

The following is issued by Naval Affairs  
to the Press for such use as they may wish  
to make of it.

... AND ALL BUT TWO WERE SAVED

A few nights ago one of H.M. trawlers was attacked by a German plane flying in at about 150 feet above the sea.

The moon was obscured at the time. The attack was over 45 seconds after the aircraft had first been sighted, which gives some idea of the speed at which men have to fight their ships against aircraft.

In those 45 seconds, two attacks were made, and the trawler fought back with her guns; they didn't claim the aircraft as it was not seen to crash, but they scored hits all right and it was last seen just skimming the sea.

Though she hadn't been hit, one bomb had fallen very close and there were many leaks in the engine room. She was filling fast.

Although there was a heavy sea running the Skipper determined to hold on, hoping to get his ship in tow, rather than risk sinking in the swept Channel.

However, it soon became obvious that the ship was sinking fast and would have to be abandoned.

The only chance of transferring his crew was for the trawlers in company to manoeuvre alongside and for the men to jump, for it was far too rough to attempt to use the small boats. As a precaution the rafts and the Carley float were thrown overboard.

When the Skipper had seen the last of his men leave the ship, he went his rounds once more to make certain that there was no-one left aboard and, while he was still on deck, the trawler capsized.

However he struggled clear and, coming up close to the Carley float, hauled himself aboard it. In the next few minutes he saw two of his men, who had evidently missed their jump, in the water and hauled them on board: then he saw a third shape in the darkness and pulled it on to the float - it turned out to be his own trousers with £10,0,0. in notes in the pockets.

The Carley float was soon picked up and it was found that only two of the trawler's crew were missing.

NAVAL AFFAIRS.

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Air Ministry News Service.

Air Ministry Bulletin No.4827.

JUST AN ANNIVERSARY

A THRILLING ECHO OF DUNKIRK

Today in a far away German Offlag a young flying officer of the R.A.F. is probably looking back with mixed feelings on a hot afternoon 12 months ago when his timely warning probably saved the life of a friend and at the same time ended any hope he himself might have had of escaping capture.

Now he is a prisoner of war and the friend he saved has gone from success to success. He has risen to the rank of Squadron Leader, won the D.S.O. and the D.F.C. and shot down more than 20 German aircraft.

He will also be thinking of that day a year ago, for on it he nearly brought off what would have been the first rescue in this war of one fighter pilot by another.

This is his story:-

The two pilots were in action together over the beaches of Dunkirk. The flying officer's engine was hit by cannon fire but he put his Spitfire down on the sands. The Flight Lieutenant decided on a bold course of Action. He had been flying Spitfires then for a long time and was confident he could do what he wanted.

He intended to land alongside his friend, whom he would squeeze into the cockpit and let him work the throttle while he flew the plane back to England.

He was going in nicely with his flaps down. He had judged his distance so that his run would end almost alongside his fellow pilot, but the man on the ground suddenly began to wave his arms furiously and a second later channels of sand spurted up on either side ahead of the Spitfire, as three attacking ME.109s flashed by.

Fortunately, the Spitfire pilot escaped, but his plane was wrecked. All he could do was put up his flaps, wave 'cherio' to his friend and get away quickly.

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31/5/41 - No. 3.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The following joint Communique is issued by the Northern Ireland Ministry of Public Security and R.A.F. Headquarters, Northern Ireland:-

During the hours of darkness some enemy aircraft crossed over into Northern Ireland.

No incidents have been reported.

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

31/5/41 - No. 4.

Air Ministry No.4029.

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE.

During the night there was enemy air activity over the western half of the country but nowhere was it on a heavy scale.

At a few points in Western England and in South Wales some houses were wrecked and others damaged. Some casualties are reported including a number of persons killed.

Bombs were dropped at a number of other scattered points. On Merseyside slight damage was done and the number of casualties is small.

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31.5.41. - No. 5.

MILK IN THE MACHINES.

A box containing 48 pint tins of evaporated milk was found in each of three cases of machine tools from America which were received at a Ministry of Supply ordnance factory this week.

Attached to each box was a typewritten slip, which read:

"The employees of Jones Machine Tool Works, Cincinnati, Ohio, have sent this box of evaporated milk to the employees where this machine has been sent. The milk is intended for your children and has been sent without the knowledge of the purchasers of this tool or any agent connected with same.

"We trust this food will be distributed where it is most needed."

The milk has been sent to children in a heavily-blitzed area. The machine tools are already helping to produce guns.

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MINISTRY OF SUPPLY.



31/5/41 - No.6.

OFFICIAL ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE

In the recent Fleet action against the BISMARCK H.M. Ships,  
apart from the HOOD, sustained the following casualties:- 25 killed,  
13 wounded.

The next of kin of all casualties have been informed.

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ADMIRALTY,  
S.W.1.



31.5.41. - No. 10.

RE-ORGANISATION OF SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The recent announcement on the re-organisation of the Supply Supply Department of the Ministry of Food will not involve any change in the internal arrangements in the Oils and Fats Division of which Mr. Herbert Davis is Director. One of the commodities dealt with by this Division is margarine, and Mr. J. P. Van Den Bergh will continue to be Director of this commodity. The Purchasing Branch of the Division remains under the directorship of Mr. Jasper W. Knight.

MINISTRY OF FOOD.



31/5/41 - No. 12.

The War Office announces:-

With reference to the German statement alleging the death of General Freyberg, we are glad to be able to announce that he is alive and with his troops.

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WAR OFFICE



31/5/41 - No. 13.

General de Gaulle's Headquarters issue the following announcement:-

The French Minister to Bolivia, M. Grandin de Leprevier, has sent his resignation to the Vichy Government in order to join the de Gaulle movement.

By this gesture, M. Grandin de Leprevier wishes to protest against the agreements between Darlan and Hitler which open up the doors of Syria to Germany, and against the policy of treason now practised in full daylight by the Vichy Government.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION



31.5.41 - No. 15.

Air Ministry No. 4031.

MIDDLE EAST COMMUNIQUE.

H.Q., R.A.F.,

Middle East,

Saturday, May 31, 1941.

IRAQ:

In Iraq yesterday concentrated heavy bombing attacks in close support of our troops were made by aircraft of the Royal Air Force on Washash, Rashid and enemy positions at Kadhimain. While full details are not yet available it is known that these attacks were highly successful.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN:

During patrols by a large force of our fighters in the Eastern Mediterranean, contact was made with a big formation of enemy aircraft. Two Heinkel 111's were shot down into the sea, one by a Free French pilot, and a considerable number of other enemy aircraft were badly damaged. The enemy immediately took evasive action and retired with all possible speed to their bases and it is highly probable that many of them did not get back.

During the night of May 29/30th our heavy bombers attacked the aerodrome at Scarpanto causing a number of fires.

The aerodrome and the beach at Maleme (Crete) were also raided.

On the same night the aerodrome at Kattavia (Rhodes) was bombed, but detailed results were not observed.

ABYSSINIA:

In Central Abyssinia, enemy positions at Azozo, Digya and between Chelga and Gondar were attacked by aircraft of the Free French unit while the South African Air Force and the R.A.F. harassed the enemy at Debarech and Dabat.

From all the above operations, one of our aircraft is missing.

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES

BEFORE 00.30 ON 1.6.41.

CLOTHING RATIONING

Goods ordered by the Public but not delivered.

The Board of Trade wish to make it clear to retailers, including tailoring shops and the public, that clothing coupons should not be collected for goods that are being made under an order placed before 1st June for the special requirements of a customer provided

- (a) there is a written invoice or memorandum of the goods having been so ordered and work has been commenced.
- (b) the goods are delivered to the customer by 14th June.

Further, coupons need not be collected for any goods that have been prepared for dispatch by 1st June and are actually dispatched on or before 3rd June.

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BOARD OF TRADE



NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES

BEFORE 00.30 ON 1.6.41.

RATIONING OF CLOTHES AND FOOTWEAR.

Officers clothing: As a temporary measure, until such time as clothing cards are issued, commissioned officers and cadets in the Navy, Army and Air Force, in the Allied Forces and in the Auxiliary Women's Services, will be able to obtain their uniform clothing from retailers without surrendering coupons by certifying a copy of the shop bill in the form mentioned below.

A bill so certified can be used by the retailer in the same way as coupons to obtain rationed goods from his supplier. The retailer should indicate on the copy of the bill the number of coupons represented by the order. Officers newly commissioned must produce to the retailer their calling-up instructions.

"I declare that I have bought the above goods for my own personal use as part of the regulation uniform and equipment.

Date .....

Signed .....

Rank ....."

Merchant Seamen: Merchant seaman who have not got a page in their food ration book (R.B.6) will be able to obtain one on presentation of their food books at their normal local food office.

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31/5/41 No:19.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES  
BEFORE CC.30 on 1.6.41.

LIMITATION OF SUPPLIES (MISCELLANEOUS) ORDER.

The scope of the new Limitation of Supplies (Miscellaneous) (No.11) Order has been extended to cover the following classes of goods:-

Class 18: boots, bootees, shoes, over-shoes, slippers and sandals. This includes footwear lined with fur but footwear made of furskin, is in class 5.

Class 19: hand-knitting wool, being hand-knitting yarn containing more than 16 per cent by weight of wool-fibre.

Only manufacturers who supply goods in either of these classes to the value of more than £100 a month and mercantile agents in the course of whose business such goods are invoiced to them and exported by them need apply for registration. Every such person must apply for registration before 15th June.

Forms of application can be obtained from the Industries and Manufactures, Department 2, Board of Trade, Carlton Hotel, Bournemouth.

There will be no quota restriction on supplies; registration is required for purposes of control under the Consumer Rationing Order.

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BOARD OF TRADE.



31.5.41 - No. 20.

NATIONAL SERVICE ACTS.

REGISTRATION OF 1901 CLASS.

The registration of men born in 1901 ~~was~~ carried out to-day.  
The total registered will be published shortly.

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MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE.



31/5/41 - No. 21.

Air Ministry No. 4032

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE

Two enemy aircraft were destroyed during last night's raids on this country.

Up to 7.30 p.m. today, there was nothing to report.

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BRITISH PRISONERS IN ENEMY HANDS

Next of kin, if able to identify the men from the information published, are requested to advise the Casualty Branches of the Services concerned, forwarding Regimental or any other details.

The following is the latest list of British prisoners of war in German hands as received from enemy sources:-

Alfred Eye, (or Eyne), 1, Trinity Avenue, Marlowe, Bucks.

Richard Swindon, 31, Cotswold Crescent, Billingham-on-Tees, Co. Durham.

Alan Lunn, Eastland, Howgate, York.

Alexander McCoy, (or McGroy), 29, Roselar Avenue, Ryhope, Sunderland,  
Co. Durham.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION



Saturday, May 31, 1941.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

NWS BULLETIN No. 398.

POST OFFICE PURCHASES "BURIED" TREASURE

An Echo of the "Blitz"

The Post Office has always been prepared to make an allowance for postage stamps rendered unfit for use, but the official who drafted the regulations certainly never anticipated that stamps charred by incendiary bombs or buried under buildings blasted by high explosives would ever be sent in for repayment.

During the past week many safes have been recovered from the basements of buildings bombed in the last raid, and in nearly all of them were sheets of stamps. The heat has melted the gum and joined the sheets into compact boards, but at postal headquarters there are experts who can separate the stamps and assess their value. A commission is charged at the rate of five percent. of the face value of the stamps repurchased.

Not only postage stamps but spoilt Inland Revenue, insurance and entertainment duty stamps, medicine labels, and playing card wrappers have been found in the recovered safes. They all have a value, and repurchase can be arranged through the Inland Revenue Department or the Custom and Excise office. -- General Post Office.

M.o.I. 1.

LAWNS AND LANDLORDS

Food v. Amenities

The old controversy about whether or not to dig up lawns for vegetables has raised its head again.

Most thinking people have solved the problem by applying a little commonsense; if they have not been able to find enough ground to make themselves self-supporting in vegetables - the lawn has had to go.

In some cases however, landlords have complained that the digging of front or back lawns has spoilt the appearance of their property and tried to persuade the tenants to leave them undug. Landlords with ideas like these should be reminded, in the strongest possible terms, of the gravity of the shipping position and the urgency of increased food production. These considerations reduce to insignificance the question of digging up lawns or tennis courts, which can be practically restored in a few months at the end of the War.

If any further exhortation is required to convince landlords of their duty the following words of the Minister of Agriculture are most apt:

"Good citizenship in 1941 will be measured by the contribution to Victory from every town, every village and every household. There are many spheres of war effort but none is more vital than the production of food in our own island."  
Ministry of Agriculture.

M.o.I. 2.

ANY PACKS OF CARDS FOR THE TROOPS?

Army Comforts Depot, Reading, is appealing to the Public for playing cards to be distributed to the Troops.

Packs of cards can be handed in at any of Messrs. Boots Library Branches or at the Portland Club, 9, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1., from where they will be forwarded to Army Comforts Depot, Reading. -- War Office.

M.o.I. 3.

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£20,000,000 FROM ALLOT MTS

Mr. R.J. Heathfield, Assistant Secretary of the National Allotment Society, has estimated that the value of the crops now being grown by allotment holders in this country should reach £20,000,000. But Mr. Heathfield is by no means satisfied with this total - he thinks it could be greatly improved and urges many more to wield a spade and add to the Nation's store of home-grown food. -- Ministry of Agriculture. M.o.I. 4.

BRITISH FOOD MISSION TO U.S.A.

Lord Woolton has appointed Mr. Edward Twentymen, Second Secretary to the Ministry of Food, to be the senior member of the British Food Mission at Washington under the Hon. R.H. Brand, Head of the Mission. Ministry of Food. M.o.I. 5.

HAPPY ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR

"Don't worry about me," an Italian prisoner-of-war said to a Nairobi correspondent, before describing his average day in the prison camp.

7 a.m.-- Tea and bread, with butter and marmalade if required (he was getting fat, so did not eat them).

8 a.m. to 9 a.m. -- Reading.

10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. -- Sunbathing, bridge and more reading.

12.30 p.m. -- Lunch (soup or macaroni, with sauce, egg noodle, meat and vegetables, fruit and tea. Rest until teatime.

7 p.m. -- Supper (menu similar to lunch).

Much fresh air to stimulate the appetite. -- Ministry of Information. M.o.I. 6.

BIG JOB FOR THE POST OFFICETwo thousand tons of Ration Books

Handling the next issue of ration books is going to give the Post Office one of the biggest jobs it has ever tackled.

After collecting 45,000,000 application cards, sorting and delivering them to 1,500 Food Offices, over 90,000,000 ration books will have to be taken out to householders. This is double the usual number, as to each book will be attached a supplementary book.

The two books are held together by a rubber band but householders are not being presented with a free band: the postman keeps the rubber bands and in due course they find their way back to the Ministry of Food for future use.

This mammoth post weighing nearly 2,000 tons will be taken by the Post Office in its normal stride. -- General Post Office. M.o.I. 7.

SALE OF PIGEON FEEDING STUFFS IN GREAT BRITAIN

The Minister of Food has made an Order to come into force on June 3 prohibiting in Great Britain the sale of pigeon feeding stuffs, except National Priority Pigeon Mixture, which is supplied against priority cards. The Order also requires every wholesale dealer and distributing dealer, and any other person holding more than 5 cwt. of pigeon feeding stuffs, to make a return of his stocks to the Ministry before June 10. The form of return is prescribed. The Order has been made to ensure supplies to birds in National Pigeon Service for which alone rations are provided.

The feeding stuffs covered by the Order, which is known as the Pigeon Feeding Stuff (Returns) Order, are the following:- Maple Peas, Cinquantina Maize, Tic Beans, Dun Beans, Bombay Blacks and any mixture containing these feeding stuffs. A return must be made of these commodities whether they are intended to be sold for human food, for seed or for feeding purposes. The prohibition of sale does not apply to seed, nor, as stated above, to National Pigeon Mixture, but it does apply, pending directions, to any of these commodities intended for human food or any other purposes.



Copies of the prescribed form have been sent to all distributing dealers and wholesale dealers. Any other person having stocks of more than 5 cwts. of pigeon feeding stuffs should apply for a copy of the form to the Ministry of Food, Animal Feeding Stuff's Division, (Pigeon Returns), Meadowcroft, Colwyn Bay, North Wales.    Ministry of Food.    M.o.I. 8.

PRICE OF SEMOLINA

The Minister of Food has made an Order amending the Flour (Prices) Order, 1940, by requiring all semolina when sold by a flour miller or licensed factor to be charged at 18/- per 280 lb. above the appropriate price of national straight run flour, which is now 25/6d. per sack. The price for semolina therefore becomes 43/6d. per sack delivered to customer, whether or not it is manufactured entirely from Durum wheat.

Flour millers are reminded that special licence or authority is required from the Ministry of Food for the production of semolina, which is a speciality flour within the terms of the above-named Order.

The Order will come into force on June 2, 1941. Ministry of Food.    M.o.I. 9.

MAXIMUM PRICES OF OATS.

The Ministry of Food announces that from June 1, 1941, the sale of all home-grown or Manx oats will be subject to the maximum prices prescribed in the Oats (Control and Maximum Prices) Order, 1940, and that the special provisions of that Order which permitted the sale of seed oats at more than the maximum price fixed for milling and feeding oats have been revoked.

Until further notice there will be one maximum price for all home grown oats for whatever purpose sold.

The amendment has been made because the normal trade in seed oats is concluded for the present season. The Order, however, contains provisions for the licensing of sales of an exceptional nature, and any applications for permission to sell oats to growers for seed at more than the maximum price should be sent to the Ministry of Food, Animal Feeding Stuff's Division, Meadowcroft, Colwyn Bay, North Wales.

Arrangements for the sale of seed oats next season will be announced in due course.    -- Ministry of Information.    M.o.I. 10.

PRICES FOR POUSSINS

Special prices for poussins were introduced on March 14 and were to be withdrawn on June 1. This special provision was designed to enable producers of table poultry to close down their production. It is not desirable in present circumstances that feeding stuffs should be used for fattening table birds, or that chicks should be hatched and reared for this purpose.

Many producers of birds for egg production who do not sex-link their chicks will, however, have male birds to dispose of. Those male birds, which cannot be identified at birth, should not be fattened beyond the poussin stage. Accordingly a special price for poussins at a reduced level is being retained after June 1 to encourage the early disposal of male birds from this season's hatchings.

From June 1 to August 1, 1941 (both dates inclusive), poussins, which are defined as young chickens weighing between 1 and 1½ lbs. dead weight, may be sold at maximum prices of 2s. 6d. per bird on sale by a producer to a wholesaler, of 2s. 8d. per bird on sale to a retailer and of 3s. 0d. per bird on sale to a consumer. Ministries of Food & Agriculture and Dept. of Agriculture for Scotland.

M.o.I. 11.



Saturday, May 31, 1941.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

NEWS BULLETIN No. 399.

WAR GIFTS FROM DOMINIONS AND COLONIES

Gifts large and small for war purposes continue to pour in a steady stream from the Dominions and Colonies.

Two private gifts received this week from Canadian citizens are 22 dollars 50 cents from Dr. M. Bergman, of Port Hope, Ontario, and 25 dollars from Mr. A.J. Sampson of the Cherhill Mercantile Company, Cherhill, Alberta.

From the Far East the Lord Mayor's National Air Raid Distress Fund and the British Red Cross Fund have each received 500 dollars (£31), sent by Mrs. Abbas Khan, a prominent resident of Hong Kong.

The Ceylon Government War Purposes Fund has made a further collection which, up to May 22, amounted to 164,112 rupees, bringing the grand total collected by this fund to 2,049,980 rupees (£153,748.10s.)

Northern Rhodesia, in response to the Ministry of Supply's recent appeal, has sent a third consignment consisting of 15 pairs of binoculars, a telescopic rifle sight and two compasses.

From Luanshya, also in Northern Rhodesia, the Employees' Committee of the Roan Antelope Copper Mines Limited have given £640 in respect of their sliding scale contribution for the month of April. The total given by this Committee for the prosecution of the war is now £4,242. The Company itself has also given £5,000 for aircraft.

From another part of Northern Rhodesia, the Lusaka War Fund has given £512 for the purchase of a mobile cinema van, which is to be named "Lusaka mobile Cinema Van."

On the Gold Coast the Syrian-Lebanese Community have subscribed £500 to buy mobile canteens for use in England. They have informed the Governor that if the cost exceeds £500 they are prepared to make further contributions.

Swaziland, which has already given a fighter plane to the R.A.F., has sent another £1,255 towards the purchase of a second fighter to be named "Swaziland II". Of the new instalment, £603 was from the Northern and £652 from the Central Districts War Funds. -- Dominions Office Press Section.

M.o.I. 1.

MOTOR INDUSTRY FIGHTER SQUADRON

The Motor Industry Fighter Squadron has been further reinforced by a Fighter Aircraft, this time a gift from Members of The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The Secretary of the Society, Lt.Col.D.C. McLagan, D.S.O., has requested the Minister of Aircraft Production that the plane be named "S.M.M.T."; and it will fly in formation with Fighters named after other famous Car and Accessory Manufacturers in the Motor Industry Squadron. -- Ministry of Aircraft Production.

M.o.I. 2.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMAN TEACHER TO VISIT THE  
U.S.A.

Owing to wartime restrictions the English-Speaking Union is unable to offer its usual number of scholarships for men and women teachers to visit the United States. The Senior Page Scholarship, for women only, is however, offered for competition for the current year, and is to the value of £50 plus \$350, the latter being provided and paid in the United States, for a visit of six weeks to that country, including the Californian coast.

Women teachers from all the schools are eligible, and applications should be made to the Education Officer, The English-Speaking Union, 37, Charles St., Berkeley Square, London, W.1. before July 12. - Ministry of Information.M.o.I.3.



LIVESTOCK RATIONING.

Certificates of Sales of Home-grown Grain.

Farmers are notified that no further coupons will be issued by War Agricultural Executive Committees after 31st May in exchange for sales certificates of home grown grain sold before 1st May. Sales certificates should still be obtained from buyers for sales from May 1 onwards. Such sales do not entitle farmers to coupons in exchange but certificates will continue to be issued by buyers, since this is necessary to meet cases where farmers have received ration coupons during the period February to April in consideration of their having undertaken to sell at a later date grain of their own growing. Farmers are required under the terms of the Rationing Order to honour such undertakings by duly selling the grain as soon as possible and as proof that they have done so they should obtain certificates from the buyer and send these certificates to their Agricultural Executive Committee.

Ministries of Agriculture and Food.

M.O.I.4.

SAVINGS CAMPAIGN IN BERUDA.

Bermuda has followed the example of many other Colonies in starting the issue of Savings Certificates and stamps on the lines of those sold for the National Savings Movement in this country.

Colonial Office Press Section.

M.O.I.5.