

18/11/39 - No. 1.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE (Morning)

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

Nothing of importance to report on the Front during the night. Yesterday enemy aircraft flew over French territory.

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18/11/39 - No.2.

MINES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

The motoring public are reminded that the new petrol rationing period begins on November 23rd.

Applications for extra petrol allowances should not be made except in cases of essential need. If they are required, they should be forwarded at once to the appropriate Divisional Petroleum Officer.

The correct forms to be used for applications in respect of supplementary allowances are R(MS)1 for private cars, and R(MS)2 for motor-cycles, tricycles and autocycles. These forms can be obtained at local Taxation Offices or Post Offices at which motor licensing business is transacted. The Registration Book of the vehicle must be enclosed with the application.

PRESS NOTICE.

18/11/39

- No. 3.

WIRELESS OPERATORS AND WATCHES (MERCHANT SHIPS) ORDER, 1939.

BY COMMAND OF THE

LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE

ADMIRALTY.

In pursuance of Regulations 45 of the Defence Regulations, 1939, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty hereby make the following order:-

1. Every British ship to which the Merchant Shipping (Wireless Telegraphy) Rules, 1938, apply, whose hours at sea exceed eight, not being a ship of war or a Dominion ship, shall be provided with not less than two operators if so required by the Admiralty or a person authorised by the Admiralty.

2. Every British ship to which the Merchant Shipping (Wireless Telegraphy) Rules, 1938, apply, not being a ship of war or a Dominion ship, shall, when at sea, maintain such wireless watches as may be ordered by the Admiralty or a person authorised by the Admiralty, and in the absence of other instructions from such authority shall, when at sea, maintain wireless watches as follows:-

- (a) When three or more operators are carried, a continuous watch.
- (b) When two operators are carried, then (i) if the hours at sea do not exceed 48, a continuous watch; and (ii) if the hours at sea exceed 48, for not less than sixteen hours a day, including the times specified in the last column of the Schedule to this Order.
- (c) When one operator only is available, then for not less than eight hours a day, including the times specified in the penultimate column of the Schedule to this Order, provided that, if the hours at sea do not exceed eight, wireless watch shall be kept during the whole time that the ship is at sea.

3. Wireless watches in accordance with this Order shall be maintained by an operator, notwithstanding that the ship may be provided with an auto alarm or similar device.

4. For the purpose of this Order the persons authorised by the Admiralty include the Senior Naval Officer of any port, the Officer in charge of any convoy, any Officer appointed for naval control service duties and any Officer appointed by any of the aforesaid Officers or by the Admiralty to act in these matters.

5. This order shall come into force forthwith and may be cited as the Wireless Operators and Watches (Merchant Ships) Order, 1939.

By Command of their Lordships

(Signed)

R. H. A. CARTER

ADMIRALTY,
S. W. I.

17th November, 1939.

SCHEDULE.

TIMES OF WATCH.

AREA OF ZONES	ZONE LIMITS.		HOURS OF WATCH G.M.T.	
	WEST	EAST	1 Operator	2 Operators
A. Eastern Atlantic Ocean; Mediterranean; North Sea; Baltic; Western Arctic Sea.	Meridian 30° W., coast of Greenland.	Meridian 30° E. to coast of Africa. Eastern limit of the Mediterranean, Black and Baltic Seas. Meridian 30° E. to the north of Norway.	08-10 12-14 16-18 20-22	00-06 08-14 16-18 20-22
B. Indian Ocean; eastern portion of Arctic Ocean	Eastern limit of zone A.	Meridian 80° E. West Coast of Ceylon to Adam's Bridge, thence westward round the coast of India.	04-06 08-10 12-14 16-18	00-02 04-10 12-14 16-18 20-24
C. China Sea; western portion of Pacific Ocean	Eastern limit of zone B.	Meridian 160° E..	00-02 04-06 08-10 12-14	00-06 08-10 12-14 16-22
D. Central portion of Pacific Ocean	Eastern limit of zone C.	Meridian 140° W.	00-02 04-06 08-10 20-22	00-02 04-06 08-10 12-18 20-24
E. Eastern portion of Pacific Ocean	Eastern limit of zone D.	Meridian 70° W. south of the coast of America; west coast of America	00-02 04-06 16-18 20-22	00-02 04-06 08-14 16-22
F. Western portion of Atlantic Ocean; Gulf of Mexico	Meridian 70° W., south of the coast of America; east coast of America.	Meridian 30° W., coast of Greenland.	00-02 12-14 16-18 20-22	00-02 04-10 12-18 20-22

ULSTER KEEPS IT DARKNO RELAXATION OF BLACK-OUT RESTRICTIONS

Some members of the Ulster Parliament have been urging a relaxation of the black-out regulations in the Province, especially in view of the end of "summer time", but Lord Craigavon has replied that the regulations cannot be modified.

"We must take these things in our stride", he has stated. "The black-out regulations are a mere trifle when we think of what has to be done by the men at the Front, in the air and on the seas." The Royal Air Force had complained, he said, that the standard of black-out was not as high as it was in other parts of the United Kingdom. Ulster could not postpone the perfection of its arrangements in that direction. Naturally they were in close touch with the Defence Forces, and the Royal Air Force wanted Ulster to be completely blacked out at night.

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MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

5/18.11.39.

Press Notice

THE RELEASE OF MEN FROM SERVICE IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service announces that many applications are being received from employers who wish to secure the return to their employment of men who have been called up for service in His Majesty's Forces either as reservists, as Territorials, or under the Military Training Act, 1939, or the National Service (Armed Forces) Act, 1939, and the following steps have already been taken to assist employers in this way

1. Men in the Territorial Army belonging to the important industrial occupations reserved at the ages of 18, 21 or 23 in the Schedule of Reserved Occupations published in September, 1939, who are of or above the age of reservation for their occupation, are being given the opportunity to take their discharge and return to their Civil employment, provided:-
 - (a) that they are not officers, warrant officers, or non-commissioned officers;
 - (b) that they are not serving in an anti-aircraft or coast defence unit;
 - (c) that they are not employed in the Army in a service trade corresponding to their civil occupation.

The release of men under these arrangements is being completed as quickly as possible but it necessarily takes time. It is hoped that it will shortly be possible to arrange for the release of men in the same categories from anti-aircraft and coast defence units, and also from the National Defence Companies. It may also be possible to arrange for the release of certain airmen in Units of the Balloon Barrage.

2. In addition to Territorials already released or to be released under these arrangements, a number of individual Territorials have been released as a result of applications made by Government Departments on behalf of firms engaged on work of essential national importance. Numbers of the Auxiliary Air Force and Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve have similarly been released.
3. The calling-up of a number of Service Reservists has been postponed for a period to enable their employers to make provision to meet the the position resulting from their departure.
4. Men called up for the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force under the Military Training Act belonging to occupations reserved at the age of 18 in the Schedule of Reserved Occupations published in September, 1939, have been released provided they were not being employed in the Forces in a Service trade corresponding to their civil occupation.

In connection with (1) and (4) above, it should be noted that the arrangements for release do not extend to men belonging to occupations for which the age of reservation has (as has been announced in the Press from time to time) been reduced to 18, 21 or 23 since the Schedule of Reserved Occupations was published in September last.

From now onwards, the release of any men from the Forces other than men still due to be discharged under the arrangements referred to above can be considered only in the most exceptional circumstances. If an employer nevertheless feels that it is essential to make application for the release of a man serving in the Forces, the proper course is for him to explain the circumstances to the Government contracting Department on whose work he is principally engaged or, if he is not engaged on such work, to the Government Department most concerned with his industry, (e.g. in the case of agricultural workers the Ministry of Agriculture, and in the case of miners, the Mines Department) or, failing such a Department, to the Board of Trade. The Department concerned, if fully satisfied as to the special merits, in the national interest, of the case will discuss the possibility of release with the Service Department concerned. It should, however, be clearly understood:-

- (a) that the release of men from the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force can now be granted only in very special cases, up to a strictly limited number, where it can be established that work of vital national importance is being held up by the absence of the man concerned;
- (b) that the Service Departments cannot, in any event, release a man who is operationally vital to the Forces. In particular, no Army Reservists can be released.
- (c) that applications direct to the Service Departments cannot be entertained.

Press Office,
Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Telephone No: Whitehall 6200.

18th November, 1939.

NEW ULSTER UNIT.

An Ulster section Divisional Unit of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps is shortly to be raised and it will be ancillary to the new Ulster Anti-aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. Applications for enlistment are now being received, the categories of men required including armament artificers, fitters, blacksmiths, electricians, mechanical fitters and coppersmiths.

Recruiting for the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps is proceeding very satisfactorily.

The National Defence Companies in Northern Ireland have now a Territorial regiment designation and in future will be known as the 6th (Home Defence) Battalion, the Royal Ulster Rifles.

18/11/39 - No. 7.

DEAD AND PRISONERS OF WAR.

NAMES BROADCAST TO GERMANY IN B. B. C. GERMAN NEWS. AT 8.30 P. M. ON
NOVEMBER 16th.

DEAD.

Adolph Schmidt	Died at Sea	13.10.39.	Buried at St. James Cemetery, Dover.
Gustav Decker	- Do. -	14.10.39.	Buried at Sea.
- Conrad	- Do. -	13.10.39.	Buried at St. James Cemetery, Dover.
K (?) Wendel	- Do. -	- Do. -	- Do. -

(Nos. E. D. 1 to E. D. 5.)

NAMES BROADCAST TO GERMANY IN B. B. C. GERMAN NEWS AT 8.30 P. M. ON
NOVEMBER 17th.

Unteroffizier - Seydel (or Seidel) (Dornier 18)	Died at Sea	16.10.39 or 17.10.39.	Buried at Rosyth.
Flieger - Schleicher	Died Firth of Forth	16.10.39.	
Geflieger Bruno Reimann Air Force	Died near Dalkeith	28.10.39.	
Gotlieb Kowalke Air Force	- Do. -	28.10.39.	
Unteroffizier Hugo Sauer Air Force	Washed ashore near Whitby.	13.10.39.	

(Nos. E. D. 6 to E. D. 10)

WAR OFFICE
S. W. 1.

EMPIRE AFFAIRS

18.11.39 - No. 8.

SOUTH AFRICA'S TWO NEW UNITS

PIGEONS MOBILISED

The establishment of two new units of the Active Citizen Force was gazetted in South Africa yesterday, The South African Air Force Radio Signal Company, and the South Africa Pigeon Service.

Recruiting for other Units is going briskly, and most of them are now rapidly reaching full war strength.

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GENERAL SMUTS' ELECTION TRIUMPH

The South African Government have a majority of 12 in the newly elected Senate, General Smuts having 28 supporters out of a total of 44 Members.

One Parliamentary and eight provincial by-elections are necessitated by the results.

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REOPENING OF TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

CONDITIONS RELAXED.

The Board of Education have sanctioned the reopening of Technical Schools, Evening Institutes and other institutions of Further Education, provided that in every case adequate air raid protection was available in or accessible to the institution, and that the number of students would not be so great as to impede their rapid and orderly evacuation to a place of safety.

The Government have been surveying the position of these institutions and have been glad to find that for the most part they are now open or are in process of opening. It is, however, apparent that the work of some of them is considerably restricted by the requirement that the number of students admitted must not exceed that for which available shelter can be provided.

In view of the importance of the work of these institutions from the point of view of maintenance of national efficiency and morale, the Government have been considering what relaxation they can make to meet the situation. Refuge accommodation must, of course, be made available either in suitably strong parts of the building or in other parts suitably protected, but the refuge accommodation need not be for the full numbers who might be attending the institution. Subject to this the Government are now prepared to permit full reopening of these institutions on the understanding that in the event of serious bombing they would either be closed or their activities would again be restricted to the extent of the protection available.

It will, of course, be understood that attendance at all these institutions is voluntary.

It is understood that Technical Institutions in Scotland have already reopened.

Profound loyalty to his Majesty the King Emperor and whole hearted sympathy with the British cause has just been placed on record by the Coorg Legislative Council at the opening of its current session. The Council offers its fullest co-operation and has asked that a permanent unit of Coorg inhabitants should be formed in the Regular Indian Army.

The Skeikh of Bahrein on the occasion of the Id-Ul-Fitr has stressed the gratitude which Moslems in the Persian Gulf owed to Great Britain for her help and protection both now and in the past. He warmly welcomed the alliance between Britain, France and Turkey and stated that all Moslems were on the side of the democratic powers in their fight against Hitlerism.

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Press Notice.

SALVAGE CONTROLLER.

The Minister of Supply has appointed Mr. H.G. Judd, C.B.E. to be Controller of Salvage in the Ministry of Supply.

Mr. Judd will be the head of the Salvage Department which is being organised at the Ministry of Supply with a view to taking general control of the collection and utilisation of waste products of all descriptions. The Department will work in close co-operation with the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Agriculture and also with local authorities throughout the country and the Military Services.

Mr. Judd is a partner in Mann, Judd, Gordon & Co., Chartered Accountants, and served in the Ministry of Munitions during the last War on the Cost Accounting and Contracts staffs of the Ministry.

Ministry of Supply,
Press Office.
18.11.39.

18.11.39 - No. 15.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENT

REGISTRATION OF CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

The Ministry of Food announce that all Proprietors of Catering Establishments, Institutions and Residential Establishments should apply on form A.R.1. to the local Food Control Committee not later than Tuesday 21st November for certificates of registration.

Any branch establishment must be registered separately and application for registration must be made either by the Manager of the branch or by the Head Office of the establishment to the Food Control Committee of the district in which the branch is situated.

The address of the local Food Control Committee is displayed at any post office.

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18/11/39 - No 16

The following is not to be quoted
as a War Office official announcement

CONTRIBUTION OF WALES TO THE WAR

It has been alleged on the German wireless that the Welsh are disaffected and not anxious to fight. If that were true it would be necessary to show (a) that there had been public protests against conscription in Wales, and (b) that the country had been unwilling to provide any voluntary recruits to the defence forces over and above the conscripts.

Actually, there is no evidence at all of (a) and all those due for compulsory service have reported themselves as readily in Wales as in the rest of the country. As to (b) there have been, between 1 Sept. and 17 Nov. 1939, 2,226 voluntary enlistments in Wales to the Army over and above the normal quota of conscripts. It should be remembered that these are additional to all the volunteer units already existing in Wales at the time of mobilization.

FOR PRESS AND BROADCAST

18.11.39 - No. 17.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENT

Wholesale and Retail prices for home-killed pork.

The Ministry of Food announce that an Order has been made revising the wholesale and retail prices of home killed pork.

On and after Monday the 20th November 1939, the maximum wholesale price of home killed pork will be 10d. per lb. ex depot.

Average retail prices may not exceed by more than 1d. per lb the average price charged by the retailer for home killed pork sold by him in the week ended 25th August, 1939.

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18/11/39 - No. 18

FOR PRESS AND BROADCAST

MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENT.

RATION BOOKS

It has been reported to the Ministry of Food that a woman has called at houses in the Marylebone district, stating that she has come from the local Food Office. She has asked for the ration books to be handed to her on the ground that a mistake has been made which she will correct.

The Ministry of Food wish to make it clear that no one should hand over ration books to a casual caller. If the books need alteration, which is unlikely, a letter will be sent by the local Food Control Committee.

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18/11/39 No 19

FROM FOREIGN AFFAIRS

An agreement has been signed in London today between the Polish and British Governments to make provision for the cooperation of certain units of the Polish Naval Forces with those of the British Navy. A detachment of the Polish Navy will continue to be attached to the British Navy for the duration of hostilities. The agreement which was concluded during General Sikorski's visit was signed by the Polish Ambassador and by the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Alexander Cadogan.

18/11/39 - No. 20

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

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

Patrol and artillery activity at various points of the front.

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AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN.

18/11/39 - No. 21.

RAID WARNING IN EAST ANGLIA.

The Air Ministry announces:-

Owing to the presence of unidentified aircraft on the East Coast of England this evening an air raid warning was sounded in East Anglia. The "all-clear" signal was given within half an hour.

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AIR AFFAIRS

18/11/39..... 2330.

18/11/39 - No.22.

OFFICIAL ADMIRALTY STATEMENT.

The mining of the Dutch passenger ship Simon Bolivar off the East Coast of England is a further example of the utter disregard of international law and the dictates of humanity shown by the present German Government. The mines were laid without any notification in the channel followed by merchant shipping both British and neutral and there is no doubt that they were laid for the specific purpose of destroying such shipping.
