

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENT

AMERICA DOUBLES HER MUNITIONS PROGRAMME

PRODUCTION, NAVY AND WAR DEPARTMENTS' STATEMENT ON THEIR PLANS FOR 1943

The United States is entering the New Year with a revised and integrated war production programme geared to make all the military and civilian supplies necessary for ultimate victory, says a joint statement issued by the War Production Board and the War and Navy Departments.

While providing for a lean, but sound and healthy, civilian economy, the programme for 1943 anticipates munitions production at double that of 1942. Great importance, in the strategic plans for the year is placed on aircraft, merchant shipping and naval escort and combat vessels.

The programme provides, for instance, for:

About twice the number and about four times the weight of planes built in 1942 with emphasis continued on bombers;

More than twice the merchant shipping tonnage of 1942 in order to assure delivery of critically needed supplies to American or Allied ground and air forces;

Considerable increase in the naval escort vessel programme, to afford protection to merchant shipping operating on supply lines to all corners of the globe;

More naval combat vessels so that American seapower will be able to carry the fight to enemy fleets and operating bases.

The urgencies of the demands from the theatres of military operation also bear a direct relation to the make-up of the programs.

These factors, and the necessity for insuring the production of more difficult items, have resulted in some reduction in the programme for items needed by the ground and armoured forces, among which are tanks artillery motor vehicles and ammunition. Compared with the over-all programme the average percentage of reduction is small.

Every possible care will be taken to make existing facilities do the job rather than build new ones, the statement declares.

In line with this policy the construction of several hundreds projects, largely of a non-war nature, have already been halted. Action can be expected in many other cases.

While certain less essential building has been curtailed, impetus has been given to aircraft escort vessels, high octane gasoline and the synthetic rubber programme.

In these re-adjustments careful consideration is being given to the conservation of manpower. In many instances the stoppage of work in one type of war plant makes men and women promptly available for similar jobs in other war plants in the same community. It is inevitable that the curtailment of production to conform with adjustments in the war programme will result in some temporary dislocation of labour, but in such cases every effort will be made, through the governmental agencies concerned, to effect any necessary re-training and transference to other war industries, so that there will be a minimum wastage of labour.

+++++

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENTTHE ROLE OF THE BOMBER

The New York Times says: It is still true, as it has always been, that if we are to understand the present global war we must view it, not so much as so many separate theatres, but as a unit. Only by doing this can we understand the role played, not only by the forces of each nation, but by the separate military arms of the land, sea and air. When we do this the analysis, last week, by a British Air Ministry commentator of the achievements of the Royal Air Force in 1942 becomes particularly significant.

It may be that the present dramatic successes of the Russians on their battle front would not have been possible without the British bombings (of Germany) or, for that matter, without the diversion in Africa caused by the British and American forces, or the shortages within Germany caused by the British blockade. Without these, the tide of war in Russia might still be in the other direction. Such considerations do not at all minimize the amazing accomplishments of the Russians. These considerations also work the other way around. Without the tremendous Nazi forces of all kinds that the Russians are containing, the North African adventure would probably have been impossible and the British would never have had the opportunity to build up their bomber force to the extent they have, or to use it with such relatively light losses. But while the effects of the land warfare are almost immediately visible, in territorial gains or losses, and the effects of the bombing warfare are invisible in this sense, we must not allow this fact to lead us to under-estimate the role of the bombing.

"THE DISMAL COMEDY OF 'COLLABORATION'."

The New York Times also comments that the news that comes out of France these days is scanty, and has to be put together like a jigsaw puzzle, but reports from Madrid, and from Berne, represent leakages that even the most news-tight frontier cannot prevent. These agree on one point: that the dismal comedy of 'collaboration' is nearing the end of its run. There is to be a Nazi 'police general' in Paris, and another in Vichy. Laval's success in having his picture taken with Hitler during the recent 'conference' scarcely interests a cold, and hungry, population. The French have learned "that their part is to comply with German demands - for labour, for food, possibly for the army" there are no more illusions....

But the failure of collaboration is more a defeat for Hitler than for anyone else. The French will have to work for Germany, but they will know exactly what they are doing, and will work unwillingly and inefficiently. The cost to Hitler will be increasingly; the returns will continuously dwindle. He will be depleted by the dry war in France as he is bled by the wet war in Russia.

THE RED ARMY'S DRIVES

The New York Herald Tribune states: It is not surprising that the first German reaction to the Russian announcement of the capture of Veliki Iuki and Elista was to deny the former, and admit the latter. Elista, the capital of the Kalmuck republic, was an advance point on the Nazi drive to capture the oil of the Caucasus and control the lower Volga. With the fate of this whole offensive - its gains to date, and the men and material invested in it - in growing jeopardy, a withdrawal from Elista would hardly come as much of a shock to the German people. Acknowledgement of the loss of Veliki Iuki, on the other hand, would be a serious shock to the German people.

The power demonstrated in the current Russian drives is something new on the Eastern front; the Red Army appears able to reduce well-defended positions, and exploit its gains. The Southern Axis Armies are clearly in a critical position; if, to this situation, should be added the disruption of the Northern front, the Allied threat to the European shores, the German prospects for the spring would be grim indeed.

/U.S. AID

U.S. AID FOR FIGHTING FRENCH

The New York Herald Tribune, discussing the end of the year report issued by the Fighting French relief committee observes that ^{this} non-political report, dealing with the aid, in the form of food, medical supplies hospital equipment and clothing, sent by the people of the United States to the men under the Lorraine Cross incidentally emphasizes the conditions under which those men have been carrying on the war against Hitler since the fall of metropolitan France.

Shipments have gone to French Equatorial Africa. These include food for the troops and ambulance planes to serve men who, if seriously wounded, must be transported 2,000 miles from the front to receive care. In the same region the relief organisation is furnishing medical aid to the natives cut off from the assistance formerly supplied by the French government. Aid, too, has gone to the Fighting French and to refugees from Nazi dominated regions.

The American people supplied 400,000 dollars for the needs of the Fighting French, last year. With the collapse of the Vichy overseas domain the responsibilities of the relief committee have already increased, and will continue to increase in the New Year.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FALL OF VELIKI LUKI

The Cincinnati Enquirer says the recapture of Veliki Luki by the Red Armies is important in itself, because the town is a railway junction of first-rate value. But the capture is even more significant because it confirms the offensive strength of Russian arms. The Russians have shown they are able to master the formidable defence system on which the enemy is relying for the winter ahead. It is now evident that the Russians have developed a brand of striking power superior to the best they could produce a year ago.

THE "MISTAKE OF 1918"

The Kansas City Star comments that Germany has carried fire and sword, and untold misery, to every part of Europe in the last century without suffering anything comparable in return. It is only in the present war that bombing has invaded the sacred precincts of the Reich.

In the last war we allowed the Germans to shout 'kamerad' and stop our march on Berlin. That was a mistake. Failure to bring home to the German people the frightfulness they had inflicted on others made it possible for them to regard war as an interesting gamble. If they won, everything would be fine. If they lost, they would not be made to suffer. The mistake of 1918 should not be repeated. The German people evidently must undergo a thorough re-education.

+++++

U.S. OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

3/1/43 - No. 4

INDIAN JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE

The following communique has been received from India this morning:-

Yesterday, January 2, R.A.F. aircraft attacked enemy objectives at several places in Japanese occupied Burma. Hurricane fighters made a low level cannon and machine gun attack on Magwe airfield. They shot up gun sites and buildings, and set fire to some enemy aircraft parked in a dispersal area. A formation of Blenheims bombed two satellite airfields at Akyab.

Elsewhere other fighters probably sank two small Japanese steamers with cannon fire, and a bomber on offensive patrol attacked and damaged some enemy coastal craft south of Akyab.

A further report of Friday's operations states that a formation of fighters attacked enemy occupied localities in the area west of Rathedaung and caused considerable damage. From yesterday's operations one of our fighters is missing.

+++++

WAR OFFICE

3.1.43 - No.6

MIDDLE EAST JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE

Cairo,
3rd January 1943

Yesterday there was nothing to report from our troops in contact with the enemy in the Wadi Bei El Chebir-Buerat area.

There was an increase in air activity over the battle area. In an engagement over an enemy landing ground two Me.109s were destroyed.

Palermo was bombed and fires were started in the harbour area on the night of 1/2 January. On the same night Heraklion airfield, Crete, was attacked, and other targets on the island were bombed by large forces of Allied aircraft during yesterday.

From the above and other operations three of our aircraft did not return.

+++++

WAR OFFICE

3/1/43 - No. 8

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST OR USE ON CLUB TAPES
BEFORE 00.30 B.S.T. (i.e. FOR MORNING PAPERS) ON

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1943

THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING
ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO

PURCHASES OF BARLEY BY THE MINISTRY

In order to secure adequate and early supplies of barley for use in the manufacture of flour, the Minister of Food will require one third of the barley purchased from growers to be sold to his officers. Sales of seed barley, feeding barley and barley rejected by the Ministry's officers under existing Directions are not, however, affected.

The requirement is in the form of a Direction to approved buyers and ultimate users which comes into force on January 4. Details have been circulated to all those concerned. As regards barley purchased from growers by Maltsters, flakers, brewers and distillers for their own use, although the Direction required such users to offer one third of such purchases to the Minister, it is not intended to take up such offers unless it appears that purchases of this kind are abnormal or increasing.

The existing Direction which required all barley purchased from growers at not more than 30s.0d. per cwt. to be offered to the Minister remains in force. For barley purchased from growers at more than this price, the Ministry of Food will pay up to the maximum price according to quality.

MINISTRY OF FOOD

THE FOLLOWING APPEAL ON BEHALF OF DISABLED EX-SERVICEMEN AT THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL HOME, ST. DAVID'S HOME AND THE STAR AND GARTER HOME WILL BE MADE

By

LIEUT. ESMOND KNIGHT, R.N.V.R.
in the Home Service at 8.40 p.m. today.

"To be, or not to be; that is the question;
Whether 't'is nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous Fortune
Or, to take arms against a sea of troubles
and by opposing, end them -"

Many men have debated thus with themselves; have asked themselves whether the slings and arrows of Fortune are too heavy to bear - and the Fortune of War may, sometimes, seem outrageous. And some men, weathering that 'sea of troubles' and holding firm in face of terrible hardship, have overcome the bitter tests that Fortune sometimes holds in store for us. It isn't given to any of us to know what is coming to us in War; some must pay the highest price; some of us come safely home; some are destined to live out the rest of their days with no hope of recovery from the blast of War.

On the top of Richmond Hill, looking out over a broad sweep of the Thames, stands the Star and Garter Home. In this pleasant place, built on the site of the old Hotel, the scene of careless gaiety in bygone years, are cared for those men who have been permanently and incurably disabled in this and the last War. This Home, with its sister organisations - the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home at Worthing, and the St. David's Home at Ealing look to us for help. Some of these men receive pensions but the majority - whose condition has deteriorated since their discharge from the Forces - receive nothing. The cost of running these Homes is obviously enormously in excess of the Government grants. These men could not be treated in their own homes as they all require skilled nursing attention and special appliances which can only be handled by a trained staff. Entertainment is provided frequently and everything possible is done to give them the things from which otherwise they would inevitably be debarred.

In these Homes are men who may never walk or use their arms or see again; all this they suffer so that we may live and be free. Young men who sailed for France during the last War, inspired with the ideals for which they were prepared to die, came home crippled and condemned to the beds from which, in some cases, they may never rise. And here are those who for the sake of the same ideals must share a similar fate as a result of this War. It might have happened to any one of us. I know there is little money to spare these days and the cost of living is high, but let us never forget those who have paid so very much more. If you would all send me something, no matter how small, just to show you have remembered, you will be happy knowing you have helped the noblest and most deserving of all charities. May I ask each one of you to make this your own personal responsibility and send me just something - Pounds, shillings or pence - PLEASE! The address is - Esmond Knight, Star and Garter Home, Richmond, Surrey. Good night and thank you.

+++*****

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

THE POSTSCRIPT TO FOLLOW THE 9 O'CLOCK
NEWS TONIGHT IS BY VIOLET MARKHAM.

I want to talk tonight about the importance of the unimportant. By unimportant I mean some of the little things which most of us run up against in our daily lives. And I shall have a good deal to say about women, because women are always concerned with jobs that seem unimportant. They certainly stood as godmothers when the word 'chore' was christened.

John Knox once made some rude remarks about the monstrous regiment of women, and delivered himself of two blasts on the subject. He would have to think again today. It is a blast of another kind with which women are now concerned, one that will blow Hitler and all his brood into the region where they properly belong.

Women today are everywhere. They're in the Forces, the factories, on the land, and in Civil Defence. They get a good deal of flattery, tempered, at times, by a certain amount of criticism. Sometimes I think they weary a little of being told how marvellous or how wonderful they are, for a fair deal stripped of all favour and privilege is what any decent woman, who is proud of her citizenship, wants when working side by side with men at a time like the present.

I am sure women listeners will agree with me that war is not really a woman's job. She is the maker and protector of life, not its destroyer. It's only because life itself is threatened with utter ruin that woman steps into battle to play her part in preserving all that is precious in home and nation. But behind the front line there are second and third lines where the work to be done is less obvious and less directly concerned with the war. And that brings me back to my subject - the importance of the unimportant.

It is proverbial, of course, that a woman's work is never done, but the saying was never more true than today. Home life has to go on, often under difficult conditions; food has to be cooked and the children got off to school. However reduced the scale of civilian life, someone has to keep the framework of normal society going, and carry out running repairs, so that, after the war, there is a recognisable homeland to which the men who have saved it can return. Some of these jobs are modest, others are very dull. And in war work itself there are many misfits. Men and women who fret because they don't feel they have sufficient scope. Because their jobs seem trivial and remote from the actual conflict. Bit by bit they lose heart, and they begin to think it doesn't matter; that they themselves don't matter; that they are just helpless cogs in a vast machine. So vast that it crushes any conviction that individual effort can count.

I think there's nothing novel about this feeling of frustration. It was already widespread before the war. New and overwhelming forces seemed to be sweeping us along we knew not where. Marvellous machines had come into existence ready, like genii in the story, to serve us at every turn. But at times we had an uncomfortable feeling that the genii were up to some game of their own. Gadgets - very convenient and useful gadgets - were multiplied but, at the same time panzer divisions had begun to roll over the familiar landscape, obliterating our old landmarks, and crushing individual values.

What a difference between our times and those of our grandparents! To them the outside world was a vast unknown place. But within their own limited surroundings there was peace, order, and security. All that has been swept away, thanks to radio and the internal combustion engine. The world has shrunk in scale and there are few mysteries left in it. Men fly the Atlantic in a few hours; London talks in a fraction of a second to Sydney and San Francisco. But instead of the old security, this shrunken world, so easy of access, has become the prey of brutal and savage forces. Mass production even in brutality rules the roost today. So isn't it wholly natural that when individual men and women are told they must get up and do something about it, they reply "What can it matter what I say or do; I don't count anyhow."

I am sure that this sense of helplessness, of not being worth while, which is a bye-product of large scale organisation, is making many people very unhappy just now, and this unhappiness does not only affect them personally, it affects their country.

/Just so far

Just so far as men and women lose their sense of being worth while, the war effort suffers. It may be that some of you who are listening to me tonight have dull, monotonous jobs and perhaps you are feeling depressed about the war and your part in it.

Well, may I say this specially to you? As a New Year resolution why not take a pull at yourselves and remember the whole pivot on which this war turns is the value of the individual as an individual. As I speak, men are fighting and dying all over the world so that ordinary people shall not be bullied and pushed about by the arbitrary will of some other person, but that their rights as human beings should be upheld as sacred.

And just think for a moment - are individual men and women really so helpless and so impotent as, in moments of discouragement, we are apt to think? You know, I believe we are too ready to accept the theory that a small body of what are called 'important people', whose names are in the headlines, conduct the business of the country, and that everyone else is the cannon fodder of society, without part or lot in its happenings. I have no doubt the Inn at Bethlehem was crowded out with important people that first Christmas Eve, but history only hints at their existence because a Baby was born in a Stable hard by.

As I see it, what are called 'important people' only flourish thanks to the work and sacrifices of unknown multitudes. The war effort couldn't go on for five minutes, without the fidelity of the obscure. And, after all, what is importance? A good many people get into the headlines for reasons unconnected with personal distinction - some because they are going to be hanged or have beaten their wives, or have been caught out in some shabby work in the black market. Is the big noise (and the little noise that thinks itself big) of more value to the world than a humble task done honestly and well? Isn't it faithfulness, not importance that matters?

As I said at the beginning this talk applies in a special way to women. In peace, as well as in war, women always have to do a great many jobs that seem unimportant, but which actually hold together the very lives of other people. I want to hearten them about the value of these jobs. The B.B.C. has had some dramatic broadcasts recently about the common man on the road. But I want to lay stress tonight on the companion figure of the common woman - that uncomplaining, unknown heroine of a thousand unrecorded battles. She too, has a shield of honour, though its normal quarterings are the wash tub, the cooker and the sink. Women carry a heavy load these days - the burthens of home which often dovetail so badly into the burthens of war work and for many the burthens of a personal anxiety that slumbers neither by night nor by day, anxiety that at any hour may be translated into utter loss and sorrow. But whatever the load women have to stand fast and help the men to do the same.

In this terrible struggle, we are all soldiers guarding the wall on whatever part of it we are stationed. It's no easy task, and, as in the old Bible story, there are always Sanballats and Tobiahs - those early Fifth Columnists - who harry the watchmen and try to discourage their efforts. Men and women in the Forces or working in munition factories may feel that they're only cogs in a big machine, but the machine can't run smoothly unless every cog is kept clean from dirt. Think what a difference good or bad work in field or factory and office means in terms of human lives - more or less food to eat; orders which may mean the success or failure of some big operation, carried out with more or less speed; the making or marring of some bit of a plane or tank or gun which may turn the scale in a desperate battle.

May I tell you a personal story? Years ago, a relative of mine was lost at sea when a liner was shipwrecked off Socotra. The liner didn't break up and some passengers who stayed on it were ultimately rescued. During many days they were washed by heavy seas which swept over the battered hull. I remember one of the survivors telling me how they had blessed the fitters and riveters in an English shipyard who had done their work so thoroughly and well that the bolts held despite the terrific strain. Those shipwrecked people owed their lives to the faithful work of unknown men.

I think we all understand today what St. Paul meant when he talked about the fight against spiritual wickedness in high places. This isn't so much a war as a crusade against the Powers of Darkness which are out to destroy the soul of man. And the challenge has to be met and accepted on that plane. We can't push off the responsibility on someone else. This war has to be won by Everyman and Everywoman. We feel that, at the best, we only carry a flickering rushlight and the darkness is very great. But a multitude of rushlights make a great illumination. Do you remember what George Eliot said "We are all part of the divine power against evil, widening the skirts of light, and making the struggle with darkness narrower". Let each one of us see to it, as we step into this New Year, that we carry our rushlight steadily.

+++++

3/1/43 - No. 16

FREE FRENCH IN AFRICA

Following is today's Communique from Gen. Leclerc's Headquarters in Africa:

Our motorised forces have advanced several hundred miles from the Chad-Libyan frontier, and are continuing northwards.

Our aircraft have raided enemy posts.

+++++

FREE FRENCH PRESS SERVICE

3/1/43 - No. 19

BOYS WANTED FOR ARMY

The Army requires boys for training in the trades of Armourer, Artificer, R.A., Blacksmith, Bricklayer-Mason, Carpenter, Electrician, Fitter, Instrument Mechanic, Operator (Wireless and Line), Radio Mechanic, Sheet Metal Worker, Wireless Mechanic.

Candidates, who must be between the ages of 14 years and 15 years 6 months on 28th April 1943 will be required to pass an Educational Examination to be held at Recruiting Centres on Tuesday 23rd February, 1943. Application to sit at the Examination must reach Recruiting Officers not later than 30th January, 1943.

In addition to technical training each apprentice is housed, fed and clothed free of cost and his general Education is continued to a standard approaching to that of a General School Certificate. During apprenticeship he receives pay varying from 11d. to 1s. 7d. per day for each day of the year including holidays. During recognised holidays he receives a subsistence allowance in addition to pay and travels to and from his home free of charge.

The training offers outstanding advantages to boys of the right type. It provides the equivalent of an engineering apprenticeship together with the necessary theoretical instruction and is the first step to positions of responsibility in technical Arms of the Service. The training and subsequent experience gained during the period of service fits men for positions in industry when they return to civilian life at the end of their service.

+++++

WAR OFFICE

3/1/43 - No. 20.

Air Ministry No. 8878

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE

This afternoon a few enemy aircraft dropped bombs at a place in the Isle of Wight. Damage was done and there was a number of casualties, some of which were fatal.

Bombs were also dropped at a place on the coast of South-East England, but little damage was caused and no-one was seriously injured.

3/1/43 - No. 23

Air Ministry No. 8881

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

This afternoon Bomber Command Mosquitos bombed railway targets in Northern France.

Fighter Command aircraft bombed the docks at Bruges, and Army Co-operation Command aircraft attacked an airfield in Holland.

None of our aircraft is missing.

3/1/43 - No. 25

Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 8882

THREE HUNDRED FIGHTERS:- NO OPPOSITION

Nearly three hundred aircraft of Fighter Command today took part in large scale offensive operations during which American Air Force bombers attacked the naval base of St. Nazaire.

Evidently the German fighters did not dare to tackle this formidable array, for none of our men saw a single enemy plane.

In protecting the bombers for part of the journey, and in making subsidiary sweeps, our pilots covered French and Belgian territory from a point of just north of Brest in the west to Bruges in the east.

Canadian, New Zealand, Norwegian, Polish and Czech squadrons, as well as British, took part.

St. Nazaire itself is beyond fighter range, so our aircraft could not stay with the bombers all the way. But some flew out with them and others went over the French coast to protect them on their way home.

Several squadrons made two separate sorties during these operations, which lasted from 10.30 in the morning, until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

All our fighters returned safely.

+++++

3.1.43 - No. 26

Air Ministry No. 8883

E.T.O.U.S.A. Communique No. 32

It is announced today by the Air Ministry (A.M. No. 8883) and Headquarters, European Theatre of Operations, U.S. Army that:-

U.S.A.A.F. heavy bombers attacked the docks at St. Nazaire today in good weather. Bursts were seen on the target, and fires were started.

Squadrons of R.A.F., Dominion and Allied fighters carried out covering and supporting operations, but no enemy aircraft were encountered.

The bombers were attacked by many enemy fighters in the target area, and a long running fight followed. A number of enemy aircraft were destroyed.

From these operations seven bombers are missing.
