

SPEECH BY MR. HAROLD NICOLSON, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION  
SUNDAY, JULY 21st 1940.

DELIVERED AT THE RALLY ORGANISED AT HENDON BY THE LOCAL INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. NOT TO BE RELEASED BEFORE 5.30 P.M.

Mr. Nicolson began by congratulating the citizens of Hendon upon the Rally which they had organised and referred to the fact that nearly a hundred local government areas in London had created their local information committees, staffed by voluntary workers, representing all shades of information and forming a chain of strong points in the defence line of public morale. opinion

He was glad to welcome and encourage these local democracies since there was always a tendency to represent the Ministry of Information as an autocratic body seeking to suppress freedom of speech and writing.

"The Ministry of Information", said Mr. Nicolson, "has many diverse functions. There are times when I feel that it is a cross between a maid of all work and an Aunt Sally. Yet though it is hard to say exactly what the Ministry is, I can easily tell you what it is not. It is not an OGPU or a Gestapo: it does not desire to dictate to the citizens of this free country what they should think, say, feel or hear. It does not pry upon the private thoughts of the people: it does not bully and it does not sneak: it is a Ministry of Information, not a Ministry of Informers. It bears no resemblance to the secret laboratory of Dr. Goebbels, in which lies are concocted, documents are forged, and poisons are distilled wherewith either to enervate or to madden the minds of men.

Above all it does not wish to attack free speech and free thinking or to deprive the Press of their fundamental rights of comment and criticism. Censorship in any form is odious to our natural habit of thought, and yet in war some form of censorship is inevitable. We with our gift of trusting each other, with our hatred of precise and rigid formulas, have devised a system of voluntary censorship. Such a system would have been impossible without the ready co-operation of the Press, and I should like to take this occasion to pay a grateful tribute to the good-sense, the good-temper and the unselfishness which the Press have shown.

You have all recently been aware that we are conducting a campaign against rumour. That campaign is rightly irritating to a free people.

In our desire to warn the public against rumour, we have no wish to restrict human converse or to damp neighbourly gossip. Our purpose is to warn the public that our enemies rely upon rumour to create confusion, to spread despondency, to elicit valuable information, and to diminish confidence. We do not want people to cease talking to each other or to regard every questioner with the cold eye of suspicion. We want the opposite. We want people to be more friendly and more neighbourly to each other than they have ever been before. Above all we do not wish to deprive people of this country of their glorious and ancient privilege of abusing the Government. Grouse and grumble are the two safety valves which have enabled this old boiler of ours to carry on through many tempests without explosion. There are three ways in which all sensible men and women can help us. First, they can prevent our enemies from deriving from careless conversation information of military value. Secondly, they can prevent our enemies spreading anxiety by means of alarming stories. And thirdly they can prevent glum and gloomy talk from undermining the will-power of the people. Talk as much as you can; talk more than you have ever talked before; but talk of victory.



In the third place, the Ministry of Information seeks to create confidence, not to arouse suspicion. Do not, for instance, be led away by idle gossip about the Fifth Column. We have among us a large number of refugees, many of whom are the victims of German Oppression. It has been found necessary to intern thousands of male refugees in order that the good-faith of each of them can be carefully tested. Their wives and families remain behind. Do not forget that many of these unhappy people loathe Herr Hitler as much as we do. And do not forget that we are fighting this war in defence of human decency and kindness. Let us be kindly to the unhappy stranger within our gates. Let us, while taking no unnecessary risks, commit no unnecessary cruelty. And let each one of us so conduct himself towards the refugees that when peace comes again he shall have no cause to blush for any word, or look, or deed.

We are not a military people, we are a civilian people. It is irksome for us to don the heavy accoutrements of war. But the day will come when St. George of England slays the dragon which has ravaged the lovely lands of Europe and when we can take our rest again in honour, in freedom and in peace."

#### MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.



21/7/40 No.2.

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 1171.

Air Ministry News Service.

BOMBER CREWS REMARKABLE ESCAPES.

The crews of two British bombers failed to turn up after raids over enemy territory last week. They were thought to be missing. Now they are safely back with their squadrons after remarkable escapes.

One of the bombers on its way across the North Sea to launch a daylight attack on a target in the Ruhr, sighted a formation of 12 aircraft immediately ahead. The bomber challenged with a recognition signal, whereupon three of the aircraft broke away from the formation. Two of them were soon recognised as Messerschmitt 110 fighters and they dived to attack. The bomber's rear gunner made the first fighter sheer off and as the second Messerschmitt closed to short range he got in a burst which sent the fighter diving towards the sea.

The third Messerschmitt 110 then took a hand. Opening fire from 300 yards range he set one of the bomber's petrol tanks alight. At the start of this unequal contest the British pilot had turned back towards the English coast. It was now within reach and, crossing the cliffs with only 50 feet to spare, the pilot made for the nearest field. The retractable undercarriage had been damaged by the enemy's fire and the pilot landed his aircraft on its belly.

Scrambling out of the blazing machine, the crew ran for cover and threw themselves on the ground just as their bombload exploded, blowing their aircraft to fragments. Thanks to the pilot's prompt act none of the crew was injured. Later they met an army officer who had watched the engagement from the shore and had seen one of the enemy fighters crash into the sea.

The second "missing" crew started out from the same base on a midnight raid against an enemy aerodrome. On arriving over their target the pilot found it so obscured by low cloud that accurate bombing was impossible. Determined not to drop his bombs until he could be sure of hitting his target, the pilot circled the aerodrome for nearly three quarters of an hour. At last, a gap in the clouds revealed his objective. He let go his bombs. A large fire immediately broke out, as if a petrol dump had been hit, the blaze being plainly visible from several miles away until hidden by gathering storms.

Climbing above the clouds the pilot then set course for home and flying through filthy weather at last arrived over England, still above the clouds.

Then he found that his wireless had been put out of action by an electrical storm. Cut off from all assistance from the ground, he cruised around until dawn in search of his base. Then his petrol gave out. He had to make a forced landing. There was only a small field. He locked his wheels in the "up" position, skidded along on his belly and pulled up, safe.

AIR MINISTRY.



AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE

During last night, enemy aircraft dropped bombs in isolated districts of England and Wales. Anti-aircraft defences were in action.

Damage was caused to property in a town in the north-west of England and also in a district in the south-west. In both cases some casualties are reported.

Only slight damage is reported from any other quarter and the number of casualties is small.

-----oOo-----

AIR AFFAIRS



21/7/40 - No. 4.

BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR

Following is the latest list of British prisoners of war in enemy hands, as broadcast by the German radio:-

Victor Reynolds,	Born 17th July 1914	43, Culverden Park Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Robert Mc. Govern,	Born 27th April 1919	8, Borgie(?) Cresc., Cambuslang Lanarkshire, Scotland.
James Walter Hamilton, Frederick William . James Robinson,	Born 5th June 1919	84, Finborough Rd, London S.W.10.
	Born 31st March, 1908	Broomfield Bungalow Rasch, (?) Near West Malling. (?)
Joseph Fletcher	Born 6th March 1921	31, Warreners Terrace, Pallion (?) Sunderland.
Thomas Joseph Williamson	Born 3rd February 1903	29, York Rd, Maidstone, Kent.
William Richard Marshal	Born 30th November 1912	7, Algar Buildings, Webber Row, Waterloo Rd. London, S.E.1.
John Cooper (?) Hooper	Born 9th Sept. 1918	1, Malden Ave., S. Norwood, London S.E. 25.
Cyril Desire Roberts	Born 20th Feb. 1921	29, Lewis Trust Buildings, Warner Rd., Camberwell, London S.E.5.
David Dougal (?)	Born 8th Feb. 1911	475, Burgess Rd, Swaythling, Near Southampton.



21/7/40 - No. 5.

The Board of Education issue to-day (Monday, July 22) the first of a new series of "Food Education" booklets called "Salads and Vegetables". The booklet is obtainable from the Stationery Office, price 3d.

The aim of this new series is to help both teachers and public to make the best use of foods which are obtainable. For this reason the first publication deals with vegetables and salads, and contains a number of recipes and practical suggestions.

The greatest emphasis in the book is laid on ways in which you get the fullest benefit from the vegetables, either by eating them raw (as in salads) or by cooking them so as to retain their full value. Throughout the booklet cooking of all vegetables in a small quantity of water for a short time is recommended.

The subject matter includes a section on Salads, salad dressing, with a number of **salad** mixtures which can form the basis of substantial meals. The next section is on the most familiar green vegetables followed by the root and other vegetables with suitable sauces. A considerable part of the book is devoted to savoury vegetable dishes many of which contain the main essentials for a complete meal.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.



TALK BY GENERAL SMUTS IN THE HOME SERVICE PROGRAMME  
TODAY, SUNDAY 21st., AT 6.15. P.M.

I speak to you today as the representative of South Africa, the representative of one small free people speaking to the two greatest free peoples in the world - the peoples of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. From this distance I speak to you about war - a war of freedom if ever there was one, a war in which the fundamental question is whether freedom shall prevail or shall perish from the face of the earth before the most gigantic and diabolic onslaught that has ever been made against it.

Speaking thus, as it were, in the household of freedom on a subject which touches us all most deeply, I wish briefly to discuss two questions which I am sure are uppermost in the minds of millions of people in our free countries. These are the questions: first, what are our prospects at this stage of the war as I view them? And secondly, what is the sort of peace we are striving to reach as a result of this mortal struggle?

The views I shall express are my own personal views based on my individual experience of war and peace. They must not be taken to have any official character.

First, then, as to our prospects.

The Germans have so far had an uninterrupted series of most spectacular successes. Poland, Norway, Holland and Belgium, and finally the most colossal of all - the most stunning of all - the sudden and unexpected collapse of France. Everywhere the Germans have won not only by superior numbers, but also by superior equipment, technique and strategy. Everywhere their opponents were forestalled, outwitted and surprised, and they appeared to have no chance.

These successes have created an air of invincibility which has been most effectively exploited by German propaganda. They say the war is already won and that only the final coup de grace to Britain is awaited. Many people who are either defeatist by temperament or who do not look below the surface of events have reluctantly come to accept the German view and to look upon the war as already lost. They regard the chances of Britain in the light of what has happened to France and the other unfortunate countries I have mentioned.

It is just here I think that they make a profound mistake. The case of Britain is very different from that of the other countries referred to. I do not wish to minimise the danger of a German invasion of Britain, and I do not say a word in the least likely to tend to a relaxation of the preparations now being taken for the defence of Britain. But to the fainthearted I wish to point out two considerations which should be carefully borne in mind in this connection.

In the first place an army is not defeated by mopping up its minor outlying units separated from the main force. The capture of those minor units is a mere incident of no special importance to the main issue of the battle; and if anyone regards these minor setbacks as pointing to the defeat of the main army he makes a mistake at variance with all military history. The overrunning of the small neutral countries I have mentioned is in the nature of such a minor military incident. Of course, the downfall of France is no minor incident; it is, indeed, one of the most serious catastrophes of modern times. But it may be fairly completely accounted for by the incredible mistakes of the French High Command, the deep internal fissures of French politics and the hopeless weakness of its political leadership at the most critical moment. France was a divided sick soul before the end came and her case deserves our deepest sympathy.

British people, on the contrary, are today as united as never before in their history under leadership of unrivalled brilliance and courage, and the competence of their military command is not questioned among those who know. Here, then, is the crux of the war situation.



Britain is and remains the inner core of the allied cause - the main bastion of allied defence - the force with which the Germans have to deal before a real decision is reached. Until that force is disposed of it is futile to talk of defeat. There is no defeat until this main force is defeated - until a mortal blow has been struck at this heart of the Allied defence. The affairs of outposts do not affect this main battlefront. And the Germans have not won the war by any means until they have overcome the main Allied force entrenched as it is in the island fortress of Britain. Nothing that has happened so far in the war justifies the inference that the fate of Britain will follow that of the other countries that have been overrun. The correct inference is just the opposite.

How different indeed, how unique that case of Britain is, is forcibly illustrated by the most astounding incident of the whole war. I refer to the escape of the British Expeditionary Force at Dunkirk. The significance of this most memorable event for the real inwardness of the war has not been sufficiently noted. Consider it for a moment. If ever a force was trapped and doomed it was the British Expeditionary Force at Dunkirk. The German Government announced that it was trapped, and their High Command concentrated the bulk of their vast bombing air force in an effort to achieve this crowning victory. They realised that on the fate of the British Expeditionary Force might depend the fate of Britain itself. But the combined action of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force succeeded in saving the entire British Expeditionary Force, and the major part of the associated French Army as well. If the German Army and Air Force together could not succeed in a supreme effort in their attack at a single point like Dunkirk, how can they fairly hope to succeed in an attack on such a huge area as Britain where moreover every physical and moral factor would be vastly in favour of the defence? Sea power and air power combined are the real keys to the problem of Britain's defence, and Dunkirk was a test case which showed how effective that defence is likely to be in the more favourable case of Britain itself.

No, the cause of the Allies is very far from being already lost, and it will not be lost until Britain itself is taken. If Dunkirk has any message for us it is the heartening one that Britain will prove to be an impregnable fortress against which Germany's might will be launched in vain. If that attack fails, Hitler, is lost and all Europe, aye, the whole world, is saved.

And if Hitler does not venture to attack Britain he is equally lost. For the same combination of sea power and air power which baulked him at Dunkirk and which would have saved Britain from invasion would then be turned in a victorious offensive against Hitler - an offensive which in the end would throttle and strangle and bring down in ruins his vast land empire in Europe. For in a war of endurance the time factor must prove fatal to Hitler's plans. Under an ever tightening blockade his essential war supplies must rapidly dwindle until he can no longer hold down vast populations whom he has overrun and oppressed and starved and sought to enslave.

This brings me to my second point - the kind of peace we envisage and hope to establish at the end of this titanic struggle. Our vision still is freedom, the liberation of Europe from the deadly Nazi thrall, and its organisation in new creative freedom. Perhaps the position could best be indicated by contrasting it with the sort of world order which Hitler is aiming at, and which he will probably yet proclaim in a great peace offensive.

Hitler /



Hitler is today in a very strong position. He is master of most of Europe and will probably succeed in putting the rest of it also in his power or in his pocket. This is no longer the Kaiser's dream of Mittle Europa. It is the whole continent with Russia reduced to a subservient acquiescent role. This continent he will mould to his will. He will pose as the regenerator of old Europe. The old effete European order with its chequerboard of sovereign states he will sweep away. A new United States of Europe will be erected on an elastic Nazi model.

Being master of Europe he can afford to restore the semblance of freedom to his victims and to establish a system of so called free states which will, however, all be held together in bonds of Nazi order.

Internal tariff walls and economic barriers will disappear and a large closed continental market will be established with Germany as its centre and as the regulator on economic lines, which have already become manifest during the Nazi regime.

It will be a new mechanised Europe with some of the forms but none of the substance of freedom - a Europe in which units will be held together by central controls of Nazi ideology and Nazi economics with the mailed fist in the background.

Real freedom, personal or national, will have perished. The principles of freedom of speech, freedom of thought, freedom of religion and freedom of the Press which have been the guiding ideals of the West will have been effectively suppressed. The name of a Monroe Doctrine for this Europe will be invoked, but it will be a mere mockery and travesty of that Monroe Doctrine of America which is a bulwark of free national self development for the whole continent.

This in essence will be the Hitler plan. It will no doubt be dressed up in attractive forms and make its appeal to a certain order of minds everywhere. A tired warsick Europe racked with suffering and appalled by the spectre of coming starvation may even accept it as an escape from greater miseries. But it will be the negation of what the human spirit, the free human soul, has stood for through long ages and looked forward to as its inspiring ideal. The vision which has guided our long slow advance will have perished in utter darkness and defeat.

As against this spectre of Nazi-dominated Europe we oppose the vision of a truly free Europe. Freedom still remains our sovereign remedy for the ills from which human society is suffering. We envisage free Europe, free for individual and for nation, free in the sense of giving full scope for personal and national self development and self perfection each according to his own individual lines. In that fundamental sense we continue on the historic trail of human progress.

But we have also learned that discipline and organisation must go hand in hand with freedom. The failure of the League of Nations was largely due to the absence of a central control which could harmonise the freedom of each with the proper functioning of the whole of the human society. We therefore aim at a society of nations which will supply this defect and which will possess a central organisation equipped with the necessary authority and powers to supervise the common concerns of mankind. Intercourse between nations will be free and commerce, economics and finance will be freed of all hampering restrictions and obstructions. As between man and man there shall be social justice; as between nation and nation there shall be the rule of law, the absence of force and violence, and the maintenance of peace. In such an international society there will be no place for self appointed leaders and **Fuehrers**. He who will be master shall be servant. Our aim and motto will be:

A nation of free men and women:

An international society of free nations.

This will be our reply to the challenge of the dictators. And we shall back up that reply with all the strength that God has given us.



PRESS NOTICE.

The Minister of Information met the Press Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Information on Friday afternoon and explained to them the conclusions which he had reached on the questions of censorship policy, conclusions which now had the approval of the Cabinet. He had never had any intention of interfering with the free expression of opinion. He had considered with his advisers various alternatives to the present system of censorship and had some weeks ago met the Press Advisory Committee and had obtained their views.

Immediately after hearing their views he had decided that a Press Censorship Board would be so unwelcome to the Press that it ought not further to be considered.

He had next investigated the possibility of introducing a system by which the Defence Notices might be made obligatory, so that an infringement of them would involve an offence. He had been advised that this would involve a considerable increase in the staff of the Censorship Division and some hardship on the Provincial Press, and that it would not be certain to introduce any substantial improvement in the censorship machine.

In these circumstances he had decided that it would be better to adhere to the present system of voluntary censorship and had obtained Cabinet approval of this conclusion. There were some amendments which he anticipated in the Defence Notices and there would also be a more adequate staff for the scrutiny of the Press.

The other change which he proposed was one by which the responsibility for a prosecution for publication of matter infringing Defence Regulation 3 (whereby information useful to the enemy may not be published) would rest with the Ministry of Information instead of, as hitherto, with the Service Department concerned.

He said that there had been considerable criticism, and some of it from the Press, of the fact that no prosecutions had hitherto been undertaken. This had been due to the fact that, because of their preoccupation with matters of more urgent importance, the Service Departments had refrained from prosecution and he felt that a decision on such a point should rest with the Ministry.

He asked for the co-operation of the Press in making the existing system with these modifications even more effective than it had been hitherto and he expressed his appreciation of the co-operation he had so far received from the Press and his hope that it would be maintained and intensified.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.



This script should be carefully checked before publication, with the actual broadcast.

21/7/40 - No. 3. <sup>10</sup>

FOLLOWING IS THE SCRIPT OF A SPEECH BY  
H.E. THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR, BARON CARTIER  
DE MARCHIENNE, TO BE BROADCAST ON THE B.B.C.  
HOME SERVICE AT 8.45 THIS EVENING.

---

No flags fluttered gaily in the breeze to-day over Belgian towns and hamlets, but instead Belgian hearts are filled with grief and sorrow.

Our thoughts go out to our brothers and sisters who are under the yoke of the invader - also to those who have fallen on the battlefield, and to our King who is a prisoner of war and thus shares the fate of his Army and his people in Belgium.

In our long history, we have sustained many a hard blow, many a reverse, but, thanks to our will to live free and independent, in the end we were always victorious; and so it will be again this time, and - let me remind you that Belgium has concluded no armistice, nor signed a separate peace - in fact, the struggle continues.

In these hours of stress, we Belgians are proud to be in your midst. We are determined to contribute to the fullest extent of our possibilities towards the achievement of our common task, and thus to secure the restoration of the freedom and independence of our beloved country. The day will come - and perhaps soon - when we Belgians, with joy in our hearts, will return to our liberated Fatherland there to sing with fervour our National Anthem the last line of which so well sums up our civic life: Le Roi - La Loi - La Liberte.

Once again, Great Britain, with her traditional hospitality and generosity, has welcomed our soldiers, our wounded, our refugees and their families. Many of you have given them the comfort of your homes and - what I prize even more - your very real sympathy and thoughtful kindness. In the name of my compatriots, I want to thank you for all from the bottom of my heart, and I trust that you will allow me to add, now, a few words in Flemish and In French, so that I may speak to those of my fellow citizens who do not understand your language.

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION.



AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

During last (Saturday) night a force of R.A.F. bombers attacked the enemy naval base at Wilhelmshaven. In the face of violent opposition our aircraft penetrated to their objectives and bombed the dockyard. Our aircraft also bombed oil refineries at Hamburg and Bremen, and shipping in the harbour of Emden. Other Military objectives attacked included aircraft factories, aerodromes and oil depots in central Germany, in the Ruhr and in Holland and Belgium. Five of our bombers were lost in these operations.

Yesterday's daylight operations included attacks on the wireless station on Utsire island, near Stavanger, and the aerodrome at Flushing. Two of our reconnaissance aircraft failed to return.

Four in all of our fighters are missing as a result of yesterday's engagements.

An enemy fighter, which attacked one of our training aircraft this (Sunday) morning, was shot down by our fighters near the south coast. An enemy bomber was shot down this (Sunday) afternoon.



Air Ministry News Service

ENEMY OIL TANK FLAMES 300 FEET HIGH

Yellow smoke rose to one thousand feet and flames to three hundred feet when Blenheim Bombers of the Coastal Command fired German oil tanks at Vlaardingen, near Rotterdam, last night (Saturday).

"We could see the oil tanks very clearly in the moonlight", said one of the pilots, "and we just blew them to blazes. The Germans opened up from a ring of guns all round as we came in, but our leader beat them to it. He got several direct hits. There were huge explosions and a mountain of smoke which came up provided cover for the rest of us. The heat was so great that some of us, following on, were thrown violently upwards as we came over the targets."

The fires lit up the countryside towards Rotterdam and were so vivid that one pilot could see every detail of the railway-lines and sheds.

"The sky was still red with the reflection of the fires when we looked back one hundred miles away on our return journey", said the Squadron Leader.

The pilot of another aircraft found that the fires in the oil-tanks were still raging furiously four hours later.

+++++



ATTACKS ON DOCKS AND OIL REFINERIES.

A British bomber got home safely after raids on naval dockyards and other targets in N.W. Germany last night (Saturday) though its wings were torn and a rudder and both airscrews damaged by shell splinters.

The aircraft was one of a raiding force which attacked the dockyard at Wilhelmshaven. None of the crew was injured, but the navigator found shrapnel in his flying suit. Another aircraft over Wilhelmshaven came down so low to attack two warships lying at anchor by a wharf, that it nearly collided with a church steeple. Searchlight and A.A. batteries surrounding the docks were attacked as well.

Two bombs were seen to burst on the Wesermünde docks and two on slipways at the Zwischenahn seaplane base. The jetty at Bremerhaven was also bombed. At Bremen bombs burst along the docks and several fires were started.

Two supply ships were bombed at sea and one of them is believed to have been badly damaged.

On the return journey the rear gunner of one of our bombers reported that the aircraft was picked up by searchlights over Wesel, and as there was no anti-aircraft fire enemy fighters were expected. The pilot evaded the lights, the gunner got ready. Immediately afterwards tracer bullets began to fly all round.

"There were three German aircraft after us", the gunner said. "One of them came in from above and astern, the next came in from below and astern, and the other came in from the star-board quarter. They looked to me like H.E. 113's. The one on our starboard side was nearest so I opened fire. He pulled up steeply, giving me a full length shot at him. I got in four bursts and he went down in a vertical dive. I could see the aircraft in flames, then there was an explosion. Then I swung round and concentrated on the second German plane. I waited until it appeared in the sights and then started sending short bursts at it. The first and the second burst were in front, but the third and following bursts appeared to get home. I kept firing until the aircraft was out of range. Though we did not see the actual end, it seems likely that the aircraft was disabled. In any case it did not return to the attack.

"The third German aircraft approached after we had dealt with the other two but it never came very close. I tried a long range burst of about twenty rounds from each gun and after that we saw him no more."

Besides the raids on the naval dockyards, further attacks were made on the aircraft factories and adjoining aerodromes at Wenzendorf, near Hamburg, and Wismar on the Baltic coast. In the attack on the Wismar factory, buildings were hit, though the full results of the attack were not observed. At Wenzendorf one stick of bombs fell close enough to a big hangar to do it extensive damage, while another salvo landed on the runway. Several attacks were made on the aerodrome at Eschwege and explosions occurred inside one of the hangars which blazed fiercely. Other aerodromes attacked were those at Jever and Lehe, north of Wesermünde, at Nordhorn, Rijsen, and Eindhoven.

Targets attacked during the night's operations included oil refineries at Hamburg and Gelsenkirchen and railway sidings at Recklinghausen and Kamen. At Hamburg further fires were started and one observer reported an enormous blaze that was visible forty miles away from the target area. At Gelsenkirchen one salvo of bombs resulted in a big explosion followed in a few minutes by a series of fires which grew in intensity.



AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN NO. 1181

AIR MINISTRY NEWS SERVICE

6 HURRICANE PILOTS TOOK ON 80 RAIDERS

Six Hurricane pilots took on 80 German shipping raiders over the English Channel this afternoon (Sunday).

A quarter of an hour later they landed at their aerodrome, after sending a Messerschmitt 109 rushing into the sea and seen their bullets drilling holes in several other German bombers and fighters.

"How many did you meet?" asked their Intelligence Officer.

"Oh, about 40 Dorniers 17 and the same number of Messerschmitt 109's and 110's - must have been nearly 80 in all," said the Flight Leader. He had come home with a tear in one wing where a Messerschmitt cannon shot exploded.

They were flying high over the sea when they saw, 2,000 feet above them, the massed formation of German bombers and fighters, tightly packed for safety, circling over a convoy.

The Dornier 17 bombers came on in waves of 8 or 10, "stepped up right into the sun," as the Hurricane flightleader said.

At once the Hurricanes split into two sections. Three tackled the Dorniers as they dropped their bombs. Three climbed up higher to attack the 40 Messerschmitts.

One saw the Messerschmitt 109 he had singled out for attack crash into the sea. In the heat of the fight none of the other Hurricane pilots saw it's end, so by the strict Fighter Command rules for claiming victories it goes down as "unconfirmed."

While he was noting this crash the others were swinging in and out past the Dornier and Messerschmitt formations. One, as he said "shot up" two Dorniers, another tackled two Messerschmitts. Two of the enemy, in addition to the Messerschmitt seen to crash, are known to have been seriously damaged.

During the day there were isolated fights against German bombers and fighters off the South-east coast. Hurricanes had a running fight with a Messerschmitt 110 over the South-east of England in the morning and brought it crashing down near a village. In the early afternoon Hurricanes of the same squadron shot down a Dornier 17 in flames.

AIR AFFAIRS



21/7/40 - No. 19.

OFFICIAL ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE

The Secretary of the Admiralty regrets to announce that H.M. Submarine Salmon (Commander E.O. Bickford, D.S.O., R.N.) is now considerably overdue and must be presumed lost. The next of kin have been informed.

---oOo---

ADMIRALTY,  
S.W.1.