the squadrons engaged are regular units of the Royal Air Force some of them are Auxiliary Air Force squadrons.

Towards the close of the last war, landplanes and seaplanes co-operated with the Navy in destroying the submarine menace, in watching and reporting movements of the German Fleet and in tackling the problem of the disguised merchant raider.

The great technical development of aircraft since 1918 has enabled all sea-going aircraft, whether flying-boats or landplanes, to render greater service and to play an even more important part in sea warfare than they did 21 years ago.

The aircraft are larger; their speed is much higher; their duration of flight has been multiplied several times and, finally, they are much more powerfully equipped both for attack and defence.

Their home is the air and their playground the clouds. From high aloft, the eyes of the trained Royal Air Force pilots and observers look over great stretches of the North Sea and the Atlantic seeking the enemy that preys on our merchant shipping.

SUBMARINES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED OR DAMAGED

The evidence which has already accumulated since hostilities began two weeks ago shows how much the submarine has to fear from the aeroplane. Many submarines have been observed and reported and many have been attacked. Some of them will never appear again from the bottom of the sea bed where they are now lying. Others have been severely damaged. The German Commanders wait from hour to hour for news from these under-water vessels which will never return.

The great speed of the reconnaissance flying boats and land planes and their ability quickly to reach a spot where a submarine has been seen breaking surface, makes the task of the submarine commander more and more difficult. A direct hit from a bomb will put his craft out of action, and a bomb which drops anywhere near will certainly damage and may well sink it.

These operations, which have been going on continuously during the past fortnight, have met with little opposition from the German Air Force.

TWO COMBATS IN THE AIR

Two combats in the air have taken place. In one of them, a land-plane reconnaissance machine was engaged by three German fighters. When they were first seen, the Royal Air Force machine had just completed its particular task. The attackers approached from the rear and carried out an attacking manoeuvre rather like the "Prince of Wales' Feathers" - a manoeuvre seen and admired by the hundreds of thousands of spectators who attended the Royal Air Force Display each year at Hendon.

The attack was not a success. The leading machine of the German flight was the only one which was able to bring fire to bear, and this was promptly returned. The port and starboard enemy fighters turned away from either side of our reconnoitring aeroplane apparently with the object of attacking later. They never had the chance. The R.A.F. aircraft, whose duty it was to bring home the reports of its special reconnaissance, used nearby clouds to evade the enemy. Nothing more was seen of the fighters and

and the reconnaissance aircraft returned home safely with its valuable reports

THE GUNNER BECAME UNCONSCIOUS

The fighting in this battle between the airmen of the two nations, unseen by any other eye above the waters of the North Sea, was the more notable as the navigator and gunner in the Royal Air Force aircraft had to fight under great difficulties.

Shortly before the combat opened, at a height of 4 miles above the sea, the gunner had occasion to remove his oxygen apparatus. In the rarified air, he suddenly became unconscious. The navigator immediately went to his aid, re-fixed the oxygen apparatus and attended to him until he recovered.

In order to do this, the navigator had to remove his own oxygen lifeline and he, too, became affected. The two men had hardly recovered when the enemy appeared; nevertheless, they handled their guns vigorously until the enemy was driven off.

In another combat, a Royal Air Force landplane attacked a German flying boat in broad daylight, chased the enemy away and calmly proceeded with its reconnaissance. Here again it is gratifying to know that the R.A.F machine was greatly superior in performance to the German.

The first graphic eye witness account of the bombing and sinking of a German submarine comes from a young South African Officer serving with the R.A.F.

The destruction of the submarine was closely observed from the attack by the pilot to the last air bubble which rose to the surface.

It was the first submarine with which the pilot had been in action.

"I was sent out on submarine patrol" he said, on my return trip I sighted a submarine on the surface and 2 miles away. It was travelling pretty fast- at about 12 knots- in an easterly direction.

"I took cover in a cloud in order to approach the submarine from astern. As I came out of the cloud, flying at 1500 feet, I tried with my binoculars to identify the submarine. Flying closer I saw those characteristics which made me sure she was a German.

"To make absolutely certain I fired some rounds of ammunition near her to give her a chance to identify herself. She did not, so I proceeded to dive, at the same time firing my front gun at someone wearing a white hat, who was standing on the conning tower.

"At 500 feet the man on the conning-tower disappeared and the submarine started to dive. By the time I dropped my first salvo of bombs, the nearest of which hit the water 15 or 20 yards directly ahead of the submarine, the submarine was half under water. The explosion of the bombs blew her back to the surface. That gave me time to turn round and I then carried out an attack from the port beam.

~~"The nearest bomb of my second salvo landed 6 feet to the side of the conning tower.~~ It was a direct hit on the submarine's port side. There was a colossal explosion and her whole stern lifted out of the water. She dived into the sea at an angle of 30 degrees.

"For 20 minutes afterwards I remained over the spot watching the large whirlpools caused by escaping air coming to the surface of the water. By that time I assumed the submarine to be out of action on the bottom of the sea and returned to my base."

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FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Evening Bulletin No. 30

18/9/39

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The surprising statement has been broadcast from Germany that the store of munitions discovered by German troops at Westerplatte shows that Poland had violated international law before the beginning of the war and that, according to an agreement between Poland and Danzig, Poland was not entitled to have a munition depot menacing Danzig.

The truth is that by agreement with Danzig, Poland was permitted to maintain a munitions depot at Westerplatte.

There was no limitation on the nature or amount of the munitions which Poland might keep there.

The following announcement regarding the Duke of Windsor must not be published or broadcast before Tuesday September 19th

The War Office announce that the Duke of Windsor will shortly be proceeding to take up a Staff Appointment abroad.

In order that His Royal Highness maybe able to serve in this capacity, His Majesty The King has been pleased to permit His Royal Highness to relinquish temporarily the rank of Field-Marshal in the British Army, and to assume that of Major-General, with effect from September 3rd.

GERMAN CREW INTERNED

A British warship has landed 33 Germans at the Falkland Islands, where they have been interned.

These men were among the crew of the Carl Fritzen, which the Royal Navy dealt with the day after war was declared. The Master of the ship, Capt. Hamann, has asked the Governor of the Falkland Islands if he will permit the following message to go to the owners, Johanas Fritzen und Sohn, Emden:

"Carl Fritzen sunk September 4. Crew of 33 Germans landed Falkland Islands. Ten neutrals sent home September 10. Please make stipulated payments to our families and give verbal news of us."

The Governor has raised no objection, nor to the report adding that the internees are in good health.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The War Office announce that in order to avoid delay in the despatch and delivery of business correspondence, business firms in the United Kingdom are asked to communicate any change in their normal address to M.C.3., War Department Box No. 600, S.W.D.O., London, S.W.1.

The following requested re-issue of material concerning the "Inverliffey" contains details not in previous issues.

No. 1. 18/9/39.

THE LOSS OF THE "INVERLIFFEY"

On the morning of Monday last, September 11th, the 9,456 -ton motor vessel "Inverliffey", flying the flag of the Irish Free State and registered in Dublin, was in a position about 270 miles south-west of Land's End, steering for the entrance to the English Channel. The weather was misty, and shortly after noon the ship was running through patches of real fog. A sharp look-out was being kept for submarines, and had been kept ever since the outbreak of war.

At about 1.15 p.m., those on the Inverliffey's" bridge sighted an American tanker, the "R.G. Stewart", lying apparently stopped and heading in a north-easterly direction. At much the same moment the fog lifted, and the "Inverliffey's" officers sighted a submarine about half a mile distant on the port beam.

The submarine immediately opened fire, whereupon the "Inverliffey's" master turned stern on to the U-boat and rang down to his engine-room for all possible speed. The submarine continued to fire, discharging in all seven rounds, which fell close on either side of the steamer, which was in fact being overhauled by her pursuer.

The "Inverliffey" had no alternative but to stop,
and the.....

and the U-boat hoisted a signal for the master to go on board with his papers. A boat was lowered, and the master obeyed, to be asked by the submarine's commander where he was bound. The answer was that the steamer was ordered to contact with Land's End for wireless orders.

The U-boat commander replied that the "Inverliffey" carried a contraband cargo, and that he intended to sink her. The master protested, pointing out that his ship flew the flag of the Irish Free State and was registered in Dublin. The German officer took no notice.

The "Inverliffey's" crew of 40 were ordered to abandon ship in their boats. When they had got clear, the submarine fired a torpedo, which struck the merchantman amidships on the starboard side. Within a few seconds the ship was fiercely abaze from stem to stern.

The submarine commander took the master and the boat's crew to the American tanker "R.G. Stewart" nearby, which then proceeded to pick up the occupants of the two other lifeboats. The "R.G. Stewart" was outward bound across the Atlantic to the Dutch West Indies, so the master got into touch with a steamer bound for Havre. By 8.30 that same evening, the "Inverliffey's" officers and men were safely transferred, and on their way to France, where they landed on September 14th.

The "Inverliffey", it should be noted, flew the Irish Free State flag, and was registered in Dublin. The Irish Free State has declared its neutrality.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NO 2. 18.9.39

FLASH NEWS READ TO PRESS BROADCAST 12.29 p.m.

The Admiralty regret to announce that H.M.S. Courageous has been lost by enemy submarine action.

She was commissioned with the Reserve Fleet in August with a reduced complement of aircraft, and since the opening of hostilities has been performing very good service in protecting the ships of the Mercantile Marine against U-boat attack.

Survivors have been picked up by destroyers and merchant ships which are now returning to harbour.

The submarine was immediately heavily attacked by destroyers and is believed to be sunk.

H M.S. Courageous is one of the earliest aircraft carriers.

She was originally completed as a cruiser in 1917 and was converted after the War as an aircraft carrier.

Next of kin will be informed as soon as information can be obtained as to the names of the survivors.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

EMPIRE AFFAIRS

NO 3. 18.9.39

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Hon. Mr. Justice Braund, at present a judge of the Rangoon High Court, to be a judge of the High Court at Allahabad in the vacancy of Mr. Justice Harries.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

NO. 4 -- 18:9:'39.

EMPIRE NEWS.

A CALL TO THE PLOUGH.

Under powers delegated to it by the Home Secretary the Northern Ireland Ministry of Agriculture has issued an order by which each farmer in Northern Ireland who has in his occupation ten statute acres or more of arable land, must, next year, cultivate at least one-tenth of his total arable land in addition to what he cultivated in 1939; and have at least one-fifth of his total arable land under cultivation in 1940.

The immediate aim of Northern Ireland is to secure an increase of 250,000 acres in its tillage area, and there is every confidence that it will be achieved rapidly. Indeed, the indications are that farmers will not confine themselves strictly to the letter of the order, but will go "all out" for the maximum acreage of tilled land available.

"A farmer who is satisfied merely to comply with the Order by ploughing one-tenth of his land, as the case may be, is only doing the least he must to help his country", says the Minister of Agriculture, Sir Basil Brooke. "I am sure that, in the national interest, every farmer will do much more than this and will put every possible acre under the plough".

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

EMPIRE AFFAIRS

No.5 - 18/9/39

The Loyalty of the Shan States.

For the past fifty years since Burma became part of the British Empire, the Sawbwas, Chiefs of the Shan States of Upper Burma, have proved themselves loyal supporters of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

The unanimous resolution that was passed, soon after the outbreak of war, by the Council of Chiefs when they met at picturesque Taunggyi under the supervision of the Commissioner of the Federated Shan States, expressed with fervour their strong and personal support of Great Britain's policy, and their confidence in her final victory.

No Eastern rulers have more readily associated themselves with British principles of justice and good order, nor been quicker to condemn a war of injustice and aggression for which Germany stands responsible.

At their own College for their sons, and also at English public-schools and universities, the Shan Chiefs have learnt the British outlook and sense of fair play.

The Englishman who, leaving the humid tropics of Rangoon and the coast, and winding uphill by the picturesque railway or motor-road, finds himself in the cool tranquil little towns of Taunggyi or Kalaw, is more astonished by the familiar sound of the cuckoo's note, and by the sight and scent of English garden flowers on every side, than the gallant Shan Chief, who arrives in England already versed in her language and ways.

The Sawbwa of Tawng-peng, in England during these anxious days, confirmed his approval of the message from his fellow-chiefs by loyally offering his own services "in any capacity" to the Empire's cause.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No. 6 - 18/9/39

ADDITIONAL FUEL FOR GOODS VEHICLES.

In a notice to group organisers The Ministry of Transport states:-

Operators of goods vehicles are now aware of the amount of fuel available to them as a basic issue. In cases where this is not enough to enable necessary work to be done, group organisers should at once apply to sub-district managers for the amount of supplementary rations required. Operators who are in a group must apply to their group managers and not directly to sub-district managers. Except in the cases of vehicles of special type applications from operators of ungrouped vehicles will not be considered.

Applications must not be made unless the additional fuel is essential for the maintenance of necessary services which cannot be operated on the basic ration or cannot be replaced by alternative means of transport. Only in very exceptional cases will it be possible to make supplementary issues for retail delivery or other similar services.

The coupons issued from the sub-district offices of the Ministry of Transport on September 15 constitute the basic ration issue for the week commencing Saturday September 23. The next weekly basic ration will be made on Friday September 29. The necessary application forms must be lodged in sub-district offices by 4 p.m. on Wednesday September 27.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NO. 7 - 18.9.39

VISITS TO EVACUATED CHILDREN

The railway companies ran 30 relief trains from London yesterday (Sunday) to accommodate parents wishing to visit their children in reception areas.

The trains were well filled but generally speaking, not overcrowded on the outward journeys, but owing to the impossibility of regulating times at which passengers were returning certain overcrowding was experienced on return journeys.

Whilst regretting this, the companies point out that it is difficult to prevent such overcrowding since they must naturally leave to parents the choice of the trains by which they return.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NAVAL AFFAIRS

NO 8 18.9 39

COURAGEOUS

The "Courageous" was completed as a cruiser in January, 1917. She was laid down in May, 1915, under the Emergency War Programme, the original design having been formulated by Lord Fisher with a view to operations in the Baltic--- hence the shallow draught.

The "Courageous" was converted into an aircraft carrier at Devonport Dock-yard between 1924 and 1928, and was again refitted in 1936.

Her displacement is 22,500 tons, and her full complement, with the personnel of the Fleet Air Arm, about 1,200 officers and men. When sunk she had a reduced complement of aircraft and therefore, presumably, a somewhat smaller crew.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No.9 - 18/9/39

URGENT NEWS FLASH

The following statement has been issued by the Admiralty for use without alteration.

"Next of kin of ratings of H.M.S. "Courageous" believed lost will be informed from the depots, and next of kin of officers from the Admiralty C.W. Branch."

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No.10 - 18/9/39

Not to be Broadcast

SERVICE POSTAL REGULATIONS

The Postmaster General announces that the following special postal arrangements will apply to correspondence and parcels for members of His Majesty's Army and Royal Air Force:-

Members of His Majesty's Army and Royal Air Force stationed at Home

1. Correspondence, including parcels, must be addressed to the unit at the place where it is actually stationed. If this is not known it must be addressed to the Depot or Peace Headquarters of the unit concerned.

The address must show:-

- (i) Army or Air Force Number.
- (ii) Rank.
- (iii) Name
- (iv) Squadron, battery, company or other section of the unit.
- (v) ARMY or AIR FORCE UNIT (including in the latter case the letters 'R.A.F.')
- (vi) (a) If the actual place at which the unit is stationed is known the full postal address of that place.

(b) If the actual place at which the unit is stationed is now known, the full postal address of the Depot or Peace Headquarters of the unit.

2. Postage must be prepaid at the ordinary inland rates.

3. Unless and until notice to the contrary is given, the usual inland services are available.

Members of His Majesty's Army and Royal Air Force serving in all stations overseas.

1. Method of Address. All correspondence and parcels for members of His Majesty's Army and Royal Air Force serving anywhere outside the British Isles must be addressed "c/o Army Post Office".

The address must NOT contain the name of any place or country.

The address of all correspondence and parcels must show:-

- (i) Army or Air Force number.
- (ii) Rank.
- (iii) Name.
- (iv) Squadron, battery, company or other section of the unit.
- (v) ARMY or AIR FORCE UNIT (including in the latter case the letters "R.A.F.").
- (vi) Special appointment, if any.
- (vii) c/o Army Post Office.

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The following examples of the mode of addressing correspondence for soldiers and airmen serving overseas are given for the guidance of senders:-

- (a) 3122000 Private J. Grant,
"B" Company,
1st Battalion Royal Scots,
c/o Army Post Office.
- (b) 632107 L.A.C.H. Bowler,
200 Squadron,
R.A.F.,
c/o Army Post Office.

2. Rates of Postage.

Letters.....	1½d. for the first ounce and 1d. for each additional ounce.
Postcards.....	1d. each.
Printed Papers, including Newspapers.....	½d. per 2 ounces.
Parcels:-	

Not exceeding	s. d.
3 lb.	1. 3
7 lb.	2. 6
11 lb.	3. 3
22 lb.	6. 0

3. Letters will be accepted for Registration under the general conditions of registration in the Imperial and Foreign Post, i.e., a registration fee of 3d. must be paid in addition to the postage, and the maximum compensation payable to the sender in the event of loss will be £2.

Letters will not be accepted for Insurance or Express Delivery.

The sender's name and address must be shown on the outside of all letters in order that they may be returned if undeliverable.

4. Parcels will not be accepted for Registration or Insurance or for Express Delivery or the Cash-on-Delivery service, and payment of Customs charges, if any, cannot be undertaken by the sender.

An adhesive label, giving particulars of

- (a) the name and address of the sender and
- (b) the contents, must be affixed to each parcel.

Labels for this purpose may be obtained at any Post Office which accepts Imperial and Foreign parcels. Parcels not bearing the required label will be refused.

5. Packing of Parcels. Parcels which are inadequately packed run great risk of damage or loss of contents, and a higher standard of packing is necessary than in the Inland Parcel Post.

Thin cardboard boxes, such as shoe boxes, and thin wooden boxes, should not be used; nor does a single sheet of ordinary brown paper afford sufficient protection. It is also found that cylindrical tin boxes are very liable to damage. The following forms of packing are recommended:-

(i) Strong double cardboard boxes, preferably those made of corrugated cardboard, and having lids which completely enclose the sides of the box.

(ii) Strong wooden boxes.

(iii) Several folds of stout packing paper.

Additional security is afforded by an outer covering of linen, calico or canvas, which should be securely sewn up.

The address must be written in bold letters on the covering in ink or indelible pencil and not on a label, whether tied or pasted on. No perishable articles may be sent; and everything likely to become soft and sticky, such as chocolates or sweets, should be packed in tins well fastened down. Bottles, pudding basins and the like are prohibited.

Parcels which do not comply with these conditions are unlikely to reach their destinations safely

6. Matches. No matches of any kind may be sent by post.

7. Remittances. Under the Defence Regulations there are restrictions on the despatch of money abroad; particulars of these restrictions may be obtained from any Bank. Remittances not exceeding £2.2s. on any one day may be made by Postal Orders; postage stamps may not be affixed to increase the value.

No money Order service will be available.

8. General Any enquiry or complaint relating to a postal packet sent to a member of His Majesty's Army and Royal Air Force should be addressed to the Office at which the packet was posted.

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FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE
CASES OF INTERNED PERSONS.

No. 12 - 18/9/39.

Not to be published or
broadcast before 9 p.m.
Monday, 18th Sept.

The Home Secretary has appointed an Advisory Committee to examine the cases of persons in England and Wales who have been interned with a view to preventing them acting in any manner prejudicial to the public safety or the defence of the realm.

Most of those so interned are enemy aliens. It will be open to these persons to make representations to the Secretary of State with a view to their release, and unless the Secretary of State decides that no further review of the case is necessary, these representations will be referred to the Advisory Committee in order that the Committee may examine the case and report to the Secretary of State whether they think the alien should continue to remain in custody or might properly be released.

A few persons who are not enemy aliens have been interned under Defence Regulation 18 (b). This Regulation provides that a person so interned may make objections against the order of internment to an Advisory Committee, and "it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to secure that the said person is informed of his right to make objections as aforesaid". Persons who exercise this right will have their cases reviewed by the Advisory Committee who will report to the Secretary of State and advise him whether the order should be maintained or not.

The Advisory Committee for England and Wales is constituted as follows:-

Sir Walter Monckton, K.C.V.O., M.C., K.C.
Sir Arthur Hazlerigg, Bt.
Professor W.E. Collinson.
J.J. Mallon, Esq., C.H., LL.D.

The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. G.P. Churchill.

A separate Committee will be appointed for Scottish cases.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NO. 13.- 18.9.39.

NEWS FLASH

The Minister of Information (Lord Macmillan)
announced today that :-

Lord Camrose has joined the Ministry as Chief
Assistant to the Minister and Controller of Press
Relations.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No. 14 - 18th September, 1939.

PRESS NOTICE.

Insurance for Soldier - Harvesters.

Farmers employing soldiers for harvest work are advised to insure for them on the same lines as for civilians. For although soldiers will not be entitled to benefit of Workmen's Compensation Acts, farmers will be liable, in cases of injury, to pay to Army funds any sums that would have been payable under the Acts if the soldiers had been civilians.

While the soldiers are in the farmer's employ they will retain pension rights.

SEED POTATOES.

A plan is being prepared for increasing the production of potatoes. Full particulars will be announced at an early date, and in the meantime the Agricultural Departments ask growers to conserve all seed stocks suitable for replanting.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Dept. K.A.,
10, Whitehall Place,
London,
S.W.1.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NO. 15 - 18/9/39

CLOSED TUBE STATIONS.

The Ministry of Transport announce that certain Tube stations, which have had to be closed, will be open for traffic as soon as the major works necessary to make these stations immune from flooding have been completed.

The protective works are being carried out as speedily as possible but owing to the difficult nature of the task, in some cases, it may take several weeks before stations can be brought back into service.

The public are assured that every effort is being made by the London Passenger Transport Board to complete the works as quickly as possible.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

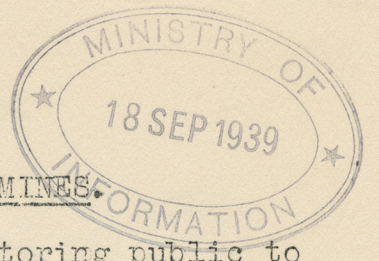
No.16 - 18/9/39.

NEWS FLASH.
For Immediate release.

It is understood that the Lithuanian Government have decided to undertake partial mobilisation in order to strengthen their forces on the Polish frontier.

The explanation given in official circles is that this step has been taken in pursuance of the Lithuanian policy of neutrality for the purpose of disarming and interning any units of the Polish army which may attempt to retreat into Lithuania.

no. 17



ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY FOR MINES.

The Secretary for Mines urges the motoring public to take full advantage of the postponement of the Petrol Rationing Scheme to obtain their books of coupons, avoid inconvenience to themselves, and assist in the smooth introduction of the scheme.

There are three points to which attention is particularly drawn:

1. Motorists, who have not yet applied for their ration books, should do so in good time. They are specially requested to address their application to their local taxation office or to the post office from which they normally obtain their road fund licence. Every application must be accompanied by the registration book of the car.
2. Those who have real need for supplementary supplies should apply in writing to the Divisional Petroleum Officer of the region in which their cars are normally garaged. Registration books must be enclosed. Every application will be treated on its merits and urgently.
3. The public is again reminded that it is illegal to remove motor spirit from garages for use in motor vehicles except in the tanks of cars. Motorists will no doubt wish to see that their tanks are filled in order to ease the transition to rationing. In order to avoid congestion at garages, this should be done during the next few days and on no account postponed until Friday.

It should be realised that the object of the Motor Fuel Rationing Scheme is the conservation of stocks so as to secure and maintain supplies for the fighting forces and other services essential to the nation in war time. In the general interest, therefore, potential applicants for supplementary allowances should consider with the utmost care whether the application is fully justified, or whether by some act of self denial on their part they can make a valuable contribution to the national effort.

Mines Department,
Dean Stanley Street,
Millbank, S.W. 1.

18th September, 1939.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

NO. 18 - 18:9:'39.

EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

AUSTRALIA'S GOODS WILL BE THERE.

Australia was a tower of strength to Great Britain in the last war, not only because of the magnificent fighting troops she sent to our aid, but because of the essential supplies which steadily reached our ports from the Commonwealth.

During this war Australia's material support, already pledged to Great Britain, will be infinitely greater. Since 1914 her productive capacity has increased in every direction.

The Commonwealth's primary industries, her main source of wealth, have continued to expand, and during the last 25 years her exports of wool and foodstuffs have grown considerably. Even more marked has been the growth of the manufacturing industries, a development which has lessened her dependence on the outside world for many essential commodities.

To take first the primary industries, the Australian wool clip for 1938 was estimated at 28% of the total world output - some 300 million pounds - more being produced than in 1914.

The production of wheat absorbs nearly 70% of the area in Australia used for agricultural purposes, and during the last three years the average crop has amounted to 170,000,000 bushels - compared with an average of 95,000,000 bushels just prior to 1914.

A notable increase has been perceptible also in dairy produce, particularly in the production of butter, which amounted to 193,000 tons in 1937/8 compared with 86,000 tons in 1913. A trade which did not exist in 1914 but has developed considerably in recent years is the export of eggs-in-shells, for latterly between 16 and 20 million dozen eggs have been exported annually.

The meat industry in Australia - beef, mutton and lamb - assumes large dimensions. During recent years the production of beef has averaged over 9 million cwts., and mutton and lamb about 6½ million cwts. annually. Of the quantity available for export, over 90% is shipped to the United Kingdom.

/ Sugar...

Sugar is exported to the amount of 450,000 tons per annum; and the fresh fruit and dried fruit industries have increased enormously in recent years.

For the purposes of war, Australia finds herself fortunately placed in regard to certain secondary industries, and notably in respect of engineering. The iron and steel industry has gone steadily ahead, and there are large organisations engaged in the manufacture of agricultural machinery and motor, marine and electrical engineering. The production of aeroplanes, moreover, has already begun. Actually, the Commonwealth has so advanced in engineering, that it can provide almost the whole of its own structural requirements in railways, bridges, buildings and ships.

To the textile and clothing industries of Australia the 1914-18 war gave a great fillip, expansion being naturally assisted by the availability of ample supplies of wool.

Paper manufacture, also, assisted in the first instance by the Commonwealth Government, has gone ahead by leaps and bounds, and an important place is held by industries connected with the production of cement, earthenware, chemicals, boots, shoes and leather goods, confectionery, tobacco and cigarettes, rubber and glassware.

Nor should the mineral wealth of Australia be overlooked. Such vital commodities as antimony, arsenic, asbestos, coal, copper, gold, ironstone, lead, magnesite, manganese, molybdenum, osmiridium, tin, wolfram and zinc are all mined in the Commonwealth.

This brief survey must bring home to any reader of it the immense resources of Australia - resources which she has pledged in their entirety to the cause of the British Empire.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

EMPIRE AFFAIRS

Late Evening Special

18/9/39

TWO SPORTSMEN VOLUNTEERS

19

The names of two distinguished sportsmen well-known in England, are to be added to the lengthy list of Indian Princes who have placed their personal services and entire resources of their States at the disposal of His Majesty. His Highness the Maharaja of Rajpipla, who is an honorary Major in the Army is a popular figure on our racecourses and in 1934 his Windsor Lad won for him the Derby and the St. Ledger.

The other athletic volunteer is the Nawab of Patandi, whose ancestors came from Afghanistan to India at the time of the Emperor Akbar.

The Nawab won hockey and cricket blues while at Balliol, achieved the rare honour of playing for England in Test matches, and plays for Worcestershire during his visits to this country.

He recently married the second daughter of the Nawab of Bhopal, a famous polo player.

THE ZEAL OF ZANZIBAR

His Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar has asked that the following message should be conveyed to King George:

"The ties of gratitude and affection which bind my Sultanate to Your Majesty's great Empire are even stronger today than twenty-five years ago. As in 1914, so now the full resources of my Sultanate are at your Majesty's disposal to use as you see fit in the struggle for justice and liberty".

Zanzibar, the Island of Cloves which lies just off the coast of Kenya, has 250,000 people in its area of 640 square miles. The Arabs were the original conquerors of Zanzibar and mainly own the 3,000,000 clove-bearing trees which send their crop all over the world - to India for the spice market, to Java to be used in the preparation of tobacco for the Dutch, and to the U.S.A. to be employed in the form of clove-oil as an ingredient.

HOUSES FOR SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMAN.

BUILDING PLANS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

A great deal of local emergency legislation is to receive the attention of the Northern Ireland Parliament which will resume its sittings to-morrow, (19th September)

One of the most important Bills extends the powers of local authorities to enable them to provide housing accommodation for people employed in Naval, Military and Air Force establishments. Local authorities will be enabled to borrow money for the construction of such new houses, also to acquire land in or outside their areas and to build the houses.

Another measure relating to the production of food and other essential articles, empowers the Ministry of Agriculture to take over certain functions at present exercised by County Committees of Agriculture. Officers employed by the County Committees are to be transferred to the employment of the Ministry.

Although so far no evacuation of children has taken place in Northern Ireland, the Government are completing their plans for such an eventuality and a measure has been introduced providing for facilities to give elementary education to children transferred from one area to another. It will be the duty (states the Bill) of Education Authorities in reception areas, as far as possible to provide such education and additional teachers will be assigned.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

No. 20 - 18/9/39.

FISH SUPPLIES.

The Ministry of Food announce that the landings of fresh fish in this country have been unusually low to-day, and this position is likely to continue for the first half of the present week. It is anticipated, however, that supplies will be considerably increased after Thursday.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

No. 21 - 18th September, 1939.

PRESS NOTICE.

M.A.F. 25.

CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND
THE NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The first of a series of regular weekly consultations between the Minister of Agriculture and the President and other representatives of the National Farmers' Union took place at No. 10, Whitehall Place this afternoon (18th September, 1939). These meetings are intended to ensure the closest co-operation between the Ministry and the National Farmers' Union in promoting the food production campaign and to provide a ready medium for the exchange of views on the many problems with which agriculture will be faced in war time.

One of the most important matters discussed at the first meeting was the arrangements that were being made in connection with the control of sales and prices of agricultural products and their bearing on the food production campaign. The Minister stated that the action which had hitherto been taken to fix maximum prices for the principal agricultural products was provisional only and was clearly necessary in order to stabilise the position pending the assumption of full control by the Minister of Food. It was fully recognised that adjustments would be necessary from time to time, but they must be controlled adjustments, and it was quite impossible and inadvisable at present to give any long-term assurances as to the prices which would obtain at any given date for any given commodity. Future prices would depend on a number of factors including, of course, the general level of farmers' costs, and the need for inducing the production of livestock and crops in the quantities required, having regard to the food supply situation generally. The Minister said that farmers would naturally expect reasonable returns for the great effort which they were being asked to make, but it was impossible at this stage to forecast what conditions would exist next summer, and therefore what should be the returns which farmers should receive for their crops. Farmers would be guaranteed a market, and prices for their crops and livestock - supplemented in some cases by subsidies - would be fixed from time to time in the light of the prevailing circumstances.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES,
(Dept. K.A.).

10, Whitehall Place,
LONDON, S.W.1.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

No.22 - 18/9/39.

CONDENSED MILK PRICES.

The Ministry of Food announce that an Order has been made fixing the Provisional Maximum Wholesale and Retail Prices for Condensed Milk.

The Order covers full cream sweetened, full cream unsweetened and machine skimmed condensed milk.

Full details as to these prices are being circulated to the trade interests concerned. The maximum retail prices chargeable to consumers are as follows:-

Full Cream Sweetened	$1\frac{3}{4}$	pints equivalent	8d. per tin.
" " "	$\frac{7}{8}$	" "	$4\frac{1}{2}$ d " "
" " Unsweetened	2	" "	$6\frac{1}{2}$ d " "
" " "	$\frac{3}{4}$	" "	$3\frac{1}{2}$ d " "
Skimmed	$2\frac{3}{8}$	" "	$5\frac{1}{2}$ d " "
"	$1\frac{7}{8}$	" "	$4\frac{1}{2}$ d " "
"	$1\frac{3}{3}$	" "	$3\frac{1}{2}$ d " "

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT ORDERS FOR SUPPLIES

No. 23 - 18/9/39

Many applications are being received in the Ministry of Supply for certificates of priority in order that contractors may secure supplies of material necessary for carrying out Government work or work needed to maintain productive capacity.

The Ministry desires that it should be generally known that no general issue of priority certificates in respect of Government work is yet considered necessary, and if any difficulties are experienced in securing the material necessary to carry out Government work, contractors should make application to the appropriate controller in cases where control has been established. The controllers will give preference in the allocation of materials where reasonable information can be furnished to show that the materials are needed for Government work, or work needed to maintain productive capacity.

If application is made in this way, it is anticipated that difficulty in regard to supply of materials for the carrying out of work, will, as a rule, be readily surmounted.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Minister to tour Reception Areas in Kent.

No. 24. - 18/9/39

Miss Florence Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, who has been paying a series of visits to country areas in order to get first-hand knowledge of how the women and children evacuated under the Government Scheme are faring, is to spend to-morrow (Tuesday) in Kent.

Miss Horsbrugh will begin her tour at Tunbridge Wells and then visit the Tunbridge Rural District and the Maidstone and Crowborough areas. She will be accompanied by her Parliamentary Private Secretary, Lieut-Col. E.T.R. Wickham, M.P. for Taunton.

During the last fortnight Miss Horsbrugh has visited the reception areas in the Midlands, South of England and East Anglia. Later she hopes to arrange further tours.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

A. T. S. ESTABLISHMENT

No. 25. - 18/9/39

The War Office announce that the establishment of the A.T.S. is at present complete, but recruiting will begin again shortly and would-be-recruits should await future information which will include details of where and how to apply.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

NO. 26 - 18:9:'39.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

DOCTORS ON WHOLETIME SERVICE.

Arrangements have been made in agreement with the medical profession, for a certain proportion of those doctors who are at present employed whole-time in the emergency hospital service to be allowed to transfer from whole-time to part-time service, so that they may be able to attend private patients. The individual doctors to whom this arrangement applies will be notified to this effect by the Ministry of Health at the earliest opportunity.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

BLUE ENSIGN - USE BY PRIVATE VESSELS.

No. 27 - 18/9/39

1. So long as hostilities last, the use of the Blue Ensign whether plain or defaced, and of the defaced Red Ensign by merchant and other private vessels is to be discontinued.
2. Opportunity should be taken to bring this decision to the notice of merchant vessels generally.
3. This prohibition does not apply to Dominion vessels, to vessels in the service of public departments and boards, or to stationary training ships holding an Admiralty warrant.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No.28 - 18/9/39

SCOTTISH OFFICE APPOINTMENTS

The Secretary of State for Scotland has appointed Mr. A.S.L. Young, M.P. to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary, in succession to Mr. W.J. Anstruther Gray, M.P. who has joined his regiment, the Coldstream Guards.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, Captain J.F.H. McEwen, M.P., has appointed Mr. W. McNair Snadden, M.P. to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
COMPULSORY INSURANCE OF COMMODITIES.

POSITION CLARIFIED

No. 29 - 18/9/39

It would appear from correspondence which has appeared in the press that there has been a serious mis-apprehension, both of the nature of the Government Scheme for compulsory insurance of commodities and of the effect of the cost of insurance on prices.

The scheme is not as has been stated, one in which payment for losses will be deferred until the end of the war. It is one of insurance in the full sense whereby in return for the payment of a premium which may be varied in amount from time to time in the light of circumstances, the seller of commodities will receive immediate payment of the value of his stocks which may be damaged or destroyed by King's enemy risks as soon as his claim has been received and assessed.

A seller who has added the rate of premium chargeable for a full year to articles now being sold by him has recovered a sum which far exceeds the charge appropriate to the charge for which he has been liable for the insurance of the articles, and has in fact, already recovered the full charge (subject to any change in the rate of premium) in respect of all repeat orders supplied from replenishments of his stock during the currency of the policy.

The addition of any such figure as 6% to the prices of articles which are frequently turned over during the year is thus an unjustifiable form of profiteering.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

FLASH NEWS.

10.25 a.m.
18/9/39

AIR RAID WARNING.

A broken circuit caused the air raid siren at Norwood Green Police Station, near Southall, Middlesex, to sound an alarm shortly before 3.0 o'clock this morning. The "All Clear" was given a few minutes later.

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The President of the Polish Republic Ignacy
Moscicki has issued the following proclamation to
the Polish Nation:

"Citizens,

At the time when our Army with incomparable
courage is struggling, from the first day of war, against the
overwhelming power of the enemy, withstanding the onslaught of
almost the whole of the armed might of Germany, our Eastern
neighbour invaded our lands in violation of solemn covenants and
of the unchanging laws of morality.

Not for the first time in our history, we are faced
with an invasion inundating our country both from the West and
the East. Poland, allied to France and Great Britain is
struggling for the rule of law against lawlessness, for faith and
civilisation against soulless barbarism, against the reign of evil
in the world. From this struggle, I have the invincible faith,
Poland must and shall emerge victoriously.

Citizens, from the passing deluge we must safeguard
the symbols of the Republic and the source of the Constitutional
Authority.

Therefore, with a heavy heart, I have resolved to transfer
the seat of the President of the Republic and of the Highest
Executive Authorities of the State to a place offering conditions
assuring to them full sovereignty and opportunity to watch over
the interest of the Republic.

Citizens, I am aware that throughout the hardest ordeals
you will preserve the same strength of spirit, the same dignity
and lofty pride by which you have earned the admiration of the
world.

On every one of you to-day rests the duty of guarding
the honour of the Nation, no matter what may befall you.

Almighty Providence will render justice to our cause.

Signed: Ignacy Moscicki
President of the Republic

Kossow, September 17th, 1939.

The following statement has been authorised for issue regarding Soviet action in Poland: -

"The British Government have considered the situation created by the attack upon Poland ordered by the Soviet Government. This attack, made upon their own ally at a moment when she is prostrate in face of overwhelming forces brought against her by Germany, cannot in the view of His Majesty's Government be justified by the arguments put forward by the Soviet Government.

The full implication of these events is not yet apparent, but His Majesty's Government take the opportunity of stating that nothing that has occurred can make any difference to the determination of His Majesty's Government, with the full support of the country, to fulfil their obligations to Poland, and to prosecute the war with all energy until their objects have been achieved."

18th September, 1939