

~~copy~~

Dec 22 - 31, 1939 not msg -

22/12/39 - No 2.

DEPUTATION TO MINISTER OF SHIPPING

On the 20th December the Minister of Shipping and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry received a Deputation from the Shipping Federation, the War Risk Associations, the Mercantile Marine Service Association, the Officers (Merchant Navy) Federation, the Marine Engineers' Association, the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the National Union of Seamen to discuss the question of the payment of a month's wages to officers and seamen of the Mercantile Marine whose ships are lost owing to enemy action.

The Minister announced that the Government had decided to accept the offer, which had been made on behalf of the shipowners, to share with them in equal proportions the cost of paying wages to all surviving officers and men whose ships are torpedoed, mined, etc., for a period of one month or until they reach this country, whichever should be the greater. The owners have further offered to supplement during the second month the compensation payable to those who are injured when their ships are lost, and the effect of this would be that where a man was in receipt of full disability allowance he would in fact receive full wages.

Detailed arrangements were discussed and generally agreed and these will be embodied in a Ministry of Shipping Notice to Masters which will be published in the near future. These payments will take the place of ordinary shipwreck unemployment indemnity.

It was agreed that the arrangements should be deemed to have become operative on the 1st December 1939 and should apply to all merchant ships lost by enemy action on and after that date.

The representatives of the officers and men's Societies expressed their appreciation of the fact that the owners had made this generous offer and that the Government had seen their way to accept it; the arrangements which were being made would be highly appreciated by all those serving in the Merchant Navy.

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING.

NOT TO BE QUOTED AS AN
AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT.

22.12.39 - No. 3.

A R.A.F. SQUADRON MOVES TO A NEW STATION.

To move a Royal Air Force fighter squadron from one point of the country to another sounds easy - a matter, it might be thought, of the pilots flying their aircraft at 350 miles an hour from the old station to the new one. In reality the operation, though expeditiously carried out, is rather more complicated. This is how it is done.

The order to move is received overnight. At once the old quarters are alive with men packing their kit. For each aircraft on the station there are nine or ten ground staff to be transported - riggers, fitters, armourers, cooks and others.

To transport all these men, two large aircraft are sent to the station. The little fighters look like gadflies beside them.

Only a few months ago, these aircraft were passenger liners, silver-winged and comfortably equipped. Passengers for Paris used to climb into them up elegant step-ladders and settle back into their seats. The steward moved deftly up and down between spotless paintwork, springy cushions and smart curtains. Now, stripped of their luxurious fittings, their silver wings camouflaged, these Croydon liners can carry forty men and their kit at one time.

As the men are stowing their gear in the liners, the first of the squadron's two flights leaves for its new station. The other flight remains on the ground, ready to take off for instant action against enemy raiders.

Now the first half of the ground staff men pile into the two giant transports. It is their first flight for some time. Their eyes, as they watch the aircraft, are expert but curious. In normal times, Fighter Command has no

dealings with aircraft as tall as a house, and with six-foot landings wheels. A chuckle goes round as the monsters take off:- "Thought he'd never do it".

Presently a signal is received at the station . The first flight has landed and is at its action stations at the distant aerodrome.. The second flight prepares to leave - "Goodbye, good luck. We'll be seeing you." The aircraft roar into the sky.

And now, sedately, the two ex-liners are returning. The remainder of the ground staff are waiting for them. In go the kitbags, the steel helmets, the gas-masks, the aircraft "spares". Up scramble the men - none of your elegant Croydon step- ladders here. A couple of Intelligence Officers hurry across from the Mess. They, too, are leaving.

Doors are closed. Eight great propellers whirr. The giants turn easily in their own length, gather speed along the run-way, and are off on the last lap of their journey.

Within an hour, the Squadron will be on duty again, as a complete and self-contained unit, more than 100 miles away.

AIR MINISTRY.
WHITEHALL. S.W. 1.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE
MORNING NEWSPAPERS OF SATURDAY,
23RD DECEMBER, 1939, OR BROADCAST
BEFORE 8 A.M. ON SATURDAY, 23RD
DECEMBER, 1939.

AIR MINISTRY CASUALTY COMMUNIQUE NO.15.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

KILLED IN ACTION

ENTWISTLE	542335	Aircraftman 1st Class, R.
PACKER	563998	Flight Sergeant, W.H.
WALLER	517236	Sergeant, F.E.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "MISSING" NOW REPORTED
"KILLED IN ACTION".

SADLER	40061	Flying Officer, J.T.B.
STORR	514006	Sergeant, G.
TWINNING	543541	Aircraftman 2nd Class, F.A.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "MISSING BELIEVED KILLED"
NOW REPORTED "KILLED IN ACTION".

BRITTON	547193	Aircraftman 2nd Class, R.V.
BROWN	562022	Acting Sergeant, W.

WOUNDED IN ACTION.

PARTON	580673	Acting Sergeant, L.W.
--------	--------	-----------------------

MISSING.

POLHILL	551731	Aircraftman 1st Class, E.M.G.
TURNBULL	521968	Sergeant, J.B.A.
WARREN	547949	Aircraftman 1st Class, P.J.

MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED IN ACTION.

BEAUMONT	516285	Aircraftman 1st Class, H.E.
BRACE	563894	Sergeant, R.H.J.
COCKAYNE	550939	Corporal, H.J.
COOPER	39065	Flying Officer, J.A.H.
FORSYTH	520361	Leading Aircraftman, R.
HEYWOOD	523569	Aircraftman 1st Class, R.
HODGE	531390	Leading Aircraftman, D.G.
HOULDSWORTH	546818	Aircraftman 2nd Class, H.
JONES	563978	Sergeant, T.E.
LEWIS	40399	Pilot Officer, N.L.
WHITEHOUSE	528158	Corporal, H.D.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

BANKS	745332	Sergeant, A.G.
FORTNUM	41278	Pilot Officer, M.
KEATING	348825	Corporal, T.A.
KING	635974	Aircraftman 1st Class, T.D.
MAILER	42246	Pilot Officer, M.E.G.
NEWBIGGING	700221	Sergeant, S.H.
OVERALL	632442	Aircraftman 2nd Class, F.C.
ROSS	42888	Acting Pilot Officer, P.
RUSSELL-FORBES	41743	Pilot Officer, R.A.
SIDDONS	581355	Leading Aircraftman, T.D.
SMITH	581766	Flight Cadet, W.A.
STEVENS	42273	Pilot Officer, C.D.
THOM	580682	Sergeant, L.
TIPPLE	42031	Pilot Officer, H.G.
WALKER	36115	Acting Flight Lieutenant, P.D.
YELLAND	41892	Pilot Officer, H.G.

MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

BUCKLAND	619734	Aircraftman 2nd Class, J.C.
CAMERON	41900	Pilot Officer, A.

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

BINGHAM	10190	Squadron Leader, S.
EDWARDS	626364	Aircraftman 2nd Class, R.H.
Mc. CLUGGAGE	521091	Sergeant, E.
NAYLOR	569513	Leading Aircraftman, E.J.
SKINNER	33286	Flight Lieutenant, M.P.
SMITH	520179	Leading Aircraftman, I.J.T.
WILSON	617452	Aircraftman 2nd Class, H.

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

21st December, 1939.

22/12/39 - No.5.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE (Morning)

The following communique was issued this morning
by the French G.H.Q.:-

Nothing of importance to report.

---oOo---

ULSTER GROWS MORE FOOD
ALLOTMENT GARDEN CAMPAIGN

By the Spring of 1940 thousands of Ulster people will for the first time be the producers of their own vegetables.

Local Government bodies are co-operating with the Central Allotments Committee of Northern Ireland in the provision of garden plots and allotments. Buying co-operatively, the Committee assures plot holders of a variety of seed, fertilisers and skilled advice for 15/- a year, including the rent.

It is estimated that each of the 50 villages sharing in this food production campaign will have about 10 acres for vegetables; in the larger centres 40 to 50 acres will be tilled.

The Rural Development Council and the Northern Ireland Council of Social Service are putting their full weight into the campaign. The R.D.C. is concerned principally in preserving amenities and in the careful layout of the allotment areas, while the Social Service group encourages the allocation of plots to unemployed men.

22/12/39. - No. 7.

AIR MINISTRY BULLETIN

(Not to be quoted as an Air Ministry announcement)

R.A.F. ENJOYING CHRISTMAS.

The R.A.F. is working up for Christmas.

Here is the pre-Christmas programme of entertainment at one Fighter Command station - a lonely spot on wind-swept fields fifteen miles from the nearest cinema:-

MONDAY - Children's party.

TUESDAY - Whist Drive with 40 tables.

WEDNESDAY - Concert party supplied by N.A.A.F.I.

THURSDAY) - Station concert party.
FRIDAY)

SATURDAY - Dance for officers and men organised by the W.A.A.F.

SUNDAY - "Open house" in the Sergeants' Mess.

At this station the Commanding Officer is an "ace" of the last war, a man who knows how to spot talent. Among the men and women under his command he has discovered amateur crooners galore, two officers who were once members of a professional dance band, a tumbler act, a pilot who has acted Shakespeare and wants to continue doing so, and a first-class conjuror.

And the day and night watch of his fighter aircraft is still being kept as always.

-----oOo-----

EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

22.12.39. - No.8.

ROLLING IN FROM RIO.

£5,000 has been collected by British residents in
Rio de Janeiro for the Red Cross Fund.

-----oOo-----

LOOKING AFTER THE EMPIRE'S FIGHTERS

OVERSEAS LEAGUE HOSPITALITY SCHEME

Fifty Newfoundland seamen, who have come to this country to join up for minesweeping services, are being entertained to Luncheon on Saturday December 23, at the overseas League.

The lunch is being provided by the generosity of Lady Lucas, the wife of the Welcome Committee Chairman, and the Trade Commissioner for Newfoundland, Mr. D.J. Davies, and Mrs. Davies, will help entertain the men.

The lunch is part of the Hospitality Scheme which the Overseas League has undertaken on behalf of the men and officers of His Majesty's Forces who come from overseas. Many of them will be guests at the League Christmas Day Dinner and Dance, and private hospitality has been arranged for men from Jamaica, India, Canada, Australia and indeed almost every part of the Empire.



MINISTRY OF LABOUR & NATIONAL SERVICE

Press Notice

10/22.12.39.

FURNITURE MANUFACTURING TRADE.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has given notice of a draft Special Order applying the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, to the Furniture Manufacturing Trade. In the event of objections being made to the draft Special Order on or before the 31st January, 1940, next, which are not met or withdrawn, it will be necessary, before the Order is made, for a Public Enquiry to be held. In this event public notice will be given.

Copies of the draft Special Order may be obtained on application in writing to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Sunnyside Mansions Hotel, Knowsley Road, Southport, Lancs.

Press Office,

Ministry of Labour and National Service,

Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Telephone: Whitehall 6200.

H.Q.475-486 L.I.

THE FOLLOWING MUST NOT BE QUOTED AS AN ADMIRALTY
STATEMENT.

It is now possible to tell the whole story of the sinking of the Dutch tanker SLIEDRECHT by a U-boat. This neutral ship, bound for a neutral port, was sunk 150 miles from land in bad weather and no provision whatever was made for the safety of the crew.

It will be recollected that Germany sought to cover up this disgraceful act by claiming that a British Q ship flying Dutch colours had been sunk by a U-boat in the Atlantic. This claim was naturally dropped when five members of the crew of the SLIEDRECHT reached a West Coast port after being adrift in an open boat in the Atlantic for seven and a half days before being picked up by a British trawler.

Pieter Brons mate of the SLIEDRECHT who comes from Vlaardingen, in Holland, said in an interview in hospital that the SLIEDRECHT was about 150 miles west of Ireland at 8.30 p.m. on November 16th when a German submarine signalled to her to stop and have the ship's papers sent over. The small boat was launched and Brons and four others rowed across but owing to the high swell it was with difficulty that they could get alongside the submarine. After examining the ship's papers the submarine commander said that he would have to sink the SLIEDRECHT and he gave us half an hour to abandon ship.

"We told him that it was a neutral ship bound for a neutral port, but he said he would still have to sink the ship," explained Brons. "We then asked him to take us aboard the submarine and transfer us to another vessel but he refused saying that he had no room.

"Before we returned to our ship the submarine commander warned us that if we gave any distress signals we would be immediately sunk without further warning. The sea was so rough that we took nearly half an hour to row back to the SLIEDRECHT and we only had time to yell to those on board to abandon ship as she was going to be sunk. The remaining 26 members of the crew then launched the lifeboat and rowed away from the tanker. Soon afterwards the submarine fired a torpedo which exploded with a terrific flash. I shall never forget that terrible flame that leapt from the vessel as the torpedo struck.

"After the ship had sunk we stayed near the spot in the hope of being picked up by another ship but none came in sight. We tried to get near the other lifeboat to take off some of the crew as she was overcrowded but could not reach her on account of the high seas. We saw her signalling in the darkness. The submarine also saw her signalling and fired a warning shot across the boat. When dawn came the other boat had disappeared.

"Towards/

"Towards the evening of the day following the sinking of our boat the weather got worse and we set a course as best we could for the east hoping that the wind would blow us towards the Irish Coast in spite of the northward drift of the Gulf Stream. We had no compass and relied on the stars when we could see them. We had a little bread and water on board and this was all the food we had.

"We all had overcoats but that was the only protection we had against the wind and the sea. We were never dry. We were soaked to the skin from the time our ship sank to the time that we were picked up.

"We were continually bailing the boat and one night we had to empty her three times on account of the high seas.

"On Wednesday night, November 22, the weather got slightly better and we were able to make a sail from two overcoats and with the wind still from the west we were able to continue on our course. Although none of us had a watch we calculated that about seven o'clock that night we saw a bright light in the distance and at first thought it was coming from a fishing boat. Being so low down and the sea so rough, it was very difficult for us to distinguish the light but as we got nearer we could see that it was a lighthouse.

"In the moonlight we saw cliffs behind the lighthouse, so after sailing until we were approximately ten miles distant from the light we lay to so that we would not be driven on to the rocks in the darkness. But the current and the wind took us in shore and we were only about two miles from the lighthouse when morning came. Two hours later we sailed past the lighthouse, which we were told later was the Barra Head Lighthouse, in the hope that those in charge would see us and signal for help. Getting to the other side of the Island we saw a trawler not far off and with what little strength we had left we yelled and shouted and eventually attracted its attention.

"We were taken aboard wet and stiff with the cold but still alive. We had all given up hope of being rescued and were waiting for the end".

The survivors were so exhausted when they were taken on board the MERISA that they had to be carried out of their small boat. The trawler conveyed them to Oban where they were conveyed by ambulance to the West Highland Cottage Hospital.

The names of the survivors are Pieter Brons skipper; Basteaan Storm, Lunairt vd Knoozr; Ardiannus Driessen; Huebert Deyong.

22/12/39 - No.12.

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.

Eire - Export Licences.

The Board of Trade have issued an open general licence No. G.L. 217 in substitution for the present open general licence for exports to Eire. The changes effected by the new licence are that as from 23th December, when it comes into force, licences will be required for the export to Eire of agricultural and horticultural seeds, and of rough diamonds, and industrial diamonds, but licences will no longer be required for fish of any kinds, condensed and dried milk, and silk.

Board of Trade,

22nd December, 1939.

AIR MINISTRY

22/12/39 No. 13.

AIR RAIDERS OFF SCOTTISH COAST

The Air Ministry announces:-

Enemy aircraft were reported off the Firth of Forth this morning. Fighter aircraft were sent up to intercept them. At a considerable height contact was made with an enemy aircraft which was identified as a Heinkel 111. On being engaged, the Heinkel dived into the **clouds** but was followed by the leader of our own formation. On emerging between two layers of cloud, the enemy was re-engaged and after a further attack by a fighter continued its dive and was lost in the lower cloud level.

-----oOo-----

SOCKS FROM AUSTRALIAN SHEEP

COUNTRY WOMEN SPIN THEIR OWN FLEECE

In the big parcels of knitted comforts for the troops that arrive on every ship from Sydney, are socks that have been sent from women in the far west of New South Wales, where there is often an interval of weeks between mail-days.

Many of these women do all the work of their stations while their menfolk are in camp; but they have their own spinning-wheels and in leisure moments spin the fleeces that come from their own sheeps' backs, and forward the gifts to Sydney.

PRESS NOTICE

On 8th September the Treasury announced the suspension for the time being of licences issued under Section 8 of the Finance Act 1936. The Treasury now give notice that they will consider applications for licences to import, free of duty, goods intended to be used in scientific research.

Such applications, which should be addressed to The Secretary, H.M. Treasury, Whitehall, S.W.1., must be made on behalf of educational institutions, hospitals, or recognised scientific laboratories (including laboratories maintained by industrial organisations or consultants) and must be accompanied by a written statement by the responsible professor or director. This statement should indicate the scientific purpose for which the goods are required and justify the claim that a suitable alternative is not obtainable in the United Kingdom.

All applications must be made before the delivery of the goods to the importer, and steps should be taken to ascertain whether the class of goods which it is desired to import is one of those requiring an import licence. If such a licence is necessary the importer should not arrange to ship the goods until he has obtained a licence from the Import Licensing Department of the Board of Trade.

---oOo---

H.M. TREASURY.

WAR IN THE FAR EASTTHE PROBLEMS OF HONG KONG

An atmosphere of war is nothing new to the Colony of Hong Kong, which has had many problems thrust upon it since the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese hostilities.

In a report published this morning it is stated that the two outstanding effects of that war have been an enormous increase of refugee population, and the diversion to the Colony of trade formerly conducted through other ports.

True to its policy of maintaining the freedom of the port and of placing no restrictions on the ingress or egress of the Chinese population, the Government of Hong Kong have had to care for tens of thousands of war-stricken refugees. The vast majority of them were friendless and destitute, and it was estimated that as many as 27,000 slept nightly in the streets. Chinese tenement houses which normally shelter 18 persons on every floor, increased their populations to 60 a floor.

Sanitary conditions naturally deteriorated, and there were serious outbreaks
/of smallpox and cholera. All charitable institutions in the colony did their utmost to cope with the destitute, but their combined resources were utterly inadequate.

The Government promptly stepped in and shouldered the major part of the burden. At a cost of \$500,000 three refugee camps were built, designed to hold about 5,000 persons. After the fall of Canton a fourth camp was constructed, and later in the year further railway-truck camps were opened near the mainland frontier.

Some idea of the extent of the problem can be gauged from the fact that 305,957 more persons arrived in the Colony in 1938 by railway and by ocean and river steamer than departed. This figure does not include the thousands arriving by sampan, junk, ferry, launch and on foot.

The situation is, however, now well in hand, and the bulk of the refugees from neighbouring provinces have returned to their villages; about 7,000 still remain in the camps.

+++++

COTTON EXPORT TRADE.

The following is a copy of correspondence between the President of the Board of Trade and Sir Percy Ashley the Chairman of the Cotton Board.

21st December, 1939.

Dear Sir Percy Ashley,

I am now able to inform you of the decision on the Cotton Board's proposals regarding cotton yarn prices and regarding a levy on raw cotton which I discussed with you and Mr. Frank Platt at the beginning of this month.

As I explained to you, the proposals for the establishment of fixed prices for cotton yarns go beyond the measures hitherto regarded as necessary for the purpose of war time control in other industries, and I feel some doubt as to whether those proposals could have been justified but for their connection with the Cotton Board's plans for development of the export trade.

We are agreed that the present prices for certain of the coarser yarns are unduly high and that reduction to the level that the Cotton Board are now proposing will be of advantage to the export trade. Whether it is necessary to establish that level, not merely as a maximum but also as a minimum price level, was a question we had to discuss; but for my part I accept the assurances you have given to me that the stability provided by fixed prices for cotton yarns is urgently needed as a basis for development of exports. The Government have therefore agreed that the Minister of Supply should take steps under the Defence Regulations to give effect to arrangements for fixed prices. The necessary Order will be made shortly and I shall be glad if the Cotton Board will keep me closely informed as to the progress that is being made and, in particular, as to the special arrangements that are being made to assist the development of export trade.

The Cotton Board also propose that there should be a levy on raw cotton to enable them to finance certain services that are needed for the purpose of safeguarding and of promoting the development of export trade in the industry. These services include technical research and research into market conditions overseas, together with publicity and similar measures for increasing the consumption of United Kingdom cotton goods. The matter is, I understand, still under discussion with the Cotton Board and other bodies representing various sections of the cotton industry, but I am able to tell you in advance that, assuming a satisfactory outcome of the discussions, the Government will be prepared to propose to Parliament without delay the legislation necessary for the purpose of a levy at a rate not exceeding .04d. per lb. of raw cotton. It is also proposed that in accordance with the Cotton Board's further recommendation, this legislation should contain provisions authorising the

Board of Trade, with the approval of the Treasury, to contribute towards the cost of market investigation, etc., amounts not exceeding one-half of the expenditure on approved projects, subject in any year to a maximum of £40,000.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) OLIVER STANLEY.

THE COTTON BOARD

Blackfriars House,
Manchester.

22nd December, 1939.

Dear President,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 21st December. My colleagues and I appreciate very greatly the intimation that the Government are prepared, subject to the condition indicated in your letter, to introduce at an early date legislation to give effect to the proposals we have submitted to you for setting up a Cotton Board on a statutory basis and provided with the means of assisting research and market investigation.

I can assure you that we shall do all in our power to co-operate effectively with the Board of Trade in the effort to maintain and develop the export trade, and we believe that the action now being taken to establish a stable basis for yarn prices is an important first step towards that end.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) PERCY ASHLEY.

Chairman of the Cotton Board.

Broadcast
Verbatim
not immediate
Home service

22/12/39- No. 18.

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.

IMPORTS FROM FRANCE.

In the spirit of the conversations between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the French Minister of Finance regarding the necessity for close and continuous Anglo-French co-operation in the financial and economic spheres, further adjustments of the United Kingdom import restrictions are being made in regard to certain French products. These adjustments, which were decided upon some time ago, will operate as from the beginning of January 1940.

As from the beginning of January 1940 there will be some further increase in the permitted imports of most kinds of textiles and apparel from France. Licences will also be issued for the importation from France of increased quantities of footwear, shellfish, slates and one or two other products.

These measures form an integral part of the special economic and financial arrangements which are in force between His Majesty's Government and the French Government.

Board of Trade,

22nd December, 1939.

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

Christmas, the Salvage Department of the Ministry of Supply points out, presents a great opportunity to save paper in the national interest. Normally at this time of year something like 10,000 tons of wrapping papers and cards are wasted by householders.

The Ministry urges that householders this year should keep their wrappings from presents, envelopes and cards separate from general refuse. By this means paper and cardboard which otherwise would be wasted may be collected in a clean condition in those districts where local Councils and Boy Scouts organisations have undertaken this work.

Christmas cards may still be sent to Hospitals the Ministry suggests, and indeed a useful service will be done if this practice continues.

After the Hospitals have finished with the cards they will be collected in bulk for re-use under the Ministry's Salvage scheme.

-----oOo-----

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

20

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Scientific Research and Technical Development.

The Minister of Supply, Mr. Burgin, has set up an Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development to advise him on scientific and technical problems.

The Ministry of Supply, through its Directorate of Scientific Research, controls a large volume of scientific and technical work with direct application to military needs. The Council, which is composed of men eminent in the various branches of science with which the Ministry is concerned, will ensure that this work is conducted with due regard to recent advances in scientific knowledge. The Council will also initiate new proposals for research and technical development, and make recommendations regarding the most effective use of scientific personnel.

The Council, of which Lord Cadman of Silverdale, G.C.M.G., D.Sc., L.L.D., is Chairman, will be constituted as follows:-

Professor E.N. da C. Andrade, D.Sc., F.R.S.,
Professor of Physics, University of London.

E.V. Appleton, Esq., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.,
Secretary, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research

Sir Joseph Barcroft, C.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.,
Formerly Professor of Physiology, Cambridge.

Professor W.L. Bragg, O.B.E., M.C., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.,
Professor of Physics, Cambridge.

Major-General E.M.C. Clarke,
Director of Artillery (Military Adviser)
Ministry of Supply.

Professor J.D. Cockcroft, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.,
Professor of Natural Philosophy, Cambridge.

Major-General A.E. Davidson, C.B., D.S.O.,
Controller of Mechanization development (Military Adviser)
Ministry of Supply.

H.J. Gough, Esq., M.B.E., D.Sc., M.I.Mech.E., F.R.S.,
Director of Scientific Research.
Ministry of Supply.

H.L. Guy, Esq., D.Sc., M.I.Mech.E., M.Inst.C.E., F.R.S.,
Chief Engineer, Mechanical Engineering Department,
Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Company Limited.

Tel. No.—Gerrard 6933.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:—
The Secretary,
Ministry of Supply,
London, W.C.2.
and the following number quoted.



MINISTRY OF SUPPLY,
THE ADELPHI,
LONDON, W.C.2.

The Minister of Supply, Mr. Burgin, has set up an Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development to advise him on scientific and technical problems. The Ministry of Supply, through its Directorate of Scientific Research, controls a large volume of scientific and technical work with direct application to military needs. The Council, which is composed of men eminent in the various branches of science with which the Ministry is concerned, will ensure that this work is conducted with due regard to recent advances in scientific knowledge. The Council will also initiate new proposals for research and technical development, and make recommendations regarding the most effective use of scientific personnel.

The Council, of which Lord Gosman of Silverdale, O.C.M.B., D.Sc., F.R.S., is Chairman, will be constituted as follows:—

Professor E.N. da C. Andrade, D.Sc., F.R.S.,
Professor of Physics, University of London.

E.V. Appleton, Esq., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.,
Secretary, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.

Sir Joseph Barrow, O.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.,
Formerly Professor of Physiology, Cambridge.

Professor W.L. Bragg, O.B.E., M.C., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.,
Professor of Physics, Cambridge.

Major-General E.M.O. Clarke,
Director of Artillery (Military Adviser),
Ministry of Supply.

Professor J.D. Cockcroft, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.,
Professor of Natural Philosophy, Cambridge.

Major-General A.R. Davidson, C.B., D.S.O.,
Controller of Mechanisation Development (Military Adviser),
Ministry of Supply.

H.J. Gough, Esq., M.B.E., D.Sc., M.I.Mech.E., F.R.S.,
Director of Scientific Research,
Ministry of Supply.

H.J. Guy, Esq., D.Sc., M.I.Mech.E., M.Inst.C.E., F.R.S.,
Chief Engineer, Mechanical Engineering Department,
Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Company Limited.

Brig-General Sir Harold B. Hartley, C.B.E., M.C., M.A., D.Sc.,
F.R.S.

Vice-President & Director of Research, L.M.S. Railway,
and Chairman of the Fuel Research Board.

Professor I.M. Heilbron, D.S.O., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.
Professor of Organic Chemistry, University of London.

Professor A.V. Hill, O.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.,
Secretary Royal Society, & Foulerton Research Professor
(Physiology)

Professor R.S. Hutton, M.A., D.Sc.,
Professor of Metallurgy, Cambridge.

Sir Robert Robertson, K.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.,
Director of the Salters' Institute of Industrial Chemistry;
Formerly Government Chemist.

Sir Robert Robinson, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.,
Professor of Chemistry, Oxford.

J. Rogers, Esq., O.B.E.,
Deputy Director-General of Explosives,
Ministry of Supply,

Sir Frank E. Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.,
Director of Instrument Production, Ministry of Supply,
Director of Research, Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

Professor R.V. Southwell, M.A., M.I.Mech.E., F.R.S.,
Professor of Engineering, Oxford.

Professor G.I. Taylor, M.A., D.Sc., D.C.L., F.R.S.,
Yarrow Research Professor of the Royal Society
(Engineering)

Lt.-Gen. Sir Maurice Taylor, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Senior Military Adviser, Ministry of Supply.

Sir Henry T. Tizard, K.C.B., A.F.C., M.A., F.R.S.,
Rector of Imperial College of Science;
Chairman, Aeronautical Research Committee.

The Joint Secretaries of the Council will be E.T. Paris, Esq.
D.S.C., and F. Roffey, Esq., B.Sc., Ph.D., Ministry of Supply,
Adelphi, W.C.2.

The Admiralty, Air Ministry and Ministry of Home Security
are also represented on the Council.

Ministry of Supply,
Press Office.
22/13/39.

22.12.39. - No.21.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

MINISTER THANKS LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Walter Elliot) has sent Christmas messages to the local authorities expressing his deep appreciation of "the efficiency, devotion and sympathy" with which County, Borough, Urban and Rural Councils have played their part in the Government's Evacuation Scheme.

Twelve months ago, writes Mr. Elliot, when the local authorities' organisations took part in a conference at the Ministry of Health, their representatives assured Ministers of their readiness to co-operate in the preparation and, if necessary, the execution of the scheme. Those assurances have been more than fulfilled by the performance of the local authorities during the year.

"The arrangements have involved an enormous expansion of the normal activities of the local authorities - they have indeed required the creation and maintenance of a big organisation of a kind to which the authorities have not been accustomed.

"There can be few homes which have not been affected in one way or another by these activities. I recognise to the full the call for devoted service which has been made upon local authorities and the residents in their towns. They are, I know, continuing this service by their efforts to give a happy Christmas to the children who have been evacuated and who will, I hope, stay in the homes which have been found for them until they can return in safety to their homes.

"The County Councils have had a double part to discharge in this work. In the preparatory arrangements they acted as co-ordinating authorities for the efforts of the country as a whole, and I have been particularly glad to see the spirit of co-operation and harmony in which the efforts of all authorities have been carried out in this national service.

"Without organising ability, local initiative and sympathy between local authorities and residents, the scheme could not have achieved the success it has."

These messages have been sent to Lord Derby, President of the Association of Municipal Corporations, Lord Bayford, President of the County Councils Association, Lord Denham, President of the Urban District Councils Association, Sir Percy Hurd, M.P., President of the Rural District Councils Association, and Mrs E.M. Lowe, Chairman of the London County Council.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

Mr. Walter Elliot, the Minister of Health, this (Friday) morning received a deputation from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the National Pharmaceutical Union about the medical treatment of unaccompanied children evacuated under the Government scheme. The deputation was introduced by Mr. W. Deacon, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society, and Mr. Mallinson, the Secretary of the National Pharmaceutical Union, also spoke.

The deputation recognised that the arrangements for the treatment of the children had to be made as a matter of urgency, but they regretted that the principle under which medicines were supplied by the chemists on the prescription of the doctors, and not by the doctors themselves, had been departed from without consultation with the pharmaceutical bodies. This principle had been established by the National health Insurance Act, and had worked extremely satisfactorily for over 25 years. They hoped therefore that the present arrangement was not to be regarded as a precedent.

In reply the Minister said that the arrangements were made towards the end of August, when events were moving with great rapidity and the imminence of war made it necessary to reach immediate agreement. To have brought a third party into the negotiations would have caused delay, and therefore negotiations were undertaken only with the British Medical Association acting on behalf of the doctors. He regretted that there had not been time to consult the pharmacists, but gave the deputation the assurance, which he promised to confirm in writing, that these arrangements, which were limited to unaccompanied school-children, were purely emergency arrangements. They did not indicate any desire to depart from the principle established by the National Health Insurance Act, which it was the intention of the Ministry to maintain. He did not feel that it was practicable at this date to substitute fresh arrangements for the treatment of the unaccompanied school-children. He would, however, do anything he could to facilitate the wider adoption of the agreements which had already been made in some areas between the local emergency medical committee representing the doctors, and the chemists, whereby medicines needed by the children would be supplied by the chemists on prescriptions issued by the doctors.

The deputation thanked the Minister for his assurances.

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1

22/12/39

No 23

MAHARAJA OF RAJPIPLA'S GIFT

His Highness the Maharaja of Rajpipla has offered, as from January next, in twelve instalments, one lakh of rupees for war purposes. He has expressed a desire that the first instalment shall be earmarked for cigarettes for the troops in France. In accepting this gift, His Excellency the Viceroy has expressed his deep appreciation.

(Issued by authority of the India Office which should not
be quoted)

22/12/39 - No. 24.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENT

FOOD PROBLEMS

HELP FROM HOUSEWIVES

The Minister of Food, Mr. W.S. Morrison, M.P. has received a great many offers of help from voluntary, commercial and professional organisations who are providing food lectures and demonstrations. Mr. Morrison has recently replied to a letter from Lady Reading, writing as Chairman of the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence, as follows:-

Great Westminster House
S. W. 1.

21st December, 1939.

"Dear Lady Reading,

Thank you for your letter of the 18th December containing an offer to place the resources of your organisation at the disposal of my Department.

I am most grateful to you, and as you will know offers of help have already been received from many of the bodies in your Food Advisory Group. The question as to the best lines on which such help can be most usefully directed is being very carefully worked out here in close consultation with other Departments.

I am impressed by the need for guidance to the general public on the problems likely to arise, and I am very anxious to secure all the co-operation possible, especially from women's organisations. The steps necessary to make full use of your offer are being taken and I would again express my thanks for it.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) W.S. MORRISON."

22nd December, 1939.

WHITHER CEYLON

Two apparently opposing tendencies are striving for mastery in Ceylon, it is suggested in the Annual General Report for 1938 (H.M. Stationery Office, No. 1922. Price 3/-). The issue is whether the Colony should try to develop her foreign trade at the expense of her internal development, or whether she should be prepared to sacrifice her export trade and concentrate on the production of her own food and as far as possible produce her own clothing.

In the first direction the Chamber of Commerce is putting out energetic efforts, while the Department of Agriculture is no less energetic in trying to make Ceylon self-sufficing in the matter of food.

The best solution, in the official view, lies in the adoption of a middle course, the time being past when, in the words of the Report, "nations can adopt an ersatz policy with success and live at home".

---oOo---

267,
NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE ISSUE OF LONDON GAZETTE ON 22ND, DECEMBER.

The War Office,

London, S.W.1.

22nd December, 1939.

The War Office announces that His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of Her Majesty Queen Mary, Colonel-in-Chief 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own). The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), Worcester & Oxfordshire Yeomanry Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, President Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Territorial Army Nursing Service, and Queen Alexandra's Army Nursing Board, from Worcester and Oxfordshire Yeomanry, Anti-Tank Regiment, to be Colonel-in-Chief, Oxfordshire Yeomanry, Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.

277
The War Office,
London, S.W.1.
22nd December, 1939.

Tonight's London Gazette states that His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned rewards for distinguished services rendered in the field in connection with operations in Palestine during the period 1st April to 30th July, 1939:-

The Distinguished Service Order.

Lieutenant-Colonel (since promoted Colonel, temporary Brigadier) William Havelock Chaplin Ramsden, M.C.,
1st Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alan MacDougall Ritchie, 1st Battalion,
The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's).

Major Adrian Kelso Hamilton, M.C., 2nd Battalion,
The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment).

Major Harley Gerald Veasey, 2nd Battalion, The Queen's
Royal Regiment (West Surrey).

Major Maxwell Elrington, The Border Regiment.

The Military Cross.

Captain Montague Fell Sydenham Sydenham-Clarke,
2nd Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey).

Lieutenant Richard George Fellowes Frisby, 1st Battalion,
The Hampshire Regiment.

Lieutenant Geoffrey Richard Desmond Fitzpatrick,
1st The Royal Dragoons.

Second Lieutenant Graham Cecil Gordon Taylor, 2nd Battalion,
The Leicestershire Regiment.

The Military Medal.

No. 4910795 Lance-Serjeant Wilfred Leslie Hooley,
1st Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment.

No. 4911176 Lance-Serjeant Sydney Charles Warman,
1st Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment.

No. 4532940 Corporal (temporary Lance-Serjeant)
Robert Spoors, 2nd Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment
(The Prince of Wales's Own).

No. 3311440 Lance-Corporal (acting Corporal)
Francis McCulloch, 2nd Battalion, The Highland Light
Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment).

No. 5498513 Private Charles Francis William Hutchings,
1st Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment.

2.

His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for valuable services rendered in the field in connection with operations in Palestine during the period 1st April to 30th July, 1939:-

To be an Officer of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:-

Captain Anthony Philip Clement Crossley, 1st King's Dragoon Guards.

28-29 mg

THE WAR OFFICE

22/12/39 - No. 30.

THE ARMY COUNCIL WELCOMES THE CANADIANS.

The Secretary of State for War has sent the following message on behalf of the Army Council to Major-General A.G.L. McNaughton, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding the Canadian Active Service Force in this country:-

"On behalf of the Army Council, may I, on your arrival, assure you of the great pride and pleasure which is felt on welcoming the first contingent of the Canadian Active Service Force. It revives a comradeship of 25 years ago. Your coming is a living proof that our just cause brings British men together from all ends of the earth, and we shall stand together until the victory is won.

LESLIE HORE-BELISHA,

Secretary of State for War".

AIR BATTLE IN THE CLOUDS.

(This story is a followup of issue No.13 of to-day
(Friday).)

(NOT TO BE QUOTED AS AN AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT.)

A large round splash of foam on the surface of the water was seen by a R.A.F. Fighter command pilot after a fight with a German raider at the Firth of Forth to-day.

When Heinkels were first sighted flying towards the Scottish coast this morning, they were above two layers of cloud. As soon as they saw British fighters they dived to one layer. A fighter followed, firing at one of the Heinkels immediately it was free of cloud.

The fighter pilot's dive carried him below the Heinkel. He pulled up and went on firing from underneath the enemy.

His tracer ammunition, seemed to go straight into the fusilage of the Heinkel, the German air gunner answered back. One bullet pierced the tail end of the fighter's fusilage but did no serious damage.

The Heinkel, driven down, disappeared below the bottom layer of cloud. Before it went, the British pilot, and another who followed, saw a puff of black smoke coming from the raider.

A third fighter pilot, returning from pursuit of a second Heinkel saw a splash of foam below the place of combat.

Not to be published in this country or in any other country before the morning (Greenwich Mean Time) of Saturday, 23rd December, and not to be broadcast before midnight 22nd - 23rd December.

LORD WILLINGDON TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND.

In response to a request from His Majesty's Government in New Zealand, the Most Honourable the Marquess of Willingdon, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E., has been invited to represent the United Kingdom Government during the Centennial Celebrations which are being held in New Zealand next year. He will be accompanied by the Marchioness of Willingdon.

Lord and Lady Willingdon will arrive in New Zealand in time to attend the celebrations in the early part of the year.

22/12/39 - No.34.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENT.

CANNED SALMON PRICES.

The Canned Salmon (Provisional Maximum Prices) (No.2) Order, made by the Minister of Food on 22nd December amends the maximum prices prescribed by the original Order for two only of the four sizes of Red Salmon specified under Grade 1 in the Schedule to that Order.

The revised maximum prices are :-

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Wholesale</u>	<u>Retail</u>
Sockeye, Red Alaska, Siberian & Japanese Red.	} 1 lb. Talls	62/6 per case of 48 containers	1/7½d per container
	} ¼ lb. Flats	51/- per case of 96 containers	8d. per container

It should be noted that these are maximum prices and not minimum.

The Order comes into force on 27th December.

(Not to be quoted as an
Air Ministry announcement).

HELIGOLAND AIR GUNNER'S ESCAPE.

Pilots and aircraftmen helped to save the life of one of the airmen of the Heligoland battle, the gunner of the British bomber which alone accounted for five Messerschmitt fighters.

They made a human escalator of their backs to remove him as gently as possible from the aircraft when it returned before rushing him to hospital. He weighed 14 stone and they had no easy task. The gunner had been shot through the thigh, and although the bullet had missed both bone and artery, he had lost a great deal of blood on the long and extremely cold flight home.

Now he is "doing very well".

It was because of his fear for the gunner's safety that the returning bomber pilot decided to land at the nearest home aerodrome, a lonely station near the East Coast.

Just before dark the bomber aircraft appeared over the station. As it put down, cheered by the waiting pilots, a tyre burst and the aircraft swung round in a circle.

It had been badly damaged. Both wings were largely in tatters and the fuselage was riddled with bullet holes. One wing had burst into flames, but the fire did not last long. Despite the damage the aircraft "flew as well as ever".

An armour piercing bullet tore the sole from the boot of a third member of the crew; but he was lucky enough to escape with a graze and a slight burn.

NOTE FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE PRESS.

The above refers to the action over Heligoland Bight on 18.12.39.

FROM AIR AFFAIRS.

22/12/39 - No.36.

Not to be published before the morning papers of December 23rd.

The Ministry of Information announces that Mr. W. Surrey Dane, Director of the General Production Division of the Ministry, who at the outbreak of war was released temporarily by Messrs. Odhams Press Ltd. from his commercial duties to undertake the organisation of this Division, will leave the Ministry at the end of the year. Mr. Surrey Dane is the Publicity Director of Odhams Press Ltd. and his services were lent to the Government by the courtesy of Lord Southwood, Chairman and Managing Director. The Minister takes this opportunity of expressing his gratitude to Mr. Surrey Dane for his valuable assistance. Mr. Surrey Dane has agreed to continue to be at the disposal of the Ministry in a consultative capacity.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

22/12/39 - No 37.

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

The Air Ministry announces:-

On the Western Front today four Messerschmidt 109 fighters dived out of a cloud and attacked a British fighter patrol of three aircraft.

Two of our patrol and one Messerschmidt were shot down. A second Messerschmidt was driven down but was not seen to crash.

AIR AFFAIRS
