

3/5/41 - No.1.

AMERICAN AIRMAN'S LUCK
Chase with Happy Ending

The adventures of the only American airman in the South African Air Force, are related in the East African Standard and contained in a cable, from Nairobi.

He is Prescott Fagan, a bomber pilot and his experiences started when he forced landed in the KAMBA country. He was able to wireless his position to the base. He gave compass bearings of his whereabouts which were picked up by a white hunter named Rees who sent out a native scout to find him.

One scout, taking instructions literally, after discovering Fagan, turned back and went off to report to Rees. Fagan spotted him, however and followed him. He had to chase a fleet-footed scout for fifteen miles and then he lost him.

Sweating like a bull and exhausted by the chase, Fagan stumbled through the bush and was surprised and delighted to see a white man sitting on a stack of petrol tins. Remembering his history, Fagan approached the white man - "Dr Livingstone, I presume?" he queried. "No Sir," came the reply "I'm Corporal VANDERMERVE, base petrol supplies."

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

3/5/41. No. 2.

GOLD FROM THE POST OFFICE

Recovered Scrap that Helps the Nation.

The Post Office now more than ever is collecting every ounce of scrap and having it converted for useful war purposes. Recently the Post Office obtained nearly £200,000 in the sale of recovered stores, and this included 400 ounces of gold and 4,000 tons of copper.

One buyer with a very practical turn of mind bought 15 old telephone kiosks which are now being used on a poultry farm for housing chickens.

Telephone cable recovered from bombed buildings finds a ready sale because the copper wire it contains is practically unharmed, even if the rubber covering is much the worse for its air raid experiences.

While wholesale merchants buy hundreds of tons of scrap metal from the Post Office, film companies come along to get telephones of all ages for use in period pictures.

Fire bombs and high explosives may play havoc with telephone installations in bombed buildings, but the twisted chunks of fused metal and bakelite, once switchboards and instruments, are by no means a total loss. From the shapeless masses the Recovered Stores Division of the Post Office extract brass, copper, iron, platinum, and other metals, salvage nuts and bolts and screws, obtain enough wood to keep their metal melting pots heated - and even secure a price from the salvage firms for the residual ashes.

The Post Office Stores Department always aimed at getting the utmost value for all destroyed, worn-out or obsolete material returned to it for disposal, but now special efforts are made to see that nothing is thrown away that can in some way or other provide material for the war effort, or bring in a contribution to the Post Office revenue.

Many instruments recovered from bombed buildings are sent to the Post Office factory for repair and they include clocks, watches, ammeters, telephone call meters, automatic dials, all kinds of telephones, bell sets, coils, relays, selectors and even a complete Rural Auto Exchange.

Many combinations of metals go to make up telephone apparatus and the intrinsic values of these metals range from many pounds an ounce for platinum, to a shilling or so for a cwt. of scrap iron. The breaking-up is done by boys as a preliminary to better work in other sections. A hammer and screwdriver suffice for some of the simpler make of instruments, but special machines and tools are needed for the more complicated apparatus. One machine extracts the platinum and gold and silver contact points. These points are mere scraps of metal, but over £7,000 a year is obtained from their sale.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

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NOTE to Air Affairs: The following notes are of a speech by Captain H.H.Balfour, M.C., M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Air, to be made at Yeovil at 4.15 p.m. this afternoon, Saturday, May 3rd, 1941. It should not be published before that hour.

"If you see complacency - kick it!"

Captain Balfour's Speech at
Yeovil.

Speaking at Yeovil's War Weapons Week this (Saty.) afternoon, Captain H.H.Balfour, M.C., M.P., Under Secretary of State for Air, said:

We face grave events in the East, and there may well be still heavier trials to come before we can look to winning back our lost positions.

It is easy to be confident and cheerful when the war has smooth progress and the tide flows our way. It is when we enter the dark and sombre passages that there is a call on our stores of endurance and courage. But surely each of these dark times does but give us an opportunity for renewed dedication of ourselves to the war cause and war tasks.

Gallantry and enduring courage have been the characteristic of our Armed Forces in wars throughout the ages; and it is those qualities which have largely contributed to building up the greatness of our Empire. Unfortunately, development of modern science has altered things, and to-day these qualities alone cannot hope to win us a modern war.

It is the tank, the bomber and the machine-gun, in superior quantities to the enemy, which are essential for victory. A thousand brave men, worn down by weight of metal against them - directed from behind armoured screens by a mere handful of bayonet-scared Nazis - will in the long run have to give way, however courageous they may be individually in their fight. It is, therefore, to this vital task of building up weight of metal that we must ceaselessly devote ourselves by night and day.

I believe, in a war for the very survival of soul and body, our people can take anything - can take any testing - given one thing -- that they are told fact and truth.

I know that we will never depart from our declared determination to be frank and outspoken - spurning utterly and with contempt anything of the sort of deception and distortion of fact which is a familiar part of the Nazi technique to their people. For if ever our people felt they were being reassured - told half-truths - or lulled into a semi-somnolent confidence, only to be followed by the sickening realisation that a bad situation had been cloaked over - then, indeed, a serious blow would have been struck at confidence and morale, and a free people, with their rights of liberty of expression, would justifiably turn on those responsible.

On the other hand, a free people with a sense of responsibility will accept limitations which military necessities bring about, when sometimes the issue of news has to be held up for strategic reasons. We do not want to tell the enemy voluntarily what he would very often much like to know; and there is not one person in this country who, because of a natural desire to know what is going on, would wish to satisfy that desire if by so doing it made the task of one single soldier, sailor or

airman that much more difficult or dangerous to carry out.

The risk of failure in victory must belong to every individual, and some forty-five millions in these Islands each carry a share of that responsibility.

Leaders can direct, plan and urge; but it lies only in the power of the ordinary men and women to pull the show through by their own personal endeavours.

The personal responsibility of every one of us lies beyond our immediate selves.

If you see waste, inefficiency or - worst of all - complacency, then kick it around the place. You may kick some undeserving, but you will also probably kick the right spot.

To-day, to do one's own job well is not enough for we have got to be slaves within ourselves to our tasks.

If so far we have just done our best, now we must drive ourselves.

If already we have driven, now we must force ourselves.

We know of the slugs and beetles - enemies of our National Effort.

There are the few who are food-hogs.

There are the few who cannot look beyond preservation of personal leisure as their war aim.

There are the few who measure out their war effort according to pay received or hours to be worked.

The numbers of these may be small but their effect is nauseous, and they must be dealt with - eliminated - liquidated from our system.

For this is the hour to be ruthless against sloth.

This is the hour to be rebellious against self-contentment.

This is the hour to be resentful of selfishness.

Citizens - This is the hour to show to the world, by our efforts and sacrifice, that we shall stop at nothing to achieve victory.

Let our cry be loud and clear: "To the Ramparts of Factory and Field to stand in defence of our Land and Liberty".

Directorate of Public Relations,
Air Ministry,
King Charles St.,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

3rd May, 1941.

Saturday, May 3, 1941.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

NEWS BULLETIN NO. 367

PRESS NOTICE.

The following broadcast has been made at the request of the Admiralty:

"Masters of enemy ships are warned that H.M. Ships may make to them the signal 'W.B.A.' in the International Code of Signals. This will mean 'Stop - do not lower boats - do not scuttle - do not use radio - if you disobey I open fire.'" Admiralty. M.o.I. 1.

POLISH OFFICERS MENTIONED FOR DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT.

It is announced that His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to approve that the names of the following be mentioned for distinguished conduct -

Colonel T. Zakrzewski,
Polish Army.

Commandant M. Zimnal,
Polish Army.

War Office.

M.o.I. 2.

TWO SPITFIRES FROM BECHUANALAND

The Minister of Aircraft Production acknowledges with gratitude the following gifts towards the purchase of aircraft:

Alfriston Council School	£13.13.0
Davis Spitfire Fund (Cricklade & Leigh)	£262.10.0
Burgh of Troon	£1,000.0.0
Whitley & Monkseaton Spitfire Fund	£2,001.19.1
People of Jamshedpur and Golmuri (plane to be called 'Jamshedpur & Golmuri No.3')	£5,000.0.0
People of Bechuanaland Protectorate (planes to be called 'Bechuanaland' and 'Kalahari')	£10,000.0.0

Ministry of Aircraft Production.

M.o.I. 3.

CONTINUATION OF BREAD SUBSIDY.

The Ministry of Food announces that payment of the bread subsidy at the rates which obtain at present will be continued for a further two months until the end of June, 1941.

Bakers are reminded that claimants for subsidy must sell bread made from National Wheatmeal Flour at or below the prices of subsidised white loaves of the same weight. -- Ministry of Food.

M.o.I. 4.

MEAT RATION UNCHANGED.

The Ministry of Food announces that for the week beginning May 5th the meat ration will remain at 1/- worth for adults and 6d. worth for children under 6. Ministry of Food.

M.o.I. 5.

YOUNG BELGIANS ESCAPE TO JOIN BELGIAN ARMY IN BRITAIN.

The pro-German weekly Belgian paper Cassandre reports that hundreds of young Belgians from the secondary schools escaped from Belgium to enlist in the Belgian army in Great Britain.

Many of them have been arrested and are now prisoners in Bordeaux, Macon, Port Vendre, Port Bou and even as far as San Sebastian.

To reach England, these youngsters have to cross five frontiers and attempt a dangerous sea crossing. - - Ministry of Information. M.o.I. 6.

BRUGES "HOLY CROSS" PROCESSION CANCELLED.

Brussels Radio (under German control) states that the famous Procession of the Holy Blood which usually takes place in Bruges, on the first Monday of May, has been cancelled.

The religious authorities object to its taking place owing to the occupation of the country by enemies.

During the last war, the religious authorities took exactly the same decision. Even the sacred relics which had been hidden, could not be found. - Ministry of Information. M.o.I. 7.

3/5/41. No. 5.

AIR MINISTRY NO. 3772.

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE.

Last night enemy aircraft again attacked the Merseyside area. The attack was heavy and lasted several hours. Early reports suggest that the number of casualties may be large and that a substantial amount of damage was done.

An attack was also made on a town in East Anglia where a small number of casualties were caused and ^aconsiderable number of houses were damaged.

Bombs were also dropped at other widely separated points but those did little damage and caused very few casualties.

Three enemy bombers were destroyed during the night, two by our fighters, and one by anti-aircraft gunfire. In addition another enemy aircraft was shot down by our night fighters over an aerodrome in Northern France, making a total of four enemy aircraft destroyed during the night.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 2 p.m. TODAY, MAY 3.

NATION'S WARTIME HEALTH IS GOOD.

But Minister Warns of Dangers Next Winter.

Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, speaking at Sheffield to-day during a two-days tour in the West Riding of Yorkshire, said:

The health of the general population after eighteen months of war is remarkably good. None of the gloomy prophecies that war conditions would give rise to epidemics has been fulfilled. This is partly due to the Government's policy of dispersal in its widest sense:- dispersal from the congested towns to the more rural parts of the country, dispersal from overcrowded shelters and dispersal within the shelters themselves to ensure that where people have to sleep in shelters they shall lie as far apart from each other as possible.

I have now visited a number of the Civil Defence Regions and I have seen for myself how great have been the efforts made by the householders, the local authorities and the voluntary organisations in the reception areas to make a success of our main dispersal plan - The Government's Evacuation Scheme. Caring for evacuees is a vital national service and the housewife who does her best to give evacuees a home from home is making a contribution to our war effort which is as valuable as that of the A.R.P. warden or the fire fighter.

But whilst the policy of dispersal has had its share in keeping the nation fighting fit during a period of unparalleled strain, my own opinion is that we are now reaping the benefit of the great efforts we have made to improve our health and social services during the past twenty-five years.

Before the war we used to hear the criticism that we were spending far too much on these services and that we were not getting value for our money. The war has proved how good an investment it was. We are now receiving the dividends in the shape of national stamina which has withstood all the onslaughts of an efficient, well-prepared and highly organised enemy and which will ultimately bring him down.

Diphtheria Danger.

We should be failing in our duty if we assumed that we shall be as fortunate next autumn and winter as we were in the months which have just passed. We must use the spring and summer to inquire and to plan, to build up and to improve our safeguards and our defences against the dangers to health which will inevitably increase with the coming of autumn and winter.

One of these dangers is diphtheria. This dreadful disease attacks about 60,000 children in Britain every year. Every year it kills about 3,000 of the children on which the future of this nation, and indeed the future of humanity itself, so largely depends. Yet given the co-operation of parents this danger can be almost completely wiped out.

It is true that in 1940 the number of cases of diphtheria notified in England and Wales - 46,685 - was the second lowest total in ten years. It was 6,000 below the average. But this is nothing to be proud or complacent about. Indeed, the Chief Medical Officer has described it as a national disgrace. We have brought from America enough toxoid to treat 1,000,000 children, and this added to home-produced supplies has given us enough to carry out our aim of securing the immunisation of at least fifty per cent of all British children

between one and fifteen years of age. The Ministry urged local authorities to special efforts at the beginning of the year, and I am glad to pay tribute to the response which has been made in the two great cities of Leeds and Sheffield. But the Ministry and the local authorities and the doctors can do nothing, even in combination, without the co-operation of the parents.

Student Nurses wanted.

Immunisation is a duty which parents owe to their children as well as to the nation. Preventable illness, whether of adults or children, is a brake on the nation's war effort. Besides reducing production of essential material it imposes an unnecessary strain on hospital accommodation, on doctors and on nurses, and of none of these three have we a surplus.

More particularly do we want more young women to take up nursing as a career. We are short of student nurses. Nursing is war work with a future. In war-time, nursing is of first-class national importance; it will be just as important when the war is over. The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Athlone Committee and have already taken the first steps towards the improvement of the status, pay and conditions of the nursing profession which is long overdue.

Reconstruction and improvement in our health services, and in the conditions of employment of those who are essential and devoted workers in these services, ought not and will not be allowed to await the end of the war. The world continues to revolve. Hitler's aim is to put it in reverse.

We, on the other hand, want to make it a better place to live in, not as slaves but as free men. If there are advances which we can make in our domestic affairs without interfering with our supreme task of winning this war, then let nothing stop us from making them.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

3/5/41 - No.13.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN NO.3774

Air Ministry News Service.

BOMBER PILOTS RAID ON BENGHAZI

A bomber pilot who has just arrived in the Western Desert from England had the satisfaction on May 1st, on the occasion of his first raid on the port of Benghazi, of setting fire to a ship moored at the north-east Mole.

The attack was a combination of personal courage and skilled flying, for the pilot was operating under cloud covers and swooped down out of the sun until his aircraft skimmed almost over the mast-tops of the ship.

Incendiary bombs scored direct hits on the vessel and the pilot recounting the incident said: "I saw people running from the ship like hares. As I turned away after the attack my rear gunner reported that the ship was on fire."

The squadron to which this pilot belongs has worked unceasingly since the German advance began in Libya in raiding ports, shipping, aerodromes, encampments, stores and troops and convoys on the move.

3/5/41 - No. 16.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN No. 3775.

Air Ministry News Service.

HURRICANES' SUCCESS IN WESTERN DESERT.

Hurricanes of desert squadrons of the R.A.F. which maintain constant offensive patrols over enemy territory again had a successful day on May 1st, when, in a fierce clash south-west of Tobruk, three Messerschmitt 109s were shot down.

"We were patrolling the area," said one of the pilots who took part in the operation, "when we saw four Messerschmitt 109s engaged in bombing. We dived down and, as we did so, became involved with the escort of Messerschmitt 109s. There was a hectic dog fight."

The combat was, however, of short duration and the three Messerschmitt 109s, one of them in flames, were seen crashing away to the ground a few minutes after they had been engaged. The other German aircraft were scattered. One British pilot was reported missing after the engagement.

Within a week, pilots of the squadron which wrought such havoc to the Italian Air Force in the first Libyan campaign have destroyed two Messerschmitt 110s and three Messerschmitt 109s. The squadron's list of D.F.C.'s, already considerable, has just been increased, as yet another of the pilots has been awarded this decoration.

Later in the same day as the fight with Messerschmitts another patrol from the same squadron successfully machine-gunned two enemy convoys on the track from Gambut to El Adem.

"We definitely fixed up some of the trucks," said one of the pilots, "and we shot down a number of enemy troops as they piled out of vehicles and ran for cover. We saw them tumbling down under our fire."

3/5/41 - No. 17

FRENCH SOMALILAND: A DENIAL

The Headquarters of the Free French Forces have issued the following communique:-

Vichy has declared on the radio that important elements of Free French Forces had gathered at Zeilah and Douenlen, together with British troops, with a view to military action against French Somaliland. There is no truth in such a statement, the unlikeliness of which we pointed out in our communique of Monday, April 28th.

The Headquarters of the Free French Forces in London state in the most categorical way that they have no troops at Zeilah.

HEADQUARTERS OF FREE FRENCH FORCES

3/5/41 -- No. 18

PRESS NOTICE

The following message has been sent to the Polish Admiralty by the Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet:-

"On the anniversary of the Polish Constitution, I wish to convey to you the Fleet's high appreciation of the services which the Polish Navy is rendering to our common cause. I have been much impressed by the high efficiency and the splendid spirit of the officers and ratings of the Polish ships which are or have been under my command, and it is a particular pleasure to me that some of your fine young officers are now serving in my flagship and in other ships in company."

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ADMIRALTY.

3/5/41 - No. 19

AIR MINISTRY NO 3776

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

Hamburg was heavily attacked by aircraft of Bomber Command last night. Extensive damage was done, and large fires were seen in the industrial areas of the city and around the docks.

Other aircraft of the same Command attacked Emden and the oil stores at Rotterdam during the night.

During daylight operations off the Dutch coast yesterday by Blenheim aircraft of Bomber Command, direct hits were scored on two enemy supply vessels, each of about 500 tons. One was set on fire and the other is believed to have been sunk outright.

Four of our aircraft are missing from these operations.

3/5/41 - No. 20

CHEESE RATIONING BEGINS ON MONDAY

The rationing of cheese will begin on Monday, May 5 the general ration being at the rate of 1 oz. per head per week.

A special ration at the rate of 8 ozs. per head per week, in place of the general ration, is provided for underground miners, agricultural workers and Vegetarians who fulfil the necessary conditions, and have been furnished by Food Officers with special pages of coupons.

Cheese rations for the whole four weeks may be purchased at any time within each period of four weeks but an unused coupon relating to any week in one such period of four weeks cannot be used in the next period of four weeks. The first period of four weeks will be from May 5 to June 1 (coupons 18-21), the second period from June 2 to June 29 (coupons 22-25), and so on.

Members of H.M. Forces holding Leave or Duty Ration Cards RB8 or RB8a are allowed a cheese ration at the rate of 1 oz. per week. The amount of the cheese ration which may be obtained by the use of the weekly Seaman's Ration Book (RB6) is 4 ozs. per week.

MINISTRY of FOOD.

3.5.41. -- No. 21.

MIDDLE EAST WAR COMMUNIQUE.

The following communique was issued today from British G.H.Q.,
Cairo:

LIBYA: Yesterday the enemy again made determined efforts against the defences of Tobruk. Although a large number of tanks were employed our troops held their ground and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. Before nightfall the enemy pressure relaxed and no further efforts were made during last night.

In the Sollum area one of our mechanised columns, after making a wide detour, surprised a considerable body of the enemy. A number of prisoners was captured, together with a field gun. In other sectors of this area our patrolling activities were continued.

ABYSSINIA: Further progress has been made in the advance upon Amba Alagi. Our column operating from the north yesterday captured a commanding feature overlooking the main position, while our Southern column occupied Waldia, 50 miles north of Dessye. Two hundred Colonial prisoners were captured during this operation, while a further 600 Italians and 200 Colonials have been taken at Dessye.

In the southern area our troops, after a sharp engagement, occupied the enemy post of FIKE, capturing 135 Italians, 100 Colonials, five guns and a quantity of other war material.

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

3/5 /41 - No.22

"ALL IS QUIET IN BAGDAD."

It was officially stated in London that according to information received today from Sir Kinahan Cornwallis, the British Ambassador in Bagdad, all is quiet in Bagdad. While the situation there is tense, no incident has so far occurred.

FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN NO. 3778.

AIR MINISTRY NEWS SERVICE.

HAMBURG ATTACKED.

Great damage was done to the docks and industrial quarters of Hamburg last night. There was nothing to hide the ground from our bombers and many large fires were soon started.

As the high explosives thundered into the fires there were violent flashes, far brighter than the surrounding flames, and showers of sparks flew in every direction. At other times the bursts of heavy bombs were hidden beneath the smoke rising above the flames, but our crews clearly saw solid blocks of masonry tossed into the air through the smoke and high above it.

All the way to Hamburg the weather had been clear, with the moon reflected in the sea and waterways. German fighters near the Frisian Islands tried to bar the way and occasionally they had the advantage of seeing our bombers below them, dark against the moonlit sea.

But our bombers shook off the enemy and kept on their course to Hamburg, where they had to pierce successive concentrations of anti-aircraft fire before they went methodically to work.

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THE RE-BIRTH OF POLAND.

Broadcast by General Sikorski, on the anniversary of
the Polish Constitution, in the B.B.C.
Polish programme today, May 3rd, 1941.

In moments of danger to the State, a nation so undaunted as the Polish, rises to deeds of incomparable qualities. During her past history, not free from tragic periods, Poland proved it many a time.

One of these unforgettable events was the Constitution of May 3rd, 1791. Passed by the Four-year Parliament, with full co-operation of the middle classes - which, although not represented in the House, had opportunities of expressing their opinions in special assemblies - it opened to the nation a way to complete rebirth.

This Constitution could assure measures necessary for self-defence against any onslaught of her neighbours, which then as well as now, threatened us from the West and the East. Only lack of time and good organisation of our military forces prevented this wise reform to be put into life.

Poland fell under the superior might of Germany and Russia. Her neighbours governed then as despotically as today, fully understood that the Republic by perfecting her constitution and giving the people a free and democratic government, would not only restore internal order, but would become in time a strong obstacle to their imperialistic intentions.

Poland of 1939 was in herself a similar obstacle to the criminal plans of Hitler. Events justified, without doubt, the opinion that on a strong Poland depends the existence and freedom of all smaller states in the East of Europe. They lose their independence, being overrun by Germany or Russia, in the moment of our downfall.

The Constitution of May 3rd is an example of a revolution carried out without bloodshed. It created a new order, without causing any destruction. It wiped out the greatest evil, the Polish "liberum veto", introducing a democratic government of the State, which other Powers adopted only during the next century. It divided the legislative, administrative and judicial authorities. By giving the middle classes the rights of "neminem captivabimus," it levelled differences between these classes and the gentry. Finally, by taking the peasants under the protection of the State, it made a serious step towards the equality of all classes.

By adopting the Constitution of May 3rd, Poland entered 150 years ago on a way, which in the future the greatest and wealthiest democracies, i.e., Great Britain and the U.S.A., were to follow.

Envious neighbours have, it is true, destroyed this work, being afraid of its effect upon their own citizens. Its creation, however, proves for all time that our nation belonged long since to those who love liberty and social justice above all.

I shall refrain today from sad reflections. But at this moment all my thoughts go to our heroic land to which we are bound as its legal government. They go to those millions of Polish citizens, brutally removed from their own homes, who suffer misery and persecution of a most painful character. They go to those who suffer for their unbreakable and undaunted spirit while in the hands of oppressors without any scruples, whose barbarism is out of any control.

Only a nation, which can give up everything in defence of liberty, self-respect and honour, can be really great. The Polish nation showed these qualities during the present historical catastrophe. Today it is spiritually great. Tomorrow it will be great in every respect.

3.5.41 No. 26.

AIR MINISTRY 3779

H.O. R.A.F.
Middle East.
May 3.

MIDDLE EAST COMMUNIQUE

In the Western Desert yesterday (Friday) fighters and bombers of the Royal Air Force continued to harass the enemy. A convoy near El Aden was heavily raided, many of the vehicles being set on fire and others damaged. One ME. 109 and one ME.110 were shot down by fighters in the Tobruk area.

In Abyssinia fighter aircraft of the South African Air Force shot down one S.79 at Agaro and destroyed one CR.32 on the ground at Gimma.

Enemy trenches and defences were bombed at Debra Tabor, while in the Falaga pass and the Lake Asciangi area considerable damage was caused by direct hits on motor transport parks, stores and convoys, and over fifty vehicles were damaged by machine-gun fire.

In the Mediterranean, R.A.F. bombers attacked an enemy destroyer and merchant ship. Three direct hits were registered on the destroyer and one on the merchant ship. Subsequent reconnaissance proved both to have been sunk.

A JU. 88 was destroyed by anti-aircraft fire during the night of April 30/May 1st.

From all operations one of our aircraft is missing.

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THE SITUATION IN IRAQ.

During the last few days the Iraq Government had posted troops round the British aerodrome at Habbaniya; trenches were dug and guns were mounted on the edge of the desert plateau overlooking the aerodrome.

A request that these troops should be withdrawn was met by the dispatch of further forces.

On the early morning of May 2 hostilities broke out, the Iraqi artillery opening fire point-blank on the aerodrome. Habbaniya is an R.A.F. training centre and, as a result, the aircraft there are largely training machines; the cantonment, which houses the ground staff and the small guard of Assyrian levies, is unfortified.

According to the latest reports received, a number of our aircraft has been destroyed on the ground and some casualties have been sustained. Our aircraft took action and a number of the Iraqi guns have been silenced by our bombing. Yesterday afternoon, the Iraqi Air Force attempted to raid the aerodrome, but without success.

Friday night passed quietly, but shelling started again this morning and fighting is still in progress.

As regards Iraqi claims to have occupied the oil wells and all the aerodromes of the country, it should be pointed out that these have always been in Iraqi hands, with the single exception of Shaiba aerodrome, near Basra, where so far as is known no hostile action has been attempted.

Nothing is known here of anything justifying the Iraqi claim to have repulsed a British attack on RUTBA in western Iraq, and the story that British tanks were destroyed on an aerodrome there is certainly untrue.

3/5/41 - No.29.

OFFICIAL ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE

The Board of Admiralty regrets to announce that the Armed Merchant Cruiser H.M.S. VOLTAIRE (Acting Captain J.A.P. Blackburn, D.S.C., R.N.) is overdue and must be considered lost.

The next of kin have been informed.

ADMIRALTY. S.W.1.

AIR MINISTRY NO. 3781.

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE.

There has been some enemy activity during daylight today, mostly near the South-East and South-West coasts. No reports have been received of bombs being dropped in any area.

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE.

This afternoon an enemy aircraft was shot down into the sea off the coast of Kent by anti-aircraft gunfire.

There has been some enemy activity during daylight today, mostly near the South-East and South-West coasts. No reports have been received of bombs being dropped in any area.

This afternoon an enemy aircraft was shot down into the sea off the coast of Kent by anti-aircraft gunfire.

It is known that a second bomber was destroyed by anti-aircraft gunfire last night, making a total of five during the night.

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AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN NO. 3780.

AIR MINISTRY NEWS SERVICE.

BACK FROM LEAVE TO "CRY HAVOC".

This is a story of the crew of an American Havoc night fighter who have been over to France on two nights this week to see that some of these German bombers returning from raids on England did not manage to reach home. They shot down two.

On the first night, despite the pitch darkness, they found the aerodrome they were making for, and five minutes after they arrived, they were watching an aircraft which had tried to attack them bursting into flames as it hit the ground.

It had been riddled with bullets fired by the rear gunner.

That was last Tuesday night. On Friday night the same trio went out again, and this time, the pilot fired his front gun into an enemy bomber over another aerodrome. He gave it only two seconds' burst of fire. He had no time for more. He was streaking down on the enemy too quickly.

As his Havoc swept over, the German exploded with such terrific force that the Havoc was thrown many feet into the air.

All that was left was a mass of burning fragments falling to the ground while the Havoc returned to its base with scratches and dents on the fuselage caused by pieces of the bomber hitting it when they were flung in the air.

The Sergeant Pilot, aged 24, was a traveller with a firm of wholesale furriers before the war, during his training with the R.A.F.V.R. he broke both legs in 1939 and at the end of that year had to go through all his flying training again before he was passed to a night fighter squadron.

He said yesterday:- "We flew to an aerodrome where returning bombers were obviously expected. Our gunner saw one bomber to the right but he was too far away and had landed before we could get at him.

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"We chased a second one into a cloud, and as I was preparing to follow him, I saw a third bomber far away to my right. He was some distance below us, I dived across at him and opened fire, then broke away when we were less than 50 yards behind. As we swept over the top of the enemy, he blew up in the air."

The gunner who was ready to fire a second burst into the enemy saw it explode.

"I was ready to fire when suddenly the enemy bomber blew up, first with a bright orange flash and then a second bigger explosion," he said.

"The blast from the explosion blew our machine upwards and the whole of the aircraft inside was illuminated by the glare."

"All this happened within five minutes of our arriving over the aerodrome," said the observer, continuing the story.

"After that we circled round and dropped our bombs. There were several big explosions on the ground and three minutes after we had left I saw several more explosions. I am confident that we hit a number of aircraft on the ground and possibly an ammunition dump. On our way back we saw fires over other aerodromes started by the bombs of other members of our squadron."

The Sergeant Observer whose home is in Stewarden, near Kilmarnock, is 20 years of age and before the war was employed in an explosive factory. The air gunner, who is 25 and lives in Walthamstow, was a master butcher before he joined the R.A.F. at the beginning of the war.

The gunner described that Tuesday night's success in these words:-

"I was watching our bombs bursting and decided to get back to my guns. I saw an enemy aircraft coming up and I let him have it. I gave him a long burst and he dived past our tail. I squirted at him again as he went by. I saw his tracer bullets but he missed us. Our pilot saw him crash to the ground and explode."
