

No. 1. - 2/11/39.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE
-----oOo-----

NIGHT GENERALLY QUIET.

FROM FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Nov. 2-7, 1939
2nd November, 1939

Nc.2
M.A.F.83

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE HOUSE-SPARROW AS A PEST OF THE LAND.

Fortunately there are very few British birds whose activities can be said to be mainly harmful. The majority of species are good friends of the farmer and the gardener. Many of them are, in fact, essential to the land, and are rightly protected by law and by all reasonable people. But there are a few species which do great damage to crops of various kinds in season and whose numbers must be kept in check, especially in times like these when cereals, vegetables and fruit are especially valuable.

The food grower's feathered enemy No.1 is undoubtedly the wood-pigeon, but at certain seasons the house-sparrow is a close second. It is true that during the breeding season it feeds its young mainly on insects, but it is idle to pretend that the good it does in this way compensates for the harm done during the rest of the year.

The house-sparrow attacks all kinds of agricultural and horticultural crops. Every arable farmer knows what inroads it makes on cereals. Just before harvest time, thousands of sparrows desert towns, villages and farm homesteads for the fields, and live almost entirely upon the ripening grain. It is no uncommon sight to see large areas of wheat, ripe for cutting, visited by hordes of house-sparrows, and when the wheat has been cut, they turn their attention to the stacks. Hundreds of examinations of the contents of crops of house-sparrows have been made in this country and abroad, and it has been shown that a large proportion of the food of adult birds throughout the whole year consists of cultivated grain of some kind.

In gardens and on allotments, the house-sparrow does great damage to young peas, lettuces and other garden crops, especially when these are just showing through the soil. It strips gooseberry and current bushes of their buds, tears to pieces brightly coloured flowers, and makes itself a nuisance in many other ways.

Nobody likes to kill wild birds of any kind, and most people try preventive measures before resorting to more drastic remedies. But there can be no disputing the necessity for keeping house-sparrows in check. It may be argued that during the winter months their opportunities for harm are comparatively few and that they may not become a real menace until the spring, but farmers and gardeners will be well advised to begin to tackle the problem now. In the spring, systematic destruction of nests and eggs will probably give the best results, but meanwhile the numbers of the sparrows can be substantially reduced. At this time of year they can more easily be located and identified. The birds can be shot with a small-bore gun, or netted and painlessly killed.

A word of warning is necessary. Most country people know a house-sparrow when they see it, but nevertheless it is possible to be mistaken. Great care should therefore be taken to ensure that only house-sparrows are destroyed. The misnamed hedge-sparrow, otherwise known as the hedge-accentor or dunnoek, is not a sparrow at all and is no relation to the sparrows, but is one of the most useful small birds that we have. It should never be molested, but should be protected and encouraged in every possible way.

Advisory Leaflet No.169 entitled the House-Sparrow which may be obtained free on application to the Ministry's Office at 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1., contains, among other information, aids to recognition of the hedge-sparrow.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.

FOR PRESS AND BROADCAST

Instructions permitting the use of flares in streets and of additional lighting on motor vehicles during thick fog, whether in black-out hours or otherwise, have been issued by the Ministry of Home Security and circulated to police authorities throughout England, Wales, and Scotland.

When a Chief Officer of Police is of opinion that conditions are sufficiently bad to render the provision of flares absolutely essential for the guidance of traffic, he may authorise their use by a local authority or other responsible organisation which normally provides fog flares on the highway. Arrangements must be made for a man to be in attendance to extinguish the flares immediately on receipt of an air raid warning.

As regards motor vehicles under fog conditions, an unscreened fog lamp may be used on a motor vehicle provided that -

- (a) the lamp is additional to the ordinary headlamp, is operated by a separate switch, and fitted below the level of the headlamps;
- (b) that the beam of light is directed downwards and towards the near-side;
- (c) its use is restricted solely to occasions when the fog is so thick that progress is impracticable without it, and
- (d) that, as is compulsory for ordinary headlamps, the fog lamp is extinguished immediately on an air raid warning.

A constable will be entitled to direct that a fog lamp shall be extinguished at any time when it appears to him that conditions do not make its use imperative.

The instructions stress the vital necessity of both flares and fog lamps being extinguished with the utmost rapidity on receipt of an

air raid warning, and drivers of vehicles should particularly note that fog lamps must on no account be used under any conditions except those specified.

operated by a separate switch, and fitted below the level of the headlamps;

Ministry of Home Security.
2nd November, 1939.

2/11/39 No.4.

P.N. 1590.

PRESS NOTICE.

The Postmaster General announces that the air mail service to Malta, which has hitherto operated once a week, now operates twice a week. The latest times of posting at the Head Post Office, London, E.C.1., are 12 noon on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Correspondence for Malta intended for transmission by air mail should be prepaid at the rate of 1s. 3d. per half ounce (postcards 7d.) and a blue air mail label should be affixed.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

2nd November, 1939.

2.11.39 - No. 5.

EMPIRE SECTION

WEAPONS OF GOLD

CANADA'S MINERAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR.

The half yearly returns of Canada's mineral output emphasise how valuable a source of supply the Dominion will be for the Allies' mineral requirements.

The record standard of gold production attained in 1938 is likely to be surpassed. Several new mines have since begun production, and a number of companies have made plans for the enlargement of existing plant. If the present rate of output is maintained for the remainder of 1939, Canada's gold production should pass the five million ounce mark for the year.

Mineral output generally is 4.3 per cent higher than over the same period in 1938, and metals as a group are valued at 5 per cent higher.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.

2. 11. 39 - No. 6.

EMPIRE SECTION

ULSTER'S TROOPS

The Duke of Abercorn, Governor of Northern Ireland, is taking a very active interest in the welfare and training of troops in Northern Ireland and regularly pays visits to the various units. This week he inspected officers and men of one of the volunteer anti-aircraft Regiments and warmly congratulated them on the rapid training progress they have made.

The age limit for recruits to the Northern Irish **Horse**, Ulster's new Light Tank Regiment, enlistment for which opens on November 10, has now been revised. Recruits must be between 20 and 35 years, not between 20 and 38.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU

2/11/39 - No.7.

EMPIRE SECTION.

CANADA WILL FEED US.

A CONFERENCE WITH A PURPOSE.

Britain will have an abundance of most of the food products she may require during the war. This is the assurance which emerged from a recent conference held in Ottawa between Canadian Ministers, officials from the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, and members of the newly formed Agricultural Committee. To quote an official despatch, the conference pledged the fullest co-operation of the provinces in the production of essential food products to meet the needs of Britain and her Allies.

In presiding at the opening session, the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. J.G. Gardiner, stressed that the aim of the Conference was not only to organise agriculture for war, but to safeguard the industry against difficulties which might afterwards ensue.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.

EMPIRE SECTION.

NOTES ON THE DOMINION MINISTERS IN LONDON.

MR. T. A. CRERAR, CANADA.

The leader of the Canadian delegation taking part in the discussions in London between the British Government and statesmen from the Empire, is, though he bears the portfolio of Mines and Natural Resources, no whirlwind industrialist snapping out orders or barking advice. For Mr. T. A. Crerar has known the peace of the open spaces of Canada: his way is the quiet way. Nothing can shake him. His roots are in the land; and he is a philosopher.

Born in Perth County, Ontario, in 1876, Mr. Crerar went to Manitoba when five years of age, and until he was 19 was on his father's farm. His thoroughness is typified by the fact that he taught at school while putting himself through college.

Having obtained the best education within his power, he farmed for several years, and the lessons he learned in early life have never been forgotten. He showed all the Scottish genius (Mr. Crerar is descended from Scots) in organisation, and soon became actively associated with the largest grain-growing concerns in the Dominion. His drive earned for him the position, held continuously from 1907 to 1929, of President of the United Grain Growers, Ltd., Head Office, Winnipeg.

But not until the last war did politics seriously attract him. His abilities were so well recognised, however, that, having once entered public life, he was, in October 1917, appointed Minister of Agriculture. Other high posts he occupied until, in 1922, he resigned politics for business again.

Yet Canada could not long do without so gifted a man in her State life, and by 1929 he was once more holding Cabinet rank, this time as Minister of Railways and Canals. Four years ago he was appointed as Minister of the Interior, Minister of Mines, Minister of Immigration and Colonization, and Superintendent General of Indian Affairs (these four Departments were later amalgamated to form the Department of Mines and Resources.) These posts are such that not every man could support them singly, yet the burden is easily carried on the broad shoulders of Mr. Crerar.

London is glad to welcome a statesman, quiet, unassuming, but possessed of immense reserves of power, and, when the occasion demands, of oratory also. One of the most popular leaders of the farming community Canada has ever had, Mr. Crerar will be instantly liked by those who encounter his sterling qualities in London.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.

EMPIRE SECTIONMR. R. G. CASEY, AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR SUPPLY AND DEVELOPMENT

The choice of Mr. R.G. Casey to represent the Dominion of Australia at the talks in London between the British Government and statesmen of the Empire was particularly happy, for there are few Australians who understand better the mentality of the United Kingdom than this young Minister for Supply and Development.

Though Mr. Casey remains essentially an Australian, he has known intimately England of the pre-1914 days, England during the struggle 1914-1918, and England of the years of peace before the present conflict.

Many a man possessed of Mr. Casey's independent means would have chosen the easy path, indulging **private** hobbies and eschewing public duties. But after a business training in mining and engineering, he accepted the post of Political Liaison Officer between the British Government and the Commonwealth Government in London, and during his six years' tenure of this office he did exceptionally well.

In 1931 he entered the House of Representatives in Australia, and at once immersed himself in financial problems. By few young statesmen has such industry been shown. His assiduity was rewarded, for he became in turn Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, and, in 1939, Minister for Supply and Development. To-day, though still a young man -- he is only 49 -- he stands as a recognised leader of Australian thought, as, in 1914-1918, he typified the Australian in action.

The Australian Minister for Supply and Development may have been fortunate in his opportunities, but he has certainly made the most abundant use of them. One driving purpose consumes him -- devotion to the welfare of the Dominion. His wealth and personality account for some of his popularity, but these things, without his single-hearted service to the cause of Australia and of Empire, would count for much less.

London is happy to see him again as he is to visit once more the Metropolis.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.

EMPIRE SECTION.COL. DENEYS REITZ, SOUTH AFRICA.

Colonel Deneys Reitz, South African Minister of Native Affairs, the first of the Dominion arrivals whom Mr. Anthony Eden has been welcoming in London during the past few days, is one of two men in General Smuts's Cabinet who are sons of former Presidents of the Orange Free State Republic. The other is Dr. Colin Fraser Steyn, who is now Minister of Justice.

At the close of his Presidential term in the Orange Free State, Colonel Reitz's father became State Secretary to President Kruger in the South African (Transvaal) Republic, and it was he who signed the ultimatum which signalled the clash of arms between Boer and Briton in the war of 1899-1902.

Deneys Reitz was a lad of seventeen when he joined the Republican forces. He was a member of General Smuts's commando which daringly invaded the Cape, sorely harassed the British columns, and penetrated as far as the West coast, where, as a supreme gesture of defiance, some of the Burghers stalked a British man-o'-war behind the sand dunes and fired their rifles at it! Reitz kept a diary during those eventful days and his story of the Boer War -- the last of the "gentlemen's wars", it has been said, -- is brilliantly told in his book, "Commando".

After the war Reitz preferred exile in Madagascar to taking the oath of allegiance to Great Britain -- and thereby hangs a story which many years later made South Africa chuckle. Persuaded by General Smuts that his former enemies were prepared to be generous friends, he returned to South Africa to play his part in the building of the South African nation of Dutch- and English-speaking peoples. He entered Parliament in 1920 and sat as member and Minister of the Crown until the law advisers woke to the fact, in 1934, that he was not, in the legal sense, a British subject!

"It is a comic opera position", said Colonel Reitz at the time. "I am probably the only Union national who is not strictly

a British subject. And it is due to the fact that I refused to surrender after the treaty of Vereeniging; for many years, therefore, I sat in the House of Assembly illegally".

A special Bill, which the Parliamentary wags dubbed the Reitz Relief Bill, had to be passed to legalise the position.

Colonel Reitz's history is vivid. After fighting in the German West and East African campaign in the Four Years' War, he came to England to enlist as a private, but soon found himself in command of a battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He engaged in some of the hottest fighting on the Western Front, was twice wounded, the second time seriously, and led his battalion into the Rhineland in 1918.

The early days of peace found him in the editorial chair of an Afrikaans newspaper in Bloemfontein. But politics speedily claimed him. At General Louis Botha's request he contested a Bloemfontein seat and entered the Union Parliament where he has been ever since. "Politics in South Africa", he remarked once, "is a habit-forming drug. Once you have a good taste of it you cannot leave it alone".

Mrs. Reitz is no less politically minded, and an equally enthusiastic supporter of General Smuts. She was the first woman to be returned to the Union Parliament, where she represents an important Johannesburg constituency, Parktown North, and occasionally delights the House by severely "wiggling" her husband in his Ministerial capacity.

Colonel Reitz is an ardent protagonist of the ideal of the common nationhood of Dutch- and English-speaking South Africans. He has held a number of important portfolios in the Cabinet, including that of Agriculture, and, both as a soldier and an administrator, he is singularly well equipped for the mission on which he is now engaged.

Lawyer, soldier, politician and author of high repute, South Africa's representative is also a practical farmer. He is one of the founders of the great game reserve known as the Kruger National Park, and has done monumental work for the preservation of wild life in South Africa.

He gave the people of Great Britain this message in a broadcast shortly after his arrival: "Let me assure you, on behalf of General Smuts our great leader, and on behalf of the Union Government, that South Africans will do what South Africans have ever done in the past - they will fight for liberty side by side with all those who wish to be free."

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU

Issued through Press and Censorship Bureau.

Mr. Mitchell's question:- To ask the Minister of Supply what were the circumstances in which he issued the Control of Shirts Order.

CONTROL OF SHIRTS ORDER.

In reply to a written question by Mr. Mitchell, Conservative Member for Brentford and Chiswick, in the House to-day, the following answer was circulated by Mr. Leslie Burgin, Minister of Supply.

The War Office asked at short notice for the provision of a very large requirement of Woollen Vests, of which 250,000 were wanted immediately. Efforts were made to purchase this $\frac{1}{4}$ million from manufacturers' stocks, but only 60,000 could be obtained in this way.

I was not satisfied that this quantity represented all the vests in the hands of manufacturers, and I therefore made the Order in question. The Order enabled the Ministry to take possession of all vests of a specified description at the Works of Manufacturers or in Warehouses, and as it happens that these vests are known in the trade as Woollen Shirts the term "Woollen Shirts" was used in the Order.

The Staff of the Ministry deputed to carry out the requisitioning were instructed to be ready at all centres where the goods were manufactured or warehoused in order to go through the premises with the minimum delay. They were to present the order and after selecting the Vests required to hand the firm concerned an order releasing them from the further operation of the order. In no case was the ordinary business of the firm held up for more than 2 hours. **Over** 120 firms were visited in the course of 4 days. The control then ended and the order had produced over 200,000 vests which had **not** previously been offered to the Government.

Ministry of Supply,
Press Office,
November, 2nd 1939.

For publication
in papers for
Friday, 3rd November.

2/11/39 - No.12.

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.

EXPORT LICENCES.

The Board of trade have made four Amending Orders amending the Schedule of goods prohibited to be exported without a licence. The Orders come into force on Friday, 3rd November, with the following effect:-

(i) Export licences will be required for the export to any destination of silk noil tissue, platinum sheet and mercury compounds.

(ii) Export licences will no longer be required, except in the case of exports to the European and Mediterranean area (excluding France, Egypt and Palestine), for the following exports: copal, rosin (colophony), boric acid, barium nitrate, tar oil, creosote oil, anthracene oil, and other heavy coal tar oils, cobalt compounds, thorium compounds, and rubber inner tubes of all kinds.

(iii) No export licences will be required for export to any destination of animal hair; waste, thread and straw of artificial silk; food preparation and sterilising machinery; refrigerating machinery; nitric acid; certain ammonium compounds; disinfectants; antiseptics; certain nitrates; certain potassium compounds; motor-cars other than vans, lorries and ambulances; and motor car parts other than chassis and engines for motor vehicles of a Treasury rating of 21 h.p. or over.

(iv) No export licences will be required other than those issued by the Home Office Drugs Branch for coca, morphine, cocaine or opium (whether raw, simply prepared or manufactured), or for their salts or preparations.

Board of Trade,

2nd November, 1939.

NOTES FOR AMPLIFICATION OF THE REPLY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR
TO MR. LEES-SMITH'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING A GENERAL SCHEME
OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE TROOPS.

The announcement made in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for War this afternoon in reply to Mr. Lees-Smith's question on the subject of the new Social Welfare Scheme for the Troops comes at a timely moment and should give wide-spread satisfaction. The scheme has obviously been thought out on a spacious and business-like basis and the arrangements are already far advanced. Lieutenant-General Sir John Brown, D.A.G.T. War Office, has been appointed under the Adjutant-General as War Office Adviser on the subject. No more experienced or capable authority could be found.

In normal times the physical and moral welfare of the British Soldier is by the immemorial tradition of the British Army the care of his officers. One of the first lessons a Subaltern learns upon joining his regiment is to look after his men, both on and off parade. He must organise games for them and participate in these himself. He must know each man personally and be prepared to advise him in his own peculiar social and domestic difficulties. If a soldier gets into trouble he looks to his platoon commander to put in a word for him. If he falls sick he knows that that same officer will visit him in hospital. And so on. In other words in the regular army in peace time each subaltern was his own welfare officer.

But today, times are far from normal. We are at war and conditions applicable to a small peace-time army no longer obtain. The army today has swelled to the million mark. Officers and men are comparative strangers to one another and in any case officers are too over-whelmed with their own duties to concern themselves with matters of individual personal welfare.

A wide and liberal scheme of social welfare is therefore urgently needed throughout the country, especially at this static and somewhat stagnant period when the first enthusiasm has worn off, and the monotony of uneventful routine is beginning to make itself felt.

Monotony is bad for morale, and monotony today is inevitable for all and acute for some. For weeks past isolated anti-aircraft and searchlight units have been watching and sweeping the skies for enemy bombers which have not yet arrived. Thousands of soldiers are billeted in rural districts, sometimes several miles from town or camp. Obviously these must be made the subject of special provision.

These provisions are already well in hand. It has been wisely decided to organise a scheme upon the basis supplied by the machinery of existing military formations, Commands and County Territorial Associations.

For military purposes Great Britain is divided into six commands, Aldershot, Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western and Scottish, each under its own General Officer Commanding-in-Chief with permanent headquarters and staff. The County Territorial Associations which deal with the organisation and administration of the Territorial Army are also permanent bodies, each with a Chairman and Secretariat. Here then is the obvious groundwork.

For a start, a Social Welfare Officer is to be appointed by the War Office to the staff of each Command. He will be called the Command Welfare Officer. He will be a man of experience in such work, well-known in the district and it is hoped that many members of Parliament will submit themselves for this post, which they should fill to perfection. This officer may be a civilian or a retired officer and will be asked to give his services voluntarily. He will be provided with a room in the Office of the County Association or other Territorial Army premises within the Command, and the County Association will be responsible for providing him with any clerical assistance he may require. He will thus be in perpetual contact with Command Headquarters.

Under him will be a number of County Social Welfare Officers appointed by each County Association. The number of course will vary according to the size of the County and the number of troops stationed there. In one case a separate officer may be appointed for each training camp or garrison. In another he will be responsible for all the troops in a particular area. He too may be a civilian or retired officer giving his services voluntarily, but receiving any necessary clerical assistance. His duty will be to keep in touch with the commanding officers of the units in his district and of co-ordinating all social welfare interests.

These County Social Welfare Officers will further form a Social Welfare Committee for the County under the chairmanship of the Command Social Welfare Officer. The Secretary of the local County Association will also be the Secretary of the County Social Welfare Committee.

It will be seen from this that the underlying principle is voluntary service, which is only right and proper in an organisation of this kind. Although no public money will be placed at the disposal of these committees there will be no objection to County Associations, if they have private funds available making small grants to their social welfare officers, either for general purposes or for some specific object, or for that matter raising funds by direct appeals within the County. In special circumstances Command Headquarters can appeal for money to the War Office.

It is not expected that the expenditure involved will be great. Although the Territorial Army is for the moment merged in the British Army as a whole its framework still exists and County Territorial Associations have in most cases retained some of their staff who will be able to carry out the necessary clerical work with little or no augmentation. Social welfare officers will, however, be entitled to travelling expenses the under/rules and rates laid down for a Major. There will also be special arrangements regarding cars and petrol.

In this way it is hoped to cover the whole field of social necessity, firstly by co-ordinating all existing activities and secondly by filling up gaps where no such activities exist.

14
The War Office,

London, S.W.1.

2nd November, 1939.

THE GRANT OF REGULAR COMMISSIONS.

The War Office makes the following announcement:-

1. No further permanent Regular commissions are being given during the war with the following exceptions:-
 - (a) Cadets who were already in training at the Cadet Colleges at the outbreak of war and any other candidates from the universities, officers of the Supplementary Reserve and Territorial Army, and Army Cadets who had already qualified for permanent commissions or been accepted for admission to the Cadet Colleges.
 - (b) Selected Warrant Officers who will be promoted to fill peace establishment vacancies for Lieutenant and Quartermaster and similar categories.
2. All other commissions granted during the war will be "emergency commissions in the Land Forces for the duration of the war".
3. It is hoped at the end of the war to offer permanent Regular commissions to selected officers who are serving on other forms of commission and who wish to make the Army their career and that such officers will be given ante-dates for all purposes to correspond with their length of service during the war.
4. There are two main reasons for the suspension of the grant of Regular commissions during the war.
 - (a) To ensure that there is no repetition of the "war block" of the last war which was largely due to the fact that many candidates, having initially no intention to make the Army their career, elected to go to the Cadet Colleges and after short courses thereat were appointed to permanent commissions and subsequently decided to remain in the Army after the war: this, in turn, was primarily responsible for the slowness of promotion before the introduction of the time system in August 1938.
 - (b) To ensure a selection of the most suitable officers for retention in the Army after the war.

The War Office,

London, S.W.1.

2nd November, 1939.

ARMY CHAPLAINS.

The War Office announces that the age limit for emergency commissions for the duration of the war in the Royal Army Chaplains Department has been raised to 50 years. Accordingly, a limited number of applications for commissions can be entertained from ordained clergymen or ministers who are over 40 years of age (the age limit hitherto) but who have not reached the age of 50. Applicants must be fit for General Service and preference will be given to those who have had previous service in the Army. They should apply only through the appropriate authority of the Church to which they belong viz the Bishop concerned in the case of Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church; the appropriate Committee in the case of other Churches. Applications should not be addressed to the War Office.

NOTES FOR AMPLIFICATION OF THE REPLY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR
TO MR. LEES-SMITH'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING A GENERAL SCHEME
OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE TROOPS.

The announcement made in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for War this afternoon in reply to Mr. Lees-Smith's question on the subject of the new Social Welfare Scheme for the Troops comes at a timely moment and should give wide-spread satisfaction. The scheme has obviously been thought out on a spacious and business-like basis and the arrangements are already far advanced. Lieutenant-General Sir John Brown, D.A.G.T. War Office, has been appointed under the Adjutant-General as War Office Adviser on the subject. No more experienced or capable authority could be found.

In normal times the physical and moral welfare of the British Soldier is by the immemorial tradition of the British Army the care of his officers. One of the first lessons a Subaltern learns upon joining his regiment is to look after his men, both on and off parade. He must organise games for them and participate in these himself. He must know each man personally and be prepared to advise him in his own peculiar social and domestic difficulties. If a soldier gets into trouble he looks to his platoon commander to put in a word for him. If he falls sick he knows that that same officer will visit him in hospital. And so on. In other words in the regular army in peace time each subaltern was his own welfare officer.

But today, times are far from normal. We are at war and conditions applicable to a small peace-time army no longer obtain. The army today has swelled to the million mark. Officers and men are comparative strangers to one another and in any case officers are too over-whelmed with their own duties to concern themselves with matters of individual personal welfare.

A wide and liberal scheme of social welfare is therefore urgently needed throughout the country, especially at this static and somewhat stagnant period when the first enthusiasm has worn off, and the monotony of uneventful routine is beginning to make itself felt.

Monotony is bad for morale, and monotony today is inevitable for all and acute for some. For weeks past isolated anti-aircraft and searchlight units have been watching and sweeping the skies for enemy bombers which have not yet arrived. Thousands of soldiers are billeted in rural districts, sometimes several miles from town or camp. Obviously these must be made the subject of special provision.

These provisions are already well in hand. It has been wisely decided to organise a scheme upon the basis supplied by the machinery of existing military formations, Commands and County Territorial Associations.

For military purposes Great Britain is divided into six commands, Aldershot, Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western and Scottish, each under its own General Officer Commanding-in-Chief with permanent headquarters and staff. The County Territorial Associations which deal with the organisation and administration of the Territorial Army are also permanent bodies, each with a Chairman and Secretariat. Here then is the obvious groundwork.

For a start, a Social Welfare Officer is to be appointed by the War Office to the staff of each Command. He will be called the Command Welfare Officer. He will be a man of experience in such work, well-known in the district and it is hoped that many members of Parliament will submit themselves for this post, which they should fill to perfection. This officer may be a civilian or a retired officer and will be asked to give his services voluntarily. He will be provided with a room in the Office of the County Association or other Territorial Army premises within the Command, and the County Association will be responsible for providing him with any clerical assistance he may require. He will thus be in perpetual contact with Command Headquarters.

Under him will be a number of County Social Welfare Officers appointed by each County Association. The number of course will vary according to the size of the County and the number of troops stationed there. In one case a separate officer may be appointed for each training camp or garrison. In another he will be responsible for all the troops in a particular area. He too may be a civilian or retired officer giving his services voluntarily, but receiving any necessary clerical assistance. His duty will be to keep in touch with the commanding officers of the units in his district and of co-ordinating all social welfare interests.

These County Social Welfare Officers will further form a Social Welfare Committee for the County under the chairmanship of the Command Social Welfare Officer. The Secretary of the local County Association will also be the Secretary of the County Social Welfare Committee.

It will be seen from this that the underlying principle is voluntary service, which is only right and proper in an organisation of this kind. Although no public money will be placed at the disposal of these committees there will be no objection to County Associations, if they have private funds available making small grants to their social welfare officers, either for general purposes or for some specific object, or for that matter raising funds by direct appeals within the County. In special circumstances Command Headquarters can appeal for money to the War Office.

It is not expected that the expenditure involved will be great. Although the Territorial Army is for the moment merged in the British Army as a whole its framework still exists and County Territorial Associations have in most cases retained some of their staff who will be able to carry out the necessary clerical work with little or no augmentation. Social welfare officers will, however, be entitled to travelling expenses the under/rules and rates laid down for a Major. There will also be special arrangements regarding cars and petrol.

In this way it is hoped to cover the whole field of social necessity, firstly by co-ordinating all existing activities and secondly by filling up gaps where no such activities exist.

EMPIRE SECTION

2.11.39 - No 17

Not to be published or broadcast in this country or in any
other country before Friday, 3rd November.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF ZANZIBAR

It is announced from the Colonial Office that His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. John Verity, Puisne Judge, British Guiana, to be Chief Justice Zanzibar, in succession to Sir Charles Ewan Law, who was recently appointed Chief Justice, Northern Rhodesia.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU

UNOFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR THE USE OF THE
PRESS AS THEY WISH.

(CONFIDENTIAL: This is by the authority of the India Office
who must not be quoted.)

THE INDIAN STATES FORCES: HOW THEY HAVE
HELPED THE EMPIRE.

The generous offer of troops by Indian princes is in accordance with the previous spontaneous offers to Britain in times of crisis. Ever since the Laswari Campaign of 1803 they have been helping the Empire both in India and abroad.

From time immemorial all the bigger Indian States have had armies, often commanded by French and British free-lances of adventurous disposition, whilst the smaller ones have been content with feudal retainers for the personal protection of the ruler. The East India Company adopted a policy of contracting treaties of mutual military assistance with the Indian princes, and the first of such treaties was that made in 1766 with the Nizam of Hyderabad.

A contingent from one or more Indian States has served alongside British troops in almost every campaign in the last century, and the despatches of the Gurkha, Afghan and Sikh wars, the Mutiny and of several frontier expeditions, testify to the good services done by these troops.

In 1885 when the course of affairs on the Afghan Frontier had brought about a near prospect of war between England and Russia, the Indian States came forward with enthusiasm and unanimity and placed their resources at the Government's disposal. The danger was happily averted, but in the Indian States and elsewhere the idea began to gain ground that some scheme for utilising the military resources of the Chiefs ought to be worked out. The question was taken up by the Government and a beginning was made with the armies of the Punjab States, because from their position near the North-West

Frontier and the martial spirit of the population, they seemed specially suitable for the experiment.

The Chiefs who had specially good fighting material in their armies, were asked to raise a portion of these to such a pitch of general efficiency as would make them fit to go into action side by side with Her Majesty's forces. British officers, who were appointed as advisers and instructors, visited several States in turn. Capable drill instructors were lent to the States from the Indian regiments, and the selected troops were armed by the British Government.

The names, Hunza Nagar, Chitral, Tirah and China blazon the colours of the "Imperial Service Troops", as these regiments were called, whilst despatches recorded the good service of the cavalry, infantry, sappers or transport employed. Material aid was afforded in 1899 by the Indian States in sending some 1,200 horses to South Africa for mounted infantry.

In 1914 the troops of the various States had reached an approximate total of about 23,000 of all arms comprising sappers and miners, cavalry, mountain artillery, infantry camel corps and transport. In the Great War the princes offered the whole of their resources to the King Emperor, and out of the total of 22,000 Indian State troops employed outside State limits, about 18,000 served overseas in France, Gallipoli, East Africa, Mesopotamia, Egypt. Palestine, and, in 1919, on the North-West Frontier of India. In addition, nearly 4,000 served on garrison duty in India.

It is impossible to mention the exploits of all the units employed, but a notable one was the brilliant attack carried out by the Jodhpur Lancers on the town of Haifa. This attack, assisted by a flank attack made by the Mysore Lancers, ended in the capture of the town - one of the few occasions on which a fortified town has been taken by cavalry at the gallop.

Throughout the war the States paid the ordinary pay and the pensions of their troops, while replacements of equipment,

clothing, animals, etc., in the field were supplied by Government which also supplied free rations. Many of the units were absent from India for about four years.

The war brought out the need for standardisation of States forces with those of the Indian army. The princes, realising this, readily undertook postwar re-organisation which resulted in the establishment of the Indian States Forces as they are known today. The total strength of Indian States forces is now 47,000.

The great majority of States have now fallen into line with the Indian army conditions of service including pay, pensions, barracks and clothing. Some units are held ready for immediate employment with His Majesty's Forces on active service, others on lines of communication or for purposes of internal security.

The State officers correspond to the King's Commissioned Officers of the Indian army and they, together with Indian officers corresponding to Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and other ranks, are now sent to the regular army schools of instruction. Inter-State manoeuvres as well as manoeuvres jointly with Indian army units are carried out.

The states maintaining forces are grouped, geographically, into circles, each with a Military Adviser and his assistant, whose task is to assist with advice in the training and administration of the forces. There are 17 British officers of the Indian Army on the Military Advisory Staff, comprising the Military Adviser-in-Chief and his staff officer, and 15 others, included among whom are technical advisers of the Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery, and Royal Corps of Signals. The many duties of these officers include frequent tours to the States and the holding of local squadron leaders' and company commanders' courses. A senior tactical course is organised annually by the Military Adviser-in-Chief for senior State officers.

The rulers have once again generously offered all their resources to the King-Emperor for the present war and there is no doubt that the Indian States Forces' units will maintain their past traditions and if called upon to do so, cover themselves with glory in the field. These offers have been accepted with gratitude and already the 2nd Hyderabad Infantry, the Malerkotla Sapper Company, the Faridkot Sapper Company and the 1st Kashmir Battery have moved to British India.

2nd November, 1939.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT

2/11/39 - No. 19.

The announcement regarding M. D.V. Kelly's appointment as His Majesty's Minister at Berne, which was prematurely issued yesterday, can now be released for tomorrow morning's newspapers.

The announcement should now read as follows:--

FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MORNING PAPERS OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD 1939 IN THE EXACT TERMS IN WHICH IT IS GIVEN.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. David Victor Kelly, C.M.G., M.C., a Counsellor in the Foreign Office, to be His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Berne in succession to Sir G. Warner, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., who is retiring at the end of the year.



MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

Press Notice

20/ 2.11.39.

SCHEDULE OF RESERVED OCCUPATIONS.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service announces:-

The Schedule of Reserved Occupations is the instrument for securing a proper apportionment of the country's man power between the Fighting and Civil Defence Services and industry, according to the needs of each.

The Schedule consists of a list of occupations against each of which an age is printed. This is the age of reservation. Men who are of or above the age of reservation appropriate to their occupation will not be called up under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act, nor will they be accepted as volunteers for whole time service in the Armed Forces or the Civil Defence Services. Men in occupations which are not mentioned in the Schedule and men below the ages of reservation for occupations included in the Schedule may, in general, be accepted for general service in the Forces. There is the important exception that, in the case of a large number of important occupations from which men for service in the Forces as tradesmen must be drawn, men below the ages of reservation may enter one of the Defence Services only for service in their trade capacity and not for general service. In the case of a number of these occupations (including many of the occupations reserved in the Schedule at ages 21, 23 and 25) it will probably not be necessary to call up all the men below the ages of reservation; in any case, men will only be called up gradually as tradesmen's vacancies arise. Until such men are required in their Service trades, they will remain in industry.

The Schedule is used solely for the control of enlistment or enrolment in the Services. Men already enlisted or enrolled will not be discharged merely because they are of or above the age of reservation appropriate to their civil occupations, or have reached that age while serving in the Forces.

The Schedule is provisional and is constantly under review so that it may be quickly revised as necessary to meet the changing requirements of industry and of the Services. The following changes in the Schedule have been made:-

(i) In the case of the following occupations, the ages of reservation have been reduced as shewn below:-

<u>Occupation.</u>	<u>Former age of Reservation.</u>	<u>Amended age of Reservation.</u>
<u>Bricklayer.</u>		
Foreman, charge hand	25	23
Bricklayer (building) general hand	25	23
Bricklayer (fire brick)	25	18
Civil Engineer	25	23
Pupil Civil Engineer	25	23
Bargee, bargeman, canal boatman, mate, steerer	25	18
Borer, boring machinist (universal)	21	18
Borer (horizontal)	21	18
Borer (vertical)	21	18
Cement gun operator	30	25
Pile driver	30	25
<u>Pavior, Asphalter, Road Surface Layer.</u>		
Foreman, charge hand	30	25
Charge hand tar sprayer	30	25
Signal lineman (including signal and telegraph lineman), assistant signal lineman	25	18

Occupation.

	<u>Former age of Reservation.</u>	<u>Amended age of Reservation.</u>
Surgical and dental instrument maker (non-electric)	23	18
Surveyor (building, quantity, estimating, measuring)	30	23
Student of recognised wireless telegraphy school who has completed three months' training	30	18
Fine balance maker	25	23
Probation officer (whole-time)	35	30

(ii) The following new entries have been made in the Schedule:-

Occupation.Age of Reservation.

Staff of Electricity Commission (minor and manipulative grades) (in occupations not otherwise specifically reserved)	35
Staff of Electricity Commission (other than minor and manipulative grades) (in occupations not otherwise specifically reserved)	25
Whole time clerk to Justices	25
Whole time executive and clerical staff of whole time clerk to Justices	25
Stationary ganger, travelling ganger	25
<u>Public Works Contracting.</u>	
Agent, sub-agent (civil engineering)	25
Traveller, assistant traveller (civil engineering)	25
Caterpillar-tractor driver (including grader, scraper, dumper, bulldozer driver)	21
Weight adjuster, tester (fine balance)	23
Marker (hot rolling) (tinplate and sheet mill)	18

The following other changes in connection with the Schedule are also announced:-

Men with a certain amount of previous flying experience may now be accepted for service in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve or the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy irrespective of their position under the Schedule of Reserved Occupations. The men concerned are,

- (i) holders of Air Ministry "B" licences;
- (ii) men who have at any time served as pilots with the Royal Air Force, its Reserves, or in the Auxiliary Air Force;
- (iii) holders of Air Ministry "A" licences with a minimum of 250 hours solo flying experience.

In regard to school teachers the existing entry has been amended to make it clear that it covers full time instructors in technical or commercial schools or other establishments undertaking vocational training. Also women teachers employed at private schools are no longer reserved and may now undertake any kind of National Service work. The revised definition reads:-

Schoolmaster, teacher (man) (including full time instructor (unless otherwise reserved at a lower age by reason of trade or professional qualifications) in a technical or commercial school or other establishment undertaking vocational training) - reserved at the age of 25.

Schoolmistress, teacher (women) (other than schoolmistress or teacher in a private school) - reserved at all ages.

Issued through Press and Censorship Bureau.

2nd November, 1939.

2/11/39 - No.21.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Parliamentary Secretary's Visit to Weymouth.

Miss Florence Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, is visiting Weymouth on Saturday, the 4th November, at the invitation of the Mayor, to open a social club which has been established for evacuated persons accommodated in the Borough. Miss Horsbrugh will perform the opening ceremony in the afternoon after doing a short tour of other reception areas in Dorset.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.
2nd November, 1939.

FOR PRESS AND BROADCAST.

2/11/39 - No. 22.

MINES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.

London Divisional Petroleum Office.

The public are advised that as from Monday next, 6th of November, the address of the London Divisional Petroleum Officer will be:-

Bromyard Avenue,

Acton,

London, W.3.

All communications should be directed after that date to the above address.

-----oOo-----

2.11.39

No 23

PRESS NOTICE

The Duchess of Kent paid a visit to Glasgow to-day, lasting five hours. Amongst other things she visited the headquarters of the Scottish Red Cross, St Andrew's Ambulance Association, Women's Voluntary Service, A.R.P. Control Centres, and other A.R.P centres where she met the Wardens of the various districts, Red Cross Supply Depots, various First Aid Posts and Auxiliary Fire Stations, the Y.W.C.A building, The Duchess of Kent lunched with the Lord Provost at the City Chambers.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS AND CENSORSHIP BUREAU

NOTE TO EDITORS: This is issued in the hope that it may help the Press, but must not be used as an official communique or statement from the Dominions Office. It may be used in any other form thought fit.

EMPIRE CONSULTATIONS

The consultations between visiting Dominion Ministers and the United Kingdom Ministers continued to-day and progress was made in the task of unifying and strengthening the war effort exerted by the British Commonwealth of Nations.

In the morning individual conversations took place; and particular questions concerning civil aviation and shipping were discussed. By this means special problems affecting one or two only of the Dominions can (it has been found) be most expeditiously handled.

In the afternoon the strategic needs and problems of the Empire as a whole were under review.

These conversations were interrupted by a visit of the Dominion guests to the Mansion House for luncheon with the Lord Mayor. Mr. Eden, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, was also a guest of the Lord Mayor. The war has not been allowed to stand in the way of the hospitality which the City of London is always anxious to extend to distinguished visitors from our partner-nations overseas.

The pronouncements which the representatives of the Dominions made to the Press on their arrival gave evidence of the eager desire of these great Dominions to be ranged actively with Great Britain in this time of crisis; and it may at once be said they have carried that spirit of loyal and friendly co-operation to the Conference Table.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE
MORNING NEWSPAPERS OF
SATURDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 1939.

AIR MINISTRY CASUALTY COMMUNIQUE NO.8.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The Air Ministry regrets to announce the following casualties on various dates.

Killed in Action.

<u>BLADES</u>	550711	Aircraftman 1st Class, B.N.
<u>LOCKLEY</u>	41436	Pilot Officer, W.E.

Killed on Active Service.

<u>ANDERSON</u>	41647	Pilot Officer, J.R.
<u>BARKER</u>	40199	Pilot Officer, R.A.
<u>CLARK</u>	567489	Aircraftman 1st Class, J.B.
<u>GAUT</u>	562936	Sergeant, H.J.
<u>JONES</u>	533682	Aircraftman 1st Class, H.
<u>KEOGH</u>	569519	Aircraftman 1st Class, R.A.W.
<u>LAMB</u>	741579	Sergeant, D.C.
<u>LOCKER</u>	34241	Flight Lieutenant W.A.L.
<u>LUCKMAN</u>	39744	Pilot Officer, R.A.M.
<u>MELVIN</u>	804282	Aircraftman 2nd Class, H.S.
<u>MYCROFT</u>	519466	Sergeant, T.
<u>PATERSON</u>	620054	Aircraftman 2nd Class, C.
<u>ROBERTS</u>	804276	Leading Aircraftman, A.
<u>SHRAPNELL-SMITH.</u>	37562	Acting Flight Lieutenant, T.E.
<u>VINCENT</u>	560443	Temporary Sergeant, A.
<u>WHITEHEAD</u>	41764	Acting Pilot Officer, A.G.

Missing.

<u>HEMSLEY</u>	740112	Sergeant, P.G.V.
<u>HILLIER</u>	580543	A/Sergeant, E.B.
<u>LUMSDEN</u>	621435	Aircraftman 2nd Class A.
<u>SHEARER</u>	625176	Aircraftman 2nd Class J.

Missing Believed Killed.

<u>HAYWARD</u>	621542	Aircraftman 2nd Class J.H.
----------------	--------	----------------------------

Died on Active Service.

<u>BROWN</u>	365778	Sergeant H.E.
<u>PAGE</u>	119522	Leading Aircraftman T.J.

Previously reported Wounded in Action now reported Died from wounds received in action.

<u>VICKERS</u>	516606	Sergeant J.H.
----------------	--------	---------------

Previously reported "Missing Believed Killed" now reported "Killed in Action".

<u>DAY</u>	549741	Aircraftman 2nd Class K.G.
<u>PRINCE</u>	580195	Sergeant A.S.

Previously reported "Missing" now reported "Killed in Action".

<u>RICKETTS</u>	519859	Corporal J.L.
<u>ROSS</u>	39340	Flying Officer J.F.

Press & Publicity Branch,
Air Ministry,
King Charles Street, Whitehall, S.W.1.

2nd November, 1939.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE
THE MORNING OF
3RD NOVEMBER, 1939.

ROYAL AIR FORCE WAR DECORATIONS.

The Air Ministry announces :

His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned awards to Royal Air Force personnel in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy, and to invest the decorations in person during His Majesty's visit to the Royal Air Force on active service at home in the air defence of Great Britain.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

1. Flying Officer (acting Flight Lieutenant) THURSTON
MEIGGS WETHERALL SMITH.
2. Flying Officer (acting Flight Lieutenant) JOHN BARRETT.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Smith and Acting Flight Lieutenant Barrett were in September, 1939 respectively in command of the first and second of three flying boats of the Coastal Command, Royal Air Force, which were engaged on patrol duty over the Atlantic when they intercepted messages from a torpedoed merchant ship - Kensington Court. They proceeded to the scene (some 70 miles from the mainland) to undertake rescue work.

A lifeboat was seen in the vicinity containing 34 men and the first aircraft alighted and took on board 20 of the crew.

A thorough search for enemy submarines was made by the second aircraft which afterwards alighted and, in spite of the heavy swell, took on board the remainder of the crew from the lifeboat.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

527769 Sergeant WILLIAM EDWARD WILLITS.

Sergeant Willits was the second pilot and navigator of an aircraft of the Coastal Command engaged in combat with an enemy flying boat in September, 1939. During the engagement, the pilot was shot through the head and collapsed over the control column, but Sergeant Willits succeeded in obtaining control of the aircraft despite the pilot's inertness and the extremely low altitude.

After the body of the pilot had been moved clear of the controls, Sergeant Willits piloted and navigated the aircraft back to the base, a distance of about 140 miles.

The airman's skill and presence of mind undoubtedly saved the lives of the other members of the crew and also the aircraft.

Notes on Careers.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Smith is 23 years of age. He was born at AMERSHAM and educated at Haileybury College. He was given a short service commission as Acting Pilot Officer in May, 1937, graded as Pilot Officer in March, 1938, and promoted Flying Officer in September, 1938. He has been Acting Flight Lieutenant since May, 1939. He has served at home and in the Mediterranean on reconnaissance duties.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Barrett is 25. He was born at Ilford and was educated at Southend High School and Sir John Cass Nautical School.

He was given a short service commission in the Royal Air Force in October, 1935 as Acting Pilot Officer. He was confirmed in rank and graded as Pilot Officer in October, 1936, and promoted Flying Officer in May, 1938. He has been Acting Flight Lieutenant since March, 1939. He has mainly served in general reconnaissance units.

Sergeant Willits, who is aged 25, is a native of Middlesbrough. He joined the R.A.F. at Uxbridge in January, 1936, as an aircraftman second class. He was promoted corporal three years later, and reached his present rank in May this year, when he became a qualified pilot.

He has served overseas, and before beginning his training as a pilot he was a clerk employed on accountancy duties.

Press and Publicity Branch,
Air Ministry,
King Charles Street,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

2nd November, 1939.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENT.

Rationing.

The Ministry of Food states that thousands of removals have been notified since National Registration Day and that it has not been possible for local Food Offices to make the necessary re-direction of ration books in all cases.

Where a book is delivered to a house from which the person named on the book has removed, the present occupier of that house should re-direct the book to the new address if he knows it. If he does not know the new address he should simply drop the book in the nearest letter-box. There is no need to use an envelope or to affix a stamp.

The Ministry of Food also wish to remind consumers that they should register in respect of sugar. To effect this, the retailer's name should be entered in the appropriate space on the inside of the front cover of the book, and the consumer's name, address and the date should be entered on the counterfoil of the page of sugar coupons. The book should then be taken to the retailer who will cut off the counterfoil and send it to the local Food Office.

Not to be released before 9.30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov.2nd., 1939.

B.B.C. ANNOUNCEMENT.

The B.B.C. announces that Major-General Sir Ernest Swinton, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. broadcast a "War Commentary" in the Home Service programme this (Thursday) evening, Nov. 2nd. In the course of this he said:-

May I begin my talk this evening by saying a word to the many among my listeners who have written letters to me. The word is simply this: that I am afraid they are too many for me to be able to reply personally to them all, but I shall try and pay attention to the points which they raise.

I said last week that I would give you some description of the Siegfried Position. I want to explain and emphasise my reason for saying that we should thank God that the Allied troops were not being thrown in haste against the maze of concrete, steel and guns in front of them.

What is this maze that faces the Allies like? In what do both the Maginot and Siegfried Positions differ from the positions on the Western Front of 1914-18, which both sides so often failed to break through?

Well, the position of the last war were really 'field defences' which were improvised and constructed, often in haste, during active operations, after fighting had begun. It is true that the Germans, who intended to hang on to the ground gained in France and Belgium as long as they could, built stronger defences than we did, and made a far greater use of concrete and steel. But even the celebrated Hindenburg "Line" constructed during the war behind the front was no more than a glorified field position.

Now in contrast to the last war both the Maginot and Siegfried Positions are "permanent fortifications", and represent the last word in the construction of land defence against a great offensive. Each of them is the product of the technical skill and resources of a whole nation applied in peace-time regardless of cost.

The Maginot position was built first. The French had already experienced two invasions of their country within the memory of men now living, and they did not wish to suffer a third. They started in 1929 to build the position which is called after its originator - the late Andre Maginot, Minister of War. It was designed and built carefully, at leisure, with all the advantages thereby conferred. The first sector from the Swiss to the Belgian frontier cost about seventy million pounds. Later the defences were prolonged behind Belgium to the coast.

Germany, on the other hand, had for some years after the war, no reason to fear invasion, and it was not until the early summer of 1938 that she started on her Western Frontier defences. There was then a prospect of her armies marching into Czech-Slovakia, and she wished to protect herself in the rear from invasion by the French. The result was that these defences, called the Siegfried Position, were designed and built in a great hurry, against time. They are therefore in many particulars inferior to the French Position, though in essentials the two are similar.

If you get out your maps you can see for yourselves the situation of both. The distance between them varies and also the depth of each from front to rear. From BASLE northwards to CARLSRUHE the Rhine forms the No Man's Land between the two fronts and is itself a formidable obstacle.

The Siegfried Position or, as the Germans call it, "The West Wall", consists of one or more fortified zones each up to a mile in depth one behind the other. Each is protected in front by wide belts of barbed wire, and no one who was not in the last war can realise what the German barbed wire is like. It is also protected by anti-tank obstacles of different types, such as hidden deep ditches with concrete sides, "dragons' teeth" - concrete pillars with steel cores placed close together, and what the French call "asparagus beds" of strong steel posts set in concrete.

Behind the obstacles are concrete and steel defence works of all types. In front they consist of pill-boxes armed with anti-tank guns, or machine-guns. Farther back there are forts of varying size constructed of masses of concrete and earth. They are armed with guns of different calibres emplaced in armoured cupolas, whose turtle-backed steel tops are almost invisible. Deep down below, right beyond reach of the heaviest shells, is the living accommodation for the garrisons, and electric railways for intercommunication. Everything is thought out and provided to enable men to live below ground and go on fighting for days. Deep underground, also, are the stores and magazines.

The whole pattern of the obstacles, pill-boxes and defence works in a zone is arranged on a definite scheme so as to bring the maximum amount of fire from shelter on to every portion of the ground in front of, and in the zone. No infantry advance could be made against such a zone until these works in front of the zone had been either pulverized by a bombardment heavier than any that was ever carried out during the last war or else blown up by mines. And even then, supposing the attacking infantry penetrated farther, they would not be "through". They would only find themselves in the defender's "Tom Tiddler's Ground", where they would be "taped" and at his mercy. If they got on still farther they would, when tired, shaken and probably dispersed, be liable to sudden counter-attack by fresh forces waiting for them. And beyond, ahead of them, would be a second, and possibly a third, practically unbattered zone. It would be no case of smashing through a line or thin crust. The Siegfried Position is a tough proposition all through.

From what I've said you can see for yourselves that an attack on defences of this nature, whether it be the Siegfried, or the Maginot, Position, would inevitably be a terribly costly operation and is not likely to be undertaken by either side unless they are forced to it. And, as I /remarked

remarked last week; Time is on our side.

The situation is very different for the Germans. Time is not on their side and sooner or later they will be forced to do something in addition to the air and under-water attack which they are carrying out on our sea communications and commerce, and for which you must remember they had made careful preparation before the war. Last week I gave it you as my opinion that the Germans would not attempt a lightning stroke. But since then things have happened. It is reported that another General of the old army, the Commander-in-Chief, General von Brauchitsch, has been superseded, and his place taken by Hitler himself. The old Regular Army generals, von Blomberg and von Fritsch, who was killed on the Polish front, are reputed to have tried all along to exercise a steady influence over the Führer's schemes. And if von Brauchitsch's influence has been in the same direction and is now removed and Hitler assumes supreme control there is no saying, in his present mood, what may happen.

One of the problems that faces every commander in war is to guess what his opponent will do. He has to base his answer on the nature of the situation and the record, character and mentality of his opponent - so far as he knows it, and usually assumes that his enemy will act according to reason. But in the case of Hitler passion is just as likely to govern his action as reason. He is generally reputed to be an emotional man of moods. I happened to meet him at the National Socialist Rally in Munich in 1936, and the impression I formed of the Führer bears out this estimate.

There has been a good deal of talk, especially amongst the younger generation, of what Herr Hitler has done for the working classes of Germany. It is true that since he came to power six years ago Hitler has rescued his adopted country

/ from

from the edge of the abyss, giving it back its pride in itself, and pulled it together materially and physically and economically. But there is another side of his regime which is sometimes overlooked and that is the disregard of individual rights and the brutal treatment of political opponents which is an essential feature of the ~~Nazi~~ system. This side is very clearly brought out in the Government White Paper published this week. It is called TREATMENT OF GERMAN NATIONALS IN GERMANY, 1938-39. It is horrible reading, but it cannot be disregarded by any one who wishes to know what we are really fighting against, and from what we are trying to save our country. It cannot be discounted as mere propaganda. The reports it contains are official and come from persons of undoubted integrity and experience.

But to come back now to the question of what may be expected as the next German move.

The cessation of telephonic communication between Germany and Holland and Belgium last week, the reported massing of German troops and the conferences in Berlin all point to something being in the wind. But the fantastic threats of an invasion of this country, which are causing anxiety to some people, can I think well be ignored. These threats are a measure of the annoyance and disappointment of the Nazi leaders, Hitler, von Ribbentrop, Goering, and the other members of the gang, and of their special spite against this country. This disappointment will not be abated by the fact that in his speech at the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union two days ago Molotoff made no promise of material support to the ~~Nazi~~ Government.

Much in the same way as we ought to rejoice in the dearth of exciting news on land, we should rest content with the lack of great naval events. But the reason for the lack of events at sea is quite different. It is that at sea we have a strangle-hold over the enemy.....

Whilst

Whilst all his vessels, with the exception of some submarines and a reputed pocket battle ship, have been swept off the oceans, our merchant ships are coming and going upon their lawful occasions with almost as much regularity as they did in peace. It is not easy for us on land to realise this situation and what sea-power means. Even in the short journey across to France it is a revelation to see the freedom with which traffic is carried on up and down Channel. Not a German flag is to be seen and none will be until peace is declared.

The Secretary of State for War made a statement in the House of Commons this afternoon, which shows how ideas for the maintenance and welfare of our national army have advanced in proportion to its growth in size. The comprehensive scope of the scheme now put forward and its detailed nature, are a measure of the importance now attached - and quite rightly attached - to all sides of the wellbeing of the troops. In the days of our small regular army all this work was done almost entirely by the officers of a unit, who knew their men personally. With an army numbering over a million, and consisting almost entirely of officers and men who are strange to each other, this system has become impossible, and the work is now to be done by a special social welfare officer in each Command. This officer will be associated with the County Associations, and have under him the necessary staff for the work. The organisation promises to be a great step forward in the moral and material comfort of those who are giving their services to the country.

And this is good war news because I can tell you that there is nothing more important in any army than the wellbeing and contentment of its members.

2/11/39 - No 29.

FRENCH OFFICAL COMMUNIQUE (EVENING)

Our patrols have been active during the day between
the Blies and the Rhine.