

12.12.39 - No. 1.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

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

Patrol activity at several points of the front.

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WEST AFRICAN CHIEFS' LOYALTY.

WALKING IN BARE FOOT WITH GIFTS.

"It is simply incredible to see old bare-footed Chiefs walking for miles with a very generous contribution".

So a District Commissioner in charge of the area which was formerly the German Cameroons, reports in a letter which describes the growth of the Nigeria Relief Fund. "I wonder if people at home realise," he continues "how loyal the native chiefs of this country are."

95% of these people have "no idea who Hitler is" and no very clear geographical conception of where England lies. All they know is that a country and an administration which they have come to regard with affectionate respect is being challenged.

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SMUTS'S POLICY GAINS GROUNDSWING OF OPINION IN THE COUNTRY DISTRICTS.

To consolidate its extensive and increasing support in the rural areas, the United Party, whose organisation has been retained by General Smuts, has started an energetic campaign in the Transvaal. A series of regional congresses are being held this month and new branches are being formed at a very encouraging rate.

Statistics reaching the head office of the Party in Pretoria show that in spite of intense Opposition propaganda, General Smuts's policy is gaining ground rapidly in the country districts.

Of the 26 rural divisional committees 17 have voted in support of the policy of the present Government. Attending those 17 committees were 583 delegates from branches of whom 472 voted for the Smuts policy and 111 against. Six of the 26 committees supported General Hertzog, the voting here being 112 for and 91 against. Voting on the remaining three committees was equal.

More than 200 branches have in the past few weeks been reorganised in support of General Smuts.

Mr. J.H. Hofmeyr, Minister of Finance, said in a recent speech that there were now more Afrikaans-speaking South Africans supporting General Smuts than in the days of the old South African party. He emphasised that the split in the United Party was not a racial split and that the present political struggle was not a struggle between English and Afrikaans-speaking South Africans. The Afrikaans-speaking South Africans who supported General Smuts did so because they believed his war policy to be in the true interests of South Africa.



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE NO. 14.THE PLOUGH AND THE WAR.What the Eastern Counties are Doing.

Conditions in this country of soil, climate, farms and types of farming are so variable that generalisations are apt to be misleading. Therefore in surveying the progress of the ploughing campaign a truer picture can be given by dividing Britain into districts and presenting a brief account of each.

East Anglia has never lost its association with the plough, so the Eastern Counties seems the obvious place to begin.

Norfolk, universally held by those who live in it to be the premier arable county of England, has made remarkable progress in the task deputed to them by Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith. Helped by the traditional skill of its farmers and farm workers and with good leadership from the County Committee, Norfolk already has not only made arrangements for ploughing the additional acreage assigned as its first wartime task, but now hopes considerably to exceed it. In spite of the heavy demand on labour in this county for lifting the sugar beet crop and other seasonal work, there is one district where 47 per cent. of the scheduled grassland has been already ploughed and 27 per cent. actually drilled with wheat. Making History.

Coming south to Suffolk, this county also has its quota of extra arable acres promised. In common with many other parts of Britain, the whole of this effort has been voluntary. In fact, it has been the universal experience over the whole country that compulsion has been almost unknown, although never before in our history have we attempted a ploughing campaign in a single season on anything approaching this scale.

Suffolk farmers also are in many instances exceeding the quota asked of them and the reduced supply of feeding stuffs is leading to an additional campaign to render every farm self-supporting.



## The Story of Essex.

Continued wet weather has hampered ploughing everywhere, but in Essex, as might be expected by those who know the heavy character of its land, the results have been particularly unfortunate.

Large areas of such land normally seeded to wheat have not been planted. The need is all the greater, therefore to concentrate on spring oats and barley that will come in for the 1940 harvest.

But Essex has special problems that have nothing to do with the weather. There are vast areas of thousands of acres of London clay that went back to grass both in the depression of the "nineties" and after the last war - in such districts as the Dengie Hundred, Great and Little Wigborough and where "Tolleshunt" and "Layer" are picturesque prefixes to parishes whose agricultural story is not so pretty.

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### MORE SUGAR BEET.

390,000 Acres for 1940.

Farmers are being asked to grow an additional 53,000 acres of sugar beet this year; that is, an increase of about 15 per cent. on the 1939 area of 337,000 acres.

There is good reason to expect that the extra acres will be forthcoming. For the 1940 contract offers the growers an increased price that works out at 4/11d. per ton of beet in an average year. There is also the undertaking that prices will be reviewed in the event of increased production costs not taken into account when the contract was drawn up.

But the beet crop is also important for its contribution to animal feeding stuffs. The tops - often under-rated in food value - are almost equal in weight to the roots and this year the crop has yielded about 350,000 tons of dried pulp (and molasses), which growers have got back from the factories on favourable terms.

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### GRANT FOR 1 ACRE PLOUGHINGS.

#### HELPING THE SMALLHOLDER AND CROFTER.

The reduction of the minimum area eligible for the Government ploughing up Grant announced by Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith in Parliament on December 7th, will enable many smallholders and crofters to make a further contribution to the food production campaign.

Probably an additional 75,000 to 100,000 acres in the United Kingdom may now be brought within the scope of these grants. In many ways the smallholder can obtain an even greater benefit than the large farmer by growing as much of his own feeding stuffs as he can under present conditions. The freedom in choice of crops for the newly ploughed land, that can be exercised by the County Committees will be particularly useful to the small farmer in this respect.

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### GUARANTEED PRICE FOR RYE.

#### WHERE IT IS SAFER THAN OTHER CEREALS.

At the same time Sir Reginald also announced a system of price insurance for rye introduced on the same lines as that for oats. The standard price will be the same as that for oats and the rate of any subsidy payment that may be payable will be calculated by reference to the average price of oats if satisfactory market prices for rye cannot be collected.

This means that rye will be subsidised, if market prices make a subsidy necessary, on an acreage basis. The farmer growing an average crop of rye can count upon a guaranteed return equivalent to 9/- per cwt.

Rye is particularly well suited to light sandy land, such as is found in the Eastern Counties and on these soils it is often the safest and most productive grain crop. It needs little manure, and is less liable to damage by wireworms than other



cereals. Early sowing is strongly recommended, but it can be sown up to the beginning of March. Full details of its cultivation are available in the Ministry of Agriculture's free leaflet, "Rye As A Grain Crop".

#### How to Use Rye.

At present the United Kingdom acreage is only about 18,000 but at the end of the last war it was over 100,000. Rye is used for making some breakfast foods and can be used, if necessary, for bread, but its chief value is for feeding livestock. In composition it is similar to wheat, but it is more liable to cause digestive disturbances, and should not be fed until it has had time to condition in the stack.

It may be fed cooked to horses up to half their ration. Ground and scalded for pigs it may be used to replace one-third of the barley meal. Not more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. per day should be given to sheep. With poultry it should be confined to feeding adult stock, and its safety limit for laying stock is reached when the grain ration contains one-fifth rye. The straw has practically no feeding value.

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#### MANY PIGS FIND NEW HOMES

#### STRONG DEMAND FOR WEANERS.

It is hardly necessary to reiterate that the need to reduce imported rations for pigs by at least one-third does not involve a reduction of a similar amount in our pig population. There can be few people who ever expected such a thing would happen. Even the individual farm where the bought rations are reduced by one-third will not have to reduce its pigs to that extent. But it is encouraging to find a strong demand for weaners, general throughout the country, reflecting the reinstatement of the pig on general farms, allotments and cottage gardens. He has disappeared from too many of them.

Specialist pig farmers who find it necessary to reduce their head of stock will naturally look to this market.



More general farmers are acquiring a few pigs each and the newly formed Small Pig Keepers' Council is already receiving a most encouraging send off. So far there is no prospect in sight of weaners being a drag on the market. Owners of large numbers of pigs kept intensively may be faced with the immediate difficulty of how to keep those that are not wanted until they are sold. Probably the most satisfactory way out is to replace half the normal cereal ration by boiled potatoes supplemented by boiled swedes or other vegetables. The pigs will take about a month longer to deliver the bacon, but they will get there.

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#### ARTICHOKES FOR PIGS.

#### ADVANTAGES OVER POTATOES.

Artichokes are normally grown for human consumption but in war time they are often worth cultivating as food for stock, especially pigs. The tubers contain rather more water but also slightly more protein than potatoes and, on the whole, are of very similar feeding value.

As a crop artichokes possess several advantages; like potatoes they respond to good treatment but they can also be grown successfully on poor light gravelly or peaty soils. They are able to resist drought and are remarkably free from insect and fungoid pests. They may be lifted like potatoes in autumn or left in the ground to be forked out as required during the winter. Frost does not injure the tubers if they are allowed to thaw in the ground. They may be grown in odd corners or on waste land. When lifted in the ordinary way enough small tubers will normally be left in the ground to re-establish the crop in the following year. For pigs they are believed to be more suitable in the raw than in the cooked condition. Consequently pigs, especially sows and older pigs, may in



suitable circumstances be left to harvest the crop for themselves. Such harvesting is useful for brood sows owing to the exercise obtained in the labour of rooting the tubers out.

Planting may be done in autumn or in spring. As a rule the land is ploughed, ridged and manured as for potatoes. Tubers may be spaced 18 inches apart in rows 30 inches apart. From 12 to 15 cwt. of sets per acre will be required. The weight of crop obtained is generally somewhat less than that of potatoes. On the other hand expenses would normally also be less.

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#### VILLAGE RAT CLUBS.

##### BUYING THE TAILS - BUT NOT FOR "EXPORT"

Although National Rat Week is over, there is little need to stress the fact that every week should be rat week on farms suffering from these pests. Apart from the heavy material damage that they do, they are carriers of all kinds of disease, and in some parts of the country, if not generally, they are undoubtedly increasing.

Enlightened private enterprise has resulted in Rat Clubs being formed in some villages, where so much per tail is paid for all rats brought in to one person appointed to count the tails and then burn them.

Here a private word of warning might be given. It is advisable for farmers in neighbouring districts to agree the rates of payment. In one instance that we know a halfpenny per tail was being paid in one county and a penny per tail in the next. Quite an export trade in rats' tails suddenly sprang up from one county to the other.

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ANOTHER WAY WITH RABBITS.

HAMPSHIRE ENLISTS 140 CATCHERS.

An account was recently given of how Berkshire is tackling its rabbit problem. This is how Hampshire is going to work.

The County Committee have drawn up a list of 140 expert rabbit-catchers who are prepared to work on terms that the Committee lay down. When cases of rabbit damage are reported, particularly to young growing wheat, the occupier of the adjoining woods or land where the rabbits are numerous is requested to take steps to reduce their numbers.

These notices are promptly followed up and if the Committee is not satisfied that the action taken is effective some of the official rabbit catchers will be put in to do the work on the Committee's behalf.

The Committee have suggested that the price of rabbits should be maintained at a satisfactory level by arranging for the freezing of surplus rabbits in winter for release in summer.

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PROTECTION OF HOMING PIGEONS.

In reply to a Parliamentary Question on 7th instant, on the subject of Pigeon Shoots, the Minister of Agriculture, Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, said that he would gladly draw attention to the need for the exercise of care by pigeon shooting parties in order to protect homing pigeons.



12.12.39 - No. 5.

URGENT.

The Secretary of the Admiralty regrets to announce the following casualties resulting from the loss of H.M. Drifter "Ray of Hope", which was sunk by a mine on the 10th December, 1939. All next of kin have been informed.

Killed:

Benson, H.	Seaman
King, A.W.	" Cook
Thompson, J.E.	"
Walker, G.A.	"

Missing, believed killed:

Coull, J.	Engineman
Hatherall, F.	Stoker
Meadows, R.W.J.	Engineman
Smith, J.S.	Stoker
Wilkie, J.H.	Ordinary Signalmn, R.N.V.R.

ADMIRALTY,  
WHITEHALL,  
S.W.1.

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12th December, 1939.

NO. 6.  
M.A.F. 115

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY.

By the end of November about 2,800 Women's Land Army Volunteers had been placed in employment on the land since the outbreak of war. The increase during November was about 600. A further number of trained members of the Women's Land Army are available for work on the land. While the period of training undergone is short, the reports received on the volunteers so far trained have been most encouraging. Many farmers are well satisfied with the results of the experiment of employing a land girl, and many who have trained girls are keeping them on as paid employees.

Farmers who are short of labour and cannot get their requirements through the Employment Exchanges may want to employ Women's Land Army labour. Any farmer who wishes to do this should ask his local Employment Exchange to put him into touch with the Women's Land Army Committee for his county or the Committee's representative in his locality. His local branch of the National Farmers' Union will also be able to help him to get into touch with the Women's Land Army Committee for the county. If a Committee cannot itself meet his requirements, it will be able to pass particulars on to Women's Land Army headquarters, who will know of trained Women's Land Army volunteers available from neighbouring counties.

A minimum weekly wage has been laid down for full time members of the Women's Land Army so as to ensure equal opportunities and equal conditions of employment. The main purpose of the Women's Land Army is to provide a special force of mobile workers, who will be available to go to any part of the country where their services may be required. It is very important that these volunteers should know that wherever they go they will get fair treatment and will all serve under the same conditions.

The minimum weekly wage to be paid to members of the Women's Land Army of 18 years of age and over is 28/- for a week of up to 48 hours, and for those under 18 years of age 22/6d. for a similar week. This weekly wage must be paid in all cases where full-time services are being provided. If a week of more than 48 hours is worked, overtime must be paid and this should be at not less than 7d. an hour for women of 18 and over, and 6d. an hour for girls under 18.

Out of her wages the Women's Land Army member will pay for her own board and lodging, but where this is provided by the farmer who employs her he may not deduct from her wage more than 14/- per week to cover board and lodging if she is 18 years of age or over, or 12/6d. if she is under 18.

In all cases the above rates apply subject to any over-riding requirements of Agricultural Wages Board Orders. In any county, therefore, where the minimum wage, or the overtime rates, or the net cash wage payable under an Agricultural Wages Board Order for the county are higher than the Land Army rates, the county rate must be paid.



FRANK XUEREB'S DOUBLE DOSE.

Frank Xuereb, a Maltese seaman, is declaring that he "would fain die a dry death", but he is no worse for two very close and cold calls. He was first put down by a U.Boat in the S.S. THOMAS WALTON, and having come ashore for a change of uniform, went to sea again in the PENSILVA. She was torpedoed too.

Frank is now taking a spell in Cardiff, wondering if there is anything of a Jonah in his make-up, and what there is in the saying "third time lucky".

There are many hundreds of Maltese seamen serving in the British navy and the merchant navy. They also are an island race, and despite mines and submarines, just carrying on. A large number of them were among the earliest to volunteer when the Admiralty recently wanted more men for minesweepers.



Empire Affairs draws attention to the fact that in  
Bulletin No.7. the names of the two ships mentioned should  
be transposed.

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U R G E N T

12/12/39 - No. 8.

PRESS NOTICE

It is announced that the First Lord of the Admiralty has accepted on behalf of the Royal Navy an offer from Lord Rothermere of £1,000 worth of playing cards to be distributed amongst various ratings of all classes of H.M. Ships, including armed merchant cruisers and trawlers. Mr. Winston Churchill has telegraphed his thanks and appreciation to Lord Rothermere for his generous and exceedingly welcome gift.

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ADMIRALTY,  
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.



BACON SUPPLIES

INCREASE IN EXPORTS FROM ULSTER

During the past twelve months there has been a large increase in the quantity of bacon exported from Ulster to great Britain. In the first seven months of the year 310,156 cwt. were exported, compared with 243,437 cwt in the corresponding period of 1938.

The Divisional Food Controller has appealed for the voluntary restriction of home purchases of bacon and other commodities until rationing begins.

Ulster is responsible for about one third of the supplies of bacon produced within the United Kingdom, and in the last year or two has devoted special attention to the production of the Wiltshire "cut", for which there is a specially good demand in Great Britain. New Wiltshire curing factories have been constructed.

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URGENT.

12.12.39 - No.10.

OFFICIAL ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE.

A British submarine has reported that the German liner "Bremen" passed her within torpedo range homeward bound. The submarine was, of course, precluded by the rules of sea warfare from torpedoing the "Bremen" without warning.

ADMIRALTY,  
WHITEHALL,  
S.W.1.

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12/12/39 - No. 11.

SPEECH BY MR. LESLIE BURGIN, MINISTER OF SUPPLY  
DURING PRESS VISIT TO WORKS, 12th DECEMBER, 1939.

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BRITAIN'S EFFORT IN TERMS OF SUPPLY.

Lord Halifax has well stated that the first war aim of Great Britain is to win the war.

If I were asked to give a second war aim I should say to win the war and, consistently with the objects which we desire to attain, to win it in as short a time as possible. To this end supply makes a most powerful contribution.

Through the courtesy of the management of the great undertaking whose Works we are visiting today you have seen raw material arriving at the factory gates, seen it pass through various stages of preparation and manufacture. You have seen the creation of basic essentials, the multiplication of components and, by the aid of a conveyor belt, you have seen the manufactured article gradually take shape. You have watched the final assembly line and you have been privileged to see the delivery of the finished product to the consumer.

This great factory is a miniature of Great Britain at war. Observe the parallel. All round the Ports of the United Kingdom raw materials are constantly arriving at factory gates; wool and cotton for clothing, iron ore for steel, pyrites for chemicals, copper, zinc, lead, aluminium for the workshop, finished machine tools for the production engineer. These materials thus imported are sorted, graded, transported, utilised. They undergo very different treatments. They pass on through other hands, intermediaries, workpeople, and the process of making up begins. Wool spun into yarn, made up into cloth, pyrites becomes sulphuric acid, it in turn becomes explosive. Iron ore becomes iron, is smelted into steel and made into guns and shells. Copper and zinc become brass and the machine tools are set to work with their jigs and their gauges and thus the process of intense creation and supply begins.

The conveyor system, if I may continue the metaphor, ensures the taking of the cloth to the tailors, the suits to the army clothing depots, the guns to the proof ranges, shells to the filling factories and back to the ammunition dumps, brass to the instrument makers, tools to the ordnance factories, and the assembly line begins at army depots and receiving stations and there leaves for the Army at home and abroad an endless succession of supply trains bringing to the fighting men all that a modern army requires.

In this task our Ally, France, is on our side, her whole manhood engaged and her entire resources thrown into the struggle - a complete financial, economic supply understanding between the two countries.

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The Dominions, the Colonial Empire and the Mother Country together are all playing their part. Labour contributes its experience, its knowledge and its work, employers their organisation, their resources and their commercial planning. You and I contribute our taxes and our loans and our skill and the mighty British Empire backs up its fighting men on land, at sea and in the air.

By any terms which you care to employ the effort is gigantic. Well might Hitler have shrunk from being at war with the British Empire. We are under no illusion. We realise that our existence is menaced and threatened. We take up the challenge. So long as Nazi aggression exists anywhere in the world there cannot be peace in the sense which we give to the word.

I have spoken of Britain's effort in terms of supply. How do you measure a country's effort? Do you measure by money, do you measure by size, do you measure by effect, do you measure by result? I do not care which method you adopt. I am convinced that whatever test you choose to apply the answer will prove to be the same. I believe it to be capable of demonstration that the effort which Great Britain is making is greater than any comparable effort there ever has been in world history. I believe that at no time has the might of the British Empire been greater nor its fighting forces better or more adequately equipped.

Let us examine the position from the point of view of money.

In the period from the 3rd September to the 5th December the amount in sterling of new orders placed by the Ministry of Supply was £208 millions. The 5th December was the 94th day of the war. Thus the new orders placed in 94 days amounted to £208 millions.

Besides the amount of new orders placed, very large transactions take place by the Ministry of Supply in terms of purchase of raw materials - wool, metals, pulp, timber, amount in all to some £175 millions a year as a general rule under long term contracts. I think everyone would agree that in the first three months of the war expenditure of this order speaks for itself, and shows something of the immensity of the effort.

Take size of the effort. The new ordnance factories, the extension of armament works, the quantities, the speed, the output, the modern methods of manufacture. Do these not speak of size?

Some figures were given the other day in the realm of clothing of the Army. Let me recall two as illustrations. The first six months' deliveries of great coats represent more than 25 years peace time supply. A week's supply of Army boots represent a year and a half's entire peace time output. Army shirts - 4 months' supplies are equivalent to 14 years' normal production. And what is true of clothing, is true right through the whole scale. I think size answers to our test.

Take effect. Supplies come into existence all over the country, indeed, all over the Empire. Their growth is apparent, our defences complete, new construction visible on all hands, deliveries coming forward, the increasing harnessing of civilian output to war requirement, the turning-over to shell and fuze of firms engaged on such different matters as boilers, pots and pans, gramophone, wireless, knitting machines, printing machines, sugar making plants, - the process is a constant one, and the effect in my submission a visible one.



Or take again a judgment by results. You find the British Expeditionary Force larger, better equipped, stronger in armament than in any comparable period. You find at the same time a tremendous Air Force, you find a well found ceaselessly vigilant and successful Navy. Over and above, you find an entire Army devoted to the Air Defence of Great Britain, equipped with guns, ammunition, search lights, sound locators, range finders, transport, equipment and clothing. I repeat, an Army of considerable size with all the attributes of war in our own country, concerned with its defence against attack from the air. You have units in training up and down the country and you have had the maintenance of export trade, the maintenance of the home trade and a tremendous production of consumable goods for our population. The vast increase in factories has involved a tremendous call for the output of machine tools, and your tool-setter is one of the most highly prized men in existence today.

And I invite again that you judge by result, and you will find not only the equipment of our own Forces, but you will find that substantial support has been able to be given to our Allies and to our friends, especially those most in need and at the moment of their greatest need. In conclusion, as it is now the custom for certain organs of the Press who are not in agreement with His Majesty's Government to invite you to compare 1939 with 1914, I offer you a few comparisons.

1914, improvisation, lack of stocks, necessity to begin from the beginning.

1939, ordered planning, large stocks, extension taken in the stride, far greater output, newer weapons, stronger weapons, more costly weapons, more powerful weapons, made in larger numbers, capable of more devastating effect, equivalent to a far greater striking force.

1914, horse-drawn.

1939, mechanized.

1914, an almost complete absence of aeroplanes.

1939, the most powerful Air Force in the world.

1914, a small civilian research and experimental staff, some 40 odd in number.

1939, 800 specialists in every branch of chemistry, engineering, research and experimental experts.

1914, no long term arrangements for raw materials, no effective price control.

1939, long term contracts, graded prices, controlled in the interests of the country as a whole.

1914, Steel output tending to fall.

1939, Steel output already 50% higher than the peak period at any time during the 1914/18 war and production rising.

But I have said enough, and I content myself by repeating a phrase which I would wish you to recollect: Britain's effort in terms of supply is greater than at any comparable period and at no time has the might of the Empire been greater nor its fighting forces better or more adequately equipped.



12 DEC. 1929

No. 12.

PRESS NOTICE.

The Secretary of the Admiralty announces that the response to the recent appeal to men with experience as physical training instructors to join the Navy for service during the war has been very gratifying, and further applications cannot therefore be considered for the present.

ADMIRALTY,  
WHITEHALL,  
S.W.1.

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CONDITIONS NORMAL IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Union Department of Social Welfare which was recently asked by the Government of South Africa to report on the extent of distress in the Union caused by the war has now reported that, apart from Johannesburg, conditions in South Africa are practically normal. In Johannesburg charitable relief institutions are being asked to do more than they did last year owing to unemployment among certain types of artisans, but it is emphasised that there is no justification for nervousness in view of the sound position of the Union, the need for further development, and the continued activity and prosperity of the gold mining industry.

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MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE.

PRESS NOTICE.

14/12.12.39.

BAKING TRADE BOARD (ENGLAND AND WALES).

The Baking Trade Board (England and Wales) at their meeting on 7th December, 1939, decided to issue a Notice of Proposal to vary the minimum rates of wages at present operative in the trade, for workers of 18 years of age and over, by the addition of payments at the following rates:-

Payable in addition to the minimum rates at present operative

Male workers of 21 years of age and over	4/- per week
" " of 18 and under 21 years of age employed on night work	1/6 " "
Other male workers of 18 and under 21 years of age	1/- " "
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Female workers of 21 years of age and over	2/8 " "
" " of 18 and under 21 years of age	1/- " "

These increases will apply to all areas throughout the country and to a week of whatever hours are worked.

A notice setting out the proposal in full detail will be issued in due course and a period of two months will be allowed for any objections to be lodged with the Trade Board. The present proposal will not become operative unless and until confirmed by the Trade Board, and the Minister of Labour and National Service has issued an Order making it effective and stating the date when the increased payments shall become effective.

Press Office,  
Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Telephone: Whitehall 6200.

H.Q.319-480 L.I.



URGENT.

12.12.39. - No.15.

PRESS NOTICE:

It is officially stated that owing to a clerical error the name "Gunner (T) G.L. Lucas, R.N." was given in the casualty lists for H.M.S. "Jersey" issued on the 11th December. This should read "Gunner (T) G.L. Blowers, R.N."

ADMIRALTY,  
WHITEHALL,  
S.W.1.

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16/17 ?  
The War Office,

London, S.W.1.

12th December, 1939.

GIFTS TO THE ARMY.

A South African lady who wishes to remain anonymous has presented the R.A.M.C. with a mobile X-ray unit, which cost between £2,500 and £3,000. It will be used in France, where it will be available anywhere in an emergency since it produces its own supply of electric current. The unit will also be at the service of the R.A.F.

Lord Rothermere is presenting 2,000 footballs to the British Army. These are being obtained and distributed to the Army in France and at Home by the Army Sport Control Board. In thanking the donor for this gift Mr. Hore-Belisha telegraphed "With great joy accept on behalf of our soldiers your gift so typical of the British team spirit".

Supplies of Bovril for troops in France are being sent out by the Miss Gladys Storey's Fund, which operated in the last war, and is now revived. The Fund raises money by the sale of "Nelson Post Cards" from 39, Broadhurst Gardens, London, N.W.6.



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12/12/39. No. 18.

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.

Mr. A. Palache has been appointed to the  
Cinematograph Films Council in place of Mr. G. E. Abell

Board of Trade,

12th December, 1939.

NOTE FOR PRESS.

Mr. Palache is a member of Helbert, Wagg and  
Company, Merchant Bankers, and has been nominated  
to the Committee of the Council recently appointed.



From Foreign Office News Department.

12/12/39 - No.19.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR BROADCAST BEFORE THE MORNING PAPERS OF WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER, 1939, IN ALL COUNTRIES. TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE EXACT TERMS IN WHICH IT IS GIVEN.

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The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Lady Halifax gave a luncheon at the Dorchester Hotel yesterday in honour of His Excellency the Italian Ambassador and Donna Vittoria Bastianini. The following accepted invitations to be present:-

The Countess of Lytton,  
Lady Alexandra Metcalfe,  
Viscount and Viscountess Astor,  
Sir Alexander and Lady Hardinge,  
Sir Ronald Graham,  
Captain and Lady Rachel Davidson,  
Captain and Mrs. Oswald Birley,  
Sir Eric Crankshaw.

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CHRISTMAS COMFORTS FOR AUSTRALIANS

Over 500 Australian women resident in Great Britain have enrolled as Members of the Australian Women's Voluntary Service.

The Service was inaugurated shortly after the outbreak of war, with the object of organising activities for the welfare of the serving Australians, and members have since been engaged in knitting garments, pullovers, mufflers, socks, etc., and making hospital garments and collecting comforts.

A distribution of parcels containing garments and comforts will be made before Christmas to Australians now serving in the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Merchant Service. The main concern of the Service, however, will be the welfare of the Australian troops who will leave Australia for service overseas, and preparations are well in hand to meet all essential requirements.

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NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR  
BROADCAST BEFORE WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 13th, 1939.

12/12/39 - No. 21.

PRESS NOTICE.

The Home Secretary has appointed  
Mr. Robert Ernest Dummett, one of the Metropolitan  
Police Magistrates, to be Chief Magistrate of the  
Police Courts of the Metropolis in succession to  
Sir Rollo Frederick Graham-Campbell, who retires  
on 1st January, 1940.

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HOME OFFICE,  
S. W. I.



12/12/39 - No.22

PRESS NOTICE

Mr.R.F.Colam, K.C., has intimated to the  
Home Secretary that he desires to resign the office  
of Recorder of Croydon, which he has held since 1900.

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HOME OFFICE. S.W.1.



12/12/39 - No. 23.

PRESS NOTICE.

It has recently come to light that certain persons purporting to have special facilities for approaching the Ministry of Supply, have offered their services to contracting firms as intermediaries on a commission basis.

The Ministry of Supply desire to make it clear that if a firm wishes to be considered for Ministry contracts, it is free to apply direct to the Ministry and that all such applications are dealt with on their merits. There should, therefore, be no necessity to employ intermediaries.

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MINISTRY OF SUPPLY.



PRINCESS ROYAL VISITS WAR OFFICE

H.R.H. the Princess Royal visited the War Office this afternoon in her capacity of Controller of the A.T.S. She was conducted round various A.T.S. Executive Offices by Lieutenant-General Sir John Brown and Chief Commandant Mrs. C.H. Fraser-Tytler, and was much impressed by the efficiency of the A.T.S. organisation.

During her visit Her Royal Highness had a conversation on the work of women in the Army with Mr. Hore-Belisha, Secretary of State for War, and afterwards visited a Map Room and the Teleprinter Rooms, where many women and girls are employed.

Note: This was the Princess Royal's first visit to the War Office.

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WAR OFFICE,  
S.W.1.



12/12/39 - No. 25

SUPPLIES FOR FINLAND

As was expected when the Government granted licenses to British firms for the export of war material to Finland, Germany has now come out openly on the side of the aggressor. It is confirmed in London that the Nazi Government is making full use of Germany's strategic position to prevent supplies reaching Finland from other countries anxious to prove their sympathy. Germany indeed is holding up orders placed in neutral countries before the war and is proudly asserting the fact.

The German propaganda machine which was among the first to tell the world of the glorious Soviet assault on the evacuated island of Hogland has suddenly ceased its sarcastic references to the prowess of the Red armies. Having once more miscalculated the British intention it now can only express official surprise that the news of Britain's prompt offer of practical support to the Finns has been not denied but confirmed.

1234 5678 9000 1234 5678

FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT



12.12.39. - No.26.

PRESS NOTICE.

Mr. C.R. Attlee, Leader of the Opposition, and members of the Parliamentary Executive of the Labour Party, saw Sir John Anderson, the Home Secretary, with Mr. Osbert Peake, the Parliamentary Secretary of State, Home Office, this evening on the subject of Workmen's Compensation.

HOME OFFICE, S.W.1.



12/12/39 - No.27.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE (Evening)

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

During the night the latest information shows that there have been short encounters in the region between the Saar and the Forest of Warndt. During the day there has been yet another engagement as well as artillery actions in the same region. Our outpost line has everywhere remained intact.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH.Deputation from Nursing Organisations.

Miss Florence Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, today received a deputation representing the Guild of Nurses, the Association of Nurses, the National Federation of Nursing Associations, the British College of Nurses and the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union.

The deputation was introduced by Mr. G. Vincent Evans and the chief spokesmen were Miss Thora Silverthorne, Miss M. S. Cochrane, Miss M. Yorke and Mr. C. F. Comer.

They expressed their grave concern at the amount of unemployment among State registered nurses and suggested that one of the main causes was the substitution of nursing auxiliaries, from the Civil Nursing Reserve, for fully qualified nurses in hospitals coming within the emergency medical scheme of the Ministry of Health. They also drew attention to the fact that many hospitals were now enforcing residence on nurses who had previously lived outside the hospital and that this was leading to great discontent and also to resignations. In addition they alleged that transfers to and from hospitals had been carried out in an unreasonable manner. Extension of working hours was given as another cause of unemployment.

The deputation feared that these measures would result in the professional status of the nurse being lowered, and suggested that a Committee of Nurses should be appointed to give advice from the nurses' point of view.

Replying, Miss Horsbrugh thanked the deputation for coming to state their case. The Minister of Health was particularly anxious that there should be no misunderstandings or sense of grievance among a body so important to the well-being of the nation at the present time as members of the nursing profession.

Miss/



Miss Horsbrugh said that it was undoubtedly true that the preparations made to meet an expected air attack on the populous centres had caused a good deal of dislocation amongst the nursing profession. But it was not fair to lay this at the door of the Government. It was not the case that Nursing Auxiliaries were being employed to replace State registered nurses. Only 74 were employed in the whole of the hospitals in the London Sectors at the present time, and in the entire service of the London County Council there were only 32 Nursing Auxiliaries out of a total staff of 12,000.

The causes of unemployment, therefore, had to be looked for elsewhere - in the temporary dislocation of conditions and the movement of population consequent upon the outbreak of war.

The deputation then suggested that the position would be relieved if registered nurses who cannot at present find work, were employed at first aid posts in preference to Nursing Auxiliaries. Miss Horsbrugh pointed out the difficulties of this course and said that it would involve changing the staff at first aid posts immediately casualties were heavy and the services of the trained nurses were needed elsewhere. She promised, however, that she would put the deputation's suggestion before the Minister of Health.

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

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12/12/39. - No. 29.

OFFICIAL ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE

The Secretary of the Admiralty regrets to announce that a Fleet Air Arm aircraft collided with a balloon barrage cable near Southampton this afternoon and crashed. The crew of four lost their lives and their next of kin have been informed.

ADMIRALTY,  
S.W.1.