

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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SERENADE



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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

4th April.—German bombers raided Bristol at night. Four enemy planes were shot down over England. The Royal Air Force again raided the naval base of Brest and bombs were seen to fall across the dry docks. An enemy aerodrome in Northern France was also raided.

5th April.—German raiders bombed the coastal areas in West and South-west England and East Anglia. Three raiders were brought down.

Sticks of heavy bombs were seen to straddle both the German cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau when Royal Air Force bombers attacked Brest.

Rotterdam and industrial targets in the Ruhr were also raided.

6th April.—For the sixteenth consecutive night London was raid-free. The Royal Air Force attacked L'Orient.

7th April.—Royal Air Force Coastal Command aircraft scored a direct hit amidships on a German destroyer in a daylight raid on the continent and also bombed another destroyer. Steel works at Ymuiden in occupied Holland were bombed and set on fire. London had another bomb-free night.

8th April.—The Royal Air Force made heavy and very successful raids on the German naval base of Kiel, also on Emden and Bremerhaven.

The German Air Force was active over North Ireland, Scotland and some places in Britain. Five bombers were shot down.

9th April.—A very powerful force of Royal Air Force bombers raided Kiel for the second successive night.

The German Air Force made a savage raid on Coventry. Eight bombers were brought down by night-fighters.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

4th April.—The South African Air Force heavily bombed retreating Italians on the Addis Ababa-Dessie road, and transport on the Dire-dawa-Addis Ababa road.

British forward troops withdrew to prepared positions 90 miles from Bengazi after inflicting on the enemy huge losses in personnel and tanks.

Two Italian destroyers were scuttled by their crews off the coast of Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea, and a third destroyer left in a sinking condition on the previous day was also sunk.

5th April.—British Imperial forces occupied Adowa. South African troops, advancing from Dire-dawa, crossed the Awash river.

A series of attacks on five enemy destroyers in the Red Sea were described in a Royal Air Force despatch.

6th April.—British Imperial forces reached Addis Ababa after marching 100 miles in two days, thus ending the five-year rule of Italy in the Ethiopian capital. The Empress of Ethiopia conveyed her thanks to Britain.

Free French forces reached a point eight miles from Massawa.

The Royal Air Force made heavy bombing attacks on Tripoli and Addis Ababa, destroying a number of enemy planes on the Addis Ababa aerodrome.

7th April.—The Royal Air Force made heavy attacks on Italian and German transport in the region of Agheila in Cyrenaica. Abyssinian Patriot forces captured Debra Markos, north-west of Addis Ababa. The Duke of Aosta, Italian Viceroy of East Africa left Addis Ababa on his way northwards after conveying his appreciation of the British initiative to protect women and children in the Abyssinian capital. The Royal Air Force raided Calato aerodrome in the island of Rhodes.

8th April.—It was announced that over 10,000 prisoners had been taken by the British troops in Eritrea since March 25.

The Italians and Germans claimed the occupation of Derna in Libya.

The Italians began a retreat towards the Blue Nile, following the fall of Debra Markos in Abyssinia.

9th April.—The British troops captured Massawa, Italy's Red Sea port, and the Imperial forces were marching on to Dessie to tackle the remnants of the Italian army in East Africa.

The Royal Air Force raided Cyrenaica. It was announced that the German-Italian thrust would be stopped at Tobruk.

A British submarine attacked an enemy convoy in the Mediterranean, torpedoing two ships of 12,000 and 6,000 tons, respectively.

UNITED STATES AND THE ATLANTIC

4th April.—President Roosevelt announced that he had allocated another 500,000,000 dollars from the Lease and Lend Act appropriation for the construction of 212 merchantmen. He also disclosed that the United States Government might soon remove the Red Sea area from the list of combat zones and permit United States vessels to ply thither with cargoes. The United States flatly rejected the Axis protest against the seizure of their ships and refused their demands for the release of the ships and crews.

It was stated that United States Army officers would fly with British pilots in the role of observers when the new American four-engined bombers raided Germany.

5th April.—Uruguay, following other Latin American countries, seized Italian ships in Monte Video.

6th April.—Mr. Cordell Hull, after conferring with President Roosevelt, announced that the United States Government were proceeding as speedily as possible to send military and other supplies to Yugoslavia. The American Red Cross decided to send speedily a million dollars worth of aid to Yugoslavia.

7th April.—Following on Mr. Cordell Hull's condemnation of the "barbaric" invasion of Yugoslavia, it was reported that many in America called for the despatch of troops to help the Yugoslavs.

8th April.—President Roosevelt sent a message to King Peter, assuring all help to Yugoslavia.

Mr. Roosevelt said that he would ask the United States Congress for legislation empowering the Government to buy the Danish ships seized in U.S. ports; he indicated that the seized Axis ships could be forfeited.

The U. S. Naval Under Secretary arranged to leave for Britain to establish a close liaison between the Navy Department and the British Admiralty. Col. Knox, U. S. Naval Secretary, revealed that British warships were being repaired in American yards.

9th April.—Mr. H. A. Wallace, Vice-President of the United States, urging immediate and full help to Britain, said she would win the war.

GREECE AND ITALY

4th April.—The Royal Air Force raided the Italian base of Berat in Albania. The Greeks captured 70 prisoners in a successful local action.

6th April.—German troops invaded Greece, crossing the frontier at two points, and met with stout resistance in the Struma Valley. The Greeks, in a successful counter-attack entered Bulgarian territory at one point.

It was announced by the German radio that British troops, fighting in Greece, were offering stiff resistance to the Germans.

The Greeks captured a strategic mountain peak on the northern front in Albania after fierce hand-to-hand fighting. Greek bombers attacked Italian supply bases.

7th April.—The Moscow wireless emphasised the strong resistance being offered by the Greeks to the Germans.

The Royal Air Force drew first blood in the air war in the Balkans, shooting down five German planes in the Rupel Pass area and bombing German military concentrations in Sofia and motor transport in the Struma Valley.

Earlier, the British Government had officially announced that British, Australian and New Zealand troops had landed in Greece and that the Royal Air Force in Greece had been strongly reinforced. General Wavell is to be the Allies' Supreme Commander in the Balkans.

8th April.—The Greeks' left flank was uncovered by the German thrust in South Serbia but the Greeks contested every inch of territory with the Germans.

9th April.—The Germans entered Salonika. It was revealed that the British troops in Greece had not yet made contact with the enemy.

BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, ETC.

4th April.—Dr. Matchek, the Croat leader, joined General Simovitch's Government as Deputy Prime Minister and, in a manifesto, appealed to the Croats for loyal co-operation.

The Italian Minister in Belgrade had conversations with the Yugoslav Foreign Minister in an effort to avert war between Germany and Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia requested the United States to supply her with certain types of war material.

Rumania decided to suspend service on her foreign debts.

M. de Bardossy took the oath of office as Prime Minister of Hungary, whose active military help (it was reported) was sought by Germany.

The Nationalist leader, Rashid Ali, staged a *coup d'etat* in Iraq when the Regent was absent from the capital.

5th April.—German motorised divisions were marching to the Yugoslav frontier through Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary. The German radio and press accused Yugoslavs of anti-German excesses though the German Consul-General at Ljubljana said that the allegations were baseless.

The new Iraq Premier declared that his Government would fulfil all international obligations, and especially the Anglo-Iraq Treaty.

The British Ambassador at Baghdad was instructed that His Majesty's Government considered the Iraq *coup* as completely unconstitutional and awaited the formation of a proper Government.

Bulgaria opened consultations with Hungary with a view to presenting joint revisionist demands to Yugoslavia.

6th April.—The German troops invaded Yugoslavia. Hitler, in a proclamation to his troops, abusing both Britain and the new Government in Belgrade.

German bombers raided the open town of Belgrade.

It was announced that Russia and Yugoslavia had signed a Pact of Friendship and Non-Agression, the Soviet press paying a tribute to the Yugoslav Government for their efforts to preserve peace.

The British Military Mission, after their talks with the Turkish General Staff at Ankara, left on an inspection of Turkish defences in Thrace. The Turkish Cabinet held a meeting after the Foreign Minister had received the British, Greek, and Yugoslav Ambassadors. The German Ambassador was reported to have given an assurance to Turkey that she need have no cause for apprehension as a result of the latest German moves.

7th April.—The Germans claimed a 20 to 25 miles advance near the Greek-Yugoslav frontier. Belgrade was bombed again. Italian planes raided Split and Kotor, Yugoslav ports on the Adriatic. Yugoslav artillery opened operations on the Yugoslav-Albanian frontier. The Italian News Agency reported Yugoslav air raids on the suburbs of Sofia and on three towns in Western Rumania.

The British Government broke with Hungary, which "has now become a base for operations against the Allies"; and at the same time pledged all help to Yugoslavia.

The Soviet Ambassador called on the Turkish Foreign Minister at Ankara.

The Regent of Iraq, in a broadcast from Basrah, called on the Iraqi people to reject the new Premier and his Government, who had seized power. Many arrests were reported in the country.

8th April.—The Yugoslav Government moved south from Belgrade, which was again raided by the German Air Force.

Yugoslav troops occupied the Italian town of Fiume, Sentari and Zara.

The Royal Air Force made a successful raid on Sofia as reprisal for the raid on Belgrade.

A despatch from Vichy stated that an exclusively military cabinet had been formed in Iraq. Trukey, it was learned in London, had withheld recognition from the new Iraqi Government.

9th April.—The Yugoslavs evacuated Skoplje but took another town, Leshe, in Albania. The Turkish Cabinet considered the Balkan

situation for two hours. The Turkish Foreign Minister received the British, Greek and Yugoslav Ambassadors.

SHIPPING SITUATION

4th April.—It was reported that Sir Arthur Salter, who is on a mission to Washington, would request America to send more ships to Britain.

8th April.—The British drive against U-boats in the Battle of the Atlantic was reported to be registering many successes. The famous German U-boat Commander Kretschmer had been taken prisoner.

The allied merchant-shipping losses for the week ending March 30-31 were twenty ships, representing 77,375 tons.

9th April.—The Chairman of the U. S. Maritime Commission announced that contracts for the construction of 2,000 more ships for Britain had already been given to United States yards. They would include 950 merchant-ships and 913 naval craft.

FAR EAST

4th April.—It was stated that Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo would be the next Chinese Ambassador in London.

Mr. Matsuoka arrived in Berlin from Rome and had a second talk with Hitler.

Sir Robert Craigie, British Ambassador to Japan, discussed Anglo-Japanese relations with the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs at Tokyo.

5th April.—Mr. Matsuoka had a final conversation with Ribbentrop.

The Chinese War Minister revealed that the Japanese lost 20,000 killed and wounded, including three Generals, in the Kiangsi battle.

The Japanese were reported to have established naval bases in an island off Shanghai.

6th April.—Mr. Matsuoka arrived in Moscow on his return journey to Japan.

The British Commander-in-Chief in the Far East was on his way to Manila to meet President Quezon as well as the Netherlands' Foreign Minister.

7th April.—Mr. Matsuoka resumed conversations with MM. Stalin and Molotov. A Japanese newspaper emphasized the Soviet menace to Japan's rear in case she took action according to the Three-Power Pact. The

Chinese War Minister said that China had five million troops at the front and another ten million in training.

8th April.—The Chinese intensified Guerilla warfare, forcing Japan to withdraw more troops from Shanghai to cope with this. The Japanese Air Force raided Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province.

9th April.—"A fresh, big crisis may develop in East Asia at any moment" on account of the British and American economic blockade of Japan, said Baron Hiranuma, the Japanese Home Minister.

Sir Robert Brooke Popham expressed satisfaction at the strength of Hongkong's defences.

VICHY

4th April.—Six Syrians were killed in demonstrations against the authorities at Damascus.

The Syrian President and the Secretary of State resigned, following the appointment of Khaleb Bey Alem as head of the new Syrian Government. It was reported that the Syrian Nationalists were not satisfied with the half-hearted reforms announced by the French High Commissioner.

6th April.—The French Resident-General in Morocco had a long discussion with Admiral Darlan at Vichy.

7th April.—Marshal Petain, while expressing confidence in Admiral Darlan, said "It is a matter of honour for us to do nothing against our former Ally."

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

5th April.—The Royal Netherlands Government in London were reported to be spending large sums of money for buying and storing food and materials necessary for replenishing the stocks in Holland after the war.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (SPAIN, RUSSIA, EIRE, Etc.)

4th April.—The Australian Premier, Mr. Menzies, had an interview with Mr. de Valera at Dublin.

9th April.—Dr. Dalton revealed in the House of Commons that very little, if any, oil had reached Germany from the Soviet since March 1.

An article in the Soviet Army organ *Red Star* stated that the prospect of a German invasion of Britain had receded and that Hitler was "facing a serious enemy" in the Balkans.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 1st April 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrols (not specifically mentioned) over enemy-controlled coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
March 26, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping (1 supply-ship sunk.)	Nil.	..
March 27, Thursday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on naval and supply shipping, from Frisian Islands to La Rochelle, including harbour at Alderney. R.A.F. night bomber raids on Cologne (river port, railway yards); Dusseldorf (factories, railway station); naval base at Brest; invasion bases at Dunkirk and Calais.	5 bombers.	..
March 28, Friday.	No reports		
March 29, Saturday.	R.A.F. day-fighter attacks on aerodromes, road and rail transport and coastal shipping in Belgium and N. France.	Nil.	
March 30, Sunday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on naval and supply shipping off Loire Estuary (1 anti-submarine craft sunk) and Dutch coast (1 anti-aircraft ship and 1 supply-ship sunk). R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at Brest; invasion base at Calais.	Nil.	
March 31, Monday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping off French coast (2 tankers sunk). R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweep over Channel and N. France. R.A.F. day bomber attacks on warships, aircraft and supply ships off Frisian Islands; guns and troops on Terschelling Island and Ameland Island. R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval bases at Emden and Bremen.	2 day-bombers.	..
April 1, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber attacks on supply shipping off Denmark (1 ship torpedoed); naval craft in channel; guns in N. France and Belgium.	1 day-bomber.	..

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 1st April 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy raids (not specifically mentioned) on Allied shipping in N. W. European waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
March 26	Nil.	2 day-bombers.
March 27	1 day-fighter.	1 day-bomber.
March 28	Nil.	1 day-bomber.
March 29	Nil.	
March 30	Nil.	1 day-bomber.
March 31	Nil.	1 day-bomber.
April 1	1 day-fighter.	5 day-bombers (plus 1 crashed in Eire.)

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Diary of the War	1	Germany Invades Yugoslavia and Greece ..	8
War in the Air	5	Japan's Dreams of Conquest	10
Talking Points	6	Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts.	12

TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

Hitler has taken the plunge and his troops invaded Yugoslavia and Greece on Sunday last. The conflagration has now spread to south-east Europe and now that British troops have already landed in Greece with a view to helping Greece and Yugoslavia, the world will witness one of the fiercest campaigns known to history. The Germans have entered Salonika in Greece and have occupied the town of Tekiya on the Yugoslav side of the river. Both the small countries are offering stubborn resistance.

It should be some satisfaction that there are indications that Russia does not approve of the step taken by Germany. Only two days before the invasion, the U.S.S.R. entered into a pact with Yugoslavia of non-aggression and friendship. This may not mean much immediately to Yugoslavia, but its potential value is very significant.

Many successes have been recorded in Abyssinia. The occupation of Adowa was announced on Saturday last. It was here that in 1896 an Italian army suffered a terrible defeat at the hands of the Abyssinians. Addis Ababa, the capital of Abyssinia, was entered by British troops on Saturday last, the Viceroy and the Governor having left the city. Following the fall of Addis Ababa, Debra Markos, north-west of Addis Ababa, has been captured, the Abyssinian Patriots being responsible for this striking success. The fall of Addis Ababa does not mean the end of the campaign, for there are Italian troops in various places, especially in the Adowa-Gondar road. Mas-sawa capitulated on Tuesday afternoon and with its fall the last shreds of Italian resistance in Northern Eretrea have been overcome. Mr. Churchill and Mr. L. S. Amery have paid warm tributes to the gallant deeds of the Indian troops in the battle of Keren.

Besides the severe losses sustained by the Italian Navy in 'Otranto' and the 'Matapan' battles, Italy has lost five destroyers in the Red Sea, mostly by scuttling. It has been announced that over a quarter million Italians have been taken prisoner, killed or wounded in Africa and Albania; 140,000 prisoners were

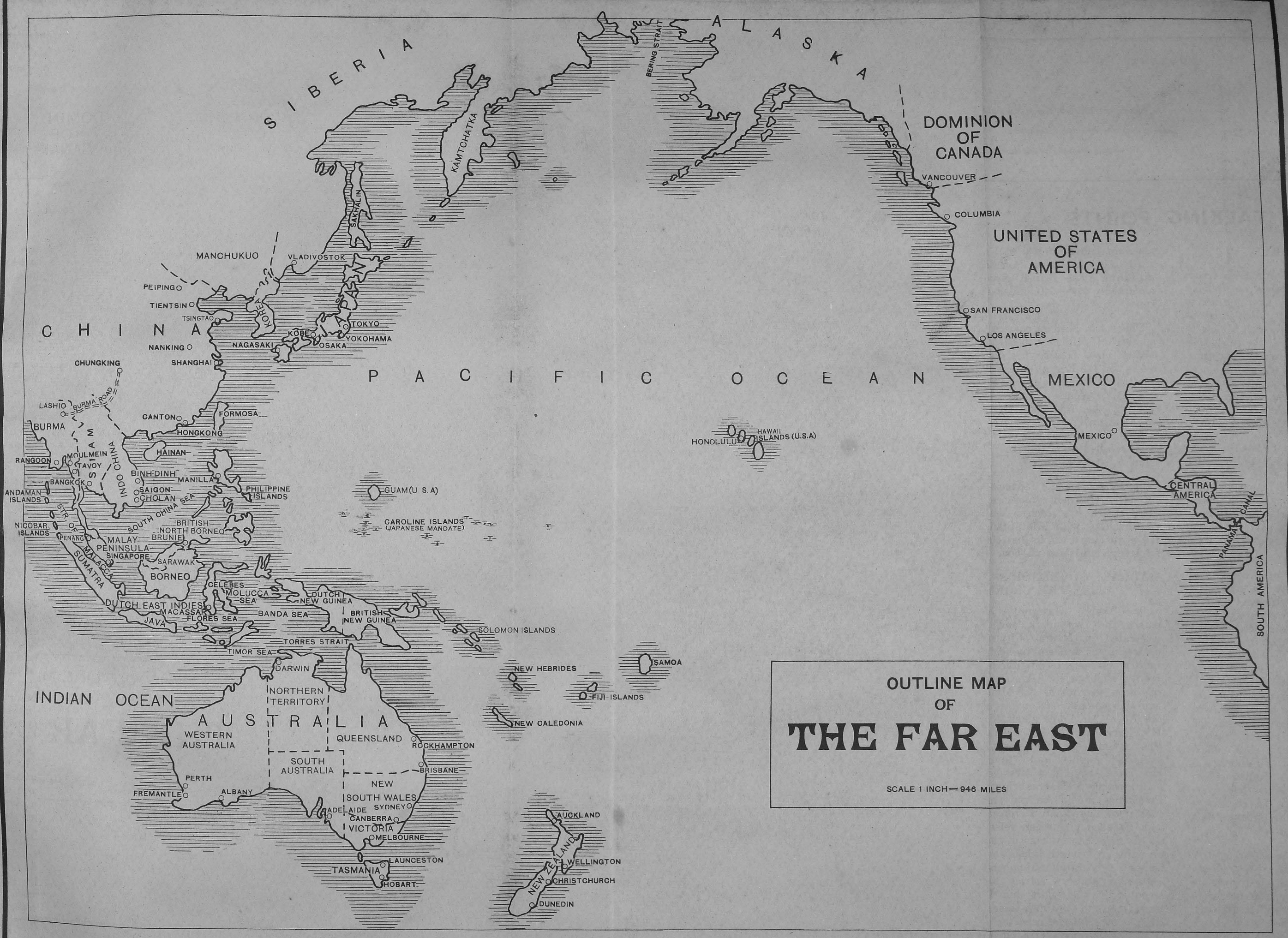
taken in Libya, 20,000 in Eritrea and Abyssinia, 3,000 in Italian Somaliland and 20,000 in Libya. The British casualties have been remarkably low—640 killed and 2,362 other losses.

There has been a *coup d'etat* in Iraq, a number of Ministers headed by Rashid Ali having seized power when Parliament was in recess and the Regent out of the capital. This is attributed to Axis machinations. The new Premier, of course, explained that he would abide by the Anglo-Iraq treaty, but there is some misgiving about the implications of the *coupe*. The Regent has arrived in Basra and he has called upon the Iraqi people to revolt against Syed Rashid.

Mr. Matsuoka, the Japanese Foreign Minister, after a second conference at Berlin with Herr Hitler, has reached Moscow for having conversations with MM. Stalin and Molotov. He is rushing back to his country, it is said, on a very important mission.

MADRAS GOVERNOR'S WAR FUND
PASSES THE CRORE-MARK

The Madras Governor's War Fund has passed the crore-mark and the event was celebrated in Madras City and in various centres in the mufassal by holding public meetings, processions, feeding the poor and in other ways. Eighty-eight lakhs out of this amount has been sent to the Air Ministry in London and this amount has enabled Madras to give the Royal Air Force about 58 machines. As His Excellency in his message pointed out, this 'magnificent achievement' of Madras has given a 'mighty lead' to other provinces. His Excellency, in a message he has issued to the people of Madras, rightly said that this Presidency should be truly proud of having subscribed more than a crore in nine months. His Excellency further referred to the co-operation of the citizens of the Presidency in investing in Defence Bonds and Savings Certificates. Officers and Members of War Committees in every district had heartily co-operated in the effort and His Excellency asked them to continue their splendid work. He also stressed the need for propaganda and in this connexion referred to the steps which



are being taken to have a number of reading circles in rural parts for the dissemination of accurate news about the war.

At the public meeting held in Senate House at Madras on the 7th evening, Sir George Boag, Adviser to His Excellency, presided in the latter's absence, owing to indisposition. He pointed out that it was not the intention of His Excellency to close down the fund as the need for support would continue so long as the war lasted. Sir George referred as one of the causes for the success of the fund the realization of the people that the war is being waged for grave and great issues, and he paid a tribute to the unceasing efforts of His Excellency himself. He expressed the hope that the Governor would "so moderate his efforts as not to run any further risk of knocking himself out" and added "He is much too valuable a propagandist to be left out of action even for a day."

THE BATTLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

The withdrawal of British troops from Benghazi has undoubtedly been received with misgivings. It is a setback, but the incident has to be viewed in the proper perspective. It has been known for some time that the Germans were reaching Tripoli in some numbers with equipment. The enemy forces consist of mechanized units of Italians and Germans, supported by tanks and infantry and aircraft. In the first place, it must be remembered that this advance of the enemy is three weeks late because it was intended to relieve the harassed Italians in Eritrea and Abyssinia. Eritrea is almost wholly in British hands and Allied forces have entered Addis Ababa, so that the ultimate object of the Nazi drive in Cyrenaica cannot be fulfilled. The British forces are withdrawing to a position from which they can give a good fight with assurance of success. In the second place, in view of the remarkable leadership of General Wavell, it is well to trust that wizard and await developments, because that tried soldier knows when to strike and when to retreat. Finally, it is well to remember that the situation in North Africa and throughout the Middle East would finally depend upon the Battle of the Mediterranean which has already opened. That battle is being fought on the European side of that sea—at Germany's back-door—and that is due to the heroism of the Greeks who have defeated the Italian counter-attacks. Greece has, moreover, withstood the blandishments and threats of Germany and for that signal service done at a critical juncture, civilization owes them a great debt. What is the position of the British Empire at this stage? That Empire stands pledged to see Greece through in this terrible ordeal which faces that country and in honouring that pledge, considerable material help is being sent. It is unthinkable that the British Government would leave Greece to face these odds and abandon her to her fate.

That would be a violation of the principles for which Great Britain stands. An important development in the policy of the United States is the possibility of sending 100 American ships to British bases in Egypt and the Near East to help the British in the Mediterranean and the Balkans. The Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, thanks to General Wavell, have been practically cleared of the enemy and the United States of America will be well within its rights in declaring these two areas as being well beyond the war zone. The liberation of Abyssinia and support to Greece and her Balkan Allies are intimately connected.

VICHY

What is happening in France? There are definite signs that Marshal Petain and Admiral Darlan are unable to withstand Nazi pressure. There are no fewer than a million and a half French prisoners under the Nazi heel and that is the principal bargaining factor. The Oran incident was purposely exaggerated by the German radio into a definite anti-French move on the part of Great Britain. The party set up by Laval, which had only a handful of Quislings, has had a short life and Laval has not yet been taken back into the Vichy Cabinet. Admiral Darlan is constantly on the move to and from Paris, seeking to appease Germany and collaborate with the Nazis. Some time ago Admiral Darlan stated, with reference to the barter agreement entered into with Germany, that the Germans were more generous than the English and he appealed to American humanitarian feeling for sending food supplies to France. The result was that two ships taking wheat sailed for France, the British blockade being relaxed for this purpose. But what is the truth about this barter agreement? Unoccupied France is to supply occupied France with 190,000 cattle, 565,000 sheep and poultry, 600,000 pigs and calves, 36,000 tons of cooking oil, 100,000 tons of salt, 60,000 tons of dried vegetables, 8,000 tons of cheese, and 373,000,000 gallons of wine. In return, the occupied zone will send 800,000 tons of wheat, 200,000 tons of sugar, 100,000 tons of bran and 860,000 tons of potatoes. The 800,000 tons of wheat which Vichy is to receive is part of 2,000,000 tons looted by the Nazis from French reserve stocks. The same is the case with other foodstuffs which are now being returned by Germany as part of a hard bargain. Admiral Darlan should be strangely ignorant of the meaning of words when he calls this generosity on the part of Germany! No wonder that there have been protests in the United States against America being a party to the sending of food to France because such food, it is apprehended, will really go to feed the German war machine.

The French shore batteries fired on British ships which tried to stop the convoy of French merchant ships carrying what is believed to be contraband for Germany at the end of last

(Continued on Page 9)

GERMANY INVADES YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE

On Sunday morning last the German Army invaded both Yugoslavia and Greece. Yugoslavia has the Adriatic Sea on the east, beyond which is Italy; Austria, now occupied by Germany, is to north-east; Hungary is just north; Rumania and Bulgaria in the east. All these three countries, that is, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, are now slave states of Germany, which has numerous mechanised army divisions in those countries and a large number of aeroplanes. The reasons for this invasion of Yugoslavia are as follows:—

(1) It is alleged by Germany that the Yugoslav Government have been ill-treating the German minorities, but this allegation has been hotly denied not only by the Yugoslav Government but by leaders of the German minorities themselves. It will be seen, therefore, that this is an utterly false charge.

(2) The Yugoslav people have refused to become subservient to Germany. Can a small State dare to defy a big State like Germany? Germany is, therefore, angry and though the Yugoslav Government under King Peter have not yet repudiated the pact with Germany entered into by Prince Paul, the previous ruler of Yugoslavia, Germany thinks that the new Government will not follow its commands and hence the invasion. Hitler is no respecter of language. His foul-mouthed tongue does not hesitate to use words which no gentleman would and so he has stated in his proclamation to his troops that the German army will lay down its arms only when the "band of ruffians" in Yugoslavia has been definitely and most emphatically eliminated and "the last Briton has left that part of the European Continent." Yugoslavia is a small country. It has not and cannot have a very large army, but it can count upon more than a million and a quarter of men who are hardy and tough, who know no fear and will fight to their last breath. They are well equipped, but perhaps lack anti-tank and other modern weapons. Yugoslavia has also a decent air force. The people's passion to safeguard their independence and the bravery of their army may well be depended upon to check the German advance.

Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia, though it has been declared an open town, has been bombed and many fires have been started. It is also stated that the Government have removed the capital to an unknown destination.

So far as Greece is concerned; the German complaint is that that country has allowed the British troops to land in their country, but the invasion of Greece had been planned by Hitler long ago and the present excuse is silly. Yugoslavia is on the north-west of Greece and Bulgaria is on the north-east. On the west of Greece is Albania and on the

east is Turkey. The German troops have commenced their attack on Greece in Thrace and Eastern Macedonia and it is reported that the Greeks are offering a stubborn resistance to the enemy in the Struma Valley, the Struma being a river leading from Bulgaria to Greece. The Greeks, who have shown remarkable strength and perseverance against the Italians, may well be depended upon to give a good account of themselves against the German onslaught.

There are a few favourable features in the Balkan flare-up which should be noticed. The first thing is that British help has been promised to Yugoslavia. As a matter of fact, there are British land forces now in Greece. They have been there for some time because Greece has been threatened by Germany for some weeks past. The news of the presence of British troops in Greece has not been divulged so far for strategic reasons. The campaign in East Africa is now practically over and numerous British and Dominion troops with all kinds of equipment have been taken over from that country to Greece by the British Navy. Further, the Royal Air Force in the Balkans has been strengthened and the British Navy will give all the support it can in the campaign against Germany on its eastern front. How can England desert Greece, which has so nobly stood by her and which has resisted that treacherous foe, Mussolini?

Another circumstance which should be noticed is that America has promised support to Yugoslavia. Greece, it is believed, is already receiving help from the United States, so that the countries which are fighting the battle of freedom can be sure of assistance from President Roosevelt.

Turkey is, of course, in a very difficult situation and Hitler has now told her that she need not worry herself much because he does not intend to invade that country. But who can believe Hitler's words? Turkey is alert and alive to the dangers and may be depended on to defend herself if her interests are threatened. Her policy has been now declared to be one of neutrality.

The last point is about Russia. A few days before Germany started the trouble in the Balkans by invading both Yugoslavia and Greece, the Yugoslav and the Russian Governments had been discussing the possibility of a pact which has now been signed. Considerable importance is attached in England and in the United States to this treaty, according to which both countries promise to abstain from aggression towards each other. It is stipulated that if one of the two countries be subjected to aggression by a third State, the other contracting party will preserve its policy of friendship. This treaty will be in force for five years. Obviously

Russia does not like Germany to spread the war in the Balkans and one can only hope that if the war progresses, Russia will see the folly of remaining neutral and warn Germany against further adventures. Of course, Russia is self-centred and she will take a bolder line only if Yugoslavia and Greece succeed in resisting Germany with the help of British forces. These the latter may well do—under the brilliant leadership of General Wavell who, after a series of striking victories in Africa, has now taken over the supreme command of the Allied forces in the Balkans.

It appears as if Hitler has miscalculated the odds in his latest adventure. The dispassionate and far-sighted American press already sees in it a huge gamble. If he wins in the Balkans, it does not mean that he will have won the war. Great Britain will still be there—with her resources intact and growing, with her Navy dominating the seas and with the immense reservoir of American supplies being tapped regularly and systematically. If, on the other hand, Hitler loses the Battle of the Balkans, his defeat may have repercussions on his prestige at home and on his resources and jeopardise his chances of winning the war. Anyway, the British High Command will certainly remember General Weygand's prophecy that the war will not be won in Western Europe but in the plains of Vienna. And, with the probability that Hitler's plans for an invasion of Britain have been postponed indefinitely, they will go all out to help their gallant Allies. The probability of Yugoslavia attacking Italians in Albania and the Yugoslav Navy cutting off the supplies and reinforcements now reaching Albania from Italy cannot be comforting to Mussolini.

TALKING POINTS

(Continued from Page 7)

month. French bombers also attacked the British vessels. The British had a perfect right, under International law, to search these vessels and the action of the French authorities certainly constitutes an act of war. The conclusion is irresistible that Admiral Darlan, if he is responsible for this development, is something more than a willing tool to embroil France and Britain in open hostilities, which, on this occasion, were prevented from becoming more serious only because the British Naval authorities exercised considerable self-restraint and limited themselves to self-defensive action. It is furthermore a tragic circumstance that these incidents should take place at a time when, even at risk to her own interest, Britain is discussing with the United States Government the question of lifting the British

blockade in order to feed unoccupied France. It appears, therefore, more than probable that Admiral Darlan is prepared to go to any length to collaborate with the Nazis against Britain, the only effect of which would be that the attitude of both London and Washington towards Vichy's plea for less drastic blockade measures would have to be changed. But Marshal Petain may yet restrain his Prime Minister. He has just stated that though Darlan has his "entire confidence," it is a matter of honour for France to do nothing against her former Ally.

THE SPIRIT OF FRANCE

But the people of France are sound. Gen. de Gaulle was perfectly right when he stated the other day: "I defy the men of Vichy to go to war with Britain. National opinion would never tolerate such a step." The fact is that the French people differ from the Petain Government and the only counter to the Quislings are the people who realize more and more that Great Britain is bound to win in the end. Confirmation of this fact comes from a remarkable article which has been received in England from unoccupied France and the correspondent is reported to be an acute judge of political conditions. He says: "At least 90 per cent of the French people are with you. I have realized this once again during a journey through Southern France, where I had many talks with the peasants. Everybody is against Vichy. I have seen official prefects' reports, stating that public opinion in France disapproved M. Baudouin's anti-British policy. This is well known in the environment of Petain. . . . Laval is hated and despised both by the people at Vichy and by the whole of French opinion. Public opinion—I mean the real one—is completely ignorant of all the intrigues, but nevertheless knows that something is brewing. Everywhere in provincial France one sees scribbled on the walls 'A bas Vichy' and 'Vive l'Angleterre'—and let me add that the people of France profoundly admire the proud people of England. The British radio is listened to by millions of Frenchmen three or four times a day. The French Government is very nervous about this popularity of the London wireless. . . . Please 'phone my friend X and ask him to inform the B.B.C. that it constitutes an absolutely dominating influence in France and that the events of Dakar have changed nothing in this respect. The French are too intelligent not to have realized that the Vichy version of what happened was false. The French bombing of Gibraltar produced profound indignation here. . . . We are all sure that you will win, even if it is long and painful."

JAPAN'S DREAMS OF CONQUEST

Mr. Matsuoka, Japan's Foreign Minister is rushing back to Tokio after visiting Moscow, Berlin and Rome as "important affairs of State," it is stated, demand his immediate attention. On the eve of his departure from Germany he declared that his visit to Berlin and Rome had definitely cleared up the policy underlying the Pact of the Three Powers—Germany, Italy and Japan—and that the result of his visit had been of great benefit to Japan. Earlier, before leaving Rome, he affirmed that the Pact would be valid for a century! Mr. Matsuoka met MM. Stalin and Molotov at Moscow, obviously in order to explore the possibilities of a Pact with Russia. But he has not been so eloquent in describing the results of his talks with the Soviet leaders as he has been in dealing with his meetings with Hitler and Mussolini. And thereby hangs a tale!

It is almost certain that Hitler, Mussolini and Matsuoka should have discussed many new designs for Axis supremacy in the world, with all of which Russia cannot be expected to agree. Japan needs no lessons in the technique of aggression which she perfected long before Hitler and Mussolini woke up to its possibilities. Mr. Matsuoka has revealed himself just as capable as the two Dictators in talking of world peace with one breath and threatening other peaceful nations with the other. How far Japan has moved from the international policies of the Great Democratic Powers can be realized from the fact that, while she took up her stand with them during the Great War, she had definitely come out as the friend of their enemies in the present conflict.

Germany is obviously trying to use Japan as a means of threatening Britain's Far East defences and intimidating American opinion lest the United States of America should come into the war. In this Germany is helped by the tradition of aggression which Japan's ruling classes have built up. The dominant Japanese political idea is *Kodo*, the theory that Japan is a "superior" race destined to rule "inferior" ones. Japan is ruled by a hereditary military aristocracy and all her education promotes the ideas of mass subservience and military aggression; the masses are peace-loving, and war-weary. Japan's leaders have nothing to give the world except a poor imitation of the Nazi regime. Ever since Japan modernized herself towards the end of the last century, she has pursued an aggressive policy whenever occasion offered. She attacked China in 1894, when she was only restrained from making large annexations by the intervention of the Great Powers. Overborne for a time by the menace of Russia in the Far East, Japan signalized her victory over Russia (in 1904-05) by seizing Korea in 1910. Since 1915 she has pursued an aggressive policy towards China, culminating in the

seizure of Manchukuo in 1931 and the beginning of the undeclared war against China in 1937.

In fact, Japan only moves when the backs of powerful neighbours are turned. She seized Korea, as pointed out above, when Russia was weak. She presented her "Twenty-one Demands" to China in 1915 when the Great Powers were at war and could do nothing about it. She kept up her pressure after 1917 in spite of the fact that China was her ally against Germany. When the Powers were strong again, she agreed to the Washington treaties (in 1921). But when the great depression lay over Europe, she seized Manchukuo; when Europe was pre-occupied with the Nazi menace, she launched her attack on China; and now when the energies of the British and American peoples are directed to the overthrow of gangsterdom in Europe and when the Great French nation is under Hitler's heel, Japan is planning a drive southwards towards the possessions of these three powers. Japan, who formally announced her adhesion to the Axis in September last, obviously expects to assume in Asia the role of leadership which Germany and Italy aim at in Europe. Her cherished hope of a "New Order in Asia" is to be fulfilled—so the Dictators must have told her—by the annexation or control of China, the Dutch East Indies, Siam and French Indo-China. She hopes to become the sole mistress of the Pacific, with all that it implies to the British Commonwealth and United States.

The Dutch East Indies and French Indo-China were both invited by Japan some time ago to join the new "Co-prosperity Sphere of South East Asia." When the Dutch refused, an attempt was made to side-trap the Dutch Government in London and far-reaching demands were made—mining and fishing concessions, the right of exploration and exploitation of undeveloped areas, and free entry for Japanese professional and small businessmen. But the Dutch, like the proud, freedom-loving people that they are, have maintained their ground and insisted on the sovereignty and status of their London Government under Queen Wilhelmina.

And Japan concentrated at Hainan (in Indo-China) military and naval forces, comprising five infantry divisions, a fleet squadron, an aircraft carrier and three hundred bombers. Simultaneously she regaled Thailand (Siam) with false reports of British troop concentrations on her frontiers and British warships in the Gulf of Siam. By these means, she won for herself the position of arbitrator in the frontier dispute between Thailand and Indo-China. The former had been egged on by Japan herself to demand territories from Indo-China who could no more look to the French Motherland for effective help. Thailand no doubt got what she wanted.

But she has taken the first opportunity of reaffirming her traditional cordial friendship with Britain and scouting the inspired rumours of a British threat to Thailand. Japan, it is true, exercises some influence over the court at Bangkok. She has received many concessions for her nationals and has designs on the Kra Canal, which she would like to develop and use as a counter-blast to Singapore. But the Thailand Government have no desire to be used as a tool by Japan. And they will resist Japanese domination as long as they are able.

And China, which knows that the "New Order in Greater East Asia" is but a cover for military domination and economic exploitation by Japan of the territories of other nations, is determined to resist it under the great leadership of Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek. She has managed not only to stick it out for four years and immobilize a considerable portion of Japan's fighting forces but actually to grow stronger and stronger.

The British Commonwealth, the United States and Soviet Russia have been helping China with arms and supplies. The reopening of the Burma Road means that Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek can look forward to a steady stream of supplies landed at the port of Rangoon. And the railway, which will link the northern terminus of the Rangoon Railway with the Chinese frontier, will further expedite the flow of arms. No wonder Prince Konoye, Japan's Prime Minister, made this confession not long ago. "Although the Chinese conflict has entered in its fifth year, there is little prospect of settlement. I feel unpardonable before the Throne and the entire nation that already millions of yen have been spent and thousands of soldiers sacrificed." While China's vast man-power resources—which are being trained rapidly in her western regions—can stand any number of casualties, Japan cannot do so. And her war-bill is "mounting to such an extent as to cast doubt upon the future solvency of the country." Her budget estimates reveal that her ordinary expenditure will this year amount to half as much again as the entire revenue and this excludes the cost of the China campaign, one year of which alone demands as much as the total ordinary revenue.

Then there is Soviet Russia, ever watchful on Japan's flanks. Stalin has shown himself such a political realist that he is hardly likely to enter into any pact with Japan which is not favourable to him. In 1935, the two countries signed an agreement by which Japan purchased the Soviet-owned Chinese Eastern Railway. The Russians apparently thought that Japan had designs only in the south, but they must soon have been disillusioned by Japan's activities in Inner Mongolia, the building of strategic railways in Manchuria and Jehol, her numerous "fishing" expeditions into the Soviet Maritime Provinces. The Soviet is maintaining a strong force in the Far East to meet any eventuality. This is

not to say that Stalin will refuse to sign any pact with Japan. Only he will take good care that it is the Soviet and not Japan that will benefit from it! And he has taken every opportunity to affirm that Russia will continue to help China with arms as long as she keeps up her resistance to Japan.

Finally, the British Empire, and Australia in particular, are taking all precautionary measures in the Far East. They have strongly reinforced the Singapore Base under the Command of Air Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham. The Australian Cabinet has uttered a grave "hands-off" warning to Japan. Both the British and Australian Governments know that they can rely on the utmost help from the United States if Japan takes steps to launch her southward drive—plans for which were found, by the way, in the wrecked plane that was carrying Admiral Osami to take over the command of the Japanese South Seas Fleet. President Roosevelt has stated that American help to Britain would not be affected "even if America should be dragged into a war in the Pacific." Large appropriations for the fortification of Guam and the development of Samoa as a naval base have been voted by the American Congress. The main American Fleet is stationed in the Pacific at Hawaii and reinforcements have been sent to the Philippines. These, like the British measures in the fortified base of Singapore, are purely defensive, aimed (as Sir Robert Brooke-Popham said) at stabilising peace in the Pacific, and do not threaten any other peace-loving nation. But the Japanese know what to expect in case they are cajoled by Hitler to pull his chestnuts out of the fire by creating a diversion in the Far East. And the British Commander-in-Chief in the Far East has had important talks at Manila with American Naval Command in the Pacific.

Japan is thus faced by Russia and China in the North, the United States of America in the East, and Great Britain in the South—not reckoning the by no means negligible naval forces at the disposal of the Dutch East Indies and the forces that Indo-China could use if she decided on resistance with the help of Britain and America. Japan has already been nearly four years at war in China, losing more than a million of her best soldiers. And she is overpopulated and cannot feed herself. Rice is being rationed in Japan from this month. She has few raw materials and depends on other countries, specially Britain and the United States, for oil, rubber, scrap iron, iron, raw cotton, wool and fertilisers. The United States has already imposed an embargo on aviation petrol and other commodities which Japan badly needs.

These considerations must weigh heavily with the Japanese rulers against any adventure in the South. Probably they also account for the desire for "world peace" with which Japan's Foreign Minister occasionally regales us!

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

The Moral of El Agheila—

Commenting on the occupation of El Agheila by a mixed German and Italian force, Berlin said on March 28: "As in similar cases in Norway, Belgium and France, British propaganda is now attempting to gloss over this setback as being of no military importance." It is hardly surprising that Berlin fails to quote any definite British "attempt to gloss over" the importance of El Agheila, since no such attempts have been made—nor is it surprising, perhaps, that Berlin no longer includes British Somaliland in its customary sarcastic references to Britain's "strategic withdrawals" and "victorious retreats."

Cairo military circles explained quite frankly that El Agheila had been evacuated by British patrols because that village's position was found to be too exposed in regard to the general defence of Cyrenaica. Dr. Goebbels would do well to remember that similar British withdrawals were made last September, and for similar reasons, from two other frontier posts in North Africa—El Sollum and Sidi Barrani.

—and the Moral of Keren

Britain's Imperial forces entered Keren at 7 p.m. on March 27. At noon on March 28 the Italians announced (and the Berlin wireless faithfully quoted them) that British attacks on Keren had begun to peter out because of Italian counter-attacks. Only late on the night of March 28 did Rome broadcast an event which had occurred nearly 40 hours previously.

The British authorities sometimes delay news, but they never falsify it in the meantime. British communiqués are only delayed in order that the exact truth may be given; when Axis news is delayed, the object is invariably to hide defeat and failure.

How it is Done

The manner in which Berlin's radio announcers dealt on March 24 with the heavy losses sustained by the *Luftwaffe* over Malta the previous day provides a striking picture of Nazi propaganda in full blast.

At 12-30 p.m. they said: "Our Stukas were escorted by fighters, but *no enemy planes were in the air*. All the German planes returned to their base."

At 5-30 p.m.: "*British fighters which tried to intercept our bombers were forced to turn back by our experienced fighters*, four British machines being

shot down." But this time they were discreetly silent about the number of Nazi planes which got home safely.

At 7-30 p.m. they admitted—that "six German planes failed to return," but explained this by remarking that *the escorting Axis fighters had been Italian, not German!*

In actual fact, no fewer than 14 Nazi planes were destroyed over Malta that day, and at least six more were severely damaged. No R.A.F. machines were lost.

Vienna and the Nazis

On March 26, the Berlin radio broadcast ecstatic reports of the welcome given to Hitler by the people of Vienna when he visited that city last week to meet the unfortunate Messrs. Tsvetkovich and Cincar-Markovich, of Belgrade, Yugoslavia. According to this Berlin report, thousands of Viennese lined the streets to cheer the Fuehrer, while thousands more waited patiently for hours outside the Hotel Imperial to catch a glimpse of their beloved Leader.

Unfortunately, it was only last week that a *New York Herald-Tribune* correspondent just back from Vienna was able to throw further light on the attitude of the Austrians towards their Nazi over-lords. According to this American reporter, disaffection is rife among Austrian troops and civilians, and the German military authorities have had to strengthen various strategic points in Vienna to cope with possible uprisings. Prussians and other North German troops have been sent to Austria to replace the local forces, while the customary greeting among the Viennese, even soldiers, now is "Good day" and not "Heil Hitler."

There is no reason to suppose that Hitler is any more popular with the Viennese than is, for instance, Frau Goering, who not long ago was booed out of the former Imperial Box at the Vienna Burgtheater with cries to "Go back to your Hermann" and "Where did you steal that tiara?"

The Continent's Revolt

Before the Yugoslav *coup d'état*, of course, Berlin's announcers talked themselves hoarse about the stunning defeat sustained by Britain as a result of Yugoslavia's adherence to the Tripartite Pact; in fact, the Germans exhausted their own imagination on the subject and had to fall back on the Italian *Agencia Stefani* for this profound judgment: "Yugoslavia's action proves anew that the Continent as a whole is in revolt against Britain's intention to retain Europe as an eternal battlefield in order that she may control it the better."

"Yugoslavia's action" speaks for itself, and in the meantime here are some other actions and incidents from "the Continent as a whole" which are not without interest:

NORWAY: Herr Terboven, Hitler's Commissar, imposes "ruthless martial law" throughout the country. (Reported March 29.)

FRANCE: Repressive measures against supporters of General de Gaulle and the Free French movement being applied by the Vichy Government. (Reported March 29.)

HOLLAND: "Every week 20 German soldiers disappear in Amsterdam and Rotterdam, and later their bodies are found in the canals.....Telephone and telegraph cables are cut and the wires of searchlights severed."—Dr. de Bruyn, in New York (Reported March 29.)

BULGARIA: Clash reported (March 30) between civilians and German soldiers. Many Bulgarians arrested while trying to flee into Greece. (Reported March 28.)

These reports, together with the report of Austrian unrest already referred to, certainly do suggest that "the Continent as a whole is in revolt"—but not against Britain.

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

German Warships in the Atlantic

The Nazis, mindful of their repeated "sinkings" of the *Ark Royal* and other British ships, accused Britain on March 23 of having claimed one year ago the sinking of the German warships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, which are now reported to be in the Atlantic.

The facts are these. Britain has never claimed the destruction of the *Scharnhorst*. On April 9, 1940, H.M.S. *Renown* scored two hits on the *Scharnhorst*, off Narvik, but it was stated that the Nazi ship escaped under protection of a smoke-screen. On June 22, too, she was reported to have been torpedoed near Trondheim Fjord, but it was also mentioned that later on, while limping home escorted by German destroyers, she was attacked by Royal Air Force planes. Still later she was observed

at Kiel by the Royal Air Force and again damaged. All these facts were clearly reported at the time.

As for the *Gneisenau*, she was reported as sunk by shore batteries in Oslo Fjord on April 9, but doubt about the name of the vessel was admitted at the time. The Germans stated that it was another of their warships, the *Bluecher*, that was lost, and subsequent British references invariably recalled this.

"The world" continued Dr. Goebbels' broadcast on March 25, "has been immensely impressed by the successes achieved by the German warships, *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, in the Atlantic". Neither the world, nor for that matter, Germany, is aware of any particular successes achieved by these warships. On the other hand, these fugitive warships are far away from their home bases and, in thus exposing them to danger, Germany has given evidence of her own difficult position.

Germany's Dread

On March 25, the Nazi broadcast in Hindustani quoted a Brazilian paper as stating that, not being dependent on sea routes, Germany was in a better position than Britain to fight a long war. Germany has always dreaded a long war, and Dr. Goebbels' recent promise to Spanish journalists to end the war in 1941 shows that Germany's rulers still prefer a short war. Significant also is the comment of the *Breslau Nachrichten*, which (as reported from Berlin) declares that "every factor that tends to prolong the war is in itself qualified to alter the existing superiority of training, equipment and armament—yes, even to rob the side hitherto superior, of the ability to act freely".

German Boasts

On the occasion of Yugoslavia's adherence to the Tripartite Pact, Herr von Ribbentrop, Germany's Foreign Minister, stated, according to the Nazi broadcast of March 26, that through the Tripartite Pact, Germany has succeeded in conferring the blessings of her "New Order" on all the nations of Europe.

The world knows how the Yugoslavs themselves reacted to their former Government's adherence to the Tripartite Pact. But, apart altogether from that, the neutral Swedish paper *Dagens Nyheter* has recently stated: "The Three-Power Pact has only been an instrument for the ceremonies at which bases for the Axis forces have been further extended". Another Swedish paper, *Arbetar Posten* says: "The Swedes hold that a British victory will free them from inclusion in German-governed Europe. The Swedes prefer independence. As a British victory will cross German plans, all who do not like these plans wish for a British victory".

