

21/10/39 - No.1.

TELL THE POLICE

The Air Ministry announces:- The public are reminded that any civilian who sees an enemy aircraft land in this country, whether it is damaged or not, is asked immediately to inform the police.

Enemy aircraft which fall into our hands may, when examined by technical experts, provide valuable information. It is important, therefore, that they should not be interfered with, that parts should under no circumstances be taken away as souvenirs, and that everything should be left for expert investigation precisely as found after the aircraft landed or crashed.

FROM AIR AFFAIRS.



21/10/39.

No. 2.

PRESS NOTICE.

In the Ministry of Shipping Announcement made yesterday (Oct.20th) dealing with Sir John Gilmour's meeting with representatives of the officers and men of the Merchant Service, the reference to the "Ministry of Shipping Admiralty Council" should have been "Ministry of Shipping Advisory Council".

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING.



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21/10/39 - No. 4.

EMPIRE SECTION.

CARNEGIE FUND GIFT TO CEYLON.

£6,500 FOR EDUCATIONAL CINEMA & RADIO.

A report just received from the Governor of Ceylon gives an account of the latest benefit to flow from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, who have made a grant of £6,500 for the provision of radio and cinema facilities in the rural schools of the Island.

Among the technical equipment made available by their generosity is a travelling cinema van, which since last March has shown five educational films a week to adult classes in the village schools up and down the country. Many thousands of people, most of whom were seeing a cinema for the first time, had an "eye-opener" and gave the pictures an awed and enthusiastic reception.

This gift from the Carnegie Fund has made the popularity of the rural classes for adults immensely popular. Since the travelling cinema van was received, these classes have increased by 50 per cent.

The work of the Carnegie Corporation was first extended to the British Colonies in 1917, when a capital fund of 10 million dollars was set aside for educational purposes.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.



21/10/39 - No.5

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Minister of Shipping, Sir John Gilmour, has appointed Sir Douglas Thomson, M.P., to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary, and Mr. F.H. Keenlyside of the Ministry of Shipping to be his Private Secretary. The Director-General of the Ministry of Shipping, Sir Cyril Hurcomb, has appointed Mr. S.R. Walton of the Ministry of Shipping to be his Private Secretary.

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING



21/10/39.- No. 6.

PRESS NOTICE.

The following is communicated to the Press at the request of the survivors of H.M.S. "Royal Oak":

"The survivors of H.M.S. "Royal Oak" wish to thank the people of Thurso who have so magnificently come to our assistance.

"The outstanding hospitality shewn to us all will never be forgotten and our stay with you has been made exceptionally pleasant.

"We would especially like to thank those kind people who could ill afford the extra burden.

"For all this we wish to say how truly grateful we are to you all.

"May we all meet again under more pleasant circumstances."

Admiralty,  
Whitehall,  
S.W.1.

21st. October, 1939.



21.10.39 - No. 7.

EMPIRE SECTION

MERCHANT SHIP'S BATTLE WITH U-BOAT

HOLED AND LEFT FOR DESTROYER TO FINISH

The first story of a fight between a German U-Boat and a British armed merchant ship has the right ending -- the sinking of the submarine.

An account of this sea duel has reached Malta House in London from Antonio Cutajar, a Maltese seaman who sailed as fireman of a British trader bound from the Bristol Channel to South America.

The ship was attacked by a U-Boat and at once brought her gun into action. She defended herself so well in the hot exchange that the submarine was holed.

Before long the merchant ship had a reinforcement that quickly decided the battle. A British destroyer came over the horizon at full speed and the U-Boat, unable to submerge with a damaged hull, was at the warship's mercy. The destroyer says Antonio Cutajar, who returned to Cardiff after his short and exciting voyage, "had no difficulty in finishing the U-Boat off".

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.



21.10.39 - No. 8.

EMPIRE SECTION  
THE WOMEN OF MALTA  
UNSTINTED VOLUNTARY SERVICE.

Malta, that vitally important island, situated midway between the shores of Sicily and North Africa, may well be proud of its war effort, and the part that the women of Malta are playing.

The visitor to Malta is familiar with the shy Maltese lady, screening herself behind the umbrella-like hood of her native dress. But, despite the sheltered lives they lead in days of peace, the women of Malta have been quick to respond to the call for National service first made to them during the anxious days of September 1938.

They are ready and eager to help the Empire's cause, under the leadership of Lady Bonham Carter and Lady Jackson. During the September crises of last year, a National Register for voluntary service was started at the Governor's Palace, and women enrolled for nursing, child welfare, needlework, canteen, secretarial and general domestic work.

Now the Women's Auxiliary Reserve has come into being; 328 Maltese women have passed their First Aid Course, 453 the Home Nursing Course, and 650 have volunteered to help in Hospitals. Apart from this, 198 women Air Wardens have attended Air instructional courses, 300 V.A.D.'s have joined up and 1259 have volunteered as secretaries, interpreters, canteen workers etc. Every day these numbers are increasing. Many qualified women have already taken positions at the Dockyard for cyphering and decoding work, and thus released men for more active duties.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.



21/10/39. - No. 9.

EMPIRE SECTION.

SIERRA LEONE RAISES ITS OWN DEFENCE CORPS.

Sir Douglas Jardine, Governor of Sierra Leone, has found ready proof of the loyalty of the native population under his rule. They are eagerly enlisting in a Sierra Leone Defence Corps. This has been founded to assist the standing military forces in time of war by carrying out the essential duties of guards, signallers, transport drivers and coast watchers; and is ready, moreover, to act as an auxiliary force for "active service" should the need arise.

More than half the population of Sierra Leone is descended from Africans liberated in the days of slavery. Over 150 years ago Sierra Leone, which can claim, in Freetown, West Africa's finest harbour, was ceded to the British Crown by the native chiefs who believed that under the British flag a safe asylum would be found for their fellow-Africans, escaping from the horrors of the slave-ships, or returning from European or American shores to the country of their origin.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.



21.10.39 - No. 10.

EMPIRE SECTION.

CANADA AND RIVERDALE MISSION.

Interest in the Air Training Scheme in Canada has been renewed by the arrival of the Riverdale Mission. The attitude may be summed up by a comment of the Ottawa Journal, "a tremendous contribution to the success of the war and to Canada's own industries and employment."

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ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.



THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR

An address to be broadcast by the Rt. Hon. Leslie Hore-Belisha, Secretary of State for War, at 9.15 p.m. on Saturday, October 21st, 1939.

(Not to be published before that time)

Tonight marks the close of the seventh week of the war.

Hitler had fixed in advance the day of his assault and Poland, endeavouring to resist the devastation of her homes, was harried. Her army was destroyed, but the memory of its valour is indestructible.

The aggressor calculated that such swift and ruthless action in the East would intimidate the friends of Poland in the West. But it was not in the character of either France or Britain to desert an ally.

Tomorrow will be the seventh Sunday since our Prime Minister, who had exhausted every means of conciliation, announced that Germany had rejected our ultimatum to withdraw her troops from Poland, and that our task thence-forward had become nothing less than this - "to redeem Europe from the perpetual and recurring fear of German aggression and to enable the peoples of Europe to preserve their independence and their liberties".

That is a great task - a supreme task - and the war will not end until it is completed.

We have settled down - each one of us - to play our appropriate part and the virtue most required of all is the virtue of patience.

Everybody is a participant in this war. Our confidence and our faith in the motive which inspires us are our armour on the Home Front.

Three courses are open to Nazi Germany:-

To try and smash through by land, sea and air; to remain quiescent in the hope that we will prematurely take up the offensive against ~~him~~ <sup>her</sup> or to lure us into the discussion of specious terms of peace.

I will examine these courses one by one.

Recent/



Recent military experience shows that an offensive against prepared positions is unprofitable. Poland had no Maginot Line on which to withstand the heavy onslaught made against her. On the Western Front there are strong defences and they become stronger every day. The enemy will pay dearly for any massed attack upon them.

Our Commanders are not likely, in advance of the time that suits them, to risk unnecessarily the lives of those who compose our Armies.

Consequently up to the present this war has differed from our preconceptions. We thought, perhaps, that more would happen - decisive battles by land, sea and air. On the Home Front we expected to be brought nearer and more quickly to a grim reality.

There have been many night and day ready for action. It is, however, not a disadvantage that seven weeks have passed without the need for implementing the purpose of our comprehensive preparations.

Despite the apparent inactivity decisive developments have in fact occurred which should not escape our notice.

The constant cry of Nazi Germany has been since its inception : "Give us a free hand in the East! " .

There was a long agenda of conquests to be made in that direction. Poland was but an item. The Baltic States were to be dominated, but from these German nationals are now in retreat. Russia has claimed this sphere of influence.

The cornfields of the Ukraine were coveted. Russia has

made/



made sure of this harvest.

Through Poland Nazi Germany was to have an entrance to Roumania. This entrance has been barred - by Russia.

"Berlin - Baghdad !". Turkey alone could be the avenue to this ambition. Turkey a brave and respected friend, stands firmly in the path. Iraq is our loyal and unshakeable ally.

Nazi Germany can assess her eastern balance sheet after seven weeks of war. Turning now to the West, the expulsion of Nazi German commerce from the sea is incontrovertible.

We have lost a fraction of our tonnage - less than 1%. We still have 21 million tons of shipping of our own.

We have lost two important ships of the Fleet. Valiant lives have been forfeited in the sea as in the air. We do not underestimate this sacrifice.

Our Auxiliary Air Force, as one of the pilots, I hear, put it, lost its amateur status at Rosyth this week, and on its first opportunity, assisted by the A.A. guns, giving their baptism of fire, accounted for one in four of the invaders.

With the help of the Mercantile Marine, the British Expeditionary Force has been safely and silently carried to France. It is the vanguard of the Great Army now training in Britain.

This/



This in its turn will be increased by Militiamen in their age groups - another 250,000 registered today - and by volunteers of all ages fit for military service. Of these we have already taken 50,000. I may add that our armies will be officered in the future almost entirely by promotions from the ranks.

The final magnitude of our effort will depend on the extent to which factories can supply equipment and munitions for our men. I appeal to them - to their workmen and directors - to intensify their part.

The Dominions are making ready their contingents to stand beside our own. They never fail to emphasize our solidarity. Their Ministers are even now on their way to London to discuss the best means of consolidating the Imperial effort.

Indian troops are in position at several strategic points. India and all other parts of the Empire are anxious to take an increasing share.

As the days pass, Nazi Germany must watch this gathering momentum and realise that time is on the side of France, of Britain and the Empire.

I will now speak of the third course by which the enemy may try to escape from the venture on which he started.

It is the one against which we must be most carefully on our guard.

No peace proposals, which rely for their sanction on a broken word can be considered.

Nothing but the *guarantee for the* establishment of a new order, from which the menace of Nazi oppression is removed, can justify us in laying down our arms.

There is something more, something greater, in this war than a combat between opposing armies; something more eternal than a grapple in the skies between the Spitfires of Britain and the Heinkels of Nazi Germany; something more desperate than a death struggle between the U Boats and the Destroyers.

There/



There is a conflict between the forces of good and the forces of evil, and what has to be determined is which shall possess the soul of countries and of man.

We did not enter the fight merely to reconstitute Czechoslovakia. Nor do we fight merely to reconstitute a Polish State.

Our aims are not defined by geographical frontiers. We are concerned with the frontiers of the human spirit.

This is no war about a map. It is a war to re-establish the conditions in which nations and individuals - including (may I say?) the German nation and individuals - can live or live again.

There can be no question of our wavering in any degree. This tyranny, whose challenge we have accepted, must and will be abased.

Those who take up the sword are said to perish by the sword. Yet there have been those, using this weapon, who have been entitled to respect.

Alexander the Great, was a conqueror, but he spread the riches of Greek civilisation to the Orient.

Caesar was a conqueror, but he extended the justice of Roman Law.

Napoleon was a conqueror, but he carried some principles of enlightenment with his standards.

What boon does the leader of Nazi Germany bring?

What iota of happiness has he granted even to Austria, a German speaking people?

For what will he be remembered?

For his tortures, for his concentration camps, for his secret police, for his ignoble effort to spin Europe into a web of racial hatred and religious persecution.

Only the defeat of Nazi Germany can lighten the darkness which now shrouds our cities and lighten the horizon for all Europe and the world.



21/10/39

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No. 12.

THE AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME  
SECURITY ANNOUNCE:-

Two unidentified aircraft were observed approaching the east coast soon after 2 p.m. Fighter aircraft were sent up to intercept and air raid warnings were sounded in the Hull and Grimsby areas about 2.30.

The all clear signal was given in both areas about half an hour later.

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MINISTRY OF SUPPLY.

PRESS NOTICE.

WOOL CONTROL.

1. Under the Defence Regulations, 1939, the Minister of Supply has made two further Orders in regard to the control of supplies and prices of raw wool, tops, broken tops, noils and combing laps.

2. The first of these Orders (the Control of Wool (No.4) Order, 1939) has effect from 22nd October, 1939, and brings into force as from that date a new schedule of maximum wool prices. The maximum price schedule does not apply to any wool sold for delivery outside the United Kingdom. Wool processed in the Orkney Islands, the Shetland Islands or the Outer Hebrides is now excluded from Control.

3. The second Order (the Control of Wool (No.5) Order, 1939) relates to the requisitioning of imported merino and crossbred wool and tops, broken tops, noils or combing laps produced from such wool, and directs that all materials of the above descriptions which are in the United Kingdom on the 22nd October, 1939, or which shall arrive in the United Kingdom on or after the 23rd October, 1939, shall not be sold except to the Minister of Supply, and shall be held at the disposal of the Minister.

The Order also provides that a return shall at once be made to the Controller, the Wool Control, Bradford, of the description, quantities, qualities and condition of these wools which are in the United Kingdom on 22nd October, and of such wools which shall arrive on or after 23rd October. Owners of wool subject to the Order are required to comply with any directions issued as to the removal, transport, keeping, storage, disposal, or delivery of such wool.

/Materials



Materials which on the 22nd October are in the possession of a manufacturer in the United Kingdom, or of anyone in the United Kingdom on his behalf, for conversion by him in the United Kingdom, or by anyone in the United Kingdom on his behalf, into yarn or fabric, are excluded from the scope of the order.

4. Firms concerned should receive on Monday, 23rd October, full particulars of the above matters from the Wool Controller, including a schedule showing the prices at which wool will be issued to the trade.

5. Copies of these Orders will shortly be on sale and may be obtained through H.M. Stationery Office or any bookseller at the usual published price.

6. All enquiries should be addressed to the Wool Control, Bradford.

Issued through The Press and Censorship Bureau,  
21st October, 1939.

Ministry of Supply,  
Adelphi,  
W.C.2.



MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENTLicensing of Bacon Factories.

Under an Order recently made by the Ministry of Food, the production of bacon and hams, after an appointed day, may only be carried on by persons licensed by the Ministry and in premises specified in the licence.

The appointed day, which will coincide approximately with the commencement of rationing of bacon, will be announced in due course.

The Ministry of Food does not intend to grant licences in respect of any premises unless, on September 1st, 1939, they were covered by a licence issued by the Bacon Development Board under the Bacon Industry Act, 1938, and in the case of premises which were so licensed, unless the average quantity of bacon and hams (excluding pickled pork) produced on the premises during 1938 exceeded 15 cwt. per week. This output qualification, however, does not apply to curers in the Orkney Islands.

The object of imposing this output qualification is to secure the maximum possible production of bacon from each pig of bacon weight. For this purpose it is the intention of the Ministry to require all licensed bacon curers to comply with regulations as to methods of bacon production of a kind which are not adapted to the practice of small curing establishments.

Arrangements will, however, be made to supply curers who are unable to obtain a curing licence with bacon in sufficient quantities to meet the demand of customers who may register with them for rationing purposes.

These licensing arrangements, in any case, apply only to commercial bacon production for the purpose of sale and not to the production of pigs and curing bacon by private individuals for home consumption. The position of the home curer under the rationing scheme is at present under consideration.

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21/10/39 - No. 15.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENT.

Members of the public who in some places are finding difficulty in getting their usual supplies of some foods are asked to bear in mind that shopkeepers, in common with wholesalers, are still experiencing the effects of dislocation in the early days of war, and the shorter or more irregular supplies of some commodities which come from overseas such as meat and bacon and butter. Every endeavour is being made with the assistance of the trading organization to distribute supplies fairly throughout the country, and the system of price control ensures the public against any avoidable rise of prices. Distribution of the foods to be rationed will be easier when the rationing scheme is introduced. It is now in an advanced state of preparation. The public are asked to meet temporary inconveniences by turning to alternative supplies.

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21/10/39 - No. 16.

AMERICAN VISITORS AT R.A.F. TRAINING SCHOOL.

DURING A VISIT TO AN R.A.F. FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL.

A party of visitors from the United States were interested to see a number of American aircraft being assembled.

These aircraft had been delivered before the war and are being assembled under American supervision. They are of a high-speed, single-engined type suitable for advanced flying training.

The party, which included General Miles, United States Military Attache: Colonel Scanlon, United States Air Attache and Major MacDonald, Assistant Air Attache, had the R.A.F. training system explained to them by the Air Officer Commanding-in-chief, Training Command.

They saw the training school at ordinary routine work and inspected the link trainer, which originated in the United States. This device consists of a model fuselage complete with small wings and control services mounted on bellows contained within a small turntable in such a way as it can be made to climb, dive, bank and turn exactly in the same manner as a normal aeroplane.

In the trainer is a pilot's cockpit containing the normal controls, throttle, rudder and control column, together with a panel of the full range of modern instruments.

The trainer is equipped with a hood so that when a pupil is inside he has to control the machine by reference to the instruments according to the directions given by the instructor who, seated at a desk a few feet away, is in telephonic communication with him.

AIR MINISTRY.



21/10/39 - No.17

AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

Air Attack on Convoy.

Enemy aircraft were sighted this morning by a convoy in the North Sea. In response to a signal fighter aircraft were despatched and the enemy made off.

This afternoon an actual attack was made on the convoy by enemy aircraft. The escort vessels opened fire and our fighters inflicted casualties on the enemy.

Further information will be issued as soon as possible.

AIR MINISTRY.



21/10/39. - No. 18.

ADMIRALTY AND AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN.

CONVOY ATTACKED.

The Admiralty and Air Ministry announce:

It has now been ascertained that twelve enemy aircraft took part in the attack on the convoy in the North Sea reported earlier this evening by the Air Ministry.

They were engaged by fighters and escort vessels.

At least three enemy aircraft were brought down by our fighters.

A fourth raider, after receiving intensive fire from our aircraft, was forced to land on the sea.

All reports are not yet received. Our aircraft sustained no casualties.

No ship of the convoy or escort was damaged.

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21/10/39 - No 19

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

To-day has merely been marked by certain  
artillery activity on both sides.

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The Ministry of Labour and National Service makes the following announcement:-

The provisional figures of those who registered under the National Service ( Armed Forces) Act today, Saturday, at local offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service were as follows:-

ENGLAND	-	179590.
SCOTLAND	-	23090.
WALES	-	<u>12551.</u>
TOTAL	-	<u>215231.</u>

Of these the numbers provisionally registered as conscientious objectors were:-

ENGLAND	-	3728.
SCOTLAND	-	435.
WALES	-	<u>393.</u>
TOTAL	-	<u>4556.</u>

This is 2.1 per cent of total registered.

Young men already in armed forces were not required to register. Allowing for the other exempted classes and for persons who, because of the distance of their homes from the local offices, are registering by post, for seamen and fishermen, who registered at Mercantile Marine offices, and for persons unavoidably prevented from registering, such as, those at sea, sick, or in hospital, it is clear that there has been practically a complete response. The reports from all the divisions of the Ministry of Labour and National Service indicate that the registrations passed off without incident and that arrangements worked quite smoothly, largely due to the co-operation of the men.