

21/1/40 - No.1.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE (MORNING)

PARIS, Sunday, January 21, 1940.

The following official communique was issued this morning from French G.H.Q.

NOTHING TO REPORT.

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Air Ministry Weekly News Letter.

EVENING PAPERS.

IMPORTANT NOTE.

THIS NEWS LETTER IS ISSUED PRIMARILY FOR
EVENING NEWSPAPERS. FIRST PUBLICATION HAS
THEREFORE BEEN FIXED FOR THE EVENING NEWS-
PAPERS OF WEDNESDAY EACH WEEK.

THE NEWS LETTER ISSUED FOR PUBLICATION ON
FRIDAY OF EACH WEEK WILL CONTINUE TO BE
DISTRIBUTED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FIRST
PUBLICATION IN MORNING NEWSPAPERS.

EDITORS ARE, THEREFORE, REQUESTED TO ADHERE
STRICTLY TO PUBLICATION DAYS.

SUBJECT TO THIS, THE MATERIAL IN BOTH NEWS
LETTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL JOURNALS.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE
THE EVENING NEWSPAPERS OF
WEDNESDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 1940.

AIR MINISTRY WEEKLY NEWS LETTER
(Evening Papers).

Note : The information contained in this News
Letter may be used by the Press, without
acknowledgement if desired.

C O N T E N T S.

HOT MEALS OVER THE ATLANTIC

THE COLDEST JOB OF ALL

PARKING FEE IN THE DESERT

AIR COMBAT

A FRIEND FROM EGYPT

ARMS FOR WINGS

RECORDS FOR RECORD BREAKERS.

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

24th January, 1940.

Evening News Letter Item.HOT MEALS OVER THE ATLANTIC.

The crews of Royal Air Force Coastal Command flying boats spend so much time in the air every day that hot food is a necessity for them during their patrol. The flights may last for 14 hours.

During an Atlantic patrol when the aircraft is escorting convoys or hunting submarines, two, or sometimes three, meals are cooked.

The cook has a galley of his own in a separate compartment of the flying boat. He may be a rigger, a fitter or an air observer - indeed any member of the crew who has been relieved from other duty at the moment.

Generally, several members of the crew can dish up a tasty meal.

Some flying boat captains prefer to detail one particular man as cook. Others use the rota system to make sure that there are substitutes for the regular cook so that their crews will not suffer when he is not available.

All the cooking in a flying boat is done over two primus burners, which have an oven between them. The cook has a comprehensive range of utensils - saucepans, a frying

pan, a kettle and a complete set of crockery from soup plates to tea cups.

He also has a sink in which to wash up afterwards. He keeps the fat, condiments and seasoning in a tiny larder.

All members of the crew take their rations with them when making a flight. The airmen draw their food from the cookhouse; the sergeant and the officers from their respective messes.

So the cook may be presented with three different kinds of food to prepare. A way out of that difficulty is an Irish stew. This is a favourite dish with most crews, because it is very warming.

A typical menu on an all day patrol would read:-

Breakfast: Bacon and eggs, tea, bread or toast, jam.

Lunch: Irish stew, potatoes and peas.

Tea: Eggs and chips, bread, butter or margarine and tea.

Whatever time the aircraft lands there is always a hot meal for the crew at their base. A man stays on duty at the cookhouse specially for them.

Most flying boats have a "kitty", to which officers, N.C.O's. and airmen contribute in varying degrees. The "kitty" provides tins of soup, salmon or other extra delicacies for the menu.

Eating the meal in the wardroom, where there is a collapsible table is sometimes a long business.

In bad weather only one or two of the crew can be spared from their duties at the same time. It may be two hours before the whole crew have eaten. In good weather, however, it will be nearer three quarter's of an hour from the time the cook serves the meal until he is ready to wash up.

There is, however, no certainty that the meal will be finished in peace. At any moment, hostile aircraft or a submarine may be sighted. If this happens, the cook, like other members of the crew, jumps to his action station. Before doing so, however, he turns off the stove.

THE COLDEST JOB OF ALL.

Living in a Maginot Line fort and working perched high on the top of the fortifications are four young airmen who have probably the coldest job in the war.

Their task is to keep a close look-out for enemy aircraft and to flash back the news of their approach both to R.A.F. and French Air Force squadrons a few miles behind the line. Their only shelter is a shallow trench. They must have an uninterrupted view of the countryside, so they must operate in an exposed position. For regular periods, day in and day out, they stand on the top of one of the forts

in the teeth of the biting wind, in rain and snow, keeping a constant vigil for the approach of raiders.

Recently this part of France has had some of the coldest weather in living memory. There have been many cases of frost-bite among the French garrison. Several feet of snow have been covering the ground for weeks; canals, lakes and even rivers have been frozen over. A relentless east wind has bitten its way through the Vosges Mountains and over the Maginot Line. But through it all these four young men have carried on with their job as usual.

They volunteered for this task and they are happy in it. Recently when War Correspondents for the R.A.F. zone visited them they found these young men quite happy and contented. They said that they found the work interesting and would not change it for any other. They live on excellent terms with the French troops in the fort and were warm in their praise of the treatment they receive from the officers and men of the garrison.

So whatever the weather these airmen will still be keeping their sharp watch on enemy aircraft; they are the "eyes and ears" of the Royal Air Force in France.

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PARKING FEE IN THE DESERT.

Probably the only man in the world who has been charged a parking-fee for leaving his aircraft in the desert is the adjutant at one of the Royal Air Force Fighter stations. He is partly responsible for the defence of industrial Britain.

Before the war, he wore Arab dress and a beard, and was one of that select band of Englishmen who have lived and liked the hard life of the Arab in the desert. He was Chief of the Saudi Arabian Air Force. Now, instead of flying thousands of miles over the Desert of the Singing Sands or the sandy mountains of the Western Desert, quelling tribal disputes for the greatest of the Arab Kings and landing where no aircraft had ever touched down before, he sits working with countless forms and telephones instructions.

The Adjutant tells one story of a tribal war that was settled as soon as his landing wheels touched ground. The King of Saudi Arabia was his passenger. As they approached the troubled district, they heard sounds of spasmodic firing, and, flying low over the warring Arabs, they saw bursts of fire on either side. They landed in No Man's Land - and the war stopped. For miles in either direction were to be seen the recumbent forms of thousands of Arabs, brought to their knees by a King, a pilot, and an aeroplane,

AIR COMBAT.

A British fighter pilot was ordered to pursue a Dornier bomber sighted over a certain area at a height of 18,000 ft.

"After flying west", his log reads, "I sighted three anti-aircraft shell bursts at 18,000 ft. and later another three bursts. I then sighted a trail of frozen exhaust gas at a considerably greater altitude and climbed after it."

The British pilot engaged the Dornier at 24,000 ft. He came up under the enemy's tail and opened fire in short bursts at 250 yards range. White smoke burst from the Dornier's starboard engine.

The fighter pilot then climbed to 500 feet above the enemy. "I dived to attack at a right angle", reads his graphic narrative, "gave one good burst and broke away to the right and above. I saw two men leave the aircraft, and white and black smoke appeared from the port engine. As the aircraft was obviously finished I did not attack again, but followed it down and saw it force land in a field with the undercarriage retracted."

The pilot relates that he saw no signs of enemy fire, but on landing he found the top of his main-plane to be slightly damaged.

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This may have been caused, he writes, by a piece of the Dornier which was probably severely damaged in the air.

A FRIEND FROM EGYPT.

Pilots and crews of the Royal Air Force aircraft which made the great flight over Vienna and Prague found an unexpected visitor to welcome them on their return. Standing there in his red tarboosh, the national headgear of Egypt, was Mahmoud Abdul Fath, a member of the Egyptian Parliament and proprietor of "Al-Misri", one of the leading Egyptian newspapers which circulates extensively among the Arab population. He had special permission to visit the Royal Air Force zone in France.

The pilots talked with Monsieur Fath and sympathised with him because the bitter weather on the airfield was so unlike the warmth and sunshine of his own country. He, on his part, congratulated them on their magnificent flight. He was particularly pleased when one officer replied to him in Arabic. He had lived in Egypt for some years. Indeed, he had done much of his training there.

/ARMS

ARMS FOR WINGS.AN OPENING FOR HERALDS.

You need not know about heraldry to serve in the Royal Air Force, but such knowledge may prove useful. The German reverence for titles and insignia has found a new expression: several enemy aircraft brought down by the R.A.F. have borne a coat of arms or a device. One had a magpie, not a very happy choice, for the old rhyme says of magpies: "One's sorrow", and in Scotland a magpie may foretell an early death. Another, more aspiring, had for its emblem an umbrella stuck through with a sword, which is certainly a pithy way of representing the respective British and German attitudes to war, though it gives a wrong idea of the way we conduct it. Such gestures hardly call for official recognition, but private enterprise that can get hold of a paint pot will probably want to reply. The most obvious retort is a broom, since many of our bombers are on "sweeping" duties and the broom has a famous precedent. This is a simple instance, but there is obviously room for more elaborate devices. Only, fortunately or unfortunately, the enemy are seldom likely to see them.

/RECORDS

RECORDS FOR RECORD BREAKERS.

The airmen who sang The Blue Danube while flying on reconnaissance recently over Vienna emphasise the fact that in war time if you want music up there you have to make your own. Things are different on the ground. Many R.A.F. stations have their own amateur bands and there is no lack of talent. Instruments are bought with funds raised by concert parties, boxing displays and so on. In leisure hours R.A.F. men are not dependent solely on wireless and gramophone. All the same, gramophones are very popular and stores of gramophone records are eagerly compiled. Anyone with records to spare (especially jazz) might remember that they would be welcome in R.A.F. stations. They can be sent through the *Comforts' Fund. The R.A.F. which has a reputation for smashing records can be trusted to handle this sort, at any rate, with care.

*Officer-in-Charge,
R.A.F. Comforts Fund,
Berkeley Square House,
Berkeley Square, W.1.

ROYAL GUN-POWDER FACTORY EXPLOSION

Normal work will be resumed tomorrow morning in some of the buildings at the Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey, damaged by the explosion, Colonel J. J. Llewellyn, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Supply, stated today, after inspecting the premises where repairs proceeded throughout the week-end.

Colonel Llewellyn spoke warmly of the courage and discipline of the factory workers who remained at their tasks during and immediately after the explosion.

As a result of the steadiness and courage of the men and of the lay out of the factory where all "danger" buildings are constructed in small separate units, each surrounded by "traverses" or thick concrete walls with mounds of earth running up beyond the height of the roofs of the enclosed buildings, the effects of the explosion were localised.

The traverses and the structure of the buildings, all of which have light roofs are designed to prevent an explosion spreading horizontally to nearby buildings containing explosives. The force of an explosion is directed upwards and outwards over the roofs of other buildings in the factory.

This explains why while windows in houses and shops some distance away were shattered, windows in factory buildings within a few hundred yards of the centre of the explosion remained intact.

The small number of casualties - five men were killed and only three sufficiently injured to be detained in hospital - was attributable to the safety measures, with the further requirement limiting the number of men employed in any one danger building, and to the conduct of the men themselves, which Colonel Llewellyn said was beyond praise.

After visiting the three men detained in hospital, Colonel Llewellyn said one was returning to his home immediately, a second would be discharged from hospital within a week and the third was making satisfactory progress towards recovery. All three expect to resume work at the factory.

PRESS OFFICE,
MINISTRY OF SUPPLY.

21.1.40

No. 4.

ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE.

The Secretary of the Admiralty regrets to announce that H.M. Destroyer GRENVILLE, Captain G.E. Creasy, M.V.O., has been sunk by mine or torpedo in the North Sea.

118 officers and men have been landed.

8 men are known to have been killed and 73 are missing and must be presumed to have lost their lives.

The next of kin of those killed and missing have been informed.

NAVAL AFFAIRS.

21/1/40 - No. 5.

WEEK'S GOOD CAUSE APPEAL ON BEHALF OF SERVICE
MEN AND THEIR DEPENDANTS, BROADCAST BY GENERAL
SIR EDMUND IRONSIDE, CHIEF OF THE IMPERIAL
GENERAL STAFF, THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING, JANUARY
21, 1940, IN THE HOME SERVICE PROGRAMME.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

Realising that General Sir Edmund
Ironsides might at the last minute be unable to
come to the studio to broadcast this appeal,
it has been recorded with the following
opening explanation:-

"I have, unfortunately, been prevented
from speaking to you personally tonight, for
Service reasons, but I know you will not be
less sympathetic, on that account, to the cause
for which I am asking your aid".

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AS THIS SCRIPT IS BEING RELEASED IN ADVANCE IT
IS NECESSARY TO CHECK IT AGAINST THE ACTUAL
BROADCAST AT 8.40 p.m. on 391.1 and 449.1 metres.

RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION AFTER 8.45 p.m. JANUARY
21, 1940.

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"I cannot imagine a subject which will appeal more to the hearts of my listeners at such a time as this than that concerning the needs of serving men and their dependants.

"Their welfare is in the hands of two well established organisations, both of whom will benefit from this appeal.

"These organisations which are personally known to me are The Incorporated Soldiers and Sailors Help Society (founded 40 years ago) who deal with the Service men, and the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (founded 54 years ago) who assist the families. Her Majesty Queen Mary as President of the Families Association takes the closest personal interest in its affairs and in the activities of its voluntary workers.

"No one who has witnessed the departure of troop trains can fail to be stirred by the scenes when men who are off on active service say 'goodbye' to their families. These men go cheerfully, nay eagerly, to fight for their country and for the liberty we all hold so dear. Some are inevitably sent home sick or wounded. The Soldiers and Sailors Help Society take a large share in enabling these men to return to duty in as short a time as possible. Those who, unfortunately, are found to be physically unfit for further Active Service receive help in their re-settlement in civil life.

"What of the families left behind - the wives and the children?

"For them these days are anxious ones, full of apprehension not only for their menfolk but for the difficulties ahead of them in keeping their homes intact on, I fear, very often greatly reduced incomes.

"Nothing takes the heart out of a man more than his anxiety for his womenfolk. Nothing gives him greater courage and determination to do his duty by his King and Country than the knowledge that his home is secure and that his wife, his family and dependants are not left to battle alone with their troubles.

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"This is where the work of these two Service organisations is so invaluable. Each has many thousand voluntary helpers who are in personal touch with families in all parts of the Kingdom, and bring them comfort and financial aid in their difficulties. All three Services are included in this work which embraces not only the Regular Forces, but also Reservists, Territorials, Militia and the Auxiliary Forces.

"We have, therefore, a heavy responsibility and we dare not fail to discharge it.

"You can judge the measure of the work already achieved from the fact that the Families Association alone have expended more than £30,000 from their capital in the relief of distress during the four months since the beginning of the war. This is 12 times the normal peace expenditure and there has been no increase in income to compensate for it.

"Clothing, too, presents a big problem. Supplies have been collected locally, and generous gifts have already been received from the women of Canada, South Africa and Singapore, but much more is required.

"From what I have been able to tell you I feel I must have convinced you of the extremely beneficial and necessary work these two organisations are performing. They are nobly fulfilling their task which they conceive to be a national duty. I now ask you to do your part. That your sympathy goes out to them I have no shadow of doubt, but that is not sufficient. Their work must be drastically curtailed, unless further funds are forthcoming. If your response is as generous and as immediate as I feel sure it will be, their activities will go forward with renewed vigour and usefulness.

"I would, therefore, beg each one of you to subscribe liberally to this appeal, and also to send warm clothing. A central depot has been set up in London for the collection and distribution of clothing all over the country and its work is now in full swing.

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"This is the first broadcast appeal since the war to be made directly on behalf of all serving men and their families, and though I am making this appeal, it might equally have been made by my friends the First Sea Lord or the Chief of the Air Staff. They both warmly associate themselves with it.

"Please send your money gifts to me, General Sir Edmund Ironside, 23, Queen Anne's Gate, South West 1. If you wish to contribute clothing just send a postcard and we will give you the address of the Clothing Depot and tell you what we need. I will repeat the address, General Sir Edmund Ironside, 23, Queen Anne's Gate, London, South West 1."

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

PRESS NOTICE.

FOR MORNING PAPERS ONLY. NOT TO BE PUBLISHED ON THE CLUB TAPES, OR BY BROADCAST OR IN ANY OTHER WAY BEFORE THE MORNING OF MONDAY, 22nd JANUARY, 1940.

NOT TO BE BROADCAST BEFORE 7 a.m.

It was announced on the 19th July that Sir Cosmo Parkinson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., O.B.E., had been selected for appointment as Permanent Under Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in succession to Sir Edward Harding, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., and that Sir George Gater, C.M.G., D.S.O., had been selected for appointment as Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies in succession to Sir Cosmo Parkinson.

These appointments would have been made in the autumn had it not been for the outbreak of war which prevented their being put into effect then. It has now become possible for Sir Cosmo Parkinson and Sir George Gater to take up their new appointments on the 1st February, 1940.

From the same date Sir Eric Machtig, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., an Assistant Under Secretary of State in the Dominions Office, who has been acting as Permanent Under Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in the absence of Sir Edward Harding, will be promoted to be Deputy Under Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR BROADCAST BEFORE MIDNIGHT 21/22 JANUARY, 1940.

P R E S S N O T I C E.

A new Order governing the restrictions on lighting has been made by the Minister of Home Security and will be on sale at His Majesty's Stationery Office on January 22nd, 1940 (price 6d.)

It repeats the requirements of the Lighting Restrictions Order of last September making it unlawful to display lights from windows during the hours of darkness. It includes the modifications introduced more recently, namely, those making the "black-out" period last from half an hour after sunset until half an hour before sunrise, and enforcing the use of the authorised motor headlamp masks and permitting the modified street lighting in all but the specified districts near the coast, shop window lighting, shop signs, hand torches etc. It also contains certain new provisions affecting headlamps trailers and public service vehicles.

The main provisions of the Order have the following effect:-

The Order makes compulsory on Monday January 22nd, 1940 the use of the A.R.P. headlamp mask or of a mask giving an equivalent performance and requires that rear lamps shall be carried at a height not exceeding 3 feet 6 inches above the ground.

Trailers will be required to carry side lamps screened and dimmed in the prescribed manner.

The existing arrangements for the use of fog lamps or of unmasked headlamps in fog are embodied in the Order.

White paint, or some equally conspicuous material, must be fixed to the bumpers and running boards, or any equivalent positions, on vehicles on the roads after darkness.

Tricycles and bicycles must have a white surface of not less than 12 square inches attached to the rear.

The authorised front and red rear lamps on bicycles and tricycles are required to be carried but the bicycle may now be wheeled without such lights close to the near-side of the road

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or may stand without lights at the near-side of the road if it is held up by traffic or by a traffic signal; but if it is stationary at some distance from the road side the red rear lamp must be kept on.

Illumination of the hire sign on taxi cabs is permitted so long as the light is inconspicuous at a distance of 100 feet.

Motor cycles with not more than 150 c.c. engines may carry the front and red rear lamp authorised for cycles.

The light from torches and hand lamps must be white. It must be dimmed by two pieces of tissue paper or the equivalent and must always be directed downwards.

The Order contains the special arrangements which have been made for headlamps for buses and trolley buses for the exterior lights on tram cars and for improved interior lighting in trains and public service vehicles.

The Order comes into force on January 22nd and on and from that night the new type of headlamp mask or one giving an equivalent performance will be compulsory and rear lamps must be carried not higher than 3 feet 6 inches from the ground except in the case of public service vehicles.

Any other new Regulations will not come into force until February 1st. Further, the new type of headlamp mask does not become compulsory for public service vehicles until March 1st, and the requirements for trailers do not operate until that date.

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Ministry of Home Security.

21/1/40 - NO. 8.

ENEMY PATROL VESSELS BOMBED.

The Air Ministry announces:-

While engaged in reconnaissance over the North Sea yesterday morning, aircraft of the Coastal Command sighted four enemy patrol vessels which opened heavy anti-aircraft gunfire.

The aircraft retaliated by dropping bombs, some of which were seen to fall within a few yards of the enemy vessels. No damage or casualties were suffered by our aircraft.

AIR AFFAIRS.

21/1/40 - No.9.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE
(EVENING)

Paris, Sunday 21st January 1940.

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

A QUIET DAY ON THE FRONT AS A WHOLE.

PRESS NOTICE

FRENCH WAR CORRESPONDENTS

ENTERTAINED IN LONDON.

A party of French war correspondents attached to the B.E.F. who are touring Great Britain as the guests of H.M. Government arrived in London to-day and were entertained at dinner at the Dorchester Hotel by the Ministry of Information.

Sir Edward Grigg, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry, was in the chair.

The French guests were:-

General A. Lelong, French Military Attache, Commandant Dumas, MM. Cendrars, B. Franklin, F. Chenevier, P. Ichac, R. Lacoste, P. de Lacretelle, J.H. Lefebvre and Andre Maurois.

Other guests were:- Sir Kenneth Lee, Director General of Ministry of Information, Warner Allen, R.E. Balfour, E.St.J. Bamford, D. Barrington-Hudson, H.B. Brenan, Tom Clarke, Colin Coote, H.R. Cummings, Captain Taprell Dorling, H.R. Francis, Miss Joan Gilbert, A. Lawson, I.S. Macadam, C.N. Mac Laren, Miss Enid McLeod, Charles Peake, Mrd. D.M. Pickles, B.S. Townroe, P. Hope Wallace, A. Watson, and Miss J.N. Westley.

Sir Edward Grigg welcomed the guests in a short speech in French in which he emphasised Franco British solidarity, and General Lelong replied.

Mr. Colin Coote, representing the War Office who also spoke in French, gave the guests an outline of their programme.

It is expected that the French correspondents will stay for more than a week, during which time they will visit important Naval, Military, Air Force and Supply Centres in this country.

FOREIGN PRESS REVIEW

DAILY SURVEY OF WORLD COMMENT ON THE WAR

COMPILED FROM TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION 7

No. 6

21st January., 1940

U.S.A: TOTALITARIAN THREAT TO AMERICA?

The possibility that the Germans or Japanese might obtain such a foot-hold in South America that would leave the U.S.A. no other course but to abandon her policy of isolation, has been expressed in the American Provincial Press.

"Germany and Japan are frankly out for all they can get under the direction of their ambitious leaders." stated the CHICAGO NEWS. "They are imbued with theories of their own superiority, which in their view entitles them to conquer and rule others. There is no suggestion yet that they would directly attack the United States but there is a possibility that, flushed with victory and thinking themselves invincible, they might begin a series of encroachments in South America that would leave us no choice but to abandon the Monroe Doctrine or defend it with arms."

The important part played by the Allied Navies in policing the seas was stressed in the CINCINNATI ENQUIRER.

"In the event of a totalitarian victory, this country would be faced with a hostile world without the protection given to the Atlantic area by the Anglo-French Naval hegemony." stated the paper, "That is our great stake in this war. Honest dealing in the matter of Foreign Policy has been made almost impossible by those who sincerely believe that our entry into the World War was a disaster and by those who lack the imagination to picture to themselves what conditions would exist today had we not entered into it."

Suggested Aid for Finland.

Referring to the Russo-Finnish dispute, the CHICAGO TIMES stated: "Those things for which Finland is fighting are the most precious rights of American tradition, liberty and freedom. America wants peace but wants an honourable peace."

On the same subject, the CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER commented: "Quibbling over the President's proposal to give immediate help to Finland leaves a bad taste in the mouth. The Finns need assistance right now. As the only nation which pays its War Debts to this country, Finland merits favourable consideration."

An even bolder line was taken by the SEATTLE STAR which stated: Finland needs lots of money. There is little doubt that whatever can be done to aid this heroic country against invasion, and can be done neutrally, will meet with the approval of the American public."

The belief that Nazi propaganda was losing its efficacy was expressed by the GALVESTON NEWS.

FOREIGN PRESS REVIEW · Page

"If the German official reply to the French Yellow Book on the origins of the War is a fair sample of Nazi propaganda, then it is losing its punch," stated the paper, "Germany accuses France of following a changeable Foreign Policy but German Foreign Policy has shown an inconsistency without parallel in modern history.

"The French kettle may not be spotless, but it is nothing like so black as the German pot."

Sunday Papers' comments on U.S.A.'s Position.

Commenting on the Pope's reply to Mr. Roosevelt, which was made known yesterday, the HERALD TRIBUNE states: "It would be a sheer folly for Americans to pretend that what happens across the Atlantic or Pacific cannot possibly concern them. If this nation, without violating the laws of neutrality or committing itself to further action, can express in a material way, the deep sympathy and lasting admiration which it feels for Finland, it should do so."

The fairness of British tribunals considering cases of aliens is stressed in the NEW YORK TIMES which states: "There has been no finer example of the survival of common sense and decency in wartime."

Mr. Churchill's speech is given considerable prominence as is also the speech of Lord Halifax.

GERMANY: REICH'S LEATHER SHORTAGE.

That the shortage of leather in Germany is assuming serious proportions is shown by a Nazi press campaign to endeavour to accustom the German people to wear wooden shoes.

The newspaper which has begun the campaign is the NATIONAL ZEITUNG of Essen and in its issue of Thursday, the paper argued that not only would wooden shoes "as worn in the time of your grandfathers" help to save leather, but they were just as practical as real shoes.

The German people's dissatisfaction at the lack of food-stuffs was revealed by the same paper which gave a long list of crimes in West Germany all concerned with the theft of food.

The German reply to the French Yellow Book on the origins of the war was given some prominence in the Press but the explosions at the North London Gunpowder Factory were covered only briefly. There was little attempt at distortion.

VENEZUELA: GERMANY'S LIGHTNING WAR IMPOSSIBLE.

The German idea of a lightning war has become a remote possibility, according to a leading article in AHORA.

"In spite of the talk of an imminent Nazi offensive, this has been rendered impossible by the Franco-British reserves which are vastly superior," stated the paper. "German attacks on sea and in the air have been energetically and adequately answered. The German idea of a lightning war has disappeared."

An article in LA ESPERA stated that according to an uncensored dispatch from Prague 116 Skoda workers have been executed and 3,000 tons of steel had been damaged. No fewer than 7,000 guns made from this steel last January had been sent to the front and many had burst after a few shots had been fired.

ITALY: ATTACK ON BRITISH DIPLOMACY.

The allegation that British diplomacy had been fore-stalled by the astuteness of Herr Von Ribbentrop was made in last night's Italian press.

The GIORNALE D'ITALIA in a Berlin dispatch published a Nazi denial of an accord with Roumania and stated that the question of the Gazizia Oilfields had been settled in the Russo-German agreement.

The CORRIERE DELLA SERA's London correspondent wrote: "Once more it seems that British diplomacy has been fore-stalled by the astuteness of Von Ribbentrop and his collaborators."

This paper insisted that the world was not impressed by the advantages of British and French riches but would prefer some sign that the Allies war aims showed a desire to destroy any inequalities and repair injustices.

"Instead, everything points to their intention to increase their already spectacular riches." added the paper. "How can the world believe that from such co-operation anything like a new order or better international justice can arise?"

HUNGARY: I.R.A.'s ALLEGED ACTIVITY.

The North London Gunpowder Factory explosion was due to the I.R.A. according to a section of the Hungarian Press.

The majority of the newspapers yesterday gave some prominence to the explosion and the FUGGETTLENSEG stated that it was believed that Irish terrorists were suspected. This paper added that Liverpool Harbour had been closed and this also was due to the activities of Irishmen.

Several papers suggested that the Russians would hand over a number of oil wells in Galicia to Germany and others published a Rome report that the Germans had discovered a type of incendiary bomb which would "melt the cement in the Maginot Line."

HOLLAND: DUTCH PRESS REJECTS GERMAN ACCUSATIONS.

German attempts to justify the sinking of the Arendskerk were emphatically rejected by the Dutch Press yesterday.

"The German arguments cut no ice," stated HET VADERLAND, "The Arendskerk carried no contraband and it is absolutely untrue to say that she attempted to escape from the submarine. The argument that Holland admitted cargo destined for an enemy country only holds water if one accepts the German argument about contraband. The whole incident reminds us of the sinking of the Slidrecht."

SWEDEN: NAZI BLITZKRIEG BELIEVED IMPOSSIBLE.

The belief that a German "Blitzkrieg" in the West is now almost impossible has been expressed in the Swedish Press.

"The chance of a German lightning war has now been greatly reduced" stated the GOTEBORGS MORGENPOST on Friday. "We cannot avoid the impression that the Dutch experts are too optimistic as regards the winter defence measures, but we sustain the peoples' belief in the strength of the defences".

Regarding a suggested change in the freedom of the Swedish Press the NYA DAGLIGT ALLEHANDA stated yesterday: "If the freedom of the Press is to be changed in such a manner that opportunism be the dominant factor and each case is to be treated differently, the Government is treading a dangerous path. The fact that papers in certain totalitarian states are subordinate to the Government is no reason for us to allow a similar development."

Signor Mussolini and the Balkans.

Signor Mussolini is attempting to obtain a foothold in the Balkans at the expense of Britain and France.

A report to this effect was reproduced in the GOTEBORGSPOSTEN.

"The suspicion has arisen that Mussolini exaggerates the Soviet danger to the Balkans in order to obtain influence there" it was stated. "Mussolini wants to play a game of big politics in the Balkans and to obtain strategic positions at the expense of England and France."

SWITZERLAND: SWISS NEUTRALITY ATTACKED.

The Swiss Press reacted sharply yesterday to renewed German accusations of Swiss "un-neutrality".

The German Press, according to the NATIONAL ZEITUNG, has admitted that the Nazis are keeping a list recording instances of "un-neutrality", the purpose being to attempt to render neutral states submissive to Germany.

"Manifestly this is another attempt at intimidation according to a recipe which has long lost its novelty for Switzerland", stated the NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG. "A new feature is the extension of the accusation to Swiss official quarters. The sole consequence of the accusations is to increase and foment feelings of mistrust".

DER BUND stated: "We will not allow our duties to neutrality to be twisted by belligerents to suit their purpose, but we will adhere to the rights and duties of neutrals as laid down in the Hague Convention."

DENMARK: MR. CHURCHILL CRITICISED.

Mr. Churchill's speech was given great prominence on the front pages of all Danish newspapers to-day, with the exception of the SOCIALDEMOKRATEN.

The BERLINGSKE TIDENDE used the headline: "Churchill Sharply Criticises Small Neutral Countries". The headline "Small Neutral Countries invited to Join the Western Powers in War" was used by the POLITIKEN and the NATIONALTIDENDE used the phraseology "Churchill invites the neutrals to join up".

BELGIUM: VIGILANCE CANNOT BE RELAXED - BELGIAN PRESS.

"We must continue vigilantly to watch the development of the situation and no precautions must be relaxed".

This was the keynote of the Belgian Press yesterday commenting on the situation in the Low Countries.

The INDEPENDENCE BELGE stated: "We must all consider ourselves mobilised. We must no longer act in a spirit of political partisanship".

Writing on the Northern European situation the LIBRE BELGIQUE stated: "It is agreed that Soviet Russia has suffered a substantial check, but that does not mean the end of Bolshevism and it is not prudent to imagine that the Russian problem has been turned. It would be singularly premature also to think that Russia will abandon the struggle."

EGYPT: EGYPT OPPOSED TO AGGRESSION.

A strong denunciation of the methods of aggression was made in yesterday's REVUE DU CAIRE.

This journal stated: "Egypt, having reached political maturity, understands clearly the task assumed by the Western Democracies and is bound to approve. If there is one regime profoundly repulsive to Islam it is that founded on oppression and the refusal of liberty of thought.

"Despite the horrors of war, a comfort and consolation is to be found in the new solidarity between East and West and the sincere cooperation which proves once more that the defence of spiritual values is not western or eastern but simply human".

HOLLAND: NAZI ECONOMIC POSITION "AN INTRICATE PUZZLE"

Commenting on Dr. Goebbels' speech the NIEUWE ROTTERDAMSCHER COURANT stated yesterday: "Goebbels' speech was for home consumption. Those who have read only the German White Paper may be inclined to agree with the Propaganda Minister on the war guilt question, but the more detailed Allied Blue and Yellow Books prove that Germany could have prevented war".

Referring to Germany's economic position HET HANDELSBLAD stated that even for Germans the position had become an intricate puzzle.

JAPAN: BRITISH LOSSES "INSIGNIFICANT"

The view that the loss of the Royal Oak and the ~~Courageous~~ was not so great to England as was the loss of the Graf Spee to Germany, was expressed in the YOMIURI SHIMBUN by a well known military critic.

"Mr. Chamberlain's Mansion House speech was based on the real facts," he stated. "It is a fact that the Germans have been unsuccessful in destroying the enemy's trade and further, the loss of the Royal Oak and the Courageous by the powerful British Navy is insignificant compared with the loss of the Graf Spee to the inferior German Navy. The naval battle off Uruguay was clearly a victory for Britain."

ITALY: MR. CHURCHILL'S "SEVERE" SPEECH.

The speech by Lord Halifax yesterday was described by the POPULO DI ROMA today as the most intransigent speech the British Foreign Secretary has made since the outbreak of war. Mr. Churchill's speech, according to this paper, was even severer "as might be expected from a descendant of Marlborough."